

NGIN Solutions Workshops

The New Growth Innovation Network (NGIN) is a network of leading economic development practitioners dedicated to inventing the tools, products, and enterprises that will drive a more inclusive, prosperous economy. Members of the NGIN network have particularly valued connecting with other high-level experts to explore leading-edge challenges and opportunities, and undertake practice innovations to address them. NGIN is now formalizing this process, by developing “Solutions Workshops,” which assemble ~10-15 experts to develop solutions to a clearly defined challenge -- leading to the creation of a new product or tool. They are high level, focused, interactive working sessions that aim to organically form and progress ideas. The work of these Solutions Workshops will significantly impact the NGIN 2020 Convening.

Solutions Workshops are arising across a wide range of innovation opportunity areas, including for example:

- **Inclusive Transportation.** As the geography of the economy is changing, inclusive access to growing job centers can be a challenge, while at the same time new autonomous, shared and other mobility technologies are becoming available that create inclusion opportunities. This group will explore new multi-modal transportation solutions that align with next-economy growth, particularly that address the “first mile/last mile” problem.
- **Urban-Rural Economic Development.** The connections and synergies between urban and rural development are increasing, but changing – creating both challenges and new opportunities for inclusive growth. This group will identify which rural archetypes present the best opportunities, explore tailored models for linked urban-rural economic development, and focus on new tools/processes to best identify the assets and industries that synergistically connect and grow urban and rural economies.
- **Inclusive Clean Economy.** As new opportunities emerge in the clean economy, we default to traditionally used networks and funding structures to grow both companies and supply chains. In a sector that already lacks racial diversity, how can we address inclusion barriers and move forward to develop different models for driving inclusive growth?
- **New – and Bigger – Roles for Universities in Inclusive Economic Development.** Leading universities are dramatically reconceiving their potential roles in economic development – well beyond traditional educational, research and policy activities; and local anchor institution work. Beginning with innovation districts, but now thinking much bigger, this Solutions Working Group of university leaders and their economic development partners will invent new frameworks, approaches and tools for universities to create and execute unique and far-reaching economic development strategies.

- **Inclusive Growth in Tech-Driven Industries.** High-growth, tech-based industries in the next economy (from biotech to social media apps) are often less inclusive or have special barriers. Historically, minorities tend to have access to and be in lower-growth, legacy businesses – a pattern that should not be repeated in the next economy. This workshop will further explore the unique types and nature of barriers in tech-based industries and whether certain industries offer better opportunities for entry than others – and will invent new employment systems, ownership models, and other interventions that address these barriers.
- **Driving Inclusive Ownership / Scale-Ups.** This group will explore emerging business opportunities and how the business scale-up process is changing in the next economy, and the implications for inclusion. As informal, flexible networks become more important to enabling efficient and nimble connections to resources and partners; and as new, flexible partnership models drive business innovation; new pathways, models and opportunities are needed to move entrepreneurs of color into ownership of high growth firms.
- **Inclusive Re-Use of Vacant Land.** This group will define how to better identify inclusive, market making uses, move beyond land transactions to include ancillary products (i.e. workforce development, digital infrastructure), and better address governance, ownership and value capture for the community.

Solutions Workshop Proposal

If you're interested in getting involved in an existing Solutions Workshop or proposing a new Solutions Workshop, email Ashley Bakelmun at ashley@rw-ventures.com.

For any new ideas, please submit a paragraph on each of the following:

- What is the leading-edge challenge or opportunity you wish to explore?
- What is the current state of research/innovation in this area? (i.e. – what background information or examples can you provide as a baseline)
- Who are some of the key experts (or types of experts) you'd like in the room?

We look forward to hearing from you!