Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)

Building Community Resilience at the Local Level

Kristin Baja

Climate Resilience Officer

USDN Members
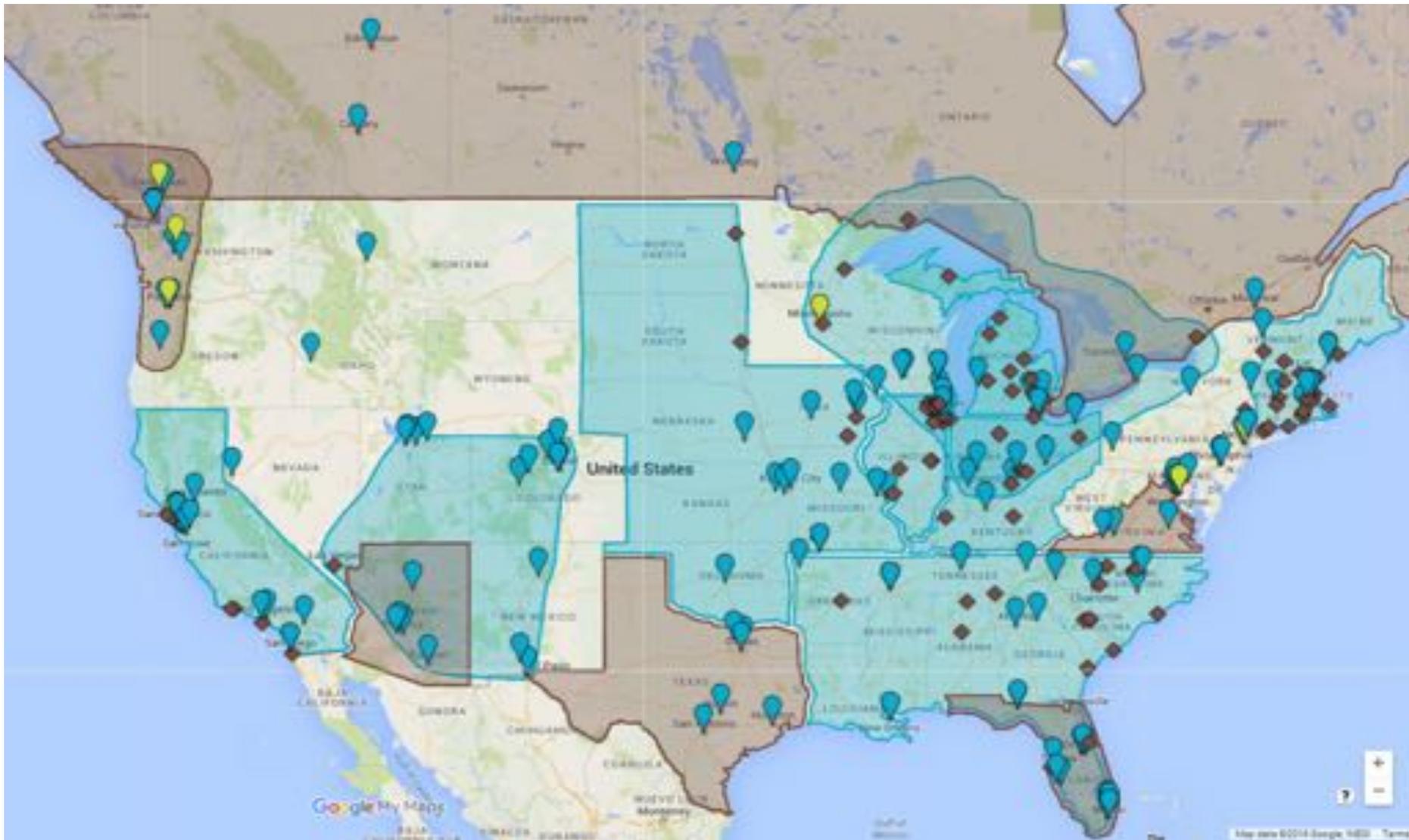
USDN Members

USDN is a peer-to-peer network of local government professionals from cities across the United States and Canada dedicated to creating a healthier environment, economic prosperity, and increased social equity.

