We believe that lasting success is community-driven. It requires effective leadership and practical approaches that produce results. This belief informs the strategies we use to help local partners build more livable communities:

STRENGTHEN LOCAL LEADERSHIP

We empower local leaders to drive positive change in their communities. Leadership is fundamental to building successful places.

INSPIRE COMMUNITY ACTION

We help communities build the civic capacity they need to forge their own future and to create the partnerships, tools and resources to take action.

SUPPORT ON THE GROUND CHANGE

From local partners establishing better policies to creating the resources needed to enact their vision, we emphasize results and meaningful on-the-ground change.

www.communitybuilders.org
At Community Builders, we work to shape communities that are strong, prosperous and livable. Healthy neighborhoods that are safe, welcoming and people can afford to live in. Strong downtowns with lively streets, thriving local businesses and a strong sense of place. Economies that are sustainable and broaden opportunity and prosperity.

The reality is, these places don’t build themselves. The deck is stacked towards a type of growth that creates a very different type of place. You know what it looks like: placeless places. They are unproductive and inefficient. They are cheap and unaffordable. They disconnect us. They make us less safe and less healthy. They are unsustainable. We can do better. We must.

A group of leaders from Twin Falls, Idaho came to our recent Community Builders Leadership Institute with a big question: How do we attract and retain talent? They left with a plan to meet the growing market demand of young professionals by creating more housing in their downtown—and a team equipped with the know-how and commitment to get it done. Like Twin Falls, teams who participate in our trainings achieve both direction and an expanded team of champions to move solutions forward.

By pairing teams with facilitators that help them create action plans, our trainings fortify the knowledge and civic capacity needed to address the most critical issues facing communities: affordable housing, transportation, redevelopment and revitalization, and economic development.

Our team is working hard to help communities address one of the most significant and challenging issues in the West: housing affordability. This fall, we hosted the Community Builders Housing Institute, a training to help communities address the challenge of housing affordability. Six Colorado communities were selected to participate in the intensive three-day training, which combined team-based learning with facilitated action planning. Over the course of the training, each team developed a detailed action plan fitting their specific needs and challenges. In addition to the training, this February we will release a new toolkit designed to help communities craft viable strategies to address this critical challenge.

"WORKING WITH COMMUNITY BUILDERS WAS A TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR OUR TEAM."
- SHAWN BARIGAR, TWIN FALLS MAYOR
Community Building is many things. It’s bricks and mortar projects, forward thinking policies, engaged citizens. And in Gunnison, Colorado, community building means developing new leaders who can champion important community issues. This was our focus when city leaders in Gunnison asked us to help create a downtown strategy earlier this year.

We partnered with the city to design an approach that put local businesses in the driver’s seat. The effort started by taking a group of business owners on the road to learn how other communities are revitalizing their downtowns. Then we provided them with the tools to develop robust community engagement and participation that was more than just meetings—it was fun, and it was effective.

The group formed a durable partnership that provided leadership throughout the project. The result? A downtown strategy with tremendous public buy-in and a dedicated group poised to drive implementation of the plan going forward.

"IT’S ALL BEEN PHENOMENAL—I DON’T KNOW OF ANYONE ELSE WHO IS DOING THE WORK THAT COMMUNITY BUILDERS DOES, BUT IT’S IMPORTANT."
- RUSS FORREST, GUNNISON CITY MANAGER

Community leaders in Laramie, Wyoming knew they had a problem. Third Street, a key downtown street that also serves as a state highway, wasn’t safe. It lacked investment. Not only was Third Street not meeting its potential, it was limiting the potential of the entire downtown. Knowing that great, walkable streets are key to a thriving downtown, they came to us for help.

Over several months, we worked with residents, businesses, local leaders, and the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) to craft a strategy that improves the safety and vitality of Third Street. With this strategy in hand, the community is taking action. WYDOT is incorporating recommendations into upcoming projects, and city leaders are assembling funds to implement the plan through future projects.

"COMMUNITY BUILDERS GAVE US THE TOOLS TO MAKE MAJOR CHANGES IN OUR COMMUNITY."
- CARLY-ANN ANDERSON, LARAMIE MAIN STREET ALLIANCE
BY THE NUMBERS | COLLECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

$206,000 FUNDING LEVERAGED FOR PROJECT WORK
2 PROJECT AWARDS
23 COMMUNITIES TRAINED

$27,029,131 FUNDING ALLOCATED FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
18 ASSISTANCE PROJECTS COMPLETED
188 LEADERS TRAINED

RESPONDING TO CRITICAL CHALLENGES IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

We empower and enable the people working to create more livable communities in the American West. With them, we’re tackling many of the most formidable issues in the West: growth, housing affordability, economic resiliency, and creating transportation choices. Our current priorities focus on creating needed change in these areas:

Getting to Smarter Growth. The American West is growing fast. Our work advances sustainable patterns of development that shape healthy neighborhoods and walkable downtowns.

Building Resilient Economies. Economic diversity is paramount to building a livable community. We help communities build broad-based prosperity by building on and strengthening their assets.

Transportation for a New Economy. Great transportation systems create great communities. We work to build functional transportation systems that connect and create places.

Real Communities Have Housing. In much of the West, housing is increasingly out of reach for lower and middle income households. We work with diverse partners to help communities address this most critical challenge.

DONATE TO COMMUNITY BUILDERS TODAY

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