

SCHOOL OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC POLICY
**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT (HCD)
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**
2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The HCD Fellowship program is funded by the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development and facilitated by the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy (SUAPP) at the University of Memphis. The competitive program places highly qualified graduate students with government and nonprofit agencies and organizations that are leading community development efforts in Memphis. The program seeks to support the work of selected placement agencies while enhancing the education of selected student fellows. Selected students are paired with a placement agency, where they work for 20 hours per week.

Agency Eligibility

Placement agencies are selected based on the following criteria:

- Appropriateness of agency mission
- Demonstrated and potential ability to improve quality of life for Memphis neighborhoods and residents
- Connection to priority areas/neighborhoods of the Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development
- Clarity of the proposed fellowship scope of work and focus

Student Eligibility

Full-time graduate students in Anthropology, City and Regional Planning, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Public Administration and Social Work are eligible to apply. Students are selected based on their academic and professional promise and their potential to contribute to selected placement agencies.



HISTORICAL HCD FELLOWSHIP PARTNER AGENCIES

- ▶ Behavioral Health Initiatives
- ▶ Behavioral Health Initiatives
- ▶ Binghamton CDC
- ▶ BLDG Memphis
- ▶ Blight Authority of Memphis, Inc.
- ▶ Center for Transforming Communities
- ▶ City of Memphis Chief Administrator's Office
- ▶ City of Memphis Division of Parks and Neighborhoods
- ▶ City of Memphis Youth Services
- ▶ Clayborn Reborn
- ▶ Clean Memphis
- ▶ Community LIFT
- ▶ Cooper Young CDC
- ▶ Frayser CDC
- ▶ Freeman Outreach Center
- ▶ Gestalt Community Schools
- ▶ Goodwill Homes Community Services, Inc.
- ▶ Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
- ▶ Grow Memphis
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity
- ▶ Hospitality Hub of Memphis
- ▶ Keep Tennessee Beautiful
- ▶ Knowledge Quest
- ▶ Latino Memphis
- ▶ Lead Hazard Control - Shelby County Housing
- ▶ Mayor's Innovation Development Team
- ▶ Memphis Area Legal Services
- ▶ Memphis Center for Independent Living
- ▶ Memphis City Schools
- ▶ Memphis Heritage
- ▶ Memphis Landmarks Commission
- ▶ Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development
- ▶ Methodist Le Bonheur Community Outreach
- ▶ Midtown Memphis Development Corporation
- ▶ Neighborhood Preservation, Inc.
- ▶ Pigeon Roost CDC
- ▶ Refugee Empowerment Program
- ▶ Shelby Farms Conservancy
- ▶ Shelby Residential Vocational Services
- ▶ South Memphis Alliance
- ▶ St. Patrick's Community Center
- ▶ Strengthening Communities Initiative
- ▶ The Heights CDC
- ▶ The Works, Inc.
- ▶ Tigers Initiative for Gardens in Urban Settings
- ▶ United Campus Workers
- ▶ United Housing, Inc.
- ▶ United Way
- ▶ University Neighborhoods Development Corporation

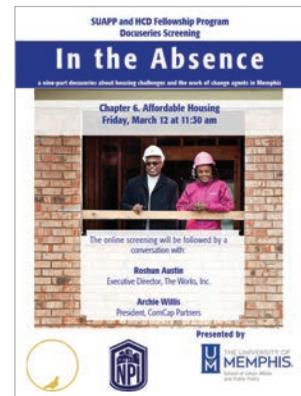
ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP FOCUS

As part of this curriculum, HCD Fellows participate in monthly student summits that highlight a range of topics from year to year. This year, students explored the theme of affordable housing by participating in online screenings of the nine-part docuseries, *In the Absence*. Following the work of local community development organizations, like Neighborhood Preservation, Inc., The Works, Inc., and Knowledge Quest, *In the Absence* shines a spotlight on Memphis' severe housing challenges which have been exacerbated by disinvestment and the lingering effects of the 2009 foreclosure crisis. Filmed over a two-year period, the docuseries also celebrates the successes of change agents working on individual, organizational, and community levels to combat blight, redlining and persistent housing inequality.

Following each viewing session, Fellows engaged in dynamic conversations with guest panelists who offered their insights into various aspects of the docuseries and ongoing efforts to address the housing crisis in Memphis. Through this experience, Fellows learned about the history of housing in the city, the collaborative projects taking place among various interest groups to address issues, and how they can get involved by being future leaders and active participants in housing and community development.

