Impact Circle for Imagine Flint Master Plan Implementation
June 19, 2015
207 Northbank Center

AGENDA

I. Welcome and introductions

II. Brief updates: City of Flint task groups, Innovative Impact Award Proposal, public input on the revised zoning code

III. Review lists of project opportunities in Civic Park and BNCP neighborhoods (identified by our anchor community partners)

IV. Discussion: how to shape projects into a collective impact framework for interdisciplinary community engagement

V. Discussion (if time allows): Action steps to engage the broader UM-Flint academic community in our efforts

VI. Next steps

Upcoming meeting dates: (2:00-3:30 pm, 207 NBC)
   - Friday, July 17, 2015
   - Friday, August 21, 2015

Impact Circle Purpose Statement

The Impact Circle approach to university-community partnership, serves several interlocking purposes:

- To support the campus in shifting from piecemeal community engagement activities to transformational community impacts
- To galvanize research, academic service-learning and other university connections related to the City of Flint’s new comprehensive Master Plan
- To foster interdisciplinary collaboration and address complex community issues requiring interdisciplinary solutions
- To position UM-Flint as the academic partner of choice in the region
UM-Flint Representation on City of Flint Task Groups

UM-Flint currently has 16 representatives across six of the seven task groups focused on supporting the implementation of respective chapters of the Imagine Flint Master Plan.

UM-Flint representation on the implementation task groups is as follows (* indicates that the individual is coordinating the task group):

- Arts and Culture
  - Janet Haley, Theatre Faculty
  - Andrew Morton, Theatre Faculty

- Economic Development and Education
  - Jennifer Burger, Alumnus and MNA AmeriCorps VISTA through University Outreach
  - Scott Johnson, Dean of School of Management
  - Stephen Miller, Student
  - Keith Moreland, School of Management Faculty

- Environmental Features, Parks, and Open Space
  - Mona Munroe-Younis, Office of University Outreach Staff *
  - Kurt Neiswender, Earth and Resource Science Faculty
  - Samantha Tate, Student

- Housing and Neighborhoods – none

- Infrastructure and Community Facilities
  - Brad Mikus, School of Management Graduate Student
  - Victoria Morckel, Earth & Resource Science Faculty
  - Robert Widigan, Alumnus

- Public Safety, Health, and Welfare
  - Keshanda Jones, Public Health & Health Sciences Staff (HCOP Program)
  - Lindsey Tarrant, Public Health & Health Sciences Staff (HCOP Program)
  - Bill Webb, Vice Chancellor of Business & Finance

- Transportation and Mobility
  - Weiqi Li, School of Management Faculty
BNCP Current (Expanded) Service Area Map

The new BNCP service area brings BNCP’s coverage west all the way to Clio Rd. at the edge of the City of Flint boundary.
Community Partner-Identified Project Opportunities

**Building Neighborhood Capacity Program**

- **(BNCP internal capacity-building)** Assist with development of a program outcome and measurement chart for BNCP itself, to ensure that the right evaluation tools are in place.

- **(BNCP internal capacity-building)** Develop succession planning and sustainability plan for community group leadership within BNCP.

- **(Arts & Culture)** Residents and youth desire to have coordinated neighborhood-based festivals, events and after-school programs that enrich their quality of life and have neighborhood community centers for the promotion of the arts, crafts, recreation and education programs (a place to go).
  - Create and support neighborhood events, festivals, cultural gatherings and friendly competitions
  - Build grassroots arts and cultural programs by working with local artists, creative professionals to help the neighborhood express its local identity, increase resident involvement and pride.
  - Gather information and develop strategy to create neighborhood community centers for the promotion of arts and culture
  - Work with Flint Community Schools on after-school and summer community-based programs
  - Improve Hasselbring Park, which is located between two BNCP neighborhoods – tie with Infrastructure & Community Facilities goal
  - Determine what programs serve youth in the BNCP area and what the programs offer regularly on the north side of Flint. (This will help to increase communication and reduce unnecessary duplication.)

- **(Economic Development & Education)** Residents desire job readiness training, GED education, assistance for entrepreneurs and jobs that pay a living wage.
  - Develop destination points on the north end of town.
  - Study the outflow of money from the Flint community to support burgeoning efforts to increase food access by making the business case for establishing/expanding local grocery stores
  - Work with community stakeholders to create business incubators that help new startups and provide support services to growing firms to build their business with minimal cost and infrastructure
    - Host a job fair for adults and youth
  - Work with community stakeholders to create micro-loan programs to include a variety of initiatives to encourage investment and job growth in technology
  - Work with community stakeholders to investigate green businesses
  - Work with community stakeholders to redevelop, recycle and repurpose properties
• **(Environmental Features, Open Space & Parks)** Residents desire well-maintained, clean, safe parks for children and families to enjoy safe place to play; and be informed of local environmental hazards.
  - Increase resident “ownership” to maintain local parks and improve visual aspects of parks
  - Increase safety and crime
  - Increase use for physical activities to promote health and reduce health risks (obesity, diabetes and heart disease)
    - Create training programs for volunteers to run year-round recreation programs
  - Create a database of local environmental hazards

• **(Housing & Neighborhoods)** Residents desire neighborhoods with no abandoned and blighted structures, especially areas with schools.
  - SPARK Project - board abandoned properties (neighborhood around Our Savior Lutheran Church)
  - Neighborhood clean-up
  - Create a picture campaign to deter scrapping and other criminal activities
  - Time bank Directory

