

CENTER
for
CIVIC
innovation
ATLANTA

MARCH 14, 2019

NOU

INITIATIVE

IMPROVING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ATLANTA

@civicatlanta



ASILE PATIN
Civic Engagement Manager
Center for Civic Innovation

WELCOME!

City Planning
Commissioner
TIM KEANE

Office of the
Council President
**JANELLE
CASSANOVA**



**CENTER FOR
CIVIC
INNOVATION**

ROHIT MALHOTRA
Founder & Executive Director

Our mission is to address
issues of inequality in Atlanta
through effective solutions
built from the ground up.

**PEOPLE ARE
EMPOWERED TO
SHAPE THE
FUTURE OF OUR
CITY**

Invest in community-driven solutions designed by local leaders

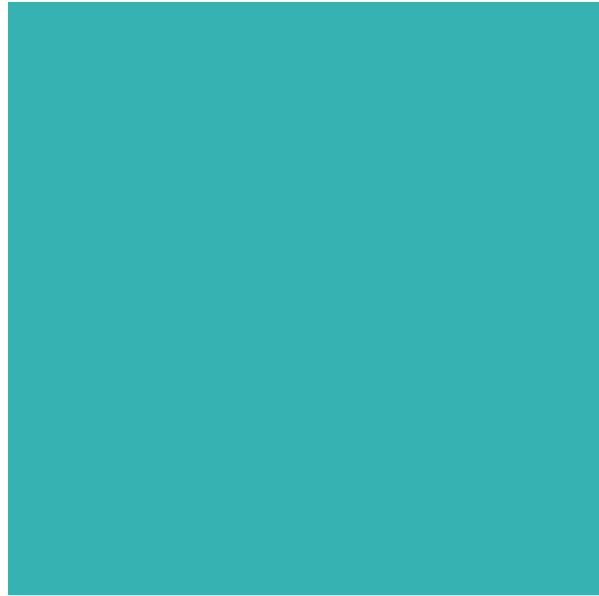
Advocate and fight for stronger systems of community engagement to inspire and identify solutions

what we do

Cultivate a community of people across Atlanta who care about our city



**THE THINGS THAT
ARE BUILT FOR US,
WITHOUT US,
ARE NOT FOR US.**



“What I hear when
I'm being yelled
at is people
caring really
loudly at me.”

— Leslie Knope, *Parks and Recreation*



#VOTELOCAL MAYORAL FORUM

How many
NPUs are
there?

What's your
NPU?

What
commitment
will you make
to the NPU
system?



“to receive feedback and make sure
we implement those
recommendations”

“to go to neighborhood civic
associations... and understand why
many are not involved in the NPUs”

ATLANTA CITY DESIGN

restore, rejuvenate, and renew
the NPUs

HOUSE ATL

strengthen civic infrastructure by
evaluating the system and
identifying opportunities for
deeper engagement

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

review the NPU system to
evaluate the level of citizen
participation in the process and
the benefits

RESILIENT ATLANTA

audit the NPU system and
revitalize it for more meaningful
civic participation



follow us: [@civatlanta](#) on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

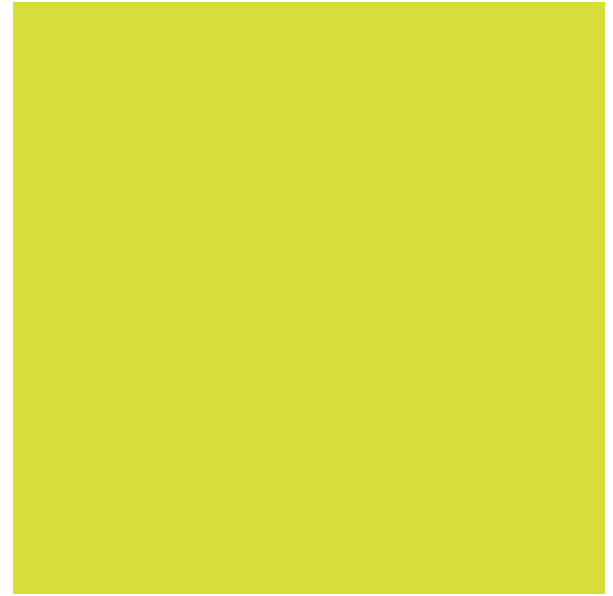
NPU LEADERS LISTENING SESSION

November 29, 2018
30 representatives
15 different NPUs



WHAT IS THE NPU INITIATIVE?

