

Executive Summary

Building Equity: Community Capital Projects as Pathways for Self-Determination

As momentum builds around community-driven development, it becomes increasingly important to understand its impact. This report presents community ownership over neighborhood change as a key outcome of community-driven capital projects.

To support planning and evaluation, the report outlines strategies used by capital project sponsors to foster ownership across various locations. These activities reflect ideas like sense of place, community identity, empowerment, and local control.

Read the full report: kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/about-king-county/about-dchs/data-reports/briefs-reports

From investment to empowerment, key features that build place and people:



Disinvestment affects social determinants of health in majority low-income, people of color, and immigrant neighborhoods. Responsive interventions consider neighborhood context and place-based conditions.^{5,6}



With the help of non-punitive and low-cost capital, community-driven capital projects can help rectify the impacts of exclusionary practices.^{1,2,3,4}



Capital projects are more likely to benefit communities when they promote ownership over the design and management of real estate assets.^{7,8}



Collective stories of place, prioritizing community interests, and capacity building that promotes community leadership and stewardship are key to advancing ownership.^{3,4,8,9}

Research Questions

- 1 How does community ownership of development advance self-determination and health equity for communities?
- 2 What are effective strategies for achieving community ownership of development through neighborhood-based capital projects?

Endnotes

1. Federal Reserve Bank of New York, *Sizing the CDFI Market: Understanding Industry Growth*, [pdf](#).
2. The Alliance, *Equitable Development Principles & Scorecard*, [pdf](#).
3. A. von Hoffman, *The Ingredients of Equitable Development Planning: A Cross-case Analysis of Equitable Development Planning and CDFIs*, Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, [pdf](#).
4. T. H. Loh & H. Love, *The Emerging Solidarity Economy: A Primer on Community Ownership of Real Estate*, Brookings Institution, [pdf](#).
5. D. Acevedo-Garcia, C. Noelke, & L. Shafer, *Confronting the Role of Structural Racism in Inequities in Child Neighborhood Opportunity and Child Health*, Academic Pediatrics, [pdf](#).
6. Gao, X. et al., *Neighborhood gentrification, displacement, and severe maternal morbidity in California*. *Social Science & Medicine*, 334 (2023), [pdf](#).
7. A. Binet et al., *Ownership of Change: Participatory Development of a Novel Latent Construct for Neighborhoods and Health Equity Research*, *Social Science & Medicine* 309 (2022), [pdf](#).
8. M. Whitehead et al., *How Could Differences in 'Control Over Destiny' Lead to Socio-Economic Inequalities in Health? A Synthesis of Theories and Pathways in the Living Environment*, *Health & Place* 39 (2016): 51–61, [pdf](#).
9. Comm. Land Stewardship, *About*, [pdf](#).

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