Watts Rising Update for FY 20 & FY21:
A Presentation to the HACLA Board of Commissioners

Jenny Scanlin & Katrina Kubicek

Watts Rising
The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
Watts Rising Collaborative

- In 2018, the Watts Rising Collaborative was awarded a $33.25 million Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Grant from the State of California’s Strategic Growth Council (SGC),

- In addition, we leveraged over $160 million to fund community-identified infrastructure projects

- In 2020, HACLA received $35 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Choice Neighborhood Initiative to provide additional support to WR

- Watts Rising is a collaboration of Watts residents, 40+ organizations, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, the Mayor’s Office, and Council District 15 committed to improving the quality of life in Watts
It began with 24 Community-Identified Infrastructure Projects funded by the Transformative Climate Communities Grant.

- Expand urban agriculture and access to healthy, organic produce
- Provide more affordable and sustainable housing
- Increase low and no-carbon transportation
- Increase community green space and expand our tree canopy
- Make our streets safer for walking and biking
## Expand Urban Agriculture/Access to Produce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hub/Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percent Completed</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watts Yardners (WLCAC)</td>
<td>Create 50 urban farms &amp; plant 150 fruit trees</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2 cohorts trained;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mudtown Farm (WLCAC)</td>
<td>Collect &amp; distribute produce (18,000 lbs/month)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>430 tons of produce distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markham Community Garden (LACI)</td>
<td>Establishment of community garden with energy efficient technology</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Greenhouse and irrigation installed; Summer camp classes in 2021</td>
</tr>
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## Provide Affordable/ Sustainable Housing

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<tr>
<td><strong>Jordan Downs S2</strong> (Michaels Organization)</td>
<td>81-unit affordable housing</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Construction began in July 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solar Watts (GRID Alternatives)</strong></td>
<td>Install solar panels on 54 Watts homes; train 5 cohorts of residents in solar installation</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>35 residents trained; 17 installations completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electric Retrofits (Habitat for Humanity)</strong></td>
<td>Install energy retrofits in ~300 Watts homes</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>25 homes completed Uptick in customers in 2022</td>
</tr>
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</table>
# Increase Low and No Carbon Transportation

## Hub/Project Description Percent Completed Milestones

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<td>Mega Watts (Green Commuter)</td>
<td>Deploy 15 EVs for car share &amp; install 24 chargers in Watts</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Charging sites located; EVs to be deployed in Spring 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DASH Bus (LA DOT)</td>
<td>Electrifying full Watts fleet – first in City</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>First bus complete and inspected</td>
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## Increase Green Space and Tree Canopy

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<td>Cool Schools (Tree People)</td>
<td>Remove asphalt and replace with cool pavement at 4 elementary schools; plant 112 trees</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>LAUSD agreement executed; Work to be completed Fall 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weigand Rain Garden (TBD)</td>
<td>Plant and green 3 streets surrounding the school</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>New partner identified March 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greening Blue Line (Tree People)</td>
<td>Planting 200 trees near Metro station</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Trees planted by April 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greening Watts (Tree People &amp; North East Trees)</td>
<td>Planting 1000 street trees and 1000 residential trees</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>All trees planted Establishment and maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greening Public Housing (NET)</td>
<td>Plant 200 trees at Nickerson, Imperial, Gonzaque</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Trees planted; maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom Tree Park (TMO)</td>
<td>Create 1 acre park in JD</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Park design finalized; Construction anticipated Summer 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Century Gateway Park (TMO)</td>
<td>Develop .62-acre urban park at Grape &amp; Century</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>New partner approved in 2021; additional park funding committed in March 2022</td>
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## Street Improvements for Pedestrians/Bikes

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<td>WalkBikeWatts (LADOT &amp; DCA)</td>
<td>Pedestrian and bicyclist improvements; cultural trail with public art and signage</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>All ramps completed; bid package and RFPs for artists in process; Safe Passage program in place and walking clubs reinitiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmington Ave. Great Street (Streets LA)</td>
<td>Improvements to .5 mile of Wilmington Ave</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Design assessment completed and in review; New lead partner established</td>
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Anticipated Impact

5 MILES OF NEW BIKE LANES
300 TONS OF FOOD WASTE DIVERTED
25+ BLOCKS OF PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

54 NEW SOLAR ROOFS
289 NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES
3,000+ NEW TREES PLANTED

4+ ACRES URBAN AGRICULTURE LAND ADDED
118,000 SQ FT NEW COMMERCIAL SPACE
216 NEW AFFORDABLE RENTAL UNITS

ELECTRIC
CAR SHARING VANPOOL & DASH BUS
2 NEW PUBLIC PARKS
1 MILE OF NEW CULTURAL TRAILS
Extended Impact

• UCLA Clinical and Translational Science funding for full time staff position with WR and community research in Watts
• Liberty Hill Foundation Small Street Grant – Green Alley
• Beautify California $5M grant for green space in Jordan Downs
• Congresswoman Barragan commitment of $860,000 for community gardens
• Cal Fire grant to North East Trees - $1.5M for urban greening and workforce development
• Featured at UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26)
CNI and CDBG Projects
Choice Neighborhood Implementation

