The Student Conservation Association
Community Conservation Programs

2011 PCRG
Community Development Summit
Walter Burlack
Faces of Conservation
2010 Snapshot

- 1500 members
- 18 urban and rural sites
- Summer and year round program models
- Federal, State, Local and Not for profit partnerships
Community Programs

“Greenforce” Development

- Work is completed in the local community
- Tangible and transferable job skills
- Stewardship and connection
- Environmental and Conservation Education opportunities
- Teamwork and team building
SCA Engaging Students in Community

Year Round and Summer Programming

• Workforce Development

• Multiple entry points- high school grad- GED- one stop center

• Experiential learning model
SCA – Program Elements

- Work Readiness
- Introduction to Conservation and Community
- Personal Development /Leadership/Softskills
- Risk Management
- Career Exposure
- Outdoor Skills
- Conservation Skills
- Hands on Work and Practice in Community
Examples of Partnerships

- Workforce development boards
- Public Agencies
- Corporations
- Non-profit Agencies
- Youth Serving Organizations
- Community Organizations
- Foundations
“SCA can be stressful. SCA can be challenging. But in the end, all your hard work has paid off. You learn about your own city. SCA, I can say, has changed the way I look at things. Now I can be aware of all my surroundings.”
Engaging Youth In Community Development Initiatives

Charis Rose, Program Coordinator
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
Out-of-School Youth Employment Program
“Spirit of Community”

On the Move

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRW6FMdhYK8&feature=player_embedded
BGC Youth Development Center
Youth Services Overview
Youth Services

• Education
  • After-School Programs
  • Advocacy and Outreach
  • Community Learns (w/Wireless Neighborhoods)

• Employment
  • CommunityWorks
  • Out-of-School YEP
  • YouthLink (w/ENEC)

• Health Partnership
  (w/UPMC St. Margaret’s)

DR. ANNE MCGAFFEY LEADS THE 4TH-GRADE “PEACEMAKERS” PROGRAM, ONE OF THE MANY OFFERINGS OF THE UPMC ST. MARGARET HEALTH PARTNERSHIP.
Seeing Success

Best Practices in Preparing Self-Sufficient Youth
Fighting the Good Fight
Meeting Challenges in Engaging an Urban Youth Population
IMAGINE LARIMER
A Green Neighborhood

A Kingsley Association Initiative
The Kingsley Association Four (4) Program Areas:

- Community Sustainability:
  - Imagine Larimer-Virtual Software
  - LCG
  - UGGC
  - ULI
  - SPARC
  - Workforce Development
- Health and Wellness:
  - Pool
  - Gym
  - Futsal
  - Karate
  - Yoga
  - Silver Sneakers/Splash
- Family Services:
  - Family Support
  - Baby Promise
  - Fathers Program
- Education
  - JULI
  - ONE Nation
  - Freedom School
The Kingsley Association
Vision & Goals

- Our vision is equitable development to achieve a sustainable neighborhood.

- Our goal to participate in the re-development of Larimer as a green neighborhood to achieve the following:
  - Social benefits;
  - Environmental benefits;
  - And economic benefits.
Community Context

- Pittsburgh has the highest unemployment rate among African Americans in the nation;
- Seniors make-up 43% of homeowners in Larimer;
- About one third of households have related children. In Larimer there are 427 children younger than 15 years old;
- Individuals able to work have limited employment opportunities due to criminal records. An African American male is five times more likely to be arrested and incarcerated than their white counterparts.
• Thinking long term is not easy for community residents. The effects of long-term poverty has led to a culture of immediate benefits and quick pay-offs;

• Household instability due to poverty has undermined family structure, leaving kids vulnerable and to their own devices;

• Our youth need direction, yet we lack positive male role models.
Cultural Problems We Face

- Our African American community faces a historic non-transfer of wealth. Our seniors achieved homeownership while they were employed in the steel industry. Now that they are on a fixed income they cannot afford to repair their home or pay property taxes. In addition, their property values have plummeted. They will not be able to transfer equity to their heirs.

