

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
Job Creation and Retention Trust

Trustees

Thomas Bent
Vickie Choitz
Lisa Cook
Silvana Dinka
Thomas Galligani
Anika Van Eaton
Rand Wilson
Josh Grehan
Jesse Clingan

Minutes

Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust
Tuesday, October 13, 2019, at 6:00PM
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Vickie Choitz, Anika Van Eaton, Thomas Bent, Rand Wilson, Thomas Galligani, Silvana Dinka, Lisa Cook, Jesse Clingan

Staff Present: Ben Sommer

Meeting commenced at 6:04pm

1. Welcome
2. Annual Report Presentation: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wLpzotPqJZT-x0bYrPzvD2FRi0IdhK0c6RIIsQpXTm8/edit?usp=sharing>
3. Public Discussion
 - a. Vicky Choitz directed meeting attendees to the Google Jamboard to post ideas: https://jamboard.google.com/d/1ngel4_rjngybnTVxy1Vehej8OzCwc0epS4c1w-zfyQg/viewer?f=0

The following investment ideas were submitted by meeting attendees on the Google Jamboard and further compiled from the following discussion.

Job Quality

- Mobility for Somerville's day laborers (landscaping, painting, residential construction) through a worker-owned cooperative. - Marcy Goldstein-Gelb
- Use a high road employer model for HR training
- Funding for a Workers Center.

- Continue to support wage theft education and workers' rights.
- I'd like to see another round of funding for workers' rights training as well as HR best practices/wage theft avoidance training for employers. - Nate Clauser
- Cooperative ownership models for jobs that are essential for the local economy and often poor wage/benefits such as childcare and home health. – Laurie Goldman
- HR support/quality jobs for small businesses - not necessary training.
- Foster the solidarity economy by networking union workers and coop workers and social enterprises.

Childcare

- Family childcare can be a viable option to provide job opportunities and address the need for childcare. - Carmen Chan, Just-A-Start
- Leverage employers' in-house training for more local residents
- flexible and affordable childcare - i.e. Care That Works program in Boston
- Lisa Kuh - Childcare remains a barrier even for those who receive training through this amazing trust. There is a severe shortage of early childhood educators. A few of us are developing a proposal for a Child Care Workforce
- Support Family Child Care providers in growing and strengthening their businesses. -Alyssa Corrigan
- Invest in a pipeline of early education and out of school time teachers in partnership with local institutions and local childcare providers. -Alyssa Corrigan
- Directors of childcare centers and family childcare centers would benefit from small business training. Boston has an interesting program we just heard about and could be replicated here. – Lisa Kuh

Green Jobs

- Create climate-related employment opportunities for Somerville residents/workers - such as retrofits/weatherization (A similar non-profit-building trades initiative was successful in Boston) – Marcy Goldstein-Gelb
- Invest in job training per retrofitting Somerville housing, especially public and senior housing. Retrofits would include weatherization, ventilation. With any forthcoming Stimulus funds. A local application of Green New Deal objectives
- Pipeline for green construction/retrofit jobs -- Emerald City Collaborative model - Laurie Goldman
- Demonstration center housed in Somerville that can be a regional hub for the building trades to learn about energy efficient building techniques, e.g., Passive House. – Larry Yu

Local Hire

- Promoting local hire by developing ways to gather data and set metrics for types of jobs and number of Somerville residents who are working for these local businesses
- how Green Line extension can be opportunity to attract new businesses – Al Vega
- Hoping to see more done to advance hiring of local residents by Somerville businesses and non-profits.

Strengthen Existing Investments

- Longer-term post-placement supports for career advancement, including those for the currently funded industry specific programs - Laurie Goldman
- Continuing to strengthen the stipend structure. Our student truly thrive when they have a "safety net" – Miriam Ortiz- Just A Start
- Sufficient funding for currently funded programs to test their viability and potential for replication. - Laurie Goldman
- Reserve funding for additional rounds of investment already made - Bill Dovhan

COVID/Rapid Response

- Opportunities to engage in COVID-prevention related efforts: contact tracing, worker health councils - groups of workers trained to be safety monitors (model in LA) - Marcy Goldstein-Gelb
- Creation of a workers' public health council
- a support program for businesses that had to close due to pandemic related reasons – Al Vega
- Anticipate loss of 300+ jobs at Royal Hospitality Services

Business Support

- Prioritize support for small businesses run by women of color and Somerville's immigrant population - Rachel Wilensky

Union Square

- Prioritizing services in each category for residents in Union Square with payment coming out of CBA negotiated \$1.1 million dollars designated to go for the Jobs Trust Board.

4. Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn made by Tom Bent. Rand Wilson seconded the motion.
- Motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.