



Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor



INSPIRE



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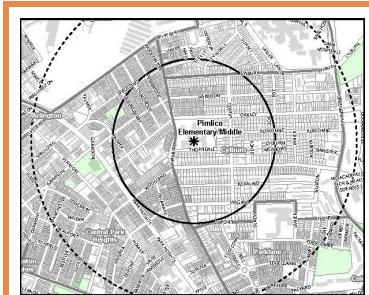
Investing in Neighborhoods and Schools to Promote Improvement, Revitalization, and Excellence

Background

Through the **21st Century Schools Initiative**, Baltimore City Public Schools, in partnership with the Maryland Stadium Authority, Baltimore City, and the State of Maryland, will be investing nearly one billion dollars to renovate or replace schools over the next several years. To leverage this investment, and to enhance the connection between the schools and the surrounding neighborhoods, the Planning Department launched a program called **INSPIRE** (Investing in Neighborhoods and Schools to Promote Improvement, Revitalization, and Excellence).



21st Century:
Develops School Site



INSPIRE:
Focuses Around the School



Community Schools:
Brings in Partners & Resources

Overview

Stronger schools lead to stronger neighborhoods; stronger neighborhoods lead to stronger schools.

The INSPIRE program focuses on the quarter-mile area surrounding each school that is a part of the 21st Century initiative. Focusing on a small geographic area allows plans to build from that significant investment and concentrate impact, responding to the aspirations of the neighborhood and school stakeholders in a way that is achievable.

- Plans include recommendations for specific, implementable public improvements that affect Baltimore residents' quality of life. Immediate public improvements focus on blocks that have been identified as "primary walking routes." Standard streetscape improvements along these blocks will help ensure that students and other community members have safer and more walkable access to the school.
- Plan recommendations are organized into goals that articulate the community's long-term vision for guiding private investment, and address environmental, social, and economic conditions. Goals include: Invest in Housing and Market-Strengthening Development Opportunities, Improve Safety, Improve Sanitation, Create Environmentally- sustainable Neighborhoods, Create Opportunities for Health and Wellness, and Create Connections and Access.

Planning Process

The Department of Planning works with community members to guide the INSPIRE process.



Although much of the plan will be implemented after adoption, there is investment and activity throughout the process.

Implementation

The Department of Planning meets with City agencies, neighborhood stakeholders, and other critical partners. City agencies and others have committed to start making improvements by allocating staffing resources and capital dollars. The Department of Planning is using General Obligation Bond funding to support improvements along primary walking routes and a community-selected project. Full implementation of the plans require engagement of the private market, anchor institutions, the philanthropic community, and community members.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Leonard at 410-396-5173 or jennifer.r.leonard@baltimorecity.gov or Mary Colleen Buettner at 410-396-5937 or mc.buettner@baltimorecity.gov.

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