

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY 2007 forum

EVENT #13

Help us create a shared vision of urban sustainability and plan for a brighter future. Join our energizing public forum to hear nationally recognized leaders discuss how we can transform Seattle into a 21st century city that is climate-neutral, pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented, community-focused and sustainably

Healthy Parks, Schools, & Communities: the Urban Green Movement



FEATURED PRESENTER:
ROBERT GARCIA, The City Project
5.00-7.00pm, Monday November 19, 2007
Seattle Central Library, 1000 4th Ave
FREE no registration required

ABOUT THE EVENT: Environmental justice has grown beyond just stopping bad things from happening, like toxic sites, to affirmatively creating public goods, including parks and schools in underserved communities. People of color disproportionately live near toxic sites: in Los Angeles for example, 91% of people living near toxic sites are people of color. Nationally, there are unfair disparities in access to safe places to play. While 87% of non-Hispanic respondents reported that "there are safe places for children to play" in their neighborhood, only 68% of Hispanics, 71% of African Americans, and 81% of Asians agreed. Non-Hispanic White children and youth were most likely to participate in after school sports, with Hispanic children and children in poverty least likely. Children involved in sports and extracurricular activities tend to score higher on standardized tests and are less likely to engage in antisocial behavior. Learn how advocates and activists are building a new urban green movement to maximize public access to safe places to live, learn, work, play and pray while ensuring the fair treatment of people of all colors, cultures, and incomes.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Robert García, Executive Director and Counsel for The City Project is an attorney with experience in advocacy, mediation, and litigation involving social justice, human health, environmental and criminal justice. He has influenced the investment of over \$20 billion for healthy livable communities for all in the Los Angeles region. He graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Law School, where he served on the Board of Editors of the Stanford Law Review. He is a leader in the urban park movement, bringing the simple joys of playing in the park and school field to children in park starved communities. He was a lead attorney in the environmental justice class action Labor/Community Strategy Center v. MTA, which lowered fares and improved bus service for the working poor with limited or no access to cars. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York under John Martin and Rudolph W. Giuliani, prosecuting federal criminal cases.

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