

May 17, 2021

## **Inclusiveness Committee Report to Membership**

We need your help, please...

In keeping with the spirit and tenants of the DMI Civic Agenda, the Inclusiveness Committee recently formed various groups to study the undertaking of various initiatives. The purpose of the work groups was to determine the viability of the proposed initiatives as follows:

### **Initiative #1**

#### **Idea Exchange Initiative and Collective Entrepreneurship**

Working with the communities of color, Downtown Madison Inc. will initiate a group or groups of business and nonprofit professionals to come together to discuss and share ideas around the challenges of running and growing their organizations. The work of the various cohort groups will be centered around how to fill gaps in operations by connecting with persons with specialized knowledge and expertise; discussing and promoting access to capital; procurement of goods and services; personnel management, etc. Other partners in this initiative include the Black Chamber of Commerce and the Latino Chamber of Commerce.

We also intend to discover and promote businesses in Madison run by persons in the BIPOC community so DMI members may patronize those businesses.

We are seeking DMI members who wish to join us now as we look to implement this initiative!

### **Initiative #2**

#### **Jobs/Internship Initiative**

Working with the Madison Metropolitan School District and Madison College, we wish to identify students, young people of color, who may be offered paid positions at various DMI member organizations from nonprofit organizations to private sector businesses. The next step in the process is for the implementation team to identify DMI member companies who can offer such opportunities. Some key market sectors of interest to students include healthcare; architecture, engineering and construction; finance and marketing communications; hospitality and culinary arts; information technology; nonprofit social justice; and arts administration.

We are seeking DMI members who wish to join us now as we look to implement this initiative!

Interested in participating or have questions, contact Jason Ilstrup, DMI President at 608-512-1330 or [jilstrup@downtownmadison.org](mailto:jilstrup@downtownmadison.org).