

Regional Equity



The Third National Summit on Equitable Development, Social Justice, and Smart Growth

March 5-7, 2008
New Orleans, LA

Summit 2008 Description

PolicyLink is proud to announce that *Regional Equity '08: The Third National Summit on Equitable Development, Social Justice, and Smart Growth* will be held from March 5-7, 2008, at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. More than 1,500 participants are expected to participate in plenary sessions, workshops, and informal gatherings focused on the growing regional equity movement that is transforming communities across the nation.

The spring 2008 event will build on the momentum of the 2005 summit, which was held in Philadelphia and co-convened by PolicyLink and the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities. Participants will have opportunities to take part in issue-based sessions, forums for creating a regional equity movement, skills-building trainings, and a local service day to benefit the people and the state of Louisiana. In formal and informal sessions, they will have ample opportunity to translate their understanding of what regional equity looks like on the ground into a nationwide policy agenda for achieving regional equity. On-site opportunities to explore cutting-edge technologies, communications strategies and systems, and audience participation tools will send attendees home with the needed tools to craft and advance policy agendas.

The summit will attract and engage a diverse mix of leaders and advocates from the non-profit, public policy, philanthropy, elected office, business, and academic sectors—all of whom share a commitment to the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to participate and prosper in society. PolicyLink will also ensure participation and leadership of people of color in the summit through outreach and fundraising for scholarships and support for regional delegations. In preparation for the event, PolicyLink will draft a framing paper that outlines the key dimensions of a regional equity policy agenda.

Workshop Series

Workshop Series 1: The Context for Advancing Regional Equity

This series of workshop sessions will present how the latest demographic and political shifts involving issues such as fiscal policy, immigration, climate change, patterns of suburban and rural development, and housing are reshaping the way that our

communities look and what issues are critical to advancing equity. Central cities face new challenges whether from changes defined by renaissance or decline. Hear the leading thinking about how to navigate these transitions.

Workshop Series 2: Trends to Watch

Sessions within this series will present cutting-edge issues that regional equity advocates should be aware of. Hear about the progress in information systems, connections between green building and jobs, and the changing geographies of poverty in America.

Workshop Series 3: Achieving Policy Impact

During the last decade, the growing commitment and accomplishments of hundreds of leaders nationwide demonstrate progress toward effective smart growth and the opportunity to achieve regional equity. Discuss innovative examples of policy campaigns, policies, and the politics that improve outcomes for all communities through efforts at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. Learn important lessons from the hard work and political engagement of equity campaigns at the local, state, and federal level.

Workshop Series 4: Effective Strategies, Creating Tactics of Action

Learn strategies that build power for equitable regional development, and discuss innovative policy and practice. The event will review the progress throughout the field and focus our strategic advocacy. We will bring important perspectives from the arena of business, academic, and public agencies. In addition to a series on strategies, tools, and tactics, we will offer several space-limited training institutes the day before the event.

Workshop Series 5: Strategic Alliances, Public Will and Community Organizing

Committed efforts from all sectors of society are needed for regional equity to move a nationwide agenda forward. Learn how labor, community organizers, civil rights champions, environmental justice advocates, community development corporations, philanthropy, academia, and a wide array of other sectors are building leadership for policy change that makes equity a central component of advancing an equity agenda.

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Contact:

Amber Washington
Special Events Coordinator
PolicyLink
1438 Webster Street, Suite 303
Oakland, CA 94612
amber@policylink.org
p: 510 663-2333 ext 338
f: 510 663-9684

www.regionalequity08.org