

Strong, Prosperous, And Resilient Communities Challenge



Stephanie Gidigbi

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

SPARCC Policy Capacity and Systems Change Director

Washington, DC



Strong, Prosperous and Resilient Communities Challenge (SPARCC)



A new initiative created to capture the opportunity of catalytic regional investments, so that people of all races and incomes benefit.

Financial Support - \$90 million.

- Core Operating Grants - \$20 million
- Capital - \$70 million
- Supplemental and Innovation pools – included above

Other Resources

- Policy
- Technical assistance
- Data access and tools
- Learning Community

AN INITIATIVE OF



capital for healthy
families & communities

SUPPORTED BY



FORD
FOUNDATION



THE
KRESGE
FOUNDATION

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



The
California
Endowment

We all benefit when everyone thrives...

SPARCC Theory of Change & Approaches

SPARCC is working to make sure that when we invest in places, people of all races and incomes benefit.



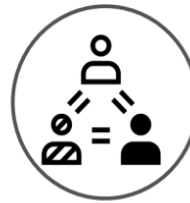
SPARCC's Values & Components



Catalytic moment



Diverse, cross-sector tables



Systems change



Data-informed decision making

What Does SPARCC Hope to Achieve?

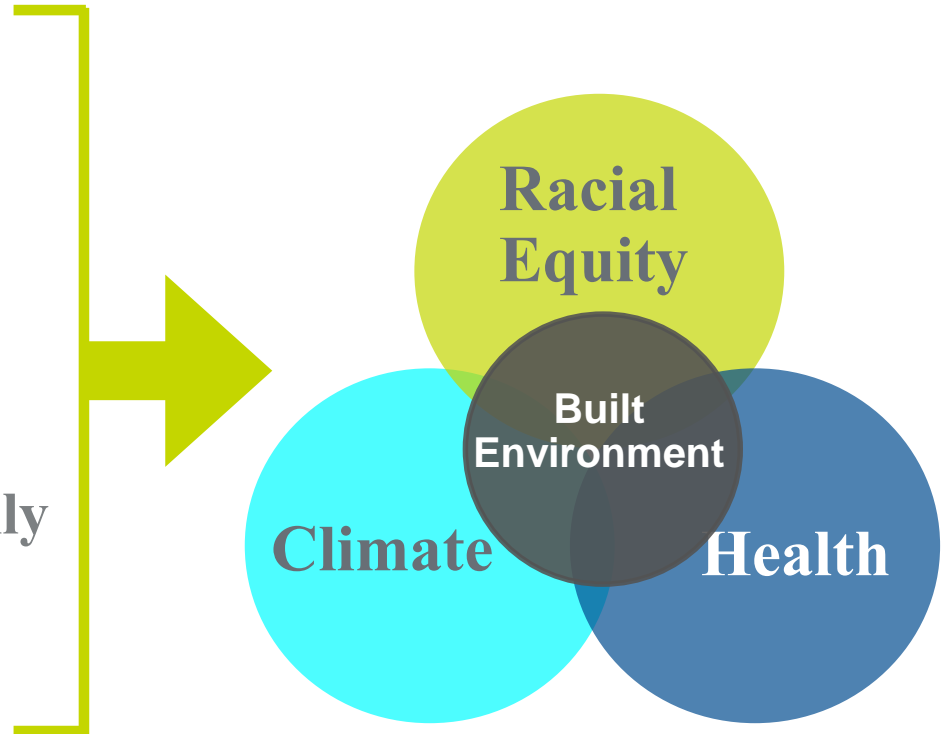
Build regional capacity
to impact systems

Influence local, state and
federal policy

Change national narrative

Advance data-informed, locally
driven, replicable methods

Use capital to catalyze
project innovation

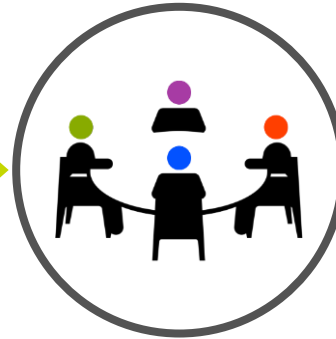


SPARCC in Practice

SPARCC RESOURCES

- Grant support
- Technical assistance
- Learning community
- Data access & tools
- Up to \$70M in capital

REGIONAL SITES



OUTCOMES

Racial
Equity

Health

Climate

Built
Environment

How SPARCC Addresses Racial Equity

SPARCC's goal is to influence the institutions, practices and policies that shape our cities and regions to create more **just economic, health and environmental outcomes.**



Equity Lynchpin: Transit



“We must rethink how we invest in communities so we don’t perpetuate poverty and barriers to opportunity.”

