

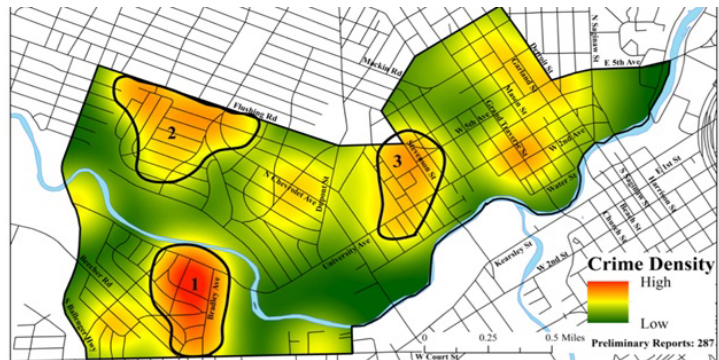


Safety in Middle Neighborhoods: A Placemaking Approach with Measurable Impact

University Avenue Corridor Coalition's (UACC) *Renew the Avenue* Project
Flint, MI

University Avenue Corridor Coalition's (UACC)

placemaking crime prevention strategy began when a group of neighborhood residents and program staff attended a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) training. This provided



an opportunity for individuals to connect and discuss issues and solutions related to crime and safety in the area. The group worked together for several years which eventually led to a \$1M Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation grant received by Kettering University in 2014 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund the UACC *Renew the Avenue* project, which had three goals:

1. Reduce property crime, drug related crime and assaults by 20%.
2. Reduce blight that facilitates crime by 40%.
3. Increase community participation.

How Placemaking Strategies Can Help Address Crime

The overarching theory behind placemaking for crime prevention includes the idea that crime tends to be opportunistic: it is easier for crime to take place in spaces that are absent of more positive activities and undefended by resident or law enforcement. By identifying locations with high crime or other unsafe activity –aka "hotspots" -- and examining what makes those places vulnerable to opportunistic crime, residents and law enforcement can develop plans to activate positive activities, and in some cases change the physical design to make those spaces less vulnerable. UACC followed a methodical process involving observations and mapping techniques with neighborhood residents to identify hotspots and design a variety of responsive interventions.

Continue reading [HERE](#). (you'll need to scroll to bottom of web page)



Coming Up: Webinar on Shared Equity Housing Strategies to Preserve Affordability in Middle Neighborhoods

Shared equity housing strategies - in which affordability is preserved for the long term through sharing the cost of purchase and any resulting profits from appreciation -- are gaining steam in middle neighborhoods as prices escalate and competition from investors intensifies. In this webinar, we will learn about the latest thinking in shared equity strategies from an expert on the topic, as well as details on two practitioner approaches to shared equity in their communities.

Shared equity strategies have evolved significantly over the last two decades. Attend this webinar to get up to speed and think about how you could start or deepen your investment in permanently affordable housing in your middle neighborhood. This webinar will take place in early January - watch your email for the announcement on date and registration. If you are not on our mailing list, sign up at the bottom of any page at our website, middleneighborhoods.org.



Out and About

Middle Neighborhoods Steering Committee Member **Jason Powers** of **Cleveland Neighborhood Progress** helped organize a roundtable series on middle neighborhoods in Cleveland, Ohio. Our Steering Committee Chair, **Lori Schwarz**, Director of Neighborhoods for the **City of Plano, Texas**, traveled to Cleveland to help lead a roundtable.

Welcome to a new member of the Community of Practice, **Sharon Cornelissen**. Sharon specializes in ethnographic neighborhood research. She is currently living and working in Brockton, Massachusetts, a majority Black city of about 100,000 people located 25 miles south of Boston. Sharon defines Brockton as a Black middle suburb of Boston, and is focusing on Black middle households' access to homeownership. A large part of the Brockton Black community includes immigrants from Cape Verde and Haiti. We look forward to learning from Sharon's work.

Speaking of suburbs, researcher **Alexander von Hoffman** of the **Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard** is seeking funding for a study of Black and other minority first ring middle suburbs. If you are a funder interested in this project, contact Alex [here](#).

