Imagine Flint Master Plan Meeting  
September 5, 2014  
Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Emily Feuerherm (English/Linguistics Faculty); Tendaji Ganges (Educational Opportunity Initiatives Director); Keshanda Jones (Public Health & Health Sciences Staff); Brad Mikus (School of Management Alumnus); Victoria Morockel (Earth & Resource Science Faculty); Keith Moreland (School of Management Faculty); Andrew Morton (Theatre Faculty); Mona Munroe-Younis (University Outreach Staff); Kurt Neiswender (Earth & Resource Science Faculty); Qiana Perrean Smith (Housing & Residential Life Staff); Jeff Schuel (Student Success Center Staff); Lindsey Tarrant (Public Health & Health Sciences Staff); Jamie Traugott (Student Success Center Staff)

The meeting began with introductions around the room.

Mona reviewed the purpose and intent of the Impact Circle initiative (see the Impact Circle website at [http://www.umflint.edu/outreach/impact-circle](http://www.umflint.edu/outreach/impact-circle)).

The group reviewed the list of UM-Flint representatives on City of Flint task groups focused around different chapters/topics of the Imagine Flint Master Plan. As of this meeting, UM-Flint had 16 representatives across six of the seven task groups; all task groups had UM-Flint representation except for the Housing task group. Victoria noted that while she is serving on the Infrastructure & Community Facilities task group, she was part of the Housing advisory group while the Master Plan was being written and therefore can speak to that chapter of the Master Plan.

**University Assets**

The group reviewed a list of types of resources and connections that the University could potentially contribute toward efforts to implement the Master Plan. The list included these topics: people, class projects, research projects, service projects, internships, existing or new University programs, financial resources, physical space, policies/practices/incentives, work-study, and professional/social networks.

Seeing no other categories to add, the group engaged in an interactive activity to map potential specific university connections/resources that could be contributed to support implementation of the Master Plan. Participants walked around the room and listed connections and resources on large sheets of paper for the following bolded topics. The resulting lists are as follows:

**People** (What individuals and groups are not at the table should be invited? What interdisciplinary connections can be fostered? )

- Alumni
- Faculty (SOM)
- Business owners
- Student organizations
- Community school and districts
- Flint Institute of Arts/Music
- Flint Cultural Center
o Faith-based organizations
o Non-profit orgs
o Mayor Walling
o MichiganWorks!
o DHS
o Greek Life
o Other universities – MSU, Ketering, Baker, Mott
o Kellogg Foundation
o People from the health professions
o AmeriCorps
o Free-lancers (e-lancers for data entry)

Class Projects (What classes could contribute to Flint’s development?)
  o Further mapping and imagining of new land use plan
  o Lots of ERS classes (RPL311, RPL411, RPL260)
  o Business plan and marketing [plan projects to help new businesses
  o Community/neighborhood needs assessments and implication report, follow-up with suggestions (report)
  o THE392 – Collaborative playwriting course
  o Free activities on campus for the community (like Math Night), plays, productions
  o Tutoring in the local schools
  o Assisting high school & middle school counselors with preparing students for navigating the college-going process
  o Go in to the Flint neighborhoods, learn the area, see conditions (photo journals) outside of what is on the news (personally)

Research Projects (Is there existing research that could tie in? What research expertise could be brought to bear?)
  o Research project could help inform City work
    ▪ Operationalize Implementation
    ▪ Project Management
    ▪ Budgets/Constraints
  o ERS Department (already doing this)
  o Michigan Economic Development Council (patronicity.com matching crowdfunding grants)
  o Get Engineering Dept involved

Service Projects (What groups and individuals may be interested in service projects?)
  o Alternative Breaks
  o Basic health screenings
  o Beta Alpha Psi (accounting/finance Academic Fraternity household budgeting class for community with monetary incentive
  o Service at orientation that brings students into the community
  o More academic support for local middle and high school students (provided by faculty/staff/college students, etc.)
  o Adopt an entire class (6th or 7th grade) and help them develop throughout school until college and offer partial scholarships to grads.
Internships (What internship programs can be linked? Note: The City of Flint is looking for interns.)
- GEO498
- Arts Administration (MA)
- Finance Dept (City of Flint)
- Offer paid internships to work with various community groups (beyond the usual agencies)
- Offer on-campus opportunities for high school student to get involved with programming—beyond dual enrollment
- Internship coordinating group (of all internship coordinators)

Existing or New University Programs (What programs can be leveraged? What program alignments could be made?)
- Summer visit after dark with Housing/Admissions, free to high school students
- Provide a UM-Flint Expo for the community to learn about UM-Flint and what it has to offer
- Engagement with community schools early
- Service projects at orientations
- Alternative Breaks
- Departments working together for programs for Flint (e.g. EOI/Housing)
- Geographic Information Systems Center (ERS)
- My Flint Events
- ECDC extended hours
- Center for Educator Preparation

