

Register now for the 2019 Innovate Michigan! Summit

Conference brings together economic experts and professionals working on the front lines of economic development at local and regional levels throughout Michigan

Contact: Jennifer Bruen, MSU Center for Community and Economic Development: (517) 353-9555, bruenjen@msu.edu, or Carla Hills, University Outreach and Engagement: (517) 353-8977, hillsc@msu.edu

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For Immediate Release

LANSING, Mich. – Register now for the eighth annual Innovate Michigan! Summit, taking place 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on Michigan State University’s campus in East Lansing.

As one of the most popular and dynamic university-community gatherings in the state, the Summit brings together academics, economic development professionals, students, and business and community leaders from across Michigan and the Midwest. The program is designed to address emerging economic development issues and innovations that impact Michigan communities.

The Summit presents a unique opportunity to create a dialogue around innovative economic development practices targeting the challenges of distressed communities. Sam Butler, Executive Director of Doing Develop Differently in Detroit (D4) and one of this year’s presenters, said, “Over the past two years, D4 has been researching ways to insert community benefit provisions into standard development processes, believing that this is the best place to foster a more inclusive and sustainable economy. We are convinced that these policies can provide important social benefit while also making development requirements more predictable and business-friendly. We are particularly excited to present at the Innovate Michigan! Summit because it will give us a chance to discuss these ideas with leader in the economic development field.”

This year’s agenda includes presentations about social investment strategies for economic development, community benefit agreements, material reuse in tiny home construction, the integration of online market places and main streets, energy co-op broadband networks in rural communities, translating smart city management knowledge, opportunity zone development, domicology, modular building, and low-impact development.

This annual event continues the work of the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) and its EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI). Funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, REI is growing a statewide virtual network to generate new tools, models, policies, and practices that will



University Outreach and Engagement

Center for Community
and Economic
Development

1615 East Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912

517-353-9555

Fax: 517-884-6489

improve the state's economic future. Learn more about REI-supported projects at <https://reicenter.org/projects/success-stories>.

New this year, REI is collaborating with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)'s Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program to offer additional sessions specifically focused on solutions and strategies for redeveloping communities. All Summit registrants are welcome to take advantage of these sessions, and RRC program participants are highly encouraged to attend. RRC is a statewide, no-cost technical assistance program that evaluates and certifies that a community has integrated transparency, predictability and efficiency into daily development practices through a set of best practices. More information about RRC can be found at <https://www.miplace.org/programs/redevelopment-ready-communities/>.

All attendees are also invited to visit the Michigan Inventors Coalition (MIC) Expo directly following the conclusion of the 2019 Innovate Michigan! Summit. At the MIC Expo, inventors will showcase their products and participate in the Spin, Pitch, & Sell contest to further advance their inventions.

An evening networking reception will conclude the day.

More information and registration for the Summit is available on REI's website, <https://reicenter.org/events/innovate-michigan-summit-2019>, or by contacting Jennifer Bruen at (517) 353-9555.

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