Achieving Equitable Development in Communities

June 24, 2021
Welcome

Brian Holtzclaw, Chief
Environmental Justice and Children’s Health Section
Carlton Eley is Regional Equity Initiative Manager for the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. He is responsible for leading development and implementation of equity initiatives throughout the region in collaboration with regional planning commission members and strategic partners. Prior to joining MVRPC, Carlton led multiple projects that re-energized the American Planning Association’s focus on social equity. Also, he was the first urban planner hired by the Office of Environmental Justice at U.S. EPA, and he managed a portfolio on equitable development. Recently, Carlton was named the 2021 Sojourner Truth Fellow for Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan.
Equitable Development: Social Equity by Design

Carlton Eley, Regional Equity Initiative Manager
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
Short Talk on
Equitable Development

Carlton C. Eley
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
June 24, 2021
Equitable development is an approach for meeting the needs of underserved communities through projects, programs, and/or policies that reduce disparities while fostering places that are healthy, vibrant, and diverse.

https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

Cited by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University
“The Ingredients of Equitable Development Planning” (2019)
“The best preparation comes from...observing, recording, communicating, and self-educating.”

Randall Arendt, Landscape Planner

“Practitioners need to improve their proficiency with regard to working on social equity issues.”

Carlton Eley, May 2015
Timeline: Parallel Initiatives

- Advocacy Planning (1965)
- Equity Planning Practice (1969 – 1979)
- Equity Development (1983 – 1987)
- Fair Growth (2000)
- Equitable Development (2000)
Trending Upwardly

Attendance for the Equity Summit (2002 - 2018)

- 2002: Los Angeles
- 2005: Philadelphia
- 2008: New Orleans
- 2011: Detroit
- 2015: Los Angeles
- 2018: Chicago
An Abbreviated Chronology: Who is Talking about ‘Equity and Communities’?

2005

American Planning Association
Planning and the Black Community Division
Making Great Communities Happen

2015

APA
American Planning Association
Planning and the Black Community Division
Making Great Communities Happen

PolicyLink
Equity Summit 2015
All in for inclusion, justice, and prosperity

Greenbuild 2015
Communities & Affordable Homes Summit
Washington, D.C. November 17
An Abbreviated Chronology: Who is Talking about ‘Equity and Communities’?

2021

American Planning Association
Planning and the Black Community Division
Making Great Communities Happen

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
For science. For action. For health.

LIVING FUTURE®21
INCLUSION + UNITY

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON RACE & EQUITY

Smart Growth America
Improving lives by improving communities

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

EMPower DC
Organizing Communities for Power

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON
“Inconvenient truths must be acknowledged if we are to have wise governance.”

Al Gore, Nobel Laureate

- Inequality is higher in most metropolitan areas than in 2007. (Brookings 2016)
- Whites see wealth almost double from 1983 to 2013. (CNN 2016)
- For many poor families, housing costs are ‘out of reach’. (The Washington Post 2016)
- The nation’s affordable housing stock dropped by 60% from 2010 to 2016. (The Washington Post 2017)
- In NYC, ‘blue-lining’ is a new shameful form of housing discrimination. (Michael Greenberg 2020)
- Half-century of civil rights gains have stalled or reversed. (The Guardian 2018)
- In nearly every U.S. metro area, new data show opportunity lags for minority children. (NPR 2019)
- Approximately half the luxury condo units that have come on the market in the past five years in Manhattan are still unsold (while the homeless shelters are full). (The Atlantic 2020)
- Racism cost the U.S. economy $16 trillion over the last two decades. (Business Insider 2020)
Equitable development is an approach to meet the needs of underserved communities through projects, programs, and/or policies that reduce disparities while fostering places that are healthy, vibrant, and diverse.

Equitable Development Principles
- Housing choice
- Transportation choice
- Personal responsibility
- Capacity building
- Healthy communities
- Heritage preservation
- Stewardship (environmental)
- Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable wealth creation
- Civic engagement
- From Good to Great Through Planning/Design, Standard of Excellence

Source: Carlton Eley, MSURP (2007)
REAL TALK ABOUT
EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

“Fostering Social Equity and Inclusive Growth”
2018 National Planning Conference
New Orleans, LA
Neglect is a Self-Inflicted Wound

“It turns out that advancing equal opportunity and economic empowerment is both morally right and good economics. Why? Because poverty, discrimination and ignorance restrict growth.

