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Working for a brighter future in Charlotte

Charles Thomas, Knight Foundation [web@kf.org]

Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 4:21 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

Upcoming community meeting to plan next 20 years adopts innovative format.

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Stephen,

This year has thrown unprecedented challenges at all of us. Luckily, many Charlotte organizations haven't let that stop them from working toward a better future for our community. I want to share some of those efforts with you, including a drive-in community meeting to help plan the city's future, sessions from the Knight Public Spaces Forum 2020 and a first-of-its-kind art project.

Charlotte Future 2040 Drive-In Community Meeting

A DRIVE-IN COMMUNITY MEETING

Drive into Charlotte's
FUTURE

Oct. 31, 2020
2:00PM – 9:00PM
4 Sessions

The Park Expo
800 Briar Creek Road, 28205

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SESSIONS
ON-STAGE PRESENTATIONS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
TOUCH-FREE TREAT STATIONS

COVID-SAFE • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

REGISTER TODAY
charlottefuture.com/2040

Spanish language translation will be available.

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

The City of Charlotte is hosting a drive-in community meeting on Saturday, Oct.

31, to unveil the first draft of the [Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan](#). The plan will serve as a guide to understand how Charlotte is expected to grow over the next 20 years and how residents can best invest in it.

The event coincides with Halloween, and the city plans to make it both informative and entertaining. Join fellow Charlotteans for information sessions and to enjoy live entertainment, treat stations for kids and a free screening of "Back to the Future." The event has been organized following CDC health guidelines and will require all attendees to remain in their vehicles at all times. In order to submit feedback and interact during the sessions, guests will need to download the [Kahoot mobile app](#). Spanish translations will be provided.



CHARLOTTE
FUTURE
2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

UN EVENTO COMMUNITARIO DESDE SU AUTO

Conduzca hacia el **FUTURE**
de Charlotte

el 31 de octubre de 2020
2:00PM – 9:00PM
4 sesiones

The Park Expo
800 Briar Creek Road, 28205

COVID SEGURO – FAMILIA-AMISTOSA

¡REGÍSTRESE HOY!
charlottefuture.com/2040
La traducción al español estará disponible.

SESIONES DE LA
RETROALIMENTACIÓN
COMUNITARIO

PRESENTACIONES EN
EL ESCENARIO

ENTRETENIMIENTO
EN VIVO

ESTACIONES DE
DULCES, SIN
CONTACTO

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

The drive-in will start at 2 p.m. at the Park Expo and Conference Center, 800 Briar Creek Road.

[Click here](#) to RSVP and [here](#) for further details on the event and the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

"Pandemic: Stories of COVID-19"



We've all been affected by COVID-19 in one way or another. This week, the Charlotte Journalism Collaborative teamed up with BOOM Charlotte to release "Pandemic: Stories of COVID-19," a digital graphic novel by local artists and journalists with stories of how the pandemic has impacted our community.

View the project at charlottejournalism.org or on the collaborative's Instagram [@CLTJournalism](https://www.instagram.com/CLTJournalism).

Public Spaces Forum 2020

KNIGHT
PUBLIC
SPACES
FORUM



Last week, the Knight Public Spaces Forum 2020 convened some of the country's leading thinkers for a series of conversations on public spaces and their important role in building equitable communities. Below, I've highlighted the two breakout sessions I had the pleasure of moderating, along with other impactful discussions on equity and public spaces.

- **Pivoting Park Management (Breakout Session):**
I was joined by Carol Coletta, president and CEO of Memphis River

Parks Partnership, and Robert Hammond, co-founder and executive director of New York City's High Line. We discussed the pivots public space practitioners are making to manage park space, engage youth through art and nature and to innovate in funding for civic change.

- **Ideas**

- **Plenary — Technology and Public Spaces:** Ming-Chun

- Lee, Ph.D, associate professor of architecture at UNC Charlotte, was part of a panel discussing the impacts of tech on how people equitably use and access public space. Other speakers included Eli Lehrer, president of R Street Institute and Vikram Grover, senior director, partnerships for Niantic Inc, and Lauren Ruffin, co-founder of Crux. Moderated by Sam Gill, Knight's senior vice president/chief program officer.

- **Virtual Experiences for Public Space (Breakout Session):** I was joined by Maura McCarthy, Ph.D., executive director of Fairmount Park Conservancy, and Rachel Stark, senior urban designer for the City of Charlotte. We explored how public space practitioners are incorporating tech to design for justice, creative virtual experiences and use data for equity.

- **Ideas Plenary: Mobility and Public Spaces:** A discussion on the new possibilities for mobility and equity. Speakers included Gia Biagi, commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation; Tamika L. Butler, founder/principal of Tamika L. Butler Consulting, LLC; Shin-pei Tsay, director of global policy for cities and transportation for Uber Technologies Inc.; and Mark de la Vergne, Michigan director for Cavnue. Introduction by Roshell R. Rinkins, Knight's senior director/grants administration.

Recorded versions of these discussions and others will be available this week at kf.org/publicspaces20.

As always, I encourage you to tell your friends and colleagues to [register for email updates](#) about the latest happenings in Charlotte.

Stay safe,


Charles Thomas
Knight Foundation
Program Director for Charlotte
[@CThomasclt](#)



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