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Proposal for Round Table on Neighborhoods in America

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May 31, 1995

Ruby,
This is what I
want to talk to her
about. Thanks,
Marilyn

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: MARILYN DIGIACOBBE *MD*

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR A ROUNDTABLE ON NEIGHBORHOODS
IN AMERICA

JUN - 1 1995

The organizers of the January 8, 1993 Roundtable on Neighborhoods in America held in Little Rock, Arkansas have proposed that we conduct a follow-up roundtable. Attached is a copy of the report of the original roundtable and a list of proposed participants for the follow-up roundtable.

The event would bring together local and community organizers -- mostly urban groups working on self help, community and economic development, housing, community anti-crime efforts, leadership development and youth issues. It would encompass a variety of ethnic groups including Hispanic, African, Asian, Native and European-Americans.

The Roundtable would focus on community development and community reinvestment and highlight Administration policies that contribute to efforts to **build stronger urban neighborhoods and communities**. It would draw attention to the President's efforts to support the efforts of working class neighborhoods to help themselves. It would tie together our efforts to rebuild and revitalize communities through anti-crime efforts, education, housing, empowerment zones, etc.

On the political side, it provides an opportunity to bring together and motivate community organizers, a natural constituency for the President that has not been worked to its potential.

I believe this would be a good event for the President to do in an urban community in a key state such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, etc.

I would like to discuss this idea with you as soon as possible. Thank you.

Draft Invitation List
Neighborhood Roundtable, 1995
April 11, 1995

Ms. Nancy Aardema Director
Logan Square Neighborhood Assn.
3321 W. Wrightwood
Chicago IL 60607
312-384-4370
312-384-0624

LSNA does community organizing in Hispanic neighborhood. Issues: housing conditions, crime, education, and economic development.

Bob Adams President
National Low Income Housing Coalition
14th St. NW
Washington DC
202-662-1530
Housing Advocates

Manuel Allende Exec. Dir.
PODER Inc. 73 Carpenter Ave.
Newburgh NY 12550
914-561-8191
914-561-3493
Hispanic organization, housing and community issues.

Mr. Sam Baca
New Mexico Community Foundation
P.O. Box 149 Santa Fe NM 87501
505-982-3960
412-765-1312
Program: Churches, Symbol of Community

Rev. John Bauman, SJ Exec. Dir.
PICO Institute for Community Organizations
171 Santa Rosa Ave. Oakland CA 94610
510-655-2801
510-655-2801

PICO founded in early 1970's to support network of independent organizations in N. CA. Does training and TA with church-based community groups, mostly in the West.

Dave Beckwith, Field Staff
Center for Community Change
101 Main St., 2nd Floor
Toledo OH 43605
419-697-9090
419-698-1260
Field staff and community organizer.

Mr. Peter Brink Vice Pres.
National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington DC 20036
202-673-4000
202-673-4038
VP for Services and Programs

Dr. Arthur Carter President
VESEHC P.O. Box 836 Nassawadox VA 23413
804-442-4509
804-442-7530
Org. that does housing dev., community recipient, community org., and economic development
on NE shore of VA. Enterprise.

Ms. Gale Cincotta Exec. Dir.
National Peoples' Action Center
810 Milwaukee Ave. Chicago IL 60622
312-243-3035
312-243-7044
NPA does training and TA for loose confederation of community groups nationwide since 1972.
NPA led the fight for Home Mortgage Disclosure and Community Reinvestment Legislation.
holds annual DC conf. with activists from around country.

Darryl Cox Director
National Council on Community Econ. Dev.
1612 K St., NW Suite 510 Washington DC 20006
202-659-8411
202-223-4579
NCCED is a national "trade association" of local community groups that do economic
development work. They hold two national conferences a year, sponsor training and research in
improving local groups

Mr. Pablo Eisenberg Director
Center for Community Change
1000 Wisconsin Ave., NW Washington DC 20007
202-342-0519
202-342-1132

Since late 60's CCC has supported local minority and low income groups. CCC does onsite TIA and consultation. Led the original struggle for community reinvestment, and works with 250 org/yr. on org. dev., housing, community org., and urban & rural issues.

Ms. Holly Fiala
Inspired Partnerships
53 N. Jackson Blvd., Suite 852
Chicago IL 60604
312-294-0077
312-294-0085

Pilot program to reuse churches as symbols of community strength. Historic Preservation.

Carolyn Ford Director
North Florida Education Dev. Corp.
P.O. Box 56 Gretna FL 32332
904-856-5025

Rural FL community-based adult education, housing, community development, and social services.

