



NATIONAL EVENT

Investing in the Future: Realizing the Opportunity of Middle Neighborhoods

Virtual Symposium | August 25 | 1:00-5:00 p.m. EST | [Symposium Website](#)

REGISTER TODAY!

Use promo code **VTISYMP21** for **FREE** access to Symposium!

Over the past several years, organizations across the country have come together to ensure that middle neighborhoods—areas that are neither clearly thriving nor overly distressed, but which could go either way—have a viable future. A growing community of practice is also documenting and sharing effective work to stabilize and strengthen middle neighborhoods across the US—demonstrating real results. Looking ahead, the shared goal is to ensure these localities have what they need to continue to offer a high quality of life, abundant amenities and services, and access to homeownership and wealth-building opportunities.

Join NeighborWorks America, the National Community Stabilization Trust and members of the national Middle Neighborhood initiative to explore ways to strengthen middle neighborhoods that are at risk.

This symposium will focus on critical trends, challenges and opportunities, including:

- **Housing Strategies:** Preserving the naturally occurring affordable housing stock in middle neighborhoods and ensuring long-term affordability
- **Capital Strategies:** Exploring ways to increase the capital available to support homeownership, property repairs and other revitalization activities
- **Wealth-Building Strategies:** Addressing threats to the historic role of middle neighborhoods in providing opportunities for homeownership and wealth building – particularly for black communities and other communities of color
- **Collaborative Strategies:** Highlighting collective regional or citywide approaches that have resulted in increased attention, partnerships and resources, and examining supportive local, state and national policy frameworks
- **Resident Engagement Strategies:** Ensuring that residents are engaged, connected, feel empowered and are well-positioned to lead efforts to strengthen their own communities

You'll come away with fresh approaches to bolster your revitalization work—and the models and inspiration to put those new ideas into practice. Whether you are new to the middle neighborhoods concept, have direct experience to share, or are exploring how you can work or partner to stabilize neighborhoods, this symposium is for you!

We also encourage you to explore the other training packages available during the Virtual

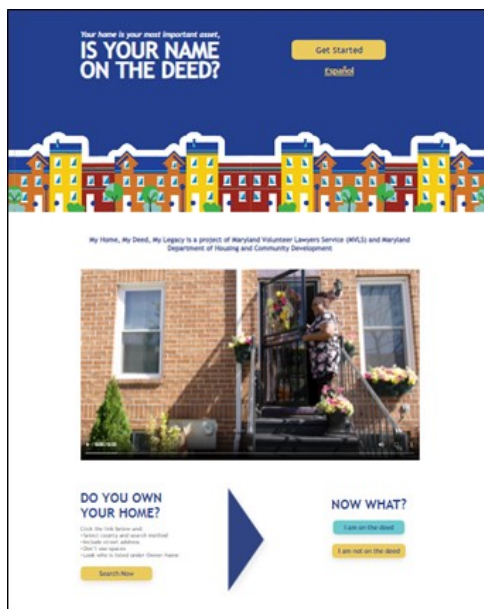
Training Institute. There are more than 70 timely webinars, workshops and courses offered throughout the week that can help to advance your middle neighborhoods efforts and your service to the people who live there. [Download the event brochure](#) for additional information on the training packages and pricing, and contact our Customer Response team if you have any questions at TrainingEvents@nw.org.

Interesting in learning more about the middle neighborhood concept prior to the symposium? Check out our list of middle neighborhood resources.



My Home, My Deed, My Legacy: An Innovative Strategy to Prevent Heir Property Issues and Preserve Family Homes and Wealth

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS)
Baltimore Maryland



Untangling titles is a complex but important neighborhood stabilization strategy. Upon facing case after case of tangled title, the MVLS wanted to find out what was preventing people from getting their affairs in order. They found that families were not doing estate planning because they did not think they had an estate. They did not understand the concept of title, and therefore did not know what should be done about it. As more and more cases emerged throughout the city, people wanted answers. MVLS decided to start an initiative to help resolve the issue and hired John Kern, the Advanced Planning Project Coordinator, to help. Kern's role was to communicate with neighborhood residents and help families create plans to resolve or avoid the issue of tangled title.

