



## The Lab Has Launched!!

After months of planning Muskegon's 100-Day Challenge: Livability Lab has successfully launched! We want to thank all 300+ of you who attended and we hope that you had the opportunity to not only meet many new friends but to also learn great things about Muskegon County. We are experiencing a wonderful, transformative time for our region, and the time is now to thoughtfully move forward together, ensuring opportunity for all residents. For those unable to attend, we hope others have shared with you the incredible energy in the room and the sense of optimism about our future. We are indebted to everyone who helped make this day such a great success – our incredible jazz ensemble, our Photovoice participants, our MCs, the United Way volunteers, the Michigan State University ABL Change team, and all the many community members who participated by video or in person and spoke of their aspirations for Muskegon County. It was a great launch and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support, involvement, and encouragement.

With the launch now behind us, we officially start the exciting next phase of Livability Lab. We have a (stunning!) total of 19 Community Teams that have convened as a result of the Lab. Over the next 100 days the 140 team participants and their coaches will be volunteering their time and their talent. These teams are in the process of organizing their first meetings and refining their Challenge descriptions now, and some of you have contacted us to ask if it is too late for you to join. The good news - it is definitely not too late! If you are interested in participating in a team, we invite you to visit our website [www.livabilitylab.com](http://www.livabilitylab.com) where you will find additional information. Remember, in this process, all are welcome to bring their ideas, gifts, and enthusiasm! Many of you are also asking us to share the initial list of Challenge teams and we think you will agree that participants have chosen an incredible array of local targets. We have included the information with all the teams listed with their working titles (these titles may be refined in the next week or so) for you to review and to share.

In any event, we'll keep you up-to-date on the progress. If you know of others who want to follow the progress, send them to our website, and do be sure to like and share posts from our facebook and twitter pages, and many of our team members are on Linked In too.

And finally, be sure to watch for updates soon on the date for the Livability Lab Celebration event. At this event our Teams will be sharing their 100-Days of work with you and the rest of our community. At present, we are targeting mid-January and we know you will not want to miss this celebration.

In closing we want thank you again Muskegon County – from the hundreds of interviews and input leading up to the launch, to the 300+ who participated on launch day, and to all who are taking us forward as we put ideas into action - thank you!

Your Livability Lab Team

An initiative of the Muskegon Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR)

# Muskegon's 100-Day Challenge: The Livability Lab Teams

Working Titles as of 9/19/19

A total of 19 Teams were launched at Muskegon's 100-Day Challenge Event. While we expect Team titles may change and we'll be including descriptions soon, what follows is a list of individual Challenges made by the community that have now engaged members:

1. Increasing resident voice in local decision-making by building a Neighborhood Association Council in Muskegon Heights.
2. Developing a Resident Charter to improve partnerships between residents and local organizations. (*this group will be merging with #1*)
3. Creation of a Mentorship Network to increase youth academic and cultural leadership skills.
4. Aligning economic opportunity resources and supports in partnership with local residents.
5. Coordinating local food access and advocacy efforts.
6. Strengthening Child Care opportunities for our community.
7. Improving intergenerational literacy.
8. Assessing local housing stock and housing needs to identify and address gaps.
9. Work with financial institutions, landlords, and residents to increase Financial Literacy among residents to promote homeownership and stability.
10. Identify, promote, and support minority-owned businesses including those owned by women, individuals with disabilities, and residents hoping to start a business.
11. Expand the local youth Book Buddy Program to more schools.
12. Understand and address local workforce development gaps.
13. Create affordable transit by engaging local businesses in the Wheels to Work program.
14. Increase access to prenatal support for moms.
15. Create an emotionally safe space for our youth both in and out of school.
16. Increase employment opportunities for felons via expungement of records where possible.
17. Align and increase access to local resource guides and calendars to improve communication.
18. Understand and align discharge planning processes across local organizations to reduce discharge to the homeless.
19. Initiate grassroots advocacy efforts to reduce inequities in the distribution of K-12 funding.

For more information about joining or submitting ideas or information to a team, visit our website:

[www.livabilitylab.com](http://www.livabilitylab.com)