



NEIGHBORHOODWORKS!

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Conference

Building Neighborhoods That Work for Everyone

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOWN OF MANCHESTER'S NEIGHBORHOODWORKS! CONFERENCE TO EMPHASIZE COMMUNITY-BUILDING

Manchester, CT — The Town of Manchester's Department of Leisure, Families and Recreation is piloting a one-day, pop-up NeighborhoodWorks! Conference on Friday, May 27, 2016 from 8:00 a.m-4:00 p.m with the goal of inspiring community-driven initiatives. The conference will take place in an unconventional location—the former Nathan Hale School—because the site serves as a pertinent example of a vacant public building that is in the process of being repurposed to address vital needs within the neighborhood.

The NeighborhoodWorks! Conference is open to anyone interested in knowing more about creating connected, safe, healthy, beautiful, and generous communities where they live, work, or attend school. Professional community builders; activists; town, school and agency staff; and neighborhood residents from all backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The conference will kick off with a keynote address—Creating Thriving Neighborhoods—by Bill DeMaio, Superintendent of Newington Parks and Recreation. Drawing on his 15-year tenure as a municipal-level Americans with Disabilities Coordinator, as well as over 30 years as a parks and recreation director, DeMaio has worked tirelessly to encourage local businesses, schools, and civic groups to break down barriers and make their city a better place to live, work, and play. In the morning, “Learn Track Sessions” covering a wide variety of relevant community-building topics are scheduled to be held between 9:45-11:00 a.m. A special one-hour panel discussion, Neighborhoods That Work for Everyone, will follow at 11:15 a.m. This moderated question-and-answer session promises lively conversation, and maybe even a little debate, as professionals from a diverse range of fields take questions about how to create inclusive and equitable neighborhoods while maintaining economic and environmental sustainability.

Conference participants will be able enjoy lunch for no additional charge at 12:30 p.m, while participating in an elective “Lunch LearnShop and Tour” with a focus on Repurposing Public Buildings for the Public Good. Professionals from Manchester's Department of Planning and Economic Development and the Office of Neighborhoods and Families will discuss how mindful redevelopment can turn shuttered buildings into important community assets. Tours of the former Spruce Street Firehouse (now the EastSide Neighborhood Resource Center) and the Nathan Hale building will also be offered. Following a second series of Learn Track Sessions in the afternoon from 2:00-3:15 p.m, the conference will conclude with a closing address—Leadership That Makes a Difference in Our Community—by Rachel Hyman, Manchester Public Schools Family Resource Center Coordinator. The message will focus on how leaders can create real change by having the courage to listen to the stories of the communities they serve.

The registration fee for the NeighborhoodWorks! Conference is \$35 for Manchester residents and \$50 for non-residents. For more information—or to join the conversation—visit facebook.com/neighborhoodworksconference. To register to attend the conference, visit naf.townofmanchester.org or call (860) 647-3084.

For more information visit facebook.com/neighborhoodworksconference





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CHECK-IN AND LIGHT BREAKFAST BEGINS AT 8:00 AM

Friday, May 27, 8 AM-4 PM

NATHAN HALE BUILDING, 160 SPRUCE ST, MANCHESTER, CT

This spring, in the spirit of Manchester's commitment to creating a thriving community, the Office of Neighborhoods and Families, a division of the Department of Leisure, Families and Recreation, is piloting a one-day "pop-up" conference with the goal of inspiring community-driven initiatives. The conference is open to anyone who wants to know more about creating connected, safe, healthy, beautiful, and generous communities where they work, live, or attend school. Professional community builders; activists; town, school, and agency staff; and neighborhood residents from all backgrounds are encouraged to attend. *To register, call (860) 647-3084 or go online to naf.townofmanchester.org*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 9-9:30AM

Creating Thriving Neighborhoods One Relationship at a Time

Strong communities begin with strong relationships. Drawing on his 15-year tenure as a municipal-level Americans with Disabilities Coordinator, and over 30 years as Director of Parks and Recreation, Bill DeMaio encourages local businesses, schools, and civic groups to break down barriers and make their city a better place to work, live and play...for everyone.

Keynote Speaker: Bill DeMaio, Superintendent, Newington Parks and Recreation



Bill and his best bud Izaac

MORNING LEARN TRACK SESSIONS 9:45-11 AM

Creating Thriving Neighborhoods

Choose from any of the morning Learn Track Sessions: Neighborhood Relations, Neighborhood Wellness, Neighborhood Engagement, Neighborhood Beautification and Neighborhood Sharing.

