



# **Region Smart** Memphis

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# Memphis is a Special Place!









# It's About Win-Win Solutions

- Healthy Environment
- · Vigorous Economy
- Vibrant Community



# What is Changing?

- · National and global economy
- · Demographics
- Technology
- · Consumer attitudes & market trends
- · Health care
- Energy sources & transportation options
- · The weather

# **Economic Development**

### 20th Century Model

#### Elephant Chasing

- Shotgun recruitment strategy
- Low cost positioning
- Cheap labor
- Focus on what you don't have
- Quality of life unimportant
- Driven by transactions
- Key Infrastructure = Roads

### 21st Century Model

- Public/Private Partnerships
- Laser recruitment strategy
- High value positioning
- Highly trained talent
- Focus on what you do have
- Quality of life critical
- Driven by an overall vision
- Key Infrastructure = Education

# The One Big Thing Rarely Works?





Festival Marketplaces





Aquariums

### Most New Jobs in Small Businesses





Research Triangle Park, Raleigh, NC

- US Small Business Administration says "small business generated 64% of new jobs over 15 year period".
- Middle market companies produce 3 out of 5 new jobs in growth industries.
- Even in high tech centers like the Research Triangle most jobs are in small businesses. 71% have 50 employees or fewer; 42% have 20 employees or fewer

# Most Incentives Go to Big Business



- Wisconsin recently approved a \$3 Billion incentive package for Foxconn.
- This amounts to almost \$231,000. in public subsidies per job.
- A non-partisan legislative analysis says that Wisconsin will not break even for at least 25 years.
- Foxconn is also being allowed to skip state environmental reviews.
- Sources: WSJ, August 9, 2017: CNN Money

# Competing for Amazon



Contenders for Amazon's



- 238 cities competed for the new Amazon HQ.
- Competing cities have offered as much as \$7 Billion in economic incentives.
- At best only one city will win.
- At worst, the competition has become a contest to throw cash at big business.

### What Makes More Sense?

#### Subsidies & Tax Breaks

#### Pits one community against another

- Moves economic activity around
- Businesses leave or threaten to leave after subsidies run out
- Puts all the eggs in one or two
- Taxpayers subsidize big business



### **Great Place & Skilled Workforce**

- Creates lasting assets that will pay dividends long after initial investment
- · Helps existing businesses
- Creates diverse, durable local economies
- Communities invest in themselves
- A more realistic strategy for smaller cities and towns



# Why Small Matters!



- **Small Steps**
- **Small Businesses**
- · Small Deals
- **Small Developments**
- · Can add up to **BIG IMPACT!**

### Main Street Reinvestment



- \$70.3 billion reinvested
- 131.916 new businesses
- 583,757 new jobs
- 267,538 buildings rehabbed
- Every \$1 of public money leveraged \$32.51 of private

#### Economic Vitals – Dimensions of Success



• Talent - Smart People



· Innovation - Ability to generate new ideas & turn them into commercial realities



· Connectivity - Places where people and ideas can easily connect



Distinctiveness/Place - Unique characteristics, an authentic, great place

### Strategies for Success



- Create a Shared Vision
- **Build Civic Capacity & Talent**
- **Build on an Authentic Sense of** Place
- Focus Regional Efforts on Building a Strong Downtown
- Expand Opportunities for Low-Income
- Engage in Community & Strategic
- Strategically Leverage State Policies

### Build an Authentic Sense of Place

- The link between quality of place and the ability to attract and retain residents & talent is increasingly
- A strong sense of place must be rooted in authenticity.
- Trying to copy New York, Nashville, Atlanta or other cities is a mistake.





