

Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition

GET INVOLVED

Connect with one of the following organizations. LNC meetings are by invitation only. Go online to AshevilleLegacyNeighborhoods.org to send us a message.



Burton Street Community Association (BCSA)

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



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. Go to eastendvalleystreet.org, or email EastEndValleyStreet@gmail.com.



PODER Emma Community Ownership

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



Shiloh Community Association (SCA)

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



Southside United Neighborhood Association (SUNA)

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

Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition Festival Calls the Next Generation Home

BY SEKOU COLEMAN

A free, two-day celebration of culture, history, and community power takes place August 28 & 29, 2026.

Later this month, the five historic neighborhoods that make up Asheville's Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition will come together for the first Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition Festival, a free, two-day celebration of culture, history, and community power.

The Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition represents Burton Street, East End/Valley Street, Emma, Shiloh, and Southside. Each neighborhood has its own history, leadership, and traditions, but they share a common purpose: protecting the people, places, and stories that have shaped Asheville for generations.

The festival is an opportunity to celebrate that legacy, but it is also a call to action.

For decades, Black and Brown residents of Asheville built neighborhoods, businesses, churches, schools, cultural institutions, and support systems that strengthened the entire city. Today, many of those same communities are facing rising housing costs, development pressure, displacement, and the loss of longtime residents.

As Asheville has grown, too many families have been priced out, pushed to the edges of the county, or forced to leave the area altogether. Others, especially those in Black and Brown communities, have moved away in search of greater diversity, better educational and career opportunities, and housing that has become increasingly difficult to find at home.

The people who founded and continue to lead the Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition knew what they were up against. They have been fighting the good fight, and now they are asking the next generation to pick up the mantle.

That invitation is not limited to people who currently live within neighborhood boundaries. It includes younger residents, descendants of longtime families, people who grew up visiting grandparents in these communities, former residents who have moved away, and anyone whose family story is connected to these neighborhoods.

You do not have to live on the same street your grandparents lived on to help protect what they built.

Supporting legacy neighborhoods can mean attending community meetings, volunteering at events, learning neighborhood history, supporting Black-owned businesses, checking on longtime residents, joining a neighborhood association, or helping elders access resources. It can also mean bringing professional experience, relationships, creativity, and new ideas back into the community.

For Asheville's newer residents and transplants, the invitation begins with listening.

People moving into historic neighborhoods should take the time to understand where they are living, who helped build the community, and what residents have already identified as their priorities. Support should not mean arriving with a plan to change the neighborhood. It should mean respecting existing leadership, showing up consistently, spending money with local businesses, and helping longtime residents remain in place.

The festival offers a place for those relationships to begin. Through music, food, storytelling, family activities, community resources, and neighborhood history, the Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition Festival will introduce more people to the communities that have long been central to Asheville's identity.

It will also remind attendees that legacy is not something preserved only in photographs or history books. Legacy is carried forward through participation.

The next chapter of Asheville's Black neighborhoods should not be written without the families who built them. Whether you stayed, returned, moved away, or recently arrived, there is a role for you.

The first Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition Festival is both a celebration and an open invitation: come learn, come reconnect, come support, and come help ensure these communities remain places where future generations can live, lead, and belong.

The 2026 Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition Festival will take place Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29, at Memorial Stadium. Visit AshevilleLegacyNeighborhoods.org/festival/ for more information.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

East End

Emergency Preparedness Workshop

The East End/Valley Street Neighborhood Association invites you to a workshop led by the Red Cross Community Disaster Team and Buncombe County Fire Department on Thursday, August 13 at 6 p.m. during the monthly neighborhood association meeting at Stephens-Lee.

Emma Community

Events held at 17 Westside Drive unless otherwise noted.

Weightlifting

August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. Held every Monday from 7–8 p.m.

El Mercadito

Held every Wednesday, 1–5 p.m., 21 Westside Road.

Zumba

August 5, 12, 19 and 26, 7–8 p.m.

Aerobics

August 6, 13, 20 and 27. Held every Thursday from 7–8 p.m.

El Mercadito

Held every Friday from 12–4 p.m., 21 Westside Road

Sewing Lab

August 7, 14, 21 and 28

Aerobics

August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Held every Sunday from 9–10 a.m.

Special Events

Saturday, August 1

Children's Reading Circle, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Saturday, August 8

Community Yard Sale, 7 a.m.–2 p.m., James Vester Miller Park.

Children's Reading Circle

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Thursday, August 13

Workshop with Tierra Fétil, 4–6 p.m.

Saturday, August 15

Celebrating Our Cultures Festival, beginning at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, August 18

Pet Clinic, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at El Porvenir.

Saturday, August 29

Community Yard Sale, 7 a.m.–2 p.m., James Vester Miller Park.

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.