



TRACK – Mapping Power for Community Changes through Civic Empowerment

Building Safer and Healthier Communities: The Transformative Influence of Placemaking

Join us for a panel discussion that will revolutionize your understanding of placemaking. As nontraditional placemaking experts will share groundbreaking research on place-based interventions you'll discover how simple, scalable solutions not only combat neighborhood disinvestment but also enhance health, safety, and leadership development. This workshop will share strategies implemented in Fort Wayne along with measurable outcomes.

Presenters: Dan Baisden, Megan Grable, and Réna Bradley, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Center Youth Voice: 5 Simple Activities

To encourage young people to share their passion requires us to appreciate and acknowledge the unique facets of their lived experiences and identities. This interactive workshop will explore intentional ways to share power with youth and create space for their creative ideas. 3. Reimagining collaboration with young people requires community leaders to embrace a new level of understanding, active listening, and compassion. This workshop will give attendees tools they can put into practice (and share) immediately to center youth voices. We'll emphasize how reflecting on and appreciating our own experiences helps us to actively listen to youth.

Presenter: Daniel Hatcher, Washington, D.C.

Beyond the Lois Lane Syndrome

Lois Lane Syndrome is the dependency of neighborhoods on government to save them from the effects of chronic disinvestment. Birmingham United Neighborhoods, an organization representing eight urban neighborhoods, is challenging this narrative through its efforts to address blight and engage elected officials in collaborative solutions. This workshop explores the successes and challenges of moving beyond Lois Lane Syndrome. **Presenters: Ron Bayles, Willie Thomas, Bonderia Lyons, and Darlena Battle, Birmingham, Alabama**

Neighboring Holidays: Catalyzing the Connections for Collective Action

Neighboring holidays provide a new way to generate neighborhood well-being, starting with celebration and social connection. Join this panel with leading experts from The Hopeful Neighborhood Project, University of Missouri Extension, the City of Citrus Heights, and CommunityWorks as we explore the power of celebrating Neighboring holidays and practical ways for your neighborhood to be a part of the movement. **Presenters: Jennifer Prophete, St. Louis Missouri, David Burton, Springfield, Missouri, Megan Ginn, Zeeland, Michigan, Courtney Riddle, Citrus Heights, California**



Balance That Checkbook! Funding Decisions Made *with* the Community.

Facilitating residents' involvement in funding decisions has led to a different set of outcomes for neighborhoods participating in Tallahassee's Neighborhood First Planning process. Attending this workshop to learn how the City of Tallahassee, Florida, using a simple, yet effective tool and process, has facilitated residents' input on how the funding allocated to implement their Neighborhood First Plan should be spent. **Presenters: Jillian Driscoll and John Baker Tallahassee, Florida**

Neighborhood Improvement Through Community Collaboration

Debria Andrews, a Hurricane Katrina survivor and Clark Commons resident in Flint, MI as of 2021, serves as a resident community coordinator with the CRIM Fitness Foundation, actively participating in the Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI). This engagement empowers residents by providing them a voice in shaping their community, as CNI strives to enhance housing, education, and economic opportunities through collaborative efforts and community-driven initiatives. **Presenters: Debria Andrews and Diana Johnson, Flint, Michigan**

Residents' Perspectives on the Implementation of the Greater Bond Neighborhood First Plan: The Process, the Product and the Results

The Greater Bond Neighborhood First Plan was adopted by the neighborhood association and funded by the Tallahassee Community Redevelopment Agency in 2018. Four years into the implementation of the plan, an evaluation was conducted by the City's Neighborhood Affairs Division. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the community's acceptance of implemented projects and to inform future funding decisions. **Presenter: Leann D. Watts-Williams, Tallahassee, Florida**

Empowering Youth Through Programming: "Nothing about me without me"

The City of Spartanburg Parks and Recreation prides itself on our motto "Always Doing." We strive to provide opportunities and experiences for our community members that enrich the quality of life and sustain long-lasting relationships. For youth we have adapted the new motto of "Nothing about me without me." We feel it is imperative to create youth programs that have them at the forefront of planning and implementation. From sitting on planning committees, to designing and implementing service-learning projects, our youth are the soul influencers in the programming we create. By doing this we give them the autonomy and confidence to be agents of change in their own lives and inspire others to be the same. **Presenters: Jasmine Patin and Wanda Cheeks, Spartanburg, South Carolina**



California Volunteers, Neighbor-to-Neighbor: How States Can Support Local Efforts

Catapulted by the success of the initial California Neighbor-to-Neighbor pilot, the state of California is building a statewide strategy to support local neighborhood engagement and promote community resiliency, including a campaign and curriculum to invite neighbors to connect with one another, and an investment in local community partners and Third Places. **Presenter: Elissa Lee, Sacramento, California**

Neighbors in the Know: Lessons from sustaining a neighborhood advisory committee.

