

Building Community Wealth – February 2025 Engagement Chat Recap

The February Engagement Chat focused on strategies for building community wealth, with specific discussion about the [Growing MKE](#) plan in Milwaukee WI. The discussion included building strategies to help community members protect intergenerational wealth and advocating for zoning that aligns with community needs.

When cities adjust zoning to boost accessibility and affordability, that's community wealth building in action. While some believe the market alone will solve affordability issues, we know that intentional zoning is crucial. It helps to manage density and shape communities that truly serve residents. To ensure these plans reflect community needs, increased engagement and a balanced approach to development are essential.

Achieving balanced community development can be a challenge! The right stakeholders need to be involved: those with decision-making power, those who live in the area, and those who build.

Smart and responsible growth is key to avoiding negative impacts, which may include neglected investor-owned properties. Community wealth building means creating vibrant neighborhoods where people can live, work, and play and to do this, neighborhood plans that are both comprehensive and reflect the community's voice are needed.



Remember to:

- Gather the voices (and identify resources for engagement)
- Educate! Residents may not know if they are 'for' or 'against' it
- Identify goals and actions
- Work with LIHTC so it works with the community
- Coordinate with economic development
- Consider what sort of zoning support is needed
- Build on existing assets in the community
- Protect the strong features that already exist
- Create ongoing education strategies that work
- Map out a plan together

Care to share? We want your input!

Please [click this link](#) and answer a question or two regarding community wealth building in your area. We'll compile and share our collective ideas!

[SURVEY LINK](#)

Join us for our Next Engagement Chat when we focus on Neighborhood Education Strategies

When: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 -- Noon (eastern time)

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81690484111>

[Middle Neighborhoods Engagement Chats take place quarterly](#)