

City of Bloomington Common Council

Legislative Packet – Second Addendum

(Issued on Wednesday, 21 July 2021)

Wednesday, 21 July 2021

Regular Session - 6:30 pm

For a schedule of upcoming meetings of the Council and the City's boards and commissions, please consult the City's [Calendar](#).



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

2021 Community Survey Results

Prepared by:





Civic Communication & Analytics Platform

Smarter, better connected communities. A civic surveying, policy polling, and constituent communication tech platform.



Advanced Survey Science & Performance Analytics

Data insights to help communities move forward. The premiere provider of professional civic surveys and performance benchmarking analyses.

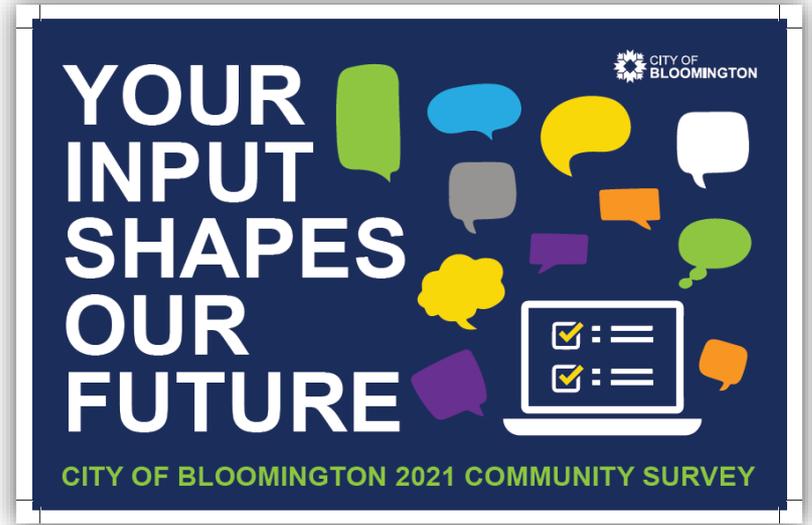
Questions about our product?

Visit www.polco.us to learn more

Exclusive partners of:



Survey Methods



Surveys mailed
to 3,000
households

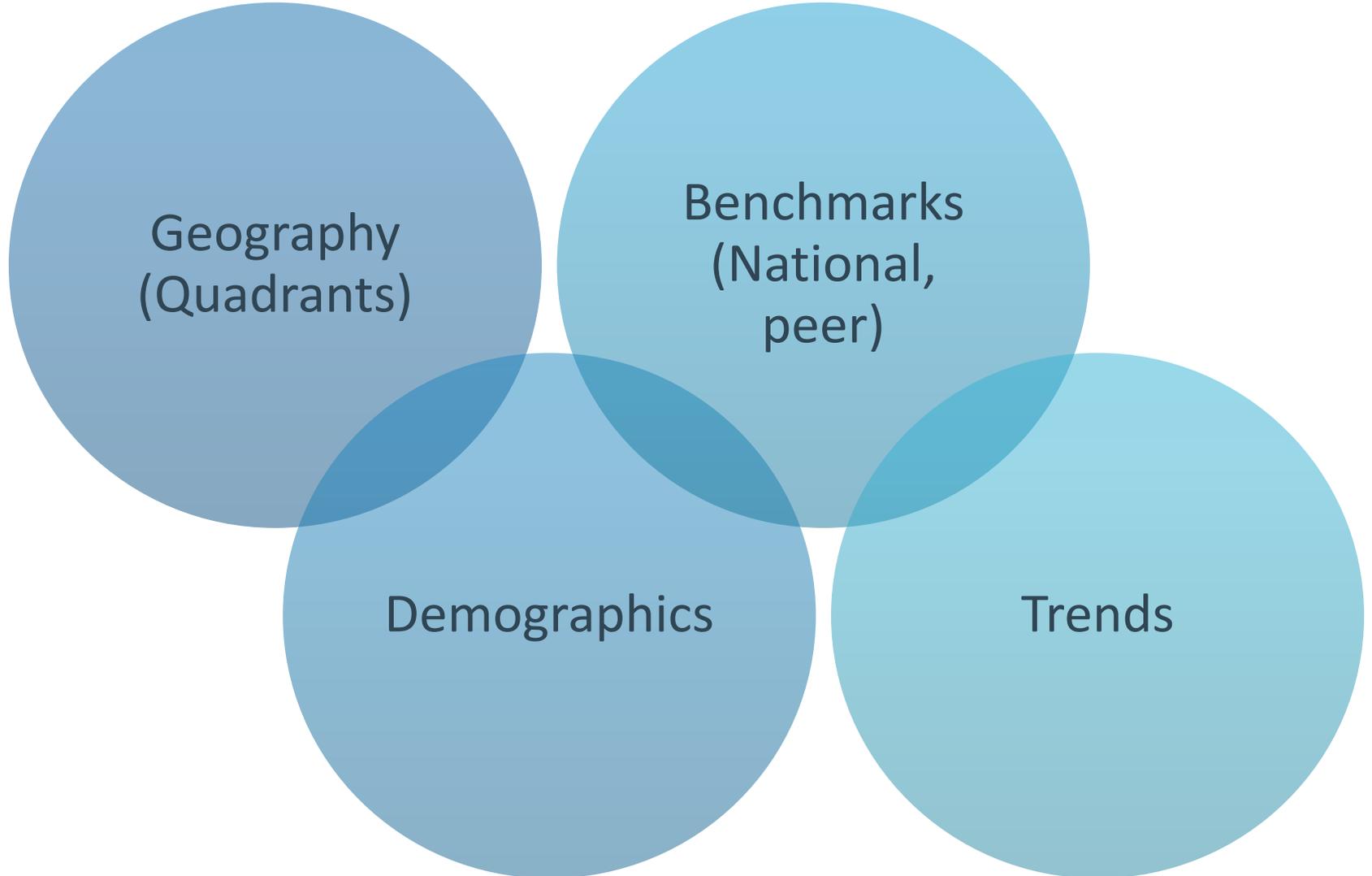
527 completed
(19%)

