DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS + CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Neighborhoods are a top priority. In January 2018, Mayor Schor issued his first executive order by creating a Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement (DNCE).

This new Department places neighborhoods front and center in the administration. He appointed Director Andi Crawford to lead the DNCE and the Executive Order was unanimously passed by City Council.

ENGAGING CITIZENS
ADVANCING PEOPLE
BUILDING NEIGHBORHOODS
ENGAGING CITIZENS

Citizens Academy
Housing & Neighborhood Resource Summits
LOVE Lansing Celebration
Neighborhood News
Neighborhood Roundtables
Participatory Budget Nights
SERVE Lansing
Walking Wednesdays

ADVANCING PEOPLE

Office of Financial Empowerment
Building Civic-Minded Professionals

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOODS

Neighborhood Clean Ups
Neighborhood Grants
Neighborhoods of Focus
Launched the inaugural City of Lansing Citizens Academy. Participants met weekly for 10 weeks beginning Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

Participants toured City Hall, the BWL grid control room, and other City facilities including a behind the scenes look of Cooley Law School Stadium. They also spoke one-on-one with City staff, City Council members, and the Mayor.

Citizens Academy provided an opportunity for City of Lansing residents to learn more about the role the City plays in their everyday lives and how they can be involved and engaged citizens.

24 participants representing all four City Wards.
Housing & Neighborhood Resource Summits

The summits were designed by neighborhood groups to provide citizens direct contact with City and community resources in their neighborhood.

Summit partners have included: Capital Area Housing Partnership, Ingham County Land Bank, Home Depot, Ace Hardware, City of Lansing Human Resources, City Clerk’s Office, State of Michigan Attorney General, McLaren Health Systems, City of Lansing Economic Planning & Development Office, and other civic and community organizations.

Pizza is provided and local businesses generously provide raffle items.

Thank you to the Lansing School District for generously hosting these quarterly events serving hundreds of Lansing residents.

9/25/18: Forest View
11/27/18: Pleasant View
2/26/19: Sexton High School
4/30/19: Pattengill Biotech
LOVE stands for Local Organization & Volunteer Excellence and is an annual volunteer celebration to recognize neighborhood leaders and watch captains/coordinators for their efforts in creating safe and vibrant communities across Lansing.

2019 peer nominated award winners:
The Community Builder Award - Melik Brown
The Emerging Leaders Award - Rawley Van Fossen
The Neighborhood Impact Award - Dr. Stan Parker, After School Action Program

May 14, 2019 at the South Washington Office Complex - 250 Neighbors attended

“Thank you LOVE for such a wonderful event. It was a fantastic night and hearing about all the fantastic things the neighborhood groups and individuals do to help and promote Lansing was amazing. The nominees were all wonderful and my congratulations go to the very deserving winners and to all the nominees. Lansing sure knows how to do great things!!!” from Facebook
SERVE Lansing

SERVE Lansing connects citizens, organizations, partners, and the City of Lansing to:
Increase Citizen Engagement - Build Community Response and Preparedness -
Clean & Beautify the Community

Program Launch- Press Conference (9/6/18) — City Hall Lobby
7 lead community partners (United Way, Michigan State University (MSU), Do1Thing, Lansing Board of Water and Light, American Red Cross - Mid - Michigan, YMCA of Greater Lansing, and Michigan Community Service Commission)

MSU has selected SERVE Lansing as the partner for the MSU Community Scholars program. MSU students are assigned to each partner organization and work to coordinate SERVE Lansing events.

Sample SERVE Lansing events (see Spring Neighborhood Cleanup Summary for more):
Cleanup event held at Cristo Rey (9/7/18)
Baker Neighborhood Leaf & Stormdrain Cleanup (11/3/18)
Mayor’s Inaugural Coat Drive (12/1-12/10/18)
Trashtag Challenge (5/2019)

The City of Lansing is a proud member of the international Cities of Service Coalition. Cities of Service helps Mayors and City leaders tap into the knowledge, creativity, and service of citizens to solve public problems and create vibrant cities. City of Lansing selected as a mentor city for the next 10 funded cities in the Cities of Service Love Your Block grantees cohort.

