PLANNING FOR IMMIGRANT FRIENDLY CITIES
OVERVIEW

- Introduction

- Part I: Local Response to Population Change
  - Public Nuisance Laws
  - Local “Border” Patrol
  - Integration Strategies

- Part II: Immigrant Friendly Plans
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  - Snap Shot of Plans
  - Common Features
  - Challenges
  - Future Research
BEGINNINGS OF POPULATION CHANGE

Longtime residents

Newcomers
WHAT HAPPENS IN THE INTERSECTION?

Longtime Residents

Newcomers
“Integration is the process by which immigrants become accepted into society, both as individuals and as groups.”

“...the responsibility for integration rests not with one particular group, but rather with many actors—immigrants themselves, the host government, institutions, and communities...”

http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=168
PART I: LOCAL RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION

- PUBLIC NUISANCE LAWS
- LOCAL “BORDER” ENFORCEMENT
- IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION STRATEGIES
- IMMIGRANT FRIENDLY PLANS
PUBLIC “NUISANCE” LAWS

- day labors
- garage and patio conversions
- illegal room additions
- garage sales
- swap meets
- home temples
- residential occupancy
- parking controls
- clothes lines
- roosters
- air conditioners
- leaf blowers
- migrant camps
- street vendors
- push carts
- mobile venders
- signage
- check cashing businesses
- leaf blowers
- ethnic architecture...
LOCAL “BORDER” ENFORCEMENT

- Employment eligibility verification
- English-only
- Housing ("do not rent")
- Enforcement of immigration law
- Restrictions on services and public benefits

http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=805
http://migrationinformation.org/integration/regulation.cfm
LOCAL IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION STRATEGIES

- **SOCIAL**
  - school liaisons, translation of materials, information centers, multi-lingual service providers, promotoras

- **ECONOMIC**
  - financial literacy courses, alternative forms of ID accepted by banks, course on how to obtain tax ID number

- **CIVIC**
  - leadership training, holding public meeting in places where immigrants will attend, outreach to include immigrants in planning processes

- **POLITICAL**
  - appointments to boards and commissions, representation on city council, local voting rights

- **SPATIAL**
  - Welcome ordinances, enforcing fair housing laws, inclusive zoning

PART II: IMMIGRANT FRIENDLY PLANS

- “Global Detroit” 2010
- “Welcome Dayton: Immigrant Friendly City” 2011
- “Chicago New Americas Plan” 2012
MOTIVATIONS

- address immediate issues -- communication and accessing services
- attract and retain immigrants to stimulate economic development
WHO ARE THE PLANNERS BEHIND THESE PLANS?

- Politicians
- Other key actors outside of city hall
  - non-profits
  - business leaders
  - private organizations
  - human relations commissions
ORGANIZATION OF PLANS

- **Local Economy**
  - Economic Development in Immigrant Neighborhoods and Business Districts

- **Global Marketplace**
  - Foreign Investment, Retention of Foreign Students

- **Access to Services**
  - Health, Education, Legal, City Hall

- **Civic Engagement**
  - Welcome Events, Path to Citizenship, English Classes
Examples:

- Help immigrants access services (interpretation/translation)
- More opportunities for learning English
- Create an immigrant business district
- “Global Dayton Soccer” event
DETROIT PLAN INITIATIVES

Examples:

- Listening Sessions
- Online Welcome Mat
- Retention of International University Students
- EB5 Investor Visa Regional Center
Examples:

- Pop-up city services
- Affordable kitchen spaces for small businesses
- Parent engagement centers at high immigrant schools
- Appoint immigrants to Local School and Park Advisory Councils
- Welcome City Ordinance
COMMON FEATURES

- Extensive outreach to create the plans
- Economic development and access to services
- PR campaigns to promote benefits of immigrants to nonimmigrants and long time residents.
- Creation of organizations/offices to implement plans.
CHALLENGES

- Plans include social, economic and civic integration strategies; but few spatial and formal political integration strategies.

- Giant first step toward creating an inclusive city, except for Chicago, plans avoid integration issues related to the undocumented.

- Implementation
FUTURE RESEARCH: ARE THESE PLANS EFFECTIVE?

- More immigrants?
- More economic development?
- More friendly to all immigrants?

... and why aren’t more planners involved in these plans?
FOR MORE INFORMATION