Participating panelists included:

- ▶ Joe Schilling, Senior Research Associate with The Urban Institute
- ▶ Imani Jasper, Program Manager for Neighborhood Preservation Inc.
- ▶ Danny Schaffzin, Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Neighborhood Preservation Clinic at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law
- ▶ Steve Barlow, Executive Director of Neighborhood Preservation Inc.
- ▶ Brittany Williams, Code Enforcement Prosecutor for the City of Memphis
- ▶ Jeffery Higgs, Executive Director of the South Memphis Renewal Community Development Corporation & LeMoyné-Owen College Community Development Corporation
- ▶ Roshun Austin, Executive Director of The Works CDC
- ▶ Melanie Neal, Senior Administrator of Neighborhood Improvement with the City of Memphis
- ▶ Jacquelyn Scruggs, Program Manager with Knowledge Quest
- ▶ Marlon Foster, Executive Director of Knowledge Quest





2019-20 HCD FELLOWSHIP
PLACEMENT AGENCIES



Green & Healthy
Homes Initiative®



2019-20 FELLOWSHIP SUMMARIES



Lydia Babcock

Graduate Program: **Anthropology**

Placement Agency: **United Housing**

United Housing (UHI) is a nonprofit affordable housing agency that serves the City of Memphis, Shelby County and West Tennessee. UHI targets its services to families that are underserved by the traditional homeownership industry. United Housing provides quality housing opportunities to Mid-South residents through financial education, mortgage lending, home building and renovation, and creative partnerships with public, private and nonprofit entities. As of 2017, UHI has helped more than 8,000 families, with more than a \$500 million impact on Memphis and the Mid-South, and continues its efforts in serving families who are underserved by the traditional homeownership industry.

Fellowship Focus

Lydia filled several roles throughout her time at UHI working across departments to help fill in gaps where needed, while also creating surveys, analyzing data, assisting with grant writing and other administrative tasks. Lydia also interviewed clients to both share their stories and evaluate how programs can be improved based on clients' experiences. Additionally, Lydia worked on the policy advocacy campaign for the Memphis Housing Affordable Trust Fund. .

"This fellowship has allowed me to attend national phone calls on emergency housing relief during the pandemic and work with individuals creating real change in their communities. Through this experience, I have been able to familiarize myself with local historical, political, and economic contexts surrounding housing inequities in Memphis."



UHI Staff Photo





Eslie Djemmal

Graduate Program: **Social Work**

Placement Agency: **Methodist Le Bonheur Community Outreach**

Memphis CHiLD is a medical legal partnership that Le Bonheur Children's Hospital provides for their families. Its mission is to assist families to address environmental and social barriers through the collaborative support of a licensed social worker, lawyers, UofM law students and Le Bonheur medical professionals. The vision of Memphis CHiLD is to provide support and information about the rights that each Le Bonheur family has when addressing an environmental and social barrier of the health and well-being of low-income children and families.

Fellowship Focus

Eslie's focus was on the housing needs of families receiving care for a family member at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital who also have a legal case relevant to housing. She worked on a range of assignments, such as helping families relocate, providing referrals for funding, assisting with utility burdens, networking with property managers and owners, preventing evictions by property owners, working with code enforcers, data tracking on housing issues, attending case meetings and conducting client intake and follow up assessments for housing intervention. Eslie's major projects included a weekly newsletter and updating a city-wide property owner and manager database for accommodating clients' housing needs.

"This fellowship allowed me to recognize the importance of social workers in the role of housing stabilization, as well as the impact of interprofessional work involved in a medical legal partnership."



Source: <https://www.methodisthealth.org/>





Reaghan Gough

Graduate Program: **Anthropology**

Placement Agency: **Center for Transforming Communities**

The Center for Transforming Communities (CTC) focuses on the cultural, economic, social, physical and municipal health of Shelby County's diverse neighborhoods. Neighborhood connectors transmit and archive voices of a neighborhood in order to initiate place-based community organizing. Through asset and arts-based community development and network organization, CTC aims to enact collective impact on public policy and culture through equitable collective practices.

Fellowship Focus

Reaghan's work at the CTC focused on the cultivation and analysis of residential and organizational data in order to maximize the efficiency of the data collection process. She worked closely with the agency's data and development coordinator to create a new log that CTC's connectors use in the field to capture both quantitative and qualitative data. This information is used to create a series of social network maps, asset maps and geographic information system (GIS) maps to visualize CTC's impact through social, economic and spatial measures.

"My experience with CTC enabled me to gain valuable methodological and collaborative skills in a supportive environment that connects people and organizations with the information and resources they need to be effective and thriving grassroots organizers."



Center for Transforming Communities Climate Action Event





Thomas Green

Graduate Program: **Public and Nonprofit Administration**

Placement Agency: **The Works, Inc.**

The Works, Inc. is a community development corporation serving South Memphis and the greater Memphis area. The organization is dedicated to the holistic renaissance of community through the provision of services in areas of housing, economic development, education and advocacy. The Works, Inc., partners with the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development to provide minor home repair services at no charge to low- and moderate-income homeowners who are 60 years of age and older and/or disabled. They focus on housing opportunities, Alpha Renaissance Apartments, homebuyer education counseling, credit counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, rental counseling, post-purchase counseling and minor home repairs.

Fellowship Focus

Thomas assisted the home-repair records department via documenting instrument numbers and deed classifications retrieved from the Shelby County Register. He conducted phone interviews with clients and documented their approval ratings and suggestions. He also assisted with the South Memphis Farmer's Market and participated in the South Memphis Glide Ride community bike events.



