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DEFINITIONS

Borrowed from the [STL Neighborhood Map](), currently available on the [St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative website]()

Resident Groups
Place-based formal and informal organizations of resident and supportive stakeholders focused working with a shared commitment to a place (such as a neighborhood) and its people. Formal organizations may include Neighborhood Associations, Subdivision Associations, Tenant Associations, Block Units, Homeowner Associations, and Condo Associations. Informal organizations may simply include a collective of 3 or more neighbors from the same area. A resident group can exist without a formal legal status.

- **Neighborhood Association**
  Neighborhood associations provide a forum through which neighbors can build relationships with one another, identify community problems, and collectively act to protect and improve their communities (Knickmeyer et al, 2003). They are often managed by volunteers (NTEE Code S22). Participation is typically open to residents, businesses, and property owners in the area. Neighborhood associations often serve as an important liaison between residents and city officials, developers, and other organizations. This category also includes other kinds of resident associations (e.g., tenant associations, homeowner associations) that perform the functions described here.

Individual Resident Leaders and Changemakers
The people living in a defined place (such as a neighborhood) who have a commitment to that place, want to play a role in strengthening their place, and perhaps already actively lead community efforts.

Community Development Corporation (CDC)
A community development corporation (CDC) is a nonprofit organization that provides programs, offers services, and engages in other activities that promote and support community development in a specified geographic area. (NTEE Code S20) Historically, CDCs have typically focused on property development (e.g., affordable housing, commercial development) and other services that meet local needs (e.g., education, job training, healthcare). A CDC's service area can span a geography of multiple neighborhoods. A CDC is almost always run by paid staff that report to a board of directors ([NACEDA, 2014]()).

Community Building Organization (CBO)
A community building organization (CBO) is an organization or group of organizations (e.g., social service nonprofit, place-based collaborative, or congregation) that does not fit within the definition of a neighborhood association or CDC but still plays an active role in organizing, supporting, and developing a specific place-based geography (often, a neighborhood or group of neighborhoods). CBOs focus on more than one neighborhood issue and are accountable to a

variety of stakeholders. While a CBO may focus on a geography spanning multiple neighborhoods, it does not span an entire county.

Community Building Effort
A time-limited, project-centered, or question-based process of engaging people that often culminates in a tangible product or report designed to inform a project's development, answer a research question, and/or help allocate resources based on community priorities.

Improvement District/Special Taxing District
Special Taxing Districts are established to provide public improvements and services which otherwise may not currently be provided to stakeholders of the district. Although the specific planning and establishment process depends on the type of district being considered, in many cases the formation of a special taxing district requires a formal petition process and public hearings. Sometimes, a special election or ballot initiative may be required for final approval of the district. Special districts may be organized as a political subdivision, such as a community improvement district by citizens directly acting pursuant to state law. Special Taxing Districts are petitioned for by the property owners within the district boundaries and ratified by the qualified electorate within those boundaries. The improvements are paid for by an added local sales tax and/or through special assessments and real estate property taxes. All improvements and services must be public, usually provided within public rights-of-way or public property, and therefore, no person should be prohibited from receiving the benefits of a special taxing district.

Includes several subtypes, as described in this overview document:
- Community Improvement District (CID)
- Special Business District (SBD)
- Transportation Development District (TDD)
- Neighborhood Improvement District (NID)

STL COMMUNITY LAB OVERVIEW
Taken from the STL Community LAB website

Why STL Community Lab exists
The mission of the STL Community LAB is to increase participation in the community building process by educating and supporting all in the quest to build strong, whole communities.

What Community LAB does
STL Community LAB creates space for our region to Learn, Act, and Build strong communities. We do this by assembling community development trainings from a variety of organizations and universities in the St. Louis region onto one organized platform.

How Community LAB does this
STL Community LAB offers:
- A hub for residents and professionals to easily access and participate in high quality courses to build community through topics such as real estate, organizing, and managing a nonprofit organization.
- Collaborative new programs, courses, and trainings that provide vital and current community development knowledge.
- A way to connect the dots for neighborhood leaders hoping to take their community work to the next level and have a voice in civic decision-making.
- Support for residents who are seeking to make the changes they envision for their communities.

HOW COMMUNITY LAB CURATES COURSES

Selected Community LAB courses must meet three (3) basic criteria.

1. ***Focused on community development or community building:*** Community development is a process through which community stakeholders come together to vision, plan, and implement a more prosperous future ([NACEDA, 2014](#)). The mission of the STL Community LAB is to increase participation in the community building process by educating and supporting all in the quest to build strong, whole communities ([Community LAB, 2020](#)).

2. ***Primarily benefit at least one (1) of the place-based entities or efforts described under DEFINITIONS:***
   - Neighborhood Associations
   - Community Development Corporations (CDCs)
   - Community Building Organizations (CBOs)
   - Community Building Efforts
   - Improvement Districts
   - Individual resident leaders and changemakers

3. ***Fall into at least one (1) of Community LAB's ten (10) course categories:***
   - Local Government 101
   - Neighborhood Leadership
   - Anti-Racist Communities
   - Community Organizing
   - Community Engagement
   - Real Estate Development
   - Economic Development
   - Civic Data
   - Non-Profit Governance (including Evaluation, Fundraising)
   - Coalition Building

Please contact tfhktb@umsystem.edu if you are interested in seeing a training or event listed on STL Community LAB.

RUBRIC

No.	Course does not meet the criteria outlined in the question.
Yes!	Course definitely meets the criteria outlined in the question.

1. Focused on community development or community building		
Does the course **support community stakeholders in coming together to vision, plan, and implement a more prosperous future?**	**No.**	**Yes!**
Does the course **increase participation in the community building process** by educating and supporting participants in the quest to build strong, whole communities?	**No.**	**Yes!**
2. Primarily benefits at least one (1) type of place-based entity or effort		
Resident Organizations	**No.**	**Yes!**
Individual Resident Leaders/Changemakers	**No.**	**Yes!**
Community Development Corporations (CDCs)	**No.**	**Yes!**
Community Building Organizations (CBOs)	**No.**	**Yes!**
Community Building Efforts	**No.**	**Yes!**
Improvement Districts	**No.**	**Yes!**

3. Falls into at least one (1) of Community LAB's ten (10) course categories	
Local Government 101	**Real Estate Development**
Neighborhood Leadership	**Economic Development**
Anti-Racist Communities	**Civic Data**
Community Organizing	**Nonprofit Governance**
Community Engagement	**Coalition Building**

If the course scores at least one (1) "Yes" in each category, it is eligible to be listed in Community LAB.