

Celebrating the Legacy, Embracing the Future: A Neighborhood Study for Second Baptist Church

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Image source: David Horan, 2010

Introduction

As one of the oldest African-American churches in Southern California, the Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles played an important role in the Civil Rights movement on the West Coast. Today located in one of the most under-resourced neighborhoods in Los Angeles, Second Baptist Church has the opportunity to continue in its strong history of social justice by connecting, once again, with their local community. However, much will need to be done to strengthen ties between the Church and many of its relatively new neighbors. Over the past decades, the area has shifted from a mixed-income African-American community to a very low-income, largely Latino immigrant community. Part of the disconnect is that the Church membership has remained primarily African-American – although most congregants live elsewhere in the region. How, then, can the Church connect, serve, and partner with its neighbors?

A good place to start, as Second Baptist identified in the commissioning of this report, is understanding their neighbors. This report contains information that directly responds to questions raised by the Church’s leadership regarding the neighborhood. It also highlights salient issues that emerged through the analysis of publically available government data and data collected from community members. Findings demonstrate that the neighborhood surrounding Second Baptist Church is one that suffers in pronounced ways from most of the challenges facing the broader Los Angeles metropolitan region: the neighborhood is subject to environmental toxins, residents endure extraordinarily high rates of working poverty, and local immigrants are – for the most part – residentially segregated from non-Latino Angelenos. At the same time, residents are interested in contributing to positive changes. Through partnership with the local community, the Church has the potential to help increase institutional, structural, and programmatic resources for local residents. Beyond any moral imperatives likely driving the congregation towards action, Church members have a stake in working with the neighborhood even though many live elsewhere in the L.A. metropolitan area. Investing in neighborhoods suffering the most can help the entire region grow more robustly.

This report was produced through a collaboration between the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) at USC and the Esperanza Community Housing Corporation (Esperanza). Second Baptist Church approached CSII to help them better understand their neighbors and any concerns they might have, especially as related to immigrant integration. CSII, in turn, asked Esperanza to partner on the project because of Esperanza’s on-the-ground expertise in the area and their high degree of cultural competency. This report relies on analysis of Census and other data describing the region (see Appendix C for more on methodology).¹ It also draws on surveys of 570 residents and 45 businesses, which were administered by Esperanza’s staff and health promoters (“Promotoras”) who were already familiar with the geography and culture of the

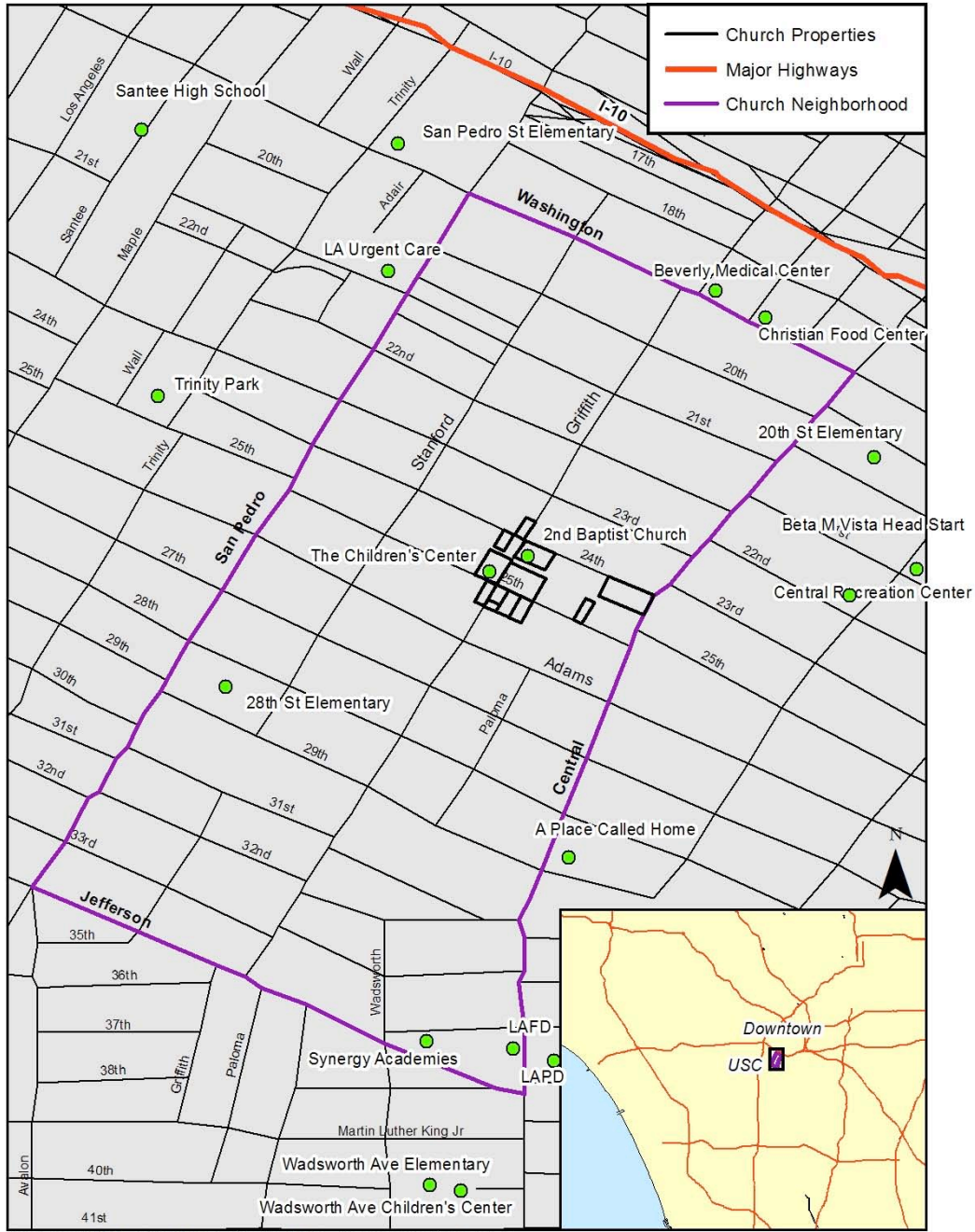
Second Baptist Church’s Historical Role in Los Angeles

Second Baptist church was the second African-American church established in Los Angeles, founded in 1885. In 1926, the congregation moved into their current building, only one block away from what was then heart of the black community – Central Avenue. The physical building itself was designed by the young African-American architect Paul Williams, who also designed several other buildings in the area, including the former YMCA. In recognition of Williams’ architectural legacy, the church building was recently renovated and added to the historic registry.

Importantly, the church played a central role in the West Coast expression of the Civil Rights movement. The late Charlotta Bass, publisher of the then prominent *California Eagle* and a forerunner in the national civil rights movements, was a congregant. Two NAACP national conventions were co-hosted by the church and – perhaps most notably – the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. made Second Baptist Church his West Coast pulpit.

neighborhood. Esperanza staff also led two focus groups involving local residents. The results and concluding recommendations are intended to help guide Second Baptist Church in its efforts to contribute to the welfare of the local community.