ENGAGING CITIZENS
City of Lansing - Neighborhood News

Distributed weekly each Friday highlighting City of Lansing events and providing community partners direct communication with Lansing neighborhoods. 650+ on distribution list and growing weekly

Neighborhood Roundtables

Monthly meetings to connect with neighborhood leaders and discuss issues in Lansing neighborhoods.

July 2019

Neighborhood Roundtables
Thursday, July 25  6 PM
Friday, July 26 8 AM

Network with Neighborhood Leaders and Public Service as we discuss the Basement Backup Protection Plan (B2P2) as well as instructions on how to file a claim.

FOSTER COMMUNITY CENTER ROOM 209
200 N. FOSTER AVENUE LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912

ENGAGING CITIZENS
Participatory Budget Nights I & II

Andy Schor, Mayor

participatory budget nights

PURPOSE

The purpose for hosting Participatory Budget Nights in the City of Lansing were to empower citizens to come together and provide input on the City’s budget priorities.

“We’re beginning to prepare our budget, which will be program based,” said Mayor Schor. “This is a great opportunity for the public to learn more about the City’s budget and get involved in decision making.”

Participatory budget nights are part of furthering Mayor Schor’s goal of maintaining transparency in City operations and encouraging civic engagement.

Phase II of Participatory Budget Nights will provide more budget specifics and strategies for citizens to influence the process.

BY THE NUMBERS

Four participatory budget nights were held:

- 11/13/18 Letts Community Center
- 11/28/2018 Foster Community Center
- 11/29/18 Kelly’s Downtown
- 12/6/18 Schmidt Community Center

- 60 total participants from all four sessions.

Facilitated by:

- Mayor Andy Schor
- Angela Bennett, Finance Director, City of Lansing
- Andi Crawford, Director of Neighborhoods & Citizen Engagement, City of Lansing

CITIZEN FEEDBACK

"I actually enjoyed a talk about budgets!"

"Great to have the Mayor here!"

"Very well organized, great preparation - I like the Lego exercise"
The purpose for hosting Participatory Budget Nights - Phase II in the City of Lansing were to provide more budget specifics and strategies for citizens to influence the process.

“The first round of participatory budget nights identified four clear priorities for citizens: economic development, infrastructure, neighborhoods and public safety. This round of events provided additional information and opportunity for discussion in these areas.”

Participatory budget nights are part of furthering Mayor Schor’s goal of maintaining transparency in City operations and encouraging civic engagement.

Phase II a deeper dive into priority areas.

Four participatory budget nights were held:

- 2/20/19: Economic Development Cristo Rey Community Center
- 2/27/19: Infrastructure McLaren Hospital
- 2/28/19: Neighborhoods Nuthouse Bar & Grille
- 3/5/19: Public Safety Fenner Nature Center

- 58 total participants from all four sessions.

Facilitated by:

- Mayor Andy Schor
- Angela Bennett, Finance Director, City of Lansing
- Andi Crawford, Director of Neighborhoods & Citizen Engagement, City of Lansing
Walking Wednesday Series

Walking Wednesdays are co-designed with neighbors and bring the Mayor, City officials, Lansing Police Officers, and community members together to explore the assets and opportunities in Lansing neighborhoods.

April 10th - June 5th, 2019

Walking Wednesdays 2019
All events begin at 6 p.m.

April 10 - Baker Neighborhood - Bethlehem Lutheran - 549 E Mt Hope Ave
April 17 - Red Cedar Neighborhood - Kircher Municipal Park - 301 Clippert
April 24 - Eckert Power Plant - 601 Island Ave
May 1 - Downtown Lansing - Capital Area District Library - 401 S Capitol
May 8 - Colonial Townhouses Co-Op, Inc. - 3818 Pleasant Grove
May 15 - Greencroft Park Neighborhood - 2700 S Washington Ave
May 22 - Life O’Riley - 6726 S Washington Ave
May 29 - Fulton Park Trails - 3914 Seaway Drive
June 5 - Scott Woods - Scott Woods Park - 2605 Clifton Ave

For more information: Department of Neighborhoods & Citizen Engagement
517-483-4051 | https://lansingneighborhoods.info/

Walking Wednesdays can also be arranged throughout the year by citizens to address a particular need or topic.

ENGAGING CITIZENS
The Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) is home to four initiatives: The Financial Empowerment Center (FEC), Lansing SAVE, the Offender Success Program, and BankOn.

