

# Neighbors Building Neighborhoods

MAY 23, 2022 | Great Neighborhoods Committee

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## Today's Discussion

- ◀ Neighbors Building Neighborhoods – Why and How?
- ◀ Neighborhood Leader Experience
- ◀ Emerging from the Pandemic
- ◀ Opportunities For Exploration
- ◀ Discussion and Feedback

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## Why We Focus on Neighborhoods

- ◀ Safe, healthy and inclusive neighborhoods are the foundation of a vibrant and thriving city
- ◀ Neighborhood organizations are a key connection point among residents and between residents and the City
- ◀ Engaged residents are stronger advocates for themselves & others
- ◀ Residents who know their neighbors are more likely to maintain their properties, to volunteer & to help others
- ◀ Relationships matter to getting things done



## Keys to Success

- ◀ Neighborhood Leadership
- ◀ Neighborhood Organizing
- ◀ Engaged Residents
- ◀ Trust, Communication, and Connections
- ◀ Education, Awareness, and Skills
- ◀ Project Opportunities
- ◀ Incentives and Project Funding
- ◀ Technical and Navigational Support



## Current Programs and Neighborhood Services

- ◀ **Civic Leadership Academy**- cohort-based learning and leadership advancement series that educates & provides personal development, networking and advocacy.
- ◀ **Neighborhood Board Retreats** - professional facilitation for neighborhoods & merchant orgs to set goals & develop action plans.
- ◀ **Neighborhood & Individual Training**- 35+ live and on-demand workshops.
- ◀ **311 Speakers Bureau** – provides engaging presentations about local government topics to community groups of any size at their request.
- ◀ **Service Area Liaisons** – serve as advocates, organizers, connectors, problem solvers and technical support for neighborhoods across the city.
- ◀ **Neighborhood Organization Contact List (NOCL)** –connects subscribers to information about grants, rezoning activity, workshops, programs, events and more.

## Ideas to Action – Community Grants



- ◀ **Grant programs** - support neighborhood capacity building and development of social infrastructure.
- ◀ **Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG)**- awards up to \$25k for community-driven projects such as community safety, beautification, literacy, mentoring, bike & pedestrian infrastructure, signage, branding, legal & strategic support, gardens, festivals, façade improvement and more.
- ◀ **Recent special incentive grants**- Placemaking, Little Free Pantries, Personal Clean-up kits, Meeting Virtually at Present (MVP), Community Connections Incentive Program (CCIP), CLT250, National Night Out (NNO) and more.



## Pandemic wasn't quiet, it was different

- ◀ **Staff implemented virtual delivery across programs**
  - Accessibility barriers were reduced, participation increased
  - Neighborhoods lacking digital access/literacy struggled to remain connected
- ◀ **NMG awarded a record number of grants**
- ◀ **Neighborhood projects were big, took longer, prices increased**
- ◀ **KCB saw record litter collection (3,612 bags) and a 54% increase in active volunteer organizations**

## Neighborhood Leader Experience

### ◀ Back Creek Chase



### ◀ North End Community Coalition (NECC)



## What We're Hearing & Learning

- ◀ Hybrid is the future.
  - Virtual service delivery is important for increased participation
  - Traditional programming & engagement remains essential for inclusive participation.
- ◀ E.A.S.T. - Make it Easy, Accessible, Social, and Timely
- ◀ Concern about the acceleration of neighborhood change
- ◀ Desire to be more welcoming and inclusive
- ◀ Neighbors are *beginning* to reemerge, they need support

## Exploring New Opportunities



- ◀ **Civic Leadership Academy Enhancements**- mini-CLA for youth, CLA for neighborhood leaders and Spanish language delivery
- ◀ **Special Incentive "BOOST" Grant**- incentivize and support neighborhood organizing/reorganizing and collateral/promotion of upcoming events including National Night Out, Reunions, Back to School, etc.
- ◀ **Increase Canvassing Activities** in collaboration with community partners
- ◀ **Community Engagement/Neighborhood Organizing Toolkit**- internal and external resource, guiding principles & best practices
- ◀ **Resource Guide**- helpful neighborhood resources in one place

**Questions?  
Feedback?  
What are you hearing?**