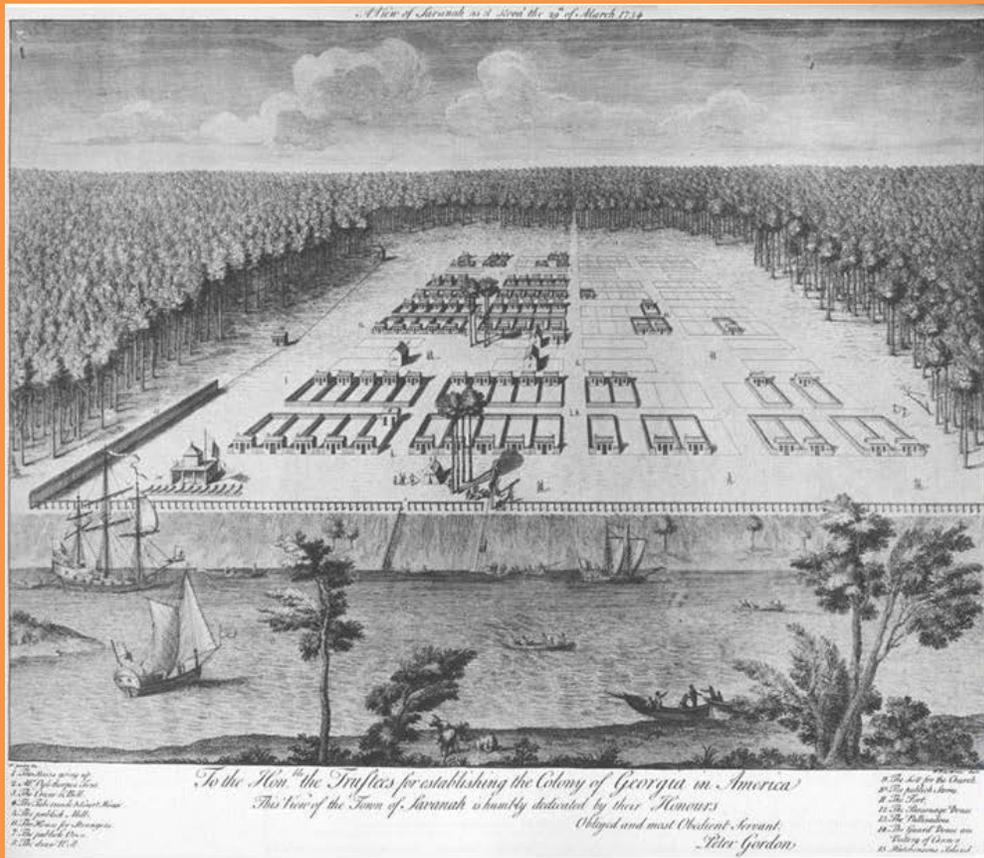


Not the Usual Suspects in Community Transformation – Savannah’s Ongoing Legacy

Congress for New Urbanism
May 17, 2018
CNU 26 Savannah, GA





Georgia's First City!

Est. 1733



WHY?



Chatham County Inactivity Cost Calculator

Currently Chatham County has a
29% Obesity Rate:

Physical inactivity is costing our
community \$1518 per person per
year. This equates to over \$325
Million annually: - \$88M in
Medical Costs; nearly \$1 million
in Workers Comp and \$235 M in
Lost Productivity



WHY?

73%





Healthy Savannah

Connect • Inspire • Grow







Three very different people showed what can be accomplished using cooperation



**WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP >>>
IN YOUR CALL TO COMMUNITY?**

COCO PAPY







MOLLY LIEBERMAN

Start Where You Are

Use What You Have

The Story of Loop It Up Savannah

And other Made by Hand, Known by Heart
Community Action



Loop It Up Savannah began in 2008, as a kids Knitting and Crochet Class at the West Broad Street YMCA.



The West broad Street YMCA, is a Heritage Y located on Savannah's West Side in the center of Frazier Homes, one of the city's largest public housing neighborhoods.



I went there as a 19 year old SCAD student and fell in love with the kids of Savannah.





That love never stopped. I found myself at the intersection of things that I love to do and a place in my community where there was a need.



Loop It Up quickly grew to provide art classes of all kinds for the kids of the Frazier Homes neighborhood.



Art gives us a window into eachothers lives. Art gives us a way to understand each other in ways that are deeper than we often think we are able to when we come from different backgrounds.



Over the years, Loop It Up Savannah has grown to be an independent non-profit, bringing Art Classes, Workshops and Experiences to over 5,000 children all over Savannah each year.