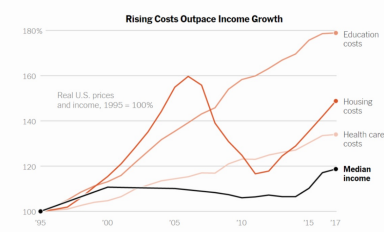
Kern developed an outreach plan to communicate with community leaders and stakeholders and with their help, developed language about title issues and a strategy to support people working through the process of establishing proper title. He helped create a website, www.myhomemydeed.org, to help families and individuals get the information they need about the home they live in and the action steps needed to attain clear title.

Title issues are not intuitive and are often not even considered until the rightful owner passes away. If title issues exist, it can be difficult and expensive for family members to

resolve them. If the home gets caught in a complicated process, it can take months, or even years, to resolve. During this time, the house may sit empty. It may attract crime, vandalism or fall into disrepair. The impacts of tangled title are not only a challenge for families, they can have a negative impact on the entire neighborhood.

[READ ON.](#)

Has income kept up with the cost of living?



Adapted from the 2019 article "The Middle-Class Crunch: A Look at 4 Family Budgets"
Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development report from May 2019.
Michael Förster, a senior policy analyst at the O.E.C.D.'s jobs and income division.

Data Viz: Median Income vs Cost of Living

The New York Times can be a great source for data presented in a way that makes a point and is easy to understand. Take a look at this line graph that shows the dramatic difference between the growth of the median income in America vs the growth of costs for education, housing and health care.

For the whole NYT story on the middle class, click [here](#).

Upcoming Free Webinar Topics



At A Glance

- Green
- Historic
- Walkable
- Kid-Friendly

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Join NeighborWorks America, the National Community Stabilization Trust and

FREE Webinar: Leveraging the Power of Real Estate Professionals for Middle Neighborhood Success

Monday, August 2 | 12:00-1:30 pm Eastern [REGISTER HERE](#)

Real estate trends are the focus of much analysis, strategic thinking and programming by middle neighborhood practitioners, and real estate professionals are often key partners in that work. Nowhere have community developers partnered more effectively with real estate professionals than in Baltimore, where neighborhood associations, small and large CDCs, and even city government routinely consult Multiple Listing Service (MLS) data and weave that information into neighborhood strategy with the help of

members of the national Middle Neighborhood initiative to explore ways to strengthen middle neighborhoods that are at risk.

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Interesting in learning more about the

local real estate agents as well as the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors. Join us to hear from three Baltimore practitioners about the impact of real estate markets on neighborhood health and resident psychology, local and citywide strategies to improve real estate markets, how to cultivate win-win relationships between middle neighborhood practitioners and real estate professionals, and how to glean powerful neighborhood market insights from MLS data. Bonus content: how to pay for it all!

Speakers:

Tracy Gosson, President, Sagesse
Jody Landers, REALTOR, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services/Pen-Fed Realty
Annie Milli, Executive Director, Live Baltimore

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Northeast Ohio First Ring Suburbs Focus on Middle Neighborhoods

The [Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Coalition's](#) Housing Committee was created to give Cleveland's first ring suburbs the opportunity to come together and focus on shared housing issues such as code enforcement, zoning, and to connect member communities to regional resources and program development. One of the group's recent meetings focused on middle neighborhoods, with a guest presentation by **Jason Powers**, Director, Middle Neighborhoods, City of Cleveland. Middle Neighborhoods CoP members **Kamla Lewis** with the City of Shaker Heights, and **Sally Martin** with the City of South Euclid, are members of the Housing Committee.



New Study of Southwest Middle Neighborhoods Underway

Alan Mallach, Senior Fellow at Center for Community Progress, and Marcia Nedland, Organizer for the Middle Neighborhoods CoP, are conducting a study of middle neighborhoods in five Southwestern states, including California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. They hope to learn about demographic and market trends and the challenges and opportunities unique to those places.

If you are a middle neighborhood practitioner or policymaker in Fresno CA, Las Vegas NV, Mesa AZ, Albuquerque NM, or Lubbock or Arlington TX, contact [Marcia](#) so that we may interview you or someone you recommend.

The study is being funded by NeighborWorks America. The results will be presented at the upcoming [NeighborWorks Symposium](#) on August 25. Use promo code VTISYMP21 when registering for complementary access to the event.

