

Ownership of change

shifting from gentrifying to equitable and just development



Finding: when it comes to building healthy communities its not just what is built, but the sense of power, control, and direct benefit that residents of those communities have over what is built that matters for health...



What's the difference when residents have ownership over changes happening in their communities?



Less ownership



More ownership

Resident's Role

Have little or no role in decision-making

Participate in decision-making in all stages

Resident's Experience

are excluded or tokenized

are empowered

Benefits of Development

Seem to be "for someone else"

Reflects residents' needs and desires

Reinforce racial, ethnic, and class hierarchies in the neighborhood environment

Diminish racial, ethnic, and class hierarchies in the neighborhood

Health Effects

Sense of displacement, chronic stress, exposure to unhealthy environments, lower self-rated health

Increased sense of belonging, positive emotion and social capital, better self-rated health

Call to Action



- Design plans, projects, and policies to increase residents' ownership of change in historically disinvested and underserved communities.
- Prioritize ownership of change as a measure of success in addition to traditional measures like the number of people who attended meetings, jobs created, or housing units built.
- Integrate community residents and stakeholders into every phase of the process — visioning, planning, and decision-making.

Join the movement

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