Composition of Net Population Growth by Decade, L.A. County, 1980 to 2014

- 1980 to 1990: -334,753
- 1990 to 2000: -659,236
- 2000 to 2014: -247,949
- 1980 to 1990: 1,720,414
- 1990 to 2000: 1,315,410
- 2000 to 2014: 702,814

Note: Data for 2014 represents a 2010 through 2014 average.
In Los Angeles County, foreign-born constitute:
• just over a third of the population, and
• nearly half (44%) of the workforce

And over 60% of children have at least one immigrant parent.
CHANGE BENEATH THE CHANGE

CHANGE BENEATH THE CHANGE
**CHALLENGE OF OPPORTUNITY**

Cumulative Job Growth Since 1979

- Los Angeles County: 64%
- United States: 42%


**CHALLENGE OF INEQUALITY**

- Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT: #1 (0.54)
- Los Angeles County: #7 (0.50)
- Ogden-Clearfield, UT: #150 (0.40)

Note: Data represent a 2010 through 2014 average. Universe includes all households (no group quarters).
CHALLENGE OF INEQUALITY

Income Percentiles, Earned Income Growth for Full-Time Workers 25-64, U.S. And Los Angeles County, 1979 to 2014

Note: Data for 2014 represents a 2010 through 2014 average. Universe includes civilian noninstitutional full-time wage and salary workers ages 25 through 64.

WORKING HARD, FALLING BEHIND

Working Poverty Rate in 2014, Largest 150 Metros Ranked

Los Angeles County has the 9th highest working poverty rate

Note: Data represent a 2010 through 2014 average.
AND THE RENT IS TOO DAMN HIGH . . .

Share of Households that are Rent Burdened, 2014: Largest 150 Cities Ranked

Los Angeles County ranks near the top for rent-burdened households compared with other regions.

Note: Data represent a 2010 through 2014 average. Universe includes renter-occupied households with cash rent (excludes group quarters).

AND THE RENT IS TOO DAMN HIGH . . .

Renter Housing Burden by Race/Ethnicity, 2014

Note: Data represent a 2010 through 2014 average. Universe includes renter-occupied households with cash rent (excludes group quarters).
L.A.'S AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

Not only are low-wage jobs far away from affordable homes: wages have stayed low as rents have gone way up...


L.A.'S AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

...and so L.A. County has a massive shortfall of affordable homes—made worse by state and federal disinvestment in housing.

EQUITY AND GROWTH

So how do we address these issues of equity while promoting growth and economic vitality?
Conventional wisdom in economics says there is a trade-off between equity and efficiency.

But, new evidence shows that regions that work toward equity have stronger, more resilient, and more broad-based economic growth.

WHY THE RELATIONSHIP

- Underinvestment in each other makes us less competitive as regions and as a nation
- Social tensions over who will gain and who will lose make us less likely to cohere on what we need to do to thrive
EQUITY AND GROWTH

Actual GDP and Estimated GDP without Racial Gaps in Income, Los Angeles County, 2014

A potential $379 billion per year GDP boost from racial equity

Note: The “equity dividend” is calculated using data from IPUMS for 2010 through 2014 and is then applied to estimated GDP in 2014.

HOW TO ACHIEVE “JUST GROWTH”

Regions with diverse epistemic communities seemed to have better growth and equity outcomes.

These are communities that consist of diverse constituencies and:

- Share knowledge and data
- Acknowledge common regional destinies
- Accept legitimacy of others’ viewpoints
- Are action oriented
- Pursue multi-issue framing and relationship building over time that builds regional resilience.
HOW TO ACHIEVE “JUST GROWTH”

Impacts of diverse epistemic communities on growth and equity:

Growth:
• Innovation & “exports”
• New and diverse economic opportunities
• Collective/coordinated response

Equity:
• Connect geographies and populations
• Expand structures of opportunity
• Redistribution of assets / wealth

THE CASE OF SALT LAKE CITY
SALT LAKE CITY: CROSS-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

Key piece of the story: Envision Utah facilitated a collaborative and consensus-based approach to regional planning through . . .

- Repeated interactions, long-term communications, and co-production of knowledge across different sectors and communities
- Harnessing the cross-cutting value of preserving high quality of life—a strong sense of place—to bind diverse constituencies

THE CASE OF SAN ANTONIO

Photo from https://www.homeadvisor.com/c.San_Antonio.TX.html
SAN ANTONIO: CONFLICT-INFORMED COLLABORATION

Key piece of the story:

- **Social-movement organizations** like C.O.P.S. and **community leaders** like Ernie Cortez and Henry Cisneros pushed to challenge and change the status quo (i.e., inequality and rising poverty)

- **A series of skirmishes** translated into **repeated interactions** that transformed into understanding the **importance of collaboration**—which is now considered part of San Antonio’s DNA

SEATTLE: COLLABORATION AND THE NEW ECONOMY

**Seattle process**

- **$15 minimum wage**

King County Equity and Social Justice
“Talk is not cheap; through it we can come to define our preferences, goals, and desires in a situation; begin to build mutual empathy; negotiate what norms are appropriate and what course of action is fair; and begin to build trust and understand one another.”

- Benkler, Yochai. The Penguin and the Leviathan
LESSONS: DATA, DIALOGUE, AND STORY

• Promote equity and growth simultaneously

• Make economic and social integration a common agenda

• Target people and places left behind

• Assess equity impacts at every stage of the policy process

• Fortify roots and relationships through shared knowledge generation

• Pioneer model equity strategies for the nation

MOVING FORWARD