

Research Report

Neighborhood revitalization projects and community cohesion in Curtis Bay, MD

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Introduction

This report summarizes the activities and results from research conducted during the Fall semester 2017 (September to December) as part of the graduate course “Applied Sociology” at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). The researchers were MA students in the Applied Sociology program and performed the research activities under the direction of Marina Adler, the instructor of the course. Based on connections established in the community since 2015, the students examined community well-being with special attention to neighborhood revitalization efforts. We also put some of the recommendations made by the last group into action. To that effect, we did the following:

1. Based on the 2015 finding that more information sharing is necessary in Curtis Bay, we are actively involved in publishing a community newsletter, the “Curtis Bay Bulletin,” every month since May 2016. The layout and contents of the newsletter are compiled by Tess Hines (former UMBC MA graduate student of the course), Chanan Delivuk (Baltimore native, and UMBC Masters of Fine Arts graduate and design artist) and Destiny Watford (a Curtis Bay native and leader of the United Workers).
2. In 2016 we recommended that the coding sheets and process for the systematic neighborhood observation of physical and social order (windshield survey) needed modification. For the 2017 research we used modified coding sheets that separate private and public spaces.
3. We also had recommended the use of a shorter survey to assess community trust and cohesion. Thus, we fielded a survey to assess the success of the Yard of the Week Contest aimed at improving private spaces and cohesion, which is led by Ms. Rodette Jones.

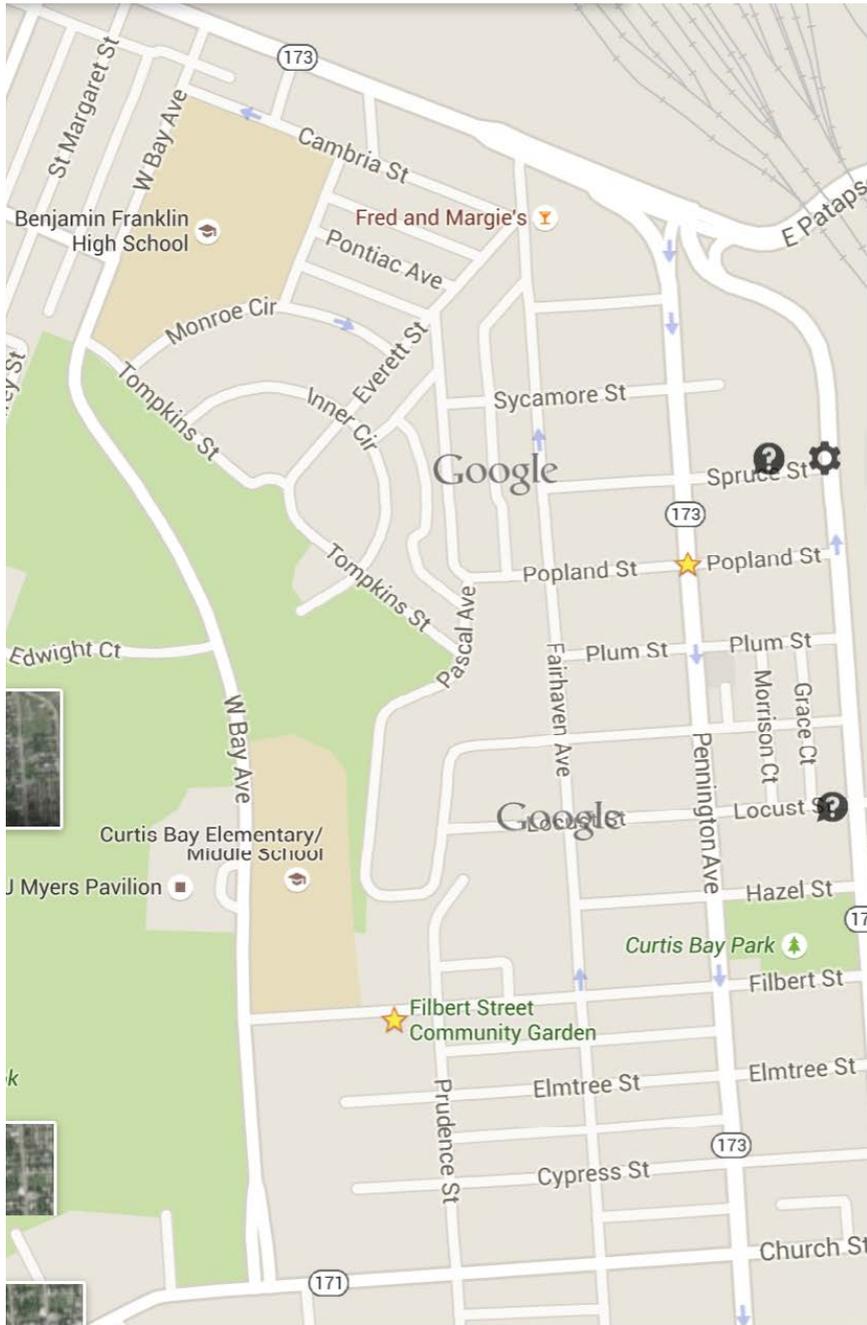
During the Fall 2017 we again used various community-based research methods to collect data. Students again volunteered in the community, listened to community residents, documented community assets and needs, developed an action plan, and made recommendations for change. The focus this semester was on neighborhood revitalization in general and on residents’ enhancing private spaces via yard work to build resident interaction and trust in particular.

