Multi-Generational Planning: Linking Needs of Children and Elders

Presentation to Mayors Innovation Project
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The Promise of Multi-Generational Planning
Arguments for Multi-Generational Planning

- Changing demographics
- Public expenditure challenges
- Economic development imperatives
- Planning and service design solutions
Changing Demographics

Nigeria 2009

Spain 2010

China 2010

United States 2009
Diversity and the New Social Compact

U.S. Population by Age and Race/Ethnicity

Federal and State/Local Spending on Elderly and Children

Spending per Elder
- Federal: $760
- State/Local: $21,144
Total = $21,904

Spending per Child
- Federal: $2,895
- State/Local: $6,047
Total = $8,942

Data Source: Isaacs, Julia, ‘How Much Do We Spend on Children And The Elderly?’ Urban Institute, 2009. Figure constructed by Mildred Warner.
Government Spending by Age (2004)

Government Spending by Age (2004)

Federal expenditures

State and local expenditures

Underinvestment

Government Revenue and Spending by Age (2004)

Economic Development Imperatives

Average Annual Expenditures and Income, by age group (2010)

Family spending on children fuels the local economy.

$222,360:
Average total spending by family per child (birth to age 17)

77% is spent in the local economy.

The Iceberg of Care: Market and Family Support Challenges:
Most of the iceberg lies below the water line

**Formal**
- 1.7 million paid workers (CPS 2000)
- 800,000 paid workers (BLS 2000)
- 900,000 additional paid workers (CPS 2000)

**Informal**
- 800,000 additional paid workers (Burton, et al 2002)
- 2.4 million unpaid care workers (93% unpaid relatives) (Burton, et al 2002)

**Family, Friends and Neighbors**

**Family**

**Unpaid Parental Care**
(12% of total U.S. Paid Work Time, 2005 ATUS: Approx. 17 million worker equivalents)
The Critical Role for Planning and Community Design

- 2008 Family Friendly Planning Survey, American Planning Association
- 944 planners responded
- Surveyed attitudes, barriers, actions, zoning and site planning
**ACTIONS:**
Many local actions promote child and family friendly cities.

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**Transportation & Mobility**
- Have sidewalks 97%
- Have bike lanes 76%
- Have walk-to-school programs 52%

**Education**
- Collaborate with school district to site schools 45%
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Multi-unit family housing near family-friendly amenities;
Old Colony Development, Boston Housing Authority

*Source: Beacon Development*
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City and school collaborated to site Westerly Creek Elementary School near residences in newly developed Stapleton area in Denver, CO. Photo: US EPA

In Charlotte, NC, the community built a school, light rail station for commuters, and parking for both (with a playfield atop the parking garage).

Seniors can ride school buses to the supermarket through Age-Friendly NYC. Photo: Getty Images, NYC

Schools are a natural site for intergenerational programming. Photo: Corporation for National & Community Service
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Salinas, CA: Affordable housing at Jardines del Monte was designed for family child care

Source: Kristen Anderson

San Jose, CA: The community co-located child care and affordable housing near a light rail station.

Photo: Kristen Anderson.
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Fruitvale BART Station and Head Start, Oakland, CA

Downtown Bozeman, Montana
Family friendly planning reduces crime.

- Family friendly planning: Esp. Impact fees to fund community services

+ Community disorder: Unemployment, poverty, drop-out rates, etc.

Planning Leads to Action, Ignorance Leads to Resistance

- Family Participation
- Site Planning and Zoning
- Positive Attitudes
- Lack of Awareness and Lack of Knowledge
- Comprehensive Planning

Action

Active Resistance

+ leads to more
- leads to less

Key variables from regression results.

Promote youth and family participation in the planning process.

Public art mural created for 5th Ward by kids who live in the neighborhoods - Museum of Cultural Art Houston in partnership with Houston Parks and Recreation.
Barriers to Building Family-Friendly Communities

**Active Resistance**
- Public blocks multi-family housing: 76%
- Public blocks mixed-use development: 54%
- Blocks affordable housing: 65%
- No financial support: 68%
- Developer-driven development: 68%
- NIMBY-ism: 71%
- Regulatory barriers: 45%

**Lack of Awareness and Knowledge**
- Lack of voice for families: 65%
- Insufficient political interest: 63%
- Lack of community interest: 57%
- Complexity of issue: 66%
- Unaware of what is required to begin: 56%
- Lack of authority: 53%

Planning Leads to Action, Ignorance Leads to Resistance

Key variables from regression results.

### Planners’ attitudes towards families are positive

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<td>Families are important to community growth, sustainability and diversity.</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families represent a valuable consumer population</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communities that keep people for the whole life cycle (children, single adults, parents, elderly) are more vibrant.</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<td>Families are the most likely population group to reinvest in their community through time, money and other forms of civic engagement.</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<td>The needs of families are similar to the needs of the elderly with regards to the physical environment (e.g. parks, transportation, affordable housing).</td>
<td>64%</td>
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<td>Most families do not generate sufficient tax revenue to cover the cost of services they demand.</td>
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A Vision for the Future

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