



Resilience

A city of responsibility - An important quality for a sustainable city is resilience. The Urban Design Principles provide guidance for creating a livable and adaptable Los Angeles. The city needs to be able to adapt to change, whether it is economic, environmental or social, whether it is large-scale or localized, and whether it is temporary or permanent. With the Urban Design Principles, Los Angeles can be proactive and create spaces that welcome different uses and varied groups. We need to consider how we use all our resources - existing and new - and use them more efficiently. We need to consider the full life cycle of each component of our development puzzle and allow the Principles to guide a project from inception, through implementation and include its continued usefulness and amenity when the project has been completed.

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stimulate sustainability + innovation

The quick adaptation of the City of Los Angeles to change is vital for its environmental and economic future. Create development and improvements that incorporate innovative practices to achieve a broad vision of a sustainable Los Angeles. Consideration of the full project life-cycle - the extent of costs both social and environmental as well as financial is fundamental to the Urban Design Principles. Best practices of other communities, technological advancements and the use of local materials and resources inform the design and implementation of projects.

“The good building is not one that hurts the landscape, but one which makes the landscape more beautiful than it was before the building was built.”

- Frank Lloyd Wright

The key to the ongoing habitability and quality of life in the City of Los Angeles is adaptation. The ability to embrace development and improvements that embody sustainable practices and technological innovation. Climate change creates an imperative to decrease our carbon footprint by providing innovative solutions to transportation and energy use. Los Angeles is abundant in sunshine, wind, cool night air, low humidity and low rainfall. It is a climate uniquely suited for alternative energy sources.

Capitalizing on advancements in stormwater management, car alternative transportation, automobile innovations, energy alternatives and environmentally responsible building design as well as providing incentives to developers and property owners, encourages a more responsible use of our natural resources and provides for the long term viability of the

city. Sustainable innovations, highlighted as part of a new “eco-aesthetic”, help to expand the visual experience for city residents and visitors and highlight their importance to the community.

There are a variety of physical measures that reduce dependence on fossil fuels, reduce heat island effect, and protect water quality. Solar energy, pavement permeability, solid waste reduction, stormwater runoff, water infiltration and recycled and local materials are some of the many strategies available. Protecting the water supply and responsibly considering water consumption in the Los Angeles Basin requires reducing water use. A decreased carbon footprint and responsible stewardship of our natural resources translates to a more viable and more beautiful city.

what's out there

stimulate sustainability + innovation



Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, LANI, in partnership with the CRA/LA transformed vacant lots surrounding commercial businesses and created innovative Transit Art Parks on Lankershim and Magnolia Boulevards. The parks include landscaping, information kiosks, bus shelters and several other amenities, resulting in reductions in heat gain and decreased stormwater runoff.

The Central Avenue Constituent Services Center, located on Central and East 43rd Street, is an innovative one acre complex. The building has a plaza on the roof, rain water harvesting, solar panels that move with the sun and an irrigation system that is powered by rainwater. The building is part of a mixed use development that includes a supermarket as well as housing.



City Farm, located in Chicago, IL, was created when the Fourth Presbyterian Church transformed an abandoned basketball court in the transitional Cabrini Green neighborhood. The farm supplies local restaurants and operates an on-site market stand. The City Farm serves as a model for educating the neighborhood about sustainable, local produce. The farm also serves as a model for job creation, as they hire full-time staff and seasonal farmers.

Built in 2003, the parking lot attached to the historic Helms Bakery Building incorporates power generating solar panels. It provides shade for all cars and power for electric cars with charging stations and dedicated spaces for said cars. The project was completed in partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.



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improve equity + opportunity

Economic and social sustainability is a requirement for continuing viability and growth in Los Angeles. A broader choice of housing and a variety of local economic, social and recreational activities creates diversified and healthy neighborhoods. Opportunity for all residents to live, work, and move between neighborhoods contributes to a prosperous and healthy urban environment.

“No urban area will prosper unless it attracts those who can choose to live wherever they wish.”

- Jonathan Barnett

Cities have a history of segregating residential and economic opportunities based on different housing types. As we move into the 21st century, a more enlightened form of city planning has emerged, encouraging integrated housing types and inclusionary zoning incentives. The variety of functions within a development or space encourages a mix of users.

Retail and business uses for a variety of income levels support a heterogeneous population. This plurality can further be extended by increased open space and recreational facilities with activities for a variety of cultures and age groups. Our streets and public spaces are opportunities to create open spaces accessible and attractive to all, regardless of demographics, social, physical or economic status.

Well designed development provides opportunities for improving the quality of life for the disenfranchised. This includes provisions for the physically disabled and facilitating economic opportunity through equitable access to public transportation. Small businesses contribute to the urban environment by being empowered to take advantage of facade improvement and streetscape changes to make their businesses friendly and approachable.

A diversity of accessible housing, retail, work opportunity and a variety of uses provides residents and visitors with a range of experiences and choices.

what's out there

improve equity + opportunity



Located on Ivar and Selma Avenue in Hollywood, this farmers market is open every Sunday and provides booths for local non-profit as well. It increases the quality and accessibility of fresh produce and provides opportunities for community gathering and economic opportunities for small farmers. Operated by Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles, a non-profit that promotes sustainability for farmers and communities, they also have farmers markets throughout the city in Crenshaw, Watts and Echo Park to name a few.

