

NEIGHBORHOOD

# CONNECT

SPRING 2014



A TASTE OF MEMPHIS WINNER  
ORANGE MOUND COMMUNITY

# 2014 NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



EDITION



RECAP

## From the Director

### Robert Lipscomb

Director of Housing & Community  
Development

Executive Director of

Memphis Housing Authority



Congratulations to the entire team for an excellent job! The three day Neighborhood Redevelopment conference success is directly proportional to your hard work. All great achievers were hard-working people with a high level of self-esteem and rigorous planning of short-term and long-term goals.

I have heard nothing but praise from all who attended the conference. The presenters were well prepared and the sessions were well attended. Everyone felt that you did a superb job organizing the meetings, selecting thought-provoking topics, even getting us good hotel rates, as well as the Tiger Lane event, "A Taste of Memphis".

The conference theme, "Healthy Communities: Redevelopment from the Inside-Out" was certainly reflected in the diverse and engaging workshops, dynamic keynote speakers, and exciting networking activities. All of Memphis can be proud of how many of our city community projects were represented, and especially how our many different neighborhoods were highlighted. It was easy to see why Memphis is "A City of choice".

Congratulations on both a successful and a memorable conference. You have set a new standard, now let's build on it and keep the momentum going. The time is now to begin planning the 2016 Neighborhood USA Conference. Expect great things in 2016!

# NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECT



## IN THIS ISSUE:

### NEIGHBORHOODS REDEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2014

The city of Memphis hosted the Inaugural Neighborhood Regional Conference (NRC) held April 16-18, 2014. This year's theme was **Healthy Communities - Redevelopment from the Inside-OUT**. During this three-day event volunteers, corporations, governments, and community leaders, met to share invaluable knowledge that assisted in building and transforming communities of all sizes. Guests attended a wide variety of workshops about innovative approaches to neighborhood redevelopment and community building, expert speakers, fun and entertainment.

### A TASTE OF MEMPHIS WINNERS

On Thursday evening, April 17<sup>th</sup>, as a part of the Neighborhood Redevelopment Conference, conference planners hosted "A Taste of Memphis"; an event held on Tiger Lane specifically designed to showcase Memphis and Shelby County neighborhood groups and organizations. The focus was on more than 39 "Neighborhoods of Choice", to celebrate their unique qualities and accomplishments. The event offered neighborhood groups to work together, further strengthening a sense of community. Read more on Page 11.

**1st Place:** Orange Mound Community

**2nd Place:** Annesdale Snowden Neighborhood Association

**3rd Place:** St. Augustine Parkway Community Garden

## Testimonials from the Conference and Workshops

“Good time hearing what other participants are doing in Memphis; was good to hear participants talk to each other!”

*Anonymous*

“Promising information” “Great job!” *Anonymous*

*(Environmental Court: Judge L. Potter and S. Barlow)*

“Practical resources for understanding societal dynamics. The societal systems diagram was great! This session was very adequate. The groups did a wonderful job to plan the event. Much appreciation for the content.” *E. Young*

*(Intersections of Poverty and the ISMs: Jodi Pfarr)*

“As Memphians...We have a lot to be proud of as a people and community.” *Anonymous*

“Energy, momentum, encouragement to press forward with the information and knowledge shared in the workshop. Met people to interconnect with that have the same vision and mission for the communities.” *Regenia M. Hughes (Faith-Based: Community Resurrection Partnership - Rev. E. Whitaker & A. Beverly)*

*A. Beverly)*

“I am going back to my neighborhood and tell my friends and neighbors what I learned from the workshop.” *B. Miller*

*(Blight Patrol: Steve Lockwood and D'Andre Brown)*

“Her presentation was very educational and she kept the audience attention the entire time. She also distributed material.” *G. Robinson (Cultural Tourism: Jimmie Tucker, Pamela Marshall, Renee Kemp-Rotan)*

*Marshall, Renee Kemp-Rotan)*

“We need more of this all over Memphis; and in City, County schools.” *I. Tabor (Youth Engagement: M. Foster & J. Wilcox)*

*Wilcox)*

“A wealth of information. Seeing something already out there, proven and working gives you hope for your community.”