### **Distinctive** = Having a Special Quality

#### Synonyms

- Cool
- Extraordinary
- Original
- Special

#### **Antonyms**

- Common
- Ordinary
- Regular
- Standard

### Authentic = True to one's spirt or character

- Bona Fide • Genuine
- False
- Real
- Dishonest Unreal

# **Community Character Matters!**



- "We take stock of a city like we take stock of a man. The clothes or appearance are the externals by which we judge."
- Mark Twain

### In Today's Economy – Place Matters

### **Traditional Economy**

- Product Driven
- Cost Sensitive
- Market Driven



Making the sneakers



### Today's Economy

- Knowledge Driven
- Value Sensitive
- Place Driven

Designing the sneakers



# What attaches people to community?



**OVERAL** 

- Social offerings such as, entertainment venues & places to meet
- Openness how welcoming a community is to newcomers
- Community Aesthetics physical beauty and green spaces



# **Dimensions of Uniqueness**

- · Anchor institutions
- · A healthy downtown
- · Historic buildings
- · Walkable neighborhoods
- · Parks and green space
- · Arts and Culture
- · Local shops and restaurants

### **Anchor Institutions**



- · Large institutions, such as universities, hospitals or nonprofit organizations.
- Anchors are proven economic engines.
- Some anchor institutions engage with the community
- Others do not.

# **Healthy Downtowns**

- Downtowns plays a decisive role as an icon.
- They are critical as a connecting point and nerve center for a metro area.
- A key asset for regional prosperity





# Why Do Downtowns Matter?



- Downtowns are the heart and soul of a community.
- If you don't have a healthy downtown, you don't have a healthy city or town.



- The apple rots from the inside out.
- It is hard to be a suburb of

# **Companies Moving Downtown**



- A study by Smart Growth America and Cushman Wakefield reports that 500 American companies have either relocated to, expanded, or opened new offices in walkable downtown locations" in the past 5 years
- 247 companies moved from suburban office locations to downtowns
- The average Walk Score of old locations was 52. The average Walk Score of new locations was 88
- 5 Fortune 500 companies that recently announced moves from suburban sites to downtowns are Motorola, McDonald's, Marriott, Caterpillar and GE.

# Why Move?



- To attract & retain talented workers
- To build brand identity & corporate culture
- To support creative collaboration
- To be closer to customers & business partners
- To centralize operations

# Amazon moved 7000 employees into downtown Seattle



They moved into 9 new buildings and 2 historic renovations, all in a mixed use neighborhood accessible by car, train, bus, boat, bike or on foot.



# What is the value of historic buildings, neighborhoods and landscapes?



# **Economics of Preservation**

"Dozens of studies document that historic preservation is good for the economy". It positively effects:

- 1. Jobs
- 2. Property values
- 3. Tourism
- 5. Affordable Housing
- 6. Environmental Impacts



Source: Measuring the Economics of Preservation: Recent Findings. ACHP. 2011

# Old is New Again





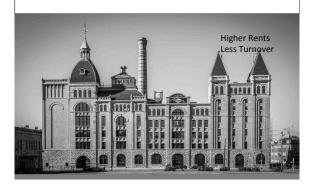
Faction Media, Denver, CO

"Renovation & redevelopment are not new, but the market is embracing older space with new fervor."

"Office space in rehabbed industrial buildings is now demanding rents above new Class A product."

Source: Emerging Trends in Real Estate, 2016

### Corporate Offices - Minneapolis, MN



# Hotel Chains are Reusing Historic Buildings



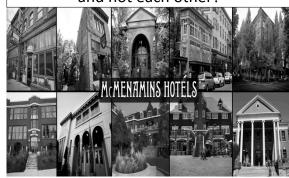
Fairfield Inn & Suites - Keene, NH



Hampton Inn - Lexington, VA

- Millennials say that "<u>authenticity</u>" and "<u>interesting</u>" are more important than "<u>comfortable</u>" or "<u>predictable</u>" in lodging facilities.
- Millennials also say that they would rather stay in "walkable neighborhoods" rather than locations that require a car.
- In many communities, renovated historic hotels have been a driver in larger community revitalization efforts

# Shouldn't a hotel reflect a city and not each other?



### Affordable Housing in Historic Buildings



Elementary School, Boston, MA



Former Hospital, Aurora, IL



Furniture Factory, Grand Rapids, M



Former Department Store, Denver



Historic Buildings: An Underutilized Asset

With Enormous Economic Potential



### Historic Neighborhoods Are Walkable Neighborhoods



Historic Districts typically have a density 2 to 3X those of other neighborhoods.

