



TO: Susan Summers, Chair

FROM: Jim Kruger, Workgroup Chair, and Joe Griffiths, Planning Staff

SUBJECT: Progress Report

DATE: September 25, 2017

Since the last work group report in May 2017, the Education Workgroup (Workgroup) held two regular meetings; one on 8/1/17 and another on 9/5/2017. During the two months since the last meeting of the Commission, the Workgroup focused on conducting outreach to Maryland institutions of higher learning regarding the Sustainable Growth Challenge (Challenge) and on narrowing the focus of a professional training program for the updated Reinvest Maryland document. More details on each initiative are outlined below.

1. Sustainable Growth Challenge

Since the July meeting, the Workgroup progressed substantially in re-establishing the Challenge. Workgroup members engaged Maryland institutions of higher learning in the following ways.

- Met with Morgan faculty (Planning and Landscape Architecture) and student leadership on 8/3/2017 to discuss submission and participation requirements of the SGC. They expressed interest and mentioned that they had a few ideas for submissions already
- Spoke with Dr. Roberston of Bowie St on 8/23/2017. He will spread word, but also want staff to contact him again in late-September when the semester settles down
- Spoke with Harford CC staff on 8/31/2017 and sent follow up information. As former winners, they are very interested in getting involved
- Spoke with David Myers at ULI, who agreed to spread word about the SGC, but also discussed the potential for mutual collaboration regarding a range of outreach initiatives for both organizations. Follow up conversation to be scheduled for September
- Sent a follow up email to dr. Bowman at Frostburg State with a link to the updated website on 8/7/2017. This was a follow up to a July meeting at the University to discuss the Challenge
- Published an [article](#) about the Challenge in the Maryland Department of Planning Newsletter "Planning Practice Wednesday" on 8/9/2017
- Sent a mass email to a university contact list created by the workgroup on 8/28/2017 which outlined the project timeline, requirements, and materials
- Members of the workgroup conducted their own outreach to institutions of higher learning to which they were assigned, including UMBC, UMD, and Towson

In addition to contacting individual schools, the workgroup made updates the project [webpage](#) on 8/4/2017, including text changes and the following new or modified documents:

- 2017-18 Flyer
- FAQs
- Fillable Submission Form
- Submission Scoring Rubric

2. Reinvest Maryland Professional Training

The Reinvest Maryland Workgroup completed its draft Reinvest Maryland 2.0 document and will be presenting it for comments to the Commission on 9/25/2017. Following the completion of that draft, members of the Workgroup reviewed and ranked Chapter 4, Vision 3 recommendations for potential training topics. The group will develop a pilot training over the fall and early winter of 2017-18 focusing on a few of these topics. The ranking exercise established *aging infrastructure, density, design, and the role of small business* as overlapping and vital topics for an initial training. A curriculum outline for this training is attached as part of this report. The Workgroup appreciates any feedback or suggestions regarding the structure and content of the training curriculum. The Workgroup expects to complete the final training by early 2018, including AICP CM credits for trainees, and begin training later that winter.

The training will serve as an extension of the Reinvest Maryland Workgroup and the document, and educate those who currently or may in the future work on revitalization efforts throughout Maryland. As with the new document, the training will be designed as a toolkit of actionable strategies that can be applied at the local level. Potential audiences for this training include:

- Local planning and other governmental staff
- Developers
- Citizen planners (Planning Commissioners, Boards of Zoning Appeals members)
- Elected officials
- Realtors
- Business Owners

Next Steps

- a. Next Workgroup Meeting: 10/10/2017