Community Engagement Chat: Engaging Communities During Demolition, Seeking Data Points for Strategic Planning, and Other Great Ideas

This chat focused on discussion and brainstorming strategies for engaging the community during a building demolition project plus important data points to include in strategic planning meetings (see list of ideas, below). The group also tested virtual 'getting-to-know-you' techniques including the invisible ball, popcorn, and "One Good Thing."

The Middle Neighborhoods Community of Practice hosts drop-in 'engagement chats,' where practitioners, residents, government officials, etc. can discuss community engagement strategies and build a supportive network to support this vital work.

Saying Goodbye to a Building

What's the best way to say good-bye to a building and what are some ideas for commemorating its history and include the community?	Create a time capsule with stories, photos, and interesting artifacts from the building to be buried at the new construction site.
	Build a virtual scrapbook web page with photos and stories. Solicit photos and stories from the community about experiences and memories.
	Link the virtual scrapbook with other entities in the community such as the historical society, the new owner/developer, the neighborhood association, etc.
	Contact a repurpose / reuse / recycling company to assess materials and salvage items in the building to be used elsewhere such as doors, light fixtures, sinks, etc.
	Host an 'Artists Day' and invite local artists to collect items they can use in their artwork. Later, coordinate an art tour or exhibit for the community.
	Reclaim a component of the building to be incorporated into the new development or green space.

What are some Middle Neighborhood Data to bring to a strategic planning meeting?

- Housing Stock Details: Age, number of bedrooms, number of bathrooms, etc.
- Housing Trends: Owner occupancy, home prices, rent prices
- The Commercial Corridor: Number of businesses, age of business, types of business, needs of business owners
- Demographics: Family size, income levels, etc.
- Try this tool for collecting neighborhood data: My Sidewalk -- https://mysidewalk.com/