$\pm 4\%$
margin of error

Results weighted
to reflect the
community

Survey Results

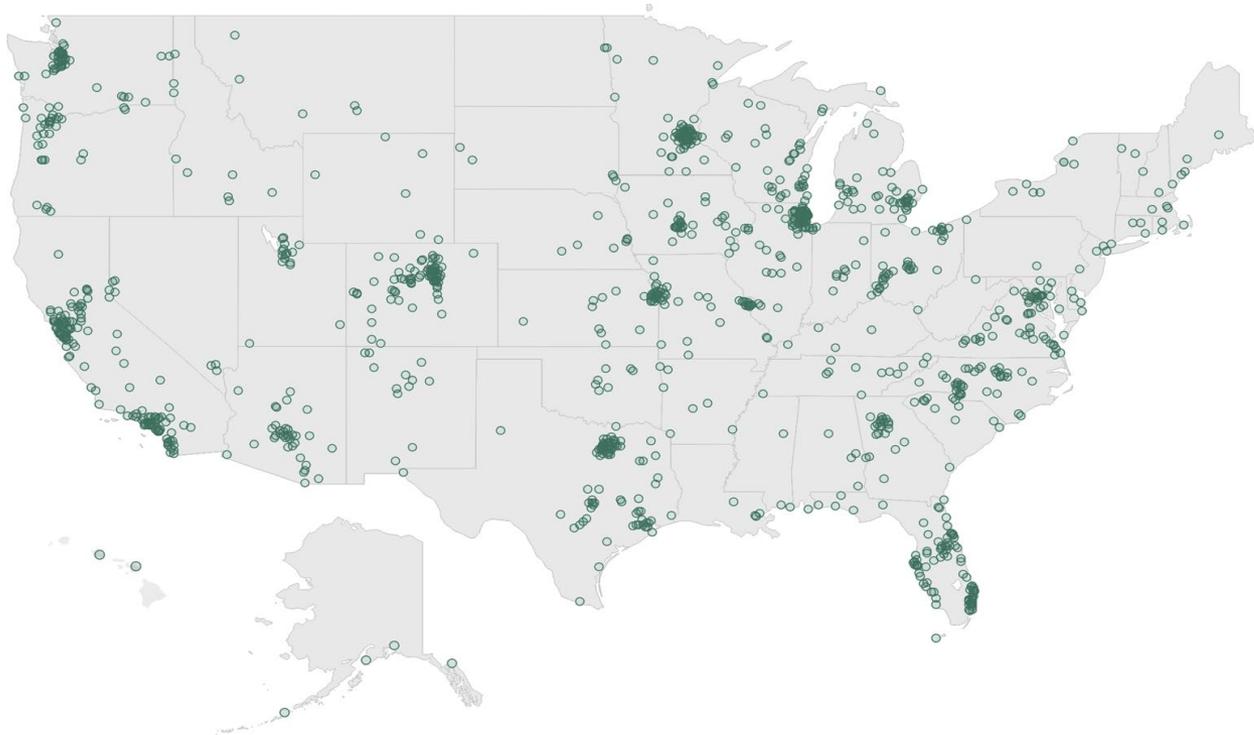
Results are presented by...



National Benchmark Communities

More than **500** comparison communities across the nation.

Representing the opinions of more than **50 million** residents.



Peer Benchmark Communities

N=27



Ann Arbor, MI
Asheville, NC
Austin, TX
Battle Creek, MI
Bloomington, MN
Boulder, CO
Bowling Green, KY
Cedar Rapids, IA
Chapel Hill, NC
Chattanooga, TN
College Station, TX
Dayton, OH
Des Moines, IA
Estes Park, CO
Fayetteville, NC
Fort Collins, CO
Grand Rapids, MI
Independence, IA
Iowa City, IA
Kalamazoo, MI
Lynchburg, VA
Manhattan, KS
Oshkosh, WI
Overland Park, KS
South Bend, IN
St. Cloud, MN
State College, PA

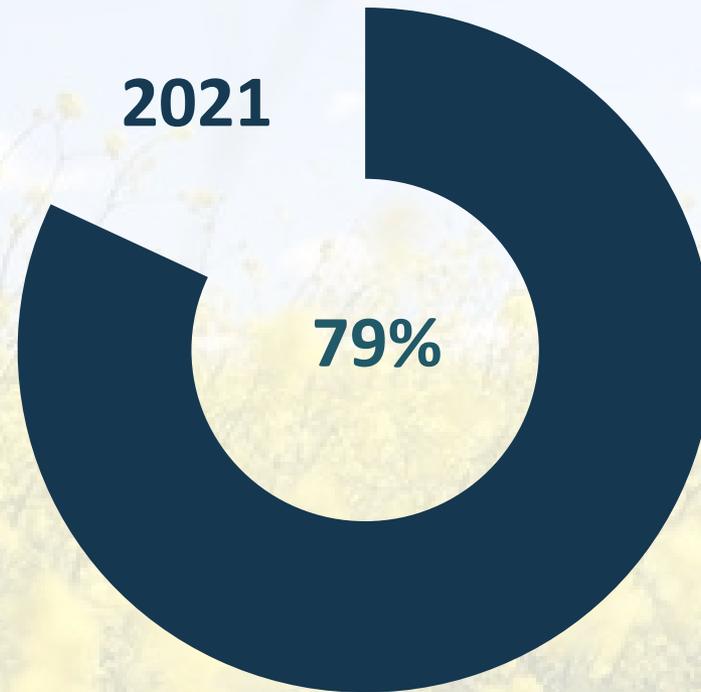
Key Finding #1

Overall, Bloomington residents continue to have a positive quality of life.



