Community Planning Coordinator

SCC is pleased to announce the creation of a full time Community Planning Coordinator position to help lead and manage the Community Corridor Planning coalition, which works with a wide range of stakeholders to implement a long-range equitable and smart vision for Somerville growth.

The Organization

Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) is a 42-year old community development corporation based in the City of Somerville. SCC invests in building the leadership of people in Somerville who currently have little access to influencing public policy or economic trends. We view resident leadership as the glue that holds our community together, and provides both the experience and necessary insight to best inform housing, economic and service strategies that will ultimately build a stronger and united Somerville. SCC aims to increase and preserve affordable housing; promote dynamic and accountable community leadership; and support Somerville residents who want access to more opportunities.

The Project

Since 2009, SCC has helped lead the Community Corridor Planning initiative, a coalition that also includes Groundwork Somerville, Somerville Community Health Agenda, Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership, and Friends of the Community Path. Through this initiative, we have reached over 1000 community members, and actively engaged over 400 people to take part in workshops, neighborhood meetings, and large community meetings regarding quality of life and land use issues that will be impacted by the arrival of 7-8 new stops in Somerville (6-7 proposed along the new Green Line Extension through the heart of the City, as well as an Orange Line station at Assembly Square). Our overarching goal is to engage a broad cross section of residents from Somerville—with an emphasis on people who ordinarily are left out of planning processes—to exchange values, ideas and recommendations that can be Incorporated into long term city and state plans.

To date, participants have established a list of 11 core principles asserting the desire for diversity, affordability, good jobs, green space, accessibility, and a thriving economy in the areas along the corridor. Our community engagement has resulted in design recommendations for station plans; an Action Agenda for organizing campaigns that turn principles into concrete action; and most recently, an “opportunity map” for one of the station areas in which residents prioritized specific properties and values important to the neighborhood in preparation for the arrival of the Green Line. We explore technology, such as an interactive on-line mapping tool: http://interactivesomerville.org as another means to engage participation in the ongoing discussion about land use and quality of life issues in their own neighborhoods.

This year, the CCP coalition was chosen to be one of 5 “Great Neighborhoods” supported by the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance to continue to execute our community planning agenda. We are also part of MAPC’s Sustainable Communities initiative, and receive support for our anti-displacement, economic development, and green justice/green open space agenda.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Steward CCP’s long-term vision for Somerville, ensuring that CCP partners and the Resident Advisory Team achieve the goals and produce the deliverables established in our work plan.
- Help design and lead a strategy to develop relationships with a broad list of stakeholders, including community residents, city planners, public officials, developers, and representatives from key institutions and organizations.
- Support the CCP Advisory Team and staff to execute key CCP activities, including station area land use opportunity mapping; collecting community response to city, regional or state proposal; and streamlining specific CCP processes, outcomes, and participants with relevant municipal or state planning processes.
- Ensure that CCP’s input and constituency is well represented in municipal, regional, and state planning processes, and work to improve collaboration with the City of Somerville.
- Serve as liaison to the Great Neighborhoods and Sustainable Communities partners.
Serve as spokesperson for CCP as needed at public meetings and with media outlets, and work with project team to develop and implement an effective communications strategy, including message development, marketing materials, media coverage, social media, and website updates.

Facilitate regular meetings with CCP coalition partners and Advisory Team, and maintain regular communication among participants between meetings.

Work with interns, volunteers from the community, organizations and businesses to make use of data and technology in a compelling way that will appeal to our constituency, including documenting the project through reports, photographs, and content input to the online website inTeractiveSomerville.

Participate in program evaluation, including regular reporting to funders.

Participate in SCC organizational activities.

Reports to: Director of Community Organizing and Planning

Minimum Qualifications:

- Three years of community organizing, community planning, communications, government, or coalition building experience
- Must be outgoing and comfortable approaching new people, including individuals from different cultural and class backgrounds Experience building alliances between stakeholders representing different interests
- Mature and even-keeled; comfortable dealing with interpersonal conflict and high-stress situations
- Bilingual in English and either Spanish, Portuguese, or Haitian Kreyol
- Excellent writing and verbal skills, including public speaking and presentations
- Able to facilitate collegial and productive meetings among strong personalities
- Ability to work independently and take initiative
- Must be a team player
- Four year Bachelor’s degree

Preferred Qualifications:

- Working understanding of state and municipal zoning and land use code
- Mapping literacy: ideally comfortable with GIS, social media, and can work with interactive technology Can work well with database management
- Bicultural preferred
- Familiarity with Somerville
- Master’s degree in relevant field

Somerville Community Corporation promotes a diverse workplace and encourages candidates of color to apply.

Salary: $45-$55K, depending on experience; excellent benefits package

Send resume and cover letter to: Meridith Levy, Director of Community Organizing
Somerville Community Corporation
337 Somerville Ave. 2nd Floor
Somerville, MA 02143
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We will accept resumes on a rolling basis, but will begin to interview applicants during the week of August 22nd.