Understanding that building requires planning, the City’s stance on rebuilding is one that is predicated on strategic planning. In this time of revitalization, the Mayor wants to ensure that businesses, residents, and developers hoping to function in Detroit will truly be invested in the city and that future developments will fall into the meticulously reviewed master plan. In an effort to facilitate the City’s rebuilding in conjunction with the Mayor’s master plan, the Jobs and Economy Team, for which I interned, meticulously reviews development plans, abandoned properties, and future development sites. In my ten weeks with the Mayor’s office I was able to help facilitate this work in various ways. The majority of my work, however, consisted of researching viable properties for large-scale future developments. This work would include researching locations, creating one-pagers with all of the details of the particular location, and proposing the locations during real estate meetings with representatives from the Mayor’s Jobs and Economy Team, the City’s Building Authority, the City’s legal team and others involved in land procurement for the City. This work resulted in the creation and compilation of much of the necessary data required for the City to make an educated decision on whether or not to purchase certain land for a few large-scale projects, both short-term and long-term. Although this research does not necessarily have a clear outcome, the mere fact that the work I completed was deemed necessary by the City means that the development of new projects in Detroit are meticulously planned to facilitate the best outcomes for the City and for the City’s citizens alike.

**Focus: HOPE**

*Job Grid*

By: Ali Al Momar

The HOPE Village Initiative (HVI) Neighborhood is a 100 block area surrounding the Focus: HOPE campus, located in the central part of Detroit. The population is approximately 5300 people. Twenty-five percent of the population aged 25 and older has less than a high school diploma or GED. Over the 5 year average of 2006-2010, 49 percent of the population was at or below the poverty level. The Job Grid is one element within the HVI economic development strategy to reach Focus: HOPE’s 2031 goal that 100 percent of HVI’s residents are educationally well prepared, financial self-sufficient and living in a safe and supportive environment.

The Job Grid, a user-friendly infographic and booklet, will be addressing the issue of access to information and resources for job attainment for HVI. The infographic will help job seekers navigate through agencies that provide testing and assessments, job dissemination information, skills and technical training; remedial education; social supports, etc., for those seeking employment; with a particular emphasis on those possessing employment challenges. The infographic is intended to provide a succinct and easy to read reference on a broad range of opportunities to local job seekers.

The goal is that the Job Grid will be available in agencies and households throughout the 100 block area of the Hope Village Initiative. The Job Grid is also meant to be an online tool. For now, however, it will be only physical to accommodate the lack of internet access in the community.

**Focus: HOPE**

*Hope Village Initiative Community-Based Research Projects*

By: Ashley Burnside

During my internship with Focus: HOPE I worked on multiple research projects to assist the community development and research department. Most of these projects were aimed at furthering the HOPE Village Initiative (HVI), which is a twenty-year project designed to improve the educational and economic opportunities and access to safety available to residents in a 100-block area surrounding the Focus: HOPE campus. The first project consisted of performing statistical analyses on the results of the HVI Community Survey distributed last fall. The analysis of this data was based on respondents’ gender, age group affiliation, and house ownership status. Next I created a prototype for a Business Inventory Survey that Focus: HOPE will distribute in the future to assess which businesses are in the HVI neighborhood and what these businesses need from Focus: HOPE and the community to thrive. The third project was to develop a tool to collect comments from community members as Focus: HOPE planned for a large neighborhood cleanup event called Keep it 100. During Keep it 100, I volunteered every day and helped lead the Command Center, greeted buses of volunteers, and following the event I recorded all of the progress made on each block of the HOPE Village neighborhood through notes and photos. I inputted foreclosure rates within the HOPE Village neighborhood from the years 2010 to 2014 into the Efforts to Outcomes software using data collected by Data Driven Detroit. Finally, I updated the legacy project, which is an online and physical resource that is updated with Focus: HOPE research projects to ensure that all staff members have access to
research. All of these projects have provided Focus: HOPE with baseline data and will allow Focus: HOPE to better assess the progress that is being made within the HOPE Village neighborhood as the initiative continues.

**FoodLab Detroit**

*Popups in the City*

By: Gwen Schaller

Pop-up dining is on the rise all over the country, but has become quite popular in the city of Detroit. As new food entrepreneurs begin to flourish in the city of Detroit, pop-ups are a great way to test out their business for viability and attract new customers before investing a lot of money in opening their own brick and mortar establishment. FoodLab Detroit aims to help these food entrepreneurs thrive in order to make good food a sustainable and equitable reality for all of Detroit’s residents. Part of helping some of these food entrepreneurs thrive in the current food scene involves helping them navigate the many steps to putting on a successful pop-up event.

The purpose of this research was to develop a guide that would help FoodLab members through this process. The initial stages of this research involved researching existing resources around putting on a pop-up to both better understand the process and to understand how this new guide could serve to complement existing guides, not just reiterate what is already out there. From there, surveys were sent to FoodLab members who were familiar with the pop-up process to better understand what businesses have done in the past, where they need support and where challenges lie.

The information from the survey made it possible to create a guide that was relevant to food pop-ups specifically and that addressed challenges specific to FoodLab members and pop-up restaurants in the city of Detroit. The result is a single-fold guide that addresses challenges brought up by members, including making the experience, marketing the event, menu planning and budgeting, staff and volunteer coordination, and learning to work in unfamiliar surroundings.

