

# South Wilmington Planning Network

## 2016 Overview, Structure and Strategic Plan

### OVERVIEW

#### Mission Statement

The mission of the South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) is to serve as a vehicle for information and the leveraging of resources on collaborative projects to improve the quality of life for the South Wilmington community.

#### Vision Statement

We envision the SWPN to be a place where ideas and information are shared and partnerships are created with the purpose of positively impacting South Wilmington and its communities.

### STRUCTURE

A Core Group comprised of founding agencies and current Network chair(s), guides the work of the SWPN. The SWPN itself is led by a chair and vice-chair, who set agendas, run meetings and facilitate communication among members.

The Core Group currently consists of the following members:

- Clean Air Council
- Councilperson Hanifa Shabazz
- Delaware Environmental Justice Initiative
- Delaware Housing Coalition
- Delaware Partnership for Sustainability
- Elbert-Palmer Elementary School
- Henrietta Johnson Medical Center (Chair)
- Neighborhood House, Inc.
- Nemours Health and Prevention Services
- Southbridge Business Association

- Southbridge Civic Association
- SWPN Youth Committee
- University of Delaware
- Wilmington Area Planning Council (Vice-chair)
- Wilmington HOPE Commission

## **2016 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### ***Overall Opportunities:***

- Capacity building of local organizations
  - Hold town hall style event with Neighborhood House, HJMC, and Elbert-Palmer ES leaders to relay and address community concerns
- Leadership Development
- Grant Identification
- Statewide Community Development Coalition Participation
- Updated Neighborhood Plan Development
- Increase Access to Affordable and Good Quality Food & Access to Physical Activity

### ***Our Subcommittees:***

#### **SWPN Youth Committee:**

The SWPN Youth Committee is working to improve the quality of life for youth in the South Wilmington area by promoting and implementing educational, social, cultural and recreational programs.

- Youth Committee Projects include: Community Dinners, coordination of transportation to events, creating a community calendar of events, supporting existing Toys for Tots programs in the community, and supporting the Youth-led Farm Stand.

### *Our Collaborative Projects:*

#### **Project Lead: All Agencies**

##### *1. Southbridge Weekend*

- Goal: Promote community pride and showcase the agencies and institutions in Southbridge.
  - Strategy: Support the Southbridge Weekend Planning Committee however possible; participate in Southbridge Weekend.
    - Develop and execute a SWPN survey at the event

##### *2. Flooding Awareness Support*

- Goal: Raise awareness of South Wilmington's flooding and sea level rise issues in Southbridge and beyond.
  - Strategy: Coordinate with the Southbridge Civic Association to support the City of Wilmington's Southbridge Flood Mitigation Task Force where possible.
    - Support Wetland Park Project with the City of Wilmington
    - Coordinate educational event(s) with the University of Delaware

##### *3. Increase Access to Healthy Food and Health Education through the Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Grant*

- Goal: Successful implementation of a bi-weekly Pop-Up Farmer's Market in Southbridge.
  - Strategy: Resident manager will lead the charge on identifying a location, exhibitors, sell vegetables & fruits, manage the community garden, volunteers, and marketing strategies for the Farmer's Market in Southbridge.

- Strategy: Work towards ensuring the economic sustainability of the Farmer's Market.
- Goal: Successful implementation of a monthly Youth-led Farm Stand and Health Education Event
  - Strategy: Neighborhood House after-school program youth participants will grow and sell all the organic produce available at the Farm Stand at a discounted price.
  - Strategy: Many community and health organizations will be invited to participate and provide health information and cooking demonstrations.
- Goal: Provide a bicycle connection from Southbridge to the ShopRite supermarket along A Street.

#### 4. *Southbridge Community Garden*

- Goal: To promote the importance and ease of eating healthily through the growing, harvesting, and preparing of organic vegetables by offering Southbridge residents the garden space, resources, tools and education to grow successfully.
  - Strategy: Hold monthly free educational workshops and biweekly volunteer days where participants can put into practice skills learned through workshops.

#### 5. *Southbridge Community Youth Garden*

- Goal: Southbridge Community Youth Garden (SCYG) provides an environment where local and often underserved youth learn life, healthy eating, and entrepreneurial skills through the growing and selling of organic produce, and financial literacy skills through a youth-led farm stand and financial instruction.
  - Strategy: The youth garden program proves through cooking demonstrations, farm visits, and weekly hands-on learning that growing healthy, chemical free vegetables is easy, fun, inexpensive and delicious. It also cultivates small business, money management and entrepreneurial skills through a monthly youth-led farm stand.

## **Project Lead: South Bridge Connects Commercial District Affiliate**

### *6. South Bridge Connects*

- Goal: Organization will align efforts in accordance with the National Main Street four pillar approach to support, develop and influence sustainability for South Bridge Community in the followings areas:
  - Strategy: Community Economic Development Efforts
  - Strategy: Commercial Business District including free WiFi Project
  - Strategy: Historic Preservation including Harriet Tubman Bucks
  - Strategy: Southbridge Mural Project

## **Project Lead: Wilmington Area Planning Council**

### *7. Transportation Improvements*

- Goal: Promote an efficient, healthy and sustainable transportation network in and around Southbridge via the implementation of the 2008 Southbridge Circulation Study.
  - Strategy: Continue support for the Southbridge Streetscape Project.
  - Strategy: Continue and expand the initiatives in the Safe Routes to School Program.
  - Strategy: Promote efforts to connect Southbridge with Riverfront development, such as the Southbridge Street Network project.
  - Strategy: Pursue active transportation initiatives, such as the Earn-A-Bike/Trip for Kids Program.
  - Strategy: Install place-making signage and art in Southbridge.
  - Strategy: Document locations of signs that need replacement.
  - Strategy: Advocate for additional transportation funding.
  - Strategy: Reduce transportation emissions through anti-idling efforts, especially targeting the 19801 zip code.

## **Project Lead: Elbert-Palmer Elementary School**

### *8. Reading*

- Goal: Increase number volunteer readers for the following activities:

- Strategy: February is I Love to Read **invite readers in for the African American Read In**
- Strategy: In March, men will be invited to read in celebration of Dr. Sues's Birthday the event is called ***Real Men Read***.

#### 9. *Mentoring at Elbert-Palmer*

- Goal: Enhance the educational support of local schoolchildren.
  - Strategy: Develop a roster of mentors from the SWPN membership

#### 10. *Volunteers at Elbert-Palmer*

- Goal: Increase number of volunteers in the school.
  - Strategy: Monthly PBS (school climate/discipline) celebration activities
  - Strategy: Feather Store (students cash in their feathers for various items )
  - Strategy: Monthly Family Fun Night events
  - \* Classroom Assistance (work with 1 student or small group of students)

### **Project Lead: Henrietta Johnson Medical Center**

#### 11. *HJMC Events and Activities*

- Goal: Increase visibility and re-engage the Southbridge community.
  - Strategy: Increase collaboration among the center and its partners.
  - Strategy: Implement our 4th Health and Fitness Family Fun Night with Elbert-Palmer Elementary School in March 2017

Potential Project:

*Port of Wilmington Environmental Action Plan (perhaps this could be an initiative of the CAC)*

- Goal: Reduce emissions from equipment and operations in and around the Seaport
  - Strategy: Document potential diesel replacement projects ahead of funding opportunities.