Investing in Place is an award-winning, human-centered public policy implementation and advocacy group in Los Angeles. Investing in Place advocates for a more inclusive decision-making process and equitable resource allocation for all people, especially those most in need and reliant on public infrastructure (transportation, sidewalks, street improvements, etc.) in Los Angeles.
WHO WE ARE

Founded by Jessica Meaney in 2015, Investing in Place leads and collaborates with a network of community based organizations, advocacy groups, public agencies, policymakers and individual community volunteers. One of Investing in Place’s key organizational strategies is to build a shared understanding of the City of Los Angeles' and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)’s policy-making and budgetary processes to support inclusive decision-making efforts. A core function of Investing in Place is ensuring that public dollars and policies for roads, sidewalks, transportation, and other public infrastructure are accessible and prioritize racial justice and low-income Angelenos.
WHAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR

Influencing Funding Priorities

We led the way in creating the first Metro ballot measure that sets aside funding for sidewalks, crosswalks, improved access to transit, safe routes to school and more, which resulted in 6-8% of its $122 billion expenditure plan to active transportation.

Investing in Place influenced allocations in the City of Los Angeles’s $1.4 billion sidewalk repair program, $72 million bus shelter program, and the City’s Complete Streets projects, which to date totals over $80 million in safety and mobility improvements.
WHAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR

Expertise on policy and process

Investing in Place has been tracking and analyzing Metro and the City of Los Angeles budgets since 2015, and this experience and the relationships built with City and Metro staff are invaluable in moving forward advocacy ideas and goals. The experience, both successes and setbacks in the policy and budget advocacy, provides Investing in Place with experience and knowledge that no other group in the region has.
WHAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR

Expertise on policy and process

During 2015–2018, Investing in Place led a Transportation Equity Technical Work Group. Our 2016 policy paper led Metro, for the first time ever, to adopt a map that identified the high need communities in Los Angeles County for Metro to evaluate and in which to potentially prioritize investments and programs based on need. At the time, Metro did not have any dedicated staff working on evaluating investments based on race and income, however our Transportation Equity Work Group as well as the policy papers and convenings Investing in Place hosted changed all that.
Currently, Investing in Place is now leading efforts to create the City of Los Angeles’s first ever Capital Infrastructure Plan. We know that without a plan, you can be the region with the largest public works program in the nation yet still have broken, unpassable sidewalks and no viable, reliable, and safe options other than driving.
WHAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR

Moms and Mobility

We work in partnership with South Central LAMP to combine new data and new voices from women to impact policy and investments for the City’s transportation network, which has led to reports, mini-documentaries and IIIP hosted convenings with Metro Senior leadership.

“Moms and Mobility” is part of conversations among Los Angeles based researchers, public agencies, and community development and design non-profits to bring the perspective of women, mothers and caregivers to the forefront of transportation decision-making.

INVESTING in PLACE
WHAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR

Collaborating with leaders

We lead, join, and advise coalitions on key issues such as Metro budgets, bus service, and political landscape analyses.

Since 2015, Investing in Place has hosted over 80 Transportation Policy and Work Group Convenings, attracting 30-100 participants for each session. Outcomes of these convenings are workshopping advocacy issues at the City of Los Angeles and Metro with a diverse set of partners to increase shared understanding and dialogue. Our convenings have repeatedly shaped regional discussion and conversations around transportation and public policy across Los Angeles.
AWARDS AND EXPERIENCE

- Transit Center Frequencies Award 2021
- LA 2050 Honorable Mention: Moms and Mobility Campaign 2018
- City of Los Angeles Outstanding Community Partner Award 2018
- Southern California Resources Service for Independent Living Community Champion 2018
- South Central LAMP’s Outstanding Community Partner Award 2018
- County of Los Angeles Commendation 2017
- Stratiscope’s Impact Makers to Watch 2017
- Albert R. Rodriguez Civic Legacy Honor 2016