In partnership with the Cristo Rey Community Center, since 2013, FEC has helped clients achieve:

$11,000,000 REDUCED HOUSEHOLD DEBT
$2,000,000 SAVED BY HOUSEHOLDS

2019 PROGRAM OUTCOMES
# of Sessions Completed = 1,244
Safe, affordable bank accounts opened = 77
Total Clients served = 600
Client Debt Reduction (non-mortgage) = $1,214,989
Client Increased Savings = $195,857

Office of Financial Empowerment’s 5 Year Birthday Party (7/19/18)
The client started about a year ago and his situation was pretty bad. The client has child support that was taking 50% of his income and over $50,000 in child support arrears and student loans that equaled $6,500, which were in collection. He was working at a low-wage job and was barely able to cover his portion of rent. While the client was incarcerated, his identify was used to open credit in his name and he was left to pay the debt. He also did not have a bank account.

The first step was to get him on a budget. Once he started following his budget, he concentrated on his student loans and child support arrears. The Counselor referred him out to get some assistance with his child support. Then the Counselor got his student loans on the rehabilitation plan, paying $5.00 a month. Once he started paying on his repayment plan, the Counselor wrote several letters to dispute the debt that was not his. The dispute letters were successful because Experian removed the debt. Currently, the client has opened a bank account with Lake Trust Credit Union, reduced his debt by $20,000 and secured a job making three times as much as before.

The client came to the Financial Empowerment Center accompanied by her 40-year-old son. This client felt completely overwhelmed by her monthly expenses and felt plagued by credit card debt. She stated that she has never budgeted in her entire life and that her late husband of 40 years took care of the finances and she had no clue what to do. The Counselor immediately started the budgeting process with the client and found out that over 60 percent of her income was going into her monthly prescriptions. Client stated that she sought out help with other agencies to help with her prescription coverage but she made $10 above the limit and could not qualify. Consequently, client had to spend $575 a month on her prescriptions.

The Counselor knew immediately that in order for this client to make ends meet she would need help with her medications. The Counselor walked the client to the prescription assistance program and asked for an appointment for her. Two months later the client received approval for assistance with her medication. Client is now receiving her medicine free of charge.

On the following session, the Counselor updated the client’s budget with the new adjustments and were able to see a positive cash flow. Client reported that she sleeps better and no longer has anxiety. The client is hopeful and does not feel overwhelmed anymore. The client stated, “All I needed was for someone to help me navigate through the mess and show me how to budget. Yes, I am 69 years old and should know all that, but I did not.”
The City of Lansing - Office of Financial Empowerment serves as the Administrative Agency for the Offender Success Program in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties. The Offender Success Program is funded and administered by the Michigan Department of Corrections and serves reentry citizens who are returning to the community following prison.

Through providing wrap-around services the City of Lansing is reducing recidivism and increasing public safety in our neighborhoods.

The program served ~450 individuals from July 2018 - June 2019.

PROGRAM SERVICES
The City of Lansing contracts with Peckham Industries, Housing Services Mid Michigan, Mid-Michigan Recovery Services Inc. and Prevention & Training Services (PATS).

These partners provide job readiness, job placement, job retention, housing, behavioral health counseling, and social supports such as bus passes, clothing vouchers and identification.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS
Offender Success Employer Breakfast - 3/14/19 | 8 AM - 10 AM | The View at Cooley Law School Stadium

The purpose of the Offender Success Employer Breakfast was to increase awareness and understanding of the Offender Success Program among local employers by highlighting the benefits to public safety and employers, as well as recognizing successful experiences with reentry citizens.

More than twenty employers attended the event and heard from Mayor Schor, Police Chief Yankowski, and MDOC Administrator Kyle Kaminski on the positive impacts of the program. In addition, employers had the opportunity to learn about fidelity bonding, Work Opportunity Act Tax credit information, Vocational Village, and several aspects of the wraparound services offered through the Offender Success Program.

ADVANCING PEOPLE
Lansing SAVE

The City of Lansing partners with the Lansing School District and MSU Federal Credit Union to provide Children’s Savings Accounts. Lansing SAVE is a post-secondary education savings program for students in the Lansing School District. All incoming kindergarten students are automatically enrolled in an account. Accounts are seeded with $5 and children and families can make deposits into the accounts at school or at MSUFCU branches.

