Why aren't more cities implementing placemaking strategies, which are proven to expand economic activity, increase mobility, protect the environment, and create more equitable places?

In many cases, it’s because a municipality’s zoning codes and ordinances make it illegal to create the type of vibrant communities that support jobs, foster economic development, and are attractive places for people to live, work, and play that residents and local leaders are seeking.

Incremental Code Reform:

CNU’s Project for Code Reform seeks to streamline the code reform process by providing local governments place-specific incremental coding changes that address the most problematic barriers first, build political will, and ultimately create more walkable, prosperous, and equitable places. And to do it in a way that meets planners, mayors, and planning commissioners where they are: politically, financially, and administratively. The Project’s incremental approach allows jurisdictions to set their own pace for code changes, allowing them to prioritize their coding efforts, respond to the community’s vision and needs, and allows for greater community learning and understanding.

With its state and national partners, CNU is proud to have developed Enabling Better Places: Users’ Guide to Zoning Reform. The Guide responds to the common conditions found in towns and small cities, simplifying the challenge of changing zoning in order to empower better downtowns, main streets, and their adjacent neighborhoods.

The Guide is written to be adaptable, and CNU offers document customization and implementation training to municipalities, organizations, and groups interested in applying its recommendations to their local context.

To inquire about implementing the Guide in your state, city, or town, please visit www.cnu.org.