



NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIES

Q2 2019

Report to Funders

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Community Spotlight

Denise Edwards, a local Pittsburgh resident and member of our Grassroots Grantmaking Committee (GGC), was one of six community panelists invited to participate in the Opportunity Fund's grantmaking process, bringing resident voice to their process, and building social capital at the resident level. [Read more.](#)



Grantee Spotlight

With support of a Catalytic Grant from Neighborhood Allies, Landforce aimed to recruit crew members from and work on projects in three priority geographies – the Hilltop, the Hill District and Millvale. They completed projects in all three neighborhoods, spending nearly 1,000 hours working to re-activate vacant lots, care for street trees, restore habitat in visible areas, and maintain green infrastructure and public gardens. [Read more.](#)



Funder Spotlight

A \$25,000 grant from FNB is supporting the Real Estate Co-Powerment Series throughout 2019. Since launching in early 2017, this program has graduated 70 participants, 5 cohorts, representing 27 neighborhoods, and there is a consistent waiting list to enroll.

With FNB's support, we recently graduated our largest cohort to date with 19 participants, representing a diverse group ranging from community organizers, real estate professionals, to CDC and CBO staff members and community residents. [Read more.](#)





Market Confidence | Schenley Heights Revitalization Effort (SHORE)

The Schenley Heights Revitalization Effort (SHORE), is a collective of community based organizations, public agencies, nonprofit institutions, and private entities who are working together to increase the number of affordable homeownership and quality rental opportunities in the Schenley Heights community. SHORE works with existing homeowners to help stabilize their properties and engage with residents to help improve the overall quality of life in the neighborhood.

Together, the partners are renovating, rehabbing and revitalizing homes across Schenley Heights, creating HOPE:

- H**ealth and Wellbeing
- O**pportunity Making
- P**lace making
- E**ngaging Influencers



Schenley Heights Collaborative



Quality of Life | Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center

Neighborhood Allies and the City of Pittsburgh launched the Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) which offers one-on-one professional counseling to ALL Pittsburghers as a free public service. Through this innovative partnership between Neighborhood Allies, the City of Pittsburgh and Advantage Credit Counseling Service, clients of the FEC now have access to experts that can help them open and utilize safe, affordable banking services, decrease debt, establish, maintain or increase their credit score and build savings and better saving habits, at no cost to them. Four roving financial counselors are now available to meet at 10 community locations across Pittsburgh.



Neighborhood Image | Temporary Public Art & Placemaking

Artist Njaimh Njie hosted an evening of conversation about the public art project, “Homecoming: Hill District, USA” which is a multimedia public art project focused on the Hill District neighborhood through everyday lived experiences of its past and present residents. This project is a partnership between Njie and the Hill House Association that represents and honors the Hill District community by sharing and showcasing the stories of their residents. The project produced two products: a series of public art installations in the neighborhood, as well as a website which serves as a digital archive that features a compilation of oral histories and photos arranged to tell a roughly 100 year history of the neighborhood. This project is one of six TPAP projects that were completed in 2018-19 throughout Neighborhood Allies’ target neighborhoods.



Community Ownership | 2019 Love My Neighbor!

Our Grassroots Grantmaking Committee (GGC) funded 47 resident projects this round, totaling \$96,073 in funding for our neighborhoods! From endeavors in arts and culture, to community garden projects, to civic education programs, these resident leaders aim to engage their neighbors and strengthen their communities.

After spending countless hours over several months reviewing proposals, interviewing applicants, and discussing projects, the Grassroots Grantmaking Committee made their final decisions of the 2019 Love My Neighbor! Grant round. This year, there were over 70 applicants and proved to be the most competitive round yet. Thank you to the GGC for all of your time, passion, and invaluable insight!

Congratulations to all of the 2019 Love My Neighbor! Grantees and thank you to our GGC for your hard work and commitment to supporting resident-led projects that make communities healthier!



Equitable Development | All-In Pittsburgh

The All-In Pittsburgh Equitable Development Collaborative gathered together with more than 100 partners and community members on Thursday, April 11th for a 2-Year Anniversary Event at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater to celebrate the progress and reflect upon and recommit to the work of building an equitable city in which all can benefit from its economic transformation.

