

# Community Benefits Plan

## Article I. PURPOSE

**Section 1.01** The purpose of this Community Benefits Plan is to present recommendations to the City of Atlanta, Invest Atlanta and The Arthur Blank Family Foundation that will maximize the benefits of the New Stadium Project (NSP) to the Westside TAD Neighborhoods of the City of Atlanta, Georgia. Pursuant to the New Stadium Project resolution passed by the Atlanta City Council, the Community Benefits Plan will provide community job training, affordable housing, environmental mitigations, special event enforcement programs, historic preservation, health and wellness programs and economic development.

## Article II. DEFINITIONS

**Section 2.01 Area Residents:** Residents of Vine City, English Avenue, Castleberry Hill and surrounding areas.

**Section 2.02 Community Benefits Plan (CBP):** The instrument, mandated by the Atlanta City Council in the New Stadium Project Resolution (13-R-0615), through which the Community Benefits Plan Committee will make recommendations for the administration of the Westside TAD Community Improvement Fund and the NSP Neighborhood Prosperity Fund. The intent of the CBP as authorized by the Resolution is to develop a strategy to enable the development and operation of the NSP to have a positive impact on the economy, safety and environment of the surrounding neighborhoods.

**Section 2.03 Community Benefits Plan Committee (CBP Committee):** A group of affected stakeholders tasked with developing the CBP. Pursuant to the New Stadium Project legislation (13-R-0615), the CBP includes the following: City of Atlanta Council members from Districts 2, 3, 4, and Post 1; the Mayor or his designee; the City Council President or his designee; a representative from Neighborhood Planning Units M and L; a representative from the Atlanta Downtown Neighborhood Association, Marietta Street Artery Neighborhood Association, Vine City, English Avenue and Castleberry Hill neighborhoods; a representative from the Westside TAD Neighborhood Advisory Committee; a representative of Invest Atlanta; and a representative of the City of Atlanta's Department of Planning & Community Development. A member of the English Avenue-Vine City Ministerial Alliance was also added.

**Section 2.04 NSP Neighborhood Prosperity Fund:** The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation will voluntarily make charitable contributions of \$15 million to catalytic projects that will ignite positive change and improvement in the quality of life in Vine City, English Avenue, Castleberry Hill and adjacent neighborhoods. These charitable contributions will be made solely at the discretion of the trustees of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and will be guided by the Community Benefits Plan Framework approved by the City of Atlanta Council.

**Section 2.05 New Stadium Project (NSP):** A new operable roof, state-of-the-art multi-purpose stadium for the Atlanta Falcons to be located in downtown Atlanta and constructed on land owned or controlled by the Georgia World Congress Center, a portion of the funding for which will come from certain hotel/motel taxes collected in the City of Atlanta as authorized by City Resolution 13-R-0615.

**Section 2.06 Westside Tax Allocation District:** To encourage the redevelopment of the western downtown area of the City, the City Council, by City Resolution 98-R-0777 (amending Resolution 92-R-1575), created The Westside Redevelopment Area and Tax Allocation Bond District (Tax Allocation District Number 1 – Atlanta/Westside), adopted the Westside TAD Redevelopment Plan, and designated Invest Atlanta as the City’s Redevelopment Agency, all as provided for under Redevelopment Powers Law, O.C.G.A. §36-44-1, *et seq.*, as amended. The WTAD is one of Atlanta’s ten tax allocation districts.

**Section 2.07 Westside TAD Community Improvement Fund:** A \$15 million fund to be provided by Invest Atlanta to invest in capital projects of varying sizes that remove blighted conditions, expand redevelopment efforts, leverage other public and private funding sources and result in job creation and quality of life enhancement for residents of Vine City, English Avenue and Castleberry Hill.

### **Article III. COMMUNITY BENEFITS PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following categories are examples of recommendations that have been made by the CBP Committee after completing an information-driven (see Exhibits) and deliberative process as required by the NSP legislation. The CBP Committee members received input from their respective neighborhoods and worked collaboratively to create a unified vision.

