

The Power of Partners and Strategic Alliance: Lessons from the Community Development Alliance in Milwaukee

Wednesday afternoon 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Data You Can Use is the NNIP's Milwaukee partner. Founded in 2016 as an independent non-profit, the organization builds on the work begun by the Data Center at the Nonprofit Center and works to join forces with local foundations to build capacity and strengthen neighborhoods.

The metropolitan Milwaukee area is home to nearly 1.5 million people with more than 595,000 of those living in the city proper. The name derives from Native American descriptions of the area meaning "gathering place by the water." Situated on Lake Michigan, the City's modern history goes back to 1795 when fur traders settled along the Milwaukee and Menomonee rivers. Milwaukee is a proud, hardworking city, a city of taverns, churches, and festivals, and a city of neighborhoods. Today's lakefront development, downtown revitalization, new arena, and expanding streetcar build on the past and position the city for the future. According to a recent [report](#) released by the Boston Indicators partnership, Milwaukee is the 10th most diverse city among the 50 largest cities in America. Like many other cities, it has a legacy of segregation, and historic and current inequities in income and opportunity. Notably, there is an active dialogue and identifiable efforts to promote equitable development and to name, and avoid, displacement as the city grows and neighborhoods change. Milwaukee is unique in many ways and in others, much like your city.

In this session, Katie Pritchard, from Data You Can Use, will introduce the panel focusing on neighborhood investment, and the role that partnerships and data play in those investments. Susan Lloyd, of Lloyd Consulting will moderate the panel comprised of leaders of the Community Development Alliance (CDA). The CDA was founded in 2011 by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Zilber Family Foundation, Northwestern Mutual Foundation and LISC Milwaukee in an effort to create greater cohesion across the community development sector. The CDA has been a vehicle for cross-sector collaboration to improve the quality of life in Milwaukee neighborhoods. The vision of the CDA is that all Milwaukee neighborhoods are safe places to live, work and play and provide opportunities for people of all races and income levels to lead healthy productive lives.

Panelists will first address their experience in focusing funding on neighborhoods and on the power of partnerships and strategic alliances to address their goals. Members of the audience will be asked to comment on how this reflects (or doesn't) what's happening in their cities. During the second part of the session, the conversation will focus on the

application of partnerships in promoting and assuring access to data as panelists reflect on how data has informed their investment choices and how their investments have supported data access and capacity.

Moderator:

Susan Lloyd, Lloyd Consulting. Susan Lloyd helped establish the Zilber Family Foundation, starting as a consultant to philanthropist Joe Zilber in 2008 and ending her tenure as an advisor to the board and staff in 2018. In 2019 Susan resumed consulting. She currently works with two foundations, a social enterprise that employs returning citizens, a commercial development initiative, and a housing collaborative. Previously Susan directed programs at The MacArthur Foundation; conducted academic research on poverty and violence; and worked in human services. Susan holds master's and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University, where she also was a National Science Foundation fellow on race and urban inequality.

Panelists:

Bridget Clementi, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Passionate about supporting the advancement of communities by improving health outcomes, Bridget Clementi dedicates her professional and personal time to leading child safety, injury prevention, health education and community health initiatives. As Vice President of Community Health for Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Bridget is motivated by the organization's vision of Wisconsin's kids being the healthiest in the nation! With nearly 20 years of experience in improving child health, she has successfully led innovative prevention programs and initiatives that result in positive health outcomes for families across the state. Bridget serves on advisory boards and committees including Safe & Sound, Playworks, Milwaukee Health Care Partnership, Milwaukee Succeeds and others. Bridget has a bachelor's degree in communications from University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Eric Christophersen, Northwestern Mutual Foundation. Eric Christophersen is vice president of strategic philanthropy and community relations at Northwestern Mutual and president of the Northwestern Mutual Foundation. The Foundation focuses on developing and implementing giving and volunteerism strategies that create community impact and underscore the company's commitment to its employees and financial representatives. A lifelong Milwaukee area resident, Christophersen received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin – Parkside, and his graduate degree from Marquette University. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Community Development Alliance.

Gina Stilp, Zilber Family Foundation. Gina Stilp is the executive director of the Zilber Family Foundation, which supports nonprofit organizations to address basic human needs, increase access to opportunity, and improve the quality of community life. She joined the Foundation in 2010 as a Trinity Fellow and eventually served as a senior program officer to support the design and implementation of the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative, a ten-year, \$50 million initiative to support local leaders and neighborhood revitalization efforts in three Milwaukee neighborhoods. Gina recently served as the director of social innovation at Dohmen Constellations, where she helped launch Wisconsin's first public benefit corporation. She began her career at New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity. Gina now lives in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood with her husband.

Donsia Strong Hill, LISC-Milwaukee. As Executive Director of LISC Milwaukee, Donsia Strong Hill leads LISC's strategic direction, partnership efforts and has moved LISC Milwaukee to champion "equitable economic development" in its work and the City of Milwaukee. In addition, she manages a network of relationships that spans neighborhood organizations and funders to business leaders and policymakers. Before coming to LISC, Ms. Strong Hill worked as a public finance attorney completing over \$3 billion in structured finance transactions including funding for first-time homeownership. She also served as a Wisconsin cabinet secretary, a Brown County assistant district attorney, a policy analyst in the Clinton White House, and a senior advisor in the U.S. Department of Energy. Donsia grew up in Chicago and earned a juris doctorate from John Marshall Law School. She also holds a master of public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She is a member of the inaugural class of the ACRE real estate development training program.