



Sessions

Concurrent Sessions - morning

Level 4:: Great Hall • Rm 400 A/B • Rm 400 C • Rm 417

9:15 – 10:00

Great Hall **Resilience Hubs: Strategically Strengthening Neighborhood Hubs to Respond to Daily, Seasonal, and Emergency Needs**

Nikki Vandivort, FUSE Executive Fellow, Lauren Clark, Public Ally, OES; Deanna White, Director of Human Services, City of Cincinnati; Crystal Russel, Jennifer Foster, Avondale Resilience Hub Advisory Committee

Cincinnati knows how to do resilience, but in times of disruption, it takes forethought and strategic planning to be effective and responsive. "Resilience Hubs" are becoming a popular concept for establishing places of safety during emergencies and equipping those sites with the tools and capacity to activate during times of disruption - like adverse weather conditions, a community fire, or natural disasters. Hubs can also serve day-to-day needs of the neighborhood with familiar services and programs such as food pantries, computers and internet access, job training, and more.

This session will feature two approaches to resilience hubs: 1) The City of Cincinnati's Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES) is piloting a neighborhood resilience hub needs assessment approach and resilience hub strategic planning in partnership with the Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio, Groundwork Ohio River Valley, and the community-led Avondale Resilience Hub Advisory Committee. 2) The City's Office of Human Services, in cooperation with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) and community partners, will discuss the OTR Emergency Warming Shelter.

Both approaches to community resilience rely on a place-based problem-solving approach. For the Avondale project, the neighborhood needs assessment survey, needs assessment report, and resilience hub strategic plan for the Urban League will all be done in co-creation with the Avondale residents through the Resilience Hub Advisory Committee. The approach will take survey data and Committee input on what is currently available in the neighborhood and what else is needed - daily, seasonally, and during times of emergencies. For the OTR Emergency Warming Shelter, a coalition of human services organizations, multiple City departments, Metro, and more pull together to activate during winter emergencies to provide a safe, warm place for neighbors in need, while meeting the needs of attendees with exacerbating challenges (health, housing stability, food insecurity, and more).

400 A/B **Power in Place: Strengthening Social Capital Through Collective Impact in Cincinnati**

Moira Weir, CEO/President, UWGC; Stephanie Collins, Executive Director, Westwood Works; Liz Blume, Principal, Blume Community Partners

In 2024, UWGC supported efforts to measure social capital both regionally and a focused examination of three specific communities, including Westwood. Moira Weir, President and CEO of UWGC and residents from Westwood will share results of this initiative and talk about

how the data drives their work around collective impact, addressing community needs, and fostering a sense of belonging.

Belonging means all people feel seen, heard, believed, trusted and respected. Most importantly, it creates a sense of shared ownership. Through this work in cultivating community belonging, UWGC wanted to better understand what matters to people who live and work in the region and how much power they feel they have to improve their community, also known as social capital.

Our session highlights place-based problem solving by emphasizing that effective community-based solutions must be tailored to local contexts while amplifying community voice and power.

400 C Healing City Cincinnati- A Strategy for Regional Healing, Resilience, and Transformation
Bishop Ennis Tait, Healing Cities Cincinnati (HCC); Dr. Lauren Forbes, UC SPIA, JFFC; Sarah Zawaly, Joining Forces for Children (JFFC); Christine Jacobs, Greater Cincinnati Resilience Coalition (GCRC)

This session introduces a high-level framework for an evidence-informed multifaceted policy strategy that enables the city to reduce the prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences, while increasing community resilience.

Essentially, the work of Healing Cities Cincinnati is multidimensional in that we combine a series of neighborhood level activities and systems change strategies that are aimed at reducing ACEs and toxic stress in the region.