### **Section 3.01 Community Center<sup>1</sup> - Job Training and Workforce Development Programs**

The development of the NSP is intended to bring jobs and other opportunities for career growth to the impacted neighborhoods. In order to prepare Area Residents for new opportunities, it is important that they be afforded the training and professional development programs necessary to qualify them for the jobs and careers arising from the NSP. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Place-Based Training
- (b) Soft Skills Development
- (c) Youth Jobs Program

### **Section 3.02 Community Center<sup>1</sup> - Business Incubator**

In the interest of empowering Area Residents to create and pursue their own business initiatives and entrepreneurship, a serious effort should be made to provide them with the resources and assistance necessary to support their business or creative ventures. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Technical Assistance/Capacity Building
- (b) Business Center (with computer lab, internet, faxing, etc.)
- (c) Small Business Development
- (d) Micro Loan Program
- (e) Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone)
- (f) Arts Initiative

### **Section 3.03 Community Center<sup>1</sup> - Education**

Investments in the education of Area Residents are a priority of the NSP development. A comprehensive and sustainable community enrichment initiative should include a robust educational component that educates Area Residents at a variety of levels and ages. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Comprehensive Education Programs
- (b) GED Program
- (c) Education Fund
- (d) Technical School
- (e) Internship/Apprenticeship Program
- (f) Ex-Offender Re-entry Program

---

<sup>1</sup> A Community Needs Assessment will be conducted prior to the establishment of a Community Resource Center. Demographic data and economic analysis will be utilized in order to define the specific needs within the community. Existing service providers within the community and outside agencies would then be identified to provide said services within a central Community Resource Center.

### **Section 3.04 Community Center<sup>1</sup> - Youth Programs**

Providing young Area Residents with opportunities to be productive and supporting their parents in creating a healthy and stable environment is essential to fostering a thriving community. Area Residents' quality of life, education and safety are directly tied to the amount of resources invested in their youth. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Early Childcare
- (b) After School Programs
- (c) Recreation Center/Youth Center
- (d) Youth Nutrition Program

### **Section 3.05 Community Center<sup>1</sup> - Health and Wellness Programs**

The physical, mental and behavioral health of Area Residents is central to the Area Residents' quality of life. Resources should be available for treatment and preventative measures in regard to health and wellness issues. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Mental/Behavioral Health Program
- (b) Health Clinic
- (c) Comprehensive Drug/Alcohol Treatment Program
- (d) Food Pantry
- (e) Birthing Center

### **Section 3.06 Catalytic Projects**

It is important that the NSP leverage available resources to incentivize private investment in these underdeveloped areas. The development of the NSP should attract new industries and commercial activity. Economic development is key to maintaining the impact of all the CBP categories. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Development of Commercial Districts
- (b) Development that Activates Area Adjacent to NSP
- (c) Improved Transportation Connectivity
- (d) High Density Mixed-Use Along Northside Drive
- (e) Promotion of Hospitality Industry
- (f) Interior Commercial Node Development
- (g) Retail Development
- (h) Transit Oriented Developments at Ashby and Vine City MARTA Stations
- (i) Community/Cultural Festivals
- (j) Grocery Store

### **Section 3.07 Assemblage and Land Banking**

The property in the area is one of its greatest assets. Comprehensive revitalization demands that the land be acquired, held, managed and developed in a coordinated manner. There should be a concerted effort by public and private entities to account for and develop the area's land strategically. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Repurpose Land
- (b) Public/Private Partnerships
- (c) Land Banking
- (d) Creation of a Community Land Trust

### **Section 3.08 Affordable Housing Creation and Preservation**

The development of the NSP should address the potential impacts of gentrification. Rehabilitation of existing stock and the creation of more affordable housing will ensure that current Area Residents are given an opportunity to remain in the community. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Renovations for Seniors and Low Income Homeowners
- (b) Vacant Housing Strategy
- (c) Workforce and Senior Housing
- (d) Single-Family Mixed-Income Homeownership Opportunities
- (e) Housing Enterprise Zone
- (f) Green Renovations
- (g) Non-Displacement Strategy
- (h) Cooperative Housing

### **Section 3.09 Environmental Mitigation**

The area has long suffered from environmental challenges. The development of the NSP should improve the environmental stability of the area to provide Area Residents with a higher environmental quality of life. Current areas of concerns, such as stormwater runoff, should be addressed and measures should be taken to prevent future environmental issues. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Stormwater and Water Resource Management
- (b) Construction Mitigation Strategy
- (c) Brownfield Assessment and Remediation
- (d) Water Reuse
- (e) Environmental Protection Division Study
- (f) Environmental Education

