COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PLACEMAKING

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WHY IS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPORTANT?

-- Two heads are better than one. (50 heads is even better!)
-- Improve citizens’ knowledge and creates ambassadors for your project.
-- Inclusion is a good thing.
-- Demonstrates to people that you are willing to listen to them.
-- Helps develop trust in your organization and local government.
-- Likely that projects will be more widely supported.
-- Due diligence/CYA
Downtown Hall Meeting
May 23, 2019
Open to everyone

Topics

1. Foch Street Renovation Project
   a. MRWM will present most current plans.
   b. Funding opportunities
2. Live/Work Variances
   a. Introduction
   b. Discussion
3. Vacancies
   a. Introduction
   b. Discussion
4. National Chains in the Downtown
   a. Introduction
   b. Discussion
5. MainStreet’s Customer Service Training Program
6. Other concerns

Comments or Concerns

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Name (optional) __________________________ Phone number (optional) __________________________
GREAT BLOCKS ON MAINSTREET (GBOM)
The project is designed to dramatically upgrade a core three-block commercial area within a MainStreet District through the creative implementation of urban design, architecture, landscape architecture and creative economy projects.

Great Blocks is meant to catalyze the target area by providing through this grant much needed public infrastructure upgrades that will in the next phase result in private sector reinvestment in buildings and businesses.

Great Blocks provides for the development of construction documents for Public Infrastructure, inclusive of:

- Curb, gutter, sidewalks and pedestrian and bicycle amenities
- Landscape plantings
- Lighting improvements
- Identified public areas for potential public art installations and creative placemaking
- Gateway/entry features and Way finding

A team of designers will be retained by NMMS to conduct a community-based planning, design and engineering process to develop plans and construction-ready drawings, which will be provided to the community as a “shovel-ready” project.
Volunteer-based design intervention programs based on public infrastructure improvements, such as “tactical urbanism,” “facade squads,” and public art installations and creative placemaking, are among the revitalization and redevelopment results in this catalytic area targeted by the local MainStreet organization. These may additionally include:

- Façade improvements
- Building renovations and adaptive reuses
- Business expansions and local entrepreneur start ups
- Creative Industry and Enterprises development
Ways to engage the community.

- Community meetings
- Social Media appropriate for your demographics
- Phone
- Email
- List Servs
- Private Meetings
- Walking around with people

- Meet them where they are.
Foch Street

Why this street?

Issues
• Pavement and sidewalks are crumbling
• Street is too wide.
• Parallel parking on both sides.
• Doesn’t help with flooding issues.
• Very little street furniture/shade.
• Lighting terrible.
• No wayfinding signs.
• Vacant/Neglected buildings.
65% PLANS: PLANT SELECTION

1. Low-water use native or naturalized
2. Salt tolerance, inundation tolerance
3. Low height for visibility
4. Commercial availability
5. Year round interest
NEXT STEPS...