

Using Visual Data to Engage Stakeholders in a Community Assessment of a Place-based Initiative – Participatory Photography

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### **Presenter Disclosures**

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 The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose.

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# Where are we assessing? Questions focused on three aspects of community: Social Environment Where do people go to for support and advice? Who are leaders in our community? whildren 0-5 and their families? Service Environment Economic & Built Environment Do we have access to parks, jobs, banks and fresh produce?

### What are the main methods & activities? Using common questions & standardized approach: Who Participated Focus Groups Parents, residents and service providers (at least 3 per community) Parents, residents and service Asset Mapping Community leaders (10-12 per Interviews community) Parents and community residents (3-5 parents as researchers) Participatory Photography Organizations Census, LAC DPH, CDE, etc. Other Sources

## **Participatory Photography**



### What is participatory photography?



- + A method that enables participants to tell their stories though images they capture.
  - Promotes dialogue about personal & community issues through discussion of their photographs.
- + For this project—Participants asked to reflect upon and record community assets and concerns.
- + Why did we select this approach?
  - Because it increases community program buy-in and fosters social action

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### **Approach to Participatory Photography**

- 3 4 group meetings with participants in a span of 3-4 weeks
- Partnered with community organizations to recruit participants
- 3 5 participants selected from each community to participate
- + Goals of the meetings:
  - Provide an overview of the process
  - Review and select pictures
  - Design the community posters



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### **Structure of Participatory Photography**



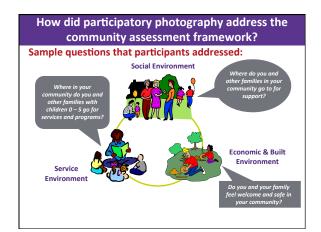
- + Goals of the 1st meeting:
  - Best Start LA Overview
  - Purpose of participatory photography
  - Set ground rules
  - Distribute cameras and forms
  - Discussion questions and themes

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### **Structure of Participatory Photography**

- + Goals of 2nd meeting:
  - Select pictures
  - Discuss meaningfulness of each image
- + Goals of 3rd meeting:
  - Select pictures and stories for
- poster
  + Planned Dissemination:
  - Participants share pictures, stories, and process at community meetings
  - Posters documenting and celebrating the project (in progress)



# Participatory Photography Strengths and Challenges

### Strengths of the approach:

- + Developed relationships and trust
- + Practiced group decision making
- Increased ability to critically think about their environment\*
- + Increased self confidence and self advocacy
- + An engaging process where parents learned new skills

### Challenges of the approach

- + The developing of relationships and trust takes time
- + Personal use of cameras
- + Lack of understanding of technology and waivers
- + Community can easily digress form theme/purpose of pictures

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### What Stage are Communities in Now?

- + F5LA Best Start reports have been shared with the community and used in the community plans
  - Community plans have been developed and approved
  - Community plans are how the whole process is supposed to be implemented
- + Community Planning Committees have been established
- + F5LA and communities trying to process how to implement the community plans

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