The event recognized how far the collaborative has come since the creation of the Equitable Development: The Path to an All-In Pittsburgh report 2 years ago. Accomplishments in the areas of advocacy and investment, partnerships, institutional and organizational commitments, and sustained infrastructure and expanded operations include wins such as:

- Appealing to the city concerning cuts to the URA's 2019 budget with the support of 22 organizations resulting in \$2.5 million restored to their budget,
- Riverside Center For Innovation adopting the All-In Pittsburgh definition of equitable development and embedding it into their programming, including BizFit which helps minority, woman and veteran entrepreneurs in the construction industry to grow sustainable enterprises,
- Creating a formalized partnership with the Pittsburgh Black Elected Officials Coalition (PBEOC) to co-develop legislation to begin to embed equity within city government operations and decision-making,
- Initiating a three-year sustainability plan (2020-2023) to guide our work into the future by revisiting our priorities, clarifying our strategic niche, identifying our financial sustainability model, expanding and solidifying partnership agreements.

We're pleased to share a major milestone for All-In Pittsburgh--city council unanimously passed the equity legislation that was first introduced in May, sending a strong signal across our city, region and country that Pittsburgh is serious about equitable development by creating the critical infrastructure that is needed to drive and sustain equity results at scale. As a brief overview, the legislation package consists of the following three components:

- Resolution declaring Pittsburgh an "All-In" city which formally recognizes our equitable development definition
- Equity Reporting Requirements for Department Directors
- Establishment of the Equity and Inclusion Implementation Team



New Team Members

Tamara Cartwright

Tamara joins us as Program Manager for Social Impact Design, and will spend much of her time directing the activities of the Love My Neighbor! Grant program and the Grassroots Grantmaking Committee. In addition, she will connect with residents through the use of engaging community outreach techniques, develop storytelling strategies surrounding the Love My Neighbor! program, and work to deploy technical assistance and extra support to help grantees lift up their gifts and talents.



Demi Kolke, Senior Program Manager of Corridor Revitalization

Demi joins our team as the Senior Program Manager of Corridor Revitalization. In her role, Demi will work alongside community-based organizations and partners to implement strategies that enhance neighborhood business districts through small business support and marketing/events, creating a long-term strategic approach to achieving equitable economic growth results in our neighborhoods of focus, assist communities in securing funding for neighborhood economic development initiatives, and more.



Glenn Grayson, Senior Program Manager for Neighborhood Development

Glenn joins our team as Senior Program Manager for Neighborhood Development. In his role, he will support our efforts to advance policies and build strong community partnerships through a focused lens of equitable development, as well as support the planning, research analysis, data management, advocacy, organizing and evaluation efforts to advance the policy and program agenda of the All-In Pittsburgh Equitable Development Collaborative.



Q2 2019 President's Special Initiative Award Winners

This quarterly award is given in recognition of a Neighborhood Allies staff member going significantly above and beyond the responsibilities of his or her position.



Sarah Dieleman Perry

Thanks to Sarah's networking and vision, we have tapped into national prestige and credibility with partnerships like Cities for Financial Empowerment, the Federal Reserve Bank system, LISC's FOCs, and Family Independence Initiative (FII). Sarah's work and partnership management skills are directly related to why these national partners have invested in the Pittsburgh area. These renowned partners lend us credibility and contribute to our ability to earn significant grants and funding. Sarah had to spend an enormous amount of time and social capital to court each of these giants, convincing them that Neighborhood Allies is the best partner for their time and money in the region. Sarah has worked diligently to broker a complex service delivery contracting process with the City of Pittsburgh and Advantage Credit Counseling for their launch of the FECs and led the establishment of a cohort-based (AFC) certification course to Pittsburgh for Financial Coaching. This cohort was built as an extension to her above work but was a result of understanding that some standardization and professionalization of the work is critical for future success. It further positioned Neighborhood Allies as the economic opportunity expert in the region. She is a laser-focused thought-leader in the region and her work speaks volumes to her passion.



