

# 14th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth

Practical Tools and Innovative Strategies for Creating Great Communities

**January 29-31, 2015**

Baltimore, Maryland

*presented by the Local Government Commission*



## Equitable Development, Environmental Justice and Smart Growth



*Smart growth approaches to development create healthy, vibrant places that give people more economic opportunities and choices. Learn how smart growth supports equitable development, environmental justice and economic vitality and empowers communities of color, tribes and disadvantaged groups.*

*The 2015 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference includes a dynamic, interactive workshop and several sessions that will explore these critical issues and showcase strategies for greater collaboration among equitable development, smart growth and environmental justice advocates.*

**newpartners.org**

# *Equitable Development: Tools and Strategies for Making a Visible Difference in Communities*

Thursday, January 29 ■ 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**E**quitable development is increasingly included in the spectrum of place-based activities for creating strong and livable communities. Today, there are clear initiatives, tangible examples and award-winning projects that demonstrate the application of the approach as a means to rebuild America's communities. The outcomes of equitable development are the result of clearly set expectations, collaborative problem-solving and persistent leadership. In an era of rapid change, funding constraints and not learning from past failures could be obstacles to implementation. As a result, there is demand and urgency for tools, strategies and best practices for improving the proficiency of practitioners.

The 2015 equitable development workshop will increase collective understanding about the implementation and accomplishments of the approach. Through meaningful dialogue and instruction, the workshop will reposition the conversation of how to make our communities more sustainable and viable now — and for generations to come — through active promotion of equitable development. The U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice is pursuing AICP accreditation for this workshop.

**Morning coffee and lunch will be included. Pre-registration and a \$28 fee are required.**

## **Community Ownership Strategies + Organizing**

Equitable development stabilizes communities and provides vulnerable populations with a pathway out of poverty. Rather than divide the pie into more pieces, equitable development strives to expand the size of the pie through wealth-building strategies, entrepreneurship, accumulation of assets and financial intelligence. This session focuses on how to expand independence within communities by creating cooperatives and leveraging buying power to enable residents to enter the economic mainstream. Learn the organizing backstory behind successful projects.

## **How to Manage Gentrification**

Gentrification has benefits and impacts. Focusing exclusively on the benefits or impacts is not sustainable, and the social stalemate gives limited attention to the fact that all citizens share a common interest in having a better quality of life. Learn how to actively manage gentrification rather than passively subscribe to letting the market solve the problem.

## **Working in Partnership for Equitable Development**

As sustainability initiatives gain traction, it is clear that the pathway to a sustainable future will require equitable development. Sustainable community initiatives and efforts to meet the needs of underserved populations need not be mutually exclusive. This session explores the power of partnerships among allied professionals, grassroots leaders and stakeholders to encourage equitable development and expand opportunities for everyone to have a safe, healthy environment in which to live, work and play.

*The U.S. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice is organizing the workshop with support from the U.S. EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities and the Local Government Commission.*

## **Making Equitable Development Work Even When You Have Limited Resources**

Looming budget cuts to community programs tend to cause anxiety. However, funding reductions aren't an acceptable excuse for inaction. This session explores how local leaders are remaining productive, being creative, and stretching dollars further. Learn how the nation's leading equitable development experts have been successful navigating financial hurdles.

## **My Elected Official Gets It: Advancing Policy that Supports Equitable Development**

Elected officials have a critical role to play for advancing policy that encourages communities that are healthy, safe, equitable and prosperous. Their leadership contributes to the progress of efforts for improving quality of life. This session gives elected officials an opportunity to share the actions they have undertaken to restore the primacy of existing communities as well as encourage parity within communities. Elected officials will share how they positioned themselves to succeed as well as how they leveraged the support of local constituents.

***Follow and tweet about the workshop @EquiDev***



**After the Coal Plant Closes:  
An Environmental Justice  
Approach to Redevelopment**

□ THURSDAY, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

While the retirement of coal plants across the country represents a win for the environment, it's important that local governments and community leaders understand the full community and economic impacts and plan for the future. In 2012, after years of community and environmental justice organizing, two major coal plants were decommissioned in Chicago. This session will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the stakeholder process and the role of environmental justice organizing around brownfield redevelopment when two major coal plants were decommissioned in Chicago.

**Regenerating Legacy Cities:  
Creating Opportunity,  
Fostering Inclusion**

□ THURSDAY, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Is regeneration without gentrification possible or desirable? Many of America's struggling post-industrial Legacy Cities are in the midst of an encouraging renaissance. Pittsburgh, Baltimore, St. Louis and others are making advances, whether attracting technological innovation or small-scale urban manufacturing. Yet, the revival is uneven: downtowns may be thriving, but adjacent neighborhoods remain blighted; or the new jobs are going to commuters, while the city's workforce diminishes. Examine the contours of how such regeneration has increased, rather than diminished, inequities – and how multiple stakeholders might better align to achieve greater equity.

