

Mayor and Foundation Forum on the Civic Commons

September 8 - 9, 2016
Philadelphia, PA

Hosts:

Mayor Jim Kenney, City of Philadelphia
and Fairmount Park Conservancy

Event made possible by support from: William Penn Foundation and Annie E. Casey Foundation



In conjunction with the public announcement of the launch of Reimagining the Civic Commons, Philadelphia's Mayor Jim Kenney hosted a kickoff forum welcoming mayors, project leaders and national funders for a day of dialogue on policy, practice and public investments to advance the civic commons in cities nationwide.







Dana Bourland
The JPB Foundation
Mayor and Foundation
Forum on the Civic Commons

Ryan Whalen
The Rockefeller Foundation
Mayor and Foundation
Forum on the Civic Commons



Themes





Friedrichs

Omar Blaik

Rip Rapson

Mike Dug



Carol Coletta

Ryan Whalen

Kyle Kutuchief

Finance

Mayors expressed strong interest in the civic commons work in Philadelphia, especially the Rebuild bond initiative, a \$500M investment in parks, recreation centers and libraries, as well as the tax on sugary beverages that acts as its financing mechanism.



Rebuilding
Community
Infrastructure



Mike D'Berardinis

Jim Kenney

Mike Duggan

“Declare big intentions from the start – it drives practice.” – Michael DiBerardinis, City of Philadelphia

Design

Gia Biagi's presentation of the Studio Gang work in Southwest Philadelphia sparked conversations on the role of design in the civic commons.



“Process is important. Use tactical projects to engage
and build capacity.”
– Gia Biagi, Studio Gang





“Neighborhoods are where you can really show the value of design. What gets built is really important. The process should build an attitude that “my neighborhood deserves this.”
– Maurice Cox, City of Detroit

Economic Development

Workforce development emerged as an opportunity,
with mayors and conveners describing this as one
facet of the civic commons work.





Patrick Morgan

Kathryn Ott Lovell

Maurice Cox



Revitalization

Shawn McCaney and David Gould's presentation on equitable development elicited discussions on how to strengthen neighborhoods, along with downtowns, through the civic commons.



““Even on the city’s worst day, the future has already started on the other side of town.” – Shawn McCaney,
William Penn Foundation





City-level Exchange

Mayors stressed the importance of prioritizing local coalitions rather than a federal agenda and the value of a cross-city learning network.





“Having mayors talk to each other is invaluable.”
- Mayor Jim Kenney, City of Philadelphia

Bartram's Garden

Following the Forum practitioners and funders toured Bartram's Garden and discussed the critical importance of community building and programming in the civic commons.

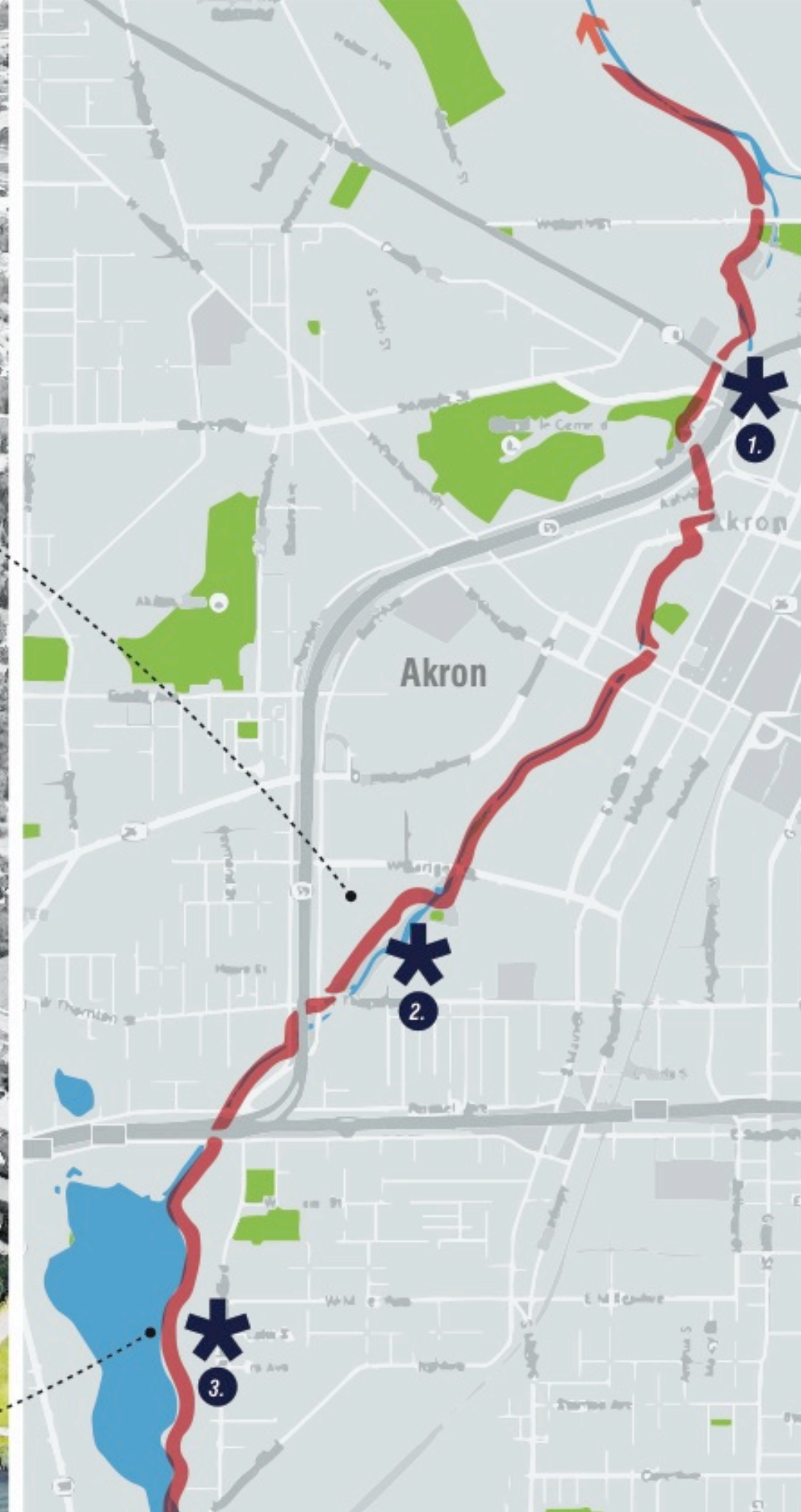






“How can our asset support what you want to do?”
- Justin DiBerardinis, Bartram’s Garden

Akron





Chicago



GARFIELD PARK
INDUSTRIAL
ARTS



Detroit



Turned Beef
LIMITED



Memphis



- 8



Philadelphia



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