417 Rehabbing the Regal: Community-Driven Approaches to Black Cultural Preservation and Neighborhood Redevelopment

Deqah Hussein-Wetzel; Toilynn O’Neal, Founding Director of the Robert O’Neal Multicultural Arts Center; Michael Burson, Owners Representative for the Robert O’Neal Multicultural Arts Center, Formerly Registered Architect in the State of Ohio, Retired Certified Facilities Manager, IFMA, NOMA; David Kirk, Owner/Architect with DNK Architects, Registered Architect in the State of Ohio, AIA, NOMA

This session demonstrates how Black-led organizations in Cincinnati use historic rehabilitation to reclaim and reinvest in their communities and leverage the dollars they have to raise the multi-million-dollar capital needed to complete the project. The focus on the Regal Theatre project in the West End is an example of equitable preservation-based development, a term that is just being introduced in the fields of preservation, planning, and real estate. By working to secure historic designation and utilize tax credits, ROMAC, DNK Architects, and Urbanist Media are employing site-specific strategies to transform a long-neglected African American landmark into a thriving Black community arts space and theatre. This approach underscores how place—both as a physical structure and a cultural icon—can play a critical role in spurring the revitalization of a historically disinvested minority neighborhood.

In bringing attention to the inequities that have stifled Black-led redevelopment, this session will also speak to the challenge panelists have had in securing the capital and resources in neighborhoods where race-influenced policies have driven disinvestment. Through this conversation, panelists will share their thoughts on how community-driven place-based problem-solving can and should be a collaborative approach—with people of color leading the efforts in redevelopment projects targeted for (and that impact) Black and Brown neighborhoods

10:15 – 11:00

Great Hall

Championing Place-based Initiatives: Current City of Cincinnati Initiatives

Brooke Lipscomb, Place Based Initiatives Manager, Amara Kinney, Place Based Initiatives project specialist, City of Cincinnati

Place making means offering a human-centered approach to addressing the needs of a city’s residents. The City of Cincinnati has spent many years investing in its 52 neighborhoods in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for our residents. Place making is an approach that we adopted to better connect and build relationships with those that experience the community firsthand. This session will educate our partners on how the city has used placemaking to help meet the needs of our residents as well as immerse them in our future goals to build upon and improve those initiatives.

Current City of Cincinnati Place Making Initiatives

- Rock the block
- Homeless Encampment management
- Tenant organizing
- Community Council Partnerships
- Senior buildings resident council
- Partnering with key stakeholders and constituents in City wide initiatives

400 A/B Inclusive Futures: Collaborative Solutions in the Building and Construction Trades

Dusty Bryant, Director, Building Futures, Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio; LaTonya Chichester, Program Manager, Building Futures, Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio; Brian Griffin, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council; Dwannika Crenshaw, Executive Board Member & Field Representative, Laborers International Union of North America Local 265

This session will explore the Building Futures Apprenticeship Readiness Program and its role in promoting inclusivity and collaboration within the building and construction trades.

Participants will learn how the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council, Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, City of Cincinnati, and the Ohio Department of Transportation have worked together to develop and implement solutions that enhance diversity and equity in the construction industry.

Through real-world examples and success stories, this session will demonstrate how place-based problem solving has empowered underrepresented groups, created equitable opportunities, and fostered a more inclusive workforce. By leveraging local assets and engaging the community, the Building Futures program embodies the principles of place-based problem solving, driving meaningful and sustainable change in the local building and construction trades sector.

400 C Neighborhood Power Building Through Story

Elissa Yancey, A Picture's Worth (moderator); Rhonda Glenn, East Westwood; Mildred Fallen, West End; Annie Ruth Napier, Roselawn

In our session, neighbors will share their experiences as story-gatherers and story-sharers in community story collaborations designed to center their voices and experiences to uplift their strengths and aspirations. Their multimedia story project, exhibits and events serve to build community power as they offset damaging media narratives that are most often presented without context or historical perspectives. They will share examples of how they developed community themes that focused on the strengths of their neighborhoods and the power and truth of their own expertise; engaged with multiple community partners and programs to elevate diverse community experts; and shared their narratives in creative ways that continue to reinforce fact-based narratives that bridge divides and increase understanding.

The community story collaborations that have launched in East Westwood, the West End and Roselawn (so far, with more neighborhoods planned) are living proof that place-based problem-solving builds new connections, sparks leadership development and increases a sense of pride and belonging in residents, allowing them to address a wide range of other issues in collective and effective ways.

417 Defining Your Perfect Role in Community Building

Kerry McIver, Alissa Riessinger, New Leaders Council Southwest Ohio (NLC SWO) Co-Chairs

This workshop with guided exercises, pulled from NLC Institute material, will help attendees understand more about themselves and the roles they can play in strengthening and building a more equitable and inclusive community. We will also have alumni to speak about their Institute experience, and how they became and stayed more involved in our community afterward.

