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building blocks for building communities

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## “Solutions Salon” Brings West Oakland Community Together

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OAKLAND, CA, March 11, 2011 – Lyn Hikida – More than 40 people participated in a solutions-oriented community meeting hosted in West Oakland last Thursday by the [Acorn Residents Council](#), [BRIDGE Housing](#), and [The John Stewart Company](#).

The “Solutions Salon” attracted representatives from 20 nonprofit organizations and the Oakland City Council, Oakland Housing Authority, the Oakland Police Department and the Oakland Unified School District. Attendees divided into small groups to discuss 2011 plans, the challenges they face, and ways they can work together to overcome those challenges.

“The response was fantastic,” said Janet Patterson, Chairman of the Acorn Residents Council. “People networked, shared resources and began to build better connections within the community.”

Many of the conversations centered on a theme of encouraging and maintaining stronger involvement by people who live in West Oakland, including the residents of the Town Center & Courtyards at Acorn.

Participant and longtime West Oakland resident Nakia Linzie-Shavers is a volunteer for Court Appointed Special Advocates, which serves foster children in Alameda County. “It was useful to learn about the range of services in the area,” she said.

“For me, the event opened up more avenues for other types of programs that we can support for residents,” added Damita Barbee, President of [St. Paul Economic Empowerment Development Corp.](#), “which, hopefully, will result in increasing the number of lives we can empower and enrich.”

Shaun Tai, Executive Director of [Oakland Digital Arts & Literacy Center](#), was struck by the diversity of participants, leadership and resources. “What I gained was a sense of hope that with more events like the Solutions Salon, there will be things that we can act upon together as a cohesive community,” he said. “We can’t just keep talking; there needs to be action.”

One of the next steps, according to Patterson, will be the creation of a resource directory to facilitate access to programs and strengthen connections between the organizations that provide services.

To view photos from the event, visit: <http://bit.ly/solutions-salon>

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March 11, 2011 at 8:51 pm

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“Solutions Salon” Brings West Oakland Community Together  
[Invitation to a Solutions Salon for West Oakland Leaders, 2/24/11](#)

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5 Rules of Community Engagement

Recommended resources, 2010-0829

Out of the Box Prize

The Spirit of Coalition: Lessons from the Field

5 steps to your new community garden

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**Steven Cliff** says:  
March 11, 2011 at 8:55 pm

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**Nelson Layag** says:  
March 15, 2011 at 7:37 pm

Cool attempt to change: re the West Oakland Solutions Salon via @LeoRomero <http://ow.ly/4f92f>

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**neighbortweet** says:  
March 17, 2011 at 4:54 pm

Cool. "Solutions Salon" Brings West Oakland Community Together <http://bit.ly/eFzYrl>

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**NFN-Joseph Porcelli** says:  
March 17, 2011 at 4:54 pm

Cool. "Solutions Salon" Brings West Oakland Community Together <http://bit.ly/eFzYrl>

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**AK2= A.KarriemA.K** says:  
March 23, 2011 at 4:48 pm

RT @ODALC: RT @ourblocks: "Solutions Salon" Brings West Oakland Community Together <http://bit.ly/eFzYrl> | @LeoRomero

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from North Hudson form 'Inspire Lives' <http://bit.ly/gUIH6L>  
ourblocks: Added the White House Council for Community Solutions <http://bit.ly/hkH1Ha> to our list of free libraries online <http://bit.ly/ghQBFh>

ourblocks: Online Neighbourhood Networks Study explores how people communicate using local citizen-run websites <http://bit.ly/fuWmSC> via @NetwkdNeighds

ourblocks: La Salle University Receives 2010 Community Engagement Classification from The Carnegie Foundation <http://bit.ly/h2YqOY>

ourblocks: Case Study: Social Design Thrives in Baltimore <http://bit.ly/eKgRO2> in Core77 by Andrew Shea @andrewshea

ourblocks: Community Policing Is Caught in Cross-Fire in Chicago - NYTimes.com <http://nyti.ms/fpviub>