The Works Farmers Market and The Works Farmers Glide Ride Photos



Tyson Hair

Graduate Program: **City and Regional Planning**

Placement Agency: **Community LIFT**

The mission of Community LIFT is to accelerate revitalization of disinvested neighborhoods to create a thriving Memphis for all. Its goals are to revitalize distressed neighborhoods, build the human capacity of those in distressed neighborhoods, improve economic and residential vitality in distressed neighborhoods and improve the quality of life of citizens.

Fellowship Focus

During his time with Community LIFT, Ty worked on two small area plans in Uptown and South City. This experience helped him to understand better what the planning process looks like when it is done by community organizations and not primarily led by city government.

“My work with Community LIFT helped me realize the role that community development corporations play in the communities where they are located.”





Charles Layne

Graduate Program: **City and Regional Planning**

Placement Agency: **BLDG Memphis**

BLDG Memphis is a coalition of organizations and individuals who support the equitable redevelopment of healthy, vibrant, attractive and economically sustainable neighborhoods throughout Memphis. The organization accomplishes this through capacity-building partnerships with community development corporations across the city who are actively involved with a number of community development activities, such as developing affordable housing, counseling future homeowners, providing access to home ownership and improvement financing, improving public spaces and corridors, and improving access to healthy food. This capacity-building process includes an ongoing assessment of CDC capacity and robust programming efforts in the form of workshops, consultations and peer-learning sessions. Additionally, BLDG Memphis acts as the voice of the community development sector through regular communications and convenings designed to share sector successes and stories, while engaging residents in the community development dialogue. BLDG Memphis represents members at decision-making tables and works closely with public and private partners to plan, develop and track community improvements and policy initiatives.

Fellowship Focus

Charles had the opportunity to work on housing initiatives related to COVID-19 resiliency and recovery efforts. Notably, he was able to work closely on an advocacy campaign for reinvesting in the Memphis Affordable Housing Trust Fund — which was cut as a result of the fiscal impacts of the pandemic on the municipal budget. During his time with the organization, the city made a \$7.5 million designation for affordable housing in the Accelerate Memphis plan and has made plans to reallocate the \$1 million annual allocation to the Memphis Affordable Housing Trust Fund..

“My time with BLDG Memphis taught me how hard — and equally important — community development work is, and being able to study there throughout COVID-19 taught me that our cities cannot afford to respond and react to crises and disasters as they come, but rather we must plan for the places we call home proactively.”



BLDG Memphis Advertisement





Suzanna Marshall

Graduate Program: **City and Regional Planning; Anthropology**

Placement Agency: **Blight Authority of Memphis, Inc.**

Blight Authority of Memphis, Inc., (BAM), a Tennessee Local Land Bank, seeks to reduce the occurrence of blight and its symptoms that threaten the security, stability and growth of all Memphis neighborhoods. BAM aligns tools to address blight at its root. By working with neighbors, community organizations and developers, BAM intends to responsibly approach addressing the needs of the Memphis community in ways that may not be available to the government.

Fellowship Focus

Suzanna worked with the BAM to conduct property and policy research. Additionally, she developed the Adopt-A-Lot program that seeks to temporarily activate vacant lots by engaging the communities near them in ways that will benefit the neighborhood overall.

“Over the academic year, I have been able to work on policy creation and program development. Throughout my time at BAM, I was able to participate in different collaborative spaces across Memphis such as the E-Team and BEST.”



Blight Authority of Memphis Photos



DaNaysia Ross

Graduate Program: **Anthropology**

Placement Agency: **Green & Healthy Homes Initiative**

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) is dedicated to addressing the social determinants of health and the advancement of racial and health equity through the creation of healthy, safe and energy-efficient homes. By delivering a standard of excellence in its work, GHHI aims to eradicate the negative health impacts of unhealthy housing and unjust policies for children, seniors and families to ensure better health, economic and social outcomes for low-income communities of color.

Fellowship Focus

In collaboration with 20 local and state partners, DaNaysia managed the Master Home Environmentalists program, leading a team to address unhealthy and unsafe housing across the Mid-South.

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Via Zoom... Helping Maryland Communities obtain the resources needed to live in a Healthy Home.

JUNE 25TH
1:00PM - 2:30PM

Scan QR Code To Register >

<https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/1JULou2qgzou0KxATiv4DW5zeUe3Pyr7Ri>

Our Community Partners
Meeting the needs of individuals, families, and communities as we lift the voices of our community & advocate partners on resources for healthier childhoods and homes through education. The goal is to bring together awareness on programs available for healthier living.

Learn About.

- > Housing Programs
- > Asthma Trigger
- > Family Programs
- > Mental Health
- > Healthy Housing 101
- > Health Insurance

Register Today
Visit our website www.ghhi.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Fair





MEMPHIS.EDU/SUAPP

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