



Thriving Cities

# CITIZEN'S FIELD GUIDE

to PLACE-BASED THRIVING in the  
SOUTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD  
of Columbus, OH

(WORKING PROTOTYPE)  
SUMMER 2016









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# Thriving Cities

## WHAT IS THRIVING CITIES?

Thriving Cities is a group of unconventional urbanists comprised of sociologists, data scientists, urban designers, and social impact leaders working for the good of their cities and asking the question:

*What does it mean and take to thrive?*

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## WHY THRIVING?

The world is becoming more and more urban as populations continue to migrate to cities at a record pace. Since cities are the habitat of our species, it is no longer enough to make our cities “work.” *We need a new paradigm for understanding how our cities can “thrive.”*

The concept of *thriving* shifts our thinking from conventional deficit perspectives to an asset orientation, empowering leaders and citizens to see beyond common problems to collective possibilities. Thriving rests upon the realization of *human capabilities\** and the necessary external circumstances in which those capabilities can become realized.

\*See Human Capabilities Approach on fold out at back

## HUMAN ECOLOGY FRAMEWORK

To help pull apart the myriad and interwoven ways our places form the possibility of thriving, we employ our *Human Ecology Framework*. This sharpens our insights into what powers and sustains the programs, institutions, and policies that make for a thriving human-centered urban ecosystem; *when the ecology of our cities thrive, we as a species thrive.*





# Citizen's Field Guide

## WHAT IS A CITIZEN'S FIELD GUIDE?

This *Thriving Cities Citizen's Field Guide* is a multi-dimensional tool for place-based community assessment and development that brings together important geographical features with vital community statistics, critical historical backgrounds, and cultural contexts through a series of maps, visualizations, and infographics. The combination of quantitative, qualitative, and geospatial information at a neighborhood level offers *a uniquely powerful tool by which a community can work together to tell its distinctive story, assess itself, and develop a shared vision of civic thriving.*

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## FOUR COMPONENTS OF A FIELD GUIDE

### a. BASELINE OF THRIVING

The Baseline of Thriving uses the best available community data across the six Endowments to calculate a community's level of thriving. It captures a neighborhood's ability to secure the basic conditions of material well-being necessary for thriving.

### b. HISTORIC URBAN NARRATIVE

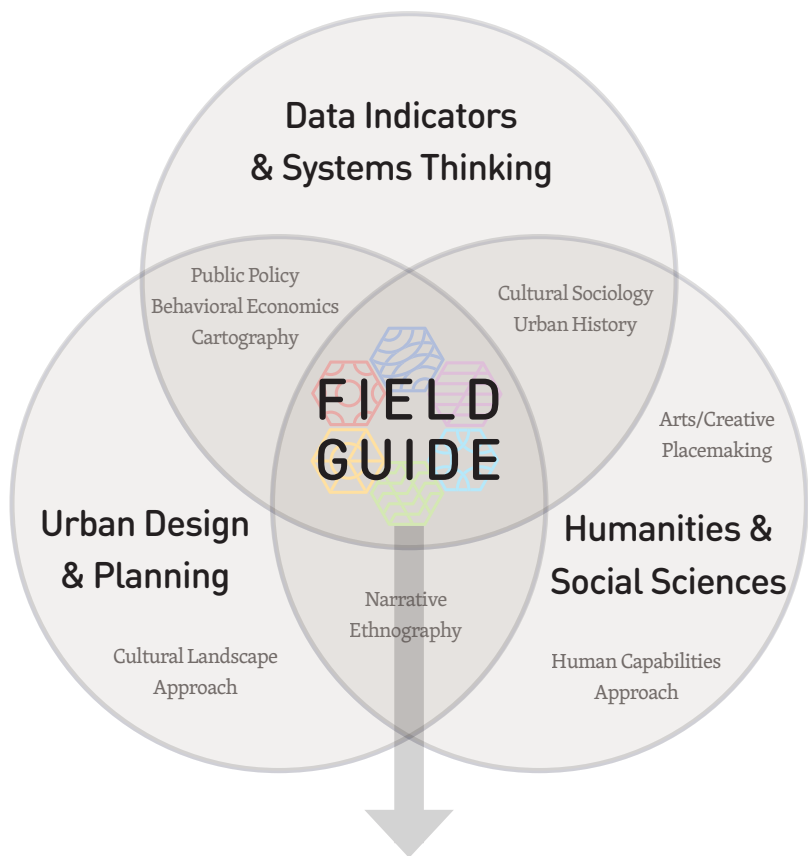
Historic elements contextualize the quantitative data into necessary cultural and social contexts. Building off a range of qualitative techniques—from filmed interviews to historical research—the narrative survey tells the history and stories of the neighborhood through the lens of the Human Ecology Framework.

### c. MAPPING & DATA SPATIALIZATION

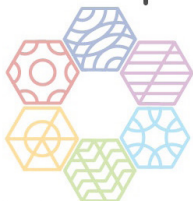
The place-based approach situates the data and the narratives within the Human Ecology through geospatial visualization and urban landscape mapping. This includes GIS and other mapping techniques, data overlays, and multi-level representation techniques.

### d. NARRATIVE PORTRAITS

Through resident and stakeholder interviews, human-centered storytelling catalyzes the basic features present within the Field Guide. Through film and photographic stories, we contextualize the baseline data by highlighting evidence-based design insights.



**"sweet spot"**



**between the  
data & narrative**



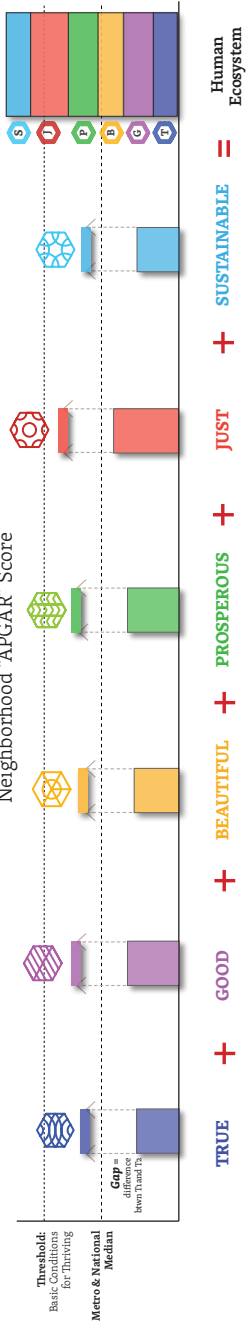
# Baseline of Thriving

## WHAT IS THE BASELINE OF THRIVING?

The *Baseline Thriving Index* draws from the highest quality community data available to flesh out the current condition of the six Endowments across the Human Ecology. When interpreted in the context of the other field guide components—the historic urban narrative, mapping and spatialization, and the narrative portraits of community members—it provides a holistic understanding of a neighborhood or city. It also allows for comparison with other local neighborhoods and similar cities across the country, for there are common elements of thriving across all communities. The exact combinations, however, manifest in unique combinations in each neighborhood.

	TRUE	GOOD	BEAUTIFUL	PROSPEROUS	JUST	SUSTAINABLE	DEMOGRAPHY
<b>Thriving Cities</b> Baseline Indicators	<b>EDUCATION</b> High School Graduation Rates	<b>STABLE HOMES</b> % Residents moved, past year <b>SOCIAL CONNECTIONS</b> # of non-profits	<b>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b> % residential properties vacant <b>CULTURAL VIBRANCY</b> # arts/culture establishments	<b>EMPLOYMENT</b> % adults currently employed <b>COST-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS</b> % households paying 30% or more income in rent/mortgage	<b>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</b> Voting Rates <b>SAFETY</b> Violent Crime Rates <b>RESIDENTIAL INCLUSION</b> Neighborhood Income Ratio	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b> Air Quality Index <b>PHYSICAL HEALTH</b> Life Expectancy Rates <b>PHYSICAL HEALTH</b> Infant Mortality Rates	<b>Education Attainment</b> Total Population Race/Ethnicity Foreign Born Density of Children  <b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b> Demographic variables provide a picture of the people who live in a neighborhood and how they are integrated into the local school system, such as immigrant status, age, and education help us understand what kinds of community such as childcare, language services, or support for aging. Furthermore, looking at education or employment across demographic variables helps ensure that services and resources that a community are fairly distributed.
<b>Baseline Indicators</b> Explanations	<b>EDUCATION</b> High School Grad. Rates High School Graduation Rates Neighborhood highlights the educational vitality of the local school system.	<b>STABLE HOMES</b> % of people moved last year The percent of people who move in a year measures the level of residential mobility in a neighborhood.	<b>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b> Vacancy rates represent units that are empty and ready to be rented/sold, and units that are uninhabitable due to need of repairs or renovations. <b>CULTURAL VIBRANCY</b> # arts and cultural establishments per 1,000 The presence or absence of arts and culture establishments indicates the level of cultural support for a local cultural infrastructure.	<b>EMPLOYMENT</b> This labor force statistic highlights the number of employed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. <b>COST-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS</b> % households that is cost-burdened A household that is cost-burdened spends 30 percent or more of its monthly gross income on housing.	<b>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</b> Voting Rates Voting is an indication of a choice between two or more candidates or courses of action, expressed typically through a ballot. <b>SAFETY</b> #/rate homicides, aggravated assaults, domestic violence incidents, and robberies in particular area. <b>RESIDENTIAL INCLUSION</b> Neighborhood income ratio A neighborhood income ratio helps to identify the economic make-up of a community.	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b> Air Quality Index Five air pollutants ground-level ozone, particulate pollution, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide capture the degree of pollution in the air. <b>PHYSICAL HEALTH</b> Life Expectancy Rates Life expectancy in an area represents the average period of time a person may live. <b>PHYSICAL HEALTH</b> Infant Mortality Rates The infant mortality rate of an area indicates the number of deaths under one year per 1,000 births.	

