

SAVE MIDDLE EAST ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.  
A RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A BIOTECH PARK  
IN EAST BALTIMORE  
PRINCIPLES

We have adapted an asset-based approach to building community. Adopting principles developed used by Bethel New Life in Chicago and the Boston Community Building Network this approach represents a fundamental shift from servicing the deficits of people and communities to investing in their potential. It is a shift:

FROM a focus on deficits and problems  
TO a focus on assets and strengths

FROM remedial intervention  
TO capacity-building initiatives

FROM crisis oriented programs  
TO preventive programs

FROM inadequate public assistance  
TO jobs at living wages with benefits

FROM targeted programs for the poor  
TO universal access to basic opportunities

FROM fragmented services  
TO Family-centered, integrated services

FROM assistance with consumption  
TO assistance with investment

FROM "expert" solutions  
TO participatory research and development

FROM special interest group lobbying  
TO coalitions and collaborative agendas

FROM poverty as a "social" issue  
TO poverty in a global economic context