

Speakers and Information about the Speakers

Moderator:



Arnita Gadson received a Master of Arts in Business Management and Human Resources from Webster University and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from KY State University. She is currently Kentucky and Louisville NAACP EJ Chair and the Executive Director of the West Jefferson County Community Task Force, a 501(c)3 EJ organization since 2003. She is also retired as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission and the EJ Director at the University of Louisville.

Speaker 1:



Harold Mitchell Jr. is a member of the Evergreen Advisory Board. He founded the ReGenesis project in 1997 in response to a spate of respiratory illnesses in neighborhoods near waste and toxic chemical facilities in his community. Today, the project has successfully leveraged millions of public and private dollars in funds towards site clean ups, economic development, affordable housing and healthcare for communities affected by environmental racism. Mitchell served as a representative in the South Carolina Legislature for 13 years. He received the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Regional Legislator of the Year Award, 2015. He is a lifelong resident of Spartansburg, South Carolina.

Speaker 2:



Omar Muhammad is from Augusta, GA where he earned a Biology degree from Augusta State University. He currently works for the Department of Natural Resources as a Fisheries Biologist. Omar has worked as a community advocate and activist since 2007 as a volunteer for the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC) and currently serves as its Executive Director. Omar completed the EPA's EJ Academy and was selected Valedictorian for the inaugural class. Omar is currently pursuing a master's degree in Community and Urban Planning with a policy focus at the College of Charleston.

Panelist 1:



Councilman Michael A. Brown is the son of the late Herman Brown and Edith Smalls Brown. He grew up on Union Heights, attended the public school of Charleston County and a graduated of Chicora High School. He attended Devry Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia and received a diploma in Electronic Technology in 1975.

Michael was employed by Sears and Roebuck as an Electronic Repair Technician. In 2004 he retired from BP-Amoco as an Instrument and Electrical Planner after 25 years of service. Councilman Brown has served on the North Charleston City Councilman District 10 from 2007- present, is a Board Member: Charleston County Human Services Commission, a member of the Mary Ford Elementary School Improvement Council and Royal Missionary Baptist Church. Councilman Brown is an advisory board member for the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities. Michael is married to the former Evelyn Singleton and they have two sons Michael II and Torre.

Panelist 2:



Keisha Long is the Environmental Justice Coordinator for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). She is an advocate for vulnerable communities and is responsible for helping environmental justice communities build capacity, identify resources, and establish collaborative partnerships.

Keisha has been with DHEC for over 20 years. Previously, Keisha worked as a DHEC Project Manager in the Superfund program and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program (RCRA). Keisha holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University, is an active Toastmaster, and is a co-Chair on the advisory board of the ITRC (Interstate Technology Regulatory Council).

Panelist 3:



VAREVA HARRIS is the vice president for enrollment management at Benedict College. She has held a number of administrative roles at Benedict in the past. Harris holds a bachelor's degree from Benedict, a master's from Columbia College and a Doctor of Management degree in organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix.



Navigating and Getting to Know Your Local, State and Federal Government Agencies

July 29, 2021



Welcome



Michelle King

Louisville Air Pollution Control District
Executive Administrator
and Director of Program Planning