When you stifle human potential, when you don't invest in new ideas, it doesn't just cut off the people who are affected; it hurts us all.”

-- Former President William Jefferson Clinton
September 2012
"Find a way to get in the way and get in good trouble, necessary trouble when you see something is not fair, not right, or not just."

Congressman John Lewis (1940 - 2020)
You will never change anything that you are willing to tolerate.

Myles Munroe
The Equity Challenge

- Rise above false choices.
- Be curious.
- Get comfortable being uncomfortable.
Dr. Joan M. Wesley, Associate Professor
Jackson State University
Community Development and Housing Concentration

Tools for Equitable Development Panel Discussion
Darryl Haddock, Clinton Johnson, Alexis Rourk and Todd Reynolds
Darryl Haddock is currently the Environmental Education Director for West Atlanta Watershed Alliance. He completed Jacksonville University with a BA in Geography and is currently enrolled in Georgia State University with plans to receive a master’s degree in Geoscience and Applied GIS. Darryl has nearly 20 years of professional experience as an environmental scientist working for the consulting firm, Dames and Moore, as a principal investigator with USGS on a subsurface mapping project and as Environmental Specialist for the State of Georgia, Environmental Protection Division. Both Environmental Leadership Program and Toyota Together Green/ National Audubon Society recognized him as a fellow and emerging leader in the environment and conservation movements. He is certified as a Project WET Trainer, an Interpretive Guide by the National Association for Interpretation and is also completing his Environmental Education certification program with Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia (ATEEG); which is a nationally accredited, professional certification program for formal and non-formal educators. Darryl coordinates educational programs, community outreach and citizen science research activities and participates in WAWA’s day to day operations.
Darryl Haddock

• Environmental Education Director at West Atlanta Watershed Alliance.
• Urban Waters Federal Partnership's Proctor Creek Ambassador and
• Proctor Creek Stewardship Council.
Sustainable Community Engagement that Achieves Equitable Development for Communities
Clinton Johnson helps organizations create geospatial strategies for equitable outcomes. He takes an empathic approach to technology that begins with understanding real-world challenges faced by diverse communities and finding creative ways to implement practical solutions. Clinton leads Esri's Racial Equity Unified Team. He also founded and leads NorthStar, an employee community focused on increasing representation, inclusion and belonging for people of African descent in GIS. He is also an advocate for belonging and equity for people from underrepresented groups in GIS and STEM more broadly.
Applying GIS as a Framework for Racial Equity & Social Justice
GIS as a Racial Equity **Framework**

Comprehensive resources to support racial equity initiatives ...

**Racial Equity Lens**
A methodology for using location intelligence to apply a racial equity lens to assess equity

**Racial Equity Workflow**
Assess racial and social equity and drive change for more equitable outcomes

**Racial Equity Configurations**
Product and solution configurations to help operationalize racial justice

**Racial Equity Envisioning**
Implementation planning support for enterprise-wide racial equity efforts
Racial Equity Lens

LOCATION
(Country, Region, State, City, County, Neighborhood, Census Areas)

Race / Ethnicity, Caste

Immigration Status, Nationality, Country of Origin

Gender, Sexual Orientation, Age, Ability

Class, Income, Home Ownership, etc.

Religion

Language
GIS as a Racial Equity **Framework**

Racial Equity **Workflow**

- Assess racial and social equity and drive change for more equitable outcomes
Community Outcome Streams

**Decisions & Practices**
Policies, programs, systems, messaging, and budget decisions that drive downstream community conditions, assets, and outcomes

**Community Assets & Conditions**
Circumstances and resources that stem from upstream systems that provide advantages or create disadvantages for individuals, families, and communities

**Outcomes**
Downstream individual and group results that tend to be more visible than community conditions and assets
Community Outcome Streams

Downstream individual and group results that tend to be more visible than Community Assets & Conditions

- Entrepreneurship
- Academic Performance
- Diabetes Management
- Birth Weight
- Asthma Management
- Mental Illness Management
- Employment Rates
- Home Ownership
- Many other individual, family, and community results
Community Outcome Streams

Community Assets & Conditions

Circumstances and resources that stem from upstream systems that provide advantages or create disadvantages for individuals, families, and communities

