

## **Jump Start Plan X Meeting Summary, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Present at the meeting were Tony Carvajal, Judy Jones-Colson, Nolia Brandt, Michael Parker, Cynthia VanLandingham, Dorothy Bland, and Matrell Hawkins**

The committee established a regular schedule for future meetings. The committee will meet twice a month, with the first meeting on Mondays at 5:30 PM (beginning August 6) and the second meeting, two weeks later (beginning August 17), on Fridays at 3:30 PM.

The committee reviewed progress that has been made on its major goals.

### **Innovative Financing goal -**

"work to create more flexible financial resources that will meet the unique needs of local small businesses."

In prior meetings, group members identified the problem that it can be difficult for small creative businesses to obtain the capital needed to become established or expand. The group had made preliminary contacts with the staff and a board member of a newly developed community bank to discuss community and small business finance needs.

Current status: Judy Jones-Colson and Nolia Brandt have continued to research the potential for creating new financing tools which currently don't exist today to provide more flexible business financing for the community. They have met with several financial institutions and are setting up a Financial Symposium to talk about financing options for small business. Creating a community bank is one option that would require about 6 million dollars. Judy Jones-Colson has also met with Equity Workforce to tell them about what Jump Start Plan X is doing, and Equity Workforce has expressed interest in joining our effort.

### **Co-Location of Services goal-**

"create a seamless integration of services to make Tallahassee more small-business friendly."

In prior meetings, the committee identified the problem that currently there is no single place to get licenses, business registration, insurance requirement information and demographic information on the city. There is also no single referral source for commercial spaces and no single point of reference for mentoring.

Current status: The committee discussed options for co-locating business services, including the potential for virtually co-locating services via a website. The committee determined that while a user-friendly web presence would be helpful, the best option would be to physically co-locate services as possible. Matrell Hawkins will take the lead in drafting a proposal for Co-Location of services. Michael Parker reported that the city has no current space for co-location of services, and the committee will approach the county to determine if it has available space, possibly in the library.

The committee also discussed the Boxcar site at the Arts Park that all KCCI teams could use for a central meeting space near the Gains Street corridor. The boxcar will be donated and located at Gaines and Woodward. A tour of the site will be held on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

The committee also discussed developing a mentoring program for small businesses. Nolia Brandt has met with a representative of the SCORE program, which is seeking to become reactivated in Tallahassee. This could be an excellent resource for small businesses. The committee discussed whether to add developing a strong mentoring program to its charge, but did not reach a conclusion on whether to do so.

**Survey goal.** Current status – the survey is underway, and Dorothy Bland will send it to several additional business organizations to expand the pool of potential recipients. Survey responses are due back around the end of the month. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to analyze the survey respondents by demographics as this information was not collected due to the desire to keep the survey short.

**Business Incubator goal.** Current status – the committee discussed whether it is feasible to develop a business incubator at this time or whether this step should be postponed until other key steps such as developing financing options and streamlined business services are available.

**Outreach to young creative professionals.** The committee discussed the need to get input and participation from young creative professionals. Creativity Corner blog launched by Cynthia VanLandingham was noted as a way to reach young professionals, who may not want to participate in traditional meetings. Nolia Brandt suggested reaching out to the association of young professionals as a way of getting their input and participation.

### ***Next Jump Start Plan X Meetings Scheduled***

***Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:a.m.***

*Tour of Boxcar Site on Woodward & Gadsden*

***Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.,***

*Location: Harry's Restaurant*

*Presentation from SCORE*

***Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m.***

*Location: TBA*

***September 6th*** – next meeting of full KCCI committee.