

Urban Land Conservancy (ULC)

Community Engagement Philosophy

As stewards of real-estate investments that profoundly impact the quality of life of many metro-area residents with a focus on the underserved and low-income, ULC is informed by a broad network of community partners. With the occasional exception of real estate transactions driven in timing by outside forces, ULC provides opportunities for neighborhood partners to weigh in on the general direction and important details of each development. These mutually beneficial neighborhood partnerships are based on the understanding that the communities affected by ULC development must be involved in shaping it. This inclusive process works to identify the common interests, needs and priorities of various stakeholders. It helps direct critical resources toward a quality of life that supports affordable housing, transportation, nonprofit services, childcare, job training, good schools, health care and other basic human needs. And for the long term, it helps prepare a constituency to defend community interests in the public-policy arena.

The partnership approach:

- is based on mutual respect, cultural awareness and accountability;
- seeks out and facilitates the involvement of the broad spectrum of people affected by a real-estate decision;
- recognizes that vulnerable communities must have a voice;
- communicates to participants how their input will affect decision making;
- provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful, constructive way;
- fosters sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants; and
- encourages broad awareness of the mission and impact of ULC.