BUILDING THE ENGINE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN DETROIT (BECDD) CONSENSUS "WORKING" COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEFINITIONS ADOPTED THROUGH THE BECDD PROCESS, 2016-2018 (As of April 2018)

Community development is the work of building and sustaining neighborhoods. Community development brings opportunity and services to bear on behalf of residents and businesses in a defined neighborhood. It is facilitated through community development organizations partnering with grass roots organizations and other neighborhood stakeholders. Community development embraces sustained resident empowerment and equity: social, economic, racial and environmental. It strives to build social cohesion. It holistically integrates planning, community education, advocacy, resident support and economic development in a defined neighborhood.

What is a Detroit Community Development Organization?

Community Development Organizations are known as CDOs in Detroit. A CDO is a professional not-for-profit tax-exempt organization, and the key facilitator of community development work in a defined neighborhood. A CDO is a place-based organization accountable to local stakeholders (especially residents), who comprise the majority of its Board. A ***CDO is distinguished from other organizations by its role as the "sustained voice" in the community it serves, often with other partners.*** A CDO is a trusted neighborhood institution with strong relationships that knows stakeholders' priorities and needs.

What is a Grass Roots Organization?

Grass Roots Organizations (GROs) are equally important to successful community development. GROs are volunteer associations that focus on small geographic areas or projects within a defined neighborhood. Grass Roots Organizations partner with CDOs to create plans and carry out projects.

What is Community Development in Detroit?

In Detroit, Community Development coordinates a set of strategies chosen by leaders within the neighborhood; strategies that are derived from locally-driven planning in partnership with city government, and aimed at building neighborhood power, social cohesion, physical amenities and great services. Community Development embraces resident empowerment and strives for sustainability and equity (economic, social, racial and environmental). Community development supports residents in their advocacy for their neighborhood: influencing positive change in city government practices, human services, safety, equitable development, environmental equity or school reform; or organizing around other related issues that affect the life of a neighborhood. In Community Development, residents and other stakeholders may choose to focus on a range of issues. In any given neighborhood, *in addition to traditional physical development work, other community development strategies can include:*

- Youth and/or Senior Programming and Engagement
- Community Health initiatives including food access and exercise, primary care access, or other health-related work
- Local business support, business development and business organizing and the integration of local entrepreneurs into the community
- Workforce development including job training and job placement services
- Education – through advocacy for quality public education, early childhood education or other education strategies
- Programs that celebrate local culture, including public art

Community Development can be *recognized primarily by the five Community Development functions described below.*

Community Development Roles: There are Five Community Development Roles in any neighborhood

1. **Convening and Facilitating: Creating a Strong Voice for the Neighborhood**
   This is the distinguishing role of a CDO, working with its grass roots neighborhood partners: CDOs bring organizations and stakeholder together for planning, joint problem solving, community education, advocacy and physical development. CDOs act as an intermediary between residents, city government and major private institutions.
2. **Resident Engagement and Empowerment: Building Residents' Power for Decision-Making**
   The priorities, plans and activities in the neighborhood should **reflect the priorities of neighborhood residents**. Residents are engaged in the work of the organizations serving that neighborhood. Residents have a decision-making role in the neighborhood, **helping to define and name the neighborhood and building pride in the neighborhood.**

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3. **Community Planning and Advocacy: Sustaining the Neighborhood**
   Partnering with residents, local stakeholders and City Government, looking at all aspects of community life in the defined area, with **residents making key planning decisions and staying engaged** to help carry out and advocate the plan.

4. **Economic Development: Bringing Jobs, Physical Amenities and Necessities to the Neighborhood**
   Using an **equitable development approach** that reflects neighborhood priorities: housing development/repair/rehab; commercial corridor development; business and/or entrepreneur development; vacant land reclamation and open space development; blight remediation and clean-up; recreational space development or other **physical revitalization**.

5. **Resident Support: Nurturing Strong, Self-Sufficient, Successful Residents and Local Entrepreneurs**
   Helping to develop the capabilities of area **individual residents - especially young people - to help them realize their full potential.**

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