

Title: “Lessons and Practices in Comprehensive Community Renewal”

Subtheme: Community planning practices, vulnerable groups in urban communities, spatial justice, planning for walkability

Submitted by Abigail Moriah, Associate Development Manager, Regent Park Revitalization, Toronto Community Housing.

ABSTRACT

In 2005, Toronto Community Housing, a housing company owned by the City of Toronto, embarked on the rebuilding of the oldest public housing community in Canada, Regent Park. Toronto Community Housing developed a master plan to guide the creation of a community that would rebuild low-income housing, introduce market-rate housing and create new community amenities.

A unique component of Toronto Community Housing’s revitalization program was to develop a social development plan with the local community to meet social and economic needs of the community. Key questions that will be explored include: How might planning in shape a sustainable environment? What role does planning play in stimulating local economies and facilitating community renewal? This workshop will explore Toronto Community’s approach to revitalization including the role of private-public partnerships, community engagement and development, and local economic development. It will describe how a community is being transformed to address social, economic and planning issues and create a walkable, urban community.