

The South Memphis Renaissance Collaborative (SMRC)

The South Memphis Renaissance Collaborative (SMRC) is a joint venture of St. Andrew AME Church, The Works, Inc. Community Development Corporation, the University of Memphis, The Hyde Family Foundations, Self Tucker Architects, and the Memphis Regional Design Center. The SMRC was established to help the community create and successfully implement a comprehensive community revitalization plan to enhance the overall quality of life for those living, working, worshipping, studying and doing business in the SMRC service area.

The Boundaries of the South Memphis Renaissance Collaborative

The SMRC service area's northern boundary is Trigg Avenue, the eastern boundary is Interstate 240, the southern boundary is Person Avenue, and the western boundary is Lauderdale Street.

SMRC's Project Philosophy

Aware of the failures of many past "top down" planning efforts that have not mobilized the extraordinary creativity, intelligence, passion, and commitment present in local communities, the Renaissance Project Team advocates a highly participatory "bottom-up, bottom-sideways" planning process that will:

- insure the plan reflects the hopes, aspirations, and visions for a better community of local residents, business owners, and institutional leaders;
- build the broad base of non-partisan political support required to guarantee its timely adoption and funding;
- identify and develop new civic leaders capable of providing overall stewardship of the plan and the community.

Participants

During the coming year local residents, institutional leaders, and appointed and elected officials from South Memphis will be working with anthropology, architecture, city and regional planning, engineering, and public health students to collect and analyze a wide range of data needed to craft a workable revitalization plan. Once the plan has been completed, this team will work together to implement its major elements.

Coordination

Professor Katherine Lambert Pennington, Assistant Professor in Anthropology, will be coordinating the efforts of the various classes and research centers that will be participating in this effort. Assisting Professor Lambert Pennington, will be Professor Kenneth M. Reardon, Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning.

Getting Involved

For more information regarding the South Memphis Renaissance Collaborative, interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to call Vickie Peters at: 901-678-2161 or email Professor Lambert Pennington at almbtrpn@memphis.edu or Professor Reardon at kreardon@memphis.edu.