Moderator



Arnita Gadson

West Jefferson County Task Force,
Executive Director

KY and Louisville NAACP Environmental, Climate
and Justice, Chair



**Overview of Experiences
Navigating Local, State, and Federal
Government Agencies**

Harold Mitchell
Regenesis
Executive Director



Overview of LAMC and Port Project

Omar Muhammad
Low Country Alliance for
Model Communities
Executive Director

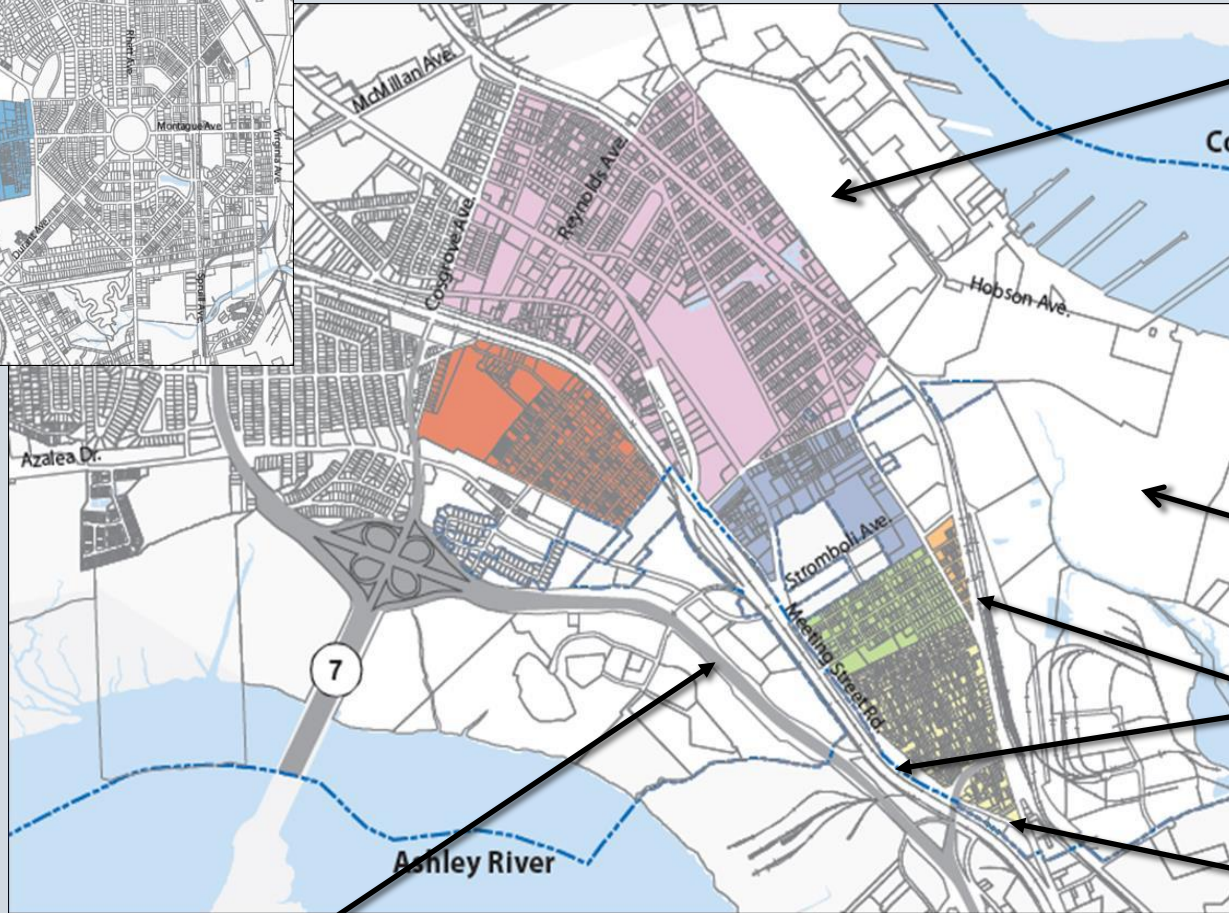
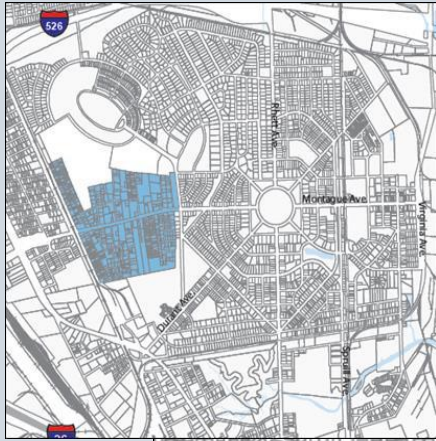
Navigating Local, State, and Federal Agencies Workshop



July 29th, 2021

Omar Muhammad (LAMC)

Community Environmental Challenges



Intermodal Container Transfer Facility

South Carolina Port Terminal

Train Tracks

Port Access Road

Interstate 26

LAMC Organization's Purpose and Work

Our purpose: is to build healthy families by creating pathways to equal opportunities

