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## What connects people to the places where they live?

Evette Alexander, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 10:15 AM

To: Steve Johnston

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Dear Sarah,

This week, we unveiled a landmark Knight Foundation/Urban Institute study that surveyed over 11,000 Americans, revealing what fosters connection between residents and their communities. This comes at an important moment as cities debate how and when to reopen, and what shape they might take in a post-pandemic future.

One of the largest studies of its kind, "[Community Ties: Understanding what attaches people to the place where they live](#)," — which builds on Knight's Soul of the Community study — sheds light on what cities can do to increase resident attachment. Findings highlight the role of arts and cultural activities and recreational spaces, as well as the challenges that certain residents face in accessing them. A [rich and interactive dataset](#) can inform local decision-makers in the short-term as they evaluate how to reopen urban amenities, and in the long-term, as they seek to build resilient and desirable places to live, work and play.

At Knight, we believe residents with a deeper attachment to their communities are more engaged citizens who work towards the common welfare of their city and its people. We hope this report provokes debate and informs decision making around the future of our cities.

You can [read Knight's key takeaways](#) and implications for communities and [download a full version of the report](#). For the latest updates on Knight research, [follow us on Twitter](#).

Warm Regards,

Evette Alexander

Director/Learning and Impact  
Knight Foundation



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