## Neighborhood "APGAR" Score

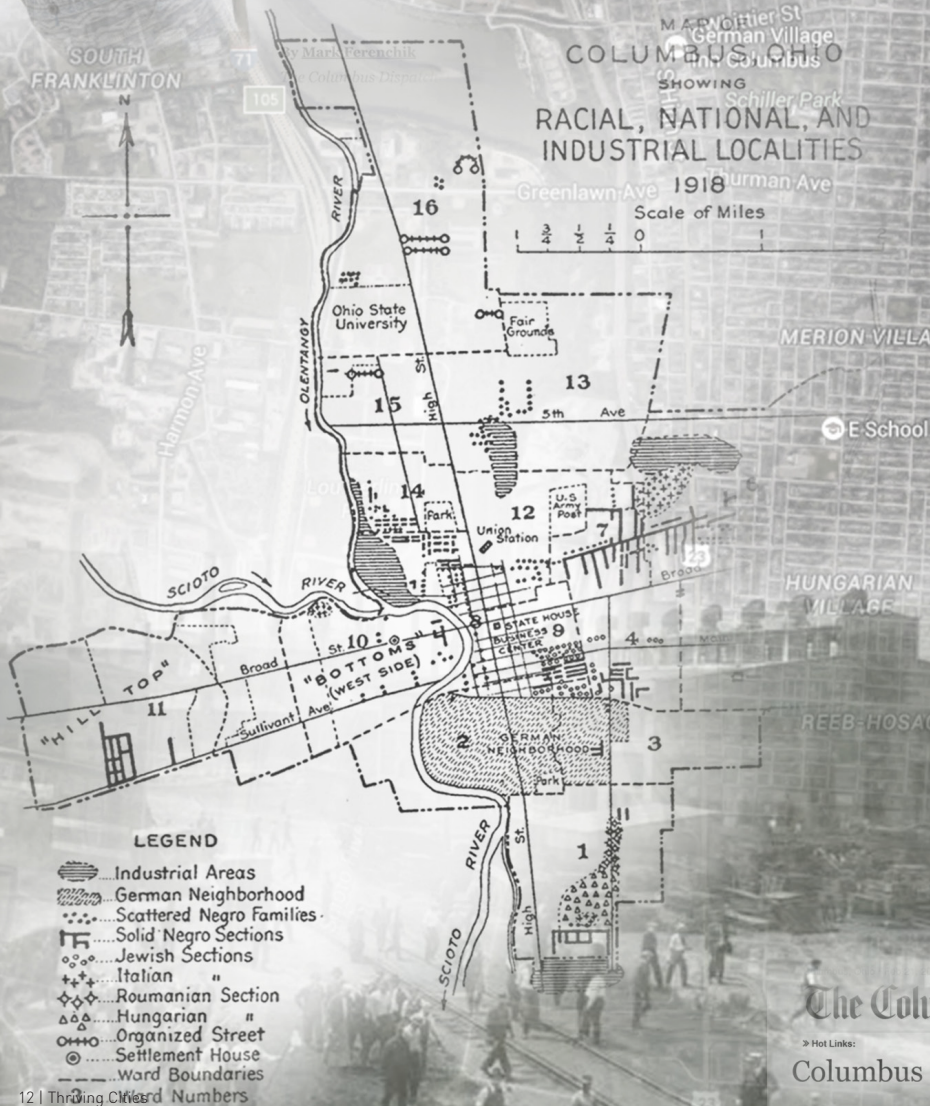




# The Columbus Dispatch

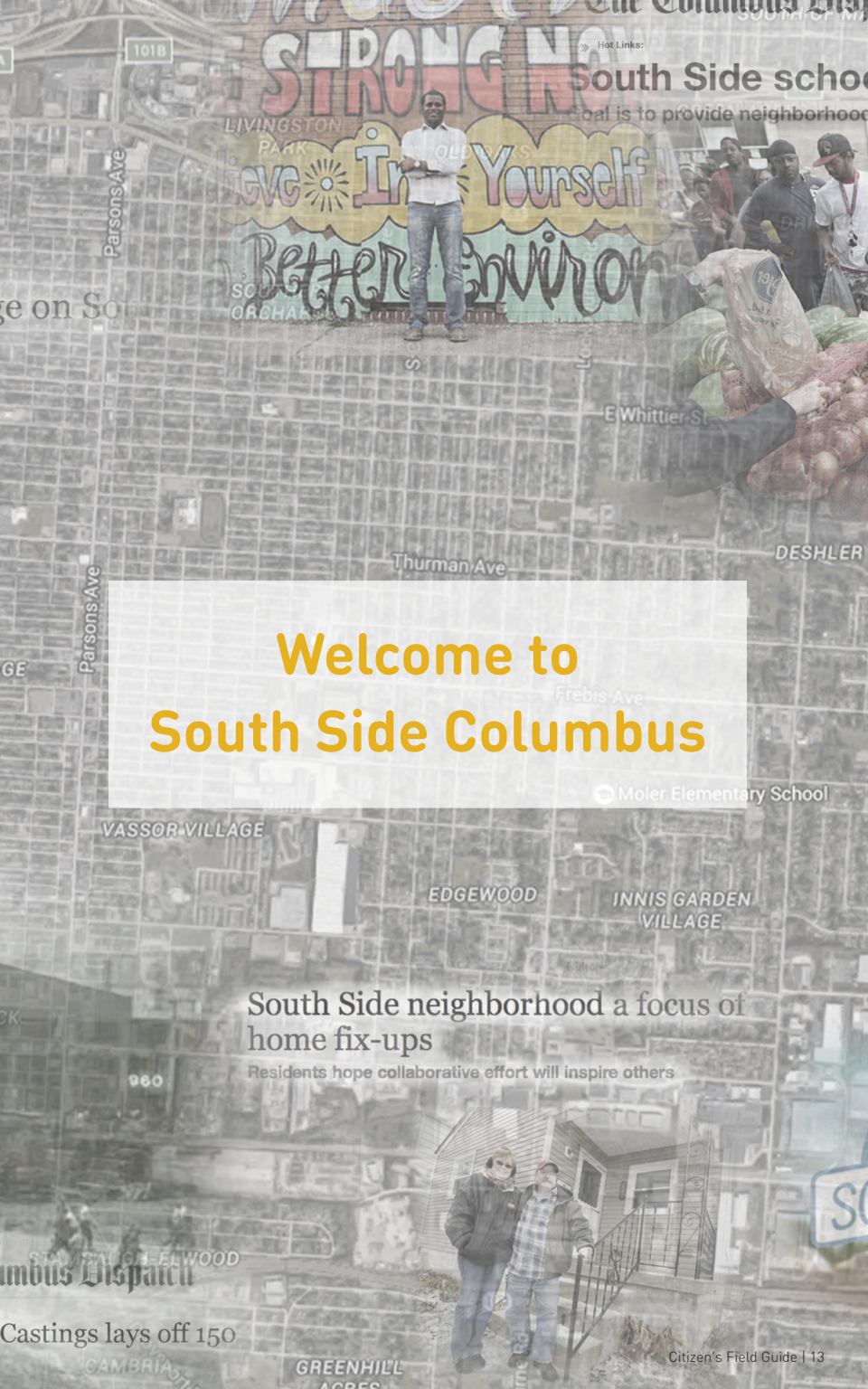
» Hot Links:

## Reeb Avenue Center opens as a beacon for change Side



» Hot Links:

Columbus



# Welcome to South Side Columbus

South Side neighborhood a focus of  
home fix-ups

Residents hope collaborative effort will inspire others

Columbus Dispatch

Castings lays off 150



# South Side, Columbus

## History, People & Place

The history of immigrants in the South Side of Columbus is as old as the United States. The land was originally given to British and Nova Scotian families for their assistance to the American government during the Revolutionary War. Since then, it has developed into a home for German, Irish, Italian, and Hungarian immigrants, Native Americans, an influx of whites from Appalachia, and blacks from the Great Migration. The only Native American cultural center in Ohio is located in the South Side.

In the early 1900s, the economic growth of the region was fueled by the expansion of industrial facilities, in particular steel manufacturing, which earned the area the nickname of “Steeltown.” This formed a strong and thriving blue-collar community. However, the economic prospects of the area have declined as manufacturing has lost its place in the larger American economy. There is still some heavy manufacturing and other industrial work in the area, but it supports only a fraction of the jobs it once created.

There is a history of limited investment in the community. It was subject to redlining—the practice of denying mortgages and business loans in certain areas based on the racial, ethnic, or financial qualities of a neighborhood—in the early part of the 20th century. In spite of this, the residents formed a vibrant and resilient community, committed to working hard to solve community problems.





**GEORGE HICKS** – “I was not raised on the South Side, but as I talk with young people and people that come here... What I have found out is people who grew up in [the Barack] center are totally committed to this center... Many have moved away, but we have a reunion every year. There’s probably a thousand people that come back for that reunion.”



**ANIKA BOUDREAUX** – “My family originates from Louisiana. My grandfather was a Tuskegee Airman who was stationed at Lockbourne Air force base. After the program ended at Tuskegee Institute, he was one of the airmen that was stationed out here.”



**MASAMI SMITH** – “I came here 20 years ago from Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Oregon, and this is the first place that I’ve ever came right off the reservation. I’d never lived in the city before, and when I came here, we sought out the Indian Center.”



**THERESA OSKINS** - She has lived in the South Side for 13 years. She says, “volunteering here at the Reeb Center, that’s a good thing... I come in here and volunteer a couple days.”



**ROBERT PATTERSON** – “I’ve been the president [of the Marion Franklin Civic Association] for the last nine years. I’ve been the president of all this area over here.... Our organization’s been formed ever since 1958.”



**CHRYSTAL LOCKWOOD** – She has lived in the neighborhood only a few months, but she spent part of her childhood in the South Side. “I had friends that lived in the south end. I grew up on the east side... [But] I grew up running around down here with my friends.”



# SIGNIFICANCE

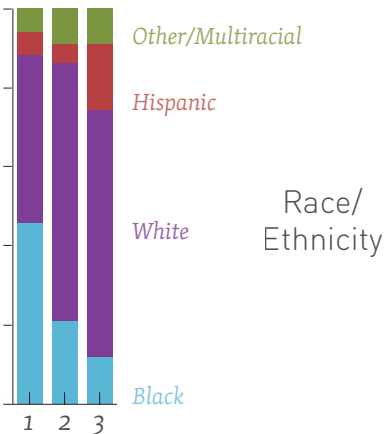
While South Side has many challenges, the community has a strong connection to and pride in their shared history.

**Waves of immigration to the area have woven a rich mosaic of cultures that still shapes neighborhood identities**

**today.** Two out of five residents highlight the community’s history and diversity as some of the best things about the South Side. They also feel a strong connection to the other people in their community. Half of residents say they have “great neighbors.” Recent investments in the area have fostered a strong sense of hope for a restored and thriving community, and the residents are committed to see those benefits extended to all residents.

