

# WEST LOUISVILLE STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS

September 2015

## Education

- *Coding at the Beech* – new program launched for 15-18 year olds, to get coding instruction through the Code Louisville curriculum twice a week at Beecher Terrace. Program kicked off in January 2015, and graduated 7 individuals in June. New class starts October 2015 with 20 expected participants.
- *Cultural Pass* – launched in 2014, the Cultural Pass is a collaborative effort between Metro Government, Gheens Foundation and Louisville Free Public Library that provides children free access to 30 of the region's greatest cultural organizations. This summer program emphasizes the importance of arts education in Louisville.
- *Little Libraries* – completed construction and installation of 40 Little Libraries. LFPL provided 3,156 books for the Little Free Libraries in the 40210 zip code.
- *Technology* – 100 Chromebooks were deployed at four community centers (California, Beechmont and Southwick Community Centers and Shawnee Arts and Cultural Center)
- *55K/15K* – More people in Louisville have college degrees than ever before – 41.5%. Of the working-age African American population, 25.6 percent hold an associate degree or higher. This effort is studying how to incorporate and count credentials and certifications as an important step from education to workforce.
- *Cradle to Career* – Each pillar has a dedicated working group, with specific mission and goals.

## Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods

- *One Love Louisville*
  - Launched Youth Implementation Team in August to help Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods attain goals and keep city safe with more youth involved.
  - Preparing Youth Edition Action Plan – 3<sup>rd</sup> part of comprehensive strategy that will address educational attainment, intervention for youth, economic growth and civic engagement
- *Right Turn Grant* – The city received two federal grants totaling \$2.25 million to match youth in the juvenile justice system with mentors to turn their lives around. Started in early 2014, Right Turn and Right Turn 2.0 will have served a total of 500 youth by 2016. Mayor Fischer included \$200,000 in FY16 budget for a pilot project working with 100 youth ages 18-24 who have minor criminal backgrounds.
- *Zones of Hope* – three (3) community centers serve as Zones of Hope hubs, locations for the Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods' Community Outreach and Engagement programs.
- *Financial Stability* – Through Bank On, 743 classes have been offered to 9,887 participants on budgeting, building credit, financial goals, predatory lending. 2,863 individuals are now banked through Bank On program.
- *CDBG & HOME funds* – there are more than 20 projects currently ongoing in West Louisville, reflecting \$18.6 million worth of federal, state and local investment.
- *Health in All Policies* – the city passed an ordinance in Spring 2015 banning the sale of e-cigarettes and hookah products to minors.

## Economic Development

- *FoodPort* – announced in September 2014 by the city and non-profit developer Seed Capital KY, the FoodPort will be developed at 30<sup>th</sup> and Muhammad Ali, bringing more than \$30 million in investment and 250 permanent jobs (and 275 construction jobs), retail, community programming and neighborhood space to West Louisville.
- *Beech Technologies* – started in June 2015 by seven youth from the Coding at the Beech program, and as part of KentuckianaWorks’ SummerWorks, this new business offers website development services.
- *Wi-fi* – the city is providing free internet in the Russell and Shawnee neighborhoods, and growing to cover more of West Louisville.
- *Etsy Craft Entrepreneurship Program* – Louisville Metro and Etsy partnered in this pilot program to provide micro-business training to underemployed, low-income adults with creative skills who can sell their products to new markets. The training took place at the Nia Center.
- *We Hire* – a result of the 2014 Bingham Fellows program, the city is a partner in this network initiative for West Louisville residents to connect each other to job readiness training, workforce support agencies and job opportunities. We Hire is in process of developing a mobile app for Connectors to easily connect their population to jobs and other opportunities.
- *ChefSpace* – created by Community Ventures, this new kitchen incubator opened in June 2015 to accommodate up to 50 food entrepreneurs with kitchen equipment and business advisors.
- *Nia Center* – this financial empowerment center is home to KentuckianaWorks’ Career Centers to assist with job training and placement, and Louisville Forward’s business clinic, which connects clients wanting to start or grow a business with resources to build a business or financial plan, receive business mentoring and counseling, or seek financial assistance. The business clinic has served approximately 100 new clients in 2015.
- *18<sup>th</sup> Street revitalization* – Louisville is experiencing a rebirth at the intersection of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway, which will benefit from major roadway improvements and will be home to a new WalMart and YMCA.
- *METCO/Micro Loan programs* – more than 140 West Louisville businesses have received loans from metro government loan programs, leveraging more than \$25 million in private investment and creating nearly 400 jobs.
- *Wilson/Algonquin Blvd property* – the city and Louisville Metro Housing Authority together purchased 3052 Wilson Avenue, in order to expand the retail node around the First Choice
- *Land availability* – Louisville Metro helps businesses find properties that are both privately and publicly held, that will provide the best location for them to do business. This includes marketing critical West Louisville assets, such as the Louisville Central Community Center and the former PPG property, on Muhammad Ali Blvd, and the city-owned former Rhodia Company property at 11<sup>th</sup> and Hill.
- *Growing/expanding West Louisville businesses* – Companies recently opened or expanded in West Louisville include Kentucky Peerless Distillery, Over the 9, Old 502 Winery, Falls City, Please & Thank You, Against the Grain, FMS Janitorial Services, Louisville Fish Company, Mills Supply, Mesa Foods and Keebler.

