

REDEEMER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

“ I looked for someone
among them who would build up the wall and stand before me
in the gap on behalf of the land
so I would not have to destroy it...”

-- Ezekiel 22:30 ”

MAKE JEFFERSON BEAUTIFUL



Walls once fortified the cities they ringed. A breach in the wall was a place of great vulnerability. The prophet Ezekiel tells us that God looks for those who will stand in the breach on behalf of the city. Standing in the gap has been the privilege and joy of Redeemer Community Partnership over the last 25 years.

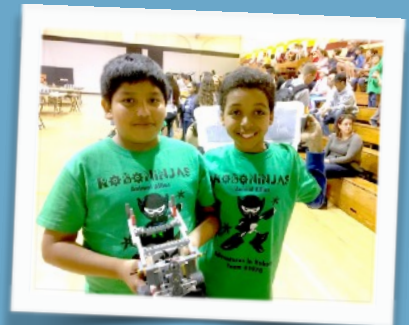
Five years ago Redeemer Community Partnership invited neighbors to go on a visioning bike ride from our local park down the major, moribund thoroughfare in our community. Twenty neighbors embarked on the ride down Jefferson Boulevard, not knowing that this was the beginning of a journey that would secure \$6.3 million to revitalize and make beautiful a street on which much of our advocacy has centered.

Neighbors stopped along the way to share their ideas: repaired sidewalks, street trees, pedestrian lighting, bike lanes, landscaped medians, public art and more. These ideas were vetted over the years in community meetings and in door-to-door conversations. Steadily, a vision for the boulevard began to emerge in a campaign that came to be called Make Jefferson Beautiful.

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ADVENTURES in ROBOTICS

After placing in the top 9 at a qualifying tournament, our First Lego League robotics team (the RoboNinjas) advanced to the Los Angeles Championship Tournament where they competed against 47 other teams in a robot game, presented their design solutions to a group of professional engineers, and participated in an on the spot teamwork challenge. After scoring just 3 points in the opening round, the team regrouped and bounced back with 59 points, their highest score of the season!



Our first success was a \$350,000 community benefits agreement with USC as the university sought public support to begin a major expansion. Our hope was to use the funds to begin bridging a stark divide between the campus and the community. It was clear, however, that these funds fell woefully short of the need. In addition, poor political leadership almost sabotaged the project.

This past year, we worked with new political leadership to mobilize the city's bureaucracy. RCP volunteered to write a major grant and organize community outreach on behalf of the City of Los Angeles. This week, we celebrated as our proposal, ranked 8th out of 486 applications from across California, was awarded \$6 million.

Much work remains to make the vision a reality. But we are so encouraged by how we've seen God meet his children in the gap, providing for the blessing and uplift of our neighborhood. As we sojourn through Advent, we are grateful for each of you who stand in the breach alongside us. May you too experience the joy of Emmanuel—God with us—in the gaps.

In His joy,

