

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)

proudly presents our

2015-2020 Strategic Plan

Industrial Legacies, Climate Adaptation, Community Resiliency

Strategic goals for
four major sections:

**Environmental
Justice**, Page 1 and 2

Base Building, Page 3

**Organizational
Development**, Page 3

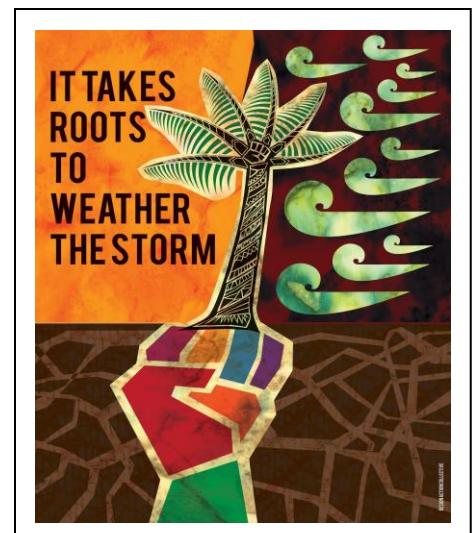
Strategic Fundraising,
Page 3

Environmental Justice

Goal: Address Industrial Legacies by Implementing the Little Village
EJ 2020 Plan

LVEJO is committed to completing the Little Village Environmental Justice 2020 Plan. LVEJO will ensure that the *EJ2020 Plan* holistically addresses the environmental concerns that exist in the community. Working closely and consistently with neighbors, local youth, and community partners to develop the *EJ2020 Plan*, LVEJO will maintain an equitable re-development process that respects the history of Little Village. Building upon LVEJO's successful Clean Power, Public Transit, and Park #553 campaigns, the *EJ2020 Plan* will advance the following areas to accomplish environmental justice in our community:

- **Brownfield Re-development:** LVEJO will perform research with community members to identify and transform 10 brownfield sites in Little Village including a green walkway
- **Climate Adaptation:** LVEJO will develop a local climate adaptation plan and create a climate vulnerability and assets index and mapping system
- **Riverfront Re-development:** LVEJO will remediate the Collateral Channel at 31st & Albany and develop a local re-development plan for the Chicago Sanitary Canal
- **Just Transition/Energy Resiliency:** LVEJO will oppose false market based solutions to the climate crisis and advocate for three legislative policies that support a just transition to a new economy based on renewable energy sources and family supporting jobs
- **Zero Waste and Recycling:** LVEJO will promote local solutions and policies that strengthen responsible recycling, composting, and zero waste programs
- **Food Justice:** LVEJO will work with community partners to promote organic gardening and health/wellness programs that address health disparities
- **Environmental Justice Education:** LVEJO will work with local educators to develop a culturally relevant EJ curriculum that includes popular education activities about criminalization and gentrification in Little Village



Strategic Plan



LVEJO's EJ2020 Plan Promotes Equitable Re- Development Practices that will Foster Collective Action and Strengthen the Self- Determination of Little Village

Climate Adaptation

LVEJO's Climate Adaptation struggle acknowledges that EJ communities such as Little Village are disproportionately impacted by the hardships caused by climate change and extreme weather incidents. Due to race, class, gender, location, and citizenship status, many low-income populations and people of color are vulnerable to displacement, sickness, and death because of poor planning and state neglect. The projects that contribute to LVEJO's Climate

Adaptation and Resiliency campaign will assess and evaluate the preparedness of the community to adapt to climate change, and ensure that city, state, federal, and private institutions are accountable to the needs of all Little Village community members.

Community Resiliency

LVEJO recognizes that low income people of color are also sources of important knowledge and solutions to climate change. Through a respectful engagement with community members, LVEJO will work to strengthen ongoing climate justice initiatives and develop new education programs that strengthen sustainability initiatives and environmental stewardship in Little Village. Our central aim is to build a strong and unified community that is resilient in the face of powerful environmental and economic forces.