**Making Development Work for  
All: From Promise to Practice**

□ THURSDAY, 7:25-8:30 p.m. (plenary)

To make smart-growth development work for everybody, it must be equitable, accessible and affordable, not just economically and environmentally viable. This solutions-oriented plenary will feature diverse perspectives on the housing affordability crisis and how to develop promising solutions. Explore integrated investment and



planning practices that combine equitable strategies for affordable housing, economic development, access to transit, schools and community amenities.

**Deal Makers and Game Changers:  
Being Responsive to a Market  
for Equitable Development**

□ FRIDAY, 10:15-11:45 a.m.

Continued success for equitable development will require understanding consumers and how they adopt innovations. Find out what the business community thinks of equitable development, and what is motivating early adopters of equitable development to get on board. Learn how to turn businesses into allies for equitable development.

**Fair Development: Uniting  
Economic and Community  
Development under an Equitable  
and Unitary Framework**

□ FRIDAY, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

A coalition that includes a human rights group, United Workers, labor unions UNITE HERE Local 7 and SEIU 32bj, and a broad-based, community organization, Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD), is organizing and waging campaigns for fair development to ensure that economic and community development in Baltimore prioritizes communities in need, benefits all, and is transparent, participatory and accountable. Panelists will share the successes and challenges that they have encountered in growing the movement, persuading policy-makers, and building political leverage.

**Equitable Development:  
Thorny Issues, Common Lessons  
and Leading Strategies for  
Places Large and Small**

□ FRIDAY, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

As cities strive to build equitable places for all, seasoned stakeholders know that implementing effective strategies is a far cry from talking about what needs to be done. Using first-hand examples, seasoned experts and practitioners will lead participants in an exploration of local environments, key tools, what works, and what they have learned about opportunity and failure.

**Reaping Benefits of New Transit:  
Ensuring Local Entrepreneurs  
Benefit from Rising Tides**

□ SATURDAY, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Across the country, new transit infrastructure is spurring investment in urban neighborhoods. Using examples from programs in Boston and the California Bay Area, this session will highlight strategies to ensure that existing businesses and emerging entrepreneurs are prepared to take advantage of the rising tide of investment in their neighborhoods. Specific focus will be given to strategies benefiting entrepreneurs of color and the low- and moderate-income, including models for start-up support, for business incubation and acceleration, and for connecting neighborhood entrepreneurs to regional networks.

**Lot by Lot: Strategies for  
Creating a New Urban Landscape  
through Vacant Lot Reuse**

□ SATURDAY, 1:45-3:15 p.m.

With nearly 30,000 vacant lots or abandoned properties to revitalize, Baltimore agencies have developed a series of complementary strategies designed to stabilize neighborhoods and attract new development by greening vacant land for public benefit. Learn about policy and zoning changes, the role of public-private partnerships, green-space protection, and the limitations and challenges involved in the potential sale of community managed open spaces.

## SPECIAL CONFERENCE FEATURES

### Pre-Conference Workshop. Advancing Food Systems to Grow Resilient, Equitable Communities

■ **Wednesday, January 28, 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**

Building on the success of last year's workshop, this 2.0 version will further inspire and equip participants to advance local and regional food systems aligned with smart-growth objectives and strategies. How can these food production, processing or distribution activities create economic opportunities, foster environmental sustainability and promote community health? How are urban, rural and suburban communities working to improve food access for their most vulnerable residents? What partnerships and resources have enabled successful planning, implementation and evaluation efforts?

Grassroots advocates, policymakers and government staff, researchers, planners, funders and other public and private stakeholders will explore these issues through an expanded agenda with additional time for networking and smaller group discussions. The program will showcase examples from the Baltimore-DC region alongside leaders from across the country.

Includes lunch, coffee break and a reception. **Pre-registration and a \$45 fee are required.**

*Made possible by the generous support provided by the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems, through funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Food & Community program, and additional support by the Local Government Commission, AARP Foundation, Princes Trust, The Horizon Foundation, Town Creek Foundation, The Abell Foundation and the United Way of Central Maryland.*

### Understanding the Challenge – A Poverty Simulation Experience

■ **Thursday, 2:00-5:30 p.m. + Saturday, 10:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m.**

More than 45 million Americans – and 1 in 5 children – live in poverty. While at the conference, join trained facilitators, other attendees and volunteers to simulate the daily challenges those in poverty experience. Step into the shoes of low-income families, and try to provide food, shelter and basic necessities while dealing with “community resources.” Feel poverty from a new perspective in this eye-opening experiential setting, and take home with you a deeper understanding that can make you more effective in your work.