NLC is a grassroots organization aimed at fostering place-based progress through rising leaders in the community, and our session will help show that everyone has a unique and important role to play in driving real, sustainable change

11:15 – 12:00

Great Hall

Crafting new connections: Best practices and creative solutions for neighborhood engagement

Kimberly Conger, Lauren Forbes, Noah Wolff, UC MPA-Social Justice program, School of Public and International Affairs

Engagement with residents and neighborhood stakeholders can be difficult regardless of where you live. But strong community connections drive positive change and long-term satisfaction in every neighborhood. So, what works? What doesn't? Why try? This session will include insights from several UC MPA-SJ faculty, a conversation with the neighborhood engagement experience of a UC MPA-SJ community project partner and a short activity to help participants brainstorm their own creative connections.

Stakeholder engagement in neighborhood contexts will help residents and businesses better solve problems TOGETHER. Too often, problem definition and solutions are offered by people who don't know the community well; but the sustained community engagement that helps to foster trust and drives substantive change is hard work. This session seeks to provide skills to create place-based stakeholder engagement for problem solving.

400 A/B Cincinnati's Hillside – Shaping Neighborhood Landscapes

Eric Russo, Executive Director, Hillside Trust; Matt Shad and Art Dahlberg, Department of Buildings and Inspections; Katherine Keough-Jurs, City of Cincinnati, Department of City Planning and Engagement

Cincinnati's hillsides are our most defining feature and lend to our city's exquisite natural beauty. Many of our neighborhoods grace these hillsides, creating a unique and memorable sense of place. How do our hillsides impact Cincinnati's character and how do we ensure that all future hillside development is sound, does not cause damage, and contributes to the establishment of safe and desirable communities?

Part education and part engagement, participants in this session will learn the history of hillside preservation, hear about the process for reviewing and updating the City's current Hillside regulations, and share their own experiences with living on or near hillsides and assist in crafting the goals and aspirations for its future management and development.

Cincinnati's hillsides are one of our city's greatest assets and are a defining physical feature in many of our neighborhoods, but hillside development can be a challenge. As the City looks to make sure our regulations foster responsible hillside development, we want to engage with the community to learn about experiences in their own neighborhood/property and concerns.

400 C 100 Years of Planning in Cincinnati: Why We do It

Couper Gardiner; Liz Blume, Community Partners; Mary Kidd Ray, Kennedy Heights; Caitlin Siegel-Hartzler

2025 is the centennial of planning in Cincinnati. We have the distinction of being the first City in the United States to have a Council approved plan, the 1925 Official City Plan. 100 years later we are still a City that plans for its future. We have done city-wide plans three other times; in 1948, 1980, and 2012. Individual communities have also been thinking about their futures and making plans to accomplish positive change. Kennedy Heights completed a neighborhood plan in 2022, and Westwood is just finishing their first plan in ten years. Come hear from these communities about their work and what planning has meant to their neighborhoods. Neighbors from Kennedy Hts. and Westwood will be joined by Liz Blume who will talk about citywide planning efforts.

417 Your Store of the Queen City: Lower Price Hill's Remarkable Effort to Keep Groceries Within Reach for All

Melissa Baker: Store Associate/ Community Wellbeing Coordinator, Meiser's Fresh Grocery & Deli; Danyetta Najoli: Consultant & People Developer, Your Store of the Queen City; Jasmine Taylor: Floor Manager, Meiser's Fresh Grocery & Deli; Marisha Davis: Store Associate/Catering & Deli Lead, Meiser's Fresh Grocery & Deli

Participants will learn of Meiser's Fresh Grocery & Deli history as a three year old nonprofit grocery store in Lower Price Hill. Participants will hear from store associates, most of whom are LPH residents, the new store manager, and the job and people developer to get a sense of how the store operates successfully. Participants will learn about the store's daily and weekly

meal programs that help to reduce social isolation and keep our neighbors nourished. Hear of the bright spots and challenges of running a neighbor-led grocery store and upholding the store's vision and mission so customers can anticipate consistent service and a stock of fresh fruits and vegetables for everyone.

