

Norm Krumholz and Equity Planning

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A major reason that I moved from the San Francisco Bay area in 1983 to join the faculty of the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University was the presence of Norm Krumholz. Norm's tenure as Cleveland's City Planning Director under three mayors had ended in 1979. Soon after that he came to the college to form the Center for Neighborhood Development (CND), which he directed until he joined the faculty fulltime in 1988.

Norm's philosophy of Equity Planning was embodied in his department's 1974 Policy Plan that advocated for those Cleveland residents with few or no choices and in need of decent housing and affordable and accessible public transportation. His work over that decade at Cleveland City Hall is recounted in his book with Professor John Forester from Cornell University entitled *Making Equity Planning Work: Leadership in the Public Sector* (Temple University Press, 1990).

The year before his death December, 2019, Cornell University Press published his co-edited *Advancing Equity Planning NOW*. Norm published many other books and articles, some of which were in collaboration with me. Two examples are our co-edited *Cleveland: A Metropolitan Reader* (Kent State University Press, 1995) and *Revitalizing Urban Neighborhoods* (University Press of Kansas, 1996).

In all his professional and academic work, Norm stressed the need for urban planners to represent the poor and powerless and their needs. This included his stints as head of the American Planning Association (APA) and the American Institute of City Planning (AICP). He successfully advocated for adding this policy position in the APA's Code of Ethics.

Professionally, Norm served on the boards of Greater Cleveland's public housing authority (CMHA) and the Cleveland City Planning Commission, among other public and community organizations. As Director of the CNP at the Levin College, Norm was instrumental in the formation of the Cleveland Housing Network, a

consortium of then fledgling community development corporations dedicated to providing affordable housing for the poor in Cleveland's neighborhoods. As it evolved, it became a national model.

Throughout his teaching career, Norm inspired many students at the Levin College. Dozens of graduates of its urban planning program entered the field of community development having had Norm as a teacher and mentor.

Norm's lasting legacy is his contribution to the movement for social justice and equity planning by progressive cities. While not all of his efforts as a practitioner achieved his goals, his ideas live on as a tribute to his career as an advocate.