- **Live**: Housing quality, quality of schools, employment rates, wages & earnings
- **Work**: Availability of insurance, quality of healthcare, pay gaps
- **Play**: Food security, parks & recreation safety & access, air quality
- **Travel**: Community economic development, proportionality of justice systems
- **Community**: Many other conditions across a wide range community concerns
Community Outcome Streams

Decisions & Practices

Policies, programs, systems, messaging, and budget decisions that drive downstream community conditions, assets, and outcomes

Create or Sustain:

- Structural Racism or Discrimination
- Class or Gender Bias
- Lack of Access to Resources & Power
- Intergenerational Inequities
Community Outcome Streams

Decisions & Practices
Policies, programs, systems, messaging, and budget decisions that drive downstream community conditions, assets and outcomes

Community Assets & Conditions
Circumstances and resources that stem from upstream systems that provide advantages or create disadvantages for individuals, families, and communities

Outcomes
Downstream individual and group results that tend to be more visible than community conditions and assets
**Equity Root Cause Analysis**

**Decisions & Practices**

Policies, programs, systems, messaging, and budget decisions that drive downstream community conditions, assets and outcomes

- Structural Racism or Discrimination
- Class or Gender Bias
- Lack of Access to Resources & Power
- Intergenerational Inequities

St Louis, MO

- A – Best
- B – Still Desirable
- C - Declining
- D - Hazardous
Equity Root Cause Analysis

Community Assets & Conditions

Circumstances and resources that stem from upstream systems that provide advantages or create disadvantages for individuals, families, and communities

- Dilapidated housing, poor quality schools, unemployment, low wage work
- Limited insurance, low quality healthcare, pay gaps
- Food insecurity, limited and unsafe parks & recreation resources, tree coverage and vegetation, paved surfaces
- Absence of community economic development, disproportionality in justice systems
- Many other conditions across a wide range community concerns

St Louis, MO

- Warmest areas
- Coolest areas
- Date: July 18, 2019
- HOLC class labels
Circumstances and resources that stem from upstream systems that provide advantages or create disadvantages for individuals, families, and communities.

**Community Assets & Conditions**

- Dilapidated housing, poor quality schools, unemployment, low wage work
- Limited insurance, low quality healthcare, pay gaps
- Food insecurity, limited and unsafe parks & recreation resources, tree coverage and vegetation, paved surfaces
- Absence of community economic development, disproportionality in justice systems
- Many other conditions across a wide range community concerns

**St Louis, MO**

- HOLC Grade A
- Coolest areas
- High Tree Coverage and Vegetation

A – Best
Equity Root Cause Analysis

Community Assets & Conditions

Circumstances and resources that stem from upstream systems that provide advantages or create disadvantages for individuals, families, and communities

- Dilapidated housing, poor quality schools, unemployment, low wage work
- Limited insurance, low quality healthcare, pay gaps
- Food insecurity, limited and unsafe parks & recreation resources, tree coverage and vegetation, paved surfaces
- Absence of community economic development, disproportionality in justice systems
- Many other conditions across a wide range community concerns

St Louis, MO

- HOLC Grade D
- Warmest areas
- Low Tree Coverage and Vegetation
- High Proportion of Paved Surfaces

D - Hazardous
Equity Root Cause Analysis

Outcomes

Downstream individual and group results that tend to be more visible than community conditions and assets

- Higher Energy Bills
- Smoking
- Overweight/Obesity
- No Physical Activity
- Chronic Respiratory Symptoms
- High Blood Pressure
- High Cholesterol
- Pre-Term Birth
- Cardiovascular & Respiratory Disease, Death

Deaths from
- heat stroke and related conditions
- cardiovascular disease,
- respiratory disease, and
- cerebrovascular disease.

Hospital admissions for
- cardiovascular,
- kidney, and
- respiratory disorders.

Extreme summer heat (US)
- extreme heat events more frequent and intense

Deaths from:
• heat stroke and related conditions
• cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and cerebrovascular disease.

Hospital admissions for:
• cardiovascular,
• kidney, and respiratory disorders.