Our session aligns with the theme of Place Based Problem Solving because we are solving a major problem in the lower price hill community: access to nutritious and affordable food for our neighbors. Also, our team members engage in problem solving every day to keep the store and its programs running at optimal levels. We recognize that it takes the support and insight of all stakeholders: our neighbors who are our customers, our associates who work day in and day out in the store and who interact with our customer base, our parent organization who provides leadership and strategic oversight, and the community development corporation who provide the building and maintenance assistance that keeps our infrastructure sound.

Concurrent Sessions - morning

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1:30 – 2:15

Great Hall **The Social Areas of Cincinnati: Understanding the Changing Social Needs of Place over Time**
Michael Maloney, Author, Advocacy Planner, Activist; Peter Petronio, Information Technology, Innovations for Program Evaluation at Children's Hospital; Jeffrey L. Dey, Information Technology, Social Areas Team

The next edition of the Social Areas of Cincinnati: an Analysis of Social Needs. Patterns for six census decades. is underway. This session discusses what it is and why it's important for understanding the places in Cincinnati and change over time. We will also provide examples of how the SES data have been utilized for specific planning purposes/projects

400 A/B **Balance: The City Budget Game Show**

Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director, City of Cincinnati; Brian N. Gay, Division Manager, City of Cincinnati; and Hannah Ryland, Management Analyst, City of Cincinnati

By involving contestants from the audience in a series of educational challenges involving City of Cincinnati tax rates, performance metrics, and the cost of public service delivery, this session aims to put the FUN in funding. After receiving accolades for "City of Cincinnati Project of the Year 2023" and "Ohio City & County Management Association Citizen Participation Award 2024" this session returns to the Neighborhood Summit in 2025 with instant classic fan-favorite games as well as refreshed gameshow inspired content. So, come on down and join the Office of Budget and Evaluation for the award-winning experience of "Balance: The City Budget Game Show".

Understanding the budget process and the cost of service delivery (in a fun-filled way) empowers citizens to advocate for their needs.

400 C **CPD's District 1 – OTR CPOP Project: Community Oriented Problem Solving to Reduce Burglaries and Break-ins**

Assistant Chief Matthew Hammer, Dr. Jillian Desmond, Gwenyth Altman, CPD District 1

In 2023, CPD's District 1 used problem-solving to address a spike in burglary/breaking and entering offenses. It exemplifies data-driven, community-oriented problem solving with an emphasis on place. Initial data scanning identified the surge in breaking and entering offenses in the summer of 2023 which significantly exceeded historical trends by nearly doubling burglary/BE monthly counts; however, this was not evenly spread across the district. Instead, collaboration between analysts, investigators, and community members determined 71% of all District One burglary/BE incidents reported between May and June 2023 were occurring in Over-The-Rhine and 45% were occurring specifically at restaurants or bars. Additionally, a high proportion of incidents were committed by a small number of repeat offenders and occurred at the same or nearby addresses around Findlay Market. In response, District One's team developed assessments for businesses drew from principles of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and instruments for monitoring the status of crime trends and chronic offenders. To date, over fifty businesses in Over-The-Rhine have been assessed and

provided with actionable, tailored recommendations to reduce the risk of victimization and the impact of associated harms.

For problem-solving efforts to work, the police must enlist the active collaboration of the community groups and individuals, other government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Evaluations of problem-solving efforts by police agencies consistently show that police can have a major impact on a wide variety of problems. Problem-oriented policing is rated highly effective by researchers who have reviewed the evidence.

417 10 Years of Learning in Place: Sharing the Outcomes from Social Innovations in Lower Price Hill

Mary Delaney, Alicia Hildebrand, Community Matters; Marsha Davis, Neighborhood Action Team

Over the past 10 years, Community Matters has been testing out a new non-profit model that blends social services, community development, and community organizing into a powerful place-based model. We compiled our learnings from the past 10 years to share with other community-based organizations. The session will discuss the model of building the social infrastructure of a community and share the successes and challenges we have learned over the past 10 years.