In order to accomplish our goals, we administered a short survey to Yard of the Week contest winners and their neighbors. Students observed and mapped in the community, talked with residents, volunteered at events and then shared their results at UMBC and in the community. The general questions guiding these research efforts were:

1. What is the relationship between neighborhood improvement efforts and community cohesion in the community of Curtis Bay?
2. How is the Yard of the Week contest related to social and physical order, to revitalizing street faces, and to community cohesion?

This report begins with information on our observational research in Curtis Bay, then presents the results from the survey and offers a logic model of neighborhood restoration efforts in Curtis Bay. It concludes with our overall findings and suggestions for action.

Figure 1: Map of Curtis Bay, MD



Visual research: Neighborhood observations

Neighborhood cleanliness and property maintenance are often positively related with feelings of safety, social cohesion, and civic engagement in residential communities. Research has shown that residents' perceptions of their neighborhood are important for health and emotional well-being. Physical disorder, such as graffiti and garbage, increase residents' levels of stress, heighten fear of crime and increase social isolation (Henderson et al. 2016). Literature also shows that housing tenure has an effect on neighborhood perception and cohesion because residents are invested longer-term. While homeowners have negative perceptions of renters they report more neighborhood satisfaction overall (Hipp 2009; Hurr and Morrow-Jones 2008; Rollwagen 2015). Homeowners often are more involved in property maintenance, community engagement (Friedrichs and Blasius 2009) and other indicators of social order.

The community of Curtis Bay, while having a number of major assets, was historically plagued by blight, vacancy, and social and physical isolation from the rest of Baltimore. As part of several efforts to improve the neighborhood's physical appearance, in addition to improving social relationships among residents, the community of Curtis Bay implemented a Yard of the Week (YOTW) initiative. The YOTW contest, which was spearheaded by the director of the local community garden, rewards 50 residents with prizes (a yard sign and coins) for special efforts taken in yard maintenance. This annual initiative relies on community volunteers to place flyers announcing the contest in key areas in the community and to find the winners by driving through the community. It's aim is to reduce challenges, such as the prevalence of social and physical disorder (crime and trash) by strengthening community pride and feelings of ownership.

Therefore, this semester we examined the quality of life in Curtis Bay by (1) informally walking the neighborhoods and taking photographs, (2) systematically following the windshield survey methodology of Harvey and colleagues (2013) (3) by mapping the results with the YOTW contest winners, and (4) finally by surveying residents.

Because we previously found that the coding sheets used in previous semesters did not allow us to adequately distinguish between public and private spaces, we developed new coding sheets (see Appendix). The new sheets also take into consideration community culture; for example, depending on time of day and context, loud music is not necessarily classified as noise pollution. The focus of the "windshield survey" was to examine the indications of both physical and social order/disorder in the community.

The research area of our observations again covered about 33 streets, bounded in the north by E. Patapsco Ave, in the East by Curtis Ave, in the West by West Bay Ave, and in the South by Church Street (see Figure 1.). During our initial "walk-through" students visited many of the physical spaces as well as some of the key organizations designated as assets in Curtis Bay. They also learned about the key associations and individuals who are active in improving the well-being of the community.

In the current windshield survey, we systematically split the project area into two sections for observation, the upper section with 19 streets and the lower with 14. Tables 1 and 2 present the data from the windshield survey. Table 1 shows that in terms of overall physical disorder more occurred in the lower section (107 incidents; 7.4 per street) than in the upper section (70 incidents; 3.7 per street). There were more issues

Table 1. Physical Order and Disorder in Curtis Bay

Observed physical variable	Lower 14 streets* N (N per street)	Upper 19 streets* N (N per street)	33 streets Total N (N per street)
Physical Disorder			
Private Space:			
Pieces of trash	6	12	18
Garbage accumulation	4	2	6
Large items	8	5	13
Public Space:			
Pieces of trash	38 (2.7)	23 (1.2)	61 (1.9)
Garbage accumulation	20 (1.4)	9	29 (.88)
Large items	4	12	16
Messy graffiti	14	3	17
Noise pollution	9	4	13
Physical Order			
Private signs, no trespassing	130 (9.3)	136 (7.2)	266 (8.1)
Public signs for safety	7	21 (1.1)	28 (.85)
Graffiti painted over	4	2	6
Structures with murals	4		4
Physical Decay			
Burned out houses	10 (.71)	1	11
Burned up and abandoned houses	31 (2.2)	8	39 (1.2)
Inhabited buildings and broken windows	7	4	11
Other	15 (1.1)		15 (.50)
Total physical disorder	103 (7.4)	70 (3.7)	173 (5.2)
Total physical order	145 (10.4)	159 (8.4)	304 (9.2)
Total physical decay	63 (4.5)	13 (.68)	76 (2.3)
Ratio disorder/order	.71	.44	.57