MORNING PANEL DISCUSSION 11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Neighborhoods That Work for Everybody

This moderated Q&A session promises lively conversation, and maybe even a little debate as professionals from diverse fields answer questions on how to create inclusive and equitable neighborhoods while maintaining economic and environmental sustainability. The panel will feature leaders from the fields of planning and economic development, community organizing, housing equity, recreation, and more.

LUNCH LEARN SHOP AND TOUR 12:30-1:45 PM

Repurposing Public Buildings for the Public Good

In an era of nation-wide school closures, professionals from Manchester's Department of Planning and Economic Development and the Office of Neighborhoods and Families will discuss how mindful redevelopment can turn closed buildings into community assets. Tours of the old Spruce Street Firehouse (now the East Side Neighborhood Resource Center) and the yet-to-be repurposed Nathan Hale School will be offered.

Speakers: Mark Pellegrini and Kyle Sheil, Manchester Department of Planning and Economic Development.

AFTERNOON LEARN TRACK SESSIONS 2-3:15 PM

Choose from any of the afternoon Learn Track Sessions: Neighborhood Relations, Neighborhood Wellness, Neighborhood Engagement, Neighborhood Beautification and Neighborhood Sharing.

CLOSING ADDRESS 3:30-4 PM

Leadership That Makes a Difference in Our Community

Creating neighborhoods that work for everyone requires effort on all sides. Real change comes from leaders who have the courage to listen to the stories of the communities they serve. *Closing Speaker: Rachel Hyman, Manchester Public Schools Family Resource Centers*

CONFERENCE LEARN TRACK 1

Neighborhood Relations

Online or face-to-face, from organizational partnerships to one-on-one interactions, healthy neighborhoods start with relationships. Strong social networks result in healthier, safer, and more resilient neighborhoods.

MORNING SESSION

Community Building for Nerds Using Technology to Create Connected Communities

Office of Neighborhoods and Families and Family and Community Partnership

AFTERNOON SESSION

Building Relationships in Your Neighborhood

The Christian Activities Council



CONFERENCE LEARN TRACK 2

Neighborhood Wellness

Green, safe, walkable neighborhoods for all help protect against the toxic stress that disproportionately affects those living in poverty. Investing in neighborhoods health and safety now pre-empts social and public health costs down the road.

MORNING SESSION

Grassroots Gardening: Creating Community Gardens from the Ground Up

Summer of Solutions, Hartford

AFTERNOON SESSION

Let's Start Talking About the "H" Word: First Steps to Creating Heroin-Free Communities

Counseling Centers of New England



CONFERENCE LEARN TRACK 3

Neighborhood Engagement

Vital, thriving neighborhoods are created by an engaged community. Authentic neighborhood engagement builds on existing strengths and responds to expressed needs.

MORNING SESSION

Youth as Resources: Partnering with Youth to Create a Better Community

Write Out Loud Poetry Collective and the Manchester Youth Commission

AFTERNOON SESSION

Demand-Driven Programming: A Real World Approach to Community Development

Lawrence Community Works, MA



CONFERENCE LEARN TRACK 4

Neighborhood Beautification

Beautiful neighborhoods are safer neighborhoods, with less crime and more community pride. Small investments in green space—ten more trees on a city block—can make residents healthier, and happier.

MORNING SESSION

Parks, Trails, and Greens Spaces: Why Communities Need More Nature

East Coast Greenway Alliance and the Manchester GIS Department

AFTERNOON SESSION

Beautification Without Gentrification: Creating Better Neighborhoods for Everyone

CT Open Communities Alliance and Oak Park Regional Housing Center, IL



CONFERENCE LEARN TRACK 5

Neighborhood Sharing

In cash-poor communities, a culture of giving can offset the negative effects of unemployment, poverty, and discriminatory practices such as redlining. When neighbors share resources, they enjoy social, economic, and environmental benefits.

MORNING SESSION

Volunteering with Benefits: How Time Banking Builds Relationships of Mutual Aid

Windham Area Hour Exchange

AFTERNOON SESSION

Working Alone Stinks: How CoWorking Spaces Can Revitalize Neighborhoods and Build Community

Axis901 and ReSET



GET THE INFORMATION! JOIN THE CONVERSATION!
facebook.com/neighborhoodworksconference

REGISTER ONLINE AT NAF.TOWNOFMANCHESTER.ORG or BY PHONE BY CALLING (860) 647-3084

