

Community Health Starts With Community

Josh Leffingwell — Well Design Studio

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About Me —

Josh Leffingwell

Partner at Well Design Studio

MobileGR Commissioner

Co-Chair East Hills Council of Neighbors

Vice Chair Vital Streets Oversight Comm.

Vice Chair - Sustainable Streets Task Force

Mayor's Millennial Advisory Board

National Equity Project - REAL Cohort



IF THEY ARE **ALL** ENGAGED

NEIGHBORS CAN HOLD THE KEY

Engagement has historically only happened with the most engaged. **We need to lower the barrier to planning.**

You're not NIMBY if you have a vision. But we making creating visions difficult. They have a vision, but it likely isn't about lane width or zoning types.

Planners unwillingness to speak simply causes harm. Ask your mom/dad/neighbor the question and if they struggle to answer, so will neighbors.



Exploration

Open-minded learning from as many stakeholders as possible.

Concepts

Aggregate those ideas and form them into broad plans.

Refinement

Bring them back to neighbors for refinement

Execution

Start building, and keep engaging.



Example

Build a Better Block: Re//State

State Street, Grand Rapids — 2013

Door knocking and asking simple questions:

What would you like to see for State Street?

How do you get around the town? Is that how you like getting around?

What is your favorite business area in Grand Rapids? Outside of Grand Rapids? Why?



Let's talk!

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