

## Graceland

Saturday, May 21, 2011

10:30am – 12:00pm

10 + attendees

### **BREAKOUT SESSION: (DC & DB)**

#### **Site Significance**

- Before integration, black children attended a two room school house at 54<sup>th</sup>/South Benton. One day, at the end of the last school year before integration, one of the participants remembers that she and the other children from the black school walked up the hill from the two room school house to visit Graceland. They filed into the gym/auditorium where there was a junior city assembly in process. That's when the participant decided she wanted to be a junior mayor some day (and she was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade). The site has historical significance related to integration

#### **Strengths**

- Building in excellent condition- cheap to rehab
- Big enough to accommodate lots of different uses
- Site should serve needs of community
- Location: access to several key cross streets/corridors. On top of hill, good public transportation
- Evacuation area in building/ emergency shelter
- Stable background
- History of members success moving out to other places: educated
- Building not vandalized

#### **Challenges**

- Bad reputation because of zip code
- Limited off-street parking and traffic flow: isn't accessible for staff and public
- Timing- longer it sits, the more susceptible to deterioration. Need to reuse
- Insurance premiums are high in the area (due to reputation) Makes it difficult to invest - businesses

#### **Community Needs**

- Jobs
- Fresh food
- Need place for communications/info, neighborhood resources
- Positive image/impact/credibility/good place. Symbol of good taking place or perception can balance out negativity. Build image (connect with what is here)

- Bring education and training into communities - technical/trade school, life skills training, Only 1 school in Green Impact Zone (Paseo), educate where people live, young adults job ready
- No place to get breakfast, prepared food, community gathering place (Coffee house)
- 24 hour access to technology and computer training: need to be prepared not just for today's needs but future needs, reserve spot for growth
- 24 hour childcare
- Affordable insurance
- New identity to tell story of neighborhood
- Rezoning of property for business uses/get ready for use

**Reuse Options (that could address community needs)**

- Hydroponic garden
- Neighborhood resource center: all purpose services, share costs, storage, multiple organizations (i.e., Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association needs a place to store materials, office, etc & would be willing to do maintenance/upkeep in exchange for use of building)
- Coffee Shop- restaurant, no breakfast spots
- Clearing house location for lots of neighborhood support efforts: job training, literacy, mentoring
- Education/training center
- Auditorium: plays, drama events
- Cafeteria: culinary arts, catering
- Arts instruction: serve food from culinary class
- Entire space available to community + business incubator
- Classroom use for arts and ceramics, etc.
- Reaction to proposals:
  - needs to be multi-use
  - Nothing negative that has an image associated to proposal

**Parking Lot**

- Why was school closed?
- What was student enrollment when the building closed?
- How many classrooms?