Partners for Places Project Lessons Report

Project Name: Sustainable Chinatown Plan

- **Year Complete:** 2016
- **Local Government:** City and County of San Francisco, CA
- **Local Foundation:** The San Francisco Foundation, Enterprise Community Partners

**Project Purpose**

To create a Sustainable Chinatown Plan that will engage immigrant and monolingual communities to identify strategies that sustain Chinatown’s unique culture and affordability while increasing its environmental performance.

**Key Lessons Learned**

*Lessons learned about tools and tactics through the project that other sustainability directors could use to advance their work.*

- Get started early with an integrated team, and get buy-in from all partners.
- Find funding for soft costs that are outside of the typical scope of affordable housing design.
- The field needs financing mechanism that works with the risk tolerance and norms of the affordable housing world.

*Lessons for developing a collaborative process between a local government sustainability director and local place-based foundation(s).*

- Sustainability is not only about environmental performance but also about the long-term resilience of a neighborhood’s culture and people in the face of larger threats such as gentrification and environmental degradation.
- If you align your collective resources so you can achieve greater equity and sustainability outcomes.
- Identify individuals - not just agencies and organizations that are willing to go beyond their job description.

**Additional Information and Resources**

In 2017, the Sustainable Chinatown plan was released, documenting the climate and cultural resiliency work of this three-year cross-sector partnership. Read more about the work [here](#).