• Conceptual approval of our Neighborhood Plan projects by HUD in December 2021
• Approval of People Plan (Children’s Institute International – Lead)
• Local Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for 3 projects approved for PY 47; submitted 3 additional for PY 48 in November 2021 (funding pending)
### Choice Neighborhood Implementation & Community Development Block Grants

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| **Think Watts Foundation (ThinkWatts)**            | ● 1,900 sf storefront for ThinkWatts  
● Space will be used to teach financial literacy; host a Maker Space, recording studio and STEAM lab; and incubate clothing brands & marketing businesses                                                                 | CDBG PY 47    |
| **Watts Empowerment Center (Redeye)**              | ● Develop a 2,000-sf full-scale TV, film & music studio at Imperial Courts  
● Open to the community to learn about technical recording, editing and filming skills                                                                                                                    | CDBG PY 47    | CDBG PY 48    |
| **Morning Star Sports Court (Morning Star Baptist Church)** | ● Upgrades to a community-accessible playground and basketball court for clean, safe and well-lit recreational space                                                                                              | CDBG PY 47    | CDBG PY 48    |
| **School Signage (LANI, LAUSD)**                   | ● At least one school will be selected to add public art and signage that provides encouragement, centering & safety along primary pedestrian paths to school                                                                 | CDBG PY 48    |
| **Microloan Program (Macedonia Community Development Corp)** | ● Provide small loans up to 300 Watts businesses; HUD approved in April 2022                                                                                                                                 | CNI           |
| **Resilient Homes (Habitat for Humanity, GRID Alternatives, Tree People)** | ● Exterior beautification and energy improvements for at least 59 individual homeowners in Watts. Qualified homeowners will be eligible for up to $40,000 in upgrades                                                                 | CNI           | CDBG PY 48    |
| **Our Town Business Improvements (CRCD)**          | ● Provide design services and physical improvements to 12 small businesses in Watts                                                                                                                                 | CNI           |
| **Mudtown Kitchen Incubator (WLCAC)**              | ● 2,400 square-foot commercial kitchen facility  
● Will serve as a training facility and home to the food-based business incubator program                                                                                                            | CNI           | CDBG PY 48    |
Community Engagement Strategies

- Watts Rising is the result of 10+ years of community advocacy, input and energy from Watts residents. Each of the projects was identified as a community need by Watts residents.
  - **Ongoing community participation** throughout implementation via regular meetings and other outreach activities
  - **Community Advisory Group** comprised of ten residents/stakeholders
  - Providing **direct benefits** to Watts households like solar panels, energy retrofits, trees and mini-urban farms for yards
  - **Job training** to improve career opportunities and prepare youth and adults for careers in the growing green and greenhouse gas reduction fields
  - **Anti-displacement services** to ensure existing Watts Rising families can continue to stay in their homes and preserve their businesses to benefit and prosper from the TCC investments
Watts Rising Street Team
Members

Mary Ann Cortez
Dr. Perry Crouch
Angelica Urquidez
Moses Massenburg
Kathryn Wooten
Anai Velazquez
Join our Monthly Public Forums

• Third Thursday of the month from 6:30 – 8:30
• Information and Zoom log in can be found on our website: https://www.wattsrising.org/meetings
Plans for 2022

• Continue to work with project partners to ensure projects are completed with ongoing support and feedback from the Watts community

• Secure supplemental funding through competitive grants and pitches to foundations to shore up added expenses and prepare for sustainability of our efforts
  • Two requests for FY23 to Rep. Barragan's office

• CNI and CDBG projects will begin in earnest this year (e.g., finalizing schedules, agreements, permits, environmental reviews)

• Submit proposals for additional CDBG projects for PY 49 in the Fall of 2022

• Website redesign and project management platform buildout
Acknowledgements

HACLA Project Management Team
- Catherine Nguyen, Project Manager
- Enrique Rodriguez, Project Manager
- Miranda Denerson, Administrative Intern

HACLA Community Engagement
- John King, Director of Community Engagement
- Kari Bell, Community Relations Specialist
- Street Team
- Community Advisory Group

Mayor’s Office of Economic Opportunity
- Ivory Chambeshi, Community Development Program Manager

California Climate Action Fellows
- Daisy Aguirre (2021)
- Allison Pary (2021)
- Reynaldo Barillas (2021)
- Elizabeth Elam (2022)
- Carmen Cortez (2022)

TCC, CNI and CDBG Project Partners

Watts Residents
Thank You
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