Table 2. Social Order and Disorder in Curtis Bay

Observed social variable	Lower 14 streets* N (N per street)	Upper 19 streets* N (N per street)	33 streets Total N (N per street)
Social Disorder			
Private Space:			
Individuals congregating		2	2 (.06)
Illegal activity		1	1
Public Space:			
Individuals congregating	2		2 (.06)
Illegal activity	4		4 (.12)
Social Order			
Private Space:			
Individuals congregating	19 (1.4)	13 (.68)	32 (.97)
Residents working in front yard	3	12 (.63)	15 (.46)
Children in yard	7	4	11
Public Space			
Individuals congregating	17 (1.2)	7	24 (.73)
Adults/pets in neighborhood		6	6
Children out playing	38 (2.7)	1	39 (1.18)
Policing			
Police responding to incident	1		.03
Other	2		.06
Total social disorder	6 (.43)	3 (1.6)	9 (.27)
Total social order	84 (6.0)	43 (2.26)	127 (3.85)
Total policing	3 (.21)		3 (.09)
Ratio disorder/order	.07	.07	.07

found in public than private spaces, with the main problem being pieces of trash. There was more physical order in the upper section; however, that is due mainly to the higher number of public and private signs. The most drastic difference related to the high incidents of physical decay observed in the lower section (63 vs 13). Overall the ratio of physical disorder to order was much higher in the lower (.71) than the upper (.44) section.

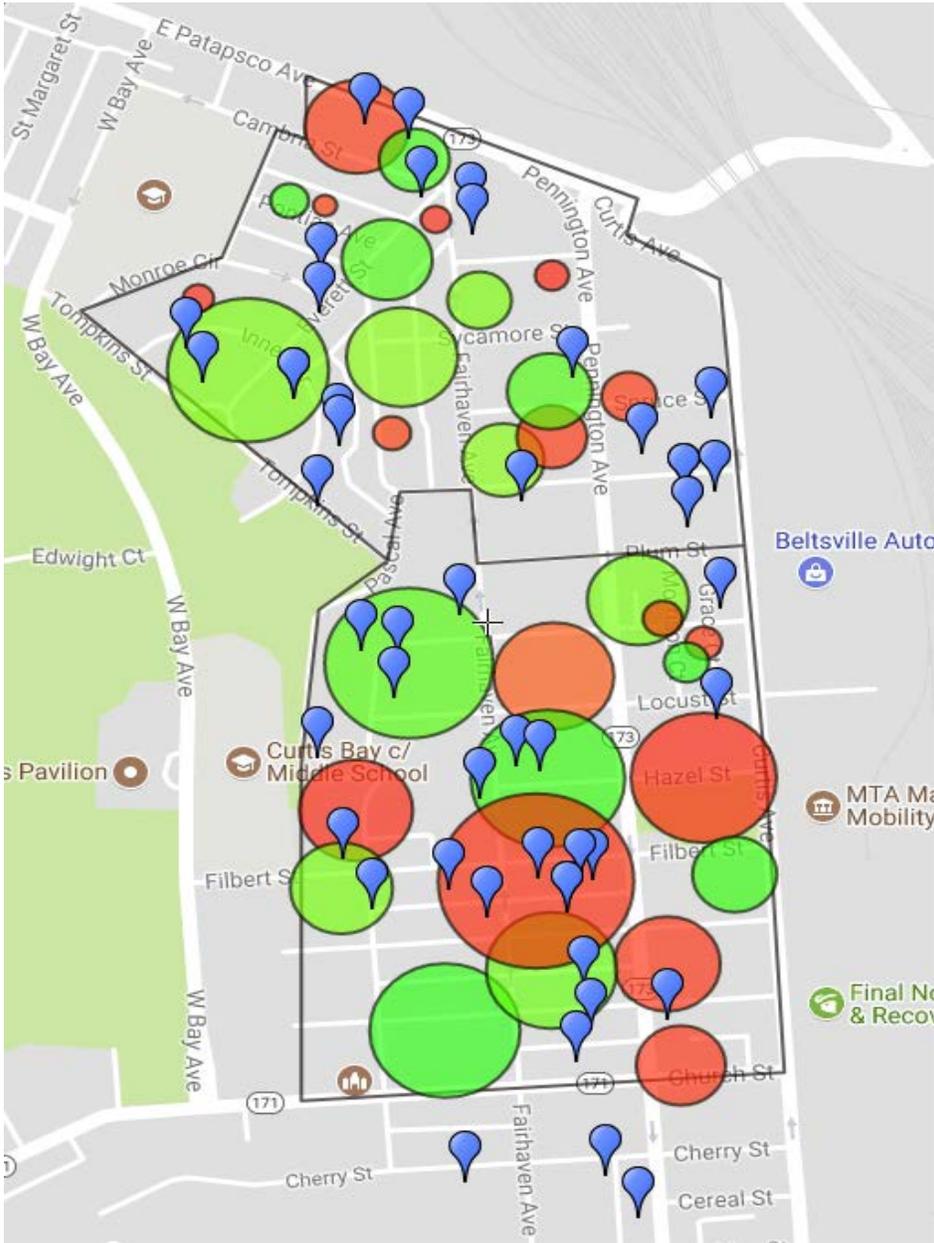
Table 2 presents the result of social order and disorder. Unlike the findings for physical order and disorder, the two areas are similar in social order and disorder (ratio is .07). Overall we found very little disorder on the days we observed. We saw more orderly activities in private and public spaces in the lower section than the upper section (84 vs 43). Thus, it appears that the lower section has both a lot of physical disorder and social order.

