



*Helping neighbors build communities*

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Photomontage of Battersea Residents displayed during Battersea Vision Day.

## Battersea's Vision Day



After months of talking to residents about Battersea, Aimee Bushman, Pathways' Community Coordinator, celebrated a long awaited moment as Pathways' doors opened promptly at 5:00 pm. Vision Day was realized as neighbors came together to select their neighborhood priorities.

Nearly, 200 people, residents and stakeholders from the city, local universities, churches and area nonprofits, entered the building receiving a "dot" to place on the map indicating where they lived or worked in the Battersea community. Then, with a handheld voting device, participants voted for their top four priorities for neighborhood change. Preliminary voting results indicate that safety and security followed by housing issues are the top concerns for Battersea Residents. The evening though was far from over.

Vision Day participants socialized and then feasted on a family-style meal served in eight different rooms. While eating, neighbors discussed their ideas on the best ways to tackle the issues before them. Meeting facilitators were in the different rooms leading discussion about one of the following priorities in Battersea:

- Visual improvement of neighborhood gateways or entrances;
- Infrastructure changes that would make the neighborhood more appealing;
- Unique ways to identify the neighborhood;
- Creation of a river access;
- Types of gardens/parks/landscaping that would improve the neighborhood;
- Appearances of houses, buildings, and vacant lots.

After a wrap-up of the individual conversations, participants gathered in the community

SAVE THE DATE  
November 4, 2010  
Virginia LISC's  
20th Anniversary



Sponsorships for the  
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room. Pathways then announced the winners of the Battersea Rising Logo Contest that inspired the official logo, as well as awards for the neighborhood Treasure Hunt and the five door prizes. Aimee Bushman was very happy with the event. She said, "*We received a fantastic percentage of Battersea residents, and it was thrilling to see our local stakeholders participate actively and enthusiastically. The ideas and discussions that resulted from the evening were rich and forward thinking, and we all left the event full of hope and inspiration for our community, with the collective goal of making Battersea a sustainable home for all.*"



Next up for Battersea: Studio Ammons, the consultant preparing the Battersea Quality of Life Plan, will conduct a neighborhood design studio in early September and will then present a draft to to the community for approval. Once the plan is complete, implementation will begin with partners and residents in the neighborhood.

For more information, please contact [Veronica Jemmott](#)

## We Are Changing

After much discussion with partners, and working with the Battersea Rising concept created by our partner Pathways, Virginia LISC is changing the name of the Building Sustainable Communities Initiative from *United for Progress Neighborhoods* to **Neighborhoods Rising**.



## Neighborhoods Rising

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