Map 1. Second Baptist Church Neighborhood

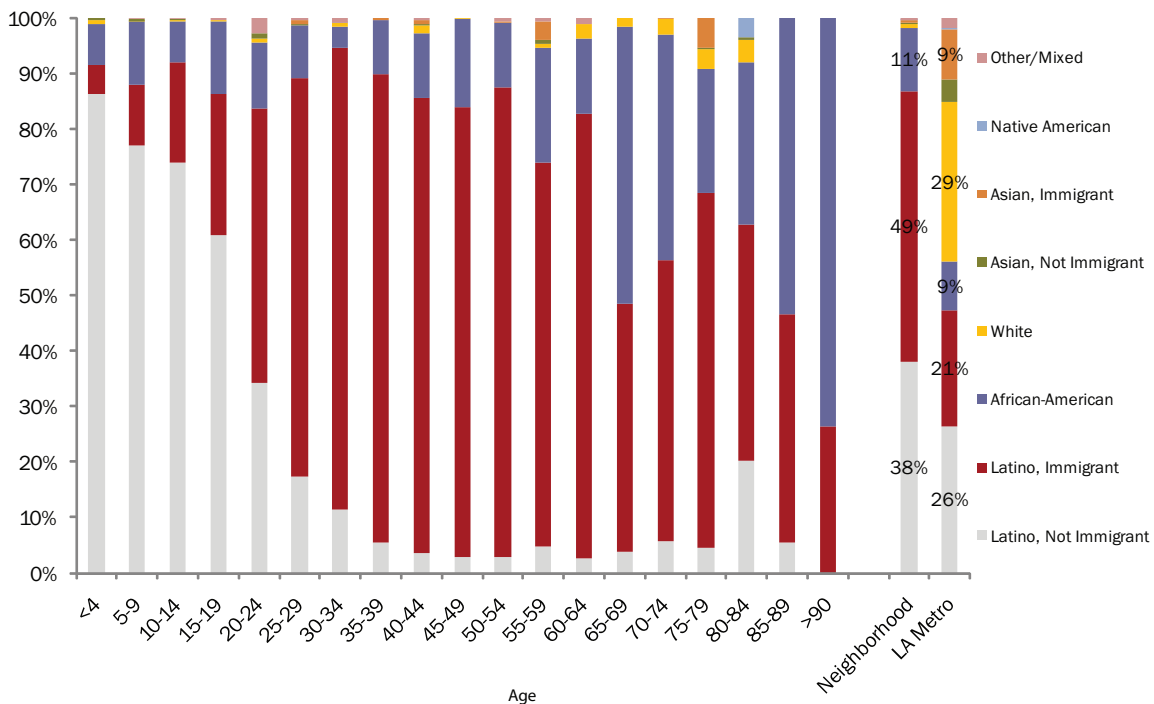


Description of the Neighborhood

The Second Baptist Church neighborhood lies due south of downtown Los Angeles. The Church identified their neighborhood as the area bordered by Washington Boulevard, Central Avenue, Jefferson Boulevard, and San Pedro Street. This neighborhood includes relatively few long-term residents, suggesting high levels of residential mobility, or turnover. Among the 570 respondents that we surveyed, only 7 percent had lived in the neighborhood over 20 years. Meanwhile, 35 percent had lived in the neighborhood five years or less, and 30 percent lived in the neighborhood between 6-10 years (see Table 1 in Appendix A).

Residents are fairly young. Census figures indicate that the average age of neighborhood residents is 28, while the average age of residents in the broader Los Angeles metropolitan region is 35.ⁱⁱ Our survey data indicated that 80 percent of households include children under the age of 18.

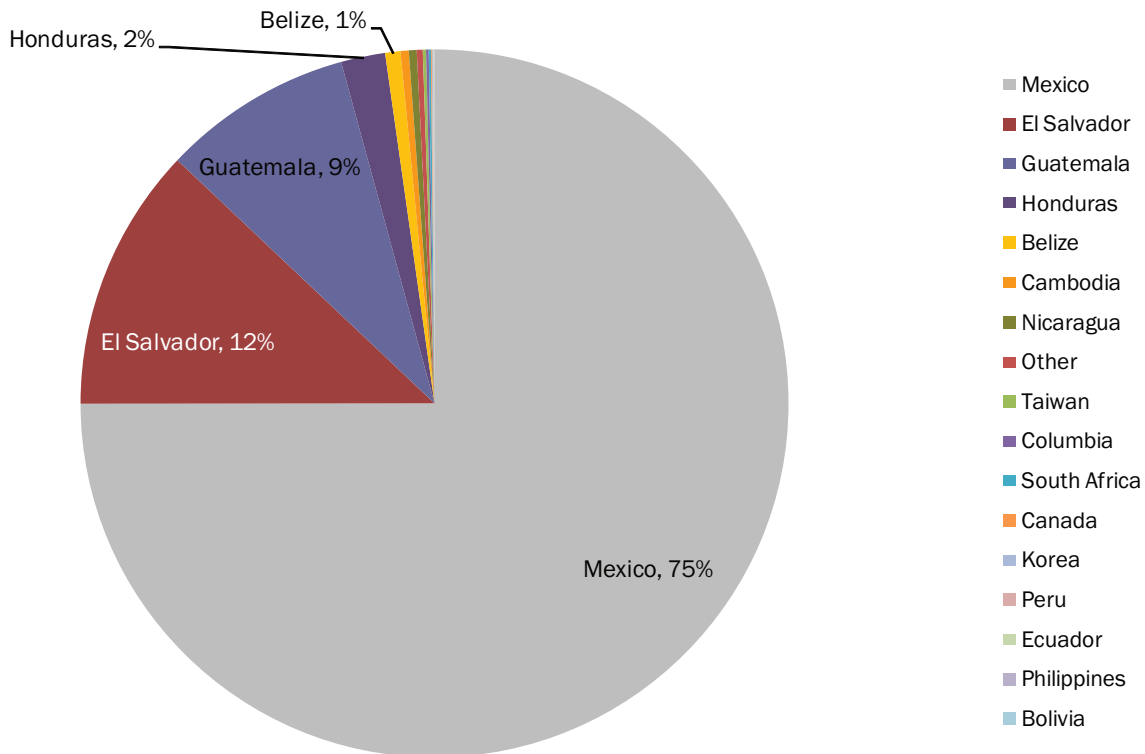
Figure 1. Race/Ethnicity and Immigration by Age, 2006-2008



The demographics of the neighborhood have shifted from predominantly African-American to predominantly Latino over the past four decades. A map included in Appendix D illustrates this demographic change. Central Avenue, once the epicenter of African-American life, is presently home to many Mexican and Central American immigrants and their children. Most young people in the neighborhood are U.S.-born Latinos while the majority of residents aged 25 to 64 – working age – are immigrant Latinos. On a whole, Latinos comprise 88 percent of the neighborhood while African-Americans make up about 11 percent of the residents, as seen in Figure 1.

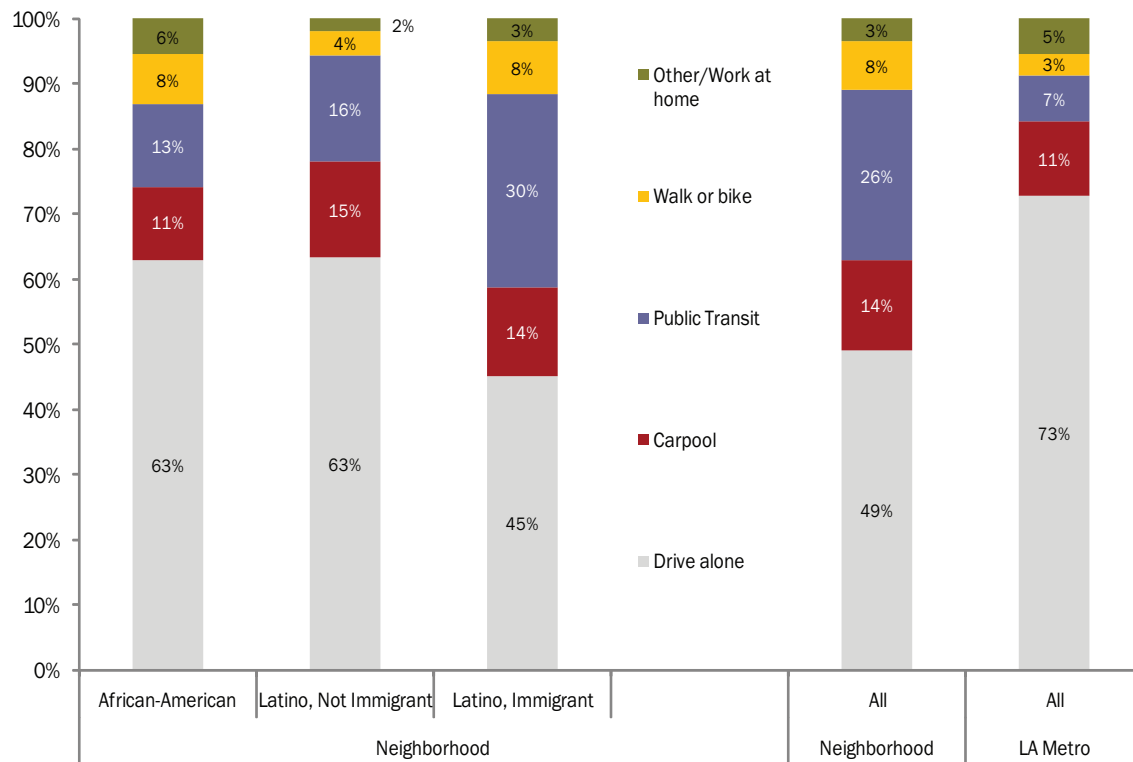
The majority of Latinos are immigrants, three-fourths of whom were born in Mexico (see figure 2). Immigrants to the neighborhood are disproportionately recent arrivals. Specifically, 16 percent of immigrants have arrived in the last ten years, as opposed to 9 percent for the metro area. It should not be surprising, then, that about one-third of households are “linguistically isolated” – meaning all adult members of the household struggle to communicate in English.ⁱⁱⁱ Although only about one-half of working-age residents speak English well, 90 percent of residents age 5-18 spoke English “well or better.” Indeed, many of the youth in the neighborhood are English-speaking U.S.- born children of immigrants.

