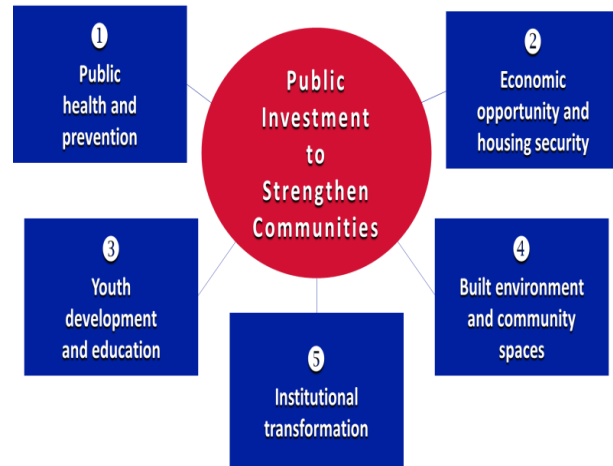


Strengthening Communities through Community Investment

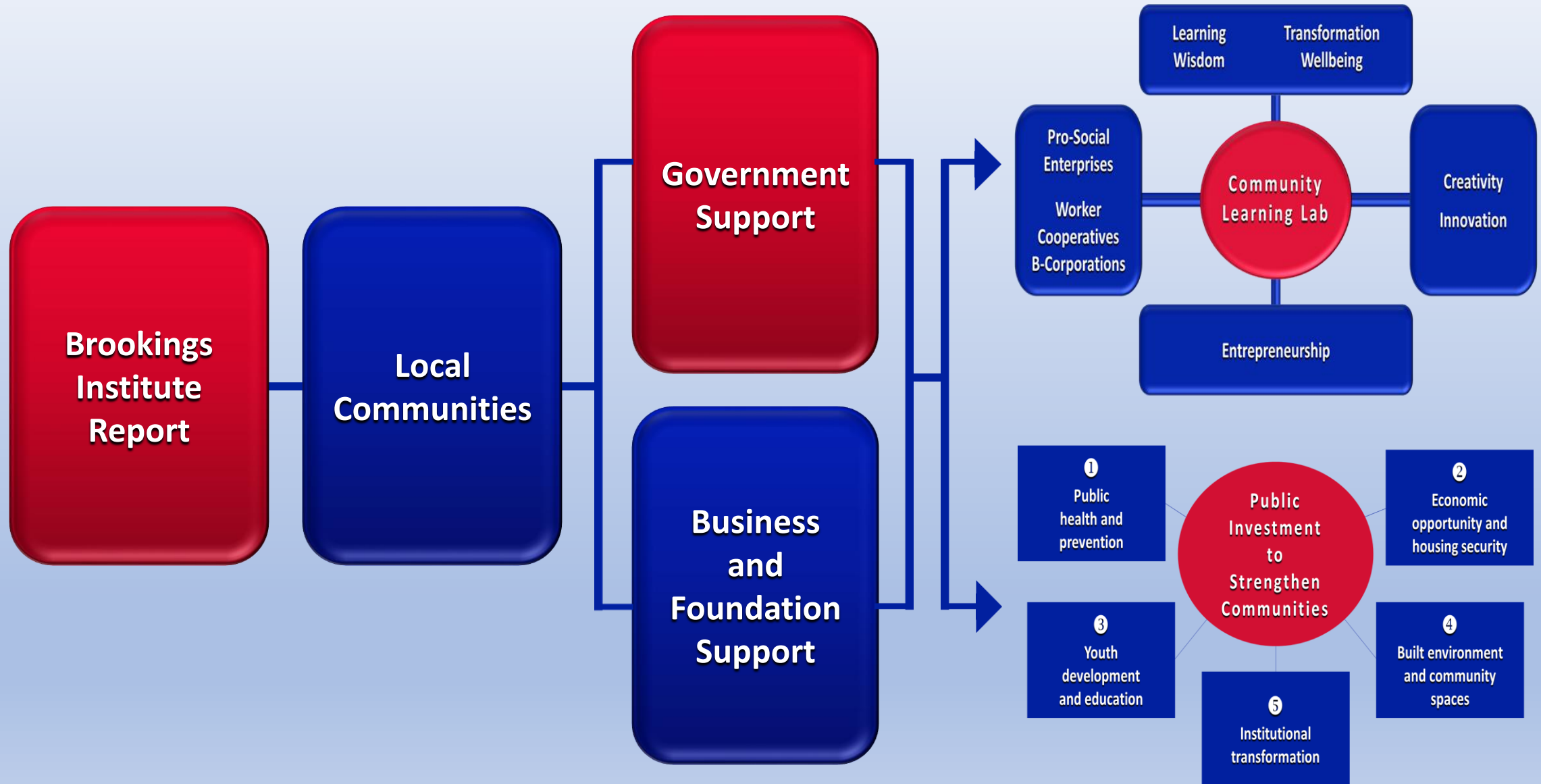
Sanford Hinden

Strengthening Communities



- In December 2022, I read articles on the BBC website about gangs taking over Haiti.
- It led me to do more research on the problems of Haiti and gangs.
- I began working with Rotarians internationally for Haiti and continue researching solutions for gang transformation through community investment and development.
- I originally proposed Community Learning Labs as one solution and then realized that gang members would not participate in the Labs.
- We also needed to find solutions to strengthen communities because weaker communities are where gangs grow and proliferate.
- I read a [Brookings Institute report](#) on needed community investment.
- I summarized the report recommendations to help community leaders understand the Brookings suggestions for community investment (see pages 15-23).
- I welcome collaboration with communities, organizations, and the Brookings Institute to implement their investment strategies to strengthen communities. - Sandy Hinden

Strengthening Communities through Community Investment



Growing Gangs

Gangs to Transnational Organized Crime



1	Neighborhood-based gangs
2	Prison gangs, white nationalist gangs, outlaw motorcycle gangs, national-level street gangs
3	Transnational gangs
4	Organized crime, cartels-consortiums