 SPARCC

Bridging the Divide

ATLANTA: Transformation Alliance



5.7 million

Regional population

80% of black children live in areas with high concentrations of poverty

3.4% of jobs are accessible by public transit commute of 45-minutes or less

Metro Atlanta has a rare opportunity to **transform itself in the coming years.**

- **\$3 billion will be spent on transit and infrastructure**, fueling investments and driving changes in housing, health, and the built environment.
- In 2016, the city passed two referenda that will **bring substantial capital investment to transit infrastructure in the region**, including a \$2.5 billion referendum to expand the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) bus and rail lines and a sales tax increase.

CHICAGO: L-Evated Chicago



2.7 million

Local population

1 in 5

Chicagoans live in poverty

5 years

Difference in life expectancy of Chicagoans living in areas of high vs. low economic opportunity

Chicago is at a crossroads. Deeply divided along racial and economic lines

- L-Evated Chicago aims to turn the ½-mile radius around transit stations into community-focused centers of commerce and culture by removing barriers that hinder innovation near station areas; equipping local residents with the resources to make these areas a community and civic priority; and aligning, cultivating, and deploying capital for development near the stations.

DENVER: Mile High Connects



2.8 million
Regional population

41% vs. 16%
Average increase in rent vs.
household income since 2007

34% Of Hispanic/Latino
residents have a high school
diploma or less

Over the next decade, billions of dollars of public and private sector funding will fuel new investments in transit infrastructure in the Denver Region.

- Mile High Connects (MHC) and SPARCC aim to **ensure that this multi-billion dollar, tax-funded public investment offers opportunity to all.**
- **Partnering with community leaders to drive policy campaigns to create more equitable development efforts.** Inform and advocate for policies relating to land use, anti-displacement, community stability, and equitable access to green infrastructure.

