



# Neighbourhood Strategies Community Social Work Program

Tale of two Communities - Exploring the ABCD model in Highland Park and Manchester  
Wednesday March 22, 2023



## Two Connector Initiatives at a Glance

	Highland Park	Manchester
<b>Program Name</b>	Highland Park Block Connector Program	Manchester Neighbour Connector Initiative
<b>Year Initiated</b>	March 2020	June 2022
<b>Reason it started</b>	To assist residents to connect with one another and local resources in the height of the pandemic.	Following the pandemic there was several incidences of isolation in complexes
<b>Community</b>	Mostly detached, single family dwellings. One seniors subsidized apartment building.	Consists of only one street of detached homes & several multi-unit complexes; three are Calgary Housing
<b>Structure</b>	One coordinator, 8 Block Connectors	One Connector Coordinator (10 hour/month); 9 Connectors
<b>Partners</b>	Works with Community Association	Supported by the Community Social Worker (CSW)
<b>Costs</b>	Community Social Worker provides monthly honorarium for Coordinator. Funds for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connector gatherings 4/year</li> <li>• For small block events</li> </ul>	Community Social Worker provides a monthly honorarium for Coordinator; Calgary Dollar honorariums for Connectors; Connector starter kits; supplies for small gatherings or meet-ups;



# Examples of roles and responsibilities in a Connector Initiative

## Community Social Worker and Partners (if applicable)

- Oversees the initiative; recruitment; training/info sessions
- Supervises the Resident Coordinator
- May work directly with Connectors
- Provides resources and information

## Neighbour Connector Coordinator (resident leader)

- Resident leader in the community to support Connectors
- Coordinate meetings and provides ideas to overall initiative
- Provides resources
- Promotion

## Connectors (residents)

- Act as a point person to gather and share information
- May learn about other skills in the community, resources and/or arising community issues
- Can create own opportunities to meet neighbours
- Not intended to provide counselling services, direct financial support, or manage neighbour conflict and disputes