2:30 – 3:15

Great Hall

Having Fun: Fighting Social Isolation at the Neighborhood Level

Lynda White, Good Life Network; David White, Little Free Library and WW Play Music on the Porch Day; Ruth Quinn, Hartwell Croquet Society; Simon Grant, Breakfast Club; Damen Bolton, Green Living by Design

This panel discussion will share stories that demonstrate the impact of getting to know our neighbors. Through the simple habit of overcoming our reluctance to ask others into our lives, we have built a network of support and enjoyed a wealth of experiences. From sharing backyard fires, picking up trash, and establishing a Little Free Library, to hosting concerts on our front porches and in our back yards, establishing the Hartwell Croquet Society, and forming a monthly Saturday Morning Breakfast Club, we have strengthened and grown the social muscles required to learn that we can rely on our neighbors in a myriad of ways. In 2023, in his “Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community,” the US Surgeon General compared the impact of social isolation and loneliness to smoking fifteen cigarettes a day. Our society as a whole has become increasingly isolated, and the impact of this is even more profound for people who are at risk of being devalued due to racial or ethnic identity, socio-economic status, disability or other factors.

400 A/B Engaging Youth and Teens: After-School & Summer Programming

Daniel Betts, Director Cincinnati Recreation Commission; Jason Baron Park Board of Directors

Join us for an interactive session exploring how Parks and Recreation initiatives can effectively engage youth and teens through after-school and summer programs. We’ll highlight successful recreational and educational offerings that keep kids active, from sports leagues and arts workshops to volunteer opportunities and leadership training. Discover innovative ideas for fostering community partnerships, including collaborating with local organizations, parents, and volunteers to shape and staff dynamic, inclusive programs. Participants will gain insights on best practices, learn about available resources, and see how quality youth programming reduces disengagement, encourages positive behaviors, and builds goodwill among families. Whether you manage a community center or volunteer in your neighborhood, this session will equip you with actionable strategies for creating meaningful, safe, and enriching experiences for Cincinnati’s youth.

This session emphasizes place-based problem solving by focusing on the unique needs, challenges, and resources within specific Cincinnati neighborhoods. By tailoring after-school and summer programs to local contexts—whether through sports leagues, arts workshops, or volunteer opportunities—communities can effectively address issues such as youth disengagement and lack of safe, supervised spaces. Collaboration with nearby schools, nonprofits, and parents ensures that program design and delivery are informed by those who know the area best. As a result, these efforts lead to more targeted, lasting impacts and help foster a sense of shared ownership and pride among residents.

400 C Workshop: Developing Strategies for the Future

Ashley Afya, OneSource Center for NonProfit Excellence

The future isn't something we enter—it's something we create! Join us for an exciting, hands-on workshop designed to transform the way you think about strategy and sustainability.

Whether you're leading a nonprofit, managing a team, or planning your next big move, this session will give you the tools to analyze trends, set bold visions, and create actionable plans that drive real impact.

Through engaging activities like vision mapping, rapid scenario challenges, and a strategic speed networking, you'll walk away with a clear roadmap for success, fresh ideas for funding, and new connections with like-minded changemakers. Don't miss this chance to future-proof your mission and build strategies that last!

417 Building Community, Discovering Identity: The Mt. Healthy Transformation

Kevin Wright, Principal and Co-founder, Yard & Company; Andre Johnson, Urban Designer, Yard & Company; others from the CDC/Third Century Mt. Healthy.

Discover how we rallied the community, built a brand that embodies Mt. Healthy's unique spirit, and used placemaking to kickstart new development. By prioritizing improvements to the "First 16 Feet," we designed for an immediate and visible impact by showcasing the Uptown district's potential and personality to generate enthusiasm for the future. We'll share the challenges Mt. Healthy faced and how we turned them into opportunities for growth by listening to the community and building trust.

By focusing on the "First 16 Feet" as a primary problem-solving tool, we were able to design immediate, visible changes that directly address community concerns. We engaged directly with the community to understand their needs and aspirations and developed tailored solutions that reflect the unique character and potential of the area. Our approach demonstrates the power of place-based problem-solving to revitalize struggling communities and create a sense of place and shared ownership among residents.

Leave with the know-how and inspiration to make a real difference in your own community. We'll equip you with the tools to create a place where everyone feels connected, engaged, and proud to be a part of something special.