a **comprehensive study and review** of
Atlanta's Neighborhood Planning Units
– our city's formal community engagement
system since 1974





PHASE I

plans, partners, and
preliminary research

PHASE II

information gathering
& education

PHASE III

idea creating & advocacy

Forever we love Atlanta,
but this work is completely
**independent from
city government.**



The image features a central green rectangular area containing text. This central area is flanked by two vertical columns of three colored squares each. The left column consists of a yellow square at the top, a dark teal square in the middle, and a light teal square at the bottom. The right column consists of an orange square at the top, a light orange square in the middle, and a medium blue square at the bottom. The text is centered within the green area and is written in white, with some words in a larger, bold font.

This initiative is funded through the
**generous donations from
individuals & foundations**
that allow us to remain
**independent and
nonpartisan.**



PHASE I

plans, partners, and
preliminary research



KYLE KESSLER

Policy & Research Director

Mayor
**MAYNARD
JACKSON**





Resident
**JOSEPH
DROLET**

courtesy of Mary Davis

Representative
**GRACE TOWNS
HAMILTON**





District 1
Councilmember
JOHN CALHOUN

Budget & Planning
Commissioner
LEON EPLAN



"Democracy Comes to City Planning," The Atlanta and Journal Constitution Sunday Magazine, 08 December 1974, Atlanta Constitution Archives. newspapers.com



