



# Jordan Downs Community Advisory Committee

## Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa at Jordan Downs: Support Revitalization Efforts and View the Progress in the Master Planning Process

Los Angeles, August 22, 2009—The community gathered to share their vision of Jordan Downs with Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Both reiterated their support for the redevelopment and noted that the process has to involve the community and requires their active participation. "I'm interested in the participation of the residents of Jordan Downs in moving this project forward," noted Congresswoman Waters.



The participants got an overview and presentation on the process, along with updates on the project master plan. Discussions focused on community plan options and Human Capital Plan, and the residents had the opportunity to ask questions to the Mayor, Congresswoman and HACL A CEO, Rudolf Montiel.

**"We want to do this with the understanding that the key to success in this community is the people in it. The human capital in this community is going to drive whatever we do here. It's not just about buildings... it starts first and foremost with people," said Mayor Villaraigosa.**



Photos above: Congresswoman Maxine Waters opening remarks to welcome the residents. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa viewing the community plan options. HACL A President and CEO Rudolf C. Montiel answering questions from the participants.

Mr. Montiel, when answering questions from the community, noted that "We are trying to increase the stock of affordable housing in the City of Los Angeles in support of the Mayor's housing plan."



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### JORDAN DOWNS COMMUNITY MEETING:

Saturday, November 7th - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

JD Recreation Center, 9900 Grape Street, Los Angeles, CA

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# JDCAC in Action:

## Outreach at Meetings, Events & Door-to-Door!

The Jordan Downs Community Advisory Committee (JDCAC) members are working with HACLA to continue outreach efforts in the community.

Together for the past several months, we have been going door-to-door, presenting at meetings, and attending events to share information with the residents and local community about the project.

Door-to-door outreach allowed JDCAC members to provide residents with a bilingual newsletter with the most up-to-date information about the project as well as engage the residents through surveys to understand how much they knew about the project. This type of outreach gives HACLA an opportunity to hear suggestions on how to improve Jordan Downs.



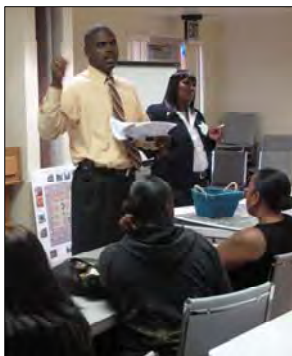
JDCAC door-to-door speaking to the residents.



John Hernandez, JDCAC member shares information on the project with a resident.

The Housing Authority also held a Developer's Forum on September 9th, to get feedback from the development and finance community regarding the project.

Some JDCAC members have even hosted local community meetings. On October 30th, Ms. Betty Day hosted an informal gathering to engage local community leaders and the residents in conversations about the future of Jordan Downs and the redevelopment project. On October 31st, The Watts Century Latino Organization (WCLO) informed the local community on the JD project and what it means to be a "Resident in Good Standing."



Planning Director John King and JDCAC Member speak at the Transitional Subsidized Employment Orientation.

JDCAC members continue their hard work; they have spoken at workshops and programs such as the Transitional Subsidized Employment Orientation. HACLA staff are proactively reaching out by making presentations to the Watts Gang Task Force (WGTF), Jordan Downs Resident's Managers Meetings, Economic Resource Roundtable Group, Watts Economic Development Advisory Committee (WEDAC), and at other local organizations and groups in the community.



Planning Director John King speaks to residents at the JD Managers Meeting.

Other events included HACLA and Jordan Downs Worksource Center staff participating in Mayor Villaraigosa's Community Resource Fairs held October 3rd and 10th. The fairs were coordinated through the City's Deputy Mayor Education, Youth, and Families, Miriam Long and took place at Gompers Junior High and Markham Middle School respectively. Staff provided housing and Worksource center information along with updates on the Jordan Downs Redevelopment.

We have embarked on a community engagement process to encourage people to let their voices be heard!



Above: HACLA staff at the Mayor's Resource Fair.



## Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa at Jordan Downs: Support Revitalization Efforts and View the Progress in the Master Planning Process

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The two alternative plans presented included ideas by the local community shared during prior meetings. The two plans are titled — *Central Park* and the other *Jordan Promenade*. Each accommodates a range of densities and design layout options to create a mixed use, mixed income community.

*Central Park* focuses around a large recreational open space in the middle of Jordan Downs, connecting the north and south sections of the community, while *Jordan Promenade* provides the same connection with more of a focus on Century Boulevard as an open pedestrian friendly street. In both plans, there is a combination of dedicated space for residential, educational, and recreational uses, including employment, commercial, and retail areas with community facilities for the residents.

With the Congresswoman and Mayor at the event, the meeting garnered more resident participation indicating the growing interest and desire to gain knowledge about the project and the process. The participants had the opportunity to get into working

groups to comment on the two alternative plans. Much of what was discussed focused on safety, security, and jobs components. Many favored the lower density options with townhouse and low-rise structures. There was also strong support for a potential elementary school on site.