Figure 2. Immigrant Composition by Place of Birth, 2006-2008
Church Neighborhood



Many residents in the neighborhood rely on public transportation. Among our survey respondents, nearly 70 percent reported that at least one person in their household uses public transit – this makes sense as Census data reports that these households have an average of 0.7 vehicles per persons aged 16 and older; the metro average is 1.0. Census data demonstrate that among those who commute to work, 26 percent of residents rely on public transportation, compared to 7 percent for the metropolitan region as a whole. Meanwhile, nearly half (49 percent) drive alone, compared to 73 percent for the metropolitan region (see Figure 3). Overall, the neighborhood’s residents contribute more to the sustainability of the region – they carpool, ride transit, and walk or bike more than most Angelenos.

Figure 3. Means of Transportation to Work
2006 - 2008



How Residents are Struggling

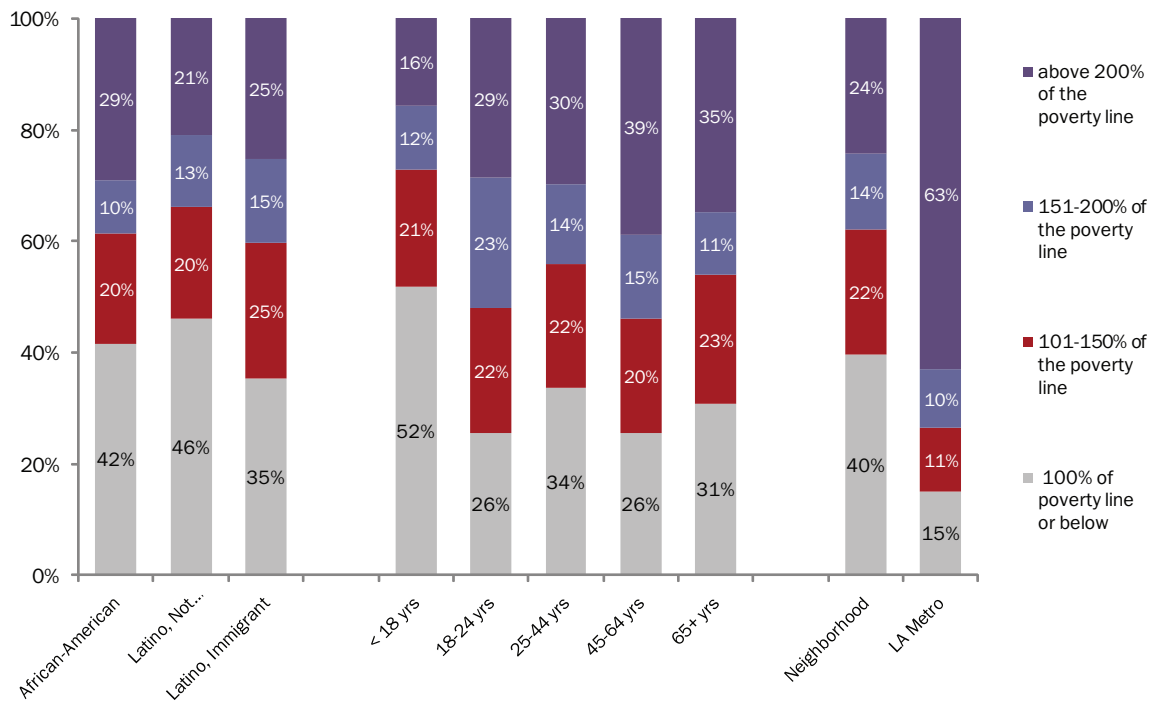
Since the exodus of manufacturing in the early 1990s, the Los Angeles region has struggled to rebuild a robust economy. At the same time, there has been a general divestment from public, financial, and social infrastructure and the region has made little progress working through long-standing racial and ethnic inequality, which has left it socially fragmented and residentially segregated. In neighborhoods like those around Second Baptist, we see the excesses of these trends – entire neighborhoods living in poverty (often, working poverty) and with significant social isolation. The struggles of this neighborhood are intimately connected with broader trends in the region.

This section of the report demonstrates that many of the residents who live in the neighborhood are financially disadvantaged, and encounter a number of other challenges. The neighborhood’s poverty rate is more than double that of the region. Employment is largely in low-wage service and manufacturing industries. Housing is a source of strain on both health and finances, as residents crowd-in and as they struggle to pay rent and mortgage. The local schools in the community have multiple disadvantages to consider in their daily operations. Moreover, the lack of adequate environmental and housing policies as well as failure to enforce existing policies creates serious health risks for local residents. In this section, we document these struggles and others felt by residents in the Second Baptist neighborhood.

The neighborhood is characterized by high levels of poverty. We consider 150 percent of the poverty line as a measure of poverty that partially accounts for the high cost of living in Los Angeles. Census data indicate that an extraordinarily high percentage of Second Baptist Church neighborhood residents, 62 percent, live below 150 percent of the poverty line (Figure 4). This compares to 26 percent for the entire metro. Notably, a significant

proportion of Latino residents experience working poverty – here that is, people living under 150 percent of the poverty line but who are working full time (at least 35 hours a week, 50 weeks a year).^{iv} Among those living below 150 percent of the federal poverty line, 49 percent of immigrant Latinos work full-time and 37 percent of U.S.-born Latinos work full time. This figure is 14 percent for African-Americans – for whom low paying jobs is less of a cause of poverty than unemployment. Part of this is that Latino immigrants often immigrate and/or begin work before graduation. Seventy-three percent of working age Latino immigrants have not completed high school; for US-born Latinos that rate is 32 percent, and for African Americans, 18 percent. Part of this is limited English abilities, as we noted in the previous section.^v

Figure 4. Poverty by Race/Ethnicity and Age
2006-2008



High levels of poverty correlate with the relatively low average incomes of residents. In the Second Baptist Church neighborhood the median household income equals \$29,164 and median family income equals \$28,241. This compares to the Los Angeles Metro median household income of \$54,993 and the median family income is \$61,587. Among neighborhood residents, households and families headed by non-immigrant Latinos have the highest incomes, while those headed by African-Americans have the lowest incomes. The lower average incomes of African-Americans can in part be explained by the high concentration of elderly whose social security income is not accounted for in measures of household and family income.

Residents in the workforce tend to be employed in low-wage jobs and industries. The top five occupations among residents consist of Machine Operators, Assemblers, and Inspectors; Administrative Support Occupations, including Clerical; Helpers in Construction and Extraction, and Freight, Stock and Material Handlers; Cleaning, Building and Household Service Occupations; and Sales Occupations. Meanwhile, Manufacturing; Professional and Related Services; Retail Trade; Business and Repair Services; and Construction comprise the top five industries that employ residents. These occupations and industries make up the bottom of the region’s two-tiered economy – where one tier

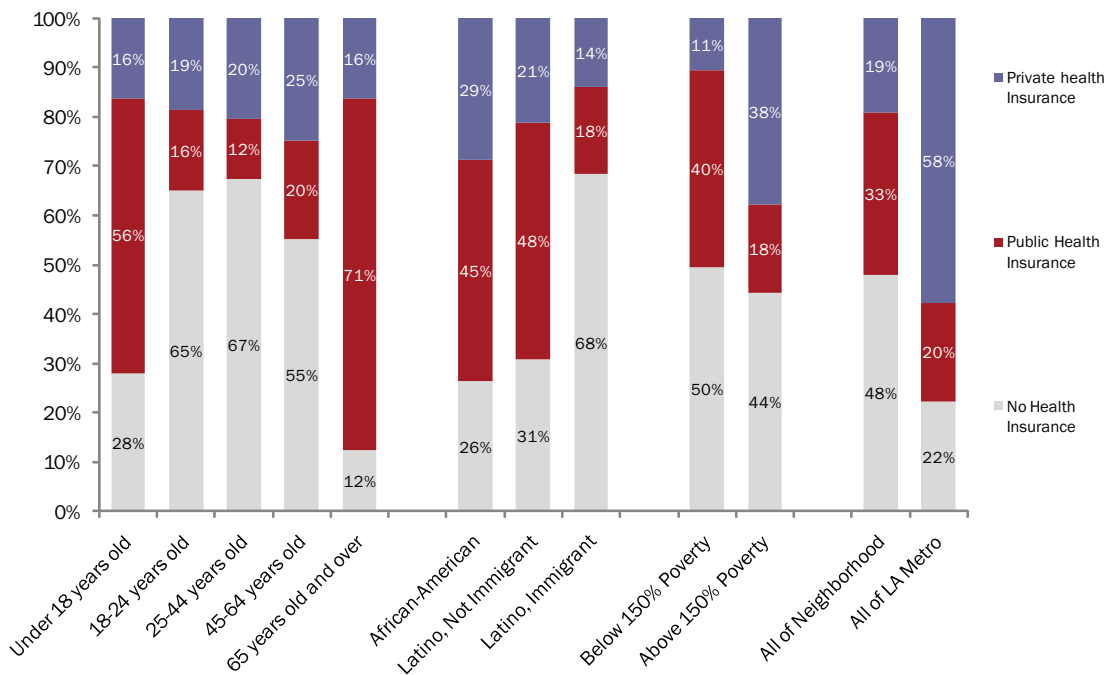
is highly-educated, highly-paid professionals and the other tier is low-wage service and low-skill manufacturing workers – and contribute to the concentrated poverty in the neighborhood.