5	Global hackers, ransomware, money laundering, traffickers in drugs, weapons, guns, sex, data

Global
Peace
Keeping

Global
Climate
Mitigation

"Crime has
internationalized faster
than law enforcement and
world governance..."

Antonio Maria Costa, Former Executive Director
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The Globalization of Crime:
A Transnational Organized Crime
Threat Assessment

Global
Sustainable
Development

Global
Migration
Management

Growth of Gangs



1. The UN has no statistics on gang growth by nations, and transnational gang growth.
2. Wikipedia lists [72 gang countries](#).
3. There are:
 - neighborhood-based gangs
 - national-level street gangs
 - prison gangs
 - outlaw motorcycle gangs
 - white nationalist gangs
 - transnational gangs
4. Gangs can be organized based on race, ethnicity, territory, or money-making activities, and are generally made up of members ages 8 to 22.

Growth of Gangs



5. Most gangs are a group of people who claim a territory and use it to make money through illegal activities (i.e., drug trafficking).
6. When joining a gang, oftentimes there is an initiation that needs to be passed. This initiation is usually a violent crime that could include theft, gang rape, or drive-by shootings.
7. Gang members are more likely to be arrested or involved with drugs and alcohol than non-gang members.

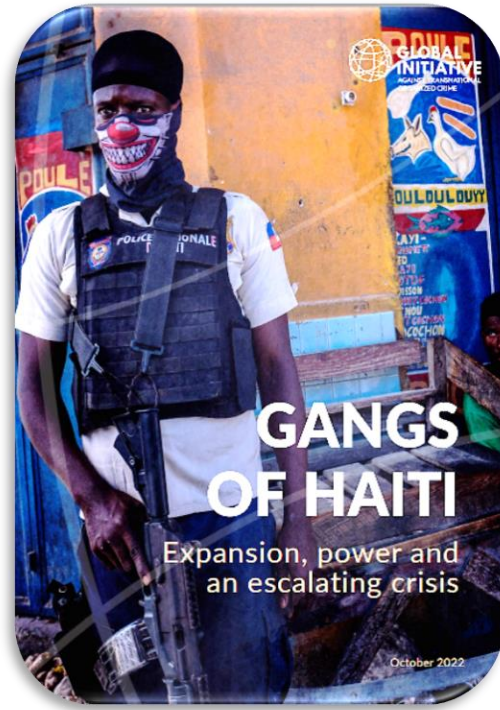
Growth of Gangs

Motivation for joining a Gang?

