

Annual forum focused on community redevelopment

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More than 250 people attended a Thursday forum in Duluth focused on the connection between shifting demographics and the dynamics of community redevelopment.

The event — the sixth annual Gwinnett Redevelopment Forum — was hosted by Partnership Gwinnett and is part of the county's efforts to revitalize certain areas of the county while taking into account trends among young professionals and active baby boomers. Though the two generations span more than four decades, research has shown the groups share common interests in terms of lifestyle and community.

"As we work to successfully redevelop in Gwinnett, we must understand that the next generation has different expectations for their community," Gwinnett Village CID Executive Director Chuck Warbington said in a released statement. "Housing and transportation options, walkability and locally owned businesses are each crucial factors in attracting this demographic and must be considered in all of Gwinnett's redevelopment efforts."

In 2013, Gwinnett reset its Tax Allocation Districts (TADs) to post recession value in order to facilitate redevelopment.

"Redevelopment is certain to play a major role in Gwinnett's future prosperity," said Gwinnett County Chairwoman Charlotte Nash. "Gwinnett's recently reset TADs will be an added incentive for business investment in targeted redevelopment areas."

In addition to hosting the annual redevelopment forum, Partnership Gwinnett also plays an integral role in the Redevelopment Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to facilitate quality redevelopment by educating community members about available tools and opportunities.

"The success of this forum speaks to the continual efforts of Partnership Gwinnett to cultivate redevelopment opportunities in our community," said Gwinnett Place CID Executive Director Joe Allen. "We designed this event to help educate community leaders and encourage developers, investors and financing institutions to partner with and join us as we reinvent Gwinnett through redevelopment."

For more information about the Partnership Gwinnett initiative, visit www.partnershipgwinnett.com.