• **(Infrastructure & Community Facilities)** Residents desire working infrastructure including quick action on damaged pipes, power outages, storm sewer problems, streetlights, overflow sewage and damaged sidewalks.
  - Reduce (weekly) number of neighborhood broken street lights
    - Create a neighborhood call Consumers Energy campaign to report broken street lights
  - Create public safety and community service centers that offer a comprehensive set of social services for youth and families.
    - Repurpose an existing small business or home
  - Advocate to convert street lighting to energy efficient LED fixtures
  - Improve Hasselbring Park, which is located between two BNCP neighborhoods – tie with Arts & Culture goal

• **(Land Use)** Residents want education on: land use like green neighborhoods and green innovation, Form Based Zoning and what they mean to the neighborhood.
  - Increase knowledge, skills and hands-on experience in urban agriculture to improved residents ability to grow food.
  - Increase residents’ access to fresh produce that is grown within the neighborhood.
  - Improve visual aspects of neighborhood’s open space

• **(Public Safety, Health & Welfare)** Residents desire to live in a safe and healthy neighborhood.
  - Increase residents awareness and knowledge of area health organizations and access to information, including the Double Up Food Bucks Program
  - Create partnerships between schools, churches, nonprofits, local businesses and the City of Flint to create activities, jobs and other initiatives for neighborhood youth
  - Increase cooperative efforts between residents and law enforcement (Flint Police, and Michigan State Police) for plan code enforcement
- Create a neighborhood communication system to connect neighborhoods to city information
  - Work with stakeholders to create a new full service grocery store in the neighborhood.

- **(Transportation & Mobility)** Residents want their input heard with regard to transportation and mobility; and actively included in transportation decisions.
  - Existing BNCP partnership with MTA has increased neighborhood advocacy and open dialogue around access to quality healthy food sources
  - Advocate on behalf of neighborhoods regarding new busing times and accessibility issues on buses
  - Create bicycle lanes on the north-side

**Civic Park Neighborhood**

Dear UM-Flint Impact Circle members,

In response to your request for Urban Renaissance Center (URC) to prioritize 10 major focus areas/projects in which UM-Flint could partner with us, the organization’s leadership has pulled together a list that includes areas to both strengthen the hand of URC as well as to provide direct services for the residents of the Civic Park neighborhood and its surrounding areas. The following are our recommendations:

- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC by offering professional expertise and advice in helping reorganize and restructure the organization so it can move to the next level in the area of nonprofit professionalization. This includes, but is not limited to, record management, accounting practices and procedures, short- and long-term budgeting, program development, friend/fundraising and organizational sustainability.
- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC in the continued development and growth of URC’s on-site SHARE Network Access Point (computer lab). The Lab is a collaborative venture of Joy Tabernacle, Career Alliance, Inc. and the Department of Michigan Works! For the past seven years we have provided our computer lab online resources, job search assistance, and job readiness training to underemployed, unemployed, and hard-to-employ Flint residents. [Note: The number of computers throughout URC is very limited. Most are more than 10 years old so they are virtually obsolete by today’s standards for software compatibility and high-speed digital processing.]
- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC to help with the Rebounding Force (Work Readiness Program). The program provides comprehensive and holistic job readiness training/subsidized employment opportunities to empower participants to combat, challenge and overcome social, systemic and unconventional barriers to gainful employment and upward mobility.
- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC to help recruit and train at least one volunteer intern as an URC office assistant who will work a minimum of 20 hours weekly serving as a receptionist/secretary, etc.
- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC to help establish an entrepreneurial lawn cutting/snow plowing business for young adults. The business venture needs to tap the expertise of
professionals to create a cooperative business structure that can tap into state Community Venture Dollars, and other funding sources.

- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC in developing a five-year plan for the development of Civic Park Neighborhood that is in partnership with the Civic Park Neighborhood Association and in coordination with the City of Flint’s Master Plan.
- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC to explore the vision for creating a community business-center model that incorporates condensed spaces for residential/business dwellings.
- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC to develop health services for neighborhood residents, with special focus on African-American males as previously discussed with Dr. Terry L. Thompson.
- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC to help develop a one-on-one tutoring program for school-age students in the Civic Park neighborhood and also GED preparation center and testing site.
- UM-Flint is invited to partner with URC in developing a community-wide choir and dance troupe.

We look forward to entering into discussions about this priority list, and to continue building a strong relationship with UM-Flint for the benefit of the community we both serve.

Sincerely,

R. Sherman McCathern, Executive Director

- **(Urban Renaissance Center @ Joy Tabernacle)** Pastor McCathern wants to establish the Urban Renaissance Center as a nonprofit out of Joy Tabernacle. Once the nonprofit is established, assistance will be needed to develop a strategic action plan with 3-, 6-, and 9-month goals.

- **(Urban Renaissance Center @ Joy Tabernacle)** Neighborhood stabilization/boarding vacant houses

- **(Urban Renaissance Center @ Joy Tabernacle)** Supporting My Brother’s Keeper Initiative: “The initiative is to ensure that all youth, including boys and young men of color, have opportunities to improve their life outcomes and overcome barriers to success”, according to whitehouse.gov.