

## Hi. I'm an urbanist.



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**Date** 2025-04-17 06:44

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### Community Voices



## Hi. I'm an urbanist.

**Tesho Akindede**

I've been a lot of things in my life; a son, a brother, a nerdy engineering student, a professional soccer player, a husband, a father, and most recently...an urbanist.

Most people have never heard the word *urbanist* before. When I say it, I see the intrigue, and often confusion, on their face as they wonder exactly what it means.

Hearing "urban" sparks different reactions from different people. For some, it conjures up the beauty, energy, and endless opportunity that comes with life in a city. For others it means towering skyscrapers, overcrowding, and chaos. Urban is a word reserved for cities and is a word that stands in stark contrast to its suburban and rural counterparts.

Urbanism carries the baggage of the word "urban," and is therefore dismissed as an idea that doesn't impact those living outside the major cities.

But this is not a movement reserved for megacities. [[A CLOSER LOOK AT URBANISM](#)]

### Schul Forum





**THANK YOU**  
for attending  
**Schul Forum 2025**



More than 200 engaged and curious community members joined us on April 3 for Schul Forum 2025: Community Data Day where we achieved a milestone -- our largest attendance yet!

The Charlotte Urban Institute + Regional Data Trust extends a sincere thank you to all who attended and made this day of local data a success.

Couldn't be there? [\[READ THE RECAP\]](#) and view the event photo gallery by clicking the button below.

**[View Our Photo Gallery](#)**

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### Partner News

*Each month, the Charlotte Urban Institute is proud to share insights from community partners who are aligned with our mission to provide a better quality of life for everyone in the Charlotte region.*



## [Charlotte Innovation Incubator moves East](#)

**Mae Israel | urbanCORE**

On one end of adjacent shopping centers on North Sharon Amity Road in east Charlotte, an Ethiopian restaurant and grocery offers the spongy flatbread injera and a special cultural coffee ceremony. On the other is a Middle Eastern bakery and grocery, which sells several types of baklava and freshly baked nita

bakery and grocery, which sells several types of bariava and freshly baked pita bread.

In the middle is a Middle Eastern restaurant, an Asian-owned discount store and a Middle Eastern coffee shop and café. Across the street is a grocery specializing in Middle Eastern food.

This type of smorgasbord is common in east Charlotte, where a large, diverse population of immigrants from around the world have transported the flavors and traditions of their homelands, joining established neighborhoods of white and African American residents. [\[MORE ON THE EAST CHARLOTTE INCUBATOR\]](#)



## [Understanding the affordable housing crisis in Charlotte](#)

**Kathryn Firmin-Sellers | United Way of Greater Charlotte**

Mecklenburg County is grappling with an affordable housing crisis, but we are not alone. The affordable housing crisis is a nationwide issue that has been intensifying over the years, locally affecting a substantial portion of the community and prompting collaborative efforts, such as A Home For All, to create lasting solutions.

To understand the current housing situation, you must first understand [\[A TIMELINE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING\]](#).

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April 17, 2025*

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