

# CREATING WHOLE COMMUNITIES

2020

END OF YEAR REPORT



**UMSL** University of Missouri—St. Louis

**M** Extension  
*University of Missouri*



**CREATING WHOLE  
COMMUNITIES (CWC) IS A  
COLLABORATION BETWEEN  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
EXTENSION, UNIVERSITY  
OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS  
(UMSL) AND OUR REGION'S  
NEIGHBORHOODS TO  
STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES  
THROUGH...**

**RESEARCH**

Supporting place-based research on community building practice and policy issues and sharing research for practical application with community leaders.

Creating space and opportunity for community conversations exploring what works in creating whole communities.

**CIVIC DIALOGUE**

**LEADERSHIP &  
CAPACITY BUILDING**

Providing training opportunities and technical assistance to support leadership development and community building.

# RESEARCH



## Community Response to Gunfire in St. Louis: Research Findings + Community Dinner Event

**FEBRUARY 2020**

Beth Huebner, Professor in UMSL's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, presented her research on understanding neighborhood responses to gunfire using Shotspotter technology to the Walnut Park community. Her CWC-funded research provided insights such as the need for greater trust and cooperation between police and citizens, the lack of access to communication devices, and the importance of developing interventions that address trauma for persons of color. CWC collaborated with the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission to organize a "Gunfire in St. Louis" dinner and discussion event for **27 Walnut Park neighborhood residents** focused on tangible steps that residents can take to improve community response to gunfire and improve police-community relations.

**27**  
WALNUT PARK  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
RESIDENTS  
PARTICIPATED

## Community-based Participatory Research Training Series

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2020

CWC partnered with UMSL's Public Policy, Nursing, Economic & Community Development departments and the UMSL Community Innovation and Action Center to develop a new five-part Community-based Participatory Research Training Series to build the capacity of researchers and community stakeholders and to develop long-term, collaborative community partnerships in the St. Louis region. **This series drew 149 attendees over the 5 sessions.**

This series was held virtually and comprised of five 1.5 hour sessions:

1. Academic Research in the Context of Race and Community in St. Louis
2. Basics of Community-based Participatory Research
3. Trust Building in Community Partnership Settings
4. Partnership Connections
5. Funding Opportunities

# 149

ATTENDEES  
OVER 5 SESSIONS

**The CBPR Series Evaluations included the following feedback:**

*"I thought it was so helpful to get an understanding of how CBPR works, what the important aspects are to it (e.g., trust building), and to hear the experiences of people who have done CBPR. The stories of working with communities were helpful to understanding the process and how to deal with problems or misunderstanding that crop up."*

*"Discussion and sharing ideas on how to collaborate with community, and truly incorporate those voices with design, implementation, and dissemination of research. I also loved the history presented in the first session. I am interested in marginalized communities and how to engage them in this work."*

*"The workshop helped me grow personally as a Black/Brown ally. As a St. Charles County resident, it is sometimes difficult to find community connections that are diverse. I appreciated the opportunity as a researcher and a professional to connect with UMSL through this workshop."*

## Revamped Faculty Grant Process

FALL 2020

The CWC Faculty Fellows Program provides a one-year \$5,000 Research & Implementation grant to a University-Community Partnership. In 2020, a second grant opportunity was launched — a \$1,000 Relationship Building grant. This grant is specifically for faculty and community partners to engage in a relationship building process with the aim that this will lead to a trustworthy partnership, long-term collaboration, and achievement of community-desired goals. Through relationship-building strategies, both parties will explore interests, create an understanding of expectations, and potentially identify research projects with mutual benefits and goals. Funds will be shared 50/50 with the researcher's community partner and the grantees will receive Community-based Participatory Research training.