### Walkable Places Create Real Estate Value

- Numerous studies show that the demand for walkable, mixed use design far outstrips current supply
- There is a growing demand for urban/small town/village living especially among retirees, empty nesters, young professionals and single people.
- Historic districts are typically walkable neighborhoods.



# Walkability Boosts Value

#### Walkable, Compact Neighborhoods

- Promote Health the average resident weighs 6-10 lbs. less than residents of car dependent neighborhoods.
- Save Money Transportation is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest household expense.
- Foster Connection Studies show that every 10 minutes spent in a car commute reduces time spent in community activities by 10%
- Increases Value Every one point increase in Walk Score equates to a \$700 to \$3000 increase in home value.
- **Provide Commercial Premiums** - A new study by Real Capital Analytics (RCA) shows significantly greater appreciation for commercial properties in "highly walkable locations" over "car dependent locations" (125% appreciation vs.

### Walkable Communities





Old Town Alexandria, VA

- In all 30 of the largest US metro areas, the <u>majority of new real estate</u> <u>development is occurring in walkable</u> urban neighborhoods.
- On average <u>rents are 74 percent higher in</u> walkable neighborhoods than comparable space in driveable suburban locations.
- Office properties 90% higher
- · Retail properties 71% higher
- · Multifamily rental 66% higher



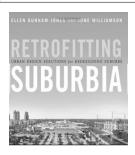


Sterling, Virginia

"Walkable suburban real estate can command value premiums of 25% to 100%."

Source: PUMA's Global Trends Report,

# Suburbs Are Being Redesigned



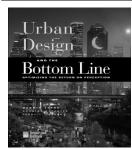
- "The largest retail trend of the next generation will be the conversion of dead or dying strip commercial centers in the suburbs into walkable urban places."
- Source: Chris Leinberger, The Brookings Institution

# Place Making Dividend



People stay longer, come back more often and spend more money in places that attract their affection.

### Green Space Creates Real Estate Value



- "The relationship between rising property values and green spaces is well documented."
- "Some studies find as much as a 15 to 30 % increase in the value of properties adjacent to parks and open space.

# Parks Create Value and Vitality







Parks are a key to community revitalization in both big cities and small towns.

### Downtown Fort Worth - Before



### Downtown Fort Worth - After



# Sulphur Springs – Parking Lot to Park





- - Town Square hosts 300 events a

  - Named "Most Improved Small Town in Texas"

# As we grow our communities we must simultaneously green them



Minneapolis Park System



Metro St. Louis Greenway Plan

### Where do you find green space in cities?

- Abandoned lots = community gardens
- Old landfills = public parks
- Abandoned rail lines = bike trails
- Rooftops = Gardens
- Decking Highways = New green space
- Daylighting streams = Linear Parks
- Removing parking = New parks
- Sharing School yards

# **Arts and Culture**



- Museums
- Theatres & Playhouses
- · Concert Halls
- · Art Galleries
- Festivals
- Murals and public art
- Public squares
- Taverns & coffee houses

### Secrets of Successful Communities

- 1. Develop a shared vision for the future
- 2. Inventory local and regional assets
- 3. Build plans around the enhancement of assets
- 4. Use education, incentives, partnerships, and voluntary initiatives, <u>not just regulation</u>
- 5. Pick & choose among development proposals
- 6. Cooperate with neighbors for mutual benefit
- 7. Protect community character & foster an authentic sense of place
- 8. Have strong leaders & committed citizens

