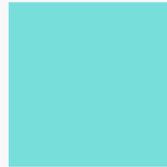
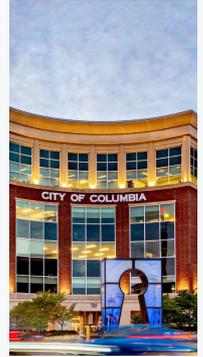


City of Columbia Engagement Update



What we will cover

- 1 Community Connectors Program
- 2 Douglass Park Discussions
- 3 Let's Talk Local
- 4 Budget Town Halls
- 5 Summer Block Parties
- 6 Community Classroom Sessions

Meet The Team



Clockwise top left to right: Shawna Johnson (Engagement Coordinator), Suhsi Avula, Chrishama Butler, Corrina McClee and Marcello Sieverin

Community Connectors Program



- Bridge the gap between the City and residents
- Build trust
- Highlight arising issues
- Focus on fostering relationships

Community Connectors Program



- 3 P/T Temp staff members hired August 2024
- 4 months training in City processes and services
- Launched outreach in January
- Added 1 P/T Temp staff member in February 2025

Community Connectors Program



Special Projects:

ARPA Weatherization

Tornado response

Douglass Park Discussions

Working with community partners

Community Connectors Program



Next steps:

Focus neighborhoods,
partnering with DIVERT
team and local orgs

Engagement newsletter

Explore other
communication channels

ARPA-Funded Home Weatherization Grant Program



Partnership with Housing and Neighborhood Services, October 2024 – January 2025

Missouri Municipal League Innovation Award
Highlights innovative approaches for solving municipal challenges

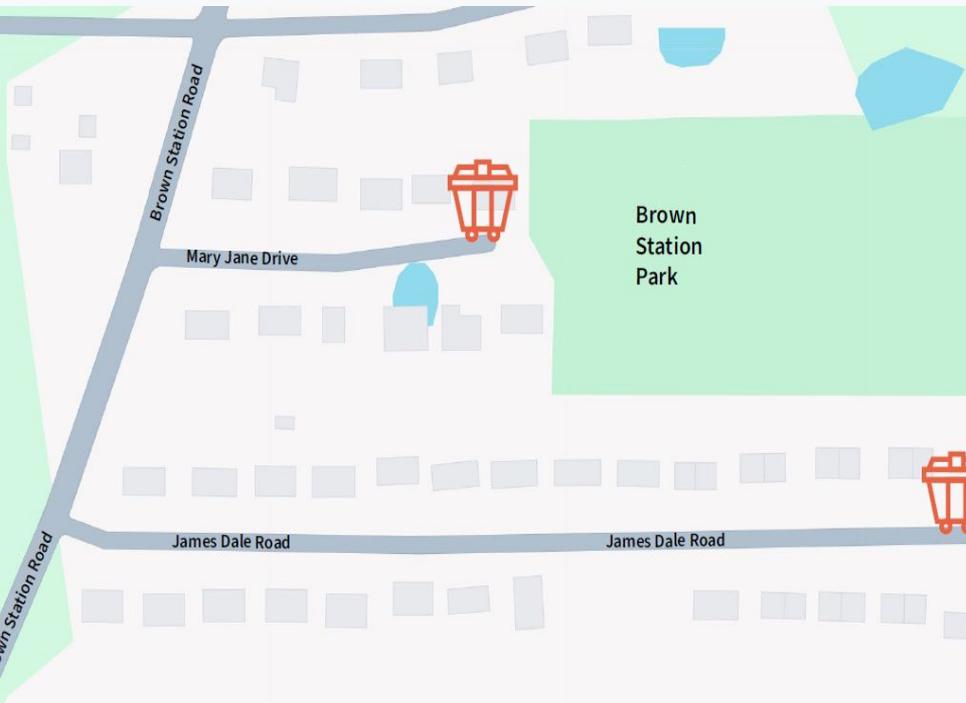
ARPA-Funded Home Weatherization Grant Program



Stats thus far:

- Connected 125 households to insulation
 - \$396,521 allocated
- Connected 25 households to HVAC upgrades
 - \$335,890 allocated

Tornado Response



- Canvassed neighborhoods most impacted
- Supplemented efforts of Red Cross & PHHS staff
- Connected residents to community resources & aid

Douglass Park Discussions



- In response to community input to Council
- 3 listening sessions in May identified priorities:
 - Honor history
 - Foster community through programs
 - Improve safety and access

Douglass Park Discussions



Next steps:

- Staff & residents will meet regularly
- Collaborate on solutions

Community Partners



- Multiple resource fairs
- Unity in the Community monthly luncheon
- Source Summit
- **Next step:**
Co-create solutions within neighborhoods

Let's Talk Local



Goals:

- Encourage constituents to connect with City Council representatives through open, informal dialogue
- Proactively address existing participation barriers (Ex: Host events in community spaces, not City Hall.)

Let's Talk Local



Topics have included:

- Office of Violence Prevention
- Staffing and recruitment at the Columbia Police Department
- “Love Your Block” Grant Program
- Federal funding and the Arts
- Recycling
- Housing

Let's Talk Local



Stats:

10 events thus far

Over 250 people have participated

Next steps:

- Survey community members to define topics for future session discussions
- Explore ways to expand conversations and empower residents as topics emerge

Budget Town Halls

Town Hall 1: Budget Overview

Jan. 9: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Jan. 16: 6–8 p.m.

Town Hall 2: Budget Priorities

Feb. 25: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 26: 6–8 p.m.



Budget Town Halls

Town Hall 3: Capital

Improvement Projects

April 14: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

April 14: 6–8 p.m.

Town Hall 4: FY26 Budget

Aug. 11: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Aug. 11: 6–8 p.m.



Budget Town Halls

110 people have participated

Next steps:

- Evaluate feedback to determine how to expand and improve the content
- Produce a video that explains our budget process



Budget Town Halls

Participant Quotes:

“It takes a village. Everyone needs to use their experience and smarts and come to the table for discussion.”

“Please make these 4 budget talks available every year in the future. This 4th talk really was a culmination of the past 3 talks and helped us understand where Como is on the vital topic.”

Summer Block Parties



Scheduled following feedback from the City's **Community Summit**.

- Stephens Lake Park
- Douglass Park
- Albert-Oakland Park
- Fairview Park
- Cosmo-Bethel Park
- Indian Hills Park
- Rock Quarry Park

Summer Block Parties



Summer Superlatives

- Douglass Park guests
Most sandwiches handed out in 45 minutes
- Best Staff Moves: Erin Keys, Utilities director (Cupid Shuffle)
- Tallest Jenga Tower: Cosmo-Bethel Park youth
- Most Intense Corn Hole Match: CPD vs CFD (winner still disputed, re-match pending)

Summer Block Parties



Next steps:

- Build upon relationships we fostered
- Support residents in hosting their own events

Community Classroom Sessions

Goal: Educate residents on City services and resources through interactive discussion over lunch.



Community Classroom Sessions

Topics include:

- Snow removal
- Fire safety
- Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Non motorized transit
- Reporting issues to the City
- CARE Program



Engagement Timeline

Jan.

Apr.

Jul.

Oct.

Let's Talk Local

Douglass Park Discussions

Community Connectors Outreach

Budget
Town Halls

Community
Survey results

Community
Summit

Block
Parties

Community
Classroom