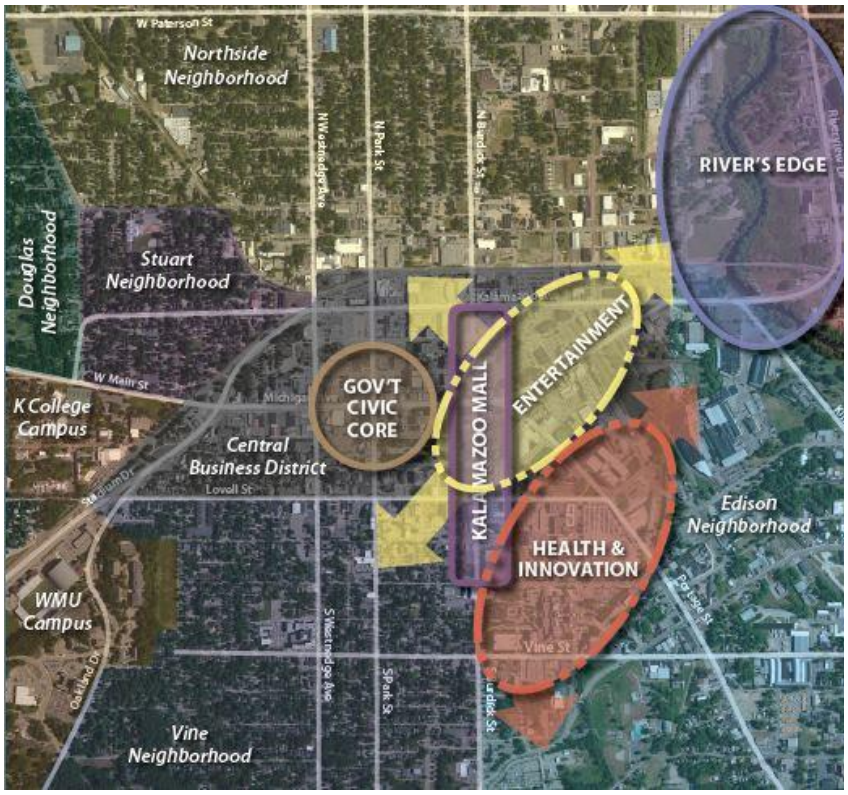
Innovation Districts: A new force driving the rebirth of core cities



What

Kalamazooo has a long and fruitful history as a hub of innovation and education. Today, across the country, a new urban economy is emerging. Fueled by a series of profound demographic, economic, and cultural forces, what Brookings and others are calling "innovation districts" represent a cutting-edge, place-based economic strategy for cities and metropolitan areas pursuing an innovation-driven economy. Innovation Districts meld economic development, place-making strategies, and social networking to create well-defined communities where anchor institutions, innovative firms, mixed-use housing, retail, amenities, and transportation cluster and connect. They are emerging in core areas of cities where the existing base of research universities, medical complexes, and clusters of tech and creative firms is sparking business expansion, as well as residential and commercial growth.

Michigan's urban cities are driving the state's comeback; learn how Kalamazoo is contributing to this turnaround, and how, well-coordinated, you, and the organizations you represent can accelerate efforts already underway, making Kalamazoo one of the Midwest's premier mid-size cities.

Who

Jennifer S. Vey is a fellow at the Brookings Institution whose work primarily focuses on the competitiveness and quality of life of cities and metros in the next economy. Jennifer will be presenting on Innovation Districts and how they are fundamentally re-shaping urban economies. Jennifer's bio can be found at the following link. http://www.brookings.edu/experts/veyj?view=bio

Where

Join us Thursday, June 12 from 6-8 pm at Conference Room 128 at KVCC's Arcadia Commons Campus. Beverages and hors d' eurves provided.

Please RSVP to Andrew Haan at haana2@michigan.gov by June 10.