## Population

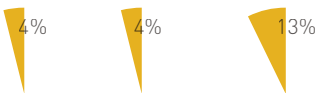
1. <i>South Side</i>	34,077
2. <i>Franklin Co.</i>	1,197,592
3. <i>National</i>	1,197,592



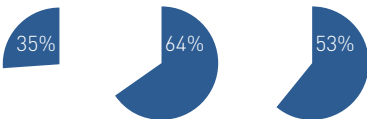
## Density of Children

1. <i>South Side</i>	347.0/sqm
2. <i>Franklin Co.</i>	304.5/sqm

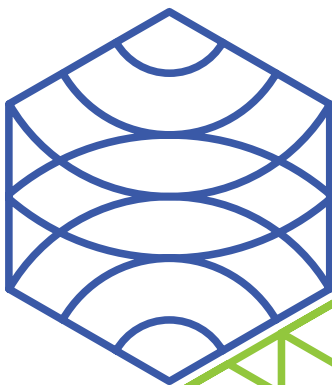
## Foreign Born



## Educational Attainment



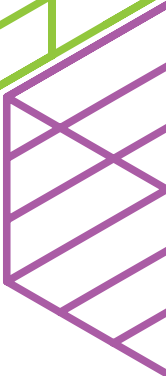
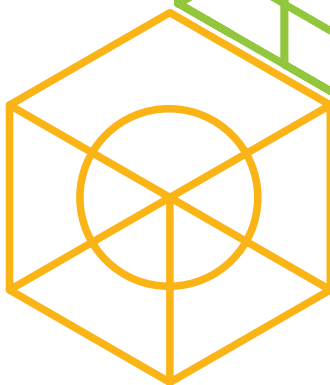
THE TRUE



THE PROSPEROUS



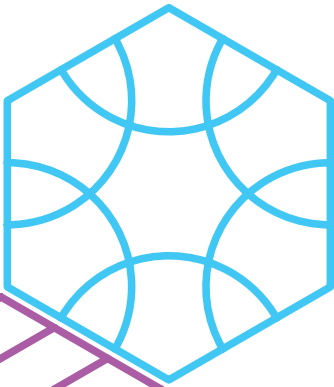
THE BEAUTIFUL





# THRIVING MOSAIC

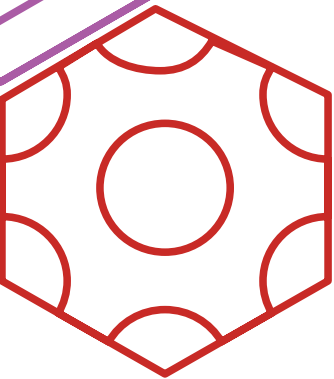
SOUTH SIDE COLUMBUS'S  
CITY SIGNATURE



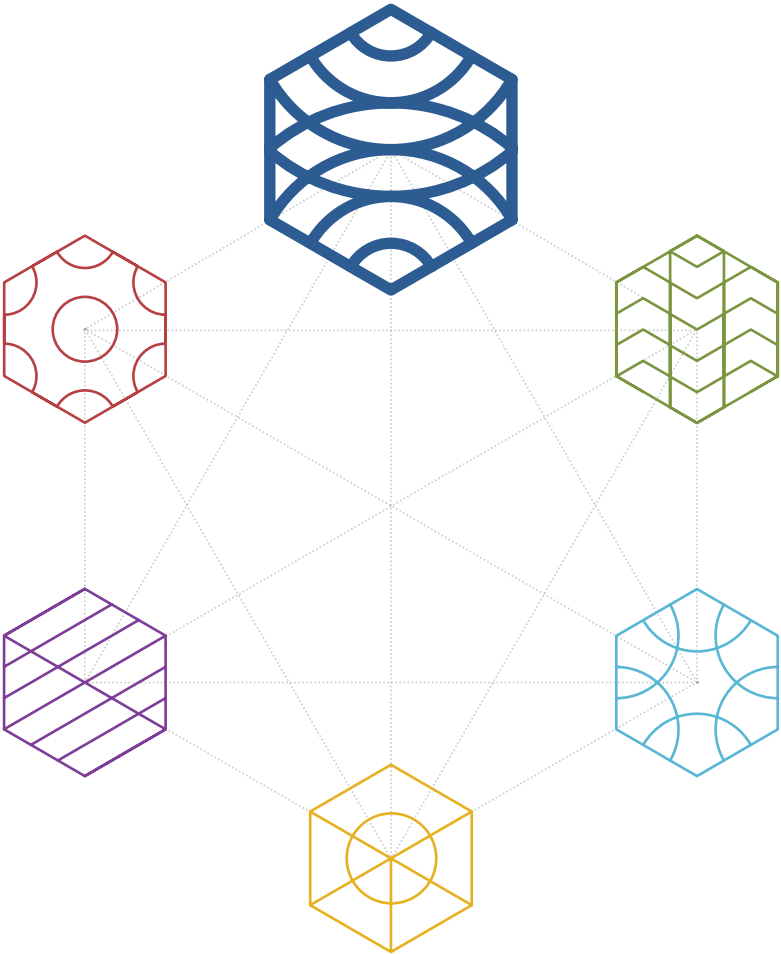
THE SUSTAINABLE



THE GOOD



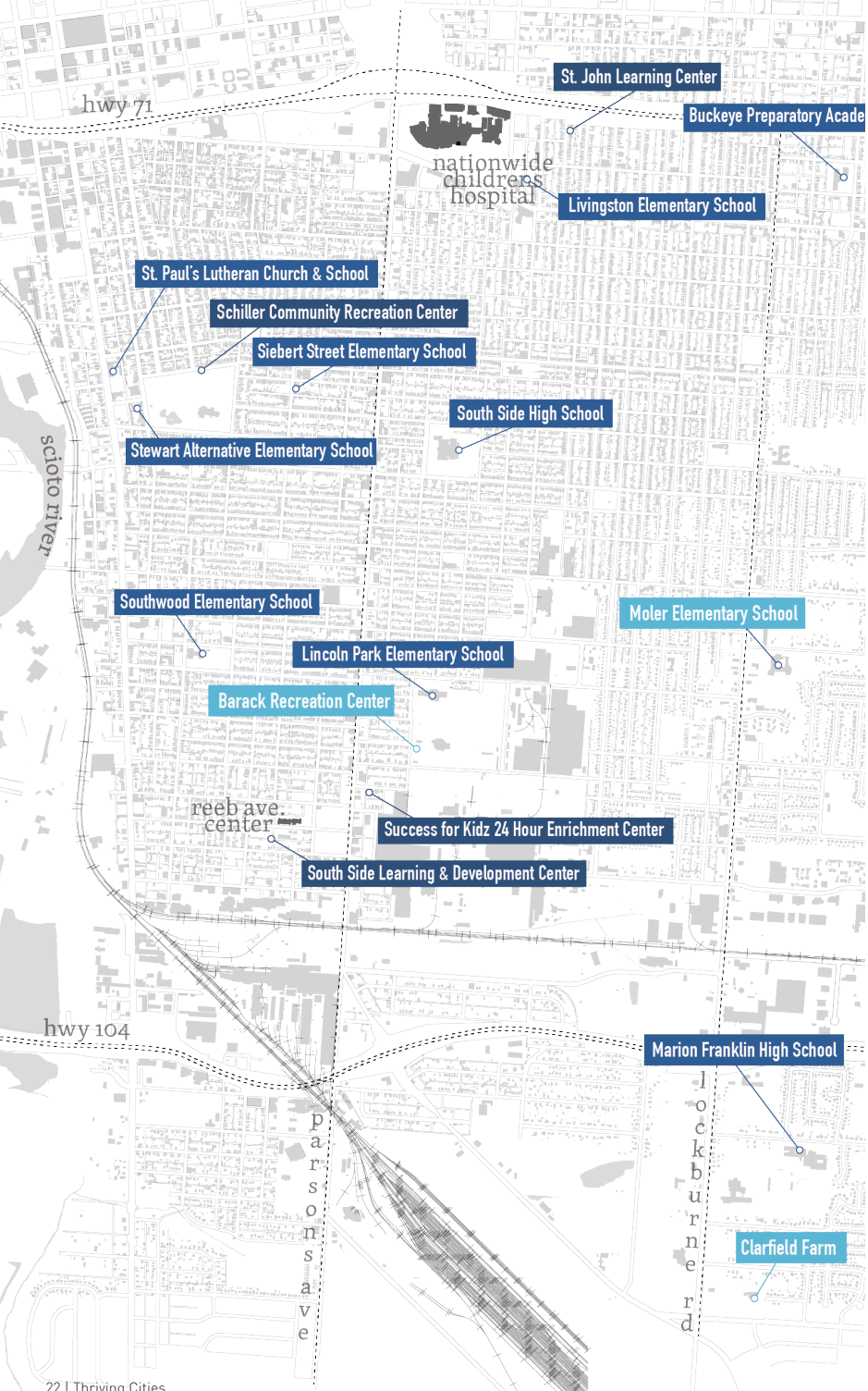
THE JUST



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## the TRUE

THE TRUE concerns the production and distribution of knowledge in cities that connect across the lifespan of individuals from youth to old age, across flows of information and thought within communities, and in both formal and informal spaces of education and learning.



hwy 71

St. John Learning Center

Buckeye Preparatory Acad

nationwide  
childrens  
hospital

Livingston Elementary School

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

Schiller Community Recreation Center

Siebert Street Elementary School

South Side High School

Stewart Alternative Elementary School

Southwood Elementary School

Lincoln Park Elementary School

Barack Recreation Center

Moler Elementary School

reeb ave.  
center

Success for Kidz 24 Hour Enrichment Center

South Side Learning & Development Center

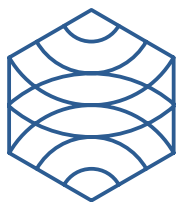
hwy 104

Marion Franklin High School

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Clarfield Farm



# the TRUE

the realm of human knowledge

The endowment of **the TRUE** captures **the production & distribution of knowledge** primarily found in formal venues of education, such as schools, colleges, & libraries.

Resources + Practices: *Research, teaching, cultural and historical preservation, innovation, etc.*

Institutions + Places: *Libraries, schools, public squares, media, public art, job training centers, etc.*

The realm of THE TRUE includes both formal and informal education across all ages. In the South Side, 14 schools educate children from preschool to high school and three libraries give educational access to all ages. South Side schools welcome children who live in high poverty neighborhoods and experience high levels of residential mobility and food insecurity. Community partners have rallied around schools to support students through programs such as More Than My Brother's Keeper, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Community Development for All People, which provide tutoring and support services to help all kids succeed.