The network enables members to share best practices and accelerate the application of good ideas across North America.

Definition of Resilience

The ability of our community to anticipate, accommodate, and **positively adapt to or thrive** amidst changing climate conditions or hazard events and **enhance quality of life,** reliable systems, economic vitality, & conservation of resources for present & future generations.

Shocks and Stressors

SHOCKS	STRESSORS
Typically considered single event disasters	Factors that pressure on a daily or reoccurring basis
Fires	Endemic Violence
Hurricanes	High Unemployment
Earthquakes	Endemic Drug Use
Floods	Poverty

Focus on both shocks and stresses to enhance community adaptive capacity and resilience, especially in vulnerable areas

EQUITY

- WHO IS MOST IMPACTED NOW?

- WHO WILL BE IMPACTED IN THE FUTURE?

Acknowledging History- Racism

- Historic planning practices

- From 1951 to 1971 80-90% of the 25,000 families displaced to build new highways, schools and housing were black

- Honestly acknowledge racism within policies and practices
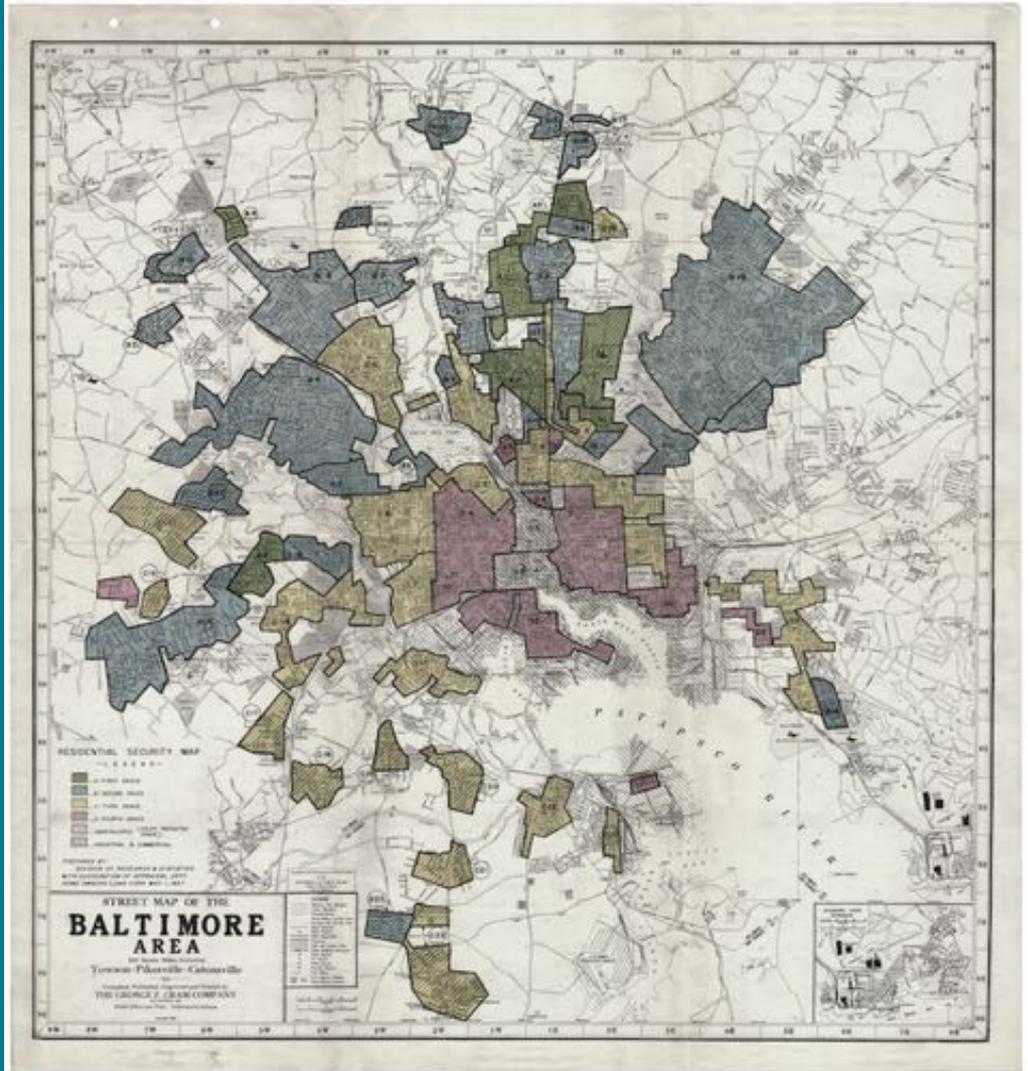
Two Baltimores: The White L vs. the Black Butterfly