### THE CWC 2020 RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING GRANT WAS AWARDED TO:

**Stephanie Van Stee** and **Lara Zwarun** from the Communication & Media Department at UMSL and **Will Winter** from Beyond Housing for **"Community Communication Surrounding Sustainability in North St. Louis County"**

**UMSL** | Communication  
and Media  
University of Missouri–St. Louis

**BEYOND  
HOUSING**

# CIVIC DIALOGUE

## West End Workshop Series on Inclusive Development

MAY/JUNE 2020

CWC held two virtual West End neighborhood workshops on inclusive development in 2020 to support residents in developing concrete inclusive development strategies to implement in their neighborhood. The Planning Team and Steering Committee for The West End Plan used the results of the in person and virtual workshop series to inform their actionable neighborhood revitalization plan. **The series drew 76 attendees.**

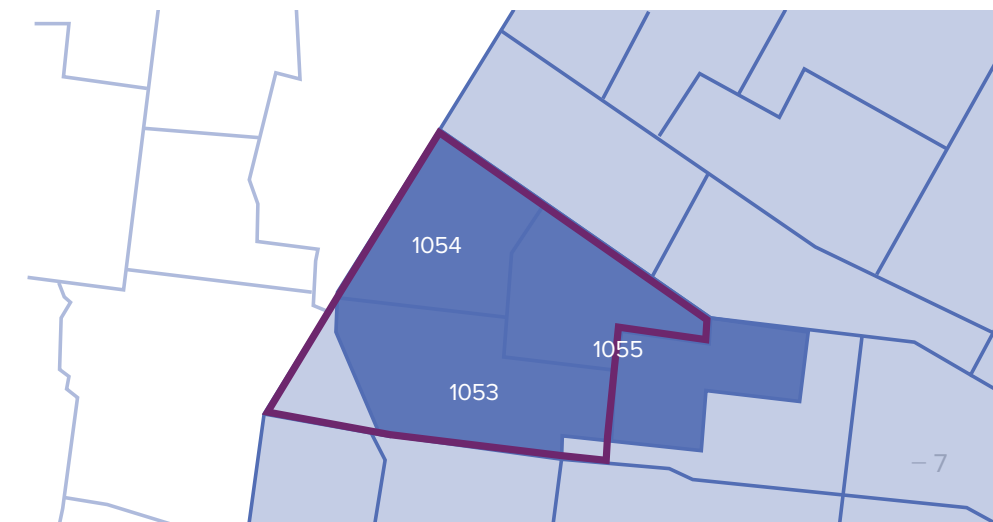
**76**  
SERIES  
ATTENDEES

*"I felt as if we all were able to provide input and scale down topics and issues. Individual interests and hopes for our community weren't lost."*

– Inclusive Development Workshop Participant

### ANALYSIS AREA

- City of St. Louis
- West End Neighborhood Borders
- West End Census Tracts



# LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY BUILDING

## Missouri Statewide Neighborhood Leadership Academy

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2020

In 2020, the Neighborhood Leadership Academy expanded to a statewide footprint and migrated the ten 3-hour sessions to an online Zoom format. **This year's cohort had 58 participants** from a wide variety of communities including Rolla, Florissant, Fulton, Saint Louis, Salem, Booneville, Trimble, Vienna, Republic, Jefferson City, Steelville, Greendale, University City, Waynesville, Billings, Ash Grove, St. James, St. Charles, Willard, Springfield, and Ferguson. **There are now 396 NLA alumni** across the state.

Through the 10-week program, each participant developed a project that would benefit their community. Project examples from this cohort include:

- **“Calvary Cares” food pantry project** to collect donated canned foods and household non-perishable items for a local nonprofit community agency (SERVE, Inc.)
- **“Birth to First” project** that supported high-risk moms and babies to their first birthdays
- **“Ubuntu Community Garden” project**, which was a community garden for educational training and provided fresh, healthy food

**This year, the St. Louis County Extension Council allocated \$500 in funding to help kick-start NLA projects.**

**58**

NLA PARTICIPANTS  
IN 2020

**396**

NLA ALUMNI  
ACROSS MISSOURI

### 2020 NLA graduates shared the following feedback:

*“I feel very fortunate that I was able to participate in NLA since it was expanded to a virtual platform state-wide. Coming out of the class, I’m walking away with new ideas, loads of information - some of which I’m still processing - and new connections and friends. It really was an inspiring experience!”*