Industrial Legacies

LVEJO's Industrial Legacies struggle recognizes the detrimental environmental and health impacts of histories of industrialization and environmental racism in Little Village. As an EJ community, Little Village residents continue to live in dangerous proximity to toxic sites and factories that contaminate the area. Furthermore, brownfield sites, abandoned properties, toxic waterways, and dilapidated infrastructure contribute to health disparities and limit opportunities for healthy activities that are safe and accessible. LVEJO will work to involve community members in the assessment, mapping, planning, and equitable re-development of healthy spaces in Little Village.



Base Building

Goal: Develop Youth and Community Leadership for Intergenerational Sustainability

- Maintain a local base in Little Village consisting of: 100 families, five school leaders, five community leaders, fifty youth leaders, two labor leaders, and five business leaders
- Strengthen coalitions with other EJ organizations in Chicago and five EJ groups in the Great Lakes region.
- Maintain an external base comprised of five environmental leaders in other communities, five student organizations, five academics, and ten social justice organizations
- Maintain a Cultural, Arts, and Popular Education Calendar with Monthly Events
- Offer Monthly Community

Toxic Tours to Little Village neighbors

- Provide four Environmental Justice (EJ 101) Trainings for all community residents every year
- Hold three large scale annual events including a Spring Youth Summit, May Day Event, & August 12th celebration of coal power plant closure
- Organize four EJ student clubs at Chicago Public Schools in Little Village

Organizational Development

Goal: Build capacity and strengthen LVEJO for the long-term

- Establish and maintain an LVEJO organizational database
- Develop a new LVEJO website and cohesive branding and marketing campaign

- Acquire a permanent office building in Little Village
- Expand staff positions to include Program Development, Health & Wellness, and Public Relations
- Expand LVEJO Board of Directors to seven active board members

Strategic Fundraising

Goal: Develop holistic and multi-pronged approach to fundraising for long-term sustainability

- Develop a LVEJO Membership Program with 200 members
- Organize Quarterly Fundraisers that annually raise a total of \$10,000.00
- Develop and promote two Community Tours that annually raise a total of \$20,000.00
- Provide two Community Organizing Trainings that annually raise \$3,000.00

In Appreciation

The Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) acknowledges the Cricket Island Foundation for their generous financial gift to make this strategic planning process possible. LVEJO also sincerely thanks the board, staff, community leaders and youth for their participation and input.



Dr. Antonio Lopez
LVEJO Executive Director



LVEJO Youth Leaders



Ms. Kimberly Wasserman
LVEJO Director of Organizing, 2013
Goldman Environmental Prize Winner

Strategic Planning Process

The Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) hired Mr. Dale Asis as a consultant to conduct the organizational strategic planning process. He conducted numerous interviews, outreach and listening sessions with LVEJO staff, board members, community members and youth leaders. Dale also conducted one-on-one listening sessions with key LVEJO staff including Dr. Antonio Lopez, LVEJO Executive Director; Ms. Kimberly Wasserman, Goldman Environmental Prize Winner 2012 and LVEJO Senior Community Organizer and with Mr. Mauricio Roman, LVEJO Board Chair. After a series of community visits and intense listening sessions, Dale Asis put together a draft plan of a holistic environmental justice plan for the organization to the year 2020. Kimberly and Antonio further enhanced the draft plan with the continued input and suggestions from the staff, board and community members. Dale Asis conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis with the LVEJO board that was incorporated into the overall strategic planning process. On June 28, 2014 LVEJO board members and staff conducted a strategic planning retreat that culminated into the Environmental Justice (EJ) 2020 Strategic Plan. "Like any living document, this strategic plan is meant to be a guideline and to be continually updated. I am honored to be part of this exciting process of building LVEJO's EJ strategic plan for Chicago's Little Village neighborhood."

Dale Asis

LVEJO Board of Directors

- Mauricio A. Roman - LVEJO Chair
- Marisol Becerra - LVEJO Secretary
- Roberto Armendariz - LVEJO Treasurer
- Christine Nannicelli - LVEJO Board Member
- Hilario Vega - LVEJO Board Member

LVEJO Staff

- Antonio Lopez Ph.D., Executive Director
- Kim Wasserman, Senior Community Organizer
- Rafael Hurtado Jr., Community Assets and Toxic Tour Trainer
- Mayra Galvez, Administrative Assistant
- Fermin Meza, Urban Agriculture Organizer

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

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