- History of Abuse or Neglect
 - Peer Pressure and Threats
 - Recognition- sense of respect and power
 - Social needs- sense of belonging "family"
 - Hero imitation
 - Gangs are glamorized by the media
 - For access to Money and Drugs
 - Non-conformist- live outside society rules
 - Problems at home
 - Low self-esteem
- 

8. There are 33,000 gangs in the [U.S.](#), with over one million members. There are over 400 gangs in [Canada](#).
9. 86% of US cities with a population of 100,000 or more report gang activity.
10. In recent years, gangs are participating in more non-traditional crimes such as prostitution, alien smuggling, and human trafficking, identity theft, and mortgage fraud.
11. These new, non-traditional crimes create higher profitability and lower visibility.

Growth of Gangs



8. The transnational Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and 18th Street gangs continue to expand their influence in the United States.
9. These transnational gangs are present in almost every state and continue to grow their memberships.
10. They are now targeting younger recruits more than ever.
11. To counteract this growth, the [Transnational Anti-Gang \(TAG\) Task Force](#) initiative was established. TAG Task Forces are currently located in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.



Causes

- Government Corruption of Officials, Military & Police
- Organized Crime
- Gangs
- Terrorism
- War
- Civil War
- Violence
- Joblessness
- Lack of Sustainable Economies
- Climate Disruption

Global Migration

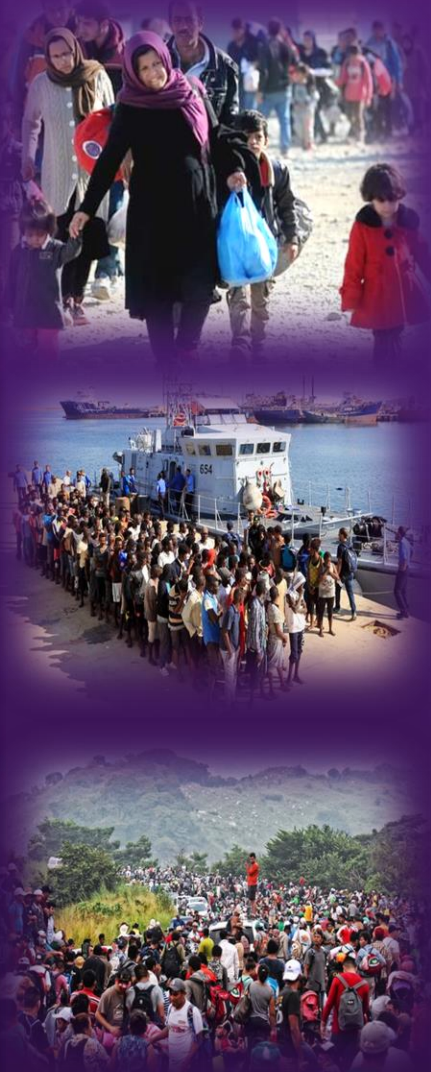
Effects

Rise of Hate
&
Reactionary
Politics
Worldwide

Global Corruption & Violence



Global Migration



European Reactionary Movements



United States Reactionary Movements



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The Growth of Gangs

Lack of

Guidance, Values, Mentors, Education, Employment, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

G A N G S W O R L D W I D E

Benefits

- Sense of identity
- Sense of belonging, family, community
- Protection against other gangs
- Adventure, intensity
- Sense of spirituality, group ritual
- Money
- Avoid thinking about the future

Consequences

- Dropping out of school
- Teen parenthood
- Unemployment
- Victimization
- Drug, alcohol, sexual abuse
- Petty and violent crimes
- Juvenile conviction and incarceration
- Being harmed or killed



Transforming Gangs to Pro-Social Enterprises



- 1. Global gangs are proliferating. They grow around the world in a culture of corruption, crime, and violence, due to a lack of quality education and lack of opportunity, resulting in unemployment.**
- 2. The lack of quality education and lack of opportunities for young people are leading people to join gangs to make a living.**

