



## Steering Committee Monthly Report May 7, 2013

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### 1. ***Vision and Goals Workshop***

- The Vision and Goals Workshop took place March 9<sup>th</sup> at Mott Community College. America Speaks facilitated the event with over sixty volunteers. ***Approximately 450 people attended of whom 77% identified as being Flint residents.***
- Based on this workshop, the Planning Commission began developing a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles were shared and discussed at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting for input. The feedback was included into a draft version that was presented at the April 9<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting. After responding to public input, steering committee, staff, and consultant feedback, the Planning Commission approved the Vision and Guiding principles at the April 23 meeting. The approved version has been uploaded to imagineflint.com and distributed to the master plan interested parties mailing list.

### 2. ***Community Engagement Update***

- After opening the Project Studio, foot traffic on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm has been very slow. We are working on a plan to activate the space and attract more visitors. Thus, events have been scheduled at the Project Studio during the Art Walk on Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00pm. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Artists in Residents as part of the NEA Our Town Grant were introduced and presented their projects. An event on April 25<sup>th</sup> was held to attract college students to the space in order to learn more about the Master Plan and complete a survey, and interactive with planning staff. An informal roundtable dialog was held with nearly 30 college-aged individuals discussing ways to link younger and older demographics together into the master plan. Staff plans on holding future advisory group meetings and possible community open houses at the studio. Finally, staff is modifying hours of operation and are working on a new schedule so that we are open throughout the week during the lunch hours. Staff will also be identifying events throughout the summer to open the studio for outreach and engagement.
- Staff will soon begin to initiative a service call Textizen for outreach designed at youth. This outreach will be survey based, through text-message responses. Staff will receive technical assistance and graphic design materials but will perform individual outreach.

### 3. ***Consultant Update***

- The Consultant worked with America Speaks and Planning Staff to develop the discussion guide for the March 9<sup>th</sup> event. The Consultant helped develop the subarea map approved at the March 26<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting and is working with the Planning Commission and planning staff on the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.
- The consultant has begun draft work on a land use “toolkit” and land use typologies for the land use community workshops/open houses.
- Sub-area data collection and workshop/open house work is in the initial stages.



**4. Planning Commission**

- The Flint Planning Commission approved the Sub – Area Plan locations at their March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Vision and Guiding Principles were discussed on April 9<sup>th</sup>, with approval following at their April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**5. Advisory Groups**

- All of the Advisory Groups have now met at least four times. Most are meeting on a six week schedule. They have been reviewing various documents including the Existing Conditions Report, Discussion Guide, and Vision Statement providing valuable feedback to staff that helped shape all 3 of these documents. They're now in the process of drafting specific goals and strategies for their respective Advisory Group. These initial goals have been presented to the consultants for feedback.
- Attendance is averaging around 12-20 members at group meetings.

**6. Neighborhood Assessment/Mini-Grants**

- We received notification from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint that they will partner with us again to offer small neighborhood mini-grants to organizations willing to conduct neighborhood assessment activities for the Master Plan. We will work with the Community Foundation to develop the application, select grantees, conduct the training, and collect the data. The plan is to launch the program over the summer.

**7. Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

- The Parks Master Plan was submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on February 28, 2013. The DNR requested that the City submit an affidavit of publication for the public hearing and complete post-inspection reports of 25 parks for past grant awards. Staff completed this task on March 28, 2013. We have received notice that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan has been approved and received an approval letter on April 8, 2013.

**8. Master Plan Grants Update**

- A Ruth Mott Foundation Grant proposal was submitted in January for \$50,000. At the Foundation's request we modified the request to \$100,000 for two years. We received the check for the first year.
- Some of this money will go towards capacity building and trainings. A planning and zoning essentials training will be held on Thursday, May 9 from 5:30-9 pm. All steering committee members are encouraged to attend.
- The C.S. Mott Annual report is due June 1. Staff is currently working on developing this report.

**9. HUD**

- A LOCCS draw down request was submitted on April 1<sup>st</sup> for \$129,488 for the period covering July 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013. We have agreed to submit draw down requests monthly and we are working on collecting and updating our In Kind Match partners. Another draw down request is slated for submittal in late May.