



# 14th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth

Practical Tools and Innovative Strategies for Creating Great Communities

**January 29-31, 2015**  
Baltimore, Maryland

A national, multi-disciplinary conference presented by the Local Government Commission that approaches community design from a public health and safety perspective.

## The Public Health Track



*“The New Partners conference is not “just another health meeting.” It’s a unique opportunity to share innovative ideas and new strategies with educators, urban planners, elected officials, architects and developers about how to create healthy, active and lively communities. These will not happen unless we work together for good solutions. A good solution like smart growth can solve many problems. New Partners is powerful, and life changing.”*

– Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH, Professor/Chair, Environmental Health Sciences, UCLA School of Public Health

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

## Advancing Food Systems: Opportunities to Grow Resilient, Equitable Communities

□ Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Building on 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 post-workshop reception.

**Pre-registration and a \$45 fee are required.**

### Opening Plenary. Baltimore's Food System Vision

Baltimore's comprehensive food-system planning, policy and partnership efforts are known as a national model. The workshop will kick off with an introduction to our host city, featuring diverse perspectives of those working to shape and implement its vision for a sustainable local food system.

### A Cornucopia of Breakout Sessions

Spend the afternoon in a series of concurrent sessions oriented to different community contexts, smart-growth lenses, and transferable advocacy and assessment approaches. Learn how efforts around the country are removing food access barriers for vulnerable populations, how impacts are being measured, and what we've learned about successes and challenges. Consider the smart-growth benefits of addressing the demand and supply of healthy, fresh, local food. Explore practical tools and strategies you can apply to your own work advancing equitable food systems in your community.



### Closing Plenary. Investments to Advance the Movement

Participants will reconvene for a closing plenary where public and philanthropic leaders will share their approaches and motivations for supporting local and regional food systems. What does it mean to invest in this movement, and where can we go from here? A networking reception will follow this final session.

*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.*

## Special Features

### Technology Fair: Public Engagement Tools for Smart Planning

Try out cutting-edge tools for scenario planning, opportunity mapping, crowdsourced planning and community engagement. Tool providers interactively 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.



### Parklets 3.0: Taking Transformed Spaces Indoors!

Coordinated by the American Society of Landscape Architects, New Partners is again bringing the parklet movement indoors to highlight the need for more urban open space. These participatory installations will showcase how a parking spot-sized space can transform into exciting opportunities for creating more vibrant places in your community. Learn what organizations are doing to enliven their communities and be inspired by simple ideas to increase the communal and vegetated spaces in our city's streetscapes.

### FREE Transit Passes

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

**Place, Race and Equity: From the Frontlines of the PLACE MATTERS Initiative**

**Thursday, 2:00-3:30 p.m.**

Many people of color have poorer health than national averages. These health inequalities affect all Americans: Between 2003 and 2006, health and health-care inequalities cost the nation \$1.24 trillion in health care expenses and economic impacts. Many believe that underlying these inequities is residential segregation, which powerfully shapes health resources, risks and life opportunities. People of color are more likely to live in segregated, high-poverty communities that have historically suffered from a lack of health care and investment, with concentrated environmental hazards -pollution, fast food restaurants and liquor stores. Conversely, there are few health-enhancing resources, such as grocery stores, fresh food or safe parks. This session will show what your zip code indicates about your health, and how 19 PLACE MATTERS teams across the nation are addressing conditions in the natural, built and social environment that lead to poor health.

**Meet the Grantmakers**

**Friday, 10:15-11:45 a.m.**

Don't miss this session with federal grantmakers and private funders as well as leaders from the networks of Grantmakers in Aging and Grantmakers in Health. There will be a survey that will delve into your previous experiences with funders. Learn about foundation types and the "ten commandments" of grantmaking. Do you want to know what funders are looking for? Grantmakers will share their intimate secrets about getting the words to open doors.

**We Really Are Getting Older! Discover How Communities Are Preparing for Us**

**Friday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

The aging of the U.S. population is one of the greatest challenges facing our society in the 21st century. People aged 65 will represent 19% of the population (72.1 million) by 2030. This demographic shift has widespread implications, affecting families, businesses, government,



social services, public health, health care and the community. Making cities and communities age-friendly is one of the most effective approaches to respond to this aging demographic, and prepare for subsequent generations. Panelists from AARP Age-Friendly Network communities will describe the framework which supports and enforces accountability in community efforts towards sustainability; explain how the effort bridges sectorial, geographical and political boundaries, review partnerships created with a wide variety of stakeholder groups and demonstrate the engagement of older adults in undertaking substantive community change.

**Advancing an Equitable Economy through Community Food Projects**

**Friday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

Access to healthy food can bring triple bottom-line benefits to communities — a revitalized economy, good jobs and better health. This session will give you a glimpse into how enhanced food systems can advance an equitable economy, build sustainable communities, and promote smart growth. Leaders from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, and the Brooklyn Community Foundation will detail the nuts and bolts of implementing food projects at the state



and local level and share how an equitable food system brings investment to underserved, low-income communities and communities of color. Learn how food-related projects can improve healthy food access and foster community economic development, and how philanthropic organizations are pursuing different models of community engagement while leveraging resources from nonprofits, public institutions and private-sector investors.

