JUST TRANSITION

“Just Transition is a principle, a process, and a practice... it is about a healthy economy and a clean environment and should co-exist... people who are most affected by pollution... should be in the leadership of crafting policy solutions.”

• Community Garden/Farm as solutions
• Sharing healthy foods and cultural traditions

Few public spaces (and available spaces like La Villita park have been fought for by the community, and this space is elevated because of the toxic waste beneath)

LAND JUSTICE

Who owns the land? Who works the land?

Moving towards a green economy: Deep inequalities exist within the US farm system:

Today, the US has more people in prison than farmers working the land... of these farmers, only eight percent are Indigenous or of Asian, Latino, or African descent.

LA VILLITA PARK

La Villita Park was established in 2014 after a 20-year campaign carried out by residents and LVEJO that fought for more green spaces within the Little Village community. The EPA oversaw the cleanup of the former Celotex site, where residents reported suffering from skin rashes and contaminated water flooding basements. Although the park represents a much-need recreational space in this largely Latinx neighborhood, there is limited seasonal access as it lacks a fieldhouse.

It’s on a hill because of what was there before... Residents decided to leave the toxic waste buried deep underneath the park instead of dumping it on another community.

—Community storyteller

FOOD JUSTICE

Today, the global food supply chains have made it easier to spend less money on more, often insufficiently nutritious calories, contributing to poor diets and chronic health problems. In addition, the food systems make the most nutritious foods the least available. This lack of fresh, affordable foods... today, the US has more people in prison than farmers working the land... of these farmers, only eight percent are Indigenous or of Asian, Latino, or African descent.

Access to food was reduced because many people in the Latino communities lost their jobs, many worked in restaurants and those were the first to close... Hispanics are not used to eating canned foods so even though there were many food pantries, but the truth is that only 10-20% of the food they handed out was consumed...

—Community member

FOOTNOTES

1. “Non-Hispanic black residents accounted for 42% of the COVID-19 deaths in Chicago”.
2. “Just Transition is a principle, a process, and a practice... it is about a healthy economy and a clean environment and should co-exist... people who are most affected by pollution... should be in the leadership of crafting policy solutions.”
3. “The context is elevated because of the toxic waste beneath”.
4. “It’s on a hill because of what was there before... Residents decided to leave the toxic waste buried deep underneath the park instead of dumping it on another community.”
5. “Access to food was reduced because many people in the Latino communities lost their jobs, many worked in restaurants and those were the first to close... Hispanics are not used to eating canned foods so even though there were many food pantries, but the truth is that only 10-20% of the food they handed out was consumed...”

Credits: This infographic was developed by Ashley Maldonado, Maciel Roa, Pam Jones, and Susan Monge, students in the UIC Fall 2021 course “Environmental and Climate Justice: From Puerto Rico, the U.S./Mexico border and other localities to Chicago neighborhoods” taught by Rosa M. Cabrera, PhD. Thank you to Alianza America, Centro San Bonifacio, the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO), and all the community members who graciously collaborated and shared their stories.