Perceptions of Life in Bloomington

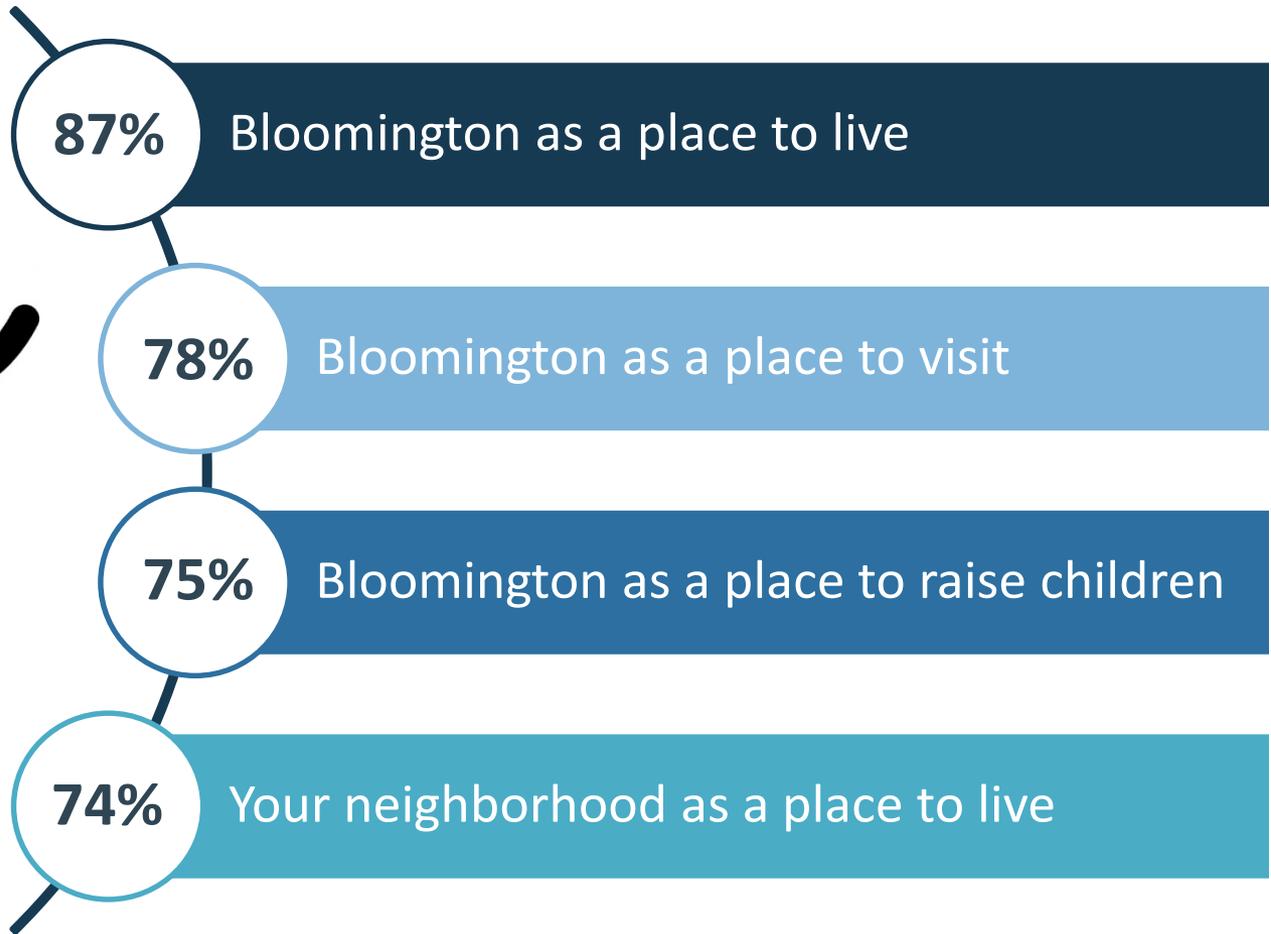
— Overall Quality of Life —



Percent excellent/good



Perceptions of Community Quality





Resident Loyalty

81%

Recommend
living in
Bloomington

60%

Plan to
remain in
Bloomington

Percent very likely/somewhat likely



Perceptions of Community Care and Acceptance

6 in **10**

positively rated

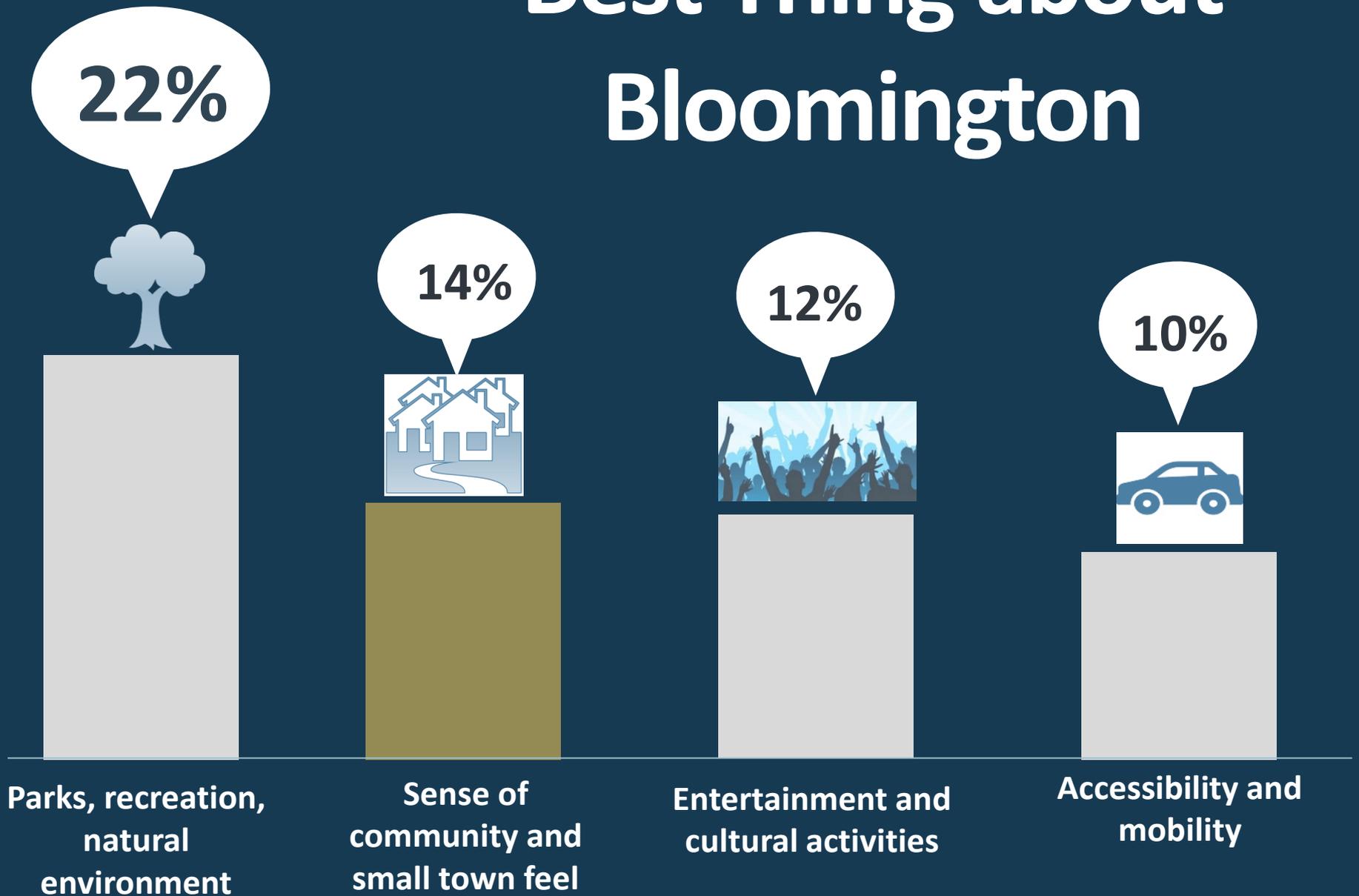
Making all residents feel welcome

Attracting people from diverse backgrounds

Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds

Percent excellent/good

Best Thing about Bloomington



Key Finding #2

Residents feel safe in the community overall, yet police interactions may be an area of focus.