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## Free Libraries Online

- AARP Create the Good – How-to Guides
- Abundant Community
- American Community Garden Association – Learn
- Aspen Institute – Community Strategies Group
- Aspen Institute – Research on Community Change
- Asset-Based Community Development Institute
- Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program – Research & Commentary
- Casey Foundation Knowledge Center – Community Change
- Center for Community Change – Library
- Center for Community Innovation (IURD UC Berkeley) – Resources
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Civil Politics – Resources  
Coalition for Community Schools – Resources  
Cohousing Resource Center  
COMM-ORG Papers Collection  
Community Building & Organizing (Knowledgeplex)  
Community Development Exchange – Publications  
Community Informatics Initiative – Resources  
Community Tool Box – National Park Service  
Community Tool Box – University of Kansas  
communityplanning.net  
Congress for the New Urbanism – Resources  
Corporation for National & Community Service – Resource Center – Community Building  
Corporation for National & Community Service – Resource Center – Crime Prevention  
Craigslist Foundation Podcasts  
Creative Community Building  
Developing and Sustaining Community-Based Participatory Research Partnerships: A Skill-Building Curriculum  
Development Trusts Association – Publications  
Dr. Pop  
eDemocracy.org Printable  
Outreach Resources for Inclusion Online  
Enterprise Community Partners – Publications  
Everyday Democracy – Neighborhoods  
Fetzer Institute – Community Building Resources  
Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities – Papers  
Grassroots Grantmakers – Resources  
Great Indy Neighborhoods – Publications  
Greater Good Science Center  
Groundwork – Policy & Learning  
Harlem Children's Zone – Publications  
Imagine Chicago – Resources  
Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center – Resources  
IssueLab – Community Development category  
KaBOOM! – Toolkit and Project Planner  
KnowledgePlex  
KU Work Group – Publications  
Learning from the Harlem Children's Zone – Conference Materials  
Livable Streets Education  
Local Initiatives Support Corp – Community Resources  
Majora Carter Group – Press  
Make a Difference (UNICEF)  
Make A Difference Day – Project Tools  
Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance – Resources  
Mike Green ABCD Training  
Mobilize & Organize (NPAction)  
National Association for Neighbourhood Management – Publications  
National Community Development Institute – Training Tools  
National Criminal Justice Reference Service – Crime Prevention – Community Responses  
National Gang Center  
National Park Service

National Park Service –  
Community Toolbox  
Neighborhood Planning  
NeighborWorks America – Library  
New Organizing Institute –  
Resources  
Organizer's Forum – Articles  
Partners for Livable Communities  
– Resources  
Pathways through Participation –  
Resources  
PBS Independent Lens –  
Community Cinema  
People and Participation.net  
PICO National Network –  
Organizing Tools  
PolicyLink – Equitable  
Development Toolkit  
Pratt Center for Community  
Development  
Prescott-Joseph Center for  
Community Enhancement  
Project for Public Spaces –  
Resources  
Public Agenda – Center for the  
Advances in Public Engagement  
Resources for Evaluating  
Community Organizing  
San Francisco Tenants Union –  
Links  
Serve.Gov – Toolkits  
Shareable.net – Community  
Building  
Shelterforce  
Solutions for America  
The Community-Wealth Access  
Panel  
The Diarist Project (The Annie E  
Casey Foundation)  
The Sharehood – Resources  
The World Cafe – Resources  
Tom Wolff & Associates – Free  
Resources  
Tools for Organizing (Citizen  
Works)  
White House Council for  
Community Solutions –  
Resources  
Youth Participation in  
Development A Guide for  
Development Agencies and Policy  
Makers  
Youth Power Curriculum – Contra  
Costa Health Services

### Reading List (Community Building)

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A Guide for Collaborative Action:  
Youth, Crime and Community  
Development  
A Reflection by Oakland Making  
Connections Coordinator Fred  
Blackwell  
Community Building: Hope and  
Caution  
Community Change: Theories,  
Practice, and Evidence  
Community Development Reform  
Summaries  
Community Policing in Chicago –  
An Evaluation of Chicago's  
Alternative Policing Strategy  
Community Voices Heard:  
Changing People and Public  
Policy through Low-Income  
Organizing  
Connecting Residents to  
Integrated Neighborhood Services  
Creating Opportunities for  
Families Through Resident  
Services: A Practitioner's Manual  
Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit  
Demystifying Outcome  
Measurement in Community  
Development  
Discovering Community Power: A  
Guide to Mobilizing Local Assets  
and Your Organization's Capacity  
Empowering Communities to  
Influence Local Decision Making:  
Evidence-based lessons for policy  
makers and practitioners  
Evaluating community projects: A  
practical guide  
Facts on Community Safety  
From Clients to Citizens

From Clients to Citizens – Deepening the Practice of Asset-Based and Citizen-Led Development (pdf)

Going Comprehensive: Anatomy of an Initiative That Worked

Harnessing community power in public health

Helping Rebuild Urban Neighborhoods Through Unconventional Police-Community Partnerships

How to Engage Youth in Community Building

Linking Colleges to Communities: Engaging the University for Community Development

Majora Carter: Greener Neighborhoods, Sustainable Jobs

Managing to Prevent Crime: A Guide for Property Managers

Neighborhood Planning

Network Organizing: A Strategy for Building Community Engagement

Organizing for Safety: Transforming Community Activism Into Community Change

Out of the Ordinary

Patching the Fabric of the Neighborhood: The Practical Challenges of Infill Housing Development