## Did you know?

40% of students that start the school year in a South Side school will finish the year in a school outside the neighborhood.<sup>1</sup>

## CHAMPION PROFILE

### George Hicks



*“We need to sit down and really begin to grapple with **what would it mean to thrive**. That would be **education, opportunity—especially for our kids**. It’s about purpose, isn’t it? Helping them identify their purpose. Once they identify it, they can fulfill it. We started the Teen Institute. The kids come from January to May. We’ve taken our kids on six or seven college tours now. Last year we went down to Tennessee, spent three days. We hope to go to North Carolina this year. It’s coming together.”*

George leads a number of community programs including the Maryhaven’s Gambling Intervention program, South Side Community Collaborative, and Applications for Purpose, Pride, and Success (APPS). Through his work with these organizations, he aims to strengthen community ties through building relationships. South Side collaborative employs teens internally, helps teens acquire employment externally, and takes them on college tours. The APPS program provides teens with a safe place to social evenings and weekends.

# BASELINE INDICATORS

## SIGNIFICANCE

A **high school education** is an important stepping stone for future academic and economic achievement. It is linked to lower rates of community crime, increased civic participation, and improved physical health. In addition, it has a generational impact: children whose parents have a GED or high school diploma are more likely to graduate from high school, even if their parents achieve their degree after the child enters school.<sup>2</sup> Residents of the South Side graduate from high school at a noticeably lower rate than the national average. **One-third of all adults living in the South Side do not have a high school degree.**



## High School Graduation Rate

2  
3

South High School STUDENTS graduate on time.



3  
4

Franklin Co. STUDENTS graduate on time.





# HUMAN ECOLOGY PATHWAYS

## High School Graduation



Light Factor = has a promising relationship

**Bold Factor** = has an established relationship

+ Input = has a positive effect

- Input = has a negative effect

The **Human Ecology Pathways** map out the interconnected web of the Human Ecology by using accepted scientific consensus, expert opinion, and promising state-of-the-art research to connect the topic of focus to critical upstream inputs and downstream outcomes.

# RESIDENT NETWORK

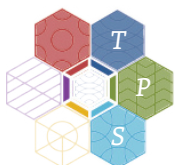
## George Hicks



The list below describes George Hick's Human Ecology Pathways. The diagrams on the left highlight the endowments each activity demonstrates.



George runs the Applications for Purpose, Pride, and Success (APPS) program which provides a safe space for youth and works to reduce youth violence through intervention, enrichment activities, and mentor relationships.



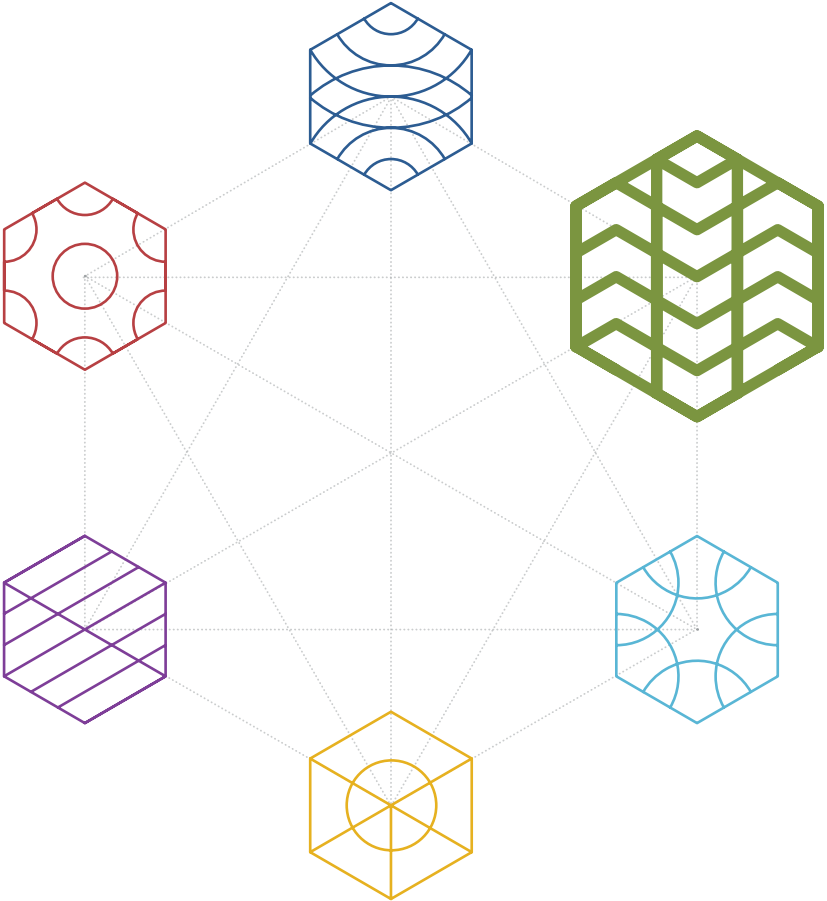
He engages youth around their vision for the community. The teens want job training, access to mental health services to reduce neighborhood violence, and a way to give back and connect to the community.



Through the Barack Community Center, the kids were able to take action for the things they cared about: growing healthy food and protesting on behalf of workers in Florida.



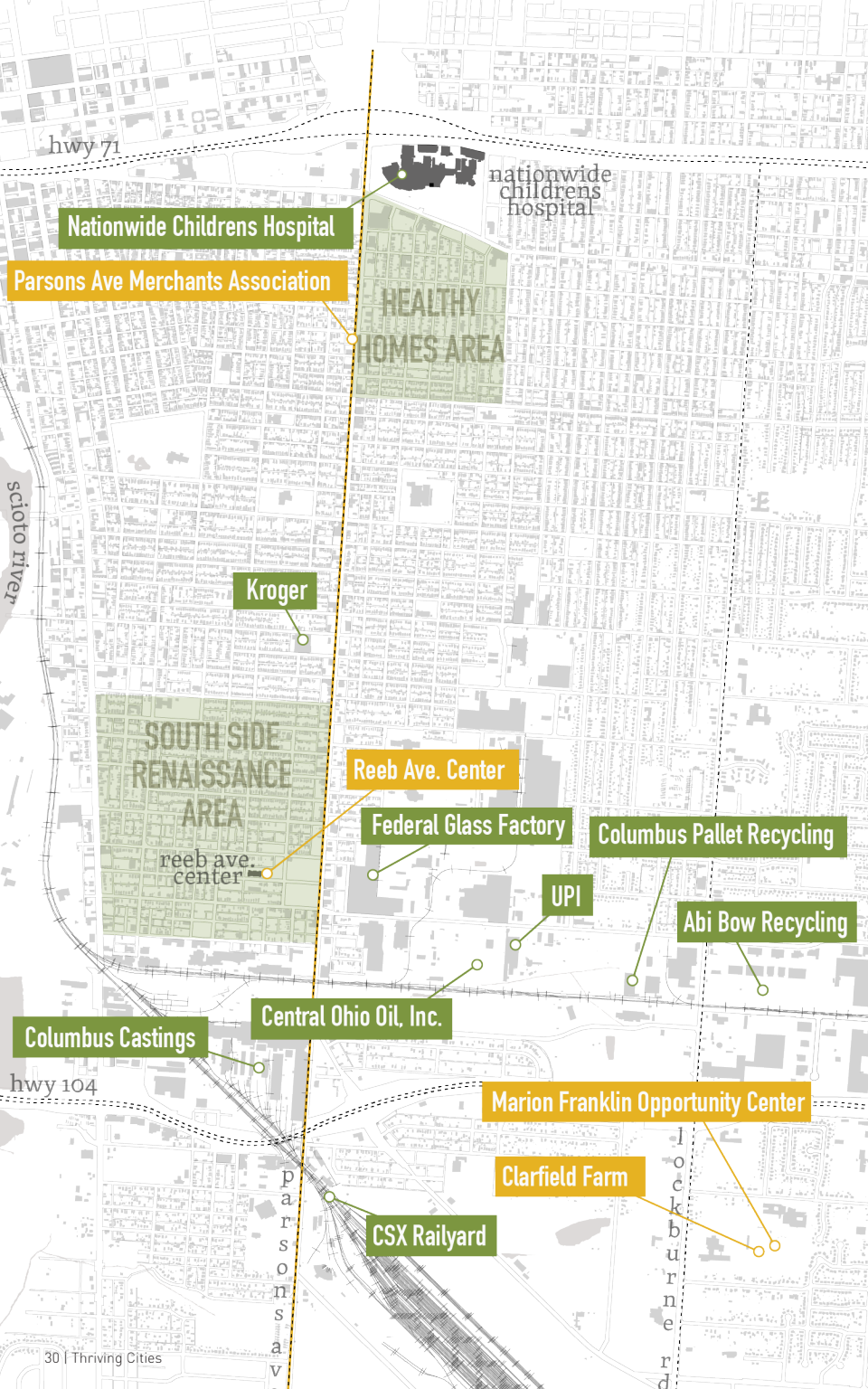
He studied the lottery spending in the neighborhood and helped identify that there are \$30 million dollars leaving the community each year, and that very little returns to support the schools.



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## the PROSPEROUS

THE PROSPEROUS captures the level of economic wealth, the availability and quality of employment opportunities, affordable housing, and the vitality of the social safety net in a community. From cost-burdened rates to levels of saving, economic factors are profoundly intertwined with a person's ability to thrive in their place. Challenges involving adequate nutrition, proper education, and crime can be attributed to the resident's economic health and stability. Ensuring the economic strength of a community is key in promoting its resiliency and longevity over time.



hwy 71

Nationwide Childrens Hospital

nationwide  
childrens  
hospital

Parsons Ave Merchants Association

HEALTHY  
HOMES AREA

scioto river

Kroger

SOUTH SIDE  
RENAISSANCE  
AREA

Reeb Ave. Center

reeb ave.  
center

Federal Glass Factory

Columbus Pallet Recycling

UPI

Abi Bow Recycling

Central Ohio Oil, Inc.

Columbus Castings

Marion Franklin Opportunity Center

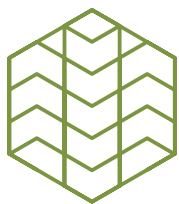
Clarfield Farm

CSX Railyard

lockbourne  
rd

hwy 104

parsons  
ave



# the PROSPEROUS

the realm of economic life

The endowment of **the PROSPEROUS** comprises the **economic realities of our cities** in the form of business, firms, employment, and personal savings.