Our work: is intentional and transformative

Our focus: is **7 : 4**

7 Communities : 4 Core Areas of Focus

Accabee

Chicora/Cherokee

Five Mile

Liberty Hill

Union Heights

Howard Heights

Windsor Place

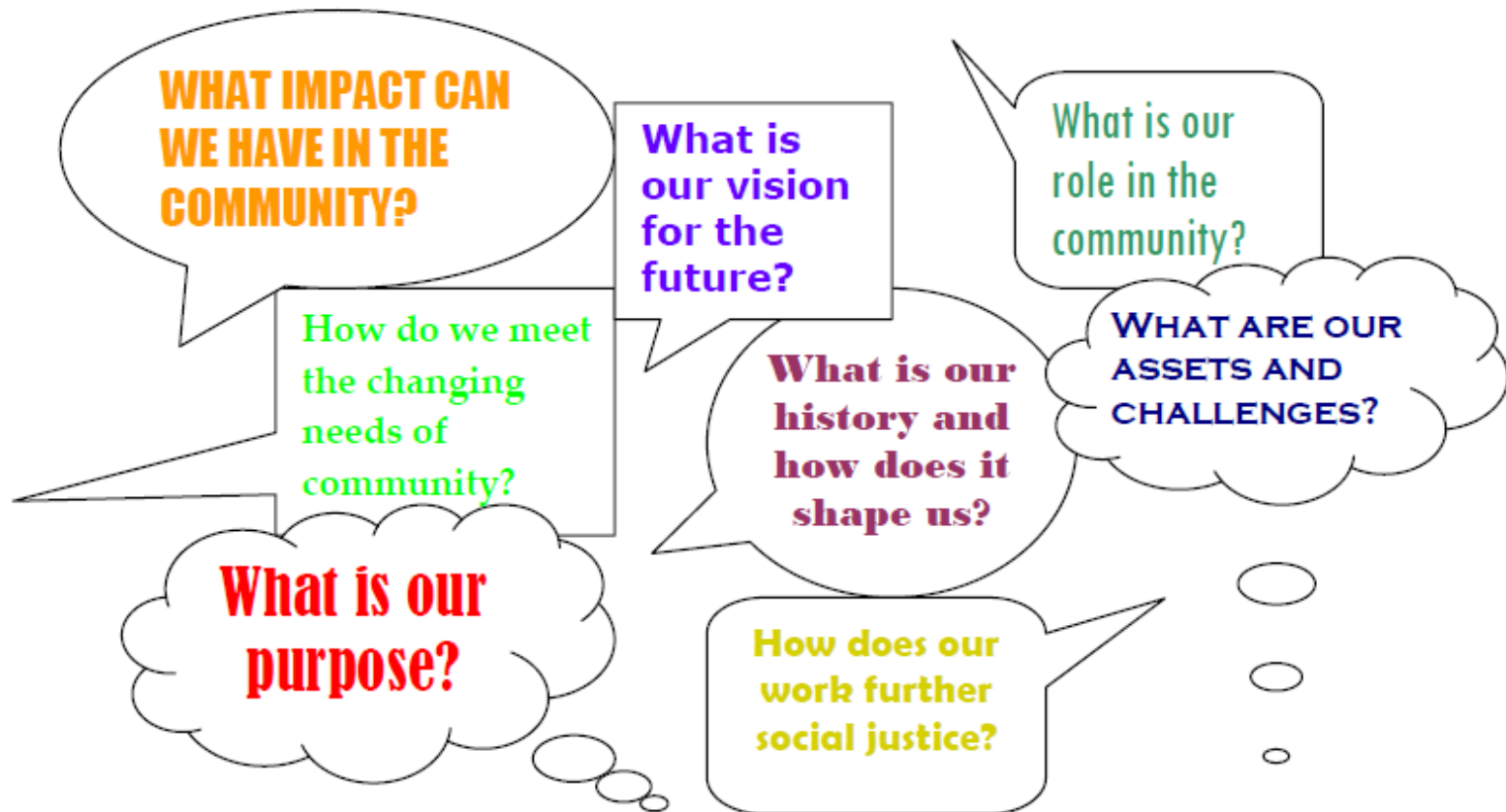
Affordable Housing

Economic Development

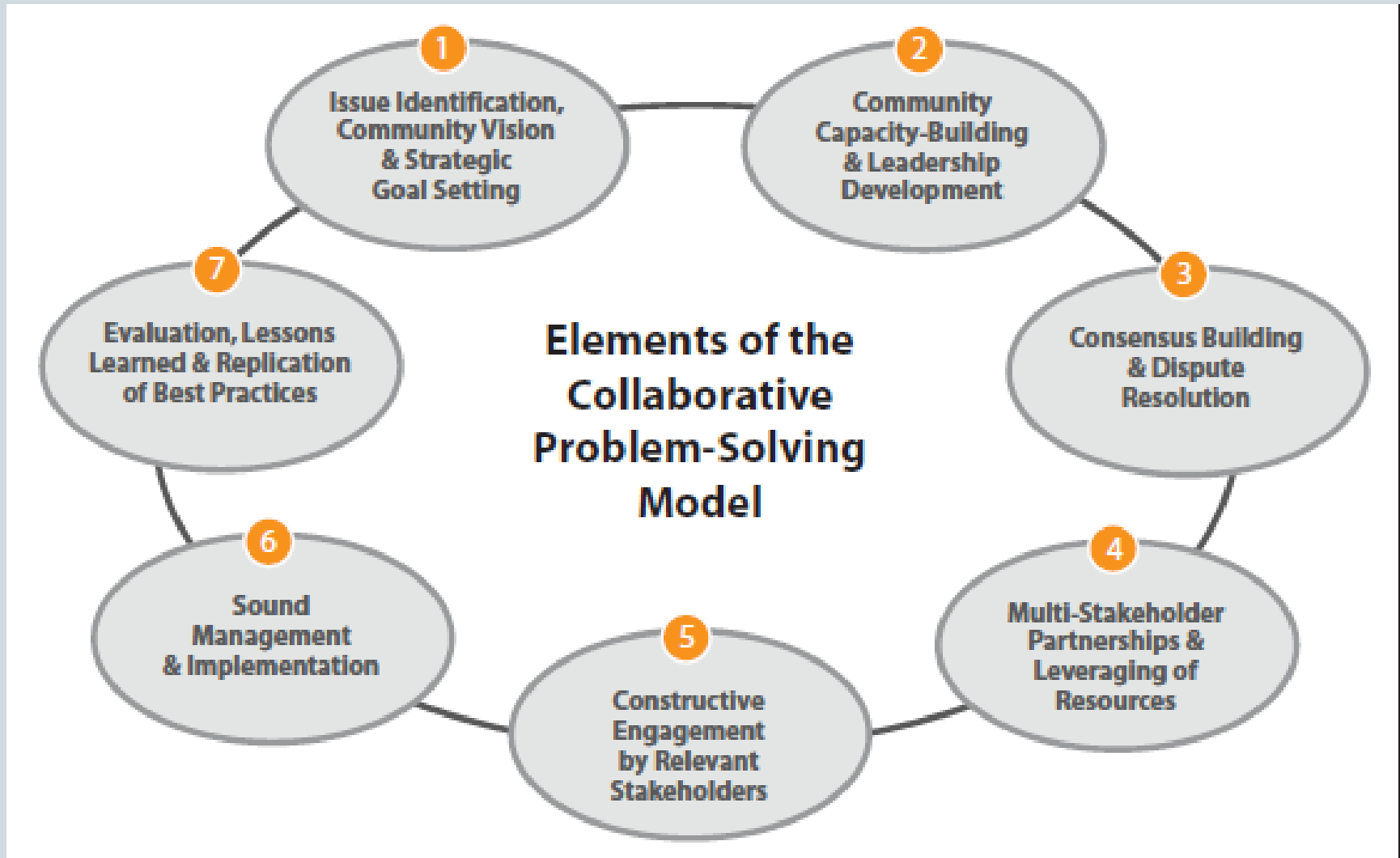
Education

Environmental Justice

Community Groups are in flux trying to answer these questions



Community Problem Solving Model



2

Community Capacity-Building & Leadership Development



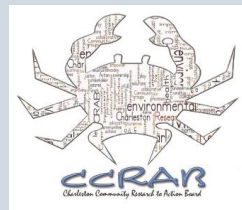
Environmental Leadership Program

LEAP – EPA and DHEC

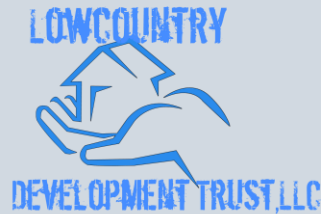
EJ Academy



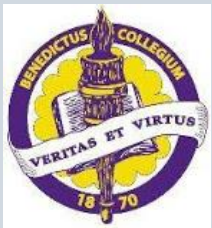
LAMC Stakeholder Partnership



Community Partners and Stakeholders



Community Associations and Councils



Affordable Housing Revolving Loan

To date, our housing partnership has acquired **30** properties for affordable housing. We have funded the construction of 6 homes for home ownership, 5 rental homes to date.