Extreme summer heat (US):
• extreme heat events more frequent and intense
Unhealthy Community Outcome Streams

Decisions & Practices

- Structural Racism or Discrimination
  - Lack of inclusion in economic development
  - Low educational attainment in low income, Black and Latinx communities
  - Disproportional diabetes-related hospitalizations, amputations, & deaths
- Class or Gender Bias
  - Disproportional low birth weight
  - Disproportional asthma-related hospitalizations, amputations, & deaths
- Lack of Access to Resources & Power
  - Poor mental illness management
  - Disproportional unemployment rates
- Intergenerational Inequities
  - Low home ownership
  - Disparities in many other individual, family, and community results

Community Assets & Conditions

- Poor housing quality, low quality of schools, low wage work
- Low availability of insurance, poor quality of healthcare, racial & gender pay gaps
- Food insecurity, limited parks & recreation safety & access, poor air quality, inefficient transportation systems
- Low community economic development, disproportionality of justice systems
- Many other disparities in access to resources & exposure to harmful conditions across a wide range community concerns

Outcomes

- Lack of inclusion in economic development
- Low educational attainment in low income, Black and Latinx communities
- Disproportional diabetes-related hospitalizations, amputations, & deaths
- Disproportional low birth weight
- Disproportional asthma-related hospitalizations, amputations, & deaths
- Poor mental illness management
- Disproportional unemployment rates
- Low home ownership
- Disparities in many other individual, family, and community results
**Healthy Community Outcome Streams**

### Decisions & Practices
- Antiracist Practices
- Pro-equity Decisions
- Equitable Distribution of Resources & Power
- Intergenerational Remediation & Healing

### Community Assets & Conditions
- High quality housing, high quality of schools, higher wages & earnings
- Availability of insurance, quality of healthcare, pay gaps
- Food security, parks & recreation safety & access, air quality
- Community economic development, proportionality of justice systems
- Many other conditions across a wide range community concerns

### Outcomes
- Entrepreneurship
- Academic Performance
- Diabetes Management
- Birth Weight
- Asthma Management
- Mental Illness Management
- Equitable Employment Rates
- Home Ownership
- Many other individual, family, and community results
Spatial Analysis and Data Science
Analysis with The Science of Where

Data engineering
Visualization and exploration
Spatial analysis
Machine learning and artificial intelligence
Big data analytics
Modeling and scripting
Sharing and collaboration
Living Atlas: Esri Maps for Public Policy
Policy maps clearly show where there are opportunities to intervene.
GIS as a Racial Equity Framework

Comprehensive resources to support racial equity initiatives ...

Racial Equity Lens
A methodology for using location intelligence to apply a racial equity lens to assess equity

Racial Equity Workflow
Assess racial and social equity and drive change for more equitable outcomes

Racial Equity Configurations
Product and solution configurations to help operationalize racial justice

Racial Equity Envisioning
Implementation planning support for enterprise-wide racial equity efforts
Resources

- Esri’s Racial Equity Site (https://www.esri.com/racial-equity)
  - Relevant and authoritative resources for mapping and analysis of racial inequities

  - Relevant and authoritative resources for mapping and analysis of racial inequities

- The Racial Equity Community Outreach solution
  - Information and links to the ready-to-deploy no-cost solution.

- Explore your locality with Esri Maps for Public Policy
  - Interact with data on social equity, health, economic opportunity, environment, public safety and more
Alexis Rourk Reyes works at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Community Revitalization (EPA OCR), part of the Office of Policy at EPA headquarters. At EPA OCR, Alexis leads technical assistance on equitable development as part of the Building Blocks program and manages the development, maintenance, and dissemination of geospatial tools. Alexis also supports other technical assistance programs in supporting communities with enhanced data analysis or outreach and partnership with marginalized groups, helping local partners engage members of BIPOC and other underrepresented communities to ensure that community-driven action planning is done with their meaningful participation. Prior to EPA OCR, Alexis worked in EPA’s Office of Global Affairs and Policy on international efforts around food waste and air quality. Alexis has also worked in community-based planning, environmental justice, and public health in New York City as well as on national community engagement and capacity-building for federal agencies like the NIH and CDC. Alexis served in Costa Rica as a Peace Corps Volunteer and is fluent in Spanish. Alexis holds a Masters degree in City and Regional Planning from the Pratt Institute and undergraduate degree in Urban Poverty Studies from the University of Maryland and College Park.
Mapping in Support of Equitable Development

Alexis Rourk Reyes
(she, her, hers)
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Community Revitalization
Rourk.alexis@epa.gov
(202) 564-3179

