

**Lawrence CommunityWorks**  
Lawrence, MA  
Union Crossing Planning Committee  
Budget: \$5,900



[Lawrence CommunityWorks](#) (LCW), located in Lawrence, Massachusetts, is not leaving the design of its \$75 million [Union Crossing](#) redevelopment project entirely to the professionals. Although the group is partnering with award-winning green architects to convert two 19th-century textile mills into a modern housing development, it is also getting design input from its Union Crossing Planning Committee, a group of community residents who volunteered to

be on the project.

Before LCW and its partners make decisions on the project's numerous details, they consult the committee for advice on how to make the development a functional, sustainable community. So far, the team has provided valuable insight on many topics including the design of recycling chutes and the location of community gardens.

As members of the Union Crossing Planning Committee, volunteer community residents attend bimonthly meetings in which they review project decisions, participate in charrettes with architects and visit similar redevelopment sites. LCW's Real Estate Development Project Manager Katherine Easterly says the committee is "learning about all the decisions that go into such a massive redevelopment and are contributing to the community outcomes that the project will generate."

Because of its prominent location in a redeveloping mill district, Easterly hopes the project's [participatory design process](#) will produce green elements that will help it "set a standard for energy efficient and healthy design."

Upon its completion, the Union Crossing project will create more than 125 mixed-income housing units and will generate more than 200 jobs in its on-site commercial space. LCW will begin construction on Phase I of the project in 2010.

The project has drawn media attention in recent months. For more information, read:

[Boston Globe: Mixed-use mill project forges ahead](#)

[Eagle Tribune: Union Crossing gets funding boost, on track for spring groundbreaking](#)

[High Profile: Green Facilities Development News- PDF](#)

More information is also available in this [Union Crossing Project fact sheet](#).