Ms. Patricia Gay Exec. Dir
Preserv. Resources of New Orleans
604 Julia St. New Orleans LA 70130
504-581-7032
504-522-9275 2.0000 -

Stanley Horn
The Voice of the People
4753 N. Broadway St., Suite 1010 Chicago IL 60640
312-769-2442
312-769-2772

Gerard Joab Program Dir
LISC - Newark
744 Broad St., Suite 1123 Newark NJ 07102
201-624-6676
201-624-0990
Newark LISC

Jacqueline Johnson Exec. Dir.
Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority
P.O. Box 32237 Juneau AK 99803
907-780-6868
907-780-6895
Native American activist.

Bill Jones VP
Local Initiative Support Corp.
547 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 601 Chicago IL 60661
312-697-6124
312-360-0184
Chicago/LISC VF

Michael Kane President
National Alliance of HUD Tenants
Boston, Mass
Tenants in privately owned federally subsidized housing

Bud Kanitz Exec. Dir.
National Neighborhood Coalition
1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 710
Washington DC 20009
202-986-2096 202-986-2593
National Neighborhood Coalition

Steve Kest Nat. Dir.
ACORN
845 Flatbush Ave.
Brooklyn NY 11220
718-693-6700
718-693-3367

ACORN was founded in Little Rock in the early 70's. They are a national organization with local chapters, with a focus on community organizing around housing, credit issues, utilities, etc.

Lynette Lee Director
East Bay Asian Local Development Corp.
310 8th St., Suite 309 Oakland CA 94607
510-287-5353
510-763-4143
Development Leadership Network. Immigrant issues, housing and economic development

Ted Ligibel
Dept. of Geography & Geology
Eastern Michigan University Ypsilanti MI 48147
419-882-1234
313-481-1095
Neighborhood-oriented historic preservation.

Stanley Lowe Director
Pittsburgh Historic & Landmark Foundation Bx 99974
Pittsburgh PA 15233
412-471-5808
412-322-6053
Historic preservation and minority concerns.

Pamela Martin-Turner Exec. Dir.
REACH, Inc.
15866 Rosa Parks Blvd.
Detroit MI 48238
313-345-8727
313-345-1805
African-American dir. of an Af-Am neighborhood group that does housing development, commercial development, community organizing and social services employment and training.

Joseph McNeely
Development Training Institute (DTI)
4806 Seton Dr. Baltimore MD 21215
410-764-0780
410-764-0786
DTI does training for community development groups nationwide, and, since the mid 70's, have been the leading trainers of housing and econ. dev. professionals. Train foundation and bank exec. on dev.

Tom Menino
Mayor City of Boston One City Hall Plaza Boston MA 02109
617-635-4000
Mayor of Boston

Gladys Muhammad Comm. Org.
South Bend Heritage Foundation
914 Lincoln Way West South Bend IN 46616
219-233-1020
219-233-4385

African American housing development & historic preservation group doing community organizing on city development

Ron Shiffman Director
Center for Comm. and Econ. Dev.:Pratt Inst. 379 Dekalb Ave.
Brooklyn NY 11205
718-636-3486
718-636-3709

Pratt Institute: Master degrees' program in planning and community development Key national trainer and advocate.

Pat Sweeney Director
Western Organization of Resource Councils 104 North Broadway, Suite 412
Billings MT 59101
406-252-9672
406-252-1092

WORC is a confederation of rural organizations in MT, WY, ND, SD, & CO. Each federation member has local chapters. They work on resource issues like land use, toxic waste, and development.

Juanita Tate Exec. Dir.
Concerned Citizens South Central LA
P.O. Box 11337 Los Angeles CA 90011
213-846-2500
Powerful African-American community organizing and housing development group

Mr. Peter Ujvagi Vice Pres.
E&C Manufacturing
124 Paine Ave.
Toledo OH 43605
419-693-4781
419-693-4035
Carter National Commission on Neighborhoods, Toledo City Council, former County Democratic Chair, organizer of Clinton Neighborhood Roundtable.

Bhodran Watral CEO
Self-Reliance Ukranian Credit Union
2351 West Chicago Chicago IL 60622
312-489-0520
312-489-1573
Credit union

Carl Westmore and President
Mt. Auburn Good Housing Foundation, Inc.
1901 Auburn Terrace Cincinnati OH 45219
513-241-6292
513-323-0301

Neighborhood activist, former trustee of National Historic Trust for Historic Preservation

Salima Willett Director
Teen Pregnancy Prevention/Indian Center, Inc.
1100 Military Rd. Lincoln NE 68508
402-438-5231
402-438-5236
Native-American activist.