First Lady
**BUNNIE
JACKSON**

1874 CHARTER

1974 CHARTER

**“WEAK”
MAYOR**

**BOARD OF
ALDERMEN**

**9
DISTRICTS**

**“STRONG”
MAYOR**

**CITY
COUNCIL**

**12
DISTRICTS**

**COMMITTEES
RUN
DEPARTMENTS**

**PROJECT-
SPECIFIC
PLANNING**

**LIMITED
CITIZEN
INPUT**

**COMMISSIONERS
RUN
DEPARTMENTS**

**COMPREHENSIVE
PLANNING**

**ENSURED CITIZEN
INVOLVEMENT**

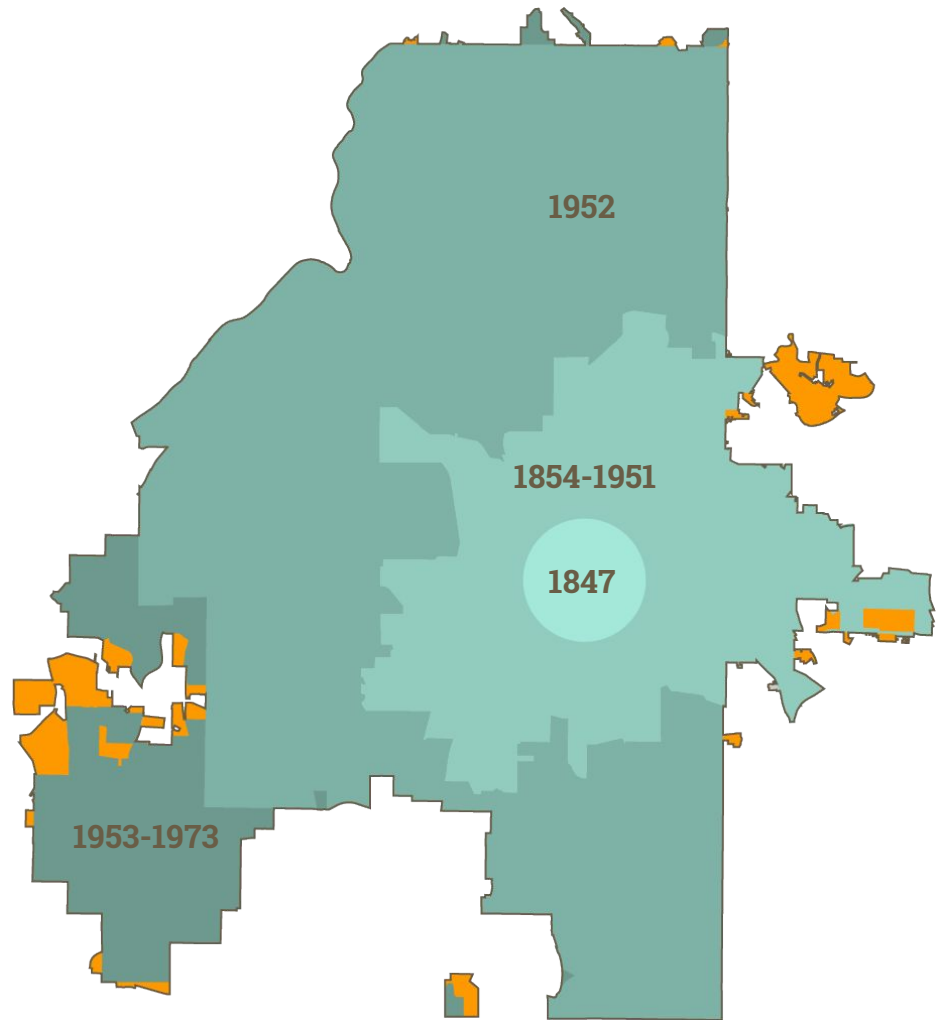
1975 comprehensive development plan

1974

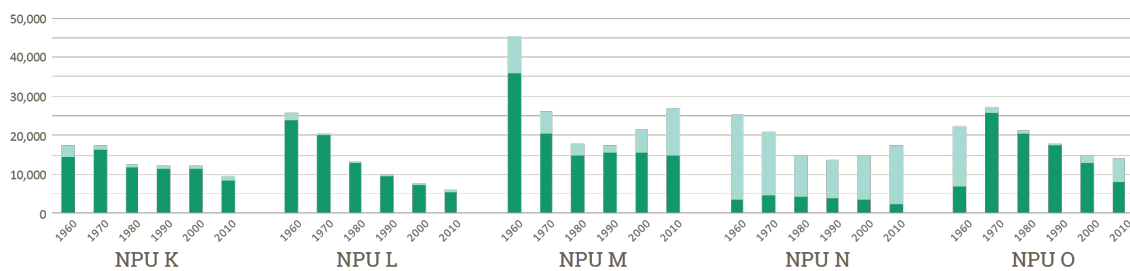
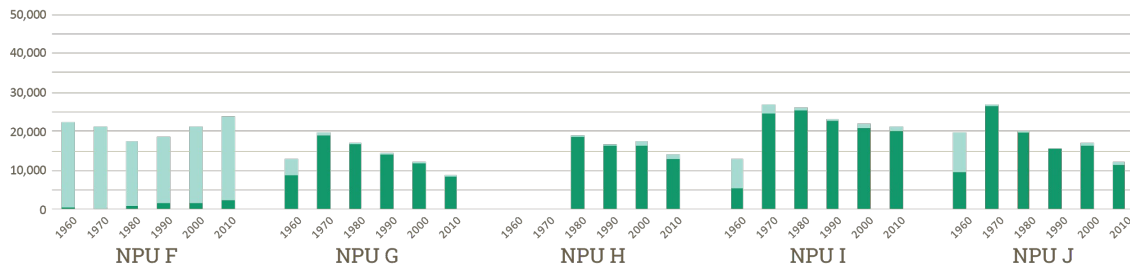
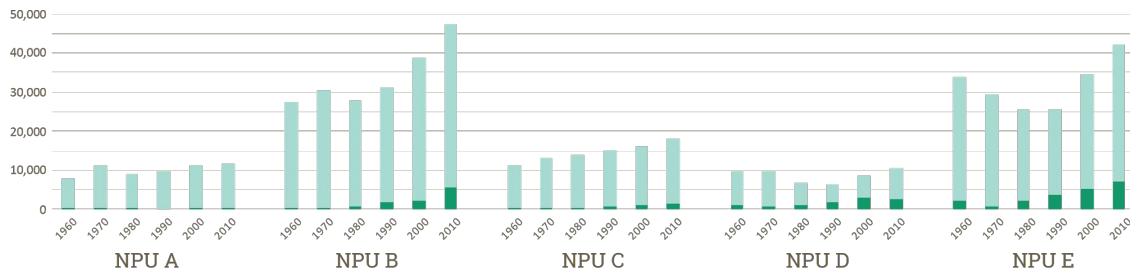
2019

Atlanta is
3.6% larger,
but growth has
slowed.

data source: gis.atlantaga.gov, accessed November 27, 2018



Atlanta is
2.1% smaller,
 but growing and
 changing.



