

## Project Name

St Louis Greenway Stormwater Management

## Problem to be Solved

With 30% of the lots in North St. Louis vacant and the documented increase in crime associated with vacant lots, the Arts Chamber and the neighborhoods have identified 32 vacant lots adjacent to the GreatRivers Greenway Project. The neighborhoods have identified the need to rehabilitate vacant lots to decrease crime and increase property values while expressing the desire to create green spaces to house art installations, music venues and more thus connecting the area to the two arts centers on either end and to the south creating a 6-mile arts corridor.

SLACO has chosen 4 lots to work with as MSD has a 1 acre requirement before they will do any work.

## Scope of Work

Project Scope of Work May Include:

- Rain garden design for several vacant lots that total ~1acre
- Rain scaping management calculations for pervious and non pervious area drained
- Submit calculations and designs for construction and grant approval

## Background

This project is in partnership with the St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) and St. Louis Arts Chamber in effort to connect 7 historically underserved neighborhoods in St. Louis with the City's newly developed Greenway.

In times of scarce resources, 7 North City neighborhoods are part of future infrastructure reinvestment, a 3.5-mi greenway along the Hodiament Tracks (by Great Rivers Greenway) which links seven neighborhoods together making for sound urban planning. These neighborhoods are Covenant Blu, Vandeventer, Lewis Place, Fountain Park, Academy, Visitation Park, and the West End – all with similar poverty challenges. The neighborhoods have strong historical and cultural identities but have been working on neighborhood issues in silos until SLACO's vacancy initiative and the greenway motivated neighborhood leaders to work together.

SLACO's vacancy initiative catapulted the City of St. Louis to action. Vacant buildings owned by the Land Reutilization Authority (LRA) deferred maintenance causing buildings to become safety hazards. SLACO led a successful \$6M per year bond issue, LRA is now able to make structural repairs and façade treatments to preserve the integrity of the buildings. The City's building department has torn down buildings in these neighborhoods leaving vacant lots scattered throughout the fabric.

This project will rehabilitate thirty vacant lots spanning seven neighborhoods, turning these into an asset rather than an eyesore. Vacant land increases carbon footprints, lowers property values, lowers population growth, and elevates crime. The redeveloped vacant land spaces will enhance the work of the greenway with the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) Rain Scaping Program. The purpose is to reduce combined sewer overflows to the Mississippi River.

The project supports artists and high-risk neighborhoods, develops their businesses, responds to the neighborhood heritage, offers training opportunities for youth, and increases access to the arts for their

communities along the newly developed Greenway, addressing issues of crime, violence, and decreased property values.

SLACO already works with the group working on the greenway. Judith Arnold, SLACO's Urban Planner is a member of the greenway design team and meets regularly with residents and provides feedback to the greenway process. She has already worked with the Metropolitan Sewer District. She will serve as the Project Manager. Judith has successfully managed community programs. She is a proficient fundraising executive and has managed public and private grants for over a decade. Judith is rooted in SLACO's Vacancy Initiative and serves as a key partner of the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative.

## About the community

Jim Crow laws, redlining, traffic flow projects, and the destruction of Mill Creek Valley, among other developments in the 20th century led to the subsequent displacement of African American residents to the seven neighborhoods north of Delmar in St. Louis and dispersed individual and family relationships through the loss of shared cultural experiences. Today St. Louis remains one of the most segregated and violent cities in the US, especially north of the Delmar Divide.

Below is information according to City-Data for Zip Code 63106 which represents the Vandeventer neighborhood (one of the 4 that this project works with). It is assumed that this is representative of the other neighborhoods.

- Median household income significantly below state average. -Unemployed percentage significantly above state average.

- Black race population percentage significantly above state average. (94.4% of residents are Black)

- Hispanic race population percentage significantly below state average.

Read more: <http://www.city-data.com/zips/63106.html>

## Interested?

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