

Center for Neighborhoods

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Engaging with Neighbors to Build Great Neighborhoods

Since 1972, Center for Neighborhoods has cultivated grassroots leadership, provided leadership education, partnered with neighborhoods in community planning efforts, facilitated civic dialogue among stakeholders, and actively participated in neighborhood-based development and improvement projects.

We envision a Louisville community of great neighborhoods led by engaged neighbors who are creating unique places that provide a high quality of life and equitable access to opportunity for all. Our mission is engaging with neighbors to build great neighborhoods.



Community Engagement

Center for Neighborhoods' staff and liaison team partner with existing and prospective neighborhood associations and civic institutions throughout Metro Louisville. Our engagement focus is twofold: to teach neighborhood residents processes and practices that help them increase and improve their civic participation, and to elevate neighborhood-based organizations' capabilities and productivity.

We encourage all neighborhoods to enact strategies and plans for improving their communities and to serve as change catalysts for residents, families, neighborhoods, public institutions and local government. Our work is all about coming together in effective collaborations for results that benefit the entire community!

In FY2021, our Community Engagement team welcomed two Neighborhood Liaisons. Together, we

- Participated in 20 unique virtual community events or meetings
- Presented information virtually and in person to 150 individuals through those events and meetings
- Provided Technical Assistance to 20 distinct cases
- Compiled and distributed information about community events, educational opportunities, public meetings and other important information through our weekly Neighborhood eNews to over 2,500 recipients each week

Education & Training

Through neighborhood-based leadership education and training, Center for Neighborhoods cultivates and supports effective neighborhood associations and resident leaders across Metro Louisville. We build learning networks around common concerns and approaches, drawing together resident leaders from diverse neighborhoods, perspectives, and experiences.

The Neighborhood Institute is a free, 12-week neighborhood leadership training program held twice per year that equips neighborhood leaders to affect positive change in their communities.



The Neighborhood Summit is an annual conference open to all neighborhood and emerging leaders, neighborhood businesses, neighborhood associations, nonprofit community partners, and local government officials and staff. November 2020 was our first half-day virtual conference that allowed knowledge-sharing and networking intended to inspire residents and other attendees engaged in neighborhood-based community development.

In FY2021, our team:

- Graduated 40 participants from the Fall 2020 and Spring 2019 Neighborhood Institutes
- Hosted 85 attendees at the 2020 Neighborhood Summit in November 2020, which featured Jim King, who serves as the director of FAHE. The theme for the Summit was Equity and Inclusion and focused on how individual residents and resident groups could make space for everyone within their neighborhoods.

Planning & Design

Center for Neighborhoods supports neighbors in planning for the future of their communities. We use a variety of methods to ensure data-driven, equitable, and engaging processes that focus on neighborhood residents in order to develop a broadly-held vision and feasible strategies to implement it. The core work of Planning & Design includes the following programs and services:

- **Better Block Louisville**, a community-designed tactical urbanism approach to re-imagining a neighborhood block, intended to spur social and economic activity and build momentum toward lasting transformation
- **Producing Art In Neighborhoods Together (PAINT)**, a program that develops neighborhood-based public art through a participatory process
- **Neighborhood Planning**, development of resident-driven, comprehensive, long-term plans for neighborhoods.
- **Neighborhood Resource Center**, an online data hub featuring Neighbor Map, an interactive map where residents can learn about their neighborhood and other topical maps relevant to neighborhood issues.



