

Detroit, Michigan



KENNETHE V. COCKREL JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DETROIT FUTURE CITY

Experience with neighborhood development: I am currently helping to coordinate a process to update Detroit's Master Plan of Policies, which will govern development activity at a neighborhood level, potentially for years to come.
I am interested in learning about...the challenges of implementing an EcoDistrict in Portland; how they were overcome.
One challenge I'd like to address: Municipal participation in district energy implementation through bond sale; treatment of buried heating and cooling piping infrastructure in a manner similar to water and sewer improvement.



JACOB CORVIDAE TEAM LEAD
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ECOWORKS

Experience with neighborhood development: I've been involved in sustainable neighborhood development projects for 15 years as part of leadership teams, as a consultant, and as co-founder of the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office.
I am interested in learning about...different ecodistrict models, and how different models work in different contexts.
One challenge I'd like to address: Creating self-perpetuating financial streams for sustainable development, so that the initial investments required are not such a barrier to projects that have longer-term triple-bottom-line benefits?



KHALIL LIGON
PRESIDENT & CEO, VISTA VANTAGE

Experience with neighborhood development: Involvement with numerous organizations, including Great Lakes Leadership Academy, Detroit Eastside Community Collaborative, FoodPLUS | Detroit, Michigan Association of Planning and Detroit Young Professionals.
I am interested in learning about... how EcoDistricts have improved quality of life in urban areas experiencing extreme disinvestment.
One challenge I'd like to address: How to replace the abandoned structures in my neighborhood with green infrastructure.



REBECCA SALMINEN WITT
PRESIDENT, THE GREENING OF DETROIT

Experience with neighborhood development: The Greening provides landscape-scale planning and implementation support to neighborhoods interested in comprehensive green development.
I am interested in learning about...the experiences of others; insight into comprehensive community engagement.
One challenge I'd like to address: Residents in some of the neighborhoods that have the greatest need are not embracing the concepts that will be necessary to create a healthier neighborhood. An immovable attitude seemingly meets an unstoppable reality in this case—is there a solution?



SARIDA SCOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATES OF DETROIT

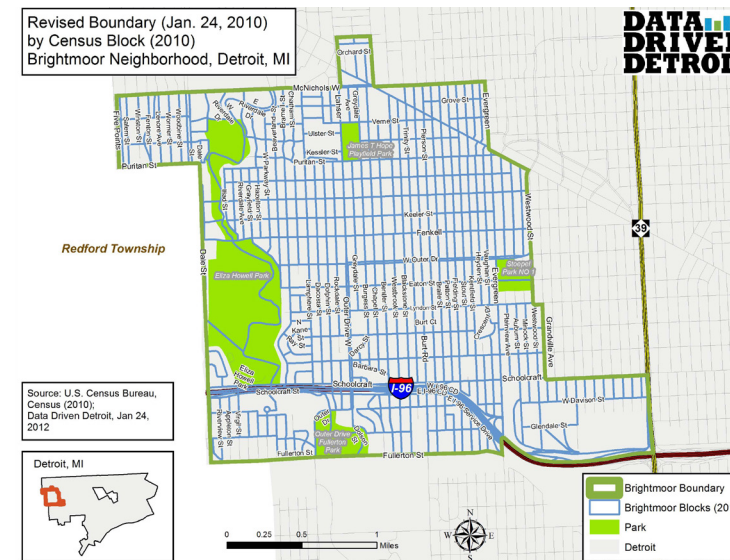
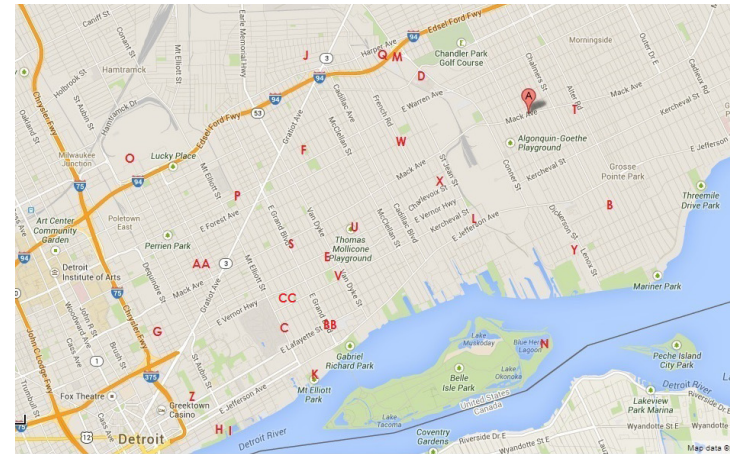
Experience with neighborhood development: I have worked in the community development industry and local government, combined, for more than 15 years.
I am interested in learning about...how to move from conception to reality, and identify what is needed for implementation.
One challenge I'd like to address: How to achieve real collaboration that produces results.



JIM TISCHLER
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Experience with neighborhood development: About 17 years.
I am interested in learning about...how form and activity elements operate of and with each other in an EcoDistrict.
One challenge I'd like to address: Moving stakeholders beyond the “psychology of current and/or previous investment.”

eco-D



The city of Detroit is the 18th largest in the US, but it used to be the 5th. Its population is roughly 40% of its one time peak of 1.8 million. The city is over 80% African-American, with some Hispanic, White, and Arab-American populations.

eco-D is a collaborative structure and process for supporting the creation of ecodistricts throughout the city of Detroit. We will serve a variety of different neighborhoods with services to support their development as ecodistricts. The incredible variety of neighborhood conditions within the city make Detroit an excellent ground for experimenting with varied approaches to urban sustainable development. As such, we can use and develop a variety of approaches and share the results with the rest of the world. These services include gardens and agriculture, energy efficiency, healthy homes, community solar, alternative transportation, green infrastructure and more.

eco-D is a “second-stage” intervention, supporting community-driven efforts. Once a community has created a green plan for their future, eco-D will bring support and services to implement that vision. We are in the process of creating a collaborative structure, which brings different teams and services together. In addition to following community-driven plans, eco-D will focus on sustainability solutions that drive economic development.

Why this neighborhood?

For the incubator, we are focusing on 4 neighborhoods that are currently implementing green development plans. Each represents a very different context and approach within the city.

These are:

Midtown Ecodistrict: a small scale “district” connected to Midtown’s thriving cultural center, funded by Enterprise Foundation.

Eastern Market Corporation Ecodistrict: A mixed-use district in early planning stages, funded by Kresge Foundation.

Lower Eastside Action Plan—Project Green: A wide swath of the lower east side, with a green development plan created through extensive community engagement and partnership among several community development groups.

Brightmoor Alliance: A collaboration among neighborhood groups to redevelop their blighted communities with a sustainability focus.

Neighborhood

PRIORITIES:

1. Create jobs
2. Attract investment to the neighborhoods
3. Create the collaborative structure and processes to provide different ecodistrict development services to the neighborhoods.

Neighborhood

CHALLENGES:

1. The city's limited capacity to provide government support amidst bankruptcy
2. Balancing long-term best practices vs. short-term crises and needs
3. Securing funding to implement projects