The cost of rent relative to earnings limits residents’ access to quality affordable housing. Housing costs are a significant financial burden for residents. Among our survey participants, 80 percent reported paying more than one-third of their household income – the standard measure of housing cost burden – towards rent or mortgage.^{vi} Most survey participants (82 percent) pay rent. As far as the quality of the housing is concerned, nearly one-half of residents reported having trouble with roach infestations – 15 percent with mold, 14 percent with difficult landlords, 14 with chipping and peeling lead paint, and 11 percent with leaks (see Appendix A, Table 1). Some of these problems are acute, and result in illness or injury to residents, especially the most vulnerable (small children, pregnant women, and the elderly).

Our survey results also reveal overcrowding in homes. Household size tends to be large among our survey respondents, averaging 5.4 people. Although most households consist of one family (72 percent of the time), 28 percent included two or more families. Census figures confirmed overcrowding conditions in the neighborhood, that is, more than 1 person per room – a standard measure. The neighborhood averages 1.1 people per room, a rate driven by immigrant Latino households that average 1.3 people per room; African-Americans and US-born Latinos experience less overcrowding than immigrants. The metro region averages 0.7 people per room.

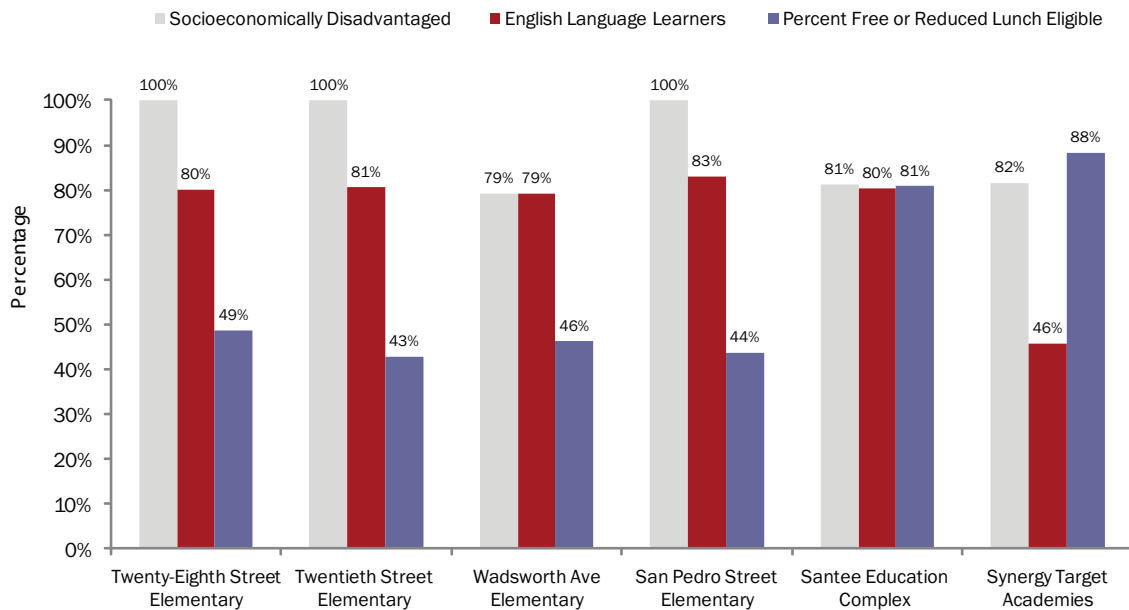
The neighborhood suffers from poor access to healthcare. The percentage of residents who lack healthcare is 48 percent, more than double the figure of 22 percent for the LA metro as a whole. Meanwhile, about one-third (mostly the children and the elderly) rely on public health insurance, compared to 20 percent of the metro region. (see Figure 5). According to 2007 California Health Interview Survey data, of residents who are insured in the neighborhood,^{vii} their health status is better than those without insurance; only 63 percent of those who are uninsured have what they consider “good” or better health, as opposed to 75 percent for those who are insured.

Figure 5. Health Insurance Status, Church Neighborhood 2008



Schools in the neighborhood must serve students facing multiple poverty-related challenges. The Second Baptist Church neighborhood contains six schools—San Pedro Street Elementary, Twentieth Street Elementary, Twenty-eighth Street Elementary, Wadsworth Elementary, Synergy Target Academies, and Santee Educational Complex – that all enroll students who almost exclusively come from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.^{viii} They also enroll high proportions of English learners who require special instruction to increase their English proficiency. English learners comprise around 80 percent of students at five of the schools. Synergy Target Academies, a charter school, enrolled fewer English learners – 46 percent.^{ix} With a few exceptions, schools in California spend less per pupil on education than other states in the U.S. This severe underfunding of K-12 public education most negatively impacts schools in low-income and immigrant communities. Consequently, schools with high concentrations of low-income students and English learners often lack the necessary resources to adequately meet students’ learning needs. Moreover, these schools have disproportionately been impacted by the current economic recession.^x

Figure 6. Disadvantaged Students by School, 2007 - 2008 School Year



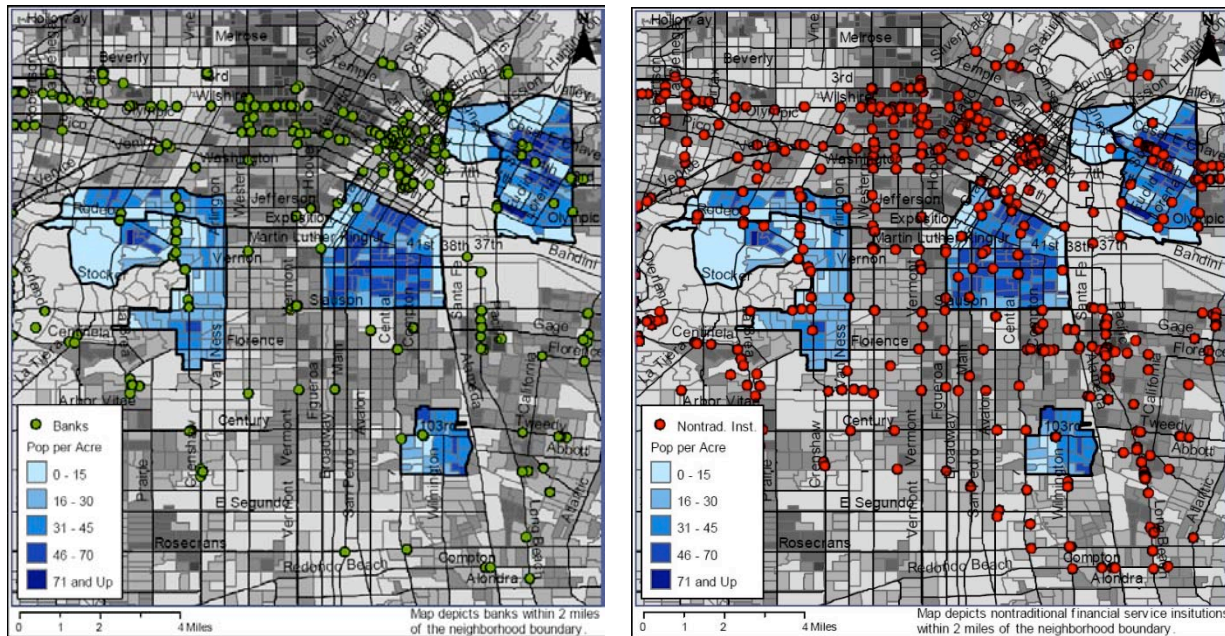
SOURCE: CCD Public school data 2007-2008 school year, U.S. Dept of Ed, Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics

* No data for 28th Street Elementary on students with disabilities.

** Socioeconomically Disadvantaged means a student neither of whose parents have received a high school diploma OR who participates in the free or reduced-price lunch program (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/glossary10b.asp>)

Finally, the neighborhood and the surrounding area suffers from a shortage of good banking services. In lieu, the area contains a relatively high number of nontraditional financial institutions (i.e. cash checkers, pawn shops, etc.).^{xi} Many of these nontraditional financial institutions exploit customers by charging them high fees for cash checking and high rates on loans – which sometimes results in debt. These expenses could be avoided through traditional banking. To create a vehicle for wealth creation, the City is piloting its Bank On Los Angeles program in the neighborhood, to try to provide traditional financial services for the unbanked.^{xii}

Map 2: Banking Services



Traditional Banking Institutions (left) and Nontraditional Financial Institutions (right) in central and south Los Angeles. Source: Social Compact 2008: 18, 19.