Summer Transportation Institute

Residents of the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities and Rosemont are offered various opportunities to participate in educational and employment initiatives geared toward the transportation industry at **Benedict College**

LAMC Area Community Recreation Center

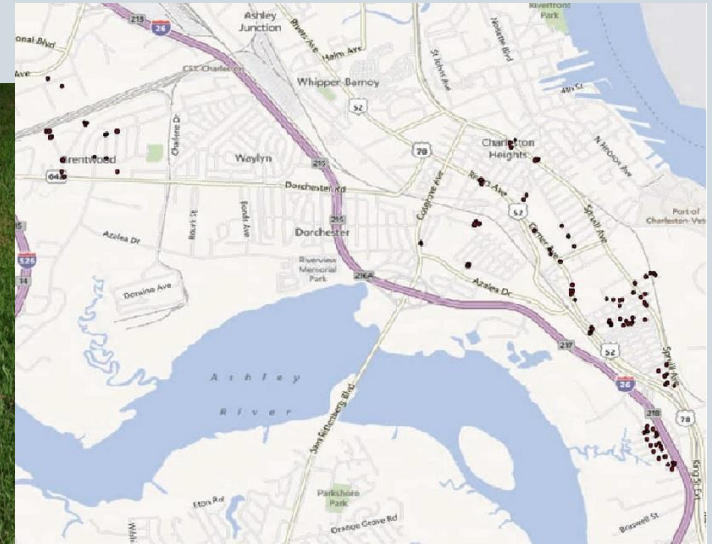
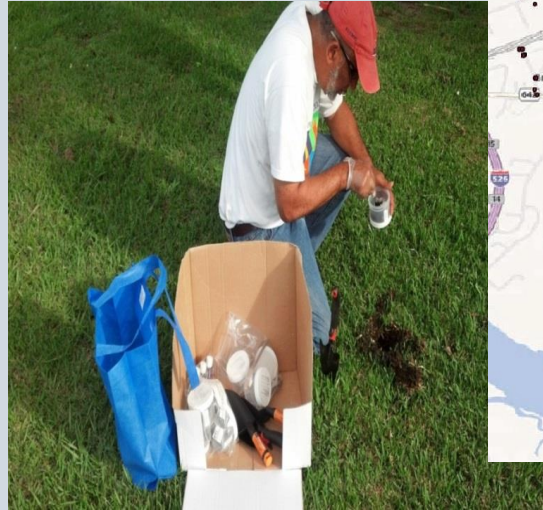
LAMC negotiated with Palmetto Railways for the replacement of Sterrett Hall. The new recreational center will be constructed on the Old Tank Farm (**City of North Charleston** is donating the land and will operate the facility).

The construction cost is **3 million** dollars from the mitigation agreement and an additional **1 million** dollars in gap funding.