*Participants discuss the alternative master plan options.*

*To watch the videos of previous community meetings, please visit [www.hacla.org](http://www.hacla.org)*

## Highlights at Jordan High School: Principal Mahmud is the Newest JDCAC Member



*Dr. Evelyn Mahmud,  
Principal, Jordan High  
School*

Dr. Evelyn Mahmud recently joined Jordan High School as their new Principal in August. She brings enthusiasm and commitment to educational excellence. We welcome her as the newest JDCAC member representing the school community.

For the past month, the Housing Authority has met with LAUSD facilities staff and Jordan High School officials to discuss the vision for the school and its connection to the Jordan Downs community. Thus far, we have identified existing resources and shared ideas on how to improve both

the campus layout and services for the students and community.

We are working together to plan the future of Jordan Downs. As we have reached out to residents for their input, we also believe that establishing a solid educational foundation is necessary to improve the quality of life in Jordan Downs. A stronger partnership with Jordan High School will ideally enable residents to have access to better employment opportunities and the ability to become economically self-sufficient.

Again we welcome Principal Mahmud to the JDCAC and look forward to working with the Jordan High School Team!



## JD Master Planning, Specific Plan & Annexation Updates



### **Jordan Downs Specific Plan**

The Jordan Downs Specific Plan (JDSP) will become a land use regulation enacted by the City Council to implement the development of the JD Master Plan.

The goal is to plan and formalize the master planning efforts through the Specific Plan process. This specific plan will be a zoning ordinance which will contain development regulations for the Jordan Downs specific geographic area to regulate the new development based upon the needs of the residents as well as the surrounding community. The specific plan will update the zoning regulations for the area and will satisfy the Pre-Zoning requirement for the Annexation process.

The JDSP will be an effective tool to regulate the character of the development and ensure consistency with the concepts in the Jordan Downs Master Plan.

Local residents and stakeholders are highly encouraged to participate in this process as your input is highly valued. A schedule of dates will be posted in the next newsletter for those upcoming meetings.

### **Jordan Downs Annexation**

Annexation is the means by which an existing city extends its boundaries. In the case of Jordan Downs, the current factory is not within city territory. In order for the redevelopment of Jordan Downs to be a success, an annexation is necessary.

The annexation includes several stages with the final stage including an application submission by the City Planning Department to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). LAFCO is a local agency that establishes, reviews and approves or denies proposals for boundary changes for cities. The Cortese-Knox Act is the framework within which proposed annexations are considered.

### **Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Compass Blueprint Grant**

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) applied for and was awarded the SCAG Compass Blueprint Grant. The Compass Blueprint Grant is a demonstration grant that provides HACLA with technical assistance to “demonstrate” to the rest of the city the potential of the Jordan Downs redevelopment for transit oriented development, sustainability and overall green building strategies.

This grant is important because HACLA wants to take a specific look at the environment in Jordan Downs particularly as it relates to improving the quality of life for all residents. The grant will also show the rest of the city the unique opportunities that exist in the Jordan Downs and shed light on the possibilities for the future.



## Rumor Control

**Rumor:** HACLA is targeting residents for eviction.

**Fact:** HACLA is not evicting residents for redevelopment purposes. Enforcement of existing rules have nothing to do with Jordan Downs redevelopment plans. In the past, the top 3 causes for eviction have been: habitually delinquent or non-payment of rent, criminal activity by a resident, household member, guest, unauthorized guests living in the household, unreported income. Please refer to the *Resident in Good Standing* article in last issue of JDCAC newsletter to learn about the existing rules on eviction or go to [www.hacla.org/news](http://www.hacla.org/news) to download the newsletter.

**Rumor:** Cameras have audio recording capacity.

**Fact:** No, the cameras are for video recording only.

**Rumor:** The proposed redevelopment will result in the displacement of current JD residents.

**Fact:** Residents of JD will not be displaced from JD public housing complex. Once construction is completed, existing residents in good standing will be provided with the opportunity to move into the new units. Construction will occur in phases, therefore, residents will be relocated to the new site in phases. There are no plans or intentions to relocate residents to another site outside of JD. If some residents request to live elsewhere, it will be at their personal discretion.





## Councilwoman Janice Hahn Walks Jordan Downs & Meets Residents



Councilwoman Hahn visits JD.

September 8, 2009 - Councilwoman Janice Hahn visited Jordan Downs to walk the community and talk to the residents about what is happening locally.

“There has been a lot of talk and controversy over the redevelopment of Jordan Downs,” said Councilwoman Hahn. “But the bottom line is, this plan is for the community and the way it is carried out

should be dictated by the community. And what I found

was, the majority of people I talked to are ready to see this redevelopment happen.”

Councilwoman Hahn wanted to hear from residents first-hand regarding their ideas and concerns about the future redevelopment project.



Councilwoman Hahn talking to JD residents.

