

Group A-6 | Transitioning from a Multigenerational to an Intergenerational Community: A Case Study of the Mueller Community in Austin, Texas

This session examines the challenges and potential resolutions in developing an intergenerational community that encourages healthy and active aging, with an in-depth case study focusing on the Mueller Community in Austin, Texas. Covering 700 acres, Mueller is a high-density, mixed-use, and mixed-income neighborhood whose development commenced in the late 1990s on the site of the former municipal airport. It was among the first LEED Neighborhood Development Pilot Projects. Over the ensuing two decades, Mueller has grown into a close-knit community, accommodating over 10,000 residents and providing thousands of job opportunities. The addition of retirement homes and apartments has drawn aging parents to relocate to Mueller, cohabiting with their adult children and grandchildren, thereby shaping Mueller into a multigenerational community. Despite this, there remains a lack of opportunities and resources to enable older residents to interact actively with younger generations and engage in community activities. This session will begin with an overview of Mueller's development history, proceed to analyze community needs, identify policy barriers, and discuss essential physical and social components and programs. It will conclude by highlighting the efforts and initiatives undertaken by a local grassroots, not-for-profit organization—comprised predominantly of Mueller residents—to cultivate an intergenerational community. This presentation was delivered at the 2024 Environments for Aging Conference.



Ani Colt and Preston Tyree presenting for Zhipeng Lu