



# NEWS FROM THE CITY NEIGHBORS FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER 2022

*An update on the work of City Neighbors Foundation, our City Neighbors schools,  
and our work to impact public education everywhere*

## First Day Tradition



On the first day of school at all City Neighbors schools, each student receives a flower upon entering the school building. When they arrive in their classrooms, they place their flowers in a vase, creating a beautiful bouquet. Happy start to the 2022-2023 school year!

## Welcome, Mayor Scott



*From left: Mayor Brandon Scott, LaShawn Bowser,  
Educational Associate, and Jabari Bush, Principal of CNH.*

City Neighbors Hamilton was honored by a visit from Mayor Brandon Scott to welcome students to our first day of school. Our families and students were excited to have the Mayor here to celebrate Day One of the 2022-2023 school year!

## City Neighbors High School's Pod Model Highlighted as a National Model



Congratulations to City Neighbors High School whose Pod Model has been highlighted by Transcend as a model best practice. Transcend is a national organization committed to “creating and spreading extraordinary, equitable learning environments”. Check us out [here](#).

A screenshot of the Transcend Models Exchange website. The top navigation bar includes "Models", "Collections", "Events", "About", "Contact", and "Saved Models". The main content area features the City Neighbors High School (CNHS) logo, the text "Grades 9-12 City Neighbors High School", and the word "POD" in large blue letters. Below this are three circular icons: a heart, a document, and a share icon. A large photograph on the right shows a group of students and staff members sitting on a black leather couch in a school hallway. At the bottom, there is a navigation menu with tabs for "Overview", "Design", "Implementation", and "Resources".

## Congratulations to CNHS Teacher, Elainia Ross-Jones



Ms. Ross-Jones has been awarded a McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation Grant. Funds from this grant will be applied towards "*The Freedom Project*," a three-year initiative to expand and extend the project-based curriculum created here at City Neighbors High School to willing teachers in grades K-12 across Baltimore City and Baltimore County Schools. This curriculum integrates social justice and storytelling into statistics in order to make it both innovative and culturally-relevant to students.

## Join Us for Our First DIY PD Session of the Year



Join us for our first DIY PD @ City Neighbors of the 2022-2023 school year! Come together, build community, share practice, get a new idea, share a problem of practice, or just keep innovating, broadening and thinking.

Wednesday, October 19, 5 - 6:15 PM

**In Person** at City Neighbors Charter School  
4301 Raspe Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21206

[Register here](#) by October 12.

DIY PD @ City Neighbors is an emergent professional development opportunity, driven by the community of practitioners in attendance. At our DIY PD Sessions, we gather and connect - and have four short breakout sessions for you to choose from, with participants sharing a great strategy, a great question, or a problem of practice. At the end of the event, dinner is available to-go or you can stay and share fellowship with others. **This is a free event!**

Highlighted sessions:



*Language Differentiation  
and Reading Outcomes*

Dr. Simone Gibson  
Associate Professor,  
Morgan State University



*Strategies for Conflict  
Resolution: Supporting  
Students in Becoming  
Independent Problem  
Solvers*

LaShawn Bowser  
Educational Associate,  
City Neighbors Hamilton

Learn More About  
City Neighbors Foundation:



The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Progressive Education Summit: Reunited!

**PROGRESSIVE  
EDUCATION SUMMIT**  
CITY NEIGHBORS FOUNDATION



**SAVE the date & join us IN PERSON**  
**January 28, 2023**

[www.cityneighborsfoundation.org](http://www.cityneighborsfoundation.org)

The 12th Annual Progressive Education will take place in-person on January 28, 2023.

Mark your calendars and join the reunion.

Registration opens November 1.

**Accepting Workshop Proposals for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Progressive Ed Summit**

We are currently accepting workshop proposals for the 12th Annual Progressive Education Summit.

Deadline for submission is Wednesday, October 26.

[Submit a workshop proposal here.](#)

## Author and Professor Susan Engel Hunkers Down in Kindergarten



Susan Engel is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology and Founding Director of the Program in Teaching at Williams College and was the Keynote Speaker at our 6th Annual Progressive Education Summit in 2016! Susan featured City Neighbors in her book [\*The End of the Rainbow\*](#). Susan spent two days in our play-based kindergartens, just co-existing in the classroom space each day for her new project *Kindergartens across America*, a grant-funded project that may result in her next book.

## City Neighbors 2030: Headed Toward the Future

In 2021, City Neighbors launched a process of organizational and strategic planning. We called this work “City Neighbors 2030”. After a deliberate and thorough process that included all stakeholders, we have now developed a set of draft recommendations. This fall, we will vet these recommendations with our community. We aim to finalize our plan by December. We can’t wait to share our plans for the future. Stay tuned!



## Welcome, New Educators



Each year, we are excited to welcome new educators to the City Neighbors team. To support every teacher joining our arts-integrated, project-based, Reggio Emilia-inspired schools, we host three-days of New Educator Orientation in the summer. This cohort of new educators to City Neighbors then meet monthly through December for ongoing support and training. And every teacher new to City Neighbors, whether they are brand new to teaching or have been teaching for many years, receives a mentor for at least two years. We are grateful to all of our new educators who have decided to dive into City Neighbors. They have done amazing work already!