*R. Perry (Beautification: Repurposing Greenspace and Urban Art Commission – Robert Montague and Christina Lanzl)*



# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2014 SPEAKERS



Tim Bolding



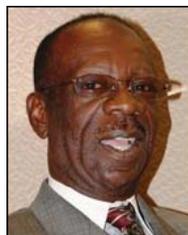
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Chris Krehmeyer



Jodi Pfarr



Elton Gatewood



Murphy Cheatham



Ted Howard



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Renee Kemp-  
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Pamela Marshall



Maria Furhmann



Abby Miller



Cynthia Norwood



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Ian Randolph



Christina Lanzl



Eric Whitaker



Anthony Beverly



Marlon Foster



Steve Lockwood



Deandre Brown

[www.cityofchoice.org/nrc](http://www.cityofchoice.org/nrc)

# NRC 2014 WORKSHOPS RECAP



## **Culturism Tourism: Strategies for Using Urban Trails to Transform Culturally Historic Communities**

**Jimmie Tucker, Renee Kemp-Rotan & Pamela Marshall**

The Seminar explored the strategies for taking neighborhoods out of the cycle of 'urban problem' rethinking them as unique, individual cultural centers that are intended to enhance and help grow the tourism and hospitality industries within a City. History can be both legacy and industry. All urban neighborhoods have the potential to become cultural hubs and healthy communities through the implementation of coordinated action.



## **Grassroots Organizing and Simple Approaches to Neighborhood Improvement**

**Elton Gatewood, Charlie Caswell, James Kendricks**

This was an interactive and participatory workshop. It was to present and share practical information, ideas, and suggestions on grassroots organizing by engaging the audience on how to organize, mobilizing and outreach, holding meetings, and elements and functions of community organizing. The information was presented on simple approaches for sustaining viable organizations, and steps and bottom-up approaches for making neighborhood improvements.



## **Grants 101**

**Felicia Harris-Williams**

This session was geared toward those with little or no grant writing experience and those people just wanting to brush up on their knowledge and skills. Regardless of whether you think you need a grant or a grant writer, there are some basic things about the world of grants that YOU need to know about grants first. In this interactive introductory grant workshop, Felicia explored the many components involved in planning and structuring an effective and fundable grant proposal in accordance with funder's requirements, guidelines, and areas of interest. Topics ranged from grant basics to strategies to crafting grant sections in compelling ways that will present your project competitively.



## **Regional Economic Development Initiative**

**Lisa Hankins**

The goal of REDI is to create a public/private sector partnership in this region of West Tennessee to address issues that affect job creation and quality of life for West Tennessee citizens. REDI has four areas of concentration: Education/Workforce Development, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Capacity Building in the region. REDI is the only regional initiative that has Education, Workforce Development and Economic Development all at the same table working together to make improvements in the region.



## **Beyond Housing**

**Chris Krehmeyer**

Beyond Housing helps entire communities become better places to live. We began with housing preservation, focusing on quality and stability to give people a place to start. But there is more to a home than the house ~ home is about the life that happens in and around the house, as well as the life that fuels and draws out the best of the people within it.

# NRC 2014 WORKSHOPS RECAP



## GrowMemphis

**Chris Peterson and Curtis Thomas**

GrowMemphis was founded as a project of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center in 2007 with community gardening projects in Hollywood-Springdale and South Memphis joining the one in Orange Mound. These organic community gardens would provide a source of healthy food in neighborhoods, turning vacant lots into thriving centers of community. In 2012 The Food Advisory Council for Memphis and Shelby County was formalized and continues to operate under the leadership of GrowMemphis. Since then, GrowMemphis has expanded by leaps and bounds to include new partner garden projects throughout Memphis, and currently has 27 member garden projects. While expanding the number of community gardens, GrowMemphis was also expanding in scope. In early 2010, GrowMemphis began convening a working group for the formation of a food policy council for Memphis and Shelby County. In January 2012, due to increased demand for community gardens as well as a need to expand food policy initiatives, GrowMemphis became an independent non-profit.



## Environmental Court

**Judge Larry Potter and Steve Barlow**

Vacant and abandoned houses and buildings are all too common in the modern day urban environment. These properties frequently pose health and safety hazards and are usually a public nuisance. There has been a paradigm shift in the way that real property is owned and processed in the market place. New challenges require retooling and creating new approaches. In Memphis, the City government is actively using civil litigation as a primary enforcement tool when owners of property abandon their responsibilities. The Shelby County Environmental Court, with presiding Judge Larry Potter, is the forum for such civil complaints. Judge Potter and Steve Barlow, staff attorney for the City of Memphis, will describe current approaches for holding negligent property owners accountable, and will provide an overview of tools for fighting blight in the modern reality.



