



Neighbor Power Indy (NPI) Awardees

2023

Connecting Community: Far East Side Community Council

The Far East Side Community Council (FECC) has been extremely intentional about meeting the community where they are and connecting over food, fellowship, and family. The FECC hosted 5 Taco Tuesdays between the months of May through August in 2022, and fed 150+ people each time. Taco Tuesday is a space of love, service, and community for far east side families. In 2023, the FECC will launch the Far Eastside Youth Council.

Inspiring Places: [Cleo's Bodega](#)

Grocery Store and Cafe' is located on the Near Northwest Side of Indianapolis. The northwest area of Indianapolis is the largest food desert in the city, which makes sustainable urban agriculture and distribution of healthy, locally grown food in high demand and much-needed addition to existing social services and programming. [Flanner House](#) established the Food Justice Initiative, a multi-facet food-centered economic development plan, to address the rapid scarcity of fresh produce in the area. Flanner House's building of Cleo's Bodega in 2019 has stimulated economic growth, created jobs and provides food security for low-income residents who need it most."Cleo's Bodega & Cafe is an amazing place in Indy. Doing the work to combat food insecurity in Indianapolis and creating a welcoming atmosphere for neighbors to come together is such beautiful work."

2022

Building Local Economy: [Mike's Variety Store](#)

Mr. Mike started a convenience store in his house on LaSalle to assist his neighborhoods with basic household items. Mr. Mike found himself assisting his neighbors with food items such as milk, sugar, flour, and toiletries. After realizing that he had given out most of his own food, he began purchasing items to sell at an affordable cost. As sales grew Mr. Mike purchased a building to better meet his neighbor's needs. Mr. Mike participates with the Summer feed program which provides free meals to the youth in the community, and partners with MLT Outreach Center, Brightwood Community Center, and other local grassroots organizations.

Neighbor Power Indy

Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center

<http://www.inrc.org/neighbor-power-indy>



Connecting Community: [Memory Keepers Project](#)

Memory Keepers is an exhibit, online collection, and community conversation to record, elevate, and archive the histories of neighbors who have lived, worked, and played in Twin Aire Neighborhood Coalition (TANC) neighborhoods for generations. The TANC Neighborhoods are Christian Park, Prospect Falls, Norwood, SouthEast Community Organization, and Twin Aire. These small and often overlooked neighborhoods are filled with people of diverse backgrounds – Black, Hispanic/Latinx, White, old, young, immigrant – and all have stories to tell about the changes in neighborhood through the years, and stories that should be shared with others. In 2021, Memory Keepers featured a gallery in Twin Aire with portraits and recorded interviews of community “memory keepers”, alongside a community conversation and panel featuring the neighbors who serve as the “memory keepers” of the area. The primary partners of this project were neighbors and neighborhood leadership, artist Kaila Austin, and Southeast Neighborhood Development (SEND); this project was made possible thanks to a generous grant from [LISC](#).

2021

Building Local Economy: [Crossroads Education Foundation](#) and Vanguard Collegiate, both located in the Haughville neighborhood of Indianapolis, partnered in order to provide healthy food options to students and their families on the near west side. Crossroads Education was able to secure resources and collaborate with IU Health, Patachou Foundation, United Way of Central Indiana, and Purdue University in order to research and operationalize healthy food donations to members in the community.

Connecting Community: [Black Women in Charge, Inc.](#) formed in May 2020 to peacefully protest and advocate for racial justice. The organizers, who range in age from 17-23, met at protests over the summer with a shared goal of action. Together, in a matter of weeks, they organized the city’s largest peaceful protests in over 30 years. They now collaborate with the city’s leaders on the progression of justice. The organization name stems from their intention to be in charge of their own lives so they can take charge of a system that often overlooks their existence.

2020

Building Local Economy: Through [PreEnact Indy](#), the Harrison Center used theater as an approach to inclusive neighborhood revitalization. Focused on the Monon16 area (where the Kennedy King and Martindale-Brightwood neighborhoods meet), partners included neighbors, the Harrison Center, professional theater and over 30 community organizations.

Connecting Community: When the community learned of a variance petition to disturb the stream protection corridor at the Community Justice Center (CJC), residents from six



neighborhoods formed [People for Pleasant Run \(PFPR\)](#) to advocate for protection of the waterway, while still supporting the CJC development. They successfully negotiated a compromise with the City and developer to reduce the impact on the waterway.