Resources + Practices: *Employment, investment, land development, philanthropy, technology, etc.*

Institutions + Places: *Industries, businesses, real estate, innovation districts, job training centers, etc.*

The prosperous covers all parts of economic life including economic health, job growth, employment, and household finances. Beginning in the early 1900s, the economic foundation of the South Side was in manufacturing and heavy industry. These blue-collar jobs provided families with steady, self-supporting incomes that fueled diverse businesses and services in the area. The economy of the area has been heavily hit by the decline of manufacturing and again with the 2008 mortgage crisis. Nationwide Children's Hospital is deeply invested in reviving the area. Their extensive expansion is attracting new businesses, community residents have priority in hiring, and they are a key partner in revitalizing affordable housing.

## Did you know?

Between 2001 and 2010, the area (zip 43207) lost more than 8,000 jobs. Many have been restored with the economic recovery, but there are still 4,000 fewer jobs in the community than in 2000.<sup>3</sup>

## RESIDENT PROFILE

### Anika Boudreaux



*"I am a Summer Youth Program Assistant here [Clarfield Farm]. I teach youth a combination of farming, job readiness, and vocational skills. The overall goal of the program is to make sure the young people learn the link between community resources, specifically food, and their families. The vocational and job readiness skills, like public speaking and resume writing, can help them bring it all together, so they can spread the good news and make their neighborhood the best neighborhood in the city."*

Anika is a Southfield resident and summer youth program assistant at Clarfield Urban Farm operated by the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. She teaches youth farming, job readiness, and vocational skills to youth, and aims to teach youth the link between community resources and their individual family experiences.



# BASELINE INDICATORS

## SIGNIFICANCE

### Labor force participation

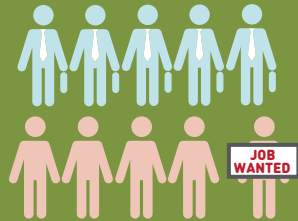
looks at adults who are actively participating in the labor market either by working or looking for work. In areas with a tough economy, many of those outside of the labor force are long-term unemployed - individuals who want to work but have been unable to find jobs and have thus given up looking. South Side residents say that the lack of quality jobs is one of the most pressing problems in their community. Many local jobs are part-time or temporary, making it difficult to earn enough to be financially secure. Even when they can find consistent work, many local jobs pay low wages, which are often insufficient to cover basic housing, food, and medical care expenses.



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

$\frac{5}{10}$

of South Side residents are EMPLOYED



$\frac{4}{10}$

South Side residents are UNEMPLOYED & NOT LOOKING FOR WORK

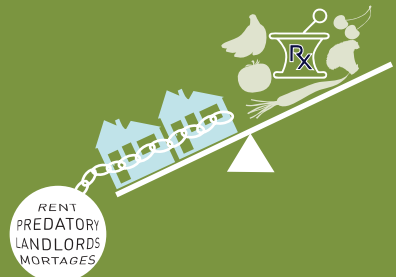
$\frac{1}{10}$

South Side residents are UNEMPLOYED & LOOKING FOR WORK

## COST-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS

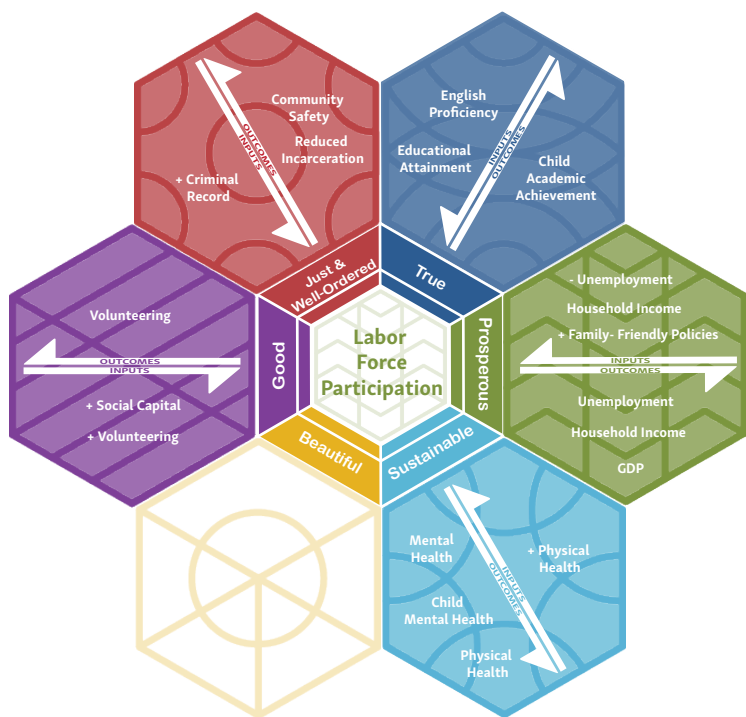
$\frac{2}{3}$

of South Side HOUSEHOLDS with incomes less than \$50K spend 30% or more on housing costs.



# HUMAN ECOLOGY PATHWAYS

## Labor Force Participation



Light Factor = has a promising relationship

**Bold Factor** = has an established relationship

+ Input = has a positive effect

- Input = has a negative effect

The **Human Ecology Pathways** map out the interconnected web of the Human Ecology by using accepted scientific consensus, expert opinion, and promising state-of-the-art research to connect the topic of focus to critical upstream inputs and downstream outcomes.

# RESIDENT NETWORK

## Anika Boudreaux



The list below describes Anika Boudreaux's Human Ecology Pathways. The diagrams on the left highlight the endowments each activity demonstrates.



Anika has been involved with Clarfield Farm since its beginnings. It is an urban food farm that is located in the neighborhood. Anika is now employed by them and helps to build their youth program that teaches farming and job readiness skills.



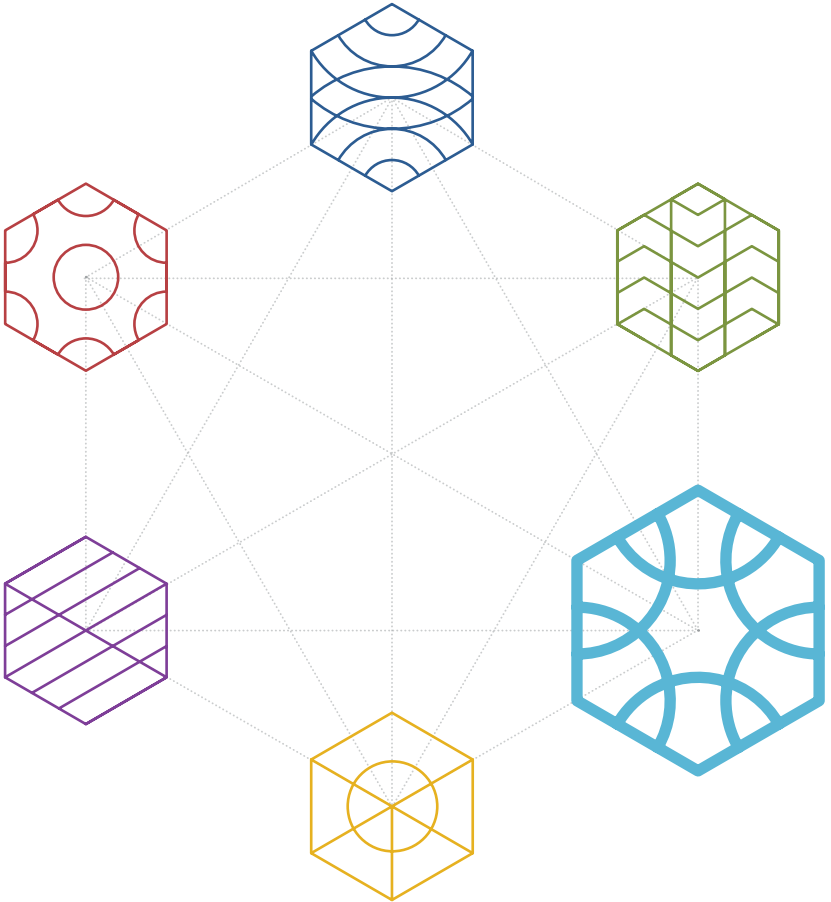
She lives in a Habitat for Humanity house that she helped to build. That process helped her to value her neighborhood and has increased her love and commitment to invest in it for herself, her children, and those who need a helping hand.



Anika's grandfather was a Tuskegee airman and was stationed in the area. The rich history, and her personal connection to it, is one of the qualities that attracted her to this area.



