Map Community Assets

TIME COMMITMENT

4–6 hours

PEOPLE

- Park organization staff
- Community stakeholders

SUPPLIES

- Physical map of your area of impact. This map should include streets, city blocks, social infrastructure, and anything else you deem necessary.
- Horizontal surface (table) or vertical surface (poster board, wall, easel)
- Materials for marking up map (sticky notes, stickers)
- Pens, pencils, markers

INTRODUCTION

What community assets exist around your project?

Learn about your neighbors and what they care about, to understand their perspective on existing organizations and infrastructure that they value.

Examining infrastructural racism and racist neighborhood disinvestment often leads to documenting only the negative effects and outcomes of these policies. With this tool we ask you to explore a community's most valued and loved assets. This knowledge will not only direct you toward new partnerships, it will also point you toward projects and programs already celebrated by the community. Ultimately, the goal should be to use your project, in collaboration with local partners, to support and build from assets that historically marginalized communities have worked to create and have identified as important.

HIGH LINE NETWORK

Map Community Assets

TIPS FOR USING THIS TOOL

- Gauge people's awareness and feelings about the mapped assets through community surveys, workshops, and conversations.

- Keep working group meetings interactive. Encourage those who talk less to share their thoughts more.

- If possible, invite board members to join, making this an opportunity to meet community stakeholders.

- Adapt this exercise to a virtual platform so more people can participate.

INSTRUCTIONS

PART 1

1. Convene a working group of community stakeholders.

2. Make a list of valued community-based organizations and existing infrastructure within the boundaries of the map, with input from park organization staff and community stakeholders. Assets may include: social infrastructure/community-based organizations (libraries, parks, pools, schools, hospitals, community centers, gardens, places of worship), and transportation (highways, public transit, rail lines).

3. Mark these organizations and transport modes on the map.

PART 2

4. Conduct a round of outreach to all the community-based organizations on the map. Schedule meetings to talk to them about your mapping effort.

5. Ask these contacts if any organization or infrastructure is missing. Take notes.

6. Reconvene your working group and share your findings. Explore: Are there any underlying conflicts regarding the assets? Are there evident opportunities for programming or partnerships?

High Line Network | Embedding Equity in Public Space | Tool 2: Map Community Assets
This tool is part of the Community First Toolkit, available at **toolkit.highlinenetwork.org**