Number of Senior Homeowners (Labeled)
Already Burdened by Housing Costs in Areas with Rising Costs
EPA Building Blocks Equitable Development
Decoding Displacement Working Session
West End & Visitation Park
November 2020

Legend
Owner households whose householder is 65 years and over whose monthly owner costs are 35.0 percent or more of household income
Change 2011-2016 (percent)
Decreased up to 13%
1-9% (6% average)
10-31%
32-52%
53-74%
Since 1996, EPA’s Office of Community Revitalization (formerly Office of Sustainable Communities) has been helping communities grow in ways that expand economic opportunity, protect human health and the environment, and create and enhance the places that people love.

✓ Provide technical and planning assistance to communities

✓ Develop tools and publications to help communities achieve their goals for growth

✓ Working with federal, state, and local governments, non-profits, and the private sector to help implement smart growth strategies that meet community goals
Thoughts on Approach

We want to support marginalized and underserved community members as they:

- Participate
- Prioritize
- Decide
- Act
- Take power
- Lead change

We keep this in mind as we do this work:

- For whom?
- Build skills, relationships, and structures
- Don’t assume this is new
- Look on the bright side
- Ground-truth and collaborate
- Eyes on decision-making and outcomes
- Keep good notes, photos, and data
- Honor each person’s time and experience
- Mind complementing and competing issues
- Contribute to a positive narrative
Opportunity Zone Mapper (Beta Version)
Who lives in Opportunity Zones in EPA Region 4?

### Race and Ethnicity in EPA Region 4 Qualified Opportunity Zones

#### Mean % Population Black/African American
#### Mean % Population Hispanic/Latinx
#### Mean % Non-Hispanic White
#### Mean % Population American Indian/Alaska Native
#### Mean % Population AAPI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th># of Qualified Opportunity Zones</th>
<th>Population (ACS 2018)</th>
<th>Mean EJSCREEN Demographic Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>605,786</td>
<td>75.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>1,956,421</td>
<td>79.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>1,022,732</td>
<td>85.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>556,583</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>442,086</td>
<td>75.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>1,124,946</td>
<td>73.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>536,868</td>
<td>76.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>701,293</td>
<td>67.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1652</td>
<td>6,946,715</td>
<td>75.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where does opportunity meet need and desire?
What parts of the community are treasured? By whom?
What is needed to help close the gap?
Who is at the table and who is not (yet)?
Where do community members want to do this work?
What’s happening out there?
Who is making the community stronger? Where are they?
Where can people find good salaries and employment?
What kind of action is needed and where?
Which maps can be used to act...now and in the future?
Thank you and Keep in Touch!

Alexis Rourk Reyes
(she, her, hers)
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Community Revitalization
Rourk.alexis@epa.gov
(202) 564-3179
Todd Reynolds is the Executive Director of Groundwork New Orleans. He has over 30 years of extensive experience in education, youth development & advocacy, project management, and design build construction. Todd has spent the majority of his career advocating for young people. He has a rock-solid commitment to educating and empowering youth from under-served communities throughout the country.

Todd has worked within the New Orleans community for the past 14 years. As Principal of the NET Charter High School, he played a major role in the expansion of the School’s Network by helping guide the organization’s development and implementation of three (3) satellite schools specifically designed to work with At-Risk and Out of School Youth in multiple locations of New Orleans.

As the Executive Director of Groundwork New Orleans, through a mixture of Community Based, Foundation, and Public-Private relationships he has greatly expanded the trust's operating budget, programs, capacity and public presence.

Todd holds a Masters of Science in Community Economic Development from the University of Southern New Hampshire and is certified in National Green Infrastructure (NGCIP), Center For Watershed Protection (CWP), Clean Water Certificate Trainer as well as Quality Control for Government Contractors through the United States Army Corps of Engineers. He is currently studying for the Louisiana State Horticulture license to further enhance Groundwork New Orleans Capacity.
Developing Equitable and Sustainable Pathways for Communities to Access Workforce Development
The Opportunity

A New Workforce Development Paradigm
Invest, Train, Certify, Employ
Traditional Workforce Development

Traditional Workforce Development: 7-10 Week Program

Check Box Orientated Training

Increased amount of Graduates

Limited amount of Actual Job-Career Placements

“18-24 years of Disenfranchisement can not be solved in 10 weeks”
Non Traditional

