
FORT WAYNE'S

INSPIRE

NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Since 2023, the Department of Neighborhoods has focused on creating leadership development tools and resources to support neighborhood association leaders and residents in their efforts to create and maintain strong and vibrant neighborhoods. We're excited to share how you can invest in our community by partnering with us today!

2025

In 2025, the City of Fort Wayne's Department of Neighborhoods is aiming to raise a total of \$66,000 to implement the Inspire Neighborhoods Conference. Contact Réna Bradley to express your interest in this project or to hear about other funding opportunities.

OUR TEAM

FORT WAYNE’S DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Fort Wayne's Department of Neighborhoods is committed to ensuring residents, neighborhood groups, and community leaders work alongside the City's Community Development Division to create and support strong and vibrant neighborhoods. Founded in 2022 as the Neighborhood Planning

and Activation Workgroup, many call us a “start-up within government” due both to the newness of our team and our nimble approach. Our team of six staff members has expertise in community engagement, planning, architecture,

journalism, broadcast radio, urban studies, and grant writing/support. Our non-traditional planning backgrounds contribute to our team’s unique perspective and innovative “Embedded” and Evidence-Based planning approach.



DAN BAISDEN
DEPARTMENT HEAD

PENN STATE MASTERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



KEVIN COBB
ENGAGE FORT WAYNE COORDINATOR

BALL STATE BACHELORS IN JOURNALISM



LAUREN SHANK
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNER

BALL STATE MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING



RÉNA BRADLEY
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNER

HOWARD U BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE & DEAN'S LIST



MEGAN GRABLE
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNER

U PENN COMMUNITY EC DEV. & URBAN STUDIES



MICHAEL TERRONEZ
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNER

BALL STATE BACHERLOS IN CITY/ URBAN COMM & REG PLANNING

OUR REACH

The Fort Wayne Neighborhoods’ social media page is followed by 3,080 community residents (up from 2,600 in 2024!) and has had approximately 50,000 views in 2025 alone. In February of 2024 our team launched Engage Fort Wayne- a

new website that 1) makes it easier than ever for residents to get involved in city projects, discussions, and policies and 2) provides updates on ongoing projects to help the community stay informed. From February 2024 until February 23,

2025, the site has been viewed 89,998 times by 48,676 visitors. You can visit the new site at...

www.engage.cityoffortwayne.org



Staff of the City of Fort Wayne's Department of Neighborhoods with Mayor Sharon Tucker and leaders of the Millstone Village Community Association.

Photo Credit: John Felts, City of Fort Wayne

INSPIRE

NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE

2024 CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The Inspire Neighborhoods Conference is designed to equip neighborhood and grassroots leaders with practical strategies and new ideas to do good work in their neighborhoods!

Panelists and speakers include both local leaders and national experts. 2024 highlights included the debut screening of the Harvester (East End) Neighborhood Documentary, a lunch-hour plenary presentation about avoiding burnout by Courageous Living's, Janell Lane, and a dinner keynote presentation by the Learning Tree's, De'Amon Harges.

The event featured 40 speakers and 9 booth vendors from Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and Worcester, Massachusetts who hosted 12 breakout sessions, 4 workshops and more for over 200 participants!

"Thanks for making this magic happen!"



Average Rating: 4.6 out of 5 stars.

The 2024 Inspire Conference was exceptionally well received. Conference attendees who responded to the overall conference survey at Inspire 2024 a rating of 4.6 out of 5 stars.

GOAL: \$66,000

RAISED: \$25,500

REMAINING: \$40,500



Project website

inspirefortwayne.com



Conference video

tinyurl.com/34whc9ez



AWARDS DINNER

The Inspire Awards Dinner is the City of Fort Wayne's annual celebration recognizing neighborhood associations, their leaders, and the meaningful contributions they make to our community. In 2024, awards were presented in the following categories to recognize three outstanding neighborhood leaders and one neighborhood association.

Neighborhood Leaders of the Year

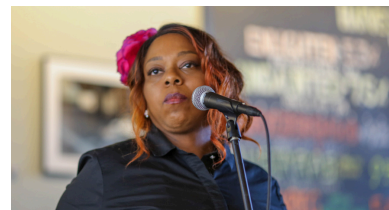
- Inspiring Neighborhood Leader: Lori Stombaugh, Northside Neighborhood Association
- Helping Hand (Unsung Hero Award): Melvin Woods, Oxford Community Association
- Rising Star (Leaders Under Age 25): Brianna Henriquez-Diaz

Neighborhood Association of the Year

- Category: Placemaking, Beautification & Public Space Improvements: Harrison Hill Neighborhood Association

2024 award winners received prizes valued between \$75 and \$250. The Mad Scatter provided a live musical performance.

