**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.
TOOL 2
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?

This tool is part of the Community First Toolkit, available at toolkit.highlinenetwork.org
TOOL 2
Map Community Assets

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

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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
TOOL 2
Map Community Assets

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

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