SAVE TOTAL DEPOSITS (IN-SCHOOL & IN-BRANCH)

Total Deposits = 1,030
New Depositors = 495
Total Deposit Amount = $7,925

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

FIRST LANSING SAVE ACCOUNT SURPASSES $1,000

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS PROGRAM

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

In the spring of 2019, during a Baker Neighborhood Partners Meeting, Pastor Matt Smith and Parish Administrator Laurey Wyble of Bethlehem Lutheran Church learned of the Lansing SAVE program. They immediately approached the program partners with an idea — to take a special collection with their congregation whenever there is a 5th Sunday in a month, and donate the offering to be deposited into the accounts of Lansing SAVE students who live in the Baker Neighborhood. Because of their creativity and generosity, the Lansing SAVE Community Champions Program was born.

The church has held two offerings which raised a total of $2,692. Their contribution was divided into equal deposits in the 121 Lansing SAVE accounts in the Baker Neighborhood.

We look forward to replicating this program with other faith-based partners and civic organizations throughout Lansing.

ADVANCING PEOPLE
City of Lansing - A National Leader in Municipal Financial Empowerment

WHAT WORKS CITIES ECONOMIC MOBILITY GRANT (1 OF 10 CITIES SELECTED) FUNDED BY GATES FOUNDATION, BALLMER GROUP, BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES

CITY OF LANSING SELECTED BY THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES FOR THE 10 CITIES OF OPPORTUNITY PILOT PROGRAM.

$30-40K SELECTED AS 1 OF 6 CITIES FOR CAFFE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES TO RESEARCH THE IMPACT OF MUNICIPAL FINES AND FEES

$10,000 SELECTED FOR US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS DOLLARWISE INNOVATION GRANT FOR THE KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM GRANT TO SUPPORT LANSING SAVE PROGRAM.

$10,000 SELECTED TO SERVE AS AN FEC EXPERT TO BALTIMORE, MD AND WASHINGTON DC

- OFE Director serves on the National League of Cities’ Economic Opportunity Peer Network
- Recognized in Urban Development’s publication, “A Scan of Financial Capability Efforts at the Municipal Level” for Lansing’s work on connecting returning citizens to safe and affordable bank accounts.
- OFE hosted City of Akron Site Visit - OFE serves Akron through technical assistance
- Provided technical assistance to the City of New Haven, CT on Financial Empowerment for Reentry Citizens
- Completed white paper on 2-year Bank On for Reentry Pilot

ADVANCING PEOPLE
Building Civic-Minded Professionals
The City of Lansing Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement leverages the talents and energies of undergraduate students, graduate students and young professionals to expand the department’s capacity.

This year we hosted student interns from Michigan State University, The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, and Harvard University.

The department also hosts AmeriCorps VISTA members serving a year of national service.
# Spring Neighborhood Beautification & Cleanups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Neighborhoods in Bloom</th>
<th>10,000 Flowers planted during Neighborhoods in Bloom</th>
<th>39 Participating Neighborhood &amp; Civic Organizations</th>
<th>5,760 Square feet planted across the City of Lansing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100+ City of Lansing trashbag rolls distributed for the Trashtag Challenge</td>
<td>60 Volunteers</td>
<td>80 Bags of Trash</td>
<td>50 Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Lansing Business Association Team Up 2 Clean Up</td>
<td>Cherry Hill Park Cleanup</td>
<td>15 Volunteers</td>
<td>40 Bags of Trash Two truckfuls of brush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Bags of trash</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Neighborhood Grants

The Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement administers the Neighborhood Grant program and provides administrative support to the Mayor’s Neighborhood Advisory Board.

2019 Neighborhood Grant Projects

- Clean ups and Beautification
- Communications and Social Events
- Signage
- Other

70 grant funded projects designed and executed by Lansing neighborhoods

Distribution of Neighborhood Grant funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ward 1</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 2</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 3</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 4</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citywide projects</td>
<td>$2,021.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total amount funded: $52,021.85

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOODS
Neighborhoods of Focus

The City of Lansing has selected two neighborhoods as ‘Neighborhoods of Focus’. The City of Lansing works with city departments, community partners, law enforcement, community-based organizations and residents to work in partnership to improve the neighborhood. The City of Lansing’s primary roles is to convene, capacity-build and connect to resources. This is a multi-year commitment to sustained community development.

