

Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition

SEPTEMBER 2026

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 burtonstreet.org, or email 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.

What's Going On With LNC?

BY SEKOU COLEMAN

The Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition wants to begin with gratitude.

Thank you to everyone who came to Memorial Stadium on August 28 and 29 for the first-ever Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition Festival. Thank you to the residents, former residents, families, artists, performers, vendors, volunteers, neighborhood leaders, sponsors, partners, and behind-the-scenes workers who helped us bring Burton Street, East End/Valley Street, Emma, Shiloh, and Southside together in one place.

The festival was created to celebrate the history, culture, creativity, and community life of Asheville's legacy neighborhoods. There was music, food, art, storytelling, games, neighborhood history, and plenty of opportunities simply to be together. More importantly, it gave us a chance to make something visible that can be easy to forget as Asheville changes: these neighborhoods are not just pieces of the city's past. They are living communities with people, institutions, memories, and futures worth protecting.

That is where celebration connects to the work ahead.

Long-Range City Vision

Over the next several years, the City of Asheville will move through a set of planning processes that may sound technical but will help determine what growth looks like, what can be built, where development happens, how neighborhoods change, and what protections exist for people already here.

One is the update to Living Asheville, the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Think of the Comprehensive Plan as the big-picture vision. It helps answer questions about what kind of city Asheville wants to become and guides long-term decisions about growth, housing, transportation, infrastructure, resilience, land use, and neighborhood character.

There is also the City's forthcoming strategic plan. When City Council adopted its anti-displacement resolution in July, Council amended it to require measurable milestones, expected outcomes, and a structure for reporting progress through that strategic

plan. That is worth noting because commitment without responsibility, milestones, or a way to measure results can become little more than good language on paper.

At the same time, the City is developing anti-displacement strategies and tools to better understand where residents are vulnerable to displacement and what can help people remain in their communities as costs and development pressure increase.

For legacy neighborhoods, that conversation must include more than housing prices. Displacement can also mean losing neighborhood businesses, churches, gathering places, cultural traditions, family networks, and ultimately the character that makes a community feel like home.

Then there is the Unified Development Ordinance, or UDO. This is where much of the vision becomes rules. The UDO governs what can be built, where it can be built, and many of the standards that shape development.

Asheville approved several housing-related UDO amendments in August, and the City is also beginning a much larger rewrite of its development regulations alongside the Comprehensive Plan update. That multi-year process is cur-



At the Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition Festival.

rently expected to continue into 2028.

These processes overlap, but they are not interchangeable. The Comprehensive Plan sets the long-term direction. Strategic planning should establish priorities, milestones, and accountability. Anti-displacement work should identify risks and protections. The UDO turns many planning choices into enforceable rules on the ground.

None of these plans will appear on your ballot this fall. But the people elected to City Council will help make decisions about them.

That is why civic engagement cannot begin and end with Election Day. Residents should understand these processes well enough to ask candidates what they believe, what protections they support, and how they intend to balance new growth with the right of longtime residents to remain rooted.

And after the election, those same questions belong to whoever takes office, whether you voted for them or not.

Who benefits from growth? Who gets to stay? What parts of a neighborhood should be protected? How will residents be involved before decisions are made? How will we know whether anti-displacement policies are actually working? Those are community questions.

The festival gave us a chance to celebrate the village. The work ahead is making sure the village still has the knowledge, voice, and power to shape what happens to it.



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.