



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of the Mayor
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

Innovation & Technology Inclusion Council

November 21, 2019

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Room G-9

Washington, DC 20004

MINUTES (Corrected)

ITIC Members & DC Government Staff Present: Thomas Sanchez (Chair), Julian Alcazar (by phone), William Bellows (by phone), Ken Eisner (by phone); Jessica Graham, Ryan Maliszewski (by phone), Nasir Qadree (by phone), Scott Rechler, Adam Rubinson, Dartanion Williams, Karima Woods (DMPED), Tiffany Thacker (DMPED), Joycelyn James (DMPED), Katie Baskett (DMPED), Nick Nayak (DMPED), Delano Squires (OCTO, by phone), Sybongile Cook (DOES, by phone), Kevin Morgan (WDCEP)

Other Presenters: Kym Bryden (Cureate), Diego Mariscal (2Gether International), Julia Spicer (MAVA)

Call to order ~ 11:15 a.m.

I. Welcome & Introductions

T. Sanchez – provided background on October conference call which recapped WeDC events in October and updates from ITIC Subcommittees.

II. Discussion

A. DMPED Updates and Priorities for FY20

1. QHTC Working Group

K. Morgan – WDCEP hosts regular tech executive roundtables in coordination with DMPED; had a roundtable on 11/20 regarding Qualified High Tech Company (QHTC) incentives with about 18 participants to get feedback on the recent changes to the legislation; general themes of the conversation were building community and telling the story about growth/success of DC based tech companies; will take feedback on QHTC changes and talk to DMPED about how this might be considered in existing framework and larger questions in the future; ability to respond at time of hearings was limited due to the

short turn around time; if you have feedback on QHTC, please reach out to Kevin Morgan.

2. Inclusive Innovation Grants

J. James – Inclusive Innovation Grants grew out of recommendations from Pathways to Inclusion report; two grant opportunities were available toward the end of FY19; 1) Innovation Accelerator – providing support to underrepresented tech and tech enabled entrepreneurs, and 2) Investor Engagement – launch an investor engagement program that will include an investor familiarization tour in Spring 2020.

a. Innovation Accelerator

Kym Bryden – CEO Cureate; Organization exists to shift dollars from big business to small local business through food and beverage procurement and supply access to resources to allow these entrepreneurs to thrive; Cureate Courses is a 10-course series that will run January through August; it will also provide wrap around technical assistance and leadership development coach; cohort will meet once a month at Union Market, with Village Café as a partner providing trial run for products; course will end with a pitch competition and buyer/vendor fair; applications are open until 12/06; we're looking for 10 – 15 companies in growth stage, past cottage food threshold of \$25K in sales, point where you can't legally run a business from your home; <http://www.cureate.co/courses> for more information; looking for investors who may be interested in judging the pitch competition.

Diego Mariscal – CEO 2Gether International; Organization came about because they saw that the skills that people with disabilities develop for self-advocacy and collaboration are inherently entrepreneurial skills; in DC about 38% of people with disabilities face unemployment challenges; translating these skills into a business could help solve for the problem of unemployment for the disabled, and the accelerator will focus on that; entrepreneurship is a way for people to redefine their disability; accelerator will integrate disability perspective into a lean startup curriculum, with coaching and peer-to-peer support, information and referral services; grant allows for them to provide continuous services allowing to see progress of the cohort; many of the entrepreneurs they work with are social enterprises; he will share information on the Disability Startup Network.

b. Investor Engagement

Julia Spicer – CEO MAVA; As an overview, MAVA helps to be a catalyst on the East Coast for entrepreneurship, core mission is to promote investment in high growth enterprises; raise all funds internally, not affiliated with any state or university; most of their

expertise is with tech and tech enabled companies across sectors; try to connect companies to resources and capital across the life stage of companies; will bring their 30 years of knowledge and network of national investors to DC; where are the sources for investment, how are they defined, what is the focus; strategic focus to bring investors to look at DC in a different light, build a bridge and see the things DC hasn't received credit for in some time; 2-day fam tour to bring investors, combo of high touch and public showcase for up to 50 companies, with pitch event; will be in spring 2020, centered around an inclusive process; plan to get a mix of private and industry investors; showcase companies ideally should have customer validation; application portal for companies will be open in December; also identifying community partners and create a resource directory.

