Smart growth approaches to development create healthy, vibrant places that give people greater opportunity and choice. How can smart growth support equitable development, environmental justice and economic vitality and empower communities of color, tribes and disadvantaged groups to shape the neighborhoods, communities and regions in which they live? The 2012 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference includes several sessions and a pre-conference workshop that explore these critical issues and showcase strategies and opportunities for greater collaboration among the smart growth, equitable development and environmental justice advocates.
Partnerships to Finance and Promote Equitable TOD

Transit-oriented development is an important component of sustainable communities. Without proactive public policy and innovative financing, the development of new public transit infrastructure can result in the unintended displacement of low-income communities. One of the primary mechanisms for creating affordable housing near transit has been acquisition loan funds, in which both borrowers and lenders take new or non-traditional risk to ensure low-income households can benefit from access to reliable public transit and affordable housing.

Healthy Metropolitan Food Systems

Expanding food production, processing, distribution and retail within our metropolitan areas can strengthen regional economies and encourage civic engagement that can transform how we think about our diets and our communities. Growing food can improve health and promote social justice. Local food systems can improve access to nutritious food in underserved areas and increase job prospects.

Planning for Improvements without Displacement

Efforts in Los Angeles to increase equity in working-class communities of color are targeting “fair growth” community planning to improve conditions without inadvertently forcing out long-term residents. Focused on transportation and affordable housing choices, residents are re-envisioning their community and reaping the benefits of advocacy for equitable policy.

Restoring Prosperity in America’s Legacy Cities

This session will explore how “legacy cities” like Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and St. Louis are using rightsizing approaches to adapt to a changing economy and position themselves for new growth and investment. Topics include a new role for federal community development policy, managing and rightsizing infrastructure, balancing public investment and market demand, equity and local community-driven change.

Building a Regional Equity Coalition for Sustainable Communities

Powerful coalitions have formed over the last decade to unite communities of color and low-income communities across a region. Hear from leaders in Atlanta, Oakland and the Twin Cities about how these coalitions steer planning efforts, win and preserve affordable housing near transit, and foster transit service and investments that connect their communities to opportunities.

Native American Collaboration on Smart Growth & Green Design

This session showcases a network of housing leaders, community designers and sustainability advocates working together to overcome barriers to smart growth and green design in Native American communities.

Revitalization, Gentrification and Equitable Development

Gentrification is often defined as the transformation of neighborhoods from low value to high value. This change has the potential to cause displacement of long-time residents and businesses because of higher rents, mortgages and property taxes. Learn about local solutions for advancing equitable development.

The Role of Youth in Sustainable Brownfields Redevelopment

A food desert in California’s agriculturally abundant San Joaquin Valley, Fresno’s Golden West Side neighborhood suffers from a lack of plan-
Advancing Equity through Planning: Challenges and Opportunities

Wednesday, February 1 ■ 1:00-5:30 p.m.

Across the country, communities and regions are finding that inclusive, equitable planning processes empower them to address the economic, environmental, health and other challenges they face.

However, integrating social equity, affordability, economic and workforce development, and environmental justice into local and regional planning is not always straightforward.

This pre-conference workshop will draw on the experiences of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge grantees to shed light on the barriers and opportunities related to fair and equitable planning.

How can regional planning agencies, community-based organizations and residents work together to ensure that development decisions meet the needs of all community members? How have communities and regions overcome barriers to inclusive planning, and how can those lessons be applied more broadly? How can local, regional, state, tribal, federal and foundation stakeholders collaborate to advance equitable planning and growth?

On the Workshop Agenda

During this half-day workshop, participants will:

- Hear from regional and community leaders who have forged successful partnerships in planning efforts.
- Learn about approaches to increasing engagement and leadership of lower-income communities, communities of color, indigenous groups and communities with environmental justice concerns in planning and development processes.
- Explore how issues of environmental protection, affordability, job creation, and environmental justice can be integrated in regional and community planning processes.
- Get to know federal and foundation programs and resources that support equitable development and inclusive planning.

Afternoon coffee will be provided. Registration is $18.

To Register for the Pre-conference Workshop:

www.newpartners.org

Follow the Conference on Facebook at facebook.com/newpartnersconference and Twitter @NewPartnersConf
Other sessions of interest

Beyond the Equitable Development track, the entire conference program is infused with many sessions that include a focus on equity and environmental justice, including:

- Tax Foreclosure Reform: A New Approach for Stronger Neighborhoods
- Infill Development Strategies for Small Cities
- Where’s the Money: 2012 Update On Smart Growth Funding
- Food Court: Using Smart Growth Principles to Achieve Food Justice
- Strategies for Saving the Small-Town Grocery Store
- A New Heart for Houston
- The Walking Audit — A Tool for Organizing Strong Communities and Developing Complete Streets
- Completing Neighborhoods through Appropriate Infill
- Seeds for Change: Creative Urban Gardens and Edible Parks
- Housing and Freeways — How Close Is Too Close?
- Eat, Play, Live: Creative Investments towards Equitable Health Access
- Corner of Smart and Green: Could Housing Trends Bolster Sustainable Building Trades?
- Essential Components of the 21st-Century Community: Housing for the “Missing Middle”
- Jobs, the Workforce and the Economy: Rethinking the Role of Smart Growth and Sustainability
- People, Place and Planning: Engaging Residents and Using Data in Revitalization and Evaluation
- Building Support for Mobility Options: Effective Outreach Tactics for Engaging Grassroots Groups and Underserved Communities
- Partnerships for Successful Community and Economic Development in Small Towns and Rural Regions

Register Now!

www.newpartners.org

Visit the conference web site for registration information and more details about these and many other exciting sessions!

- Diversity Scholarships
  The LGC has received foundation and federal agency support to establish a Diversity Scholarship Fund for this event that will allow us to waive the conference registration fee and provide travel stipends to community leaders from lower-income and traditionally minority communities, and representatives from organizations whose primary work is focused on social equity, environmental justice and equitable development. For information on how to apply for a Diversity Scholarship: Shani Alford, salford@lgc.org, (916) 448-1198 x330 newpartners.org/scholarships.html

- Conference Location
  The conference will be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina in San Diego. The hotel is offering a special group rate of $133 single/double occupancy until January 11. Make your reservations by calling (800) 325-3535, and indicate you are attending the New Partners Conference.

- For Conference Information
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Presented by the Local Government Commission • Supporters include:

THE 11TH ANNUAL NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH CONFERENCE

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