

Site Plan Design

Activity 1: In this last workshop with residents, activity moderators should engage participants to begin thinking about the design and physical layout of the site plan, including the location of the different components in relation to one another on the site, while also considering the cost restraints of the individual components. This can be done through mapping out the site plan of the lot activation on a large print out with the site dimensions clearly outlined.

In addition to the map of the site dimensions printed out, prepare cut-out pieces of paper of the different components, scaled to their appropriate dimension, to be placed on the map by participants. Participants should take into account:

- 1. prioritizing what physically fits on the site (not all components will be able to be placed),
- 2. where each component should be placed in relation to the other components, and
- 3. cost restraints, some components may not be financially feasible for a temporary activation.

For cost restraints, you can mark each component with \$ dollar signs to represent its relative cost, ex: expensive components like a built seating area would be labeled '\$\$\$\$', whereas cheap components like an art area would be labeled '\$' to represent their relative costs.



Design

The design of the temporarily transformed vacant lot should reflect the needs and priorities of the community as determined in the participatory design workshops. Incorporating the existing culture into the design can also be an important design element. The transformation of vacant lots does not have to expensive and you do not need to be an architect to design lot components. Some of the most important elements of transforming lots in Los Angeles are: safe and clean spaces, shade, seating, and recreation areas.

Here are some of our favorite materials and easy ways you can create a fun and engaging design with a small budget:

Hay Bales: can be used for comfortable seating, stacked, or singular, can also be used to hold up light shade structures

Wrapping paper and fabric: can be used to bring color to a site, and are a good lightweight material for shade!

Palettes: can be used to create tables, seating, can be stacked on each other to create rooms, you can secure them with screws or zip ties!

Astroturf: can be laid on concrete to provide a more comfortable surface for sports play, dancing, yoga, and other forms of recreation

2x4 wood: can be used to create simple and sturdy stages, secured to chain-link fence posts to support and lift light weight shade structures, made into frames that create rooms of activity



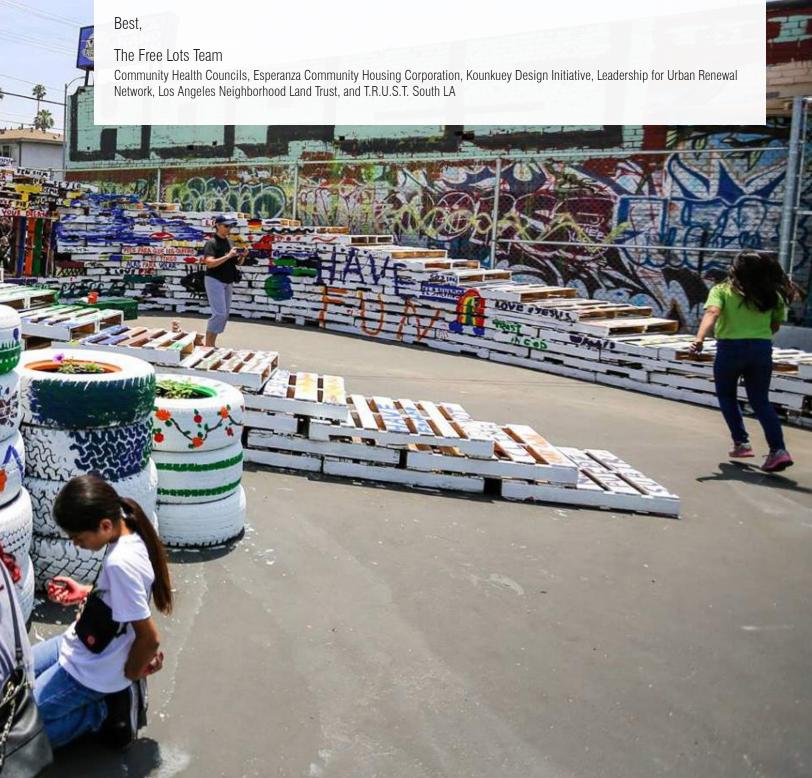




We would like to thank our funders, The California Endowment, for supporting Free Lots Angeles' work and for funding the development of this toolkit. This toolkit is a working document and we hope to update it as we are continually learning how to improve the process of accessing and transforming vacant lots in Los Angeles.

We are building a community base to support policy change that enables access to publicly-owned vacant lots for community benefits. To be part of this discussion contact Malcolm Harris at 323-233-4118 or malcolm@trustsouthla.org. If you are interested in transforming a vacant lot near you, please contact Luis Gutierrez at luis@lurnnetwork.org.

You can find more about our work at our Facebook page.





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