

Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition

GET INVOLVED

Connect with one of the following organizations:



Burton Street Community Association (BCSA)

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Burton Street Community Center, 134 Burton Street in Asheville.
(828) 259-8020
burtonstreetinfo@gmail.com
burtonstreet.org



East End Valley Street Neighborhood Association (EEVS)

Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at Stephens-Lee Community Center, 30 George Washington Carver Avenue in Asheville.
EastEndValleyStreet@gmail.com
eastendvalleystreet.org



PODER Emma Community Ownership

Meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 17 Westside Drive in Asheville.
(828) 276-3544
info@poderemma.org
poderemma.org



Shiloh Community Association (SCA)

Meets the 1st Monday of every month at Linwood Crump Shiloh Center, 121 Shiloh Road in Asheville.
Mrs. Norma Baynes,
(828) 277-9654
shilohgarden59@gmail.com
shilohnc.org



Southside United Neighborhood Association (SUNA)

Meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at Wesley Grant Southside Center, 285 Livingston Street in Asheville.
www.southsideunitedavl.org
unitedsouthsideavl@gmail.com
(828) 259-5483

What's Going On With the LNC?

BY SEKOU COLEMAN

The Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition (LNC), which consists of leadership from neighborhood associations in the Burton Street, East End/Valley Street, Emma, Shiloh, and Southside communities, is doing the kind of work that most people do not see, but that can shape whether families stay rooted in the places they call home.

Convened in 2019, LNC's mission is to protect historic communities most impacted by displacement, honor the legacy and culture of historically under-resourced residents, and build collective power that strengthens community voices, expands civic participation, and stewards opportunities where future generations can thrive.

Displacement & Legacy Repair

A big part of our work right now is helping the City of Asheville better understand what displacement means in everyday life. For many residents, it is more than losing a house or getting priced out of rent. It is losing the people you grew up around, losing neighborhood businesses, losing churches and gathering places, losing culture, and losing the feeling that your community still belongs to the people who built it.

LNC has been meeting with City staff and elected officials to push that fuller understanding, because City decisions about growth, housing, and development can either help protect neighborhoods or increase pressure on longtime residents.

LNC has also been raising some plain questions that deserve plain answers. How do neighborhoods find out earlier when something is being planned nearby? How do residents get a real chance to speak before important decisions are set in motion? How can the City do a better job of recognizing when a new project, policy, or plan might put pressure on longtime residents?

This kind of work often gets buried under official language, but the point is simple: people deserve early notice, a meaningful voice, and a fair chance to shape decisions that affect their neighborhood.

That larger conversation has also led LNC to talk about what it calls "legacy repair." In everyday terms, that means this: when government decisions have



Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition leaders meeting at St. James A.M.E. Church to discuss emergency preparedness planning for their neighborhoods.

harmed a neighborhood, the response should include three steps:

- Stop the harm.
- Repair what was damaged.
- Change the rules so the same thing does not keep happening again.

That is the direction LNC is pushing.

Emergency Preparedness

Another major focus is emergency preparedness. After seeing how important neighborhood planning was before and after Hurricane Helene, LNC leaders have continued helping communities think more clearly about what they would do in the next emergency. Who checks on elders? Who helps share information? How do neighbors coordinate food, supplies, and support when regular systems break down?

This work grows from something Black communities have long practiced: relying on each other, organizing early, and making sure nobody gets left behind.

LNC is also getting support from graduate student interns who are helping organize years of neighborhood plans, research, and policy ideas into materials leaders can use in real time. Their role is to help community knowledge move more effectively in rooms where decisions are being made.

Cultural Festival Planned

While all of this serious work continues, LNC is also planning toward a public celebration through a cultural festival on August 28 & 29 at Memorial Stadium. The festival is being shaped as a way to honor neighborhood history, culture, food, art, and community pride. It is also a reminder that these neighborhoods are still here, still organizing, and still building toward the future.

LNC meetings are by invitation only. Visit AshevilleLegacyNeighborhoods.org to send us a message.

EVENTS

Play In The Park Sunday, April 19

This free event takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. at Walton Park, 570 Walton Street in Asheville.

Free Produce Market Every Friday

Held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Grant Southside Center, 285 Livingston Street in Asheville.

ABOUT THE LEGACY NEIGHBORHOODS COALITION

The Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition protects historic communities most impacted by displacement, honors the legacy and culture of historically under-resourced residents, and builds collective power that strengthens community voices, expands civic participation, and stewards opportunities where future generations can thrive.