BAKER NEIGHBORHOOD

Press Conference celebrating one year of focus held on February 14, 2019 (outcome sheet below) Lansing SAVE investor program launched with Bethlehem Lutheran Church (see Lansing SAVE section) Three year commitment from Habitat for Humanity to focus Rock the Block home improvement projects in the Baker Neighborhood. Convene monthly partner meetings
Neighborhoods of Focus

Baker Neighborhood: Neighborhood of Focus

Convene
Capacity Build
Connect to Resources

Rehabbing Homes and Buildings

**Habitat for Humanity Capitol Region**
- $100,000+ investment Rock the Block
- Poured concrete pad under pavilion and created accessible pathway at Caesar Donora Park

**Lansing Board of Water & Light Hometown Energy Savers**
- Served 35 homes
- Installed 1,300+ energy saving items; achieving annual savings of nearly $8,000 for residents

**Capital Area Housing Partnership**
- Walter French donated to CAHP in 2017
- Development for restoration and reuse
- REO Town Art Attack mural installation

**Mikey23 Foundation**
- Rehabbing home on Linval St.
- and teaching skilled trades to local youth

**City of Lansing**
- Emergency repairs completed at 2 homes including furnace and water heater replacement, roof repairs and repairs to the interior.
- Remediated lead-based paint in 2 homes.
- Designated the area as a high-risk area for Childhood Lead Poisoning and has offered $25,000 per rental unit for lead-based paint remediation to all landlords.

Community Beautification

**538 Isbell Lot**
- (Former party store turned community gathering space) on Ingham County Land Bank Lot

**SERVE Lansing Leaf Cleanup**

**Greater Lansing Association of Realtors**
- With neighbors, built Little Free Library, picnic table, and provided sports equipment and games for the 538 Isbell Lot
- Provided 200+ meals

**Peace Flag Art Installation**
- Created by Baker neighbor artist Eric Schantz and funded/installed by Sycamore Creek Church members
Neighborhoods of Focus

Community Building

Potter Park Zoo
Provided 5 programs with 80+ attendees
Provided FREE zoo passes to 114 Baker neighbors

Head Start
Housed City of Lansing AmeriCorps member
Hosted Baker Coffee Hours
Community Resource & Wellness Fair

Cedar Street Art Collective
Art Dedication in Caesar Donora Park
Baker neighbor, Jeffrey Handley Jr Art Show
Baker neighbor, Corey Kroskey Halloween theatre event
‘Sunday Dinner’ performance from iDream Dance Studios LLC
More than Fine Photography Pop-up 517 Coffee

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Faith Family Fun Day serving 700+ families
Hosts monthly Baker Partner meetings

YMCA
Partners with Bethlehem Lutheran Church to provide physical activity and lunch in the Summer
Provides breakfast, physical activity and lunch at Caesar Donora Park

Walking Wednesday
200+ visitors activating 9 vacant lots with art and activities

Victim crimes and property crimes both declined 33% from 2017 to 2018.

Mike Yankowski, Chief

Join partners 2nd Thursday of each month at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Jacob Kocan
Community Police Officer
517-483-2522
jacob.kocan@lansingmi.gov
Neighborhoods of Focus

PLEASANT VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD
Michigan State University Design Project, a 3 day design event held in neighborhood Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding opportunity for Town Square identified City of Lansing (1 of 10 cities) selected for Round Three Invest Health funding Purchased 3 parcels from the Ingham County Landbank to create a new park Beacon Park created on southeast corner of intersection Negotiated land sale of homeowner by Beacon Field to open access to park from Pleasant Grove Beacon Field SouthWest soccer facility was built

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOODS
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS+
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Chief Innovation Officer | Director - Andi Crawford
Administrative Assistant - DeLisa Fountain
Director, Office of Financial Empowerment - Amber Paxton
Operations Coordinator, OFE - Zach Etzin
Financial Education Coordinator, OFE - Ben Thompson
Community Coordinator, Offender Success - Yolanda Botello
Program Manager, Financial Empowerment Center
- Velma Kyser
Financial Counselors, Financial Empowerment Center
- Tammy Beckwith
- Sonia Diallo