Mapping Order and Disorder

After documenting the indicators of social order and disorder in private and public spaces, our research goal was to examine the relationship between observed physical and social order/disorder and residents' efforts to improve private spaces. The map in Figure 2 plots the YOTW contest winners (blue "pins") with the incidents of social and physical order (green, lighter circles) and social and physical disorder (red, darker circles) combined. The larger the circle, the more incidences of physical and or social order and disorder were observed. In general, there was more order than disorder in the upper section, with only one major pocket of disorder near E. Patapsco. There is almost no disorder in the areas where the yard contest winners are grouped. The lower section shows more disorder (more/larger darker circles) but also more order (more/larger lighter circles). However, the map shows yard winners in many green areas and – most interestingly - one group of yard contest winners in the largest red area. Although the pattern is not completely clear, it appears that there is more order where yard contest winners are, and in areas of major disorder, residents are trying to resist it with maintaining their private spaces.

As Table 2 has shown, the amount of social disorder observed is relatively low, which makes mapping it separately difficult. However, Figure 3 shows the map with only physical order and disorder. The pattern of more order in the top section of the project area and more disorder in the lower part is shown clearly. In the upper section, areas with yard contest winners show little physical disorder. It appears that there is a relationship between keeping public spaces and private spaces in order; areas with lots of trash on the streets also have more trash in the front yards. In the lower section, the large amount of physical disorder becomes obvious with the indicator of several large, dark red circles on the map. However, even in two of the large red circle areas that represent many incidences of physical disorder on the map, there are yard contest winners.

Figure 2. Map of Social and Physical Order and Disorder



The Community Survey 2017

Starting with the addresses of the yard contest winners, researchers went door-to-door to interview residents using a short survey. Survey respondents were asked questions about their perceptions on the appearance of the community, their feelings of safety and neighborliness, and questions about the YOTW contest, in addition to general demographic information. The surveys yielded 39 responses.

The Survey Sample

The characteristics of the 39 survey participants are shown in Table 3. On average, respondents were around 50 years old and have lived in Curtis Bay around 17 years. Fifty-four percent of them had children and those parents had 1 to 2 children. In terms of race and sex, 43% were non-white and 64% were women. Renters and homeowners were evenly distributed (49% vs 51%) and over half of the sample plans to stay in Curtis Bay (51%). About half had a high school degree (51%) and about 33% were college graduates. However, only 26% of the respondents said they attend community association meetings. In addition, 69% of respondents had heard of the YOTW contest and 33% had been winners.

These results show that the sample is composed of somewhat older residents who have roots in the community and half of them are parents. The distribution of renters and owners is even and minorities were well-represented in the sample. Women and those with higher education were overrepresented. Among our sample, only about one quarter comes to community meetings and one third had not heard about the YOTW contest. That means that the next survey should be administered to a random sample. Community leaders should reach out to members in the community with information on meetings and events and why they are relevant to residents. Given the feedback gained from respondents, most effective would be launching a mailbox flyer campaign all over the community.

Table 3. Characteristics of Survey Respondents (N=39)

	Mean (sd)	Median
Age	48.21 (17.52)	53.00
Number of Years Lived in CB	17.42 (17.27)	10.00
Number of Children	1.26 (1.57)	1.00
	<u>Percent (%)</u>	
Have children	53.8	
Women	64.0	
Nonwhite	43.2	
Rent	48.6	
Own	51.4	
Plan to stay in CB	51.3	
Education		
Less than High School	7.7	
High School degree	56.4	
College graduate	33.3	
Post college	2.6	
How Often attends CCBA meetings		
Never	73.7	
Sometimes	15.8	
Almost Always	10.5	
Heard of the YOTW contest	69.2	
Winner in the YOTW contest	33.3	

The Survey Results: Individual Perceptions

Table 4 shows the percentage distribution of respondents' perceptions on various survey items. In terms of community appearance, only 15% of respondents thought the cleanliness of streets was good or excellent, 33-44% thought yards were in good or excellent condition, and 39% thought public space maintenance was good or excellent. From our windshield survey we learned that there are "pockets" of physical disorder in Curtis Bay, which reduced the positive assessment of community appearance. While both public and private spaces will benefit from revitalization efforts, it appears that more frequent community street clean-ups are needed.