B. ITIC Committee Reports

T. Sanchez – some committee member must leave the call early, so will modify the agenda to allow committee updates then return to DMPED Updates.

1. Workforce

Ken Eisner delegated Nick Nayak for update - workforce subcommittee working on a pilot for diversity and inclusion training for employers of various sizes; would consist of DC Government and SME training partner who will create/execute training and provide data analysis and best practices from the pilot and develop final report to determine if project should scale; DC Government would provide policy oversight; possibly attach project to an event to highlight program; next steps are for ITIC to review the proposal, and if approved, select a training partner and execute program.

T. Sanchez – need to make the recommendations clear and action-oriented; Ken also connected regarding the community college proposal from August and will work on something to circulate and send up to DMPED.

K. Morgan – this initiative grew out of Deloitte Impact Day on Tech Talent; it is demand driven, companies want to be more diverse and inclusive with hiring but some early-stage companies don't know how to go about this; larger companies have the resources to do this; this program would de-risk inclusive hiring efforts for small companies.

2. K-12 STEM Engagement

Nasir Qadree delegated to Scott Rechler for update – recapped main ideas from October conference call; 1) technology, infrastructure and bandwidth in schools and at home as school work has need for tech access at home; 2) access to STEAM courses, computer science specifically, understanding what currently exists and where there are gaps, make them widely accessible, 3) entrepreneurship and exposure to social innovation –

by support for existing organizations doing this type of work, and how do you raise the profile for young entrepreneurs who are doing this work; still at research phase with all of these at the moment.

- D. Williams – worked with Lauren Allen at OSSE on identifying initiatives happening across the city; come up with a framework to share common goals; have identified a 5 DCPS STEM schools from K-12, and then will find ways to form partnerships throughout the city; may be able to work with organizations such as DC STEM Network; will synthesize this info to determine gaps; opportunity to develop performance measures and provide resource of vetted STEM programs; the question is what happens next? How do you launch a career in the stem space?
- S. Rechler – There may be an opportunity to handoff between K-12 and Workforce groups.
- K. Woods – continue to draw on OSSE as a resource.

3. Economic Development & Entrepreneurship

- T. Sanchez – Subcommittee chair Lisa Jones Gentry wants to tack on her subcommittee meeting to the next full meeting.
- N. Nayak – Working on an Inclusion pledge for hospitality industry to include underrepresented minorities in tech initiatives; want to create a scorecard system to assess inclusion for tech in hospitality.

C. DMPED Updates and Priorities for FY20 Cont.

1. Tech Talent Summit

- K. Baskett – Planning a February event around the DC tech talent pipeline; talent is one of the biggest drivers for where companies locate and finding that talent is challenging; one of the takeaways from the June Deloitte tech talent event was that it is hard to find diverse talent, connect with DC residents, and connect with local universities; want to put together an event to showcase how universities and training partners are working on this issue; want to engage ITIC to help shape programming, might announce the Workforce subcommittee’s inclusion pilot if it is ready in time; still in early stages of planning, please follow up for more information; WDCEP assisting with coordinating event.
- K. Woods – Would like ITIC involvement and participation in event; DMPED has also reached out to Greater Washington Partnership; welcome your ideas, recommendations, venue options.
- K. Morgan – educated and skilled talent is a driver for location beyond incentives; important as we position DC as a competitive place for companies.

2. Pathways To Inclusion Update

N. Nayak – original report released December 2016; update DMPED is working on includes the 19 recommendations in the report; majority are either in progress or complete, while funding and shifting priorities affected others; highlight other initiatives that tie to the recommendations, e.g. In3, Inclusive Innovation Fund, and related innovation grant opportunities; will be able to share something in the next few weeks; final update will need to undergo DMPED review before publication.

T. Sanchez – we've made huge progress in the past few years; would be great to realign ITIC around those updates and revised goals.

III. Next Steps

J. James – provided update on Obviously DC handout and website, including information on DC Concierge service to direct companies/people to information on opportunities in DC, available at obviouslydc.com.

K. Woods – We want to proactively tell the story of DC businesses so the site features blog; if interested in being highlighted let us know.

IV. Adjourn 12:28 p.m.