Perceptions of Safety in Bloomington

72% of residents
positively rated their
overall feeling of safety in Bloomington

During the Day

At Night

In neighborhood

94%

75%

In downtown

92%

60%

Percent excellent/good or very safe/somewhat safe



Feelings of Safety

85%

From fire,
flood, or other
natural
disaster

74%

From violent
crime

62%

From property
crime

Percent very safe/somewhat safe

Perceptions of Safety Services

91%



Fire services

87%



Ambulance/EMS

76%

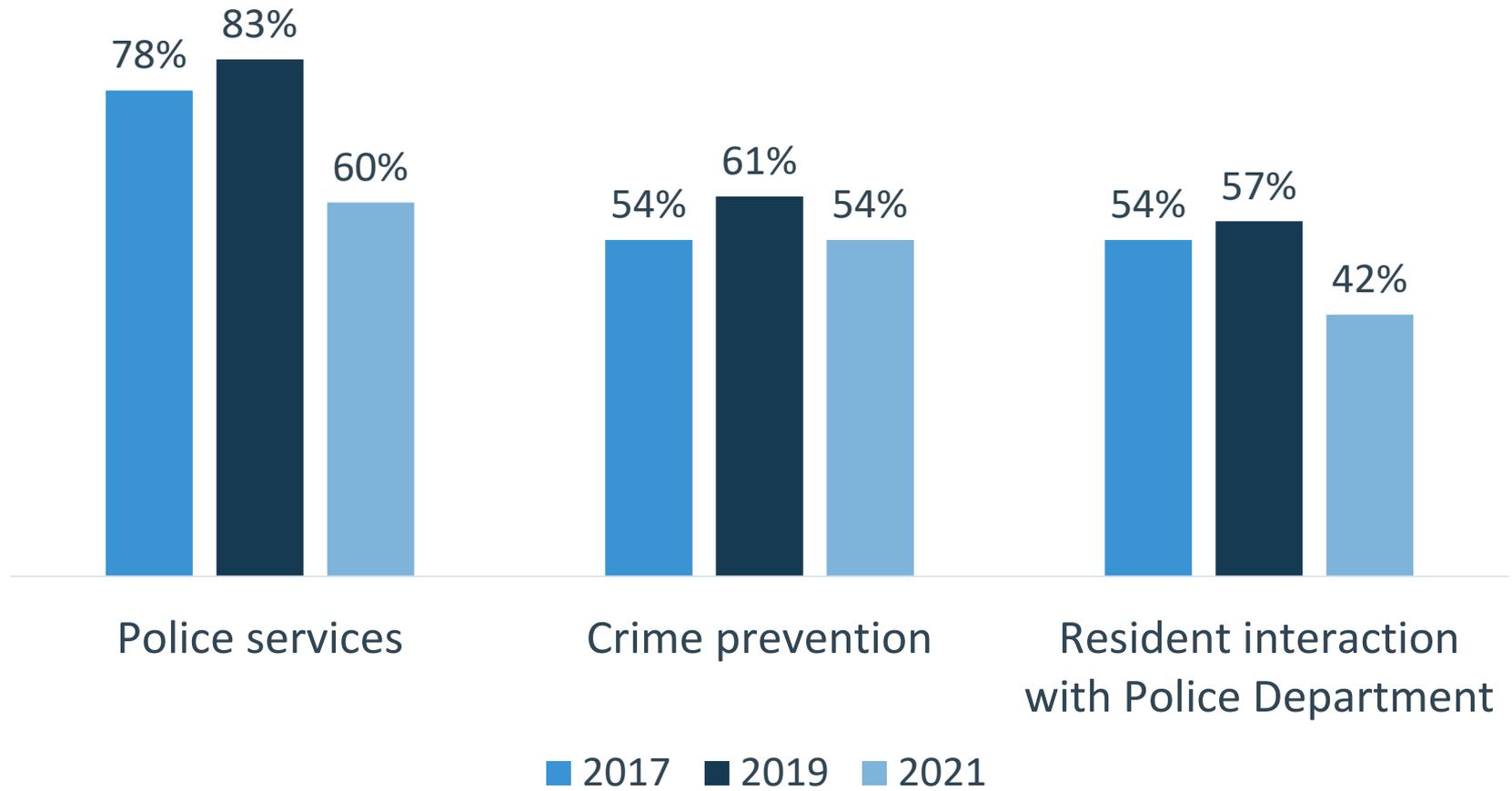


Fire prevention
and education

Percent excellent/good



Declines in Safety Services



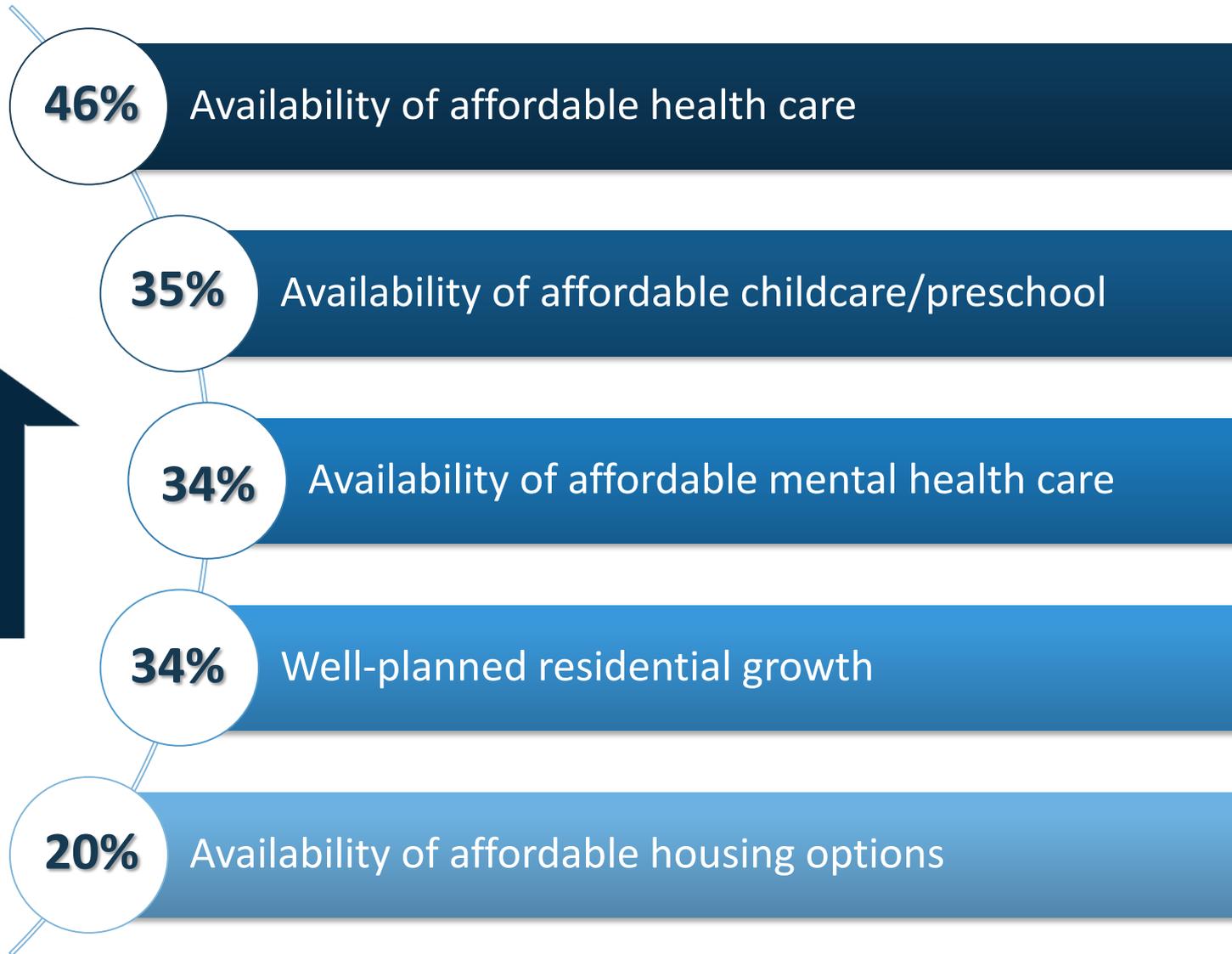
Percent excellent/good

Key Finding #3

Residents have concerns about housing and affordability.



