

the GRID

Community Design Center News

April 2020



From our Executive Director, Maria Furgiuele

STAYING CONNECTED WHILE KEEPING OUR DISTANCE

Few could have predicted how quickly and dramatically our lives would change as the world deals with the COVID-19 pandemic. As we enter our third week of "social distancing," our thoughts are with those that are being most affected by this health crisis; certainly those that have been stricken with the disease and the doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals who care for them and are our front-line of defense against this invisible enemy. We express our appreciation to all of the "essential workers" out there who continue to provide critical goods and services to our community. We thank the delivery people who shuttle our food and packages, the cleaning staff who work tirelessly to sanitize our environment, and our family, friends and neighbors who have created networks for sharing resources, camaraderie, and provide support through their many acts of kindness!

Through this crisis, we have had to adapt not only the way we work, learn, and interact, but also the way we live. We have been forced to reconsider our values and priorities. Many have discovered reservoirs of strength, adaptability, creativity, obsession, and vulnerability.

"We got this. We will get through this!" has become our common mantra. It is true that many of us will return to our "normal" lives at some point in the future, somewhat changed but unscathed. But for some, life will be irreparably altered.

This virus is indiscriminant! It does not recognize geographic, cultural, racial, physical, or financial boundaries. In fighting this common enemy, we have been united as one human family. As we move through this together, I am interested in what we as a community can learn from this experience. How can the design of our neighborhoods better support its residents in times of crisis?

As our streets have become mostly devoid of automobiles, can a case be made for sharing the streets in a way that they become a better resource to the community? What makes a community "resilient?" As we have altered our movements, we've seen evidence of the earth healing itself through improved air and water quality, among other things. Will this have an impact on how we choose to behave in the future? These are some of the questions and topics that I would like to explore further. I would love to hear from you.

In the meantime, stay healthy and be well!

CONNECTIONS
WITH EVAN DAWSON



P.S. Check out CDCR Board Member Howard Decker on [Connections with Evan Dawson](#) on Monday, April 6 at noon. He and Evan will discuss urbanism, density, and COVID-19.



P.P.S. I was lucky enough to do a podcast with The Urban Phoenix earlier this week! We talk about quality urban design, public space, transit, balconies, and the future for our cities in the wake of the Coronavirus Pandemic. [Take a listen here.](#)



15th Annual Award-Winning Series
**reSHAPING
ROCHESTER** 2020

Building **COMMUNITY** *through* **PLACEMAKING**

Presented by:  **HOME LEASING**
DEVELOPMENT | CONSTRUCTION | MANAGEMENT

2020 Reshaping Rochester Lecture Series & COVID-19



As is the case around the globe, our lecture series has and will continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moving forward:

Please save the following dates in your calendar:

Our **March lecture** with Carol Naughton has been rescheduled for **10/21/20**.
Our **April lecture** with Bernice Radle has been tentatively rescheduled for **9/23/20**.
The **May Luncheon** has been postponed to **6/16/20**.

[Click here to watch past lectures!](#)

New Digital Programming:

We will present a series of online content to engage our community about locally relevant issues called "Placemaking 101." Please stay tuned for more information.

Take our "COVID-19 Community Impact" survey:

We are interested in learning how current events around COVID-19 are impacting you and your community. Please help us by taking this survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KPK2MJR>

Overall...

We realize that you may be feeling overwhelmed with the current situation and are also receiving a ton of other emails. Most of our communications will be shared via our monthly newsletter, social media, and occasional emails to inform you of upcoming events. Articles and information of interest can be found on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Do not hesitate to get in touch with us at maria@cdcrochester.org if you have information, insights, comments, or suggestions.

Thank you for your understanding, and stay healthy!



10th reSHAPING ROCHESTER 2020 awards

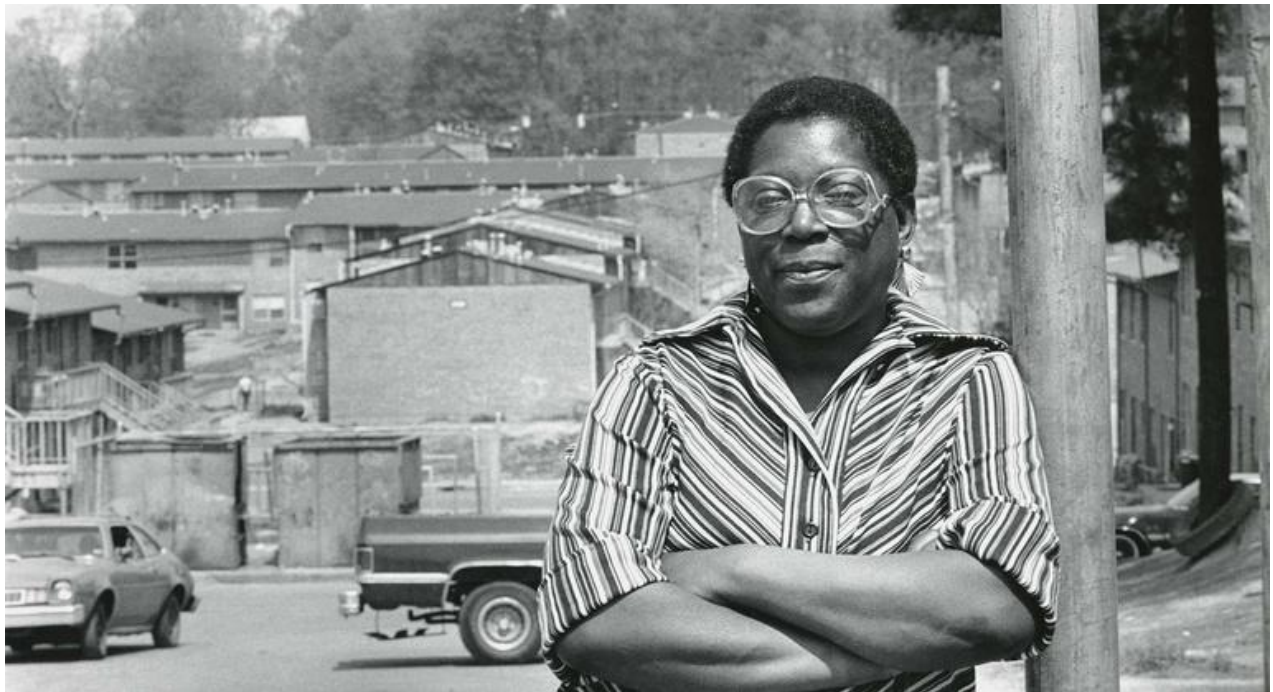
Recognizing people and projects advancing the Greater Rochester region.

