



HOUSING. LEAD SAFETY. GARDENS. EDUCATION. POLICY.

[ISLES.ORG/FORUM](https://isles.org/forum)
JUNE 7-12

You're invited to Isles' Forum, a FREE, week-long virtual series of webinars, workshops, panels and more to explore community development and environmental challenges and solutions.

Monday, June 7: Sustainable Cities

Tuesday, June 8: Urban Placemaking

Wednesday, June 9: Lead Safe New Jersey

Thursday, June 10: Building the Future

Friday, June 11: Healthy Housing, Healthy Families

Saturday, June 12: Welcome Home Fair for First-Time Homebuyers

Pick and choose the topics of interest to you, or sign up for all! Full schedule, speakers, and registration links will be posted at isles.org/forum.

This Forum is free and open to the public as part of Isles' 40 Years of Impact celebration.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

SUSTAINABLE CITIES

On Monday, we explore topics related to climate change and the future of cities. How can we make densely packed, urban areas sustainable? How do we ensure places like Trenton don't get left out of the green economy? What role does urban agriculture have to play in inner cities?

Session Title: Climate Change, Community Development Organizations, and the Sustainable City

Description: Join Isles' Founder Marty Johnson as he explores the role of community development organizations in making cities a solution to climate change, and what Isles has learned over 40 years about how to make cities work.

Who should attend: General public, environmentalists, climate change activists, anyone interested in sustainable development

Session Title: The EV Revolution!

Description: Learn how cities like Trenton are piloting electric vehicle pilots to support urban mobility, equity, and employment.

Who should attend: General public, environmentalists, anyone interested in electric vehicles

Session Title: Urban Agriculture and Climate Change

Description: Urban agriculture is primarily seen as a way of providing local, healthy food to underserved neighborhoods, but it also plays a key role in making cities more resilient to changing climate and helps to reduce a city's contribution to greenhouse gases. Come learn about the role urban agriculture plays in protecting Trenton's future in a climate changing world.

Who should attend: general public, garden enthusiasts, anyone interested in starting their own community gardening efforts

Note: Session times and guest speakers tbd. Sessions do not run concurrently each day.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 8

URBAN PLACEMAKING

On Tuesday, we explore redevelopment efforts that build on historical and cultural strengths of neighborhoods. How can historic buildings be redeveloped in ways that honor and showcase a neighborhood and its history? How can creative arts help revitalize downtowns? How can local housing policy create safe, strong neighborhoods? What role does NJ’s first-ever Social Profit Center play in local redevelopment and regional trends?

Session: Partnering to Preserve: The Higbee Street School and the Carver Y

Description: The Higbee Street School and the Carver Y are historic buildings with deep roots in the African American community in Trenton. Come hear about collaborative efforts to restore and identify community-focused uses for these buildings, and learn about the key roles they have played in Trenton’s central historically African American neighborhood.

Who should attend: anyone interested in learning about and preserving Trenton’s history, residents, community members

Session: Stronger Neighborhoods through local Housing Policy: Building the Foundations of a Housing Policy Coalition

Description: Housing policy and enforcement shapes and defines the character, strength, and health of neighborhoods. Isles and Trenton Health Team have partnered to establish and support a city- and region-wide housing coalition. Come hear about what we’ve learned and done so far, and be a part of crafting housing policy improvements as we move forward.

Who should attend: housing advocates, policymakers, residents

Session: Creative Arts and Economic Development: Sparking and Sustaining Downtown Trenton

Description: The Creek to Canal Creative District builds upon the energy and activities of key creative groups and individuals in and around downtown Trenton. Join a conversation of representatives from the creative scene in downtown to learn about their activities and the broader movement to use the arts and creative activities to spark and sustain momentum in downtown.

Who should attend: residents, artists, theater goers, people interested in becoming involved in the downtown creative arts scene

Session: Social Profit Center at Mill One

Description: Earlier this year, Isles opened the Social Profit Center at Mill One, a space for nonprofits, social impact businesses, and artists located in the distressed Bromley neighborhood of Hamilton. Join us as we discuss how this neighborhood asset is designed to strengthen nonprofit capacity and the surrounding areas.

Who should attend: General public, anyone interested in shared space, potential tenants, Bromley stakeholders.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

LEAD SAFE NEW JERSEY

More than 5000 kids in NJ are poisoned by lead each year. Lead's toxic legacy affects not only the health and futures of children, but impacts education, healthcare costs, and criminal justice. As a society, what can be done to protect children and speed the removal of lead-based paint from homes and schools?

Session: Tenant Protections

Description: Currently, New Jersey tenants are either unaware of or have little ability to protect their right to a habitable home free from lead-based paint hazards and other lead exposure. This panel will examine the existing legal remedies and how to strengthen them to prevent childhood lead poisoning. Panelists will discuss organizing strategies, successful legal remedies from around the northeast, and how these ideas can help create a new living environment for NJ families.

Who should attend: General public, anyone interested in tenant's rights and protections.

