Why Local Policymakers Like New Partners

The nation’s largest smart growth and sustainability event, New Partners 2015 will focus on “Practical Tools and Innovative Strategies for Creating Great Communities,” underscoring this year’s stronger emphasis on implementation tools, strategies and new technologies that will help communities NOW.

Local elected officials are charged with making some of the most difficult and important decisions about how cities and counties grow and change. Smart growth offers local policymakers a way to look comprehensively at shaping communities that are built for everyone. This premier smart-growth event will provide you with the latest research, strategies, tools and best practices on how you can be more successful in tackling the many challenges you face, and help you make the best choices for your community.

1,400+ participants
80+ sessions and workshops

Find out how other city and county leaders are addressing some of their communities’ toughest challenges. Each year, New Partners assembles national and local speakers to help you navigate the myriad of policies and strategies to fit your community’s needs. Network with your peers and learn more about solving the issues that affect your community.

Location: Conference sessions and hotel accommodations will be at the Hilton Baltimore Hotel near Camden Yards in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

For more details on hotel rates, conference fees, program events and activities, or to register: NewPartners.org
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP.

Light after the Storm: Strategies for Revitalization after the Recession

An Event Specifically for Local Policymakers

■ Wednesday, January 28, 12:00 -5:30 p.m.

As developers and investors begin to re-emerge from recession dormancy, local governments are working to breathe new life into their communities. Local elected officials across the country are now grappling to find the right developer, location and financing to get projects in the ground and struggling to assure that the development benefits, and doesn’t displace, residents.

This new workshop offers local elected officials a chance to hear from their colleagues and infill developers, who will share what types of projects and communities attract them. This is an opportunity to share your successes with, and find inspiration from, your peers in other communities — and discover new partners and new ideas!

Lunch, coffee break and a post-workshop reception are included. The workshop is FREE, but pre-registration is required.

This workshop is sponsored by the Local Government Commission and Smart Growth America.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS INCLUDE:

Insights and Advice from the Private Sector
Developers and investors play a critical role in building great communities. Hear from private-sector leaders about how they approach great community building. What do they look for in a local partner? How do they evaluate market readiness and how do they determine what risks to take when going into a community? What are the barriers and attractions for private investment?

Building YIMBYs (Yes in My Back Yard!)
Learn more about how community development and economic growth intersects with technology, including innovative tools and technologies that communities are using to facilitate broader community engagement. Use of crowdsourcing platforms for residents to vote with their input or dollars on local development projects and lets builders vet ideas and build support early in the project process.

Making Development Work for All
Consider models to assure that development and revitalization provide equal access to local jobs and affordable housing. Learn about successful strategies for local governments looking for solutions that ensure existing residents can enjoy the benefits of community revitalization.

Innovations in Financing Smart Growth
Learn how to line up financing for compact, infill and transit-oriented projects. Value capture, land subsidies, bonding and leveraging existing funding pools can all help your community go from concept to construction to ribbon-cutting.

Conference Sessions of Particular Interest to Local Policymakers

✦ Community Benefits: Delivering Equity in Economic Development
✦ Rising from the Storm: Turning Devastation into Opportunity for All
✦ The Good, Bad and the Undiscovered: An Insider’s Look into Successful Public-Private Partnerships across the Country
✦ Local Food, Local Places: How Local Food Can Spur Downtown Revitalization
✦ When Violence and Crime Hinder Smart Growth: Combating Threats to Improving Community
✦ Singing and Dancing on Main Street: Building a National Practice for Creative Placemaking
✦ Businesses, Artists and Environmentalists: How Maryland’s Cities Partner to Successfully Implement Smart Growth
✦ Saving the World through Zoning: Small-Town Success Stories

For session descriptions: NewPartners.org
Equitable Development: Tools and Strategies for Making a Visible Difference in Communities

Thursday, January 29, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Today, there are clear initiatives, tangible examples and award-winning projects that demonstrate equitable development as a means to rebuild America’s communities. The outcomes of equitable development are the result of clearly set expectations, collaborative problem-solving and persistent leadership. The sixth installment of this annual workshop will reposition the conversation of how to make our communities more sustainable and viable now — and for generations to come — by actively promoting equitable development. This workshop will be held on the first day of the New Partners conference.

Morning coffee and lunch are provided. Pre-registration and a $28 fee are required.

Special Conference Features

Technology Fair: Public Engagement Tools
The Technology Fair is the place to find cutting-edge tools for scenario planning, opportunity mapping, crowdsourced planning and community engagement. Tool providers interactively demonstrate their tools, and you get to experiment with technologies and evaluate in real-time how those tools can apply to your real-life scenarios. More than a dozen providers will share their innovative products at this popular all-day event organized by PlaceMatters, the EPA and the Open Planning Tools Group. [Friday, January 30, 9:30-3:30]

Understanding Poverty – A Simulation Experience
More than 45 million Americans — and 1 in 5 children — live in poverty. While at the conference, join trained facilitators, other attendees and volunteers to simulate the daily challenges those in poverty experience. Step into the shoes of low-income families, and try to provide food, shelter and basic necessities while dealing with “community resources.” Feel poverty from a new perspective in this eye-opening experiential setting. This unique, 3.5-hour experience will run twice during the conference.

Support by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kaiser Permanente and the University of Maryland School of Nursing Shady Grove campus. [Thu 2:00-5:30; Sat 10:15-1:45]

New Partners for Smart Growth provided a well-balanced conference with plenty of seminars to educate everyone from a newly elected to a seasoned government official. As our world changes, local legislators are faced with new challenges in sustainability and this conference provides both a forum for discussion as well as resources for cities.

— Councilmember Victoria Martinez, El Monte, CA

Parklets 3.0: Taking Transformed Spaces Indoors!
Coordinated by the American Society of Landscape Architects, these participatory installations will showcase how a parking spot-sized space can transform into exciting opportunities for creating more vibrant places in your community.

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities
The EPA has created a Building Blocks Toolbox to help your community create better public spaces, more vibrant, mixed-use districts and a healthier attitude toward what it means to be sustainable. During the conference, the EPA’s Office of Sustainable Communities will hold 20-minute “office visits” to help with your planning and development issues. Check out the tools at epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm#tools.

16 Optional Tours of Local Model Projects

For more about the conference program or to register: NewPartners.org