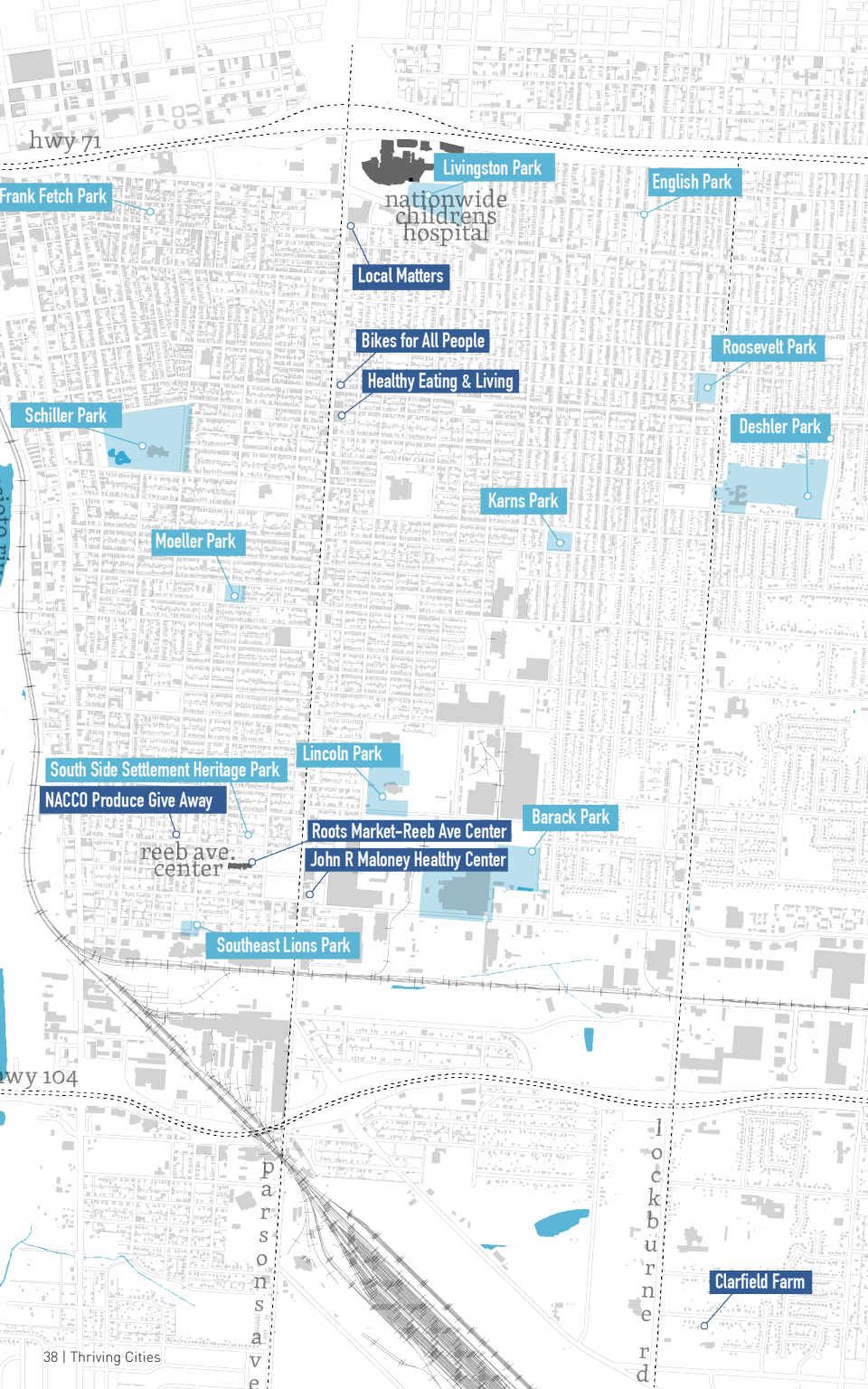
While she was volunteering, she learned about South Side's Leadership Academy. It provides mentoring, education on existing community resources and how to access them, and culminates in a special community project.



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## the SUSTAINABLE

THE SUSTAINABLE includes both environmental and human well-being within a city. Sustainability compels cities to rethink their daily operations around the long-term prospect of resource management, the ability for resilience, and a flourishing biotic community. The field of public health captures proximity to healthcare, access to fitness centers, and prevalence of diseases within a community. Deeply interconnected, physical and environmental health can profoundly affect the capacity of individuals to pursue other important activities, such as employment, community engagement, and even education.



hwy 71

Frank Fetch Park



Livingston Park

nationwide  
childrens  
hospital

English Park

Local Matters

Bikes for All People

Healthy Eating & Living

Roosevelt Park

Schiller Park

Deshter Park

Moeller Park

Karns Park

South Side Settlement Heritage Park

NACCO Produce Give Away

Lincoln Park

reeb ave  
center

Roots Market-Reeb Ave Center

John R Maloney Healthy Center

Barack Park

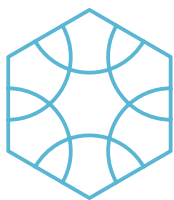
Southeast Lions Park

hwy 104

parson  
s  
ave

lock  
burn  
rd

Clarfield Farm



# the SUSTAINABLE

the realm of human and  
environmental health

The endowment of **the SUSTAINABLE** acknowledges the importance of the active management of cities and urban space in order to **enhance environmental and human well-being**.

Resources + Practices: *Energy/land management, air quality, public/human health, emissions, etc.*  
Institutions + Places: *Public parks/forests, green infrastructure, hospitals/clinics, bike lanes, etc.*

The Sustainable addresses the intertwined relationship between human and environmental health. The manufacturing that drove the economic growth of the area took a toll on the local environment. In 2015, Columbus had moderate or unhealthy air 1 in every 3 days, driven by high levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), that, when inhaled, causes damage to the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. In addition, South Side residents have high rates of high blood pressure and deaths from a variety of cancers. Sadly, even the children are affected; the South Side has one of the highest rates of infant mortality in the country. Community partners, including Nationwide Children's Hospital and Primary One Health, are addressing community health across all ages by improving housing, community safety, and increasing access to health care.

## Did you know?

Half of South Side residents have visited a food pantry or produce give away in the last year.<sup>4</sup>

## RESIDENT PROFILE

### Masami Smith



*“We [Native Americans] have the highest rate of heart disease and diabetes of any race in the whole United States. We try to offer just fresh foods because of the rate of heart disease and diabetes. We do a fresh produce market to give people healthy and fresh foods. We service just as many people in one day as we did in a month with the open pantry. We’re trying to build wellness and good health. We’re trying to teach people how to exercise, eat well, and take care of their bodies.”*

For the last 4.5 years, Masami served as Executive Director for the Native American Indian Center in central Ohio. The organization aids American Indians acclimate to urban life after ... on reservations. Masami moved to Columbus from Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Oregon 20 years ago and received assistance from the organization she now leads. We meet her at the Center’s fresh produce market that provides all residents with access to healthy food. Each market serves ~300 families and distributes ~12-15 thousand pounds of food.



# BASELINE INDICATORS

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### SIGNIFICANCE

**Adult Obesity** is intertwined with many other health outcomes including diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and sleep problems that contribute to a shorter lifespan. Many of the factors that impact obesity are prevalent in the South Side, including neighborhood poverty, high levels of food insecurity, limited access to fresh affordable food, and poor air quality, as well as high stress from limited employment options and high levels of neighborhood crime. The Mid-Ohio Foodbank is trying to address the problems of obesity by providing low-cost fresh food to community residents at South Side food pantries and produce markets. They have even started a program where doctors can give patients prescriptions to local fresh produce facilities to get free and low-cost healthy food to address obesity, chronic diseases, and overall health.



2  
5



South Side adults  
are obese

## FOOD INSECURITY

2  
3

South Side low-income  
residents **MUST CHOOSE**  
between food & other basic  
necessities



# HUMAN ECOLOGY PATHWAYS

## Healthy Body Weight



- Light Factor = has a promising relationship
- Bold Factor** = has an established relationship
- + Input = has a positive effect
- Input = has a negative effect

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# RESIDENT NETWORK

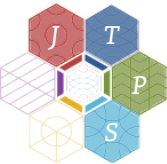
## Masami Smith



The list below describes George Hick’s Human Ecology Pathways. The diagrams on the left highlight the endowments each activity demonstrates.



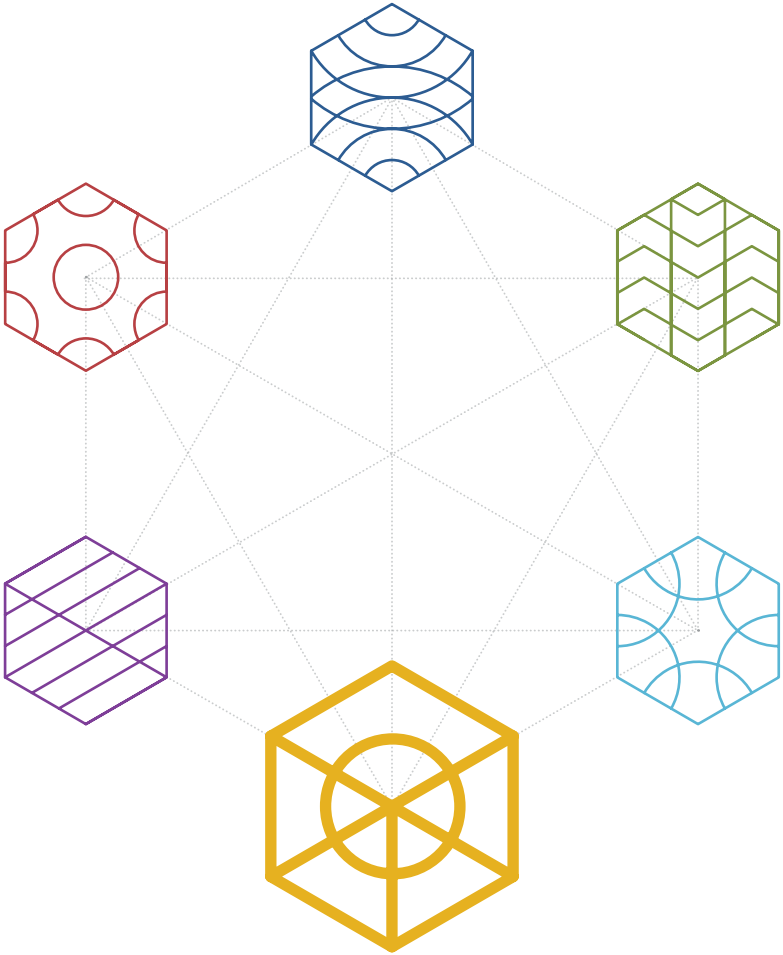
As the executive director of the Native American Indian Center in central Ohio, Masami works to bring resources to Native American Indians living off the reservation for the first time. She is very familiar with their needs, as the South Side was the first place she lived after moving from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Oregon.



She is committed to connecting the community with fresh food. Originally, the food pantry offered food that was highly processed, but because of the rate of heart disease and diabetes among the Native American Indian race, she has worked to incorporate more nutritious food and offer health and wellness programming through the center.



Masami also works to help maintain the individual and distinct cultures of the tribes that are represented in the neighborhood including the Cherokee, Dakota, Lakota, Chickwa, Saponi, and Shauni, while also fostering community among the tribes.



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## the BEAUTIFUL

THE BEAUTIFUL encompasses the built environment and urban design crucial to the infrastructure of the city and, by extension, the flourishing of its residents. Equally important are the roles of the arts and cultural expression at the community level in fostering a cohesive and dynamic neighborhood identity. This Endowment captures both public transit and community art organizations—institutions that give residents the ability to inhabit a place with responsive infrastructure and cultural vibrancy.



hwy 71



nationwide  
childrens  
hospital

Schiller Amphitheater

Project HOPE (Teen Photography Exhibit)

South Side Community Festival (August 13)

North American Indian Center of Central Ohio

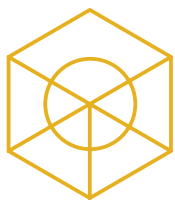
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# the BEAUTIFUL

the realm of creativity, aesthetics,  
and design

The endowment of **the Beautiful** encompasses the built environment and urban design as it relates to **city infrastructure and community engagement in the arts**.