Lawrence Brown (@bmoredoc)

Baltimore is a city that is hypersegregated into two parts: the "White L" and the "Black Butterfly." Due to 105 years of racist policies and practices, Baltimore's hypersegregated neighborhoods experience radically different realities. Due to this dynamic, White L neighborhoods accumulate structured advantage due to Baltimore Apartheid while neighborhoods in the Black Butterfly accumulate structured disadvantages. Baltimore's hypersegregation is the root cause of racial inequity, crime, health inequities/disparities, and civil unrest.

Policies and practices	The White L (structured advantage)	The Black Butterfly (structured disadvantage)
Buses	Charm City Circulator (free for riders)	Maryland Transit Authority (riders must pay)
Charm City Bikeshare	Bike stations in these neighborhoods	No bike stations in these neighborhoods
Highways	Had highways built for downtown access	Had highways built over their neighborhoods, causing displacement
TIF policy	Enriched with 100s of millions in TIF $$	Disinvested, redlined communities languish without being rebuilt
Enterprise Zone policy	Concentrated here for developer benefit	Very few funded Enterprise Zones are located in the Black Butterfly
Bank locations	Traditional banks are concentrated here	Plagued with check cashing, payday lending facilities, and pawn shops
Home mortgage lending	Receive great #'s mortgage originations	Redlined from receiving a proportionate number of mortgage originations
Small business lending	Receive great #'s of small biz loans	Redlined from receiving a proportionate number of small business loans
Big bank prime lending	Homebuyers receive prime rates	Homebuyers receive subprime mortgages, resulting in more foreclosures
Curfew policing in 05/15	BPD begged Hamdenites to leave site	BPD used tear gas against protestors at Penn & North; cleared corner
Normal policing	Courteous, high quality policing	Police brutality, rough rides, zero tolerance, Stop-and-Frisk residents
Public housing sites	Very few found in these neighborhoods	Public housing sites are disproportionately concentrated here
Section 8 vouchers	Very few found in these neighborhoods	The vast majority of Baltimore City Section 8 vouchers are here
Community benefits	CB districts provide extra services	Many neighborhoods that don't have community benefits districts
Public schools	Well-resourced and supported by BCPS	Features 50+ apartheid schools, many school closures, low resources
Property taxes	Property tax privileged, historic tax credit	Property tax punished; pay relatively more taxes while receiving less
Food access	Better access to quality grocery stores	More prone to feature food deserts with fewer quality grocery stores

Equity as a Lens

- Prioritize neighborhoods with highest low opportunity and historic disinvestment
- Provide job training and green job opportunities as part of most initiatives

- Actively listen to residents and collect their stories
- Build trust and relationships = partners in implementation
- Interactive meetings/events

Equity as a Lens

1. Foster and sustain mutual trust

2. Be accountable

3. Promises made must be promises kept

4. Power Sharing. We must go beyond informing and engagement

5. The process must value people's time and be sustained

6. Focus on social cohesiveness

Engagement- Remove Barriers

- Go to people (in locations they identify and trust)

- Partner with community leaders

- Provide transportation

- Provide food and beverages

- Provide childcare or activities for children

- Consider language barriers

- Translate the science and data – easy to understand

- Ensure any and all locations are ADA compliant

Community Preparedness

Preparedness – What else is needed?

- Collect stories

- Approach all stakeholders with <u>empathy</u>

- Follow up after individual preparedness work and invite community members to participate on advisory committees or special interest groups

- Show that every voice is valued, heard and appreciated

- Continue to <u>engage and re-engage</u>

- Consider multiple needs- emergency needs and long-term job and employment opportunities

Resilience Hubs

- Well-trusted locations utilized year-round
- Build community and provide resources
- Support community cohesiveness, before, during and after emergency events.
- Consists of a building or set of buildings and outdoor space that provide shelter, backup electricity, and access to resources such as food, water, ice, charging stations, etc.

