

Virtual Panel: “Downtown After the Pandemic: A New Paradigm?”

1. When the city does anti houseless measures like removing shade, seating bathrooms and water access it really impacts the livability and connectivity between residential areas and downtown. How can governments refocus on investing in people instead of fencing areas off?

It definitely starts as a policy issue: then if it's a city priority, several agencies should work together to try to implement a program similar to Duluth's, which has a lot of public support... Laurie Volk

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/local/duluth-to-combat-homelessness-with-new-housing-development-student-housing-project-delayed-again>

2. We run the Louisville Seedbank for urban agriculture and crops that can survive in the Urban Heat Island neighborhoods of Louisville. Many roofs and parking lots could be gardens!

NASA has done research to demonstrate the reductions that green roofs can have on urban heat island effect: <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2022/nasa-researcher-finding-ways-to-turn-down-the-heat-in-cities>. All to say that the challenge is one that has the attention of a lot of folks. There are interesting examples of implementation out there, and the co-benefits of stormwater management and energy reduction and urban heat reduction, and even the benefits of natural habitat conservation, make a compelling case! Mallory Baches

3. *Approximately 10-15% office buildings in Boston's Central Business District can be adaptively reused for housing relatively easily. While a small percentage of the overall inventory, that would result in over 2,000 new units and many more people living in the core... David Gamble: Gamble Associates*
4. *And Boston, like Calgary and NYC, has pledged significant public incentive to motivate conversions! ... James Lima*
5. *Washington DC and Chicago are focused on housing/conversions as a key rebuilding priority. In addition to public investment incentives though, reduction of bureaucracy,*



streamlined permitting, or fee reductions when projects meet community vision can be extremely important...David Downey

6. *The Indy cultural trail is enormously successful for the experience alone, yes the value increase, but most importantly for me was the connection of neighborhood districts to one another... David Downey*

7. How did Buffalo designate and market affordable housing to "young people"?

Buffalo was targeting entry-level employees in the Downtown with incomes of 60 to 80 percent AMI, which is the starting salary still for lots of lower-level white-collar workers. They contacted Downtown employers to make sure these young people knew about the building...Laurie Volk

8. Not sure if this was shown earlier- I'm interested in knowing Louisville's stats versus other similar markets with housing in the metro downtown. Also, how many businesses have come/gone in the Louisville downtown market that just can't sustain due to lack of people in the downtown area. They can't solely survive on tourism*convention business*

This is a relevant comment that reflects on the work currently being undertaken to craft a new ten- year strategy for downtown Louisville. While the strong return of the tourism industry is a welcome situation, a vibrant downtown cannot be focused solely on tourism. The panelists all stressed the need for a mix of activity downtown, with a much stronger focus on residential, which helps drive businesses and restaurants and creates activity on a 24/7 basis... Barry Alberts