With respect to neighborliness, two patterns emerge. On the positive side, 77% agreed or strongly agreed that neighbors can be counted on in emergencies and 70% thought there is a strong feeling of neighborliness in Curtis Bay. In addition, more than half (53%) thought the residents cooperate to solve problems. These results show that there is much potential for the community to pull together and invest in revitalization efforts. On the other hand, there is clearly concern about trust and safety: only 33% think most residents can be trusted and more than half (56%) think their privacy is more important than interacting with neighbors. The percentage of 56% feeling safe to walk around in the neighborhood appears to be low and again is probably related to the "pockets" of social disorder in the community. Overall, safety and trust should be targets of future community work.

The results show that for those who were aware of the YOTW contest, it was a positive initiative. Sixty-one percent of respondents felt inspired by the contest and 40% spoke to their neighbors about their yards. Almost half (46%) thought that due to the contest, neighbors were putting more effort in yard maintenance. Almost all respondents thought it would be great to win a prize and to have another contest. One major finding of the survey was that 97.4% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that "Having a clean yard says a lot about the person living there." This item shows the connection between yard maintenance and social perceptions of neighbors. If a person invests time and effort into creating a nice private space, people will think more highly of them and may be more likely to interact and trust them. Thus, not only should there be more contests – also including other types of home decorating contests (maybe for major holidays), but flyers about contests and CCBA meetings should be put in every mailbox and residents should be encouraged to talk to each other about these friendly competitions.

Table 4. Perceptions of Survey Respondents (N=39)

<u>Appearance of community</u>	<u>% good or excellent</u>
Cleanliness of streets	15.4
Cleanliness of yards	33.3
Public space maintenance	38.5
Yard maintenance	43.6
<u>Neighborliness and safety</u>	<u>% agree or strongly agree</u>
Neighbors can be trusted	33.4
Neighbors help in emergency	76.9
Strong feeling of Neighborliness	70.3
Cooperate to solve problems	53.3
Security is important	91.9
Feel safe walking around	56.4
Privacy is more important than interaction	56.7
<u>YOTW Contest</u>	<u>% agree or strongly agree</u>
It would be nice to win a prize	91.9
Contest inspired me to keep my yard nice	60.7
I talked with neighbors about yard work	40.0
Since the contest neighbors keep up more	45.5
I hope there is another contest	97.2
Having a clean yard says a lot	94.7

The Survey Results: Comparing Perceptions

In order to compare average perceptions of community appearance, neighborliness, and the YOTW contest, we created 3 indexes of resident perceptions. The first one – **Perceptions of Neighbors Index** – is composed of 5 questions related to the degree to which residents trust, help, and feel safe around their neighbors was shown to be a reliable measure (Chronbach Alpha = .733). The second one – **Perceptions of Community Appearance Index** – is composed of 4 items that asked about perceptions of cleanliness in the public and private spaces in the neighborhood and was shown to be reliable (Chronbach Alpha = .834). The third index – **Perceptions of the Yard of the Week Contest Index** – included 6 questions and was also reliable (Chronbach Alpha = .745). For the Perceptions of Neighbors Index, which ranged from 5 (all negative) to 20 (all positive), the average was 12.6 (sd= 2.85), which is in the middle of the distribution. The Perceptions of Community Appearance Index ranged from 4 to 16 with a mean of 8.31 (sd=2.81), which is somewhat skewed towards negative views. The Perceptions of the YOTW Contest Index ranged from 6 to 24 and had a mean of 17.9 (sd=2.72), which is skewed towards positive views.

With these indexes we were able to examine the differences in average perceptions between homeowners and renters, winners and non-winners of the yard contest, those with plans to stay in the community and those without, and by race (shown in Table 5). The statistical analysis shows that homeowners have significantly more positive perceptions of neighborliness than renters, but they do not differ from renters in terms of perceptions of community appearance and the YOTW contest. Significantly more homeowners plan to stay in the community than renters, they are older than renters and they are more likely to attend community association meetings. This confirms that they are quite rooted in the community. YOTW contest winners do not differ from non-winners, except in respect to having more positive perceptions of the contest and being older. Residents who plan to stay in Curtis Bay are more likely to consider the YOTW contest positively; they are older and attend meetings more often than those who do not plan to stay.

There is no variation by any group considered (renters, winners, non-whites, etc.) in terms of the assessment of community appearance. Non-white community members appear to be recent additions to the community: they are younger, have lived there a shorter time and are less likely to plan to stay than white residents. While their perceptions of community appearance and neighborliness do not differ from their white neighbors, they are less likely to have positive perceptions of the YOTW contest.

These results show that community residents are aware of the challenges related to clean public and private spaces. The means for the groups are also similar for the assessment of neighborliness. Possible exceptions are renters and those who do not plan to stay in the community, meaning they do not feel a strong connection to the community. Hence, efforts need to be made to reach renters to get them involved in the community association, and to inform them of the positive changes underway in the community, which may influence their desire to remain in Curtis Bay. In addition, because young people and nonwhites also appear to be less involved in the community, community leaders should communicate with and engage them in the YOTW contest and the community association.