Session: Doing better at our primary mission - protecting kids

Description: There is more that we can do to prevent lead poisoning and to improve services for children already affected by lead. Panelists will discuss the state of housing code enforcement in New Jersey, national models for how to craft better housing codes, ideas for more effective enforcement and recommendation protocols for helping families mitigate the impacts of early exposure.

Who should attend: General public, home visitors, social workers, and others.

Session: Lead Safe Inspections & the Law

Description: Lead poisoning prevention and enforcement varies across the United States. Best practices have been identified in Maryland, Rhode Island, Rochester NY and other municipalities that can serve as a platform for positive change. Panelists will discuss how new lead safe legislation in NJ can chart a powerful path forward in NJ to permanently removing lead from New Jersey homes and communities.

Who should attend: General public, policy makers, government officials

Session: Community-led Lead initiatives to Protect Children from Lead

Description: Community led initiatives across the US have resulted in significant and sometimes revolutionary changes in the political will to remove lead-based hazards from the environment for children and families. Panelist will provide case studies for several of these citizen/community led initiatives, discuss why they were so effective and how such a movement could be generated in New Jersey.

Who should attend: General public, activists, community-based non-profit leaders, and anyone interested in lead safety.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 10 BUILDING THE FUTURE

On Thursday, we focus on Isles' commitment to building the current and next generation of safe and engaged youth in Trenton and the region. How can we integrate academic, career, and leadership training to ensure Trenton's youth are ready to face the future? How can youth help address the key issues that affects all of them: youth violence? How can statewide alliances and partnerships strengthen the impact of local efforts?

Session: Isles Youth Institute Open House

Description: For 26 years, Isles Youth Institute (IYI) has empowered young adults in Trenton to gain an education and embark on a self-reliant career path. Hear from IYI staff and alumni about the academic, vocational, life skills, job development, and community service opportunities that IYI has to offer.

Who should attend: community partners, potential students and/or their families, anyone interested in alternative secondary education

Session: New Jersey YouthBuild Panel

Description: The YouthBuild model employed by IYI aims to engage young people in their communities, all while gaining valuable education and work experience – building both the individual and the community. Come learn about specific goals of YouthBuild as well as participate in a panel discussion of regional realities and best practices.

Who should attend: YouthBuild program staff and board members, civic leaders, those interested in workforce development.

Session: Violence Prevention Panel

Description: Youth violence is a significant public health problem that affects thousands of young people each day, and in turn, their families, schools, and communities. You are invited into an exploration of realities and violence prevention strategic responses led by a panel of Trenton youth and community development workers.

Who should attend: Trenton stake-holders, young adults, community practitioners

Session: Trenton's Nonprofit Sector in Transformation: Embedding anti-racism in our work and organizations

Description: The anti-racism protests of last summer once again drew attention to the legacy of racism and the history of slavery ingrained into American culture, including in the nonprofit and social services sector. Come join a panel of local non-profit and social service sector leaders discussing what their organizations have done to address racism in their service delivery, and what pro-active anti-racist steps they have taken to contribute to the dismantling of white supremacy.

Who should attend: general public

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FRIDAY, JUNE 11

HEALTHY HOUSING, HEALTHY FAMILIES

Substandard housing is associated with increased risk of disease, crime, social isolation and decreased mental health.

How can families better protect themselves from asthma triggers, lead dust, pests, mold and other indoor issues? Why are housing improvements so critical to individual and community health? How does NJ build a “green workforce” to tackle the issues of lead and healthy housing?

Session: Healthy Housing/Healthy Families

Description: This session introduces participants to the concept of “housing as a vaccine” and outlines the role of community development agencies in the process of tackling health through healthy housing services.

Who should attend: Community development leadership and staff

Session: Opportunities for Future-focused Green Jobs for New Jersey

Description: New Jersey has set considerable goals for reducing energy consumption, improving electrification and making homes lead safe. This panel will discuss the barriers and opportunities for creating green jobs to provide energy efficiency, lead safe work and solar installation.

Who should attend: Nonprofit and community development leaders and staff, policy makers and their staff, and business owners.

Session: 8 Keys to a Healthy Home

Description: Want to learn how to avoid asthma triggers in your home, create green cleaning products, safely deal with pests, and more? This overview of 8 keys to a healthy home provides you with practical information and handouts to use to help keep your homes safe and healthy.

Who should attend: Anyone interested in a healthy home, especially families who have children with asthma or for residents of older homes or apartments.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 12 WELCOME HOME FAIR FOR FIRST- TIME HOMEBUYERS

Thinking about buying your first home? Find out what it takes to become a homeowner at Isles' Virtual Welcome Home Fair!

Through this virtual Welcome Home Fair:

- Learn about **DOWN PAYMENT** and **CLOSING COST ASSISTANCE**
- Learn who are the **TEAM PLAYERS**
- Learn about **CREDIT** and how to access to your **REPORT**
- Make an appointment with a **HOUSING COUNSELOR**

Isles is a HUD-certified housing counseling agency. We help first-time home buyers throughout Mercer County and the surrounding areas.

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