



## CONNECTING PEOPLE & PLACES: A CIVIC ENGAGEMENT LAB

**WHAT:** *Connecting People & Places (CP&P)* is a leadership engagement pilot project offered by Community Building Initiative (CBI), underwritten by the Knight Foundation Fund at Foundation For The Carolinas and delivered in partnership with the City of Charlotte's Neighborhood & Business Services. CP&P is grounded in neighborhoods and is intended to increase the capacity of Charlotte residents to work for inclusion and equity within their neighborhoods and across the community and to explore issues surfaced in September 2016, such as transportation, employment/economic opportunity, access to art & culture, criminal justice, affordable housing, education and digital inclusion.

*Connecting People & Places* has four objectives:

- **Build & Strengthen Relationships**  
CP&P will provide a common set of experiences and shared language to build relationships within and among participants and their neighborhoods.
- **Increase Understanding & Awareness**  
CP&P will broaden perspectives and increase the awareness and understanding of participants about the history, challenges and opportunities in the Charlotte community.
- **Identify Capacities**  
CP&P will equip and support participants to work across difference to build more inclusive and equitable neighborhoods and community.
- **Move to Collective Action**  
CP&P will provide access to a small pool of grant funds to support collaborative action based on identified focus areas.

**WHY:** Building community has never been more important than it is right now. Community Building Initiative (CBI) is committed to supporting Charlotte residents in building community across difference. We believe that when people connect with one another through an intentionally designed process and increase their awareness, understanding and skill, they will be more effective leaders for inclusion and equity within their neighborhoods and across the community. This learning process provided through *Connecting People & Places* can lead to increased engagement and support and help participants be more responsive to a variety of emerging and ongoing issues.

### **Benefits to Participating in CP&P:**

- Connect with a diverse group of neighborhood residents and people who care about working for change around key focus areas through a collaborative learning experience.
- Learn the stories of Charlotte's neighborhoods, and develop a deeper understanding of how the stories we tell – and the stories told about us – shape access and opportunity.

- Examine important community issues that impact inclusion & equity within and among neighborhoods. Issues may include but are not limited to transportation, employment/economic opportunity, access to art & culture, criminal justice, affordable housing, education and digital inclusion.
- Participate in and learn new tools for story telling through social media.
- Access to a small pool of special project funds that will be available for collaborative projects between neighborhoods that bring people together for joint activities.

**WHO:** 3 - 4 people from 5 to 7 target neighborhoods, who may or may not know one another or work together in any neighborhood association or group.\* The number of participants in the CP&P pilot will be capped at 28. In order to engage participants from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives, the pilot cohort will be selected to be as diverse as possible across race, ethnicity, age, gender/gender identity, time in Charlotte, faith tradition, etc. The ideal candidate for CP&P is an innovative thinker who is willing to do some personal work. A strong interest in one or more of the focus areas/issues is a must. Residents, leaders, and stakeholders of target neighborhoods who are not currently engaged in other leadership programs will be given priority.

\*The CP&P pilot will be focused on specific Charlotte neighborhoods. See following page for details.

**WHEN & HOW:**

The CP&P pilot program will be offered from April through June 2017.

The six-session series will include:

- Personal reflection, interaction and storytelling;
- Exploration of individual and collective strengths, talents and leadership styles;
- A bus tour of participating neighborhoods;
- Examination of the challenges and opportunities that exist in the Charlotte community with a focus on issues identified by pilot participants;
- Introduction of an equity framework (structural analysis); and
- Intentional community building activities that connect participants with one another as well as with cultural and community resources.

Sessions will be held on weekday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. One full-day session (to include the CP&P bus tour) will be held on a Saturday (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM). A final schedule will be established once participation is confirmed.

**WHERE:** Sessions will be held at easily accessible locations across the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. A light supper will be provided during evening sessions and lunch at the Saturday session.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

If you are interested in participating in the CP&P pilot, please complete the attached interest form and submit **no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, February 17** to:

Email: [clee@cbicharlotte.org](mailto:clee@cbicharlotte.org)

Mail: *Connecting People & Places  
Community Building Initiative  
601 East Fifth Street, Suite 330  
Charlotte, NC 28202*

Applicants will be notified of their status by March 17. Because a limited number of spaces are available in the CP&P pilot program, candidates will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Identification with one of the target neighborhoods (see attached interest form for details);
- Diversity across geography, race, ethnicity, gender/gender identity, age, time in Charlotte, faith tradition, etc.
- Commitment to consistent participation in all aspects of the pilot process;
- Openness and curiosity about coming together and connecting within and across neighborhoods;
- Innovative thinkers who are willing to do some personal development work
- A strong interest in one or more of the focus areas/issues;
- No current engagement with another leadership programs;
- Willingness to provide feedback about the CP&P experience.

**\* TARGET NEIGHBORHOODS FOR PILOT COHORT**

Ashley Park	Lockwood
Belmont	McCrorey Heights
Biddleville	Myers Park
Brookhill	Oaklawn
Chantilly	Optimist Park
Cherry	Plaza Midwood
Clanton Park/Southside/Roseland	Revolution Park
Commonwealth	Second Ward
Dilworth	Sedgefield
Double Oaks	Seversville
Druid Hills	Third Ward
Elizabeth	Tryon Hills
Enderly Park	Villa Heights
First Ward	Washington Heights
Fourth Ward	Wesley Heights
Genesis Park	Westover Hills
Greenville	Wimore

**INTEREST FORM**

## Connecting People & Places: A Civic Engagement Lab

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood:  Ashley Park  Belmont  Brookhill  
 Center City (*Which ward? \_\_\_\_\_*)  Chantilly  Cherry  
 Clanton Park / Southside / Roseland  Commonwealth  Dilworth  
 Double Oaks  Druid Hills  Elizabeth  Enderly Park  
 Five Points (Biddleville /Seversville /Smallwood /Wesley Heights)  
 Genesis Park  Greenville  Lockwood  McCrorey Heights  
 Myers Park  Oaklawn  Optimist Park  Plaza Midwood  
 Revolution Park  Sedgefield  Tryon Hills  Villa Heights  
 Washington Heights  Westover Hills  Wilmore

Age: (*circle one*) 20's 30's 40's 50's 60's 70's 80+ Race / Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in Charlotte-Mecklenburg? \_\_\_\_\_

### Connecting People & Places Focus Areas

Please indicate your top three interest areas using 1 ,2, 3.

Access to art & culture  Education  
 Affordable Housing  Employment / Economic Opportunity  
 Criminal Justice  Digital Inclusion  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Submissions must be postmarked no later than **Friday, February 17, 2017.**

Submit by email: [cle@cbicharlotte.org](mailto:cle@cbicharlotte.org) OR by postal mail: *Connecting People & Places  
Community Building Initiative  
601 East Fifth Street, Suite 330  
Charlotte, NC 28202*

Please answer the following questions in the space provided. Final length of entire submission should be not more than two pages.

*What intrigues you about participating in this pilot project?*

*What would you bring to this experience? What are your strengths?*

*What would you most like to learn through this process? In what ways could you grow or improve?*