

RVP Session Description Examples

Breakout Sessions

Land Banks and Land Banking 101

In the last decade, the number of land banks and land banking programs across the United States has increased to over 300 across 19 states. Land banks are public entities with unique powers to return vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties to productive use. While land banks are not a silver bullet to property vacancy, they can be a powerful tool to advance community-driven goals in support of more equitable, inclusive, resilient neighborhoods.

This session will cover the history and unique functions of land banks and how to evaluate if a land bank is right for a community. Participants will hear about land banks of various sizes and geographies that have built partnerships to support affordable housing, uplift racial equity, and address community priorities.

Tapping the Potential of Vacant Land for Community and Climate Resilience

As communities plan for heat waves, flooding, and unreliable energy infrastructure that threaten resident wellbeing, many are turning to vast inventories of vacant land as possible solutions. Hear about Detroit Future City's series of vacant land reuse initiatives, from individual project sites to neighborhood wide planning efforts. The session will highlight the McDougall Hunt Climate Resiliency Initiative, an ongoing engagement and planning effort in a highly vacant area of Detroit. Attendees will learn how to engage in vacant land reuse in historically disinvested, marginalized communities to incorporate climate resilience as well as affordable, attainable housing needs.

Delinquent Tax Enforcement Systems: Legal, Policy, and Practice Reforms That Promote Revitalization

The delinquent property tax enforcement systems in many communities can trap vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties in legal limbo for years and result in properties in uninsurable title. This limits the ability of public and private actors to address these properties and inhibits purchasers from borrowing against or selling them, impeding rehab and neighborhood revitalization.

This session will explore how reforms to state and local delinquent tax foreclosure systems and partnerships with title insurers can improve the insurability of tax-foreclosed properties and promote revitalization. Attendees will hear from leaders in communities that have successfully made policy and practice changes to improve their delinquent tax enforcement systems and a title insurance industry representative.

Approaches to Expanding Access to Home Repair Programs

Housing deterioration is a serious problem. Deteriorating homes harm the physical, mental, and financial health of their occupants and undermine community stability. Programs that help residents repair their homes are critical to help prevent property vacancy and abandonment and advance economic and racial justice. Join this session to learn about how cities like Philadelphia, Cleveland, and St. Louis have scaled up their home repair programs and created comprehensive, collaborative systems to better address necessary home repairs and stabilize their housing inventories.

Mobile Tours

The Brickline Greenway: Connecting Community through Public-Private Partnerships

The Brickline Greenway is a major public-private partnership led by the Great Rivers Greenway. The 10-mile-long planned greenway connects 14 neighborhoods to four major parks in St. Louis: Fairground Park, Forest Park, Gateway Arch National Park, and Tower Grove Park. This mobile workshop will visit the planned northern segment of the greenway, which cuts through several historically disinvested communities of color and connects the Arts District with Fairground Park. Participants will hear about the partnerships that made leveraging this infrastructure possible and meet local developers, community members, nonprofits, arts organizations, and City staff to understand how this collaboration addresses vacancy, incorporates creative placemaking, and stimulates redevelopment.

Saving Wellston's Affordable Housing: Lessons in Advocacy and Coalition-Building

In 2018, the Department of Housing and Urban Development threatened to demolish 201 affordable housing units in the City of Wellston, an inner ring suburb in St. Louis County and one of the poorest communities in Missouri. In summer 2023, a developer broke ground to rehab and preserve these scattered site units. This mobile workshop will tell the story of the fight to preserve the Wellston community. Participants will visit completed and under-construction units, St. Augustine's Wellston Center Food Pantry, and Wellston City Hall and showcase tenants' tenacity and the potential of creative solutions to address large-scale problems.

Arts and Innovation in the Gravois-Jefferson Historic Neighborhoods

From 2017 to 2018, Dutchtown South Community Corporation (DSCC) lead the creation of the Gravois-Jefferson Historic Neighborhoods Plan. The plan was the culmination of countless meetings that gathered residents from four neighborhoods to lay out their vision for the future. Mobile workshop participants will visit three neighborhoods innovatively implementing the plan: Cherokee Street Cultural District and its newly opened Love Bank Park, the St. Louis Art Place Initiative's arts-based community development in Gravois Park, and various DSCC projects in Dutchtown South such as the Mixed-Income Neighborhood Trust.