



Community Enterprise Evolution, 2016

Erin Mooney, Executive Director
@ Commerce City City Council
May 16, 2016



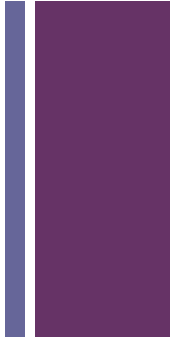
“Change is the only constant”



- Board and staff believe deeply in organizational development and a culture of constant learning and improvement.
- We have changed a lot as an organization because we believe that our new programs and strategies will have a much more significant impact, and funders and partners require outcomes not achieved through events.
- Focus on health equity, community leadership development, collective advocacy, and TA for organizations around inclusive community engagement and increasing access to services for those most impacted by disparities.
- We have hired 4 part time community positions (Promotoras), 2 of which are long-time Commerce City community members and 3 of which have kids in Adams 14 and are deeply involved in the community. We will ALWAYS hire from within the community.



Current Work:



Leadership Training

Partner with Vision y Compromiso to train and support community leaders to become more involved and impact positive, collaborative local change

Early Childhood

Train and support at-home childcare providers and parents around kindergarten readiness, early literacy, healthy eating /active living

Food Systems

Gardening curriculum, collaboration to increase healthy, fresh food in CC food pantries, help local produce vendors to be able to accept SNAP, Los Valientes Community Garden





Accomplishments Specific to Commerce City in 2015



- 1) Trained 25 Spanish-speaking Commerce City residents in a 4 day, 32 hour leadership curriculum that focuses on collaboration, communication and effective/positive advocacy skills.
- 2) Trained 34 Spanish-speaking at home/unlicensed childcare providers who live in Commerce City around healthy eating/active living, early literacy and kindergarten readiness, helping prepare the kids in their care for school to close the achievement gap.
- 3) Trained 17 Commerce City community members in a 6-week Spanish gardening curriculum in Los Valientes Community Garden, and held weekly gardening days open to the community that had a total of 77 volunteers who took home over 1000 lbs of produce from the garden.
- 4) Working with Commerce City food banks to increase donations of healthy food, and have secured weekly donations from We Don't Waste (a non-profit in Denver), Mile High Flea Market, and worked at the state level to get Food Bank of the Rockies to agree to let local food banks pick up donations from local grocery stores, rather than having so much food spoil in their distribution system.
- 5) Working with Mile High Flea Market to get their produce vendors able to accept SNAP benefits to increase low-cost produce available for Commerce City (and other) families.
- 6) Conducted surveys and facilitated a focus group for the CC Recreation Department in Spanish to help the City hear from community members about their ideas and hopes for the Recreation Department services and programming, and barriers for families.



2015 Accomplishments, continued



- 7) Facilitating a Latino Engagement TaskForce for the City of Commerce City, a 6 month project to work with Latino residents to talk about improving communication and relationships with the City, and how residents can get involved positively.
- 8) About 40 Commerce City community members attend meetings with other South Adams County partners around school wellness, health equity, transportation, and building inclusive communities.
- 9) Working with City staff on a HEAL (Healthy Eating/Active Living) Committee, that has completed a policy scan, made recommendations for policy changes and programs, and works collaboratively to identify HEAL opportunities and plans. We will be implementing a container gardening program in 2016, among other things.
- 10) Partnered with CCBPA to hold the Commerce City Election Forum.
- 10) Partnered with City Staff, the CCBPA, Adams 14 and other to hold Derby Winter Fest. We are happy to partner, but do not have the capacity or funding to hold events on our own, and know that our time can be more impactful if spent on quality programs.
- 11) Continued to work with City staff and the ULC to further partnership for a ULC investment/project in Commerce City.



Our NEW Name, Mission, Vision



- Name: Cultivando
- Tagline: Leadership, Advocacy, Collaboration
- Mission: Cultivating community leadership to advance health equity through advocacy, collaboration, and policy change.
- Board and staff believe that our new name and branding will limit confusion about what we do and why (the word “Enterprise” in our name was confusing for partners, as we do not work around business), and help us to look forward rather than backwards.
- New name will roll out in June.



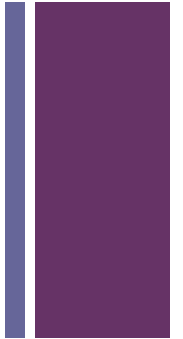
Cultivando in 2016 and beyond



- Continue to train and support community leaders to become positively involved in local government and school.
- Development of additional hands-on local leadership curriculum.
- Deepening of Early Childhood work, Abriendo Puertas
- Growth of the Commerce City Food Bank Network and SNAP benefits at local produce stands
- Container Gardening program for Commerce City residents over the summer



Cultivando in 2016 and beyond, continued



- Los Valientes Garden workdays every Friday 9-11, open to everyone. Please come to Planting Day May 20th!
- LET graduation and recommendations in June
- Community outreach around Urban Land Conservancy
- Commerce City HEAL collaboration
- Collaboration for Derby Winter Fest
- Most likely will move out of our office late in the year, will maintain garden and community meetings, staff will always include Commerce City community members

+ Questions?