In FY2021, our Planning & Design Team:

- Produced DIY COVID safety tips for local businesses through the Better Block Louisville program
- Secured a \$30,000 grant to implement alley activation strategies on Woodlawn Avenue related to the Woodlawn Legacy Project
- Installed the first permanent parklet in Louisville, a public, COVID-safe outdoor space that supports local businesses and community gatherings on Woodlawn Avenue
- Completed a PAINT mural on Woodlawn Avenue
- Collaboratively secured a \$120,000 grant for the implementation of the Parkland Plaza
- Engaged over 50 individuals in the creation of the Parkland Plaza site plan, Parkland natural playground concept, and Parkland history mural project.
- Hosted a Facebook Live Community Conversation event on the Neighborhood Planning process
- Secured the adoption of the James Taylor–Jacob School Neighborhood Plan, a neighborhood-driven initiative that has taken over 10 years to complete
- Produced 11 topical maps relevant to neighborhoods through the Map of the Month program
- Maintained the online Neighborhood Resource Center and interactive Neighbor Map to provide a range of data for neighborhood geographies

Louisville Community Development Network (LCDN)

Center for Neighborhoods supports neighbor-led community transformation. In early 2018, we led a peer-city study initiative to understand the community development system in Louisville and identify opportunities to support grassroots organizations working to address housing, economic development, and community engagement in their own neighborhoods. This work has incorporated many neighborhood and partner voices through interviews, research, trips to peer cities, trainings, and visioning sessions.

Over 30 organizations have now come together to form the Louisville Community Development Network, which meets regularly to convene a space for shared learning, connecting, collective advocacy, and transforming the culture of local development across the city.



In FY2021, the LCDN:

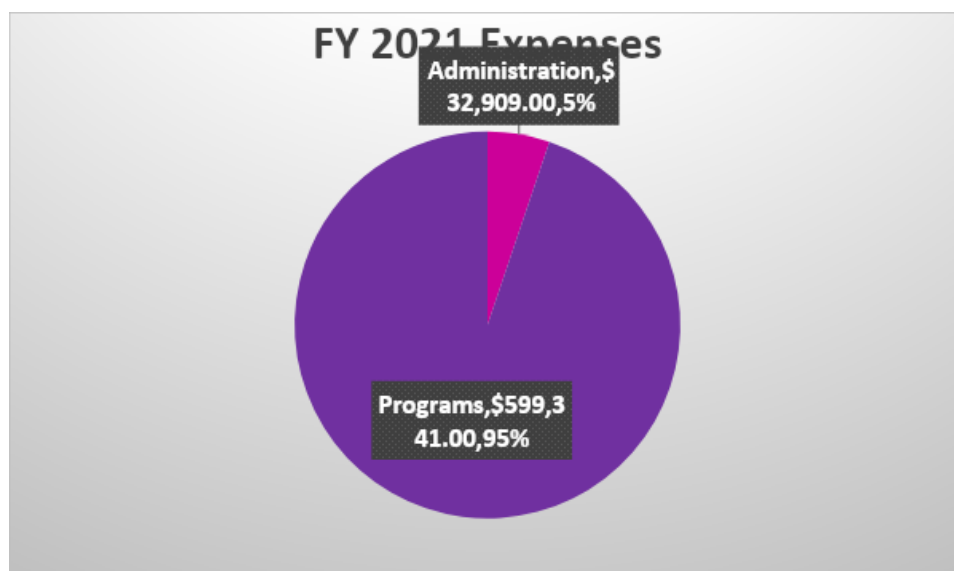
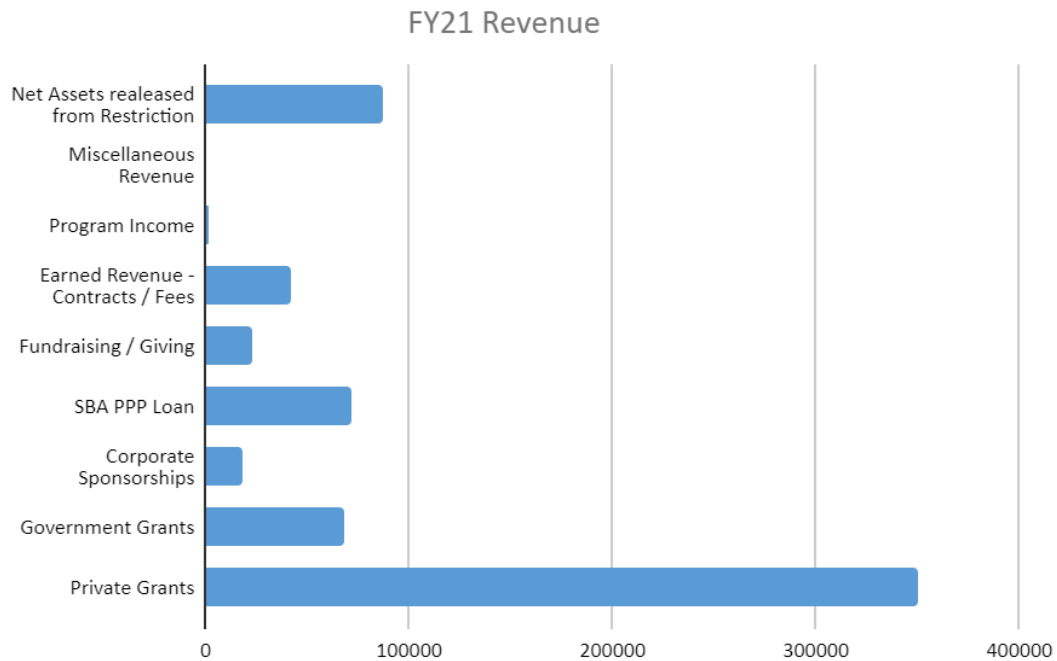
- Held 6 regular bi-monthly network meetings, with resources and presentations on CDC-relevant topics and current events
- Hosted the “Healing our Communities”, a virtual special event about racial justice in neighborhood development, with 86 participants
- Hosted a focused conversation with elected officials regarding the West End Opportunity Partnership and subsequent TIF legislation, with 30 participants
- Conceptualized a map-based, interactive website for LCDN members to share project information with the public and share resources with each other.





