

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership

April 6-8, 2016

San Antonio, TX

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Guest Cities

Chicago, IL

Chicago has a wealth of organizations providing community data and data-related services. Smart Chicago Collaborative is exploring an arrangement to facilitate easier access to these resources for community groups. In this new role, they propose to amplify the existing work and research in Chicago's rich data ecosystem, investigate neighborhood indicators across policy silos, and identify/fill gaps in the community information infrastructure. The Collaborative is also completing an application to join NNIP. Key community information organizations represented at San Antonio and past NNIP meetings are:

- *Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago* focuses on improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities through policy research—by developing and testing new ideas, generating and analyzing information, and examining policies, programs, and practices across a wide range of service systems and organizations.
- *Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University* provides reliable, impartial, and timely data and research to inform housing policy decisions and discussions about the state of housing in the Chicago region and nationally. IHS's work focuses on affordable housing issues and understanding the dynamics of neighborhood housing markets.
- *Smart Chicago Collaborative* is a civic organization devoted to improving lives in Chicago through technology. They work on increasing Internet access, improving skills for using the Internet, and developing meaningful products from data that measurably contribute to the quality of life of residents in the Chicago region and beyond. See Chicago School of Data at <http://www.smartchicagocollaborative.org/work/ecosystem/chicago-school-of-data/>
- *Social Impact Research at Heartland Alliance* collaborates with clients to measure and grow their social impact. Their user-friendly work helps nonprofits, foundations, and governments advance real-world solutions to poverty.
- *Woodstock Institute* is a leading nonprofit research and policy organization in the areas of fair lending, wealth creation, and financial systems reform. It works to create a financial system in which lower-wealth persons and communities of

color can safely borrow, save, and build wealth so that they can achieve economic security and community prosperity.

Contacts: Greg Sanders (Chapin Hall), Geoff Smith (Institute for Housing Studies), Denise Linn (Smart Chicago Collaborative), Amy Terpstra (Social Impact Research), Spencer Cowan (Woodstock Institute)

Durham, NC: Neighborhood Compass-City of Durham

Websites: <http://compass.durhamnc.gov>
<http://durhamnc.gov/570/Neighborhood-Improvement-Services>

The Neighborhood Compass is a project of the City of Durham, housed in Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS). The project's interactive web portal provides data that allows local government and residents to track progress on neighborhood improvement efforts and shifts in our overall quality of life. The Compass helps local government allocate resources and establish partnerships to track neighborhood quality of life, increase accountability, and target services to improve community conditions. Neighborhood & homeowners associations, nonprofits, businesses, academic institutions, and others can align resources with Neighborhood Compass data to advocate for change, guide program development and the use of resources, and inform neighborhood projects.

Major projects for the Neighborhood Compass in 2016 include:

- A collaboration with the information initiative at Duke University (iiD), measuring the prevalence of chronic ambient stress in neighborhoods, the relationship between housing conditions and household energy consumption; and the reliability of multivariate neighborhood population change estimates. Analysis and visualization of data during this 10-week project will be used to foster neighborhood/research collaboration around these specific issues, culminating in a public forum drawing attention to the role of each particular issue in community life.
- An 18-month Duke Family Health resident research project assessing the utility of the Neighborhood Compass for delivering relevant social and environmental determinant information for physician-patient interactions. Patient care team trainings, focus groups, and in-clinic trials will be used to generate guidance on information design and delivery. A clinic-wide training and trial period will conclude the study.

Contact: John Killeen, Neighborhood Compass Project Manager

Houston, TX: Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University

Website: kinder.rice.edu

The Kinder Institute for Urban Research is a multi-disciplinary “think-and-do tank” housed at Rice University in central Houston, focusing on urban issues in Houston metropolitan area, the American Sunbelt, and around the world. Founded in 2010, the Institute was endowed with a gift from Houston philanthropists Rich and Nancy Kinder.

The mission of the Kinder Institute is to advance understanding of the most important issues facing Houston and other leading urban centers through rigorous research, policy analysis, and public outreach; and collaborate with civic and political leaders to implement promising solutions to these critical urban issues.

Complex demographic, economic, and social data are now available at the neighborhood level and hold the promise of data-driven and evidence-based community development. Last year, Rice University and the city of Houston joined forces with 20 other cities and 25 other universities to create MetroLab Network, a network of universities and city governments charged with collaborating on solutions to various challenges the cities face. The Kinder Institute is the network’s main point of contact for the Rice and city of Houston partnership. Experts at the Kinder Institute play a role in putting the available data into context and generate ideas about which urban problems that data can help address, down to the neighborhood level.

Last fall, the Kinder Institute submitted a grant proposal to a local philanthropic foundation seeking support to become the Houston partner in NNIP. Fortunately, we've successfully secured three years' funding to take on NNIP model to help facilitate the direct practical use of data by city and community leaders to build the capacities of institutions and residents in distressed urban neighborhoods. For organizations that lack analytical capability, researchers and students at the Institute could provide assistance and services. The Kinder Institute plans to submit a formal application to Urban Institute and NNIP committee for consideration this summer.

Contacts: Bill Fulton, Director; Jie Wu, Assistant Director and Research Manager

Los Angeles, CA: USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation

The University of Southern California Sol Price Center for Social Innovation is developing the Neighborhood Data for Social Change (NDSC) integrated data platform to provide a region-wide data collaboratory for social change. NDSC will enable stakeholders

throughout the region to better analyze real-time data, recommend policy changes, plan future community development initiatives and evaluate social innovations.

The effort includes collaboration with numerous community-based organizations, government agencies and philanthropies including the Los Angeles Promise Zone, the City and County of Los Angeles, HUD, the San Francisco Federal Reserve of Los Angeles, the Arnold Foundation, the Youth Policy Institute, FIND Food Bank, Year Up, among many others.

Contacts: Gary Painter, Director of Social Policy; and Jung Hyun Choi, Doctoral Student

Memphis, TN: University of Memphis Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research

The Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research, or CAESER, is an applied research center based at the University of Memphis and works with a variety of public and private partners towards the goal of "building smarter, stronger communities" in both natural and human environments. The center utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving and contains researchers and students from a wide range of disciplines.

In addition to their work in spatial and community analysis, ground water monitoring and modeling, and custom application development, they also work in and with the community on education programs to teach the importance of sustaining natural resources.

Recent projects include a partnership with area schools to optimize pedestrian safety between neighborhoods and schools, a community indicator visualization tool that spans geography, an assessment of impacts on the region's groundwater, and the development of a comprehensive blight data inventorying system to help community leaders and government officials track property conditions in their community.

Contact: Nate Ron-Ferguson, Senior GIS Project Coordinator