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KEY STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

# THE GOMPERS PROJECT

East Baltimore Neighborhood Coalition

Monday, May 2, 2022

5:30pm - 7:00pm

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# OUTLINE OF TOPICS

## WHAT WE'LL DISCUSS

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History

Community Engagement Timeline

Community Response to RFP

Steering Committee Members

Next Steps

Questions





# HISTORY

**\$2.5M  
STATE  
FUNDING**

The Gompers Building has been vacant for more than 20 years. Despite numerous attempts to attract qualified developers, the building continues to add to the blight at the intersection of four East Baltimore neighborhoods.

In 2019, **Mayor Jack Young** met with **Kennedy Krieger Institute** leaders to discuss how to strengthen partnership with the community. Mayor Young shared the Gompers School building had been vacant since the mid-1990s and that revitalizing it could be a wonderful opportunity that would benefit the community.

In 2020 and 2021, **Senator Cory McCray** initiated and guided a successful state budget request that would allow Kennedy Krieger Institute to commission a study of the Gompers School building revitalization potential, including costs to restore, repair and equip the building. However, the pandemic delayed the study.

At the start of 2021, Kennedy Krieger leadership began a "listening tour" and initiated contact with several community-based organizations and area residents to gather their thoughts about potential uses of the Gompers School building.

In October 2021, Kennedy Krieger and the **New Broadway East Community** leadership began discussions concerning the Gompers School building and the need for greater and more meaningful community engagement. Together, they decided that a broader community discussion was necessary.

At the direction of Doris Minor-Terrell, on November 19, 2021, Kennedy Krieger facilitated a virtual community meeting intent on charting a new course of partnership and collaboration. **Councilman Robert Stokes** was among the elected officials in attendance with more than 20 representative organizations, stakeholders and residents.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

08/28/21

In preparation for a study of the Gompers School building potential, Kennedy Krieger leadership and Senator McCray conduct a door-knocking "listening tour" in the immediate neighborhood surrounding the site.

11/19/21

Meeting goal: Open community-wide discussion about the Gompers School building, gain understanding of state funding awarded to Kennedy Krieger Institute for the building, and gauge level of interest for community collaboration and partnership.

12/20/21

Meeting goal: Further exploration of community partnership. Meeting attendees provide input on vision for future of the Gompers School building and the community as a whole. A desire to further define community benefits emerges.

01/31/22

Meeting goal: Increase transparency, empower voices, share and collect ideas. Baltimore Tech Hub reports *Input Survey* results with 60% response rate - expanding opportunity and attention to general and economic well-being strong themes throughout survey.

03/17/22

Meeting goal: Gensler - an architecture, design, planning, and consulting firm - presents an overview of their mission, experience, and master planning process. Meeting participants vote in favor of submitting a "community response" to the Gompers Request for Proposal released by the city in February (April 15th deadline).



INTENT TO BID

# COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO RFP

After four public meetings, meeting participants agreed to advocate for the city to accept our alternative response as a legitimate response to the RFP. Gensler composed a letter which asked the city to consider modifying the "solicitation into one that solicits the creation of a master plan". The letter was circulated to community stakeholders for comment and support prior to submitting to the city on April 15, 2022.

Broadway East

Darley Park

East Baltimore Midway

Ft. Worthington/Berea

Oliver

South Clifton Park





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# STEERING COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

- Kennedy Krieger Institute
  - Dr. Brad Schlagger
  - Jim Anders
  - Dr. Jacqueline Stone
  - Emily Arneson
- New Broadway East CDC - Dr. Doris Minor-Terrell
- Midway CDC - Kathy Christian
- Councilman Robert Stokes
- Councilman Antonio Glover
- Senator Cory McCray
- Baltimore Tech Hub - Anisah Best
- Maryland Dept. of Housing and Comm. Development
  - Todd Scott
- Courtney Morgan
- Morgan State SA+P - Prof. Johnny Macon (& students)
- Gensler - Vaki Mawema



DUNCAN  
STREET  
MIRACLE  
GARDEN

# NEXT STEPS & QUESTIONS