Reshaping Rochester Awards Nominations are Open!

Submit nominations for our 10th Annual Reshaping Rochester Awards on a **new rolling basis, March 11 through September 11, 2020!** The awards given will recognize exemplary projects and initiatives in the nine-county Finger Lakes region that make a positive impact on people, neighborhoods, and communities. Awardees will be announced at the 10th Annual Awards Luncheon on November 19.

[Click here for nomination forms](#)

Check this out:



Documentary on Racism in Public Housing (stream for FREE)

The CDCR had partnered with WXXI for the 3/16 screening of "East Lake Meadows," a new documentary focused on a public housing project opened by the Atlanta Housing Authority in 1970 and demolished a generation later. Even though this screening was postponed, you are able to stream the film for free!

[Watch the trailer](#)

[Stream the film](#)



Christine L. Ridarsky

City of Rochester Historian: "Document your COVID-19 experience"

"What are you doing to document your experience during the COVID-19 crisis? Consider keeping a diary as a means of contributing to the historical record and make plans to donate it to a library or archive. In Rochester, the [Office of the City Historian](#) and the [Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County](#) will be building an archive on the local response to the pandemic." (Christine L. Ridarsky, City Historian)



The New RTS: Coming Soon!

Chances are, you've heard that a re-design of Rochester's [Regional Transit Service](#) is in the works. The goal is to make public transit in Rochester more frequent, reliable, and connected. Though they've had to delay its official launch (originally scheduled for June 29th) it is still coming! Learn more in the video above.

See what our friends are doing:



[Special Edition Newsletter](#)

Last week, [8 80 Cities](#) released a special edition newsletter in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It discusses what they are doing to "flatten the curve," urban environments/city planning in this unprecedented time, and recommended articles. *"We know our work on transforming cities into places that are centred on the health and happiness of human beings will be critical in the recovery effort and feel further motivated in our responsibility as city builders to increase social trust, resiliency and equity in our cities."*

[Read more here](#)

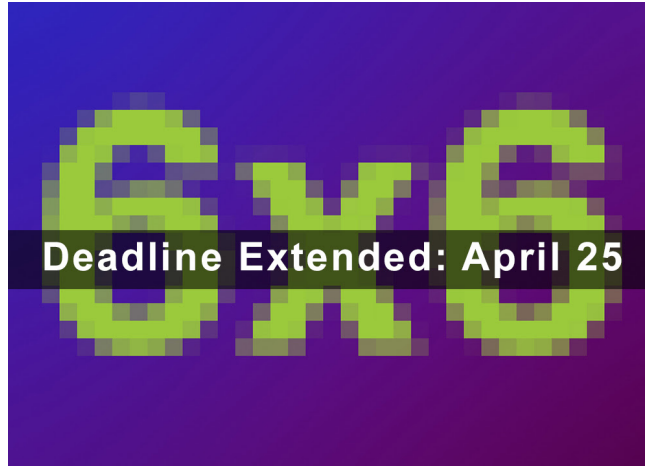


[30 Days of Biking](#)

April 2020 | All over the globe!

[Reconnect](#)'s Cycling Coordinator, Jesse Peers, says: "As the weather warms up, we encourage you to take part in April's 30 Days of Biking." 30 Days of Biking is a pledge to ride your bike every day in April and share your adventures online with the hashtag #30daysofbiking. There's no minimum distance, spin class counts, and it's okay if you miss a day!

[Make the pledge today!](#)



6x6 Deadline Extended & New Curbside Drop Off

The Rochester Contemporary Art Center has extended the deadline for 6x6 until **April 25** and is even offering a **curbside art drop station** for local submissions! This service is available Wednesday-Saturday 12pm-5pm and Fridays 12pm-6pm -- just be sure to call (585) 461-2222 to let them know.

The Community Design Center is generously supported by



**Council on
the Arts**



admin@CDCRochester.org | 585.271.0520 | CDCRochester.org