

The background is a solid mustard yellow. In the corners, there are stylized botanical illustrations. Top-left: A branch with two heart-shaped leaves in coral and two smaller, irregular leaves in dark blue. Top-right: Two large, multi-petaled flowers with teal centers and yellow, vertically-lined petals. Bottom-left: A branch with three elongated, pointed leaves in dark blue with teal and yellow veins. Bottom-right: Two elongated, pointed leaves in dark blue with coral and teal patterns.

SAFETY SYSTEMS

Neighborhood Street Medics



WHAT IS IT

A team of neighbors pool resources together to get local first-aid and self-defense training. They become a group of people that the neighborhood can count on and can call in times of need. Find a one size fits all vest or identifiable piece of clothing so that neighbors can recognize the crew throughout the neighborhood and the crew can return the item after their shift. Create a schedule for the crew to be on call in the evenings and on the weekends. Train young people to be a part of the crew as early as you deem appropriate to make the crew regenerative. Allow children to help in creating the identifiable piece of clothing. If possible, allow creating the clothing to be a neighborhood gathering filled with food and good times.

Visit the Paper Revolution [Street Medic Guide](#) for more information about how to get started and find a street medic collective near you.

Cost



Maintenance



Materials

- Bright Piece of Clothing
- First Aid Kit

Trust



Neighborhood Street Medics



WHAT DO YOU NEED

Find a local medic collective or Red Cross Training near you that's giving first aid medical training.

Download and follow the self-defense training with the Home Alive curriculum. Pool resources together to acquire a neighborhood first aid kit that is available to multiple homes or enough first aid kits for every home. Most importantly, find a group of people (at least two) who are committed to investing in the safety of the neighborhood and working on a schedule that neighbors can count on. Lastly, find a way for people to contact the medics in times of need. This could be as simple as an exchange of personal numbers or a special line that the neighborhood invests in and can call in times of emergency.

WHAT MAKES IT BEAUTIFULLY INTELLIGENT

Neighborhoods no longer need to solely put their fate in the hands of outside systems to arrive in a timely manner. Instead, they can call on someone in their community for help and count on them to act with urgency and care.

Cost



Maintenance



Materials

→ Bright Piece of Clothing
→ First Aid Kit

Trust



A Word from the Neighborhood



Ujimaa Medics (Chicago, IL)

Ujimaa Medics offer trainings in urban emergency first aid response. They teach people how to be the heroes of their neighborhoods and even train them in how to treat bullet wounds.



Green Chair Initiative

WHAT IS IT

The Green Chair Initiative is a project that started in Detroit, MI as a way of increasing safety and community in your neighborhood. The idea is to put brightly colored chairs in your neighborhood to invite people to sit on their porch to look after their neighbors. Another positive outcome, if lots of your neighbors are outside, others might be less inclined to commit crimes. As a neighborhood you can come together to create the chairs and offer the chairs to other neighbors who can agree to sit out on their porch at needed times (ex. when children are walking to and from school). This system invites neighbors to be committed to each other's safety and offers them a way to get involved easily.

Find out more at [Riverwise magazine](#) who did a feature on the system of care in Detroit's Manistique neighborhood.

Cost



Maintenance



Materials

→ Lawn Chairs
→ Paint

Trust



Green Chair Initiative

WHAT DO YOU NEED

Gather some children in the neighborhood and take them to the hardware store to collect painting supplies. Choose a color that makes sense for your neighborhood and paint the chairs. Tell other neighbors about what you are doing and ask if they would be willing to participate. It is recommended to use lawn chairs that you already have access to. Check with other neighbors to see if they have excess paint before buying new cans.

WHAT MAKES IT BEAUTIFULLY INTELLIGENT

This system is multifunctional because it increases safety in the neighborhood and builds community relationships at the same time. It combines art, laughter, community building, and fun all in one activity. It invites us to use materials found in the house and honors the ability we have to solve our own problems. It reminds us to look out for one another and that we are each other's business.

Cost



Maintenance



Materials

→Lawn Chairs
→Paint

Trust



A Word from the Neighborhood

Green Chairs not Green Lights (Detroit, MI)

The Green Chairs, Not Green Lights Campaign takes seriously the need to end the conflation between surveillance/security and safety. They are asking neighbors to come back to their front porches and to look out for one another.





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Conversation Template

This conversation can also be a note in the mailbox where you leave your number or email. Do whatever works for you!

[Access our full neighborhood conversation template here.](#)

USE THIS TEMPLATE TO CONFIDENTLY INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS TO THESE COMMUNITY BUILDING TOOLS. YOU CAN ALSO USE THIS AS AN ICEBREAKER TO TAKE NOTES OF SKILLS AND OFFERS/NEEDS FROM NEIGHBORS. DESIGNATE A NOTEBOOK FOR A CONTINUOUS LOG OF THE COMMUNITY'S ASSETS.

"Hello. My name is..... I'm your neighbor just down the street (give details so the person gets to know who you are.) I am trying to get some folks together to share skills with each other (or insert whatever you are trying to do.) By working together as neighbors we will be able to improve the place we live and offer help when we can. If you're interested in that I'd love to ask you about some things you like to do and some skills that you like to give to others."

"I'm going to read off this list which is kind of long so bear with me. I'll read the skills and you can just say 'yes' when I get to one that you have. Be sure to include skills you learned from an organization, work, personal hobbies and share any that you think may be useful but is not listed."

Inspiration and Resources



Many thanks to the team at designfordistancing.org for inspiring this project.

TOOLKIT RESOURCES

[Asset Based Community Development Institute Toolkit](#)

[Big Door Brigade Mutual Aid Toolbox](#)

[Find more of these tools being used around the world and possibly near you!](#)

SEPTEMBER 2020 | 1ST EDITION

Public Health Recommendations



We encourage organizing with neighbors with everyone's safety in mind. Please wear masks if gathering at a local park or common space and maintain a six foot distance apart. Ensure any shared items are properly disinfected.

We also encourage creating notes that can be slipped into mailboxes or doors explaining who you are, what you want to do and leaving your contact information to further coordinate between neighbors.

More tips for organizing effective online community meetings can be found [here!](#)

Even more tips about how to organize safely for mutual aid projects can be found [here.](#)



DID YOU USE ANYTHING IN THIS TOOLKIT?

CONTACT US!

WE'D LOVE TO SEE HOW YOU'RE CREATING VIBRANT
COMMONS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

DESIGNFORTHECOMMONS@GMAIL.COM



Design for the Commons

BUILDING BEAUTIFULLY INTELLIGENT NEIGHBORHOODS