Resources + Practices: *City planning, urban design, public art, festivals, cultural entertainment, etc.*  
Institutions + Places: *Community planning boards, art galleries, public spaces, restaurants, etc.*

The Beautiful deals with the visual aesthetics of the built environment and the artistic, cultural, and historic life of a community. Built before cars, the urban layout of the South Side is defined by its compact grid that makes it conducive to walking and biking. Many of the homes and the buildings date back to the early 1900s and reflect the historic and cultural roots of the community, but many homes—old and new—have fallen into disrepair. This contributes to a visual sense of a community in disarray. Residents, the city of Columbus, and groups like Nationwide Children's Hospital, Community Development for All People, and Habitat for Humanity are working to revitalize the housing stock and improve the overall look and feel of the community.

## Did you know?

Since 2008, community partners have rehabilitated or repaired more than 400 affordable housing units. This contributes to neighborhood care and encourages community stability as individuals move into quality and affordable housing.<sup>5</sup>

# RESIDENT PROFILE

## Theresa Oskins



*“Well, I’m a writer. So, I wrote a poem called ‘South Side.’ I wrote it for the Meet and Eat meeting at the Reeb Center. This poem comes from my heart.”*

*Been living on the South Side for a while.*

*Things have changed, boy and how.*

*Now this place has the Reeb Center giving people a free dinner.*

*Because of people who care,*

*the South Side can go anywhere.*

*Neighbors come together in all sorts of weather.*

*Come and give the South Side a chance,*

*pretty place at a glance.*

*Stick around for a while.*

*See the changes, boy and how.*

*Got to love the South Side.*

Theresa is a South Side resident who enjoys the new public and social services at the new Reeb Center. She volunteers regularly at the Reeb Center.



# BASELINE INDICATORS

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Vacant properties** and the visible disorder they communicate contribute to an overall sense of despair and disinvestment in a community. It reduces a community's willingness to maintain social ties, signals low levels of surveillance, and allows opportunities for crime. This lack of neighborhood care reduces the property values for surrounding homes and causes individuals to feel unsafe in their own communities. South Side residents identify vacant properties as a source of community stress due to the lack of neighborhood care and the increase in crime. Collectively, neighbors encourage each other by mowing lawns, collecting junk mail, and keeping tabs on the activity in the homes. They recognize that they are active participants in caring for the aesthetic feel of their block.



## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1 / 4

South Side residential properties are vacant



Research suggests there is a 19% increase in crime around newly vacant properties and crime rates increase the longer they are left vacant.<sup>6</sup>

# HUMAN ECOLOGY PATHWAYS

## Neighborhood Care



Light Factor = has a promising relationship

**Bold Factor** = has an established relationship

+ **Input** = has a positive effect

- **Input** = has a negative effect

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# RESIDENT NETWORK

## Theresa Oskins



The list below describes George Hick’s Human Ecology Pathways. The diagrams on the left highlight the endowments each activity demonstrates.



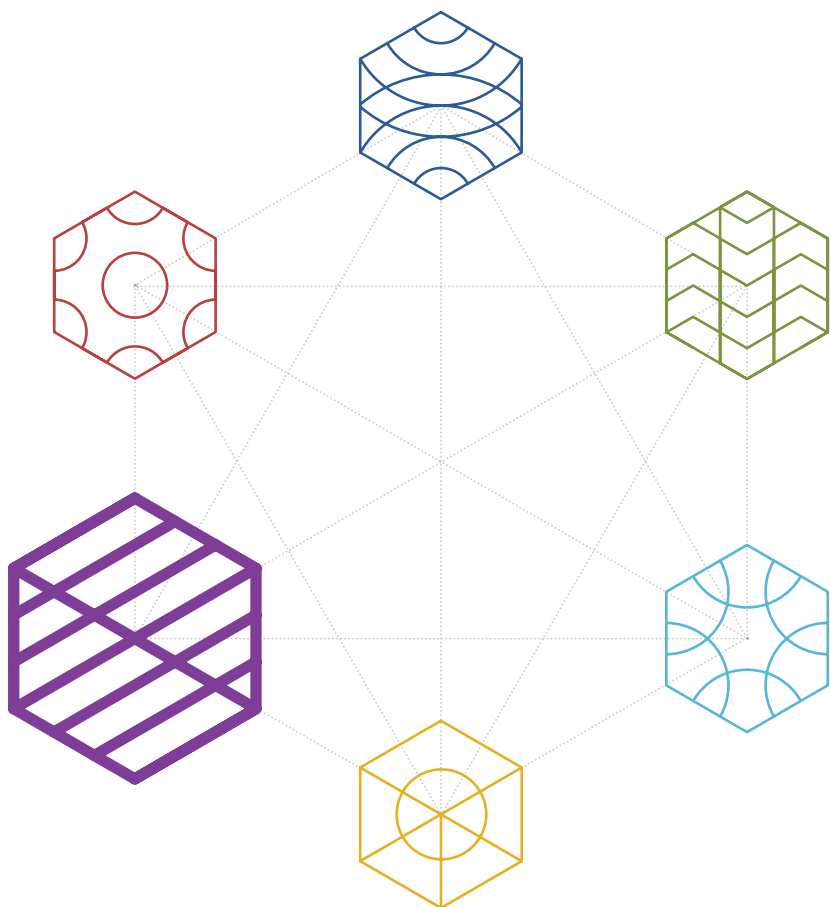
Theresa is a writer, and wrote a poem to share at a community gathering at the Roots Cafe at the Reeb Avenue Center.



While she has not been able to find a job, she volunteers at the Reeb Avenue Center to stay busy and earn free meals. Once, they even helped her pay her utility bill.



Theresa finds her strength, and her hope, through her religious faith and believes her role is to give back without asking for anything in return.



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## the GOOD

THE GOOD plays a defining role in determining to the vibrancy of community life. Comprised of non-profits, places of worship, civic organizations and civic spaces, levels of social trust and care, this Endowment highlights the important role these institutions and social attitudes play in strengthening community ties. The strength of these organizations and sentiments directly enable a resident's ability to participate meaningfully in their community, help their neighbor and to be cared for by others.



hwy 71

**nationwide  
childrens  
hospital**

**Community Development For All People**

scioto river

**Roots Cafe Community Meal**

**reeb ave.  
center**

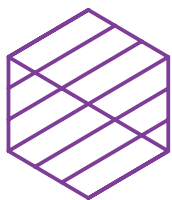
**St Ladislav Catholic Church**

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**Marion Franklin Youth and Senior Center**

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# the GOOD

the realm of social mores & ethics

The endowment of **the GOOD** contains institutions and places, such as religion, non-profits and public space, that facilitate the **formation of underlying social bonds and civic commitments** required in communities.

Resources + Practices: *Parent, moral formation, charitable giving, volunteering, etc.*

Institutions + Places: *Families, religious organizations, after school programs, charities, schools, etc.*

The Good covers the ways people connect to each other. These connections range from familial ties to relationships between neighbors. In the South Side, half of all residents say they have “great neighbors.” Human connections are also fostered through community organizations working for the common good. Many groups, including more than 30 faith-based organizations, seek to foster community through collective celebrations, building affordable housing to encourage residents to invest in the local community, and celebrating the diversity of area. Despite the existing strong ties, residents still want to see more people invest in community in building neighborhoods of trust, care, and safety.

## Did you know?

Social connections are powerfully associated with health—the risk of death among adults with the fewest social ties was more than twice as high as the risk for adults with the most social ties.<sup>6</sup>

## RESIDENT PROFILE

### Robert Patterson



*“The South Side needs to come together to be the whole South Side, not separated. If we work together, we can accomplish a whole lot, but if we don’t work together, we can’t accomplish anything. When we first started [the Marion Franklin Area Civic Association], we had 8 members. Right now, we have at least 50 members coming to our monthly meetings. Volunteers come here [the Opportunity Center] to clean up and care for the building. **The volunteers come because they’ve got hope now.**”*

For the last nine years, Robert Patterson served as President of the Marion Franklin Area Civic Association. During his time as president, the organization grew from 8 to 50 members and accomplished a great deal. They advocated for sidewalk construction, so children would have a safe route to school; a community library; and the community opportunity center where residents can take second language, computer, and other job readiness classes. He is a champion of South Side unity.



# BASELINE INDICATORS



## STABLE HOMES

1 / 4

South Side residents moved in the last year



## SIGNIFICANCE

**Stable homes**, or residential stability, is a reflection of many factors in a community including consistent employment, financial security, physical health, and relationship stability. Communities with high residential stability show a greater level of neighborhood care, collective efficacy, and lower rates of crime. While moving can be positive for a household, when it is the result of cost, eviction, relationship dissolution, or poor housing quality, moving is associated with a series of negative health outcomes and lower academic performance in children. Residents in the South Side say that one of the biggest challenges is getting community residents to become invested in the community and participate in community surveillance and action. Residential stability fosters the ties to people and place necessary to encourage a collective identity.

# HUMAN ECOLOGY PATHWAYS

## Stable Homes



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# RESIDENT NETWORK

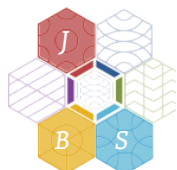
## Robert Patterson



The list below describes George Hick's Human Ecology Pathways. The diagrams on the left highlight the endowments each activity demonstrates.



Mr. Patterson has been the president of the Marion Franklin Area Civic Association for the last 9 years. They have gone from 8 members to over 50. Over the course of two years "the Civic" was able to open the new Marion-Franklin Opportunity Center and Library in the old Beery Middle School.