## Jordan Downs: Community Goes Wireless with Internet Access!

Now announcing free wireless internet for all residents at Jordan Downs. The Housing Authority has partnered with AT&T and One Economy to offer the community free internet access for the next three years.

### What is the Role of One Economy?

One Economy is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving access to and knowledge of technology for individuals of all income levels. In accordance with this mission, One Economy will be providing orientations and workshops to introduce the Jordan Downs community to the new wireless service. Additionally, One Economy will work with the JD Worksource center to hire and train one local resident to provide technical onsite support for one year.

### What if I don't have a Computer?

The Housing Authority is currently collaborating with AT&T and Councilwoman Janice Hahn to receive donations and provide more options for those who do not currently have computers at home. HACLA will continue to keep the residents informed about potential training programs and distribution system as information becomes available. It is the Housing Authority's goal for each household that does not have a computer to receive a donated unit and training. We want residents to increase their computer skills sets and be connected to the internet.



## Empowering the JDCAC:

### Coro Returns to Provide More Leadership Training!

Coro is back and ready for round two! Through its partnership with the Housing Authority, Coro will start providing group leadership training sessions with the JDCAC members this coming month. In the past, Coro assisted the JDCAC in developing a team mission statement and a community vision for the redevelopment project itself. The committee's mission focuses on using the redevelopment process to connect with different community members, promote safety, and bring in more shopping and recreational



opportunities.

The next set of leadership training sessions will aim to further empower the JDCAC members and clarify the role of the committee within the redevelopment process. JDCAC will learn more about how to be effective in developing relationships and communicating with residents, HACLA, and political leaders.

HACLA and Coro hope that these trainings will continue to better prepare the JDCAC to serve as representatives of the community when meeting with different individuals and organizations outside of JD.



Published by

# HACLA

Housing Authority of the  
City of Los Angeles



### About HACLA

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) is a state-chartered public agency. It provides the largest stock of affordable housing in Los Angeles and is one of the nation's leading public housing authorities. It is also one of the oldest, providing quality housing options and supportive services to the citizens of Los Angeles since 1938.

Rudolf C. Montiel, PE  
President & CEO

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Newsletter of Jordan  
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We are on the web  
[www.hacla.org/news](http://www.hacla.org/news)

## Update on "The Factory"

HACLA is having environmental testing done at the 21 acres next to Jordan Downs public housing complex (known as "the factory"). The testing is to evaluate and identify any potential hazardous concerns for any necessary site remediation. **Environmental testing activities are safe and do not have any negative health impacts on the community.** Testing is performed in steps. Recently, Phase I was completed, which is a site inspection providing historical and regulatory information. Phase II is in progress with limited soil sampling. On November 9th, additional soil samples will be gathered to provide more information on the site characteristics.

### Changing Roles



#### Returning Staff:

**Tiffany Prescott**, welcome back to the team! She rejoins the housing authority and resumes her position as Administrative Assistant to Planning Director John King. We are happy to have her back!



#### New Staff:

**Bellegrán "Belle" Gomez** joined the Jordan Downs Redevelopment team as a Community Development Manager. She will focus on the Human Capital plan to enhance the residents quality of life and provide programs and services for the community.



#### Farewell Announcement:

**Cindy Tran** was promoted to HACLA Executive Offices as Executive Assistant. Although Cindy remains within the HACLA team, we wish her the best and appreciate her work and contributions to the Jordan Downs Redevelopment project.

## Special thanks to your JDCAC members:

Cassandra Savage, Former RMC President  
Keyon Johnson, RMC Vice President  
Michael Agustin, RMC Treasurer  
Evelyn Warren, JD Resident  
Guadalupe Laureano, JD Resident  
Miguel Plancarte, JD Resident  
Darian Armstrong, JD Resident, Youth  
Marcell Coleman, JD Resident, Youth  
Martha Fausto, JD Resident, Youth  
Daniel Fausto, JD Resident, Youth  
Richard Alford, Community Member  
Martin Peery, JD Manager  
Evelyn Mahmud, LAUSD  
Betty Day, Watts Gang Task Force  
Rev. Gregory Bynum, Church of the Light House

Father Peters, St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
John Frank Hernandez, Watts Century Latino Org.  
Arturo Ybarra, Watts Century Latino Org.  
Charlotte Brimmer, CRA, City of Los Angeles  
Gregory Brown, Watts Neighborhood Council  
Henry Broomfield, Watts Neighborhood Council  
Eric Brown, Councilwoman Hahn's Office  
Janet Clark, LAUSD, Maxine Waters' Employment  
Preparation Office  
Jasper Williams, Mayor's Office  
April Lawrence, Congresswoman Maxine Waters Office  
Emada Castillo, LAPD  
Phillip Tingirides, Captain III, Southeast Area  
Reginald Pope, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

### **Also thanks to JDCAC supporters for their help in the process.**

Luz Herrera, JD Resident

Leticia Martinez, JD Resident

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