



Annual Report 2016



LURN is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to bringing people together to design, build, and promote sustainable communities that allow everyone to live their greatest potential.

What a year, right? For many of us, 2016 was a year full of challenging moments in our cities and in our country.

At times we questioned what we needed in our leaders, what we needed in our communities, and how we could work more effectively to sustain our neighborhoods and build power.

At LURN, this year was about staying focused and working hard to sustain our initiatives while building our internal capacity to take on bigger issues. We asked ourselves: How do our initiatives help people during challenging times? How can we lay the groundwork for sustainability over the long-term? Is what we are doing helping or hurting? How can we position ourselves to support our community members?

In staying true to our origins as a multidisciplinary organization focused on community development innovations that are people-centric, we made a great deal of progress across all of our initiatives.

We hope that in this report you will see the success we experienced this year, and we invite you to help us think about how to make these initiatives better in 2017. We do not have all the answers, but we are confident that if we come together and help each other, we can build neighborhoods that take care of their residents and community businesses.

Thanks again for reading and supporting us this year!

- The LURN team

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LURN Labs

LURN Labs is the idea-generating and advocacy division of our organization. Through this division, LURN advocates for policy that supports strong, sustainable communities for the residents that live in them. LURN believes wholeheartedly that we need to work together to change systems that are not working. To do that, we collaborate with other leaders to develop new ideas and advocate for policies that can help everyone live a better life.



THE PLANNING AND LAND-USE STRATEGIES SUMMIT (PLUS²)

This year, we hosted our most successful PLUS² yet, a daylong convening of individuals from various backgrounds and professional sectors, with an objective to spark critical thinking around challenging urban issues like land-use, the informal economy, and housing. Each PLUS² features innovative thinkers on a multidisciplinary array of topics related to cities. This year's theme was "Disrupting the City," and the summit took place on June 10th at a mixed-use venue in Historic Filipinotown.

PLUS² was attended by over 250 guests who came to listen and engage with 16 speakers from Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, and Mexico City, who shared their "disruptions" in art, housing, architecture, and urban planning. Our guests heard a variety of short lectures that helped highlight important lessons about the right to housing, the role of philanthropy in supporting organizing movements, the importance of planning around people and not cars, and how public entities can play a more meaningful role in stemming gentrification and promoting affordable housing and transit opportunities. The LURN team produced a "Recommendations Report" that captured important ideas from the conversations that took place at the convening.



LOS ANGELES STREET VENDOR CAMPAIGN

Los Angeles remains one of the only major cities in the country without a permit system for sidewalk vendors. The end of 2016 marked the 3rd year that a comprehensive street vendor policy was brought to the attention of City Hall leadership.

Much of 2016 was dedicated to advocacy efforts with our partners in the Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign: meeting and requesting that the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee hear the issue and send a viable proposal to City Council for a vote. Fortunately, just before the year ended, the committee heard the issue and voted to move forward a proposal that could create a citywide permit system with some restrictions. We are gearing up for a lot of advocacy with our partners to move this proposal along in 2017.



EASTSIDE SOL

This year, we continued our work as part of Eastside Sol, a coalition of various organizations who are committed to ensuring that low-income neighborhoods like Boyle Heights and East LA participate in the “green economy” while improving their environment. We produced our 2nd annual event, hosting over 400 local residents who learned about alternative energy resources while listening to live music and participating in interactive art workshops and education sessions. This year featured new partnerships with Supervisor Hilda Solis, SoCal Gas, the 11th Hour Project, the Center for Sustainable Energy, and we were happy to host Senator Kevin de Leon.



OTHER EVENTS

We hosted our fourth annual Summer Nights & City Stars event, attended by over 270 leaders and community development practitioners in Los Angeles. We honored some amazing “behind the scenes” leaders who are making the City a better place. Attendees spent the evening connecting with each other and cultivating relationships and new partnerships.

The team continued its support of local entrepreneurs, hosting three “¡AyE! Boyle Heights” artist marketplaces including an “Alternative to Black Friday” event that provided over 70 entrepreneurs a platform to market their products and reach hundreds of new customers. We also hosted organizations throughout the year for workshops, presentations, and other events including the American Planning Association, CORO, La Cocina, the Young Ethnographers, and the Social Enterprise Alliance.





LURN Advisors

LURN Advisors is an in-house consulting practice that provides research and strategic planning support to organizations on projects that align with our mission. This year, we continued this work by providing research and grant-writing support to a local foundation, expanding our consulting services to provide fee-for-service technical assistance to small businesses, and forging a new partnership with Concerned Capital, a B corporation that is helping companies transition ownership to their employees.



LURN Capital

LURN Capital is our economic development division, focused on making sure historically marginalized communities have access to capital. In 2016, we expanded the impact of these initiatives, serving more entrepreneurs.

