



Thriving Communities

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Executive Director & CEO

We love where you live.

125 years in about 2 minutes...

- 22 original members, over 500 today
- Helped Michigan community leaders negotiate through
 - two world wars
 - two global pandemics
 - seven *Police Academy* movies
 - one great depression
 - one constitutional convention, and;
 - four, **YES FOUR**, Detroit Lions championships (none since 1957)

The Organization

- *Advocate*
- *Educate*
- *Assist*

Necessity requires more; our DNA puts us out front

The 2000s Challenge

- Disrupt the old narrative
- Transition from 1950 to 2050
- Authenticity back in style, focus on human experience
- Young people wanting options, biz climate change
- Combination of municipal structure, civic realm



Welcome to Placemaking!

Examples of Our Placemaking Work

- 2 books, 23 PlacePlans and 33 PlaceMarket case studies
- Civic Engagement “How-To” Guide
- Economics of Place podcast and blog, radio show
- MSU Placemaking Curriculum—15,000 people trained
- Public Spaces, Community Places crowd grants—389 projects, 73,000 contributors, \$28M
- 50 Bridge Builder grants, 100% success rate
- Redevelopment Ready Sites—built by us for MEDC—117 pre-development projects supported in 57 communities

Examples of Place-Based Legislative Wins

- Since end of EVIP in 2015 statutory revenue sharing up 41%
- \$750M for underfunded pensions
- \$1.2B transportation funding package with more 21st century focus
- Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) grant program invested over \$100M
- Social Districts!
- ARPA (\$4B) and Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Act (\$15B)
- Voted “most effective” lobbying organization by peers last 4 sessions

The 'Place' Mission

- Disrupt the narrative
- It is more than “just” the municipal structure
- Expand the tent
- Get results

HOUSING MICHIGAN

ADVOCATING FOR AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE HOUSING ACROSS THE STATE



VISION

The Housing Michigan Coalition consists of community, business, and government organizations whose efforts support increasing housing supply and affordability.



WHY

Enhancing the accessibility and affordability of homes strengthens communities, supports economic and job growth, and improves outcomes for all Michigan families.

COALITION MEMBERS





2023-24 CSPM Priorities



Investing in Infrastructure Built for the Future

Build and sustain resilient and reliable systems and structures.



Strengthening the Economy Through Thriving Communities

Create opportunities for housing, workforce, and economic development that foster attractive places for people and businesses.



Improving Governance, Safety, and Well-Being in our Communities

Support systems and structures that provide long-term sustainability for people, places and businesses.

CSPM Members



Michigan Association of United Ways



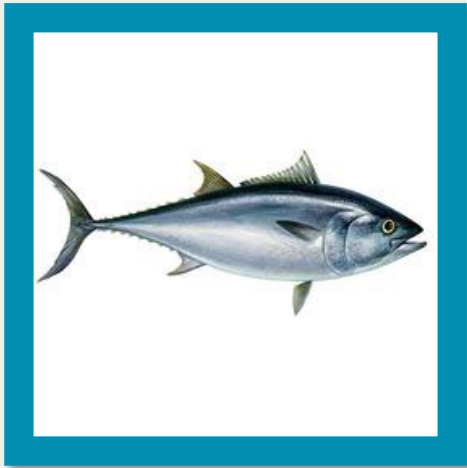
Beyond Placemaking

- Move from an issue-by-issue focus to a long-term paradigm shift
- We know what works; “best” among us approach
- Establish new goals and measures for public policy in our state, challenge old metrics

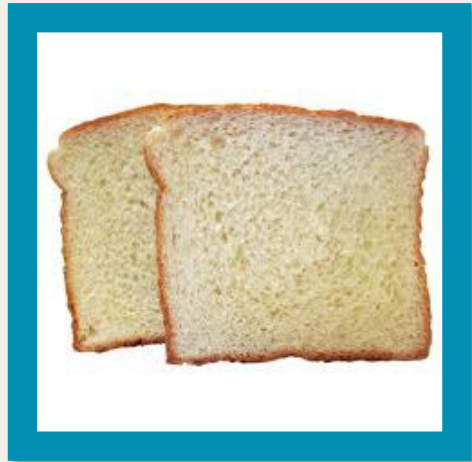
Disrupt the Narrative and Change the Rules



