



COMMUNITY IMPACT AS A CORE PRACTICE

Urban International Studios' Practice is committed to addressing multiple aspects of sustainable real estate development, including economic and community-based efforts, in ways that are socially responsible and responsive to local needs. Real estate development often excludes local community stakeholders from social and economic gains, increasing economic inequality, limiting social mobility, and preventing long-term community growth.

Community Impact Objectives, are to promote economic and socially equitable opportunities for all stakeholders by establishing uniform real estate development social impact standards-of-practice. We measure and evaluate the social impacts on all of our projects, and are working to participate with other thought leaders in creating industry best practice and emerging social equity research-backed standards-of-practice. These guidelines will address multiple aspects of development including design, building and construction process, employment and procurement, and the community engagement process.

Our community impact objectives are designed to help ensure that equitable development outcomes are attainable, not cost prohibitive, and intentionally implemented. This process will also develop a project rating and certification system to uniformly evaluate and demon-

strate how projects respond to existing inequities, and will promote greater economic and social benefits for all stakeholders.

Local Leadership and Giving Back

We also live in a global world but are committed to giving-back to our local communities. Urban International Studios is a recognized community leader in the Bay Area where we have practiced and raised our families. Our principals are on the boards of several education and community organizations. Through our participation in a community practice, we are acknowledged change-agents on issues of accessible education and job skills, economic development in disadvantaged urban communities, and sustainable and equitable urbanization in the Bay Area. These activities have taken us to Haiti where we were active participants in the Haiti Community College Development Partnership.