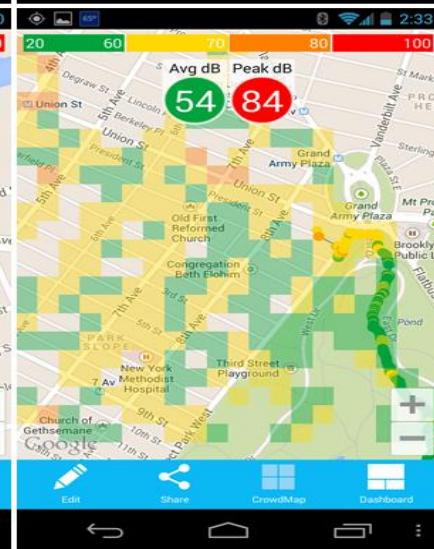
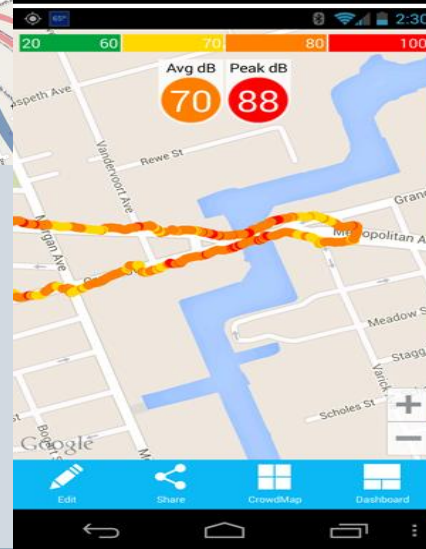
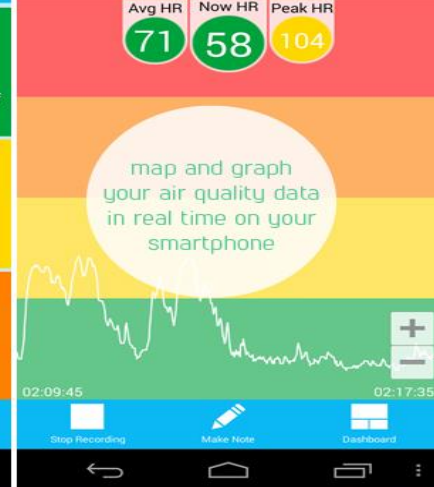
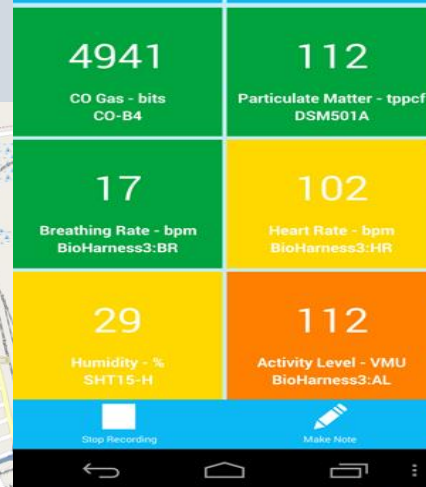
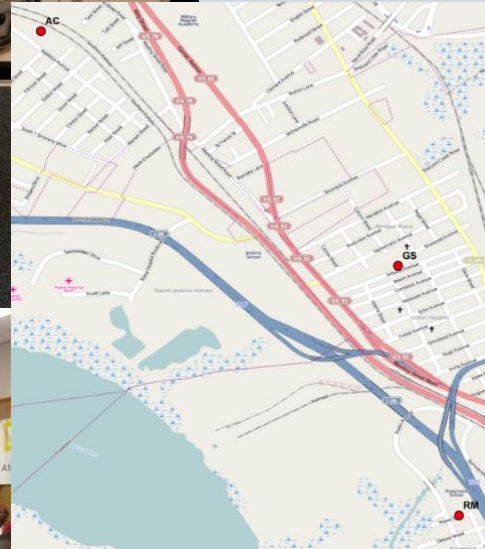
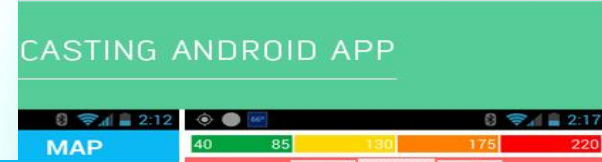
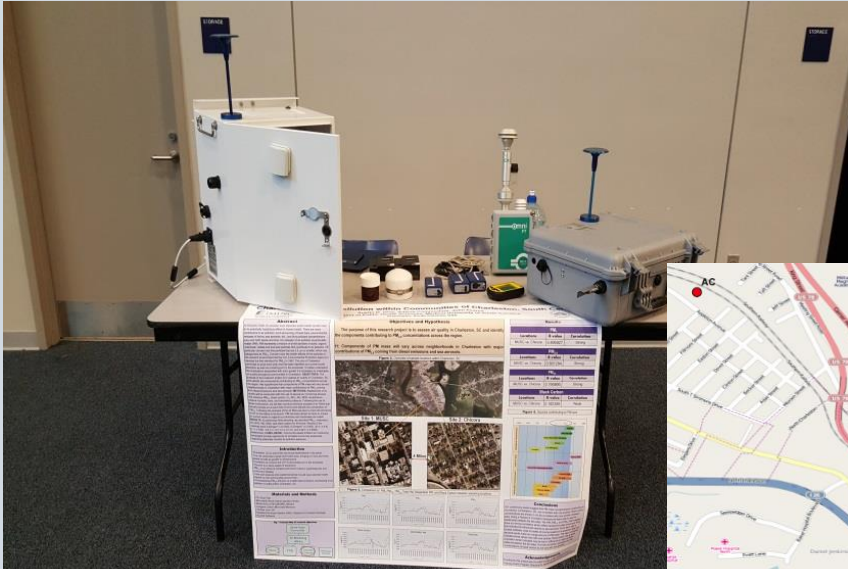
Citizen Science and Community Training

Citizen Science-based initiatives have enabled communities impacted by environmental justice to collect and use data to address local environmental and health concerns.