black

white +
 other

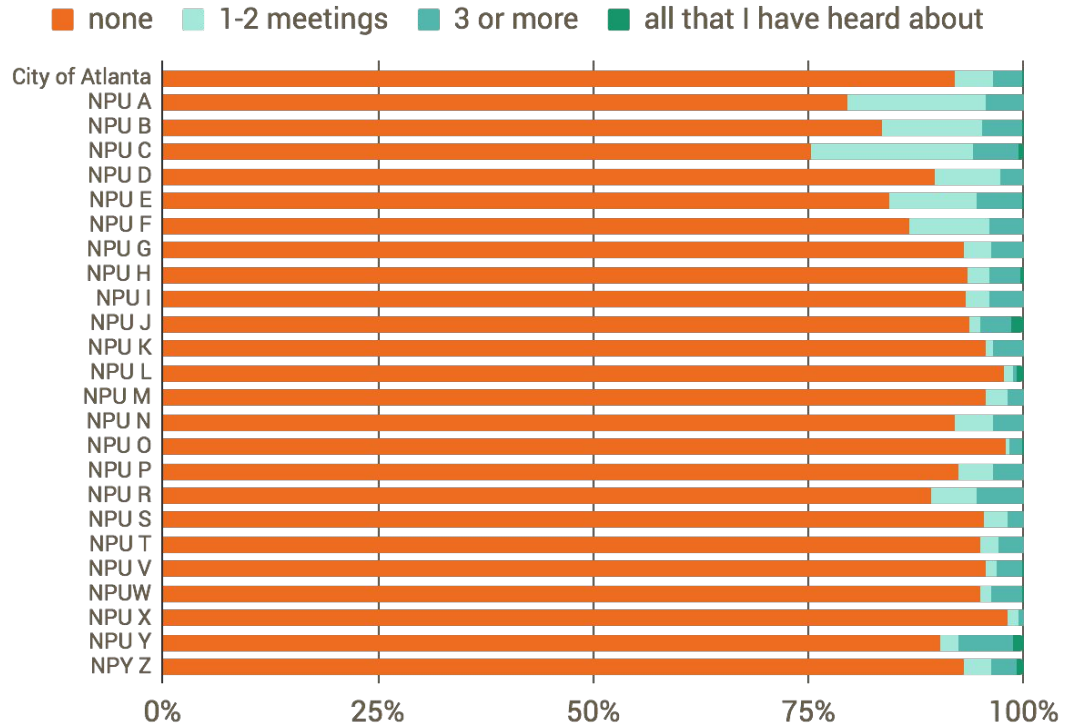
1974

2019?

Even in the 1970s,
more than
91% never
attended an NPU
meeting.

How many neighborhood planning meetings have you attended in the past year?

(survey of 5,487 Atlanta residents, Summer 1976–Summer 1976)