Table 5. Comparison of resident perceptions and characteristics by sub-groups

Variables	Renters	Owners	Winners	Non-winners	Plans to stay	No plans to stay	Non-white	White
Perc. of Neighbors	11.47** (3.14)	13.39 (2.30)	13.25 (2.26)	12.28 (3.09)	13.26 (2.16)	11.89 (3.36)	12.56 (3.09)	12.63 (2.69)
Perc. of Com.Appear.	8.28 (2.35)	8.58 (3.29)	8.15 (3.26)	8.38 (2.62)	8.30 (2.90)	8.23 (2.79)	8.44 (2.81)	8.19 (2.87)
Perc. of YOTW	17.57 (2.68)	18.35 (2.89)	19.38** (2.53)	17.00 (2.45)	19.48*** (3.23)	16.84 (1.60)	17.06* (2.43)	18.76 (2.77)
Years in CB	15.61 (14.52)	20.68 (1979)	18.14 (19.13)	17.06 (16.65)	24.93*** (18.67)	20.08 (12.27)	10.66** (10.90)	23.21 (19.72)
Age	43.44* (16.10)	53.95 (17.70)	56.46** (13.39)	44.08 (18.09)	53.30*** (17.04)	42.84 (16.80)	38.33*** (16.22)	56.67 (14.02)
Number of children	1.67 (1.57)	.95 (1.58)	1.23 (1.83)	1.27 (1.46)	1.45 (1.73)	1.05 (1.39)	1.61 (1.61)	.95 (1.50)
Attends CCBA	.11** (.32)	.42 (.51)	.31 (.48)	.23 (.43)	.45*** (.51)	.05 (.23)	.22 (.43)	.29 (.46)
Plans to stay	.39* (.50)	.68 (.48)	.54 (.52)	.50 (.51)	-	-	.33** (.49)	.67 (.48)

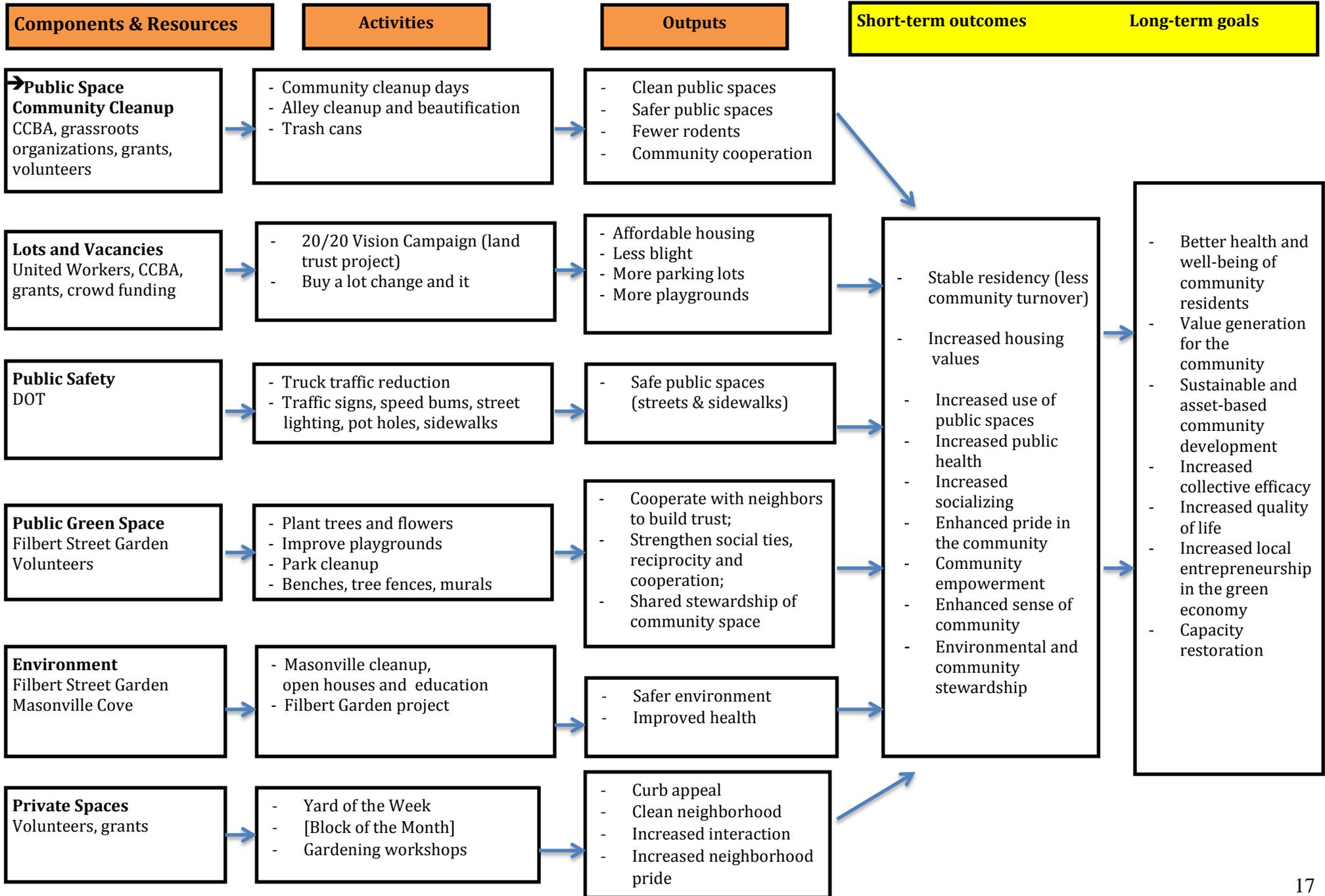
Note: Numbers in parentheses are standard deviations. Highlighted numbers indicate statistically significant differences between 2 groups. Levels of significance between groups are indicated as follows: *<.01; **<.05; ***<.01.

