Diálogos: Placemaking in Latino Communities

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There's not a Latino way to create a place... but there are better ways to make places for latinos

Latinos in the Philadelphia area

- ▶ 468,000+ in 11-county metro area; 90% from Puerto Rico, Mexico and Dominican Republic
- Latino population increased more than 63% between 2000 and 2010
- Grew from 5% of area population in 2000 to 8% in 2010; more than 10% of public school children in 2010–11 were Latino

Source: Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians, *Hispanic Philadelphia: Game-Changing Demographics*, June 4, 2012; Diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu

Latinos in the Philadelphia area

- ▶ 1 in 3 are immigrants; 60% of Latino immigrants live outside Philadelphia
- 330,000 speak Spanish at home; 42% of Latinos speak English "less than very well"
- Latinos in NJ and Pennsylvania have more than \$53 billion in buying power
- Latinos represent 41% of Philadelphians in poverty

About placemaking

- A holistic approach to making places better
- Four human needs:
 - Security
 - Freedom
 - Community
 - Quality environment

Key issues in placemaking for Latino communities

- Lack of participation in Latino communities in formal placemaking activities
- Lack of clarity or understanding of Latino communities by planners
- Urban design and regulations that do not do well in addressing demands of Latinos (especially recent immigrants)

Based on diálogos held with 200+ placemakers around US, 2005-2008

Diálogos: Placemaking in Latino Communities

- Explores history of placemaking and current planning challenges facing Latino communities
- Discusses how Latinos shape and customize their neighborhoods and spaces
- Describes successful strategies placemakers use to engage Latinos
- Promotes a culturally competent approach to placemaking

Key themes in Diálogos

- People can engage in placemaking with, or without professional support
- Professional placemakers should be more inclusive and less prescriptive
- Professional placemakers should know how traditional methods of planning may perpetuate discrimination

Culturally competent placemaking

- More time spent understanding and building relationships within the community
- Questions traditional methods of public engagement and decisionmaking
- Collaborative and inclusive placemaking

Thank you and gracias

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