*“I thought the connections/networking with other NLA participants was very useful and has the potential to develop into even stronger relationships in the future. I also really liked the whole concept of educating community members about their local governments, the government structures, and how to engage with them more. I think it is very important for all residents to know how their government functions, or how it is supposed to function.”*

*“I’m so happy I was able to be a part of the state-wide virtual NLA class. It has made a lasting impression on me; how I look at my community, cultivate relationships, and understand what I’m good at and can bring to the table so I can be of better use to my community.”*

## Neighborhood Leadership Fellows

### JANUARY–SEPTEMBER 2020

In 2020, Neighborhood Leadership Fellows—an advanced leadership program focused on systems change—hosted 18 sessions (14 virtual) over nine months and graduated 23 St. Louis Promise Zone resident Fellows. Fellows learned advocacy skills and strategies needed to gain access to civic leadership tables and halls of power.

#### NLF Program Outputs

Each Fellow created a 10-year Individualized Personal Leadership Plan. They also worked in groups to develop a policy-focused project aimed at addressing more equitable regional policies for neighborhoods and preventing violence in the community. Groups presented their projects to a panel of judges representing Washington University Institute of Public Health, Violence Prevention Commission, ReCAST and STL Mental Health Board with an opportunity to garner seed funding for their projects. A total of \$6,700 in funding from aforementioned partner organizations was awarded across three teams to pursue their projects.

#### NLF Group Policy Project topics

1. **Refund \$TL:** Advocating and educating on what it means to Defund the Police & Refund the Community
2. **I am Tomorrow's Promise – Dismantling the Divide:** Advocating for real estate professionals to receive training on effects of redlining & educating on benefits of home ownership within the Promise Zone (Awarded \$1,700)

3. **For the Sake of All – School Based Health Centers:** Advocating for sustained funding for School Based Health Centers (Awarded \$3,000)
4. **Creating the Whole Child:** Advocating for schools to support the whole child by providing opportunities and provisions that children need in order to thrive academically, socially and emotionally
5. **Having Peace and Quiet: An Equity Issue** (Awarded \$2,000)

#### NLF Fellow Individual Outcomes

Six 2020 Fellows have already been selected to serve on boards—the City of Ferguson Board, City of Ferguson Human Rights Commission, Community Development Financial Institutions board, Deaconess Foundation Board, and two Fellows on the St. Louis County Economic Rescue Team Commission.

Delesha George was selected to be in the FOCUS CORO Women in Leadership program. Audrey Ellerman had her story published front page of the St. Louis Post Dispatch featuring her work in revitalizing the Covenant Blu Grand Center neighborhood. Paulette Sankofa was featured in Higher Education Channel TV for her art initiative in North City. Mike Wood's organization, Dream Builders for Equity, was selected for a Launchcode Moonshot Award for “pushing conventional solutions to the limit”.



Photos courtesy of Maleeha Ahmed

# 23

## ST. LOUIS PROMISE ZONE RESIDENT FELLOWS

#### 2020 Fellows shared the following feedback:

*“I learned so much about myself and my abilities. This program allowed me to see that I am the change in my community that I have been waiting on. Now, I feel like I have 23–28 other cohorts, mentors, and coaches at the ready able to give me support, guidance, and encouragement.”*

*“Prior to NLF, all I knew was I wanted to help the community. After NLF, I am able to define what community I am referencing and specific disparities I want to work towards addressing. Before NLF, all I knew was I wanted to make a difference but didn't know how. During NLF, I was appointed to a St. Louis County Board where I was able to network with additional change agents in St. Louis and now, I have an opportunity to work towards closing the digital divide in St. Louis after graduation. I would have never considered applying for a board if it wasn't for NLF. I would recommend this program to anyone who is serious about improving their community.”*

## St. Louis Community LAB (Learn. Act. Build.)

### JANUARY–DECEMBER 2020

In 2020, CWC developed the St. Louis Community LAB website in partnership with InvestSTL, Urban Land Institute, UMSL's Community Innovation and Action Center, Community Builder's Network, WePower, and St. Louis Economic Development Partnership. STL Community LAB pulls together community development trainings in the region onto a single organized platform and aims to increase participation in the community building process by educating and supporting all in the quest to build strong, whole communities. STL Community LAB creates space for our region to Learn, Act, and Build strong communities.