All of our programs are based in Title-1 Schools or at Community Centers in the neighborhoods where the children attending these schools live.



Some of the artists, and some of the art!









These are the brilliant young people, full of promise. Full of ideas and vision and deep understanding of how to make our community a better place.



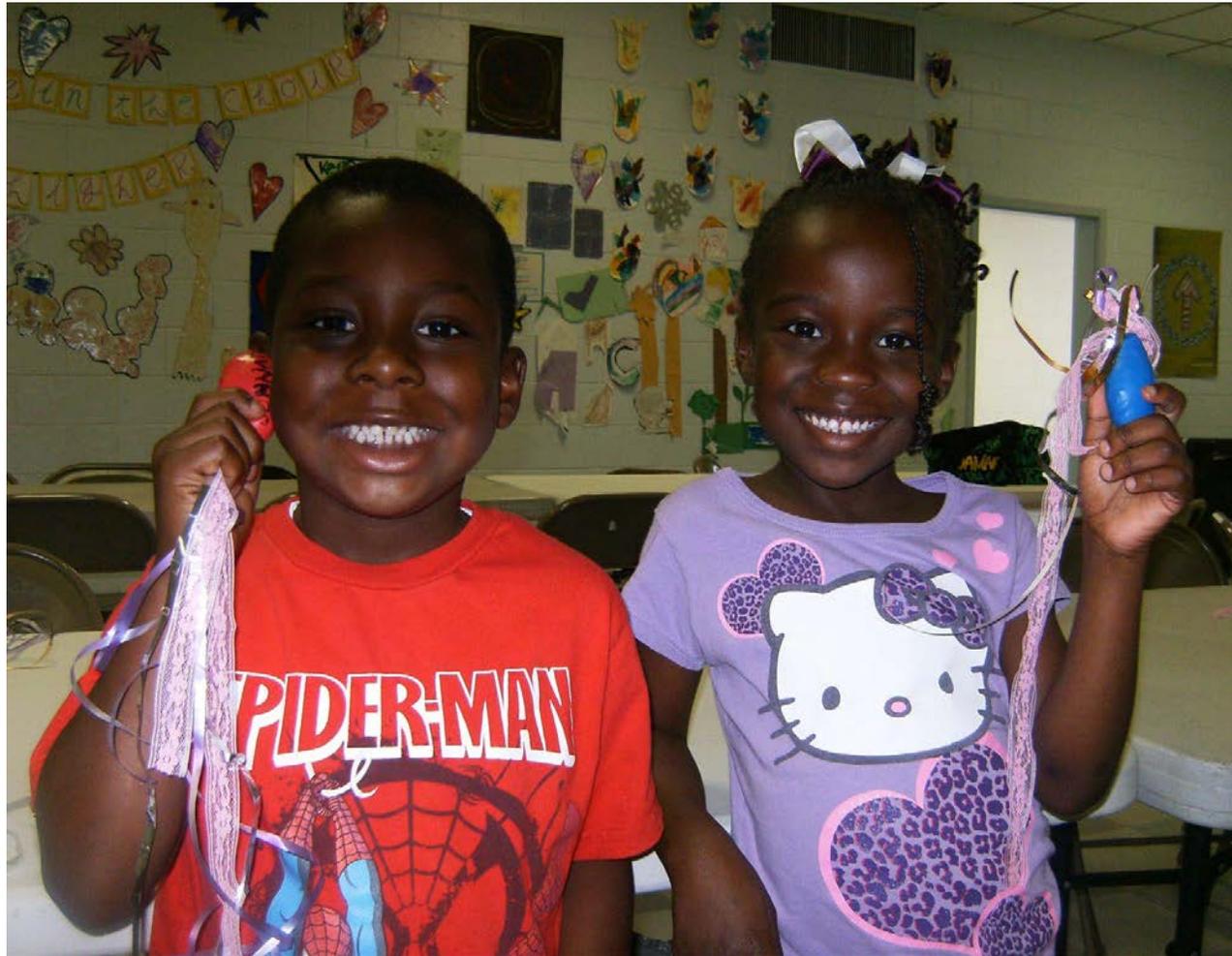
Sometimes, these young people and their families, are not included as active players in our collective vision for what will happen here next.