This unique, 3.5-hour experience will run twice during the conference, and is made possible through support by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kaiser Permanente and the University of Maryland School of Nursing Shady Grove campus.

### Optional Tours of Local Model Projects

You may also be interested in taking one of the conference's optional tours on Thursday afternoon and Sunday morning, including these with equitable development themes. Visit the conference web site for tour times, fees and more details.

- Blending the Old and the New: How Historic Preservation Enhances Redevelopment
- Data, Community, Capacity and Capital: A Comprehensive Approach to Revitalization
- Innovative Greening Strategies to Transform Baltimore's Vacant Land



### Networking Opportunities

Year after year, the number one reason why participants flock to this conference is to network with their peers and others outside their disciplines in a truly dynamic and inspirational learning environment. Informal networking activities on a variety of smart growth and sustainable communities issues are scheduled throughout the conference. The first full day of sessions and tours will be capped off with a hosted reception after the kickoff plenary.

### Technology Fair: Public Engagement Tools

■ **FRIDAY, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

Try out cutting-edge tools for scenario planning, opportunity mapping, crowdsourced planning and community engagement. Tool providers inter-actively demonstrate their tools, and you get to experiment with technologies and evaluate in real-time how those tools can apply to your real-life scenarios. More than a dozen providers will share their innovative products at this popular all-day event organized by PlaceMatters, the EPA and the Open Planning Tools Group.

### FREE Transit Passes

MDOT and the Maryland Transit Administration are generously providing complimentary Baltimore Metro, local bus and light-rail passes for attendees from Wednesday through Sunday (Jan. 28-Feb. 1).

### Get Education Credits for Conference Sessions

The LGC is currently pursuing the availability of accreditation for AICP planners and landscape architects. Visit the conference web site for details.



# THE 14TH ANNUAL **NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH** CONFERENCE

## Other sessions of interest

Beyond the Equitable Development track, the entire conference program is infused with many sessions that include a focus on equity and environmental justice, including:

- Making Development Work for All: From Promise to Practice (plenary)
- Place, Race and Equity: From the Frontlines of the PLACE MATTERS Initiative
- The New Faces of Economic Resilience: Immigrants Revitalizing Distressed Communities
- Reinvesting in Maryland: Infill, Redevelopment and Community Revitalization Strategies
- Community Benefits: Delivering Equity in Economic Development
- Equity (k)NOW! Collaborating on Equity in the Context of Transit-Oriented Communities
- Anchor Institutions: Harnessing their Power for the Good of Community Change
- Creative Placemaking & Transit: Community Engagement, Lasting Neighborhoods, Cultural Celebration
- Displacement Is Preventable: Community Land Trusts Preserve Land for the Community
- Tapping the Power of Youth in Urban Greening
- Advancing an Equitable Economy through Community Food Projects
- Growing Pains: Brownfield Reuse and Creating New Food Connections
- Safer Streets, Stronger Economies: Complete Streets Performance
- Leveraging P3 for Housing Affordability, Equity and Resilience
- Using Green Infrastructure to Improve Equity in Underserved Communities
- Regenerating Legacy Cities: Creating Opportunity, Fostering Inclusion
- Leveraging Service Programs for Smart-Growth Capacity
- Blight to Bright: 25 Tools Proven to Eliminate Blight in Pennsylvania



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**Presented by the Local Government Commission • Supporters include:**



The Local Government Commission is committed to local community revitalization through innovative approaches to environmental sustainability, economic prosperity and social equity.

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## Register Now!

[newpartners.org](http://newpartners.org)

Visit the conference web site for registration information and more details about these and many other exciting sessions!

### ■ Diversity Scholarships

The LGC has received foundation and agency support to establish a Diversity Scholarship Fund for this event that will allow us to waive the conference registration fee and provide travel stipends to community leaders from lower-income and traditionally minority communities, and representatives from organizations whose primary work is focused on social equity, environmental justice and equitable development. For information on how to apply for a Diversity Scholarship: Nico Gilbert-Igelsrud, [ngigelsrud@lgc.org](mailto:ngigelsrud@lgc.org), [newpartners.org/scholarships.html](http://newpartners.org/scholarships.html)

### ■ Conference Location

Conference sessions and hotel accommodations will be at the Hilton Baltimore Hotel. The group rate until Jan. 5, 2015, is \$119 single or double occupancy. Call (800) 445-8667 to make a reservation and indicate you are attending the New Partners Conference.

### ■ For Conference Information

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