

## Other Ideas

Over the course of more than 25 discussions with 450+ District stakeholders, we heard important feedback and many great ideas. Many of the ideas we heard evolved into strategy initiatives. However, some ideas did not turn into initiatives because they required further development, partners or additional resources. Below are some of the interesting but not-quite-ripe ideas. Visit [www.DCeconomicstrategy.com](http://www.DCeconomicstrategy.com) to comment on an idea from this list or submit a new one. The strategy team will review submissions regularly.

- 1. Data library.** Build a data library, similar to a science-technology center for students and community to explore and play while learning about data and its applications, acquire data skills and hear from people in the industry.
- 2. Top-ranked engineering school branch / Interdisciplinary graduate program.** Support the creation of a new interdisciplinary graduate program/campus that relates to an opportunity area and leverages our strengths, e.g. global development/infrastructure innovation, security technology and policy (interdisciplinary). Or recruit a top-ranked engineering/computer science school to open a branch in DC.
- 3. DC commercial clean team program.** Deepen and expand DC's commercial clean team program, which cuts across the city's goals around workforce development and the desire of business in small commercial corridors for enhanced cleaning services. The program should include case management supports and support for workers as well as opportunities to move into other jobs at DPW, work for property management companies, etc. The city should expand programs that employ ex-offenders to clean and do litter removal along commercial corridors.
- 4. 2-Year management fellowship for honors grads.** Offer all college students graduating with honors from a DC-based institution a 2-year management fellowship position in DC government, a BID, a DC-based community service organization, or a private business. Program would be jointly funded by participating groups.
- 5. International company exchange program.** Like student exchange programs, have DC-based companies sign on to be a "host family" for a foreign company for a period of time. Hosts would provide office space, network access and support in getting to know the local business community. Establish a partnership with a city abroad that has complementary industry growth aspirations.
- 6. Career mapping tools.** Implement easy-to-use career mapping tools based on competencies to link individuals (and their skills) with jobs and careers in DC. By focusing on skills/competencies, connections can be made across non-traditional and broader opportunities.
- 7. 8a certification program.** Create an 8a certification prep program for well-equipped companies that meet readiness criteria.
- 8. Culture pass.** Create a culture pass program that promotes the local theater and entertainment options.
- 9. Inclusive future city.** Create an "inclusive future city" or neighborhood -- a zone that utilizes a smart city grid, public wifi, emerging technologies, integrated databases and place-conscious social service delivery to optimize the socioeconomic outcomes for its residents.
- 10. Healthcare-related associates and certificate programs at UDC.** Implement Certificate and Associates Degree programs for medical techs and other healthcare professionals at University of the District of Columbia.

- 11. Academic village.** Create a public/private development of a 500 bed “Academic Village” in the city for graduate student/faculty housing.
- 12. Life science innovation campus.** Create an innovation campus to incentivize life science startups to locate in DC space. Have grant programs and tax incentives to help them get off the ground. St. Elizabeth’s, Walter Reed, and McMillan are possible locations.
- 13. DC company showcase/festival.** Hold a company showcase and music/art festival similar to SXSW. Feature local DC companies.
- 14. Entrepreneur/investor matchmaking website.** Develop a portal to link local enterprises with local investors. DMPED could then provide space for businesses to meet up with potential investors that have been vetted.
- 15. Local hiring incentive.** Create an incentive for local businesses to hire from and support local training program after the city evaluates/updates the programs to meet the needs of the ecosystem.
- 16. Region-wide permitting and business license application (common application).** Create a region-wide permitting and business license/application. Make doing business easier to start, inspect, and expand.
- 17. Hospitality and food innovation space.** Create a Hospitality/food innovation space at St. Elizabeth’s that offers promotional and production space for rotating food businesses and concentrates hospitality (including food) innovation businesses (tech and non--tech), and provides industry-focused training and local entrepreneur capacity building to develop resident owners (e.g. entrepreneurship, cooperatives programs, coding).
- 18. DC business index.** Create a DC business index that identifies all DC businesses or businesses in specific sectors to give investors and entrepreneurs a better lay of the land.
- 19. No income/sales tax for new businesses.** Eliminate income/sales tax for first year for all new small businesses to reduce barriers to entry.
- 20. Retiree/youth mentoring program.** Create a city-wide mentoring program to pair retirees with youth and unemployed adults.
- 21. Apprenticeship programs.** Create apprenticeship programs to meet labor needs.
- 22. Mandatory “life skills” training in public schools.** Have a mandatory life skills sequence in DC public schools covering topics such as college prep (FAFSA, college essays, SAT), financial literacy, and job prep (resumes, cover letters, networking).