

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

Anti-Displacement Work

BY SEKOU COLEMAN

The Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition is continuing the anti-displacement work that brought our neighborhoods together in the first place.

That work moved into high gear last year, but it has been part of LNC's purpose since the coalition began in 2019. Burton Street, East End/Valley Street, Emma, Shiloh, and Southside came together because legacy neighborhoods were already feeling the pressure of rising costs, new development, changing land use, cultural loss, and decisions being made without enough neighborhood voice.

At our April meeting, City Manager DK Wesley and Dawa Hitch from the City's Communications and Public Engagement team joined LNC members to listen, answer questions, and share updates. The conversation focused on issues LNC has been raising in meetings with City staff, City Council, and Council committees: housing, displacement, development pressure, neighborhood notification, home repair, safety, and the need for City leaders to build stronger relationships directly with legacy neighborhoods.

When residents keep showing up, asking clear questions, and naming what is happening on the ground, City leaders have to respond. The work is slow, but it is moving.

LNC's message is also getting clearer: many neighborhoods, one village. The village is where people know one

another, check on one another, feed one another, teach one another, and protect one another. It is where elders carry memory, young people carry possibility, and neighbors carry responsibility together. That is what anti-displacement work is really about. It is about protecting the village, repairing the village, and making sure the people who built the village still have a voice in its future.

That is why LNC is also paying close attention to civic engagement. Voting matters, especially as recent Supreme Court decisions are expected to reshape voting rights fights and representation for Black communities across the South. But civic engagement is bigger than voting. It also means understanding how local government works, knowing when decisions are being made, showing up before the vote is taken, and holding public officials accountable for ceasing harm and supporting communities where people can thrive.

LNC is developing plans to help more residents learn how to engage, how to follow City decisions, and how to connect with the neighborhood associations already doing the work. The goal is simple: more informed residents, stronger neighborhood organizations, and a village that can speak for itself.

That village spirit is also shaping VillageFest, a free public celebration scheduled for August 28 and 29 at Memorial Stadium. VillageFest will be a collective celebration of neighborhood history and culture, with live music, games, food, art, dancing, and culture, powered by locals. It is also a homecoming invitation for people with roots in Asheville who may now live elsewhere.

LNC is doing the work, but the village needs more hands.



In April, LNC members met with DK Wesley, Asheville's City Manager, and Dawa Hitch from the City's Communications and Public Engagement team.

Residents, elders, young people, renters, homeowners, artists, business owners, faith leaders, and neighbors all have a role to play. The invitation is simple: stay informed, get connected, and help grow the village forward.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Heirs' Property and Tax Exemption Workshop Wednesday, May 13

Presentation from an attorney with Pisgah Legal Services, plus help completing tax exemption paperwork. Lunch provided. Hosted by H.E.R.S. and ABIPA. Held from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at Linwood Crump Shiloh Center.

East End/Valley Street Community Meeting Thursday, May 14

A representative from the YWCA will attend to share information with residents, including possible free memberships. Held at Stephens-Lee Community Center, 30 George Washington Carver Avenue in Asheville.

Shiloh Fun Day Saturday, May 24

This full-day community gathering in Shiloh begins around 10 a.m. This year's Fun Day has been moved to take place earlier in the season.

Save the dates and invite the fam.

VillageFest

A COLLECTIVE CELEBRATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY + CULTURE

LIVE MUSIC. GAMES. FOOD. ART. DANCING. CULTURE. POWERED BY LOCALS.

FREE!

August 28
August 29
MEMORIAL STADIUM, ASHEVILLE

REGISTERATION NOW OPEN

PRODUCED BY ASHEVILLE'S LEGACY NEIGHBORHOODS COALITION (LNC)
FISCAL SPONSORSHIP BY ASHEVILLE CREATIVE ARTS
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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.