Make Clear Long-Term Investments in People

2-3 Years Minimum

Diversify Opportunities

Create a clear pathway to employment

Build a Solid Employable Workforce
New Workforce Development Components

Soft Skills: Not Taught in the Classroom
Hands on Real Project Work: Actual Projects in the Field
Industry Recognized Credentials: NCCER, NGCIP, CWP
Recommended Certifications

National Green Infrastructure Certification Program- NGCIP  https://ngicp.org/


National Center for Construction Education & Research: NCCER
Community Access To Workforce Development

Who: Nonprofit Community Organizations, Municipalities City and State, Local Workforce Development Programs

What: Green Infrastructure

Why:

4. Create an economic network for the green infrastructure sector. A network of trainers, employers, city officials, and support service providers focused around green infrastructure would provide opportunities for synergies and collaboration, increase matching across training providers and employers, and increase efficiency and problem solving. A network would allow for better collaboration between training providers and greater transparency and accessibility to potential entrants to green infrastructure. Organizations like philanthropic foundations and economic intermediaries could be partners in collaborating and convening the network.
Thank you!
Questions? Comments?
Time for a Break!!

5 Minutes!
Community Case Story Panel Discussion

• Melissa McGee-Collier, Director
• Office of Community Engagement
• Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Dannie Bolden and Patrick Barnes
Dannie E. Bolden is the managing partner of Bolden and Associates Consulting Services LLC, a minority and veteran-owned business, with offices in Port St. Joe, Florida and Columbus, Georgia. His company specializes in nonprofit startups, affordable housing construction and community redevelopment. He is a community organizer and committed advocate for poor and disenfranchised individuals and families.

In 2001, he and his family moved from Anchorage, Alaska, back home to North Port St. Joe, Florida, where both he and his wife were born and raised. He saw immediately the blighted, unsafe living conditions of a once-proud community. His depth of experience, surmounting the barriers of environmental and social justice, told him he had to act.

For the last 20 years, Dannie has engaged his skills and expertise to address head-on the struggle facing African Americans in North Port St. Joe. He understands the complex issues that negatively impact the lives of poor African Americans in neighborhoods that were once thriving. He believes strongly that no single solution, nor person, can solve the community’s problems. His familiarity with the neighborhood of North Port St. Joe has been a considerable asset. As has his patience, tenacity, and his ability to reach outside his community to bring to it much needed resources. It is these attributes that have attracted exceptional business associates; collaborative partners that are subject-matter experts, and most of all; residents that are engaged, committed and intent to bring about positive change in their community.
Revitalizing our community

North Port St. Joe, Florida
North Port St. Joe
After the paper mill
Subsidence, toxic waste and the ATSDR Study.
Finding of Necessity study report - Declares NPSJ a *blighted neighborhood.*
The 2009 North Port St. Joe Master Plan written & shelved by the Community Redevelopment Agency
Enough is enough

Property owners gather to create their own plan of action. Bylaws are drawn up. The Nort Port St. Project Area Coalition is created.
An updated community master plan
Restoring Martin Luther King Boulevard

The PAC creates a detailed master plan for the Boulevard ‘corridor’. Initial focus on restoring completely MLK’s infrastructure. Winning an essential Land Use Amendment to allow more density throughout the ‘corridor’. 
Creating a Community Development Corporation

Re-establishing the former Gulf County CDC.

Providing the PAC with a 501(c)3 'implementing' arm.

Focussing on the PAC's community redevelopment priorities.

Being there when needed.

Next steps: creating a Community Land Trust.
FEMA and the U.S. Economic Development agency
Florida A & M University
University of Florida
EPA’s College of Underserved Communities

Reaching out and collaborating
The CDC and food security during Covid-19

Closing a significant gap by creating a doorstep food delivery service for 80 homebound elderly and disabled residents. Operating for over a year, connecting the community with the CDC—creating opportunities for further community-based programs.

Thanks to the Crosbys the Farmacy got a facelift. So blessed to have our space❤️
TAKE-AWAYS

• The community proved with its 2016 Master Plan that it can create successful bottom-up, grass-root initiatives.

• ‘Redevelopment without displacement’ has been integral to our work throughout the last five years.