Perceptions of Housing and Affordability





Declines in Housing and Affordability

	2019	2021
Variety of housing options	48%	40%
Availability of affordable childcare/preschool	41%	35%
Availability of affordable mental health care	44%	34%
Cost of living	43%	33%
Overall development of a variety of housing options in downtown	44%	32%
Availability of affordable housing options	27%	20%

Percent excellent/good



Liked Least About Bloomington

10%

Affordable
housing

4%

Lack of job
opportunities, economic
vitality, cost of living

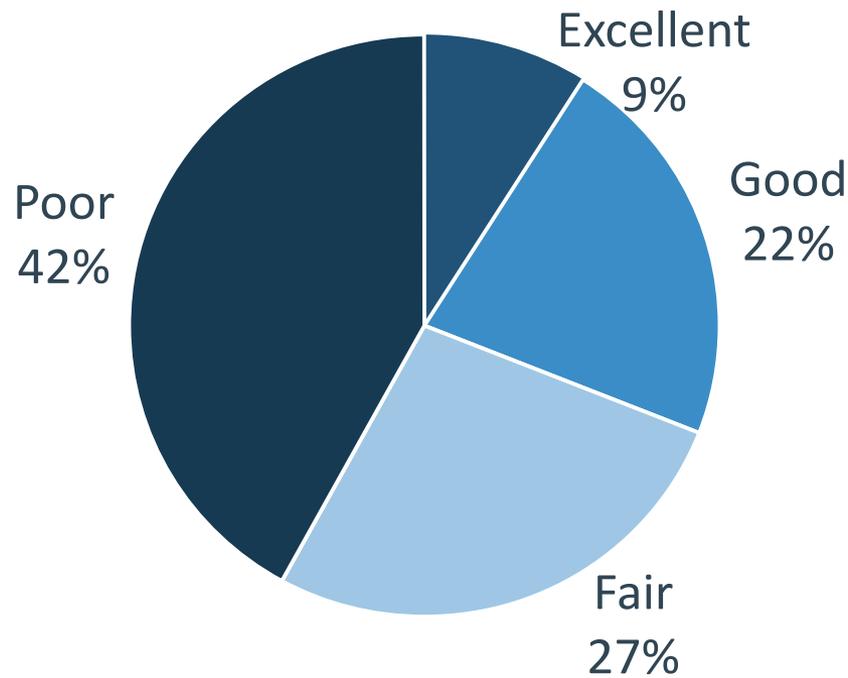


Key Finding #4

Addressing homelessness is an increasing priority for residents.



Taking Care of Vulnerable Residents



Liked Least About Bloomington

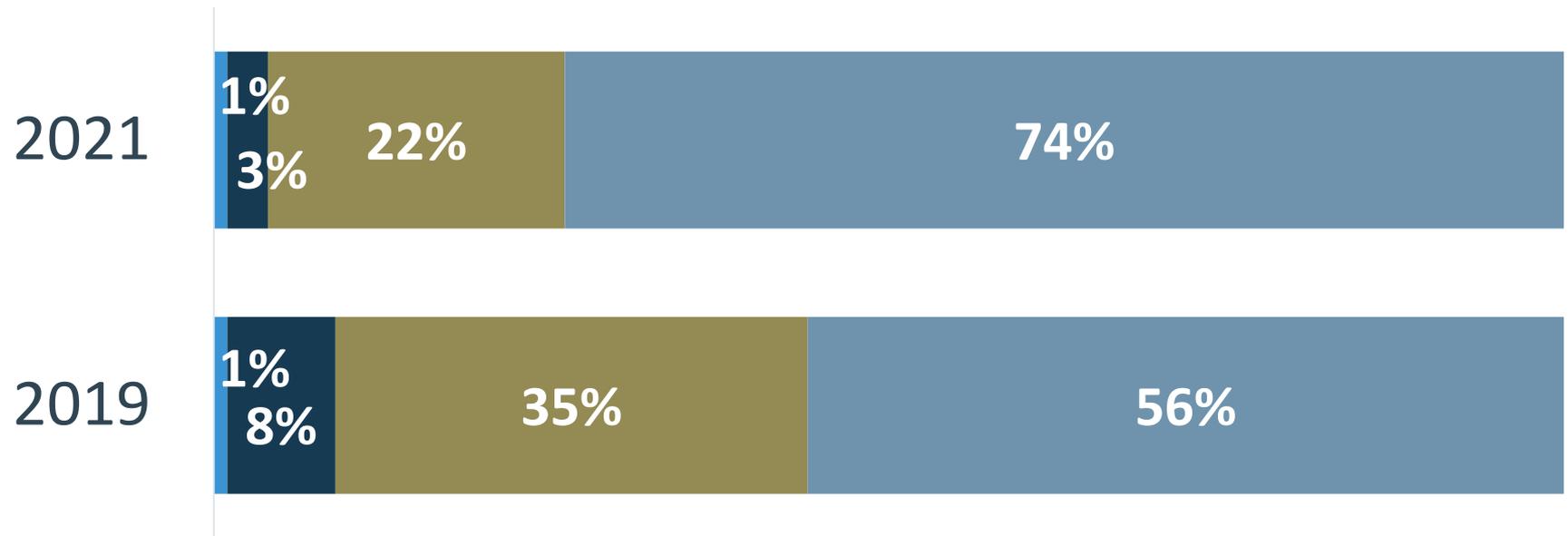
29%
Homelessness





Perceptions of Homelessness in Bloomington

To what degree, if at all, do you think homelessness is a challenge in the City of Bloomington?



