



**Ed Kurtz**  
Emergency Manager

**Dayne Walling**  
Mayor

## MEMORANDUM

To: Steering Committee  
From: Megan Hunter, Chief Planning Officer  
Date: June 4, 2013

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**Subject: Monthly Planning Report**

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**1. Vision and Guiding Principles**

- 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](http://imagineflint.com) and distributed to the master plan interested parties mailing list.

**2. Community Engagement Update**

- We are working on a plan to activate the project studio 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> and June 14<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 is working on launching Textizen designed to reach out to youth. This outreach will be survey based, through text-message responses. Staff will receive technical assistance and graphic design materials from the vendor, but will perform individual outreach.
- Planning staff coordinated a site visit to the Detroit Works Long Term Planning "homebase" studio on Thursday, May 23. Members from the Planning Commission, Steering Committee, Advisory Groups, and city staff met with Detroit Strategic Framework leaders and visited multiple sites throughout the city that are undergoing revitalizations and displaying innovative partnerships and programming. The site visit was provide through generous funds by the Ruth Mott Foundation for training.
- Community Outreach for the June 22 and July 2 Land Use workshops have begun.



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**3. Consultant Update**

- The Consultant is developing a land use “toolkit” (Place-Making Toolkit) including land use typologies, which will be utilized during the two land use community workshops planned on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The workshops will be highly interactive and allow residents to work together to determine appropriate land development throughout Flint.

The toolkit is actually called a “Place-making Toolkit”, acknowledging that we have a chance to reframe the land use discussion in Flint to make every area unique and important to the City as a whole.

- The Consultant is working on Sub-area data collection and coordinating with staff to develop the Sub-area workshops in July. We are tentatively planning the Sub-area workshop as follows:

**Trip 1**

*July 9-10 – University Corridor Coalition + S. Saginaw Group + 1 additional subarea group*

**Trip 2**

*July 17-18 – East Side group on July 17, Flint Park Lake group on July 18, + 1 additional subarea group*

**Trip 3**

*July 23-24 – 2 subarea groups OR  
July 30-31 – #7 (East Side) + 1 additional subarea group*

- The Consultant is beginning to draft goals and objectives based on the feedback from the Advisory Groups.

**4. Steering Committee**

- The Steering Committee met on May 7<sup>th</sup> to review the Place-Making Toolkit felt that the Consultant’s approach was appropriate. However, the Committee Members were concerned about outreach to ensure good participation at the upcoming Land Use Workshops.

**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**

- 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



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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.

- City staff has begun a comprehensive commercial property inventory. Staff is focusing on the designated subareas initially, to include the data within the subarea plans. The full inventory should be completed by mid-August.

**7. *Parks & Recreation Master Plan***

- 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 check from the Ruth Mott Foundation for \$50,000 was received and is being used for training. A Planning and Zoning Essentials training was held on Thursday, May 9 from 5:30-9 pm with twenty-one participants.
- A grant renewal request for the C.S. Mott Foundation in the amount of \$235,673 will be submitted by early June.
- 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.