In the News + Resources

1. [Virginia Beach's 1st middle-class neighborhood for Black families lands on historic register: 'It's something that everybody can be proud of.'](#), by Stacy Parker, The Virginian-Pilot, September 8, 2022.
2. [Detroit nonprofit: 'People are going to leave' without stronger middle-class neighborhoods](#), by Sheri Welch, Crain's Detroit, September 23, 2022.



3. [Richmond area housing analysis says most of the city is unaffordable to the middle class](#), by Sean Jones, Richmond-Times Dispatch, October 7, 2022.
4. [The 'Missing Middle' in American Life: Can We Get It Back?](#), by Alan Ehrenhalt, Governing, October 25, 2022.
5. [New book describes how Baltimore's black middle class moved to the suburbs](#), by Karine Delafosse, LocalToday, November 5, 2022.

Community Engagement Chats

Connecting with the Unhoused Population, and an Engagement Chat Update

IMPORTANT UPDATE! Middle Neighborhoods Engagement Chats are moving to a quarterly schedule. The next Engagement Chat will be Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at Noon (eastern time).

Josh Castle from the Low-Income Housing Institute in Seattle, WA, joined us for the October Engagement Chat to share strategies for connecting with unhoused members of our communities. Josh explained why and how middle neighborhoods are affected by this issue and shared information on *tiny home* solutions being implemented in Seattle plus strategies for building support in the community and maintaining connections with individuals. Sincere gratitude to Josh for joining us for this important conversation! The discussion was deep and the topic complex but here are a few takeaways:



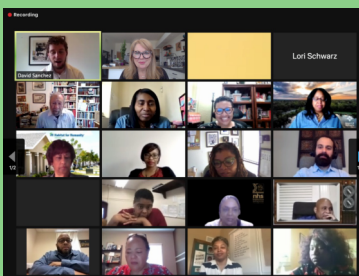
- It is important to develop clear goals for communication
- Sweeps don't work
- Create opportunities to connect and build a support system
- Create a coalition with representatives from different facets of the neighborhood including businesses, local government, residents, nonprofits, churches, schools, and individuals in need of housing
- Build relationships with family and friends who may be able to help share resources and information with unhoused individuals
- Community engagement must be big and broad: use every method to reach members of the community including fliers and neighborhood canvassing, social media campaigns, and broad outreach to businesses, nonprofits, churches, and schools.

[Click here](#) for more information on LIHI's Tiny House Villages.

Our next engagement chat will focus on strategies for building support for neighborhood initiatives and we invite you to bring other discussion topics as well. Please join us!

When: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 -- Noon (eastern time)

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86915343032>



Recent Webinar Recordings

New Data and New Ways of Thinking About Maintaining the

Housing Stock in Middle Neighborhoods
[Watch Now](#)

Holiday Celebrations: Effective (and fund!) ideas for Community Engagement
[Watch Now](#)

Strategies to Address Institutional Investors in Middle Neighborhoods
[Watch Now](#)

Equitable Place-centered Strategies for Safer Communities
[Watch Now](#)

Centering Black Prosperity in the Revitalization of Black Middle Neighborhoods
[Watch Now](#)

Mountain Town Migration: Understanding the Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Middle Neighborhoods in the Mountain West
[Watch Now](#)

Appraisal Bias: Actionable Recommendations from the Philadelphia Appraisal Bias Task Force
[Watch Now](#)

Mortgage Refinance as a Tool for Stabilizing Middle Neighborhoods
[Watch Now](#)

Boosting Neighborhood Strategy: Collecting and Mapping Primary Parcel-Level Data
[Watch Now](#)

Shut Out: Exploring the Impact of Institutional Investors on Middle Neighborhoods
[Watch Now](#)

Find all recordings of the Middle Neighborhoods' webinar series [HERE](#)

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

CoP Action Items

Custom Webinars: We often get requests for custom webinars on middle neighborhoods, which we gladly deliver! Please let us know if you'd like one for your staff, board, network, or community.

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 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.

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