SINCE 1974

noteworthy legislative changes to the NPUs

1975 – NPUs fleshed out with criteria and boundary maps

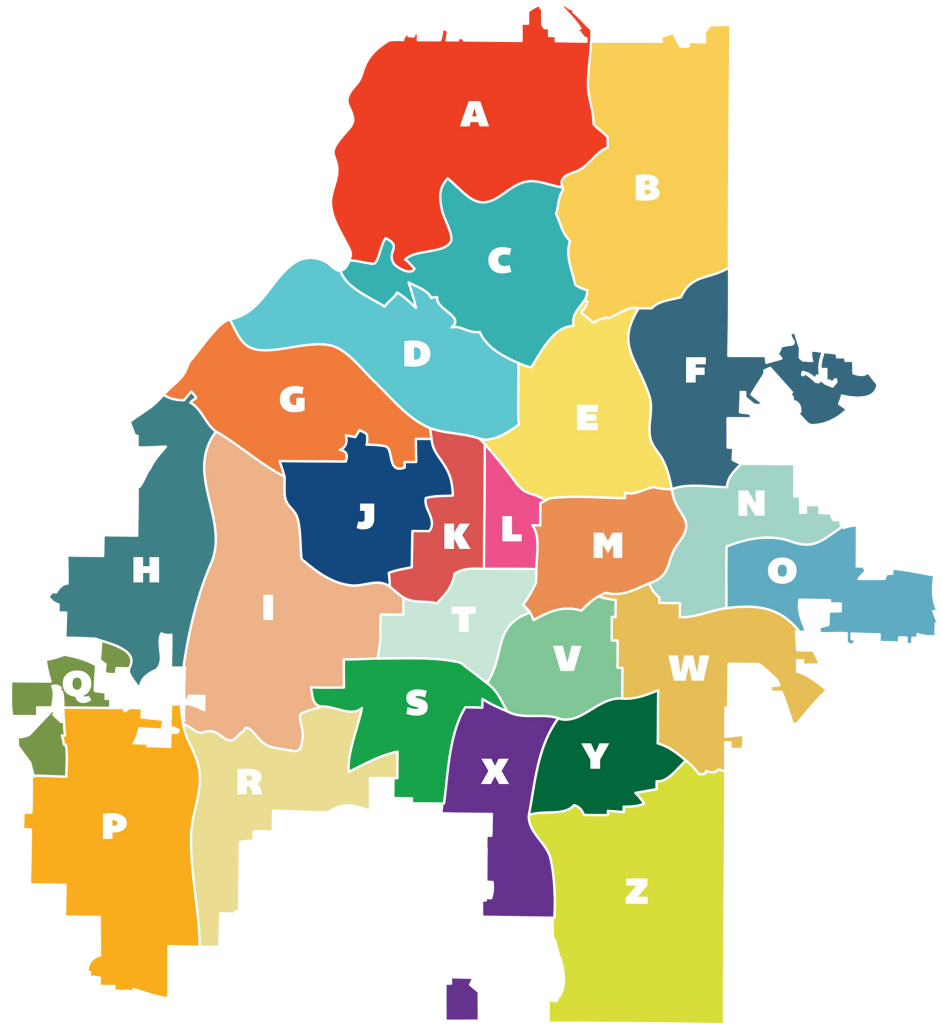
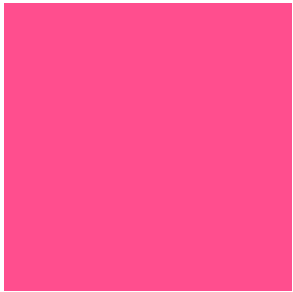
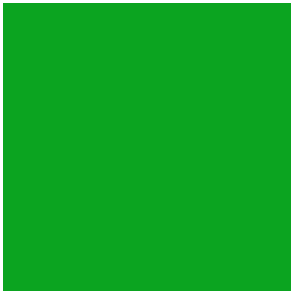
1979 – added statement of purpose, by-laws requirement, elections and voting procedures, prohibition as political forum

1988 – officers required to file financial disclosure statements, one vote clarification

1990 – restriction on actions outside scope of planning and advisory functions

1999 – annual vote on by-laws open to all residents

Atlanta's Neighborhood Planning Units

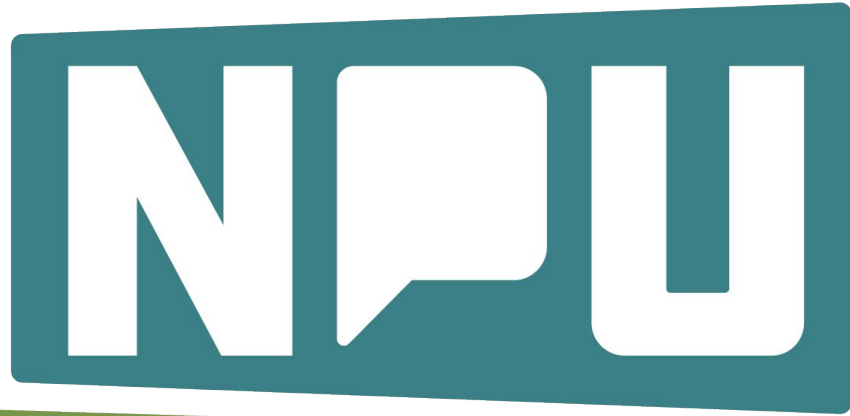


**PANEL
DISCUSSION**

BUNNIE JACKSON-RANSOM

LEON EPLAN

JOSEPH DROLET



IMPROVING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ATLANTA

Q&A

Please write down
your questions and
get them to a
volunteer.