A Top 10 list that *actually* ties back to its subject: Thriving Communities



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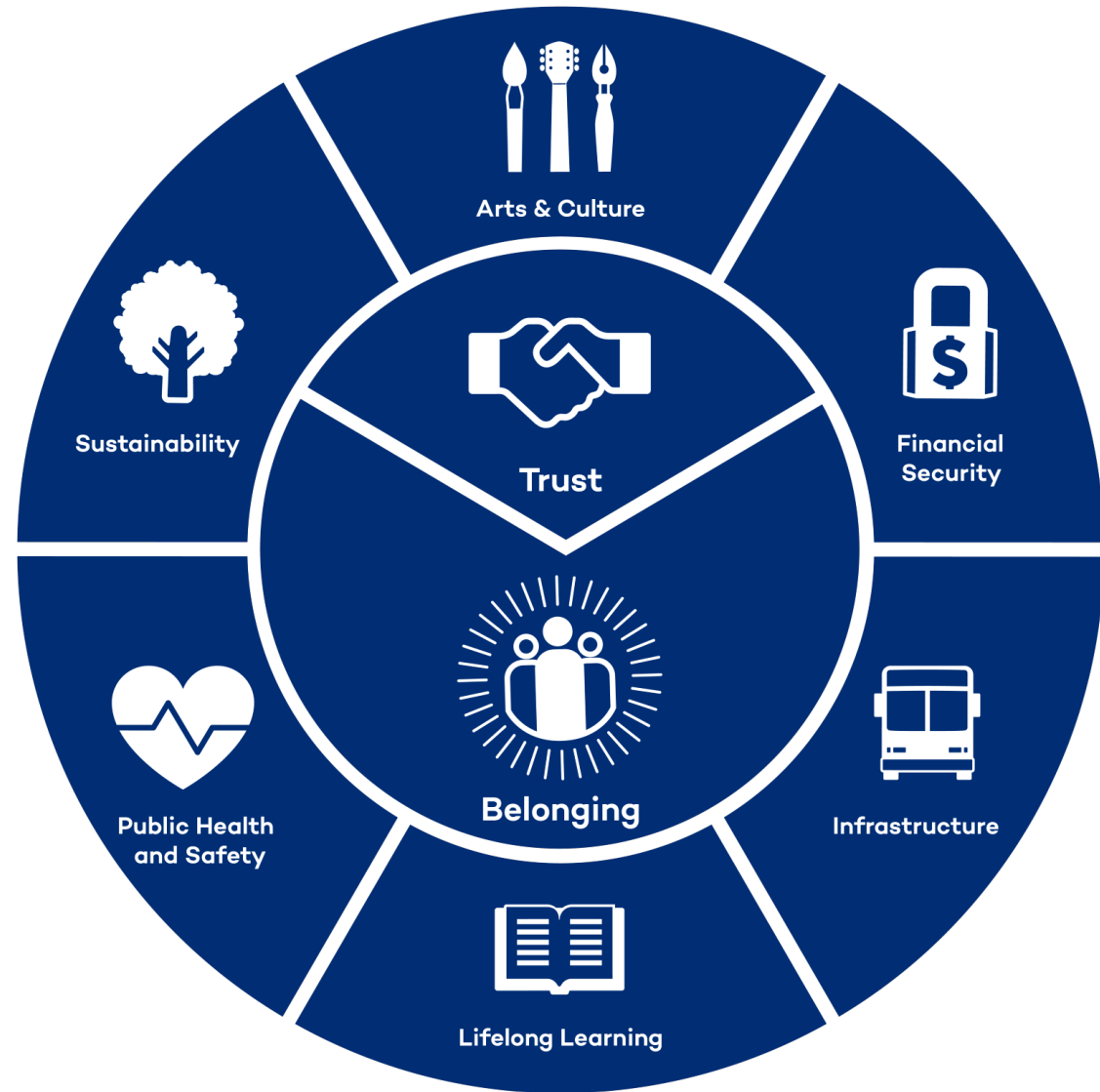


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On Innovation

- Innovation most often occurs during times of crisis
- We innovate at the edges of our competencies
- Mistakes get made
- Most difficult work, perhaps most controversial work, could ultimately be our most important work



Creating thriving communities

A thriving community embodies connection, accessibility, and opportunity for its residents. It fosters a mindset of inspiration and optimism among leaders, prioritizing trust and belonging in everyday municipal decisions.