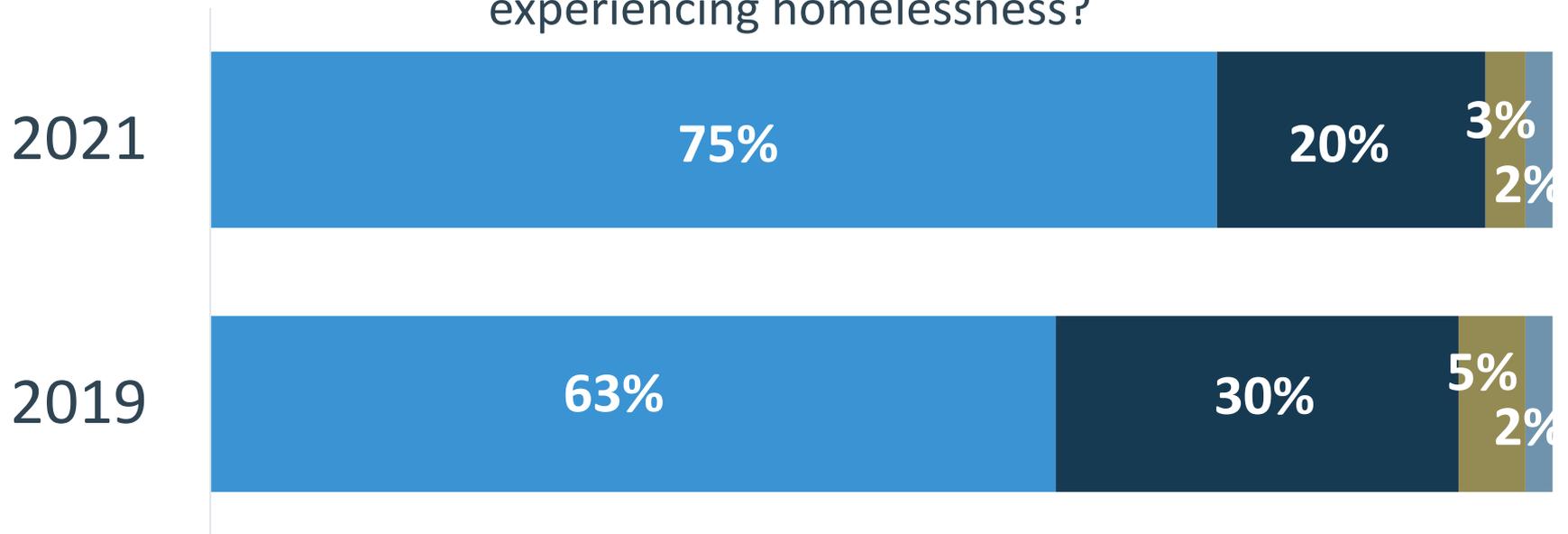
■ Not a challenge ■ Minor challenge ■ Moderate challenge ■ Major challenge



Support for Assistance for Homelessness



To what extent do you support or oppose the City assisting supportive housing for residents who are experiencing homelessness?



■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose

Key Finding #5

Government performance ratings declined in 2021, highlighting opportunities for improvements and better connections with residents.

Perceptions of Overall Quality of Services Provided by the City

80% - 2017



77% - 2019



73% - 2021



Perceptions of Government Performance

Half or more positively rated:

- Value of services for the taxes paid to the City
- Overall direction that the City is taking
- The job City government does at welcoming citizen involvement

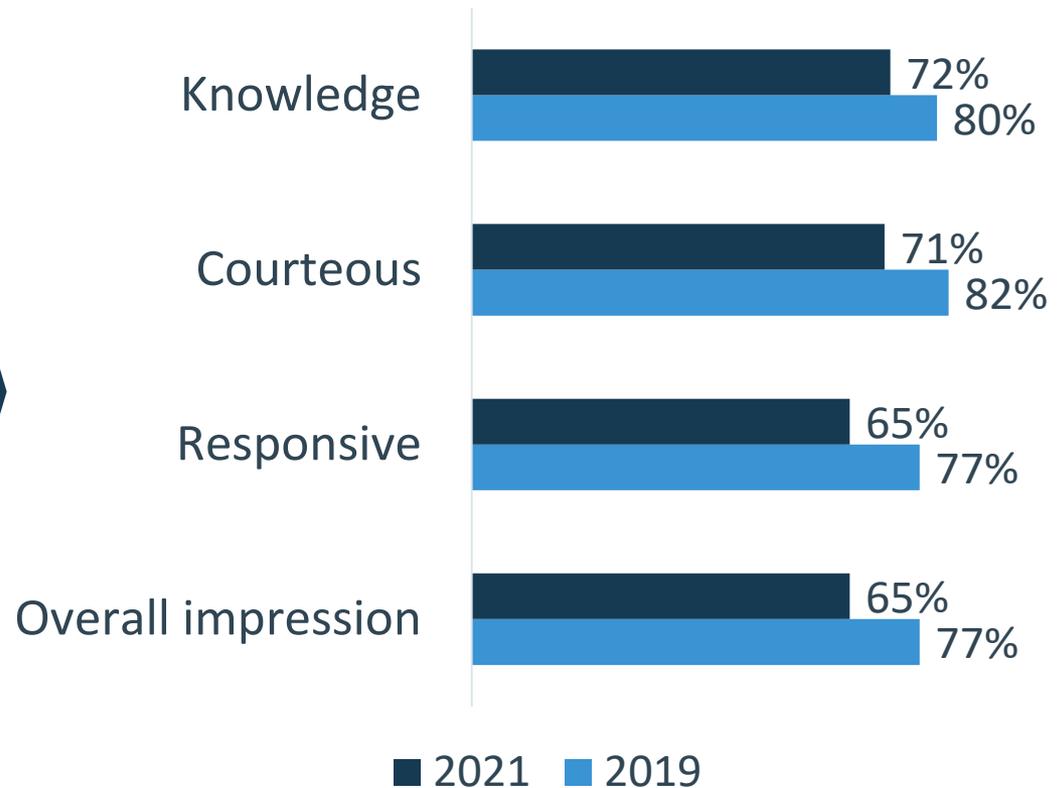
Less than half positively rated:

- Generally acting in the best interest of the community
- Treating residents with respect
- Overall confidence in City government
- Informing residents about issues facing the community
- Being honest/transparent
- Treating all residents fairly
- Listening to public concern



Perceptions of Contact with Bloomington Staff

4 in **10**
Had contacted
Bloomington staff



Percent yes or excellent/good

Key Finding #6

Education, arts, and culture
contribute to quality of life in
Bloomington.



Perceptions of Community Characteristics

At least **8** in **10** residents positively rated...

Community support for the arts

Overall opportunities for education and enrichment

Adult educational opportunities

Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities

Percent at excellent/good



Best Thing About Bloomington

12%

Entertainment and
cultural activities

7%

Access to educational
opportunities



Percent excellent/good

Follow up with Polco

Don't let the community input and dialogue conclude with the survey. On Polco you can continue to engage with residents.

Share new questions through social media, email, in-person events, local media, and other channels as appropriate. Engage with your online community panel to:

- Ask follow-up questions to your community survey. Questions can include images (maps, pictures, and video) in addition to links to better inform respondents.
- Ask about hot topics and new policy issues as they arise



Questions?

Thank you!

Damema Mann

Director of National Engagement

Polco's National Research Center

Prepared by:





INTERNATIONAL MAKING CITIES LIVABLE CONFERENCE

Carmel, Indiana – June 2021

What is IMCL?

- **Mission:** To improve social and physical health, enhance well-being, strengthen community resilience, and increase equity and civic participation, by sharing effective tools and practices for reshaping the built environments of our cities, suburbs and towns.
- Founded in 1985 by Henry and Suzanne Lennard
- Brings together architects, urban planners, mayors and other elected city leaders, developers, scholars, and economic development experts



Main themes for 2021

- Retrofitting suburbia
- Lessons from the pandemic
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Urban revitalization
- Reimagining public space
- Healthy cities



Lessons from the pandemic

- Importance of foot traffic to urban commercial areas
 - Financial hit during lock-down
 - Increase in crime likely related to fewer eyes on the street
- Increased importance of the street as public sphere
 - More people walking in neighborhoods and interacting from a distance outside
 - Roads blocked off for outdoor dining and retail in commercial areas
 - Parking spaces became less valuable for cars, more valuable as shared space
- Loneliness led to people placing a higher value on interaction in public spaces
- Showed the importance of connectivity, both human and infrastructure

When you start to walk on the street and hang out on the street and sidewalk, it builds trust. You are no longer suspicious of people you don't know walking in your neighborhood. --
*paraphrased from Vikas Mehta, author of **The Street: A Quintessential Social Public Space***

Addressing climate change

- An essential element of livability is walkability. More walking > less driving > reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Redevelopment of big box retail and mall spaces (including strip malls) for residential uses, with green space reclamation included.
- Transit-oriented development
- Increased residential density
 - Missing middle housing
 - Allowing more people to live in each house
 - ADUs
- Improving connectivity in the suburbs
- Connection between development and equity, for example reclaiming polluted post-industrial sites in minority communities

Advice for public input

- Input should be at the ground level, not just response to a proposal
- Listen first, don't presume that you first have to educate the public
- Ask people to bring their gifts to the table

- Put yourself on the same playing field as the community
- Walk with community members on the site
- Emphasize commonality of place



Prof. David Brain, New College Florida



Prof. Vikas Mehta, University of Cincinnati

Case Studies included:

- Assembly Square, **Somerville, MA**: Reclaiming big box stores and parking lots for the street grid
- Ensley Neighborhood, **Birmingham, AL**: Road diet and “tactical urbanism” in minority neighborhood
- Madison Square Mall redevelopment, **Huntsville, AL**: Amphitheater and park space
- Maring-Hunt Library Community Gardens, **Muncie, IN**: Created community garden with kitchen to grow local food in a food desert
- **Carmel, IN**: Various projects funded through TIF including performing arts center, Arts & Design District, city center, etc.



Ellen Dunham-Jones,
Co-Author of
Retrofitting Suburbia

Quotes (may be paraphrased)

- Public space is not a resource exhausted by shared use but constituted by the quality and character of the sharing. – David Brain
- The pandemic saw increased agency of individuals, while the agency of local governments and community entities decreased. – Vikas Mehta
- Public space is the connective tissue of cities. – Setha Low
- What's worse than gentrification? No gentrification. – John Hans Guilderbloom

Conclusion

- Great experience
- Somewhat “preaching to the choir”
- Always a question of funding

Questions?



Maring-Hunt Library Community Gardens, Muncie