**Metro Matters**

*Taking a Look at Transit: Revitalizing Bus Stops in Metro Detroit*

By: Kristen Collins

The purpose of this internship was to take a look at, and understand the transportation system in the Detroit area. With Detroit’s transportation system lacking behind numerous other cities, it has become one of the leading conversations in the media. Since the transportation system is being redefined, this is a great time to propose and implement new designs and standards for bus stops.

We focused on gathering information, on the effects bus stops have on the transportation system, the city itself, and the riders. The project tasks included gathering academic research, going out into the community to survey and interview bus riders, and city planners, as well as putting together policies, and design proposals for bus stops.

The data collected during this process-included news stories from around the world, blogs, academic research, and videos from the leading design schools in the country. The majority of the research collected focused on the psychological aspects of the effects of bus stops, as well as standards and policies used in conjunction with these stops.

Photographs of existing bus stops were taken and documented in Oakland, Wayne, and Washtenaw counties. Also, a standards and policy document was generated to be used as an organized way to view the options for redesign in Detroit’s bus stops. Lastly, we went out into the community to obtain information as to what people would actually like to see at bus stops, and how they feel about stops, which already exist. We expect the information gathered during this project to be used as a starting conversation in which Detroit’s transit system can be improved.

**Metro Matters**

*The G-Word: Regional Policy Responses to Gentrification in Legacy Cities*

By: Dominic Russel

Gentrification – the process of generally White middle- and upper-class residents moving into disinvested, largely minority, urban communities – begets economic, social, political, physical, and cultural changes to traditionally working-class neighborhoods. As defined as a crisis of physical displacement that pushes out entire low-income communities, gentrification is mostly limited to wealthier U.S. cities such as New York and San Francisco. The term, however, is also used to describe racially and socially inclusive equitable development challenges in legacy cities, older industrial centers that have experienced job and population loss.

Through a series of informational interviews with metro-Detroit community, development, and policy leaders, as well as a review of existing literature, we framed three primary challenges associated with the term gentrification in legacy cities: first, a lack of affordable housing in high-opportunity areas and the reduction of existing stock in developing areas; second, a
lack of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for long-time residents, even during periods of development; third, a social and cultural exclusion that leads residents to feel unwelcome in their own communities.

To highlight program and policy responses to these issues, we compiled a series of one-page best practice policy summaries from metropolitan regions across the county. Our focus on regionalism was not only motivated by the mission of Metro Matters, but justified by a growing body of research suggesting that municipal equity is inherently a regional issue. The final work is presented in the website www.gword.strikingly.com. We expect the site will be a tool for regional leaders in Detroit and other legacy cities working to foster equitable development.

Nortown Community Development Corporation

Village of Norris Restoration and Strategic Plan
By: Damaris Doss

Located on the east side of Detroit, The Village of Norris was founded in 1873 by Philetus W. Norris, who served as the second superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. The house that he built and resided in still stands today on Mt. Elliott St. This historical aspect is important to not only our city’s, but nation’s history as well. Although this house is rich with value, others do not see its importance. Over the past years, the house has gone through arson, mistreatment and scrapping. Even through this, the house still stands today.

Through historic preservation and the help of the community, the Nortown Community Development aims to restore the Norris House back to its glory. Along with partnering with the Detroit Historic Preservation Coalition and the City of Detroit Planning and Development Department, the first steps to restoration is researching the current ownership of properties in the Village of Norris along the Mt. Elliott St., a heavy industrial corridor. By creating a database of these properties using Loveland Technologies, the Wayne County Treasurer, as well as windshield surveying, the plan to redevelop the village begins.

This research is just the beginning steps to what the Village of Norris will be. Through future endeavors and efforts, not only with the Norris we restored, but will become an eco-heritage learning center for youth of the community. This unique resource will not only allow disadvantaged young people to learn more about Philetus W. Norris and Yellowstone National Park, but bring light to a community that has been struck by poverty.

Nortown Community Development Corporation

Nortown Community Development Corporation: 8 Special Streets Revitalization and Strategic Plan
By: Danielle Wallick

Northeast Detroit (District 3), while often forgotten by the larger players, continues to contain many assets for the city. The Lipke Recreation Center, having just been saved from sale to the Salvation Army and newly leased by Mitch Albom’s SAY Foundation, as well as Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, represent two of these major assets. The eight residential streets that surround these assets represent a tipping point for the neighborhood; while currently stable, if problems of quality of life are not addressed, the rapidly increasing amount of vacancy and blight could push the neighborhood into a state of decline. With up-to-date information about home ownership, tax status and condition of property, the 8 Special Streets of Sirron, Rolyat, E Lantz, Yolanda, Bliss, Suzanne, House and E Outer Dr. will be able to address problems before they spin out of control. Using data from Loveland Technologies, the Wayne County Treasurer, Data Driven Detroit, windshield surveys, the Northeast Detroit Business Association and meetings with Northeast Detroit residents, the current conditions of problem residencies and commercial buildings were compiled and next steps to set the community on its path to stabilization were identified. Previous efforts have focused on larger, more overwhelming chunks of the neighborhood, and have become outdated as new houses continually become foreclosed upon and vacant. Future parties will be able to repeat this process with small areas of neighborhoods throughout District 3 and the rest of the city.