A Model for Neighborhood Revitalization in Curtis Bay

Figure 4 presents a model that includes the six components related to neighborhood revitalization we observed in Curtis Bay. The term “revitalization” reflects the idea that essential assets for neighborhood renewal are already present in Curtis Bay. The community has shown incredible resilience over time and recently has become energized due to various successes related to environmental threats and economic challenges. In resisting the planned incinerator and winning, in garnering significant public support for the land trust project, and in gaining a number of significant grants, the community has shown its great potential when coming together. We listed various assets and initiatives that are ongoing or planned to improve public and private spaces in the community. Many of these programs have already shown positive results and others are in the proposal stages waiting to be funded. One important issue is to stimulate even more community buy-in for the continued efforts. A key ingredient to encourage this buy-in is for residents to feel connected to the community.

In terms of outputs of proposed or active programs, the potential for cleaner, safer public places and environment, as well as improved public health are crucial. In addition, inviting and green street faces maintained by residents will add value and safety, which can lead to a greater sense of community. Efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing can retain community members long-term and help build roots. These are necessary to develop stronger social ties and trust. Resident investment of time into collaborative community work through volunteering and maintenance of public spaces will contribute to the short- and long-term goals of revitalization at all levels (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Model for Neighborhood Revitalization



Conclusions and Recommendations

Our 2017 research project focused on two main issues - the relationship between neighborhood improvement efforts and community cohesion in Curtis Bay, and the relationship between the Yard of the Week contest and social/physical order, revitalizing street faces, and community cohesion and safety.

Our findings suggest that Curtis Bay already has the conditions in place to go forward with continued neighborhood revitalization efforts. Community members are aware of the assets and challenges in their community – they appreciate their neighbors, safety, and cleanliness and are very interested in the YOTW contest. They are concerned about their community and particularly those who are invested in the community come to community meetings.

These preliminary results indicate that efforts of neighborhood revitalization and community building should not only focus on the physical conditions in the community, but also on how to increase the level of trust and social engagement among residents. Clearly the YOTW contest goes beyond mere physical yard maintenance. It increases neighborly interaction and serves to boost pride in their residence. Thus, we recommend expanding the contest to blocks, special occasions (holidays), and to porches.

Suggestions for action:

- **Continue and extend the YOTW contest** to a “block of the month” contest aimed at improving the “curb appeal” of the entire street faces. Grant money could be used to provide residents of entire blocks with some start-up money and workshops could provide instruction (painting, landscaping, repair, etc.), leading to resident cooperation in the project. In addition, the YOTW contest should include more residents by offering Holiday Decorating contests, including porch decoration contests, and more frequent occurrences. This would include renters of apartments, who currently are excluded from the contest because they do not have access to a yard.
- **More efforts need to be directed at informing all residents** (including renters and younger people) of positive developments in Curtis Bay, such as available grant money, YOTW contests, events, community association meetings, etc. Clearly, these activities also should be publicized extensively in order to be more effective. The newsletter – *The Curtis Bay Bulletin* - can contribute to this effort, but only if it is distributed widely in the community. We recommend that the CCBA and the Well help with creation, duplication and **distribution of the newsletter into every mailbox in Curtis Bay**. That will encourage residents to contribute to the newsletter as well as share resources and skills. In addition, event flyers should be placed into every mailbox as well.
- As mentioned in last year’s report, a concerted effort to prevent litter in public spaces by beautifying them should involve more tree fences, planting, and murals, increasing access to trashcans in public spaces, and regular park and playground clean-up activities.
- We hope that residents will also get involved in the “Block Ambassador” program. Trainings are offered in Baltimore and we could invite a representative to Curtis Bay to share their ideas.

- Look into making community meetings more accessible to residents such as offering more than just once a month, changing the meeting times and days, and focusing more on resident voices.