Charlene Williams Director
Asylum Hill Organizing Project
350 Farmington Ave. Hartford CT 06101
203-249-7691
203-525-1907

Community organizing group with close ties to insurance companies, service agencies, doing recreation and community center, organizing on housing, development, crime, education, etc.

Sue Wuest Research Associate
The Urban Affairs Center
The University of Toledo
Toledo OH 43606
419-537-3592
419-537-3548

Little Rock Roundtable report author. Former director of Working Group on Neighborhoods. Manager of demonstration project to design a central city economic strategy based on flexible manuf. networks tied to CDCs.

Raul Yzaguirre President
National Council of LaRaza
1111 19th, NW Suite 1000 Washington DC 20036
202-785-1670
202-785-0851

LaRaza has brought together Hispanic community dev. groups, advocacy groups, voter registration efforts, etc. since the mid 60's.

Neighborhood Roundtable

Proposed for **Thursday, April 27** or **Monday, May 1** or **Tuesday, May 2**

DESCRIPTION:

A **two-hour dialogue** with 30+ local and national **community development groups** and two or three key White House Policy staff, convened by the Office of Public Liaison.

BACKGROUND:

Builds on successful Little Rock/Transition Team meeting 1/93 (see attached Report).

Involves **urban and rural** groups working on self help, community development, housing, economic development, community anti-crime efforts, leadership development and youth issues.

Invited list includes Eastern European ethnic leadership and Hispanic, African, Native and Asian Americans; good balance of men and women; and **good geographic spread**.

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES:

Identify federal policy **issues** that are both key to the success of community based efforts and high priority for White House over next two years.

Energize and mobilize what should be a natural constituency of community development groups across the country.

Capture the "high ground" in response to "Contract" with successful **examples** of grassroots involvement that embody the **New Covenant/mainstream** values of opportunity, responsibility and community.

Shape an agenda for effective local action to **move Congress** on issues of mutual concern.

Reconnect to networks in key states and Congressional districts that could be of critical importance in 1996.

CURRENT 'HOT BUTTON' ISSUES FOR THESE GROUPS:

Access to **credit** for homeownership, economic development and community development (Community Reinvestment Act; National Community Development Financial Institutions, etc.).

Resources for **housing** for low- and moderate-income families (CDBG, other HUD \$).

Community-based **anti-crime** efforts (Crime bill, community policing).

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1995

Mr. Pablo Eisenberg
Executive Director
Center for Community Change
1000 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Hon. Peter Ujvagi
Member, City Council
City of Toledo
One Government Center
Toledo, OH 43604

Dear Pablo and Peter:

As you know, throughout his career in public service, the President has always been committed to community empowerment. In light of the current atmosphere in Congress, now is an important time to reaffirm this commitment. In that spirit, we welcome your initiative to reconnect the Neighborhood Roundtable participants with our efforts to fight the Republican rescissions.

In order for the economic recovery to be felt by working people and the struggling poor, we must maintain investments where it counts -- in their neighborhoods and communities. That's why, over the past two years, the President has fought to create empowerment zones and enterprise communities, to support community development banks, to pass a crime bill that supports prevention strategies and puts additional police on the streets for community policing, to expand worker training and make college loans more affordable, and to expand Head Start and child immunization programs.

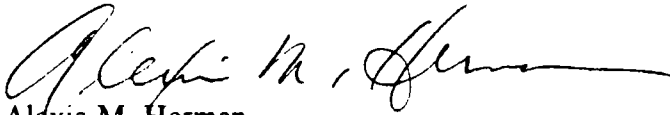
While fighting to protect the investments that give working people and the struggling poor the opportunity to help themselves, the President will continue to fight the Republican efforts to slash investments in children in order to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. The current GOP budget cuts would undermine the war on drugs, cut food programs for women and infants, make housing less affordable, and eliminate summer jobs.

As requested, attached is some information which lays out our position on the proposed Republican rescissions. I understand you are reaching out to the original participants of the Neighborhood Roundtable with this information to reinvigorate their group commitment to community empowerment. I remember well the recommendations of the Neighborhood

Roundtable which you helped to coordinate prior to the President taking office in 1993. It was an important part of setting the tone for this Administration's efforts to revitalize America's economy through investments in the economy's backbone -- it's working people and their neighborhoods and communities.

