Networking for I.D.entity
A Drainage Improvement Plan for the International District
UNM Advanced Planning Studio
Fall 2014
+ Introduction
Teaming Up for Better Places

The Stories of Route 66 Project received an Our Town Grant through the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) to make Story Plazas along Route 66 Corridor.

AMAFCA, Stories of Route 66, UNM, and many other partners (Albuquerque Cultural Services, Littleglobe, International District Healthy Communities Coalition, and Bernalillo County) are working together to create solutions that solve problems like flooding and water quality, while providing creative gathering and social spaces for the peoples of the International District.
Phasing Timeline

- **July 2014**: ID LIVE! event
- **Jan-Jun 2014**: Cont. Community Engagement through Art
- **Aug-Dec 2013**: Begin Community Engagement through Art
- **Fall 2014**: AMAFACA, UNM and SOPI coordinate community workshops for foundation of Story Plaza Design
- **Spring 2015**: UNM design studios develop water feature with B. Simpson for AMAFCA
- **Summer 2015**: Water feature finalized and presented to community for feedback
- **Fall 2015**: Present Community development plans & Secure funding for groundbreaking in 2016

**We are here**
Existing Conditions
Major Historical Developments in the I.D.

International District Development Timeline
Demographics = Diversity
What are the Planning Problems & Opportunities?

- Deficient Storm Water Infrastructure
- Low Walkability & Amenity
- Disjointed Community Realm
Several contaminants continue to plague Albuquerque’s stormwater. These include:

- Metals
- E.Coli
- Nitrogen and Phosphorous
- Chemical Pollutants

There are many sources from which these contamination come. Cars, farming efforts, parks and homes just to name a few.

The lack of porous surfaces in the international district essentially creates a channel that carries storm water runoff directly to the river, which creates a great concentration of contamination at the North Diversion Channel.
Stormwater Infrastructure

Insufficient infrastructure = 100 acre-ft. stormwater capacity deficit
How Much is 100 acre-feet?

An acre is about the size of a football field between the 5-yard lines. So, 100 acre-ft. of water would be about the size of that football field filled 100 feet high (about the height of a 10-story building) with water.

A Route 66 Story Plaza might be able to handle 40 acre-ft, or as much as a football field filled 40 feet high with water.
Streets as Places

- Bus Stops
- Bus Routes
- Bikeways
- Sidewalks
- Alleys
- Urban Collector
- Arterial
- Local Neighborhood
- Historic Route 66
Streets as Places

Existing streets & sidewalks tend to be harsh, hot, & unmaintained with high traffic volumes, low safety. They don’t support community life.
Streets as Places

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Opportunities

- Use stormwater run-off in a dry climate for plantings & art
- Use streets: pedestrian / bicycle paths and transit corridors
- Use Publicly-owned properties and facilities
- Use Vacant lots
- Strengthen community identity & safety
Community Engagement Summary
Community Engagement - Why?

- **Social Impact Design** believes that physical design can help create positive social change.

- Communities and not just “experts” should be included in design partnerships to better guide what improvements will benefit the community.

- The International District has unique cultural identities that should all have a **voice** in the design process.
Methodology

• One-on-one and group discussions
• Education
• Opportunities for feedback
• Meaning of water
• Community strengths and challenges
• Present and discuss design concepts or precedents
Who?

- Emerson Elementary (parents)
- Afghan refugee community
- La Mesa Elementary (4th grade)
- East Central Ministries
- NM Asian Family Center
- Albuquerque Indian Center
- Casa de las Comunidades
- Elder Homestead Neighborhood Association
Synthesizing Feedback

After public input was received the main point of each comment was categorized into a “theme” that we could use to generate recommendations.

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<th>American Indian Center</th>
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| Total                   | 6                | 6            | 3                  | 4                      | 7     | 9         | 6                       | 41          |        |
What do these Numbers Tell Us?
Green Space

• “Walking to and from the bus stop is troublesome. Better streetscapes including trees and lighting would be helpful.”