- The result could be a generation of super-disfranchised African Americans.
Our Development Approach

- Engage residents in hands-on learning opportunities in particular green technology;

- Develop green construction minority owned businesses including cooperatives;

- Providing green commercial space minority entrepreneurs can afford;

- Working with senior homeowners to develop green housing solutions that work for them, their heirs and our community’s economic well being.
Co-Design is the essence of our business model

Step 1 Your promising idea
Step 2 Document and verify
Step 3 Share, collaborate and design
Step 4 Obtain community support and make it happen!
Sustainable community projects, business models or partnerships that lead to a green neighborhood
Co-Design is the essence of our business model

• Improve our community’s Know-How through hands-on learning opportunities and by sharing our collective genius;

• Participate in co-creating and developing minority owned businesses, including cooperatives;

• Connect our community to capital, skills and resources to reach our vision and goals.
Know How

- Distributing information, includes; our Urban Leadership Institute, web-blog short message service to cell phones and advertising media, such as postcards/“club cards”;  
- Culturally appropriate learning opportunities through community partnerships;  
- Entrepreneurship development technical assistance in partnership with educational institutions, Pittsburgh & Duquesne Universities;
Co-creating Minority Owned Businesses

- Imagine Larimer encourages both individual and collective entrepreneurship;

- Our focus on cooperatives aims to develop “work families” that help individuals achieve self-sufficiency, leverage skills, and provide structure to achieve independence;

- Individual entrepreneurship is supported through learning opportunities and partnerships to promote minority business growth;

- We believe that by increasing minority owned businesses we can increase employment opportunities for our community.
Imagine Larimer connects our community to capital, skills and resources through partnerships, collaborations and sparkplug funding;

Sparkplug funding aims to ignite resident driven initiatives by providing funds in the form of neighborhood micro grants and micro loans for business startup;

Partnerships assist us in expanding and leveraging our assets and resources, for example; landscape cooperative;

Through collaborations we aim to expand the influence of green neighborhood ideas and principles, for example; our re-purposed materials and alternative construction collaboration with The Green Building Alliance, City Planning and Larimer Consensus Group;
Business Model Summary

Know How
- Urban Leadership Institute
- Community partnerships
- Web-blog SMS
- Sustainability focus, urban farming, green construction, re-purposed materials

Participation
- Co-design
- Partnerships
- Collaborations

Connection
- To capital, neighborhood micro grants and loans
- To skills through partnerships
- Collaborations to leverage resources and know how
## Current Imagine Larimer Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Investment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rain Garden &amp; Barrels Initiative</td>
<td>9 households will receive rain gardens or rain barrels</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Conditions Survey</td>
<td>Distributed free or low cost home repair information to senior homeowners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Co-housing Group</td>
<td>Formed a core group of interested seniors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adult Summer Employment Program</td>
<td>Employed 20 participants in community clean-up and building activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rain Water Management Workshops</td>
<td>Formed core group interested in green landscaping cooperative business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual Green Neighborhood Software</td>
<td>Developed green neighborhood simulation software framework</td>
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<td>Larimer Consensus Group (LCG) Organizing</td>
<td>Assisted LCG to plan and develop participation and decision making protocols</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Design Academy Application</td>
<td>We will explore the value of alternative construction techniques for economic, social and environmental benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSNAP Application for Urban Farm, Community Market and Repurpose Studio</td>
<td>Submitted application to use vacant land for our flexible developments using re-purpose materials</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>413 Larimer Ave Development</td>
<td>Developing a commercial space using re-purposed materials to support rain garden and barrel initiative</td>
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<td>Co-Working Space</td>
<td>Developed co-working space and are providing low cost space to sustainability entrepreneurs</td>
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<td>Landscape Cooperative</td>
<td>Collaborating with community residents to form a green infrastructure landscape company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mushroom Farm</td>
<td>Analyzing the economic viability of mushroom caves for urban food production and job creation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deconstruction Consortium</td>
<td>Collaborating with stakeholders, including minority owned businesses to establish a deconstruction consortium.</td>
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</table>
• Questions
• Comments
• Concerns
• Adjournment