The Voices of Local Residents

Survey and focus group data collected by Esperanza Community Housing Corporation offer important insights into the experiences and opinions of local residents. This research showed that residents appreciate their community and would like to see improvements. Many residents like the accessibility and diversity of local businesses. However, some wished that people from the community owned more of the businesses, or that current owners display a higher degree of cultural sensitivity. Residents typically reported knowing and liking their neighbors. A number claimed that the neighborhood is relatively calm and has improved over the years, especially since the new police station

Resources Needed In The Community

- Community Health Clinic (88%)
- Parks and Open Space (87%)
- Community Center (85%)
- Grocery Store (affordable and healthy) (80%)
- Quality Affordable Housing (71%)
- Bank (67%)

opened on Central Avenue. Indeed, LAPD reports a decline in arrests in the area over the last two years for most types of crime.^{xiii}

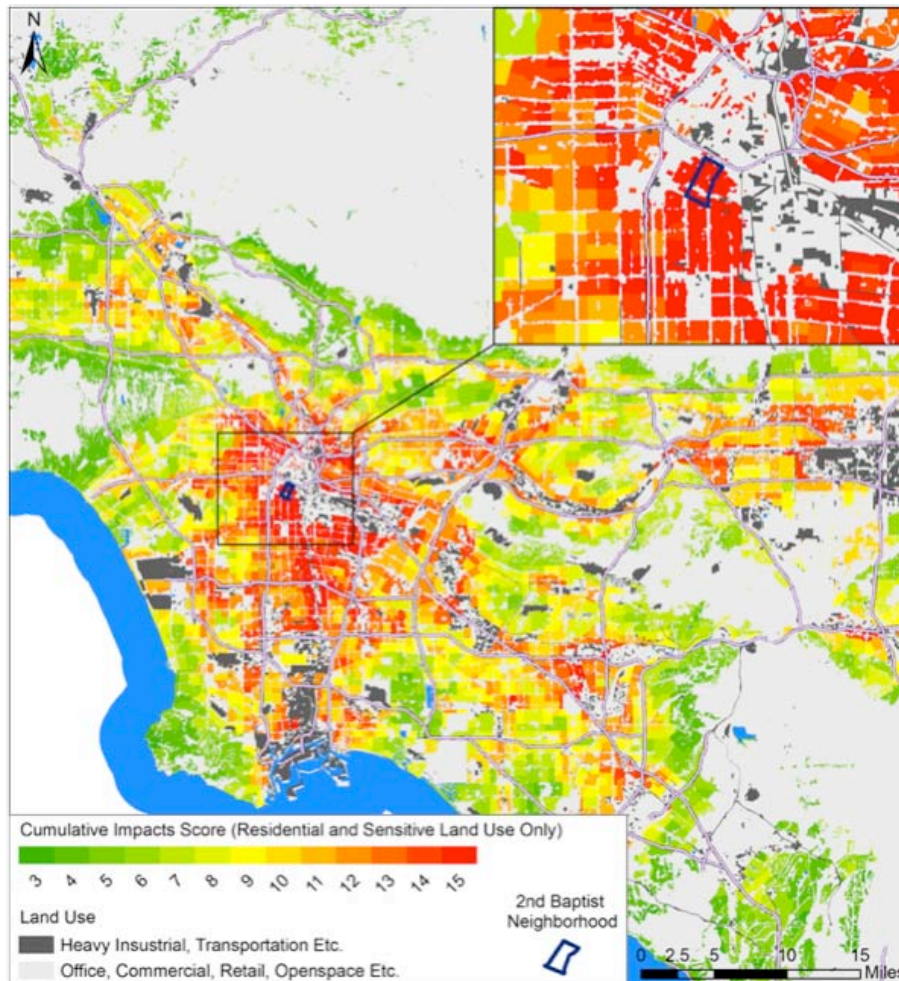
Survey data demonstrated support for increasing institutional resources in the neighborhood. Eighty-eight percent of survey respondents believe the neighborhood needs a community health clinic and 85 percent believe it needs a community center. While there was similarly high support for establishing a park and creating more open space, many acknowledge the difficulties of finding available land. The availability of grocery stores in the neighborhood has improved over the years, but 80

percent of residents believe that the community could benefit from additional markets with affordable and healthy food. Two-thirds of survey respondents would like a bank to open in the neighborhood, yet in informal conversations, some residents expressed that they mistrust banks.

Most residents believe that the neighborhood needs more housing – not surprising given the previously mentioned high cost of housing. Not only are residents supportive of the creation of quality affordable housing, they also want more housing for the elderly, people with disabilities, and emancipated youth.

The neighborhood contains extraordinarily high levels of environmental toxins, posing serious health risks for residents in the Second Baptist Church neighborhood. Map 3 illustrates an index of environmental cumulative impacts that takes into account the proximity of hazardous land uses, toxic and particulate emissions from stationary and mobile sources, and the social vulnerability of community residents, assigning each census tract in the 6-county Southern California region a score from 3 to 15, with higher being more impacted. The neighborhood scores are among the regions' highest in part because the neighborhood is near so many freeways that are part of the region's diesel-reliant logistics industry, partly because the neighborhood is near heavy industry, historically and today, and partly because of the demographics previously reviewed (for more on this ranking, see Appendix C). Among the residents we surveyed, only 18 percent knew if they lived near a toxic site. The clear mismatch between residential knowledge and the facts highlights a dangerous lack of awareness of the environmental conditions harming the community. It also puts the burden on the community to address an issue for which they lack adequate information.

Map 3: Environmental Cumulative Impacts Map



While generally unaware of the environmental hazards in the community, residents express high levels of concern for children and youth in the neighborhood. Focus group discussions underscored the shortage of community programs aimed at supporting the academic growth, athletic ability, artistic expression, and leadership development of young people in the community. The closure of the local YMCA within the last five years, and recent cuts in summer school and other programs left a vacuum in organized activities for young people. It is therefore not surprising that 93 percent of surveyed residents indicated that the neighborhood needs children’s after-school and summer programs. Meanwhile, 88 percent supported increasing the availability of affordable childcare in the community. Residents also would like more programs for adults. Approximately four-fifths of residents would like adult computer classes and English as a Second Language (ESL) to be offered in the neighborhood.

Survey data collected from local businesses – owner and employee respondents – suggest that the neighborhood needs improvements in local infrastructure. Most (84 percent) agree that street repair is needed. Approximately two-thirds believe that more parking and a greater police presence could benefit local businesses, and about one-half reported that their business could benefit from improvements to the exterior of the building they occupy. Nearly one-half of those who responded to the local business survey also live in the neighborhood.

| Needed Improvements for Businesses |
|--|
| Street Repair (84%) |
| Greater Police Presence (69%) |
| More Parking (67%) |
| Building Exterior Repairs/Improvements (51%) |
| Public Transportation Infrastructure (38%) |

Most residents feel an attachment to their local community and believe it could benefit from more programs and services. A significant proportion, 37 percent, reported that they would be willing to attend a meeting focused on improving the community. Indeed, many feel that they could help contribute to solutions to some of the challenges that the community faces. However, residents want guidance to move beyond discussions of problems and want concrete actions to be taken towards positive community change.

Residents’ Views of Second Baptist Church

Second Baptist Church has a long history of serving the African-American community and a track record of promoting civil rights in the Los Angeles area. Yet many of the local residents, many of whom are Latino immigrants, are unaware of the Church’s history or its current community programs. Only 15 percent of residents surveyed knew that the Church offered a child care program, and only 5 percent knew about its housing program. Some Latino residents perceive the Church as primarily concerned with the welfare of African-American congregants, while only a small number of African-American residents surveyed informally reported any connection to the Church. Fortunately, this seems to reflect a disconnect in understanding, not in will. It is not that local residents are reluctant to work with the Church for the benefit of the community; indeed, many welcome the Church’s interest in the local community.

Given the community’s feedback and Second Baptist’s capacity, we see three broad areas for investment: one, in institutional resources like banks, parks, community centers, etc.; two, in the development of quality affordable housing; and three, in programming that includes afterschool programs for youth, ESL and computer classes for adults, etc. In some areas, these would constitute new investments, but in others, the Church already has experience – like community centers, housing development, and youth programming. We also note the potential for the Church to support advocacy efforts focused on environmental justice, community health, and infrastructure improvements.

Recommendations

The timing of Second Baptist Church's inquiry is fortuitous as there is a renewed sense of action and collaboration in South Los Angeles. For the past several years, a number of local community-based organizations have convened community residents and other local stakeholders to develop a health and human rights agenda for South Los Angeles. In June of 2009, they hosted the first South Los Angeles Conference on Health and Human Rights and on December 10, 2009 coordinated the signing of the "South Los Angeles Declaration of Health and Human Rights" at Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital. Concurrently, several major philanthropies are showing renewed commitment to place-based development, as reflected in their new giving strategies. This approach acknowledges the importance of the regional context for developing effective policy advocacy strategies, while also valuing the unique culture and character of the local community. Both The California Endowment and First Five Los Angeles have chosen South Los Angeles for targeted, strategic funding.

