



April 2007

# Spring Workshops Focus on Placemaking and Street Enhancements in City Neighborhoods



*The Planning and Community Development Department has already been out in the community several times this spring as part of a workshop series focused on Placemaking and Boulevard improvements in Santa Monica. More workshops on a variety of citywide issues are planned for spring and summer.*

## Community Studies Placemaking Principles for Neighborhood Center Improvements

Community members from Pico, Sunset Park, Mid-Cities and Wilshire-Montana neighborhoods came together at **recent public workshops** to share ideas about their neighborhoods and to identify opportunities that improve their quality of life. The workshops, including a third scheduled for April 5th at Olympic High School, are the first set of outreach efforts related to the Land Use and Circulation Element project since the City Council's endorsement of project - related **Goals** last November. Focusing on Placemaking and the interaction between people and the built environment, the workshops seek to learn how people get around their neighborhood and how the streets might function better. Participants offered great insight as to how people feel about their neighborhood and possible opportunities to implement positive changes in their community. A fourth workshop will be held on May 7th that brings together these



Participants at the Pico workshop advocated for mixed-use housing with ground level retail.

ideas and explores the projects next steps and phases.  
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## Safety and Traffic the Focus of Ocean Park Blvd. Workshop

Transportation Management met with over 40 members of the Sunset Park community the evening of March 20th to discuss possible solutions to concerns regarding Ocean Park Boulevard between 14th and 18th Streets. Information was presented by the TranspoGroup based in Washington to hear how other communities have redesigned similar streets with similar issues. City staff also presented information on how Ocean Park Blvd. could be redesigned to have one travel lane in each

direction with minimal impacts to the surrounding streets, how traffic signals might impact Ocean Park Boulevard and surrounding streets, and how parking could be improved near this commercial area. Participants were receptive to the concepts and members of the community continue to provide feedback. Staff anticipates preparing information for the City



Improvements to Ocean Park Blvd. were the subject of a recent community workshop in the Sunset Park area.

Council's review and possible action, and ensuring the concerns that were expressed in this area are addressed in the Circulation Element.  
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## LUCE: Getting the Youth Perspective

Shaping the future with the help of the future generation has been a part of the LUCE

project from the beginning, and their opinions were folded into the recent Placemaking workshops. Edison Language Academy 4th graders and Virginia Avenue Park teens learned the principles of placemaking and planned for safe, affordable gathering places with community uses and affordable housing on Pico Boulevard; PAL leadership teens had thoughts for making a green and enjoyable neighborhood center on Wilshire Boulevard, and Olympic High School students imagined walking out at the end of the school day onto a revitalized Lincoln Boulevard with a bridge connecting pedestrian-oriented plazas on both sides. The students' work was displayed at the corresponding neighborhood workshop and reflected many of the themes picked up by their elders.

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