## MEMFix, MEMShop, MEMMobile

**Marian Furhman, Abby Miller, and Cynthia Norwood**

MEMFix is a collaborative and community-driven effort to re-design and temporarily activate two or more city blocks for a day or over a weekend to demonstrate the “art of the possible.” The objective is to serve as a tool for engaging community residents and to showcase how great streets, active retail, and quality public spaces can be drivers of neighborhood economic vitality.



## Steps Identifying Projects and Funding Sources

This course will cover the steps to identify development projects and potential sources of developer and homebuyer subsidies that can be leveraged to successfully complete a project. Participants will learn the difference between cost, value, and affordability which will help identify the specific issues and solutions to developing projects. The group will then walk through an open case study to illustrate what is to be considered when evaluating a project and identifying market scale.

## Federal Sustainability Resources for Small Cities, Towns and Neighborhoods

Themes:

1. Role of planning and citizen involvement
2. Benefits (and difficulties) of Interagency cooperation
  - 2a. Promise Zones/Choice Neighborhood/Promise Neighborhoods
  - 2b. SC2
  - 2c. USDA/RD Strike Force
3. Partnership/Leverage/

**Moderator**

John Gemmill

Presenters: EPA - Michael Burns, HUD - Jerrie Magruder  
DOT/FHWA – Pam Kordenbrock, USDA – Bobby Goode  
SC2 – Sarah Sieloff









## “A Taste of Memphis”

Thursday: April 17, 2014

Tiger Lane at the Liberty Bowl Stadium

On Thursday evening, April 17<sup>th</sup>, as a part of the Neighborhood Redevelopment Conference, conference planners hosted “A Taste of Memphis”; an event held on Tiger Lane specifically designed to showcase Memphis and Shelby County neighborhood groups and organizations.

The focus was on more than 39 “Neighborhoods of Choice”, to celebrate their unique qualities and accomplishments. The event offered neighborhood groups to work together, further strengthening a sense of community.

The evening was a festive atmosphere that included entertainment and mobile food vendors. We had a “taste” of all kinds of food and music - enough to wet your taste buds and musical pallet. The event featured a taste of Memphis Bar-b-que, fried catfish, fried okra, hot tamales, and much, much more. There were different kinds of Memphis music, from downhome blues to smooth jazz to Mozart. We had it all...and of course, there was you - the icing on the cake - the best in Memphis neighborhoods. And that’s “A Taste of Memphis.”

As participants in “A Taste of Memphis”, neighborhood groups were able to work collaboratively to set up display areas. This was an opportunity for them to:

- Show conference attendees the many outstanding neighborhood projects you have done;
- Show off the awards you have won;
- Share that creative newsletter you’re so proud of;
- Boast about all the other amazing accomplishments you have achieved.

This also gave conference attendees a chance to meet you person-to-person. Everyone talked about their wonderful neighborhood and all the work they do to help make Memphis the “choice city” in which to live, work, and play.

### A TASTE OF MEMPHIS WINNERS

**1st Place:** Orange Mound Community

**2nd Place:** Annesdale Snowden Neighborhood Association

**3rd Place:** St. Augustine Parkway Community Garden

Special thanks to all of the neighborhood associations that participated:

University Place  
Legends Park

MHA Resident Advisory,  
Albert C. Sanders

Orange Mound  
Peabody Vance Nbhnd. Assoc.  
Handy Holiday  
Promise Development Corp.  
Binghampton  
Frayser Community

Harbor Town Community  
Association

Klondike-Smokey City CDC  
Cooper Young Comm. Assoc.

South side (Mid-South  
Coliseum)

Rozelle-Annesdale Area  
Association, Inc.

Riverview Kansas CDC  
Whitehaven Community

Downtown Neighborhood  
Association

Soulsville Neighborhood  
Association

Glenview-Edgewood Manor  
Area Association

McGruff the Crime Dog-  
Shelby County Sheriff’s

Blues City Cultural  
Memphis Outreach

St. Augustine Parkway  
Community Garden  
Barksdale Cloverdale  
Neighborhood Association  
Uptown Neighborhood Assoc.  
Annesdale Snowden

# A TASTE OF MEMPHIS





# 2014 NRC CONFERENCE COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS

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