Once again, thank you for your commitment and for helping spread the word. I look forward to continuing our dialogue and building on the spirit of your work with the Neighborhood Roundtable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis M. Herman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alexis M. Herman
Assistant to the President and
Director, Office of Public Liaison

AMH: ik
Attachments

Report of The Roundtable on Neighborhoods in America

A Resource for a Diverse and Inclusive America

January 8, 1993
Little Rock, Arkansas

"Revitalize America Through Community Development: Put neighborhoods at the center of our efforts to revitalize America by coordinating existing housing, education, employment training, health-care, drug treatment and crime prevention programs."

(Putting People First, pp. 113, 114)

This report and the Roundtable on Neighborhoods in America
are both dedicated to the memory of
Monsignor Geno Baroni,
Founder of The National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs.

Submitted

To:

Christopher Hyland,
Deputy Political Director, Presidential Transition Team

By:

David L. Beckwith
The University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center and
The Center for Community Change

Peter Ujvagi
Hungarian American Coalition and
E&C Manufacturing

Sue A. Wuest
The University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center and
The Working Group on Neighborhoods

INTRODUCTION

On January 8, 1993 a Roundtable on Neighborhoods in America was sponsored by the Clinton Transition Team. The Roundtable was chaired by Christopher Hyland, Deputy Political Director of the Clinton Transition Team.

Leaders from community and neighborhood based organizations, historic preservation and community arts advocates were convened to share the lessons they have learned through their efforts.

This report represents the recommendations of the roundtable participants to the new Clinton administration by defining goals and strategies that encourage the efforts of locally based initiatives to revitalize and rebuild our nations communities.

SUMMARY AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD:

- I. Articulate a Vision of America as Community, and recognize the urgent need to come together to rebuild our communities where they are threatened: in the inner city neighborhoods, poor rural communities, the barrio, reservations, public housing projects, and ethnic and minority neighborhoods.
- II. Adopt a comprehensive community - based strategy to revitalize America from the bottom up.
- III. Recognize the key role of community based organizations in carrying out that strategy.

RECOMMENDATION I

President Clinton Should:

Articulate a Vision of America
as Community,

and recognize the urgent need
to come together to rebuild our
communities where they are threatened:
in the inner city neighborhoods,
poor rural communities,
the barrio, reservations,
public housing projects,
and ethnic and minority neighborhoods.

INTRODUCTION

President-elect Clinton has built a powerful consensus around the concepts of Change and Inclusion.

The issues of neighborhoods and community revitalization have surfaced in the roundtables held on Economic Issues, Homelessness and Affordable Housing, and Meeting the Social and Health Care needs of the Whole Nation. With the new administration comes the opportunity to carry through on President Clinton's theme of Putting People First.

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

1. In the **Inaugural Address**, the President can begin to articulate a clear, positive vision for America's urban and poor rural communities. Elements to include:
 - A recognition of the key role that Community plays in the quality of life and prosperity of our diverse and richly textured nation.
 - A recognition of the successes that community based efforts have had in solving problems and creating community.
 - A recognition of the role that community based organizations need to play in fulfilling the Promise of the our nation.
 - A recognition of the critical role that the arts and historic preservation play by preserving the best of the past and enhancing the quality of life of the present of every community in America.
2. Within the first 100 days, the President should **convene a Working Group on Neighborhood and Community Renewal**, whose assignment will be to develop recommendations for action in three areas:
 - ♦ Executive action or regulatory changes that could quickly improve the efficiency of existing programs;
 - ♦ During the first year, legislative changes needed to make existing programs meet community revitalization and preservation goals within a year; and
 - ♦ By the end of the first year, new initiatives that could practically be undertaken to meet the needs of communities in a more efficient, cost effective, empowering way.
3. **The White House and the new administration will need to be staffed to meet the challenge of a comprehensive, serious attack on community issues.** The administration needs to build into the structure of government a specific responsibility for neighborhood and community revitalization in four key areas:
 - ♦ The White House Office of Public Liaison;
 - ♦ The president's domestic policy staff;
 - ♦ A cabinet agency at the assistant secretary level, as in the Carter Administration the Assistant Secretary for Neighborhoods in HUD;

- ♦ A standing interagency Task Force including at least HUD, Labor, Commerce (EDA), JJS, Education, Justice (Community Crime Prevention), Transportation, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and ACTION.
4. Administration staff working with the President's Working Group on Neighborhood and Community Renewal, should **sponsor a series of regional meetings** that will convene front line practitioners with city and state government allies, and experts in the field, as well as the philanthropic and private sector partners critical to solving community problems. They will:
 - ♦ Inform the work of the Task Forces, and
 - ♦ Feed into regional strategies to inform a national White House Conference at the end of the Working Group's tenure.
 - ♦ Build an Agenda for the Year 2000 for neighborhood and community renewal.
 5. **Coordinate timelines** for applying to programs that are connected, including HHS & HUD
 6. **Simplify reporting and administration** across the board

ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATION I

- Recognize that **poverty is not acceptable** and that we will mobilize as a nation to make it possible for everyone to earn a decent living.
- **Convene leaders in philanthropy and the private sector** to identify ways in which they can expand their role in and increase their contribution to community efforts that address poverty, community development and, neighborhood revitalization.
- **Recognize the role that churches play** in keeping communities whole. This should include a public event like a tour or site visit, perhaps including a review of government programs to identify and eliminate unnecessary barriers to local church involvement in government programs to support healthy communities. Use local congregations as centers of peace - support this role through conflict resolution training, community courts, etc.
- **Support/create a new attitude of government**, bringing out the creativity and commitment of those with years of public service, looking towards an attitude

that is oriented to getting results rather than meeting the needs of the bureaucracy. This could include in service training that involves community residents, recognition for good work, etc.

- Find a way to **signal the new commitment** to creating a neighborhood competent government. This could mean a simple announcement that the Clinton Administration views community based organizations as the best means for community survival and renewal, held in a place where exemplary work is going on.
- **Recognize that community groups have been a valuable tool for economic empowerment**, through jobs created directly in community owned business ventures and through jobs created indirectly by private ventures who, because of the groups' efforts, locate and stay in troubled areas.
- **Set a tone of respect and consideration for the opinion of the intended beneficiaries of existing - and proposed - programs.** This is done through support for Citizen monitoring, convening work groups that include community people and others, listening and responding to consumer complaints, and creating and supporting a system of continuous quality control and program improvement.
- **Recognize and affirm the right of people not only to organize and petition government, but to be heard and taken seriously.** This is accomplished by guaranteeing access to decision making, requiring adequate notice of preliminary steps, supporting the costs of specialized research so that citizen advocates can be well prepared advocates, and building an infrastructure of training, research and networks.
- **Signal through appointments, particularly at the HUD Regional Director Level, the recognition of the key role of community based organizations.**
- **Any new programs need to be developed with the close involvement of the people who will implement them, and those who are to benefit from them. Native, tribal, community and neighborhood leaders need to be involved in developing and carrying out the policies and programs that affect them.**

RECOMMENDATION II PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD:

Adopt a comprehensive community -based
strategy
to revitalize America
from the bottom up.

INTRODUCTION

People live in communities: strong communities are those where problems can be dealt with TOGETHER, where there are institutions and structures that help us take care of ourselves and each other. **Community based organizations are a tool for dealing with whatever threat a community might face:** racial tension, social disfunction, drugs, crime, family disintegration, inadequate housing, joblessness, and inadequate education. All of these issues and more have been addressed by community based groups, neighbors organized to help neighbors.

Longer term solutions will require new initiatives and major changes in existing programs. These should be guided by the general principles enumerated by the 1978 White House Commission on Neighborhoods report, echoed at the 1993 Neighborhood Roundtable: **Governance, Capacity and Equity.**

Communities exercise **governance**, through traditional politics, community institutions like the churches and civic and social groups and, in many cases community based advocacy and development organizations. It is these grassroots institutions, closest to people, responsive and responding to their will, their desires, their needs, that can best unlock the potential in each person, and put to common use the assets that exist in the neediest of areas.

Many troubled communities, however, lack the **capacity** to effectively participate in governance. By building upon existing assets within a community, government can improve the community's capacity for self-help.

When communities organize and assemble the tools they need they can define and achieve equity on their own terms.

A comprehensive community based strategy would include program and policy initiatives that address:

- A. Revitalizing and strengthening the housing assets of our communities
- B. Creating and preserving jobs in our neighborhoods
- C. Investing in our youth
- D. Community planning for the future
- E. Promoting community through historic preservation and the arts

STRATEGY A.
REVITALIZING AND STRENGTHENING HOUSING
AS A COMMUNITY ASSET

- Make HUD regulations and definitions more flexible to accommodate local realities, eg. rural areas, reuse of common local housing stock, including, "shotgun" houses, bungalows, adobe
- Expand and increase funding for Section 8
- Improve regulations on mortgage revenue bonds to remove disincentives to city vs. suburban style development this would include: income levels, price floors/ceilings, etc
- Keep/report statistics on housing rehab starts and inner city demolitions and abandonments as well as new housing starts
- Remove disincentive to donate appreciated property in the 1986 tax act
- Rebuild Farmers' Home Administration Housing Production Programs - too much red tape, designed to fail
- Improve family farm programs including credit, appeals, etc.
- Connect FEMA and Historic preservation
- Increase HOME to \$2 Billion
- Market Section 8 and other programs in languages appropriate to communities.
- Increase rent subsidy to meet increasing cost of providing housing
- Improve Low Income Tax Credit by linking it with credit enhancement, services, counseling, etc. to make it more accessible to the poor
- Extend CRA requirements to apply to private lending institutions and mortgage investment firms.

