

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BIRMINGHAM NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE

The Birmingham Comprehensive Plan includes a recommendation to organize a conference on blight reduction and neighborhood revitalization with invitations to national community development funders, such as LISC and the Enterprise Community Partners; creators of innovative programs in other cities, such as the new code enforcement program in Baltimore and the blight reduction program in New Orleans; and successful grassroots practitioners, such as high capacity community development corporations, to share their experience and expertise with Birmingham.

1. Organizing Committee – Potential Membership

- City of Birmingham
- Community Foundation
- United Way
- Goodrich Foundation
- REV Birmingham/Main Street
- UAB
- BBA

2. Suggested Structure for the Conference

One and a half-day conference:

- Friday: keynote speech and a panel discussion on Friday evening
- Saturday: topic workshops on Saturday during the day
- Saturday evening: working dinner and closing speech on Saturday evening
- Friday and Saturday one on one meetings: City of Birmingham leadership; REV Birmingham/Main Street; local foundations; local nonprofit organizations; local neighborhood leaders.

Expenses and honoraria for speakers should be provided so that they can arrive Thursday night, stay through the conference and participate in several sessions and the final dinner, and leave on Sunday.

3. Suggested keynote speakers/panelists

- Angela Glover Blackwell, Founder and CEO, Policy Link. Former Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation. www.policylink.org
- Mitchell Silver, AICP, President, American Planning Association; City Planner, Raleigh, NC. www.planning.org
- Reese Fayde, Resse Fayde & Associates; founder and Former CEO, Living Cities, Inc. rfayde@usa.net

4. Topic Workshops/Sessions and potential participants

Redevelopment Authorities and Land Banks

- East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority, www.ebrra.org

- Center for Community Progress, www.communityprogress.net

Code Enforcement and Blight Removal

- Michael Braverman, J.D., Deputy Commissioner of Housing, City of Baltimore, www.baltimorecity.gov
- Jeff Hebert, Director, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, www.noraworks.org

Improving Weak Housing Markets

- Alan Mallach, Senior Fellow, National Housing Institute, www.nhi.org
- The Reinvestment Fund, www.trfund.org

Green Solutions and Urban Agriculture

- Reimagining Cleveland, www.npi-cle.org/places/urban-greening
- Will Allen, Growing Power, www.growingpower.org
- The Plant, www.plantchicago.com

Neighborhood organizing for transit, affordable housing, and economic development, or, how to get your projects noticed by the White House

- Founders of the Fairmount Line Coalition, an alliance of four community development corporations in inner-city Boston
 - Jeanne Dubois, Executive Director, Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, www.dbedc.org
 - Gail Lattimore, Executive Director, Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, www.csndc.com
- Timolynn Sams, Executive Director, Neighborhoods Partnership Network, www.npnnola.com

Panel discussion: What are community development funders looking for?

- LISC, www.lisc.org ; potential speakers -
 - Tina Brooks, Executive Vice President
 - Greta Harris, Regional Vice President for the Southeast
- Enterprise Community Partners, www.enterprisecommunity.com
- Living Cities, Inc., www.livingcities.org
- Surdna Foundation, www.surdna.org
- Ford Foundation, www.fordfound.org