

Resident Involvement During Planning Process

In December 1967 the residents of the Model Neighborhood Area selected the structure that they felt would be the most workable and representative of the six neighborhoods that make up the Atlanta Model Cities Program. (see figure on community structure).

Mass Convention

The Mass Convention is open to all Model Neighborhood Area residents. Here the citizens have an opportunity to hear the progress made to improve their community and to voice their views on the Model Cities Program. The Mass Convention also guarantees to every Model Neighborhood Area resident that all elections that relate to the organization of the Model Neighborhood Area will be conducted in an orderly and democratic manner. The Mass Convention also symbolizes the idea that the Model Neighborhood Area is a unified community with many similar assets and liabilities in each of the six concerned neighborhoods.

Executive Board

The 14 member Executive Board is the policy making body in the Model Cities organization. It is composed of six neighborhood residents. (One elected representative from each of six neighborhoods within the Model Neighborhood Area). In addition to the six citizens, it includes the following: Mayor of the City of Atlanta, one citizen representing the Atlanta Negro community, one citizen from the general Atlanta Community, one representative from the Atlanta Board of Education, one representative from the State of Georgia, two Aldermen from the City of Atlanta, and the Fulton County Commission Chairman.

Steering Committee

The 16 member citizen's Steering Committee serves as the Mass Convention when it is not in session. It accepts recommendations and proposals from each of the six neighborhoods. It will bring these recommendations and proposals to the Mass Convention and the Executive Board. The Steering Committee is also responsible for developing an effective citizen organization in each of the six neighborhoods.

It is composed of the four Mass Convention officers, six neighborhood vice chairmen (one elected from each of the six neighborhoods) and six residents who serve on the Executive Board.

Neighborhood Advisory Councils

The Neighborhood Advisory Council structure is designed to organize citizens at the neighborhood level. The residents decided to use three basic structures of organization. Adair Park elected its representatives on an area-wide basis. Grant Park and Peoplestown elected their representatives on a district basis. Mechanicsville, Pittsburgh, and Summerhill elected its representatives through the block structure.

The basic function of the councils is to coordinate all activity in the neighborhood and to be sure that all operating and standing committees are functioning at maximum efficiency.

Operating Committees

Each of the six neighborhoods has 11 operating committees for the following program areas: Health, Education, Welfare and Social Services, Housing, Relocation, Design and Preservation Physical Improvements, Public Facilities, Employment, Crime Prevention and Recreation. These committees played a valuable role in the planning phase of Model Cities Programs through working with planners in identifying problems and suggesting solutions to solve these problems.

The Operating Committees work closely with the Neighborhood Advisory Council so that all proposals from the community will be coordinated through the council. Membership on the Operating Committees is open to any resident of the neighborhood.

Standing Committees

The Standing Committees serve as the organizational arm for the Mass Convention and the six neighborhoods within Atlanta's Model Neighborhood Area. There are seven committees (Boundary, Credentials, Nominations, Program, Organization, Resolutions, and Constitution and By-Laws). Each neighborhood has three representatives on each committee.

Technical Advisory Board

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Board is to review the plans of the residents and planners, and to offer technical advice. Members are representatives of various community organizations. Total membership is open-ended, allowing the Model Cities Program Director to appoint anyone who might aid the program.