

Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action (ANCA)
-An UPDATE, August 2019 – submitted by OliveAnn Slotta

On July 31st, the ANCA Committee met in the library of the Tears McFarlane Mansion to complete a detailed plan for their 2019-20 Program Year, its third year of organizing Climate Action Forums. CHUN is one of three program partners, together with ICA-USA (the Institute of Cultural Affairs--the Forum process people) and MSU Denver (Metro State University 's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences --the Climate Scientists). After the initial Capitol Hill Demonstration Forum in October of 2016, which was attended by 40 people from 17 Denver neighborhoods, three other CHUN neighborhoods held action planning events—South City Park, Embassy Suites on Humboldt Street (a Cheesman Park High Rise, and Congress Park. Soon other concerned neighborhoods across the city requested Climate Action Forums, and this past June, the eighth neighborhood, Whittier, met at the Ford Warren Library to craft these four Action Plans specific to their needs: 1) Actively Partner with Community Entities; 2) Carbon Sequestration through Community Gardening; 3) Personal Carbon Footprint Reduction; and 4) Government Advocacy and Political Engagement. These four make a total of 27 Action Plans in place in ten Denver neighborhoods—Thank You CHUN!

New this Fall is a 2 credit hour MSU course, *Community Climate Initiatives*, which will prepare Environmental Education Students to support the Forum Neighborhoods as they move forward with their planning and work (info at OSlotta@msudenver.edu). We are also celebrating two new ANCA Committee Members, Liz Goehring, from Congress Park, and Fran Aguirre from Sunnyside. Last year, Libby Comeaux, South City Park, brought her leadership skills to this new movement. The City of Denver's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program continues to support Forums in their certified neighborhoods.

The next scheduled ANCA Forum is West Capitol Hill at 9:30 am on Saturday, September 21st at Our Savior's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. State Senator Faith Winter and Denver City Councilman Chris Hinds plan to attend and share insights with participants. Each Forum Event is about 5 hours long and opens with an update on the Climate Crisis, presented either by MSU's Dr. Richard Wagner or a trained volunteer from the Climate Reality Program. Three successive workshops follow producing the neighborhood's Action Plans. Typically, the Neighborhood Association becomes a primary sponsor of the event, supported in CHUN neighborhoods by a CHUN Board Member and an ANCA Committee Member. A professional facilitator leads each Forum. Documents from each Forum are available on the program website: www.accelerateclimateaction.org. A 2019-20 priority is engaging these remaining CHUN neighborhoods in moving ahead with a Forum to lower their carbon footprint: City Park West, North Capitol Hill, East Cheesman Park, Alamo Placita, Country Club, and Cherry Creek North. Perhaps looming on the horizon, a **CHUN Climate Action Day?**