• Growing confidence drove us to be among the ‘first responders’ to Hurricane Michael and COVID-19.

• Having an active 501(c)3 implementation arm is crucial to the community’s redevelopment.

• Reaching outside of the community became an increasingly important goal that over the last two years has been achieved.

• Each collaboration, starting with our County Health Department, has broadened our resources and potential sources of funding.
Patrick Barnes is the Environmental and Founder/Chairman of Limitless Vistas, Inc. He began his career in 1985 working for the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University as a Research Assistant in seismology, rock mechanics and borehole geophysics. His research focused on the hydro fracturing and characterizing tectonic stresses in abandoned oil wells in western New York State. In 1988 he joined Tibbett, Abbot McCarthy and Stratton (TAMS) a New York based Civil Engineering firm. He served as sample handler and a field technician for contamination assessment and remediation activities on several ground breaking Superfund sites in the New York/New Jersey area, including The Love Canal, BROS Lagoon, and International Flavors and Fragrances Plant. From 1988 until 1994 he was Project Manager/Department Head at Dyer, Riddle, Mills and Precourt (DRMP), a central Florida based Civil Engineering firm. While at DRMP he successfully manage the site assessment, environmental permitting and water supply development needs for numerous central Florida municipalities and in 1994 he parlayed his experiences into the establishment of Barnes, Ferland and Associates, Inc. (aka BFA Environmental) a multidiscipline environmental, utility engineering, surveying and hydrogeologic consulting firm. At it’s peak BFA had over 150 employees in the southeast US, executing 25 million dollars in contracts. As President/CEO he was responsible for the overall management of business finances, operations, strategic planning, and client liaison, market development and community engagement. He has conducted numerous large-scale natural resource evaluations and managed contamination site assessment and cleanup projects in Tampa, Miami, Jacksonville, Orlando, New Orleans and Birmingham. Mr. Barnes has served as an EPA advisor for Superfund cleanups such as the Warren County (North Carolina) PCB Landfill (the birthplace of the EJ movement), the Wingate Road Landfill in Fort Lauderdale, and the Coronet Site in Plant City. He also functioned as the small and minority business utilization coordinator for several multi-million, construction projects.

- In 2006 after completing a major US Army Corps of Engineers/FEMA debris removal management contract for the Hurricane Katrina/Rita impact zone, he provided $300,000 seed capital to establish Limitless Vistas, a non-profit organization dedicated to training at-risk young adults as environmental field technicians. Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI), which is based in New Orleans, is now also a 21st Century Conservation and Service Corps and very active with the national environmental conservation movement. Through the years working with grants from the Environment Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Labor, National Park Service, Corps Network, Oxfam America, The Nature Conservancy, NOAA, The Kellogg Foundation, City of New Orleans, LVI has trained and certified over 600 young adults in the southeast as environmental field technicians. Mr. Barnes is a 2013 recipient of the “White House Champion of Change” award for his effort to build environmental resiliency in communities of need.

- BFA currently has 30 Scientists, Engineers, Surveyors and administrators and annual average revenues of approximately 4.0 MM. The majority of BFA’s work is in Florida through continuing environmental engineering, land surveying, solid waste and scientific consulting services contracts. He has severed as board Chairman and advisor to, LVI since its founding in 2006 and has also served on many other boards/councils including the Corps Network, Central Florida NSBE Alumni Extension, Florida Association of Professional Geologists he served 4 years (2014-2018) on the National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program (GRP) advisory board and currently serves on the GRPs Offshore Situation Room (OSR) Committee focused on learning from the BP disaster and identifying what can be done differently to help minimize a similar future event.
BFA - Largest African-American owned Environmental Engineering, Scientific Consulting and Land Surveying firm based in Florida with offices in Louisiana and Alabama

“We pride ourselves on providing exceptional service for clients in a manner that truly uplifts the communities we serve”
In April 2013, Patrick Barnes was recognized by the White House as a “Champion of Change” for his work to bring environmental resiliency to at-risk communities through job training.
LVI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to **creating opportunities for disconnected** young adults.

We provide **free** environmental conservation, **workforce development** and **job training**. LVI has trained over 600 young adults as Environmental Field Technicians since 2006.

LVI was founded in 2006 by Patrick Barnes, President of BFA Environmental Consultants, with the premise **“The greatest opportunity coincides with the greatest need.”**