

Projects: Citizen Planner Training Collaborative and Revitalizing Cities

Project Leader: Michael DiPasquale

Project(s) Overview:

1. The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC) provides learning programs (workshops and conferences) for members of Massachusetts municipal planning and zoning boards so that they can make effective decisions regarding their communities' current and future land use.
2. Revitalizing Cities/The UMass Design Center in Springfield addresses the revitalization of the City of Springfield and other former manufacturing centers in the northeast. Work is centered at the UMass Extension sponsored "Design Center in Springfield" and the recently established "Make-It Springfield" community makerspace, both located in downtown district. The Design Center and makerspace offer community design workshops, student classes, and seminars and trainings for residents and stakeholders.

Activity Summary - 2016

- The UMass Design Center in Springfield completed two major urban design projects focused on the revitalization of the downtown area. The Fall 2015 studio prepared plans for the renewal of Market Street. The studio work received a design award from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects for the project.
- The Spring 2016 studio prepared design proposals for revitalizing the East Springfield neighborhood, including major planning concepts for Page Boulevard.
- Launched new Design Center website in spring 2016 - New website designed to present easily accessible learning tools and information related to the revitalization of "legacy cities", using strategies such as "Tactical Urbanism", a focus of research conducted at the UMass Amherst Design Center in Springfield.
- East Springfield Urban Design/Community Engagement Project - Spring 2016 Graduate Urban Design Studio will address sustainable planning in existing "sprawl/edge" district in Springfield. Work to be done in collaboration with East Springfield Citizens Council, and City of Springfield Office of Planning and Economic Development.
- Presentation at Urban Renewal Conference - Public presentation at national planning conference held in spring 2016 in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Presentation, with graduate Research Assistant,

Lara Furtado, will showcase recent work completed at the UMass Amherst Design Center in Springfield that addresses strategies to revitalize "legacy cities" such as Springfield, Lowell, Holyoke and Lawrence. Presentation will highlight recent Design Center success with "tactical urbanism" approaches to downtown revitalization.

- Springfield Urban Agriculture Project - The project, a collaboration with the UMass Design Center in Springfield and Wellspring is located in the city's Indian Orchard neighborhood. The work will help revitalize an existing "brownfield" site with new agricultural use, including construction of new greenhouses and outdoor planted areas as part of a sustainable urban farm. The project is being done in conjunction with residents and local stakeholders, and UMass students and faculty.
- Springfield Wayfinding Subcommittee Collaboration with Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission – Designing a new Wayfinding (signage/information) system to address the needs of vulnerable populations in Springfield. Work includes design and analysis of public surveys to determine community needs. Participants include UMass students and faculty, professionals, and Springfield Planning Department.

Total Educational contacts

	Youth Contacts	Adult Contacts
Direct Contacts	111	485
Indirect Contacts (Print, Web, etc...)		

Narrative Summary and Impact

The UMass Extension/Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment supports programs that impact land use decisions statewide and that encourage sustainable land use practices and the protection of natural resources.

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Collaborating Organizations

- **Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development**
- **MassDevelopment**
- **Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors**
- **Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies**
- **Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association**