

### **Activity 2: Map Your Assets and Identify Partners**

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In this activity, you will get back into your groups from Activity 1 and work to sort a deck of “cards” related to blight reduction strategies that other New Orleans neighborhoods have used.

1) *First, lay out your four “corner cards”. Each card means one of the following:*

- We can – you and/or your neighbors can accomplish this strategy.
- We know who can – a partner organization could execute this strategy.
- We can’t and don’t know who can –additional partners would need to be identified to help with this strategy.
- Additional resources would be needed. *Use a “resources needed” card to write down what these would be.*

2) *Then, look at your “strategy cards”. Sort each card into one of the four groups above.*

*(If you think a particular strategy is a bad idea or wouldn’t work for your neighborhood, just put it aside.)*

3) *Use the blank “we can” cards to add your own ideas for blight reduction strategies.*

4) *When you’re finished, move around and look at how the other groups have sorted their cards. If their work is different or surprising to you, ask them about their reasons – and let them ask you about yours!*

Activity 2 Materials – Cut Out as “Cards”. Groups of 4-6 each receive one set of cards.

**WE CAN**

**WE KNOW  
WHO CAN**

**WE CAN'T  
WE DON'T KNOW  
WHO CAN**

**WE MAY NEED  
ADDITIONAL  
RESOURCES  
WHO ELSE?  
WHAT ELSE?**

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Resources Needed	Resources Needed
Resources Needed	Resources Needed
Resources Needed	Resources Needed
Resources Needed	Resources Needed
Resources Needed	Resources Needed

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We can...	We can...
We can...	We can...
We can...	We can...
We can...	We can...
We can...	We can...

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<p>We can...</p> <p>Attend City BlightStat meetings to ask questions or make comments</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Advocate with the State Legislature to change policies on blight/vacancy</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Advocate with City Hall to change policies on blight/vacancy</p>	<p>We can...</p>
<p>We can...</p>	<p>We can...</p>
<p>We can...</p>	<p>We can...</p>
<p>We can...</p>	<p>We can...</p>

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<p>We can...</p> <p>Plant native plants on a vacant lot</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Work through a community organization to help maintain local properties</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Clean up vacant lots once a year with neighbors</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Get liability insurance for vacant lots so they can be maintained</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Mow many vacant lots for a year</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Mow one vacant lot that is not on your block for a year</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Mow one vacant lot that is on your block for a year</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Bring other groups who work on blight into our community to share information</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Bring resources into our community</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Work with other groups who are also trying to decrease blight to advocate for change</p>

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<p>We can...</p> <p>Research property ownership through the Orleans Parish Assessor website</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Demolish structures that are vacant and dangerous</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Use a camera to document property conditions over time</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Call 311 to report problem properties</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Build new (affordable) rental housing</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Build new single-family homes</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Design a system of connected lots that would help manage flooding and water</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Design a single lot that would help manage flooding and water</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Cover a lot with woodchips to prevent overgrown plants</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Plant ground cover or other landscaping on a vacant lot to prevent overgrown plants</p>

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<p>We can...</p> <p>Create a walking path for community members</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Develop a sports field or fitness area for community health</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Create a new park in the community</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Buy a property through the code enforcement process at sheriff's sale</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Buy a property at tax sale</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Develop a contract with absentee owners to maintain their properties</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Try to contact absentee owners whose properties are not maintained</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Keep up with City tracking of blighted properties on BlightStatus and report if anything is incorrect</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Research property code enforcement information through BlightStatus</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Research property tax information through the Orleans Parish Assessor</p>



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<p>We can...</p> <p>Create a master plan for the community</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Help neighbors who need assistance maintaining their properties</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Improve local property market values</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Redesign the look and feel of our streets or parks</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Improve infrastructure like streets and bridges in our community</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Create a sign welcoming visitors to our neighborhood</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Write a history of our neighborhood and its people</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Design a community garden with neighbors</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Use a plot in a community garden to grow food or flowers</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Create an urban farm to sell produce</p>

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<p>We can...</p> <p>Write a funding proposal</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Write reports</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Make signs detailing information about blighted properties and put them up</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Organize a street party</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Organize a media event</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Participate in fundraising</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Participate in neighborhood organization meetings</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Chair a committee or group</p>
<p>We can...</p> <p>Teach skills to others in the community</p>	<p>We can...</p> <p>Research how other communities work on blight and vacancy issues</p>