

The California Agenda Public Policy Lecture Series
“The Future of Community Development”
Ms. Angela Glover Blackwell, CEO Policylink
September 20, 2006

Ms. Angela Glover Blackwell, founder and CEO of Policylink, a national non-profit dedicated to economic and social equity, shared her expertise on “The Future of Community Development” with the California Agenda audience. “Equitable development,” the mission of Policylink, explained Ms. Angela Glover Blackwell, is a process in which the question “who benefits” is repeatedly asked. Because the legacy of institutionalized racism, largely inscribed in geography is so influential in determining life opportunities (e.g., access to wealth building, transportation, quality education, etc.), community development strategies, argued Ms. Blackwell, need to achieve equity not just equality. Equitable development seeks to simultaneously address the interconnected quality-of-life issues surrounding community development. Jobs, housing, transportation, and social services, said Ms. Blackwell, must be coordinated in an effort to connect “people and place issues together.” Additionally, equitable development mandates that all stakeholders are actively involved at every stage and level of the planning and implementation process. These strategies are incorporated into Policylink’s new focus on infrastructure, described by Ms. Blackwell as “the next frontier for community development.”