It is **placemaking**, it is **community wealth building**, it is **growing Michigan together**, it is **resilience**.

A thriving community...

- **Public Health and Safety:** Provides effective response and reduces exposure to harm, increasing physical and mental health and safety; supporting access to housing, food, and health care; and reducing disparities in quality of life.
- **Infrastructure:** Encompasses fundamental facilities, services, and systems serving an area's economy and population.
- **Financial Security:** Ensures fiscal health at the municipal, institutional, commercial, familial, and individual levels, fostering economic resilience and sustained prosperity through economic and community development.
- **Sustainability:** Manages natural resources and supports environmental stewardship to ensure long-term harmony between the built and natural environment, leveraging them as public assets.

A thriving community...

- **Lifelong Learning:** Recognizes education and training as a continuous journey from early childhood through adulthood, encompassing K–12 education, post-secondary pathways, and ongoing opportunities for adult learners, teachers, and mentors of all ages.
- **Arts and Culture:** Respects, celebrates, and recognizes cultural identities, traditions, historical contexts, and creative outputs as critical assets that strengthen the social fabric of a community.
- **Trust and Belonging:** Anchors and connects: emphasizing trust in neighbors, community leaders, local governments, and other partners; building the connection between community members and the places they inhabit; offering participatory agency to enhance access to resources and social networks.

Many roles contribute to thriving communities

Elected officials build trust with and throughout our communities and cultivate collaborators

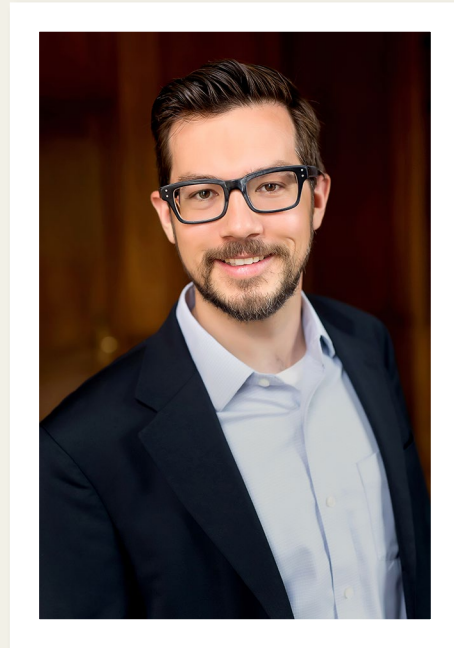
The League serves municipal members with education, advocacy, innovation, inspiration

Municipal staff provide advice and guidance, execute policies and services effectively, efficiently, and equitably

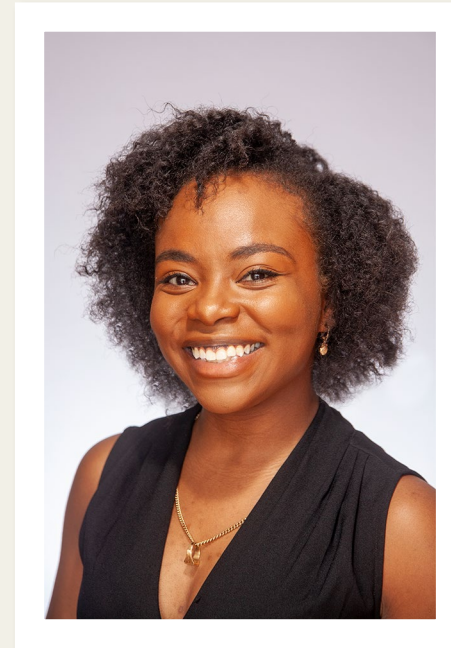
The Foundation brings people together to create resilient and adaptable systems

Thriving Communities Deep Dive

Thursday, September 12
10:45-11:45, Terrace Room



Richard Murphy
Policy Research Labs



Herasanna Richards
State & Federal Affairs



“Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.”

~ Margaret Mead



Thank You!