Resilience Hubs require governments and stakeholders to willingly **shift power** over to members of the community.

Resilience Hubs

Provide communities with:

- Trainings, resources, and materials to run programs, react in the event of an emergency and recovery without additional assistance.

Training provided in Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

Currently working on pilot hubs in Washington DC, Baltimore, Richmond and Philadelphia.

Hubs- Employment Opportunities

Job Creation

- Skills training and introductory job opportunities as part of any new project. Ex. Weatherization and cool roof installation

Opportunities

- Reentry and employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated. Ex. Strategic demolition and vacant lot revitalization

Barriers

- Consider barriers such as language, ability to read, access to and use of technology, etc. and focus on removing those barriers

Stories Count

#EveryStoryCounts – Roxane Prettyman

I'm a life-long resident of Sandtown-Winchester, a mother, and a Ravens fan of course! When I was growing up, my mother was always helping our community. So when I had my daughter, I started looking for ways I could do the same. I love to help people – I get joy from it. Year after Read more...

Read more

#EveryStoryCounts – Inez Robb

Everybody who knows me, knows that I say it like it is. I don't care if you're in Roland Park, Canton, Harbor East, or Sandtown-Winchester, you should treat everybody the same. The bottom line is love. We have got to love each other, period. Whether you're a police officer, a resident, a young person, or Read more...

Read more

#EveryStoryCounts – Brian Arnold

The first time we couldn't believe it. We were standing on the other side of the bank while the flood was happening, just hysterical. We came back here the next morning and opened the door on this complete ruin. Then we started trying to figure out what the hell to do next, without really knowing. Read more...

Read more

#EveryStoryCounts – Fabiola Lopez

Español In my case, I don't speak English. I've been invited to attend community meetings with the police, even meetings where I knew there'd be translation. But I didn't dare. Why? Because I know I'm going to be the only one there like me and I feel uncomfortable. It's not that people are rude, not Read more...

Read more

Community Ambassador Network

- People **trust** their own friends, family and community leaders more than government or institutions.

- **Peer-to-peer network** that is trained and supported on equity, climate and sustainability

- They recruit & recommend people who might be interested in engaging with their neighbors