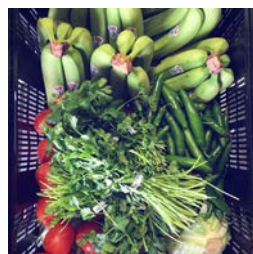


COMPRA FOODS

Community Markets Purchasing Real and Affordable Foods (COMPRA Foods) is a distribution enterprise and purchasing cooperative operated by LURN in partnership with LA Food Policy Council (LAFPC) and Asian Pacific Islanders Obesity Prevention Alliance (APIOPA). Through COMPRA Foods, we are working together to expand access to healthy food via small grocers.

Every week, businesses in our network place orders and get produce and healthy snacks delivered to their storefronts. In 2016, we tripled our membership, ending the year with 45 small grocers and food businesses who buy produce and snacks from us at good prices. To support this expansion, we invested in purchasing a new refrigerated van for deliveries, hired new drivers, expanded our reach to Koreatown and MacArthur Park, secured a partnership with a cold storage facility, and even began developing a new online portal to help facilitate orders.

We are working hard to bring this initiative to scale and we expect further expansion in the coming year. Our ultimate goal is to build a sustainable enterprise that supports small businesses and provides families in our neighborhoods with access to affordable and healthy products.

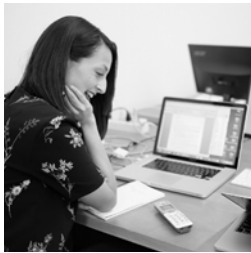


SEMI'A FUND

The Semi'a Fund is our micro-loan program that serves healthy food entrepreneurs in low-income neighborhoods. It provides access to low-interest loans they can use to invest in their businesses. When we launched it in 2015, we were inspired by the entrepreneurs we came to know in the L.A. Street Vendor Campaign, so we sought to design a loan product that would meet their unique needs as entrepreneurs.

This year was all about testing our idea and deploying capital. We were able to approve over \$120,000 in micro-loans to ten borrowers. All of our clients are immigrant entrepreneurs, and this capital has helped clients purchase food trucks, repair a restaurant, expand mobile vending businesses, and even refinance loans from predatory lenders.

Each entrepreneur has a commitment to selling healthy food, or incorporating healthier products in their menus. Along with capital, we have provided over 100 hours of technical assistance and business coaching, and we are happy to report that we have a 100% repayment rate thus far. Next year we will be working on raising more capital that we can lend to entrepreneurs in our communities.



(RE)STORE FUND

The (Re)store Fund is an experimental initiative that offers equity investments to entrepreneurs in low-income neighborhoods. The goal is to provide patient capital in exchange for minority shares in their businesses.

This year, we worked closely with a team of attorneys who helped us develop a strong process for laying out an equity deal with an entrepreneur, creating term sheets, operating agreements, contribution agreements and more. We learned a lot! We ended the year close to finalizing two equity investments in two food-based businesses. Each of them will be using the capital to expand their enterprise, buying much needed equipment or obtaining permits to get their products in stores.

As we move into 2017, we will be working to support the entrepreneurs in our portfolio while tracking the success of our investments. We will also raise resources to deploy more equity investments in our communities.





Our Partners

4Earth Farms
APIOPA
Arts 4 LA
CALO Youth Build
CD Tech
East LA BBQ Co.
East LA Community Corporation
East Yard Communities For Environmental Justice
Environmental Defense Fund
Esperanza Community Housing Corporation
Fruta y Cultura
Heath & Lejeune Inc.
Investing in Place
Koreatown Youth + Community Center
Kounkouey Design Initiative
LAANE
LA County Bicycle Coalition
LA Food Policy Council
LA Kitchen
LA Neighborhood Land Trust
Local Roots
Multicultural Communities for Mobility
National Health Foundation
Public Counsel
S.C.O.P.E.
Self Help Graphics & Art
St. Francis Center
T.R.U.S.T South LA
Team Friday
With Love Market
Youth Policy Institute





Get Involved!

We're so thankful for all of our supporters this year. LURN strives to be an organization that forges new solutions to address the many challenges low-income residents in cities are facing. We are incredibly grateful to all the foundations, sponsors, and major donors that have contributed to our work this year:

US Department of Agriculture (NIFA)
California Community Foundation
Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation
CITI Community Development
Durfee Foundation
Ahmanson Foundation
The Annenberg Foundation
Oscar Mayer Foundation
PG&E
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
Capital One
SoCal Gas
Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles
Center for Cultural Innovation
Hitzke Development Corporation
Supervisor Hilda Solis
Red, Blue, Green Fund at the Liberty Hill Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Mercury Public Affairs
The 11th Hour Project
Southern California Public Radio- KPCC
UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
City Labs Boyle Heights
Whole Foods Market

First 5 LA
PSOMAS
The Center for Sustainable Energy
Circle Partners
Mercy Housing
Roschen Van Cleve Architects
SuperJacent



Leadership for Urban Renewal Network (LURN) is a nonprofit, community development organization based in the neighborhood of Boyle Heights in Los Angeles. Founded in 2008, LURN's mission is to bring people together to design, build, and promote sustainable communities that allow people to live their greatest potential. LURN works towards this mission in three ways: advocating for thoughtful urban policy, designing and implementing economic development projects that support small businesses, and providing research and program design services to organizations on projects that align with our mission.

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