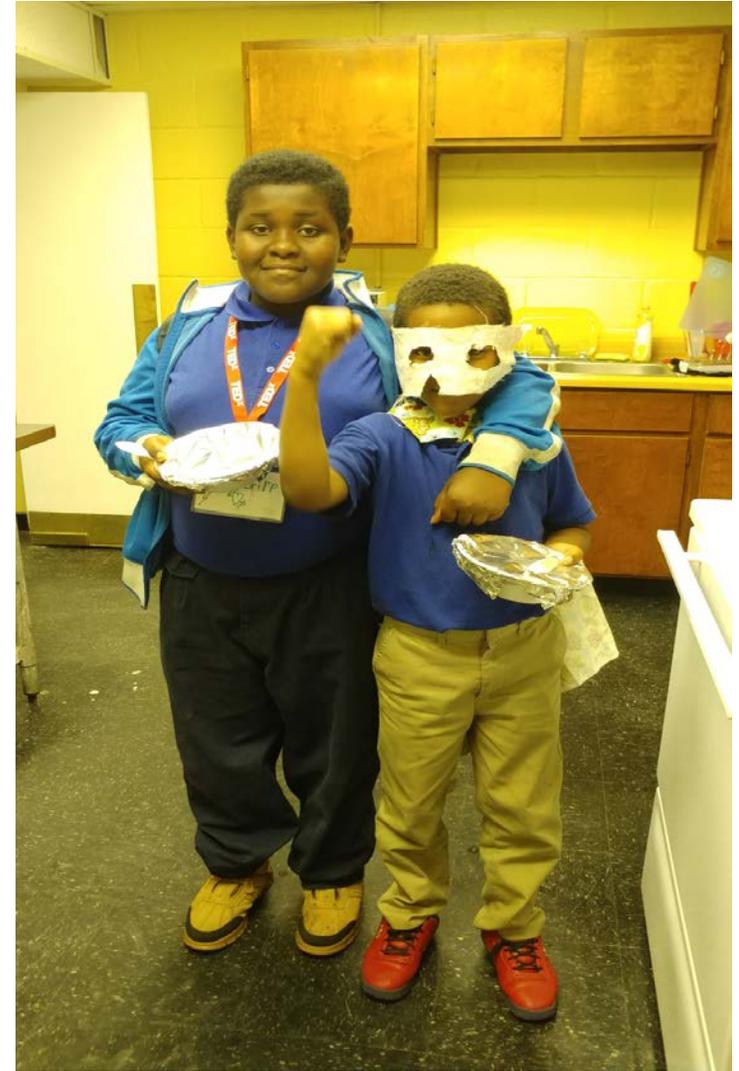
This is a stale reality. This is a reality which has never been good enough and which is certainly not good enough now.

