

Photo Exhibit: *What does “Home” mean for me?*

*Residents of Detroit’s Lower Eastside –
a disappearing community hangs on...*

Home has a meaning here in spite of the highest population decrease in the city. A resident group gathers together to take up a Photovoice project as a tool to formally observe the local changes and to reflect upon what makes this neighborhood unique and desirable when there are so many challenges for those still here.

Photovoice is a grassroots community-participant assessment tool designed to uncover root causes of community problems and to collectively address them. Individual change and empowerment are desired outcomes of the process, which has potential to catalyze and engage groups to foster social action toward positive social change and new policy, which will directly impact the quality of their own life within their own community.

Each resident-photographer, armed with a camera to capture neighborhood images, selected their photo with their corresponding message about what is most meaningful about home-life in the Detroit’s Lower Eastside.

These neighborhood images capture the themes of concern for improvement and enhancement of what is already working and needs protection and enhancement, as well as a call for change of the dangerous and undesirable conditions fostered by the physical environment.

Themes for a desirable home and neighborhood reflected in these images include:

- Safety and a desire for attractive housing conditions.
- A need for beauty and places of retreat, reflection and inspiration.
- Respect for the bounty of the earth and protecting sustainable and environmentally safe and enriching practices.
- Nurturing relationships and collaborations.

Over-coming challenges in the Lower Eastside by proactively advocating for the positive changes that the remaining local residents desire are reflected in these images.

TIME FOR A CHANGE



“Eerie Shell Houses need to be gone.

Time for a safe haven for my babies to play in my block.”

SHERYL BOLDEN *Lifelong Detroit native, 42 years...*

A PLACE OF SOLACE



“My neighbor’s place of solace her beautiful garden. I wish that everyone could experience the joy of having a garden and a nice water fountain. Gardens bring peace and all neighborhoods should have beauty and peace.”

MIA E. MOORE *19 years in the community...*

Sustainable Nurturing



“Committed to sustainable nurturing: of the earth and to provide food for both individual sustenance and for community-building.”

NICOLA BINNS CAMPBELL *Resident 10 years...*

“I don’t meet any strangers”



“Our neighborhood allows us to connect as a family. It also allows us to become closer and make new-found friends who feel like family.”

HELEN GILLESPIE *Lifetime family ties, resident 5 years...*

Sharing...love!



Home is a welcoming table of fresh food prepared with love to share with family and friends.

MYRTLE THOMPSON-CURTIS

Lifelong Detroit *Resident Lower Eastside 7 years...*