Shad Henderson

This quarter, Shad led and achieved remarkable, historic and highly significant progress with the All-In Pittsburgh Equitable Development Collaborative including 1) hugely successful Two-Year Anniversary Event and 2) passage of Landmark Legislation for embedding racial equity in the City in Pittsburgh. Shad spent countless hours coordinating, planning and executing a very successful and special celebration event, marking two years of our 40+ member collaborative. He worked with many partners, stakeholders and funders to help bring together diverse community members, city leaders, and nonprofit professionals to celebrate accomplishments, discuss new projects, network, and create a continued "call to action" for the work. Secondly, Shad advocated, shepherded and ultimately helped ensure the passage of landmark, first of its kind, city legislation, naming Pittsburgh an All-In City, along with several key measures to support our equitable development agenda. Shad led the creation of a formalized partnership with the Pittsburgh Black Elected Officials Coalition (PBEOC) to co-develop legislation to begin to embed equity within city government operations and decision-making. The legislation passed on May 24, 2019, sending a strong signal to the region and country that Pittsburgh is committed to ensuring it is a city for all, and putting the All-In Pittsburgh and Neighborhood Allies' work on the map. This would NOT have happened without Shad's leadership, political capital, savvy, and relationships. Shad is now a consistent voice in the establishment of equity and inclusion in the city of Pittsburgh. Finally, Shad facilitated the successful simultaneous hiring and on-boarding of two extremely talented new team members, participating in the interviews, successfully initiating the work plans, and providing the necessary support to ensure smooth transitions. To that end, Shad puts in countless hours, early and late to continue to juggle many priorities - all with great passion.

Neighborhood Allies Quarter 2, 2019 Grant Awards



Cities for Financial Empowerment \$250,000

A \$250,000 grant from Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE Fund) matches local funding to support the recently launched Financial Empowerment Center (FEC). The FEC, which opened for business this spring provides free, one-on-one financial counseling to local Pittsburgh residents.

Neighborhood Allies and the City of Pittsburgh have worked with CFE Fund since the fall of 2017 to bring the national Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) model to Pittsburgh. Today, we're happy to announce that local grants from BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Hillman Foundation and PNC Bank totaling \$280,000, have been matched by a \$250,000 implementation grant from CFE Fund!

Hunt Foundation \$30,000

To support Neighborhood Allies' Economic Opportunity for All work in 2019.

McAuley Ministries \$10,000

To send a local delegation to learn from and experience Homeboy Industries, a group that provides hope, training, and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated men and women allowing them to redirect their lives and become contributing members of the community.

Q2 2019 Media Coverage

- “Lives are on the line.” All-In anniversary event examines racial equity in Pittsburgh | Next Pittsburgh
- Pittsburgh adds free financial counseling service | Pittsburgh Post Gazette
- Burgess, Lavelle propose measure to boost equity in city budgets and affordable housing | Pittsburgh Post Gazette
- Pittsburgh is ‘all-in’ to break down racial barriers | Pittsburgh Trib Live
- In Pittsburgh, Community is the Key to Advancing Racial Equity | PolicyLink



Team Members

Presley L. Gillespie, President

Stephanie Chernay, Chief Operating Officer

Sarah Dieleman Perry, Director of Economic Opportunity

Talia DePasquale, Director of Communications and Storytelling

Shad Henderson, Director of Equity and Community Partnerships

Demi Kolke, Senior Program Manager of Corridor Revitalization

Glenn Grayson Jr., Senior Program Manager for Neighborhood Development

Cait Lee, Program Manager for Grants and Investments

Tamara Cartwright, Program Manager for Social Impact Design

DeOndra Parker, Executive Assistant/Office Manager

Ben Emswiler, Program Associate for Neighborhood Engagement and

Community Capacity Building

Talia Landerman, Economic Opportunity Intern

Chelsea Contino, PULSE Fellow

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KeyBank Foundation
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
McAuley Ministries
National Equity Fund (NEF)
National League of Cities
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