

Living Cities [MONTHLY

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IN THIS ISSUE This issue of Living Cities Monthly highlights the organization's upcoming Green Stimulus Boot Camp: Recovery through Retrofitting for state and local leaders, which will serve as an intensive training and peer-to-peer networking program for teams of city and state government officials. The output from Living Cities' Transit Oriented Development Convening in February is also covered in this issue, along with information on the new faces and new roles for Living Cities staff and board member A. Dennis White.

As always, feel free to contact Living Cities Director of Communications Eric Henderson with questions and comments at: 646.442.2205 or ehenderson@livingcities.org.



PLANNING A GREEN BOOT CAMP FOR STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS The emerging green economy can create wider opportunities for low-income people and long neglected neighborhoods through lower energy and transportation costs, and access to jobs with meaningful career ladders. However, in order for these changes to take place, we as a nation must intentionally build a “gateway to the green economy” at the advent of this economic paradigm. In March, Living Cities formed a 120-day working group to guide the organization’s White House activities, including conducting a training program for state and local leaders. The first installment of which is the Green Stimulus Boot Camp: Recovery through Retrofitting for state and local leaders. [more>](#)

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) CONVENING FOCUSED ON SOLUTIONS The expansion of public transit creates opportunities to improve access to jobs, shorten commutes, lower transportation costs, reduce emissions, and create walkable, mixed-use communities that are healthy, attractive places to live. Demand for transit is growing and transit development projects are underway in many places across the U.S. Yet, successful, equitable TOD is difficult to achieve. [more>](#)

LIVING CITIES—NEW FACES AND NEW ROLES This month, Living Cities congratulates Board Member A. Dennis White who, in addition to continuing his role as Vice President of the Corporate Contributions and Social Investment unit of MetLife, has also taken on the role of President and CEO of the MetLife Foundation. Dennis is responsible for managing foundation and corporate contributions, company volunteer activities and directing the social and community investment programs of MetLife and MetLife Foundation. Living Cities is also pleased to welcome one new and one fairly new employee to its ranks. [more>](#)



Planning a Green Boot Camp for State and Local Leaders

The emerging green economy can create wider opportunities for low-income people and long neglected neighborhoods through lower energy and transportation costs, and access to jobs with meaningful career ladders. However, in order for these changes to take place, we as a nation must intentionally build a “gateway to the green economy” at the advent of this economic paradigm. In March, Living Cities formed a 120-day working group to guide the organization’s White House activities, including conducting a training program for state and local leaders. The first installment of which is the “Green Stimulus Boot Camp: Recovery through Retrofitting” for state and local leaders.

This green working group is accelerating cross-member communication about current projects and initiatives, defining a specific agenda for Living Cities to implement

and overseeing the implementation of that agenda. Currently, the working group is cementing plans for the Green Stimulus Boot Camp: Recovery through Retrofitting, an intensive training and peer-to-peer networking program for teams of city and state government officials. The camp will focus on creating enduring, local building of energy efficiency systems as a platform for green collar job creation for low-income people.

The purpose of the camp is to provide senior-level local and state agency staff with a deep immersion in state-of-the-field knowledge and emerging best practices in large-scale approaches to increasing energy efficiency and creating green collar jobs through building retrofits. Ultimately, Living Cities envisions a series of camps focused on the green economy reaching at least 25 cities and states this year.



Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Convening Focused on Solutions

The expansion of public transit creates opportunities to improve access to jobs, shorten commutes, lower transportation costs, reduce emissions, and create walkable, mixed-use communities that are healthy, attractive places to live. Demand for transit is growing and transit development projects are underway in many places across the US.

Yet, successful, equitable TOD is difficult to achieve. Realizing the benefits of transit requires coordination among policy-makers and elected officials with responsibility for land use planning, economic development, transportation and housing, as well as involvement of communities, developers, investors, and foundations. Decisions made over the course of a decade or more can have unintended consequences, disrupting low income communities or failing to achieve promised community benefits.

In February, in partnership with The Center for Transit-Oriented Development and the Boston College Institute for Responsible Investment, Living Cities convened a group of developers, investors, foundations, governments and not-for-profit organizations to discuss how each group can play a role in advancing transit-oriented development (TOD) that meets critical economic, environmental and social goals. The group examined the gaps between desired public benefit and market results and assessed how these gaps can be bridged.

The group considered the tools available to promote the creation of equitable TOD, including capital for land acquisition; the potential roles for coordinating entities; the need for policy changes at various levels of government; and communication strategies for educating others about TOD. A full briefing book on the TOD convening will be available online within the next week.



Living Cities People—New Faces and New Roles

This month, Living Cities congratulates Board Member A. Dennis White, who, in addition to continuing his role as Vice President of the Corporate Contributions and Social Investment unit of MetLife, has also taken on the role of President and CEO of the MetLife Foundation. Dennis is responsible for managing foundation and corporate contributions, company volunteer activities and directing the social and community investment programs of MetLife and MetLife Foundation. Living Cities is also pleased to welcome one new and one fairly new employee to its ranks.

Amy Chung, Living Cities Social Investment Manager

Amy Chung has been recruited as the new Living Cities Social Investment Manager. Amy will, among other duties, be performing a merchant banking role: building deal flow and structuring and negotiating transactions suitable for investment by the Living Cities Catalyst Fund and other Living Cities investment vehicles. Prior to joining Living Cities, Amy served as Vice President of Citi Community Capital, where she originated, structured and underwrote socially responsible investments with a primary focus on renewable energy and tax-equity real estate transactions. Amy earned her Master in Public Administration degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, her MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and her BA in Economics and Urban Studies from Northwestern.

Brigitta Kral, Living Cities Senior Communications Associate

This past December, Brigitta Kral joined Living Cities as Senior Communications Associate. In this role she handles a variety of editing and writing tasks, including writing Living Cities' internal and external newsletters, editing documents and working with the Director of Communications on marketing materials. Brigitta has over a decade of experience working in nonprofit communications, writing and editing for the Web and print, and managing annual reports. Prior to joining Living Cities, she was the manager of the marketing department copywriting team at a national online education company. Brigitta earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University and her Bachelor of Arts in English and Journalism from the University of Maryland at Baltimore County.