Community-based Research using Citizen Science



Air Monitoring



PURPOSE

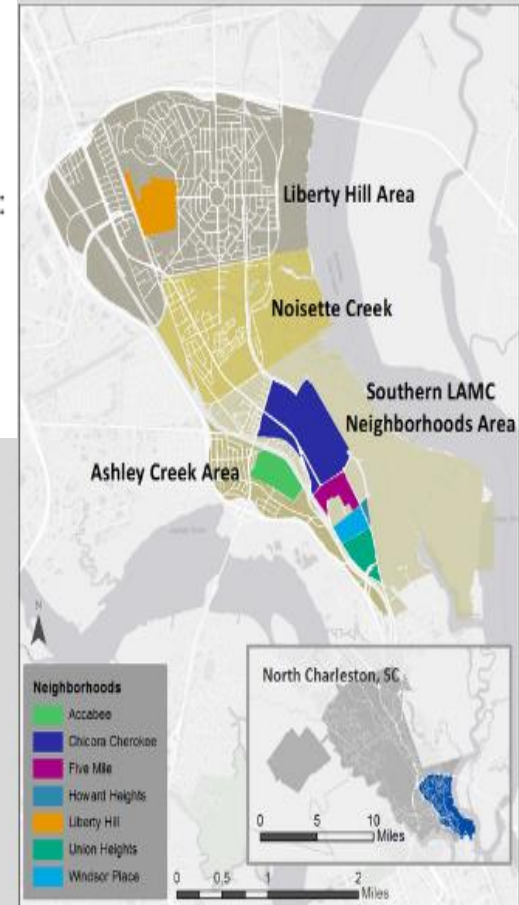
Examine how land use policy and practices in North Charleston are contributing to or relieving community's risk of exposure to environmental hazards associated with land use types that are incompatible with residential such as industrial and heavy commercial.

METHODS

- 1) Analysis of zoning policy and classification of current zoning types and land use categories by "impact factor," (impact defined as adverse environmental effects)
- 2) Spatial analysis using ArcMap v10.4 to assess:
 - Distribution of land use types
 - Patterns in land use decisions over time
 - Areas of heightened risk of exposure

STUDY AREA

Seven focus neighborhoods of the Charleston Community Research to Action Board (CCRAB) in North Charleston, SC.



Service Layer Credits: City of North Charleston, Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC), Nick Rubin, Chloe Stuber, Esri, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

KEY FINDINGS

- The neighborhoods at highest risk of exposure to adverse environmental effects are at the Southern end of the study area and include: Accabee, Five Mile, Howard Heights, Windsor Place and Union Heights.
- Contemporary land use practices and decisions are exacerbating pre-existing disparities evidenced by:
 - Amount of land use types incompatible with residential are increasing within and surrounding the subject neighborhoods and heightening their vulnerability to effects of environmental hazards, air pollution, urban decay, man-made and natural disasters.
 - Neighborhoods in the northeast corner of the study area that skew more white and affluent are seeing a reduction in impact as a result of the effects of protective overlay districts and down-zoning.

To view results in map viewer, visit:
<https://arcg.is/1Gfj4q>

Government Agencies Panel



Councilman Michael Brown, Keisha Long, Vareva Harris



Keisha Long
Environmental Justice Coordinator
Office of Environmental Affairs

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Healthy People. **Healthy Communities.**



IDENTIFY RESOURCES FOR EJ COMMUNITIES

ADVOCATE FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

ESTABLISH COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS


PROMOTE MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HELP BUILD CAPACITY IN EJ COMMUNITIES





W.A. Perry Middle School
in partnership with
 Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
presents a
COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic
 by Prisma Health




GIVEAWAYS!

- swag bags
- masks
- hand sanitizer
- educational materials
- prizes
- and more!

Saturday, May 22, 2021 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 W.A. Perry Middle School Parking Lot
 2600 Barhamville Rd | Columbia, SC 29204

100.1 THE BEAT 101.1 The Beat
 broadcasting LIVE from
 10 AM - 12 PM!



First dose | Drive thru | Pfizer vaccine | 12+ eligible



EJ STRONG
 Strengthening Communities
 for Disaster Risk Reduction, Response
 & Recovery in South Carolina



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The image features a dark blue background with a large teal circle on the right and a brown circle on the left. In the bottom left, there are stylized orange hands. The text is centered within the teal circle.

***We want to
hear from you!***