So while the Second Baptist Church neighborhood faces numerous challenges, the Church, as an institution, has the potential to deepen its ties with local residents and serve as a resource to the community – especially in the context of broader action in South Los Angeles. As one of the neighborhood's long-standing institutions with a history of civil rights advocacy and a key property owner (see map 1), the Church is in a unique position to participate in collaborative efforts to advocate and provide services for its surrounding neighborhood. We recommend that the Church sponsor a forum to share the findings of this report among its leadership and interested congregants. Second Baptist's leadership could, from such a forum, determine the extent to which the Church members have the capacity to engage with other neighborhood stakeholders in efforts to contribute to local community improvements.

We have identified various opportunities for the Church to continue to affirm its place in struggles for social justice in South Los Angeles. Through partnerships with organizations that have a proven track record of focusing on the needs of local residents, and organizations which are already mobilizing for health and fundamental human rights in the area, the Church can take actions that are consistent with the institution's social justice history. We offer the following suggestions as possible measures that the Church may consider to help address some of the neighborhood concerns identified in this report:

- Assess whether some of the Church property can be used for after-school and summer programs for children and youth and/or English as a Second Language and computer classes for adults. Service delivery may occur through partnerships with other local organizations, like Community Development Technologies Center (CDTech), Esperanza Community Housing, All People's Christian Center, and Pacific Asian Consortium for Employment (PACE), among others.
- Advocate for solutions to environmental justice concerns. The immediate area has been the focus of a ten-year Healthy Homes project addressing family health in the indoor environment. The collaborative partners involved are Esperanza, SAJE (Strategic Actions for a Just Economy), L.A. St. Johns Well Child and Family Center, and L.A. Community Action Network. Other potential partners who have track records in local environmental justice are the Figueroa Corridor Community Land Trust, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at USC.
- Expand the availability of quality affordable child-care services through collaboration with the USC Early Childhood Development Center, Pacific Asian Consortium for Employment (PACE), and other organizations.
- Support local community efforts around environmental health and disease prevention. Such efforts may entail working with Esperanza, health clinics, and social services to both ensure and increase access to local health service providers. For 15 years, Esperanza has been training bilingual Community Health Promoters (Promotores de Salud) who focus on providing community health leadership through prevention education, environmental assessments, and referrals to health and social service resources.

- Partner with local real estate development organizations such as the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (which owns another Paul Williams building, the former YMCA), the Figueroa Corridor Community Land Trust, and Esperanza Community Housing Corporation to develop high quality affordable housing for local residents.
- Collaborate with local agencies – like the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) and the South Los Angeles Building Healthy Communities (SLABHC) coalition– to advocate for infrastructure improvements and investments in community services.
- Partner with organizations with a commitment to working with churches around a range of social issues affecting low-income communities, including Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), LA Metro, and University United Church.
- Invite speakers from the Health and Human Rights movement to address and engage the congregation. A human rights frame provides great opportunity for linkage and engagement, whether congregants remain in the area, or have relocated outside of South Los Angeles. The conveners of this mobilization can be found at www.Southlosangeleshealthandhumanrights.org.
- Invite a presentation from the South Los Angeles Building Healthy Communities (SLABHC) coalition, a ten-year place-based funding initiative of The California Endowment (TCE).^{xiv} TCE is investing in fourteen communities across the state by linking policy and systems change with sustained community-level engagement. We believe the Second Baptist Church could participate in very meaningful ways, as a landowner, a social service provider, and a faith-based institution.

We suggest viewing any efforts in the neighborhood through what community activist researchers Manuel Pastor, Chris Benner, and Martha Matsuoka call a “regionalist” lens.^{xv} That is, while much of the important work needs to be done at the local level by local actors, efforts must also be linked to change within the broader region. For example, because the community is home to the region’s lowest-income workers, efforts to improve workforce conditions will likely be directed toward companies or development projects both within and outside the neighborhood or at City policy. In these instances, neighborhood residents would do well to work in coalition with those under similar conditions in other parts of the region.

Such “social movement regionalism” prioritizes community development and rebalancing regional power for the poor, by the poor. At the same time, such attention to the poor is good for everyone: research from the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and elsewhere has shown that metropolitan areas scarred by residential segregation and pockets of poverty actually grow more slowly and less sustainably.^{xvi} So, it’s not just that residents need to include the region in their analysis and neighborhood work; it is also that the region and its leaders need to understand that this neighborhood and its residents are vital to Los Angeles as a whole. Partnering with residents to uplift their under-resourced communities is as important as other strategies for economic growth.

In this sense, by seeking to find its most productive role in a changing neighborhood, Second Baptist is demonstrating impressive leadership not just for the community in which it is located but also for a region that has tremendous problems of working poverty and a large number of other communities going through very similar transitions and tribulations. But this is no surprise: Second Baptist was, as we have noted, a crucial linchpin for the civil rights movements on the West Coast and it is celebrating that legacy today by recognizing and leading on the social justice and community building imperatives of the 21st century.

Notes

ⁱ The data included in this report is only a portion of that generated for the project. For the full data set, contact CSII.

ⁱⁱ Tabulations by the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) at USC from IPUMS 2006-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) data. Unless otherwise specified, all data in this report is from this source.

ⁱⁱⁱ The IPUMS definition of “linguistically isolated” is “households in which either no person age 14+ speaks only English at home, or no person age 14+ who speaks a language other than English at home speaks English “very well.” <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variableDescription.do?mnemonic=LINGISOL>

^{iv} Definitions of working poverty vary. For this report, we use a conservative measure, but some definitions also include “significant” workers – those who are on the job more than 25 hours a week for more than 35 weeks in the year.

^v While we do not think that low educational attainment or limited English abilities are justifications for less than living wage pay, we acknowledge that more education and English proficiency can both result in higher wages.

^{vi} Data from 2006-2008 indicate that about 64 percent of renters pay more than 30 percent of their income towards rent, Census data tends to undercount and neutralize extremes in under-resourced communities. As a result, we tend to favor our survey data, where possible.

^{vii} CHIS data is available in Service Planning Areas (SPAs). For the neighborhood, we used SPA 6 which encompasses the neighborhood but also includes surrounding communities.

^{viii} Socioeconomically disadvantaged refer to a student neither of whose parents have received a high school diploma OR who participates in the free or reduced-price lunch program (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/glossary10b.asp>) SOURCE: CCD Public school data 2007-2008 school year, U.S. Dept of Ed, Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistic.

^{ix} Ibid.

^x For more information about the underfunding of California’s public schools and the impact of the recession on schools serving low-income and English learners see UCLA IDEA’s Educational Opportunity Report available at: <http://idea.gseis.ucla.edu/educational-opportunity-report>

^{xi} See *Los Angeles Neighborhood Market Drilldown: Catalyzing Business Investment in Inner-City Neighborhoods*, The Social Compact, Inc., 2008.

^{xii} *Unbanked by Choice: A look at how low-income Los Angeles households manage the money they earn*, The Pew Health Group, 2010.

Available at

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Safe_Banking_Opportunities_Project/PEW%20Unbanked%20Report_FINAL.pdf?n=9888

^{xiii} LAPD COMSTAT, Newton Area Profile, 6/15/10-7/10/10. The largest proportion of arrests in the neighborhood is for aggravated assault (roughly half of all arrests), followed by auto theft and robbery.

^{xiv} Under this initiative, the South Los Angeles community will be working toward five main goals: all children have health coverage; families have improved access to a healthy home that supports healthy behaviors; residents live in communities with health promoting land use, transportation and community development; children and their families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods; community health improvements are linked to economic development.

^{xv} *This Could Be the Start of Something Big: How Social Movements for Regional Equity are Reshaping Metropolitan America*, Manuel Pastor, Chris Benner, & Martha Matsuoka, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2009.

^{xvi} See *Dashboard Indicators for the Northeast Ohio Economy: Prepared for the Fund for Our Economic Future*, Randall W. Eberts, George W. Erickcek, & Jack Kleinhenz, Working Paper 06-05, Cleveland, OH: Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, 2006; and “Been

Down So Long: Weak Market Cities and Regional Equity,” Manuel Pastor & Chris Benner, in *Restoring Prosperity in Older Industrial Areas*, Richard McGahey & Jennifer Vey (Eds), Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2008.

