

OIC@5: *Moving Cities into the Future*

Baltimore, Maryland
October 12-13, 2011

This convening marks the fifth year that the **Restoring Prosperity in Older Industrial Cities (OIC)** working group has been coming together to achieve its primary goals: advancing changes to public policy, directing public resource flows to better support the revitalization of older industrial cities, and educating foundations on potential strategies to aid in that revitalization.

When OIC launched in 2006, the economic forecast was somber but not grim. For funders working in cities rich in industrial history, though, it was clear that years of industry loss and decline, coupled with entrenched poverty and social marginalization, were coming to a head.

Building on research from the Brookings Institution, the Funders' Network formed the OIC working group to help national and place-

based funders concerned with these historic, but struggling, communities.

As it turned out, the problems experienced by these once-thriving middle class cities presaged the larger issues that would presently confront the American economy. By being ahead of the curve, philanthropy was able to respond nimbly to the increased economic stress yet to come, and to bring the needs of these communities to the attention of federal officials.

For those who can join us in Baltimore in October 2011, the meeting provides an opportunity to look at where we've been, what we've accomplished and how we should evolve to help cities move into the future. For those who cannot be with us, we offer these brief highlights as a record of some of our work together over the past five years.

Restoring Prosperity in Older Industrial Cities Steering Committee

Don Chen (Co-Chair), Ford Foundation

John Mitterholzer (Co-Chair), The George Gund Foundation

Julie Bennett, People and Land

Shawn Escoffery, Surdna Foundation

Caren Glotfelty, The Heinz Endowments

Ann Sherrill, Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative

Scot Spencer, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Laura Trudeau, Kresge Foundation

Orson Watson, Garfield Foundation

Restoring Prosperity in Older Industrial Cities In Review

2007

National Launch of Restoring Prosperity Initiative

Working with the Brookings Institution, more than 40 local and national funders help plan and host a series of launch events for the framing report *Restoring Prosperity: The State Role in Revitalizing America's Older Industrial Cities*.

OIC Convening, New York City, New York

The meeting includes a post-mortem of the November 2006 elections, a learning session focused on Innovative Economic Development Strategies, and an overview of the findings and recommendations from the American Assembly on economic development strategies for older industrial cities.

Revitalizing Older Industrial Cities Congressional Task Force

With the support of the OIC, the Northeast-Midwest Institute's Congressional Coalition forms a task force chaired by Rep. Michael Turner (R-Ohio) and Rep. Brian Higgins (D-New York). Its members have held a series of congressional briefings and field hearings on a range of OIC issues including foreclosure, economic development, and brownfields.

2008

National Matching Fund for Older Industrial Cities

A small group of OIC members establish a fund to support state-level policy change. Local and regional funders match the fund by more than two to one, supporting efforts in New York, Connecticut, Ohio, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. TFN disperses \$215,000 in partnership investments that leverage \$435,000 from local and state funders. TFN also sponsors a scan of



The East Baltimore Community School, a public contract school, is a central part of the efforts to renew a once-economically healthy Baltimore neighborhood by creating an effective partnership between residents, local universities, philanthropy, private institutions, and government. A new state-of-the-art facility is slated to open in 2013, underscoring the initiative's belief "that a strong school is critical to the revitalization and health of a community."

Photo from the East Baltimore Development Corporation, Inc.

foundations, *Investments and Strategic Initiatives in Older Industrial Cities*, which finds that for the 22 foundations examined, more than \$327 million in grants and more than \$40 million in program related investments (PRIs) were being invested in OICs.

OIC Convening, Newark, New Jersey

The convening includes a policy briefing on the changing federal landscape, presentations on the Transportation for America Campaign and the upcoming presidential elections, an update on organizing efforts in New Jersey and New York, and a funder learning session on green jobs.

2009

Revitalizing Older Industrial Cities Capitol Hill Summit

OIC working group members participate in a two-day summit that brings together nonprofit, foundation, and civic leaders interested in sharing information and educating policymakers on ways federal policies can best assist older cities and regions across the country.

White House Council on America's Auto Communities (WHAC)

After the OIC working group was invited to submit a memo framing philanthropy's approach to restoring prosperity in America's auto cities, the OIC begins to work closely with WHAC to educate and inform the federal response.

Strong Cities, Strong Communities/Cities in Transition

OIC members brief Obama Administration leaders on work to date and the role of foundations in revitalizing older cities.

OIC Convening, Cleveland, Ohio

This meeting features a discussion of the OIC work plan, an update on federal activities, a funder learning session on urban agriculture and older cities, and a "fireside chat" with HUD Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, Raphael Bostic.

Founded two years before the GM and Chrysler bankruptcies, the Restoring Prosperity in Older Industrial Cities working group was called on to help inform the federal response to the industry collapse.

Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis tours the Detroit Hamtramck Assembly Plant, where workers build the Chevy Volt electric car. Photo from AutoCommunities.gov.



2010

Auto Communities and the Next Economy: Partnerships in Innovation

Organized by the Brookings Institution and co-sponsored by the WHAC, the Department of Labor, and the Funders' Network, more than 250 people attend. The Summit features a keynote by Larry Summers, Director of the National Economic Council, a plenary featuring the Kresge Foundation's *Re-Imagining Detroit 2020* framework, and breakout sessions on land use and job creation/economic development. The President of the Ford Foundation announces a \$200 million commitment over five years to the Metropolitan Opportunity initiative, and federal officials announce the formation of the \$837 million RACER Trust to clean up and repurpose former GM sites in 14 states.

Community Foundations for Auto Communities

TFN launches Community Foundations for Auto Communities (CFAC) to coordinate foundation and federal cooperation for the GM brownfields clean up.

Strong Cities, Strong Communities/Cities in Transition

Federal agencies begin exploration of a comprehensive multi-agency program for cities in transition.

OIC Convening, Cleveland, Ohio

Review of working group activities as well as funder learning sessions on key land use reforms, workforce training, and economic development.

2011

Strong Cities, Strong Communities/Cities in Transition

Strong Cities, Strong Communities, an interagency federal program, launches in six pilot locations, working closely with OIC members in those sites to coordinate efforts. A funder team also participates in a philanthropic briefing with HUD and White House staff.

Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response Trust (RACER)

OIC, RACER, and EPA agree to work in collaboration on brownfields revitalization in targeted communities. Meetings are held in Toledo and Flint, and another is planned for Indianapolis. The meetings in Toledo and Flint result in, among other things, a priority commitment of \$25 million from the RACER Trust to those communities.