good afternoon and welcome to CNDA. i'm Meghan Harte. on behalf of LISC and our partners I’d like to introduce today's opening discussion

From the first time i can remember having to speak in front of people I’ve had incredible stage fright. i remember seeing an episode of Brady Brunch at some point...yes it's an old tv show... and in that episode Jan or Marcia had to make a speech. she got some advice...does anyone remember...she was told to picture everyone in their underwear...and no...i’m not doing that right now..but it did make me laugh and relax just a little.

instead of picturing that i’d like to you to picture 2 young girls in middle school. one lives in Oak Park and one lives in Little Village. The girl in Oak Park lives in the home her family owns. Her dad is a lawyer and her mom is a home maker. the girl in little village lives in a house her family rents, both her parents work a lot to a

ford the basics and neither speak english.

the girl in oak park goes to a private school and her mom volunteers in the classes. she gets a ride to and from school or walks or rides her bike with her friends. the girl in little village goes to a school and has to navigate safety and takes the bus when she has bus money

the girl in oak park loves to play basketball especially for her school team. She plays softball for the park district. She plays piano because her mom makes her. she goes to basketball camps in the summer and practices in her backyard on the hoop her parents attached to the garage. it's all easy...her parents sign her up and pay

the girl in little village loves to play basketball and wants to go to college. she searches for an opportunity because it's not at her school and she doesn't know of one in her neighborhood. she finds a program in Pilsen and does everything on her own to get to it because her parents can’t communicate, don’t know the internet, and can’t drive her there because of work. so she doesn’t get to go all the time. the girl from LV also wants to go to summer camp so she seeks out a camp at university of wisconsin and applies by herself and gets rejected. she doesn’t give up. she’s tries again and she gets accepted..

soon it’s time for high school. the girl from OP takes the test at ignatius. she takes the test and does ok and gets in. her dad helps because he has friends at the school

the girl in LV starts investigating school options on her own. she finds ignatius. studies on her own for the test. she does ok on the test doesn’t get in and goes registers at a different school

summer comes and the girl in oak park makes a dumb mistake and shoplifts on a date from her friends. they get caught. the police get involved. they call her house. she gets a lecture but nothing else happens...for two reasons, her dad is the police commissioner and because the cops understand it was a youthful mistake.

what would have happened to the LV girl if she did that. she knows no one, her parents don't speak english, they’d have to leave their job to handle it.

the girl from OP goes onto high school, college, law school and doesn’t look back.
What happened to the girl from LV...her story is still being written

so why tell you this story? It's about equity and access. it's the basic example of lack of inclusivity. the kid from OP didn’t know she had privilege and the kid from LV didn’t know she didn’t.

But we do...and we can do something about it.

everyone talks about economic growth and its necessity to be inclusive. while there are many conversations about the topic, it is rarely clear that there is a shared understanding of those terms.

what do we mean by growth? is there good growth and bad growth? what do we mean by inclusive growth? Does it mean jobs for more than a few? Does it mean sharing some of the resources that others own or does it mean ownership of resources for all? what does community wealth building mean? what does community health and stability mean?

while these questions are on the minds of many people, they are mostly discussed in the rooms of the few, among those perceived as leaders in business, government and policy

but no longer are macro policy issues someone else’s responsibility. it is in our communities that the national and even international issues and policies play out - whether it be the result of national crises such as the foreclosure and economic crisis of 2008 or the impact of policies like immigrations, healthcare, the justice system or education.

so it is with one united voice from our communities that our partners speak today. you will hear from representatives of a collective of neighborhood and workforce development leaders. it’s a call to action from the neighborhoods to achieve inclusive economic development to assure the ENTIRE city benefits.

Our neighborhoods and the people who live in them are speaking...let’s listen