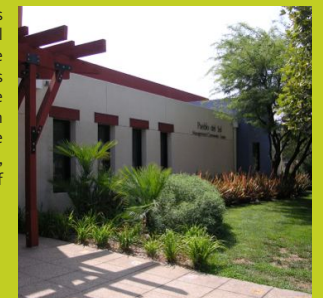
Developed by GLEH, with support from Alliance for Diverse Aging Community Services as part of a \$90,000 grant received from the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, the first affordable housing of its kind opened in 2005. Located in Hollywood, the building has 104 units for lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) seniors who are 62 and older. According to the GLEH website, “34% of the units are designated for seniors with HIV/AIDS, homeless or at risk for homelessness.”



A new residential development in Boyle Heights, Pueblo Del Sol, is a mixed use development with 470 mixed-income residences as well as educational, recreational and community supported facilities. The development was a partnership between the Housing Authority of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District and other private developers.



CRA/LA offers several grants and loans for businesses including commercial facade improvement programs. The program allows property owners and long-term tenants to improve commercial properties that are in disrepair. Renovated buildings include improvements such as replacement, restoration and rehabilitation of existing storefronts.



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emphasize early integration, simple processes + maintainable long term solutions

The Urban Design Principles are a basis for projects from inception. Solutions responding to the Urban Design Principles are successful when incorporated early into a process and simplified to aid implementation. Consideration of how the project will be maintained and cared for is a component of successful design and part of the review process. The integration of the Principles into the regulatory process forms the basis for achieving the shared vision of urban design by city staff, stakeholders, developers and designers.

“You can’t make people creative by telling them, “Be creative.” It has to be economically sound for them to be creative, and feasible both for the area itself and for what they can do.”

-Jane Jacobs

Implementation is just one step in contributing to the evolution of our city. A sustainable Los Angeles needs stakeholders to view development from the bigger picture of systems thinking. Early ideas and basic concepts affect later stages (e.g. financing affects the construction schedule, or designing to take advantage of existing public transit affects how the space is used later).

Simple yet effective solutions to design challenges require fewer resources, have less impact on the environment and require less maintenance. The most difficult, most intense thinking should occur at the beginning when a project’s intentions are examined for how they can be expressed through the Urban Design Principles. The resulting concept will benefit from an easier journey through the rest of the process.

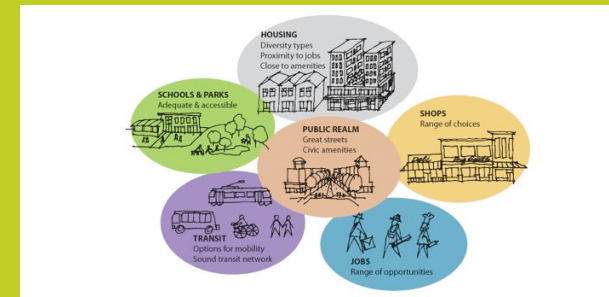
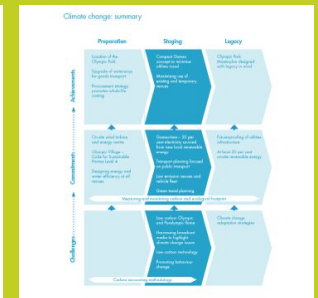
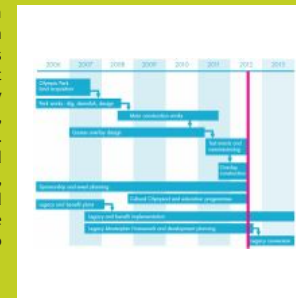
City approval processes recognize and guide projects regulated by the Principles and result in a clearer understanding by everyone of the city’s goals.

Thoughtful design that is well-executed, can have a long shelf life if it is adaptable, includes maintenance systems and connections to stakeholders that are sustainable. Low maintenance means both lower operational costs and reduces the burden not only on the community but also on the environment.

what’s out there

emphasize early integration, simple processes + maintainable long term solutions

► The London 2012 Sustainability Plan came to fruition as London was chosen as the 2012 Olympic City. The city is using the Olympics as a way to affect sustainable change. The five priority themes are: climate change, waste, biodiversity, inclusion and healthy living. These themes have transparent and effective implementation strategies, including preparation, staging and legacy, taking into consideration the challenges and opportunities that go along with these factors.



► On April 24, 2009 the City of Los Angeles adopted the Downtown Design Guide for an 1,800 acre area of Downtown. According to page four of the Design Guide, “The Design Guide encourages Downtown Los Angeles to develop as a more sustainable community. To achieve this goal, good choices must be made at all levels of planning and design - from land use and development decisions to building massing and materials choices...”

► At the Bureau of Development Services in Portland Oregon, their motto is “From Concept to Construction.” Their transparent process addresses the relationship between the developer and the city early, with simple and timely steps.