Transforming Gangs to Pro-Social Enterprises

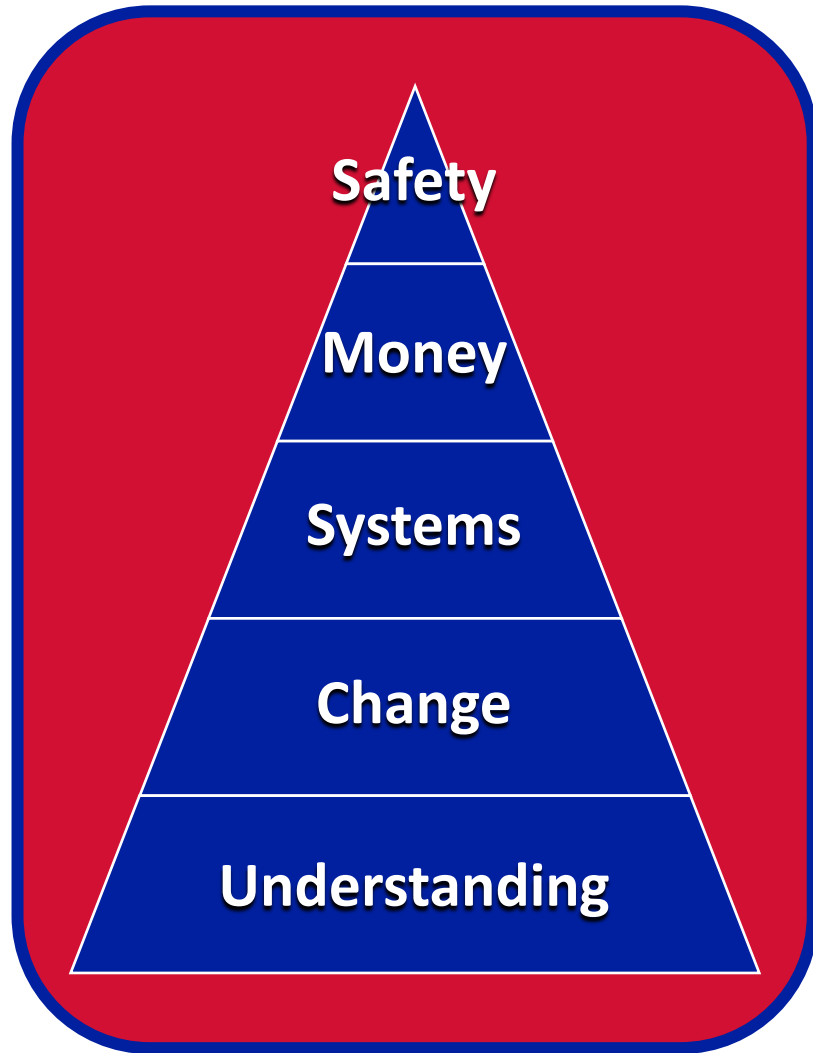


3. Gang members engage in militias, extortion, kidnapping, sex trafficking, selling guns and drugs, theft, and burglary as daily work.
4. Policymakers, governments, and foundations can create Community Learning Labs for opportunities to evolve gangs into pro-social enterprises.

Transforming Gangs to Pro-Social Enterprises



Why Gang Members Won't Use the Community Learning Lab



1. **UNDERSTANDING:** They don't know what a Community Learning Lab does.
2. **CHANGE:** Like many people, they are uncomfortable with what is new to them and uncomfortable with change.
3. **SYSTEMS:** They don't realize we can work to change the educational, cultural, political, and economic systems to benefit them.
4. **MONEY:** They need money from their present activities.
5. **SAFETY:** They fear they will be disliked by their own gang members and members of other gangs and be harmed by them.