PHASE I

plans, partners, and
preliminary research

PHASE II

information gathering
& education

PHASE III

idea creating & advocacy

PHASE I

ongoing historical
**RESEARCH AND
DATA GATHERING**

ATTEND NPU MEETINGS

for questions and answers

BUILD COALITION OF PARTNERS

committed to the work

HOST INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

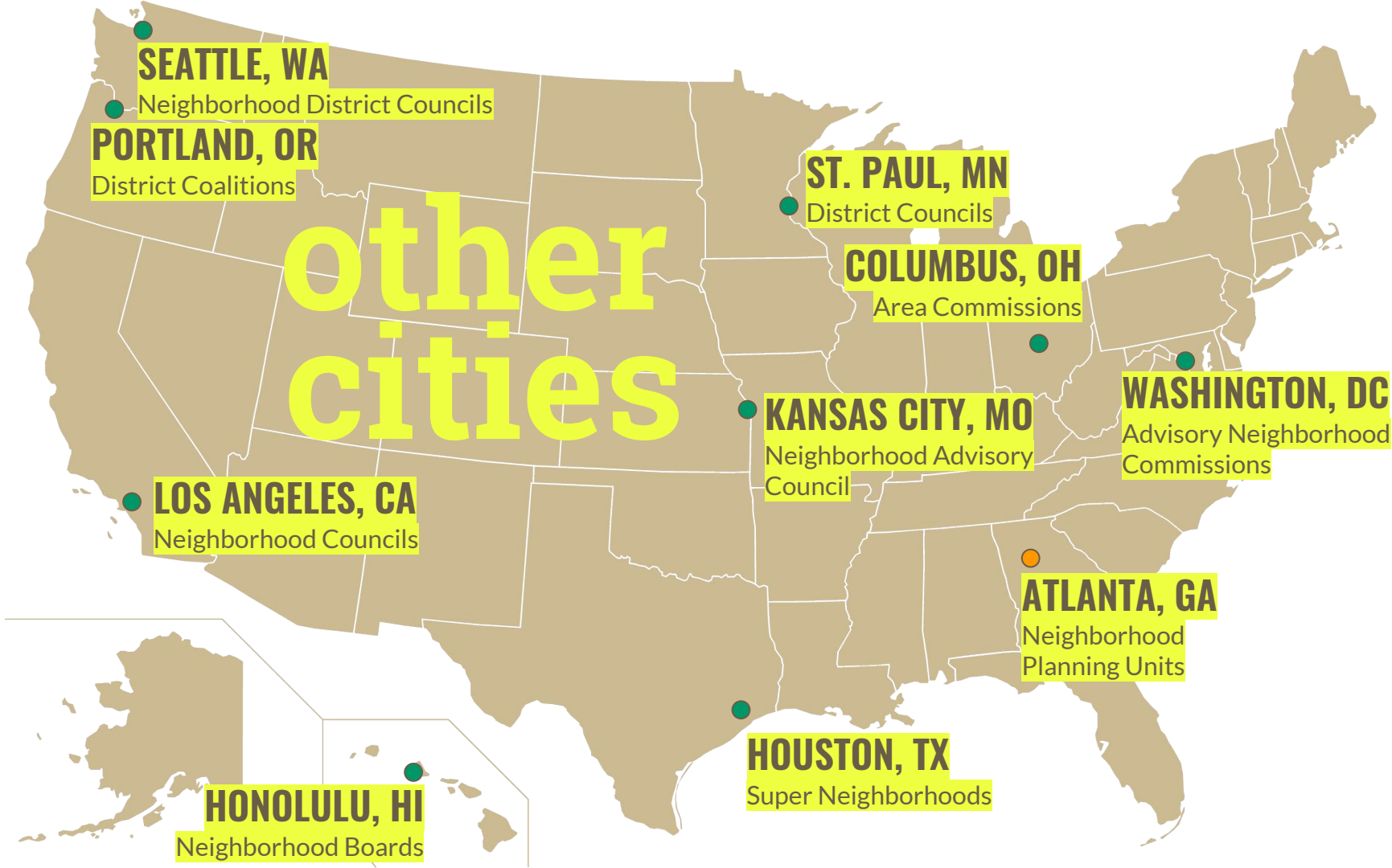
for people to learn more

APRIL 11, 2019 – 8:00AM
Center for Civic Innovation

**a meeting for
organizations**
interested in
building this
initiative

RSVP
link will be in our
follow up email

recommend
organizations that
should be in the
room



SEATTLE, WA

Neighborhood District Councils

PORTLAND, OR

District Coalitions

other
cities

ST. PAUL, MN

District Councils

COLUMBUS, OH

Area Commissions

KANSAS CITY, MO

Neighborhood Advisory
Council

WASHINGTON, DC

Advisory Neighborhood
Commissions

LOS ANGELES, CA

Neighborhood Councils

ATLANTA, GA

Neighborhood
Planning Units

HOUSTON, TX

Super Neighborhoods

HONOLULU, HI

Neighborhood Boards

PHASE II

We want to engage
thousands of residents to
