

## Register now for the 2019 Innovate Michigan! Summit

*Conference brings together economic experts and professionals working on the front lines of economic development at local and regional levels throughout Michigan*

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For Immediate Release

LANSING, Mich.—Register now for the **2019 Innovate Michigan! Summit**, a vibrant annual event that addresses emerging economic development issues and innovations that impact Michigan communities.

The eighth annual event will be **Thursday, August 29 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing**. Sessions are from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, with the Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo directly following.

This annual event continues the work of the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) and the MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI). Funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, REI is growing a statewide virtual network to generate new tools, models, policies, and practices that will improve the state's economic future.

The Summit presents a unique opportunity to create a dialogue around innovative economic development practices. Sam Butler, executive director of D4 (Doing Development Differently in Detroit) is a Summit presenter. "Over the past two years, D4 has been researching ways to insert community benefit provisions into standard development processes, believing that this is the best place to foster a more inclusive and sustainable economy. We are convinced that these policies can provide important social benefits while also making development requirements more predictable and business-friendly. We are particularly excited to present at the Innovate Michigan! Summit because it will give us a chance to discuss these ideas with leaders in the economic development field," said Butler.

The agenda also includes social investment strategies for economic development, community benefit agreements, material reuse in tiny home construction, the integration of online market places and main streets, energy co-op broadband networks in rural communities, translating smart city management knowledge, opportunity zone development, domicology, modular building, and low-impact development.



### University Outreach and Engagement

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New this year, REI is collaborating with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)'s Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program to offer additional sessions specifically focused on solutions and strategies for redeveloping communities. All Summit registrants are welcome to take advantage of these sessions, and RRC program participants are highly encouraged to attend. RRC is a statewide, no-cost technical assistance program that evaluates and certifies that a community has integrated transparency, predictability and efficiency into daily development practices through a set of best practices. More information about RRC can be found at <https://www.miplace.org/programs/redevelopment-ready-communities/>.

There is still space available. **Register now**, <https://reicenter.org/events/innovate-michigan-summit-2019>, or contact Jennifer Bruen, project coordinator, at (517) 353-9555.

Learn more about the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development REI-supported projects at <https://reicenter.org/projects/success-stories>.

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