HIGH LINE
NETWORK

COMMUNITY ASSETS MAP EXAMPLE 1

New York: Community organizations and assets along the High Line

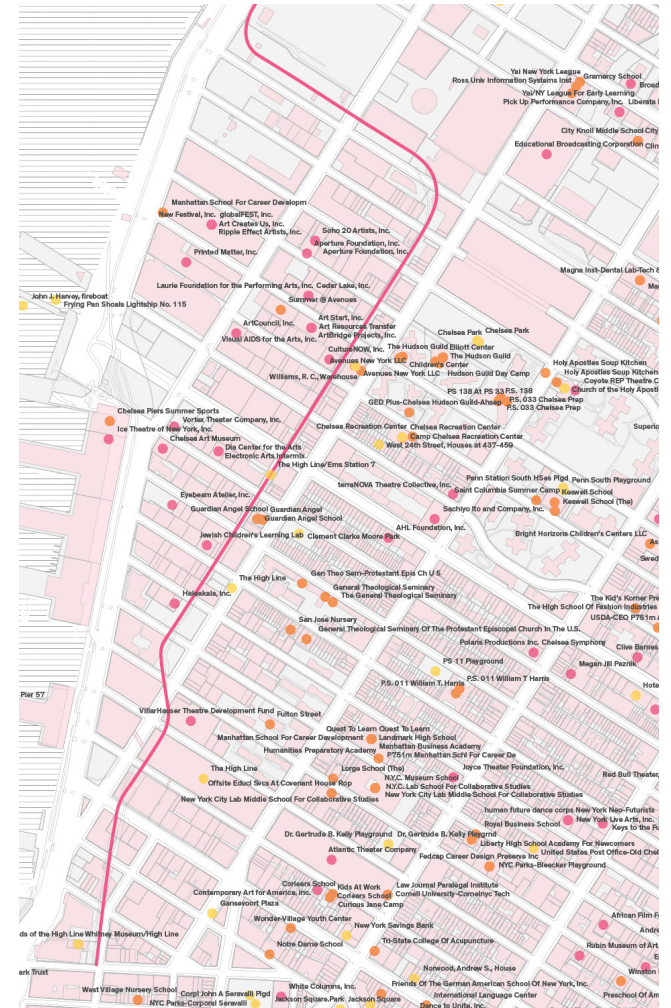**IMAGE CREDITS**

Image by: Jose Esparza & Emily Klein
Courtesy of Urban Design and the Color Line, Harvard Graduate School of Design
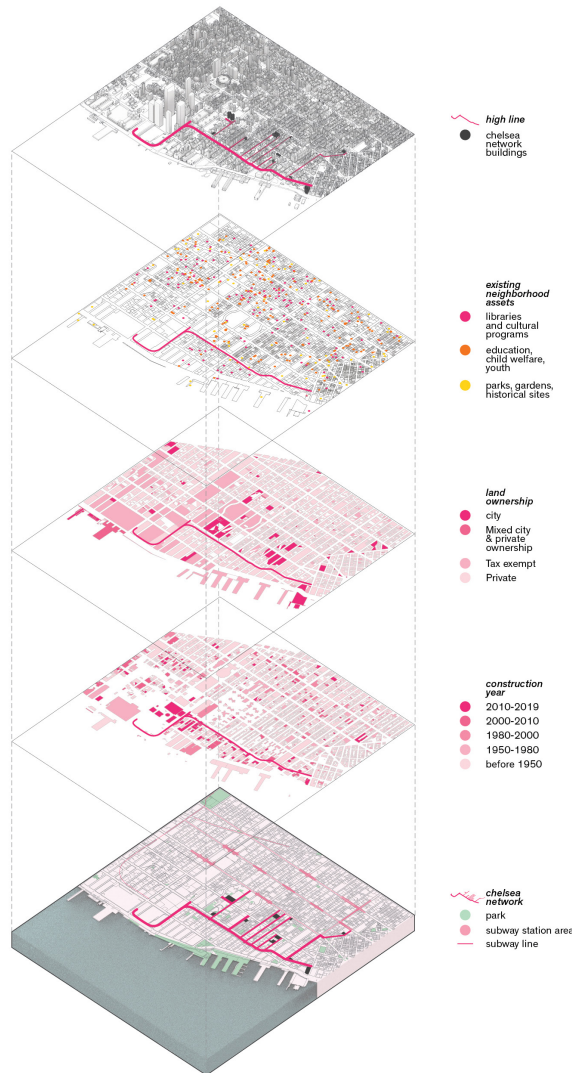
high line
chelsea network buildings

existing neighborhood assets
libraries and cultural programs
education, child welfare, youth
parks, gardens, historical sites

land ownership
city
Mixed city & private ownership
Tax exempt
Private

construction year
2010-2019
2000-2010
1980-2000
1950-1980
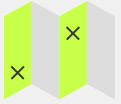before 1950

chelsea network
park
subway station area
subway line

existing neighborhood assets
libraries and cultural programs
education, child welfare, youth
parks, gardens, historical sites

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**COMMUNITY ASSETS MAP
EXAMPLE 2**

St. Paul: Community
organizations and assets
along the riverfront

IMAGE CREDITS

Image by: Dylan Culp
& Gena Morgis
Courtesy of Urban Design
and the Color Line, Harvard
Graduate School of Design