• "Create public space(s) that not only retain water and provide fun activities for youth, but also have a drainage system for allows for re-use by the community."

• There was consensus among the group that small scale street scape improvements and green space, as opposed to larger interventions, would most benefit their day to day lives.
Public Health

• "Create public space(s) that not only retain water and provide fun activities for youth, but also have a drainage system for allows for re-use by the community."

• “Several participants expressed concerns over standing water - either in a detention pond, or puddles in streets for lack of drainage.”
Pedestrian Improvements

• “Consider a Central ‘street diet’ which could include landscaped medians, widened sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting.”

• “Walking to and from the bus stop is troublesome. Better streetscapes including trees and lighting would be helpful.”
Programmatic Improvements

• “Shelter or safe places for the homeless, including job opportunities – such as litter removal in the arroyos.”
Integration of Public Art

"I would like to see more flowers and decorations. Also a little more art. Work it so it makes the place pop out more and brings comfort to see it nice, beautiful and creative. I would like to see more landscape around and trees. I would want it to be a little more outstanding."
Feedback Analysis

• Each meeting was documented and discussed to find common themes between groups.
• A graph was created in order to rank importance.
• These were used to inform recommendations that will be reported to AMAFCA.
CRP 521 envisions a networked, green stormwater infrastructure system that responds to the needs of AMAFCA and the International District Community with increased community space and streetscape.

**GREENWEAVING:**
Connecting Water to Place in the International District

Green Weaving uses green roadway design to provide neighborhood connectivity as well as treating stormwater. It links a variety of scales of stormwater management sites creating a system that sustainably manages stormwater, provides a safe pedestrian environment and enhanced civic realm.

International trail addresses lack of pedestrian amenities and Links community assets, parks, schools, and community centers.

International district has high number of vacant lots and lacks civic space.

International district currently has flooding. Problems caused by inadequate storm-drain system.
Five scales of sites connected by green streets

- Large-Civic Space
- Park Retrofit
- Commercial Property
- Residential Property
- Streets
RECOMMENDATIONS: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Large Scale Interventions:
- Multifunctional Civic Space/ Detention Pond/ AMAFCA Sites

Medium Scale Interventions:
- Green Road Design Planted with Swales and Bulb outs, enhances pedestrian realm,

Small Scale Interventions:
- Private Property Owners/ Rain Barrels/ Bioswales/ Community Garden/ Permeable Paving/ onsite stormwater management.
Large Civic Space:
Caravan East

Before
Caravan East

After
Caravan East

**Agencies:** AMAFCA, CABQ, DMD

**Responsibilities:** AMAFCA develops, maintenance is negotiated with CABQ

**Funding:** AMAFCA & CABQ

**Capacity:** roughly 17 acre feet
Streets: Central Streetscape

Before
Central Streetscape

**Agencies:** CABQ/ Route 66  
**Responsibilities:** Design, construction & maintenance  
**Funding:** CIP
Streets: Zuni Streetscape

Before
Zuni Streetscape

After
**Agencies:** CABQ

**Responsibilities:** Design, construction & maintenance

**Funding:** CIP

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**Infiltration**

**Permeable Pavement**

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**Bioretention**

**Bioswales**

**Enhanced Streetscape**

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**After**
Commercial Retrofit: Private Property

Before
Private Property:
Fair and Square Parking Lot Retrofit

After
**Agencies:** Private property owner, AMAFCA & city

**Responsibilities:** Lot owner responsible for construction & maintenance

**Funding:** AMAFCA & CABQ give incentive
Residential Retrofit: Private Property

Before
Residential Retrofit: Private Property

After
Private Property: Residential Rain Gardens

**Agencies:** Private property owner, AMAFCA & CABQ

**Responsibilities:** Lot owner responsible for construction and maintenance

**Funding:** AMAFCA & CABQ provide incentives
Networking for

1Dentity

Utilizing Stormwater Infrastructure to create
a multi-dimensional public realm in the
International District

Thank You!