## Built Environment

- *Bridging the Divide* – To reimagine 9<sup>th</sup> Street as a welcoming gateway to West Louisville, the city is initiating two projects; enhanced pedestrian connectivity at 9<sup>th</sup> and Main with new lighting, and a study that will look at the potential to remove or modify the Interstate 64 ramps, which will begin in early 2016.
- *West of 9<sup>th</sup> Vision* – LCCC was awarded the Sustainable Design Assessment Team planning grant by the American Institute of Architects in January 2015 to support the West of Ninth Visioning Plan for Muhammad Ali Boulevard between 6<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets. The team met with community stakeholders in August 2015, producing short- and long-term recommendations.
- *Waterfront Phase IV* – this next phase of Waterfront Park will encompass 22 acres between 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Street, reconnecting Portland and other West Louisville neighborhoods to the waterfront and downtown.
- *River Road West* – to support the Waterfront Park Phase IV project, the city has started planning the extension of River Road westward which will connect West Louisville with downtown. Phase One design is expected to be complete in 2016.
- *OneWest* – another program born out of 2014 Bingham Fellows class, OneWest is a non-profit organization establishing new pathways to private and public capital to generate sustainable economic and development and revitalization in West Louisville. The group has established its inaugural board of directors and has secured more than \$400,000 in start-up funding from UPS, James Graham Brown Foundation, Gheens Foundation, Community Foundation of Louisville and Louisville Metro.
- *Vision Russell/Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant* – Louisville Metro Housing Authority announced in January 2015 that it was awarded this \$425,000 grant for the redevelopment of the East Russell neighborhood and Beecher Terrace public housing development
- *Cedar Street/Quinn Gardens Development* – city broke ground on 29 new market-rate homes in Russell neighborhood in August 2015.
- *Cleanliness* – Brightside's neighborhood cleanliness engaged 7,535 citizens in its cleanups in West Louisville. Between July 2014 and June 2015, Metro Council Districts 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 all improved in their cleanliness assessment.
- *Connect|Disconnect* – to begin reimagining the future home of Waterfront Park Phase IV, this public art exhibition was created and launched in August 2015, featuring six (6) installations from local and national artists along the Louisville Loop between 9<sup>th</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Street.
- *Green Living* – Recognized by U.S. Conference of Mayors, Brightside's Green Living program combines health and sustainability in educating individuals and households how to live more sustainably. Shawnee participants have had the greatest, achieving the program's Green Level at 90 out of a possible 160 points.
- *West Market Streetscape* – This commercial corridor, between 24<sup>th</sup> to 34<sup>th</sup> Streets and 38<sup>th</sup> to 40<sup>th</sup> Streets, has received major infrastructure improvements to improve the business environment and commercial corridor, including new curbs, cross walks, green infrastructure and benches.
- *Algonquin Pkwy improvements* – Roadway reconfigurations to 3 miles of Algonquin, from Winkler to I-264, which include addition of bicycle lanes and a service road, will begin construction in Summer 2017.
- *VAP statistics* – With 5,867 vacant structures on the books, the Office of Vacant & Public Property Administration has overseen 109 demolitions, 114 initiated foreclosures, 24 properties sold and acquisition of 17 properties.