Schul Forum 2024


## Our Connecting Spaces

## by the Charlotte Urban Institute

Across the Charlotte region, we are molded by the places where we connect and the relationships we develop in those spaces. Our neighborhoods, schools, houses of worship, the places we work, play, and create - we shape them and they shape us. Beyond being a simple backdrop of our daily lives, recent research by the Opportunity Insights team, led by Dr. Raj Chetty of Harvard University, suggests that the places that enable cross-class friendships may have a role to play in improving economic mobility.

During the Schul Forum 2024 on Thursday, Feb. 1 at The Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City, we, along with local and national leaders, will continue to discuss the spaces where we connect in the Charlotte region. We'll ask how those places enable connection or create barriers to economic wellbeing.

From 1-5:30 p.m., we'll not shy away from what's in the ground that makes connecting across differences difficult, but we'll also focus on identifying actions that we can take to facilitate relationships. A reception honoring the Gambrell Faculty Fellows will immediately follow the Forum. >> Learn more, see the schedule, and register.


## Poverty Rates Decline in Charlotte Region

## by Katie Zager

Over the last five years, eight out of fourteen counties in the Charlotte region saw a significant drop in poverty rates. This new data from the American Community Survey (ACS), suggests that an overall decrease in poverty has been in process for little more than a decade.

So people who live in the region are getting richer, right? Not necessarily.

There are a number of factors that can contribute to those changes. For instance, newcomers to the area could bring higher incomes with them to the community, ultimately driving down poverty rates.

But, isn't a decline in poverty a good thing? By and large, yes. But income distribution matters more. And, while the numbers indicate economic improvement, they also don't tell the whole story. >> Here's how it's all determined

## In Bloom



## Garden Review 2023

garden for part of the year. But, in 2023, the weather was mild

So how did her garden fare?

In this beautiful reflection, Grissom shares which of her plants survived the elements (and wildlife!), those she lost, and the ultimate lesson she learned from it all. >> Let's go for a stroll

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