LOS ANGELES: *LA THRIVES, ACT-LA, & California Community Foundation*



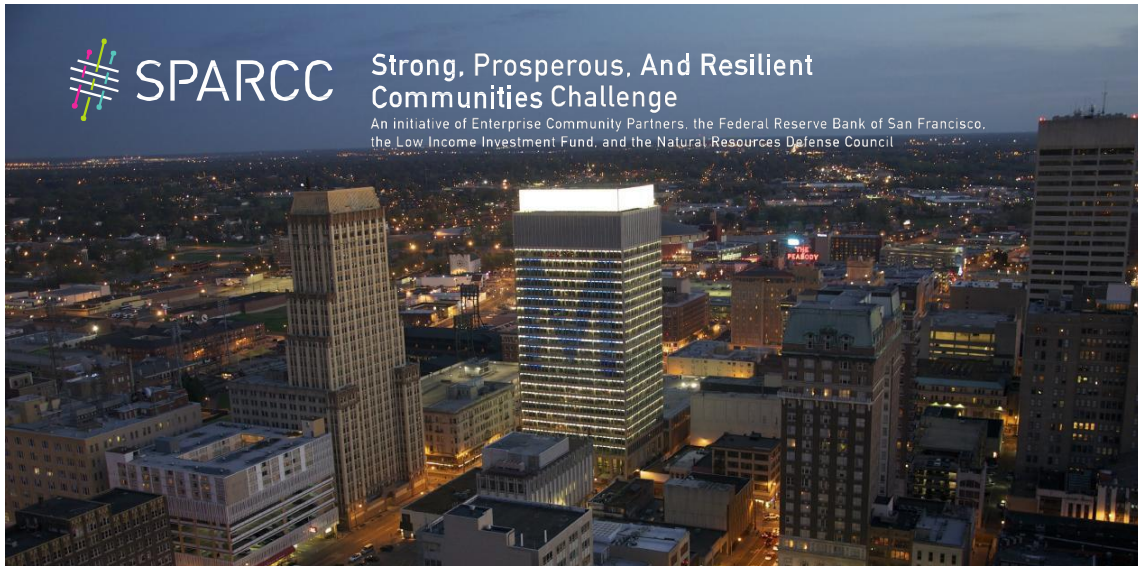
10.2 million
Regional population

2x Asthma rate for black residents vs. general population

57% Average Housing + Transportation Costs as % of Income

- Los Angeles is leading the nation as an example of how to deliver infrastructure investments that communities need.
- In elections from 2008 through 2016, Angelenos called for over \$200 billion for transportation, housing, and parks. Landmark state climate legislation passed in 2008 created a powerful statewide framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

MEMPHIS: *Memphis Partners for Resilient Communities*



1.3 million
Regional population

43% Children below
poverty line

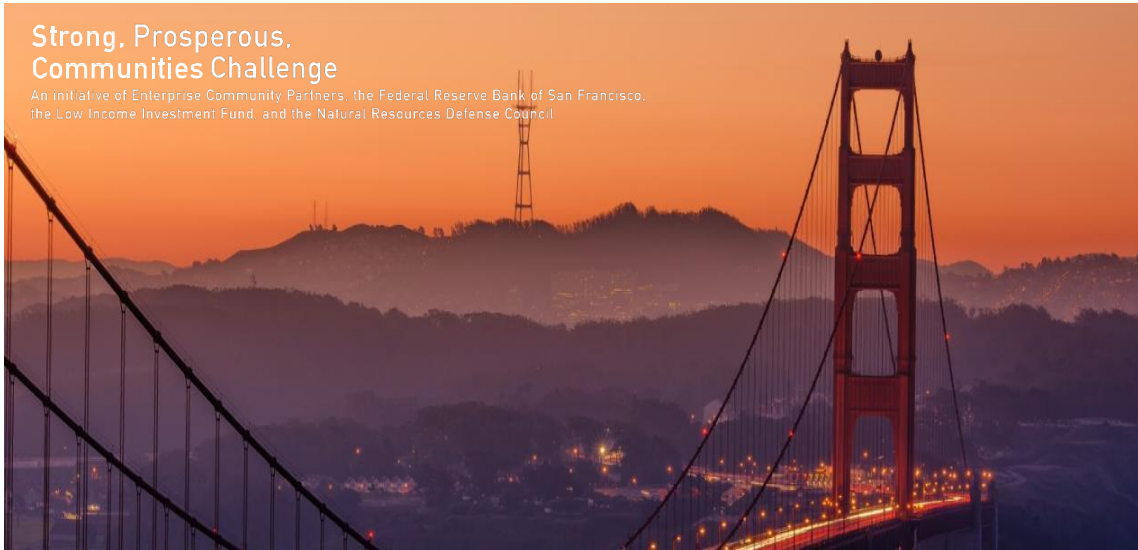
58% Average Housing
+ Transportation Costs
as % of Income

- The Memphis region is poised for change due to recent public and private investments and new city leadership.
- A new transportation funding deal signed by Tennessee's governor this year will allow municipalities to put transit tax increases to a vote.

SAN FRANCISCO: *Bay Area for All*

Strong, Prosperous, Communities Challenge

An initiative of Enterprise Community Partners, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Low Income Investment Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Council



7 million

Regional population

29% Of residents without
stable housing

50% Average Housing +
Transportation Costs as %
of Income

- The Bay Area is at a pivotal crossroads where unprecedented growth is fueling dramatic changes.
- BA4A will focus on two key issues to ensure all Bay Area residents benefit for significant investments in the region:
 - Preservation of existing affordable housing
 - Utilization of public land for community benefits

Research Spotlight





Questions? —

Stephanie Gidigbi,
SPARCC Policy Capacity
and Systems Change
Director, NRDC
Sgidigbi@nrdc.org

Learn more at
www.SPARCCHub.org
Twitter: [@SPARCCHub](https://twitter.com/SPARCCHub)
[#WeAllThrive](https://twitter.com/SPARCCHub)