Pitfalls and Promises of Community Engagement in Comprehensive Change

Promising Practices In Online Engagement

Resource Guide to Public Engagement (pdf)

Social by Social

Solving Chronic Nuisance Problems: A Guide for Neighborhood Leaders

Soul of the Community – Findings

Supportive Housing Property Management Operations Manual

Tapping the Power of Social Networks: Understanding the Role of Social Networks in Strengthening Families and Transforming Communities

The Community Builder's Approach to Theory of Change: A Practical Guide to Theory Development

Thriving Neighborhoods

Using Public Schools as Community-Development Tools: Strategies for Community-Based Developers

Using school buildings efficiently – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Voices From the Field II: Reflections on Comprehensive Community Change

Worker Centers: Organizing Communities at the Edge of the Dream

Youth Participation in Development A Guide for Development Agencies and Policy Makers

## Reading List (Organizing Residents)

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Basic Guide to Starting a Tenants & Residents Association (TIS/Scotland)

Basics Of Organizing (Tenant.Net)

Building Community Cohesion into Area Based Initiatives: A guide for residents and practitioners

Building Strong Neighborhoods: A Study Guide for Public Dialogue and Community Problem Solving

CPHA's Baltimore Neighborhood Self Handbook

Creating Resident-Led Governance Structures (The Annie E. Casey Foundation)

Get Organized (National Alliance of HUD Tenants)

Guide Neighbourhoods

Have a Street Party

Home & Community – Resources

How to Form a Tenants Association (Metropolitan Council

on Housing)  
How to Organize a Tenants' Association (Tenant.net)  
How to Start a Tenants Association (Tenants& Neighbors)  
INRC Organizer's Workbook  
Neighbor Power by Jim Diers, Excerpt  
Organizing – People, Power, and Change  
Practical ways to engage with your community  
Reflections on Community Organizing and Resident Engagement  
Resident Leadership and Facilitation Workbook (The Annie E. Casey Foundation)  
Tenant Organizing (Tenant Resource Center)  
Understanding participation: A literature review

## Neighborhood Networks Online

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ABCD Asia Pacific Network  
ABCD in Action  
Allen Neighborhood Center  
Citizen Power – Peterborough  
Comm-Org  
Communities of practice for local government  
Community Tool Box – Workstations  
CommunityCollab  
Cyburbia Forums  
Front Porch Forum  
goodWORKSconnect  
Ground Crew  
Leaders for Communities  
Livable Streets Community  
Local Communities Wiki  
Mo'ili'i Matters  
Neighbors for Neighbors  
New Organizing Institute Wiki  
Social by Social Community  
Start Where You Live  
The Placemaking Movement  
The Sharehood

## Technology for the Neighborhood

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Center for Neighborhood Technology – Toolbox  
CitySourced  
CivicEvolution  
Community Tool Box – Workstations  
ConnectNetwork  
Craigslist  
Dr. Pop  
E-Democracy.org  
FixMyStreet  
Goodneighbors.net Family Support Network  
Making the Net Work (for Housing)  
Meetup  
Nation of Neighbors – Online Neighborhood Watch and Reporting  
Networked Neighbourhoods  
Ning  
OhSoWe  
Online Neighbourhood Networks Study  
PBS Independent Lens – Community Cinema  
SeeClickFix  
Shareable.net – Tools for sharing  
SnapImpact  
Social by Social  
Socialreporter  
ToolzDO

## Blogroll

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Bill Traynor – The Value of Place

Britt Bravo – Have Fun • Do Good  
Carline Lubin – ToolzDO  
Center for Information and  
Research on Civic Learning and  
Engagement  
Community Development  
Exchange  
Community Tool Box Blog  
Craigslist Foundation  
Diane Dyson – Belonging  
Community: Being at home in an  
urban neighbourhood  
Hildy Gottlieb – Creating the Future  
Home & Community  
Idealist.org  
Joseph Porcelli  
Julian Dobson – Living with Rats  
Kevin Harris – Neighborhoods  
linksUK  
Livability Live  
Making Places, the PPS blog  
Matt Grist – The Social Brain  
OnTheCommons.org —  
Community Life  
Promise Neighborhood Institutes  
Blog  
Richard Flyer – Start where you live  
Richard Layman – Rebuilding  
Place in the Urban Space  
Robert Voigt – Civic Blogger  
Shareable.net – Community  
Building  
Soul of the Community  
Talk About Local  
The Neighbors Campaign  
Thomas Sander – Social Capital



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