Drawing on lessons and best practices from Overland Park's Neighborhood Executive Committee, Brenna, Alissa, and Colette will present on how to organize and sustain a Neighborhood Advisory Committee that not only provides networking and learning opportunities for resident leaders, but also allows for deeper interaction with city staff and elected officials, and greater engagement in the community as a whole. **Presenters: Alissa Workman, Brenna Duffy, and Colette Panchot, Overland Park, Kansas**

TRACK – Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Communities

Grant and Proposal Writing Made Simple

The workshop will provide an interactive, participatory, and hands-on approach to grant and proposal writing. It will offer simple and easy steps in preparing good proposals. Participants will be introduced to Grants and Proposal Writing is made simple and have an opportunity to engage in a hands-on exercise of writing a grant. The workshop is intended for beginners, advanced neighborhood activists, practitioners, and others interested in writing grant proposals. The presentation will include: an overview of its functions, types, and content and elements of a grant proposal. A hands-on exercise will also provide an opportunity to practice preparing a grant proposal. **Presenter: Elton Gatewood, Ph.D., Tacoma, Washington**



Rejuvenating A Neighborhood through Civic Empowerment and Multi- Generational Engagement.

In response to the community’s call for change, the city is actively revitalizing the New Town Neighborhood. This involves establishing a neighborhood association, leading to the cleanup of an outdoor basketball court, creation of a community garden, and construction of a jogging trail. The result is a vibrant, multi-generational space, embodying neighborhood engagement, inclusivity, and positive transformation for the entire neighborhood. The city has placed a high priority on fostering citizen-led neighborhood revitalization initiatives, utilizing a strategy that involves continuous outreach and the formulation of small plans with phased action steps. A case in point is the transformation of the New Town neighborhood, characterized by an aging population and limited civic engagement. The catalyst for change emerged in the form of neighborhood champions – people who are passionate about instigating positive transformations and actively conveying ideas and concerns to the city. **Presenter: Vashil Fernandez, and Megan Price, Texarkana, Texas**

Frenchtown Community Engagement Fund – The Pros and Cons of Community Participation in the development and Implementation of Grant Programs

Community participation is key to successful program development, implementation, and resident buy-in. This case study dives into the pros and cons of community participation in the development and implementation of the Frenchtown Community Engagement Fund (CEF), a grant program under Tallahassee’s Neighborhood First Planning process. Attending this workshop to learn about Tallahassee’s experiences with using a resident-focus process to develop CEF. **Presenters: Jillian Driscoll and John E. Baker, Tallahassee, Florida**

Understanding and Connecting Hispanic Communities

This presentation takes a deeper dive into the diversity within the Hispanic community to better understand and connect with them. The presentation covers their diverse background, culture, and taste in music and food. The presentation will cover social issues and struggles that many Hispanic communities face and how the role of a Hispanic liaison helps bridge gaps of communication and trust. **Presenter: Erika Escamilla, Clearwater, Florida**

Conscious Barrio-Strengthening a border community through art, culture and economic development.

Strengthening the community with arts, culture, and economic development will look at the challenges and opportunities that a historic neighborhood on the US/Mexico border faces as it deals with multiple challenges including declining housing stock, gentrification, and the immigration crisis.

Presenter: Osvaldo Vasquez El Paso, TX.



Track: Supporting Community Vulnerabilities

Congregations as Connectors: A New Role for a New Time

Congregations are a vital resource for community development, but their role must adapt to ongoing cultural changes. This workshop will explore the wide range of assets that congregations provide and how to best leverage these in neighborhoods. A practical framework with next steps will be shared to help you unlock the full potential of congregations for neighborhood flourishing. **Presenters: Ian Campbell, Wichita, Kansas and Megan Ginn, Zeeland, Michigan**

TRACK – Safe and Beautiful Neighborhoods

Long Beach Homeless Court

The Long Beach Homeless Court is a multi-sector, collaborative approach to promote public safety, break down legal barriers to housing and employment, reduce recidivism for repeat offenders, and connect people experiencing homelessness to housing, shelter, mental health services, substance use treatment and other supportive services. **Presenters: Gigi Zanganeh and Laura Reimer, Long Beach, California**

