

Tulsa wins competitive award to help target investment

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The City of Tulsa's work to make the community a more attractive destination has led to a national award that will help local leaders use smart growth principles to facilitate decisions.

Tulsa is one of six communities nationwide to receive the Smart Growth America free technical assistance workshop in 2017. Through the program, Tulsa will receive hands-on assistance from national experts on Planning for Economic and Fiscal Health and Fiscal Impact Analysis. The interactive, hands-on workshops are designed to spur investment through collaborative planning for long-term economic and fiscal health. Smart Growth America is a national nonprofit that advocates for better cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

"We are pleased to receive this grant, which gives us tools to follow up on action steps created in our comprehensive plan. Through the Smart Growth assistance, we will determine how to best direct Vision Tulsa Citywide and Route 66 Beautification and Reinvestment funds to target areas that are underutilized. We will use the latest Smart Growth principles to link the Comprehensive Plan and the Capital improvements program to prioritize projects and use our public resources most efficiently," said City of Tulsa Planning Director Dawn Warrick.

"This award is a testament to the hard work Tulsa has already done," said John Robert Smith, Smart Growth America's Senior Policy Advisor. "Our program was more competitive this year than ever before, and Tulsa stood out as a community doing great work. We're excited to be able to help you continue on to the next stage of this work."

The workshops offered through Smart Growth America's program focus on a range of issues, downtown revitalization, Complete Streets, parking management, smart growth zoning, economic development and fiscal health, among other topics.

Smart Growth America received over 50 applications for technical assistance from 27 states and Puerto Rico for its 2017 workshops. The full list of winning communities includes: the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska; The Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado; The City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts; The City of Tulsa, Oklahoma; The Osage Nation; and the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

About Smart Growth America's free foundation for smart growth technical assistance

Smart Growth America offers nine types of technical assistance workshops that help communities build stronger local economies, protect the environment, preserve sense of place and improve overall quality of life. The technical assistance is funded through a grant to Smart Growth America from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities under their Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

program. The Building Blocks program funds quick, targeted assistance to communities that face common development problems. Through the program, Smart Growth America has already provided free assistance to over 70 communities across the United States, from Hawaii to Maine.

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For additional information visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

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