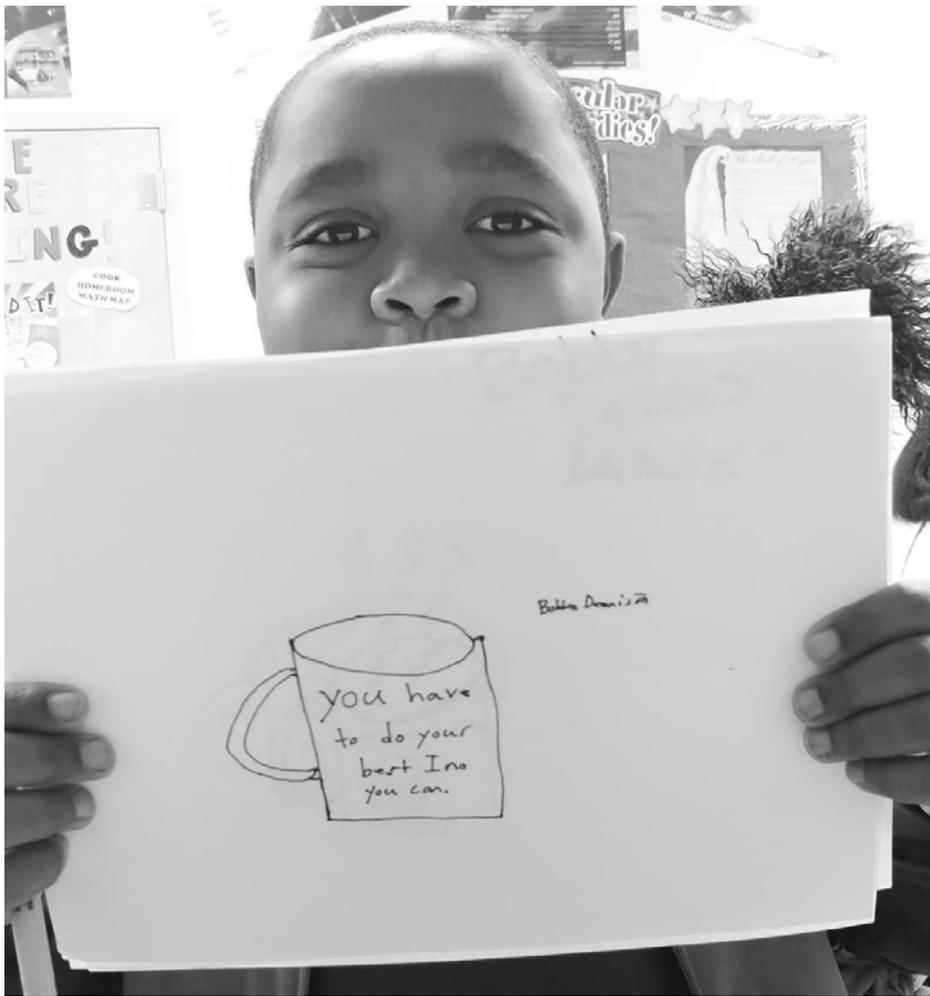


This is a reality which is true across the country and one which as communities we need to look in the face and pledge to work on changing.



So how do you do that?





You start where you are, and you make the commitment to use what you have.



This commitment looks different for each of us, depending on where we live, what we do and what resources we have.



No matter how old you are, where you grew up, where you live now or what your job is, every single one of us has an important role to play in building socially healthy and inclusive communities.



An element of our collective work in 2018 must include building tunnels and holding doors open for each other. This looks different for each of us.



For me and for Loop it Up, this means giving Savannah's young people opportunities to develop a strong sense of who they are, both as individuals and as members of a productive community.



It also means connecting the dots between resources and needs, coming to the table humble and diplomatic enough to work alongside other leaders to create partnerships and collaborations that serve the sometimes overwhelming, but usually addressable needs of Savannah's families and children.



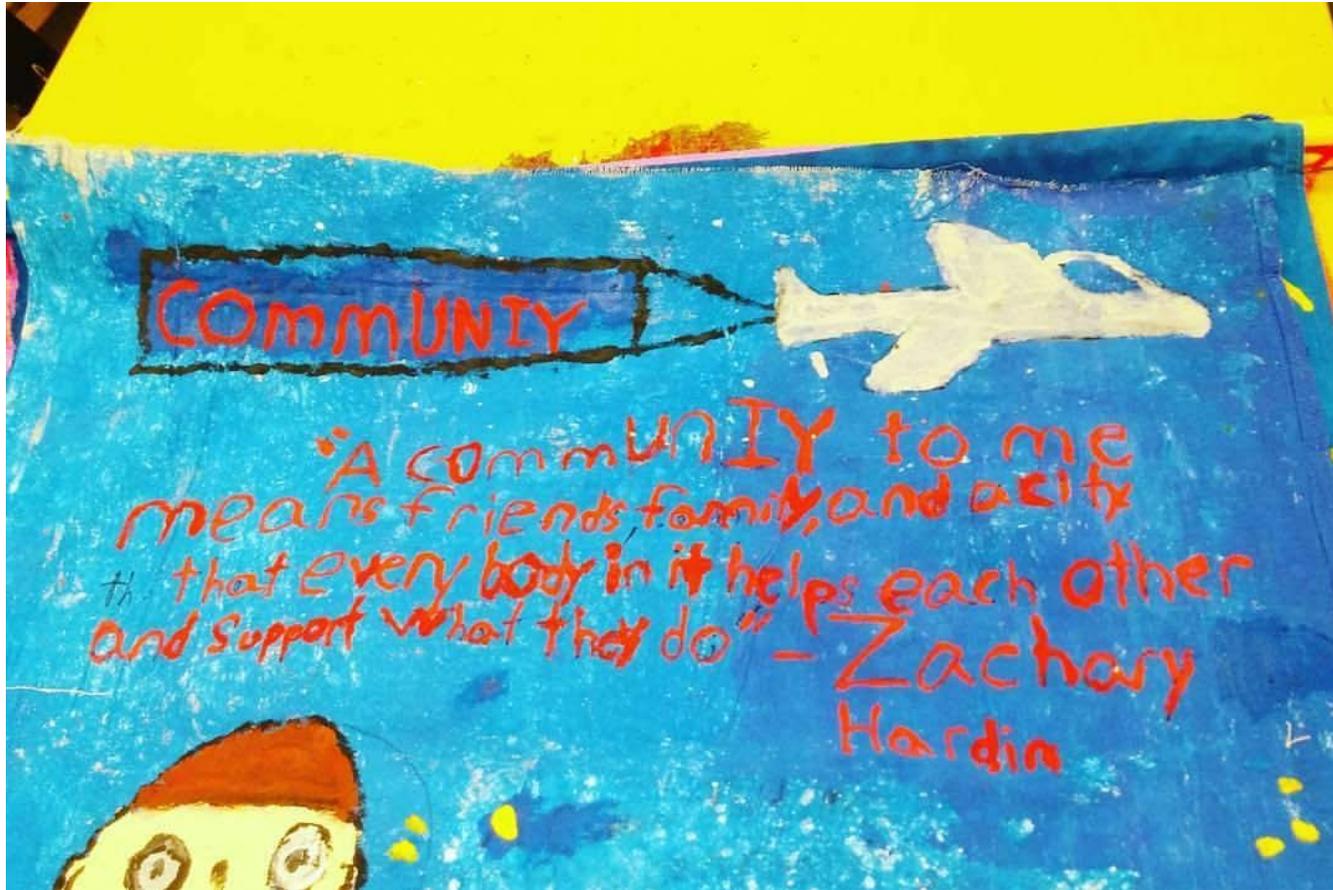
It is easy to feel overwhelmed, and to wonder if everything we are doing is adding up.



