

## MIDDLE NEIGHBORHOODS

May 2019 Newsletter



Cleveland community celebrates opening of new bike lane in Old Brooklyn with Mayor Frank Jackson. Photo credit: Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation.

## What We Talk About When We Talk About Middle Neighborhoods

By Nelson Beckford, The Cleveland Foundation

Picture this: a rectangular table with 30 leaders from Cleveland’s community development field. We were there to discuss the concept of “middle neighborhoods” and to provide a recap of the Middle Neighborhood working group meeting in Cleveland for those who weren’t able to join. I didn’t know what to expect. Will the group take offense to the term “middle neighborhood”? [Read more](#)

### In this issue

- [Updates & Announcements](#)
- [CoP Action Items](#)
- [In the News](#)
- [Events](#)
- [ICYMI](#)



## Updates & Announcements

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### Reflections on the "Building Advocacy for Middle Neighborhoods" meeting in Cleveland

By Paul Brophy, Brophy & Reilly LLC

On November 13-14, 2018 approximately 200 people concerned about middle neighborhoods in America met in Cleveland to advance practice, research and policy priorities for middle neighborhoods. This high-level summary of the meeting provides a taste of the discussion and outcomes to those who could not attend. [Read more](#)

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### City of Baltimore Begins Work on Strengthening Middle Neighborhoods

By Tamika Gauvin, City of Baltimore

The Baltimore Innovation Team (i-team) recently kicked off its work on middle neighborhoods, where one-third of the city's vacant houses reside. There are 22 national and global "i-teams", funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies, that are charged with working on issues that mayors identify as intractable challenges in their respective cities. [Read more](#)

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### City of Cleveland Hires Middle Neighborhoods Project Director

The City of Cleveland has announced Jason Powers as the city's new Middle Neighborhoods Project Director. Jason will lead an initiative to develop a strategy and toolkit to support conditions for development of mixed income neighborhoods in Cleveland. [Read more](#)

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## **National Steering Committee is Formed**

A new Steering Committee has come together to determine the methods, structure, and resources to sustain a long-term effort that brings attention and support to America's middle neighborhoods. The Steering Committee is comprised of 20 confirmed members, including practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and funders working at national, state, and local levels. [Read More](#)

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## **New Grant to Support Middle Neighborhoods Community of Practice**

We are pleased to announce that the Joseph & Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, based in Baltimore, is providing a grant to support the national Community of Practice. [Read more](#)

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## **CoP Action Items**

- **Community of Practice:** Are you a member of the Middle Neighborhoods Community of Practice (CoP)? The CoP is an informal, facilitated network of practitioners, researchers, and policymakers who share learnings through topical webinars, referrals, site visits, phone calls, and occasional larger group events. If you have ever attended one of our webinars or events, completed the CoP Questionnaire, or expressed a desire to be added to our contact list, we count you as a member – it's that easy. To get yourself added to the CoP, complete the Questionnaire (see next item below) or email Marcia Nedland at [marcia@middleneighborhoods.org](mailto:marcia@middleneighborhoods.org). [Read more](#)

- **New action item:** We're collecting insights on what's working to stabilize middle neighborhoods. If you haven't already, [please fill out the Middle Neighborhoods Community of Practice Questionnaire](#). Your input will help populate an [overview of services](#) provided by organizations working to stabilize and strengthen middle neighborhoods. Questionnaires also serve as the basis for [profiles](#) and case studies if you'd like to feature your work. **Please complete the questionnaire by June 24, 2019.** It only takes about 20 minutes.

The image shows a screenshot of a data table with multiple columns and rows. The table is color-coded with horizontal bands: a dark green band at the top, a teal band, a light blue band, an orange band, and a yellow band at the bottom. The text within the table is small and difficult to read, but it appears to be a structured data set with various categories and values.

- **FREE! Webinars on June 18: “Roles for Cities in Middle Neighborhoods” and “Intro to Middle Neighborhoods”.** Upcoming CoP webinars will be held on Tuesday, June 18th. Join us from 12:00-1:15pm EST to hear about the roles three city governments are playing in the revitalization and stabilization of middle neighborhoods. We'll hear from a medium sized midwestern city (Des Moines, IA), a northeastern legacy city (Cleveland, OH) and a first ring suburb in the sunbelt (Plano, TX). Learn about their decisions to invest in middles, their strategies and their funding mechanisms. Register for “Roles for Cities” here: <https://cc.callinfo.com/r/1uka7psbkamfc&eom>. Also, if you'd like to learn about middle neighborhoods and the Middle Neighborhoods Community of Practice, join us 11:00 to 11:45am EST that same day. Register for “Intro to Middle Neighborhoods” here: <https://cc.callinfo.com/r/1usxskiipvvv&eom>. Questions? Email Marcia Nedland at [marcia@middleneighborhoods.org](mailto:marcia@middleneighborhoods.org)
- **Postponed:** The third annual working group meeting for the Community of Practice initially scheduled for Nov. 14-15, 2019 in Chicago has been postponed. More information coming soon.



Parklet built by Greater Chatham Initiative to promote activity on 75th Street, on the Southside of Chicago. Photo credit: Greater Chatham Initiative.

## In the News

- ["Recentering the 'Middle' in Our National Conversation"](#) By Mike Norton in *Next City*
- ["How Detroit can become a middle class city"](#) By Nancy Kaffer in the *Detroit Free Press*. [Link to report by Detroit Future City](#)
- ["The Middle Class Is Shrinking Everywhere — In Chicago It's Almost Gone"](#) By Linda Lutton at *WBEZ Chicago*. [Link to study conducted by the Voorhees Center](#)
- ["The 'heartbreaking' decrease in black homeownership"](#) By Troy McMullan in *The Washington Post*

For past middle neighborhoods news, [visit the archive](#).



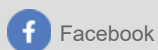
## Events

- [The Center for Community Progress](#) will hold its annual [Reclaiming Vacant Properties](#) conference on October 2-4, 2019 in Atlanta, GA. The conference includes a dedicated session on the links between middle neighborhoods and racial equity. More information coming soon.
- Save the date for a Chicago-based convening hosted by the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank that will focus on policy and research topics for middle neighborhoods in the region. November 15, 2019 in Chicago, IL. More information coming soon.

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## ICYMI

- CoP webinar on [Research to Inform Policy and Practice](#) now available to view and share. If you couldn't make it to the 2/21 webinar and would like to share your research ideas, email [amallach@communityprogress.net](mailto:amallach@communityprogress.net).
- Center for Community Progress webinar provides an [intro and overview of challenges faced by middle neighborhoods](#), also led by Alan Mallach.
- Earlier in May, the Federal Reserve Bank's annual [Community Development Research Conference](#) focused on strategies to renew the middle class. The agenda included a session on "Race and Communities" featuring research on middle neighborhoods.
- NACEDA presented the [People and Places 2019](#), an annual peer-learning conference for community development professionals on April 15-17, 2019 in Arlington, VA. The agenda featured a session on middle neighborhoods, "An Ounce of Prevention," exploring strategies being undertaken by community organizations to support current homeowners and comprehensive neighborhood place-keeping.



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