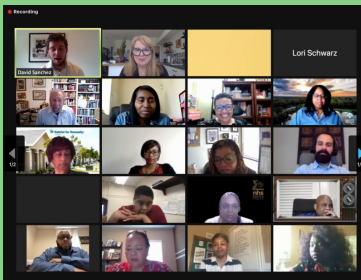
Seeking Practitioner Panelists for Upcoming Webinars

Do you work with any of these upcoming webinar topics in your middle neighborhood? Interested in sharing your insights and lessons learned? We would love to have you as a webinar panelist. Just contact [Ann DiPetta](#) to discuss. Here are some of our upcoming topics:

- Collecting and Using [Building Conditions Data](#)
- Assessing [Gentrification Risk](#) in Middle Neighborhoods
- [Uses of Recovery Funding](#) in Middle Neighborhoods
- Analyzing and Responding to the Action of [Institutional Investors](#) in Your Middle Neighborhood Housing Stock
- Activating [Parks and Other Public Green Space](#) in Middle Neighborhoods

And we welcome your suggestions for other webinar topics!

Photo of mural from Pigtown Main Street.



Recent Webinar Recordings

[How the Main Street America Approach Can Help You Reposition Middle Neighborhood Business Districts for Success](#), June 10, 2021 with **Norma Ramirez de Miess**, Main Street America, **Kim Lane**, Pigtown Main Street, **Paul Taylor**, Mayor's Office of Minority and Women Owned Businesses, **Diana Schwartz**, River District Association and **Earl Reynolds**, Deputy City Manager of Danville, VA

[Resolving Heirs' Property Issues to Protect Middle Neighborhood Stability and Intergenerational Wealth](#), Thursday, April 29, 2021 with **Shakisha A. Morgan**, The Griffin Firm, PLLC, **Jennifer Connell**, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas and **John Kern**, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

[Saving Commercial Districts – Strategies for Supporting Small-Scale Manufacturing to Create Jobs and Revitalize Small Business Centers](#), February 23, 2021 with Ilana Preuss of Recast City.

[What's Worth Keeping from Fifty Years of Attempts to Revitalize Neighborhoods: An Interview with Paul Brophy](#), January 28, 2021 with Paul Brophy and Marcia Nedland, Middle Neighborhoods Community of Practice Organizer.

Webinars are co-sponsored by the [Middle Neighborhoods Community of Practice](#), the [National Community Stabilization Trust](#), and [NeighborWorks America](#).

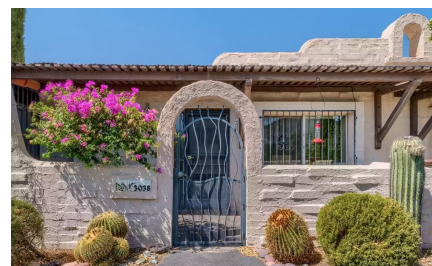
In the News + Resources

Please [send us](#) links to articles about your work in middle neighborhoods or topics relevant to middle neighborhoods.

[No Longer Forgotten: Lender to Invest \\$1.5M in City's \[Middle\] Neighborhoods](#), Lee Chilcote, The Land, June 22, 2021.

[Detroit's Black Middle Class Is Disappearing](#), Russ McNamara, All Things Considered, WDET, May 24, 2021.

[Akron's Updated Housing Strategy to Focus on 'Middle Neighborhoods'](#), Kabir Bhatia, WKSU Public Radio, May 21, 2021.



CoP Reports + Action Items

CoP Listserv: Don't forget to use our listserv, MiddleNeighborhoodsCoP@googlegroups.com to share announcements, news articles, questions and the like. If you are in the CoP, you are already a member of the listserv. If you are not a CoP member, but would like to join the listserv, email us.

Actions You Can Take to Grow and Support the CoP

1. Join and participate in the Listserv, MiddleNeighborhoodsCoP@googlegroups.com. This is the most direct way for CoP members to interact with each other. Share your questions and successes.
2. Submit an article, news item, or resource idea for the newsletter to [Marcia](#).
3. Host a Middle Neighborhoods 101 webinar for people in your organization or community to help them learn about middle neighborhoods and launch a discussion on local opportunities. [We](#) will help you plan this and deliver the webinar with you.
4. Submit an idea for a webinar or case study topic to [Ann](#).
5. Convene (virtually until in-person meetings are advisable) with other CoP members in your region to discuss a particular issue, or to start creating a regional action agenda. [Marcia](#) can help you contact your peers and plan your convening.
6. We can also help you convene a group of CoP members by interest rather than geography. Past convenings have included city government representatives.
7. Represent middle neighborhoods in local policy discussions. [We'll](#) share some talking points.
8. Propose and conduct a session on middle neighborhoods for conferences and other convenings or groups you participate in. [We'll](#) help with the proposal, recruiting panelists, planning, etc.