Revenue & Expenses

In FY 2021, Center For Neighborhoods received a total of \$ 675,651 in revenue. In FY 2021, Center for Neighborhoods spent a total of \$ 632,250





How We Partner With Neighbors

Engagement & Technical Assistance: [Contact us](#) with questions or requests for assistance regarding your neighborhood. Typical inquiries include: how to start a neighborhood organization, understanding zoning, and expanding the circle of engaged neighbors.

Member Services: Center For Neighborhoods member organizations and households are part of a broad network of passionate organizations, individuals and institutions working to create the highest quality of life for their communities. [Become a member.](#)

Neighborhood Institute: Love where you live and have a neighborhood improvement in mind? Join us and learn the skills to make it happen! Residents can apply to participate in our free, 12-week Neighborhood Institute leadership training. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Neighborhood Summit: The Annual Neighborhood Summit brings together neighborhood residents, stakeholders, and decision makers to inspire and exchange ideas and best practices. [Learn more.](#)

Neighborhood Art Opportunities: We support neighborhood public art through our PAINT program. Residents can submit ideas for public art in their neighborhood through our Open Call process. Watch for details! [Learn more.](#)

Mapping Services: Maps tell stories. In 2019, we begin sharing our stories through our Map of the Month. Have a mapping need? From population to food access to air quality, our mapping services can help you understand and tell the story of your neighborhood. [Explore our maps.](#)

Better Block Louisville: Each year we partner with a neighborhood group in participatory process to develop and implement a redesign of a commercial corridor in their neighborhood. This program focuses on disinvested neighborhoods with voluntary neighborhood partnership. [Learn more.](#)

Louisville Community Development Network (LCDN): In 2021, we launched the LCDN to support neighborhood associations, non-profit organizations and other grassroots groups working to develop affordable housing, spur neighborhood economic development and engage residents in neighborhood development efforts. [Learn more.](#)

Join Us!

www.centerforneighborhoods.org



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