

## The tough conversations our community needs



**From** UNC Charlotte Urban Institute <unccurbaninstitute@uncc.edu>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Date** 2022-09-29 12:28

[View this email in your browser](#)

# CHARLOTTE | URBAN INSTITUTE



### Having the hard conversations: Gentrification and displacement in Charlotte

**By Lori Thomas**

Our first Schul conversation this fall focused on gentrification and displacement – a conversation that’s necessary and often difficult. When the "rent eats first," abstract and tidy economic principles don't resonate. This is an uncomfortable and complex conversation about deceptively simple realities.

And it touches on fundamental issues and disagreements: How do we balance growth and equity? To what extent should we trust the market vs. trying to intervene in some way? Should housing be viewed as a commodity, built for profit, or as a human right? Are these both/and or either/or considerations? Who decides?



### Virtual conversation Oct. 20: What's the best path forward

## [for transit and transportation in Charlotte?](#)

**By Ely Portillo**

Hundreds of thousands more residents, billions of dollars, and millions of cumulative hours per year stuck in traffic: That's some of what's at stake in the fight for Charlotte's transit and transportation future. Join Jason Lawrence, director of planning for the Charlotte Area Transit System; Dr. Elizabeth Delmelle, associate professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning and is the director of the Master of Urban Spatial Analytics program at the University of Pennsylvania; and Meg Fencil, director of engagement and impact at Sustain Charlotte, to talk about all this and more. The moderator will be Ely Portillo, director of research engagement at the Charlotte Urban Institute.



## [Podcast: Charlotte's tree canopy is under threat — and we all have a role to play in saving it](#)

**Future Charlotte**

Charlotte loves its trees. But are we willing to do all that we can to save them? That's the paradoxical question confronting Jane Singleton Myers, executive director of TreesCharlotte. The city's iconic tree canopy has shrunk from 49% to 45% coverage as of 2017, and likely more in the five years since the last comprehensive measurement.

Myers joined the Future Charlotte podcast to talk about how Charlotte can preserve its tree canopy, why it matters that we do so (hint: shade and rain), and how a city that loves both growth and trees can balance competing interests. Myers also talks about her favorite tree, and why trees hold such a powerful place in many of our childhood memories.



## [Want to learn about Charlotte's history? Check out these free, online resources](#)

**By Ely Portillo**

If there's one constant in Charlotte, it's change. And while the pace of new building

and construction might make you think Charlotte doesn't have much history (at least, not much left), there's plenty to explore in the city's past.

---

### Read more from the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute



*Copyright © 2022 UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, All rights reserved.*

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute sends ebulletins and notices to individuals and organizations about issues concerning our region.

**Our mailing address is:**  
UNC Charlotte Urban Institute  
9201 University City Blvd  
Charlotte, NC 28223

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).