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SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES  
**CASE WESTERN RESERVE**  
UNIVERSITY

National Initiative on  
Mixed-Income Communities



 **NOV 2021 | NEWS YOU CAN USE**

**Woodhill Homes Groundbreaking in Cleveland**

On October 29th, NIMC joined HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge, Senator Sherrod Brown and many local leaders at the [groundbreaking of the Woodhill Homes](#), marking the official beginning of the #WoodhillUpNext transformation. Woodhill Station West is the first phase of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative redevelopment in Cleveland, Ohio. NIMC Founding Director, Dr. Mark Joseph ended his remarks on the momentous occasion with this message:



*As we turn these shovels in the ground,*

*Let this be a turning point from waiting to action.*

*Let this be a turning point from isolation to connectedness and social cohesion.*

*Let this be a turning point from stigma to respect.*

*Let this be a turning point from trauma to healing.*

*Let this be a turning point from the racial wrongs of the past  
to the racial justice of the future.*

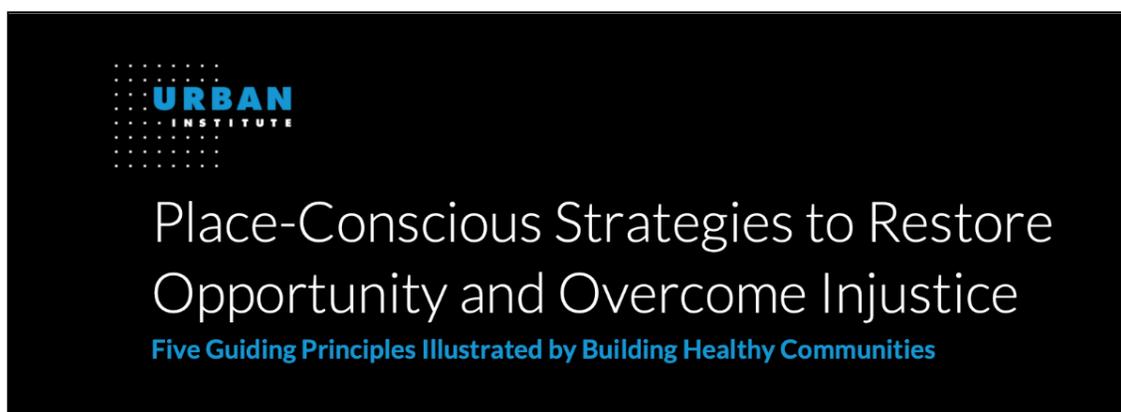
*Let this be a moment to recognize and to build on the assets,  
the strengths, the resilience and the talent that exists right now in the  
Woodhill community and that has always existed in the Woodhill community!*

- Dr. Mark Joseph, NIMC Founding Director

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## WHAT WE ARE READING



**ARTICLE: Place-Conscious Strategies to Restore Opportunity and Overcome Injustice: Five Guiding Principles Illustrated by Building Healthy Communities**

Our colleagues at the Urban Institute published this timely and [compelling article](#) based on analysis of the experiences from The California Endowment's [Building Healthy Communities](#) 10-year initiative. Place-conscious strategies should:

1. Confront racism

2. Build resident voice and power
3. Work both horizontally and vertically
4. Plan for residential mobility, and
5. Commit to accountability and continuous learning

The place-conscious strategies discussed by the authors Margery Austin Turner and Mica O'Brien resonate with our research and experiences and inspire us to continue to bring these lessons to the projects we are working on now and in the future.

### **BOOK: What Works to Promote Inclusive, Equitable Mixed-Income Communities**

Our volume of essays is now in a bound book! If you'd like a copy of the [What Works to Promote Inclusive, Equitable Mixed-Income Communities](#) book, The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco is generously providing the books for free - you only need to pay for shipping (\$7.99). To obtain your copies, call the CWRU bookstore at 216-368-2650 and speak to Ann or Sarah. Email us at [nimcinfo@case.edu](mailto:nimcinfo@case.edu) if you have any questions.

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## WHO INSPIRES US

### **Trek Development Group: Buildings + People = A Better Community**

Property managers play a critical role in fostering an inclusive community. It's a challenging role that goes well beyond "managing" "property". How can we better define and name the role? Check out this [article](#) by our colleague Frankie Blackburn from Trusted Space Partners to learn about some of the work she's done with [Trek Development](#) in transforming the company's approach to development, property management, and resident engagement.

Together, they developed the Hospitality Covenant (image below) to reflect their shared commitment to mutual kindness and respect by everyone on site including residents and Trek Development staff ranging from janitors to the CEO. This aspirational and vigilant approach to community building is transformative.