NEW IDEAS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- Build on/expand community owned credit unions as a tool for home ownership and housing rehabilitation.
- Establish CRA type requirements for Insurance companies in the investment of their resources and in the writing of their policies

- Create a Federal Tax exemption for people who stay in troubled or older neighborhoods
- Use Community Reinvestment Act ratings to guide investment/deposits of government resources in banks
- Encourage economic progress by creating a rent ceiling for public housing
- Provide incentives for people to relocate into our cities' older neighborhoods.

STRATEGY B

CREATING AND PRESERVING JOBS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

- Tie together job creation with infrastructure investments
- Stop moving post offices and other government buildings out of downtowns neighborhood business districts, and small rural communities.
- Expand such programs as Main Street USA.

NEW IDEAS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- Support community based efforts to build on existing manufacturing strengths within their communities by supporting the creation of flexible manufacturing networks.
- Enhance private community capital formation through community development banks.
- Build on/expand community owned credit unions as a tool for small business finance.
- Community economic development tax credit patterned on the low income housing tax credit to attract private investment into job creating efforts sponsored by community based organizations
- Promote the preservation of small business districts and develop programs to prevent the proliferation of suburban malls that destroy neighborhood and small town business districts.
- Expand the definition of infrastructure to include museums, community centers and other community facilities

STRATEGY C
INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

- Enforce Child Support as a means of increasing opportunities for women and children.
- Fund universal access to Head Start Programs.

NEW IDEAS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- Special initiative focused on rescuing our young African-American men.
- Promote equitable funding of education with less reliance on local property taxes.
- National Youth initiative built on respect and self help principles.
- Develop "Cultural Passport Voucher" Program to introduce sixth to ninth graders to museums, historic sites and the arts.
- Forgiveness of college loans for service with community based organizations.
- Implement the recently enacted National YouthBuild Act HR 501.

STRATEGY D COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

- Transportation projects need to first DO NO HARM in terms of community destruction and encouraging people and business to leave the city, then need to contribute to community strategy - make public transportation serve the poor by getting them to where the jobs are
- Implement Council on Environmental Quality study on cost/impact of suburban sprawl.
- Improve local rights to say 'no' to toxic waste facilities

NEW IDEAS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- We need to document and share the successes of cbo's over the last twenty years
- Create incentives for comprehensive, community based planning that involves a partnership between community based organizations, government and private sector - 'neighborhood budget'
- Add government resources to community renewal efforts by partnering with community organizations and locating government facilities and, utilizing the services of community organizations and the businesses located in those communities.
- Distribute government surplus kitchen and other supplies from downsizing the military for churches and other community based social service efforts
- Create "Special Character Districts", like Hist Districts's, to build on a sense of place for a community and coordinate resources to make these happen

STRATEGY E
PROMOTING COMMUNITY THROUGH HISTORIC
PRESERVATION AND THE ARTS

- Restore Historic Preservation Tax Credit to pre-1986
- Increase funding for Historic Preservation Fund and through State offices
- Promote programs like "Artists in Public Places" in schools, parks, youth and community organizations.
- Promote heritage corridors to unite urban, suburban and rural communities.
- Remove passive loss and income caps from historic preservation tax credit.
- Tie together Arts Endowment public art funding with landscape design and community planning.
- Expand Main Street program of National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Spend ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act) to create jobs and provide job opportunities and rebuild the historic transportation facilities.

NEW IDEAS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- Encourage institutions of the arts like museums, theaters to partner with community organizations
- Reinstate the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities Livable Cities Programs that link the arts and the humanities with community revitalization efforts.
- Create 'Special Character Districts', like Hist Districts's, to build on a sense of place for a community and coordinate resources to make these happen.
- Extend Historic Preservation Tax Credit to homeowners.
- Federal Government should match state money for historic preservation projects.
- National Endowment for the Arts /National Endowment for the Humanities should create special programs to build racial and cultural unity and tolerance.
- Coordinate the Arts and Humanities endowments work with HUD to help communities.