Future Research

We hope to continue our research in Curtis Bay next year. To improve the reliability and validity of our observations, the windshield surveys should be conducted at the same time in both sections for a more accurate comparison. Furthermore, our surveys included signs on private property as an indicator of physical order, but in future research, we suggest they be coded in a neutral category, as resident intent is unknown to researchers.

The community survey should be repeated and done based on a random sample and we should include interviews. Residents had enriching stories and anecdotes to add to the survey, which in future should be recorded for transcription and thematic analysis.

Future research should focus on public health, perceptions of crime and safety, and policing efforts in the area. Informal analysis of comments made during the community survey reflected residents' concerns about a drug problem in the community. Although a focus on drugs and crime is beyond the capacities of this class because of safety concerns for students. However, community-police relations could be studied through community perception, police rides, and meetings between police officers and residents. Relationships between renters and owners as well as whether people plan to stay in the community long-term should also be investigated.

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Appendices

- 2017 Revised Windshield Survey Coding sheets (based on Harvey et al. 2013)
2017 Curtis Bay Survey

2017 Windshield Survey Coding Sheet

SOCIAL CONDITIONS Name of observer:	Street : _____ Date of Observation: _____ Day of week: _____ Time of Observation: _____
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Neighborhood Constructs	Indicators	Frequency	Notes
<i>Social Disorder</i>	Private space: (sidewalk/yard/porch) Individuals congregating with <u>verbal conflict</u> Individuals congregating with <u>physical conflict</u> Potential illegal activity		
	Public Space: (street/gutter/alley) Individuals congregating with <u>verbal conflict</u> Individuals congregating with <u>physical conflict</u> Potential illegal activity		
<i>Social Order</i>	Private space: (sidewalk/yard/porch) Individuals congregating, no observable conflict Residents working in front yard Children in yard		
	Public Space: (street/gutter/alley) Individuals congregating, no observable conflict Adults out in neighborhood/Dog-walking Children out in playing		
<i>Policing</i>	Police regular patrol car passing		
	Police car/fire/ambulance responding to incident		
	Benign police interaction		
	Police intervention		
<i>Other</i>			

2017 Community Survey

Dear community resident, thank you for participating in this survey! Your participation in this study is voluntary and the information you provide will be kept confidential. Please respond to each question to the best of your knowledge. Feel free to comment at the end and elaborate on the questions.

1. Please tell us about the appearance of the Curtis Bay community. Would you rate each of the following conditions as excellent, good, fair, or poor? (Check one for each line) You can also include comments for each.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Comment?
Overall cleanliness of the streets and alleys					
Overall cleanliness of front yards					
Public space maintenance (grass, trees, playgrounds)					
Yard maintenance (front yards, porches, sidewalks)					

2. We would like to talk to you about feelings of safety and neighborliness in your community. In general, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Curtis Bay? (check one for each line).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Most people who live in Curtis Bay can be trusted.				
My privacy is more important to me than interacting with my neighbors.				
Most people in Curtis Bay usually help each other out in an emergency.				
There is a strong feeling of neighborliness in Curtis Bay.				
People in Curtis Bay usually cooperate to solve local problems.				
It is important to have security features to protect your home (guard dog, no trespassing sign, camera).				
I feel safe walking around in Curtis Bay.				

3. Have you heard about the Yard of the Week (YOTW) contest in Curtis Bay? Yes No
 If YES, did you receive a prize in the contest? Yes No

4. We would like to talk to you about the Yard of the Week (YOTW) contest in your community. In general, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (check one for each line).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It would be nice to win a prize in the Yard of the Week contest.				
The Yard of the Week contest inspired me to keep up with yard maintenance.				
After the contest I have talked about yard work with my neighbors.				
It seems like my neighbors are more interested in maintaining their yard since the contest.				
I hope there will be another YOTW contest.				
Having a clean and inviting front yard says a lot about the people living there.				

Please share suggested changes to the YOTW contest here (prizes, process, etc.):

Lastly, here are a few questions about you so we can classify the answers:

1. What is your gender? (Check one)

- Woman
Man Other – please specify: _____

2. How would you classify your ethnic/racial identity? (Check one)

- African American/Black
Asian American/Asian
Bi-/multi-racial
Caucasian/White
Hispanic
Other – please specify: _____

3. What is your age? _____ years

4. Do you rent or own your home? (Check one) Rent
Own

5. Do you have children living with you? (Check one)

- No
Yes Number and ages of children _____

6. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Check one)

- Less than High School
High School/GED
College graduate (AA, BA, BS, etc.)
Post college graduate (MA, PhD, etc.)

7. a. How many years have you lived in Curtis Bay? _____ years, and _____ months

- b. Do you plan on staying in Curtis Bay? (check one) Yes No

8. How often do you attend meetings of the Community of Curtis Bay Association? (check one)

- Never Sometimes Often Almost always

9. If there are additional comments or suggestions, please let us know here.

Are you interested in receiving the Curtis Bay Newsletter? If yes, please give us your contact information below:

Name	E-mail address
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Thank you very much for taking the time to participate!

If you have any questions about this study, please contact Marina Adler at adler@umbc.edu or 410-455-3155.