- **Provide stipends** that value their time and efforts
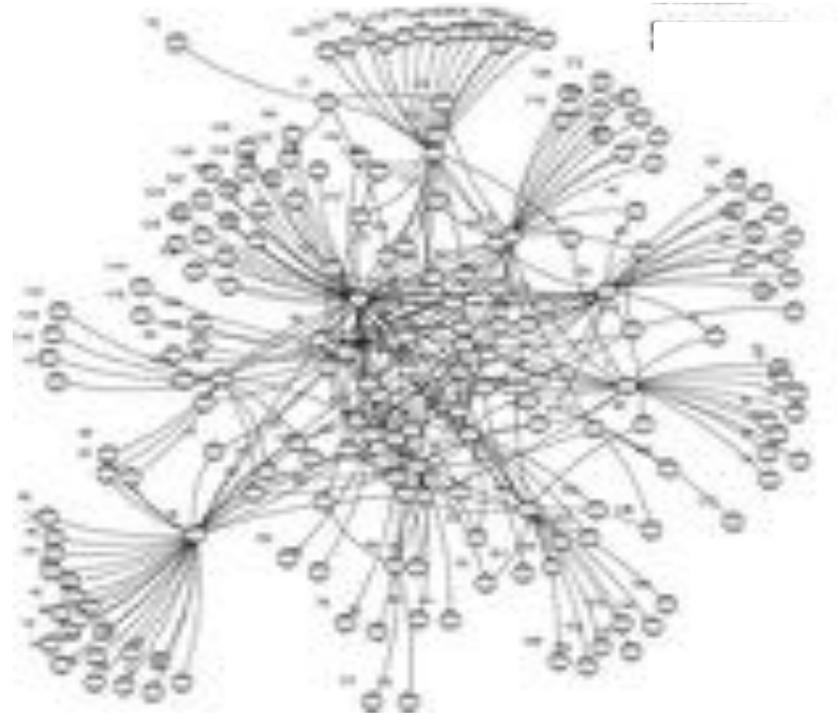
INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT
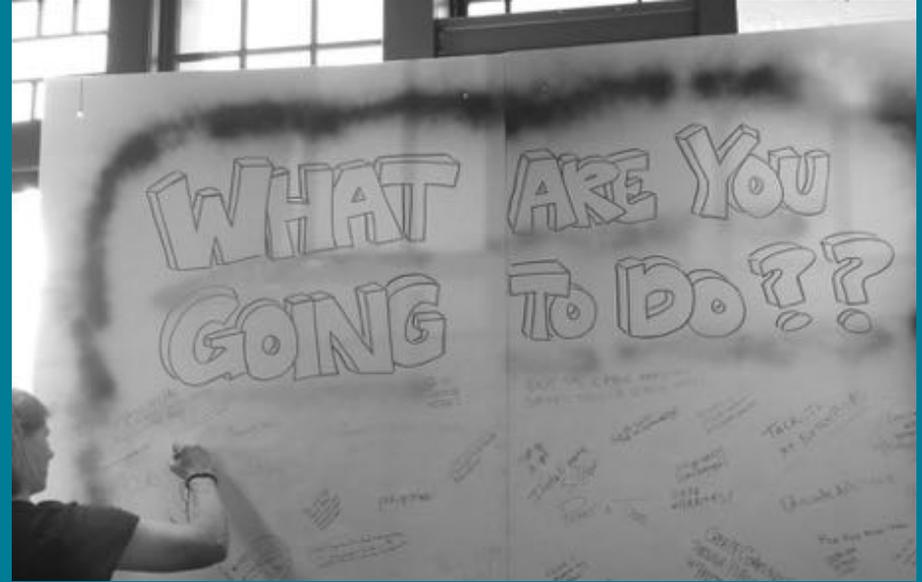
Engagement – Training

- Provide one-on-one and group trainings

- Engage with local students and local community leaders

- Have them identify locations to conduct outreach or areas to go door-to-door

- Help them collect stories

- Provide equity trainings

Ambassador Support

TRAININGS

- One three-hour training required for each Ambassador
- Extra 90 minute training required for each Lead Ambassador
- Trainings on equity and sustainability
- Hosting three primary trainings with 25 participants maximum
- Interactive and engaging
- Paid if complete outreach

TOOLKITS

- Surveys
- Neighborhood-specific data & information
- Draft Presentations
- Suggestions for Engagement
- Suggestions for locations to engage with people

Involve Youth

USDN Trainings with Games

USDN Trainings with Games

Team Scenario 1

Planning Horizon: 2050
Sea Level Rise: Mid range (12" by 2050)
Precipitation: 20% increase in precipitation intensity

Town History:
Originally settled by longline fisherman in the 1890s, the area became heavily farmed in the 1930s, and transitioned to a resort community during the economic boom of the 1980s. The town's economy is now based on a mix of technology-related industry, tourism, fishing, and agriculture.

Current Resident Population = 225,000

City Planning and Sustainability

Role: City Planner and Sustainability Director

You represent the interests of the Resilience Harbor Planning Department. It is your role to ensure the recommendations and decisions made ensure a safe, healthy, and sustainable path for Resilience Harbor to continue to grow and function in the face of future climate change.

Asset Condition Cards

Historic Courthouse

The Historic Courthouse is a registered landmark beloved by the community and frequently used for weddings. Because it is a historic structure, the building cannot be elevated or

Asset Condition Cards

Riverfront Estates

Originally settled in the 1890s by fishermen, the Estates neighborhood has tripled over the last two decades and now comprises 300 homes. Housing styles range from original Craftsmen to sprawling 1950s ranch homes to new, luxury vacation estates. This neighborhood is home to many wealthy residents. The Abundance River has overflowed its banks twice in the last decade, causing millions of dollars worth of damage.

Built gradually, 1890s-present.

Thank you!

Kristin Baja
Climate Resilience Officer
USDN

kristinbaja@usdn.org