- Promote and reward creative collaborations among architects, planners and builders to facilitate quality building in our communities.
- Encourage public art by requiring a "1% for Arts".

RECOMMENDATION III

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD:

RECOGNIZE THE KEY ROLE OF COMMUNITY
BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN CARRYING OUT
THAT STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

Neighborhood and community based organizations are taking on the toughest problems in the toughest areas of urban and rural America. They have survived and triumphed in spite of years of neglect and the systematic withdrawal of public resources. **Public policy that empowers neighborhoods and strengthens their ability to develop community based solutions will result in healthy communities in urban and poor rural areas.**

Neighborhood and community based organizations are the best and most cost-effective instrument to re-empower cities and poor rural communities. The Clinton Administration has the opportunity to use this national resource to rebuild America.

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

- Put more teeth in the Community Reinvestment Act
 - Give grassroots groups/consumers a role in evaluating CRA performance of banks.
 - Add gender bias to CRA reviews
 - Improve Community Reinvestment Act enforcement - fill vacancies in Office of Thrift Supervision, FDIC, etc., replace Director of Federal Housing Finance Board

- Reinstate strong citizen participation requirements in federal programs critical to community renewal.
- Provide longer term CDBG commitments to cities, allowing for longer term operating support and project commitments.
- More money for CDBG.
- Recognize the key role of community based organizations in carrying out that strategy.
- Make the inventory of property held by RTC, Farmers' Home, FHA and HUD available community based organization for the development of affordable housing.
- Increase the HOME set-aside for Community Based Development Corporation sponsored housing development projects to 25% from current 15%
- Enforce Fair Housing and civil rights laws.
- Allow funding of community groups from Community Development Block Grant funds without regard to the regulation limiting cities to a spending cap off 15% for administration and planning.
- Set-aside for community based development activities in CDBG.
- Enforce regulations on proper use of money to cities.
- Insure that capacity building efforts are available in the language of the community and in a way that connects with the culture of the community

NEW IDEAS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- Support local, regional and national initiatives to train leadership and build organizational capacity at the community level.
- Programs that are created to address problems such as unemployment, lack of affordable housing, crime and drugs, poor quality of public education, and deteriorating infrastructure should include special set-asides for community based initiatives aimed toward solving these problems in poor communities.
- Set-aside 5% of any new community programs for capacity building & citizen monitoring
- Employment in Community Based Organizations should qualify as Community

service jobs for the purpose of repayment of student loans (college tuition), and include a set-aside and funding for part of cost of hiring

- Encourage linkages between major institutions and the community that surround them
- Provide research and demonstration to CBO's to decide what initiatives to use to address community problems
- Support/pass National Neighborhood Partnership Act
- Creating a National Endowment for Neighborhoods that would provide a national pool of funding for long term operating support for community organizations.
- Support the Native American Housing Commission's proposal to create a network of community development banks in native communities
- Allow the repayment of delinquent government loans through community service to community organizations.

APPENDIX 1 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ROUNDTABLE ON AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Priority Recommendations and Implementation Steps

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD:

- I. Articulate a Vision of America as Community, and recognize the urgent need to come together to rebuild our communities where they are threatened: in the inner city neighborhoods, poor rural communities, the barrio, reservations, public housing projects, and ethnic and minority neighborhoods.
- II. Adopt a comprehensive community - based strategy to revitalize America from the bottom up.
- III. Recognize the key role of community based organizations in carrying out that strategy.

RECOMMENDATION I

President Clinton Should:

Articulate a Vision of America
as Community,
and recognize the urgent need
to come together to rebuild our
communities where they are threatened:
in the inner city neighborhoods,
poor rural communities,
the barrio, reservations,
public housing projects,
and ethnic and minority neighborhoods.

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

1. In the **Inaugural Address**, the President can begin to articulate a clear, positive vision for America's urban and poor rural communities. Elements to include:
 - A recognition of the key role that Community plays in the quality of life and prosperity of our diverse and richly textured nation.
 - A recognition of the successes that community based efforts have had in solving problems and creating community.
 - A recognition of the role that community based organizations need to play in fulfilling the Promise of the our nation.
 - A recognition of the critical role that the arts and historic preservation play by preserving the best of the past and enhancing the quality of life of the present of every community in America.

