



To: Susan Summers, Chair, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission
From: Chuck Boyd
Subject: 2017 Sustainable Growth Award Recommendations
Date: November 14, 2016

The 2017 Sustainable Growth Awards will be the fifth annual recognition of planned economic and community development and sustainable growth leadership and initiatives by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. The process began back in July, 2016 with a broad outreach effort for nominations for the three categories of Growth Awards:

- **Leadership and Service:** Awards presented for leadership and service recognize individuals, organizations, agencies, and institutions for laudable activities or accomplishments in Maryland that advance the public's appreciation, understanding and/or involvement in promoting high quality planned economic and community development and sustainable communities at the local, regional, or state level.
- **Sustainable Communities:** Awards presented for sustainable growth communities recognize outstanding achievements by individuals, organizations, government agencies, and other entities for projects and activities of all sizes, scopes, and on all types of properties.
- **Preservation / Conservation Projects:** Preservation/Conservation Project awards are presented to individuals, organizations, government agencies, and other entities for their accomplishments in protecting or improving farms, forests, natural resources, and the waters of Maryland.

By the close of the Growth Award nomination period in September, a total of 16 nominations were received. The Selection Committee (consisting of Charlotte Lawson-Davis, Jim Kruger, Eric Soter, Greg Bowen, Devon Dodson and Bryce Turner) had one conference call meeting to review the nominations and develop a slat of Growth Award candidates for recommendation to the full Growth Commission. The following table lists the recommended 2017 Growth Award Candidates.

2017 Maryland Sustainable Growth Award Recommendations

Leadership and Service
Uri Avin
Sustainable Communities
Envision Salisbury
Town of Grantsville and the Grantsville Revitalization Organization
Open Works
Ten Light Street
Preservation/Conservation Projects
Historic Sotterley, Inc. Farm Program

The following is a short description of each of the recommended Sustainable Growth Award candidates:

Leadership and Service Awards	
Uri Avin	<p>Uri Avin has been an integral member of the University of Maryland’s National Center for Smart Growth Research since 2012. Uri came to the Center following a lengthy career in the public-private sectors, including roles as planning director for three Maryland counties, where he accumulated numerous award-winning smart growth plans at various scales. In addition to acting as director of the Center’s Planning and Design Center, Uri is the architect and executor of the University of Maryland’s Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS), a campus-wide program that harnesses the expertise, research and ingenuity of the University to tackle economic, environmental and social sustainability issues for Maryland communities. Started in 2013, PALS has so far reached six jurisdictions and is the largest action learning program in the country. Through thoughtful and thorough direction, Uri has developed a comprehensive program that enhances a community’s quality of life, while training the next generation of workers to practice their discipline with sustainable growth at the forefront. Uri’s leadership and ingenuity are the reason for PAL’s ongoing success. His efforts have made PALS an example for university-community partnerships everywhere.</p>
Sustainable Communities Awards	
Envision Salisbury	<p>The <i>Envision Salisbury Project</i> – so named by the design students of the University of Maryland’s School of Architecture began as a university-based community design project. However, it rapidly became much more. On April 7, 2016, the City Council of Salisbury voted to adopt the plan and Mayor Day signed it into effect – as Salisbury’s 20-year Downtown Master Plan. The process involved two college studio sessions – one graduate and one undergraduate in the architecture program focusing on urban design and building design services. Thousands of people would be engaged over the course of almost 2 years in multiple iterations of public engagement, design, design review and refinement.</p> <p>The shepherds of this project are now the City and community leaders who have immediately begun implementation, attracting more than \$22 million in private investment, \$20 million in public infrastructure – including a new Riverwalk and a recently initiated Main Street streetscape and stormwater retrofit project in the last 18 months.</p>

<p>Town of Grantsville and the Grantsville Revitalization Organization</p>	<p>The Town of Grantsville, like other rural communities has suffered by the loss of population and economic opportunities. Grantsville Revitalization Organization (GRO) was formed in 2007 to combat a declining population trend, loss of Main Street businesses, and overall municipal deterioration. The GRO implemented a four-part plan: establishing an aggressive economic development package that included tax exemptions, water and sewer fee waivers, and in some cases financial assistance; executing a multi-media marketing plan; launching an all-inclusive municipal strategic plan that incorporated streetscape design concepts and maximized historical assets; and applying for, and being awarded, Maryland Arts and Entertainment designation. In working with the municipal and county governments, all of these efforts helped turn the town around. There are ten (10) new businesses in many different areas, the median income has risen to \$36,591 with a population increase of 30%.</p>
<p>Open Works</p>	<p>The Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation (BARCO), a non-profit development company with a mission to create safe, affordable, and accessible space for Baltimore’s “creatives,” purchased 1400 Greenmount Avenue and transformed a vacant building into a vibrant, new community anchor - Open Works. Open Works provides “maker space” - an affordable platform for residents of surrounding communities to start and grow small businesses, with access to state of the art equipment. A goal is to develop "graduation" space on nearby sites so that as businesses grow, they can locate into nearby space and retain them in the community to provide family-sustaining employment opportunities for area residents.</p> <p>Open Works supports the economic development goals of the State by creating space that will generate \$5 million of annual economic activity by providing affordable space and technology to 150 artisans and entrepreneurs in addition to monthly access for up to 400 members to utilize state-of-the art prototyping and artisan equipment. The project also creates an exciting platform for workforce development programs in construction, digital fabrication, textile and IT jobs. This shared use. Open Works supports four key goals of: increasing resources for small businesses and entrepreneurs, cultivating the innovation economy, promoting an inclusive economy and making Baltimore more business friendly.</p>
<p>Ten Light Street</p>	<p>Located in the Baltimore’s Central Business District, Ten Light Street is a majestic, Art Deco high-rise that was first completed in 1929. After 85 years as an iconic 37-story office tower, it reopened in 2015 as a mixed-use community featuring market rate apartments, fitness, salon, spa, and cafe. It has served as a catalyst to spur more urban redevelopment in the CBD, such as the new tower planned directly across the street at One Light Street. Ten Light Street consists of 419 market rate apartments, street level retail and an Under Armour Performance Center. This \$75 million project was awarded both State and Federal historic tax credits for protecting and preserving the character defining features within the redevelopment, reusing 99% of the building’s core and shell. Ten Light Street is within walking distance of neighborhood destinations and three modes of public transportation.</p>

Preservation / Conservation Awards

**Historic
Sotterley,
Inc. Farm
Program**

Historic Sotterley Inc. is the only Tidewater Plantation in Maryland that is fully open to the public, offering comprehensive visitor and education programs. Its mission is to preserve, research, and interpret Sotterley Plantation's diverse history, cultures and environments and to serve as a public educational resource. Recognizing that the story of Sotterley was much more than the story of the Plantation House, Sotterley began to include telling the story of Sotterley as a farm and the people that worked it. The agricultural mission of Historic Sotterley, Inc. is directly tied to both education and sustainability. Putting Sotterley's fields back into production, which in recent years were fallow, has been a goal of the organization. Dedicated to the organic methods used for centuries, Sotterley grows a wide variety of agricultural products. The agricultural face of Sotterley is witnessed by the heritage visitor, hikers on the trail system, school children from as far away as Baltimore, and local visitors to the Farmer's Market. Knowing that agricultural products comes from Sotterley's fields directly onto the stand demonstrates the idea of farm-to-table for every visitor, and sample sustainable plots which even use reclaimed water demonstrate that smaller personal gardens can have a big impact for families willing to try their hand at growing their own food.