Connecting the Dots: Binghampton Revitalization
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Community Development Council of Greater Memphis (CD Council) is an association of community development corporations and supporting organizations working to revitalize neighborhoods in Memphis and Shelby County. The mission is to renew and empower communities through a network of support and technical assistance, in order to build strong and effective neighborhood-based community development.

Project/Activities:

Produce a case study of the development of the Binghampton area including history of the neighborhood, the impetus for change in the neighborhood, and current revitalization activities
- Document history of neighborhood
- Interview local stakeholders
- Review planning documents
- Research neighborhood development models
- Collect pictures of development projects
- Produce graphics showing common themes, roles and connections of organizations

Situation:
- Document complexity of neighborhood revitalization
- What types of redevelopment have occurred in Binghampton?
- Do they fit into a redevelopment model?
- What are the common themes and connections revealed through interview process?

Short Term Impact/Learning Objectives:
- Understand the role of policy and planning in community development projects, and the role of community organizations in driving community revitalization
- Understand the role of planners in community development projects
- Analyze and understand data, evaluations, and research and how they apply to Binghampton redevelopment
- Attain knowledge of grant and project implementation

Outcomes:
- Community organizations serve multiple roles:
  - For example, Binghampton Development Corporation is primarily a CDC, but was created out of a church and adopted the John Perkins faith-based model of redevelopment. BDC is also involved with projects related to arts, gardening, job training, helping to establish resident led neighborhood associations that are focused on tapping the assets of residents.
  - Many more informal connections among community members
  - People and relationships are at heart of revitalization efforts

- Key assets: people, central location, diversity, Greenline/Overton Park, access to major thoroughfares, organizations, neighborhood associations led by residents, relationships, arts district, Caritas Village, Lester Community Center, mix of uses, strong faith based nonprofits

- Key challenges: not everyone shares same vision, opacity, no job capacity, education, crime, overcome stereotypes of Binghampton, need seat at the table, improvement in living conditions, safer streets, drugs, prostitution, divisions created by industrial park/Sam Cooper, gentrification, lose diversity, infrastructure isolates amenities from each other, connectivity, distrust/fear

Common Themes

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Outcomes/Long Term Impact:
- Communities use the case study when planning their redevelopment efforts
- Lessons learned in Binghampton will be helpful to other projects underway in Memphis
- A written record of the ongoing work in Binghampton with current stakeholders will ensure the story is not forgotten or misrepresented in the future
- Publish article based on project to inform community-building professionals and other stakeholders in creating vibrant communities