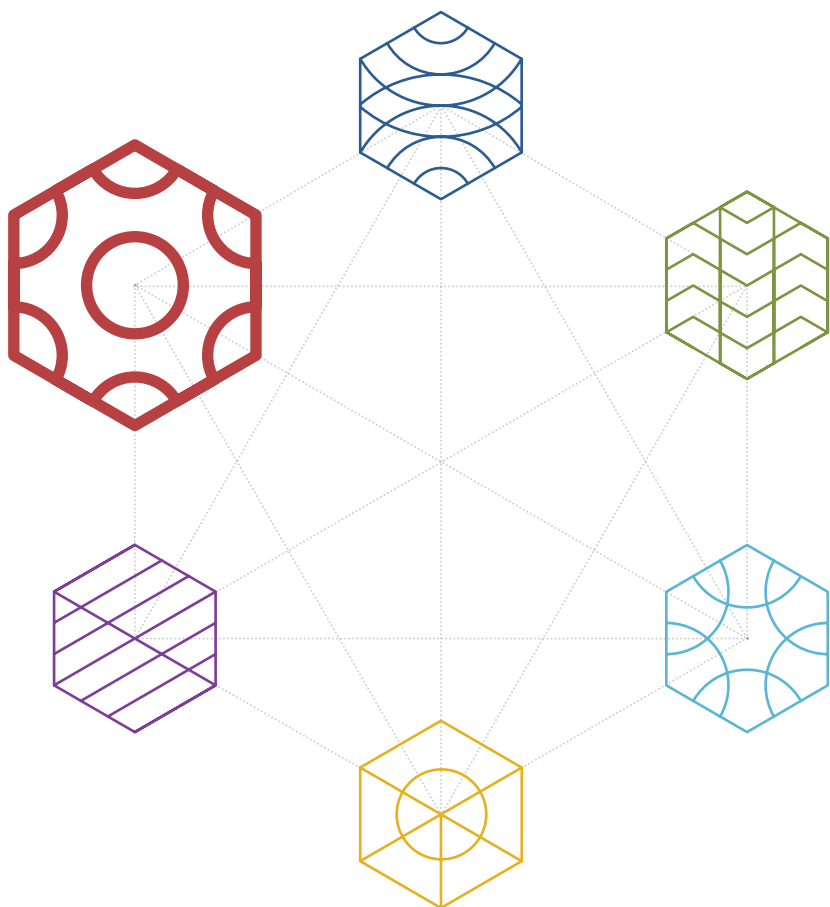
Another one of their big projects was building sidewalks to make it easier and safer for the children to walk to school.



Mr. Patterson recognizes the importance of education and job-readiness skills beyond the traditional classroom and works to provide second language classes, secretary and nursing classes, and education for young adults who have left school.



Mr. Patterson takes fresh produce from Clarfield Urban Farms and delivers it to 15 house-bound seniors. He is happy to do it and sees it as his time to "meet my seniors and talk with them and reconnect."



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## the JUST & WELL-ORDERED

THE JUST AND WELL-ORDERED captures the activities of municipal government, advocacy groups, and public justice institutions. The smooth and just management of a city is a significant factor in ensuring that all community members are incorporated into the process of governance and are equally protected under the law. The ability to exercise the rights of citizenship sits at the core of living in a free society, and fundamental to this right is ensuring a safe and equitable environment.



hwy 71



nationwide  
childrens  
hospital

Schumacher Place Civic Association

Southern Orchards Civic Association

Ganthers Place Civic Association

South Side C.A.N.

Merion Village Association

Fire Station 14

South Side Leadership Academy

Hungarian Village Civic Association

Vassor Village Civic Association

Reeb Hosack/Steelton Civic Association

reeb ave  
center

Innis Garden Village Civic Association

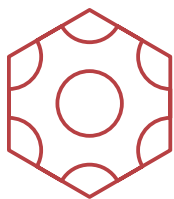
Police Precinct

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Clarfield Farm



# the JUST & WELL-ORDERED

the realm of political & civic life

The endowment of **the Just and Well-Ordered** refers to the manner in which **government institutions, advocacy groups, and practices of citizenship shape political and civic life**. The endowment also is concerned with **public safety and inequality**.

Resources + Practices: *Political deliberation, civic engagement, protest/demonstrations, zoning, etc.*  
Institutions + Places: *Local government, public spaces, city hall, community centers, civic groups, etc.*

The realm of the JUST AND WELL-ORDERED deals with citizens relationship to their government at all levels—city, state, and federal. In the South Side there are 10 civic associations tied to neighborhoods with deep identities. These groups meet for community engagement and collective action, and in the process foster social capital and connections between neighbors. These groups often focus on issues of crime, blight, and equitable development in the community. They rely on the city to issue citations to combat the blight of vacant properties and the police to help control crime. Despite the high crime rates, community residents cite the response rate of the police as one of the strengths of their community.

## Did you know?

There are 10 civic associations and 20-30 block watch groups in the neighborhoods of the South Side working to improve the community through collective action.<sup>7</sup>

## RESIDENT PROFILE

### Chrystal Lockwood



*“We live in Ganther’s Place and we have this **great little community that works together.** The South Side’s a beautiful neighborhood. It’s got so much potential for so much good, but sometimes we feel forgotten. We have drive-by shootings at 5 o’clock at night. The first time we ever heard a drive-by, my kids wouldn’t sleep through the night. They’re afraid to sleep in their beds. We need help. We can’t do it by ourselves.”*

Chrystal moved to the Ganther’s Place neighborhood in the South Side from the East End. She has many good memories of hanging with friends in the South Side during her teens. Unfortunately, she is frustrated with too much crime in the area and sadden by her children’s fear of the neighborhood she loves. She hopes civic leaders and residents will work together to improve the neighborhood.



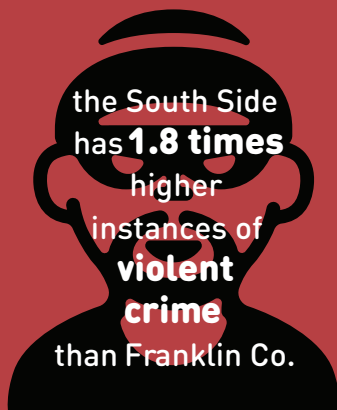
## SIGNIFICANCE

South Side residents identify **safety** as one of the biggest challenges in their community, especially as it relates to drug abuse, prostitution and violent crime. Violent crime in a community decreases residential stability and collective efficacy. It is tied to a host of physical and mental health issues in adults and children, due to the chronic stress of feeling unsafe in their own home. Violent crime is also associated with the cumulative and cyclical disadvantage of poverty, which makes it hard for families to escape the violence. Despite their concerns about safety, South Side community residents are proud of their neighborhood and want to see it restored to a safe and thriving community.

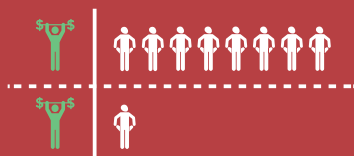
## BASELINE INDICATORS



### SAFETY



## ECONOMIC INCLUSION



### SOUTH SIDE - 1 : 8

For every person with an income above \$100,000, there are 8 people with incomes below \$25,000

### FRANKLIN COUNTY - 1 : 1.1

For every person with an income above \$100,000, there is one person with an income below \$25,000

### The **CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY** in the **SOUTH SIDE**

is far greater than that of its county and the nation.

# HUMAN ECOLOGY PATHWAYS

## Safety



Light Factor = has a promising relationship  
**Bold Factor** = has an established relationship  
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# RESIDENT NETWORK

## Chrystal Lockwood



The list below describes George Hick’s Human Ecology Pathways. The diagrams on the left highlight the endowments each activity demonstrates.



Despite her safety concerns for herself and her children, she thinks that the South Side is beautiful and has much potential. She lives in Ganther’s Place and is proud of her community member’s ability to work together.



She has middle-school aged children, one of whom is her nephew that she took in as one of her own, and she is instilling in them that “we can do better, if we try better.” She want safe spaces for them to learn and play.



She and her family benefit from the fresh produce give-away at the Native American Indian Center. This helps her family stretch their food budget.

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# ABOUT US

We are a group of unconventional and diverse urbanists who believe that thriving will not be found through the usual strategies involving technology, money, and policy alone. We agree it is vital to situate these critical approaches in the context of history, culture, geography, power, and the fundamental public spaces in which we live.

**Josh Yates, Ph.D.** | [josh.yates@Athrivingcities.com](mailto:josh.yates@Athrivingcities.com)

Principal Investigator & Director

Josh is a cultural sociologist at the University of Virginia, as well as the Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture. Josh specializes in the study of social and cultural change with a special focus on the ways contemporary institutions and communities grapple with the crucial question: What does it mean and take to thrive?

**Asa Eslocker** | [asa.eslocker@thrivingcities.com](mailto:asa.eslocker@thrivingcities.com)

Director of Program Development

Asa Eslocker is a two-time National News Emmy Award winning investigative journalist, landscape architect, filmmaker, and urban systems researcher. Asa holds a Masters of Landscape Architecture from UVa where he subsequently taught graduate level courses. His studies culminated in a feature length documentary film that premiered in the Virginia Film Festival and received recognitions from the American Society of Landscape Architects. The film, *Landscapes of Longevity*, examines the impact of place, culture, and communal landscapes on human longevity research within three international locations with extraordinarily high rates of life expectancy. Asa's past experiences and research primed him to advocate for accessible public space as one of the foundational elements of the Thriving Cities framework.

**Stephen Assink** | [stephen.assink@thrivingcities.com](mailto:stephen.assink@thrivingcities.com)

Director of Operations & Research

Stephen has a Masters in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia where he specialized in religious ethics. Stephen is interested in the modes of political and moral life generated within and by the urban environment. Along with other duties, he oversees the Thriving Cities Blog.

**Megan Juelfs-Swanson** | [megan.juelfs-swanson@thrivingcities.com](mailto:megan.juelfs-swanson@thrivingcities.com)

Data Analyst

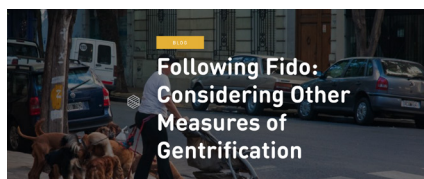
Megan has a Ph.D. in sociology from the UVA where her worked focused on politics and parenting. She brings more than a decade of experience collecting, analyzing and presenting data. Some of her previous projects include alternative poverty measures, partisan news media, and contemporary childrearing.

## Thriving Cities Website + Blog

Join the conversation about thriving on Thriving Cities' new interactive website that features original documentary videos, interviews, and research. Also on the website is the Thriving Cities Blog, an on-line venue dedicated to examining how institutional structures and communal relationships contribute to or detract from the health and well-being of our everyday places.

[thrivingcities.com](http://thrivingcities.com)

[thrivingcities.com/blog](http://thrivingcities.com/blog)



BY WENDY LEE THOMPSON, DECEMBER 11, 2014  
The most effective measure of gentrification will not be a magic bullet, but rather a constellation of variables aimed at addressing its processual and multi-dimensional character.

## Notes

[illegible]

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Thriving Cities