

## Community Engagement Leadership Team - Q&A (Post Info Session)

On February 2, Planning hosted an informational session to go over the proposal process for the Engagement Leadership team for interested organizations. We are compiling answers to FAQs (questions brought up during this info session) below.

- **Can you share the Mayor's Action Plan?**

The Comprehensive Plan will build off the Mayor's Action Plan, especially the pillar focused on Equitable Neighborhood Development:

[https://baltopi.shinyapps.io/action\\_plan\\_tracker/?\\_ga=2.262626507.671241478.1638811174-1216828783.1624554686](https://baltopi.shinyapps.io/action_plan_tracker/?_ga=2.262626507.671241478.1638811174-1216828783.1624554686)

- **How many hours of time do Engagement Partners need to commit to this project? How many meetings does each team member need to attend?**

We anticipate two meetings. This allows us to collaboratively generate shared goals and metrics for what successful engagement looks like.

In addition to these meetings, engagement partners will need to commit time to design and implement engagement. This time commitment will vary based on the type of engagement proposed by the organization.

- **What are the priority areas for engagement?**

There are no priority areas by geography. Overall, the purpose of this public engagement effort is to reach those less likely to participate in the public process.

Some of the communities identified as a priority include (1) youth (especially young men); (2) renters (especially housing insecure residents); (3) elderly (and others with limited access to technology); (4) immigrant communities.

These communities were identified during pre-planning conversations over the summer of '21. You can read about these conversations via this [link](#).

- **Where can we review the last Comprehensive Plan? If there is a Comprehensive Plan already, why are we doing this again? What was the impact and results stemming from the prior Comprehensive Plan?**

The previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2006 and is available on our [website](#). Modernizing Baltimore's zoning code was the one of the significant results stemming from adoption of the prior Comprehensive Plan. The City of Baltimore must produce a Comprehensive Plan in response to 2020 Census data, per the State of Maryland requirements.

A review of the outcomes from the previous Comprehensive Plan will be made available in April for the launch of this Comprehensive Plan process.

- **How is the Comprehensive Plan funded? What is the funding source? Who is managing this process?**

This is funded by the City's budget. Our Agency was allocated \$250k for this FY to support this project. The Department of Planning is leading this effort.

Roughly \$150k will support community organizations leading on engagement.

- **Can groups collaborate on a proposal? What would that look like?**

Yes, groups are welcome to collaborate across neighborhoods. But, you must identify a lead organization because the City will enter into a grant agreement with a single lead organization, allowing the organizations to determine how to split roles and compensation.

- **What is the compensation supposed to cover? What are “allowable expenses”? Staffing time, event production, materials, etc?**

This is flexible. It could cover extra staff time at an event, materials for an engagement opportunity, food, renting space for an event. The organizations will enter into a grant agreement with the City of Baltimore, so the budget for each organization will proceed through the Law Department and need approval – thus, anything not allowable for legal reasons would be flagged during this process.

- **In addition to the priority communities identified during the pre-planning process, are groups serving other communities such as Veterans (and others) eligible?**

The priority groups listed above came up during our early conversations as important to prioritize, but if you serve a different community – please tell us why it's important to have that community heard and how you would make that happen!

- **Is there a draft for this plan?**

The Planning process for this project begins in April 2022. We anticipate starting to write a draft plan in response to initial engagement input.

During the pre-planning process, we hosted several conversations around what engagement should look like for this planning process and how it might be different than past processes. [We have documented what we heard, overarching principles for public engagement, and how we wanted to approach engagement](#)– this document is likely to evolve and expand as this planning process begins in April 2022.

- **Are organizations expected to create new programs to do this engagement work? Is this funding to support existing work? Is this a stipend to support new or existing staff?**

Organizations are **not** expected to create a new program, nor form a new organization. This is a one-time project. We anticipate that most organizations interested in this project are already doing engagement work every day in their community.

We do not anticipate that organizations would need to hire new staff to support engagement for this project. This funding is not a stipend - you nor your staff will not be an employee of the Department of Planning.

*The funding is here to acknowledge the expertise and effort that your organization brings to this work. We don't want to ask organizations to work with us to get the word out about the Comprehensive Plan without providing compensation for the effort.*

- **This is not enough time to submit an application. Can you extend the time frame?**

The form should not take more than an hour to complete. If you need more support, please reach out to our team and we'd be glad to assist you.

- **What are the insurance requirements for eligibility?**

The City requires various insurance to enter into a grant agreement. We will be finalizing the requirements for this specific grant agreement over the course of the next month.

- **Is there a scoring system for reviewing all proposals received?**

A rubric will be uploaded to the website by February 11. Proposals will be reviewed by volunteers from the Department of Planning and the Advisory Council for the Plan.

- **What are the metrics to be used to assess if engagement is successful?**

As part of the application, we are asking you to define what successful engagement is for your community and outreach efforts.

As part of the overall city grant agreement process, each organization will have to adhere to City requirements on reporting in order to receive compensation.

- **How is equity built into the selection process?**

We are especially looking for groups and efforts that are Black led and community led. [You can see how the Planning Department defines equity on our webpage here.](#)

- **What has the Planning Department to increase equity?**

The Department of Planning has been grappling with defining equity and its relation to our work for several years. [A committee](#) to address this topic began to convene in 2015; this webpage also covers our internal Equity Action Plan and related projects. A workgroup will apply an equity lens to this project.