And I want to tell you that the answer is yes. It is adding up.



But there is also much more that can happen as more people look at their community with an open heart and commit to an ongoing series of small actions that open doors and create opportunities for all to have a seat at the table.



Go home. Look at your community. Identify the places where whatever you do and whatever you have can become part of the big wheel that turns to create increased access, justice and equity and opportunity.



WHAT NEXT?

**LILLIAN
GRANT-
BAPTISTE**



CONNECTING TO DISCONNECTED EMERGING ADULTS





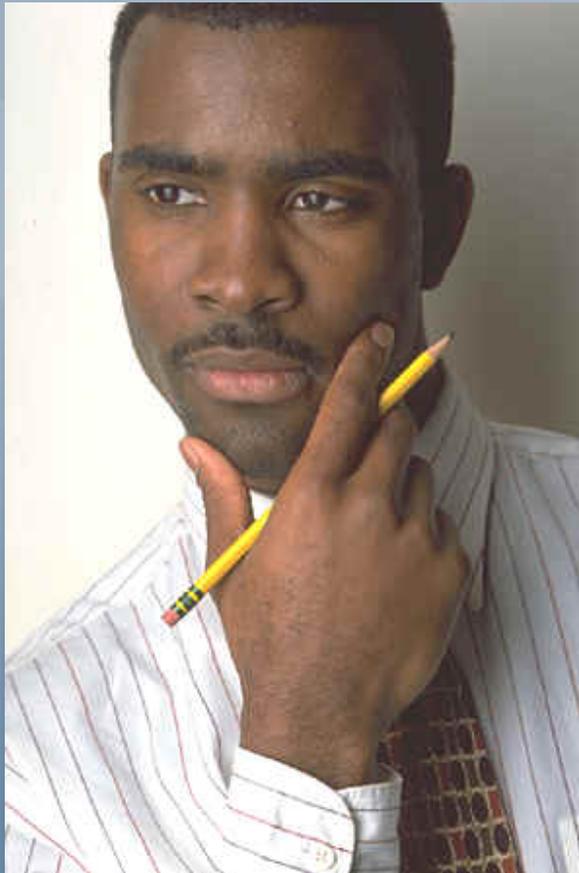
3 Fundamental Questions

- Who are disconnected emerging adults?
- Why do they matter?
- How to reconnect those who are disconnected?

vision



First Things First: Help them to see and Take Hold of the VISION



vision

They Must Look Back to Move Forward



Steps to Take to Maximize the Potential to Connect Disconnected Emerging Adults

- Meet them “where they are”
- Create a sense of ownership for emerging adults.
- Utilize skill-building activities
- Engage them in community change work, particularly work around health and wellness
- Let emerging adults choose their own direction
- Compensate them for their efforts
- Provide challenges and rewards
- Seek out opportunities for action





Characteristics of Positive Engagement

- Make it Relevant
- Transparency is Essential
- Tap into, Cultivate and Unleash Authentic Leadership
- Create an Atmosphere of Safety, Honesty and Respect
- Practice the Three C's of Engagement: Competency , Compassion, & Consistency



WHAT NEXT?





A Call to Action

Learn.
Speak Up.
Act.





**WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP >>>
IN YOUR CALL TO COMMUNITY?**