



## EVENT INFORMATION

**Mission & Purpose:** UEDA is a membership association dedicated to *facilitating effective, cross-sector collaboration, meaningful connections, and strengthening individual and organizational capacity* in Wisconsin's community and economic development sector. We focus on and advocate for community investment, sustainable homeownership and housing, regional transportation, small business support, and the local food economy.

### **The Annual Community Development Summit**

Since 2001, UEDA has developed and sponsored this annual event that brings together individuals and groups to **discuss and explore emerging issues in the economic and community development sector**. Our goal is to foster collaborative efforts, encourage partnership and facilitate best practices. Past Summits have focused on:

**2016: Crossing Boundaries: Downtown Development > Civic Engagement > Neighborhood Impact** focused on how civic engagement can be used as a tool to connect neighborhoods to the opportunities present in major development projects. Attendees represented various sectors and over 45 neighborhoods and 15+ cities or regions, and shared that we need to be intentional about how residents and neighborhood-based organizations are invited and included. They identified actionable ideas that could be integrated in current, large-scale efforts and stated we cannot shy away from issues like racism, segregation, employment, transportation and a lack of connection to (or desire to be) Downtown.

**2015: Work Future: Building Pathways to Opportunity for Boys & Men of Color** discussed how the way we work is changing and how these new paradigms can be used to improve employment outcomes for boys and men of color in Milwaukee. Attendees discussed particular challenges and suggested new strategies in four areas: *Networks, 21st Century Skills, Entrepreneurship and Pipelines & Pathways*. These recommendations are assisting the City of Milwaukee to move forward with Milwaukee's *My Brother's Keeper Action Plan*.

**2014: The Intersection of Arts & Community Development: New Paradigms in Practice & Action** featured four specific projects: *Bronzeville District, Sherman Park Theater Project, Walker's Point Innovation District and Milwaukee's Commercial Corridors*. Attendees from community-based organizations, local businesses, creative professionals and artists, development practitioners, government, funders and others engaged in thoughtful discussion that resulted in recommendations for each project that are moving forward today.

**2013: Show Me the Money: A Pathway to Accessing Business Capital** featured small business owners, new entrepreneurs, service providers and other stakeholders to discuss how to best support the growth of new and emerging businesses in the region. We heard from local business owners about barriers to growth and connected them with resources during "speed networking" sessions.

**2012: Completing the Circuit: Electrifying the Job Market** featured leaders at some of the region's most notable employers, educational institutions, workforce agencies, local chambers and nonprofits to share the unique issues facing workers and employers during "fishbowl" conversations. Attendees adopted profiles to explore the different ways people participate in the workforce system, and discussed strategies to drive hiring and support business growth.

**2011: Food For Thought: New Recipes for Job Growth** shared the work and emerging initiatives underway in food manufacturing and urban agriculture, highlighting the potential for both to create jobs. We also discussed challenges and opportunities inherent in the regional food economy, including supplier partnerships, workforce preparedness, sustainable models, and industry networking.

**2010: Foreclosure: Impacts & Opportunities** highlighted the work the progress that has been made to mitigate the impact of foreclosures on Milwaukee neighborhoods, and opportunities that have emerged to ensure neighborhood sustainability and make resources available to assist those facing foreclosure.

**Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (UEDA)**

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**2009: Regional Transit – Get On Board** featured a follow-up discussion from the 2008 Summit on the critical and urgent need for a collaborative regional approach to public transportation in order to address funding challenges and achieve regional workforce and economic development goals.

**2008: Transportation & Jobs: The Case for Regional Cooperation** explored the critical need for regional cooperation on the issues of transportation and jobs, including a panel discussion with community and business leaders, and an afternoon Town Hall of local elected officials from southeastern Wisconsin.

**2007: Creating An Economic Vision For Milwaukee – Together** was held in partnership with the City of Milwaukee to present the City's "Economic Opportunities, Vision and Strategy Framework," developed in conjunction with the Milwaukee 7 Regional Economic Development Partnership. We featured strategies to integrate neighborhood assets with regional efforts to foster economic growth and invited the community provide feedback and input on the process.

*A full list of past Summit Events can be found at <http://www.uedawi.org/21UEDASummit.htm>.*