### **Section 3.10      Transportation Infrastructure and Improvements**

The area's transportation and infrastructure challenges should not be compounded by the advent of the NSP. Through strategic planning, development of the NSP should improve the condition, efficiency and connectivity of the area's transportation and infrastructure. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Sidewalks
- (b) Streetscape Improvements
- (c) Lighting
- (d) Safe Routes
- (e) Traffic Management
- (f) Crosswalks
- (g) Re-establish Street Grid Vehicular and Pedestrian Connectivity
- (h) Gateway Monument Entrances
- (i) Bike Connectivity
- (j) ADA Compliant Accessibility
- (k) 2-way Street Conversion
- (l) Bike Share Program
- (m) Promenades
- (n) Traffic Calming Measures

### **Section 3.11      Zoning**

An evaluation of the current zoning and permitted uses in the area should be conducted to ensure that each is in line with the neighborhoods' needs and is supportive of the revitalization initiative. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Evaluate Current Zoning and Permitted Uses
- (b) Assess Impact of Rezoning

### **Section 3.12      Safety and Code Enforcement**

Area Residents are familiar with the safety and code enforcement issues related to living in close proximity to a large event center. The development of the NSP should address these issues in a manner that encourages City of Atlanta Departments and the communities to work together collaboratively. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Increased Police Presence
- (b) Special Event Parking
- (c) Resident Permit Parking
- (d) Code Enforcement 7 Days a Week
- (e) Sanitation

- (f) Neighborhood Ambassador Program
- (g) Tailgating
- (h) Hours of Operation
- (i) Security Cameras
- (j) Neighborhood Watch
- (k) Signage
- (l) Officer Courtesy

### **Section 3.13 Historic Preservation**

The area's rich cultural history provides it with a unique identity and attractiveness. A collateral benefit of the development of the NSP should be to promote and preserve that history. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Identify Landmarks
- (b) Promote Heritage Tourism

### **Section 3.14 Green Space and Urban Agriculture**

The area neighborhoods suffer from a lack of parks, green space and urban agriculture, which negatively affects Area Residents' quality of life. A collateral benefit of NSP should be to assist in developing outdoor options that will encourage Area Residents to enjoy and interact with nature. The stakeholders have recommended the following general project concepts to further this CBP objective:

- (a) Walking Trails
- (b) Linear Parks
- (c) Dilapidated Property Conversion
- (d) Farmer's Market
- (e) Community Garden/Urban Farming
- (f) Pocket Parks
- (g) Green Streets
- (h) Food Truck Market

## **Article IV. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Section 4.01** For those who are interested in receiving assistance with completing the application for funding from the Westside TAD Community Improvement Fund and presenting their proposal to Invest Atlanta, Invest Atlanta will offer the services of an experienced business consultant. This consultant will be available to provide prospective applicants the consulting and technical assistance associated with scoping a project and completing the application as needed. Applicants will be required to

contribute an engagement fee of \$100. Invest Atlanta will cover the cost of these services at up to \$50 an hour for a maximum of 40 hours per client.

## **Article V. REPORTING**

**Section 5.01** Invest Atlanta or its designee will monitor and report quarterly on the status of funding and CBP project initiatives to the City of Atlanta Community Development/Human Resources Committee. Invest Atlanta or its designee will meet with the CBP Committee quarterly for updates on the implementation of the CBP and post regular updates of all CBP project activities to the Invest Atlanta website.

## Exhibits

- Exhibit A:** New Stadium Project Legislation (13-R-0615)
- Exhibit B:** Memorandum of Understanding between Invest Atlanta and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
- Exhibit C:** Community Benefits Plan Committee List
- Exhibit D:** Community Benefits Meeting Presentation (August 21, 2013)
- Exhibit E:** Community Improvement Fund Fact Sheet
- Exhibit F:** Neighborhood Prosperity Fund Fact Sheet
- Exhibit G:** Westside TAD Neighborhoods Strategic Implementation Plan Summary for Vine City and English Avenue
- Exhibit H:** Collective Community Presentation
- Exhibit I:** Castleberry Hill Neighborhood Presentation
- Exhibit J:** Community Benefits Plan Project Concept List
- Exhibit K:** Scope of Work Prioritization Survey (Survey Monkey)