Inspiring Places: When the owners of Grandma Lloyd's trailer park died, the property became a haven for crime and littering. Residents formed a Crime Watch, teamed up with Indy Gateway, and joined forces with elected officials to advocate for making the property a much-needed neighborhood park and community gathering space, [Shelton Heights Park](#).

2019

Connecting Community: [Bethany Community Garden](#) was born from the work of the Health and Wellness Team of the South Indy Quality of Life Plan. Bethany worked with INRC to host neighborhood meetings and a weekly gardening night that had 18 to 24 active volunteers in attendance, and partnered with 21 agencies. Planting began in early May 2018; by the end of October, over 500 pounds of produce had been harvested and donated to two area food pantries.

Connecting Community honorable mention: [Dathouse](#): "Love for Bates-Hendricks: A Soiree of Thanksgiving". With the goal of celebrating the diversity and pride for their Bates-Hendricks neighborhood, the inaugural "Love for Bates-Hendricks: A Soiree of Thanksgiving" pitch-in dinner featured local artists and many family activities. This community wide event engaged 20 different community organizations. Neighbors have continued to have weekly community meals since this event, and relationships that were formed over this event have continued.

Inspiring Places: [Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association](#): "The South New Jersey Street Median Revival", when neighbors came together and re-created a new community gathering space, and built and strengthened relationships. The median will now host an annual easter egg hunt, bocce ball with neighbors, the annual neighborhood festival, and a quiet space for all neighbors to gather.

2018

Building Local Economy: [South Indy Quality of Life Plan](#), a collaborative effort of neighborhood residents, businesses, churches, educational institutions, community organizations, city leaders, and foundations working together to implement several activities throughout 2017, including a job fair, farmers market, and an economic revitalization study Request for Proposals (RFP).



Connecting Community: [Haughville STRONG Neighborhood Association \(HSNA\)](#) for continually finding creative and intentional ways to engage neighbors in planning, setting goals, and developing an inclusive structure.

Inspiring Places: [The Ross Foundation](#) and its Building Alternative Solutions In our Community (B.A.S.I.C.) Program, a neighborhood-based strategy to reduce crime in the 42nd and Post area by increasing community cohesion and mobilizing residents to get involved in reducing crime in their neighborhoods.

2017

Building Local Economy: [Old Southside Neighborhood Association's](#) Property Showcase, an event that welcomed over 130 people and highlighted the many opportunities for living, working and commercial growth in the Old Southside.

Connecting Community: [Southeast Neighborhood Development \(SEND\)](#) for their vision and initiative in gathering a diverse group of neighborhoods, businesses, and partner organizations to form the Twin Aire Neighborhood Coalition.

Inspiring Places: [Ransom Place Neighborhood Association](#) for envisioning and developing Ransom Place Pocket Park -- as a gateway along the Cultural Trail to help educate the public on the civic value of the area's African-American heritage, while also providing a place for community events.

2015

RePower Award: [Old Southside Neighborhood Association](#) (mentored by Haughville Neighborhood Association and We Care Neighborhood Association).

2013

Building Local Economy: [Better Block Indianapolis](#) temporarily transforms car-scaled space into pedestrian-friendly, vibrant urban spaces, enabling neighbors to envision and experience life on a better block.

Connecting Community: [Crooked Creek Community Development Corporation](#) for creation of The Hub, a "one-stop shop" community space providing services, information, and rally point for the neighborhood.



Inspiring Places: [Irvington Development Organization's](#) Streetscape Project transformed their main neighborhood corridor into a more attractive, safe, and pedestrian friendly gateway.

2011

Building Local Economy: Indy Food Co-op, Inc. for its operation of Pogue's Run Grocer.

Connecting Community: [Irvington Green Initiative](#) for its event Irvington SkillShare "Feast"ival.

Inspiring Places: [Fuller Legacy Build](#) for its collaboration and work to revitalize the 1200 block of St. Paul Street.

2009

Building Local Economy: [Binford Redevelopment and Growth \(BRAG\)](#).

Connecting Community: [Indy Fringe International Theater Festival](#).

Inspiring Places Award: [Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association](#).