### 2020 Course Categories:

- Local Government 101
- Neighborhood Leadership
- Anti-racist Communities
- Community Organizing
- Real Estate Development
- Economic Development
- Civic Data
- Coalition Building
- Non-profit Governance

### 2020 Course Offerings:

- Real Estate Diversity Initiative (Urban Land Institute – STL)
- Neighborhood Leadership Fellows 2021 (CWC)
- A Primer on Starting and Governing a Non-profit 501(c)(3) Organization in Missouri (UMSL)
- Chisholm's Chair Fellowship Pilot (WEPOWER)
- Fundamentals of Planning & Zoning Chancellor's Certificate program (UMSL)
- Community Based Participatory Research Series (UMSL + CWC)
- MO Statewide Neighborhood Leadership Academy (CWC)
- Start Where You Are: Collaborative Planning around Vacancy in the City (ULI – STL)
- 2020 Landlord & Rehabber Training: Does My Project Need a Permit? (STL Vacancy Collaborative)
- Introduction to Neighboring 101 (MU Extension)
- Landlord & Rehabber Training, Missouri and Federal Tax Credits and Tax Abatement (STL Vacancy Collab.)
- Becoming an Engaged Neighbor (MU Extension)



## Creating Whole Communities Leadership Advisory Team

CWC Leadership Team members advise and guide the development of current and upcoming programming through the contribution of their knowledge, skills and experience. Members are also directly involved in programming efforts, such as through interviewing NLF applicants, facilitating civic engagement events, and selecting Faculty Fellow grant recipients. The Creating Whole Communities Leadership Advisory Team composition increased to majority community representation, adding seven more community leaders to the team in 2020. This is the first year CWC began compensating community representatives for their time and contributions.