2. Within the first 100 days, the President should **convene a Working Group on Neighborhood and Community Renewal**, whose assignment will be to develop recommendations for action in three areas:
 - ♦ Executive action or regulatory changes that could quickly improve the efficiency of existing programs;
 - ♦ During the first year, legislative changes needed to make existing programs meet community revitalization and preservation goals within a year; and
 - ♦ By the end of the first year, new initiatives that could practically be undertaken to meet the needs of communities in a more efficient, cost effective, empowering way.
3. **The White House and the new administration will need to be staffed to meet the challenge of a comprehensive, serious attack on community issues.** The administration needs to build into the structure of government a specific responsibility for neighborhood and community revitalization in four key areas:
 - ♦ The White House Office of Public Liaison;
 - ♦ The president's domestic policy staff;
 - ♦ A cabinet agency at the assistant secretary level, as in the Carter Administration the Assistant Secretary for Neighborhoods in HUD;
 - ♦ A standing interagency Task Force including at least HUD, Labor, Commerce (EDA), JJS, Education, Justice (Community Crime Prevention), Transportation, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and ACTION.
4. Administration staff working with the President's Working Group on Neighborhood and Community Renewal, should **sponsor a series of regional meetings** that will convene front line practitioners with city and state government allies, and experts in the field, as well as the philanthropic and private sector partners critical to solving community problems. They will:
 - ♦ Inform the work of the Task Forces, and
 - ♦ Feed into regional strategies to inform a national White House Conference at the end of the Working Group's tenure.
 - ♦ Build an Agenda for the Year 2000 for neighborhood and community renewal.

5. **Coordinate timelines** for applying to programs that are connected, including HHS & HUD
6. **Simplify reporting and administration** across the board

RECOMMENDATION II
PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD:

Adopt a comprehensive community -based
strategy
to revitalize America
from the bottom up.

STRATEGY A
REVITALIZING AND STRENGTHENING
HOUSING AS A COMMUNITY ASSET

- Make HUD regulations and definitions more flexible to accommodate local realities, eg. rural areas, reuse of common local housing stock, including. "shotgun" houses, bungalows, adobe
- Expand and increase funding for Section 8
- Improve regulations on mortgage revenue bonds to remove disincentives to city vs. suburban style development this would include: income levels, price floors/ceilings, etc
- Keep/report statistics on housing rehab starts and inner city demolitions and abandonments as well as new housing starts
- Build on/expand community owned credit unions as a tool for home ownership and housing rehabilitation.

STRATEGY B
CREATING AND PRESERVING JOBS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

- Tie together job creation with infrastructure investments

- Support community based efforts to build on existing manufacturing strengths within their communities by supporting the creation of flexible manufacturing networks.
- Enhance private community capital formation through community development banks.

STRATEGY C INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

- Enforce Child Support as a means of increasing opportunities for women and children.
- Fund universal access to Head Start Programs.
- Special initiative focused on rescuing our young African-American men.
- Promote equitable funding of education with less reliance on local property taxes.

STRATEGY D COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

- Transportation projects need to first DO NO HARM in terms of community destruction and encouraging people and business to leave the city, then need to contribute to community strategy - make public transportation serve the poor by getting them to where the jobs are
- We need to document and share the successes of cbo's over the last twenty years

STRATEGY E PROMOTING COMMUNITY THROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND THE ARTS

- Restore Historic Preservation Tax Credit to pre-1986
- Increase funding for Historic Preservation Fund and through State offices
- Encourage institutions of the arts like museums, theaters to partner with community organizations

- Reinststate the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities Livable Cities Programs that link the arts and the humanities with community revitalization efforts.

RECOMMENDATION III

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD:

RECOGNIZE THE KEY ROLE OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN CARRYING OUT THAT STRATEGY

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

- Put more teeth in the Community Reinvestment Act
 - Give grassroots groups/consumers a role in evaluating CRA performance of banks.
 - Add gender bias to CRA reviews.
 - Improve Community Reinvestment Act enforcement - fill vacancies in Office of Thrift Supervision, FDIC, etc., replace Director of Federal Housing Finance Board
- Reinstate strong citizen participation requirements in federal programs critical to community renewal.
- Provide longer term CDBG commitments to cities, allowing for longer term operating support and project commitments.
- More money for CDBG.
- Support local, regional and national initiatives to train leadership and build organizational capacity at the community level.
- Programs that are created to address problems such as unemployment, lack of affordable housing, crime and drugs, poor quality of public education , and deteriorating infrastructure should include special set-asides for community based initiatives aimed toward solving these problems in poor communities.
- Set-aside 5% of any new community programs for capacity building & citizen monitoring

APPENDIX 2 -
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE ROUNDTABLE
FOR AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS

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