We acknowledge these concerns

Community Investment

Community Investment

Weakening Communities

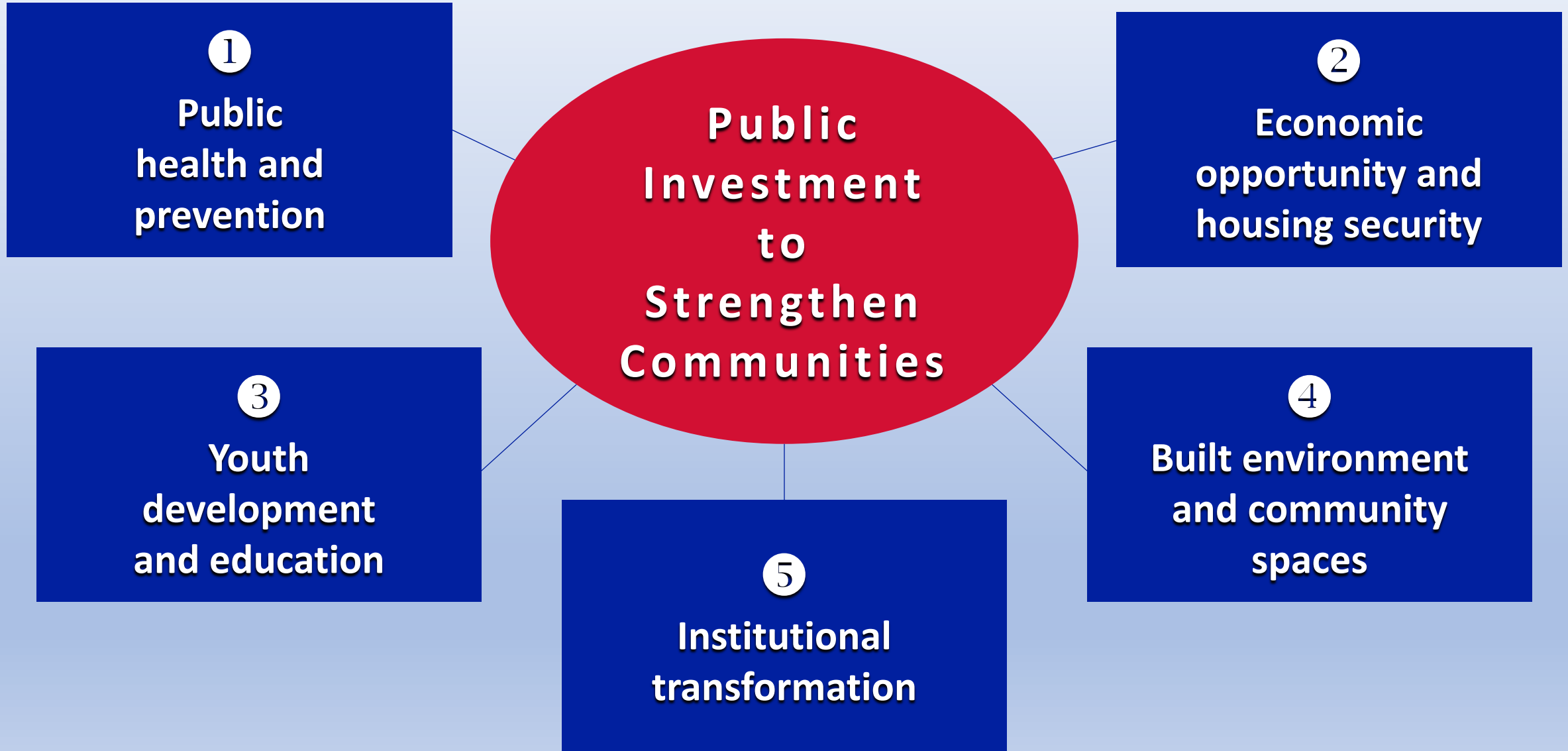
1. Low-income communities are vulnerable to gang infiltration and proliferation.
2. Gang members then terrorize young people and shop owners.
3. Young people then look for protection from gangs by joining gangs.
4. They then get involved with gangs for money through the sale of drugs and guns, extortion, and kidnapping.
5. Burglary, robbery, and violence then increase.



Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

1. Public health and prevention
2. Economic opportunity and housing security
3. Youth development and education
4. Built environment and community spaces
5. Institutional transformation

Community Investment



Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

1

Public health and prevention

- **Create sustainable funding streams for community violence intervention programs.**
- **Scale civilian crisis-response models.**
- **Increase funding for:**
 - **community health clinics**
 - **trauma recovery centers**
 - **community health workers**

Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

2

Economic opportunity and housing security

- Expand access to workforce development and employment programs.
- Fund summer jobs for youth.
- Fund targeted cash assistance programs for harm survivors.
- Expand economic opportunity for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- Expand access to housing through eviction defense, vouchers, and alternative real estate models.

Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

3

Youth development and education

- **Create a grant program to fund local youth violence prevention plans.**
- **Increasing resources for low-income schools.**
- **Fund youth centers, sports, enrichment activities, and neighborhood-based wraparound support programs.**

Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

4

Built environment and community spaces

- **Built environment and community spaces to lower stress can significantly reduce crime.**
- **Increase grant funding for place-based neighborhood improvement projects.**
- **Transform abandoned homes and buildings and clean vacant lots.**
- **Create green neighborhood-led projects for “third spaces” such as parks, cafes, and community centers to lower stress & increase connections.**

Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

5

Institutional transformation

- **Provide sustainable and accessible funding for grassroots organizations.**
- **Enhance the capacity of community-based organizations.**
- **Create a community safety division at the Department of Health and Human Services for civilian agencies dedicated to community safety.**
- **Fund additional research on the social determinants of safety.**

Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

Public Health & Prevention	Economic Opportunity & Housing Security	Youth Development & Education	Built Environment & Community Spaces	Institutional Transformation
• Create sustainable funding streams for community violence intervention programs. • Scale civilian crisis-response models. • Increase funding for community health clinics, trauma recovery centers, and community health workers.	• Expand access to workforce development and employment programs. • Fund summer jobs for youth. • Fund targeted cash assistance programs for harm survivors. • Expand economic opportunity for formerly incarcerated individuals. • Expand access to housing through eviction defense, vouchers, and alternative real estate models.	• Create a grant program to fund local youth violence prevention plans. • Increasing resources for low-income schools. • Fund youth centers, sports, enrichment activities, and neighborhood-based wraparound support programs.	• Built environment and community spaces to lower stress can significantly reduce crime. • Increase grant funding for place-based neighborhood improvement projects. • Transform abandoned homes and buildings and clean vacant lots. • Create green neighborhood-led projects for “third spaces” such as parks, cafes, and community centers to lower stress & increase connections.	• Provide sustainable and accessible funding for grassroots organizations. • Enhance the capacity of community-based organizations. • Create a community safety division at the Department of Health and Human Services for civilian agencies dedicated to community safety. • Fund additional research on the social determinants of safety.

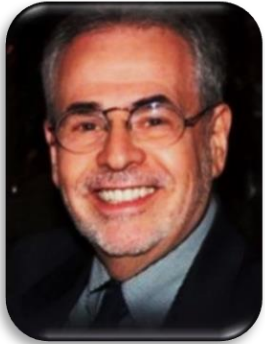
**CLICK TO SEE MORE HERE → BROOKINGS INSTITUTE / A new community safety blueprint:
How the federal government can address violence and harm through a public health approach**

About

About

Sanford Hinden

Educator, Administrator, Organizer, Author



- Sandy Hinden works for world peace, including *mutually assured survival* that includes *ending war, making peace with nature, and developing wellness for humanity*.
- Sandy provides [programs](#) for schools, libraries, and organizations in person and on Zoom in personal development, communications and relationships, and social and global development for peace and sustainability.
- He worked locally, nationally, and globally developing organizations, projects, and programs for peace, the environment, health, human services, education, and the arts.
- He helps seniors, adults, teens, and children reach their full potential and enjoy life more.
- Sandy was director of *Community Partners for Coordinated Services* for *Suffolk Community Council*, and executive director of the *Dix Hills Performing Arts Center* for 14 years.
- He is author of [7 Keys to Love – Opening Love’s Door to Joy & Wellbeing](#).
- He initiated the *Concert for the Earth* with Paul Winter for the *UN Environment Program* held in the United Nations General Assembly on World Environment Day, June 5th, 1984.
- He created *Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity* in 2014, proposing 10% global military reductions, now being proposed for *Mutually Assured Survival*.
- Sandy is the founder of [Wisocracy](#).

References

"Sandy's whole-systems thinking is empowering and enlightening. I would recommend any educational materials he creates as of superior value."

Meg Rivers

Senior Production Specialist at HBO / HBO Max

Sandy Hinden is a very exceptional human being entirely devoted to a better, ideal world. I have known him for more than 30 years. He constantly inspired me for my work and efforts at the United Nations. He had ceaseless great ideas. He encouraged me to not give up. I would be so happy see him in charge of a major newspaper section on good news and happiness for the people. He would be very precious for a major philanthropic organization, especially one dealing internationally. I would support his candidacy with the highest terms.

Dr. Robert Muller (1923-2010)

Former UN Assistant Secretary General

Cofounder, UN University for Peace, Costa Rica

"Sandy is an inspirational actionist! He is not afraid to ask the tough questions and explore heartfelt responses to them. The ones that have to do with how we got into this mess as humanity, and what it's going to take for us to get out of it. His wealth of experience and human kindness, combined with political savvy and collaborative working style, make learning with and from him an enriching experience, and always a joy."

Alexander Laszlo

Global Systems Educator

"Sanford Hinden is one of the most humane, compassionate, loving human beings I have ever met. He speaks and acts from deep wisdom about what people need – and what the world needs now. I trust him and have learned immensely from him."

Ronald Gross

**Founder/Director, Conversations New York
Co-chair, University Seminar on Innovation,
Columbia University**



Strengthening Communities through Community Investment

Sanford Hinden