

COLLABORATE NORTHEAST

Advancing a healthy community, economy and environment in Northeast Wilmington through collective impact

SINCE ITS LAUNCH,

52 PARTICIPANTS

coming together regularly, to work on projects to revitalize Wilmington's Northeast



WORKGROUPS

3



Making collective impact on Community Engagement, Environment and Economy

9 PROJECTS

funded, underway, or proposed to advance Northeast's Blueprint Implementation Plan actions



FUNDING

\$590K



Secured by Collaborate Northeast and Resource partners

REVITALIZING NORTHEAST WILMINGTON

Learn more about Collaborate Northeast at www.NortheastWilmington.com

2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

What a year 2020 has been!

In 2019, the Northeast Blueprint® Communities Program planning process culminated in the the *Wilmington Community Revitalization Implementation Plan*, a collection of actions from all previous planning studies for Northeast Wilmington organized into three Strategic Initiatives. To advance these initiatives, the plan recommended a collective impact approach with a backbone entity to guide and coordinate it. In response, **Collaborate Northeast** was formed.

In its first year, Collaborate Northeast has made remarkable progress. When the Blueprint Steering Committee met in October 2019 and approved the Strategic Plan for **Collaborate Northeast**, we were unaware of the challenges awaiting us in 2020, particularly the COVID19 pandemic. But we had strong support and participation by the many groups working to provide resources and services to people in the Northeast.

Thankfully, we got off to a strong start before the pandemic hit and had continued support from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh through the Blueprint® Communities Program.

A year later, **Collaborate Northeast** is well on its way to having thriving working groups and partner-developed projects for each strategic initiative. For now, we continue to meet virtually, but look forward to getting back out there in person in 2021.

Visit us online at www.NortheastWilmington.com to learn more and get involved!

Bobbi Britton and Ron Dutton, Co-Chairs

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2020: A Year of Foundation-Building

In its first year, Collaborate Northeast adopted a strategic plan and continued efforts to secure 501(c)(3) status through an existing Community Development Corporation. Strong partnerships were developed, including becoming a partner organization in Equitable Wilmington, a collaborative aimed at promoting growth in the Northeast and other parts of Wilmington formed by three Community Development Financial Institutions: Cinnaire, True Access Capital and NCALL Loan Fund, while continuing to operate under the fiscal sponsorship established with the Kingswood Community Center for the Blueprint Initiative. Later in 2020, a new partnership was developed with Healthy Communities Delaware, leading to new fiscal sponsorship with the Delaware Community Foundation for 2021.



Community Environment

A working group focused on environmental resilience (built and natural) was one the first to form in late 2019, thanks to an already active and engaged group of environmental organizations working in Northeast Wilmington. The group convened virtually on a quarterly basis and its members began several major collaborative projects in 2020, including an assessment of green infrastructure opportunities in the Northeast (UD); an assessment of Brownfields in the Brandywine River area of the Northeast (City of Wilmington); and designing a Placemaking project/event for the Jessup St intersection in the Northeast (UD). Funding was also secured for several new projects that will get underway in 2021.

"I was helpful in writing a grant... that will allow us to further our engagement in the NE - which becomes an excellent student engagement opportunity."



Community Economy

In mid-2020, a working group focusing on the North Market Street Commercial Corridor convened, with the leadership of True Access Capital. In three lively and well-attended virtual meetings last year, the group discussed past redevelopment efforts and current needs for revitalizing North Market Street, and shared resources for businesses and entrepreneurs. Through Equitable Wilmington, True Access Capital began a market analysis to improve access to financing and services for small businesses and prospective entrepreneurs. The Wilmington Strong Fund created a grant program to support small business in Wilmington. Collaborate Northeast engaged grassroots organizations to help get the word out to businesses and entrepreneurs informing them

"Collaborate NE gave us the opportunity to get stakeholder feedback... even when COVID-19 made typical community engagement events impossible."



Community Engagement

The year started strong with Collaborate Northeast's first community meeting held at the Achievement Center in January 2020. Residents, teen groups and resources partners shared information and ideas on new projects underway in Northeast Wilmington. Unfortunately, COVID19 prevented additional in-person meetings. But we convened teens remotely for input on projects, and a group of resource partners remotely to discuss tools and strategies for collaborating on outreach to the Northeast Community, including a neighborhood directory. The NortheastWilmington.com website was updated with new information about Collaborate Northeast and community resources thanks to in-kind support from Cinnaire.