Creating Neighborhood Connections - Volunteers & Law Enforcement Working Together

Vancouver Police Department's Neighbors on Watch (NOW) program is an effective collaboration between community members and Neighborhood Police Officers (NPOs). NPOs act as liaisons to our community and work closely with NOW on a multitude of projects. Together, they open doors to community-based policing. This workshop includes an overview of NOW with stories about their unique police partnership. **Presenters: Jordan Macfarlane, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Lee Gelsing, and Jeremy Vanroyce, Vancouver, Washington**

Coloring Outside the Lines

Dive into Adams County's Coloring Outside the Lines A workshop to discover an innovative neighborhood improvement strategy. This session highlights our graffiti clean-up initiatives remarkable success, the Tool Shed and Block Party programs, and our unique lived experience hiring model. Learn how these efforts collectively promote safer, cleaner, and more connected communities. **Presenters: Katherine Burczek, Beth Torgersen, Gail Moon, and Ryan Dodge, Brighton, Colorado**



It Takes a Village: The Scholars Rosehill Community Center - a Dream Come True

Seeing a need for greater impact for Texarkana’s youth, The Scholars, Rosehill Neighborhood Improvement Association, and Village Communities of Texarkana, partnered to open The Scholars Rosehill Community Center to provide youth entrepreneurial programs as well as community programs for all ages. **Presenters: Daphnea Ryan, Chiquita Burks, and Rhonda Dolberry, Texarkana, Texas**

“The Challenges Ahead: Building Connections between the Community and Law Enforcement for Safe Neighborhoods in the 21st Century”

In the 21st Century law enforcement must focus on continual self-evaluation in order to effectively serve the communities that have given them their authority. This workshop will continue the needed vital discussions about how police departments form and deepen relationships with neighborhood groups and associations. In addition, it will share proven strategies for ensuring policing in the 21st Century is constitutional, upholds ethical standards, respects the rights of all people and ensures public safety. With strained relationships today between the public and law enforcement what are some effective techniques, strategies, programs that could rebuild trust in the community? **Presenters: Brian Biery, Pasadena, California**

TRACK – FAITH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Leading Your Faith Community to Love Where They Live: 5 Tips for Impacting Neighborhoods

Faith Communities have played an important role in the fabric of communities in the United States throughout our history. However, their contributions haven’t always been positive. We believe that can change. As a member of a faith community, you can help others to learn to love where they live and have a positive impact on the neighborhood. This session will teach you 5 Tips for doing just that. **Presenter: Jennifer Prophete, St. Louis, Missouri**

Neighborhood Mission Trips

What would it look like to take a mission trip in your neighborhood? The phrase “mission trip” does not need to be reserved for outreach and ministry efforts that take you across your state, nation, or overseas. The potential exists for you to be on a mission in your neighborhood for a fraction of the cost but with a similar long-term impact for you, your neighborhood, and your congregation. **Presenter: David Burton, Springfield, Missouri**



TRACK – Digital Communities

Neighborhood Associations Technology That Works: How Empowering Associations with Great Digital Services Can Bring your Neighborhood to Life.

In 2023, we created a new website solution, specifically designed for a neighborhood association. The result? We had more empowered volunteers, lower overall costs, better-served members, and increased engagement, both financially and physically at our events. We were having a lot of fun and making a big impact. Now we have been asking ourselves, how do we share this? **Presenter: Jesse J. Czech**

Building Digital Bridges

The workshop will outline and review a digital training initiative addressing the digital divide experienced by economically disadvantaged communities. The initiative focuses on providing training and equipment to residents in targeted census track areas. We share some insight regarding the coordination of the recruitment process through the device distribution.

Presenter: Gregory C. Hairston, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Neighborhood Navigators – How to Leverage Storytelling to Recognize Pride in Your Neighborhood.

Staff from the City of Raleigh, NC will present on “Neighborhood Navigators” – a short-video series leveraging technology and social media that enhances neighborhood participation and promotes local pride by creating informative and visually appealing documentative style storytelling. This series showcases resident-led narrating of the unique attributes, neighborhoods, residents, and amenities that make diverse Raleigh neighborhoods special. **Presenters: Jayna Victor, Grady Bussey, Jayna Victor, and Luis Fernando Olivieri-Robert, Raleigh, North Carolina**