Financial Resources (What financial resources could be leveraged? Think of multiple levels: department, unit, university-wide.)
- Faculty, grad student, staff may want to teach courses for free
- Civic engagement course implementation grant program (set aside for project related to the plan)
- Student fees (like IT & Rec Center)
- We need to seek grants
- Low hanging fruit: offer monetary incentives for various segments of Flint residents to take courses of enroll part-time/full-time
- Courses for non-degree-seeking people (non-degree community ed courses good PR too)
- UM voluntarily pay property tax to city
- Public/private funds partnership (i.e. artplace.org)
- United Way
- Arts of Citizenship (UM Rackham)
- Encourage groups and orgs on campus to take up courses that will improve Flint
- Ruth Mott Foundation
- Crim
- Dual enrollment with Flint Schools
Physical Space (How might we utilize university space creatively to support implementation efforts?)
- Work study students help with setup and breakdown of community events
- Change how UM-Flint buildings face (toward street, not internally)
- Creative modern student housing options
- Fac/staff housing
- Urban Alternatives House
- Cost of community members space usage on campus
- MEDC crowdfunding public space grants (match funds up to $100,000)
- Outdoor space (e.g. old ice rink)
- Theatre (body-building shows)
- Set aside some funds to use to subsidize community groups to use UM-Flint space for limited meetings
- First St. Housing – multipurpose room holds 30 people
- Space for community educational programs
- Rec Center (host events in underutilized space)
- Repurpose UM lawns to “Green Innovation”-like gardens
- Innovation Incubator
- Meeting space for implementation groups
- Riverfront (opportunity to grow)
- Library
- Community gardens
- Bike lanes/paths for commuting (esp. downtown)
- Adopt the freeway exits to remove trash/debris
- Buy real estate like Kettering has
- University Ave.

Policies, Practices and Incentives (What exists that could be leveraged to make it possible for university people to connect their university experience to Master Plan implantation? What could be put in place to make this possible?)
- Admissions incentives for students from Flint area schools
- Require faculty/staff to commit to a percentage of time service the community (already true for tenure track)
- Encourage people to go beyond Downtown
- More recognition of student and faculty who do this work
- Tenure and promotion
- Cost of space utilization for community members (special rates for groups from within City of Flint or a special pool of funds to cover the difference in cost or waived fee)
- Child care for ‘after hours’ meeting for faculty/staff/students
- Community service requirements for graduation

Work-Study (How might departmental work-study positions be leveraged? Where would it make sense to establish community work-study placements – can take up to 3 months for UM-Ann Arbor review?)
- Seek placements in community orgs/groups where UM-Flint work-study students could work and gain experience and contribute to the community
- Work-study students who work on faculty research related to the plan
- Work-study students in Flint Community Schools, charters, early colleges, etc.
Site pre-approval for intermittent use
There were more students need WS positions last year than there were positions
Work-Study positions on campus that serve community organizations

**Professional/Social Networks** (How can we intentionally share connections with people in our fields, our colleagues, family, friends, etc.?)
- University members’ place of worship
- Adopt a school
- Professional associations (i.e. society for Community Research & Action)
- Hosting conferences – HRL hosing one in 2015-a regional conference
- Website for implementation/Impact Circle – grow excitement on successful project
- Link city website to UM-Flint (connect citizens to the university)
- Develop series of workshops to offer to community members based upon their needs.
- Engaging international students
- Grow excitement on successful project
- AA/Flint + UM-Flint
- Flint Public Art Project
- Gen-Forward

This list will be used by the group as we move forward with thinking about actionable ways to support Master Plan implementation.

**Function of the Impact Circle**

The group then discussed how UM-Flint can broaden and deepen its support for the Master Plan, especially in terms of the function of the Impact Circle in generating or guiding the support from campus:

- Bring groups together
- Coordinate and integrate activities of UM-Flint work toward the Master Plan
- Information sharing (e.g. share what’s happening in the City’s Master Plan implementation task groups, build a web of interdisciplinary connections between task groups)
- Facilitate communication
- See how University assets fit with efforts to implement the Master Plan
- Share how group dynamics are going within the task groups
- Explore how do we support the City in building capacity through grants to actually do the implementation work
- Think about long-term sustainability for community redevelopment
- Share a contact list of campus people who participate in the Impact Circle

**Next Steps**

Mona shared that Chancellor Borrego is interested in meeting with the Impact Circle in the future as she meets with groups around campus. The suggestion of the group was to plan this gathering for a regular meeting date of the Impact Circle in order to maximize participation.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Friday, September 26th (1:30-3:00 pm, 207 Northbank Center)