Appendices:

A) Survey Results

Table 1. Second Baptist Church Neighborhood Survey

Sample Description (570 Respondents)

| | |
|---|------------|
| Resident Type | |
| Renter | 82% |
| Homeowner | 16% |
| Other/No Answer | 2% |
| Average Years Living in Current Address | 10 years |
| Years Living in Current Address | |
| 5 or less | 35% |
| 6-10 | 30% |
| 11-20 | 28% |
| 20 or more | 7% |
| Average Age | 41 |
| Age Group | |
| 17-30 | 26% |
| 31-45 | 42% |
| 46-60 | 20% |
| 61-85 | 12% |
| Gender | |
| Female | 63% |
| Male | 37% |
| Race | |
| Latino | 94% |
| Black | 5% |
| Other | 1% |
| Language spoken by survey respondent | |
| Spanish | 78% |
| Spanish and English | 15% |
| English | 7% |
| Average Household Size | 5.4 people |
| Number of families in household | |
| One | 72% |
| Two | 22% |
| Three or more | 6% |
| Households with children under age 18 | 80% |
| Households that use public transportation | 69% |

**Table 2. Second Baptist Church Neighborhood Survey
Economic, Housing, and Neighborhood Concerns (570 Respondents)**

| | |
|---|-----|
| HOUSING DEMAND | |
| Residents who believe the neighborhood needs more housing | 68% |
| Type of Housing Needed | |
| Quality Affordable Family Housing | 71% |
| Quality Housing for People with Disabilities | 71% |
| Quality Housing for the Elderly | 70% |
| Quality Housing for Emancipated Youth | 62% |
| | |
| HOUSING PROBLEMS | |
| Roach Infestation | 43% |
| Mold | 15% |
| Difficult Landlords | 14% |
| Chipping and Peeling Lead Paint | 14% |
| Leaks | 11% |
| Fleas | 3% |
| Bed Bugs | 3% |
| Other | 5% |
| | |
| PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME SPENT ON RENT/MORTGAGE | |
| 1/4 or less | 4% |
| About 1/3 | 13% |
| About 1/2 | 33% |
| More than 1/2 | 47% |
| Other | 1% |
| Don't Know | 2% |
| | |
| Resident Knows if She/He Lives Near a Toxic Site | 18% |
| | |
| CONCERN ABOUT NUMBER OF LIQUOR STORES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD | |
| Very concerned | 32% |
| Somewhat concerned | 25% |
| Not concerned | 44% |

**Table 3. Second Baptist Church Neighborhood Survey
Neighborhood Resources (570 Respondents)**

| | |
|--|-----|
| RESOURCES NEEDED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD | |
| Community Health Clinic | 88% |
| Parks and Open Space | 87% |
| Community Center | 85% |
| Grocery Store (affordable & healthy) | 80% |
| Bank | 67% |
| | |
| PROGRAMS NEEDED FOR RESIDENTS | |
| Children's After-school and Summer Programs | 93% |
| Computer Classes | 90% |
| English as a Second Language Classes for Adults | 89% |
| Affordable Child Care | 88% |
| | |
| NEIGHBORHOOD CIVIC ENGAGEMENT | |
| Residents Interested in Community Improvement Meetings | 37% |
| Residents Who Currently Volunteer in the Neighborhood | 12% |
| | |
| FAMILIARITY WITH SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH PROGRAMS | |
| Residents Familiar with the Child Care Program | 15% |
| Residents Familiar with Housing Program | 6% |

**Table 4. Second Baptist Church Local
Business Survey (45 Respondents)**

| | |
|--|-----|
| TYPE OF BUSINESS | |
| Food | 20% |
| Clothing | 20% |
| Super/Mini Market | 11% |
| Beauty Salon/Barber Shop | 11% |
| Florist/Party Supply | 4% |
| Other Retail | 11% |
| Other | 22% |
| BUSINESS OCCUPIES A RENTED SPACE | |
| Yes | 80% |
| No | 9% |
| Don't Know | 11% |
| NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES | |
| 1 - 2 | 64% |
| 3 - 9 | 31% |
| 10 or more | 5% |
| BUSINESS DOES <u>NOT</u> HIRE FULL TIME EMPLOYEES | 32% |
| EMPLOYEES RECEIVE HEALTH INSURANCE | |
| Yes | 13% |
| No | 54% |
| No Answer/Don't Know | 33% |
| CUSTOMERS INCLUDE LOCAL RESIDENTS | |
| Yes | 82% |
| No | 5% |
| No Answer/Don't Know | 13% |
| NEEDED BUSINESS IMPROVEMENTS | |
| Street Repair | 84% |
| Greater Police Presence | 69% |
| More Parking | 67% |
| Fix Building Exterior | 51% |
| Public Transportation Infrastructure | 38% |
| SURVEY RESPONDENT TYPE | |
| Employee | 82% |
| Business owner | 18% |
| Survey respondent lives in the area | 49% |

B) Focus Groups Synopsis

Second Baptist Neighborhood Focus Groups

Conducted by Esperanza Community Housing Corporation Staff

Focus Group #1, Friday June 25

10 A.M. Second Baptist Children's Center

of Participants-20 (15 women, 4 men)

Focus Group #2, Tuesday June 29, 2010

6:00 P.M. Second Baptist Children's Center

of Participants-10 (7 women, 3 men)

This document summarizes three topics that were discussed at lengths during both focus groups. It does not provide a comprehensive summary of all the topics and issues raised during the discussion sessions.

Key Points Discussed:

Topic: What residents like about their neighborhood

Good neighbors

Calm and peaceful streets

Residents who work with the city government and others to improve the neighborhood and solve problems

The reduction of crime since the police station was built on Central

The neighborhood is affordable

The neighborhood contains many needed businesses (Laundromats, clothing stores, and supermarkets)

Groceries are relatively affordable because of increased competition

Topic: Neighborhood Needs

Spaces and programs for children to play, learn, and participate in extra-curricular activities

A community organization or association that works to address residents' needs, not just talk about change, but takes action

Cleaner alleyways

Reduce crime and drug dealing on some streets, such as 24th street

Ensuring that cops are held accountable when they harass community members and fail to do their jobs

Getting mechanics to stop fixing cars in their homes and in the streets because it is loud and contaminates the sidewalks and the air

Ensuring that people can have a legitimate venue to sell cars, because selling them on the street severely limits parking for all residents

Educating dog owners to ensure dogs become less aggressive

Topic: How Second Baptist Church can help the community

Offer a range of leadership and other activities for children and youth

Provide English as a second language, literacy, computer classes, parent education and career development courses

Inform residents about Church services and programs through flyers, mailings, and door-knocking

Helping create a community center

Holding a block party and/or community fair

Facilitating communication between Latinos and African-Americans to break barriers and tackle brown/black issues

Learn from successful programs in neighboring churches like St. Patrick and San Vicente Church

C) Research Methodology

Data Collected from Residents: The residential survey was designed by Esperanza in consultation with Professor Veronica Terriquez. Esperanza staff and their community health promoters (“promotoras”) administered the survey throughout the month of July 2010. Collecting 570 completed surveys, they took two approaches: 1) encountering people at random on street corners and on commercial corridors, and 2) knocking on every other door on residential blocks. Surveys were given in Spanish and English. Esperanza then handed the surveys off to Professor Terriquez who analyzed the data.

The business survey was designed by Esperanza (without consultation from Veronica Terriquez) and was administered directly after the residential survey. Forty-five surveys were completed. Many businesses were unwilling to complete the survey, or only answered selectively, and frequently employees, not store owners, answered the questions. Interviewers encountered language barriers with some potential survey respondents who spoke very little, if any, English or Spanish.

The focus groups were designed by Esperanza in consultation with Veronica Terriquez. The two focus groups were held at Second Baptist Church’s Children’s Center on June 25 and 29, 2010. The first group included 15 women and 4 men, the second included 7 women and 3 men – all of whom were paid \$25 for their participation. Esperanza staff Monic Uriarte and Gabriela Gonzalez led the discussions that centered around what residents liked about the neighborhood, what problems they saw and how to approach solving them, and the role of the Church. See a summary from the focus groups in Appendix B.

U.S. Census and Other Administrative Data: The Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration used a variety of government databases. Unless otherwise noted, data analysis drew on the Integrated Public Use Microdata (IPUMS) 2006-2008 American Community Surveys (ACS) - which in this report is often referred to as “Census data.” Because the neighborhood was defined by the Church, we had to use approximate boundaries (see Appendix D). There is a trade-off between exact, local boundaries, and the richness and currency of data. Blocks, block groups, and census tracts can conform more exactly to the boundaries that Second Baptist Church uses to identify their neighborhood, but the latest data at this level is only available for 2000. Further, it is quite general, as to avoid giving away specific identities. Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) are larger geographies to which data is aggregated. PUMAs are the geography used by the yearly American Community Survey (ACS). Because the PUMA surrounding Second Baptist is quite homogenous, we used PUMA-level data from 2006-2008 which gave us recent and rich socioeconomic and housing data.

