



TCC Minutes

Committee: Housing & Community Development

Date + Time: 4/24/25 3:00pm

Location: City Council Chambers

Attendees: Chair Gadus, Vice Chair Jones, Hartman,

Absentees: Melden, Driscoll, McPherson, Williams

Also Present: Sarantou

Presenters: Roslyn Clemens, LuCynthia Jones, Amelia Gibbons

Public Attendance: 8

Legislative Aide Facilitating: Evan Snapp

Topics...

- Toledo Neighborhood Capacity Building Institute

Discussion...

- Gadus: Clerk please call the roll, and lets get started.
- Clemens: About three years ago, we started the institute, and the idea was that we would take grassroots organizations and leaders, and work on capacity building with them, be a better partner to the city, obtain more funding, and increase their management skills and strategies.
- Clemens: We had noticed that the same organizations were always applying for CDBG dollars, so this helps to widen the field and provide more investments to small organizations. This is our second cohort.
- Jones: Thank you Council for allowing us to present today. We have some of our cohort members in the audience today, so they can speak briefly about their experience in this program. By investing in our disinvested communities, we help to equip these leaders with the tools to support themselves and grow into the future.
- Jones: Fast forwarding to 2024, our programming model shifted to a more streamline process with 12 modules of training/ education. 9 modules were held in person at Sofia Quintero Center. 3 were held online.
- Jones: The general program structure included 6 hours of instruction, and several hours of self-instructed modules per semester. Participants are required to complete the modules fully, and receive mentoring and grant writing training.
- ****Add organizations List****
- Jones: We had this year's kickoff event last September 26th, 2024, here in the council chambers where our groups also met with the Mayor and other city administrators.



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- Jones: Michelle Klinger and Evelyn McKinney were among our training/ module facilitators, as well as Crystal Taylor, Landyn Jordan, Dr. Jennifer Sader, Artishia Lawson, Dr. Stephen Ball, and Tom Gibbons. Their qualifications are detailed in the presentation.
- Jones: Some of the module activities that we wanted to highlight were Dr. Sader's Strategic Planning "Speed Dating Potential Partnerships" and Dr. Ball's Finance and Budgeting Module.
- Jones: Some other modules included:
 - Building Collaborative Partnerships
 - Succession Planning
 - Fund Development vs. Fundraising
 - Planning and Zoning
 - Communication Strategies
 - Conductive Effective Staff and Board Meetings
 - Social Media Marketing
- Jones: Each group finalized their experience with Capstone Projects, where they were assigned a Capstone Coordinator, and they are developing a program to implement either now or after the class concludes (with a strategic plan).
- Jones: Our first group we are highlighting today is the BESN X Community, which is going to occupy a brick and mortar center in the Old South End, and were awarded a Vibrancy Initiative White Box Grant, a Parks and Rec Youth Services grant, among others. Their Executive Director is Tim Fields, who asked for participants to look out for their Summer Kickoff Event.
- Jones: The next group we want to highlight is the OWEA, Old West End Association. Headed by Laure Hammond, the Board President, and Justin Bays, the Ad Hoc Volunteer Committee Chair.
- Hammond: I was initially nervous about attending this program, but I can say that through this experience, I have gained a lot of confidence and knowledge about different organizational processes. We are now putting the final restoration touches on our big project- the rehabbed home at 624 W Delaware.
- Bays: This organization provided me with an important and valuable education, and I saw how it positively affected other groups. Thank you.
- Jones: I want to acknowledge Danny Hart, who's also in attendance. On June 5th at 5:30pm, we will hold our graduation event here in chambers and recognize more project groups.
- Gibbons: My final remarks: I want to mention how valuable this was to Reinvest Toledo, it completely made our organization more effective and trusted in the Community. There were many "a-ha" moments and periods of growth throughout this educational process. These projects leverage community resources to do impactful work. Thank you for this opportunity.



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- Clemens: The goal is- to have very strong grassroots partners on the ground, who are empowered to support themselves, and not just through CDBG dollars, but through alternative methods. Its about empowering people who live in, and know, these neighborhoods. If we lose out on CDBG dollars this year, we will be inclined to come to council for support, because we greatly believe in this program and how it increases the effectiveness of every dollar spent. We are working on gaining national support as well, as word of models like this are spreading and other cities understand their importance too.
- President Hartman: Thank you for this presentation! You already answered my questions- about costs associated with this and about future plans. After the chaos surrounding government lately, this is very welcome news! Would there be opportunity for council participation in this program? I think we could all learn by doing this. Let me know how we can help and scale this up.
- Clemens: We could certainly use the help of council for understanding some of the complex issues that require requests of council, zoning and planning, etc. The larger challenges that face our community all involve council members. We are willing to hear your ideas and involve you.
- Hartman: Sometimes we get community groups asking for code changes, or other requests, to council, so I definitely see the value of our involvement in answering some questions or handling requests in coordination with their training/ education.
- Gadus: By referral, I would love a full roster of the organizations that participated in the past.
- Vice Chair Jones: This reminds me of our conversations with United Way, whose Nonprofit Landscape shows where we have gaps, and where there are opportunities to engage in shared services or just to learn about additional funding opportunities. This program can bring about more impactful work by showing passionate founders and community leaders the organizational tools to improve their capacity. I think it would also be important to understand Council and how legislative items start and get passed here.
- Gadus: Thanks for taking the time today, and to share your success stories. With that, this meeting is adjourned.