2024 INSPIRE PROGRAM GALLERY



Clockwise from Top right: Neighborhood President Lori Stombaugh receives Inspiring leader of the year award from elected officials; Conference speakers have conversation at Electric Works; Breakout session panelists lead conversation, Musician Michael Patterson plays guitar at awards dinner, Singer Trinell Armour aka "The Mad Scatter" performs at the Inspire Awards Dinner; Bottom row: Misc. Conference participants

Far left: Mayor Sharon Tucker greets attendees at Conference Luncheon; Far Right: Conference Chair Réna Bradley

WWW.INSPIREFORTWAYNE.COM

For more photos, visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/200062563@N05/albums/72177720320459908/>

PROGRAM OUTCOMES- 2024



Inspire
Neighborhoods Conference | 2024



The City of Fort Wayne's Department of Neighborhoods is committed to ensuring residents, neighborhood groups, and community leaders work alongside the City's Community Development Division to create and support strong and vibrant neighborhoods. We wanted Inspire 2023 participants to leave the conference feeling refreshed and excited- equipped with new ideas, strategies, and inspiration to do good work in their neighborhoods!



Check out our recap video!



2024 President of the Mount Vernon Park Neighborhood Association: **Tiarra Hairston**

2024 Conference Highlights



204

Speakers, volunteers, participants, and guests joined us in 2024 (up 33% from 153 last year!)



41

Speakers from Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Detroit, and Worcester, MA provided 12 breakout presentations and 4 workshops, as well as a keynote presentation & plenary address.



48,800+

Were reached via our social media content and Engage Fort Wayne website to date



9

Organizations & City departments staffed informational tables



4

Neighborhood Association of the year & Neighborhood Leader of the year awards were presented to recognize the accomplishments of 1 neighborhood and 3 resident leader. They were awarded a combined \$475.



12

Event sponsors: AEP, AARP, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, First Source Bank, Foellinger, FW Inkspot, MKM Design, NIPSCO, NMTC, Old National Bank, Premier Bank, and Rothburg Law



Participant Feedback

Average Rating: 4.6 out of 5 stars.

The 2024 Inspire Neighborhood Conference was a day-long event designed to energize community leaders by providing **social benefit** (opportunities to network, build bonds and grow community), **education & learning opportunities** (sharing best practices and innovation in efforts and gaining awareness of resources), and **inspiration/positivity**.

Education & Learning Outcomes

"The session on social media communication and marketing provided insight and practical tips that I can apply immediately"

"[I] got valuable information about some quirky neighborhood association vs. HOA laws."

"[My big takeaway was...] just the overall learning of new information for me as a new Executive Director over an HOA as well as potential Grant opportunities. Greatly encouraged by all speakers."

Social Benefit & Connection

"[After the conference I will meet and have] conversations with other neighborhood associational presidents. So inspiring- learning patience is the key! Homework and planning."

[After the conference, I plan to...] continue to focus on relationships as the foundation of our neighborhood. Engage as many neighbors as possible

Inspiration & Positivity

"[I have] already put lessons from the session on burnout into action to promote life balance."

"[The most beneficial presentation for me was...] Relational Peace. Just inspiring and motivating overall. Provided some great lingo and ideas of how to help our neighbors and build stronger communities."

"I am going to share some resources that I'm using for fundraising with another community organization..."

Thanks for making this magic happen!

I especially enjoyed the free meals - helped make the meeting a gift to neighborhood volunteers.

The cities of Evansville, Lima, Muncie, and Valparaiso have contacted FW staff in the interest of hosting a similar conference.

www.inspirefortwayne.com

BENEFITS

2025 GIVING BENEFITS & SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

INSPIRE N'HDS CONFERENCE:

A day-long conference that educates, connects, and celebrates Fort Wayne's neighborhood leaders and residents.

- **Partner: \$250**
Placement of company logo on program and printed materials.
- **Activator: \$500**
 - Placement of company logo on event program and printed materials.
 - Verbal thank you and recognition during the program.
- **Sustainer: \$1,000**
 - Recognition in program, printed materials & on website
 - Verbal thank you and recognition during the program.
 - 1 piece of promotional material in guest bag
- **Equipper: \$2,500**
 - Recognition on promotional materials (i.e., e-newsletters, announcements, flyers)
 - Featured sponsor button that links back to organization's website on event page
 - Option: Lanyard Sponsor
 - Previously listed benefits
- **Accelerator: \$5,000**
 - Recognition in Social Media Post(s)
 - Two items in event bag
 - Booth at event
 - Option: Snack Sponsor
 - Previously listed benefits
- **Transformer: \$10,000**
 - Presenting Sponsor of Plenary or Awards
 - Logo on ticket registration form
 - Three promotional items in guest bag
 - Option: Meal Sponsor
 - Previously listed benefits
- **Inspire Conference- Lead Sponsor: \$20,000+**
 - Presenting Sponsor of Conference
 - Five promotional items in guest bag
 - Option: Meal Sponsor
 - Previously listed benefits

2025 Inspire Conference Participants at Electric Works



NOTES

YOUR THOUGHTS HERE

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The City of Fort Wayne's Department of Neighborhoods is grateful for each of our 2024 Sponsors for their investment in our initiatives and Fort Wayne's Neighborhoods.



200 EAST BERRY STREET, SUITE 320
FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
WWW.FORTWAYNENEIGHBORHOODS.COM