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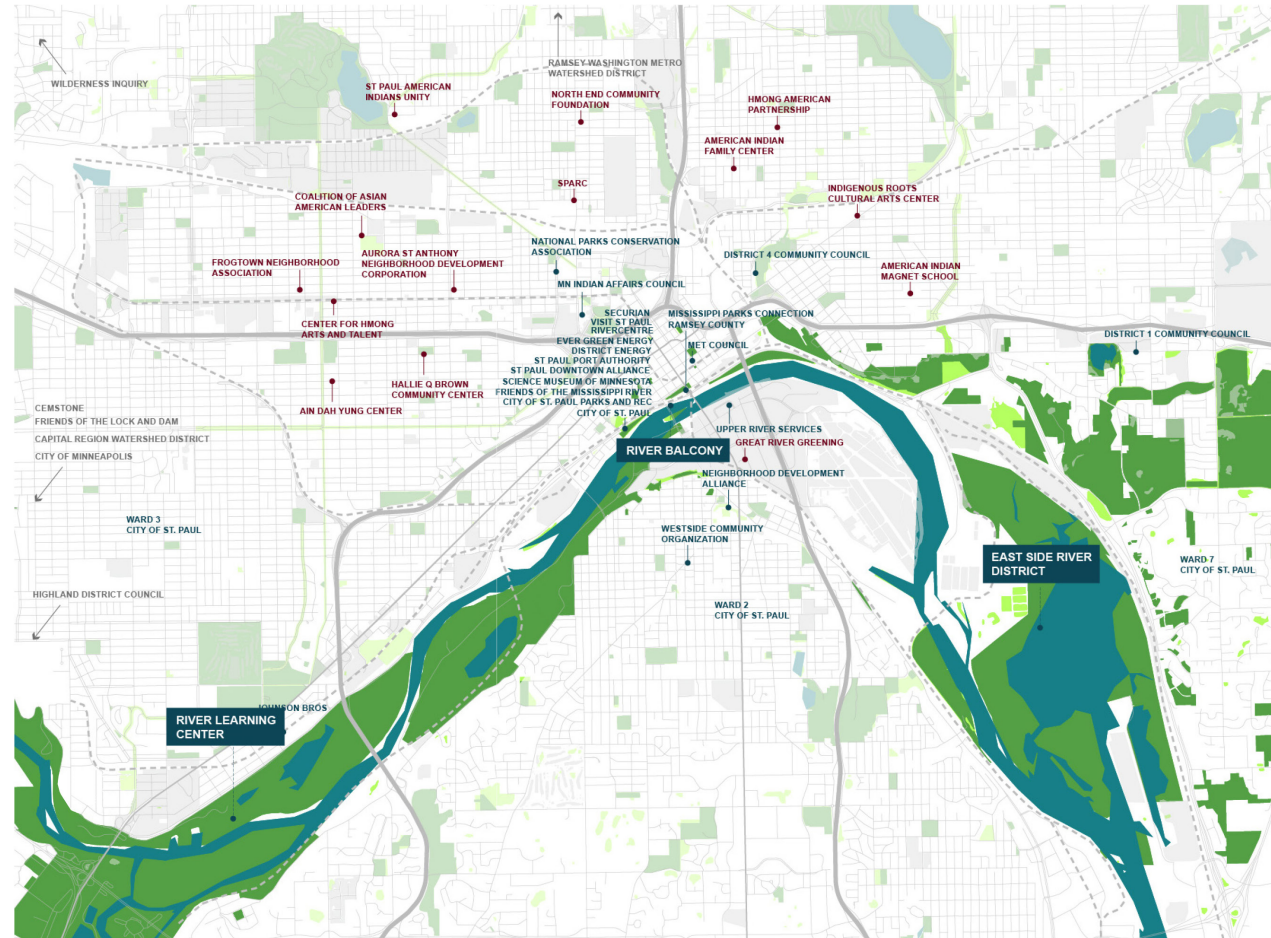
COMMUNITY ASSETS MAP EXAMPLE 3

Austin: Cultural routes and itineraries

IMAGE CREDITS

Image by: Don O'Keefe Courtesy of Urban Design and the Color Line, Harvard Graduate School of Design

Oakwood Cemetery
Moody Amphitheater at Event
12th Street Retail Corridor
Texas Music Museum
African-American Cultural & Heritage Facility
Symphony Square Event
African American Chamber of Commerce
The Contemporary Austin - Jones Center
Red River Cultural District
Mexic-Arte Museum
Guadalupe Neighborhood Development
Downtown Station Rail Stop
Austin Vistors Center
Austin Convention Center
Plaza Saltillo Rail Stop
Palm School / Palm Park
Rainey Street Historic District
Terrazas Branch Library
Mexican American Cultural Center
Sanchez School and Park
Willow-Spence Historic District

RBJ Public Health Center

ITINERARY 1: AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE
ITINERARY 2: LATINX ARTS AND CULTURE
ITINERARY 3: TEXAS MUSIC SCENE
ITINERARY 4: ECLECTIC ROUTE

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