LEARN

how people
currently engage

how people want
to engage

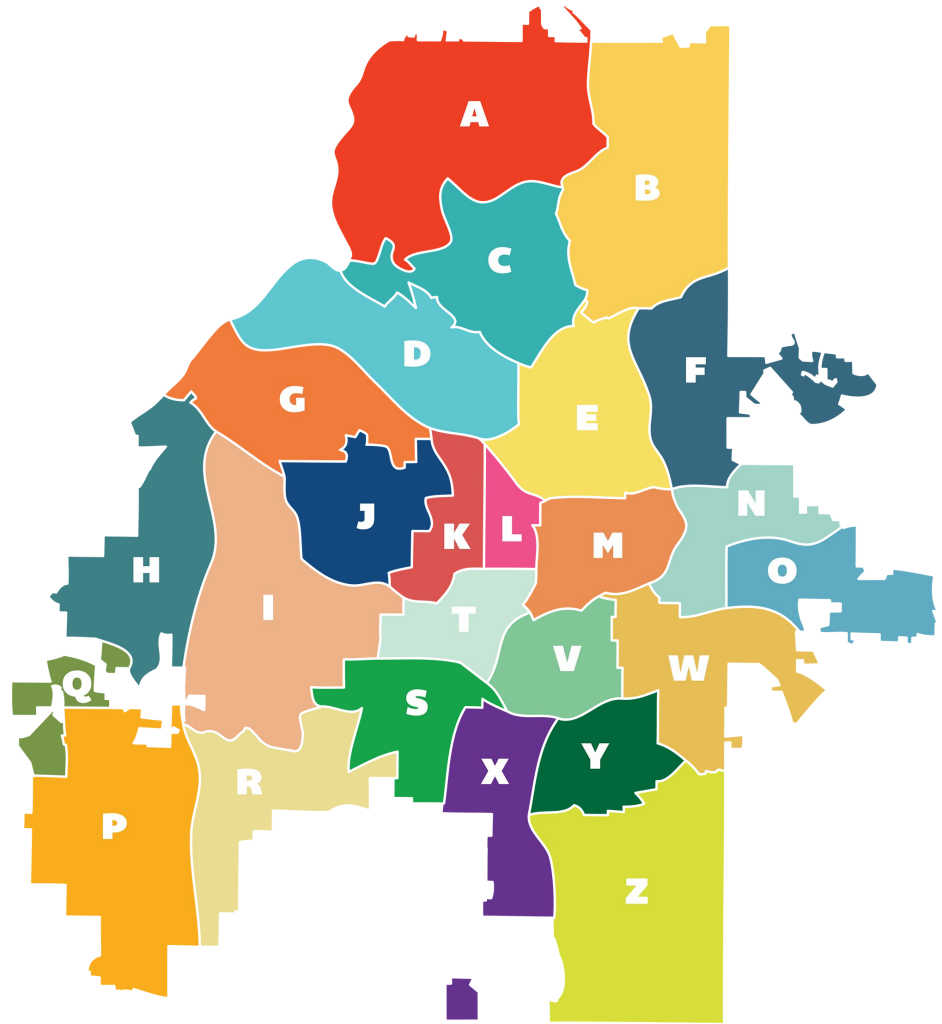
what's in our way
to getting there

VOLUNTEER

NPU Initiative
Ambassadors

LISTEN

LEARN



PHASE II

“NPU 101”

All of this information will be made available to the public to use to inform and educate their own communities.

PHASE III

We will provide recommendations to City Hall and other key stakeholders:

Opportunities to invest in short-term improvements

Long-term and potential legislative improvements

Shared learnings across neighborhoods



**THIS IS JUST
THE START.**

Our vision is that people are
empowered to shape the
future of our city.

A graphic consisting of a 3x6 grid of colored squares. The central square (row 2, column 2) is orange and contains the text 'npu.civicalanta.org' in white. The other squares are: Row 1: Red, Yellow, Teal, Cyan, Light Yellow, Dark Blue. Row 2: Light Green, Orange (with text), Pink. Row 3: Light Orange, Light Teal, Purple, Orange, Olive Green, Light Yellow.

npu.civicalanta.org

NDU

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