### **CWC ADVISORY TEAM MEMBERS**

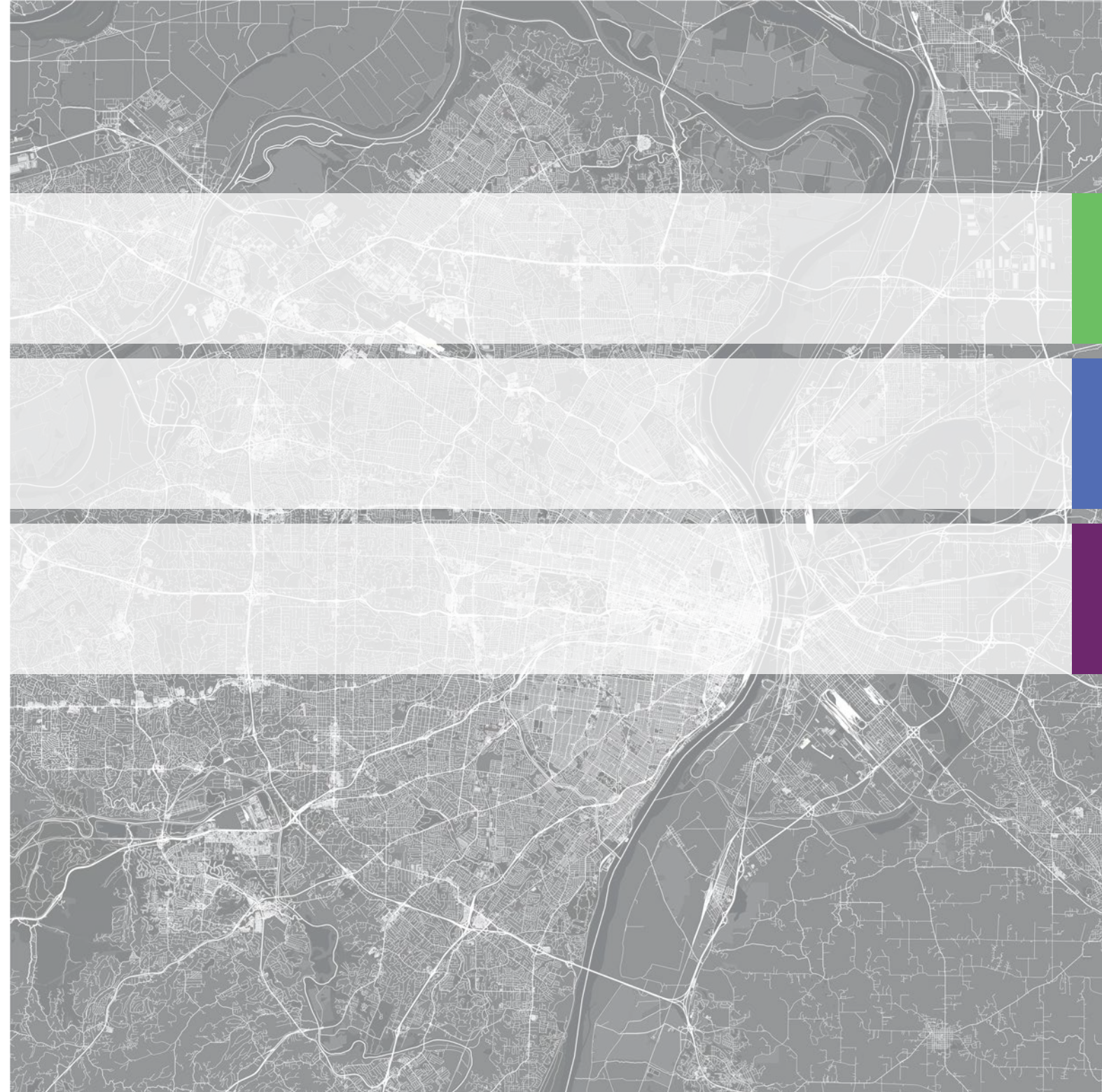
Sherri Bailey  
Kiley Bednar  
Adam Brown  
Roslyn Brown  
Riisa Easley  
Karl Guenther  
Ronald Jones  
Carla Reid  
Richard Reilly  
Florian Sichling  
Tonnie Smith  
Todd Swanstrom  
Adriano Udani  
Cathy Verberkmoes  
Patricia Zahn

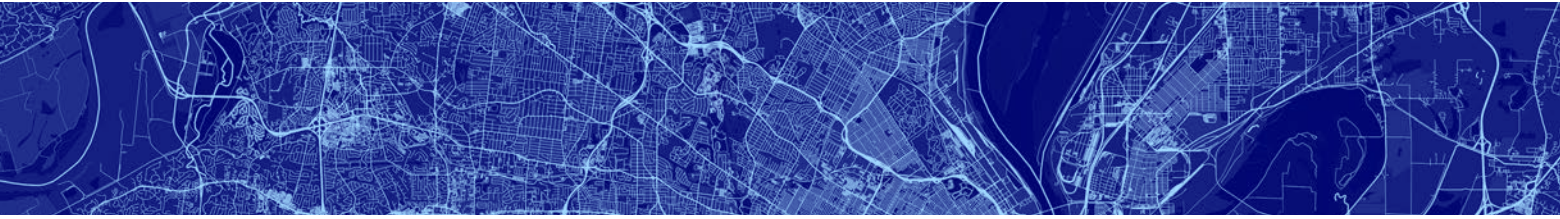
### **CWC SUPPORTING STAFF**

Claire Rippel  
Tasnim Haq

### **CWC UMSL ADMINISTRATIVE PARTNER**

UMSL School of Social Work





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COMMUNITIES**

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