**Recommended Follow Up Reading:** [A Call for Property Management Transformation To Meet the Challenges of Mixed-Income Communities](#)

[Let's get rid of the words "Property" and "Manager"](#)



**WE PLEDGE TO:**

 **Treat everyone with the kindness we all want**

 **Do our own part to take care of the place where we live and work**

 **Take the time to help each other achieve our goals and aspirations.**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Here are some daily practices that help us live out the Hospitality Covenant. We invite you to join us in these and to consider other ways that we can collectively bring this life.



We speak to every person we pass by with a smile and a greeting



We take initiative to go beyond what is necessary or required.

We actively look for positive solutions in every situation

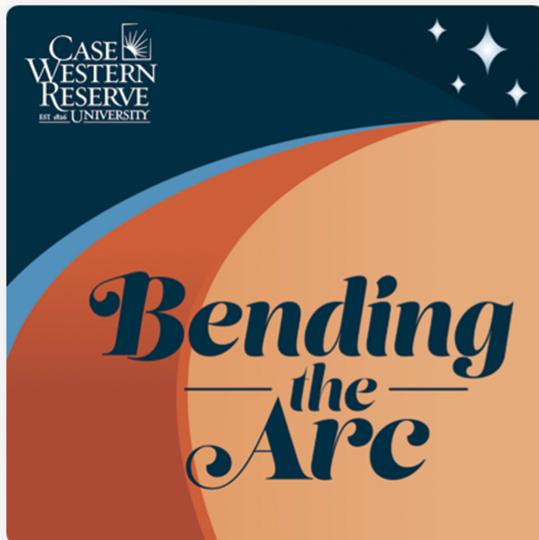


We pause to listen & understand without acting upon a snap judgement

We ask questions to learn new perspectives and reveal new ideas to recurring problems



 **WORTH A LISTEN**



**PODCAST**

Thinking about building inclusive communities across lines of difference? Seeking to address racial disparities in education or tackling a pervasive issue in your neighborhood? For inspiration, listen to our Bending The Arc podcast with [Frankie Blackburn](#) and [Bill Traynor](#) of [Trusted Space Partners](#) to learn more about community

network building, a highly effective way to strengthen relationships and build social support across lines of difference.

If you're seeking insights into how the Biden Administration may be thinking about their housing policy priorities, listen to Salin Geevarghese (our featured team member, below) and his [perspectives on lessons learned](#) from the Obama Administration's efforts to advance place-based strategies.

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## MEET THE TEAM

Salin Geevarghese, long-time and close-in partner, is the [President & CEO of SGG Insight](#), LLC, a consulting firm offering comprehensive services to public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic sector leaders and organizations. Salin is the co-lead with NIMC on supporting Washington Housing Conservancy's [Social Impact Strategies](#). He also serves as Senior Fellow at the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#)



([CSSP](#)) and was the founding Director of the Mixed-Income Strategic Alliance and its Innovation and Action Network.

The Mixed-Income Strategic Alliance was a collaboration of CSSP, NIMC and [Urban Strategies](#), Inc. (USI) (USI) which has helped design and launch the [Choice Neighborhoods Community of Practice](#) led by USI and recently funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. April 2014 to January 2017, Geevarghese served in a senior appointed leadership post as HUD's Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of International and Philanthropic Innovation (within the Office of Policy Development and Research) during the Administration of President Barack Obama.

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## WORTH CELEBRATING!

NIMC is celebrating our **8-year anniversary** on November 7th. In traditional NIMC style, we will mark the occasion with good food and a discussion about the Urban Institute article mentioned above. As a center, we are expanding our emphasis on advancing healing-centered, anti racist approaches in the field of housing and community development and continually seek opportunities to sharpen our thinking and approach.

NIMC staff were honored to receive the **Think Big Award** on October 5 from Case Western Reserve University for achieving social impact in mixed-income communities and actively forging meaningful partnerships and deploying impactful research far beyond the campus.



*Pictured from left to right President Eric Kaler, Taryn Gress, Debbie Wilber, Dawn Ellis, Mark Joseph, Richard Rodems, Provost Ben Vinson III*

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## ❤️ THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IS NOW

Last month nearly 40 former staff of HUD, including [NIMC Advisory Committee](#) member [Lynn Ross](#) and close partner [Salin Geevarghese](#) sent a letter urging President Biden, Majority Leader Schumer, and Speaker Pelosi to maintain House-passed funding levels for housing in the Build Back Better Act. The National Coalition for Housing Justice [shared the letter here](#). The letter outlines the need to preserve and produce affordable housing to decrease racial disparities caused by historic and current racist housing practices and generations of community disinvestment. Priorities include expanding the Housing Choice Voucher program, investing in the National Housing Trust Fund, the HOME Program, and making investments in repairs to public housing. For more on housing priorities read the [The Housing Playbook Project](#) produced by [Community Change](#) in January 2021 with input and support from those who signed this recent letter.

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# **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences is hiring. Come work with us and the next generation of change agents! Apply here:

<https://case.edu/socialwork/about/current-opportunities/staff-opportunities>

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## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION



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