



# Equitable Development: The Role of Brownfields Renewal, Workforce Strategies and Entrepreneurship

*Brownfields 2015 Conference Pre-Conference Workshop*

Tuesday, September 1, 2015 9:00am-3:00pm | Palmer House Hotel, Chicago, IL

Equitable development seeks to comprehensively address deeply entrenched issues such as poverty, economic development, and environmental quality within our communities. Economic opportunity is a cornerstone of equitable development particularly within communities facing the additional challenges associated with brownfields sites. Where there are opportunities to clean up and sustainably re-use brownfields sites, the timing is ripe to integrate and invest in equitable development. It involves residents, property owners, workers, local businesses, planners, government officials and developers cooperatively engaging in decisions and investments which address past inequities, while creating a new vision for a sustainable future. The foundation for creating strong, economically resilient and liveable communities is increasingly built upon a spectrum of place-based activities that develop improved community revitalization tools and strategies.

The Equitable Development Workshop is a hands-on learning opportunity for local leaders who are fostering pathways to economic stability for communities historically affected by issues of poverty, unemployment and brownfields. Practitioners, employers and entrepreneurs who work at the cutting edge of connecting low income and minority populations to opportunities and beneficial socioeconomic outcomes of brownfields redevelopment will share practical tools and strategies. Participants will gain in-depth knowledge about ways to effectively integrate job driven workforce development, local hiring, minority contracting and facilitating minority and small business entrepreneurship.

The workshop will increase participants' understanding about federal brownfields and environmental workforce programs, funding and resources, and the building blocks of local strategies and legal approaches that connect communities and people to good jobs. Companies working on brownfields redevelopment will share business best practices in hiring job training graduates, what qualifications they are looking for, and the financial and other benefits to both employers and employees. Gain an insider's view of opportunities and the challenges of opening a business from entrepreneurs who got their start in brownfields and environmental job training initiatives.

To register for the workshop [http://www.brownfieldsconference.org/en/activities/affiliate\\_trainings\\_and\\_workshops](http://www.brownfieldsconference.org/en/activities/affiliate_trainings_and_workshops)

The Equitable Development Workshop is organized by Sustainable Community Development Group, co-sponsored by US EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization. We also thank US EPA's Office of Environmental Justice.



*“Equitable development provides opportunities for all residents – regardless of income, race or ethnicity – to produce and share in the beneficial outcomes of living in healthy, viable and prosperous communities.”*