**Local Food, Local Places: How Local Food Can Spur Downtown Revitalization**

**Saturday, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

Communities across the country — large and small — have experienced a resurgence of interest in local food and its benefits for community health and farmland preservation. Many have also realized local food can create an opportunity to revitalize downtowns. Through the Livable Communities in Appalachia program, communities have located farmers' markets on vacant lots on Main Street; refurbished old school buildings and train depots to create community kitchens and food-based business incubators; and tied it together with street improvements. This session will feature communities who have brought together federal, state, local, private and nonprofit partners to enhance local food access to local food and create new economic opportunities for residents and businesses.

**Near-Highway Community Design: A School and Housing Charrette**

**Saturday, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

How do you think about school, multi-family and neighborhood design on real sites next to very busy roadways? This session will re-create a recent two-day community design exercise that focuses on the design of a proposed high school and new multi-family housing in Massachusetts. Both sites are in immigrant-rich neighborhoods and next to major highways. Participate in two condensed "mini-charrette" exercises that will help you use a broadly inclusive approach to design healthier schools, multi-family housing and neighborhoods in your community.

# SMART GROWTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH



New  
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2015

## Understanding the Challenge – A Poverty Simulation Experience

Thursday, 2:00-5:30 p.m. and 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

You may also be interested in taking one of the conference’s optional tours on Thursday and Sunday, including these three that have health and active-living implications. Visit the conference web site for tour details and fees.

### Transforming a City’s Food Environment: Urban Agriculture & Food Entrepreneurism

Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Visit Baltimore’s growing mix of for-profit and nonprofit urban farms, its unique responses to food deserts, and efforts to improve equitable food entrepreneurship. Tour stops include local farms, public markets, a mobile farmers’ market truck, and the home of a future food hub.

### Baltimore’s Cycling and Bike Infrastructure

Thursday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Join us for an experience that’s part bike tour and part bike audit. See how federal and state funding decisions translate into conditions on the street. Explore how Baltimore is rebalancing the transportation network toward cyclists.

### Water Works: Innovative Water-Quality Improvement Projects

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This tour features some of Baltimore’s most interesting water-quality improvement projects and strategies – including the Community ToolBank rain garden and a bark water-filtration device. Find out what makes the projects work.

## More sessions of interest to health professionals

*In addition to sessions designed specifically around health issues, you will find a number of related smart-growth topics useful to your work and community:*

- ◆ How Communities Are Leveraging Transportation Investments for Healthy Communities
- ◆ When Violence and Crime Hinder Smart Growth: Combating Threats to Improving Community
- ◆ Singing and Dancing on Main Street: Building a National Practice for Creative Placemaking
- ◆ Growing Innovation: Leveraging Service Programs for Smart-Growth Capacity
- ◆ We Really Are Getting Older! Discover How Communities Are Preparing for Us
- ◆ Growing Pains: Brownfield Reuse and Creating New Food Connections
- ◆ Bike-Ped Safety Depends on Effective Partnerships between Transit and Road Agencies
- ◆ Redesigning Schoolyards for Community Resilience
- ◆ For Livable and Lovable Cities – Add Parks!
- ◆ Tapping the Power of Youth in Urban Greening
- ◆ Foundation-Community Partnerships for Clean Water and Healthier People
- ◆ Safer Streets, Stronger Economies: Complete Streets Performance
- ◆ Tools for Healthy Places: Putting Science into Practice to Inform Decisions
- ◆ Who Will Drive Suburban Transformation – the Millennials or the Boomers?



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

## ■ ABOUT THE EVENT

This conference will bring local elected officials, planners, transportation professionals and traffic engineers, health professionals and public health advocates, parks and recreation professionals, urban designers, social equity advocates, school officials and school board members, community leaders and many others together to explore new approaches to community design from a comprehensive public health and safety perspective.

This dynamic event has grown significantly since it began several years ago, and gets its strength from the variety of participants and speakers who cross disciplines to share experiences and insights, and valuable tools and strategies to encourage the building of healthier communities. Today, there are more reasons than ever to join hands with new partners and work toward our common goal of creating safe, healthy and livable communities.

## ■ PROGRAM AND AGENDA

The three-day program is loaded with a mix of plenaries, interactive break-outs, implementation workshops, trainings and networking opportunities. You will have access to the latest on cutting-edge smart growth issues, healthy eating and active living initiatives, implementation tools and strategies, best practices, case studies, interactive learning experiences, new partners, new projects and new policies.

The LGC is sponsoring a fund to provide a limited number of need-based scholarships to cover registration fees, to be given to participants who would not otherwise be able to attend. Priority will be given to individuals representing small nonprofits, community-based and grassroots organizations, and local governments. Please visit the conference web site for details on eligibility and how to apply.

*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)

Early-bird registration rates are available through November 10. Visit the conference web site for registration and more details about these and many other exciting sessions!

## ■ SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of need-based scholarships to cover registration fees are available to participants who would not otherwise be able to attend, with priority given to small nonprofits, community-based and grassroots organizations, and local governments. A Diversity Scholarship Fund provides a limited number of registration scholarships and travel stipends for leaders from disadvantaged communities and groups working on social and environmental justice issues. Visit the web site for eligibility and how to apply.

## ■ Conference Location

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

## ■ For Conference Information

Nico Gilbert-Igelsrud, Event Coordinator  
Local Government Commission  
(916) 448-1198 x 327  
[ngigelsrud@lgc.org](mailto:ngigelsrud@lgc.org)

