

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT...

Community Development is about people. Ultimately, everything the City does under all the Fundamentals is meant to provide for the needs, desires and expectations of local residents. Under the Community Development Fundamental, special attention is paid to those programs and services that support individuals and families in their own growth and development.

To that end, the City prioritizes and is proud of the quality of the local public school system and the variety of after-school and weekend programming offered through outlets like the Community Schools program. Continued and expanded programming at the Chelsea Senior Center affords seniors excellent social and health needs. While those and other direct services offered by the City meet a variety of needs, the City's community development demands are substantially augmented and often led by numerous community-based organizations and their various missions on affordable housing, youth development, domestic violence prevention, immigration issues, alcohol and drug dependency and much more. In fact, the City is blessed with a network of CBOs that individually have received regional, national and international acclaim and collectively provide for the most extensive and effective advocacy on community development issues to be found anywhere.

Human needs are plentiful, especially during tough economic times. The City remains committed to working with CBOs to meet as many of those needs as possible. To do so, the City is open to new ideas and tries not to shy away from even the most difficult of challenges. While it is impossible to address every single need of every single resident, the City strives to be introspective, by continually examining what needs exist in the community and how the City can do a better job at meeting those needs, and inclusive, by not ignoring or prioritizing the needs of any one group over another. That approach is consistent with the City's previous recognition as an "All-America City."



(L to R) Danielle Cruz, Councillor Paula Barton and City Manager Jay Ash are in front of Market Basket helping to support the Chelsea Hunger Network's Chelsea Eat and Walk (CHEW).

Fast Facts

- ◆ Chelsea Senior Center: 500+ members - 15 programs
- ◆ Chelsea Public Library 2009 circulation: 68,786
- ◆ Chelsea Community Schools: 1,800+ participants – 150 courses – 80 CBO activities

Accomplishments

- ⇒ Successfully transitioned from the 20-year, BU/Chelsea Partnership;
- ⇒ Created and opened Chelsea REACH, a new after-school program for students grade 7-10;
- ⇒ Secured extended hours of the DCR Pool, and
- ⇒ Supported grant applications of ROCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Centro Latino, HarborCOV, CAPIC, Chelsea ASAP, the Collaborative, Chelsea Green Space, Chelsea Neighborhood Developers, and MGH.

Goals

- ⇒ Advocate for expanded DCR Pool hours;
- ⇒ Advance local efforts to combat hunger;
- ⇒ Examine potential of expanded job training for local residents, and
- ⇒ Assist local CBOs in addressing budget and programmatic issues relating to budget crises.



(L to R) Local Census 2010 Coordinator Carlos Alvarado, City Councillor Calvin Brown, Centro Latino President Juan Vega and Census Manager Cesar Monzon kick-off the City's efforts for Census 2010. An accurate count of all the city's residents is the basis for a variety of governmental and charitable funding programs that support the work of the City and its CBOs.