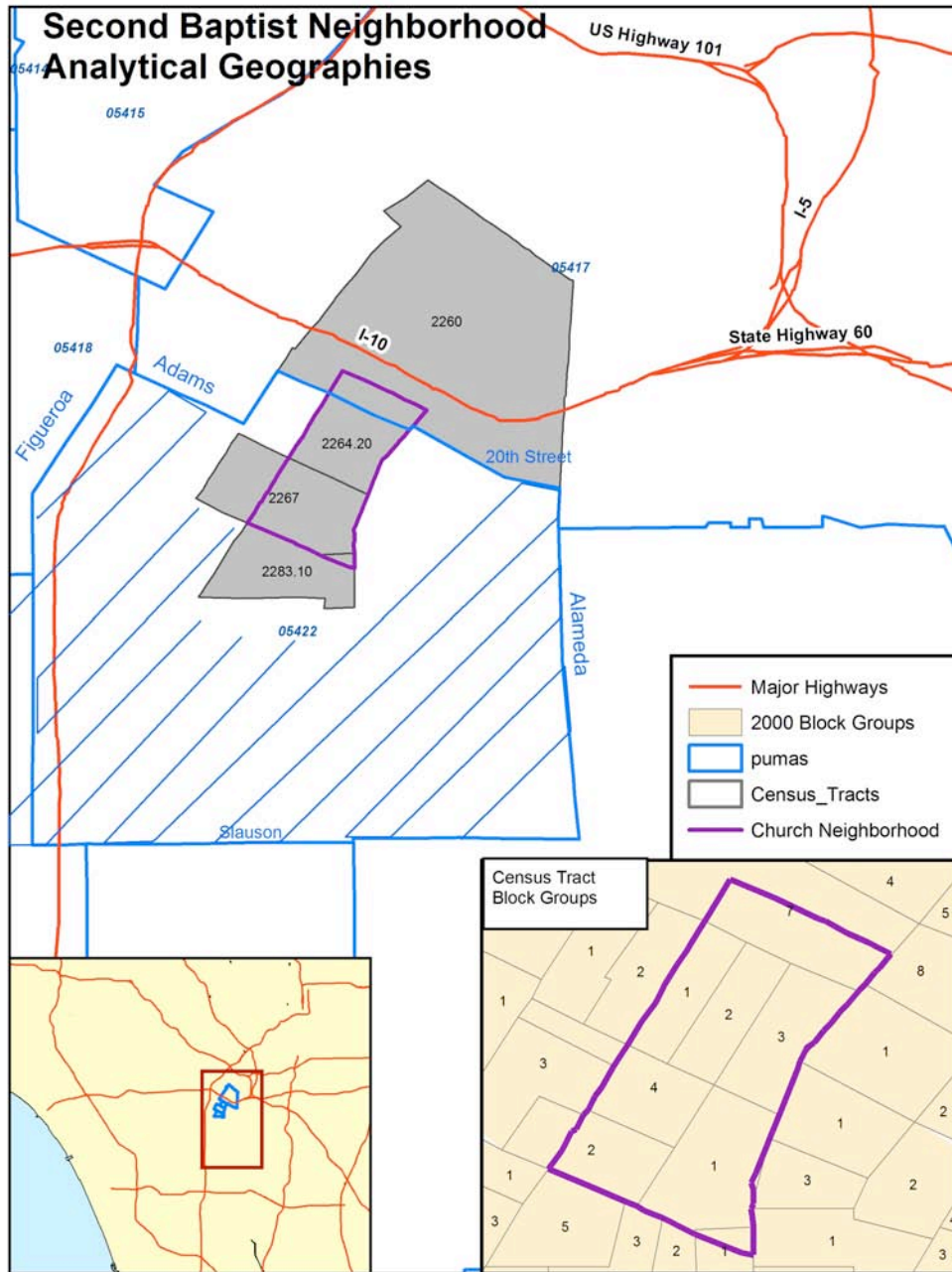
Other sources and their corresponding geographies include:

- *Health data:* California Health Interview Survey for Health Statistics (CHIS) using Service Planning Area (SPA) 6
- *Environmental Health/Cumulative Impacts Map:* This analysis was conducted by CSII’s allied research center on the USC campus, the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity. It uses a variety of publicly available data sources on air quality, socio-economics, and health using Census Tracts and data from 2000. The Cumulative Impact score (CI score) indicates how a neighborhood

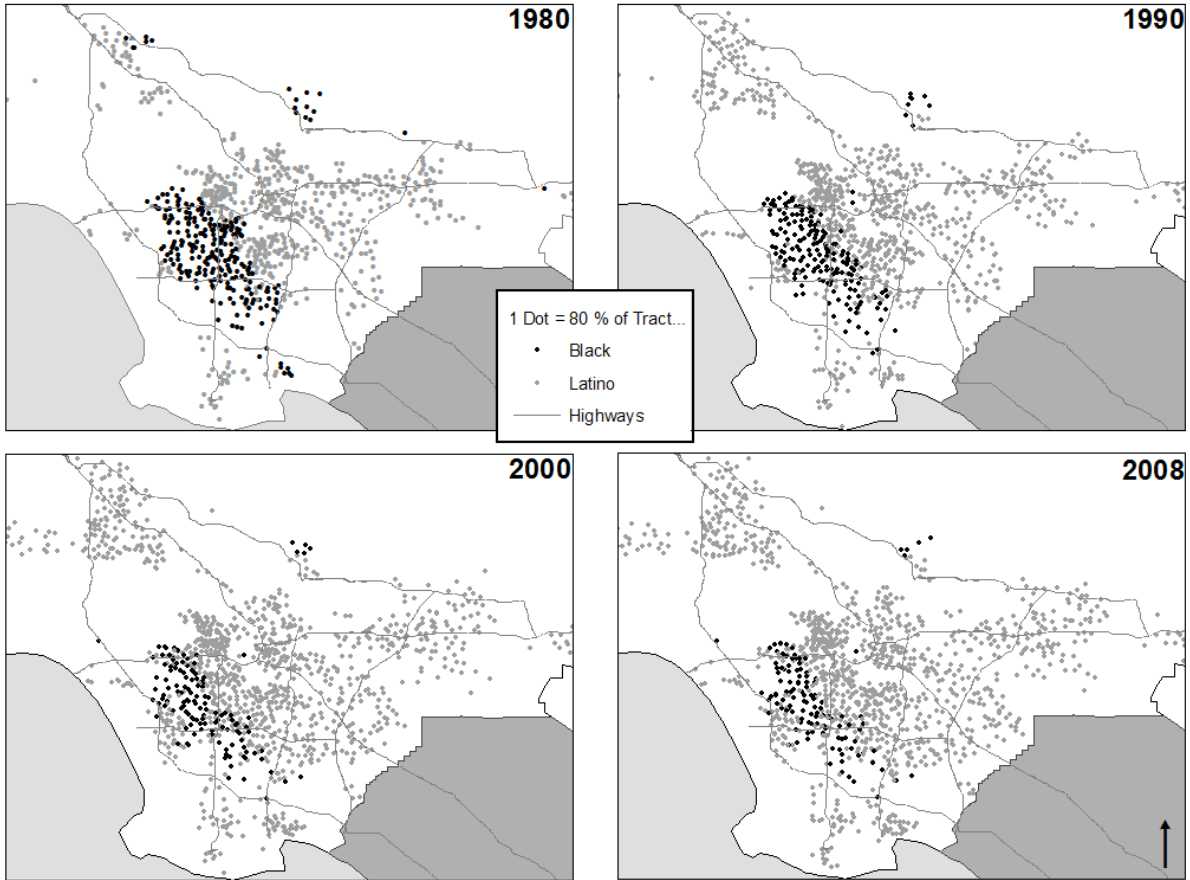
(census tract) compares to others in the 6-county Southern California region in terms of cumulative impacts. The score ranges from three to fifteen, and takes into account proximity to hazardous facilities, measures of health risk due to stationary and mobile sources of air pollution, and measures of social vulnerability that might make people more susceptible to health impacts given any level of risk. It places focus on where people live, and is thus mapped only for areas where the land use is residential or “sensitive.” Sensitive land uses are areas that tend to host more vulnerable populations and include schools, childcare facilities, healthcare facilities, and urban playgrounds/parks. For details, see:
http://college.usc.edu/pere/projects/cumulative_impacts.cfm

- *Crime data:* LAPD COMPSTAT, Newton Area Profile 6/13/10 - 7/10/10
- *Schools:* California Department of Education, DataQuest, 2009 API School Level Reports; Common Core of Data (CCD) Public school data 2007-2008 school year, U.S. Dept of Ed, Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics

D) Additional Maps



Los Angeles County, African American and Latino Populations, 1980- 2008



*2008 represents estimated numbers from GeolyticsPERE Analysis, other years are census data, and each dot represents a tract with at least 80% of the population Latino or African American

The Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) combines data analysis, scholarship and civic engagement to support improved economic mobility for, enhanced civic participation by, and receiving society openness to immigrants.

Esperanza Community Housing Corporation (Esperanza) works to achieve comprehensive and long-term community development in the Figueroa Corridor neighborhood of South-Central Los Angeles. Community residents of all ages and ethnicities are the foundation of Esperanza's grassroots work.



Martin Luther King, preaching from the Second Baptist Church pulpit.

Photo Courtesy of Second Baptist Church