## Manchester Examples

Welcome packages to new neighbours

Coffee Meet-ups

Card games and chat night

Paint Night

Secret Santa

Community Dinner



Neighbour Connectors  
PAINT NIGHT - December 2022

## Highland Park Examples

Neighbourhood Art Walk

Highland Park Rocks

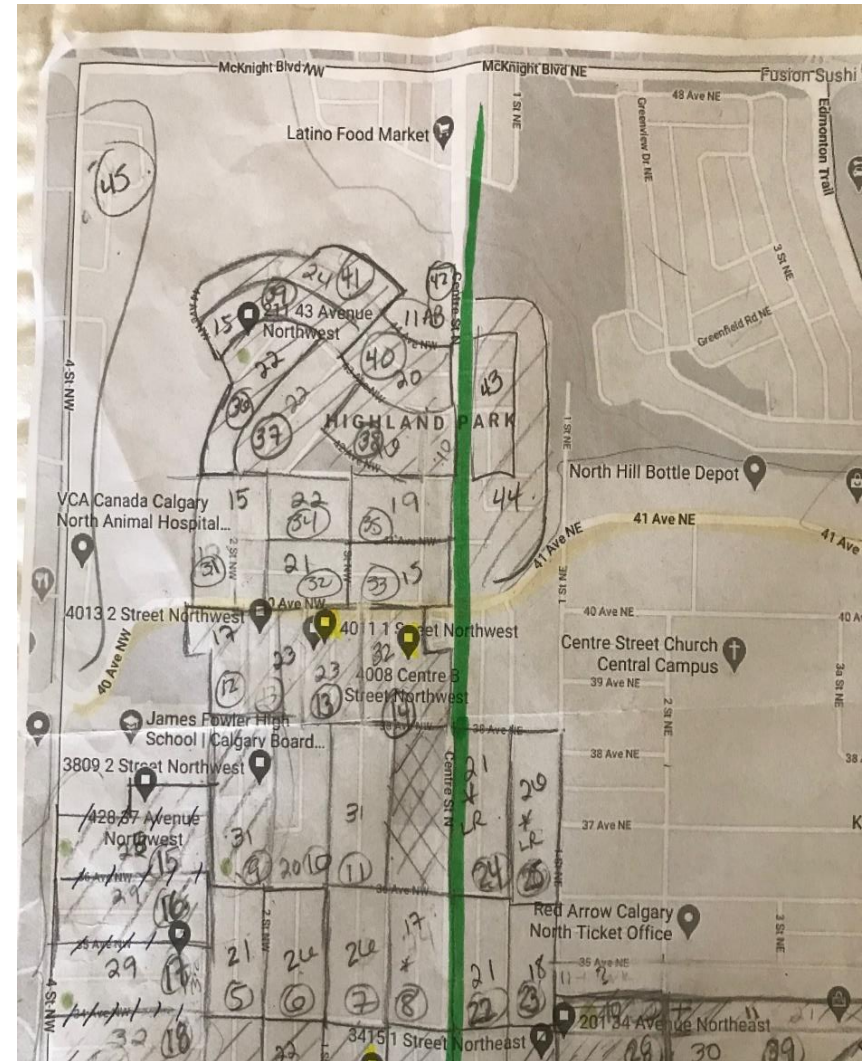
Lemonade Stands

Library of Extraordinary Humans



# Common Challenges

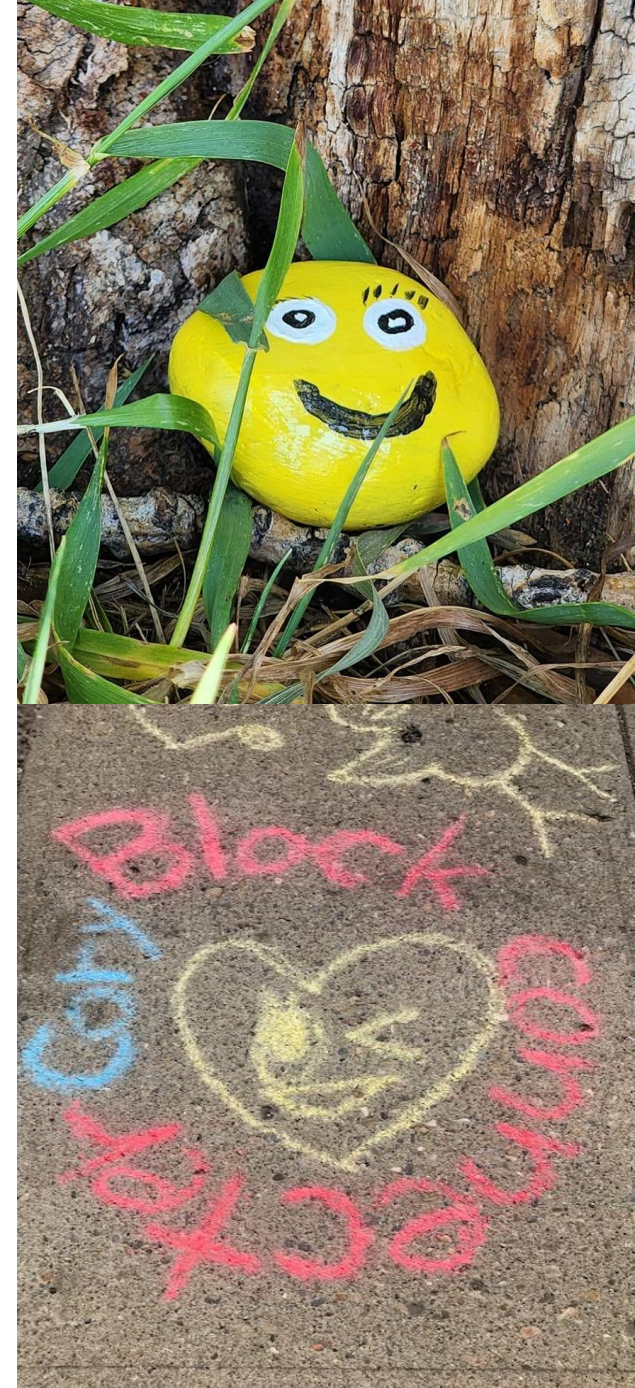
- The “block” concept was not as easy to adapt and evolved to a broader community concept
- Recruitment; Turnover and Transitions
- Barriers to participation
- Communication methods
- Limited capacity of residents to find solutions to larger issues





## Successes

- Provides a broader communication channel on programs and resources
- Learn about the skills/assets in the community to find solutions
- Opportunity to engage new residents as volunteers; gives an excuse to connect
- Community Social Worker works with Connectors to build their capacity and skills; while reducing some of the barriers to participation



**“Every single person has  
skills, abilities, and gifts”**

**-JOHN MCKNIGHT**

Thank you!