In Englewood, recent investments have helped provide some of the neighborhood’s missing services, such as commercial centers with grocery stores, college, and rail-to-trails parks. The latter repurposes a physical barrier that once divided the community and transforms it into a destination.

To encourage growth and unity, the Englewood Line Trail—like the well-known 606 Trail—will be a beacon for activity. This proposal extends that vitality beyond the boundaries of the trail. A new series of parks and a bike path along Halsted will replace empty lots between the trail and the Green Line to the south.

At the southern tip of this new corridor, the endangered South Side Masonic Temple will be transformed into a new entertainment district. With spaces to live, work and shop, the Temple acts as a "college-town" for the adjacent Kennedy-King College and a cultural destination for families.

With the adaptive reuse of a building that once held such a prominent role in the lives of the South Side, it can once again become a hub for community-building and opportunity. Already, the Old Town School of Folk Music has expressed interest in this venue as a permanent home for its Englewood programs.
The thriving Temple Arts Lofts (completed 2013) in Vallejo, California, is the result of an inventive adaptive reuse project to save two abandoned historic buildings in the city's failing downtown. The project used post-recession federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to renovate Vallejo's old City Hall (1872) and Masonic Temple (1917) into a mixed-use development of 29 housing units, artist studio spaces and a performance venue. The project, together with other downtown revitalization efforts, helped create an arts-focused community while also addressing critical deficiencies in housing, jobs and cultural venues.