

Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (UEDA)
ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

1994 – 1996 UEDA is formed by a cross-section of practitioners as a result of the need to support organizations through the Community-Based Economic Development Program (CBED) at the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. CBED provides essential support to launch and sustain UEDA through the early 2000's as a vehicle for developing professional expertise and networks among neighborhood organizations, businesses and economic development agencies serving Milwaukee's urban community.

1996 – 1997 UEDA's Steering Committee began holding quarterly meetings sponsored by public and corporate partners, called "Breakfast at Marketplace." The Steering Committee forms a Board of Directors, submits funding proposals and plans the organization's structure and programs, including the hiring of an Executive Director.

November 1997 UEDA granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization status by the IRS.

1997 – 1999 UEDA programs and initiatives include Minority Business Development, Quarterly Breakfasts at Marketplace (Department of Commerce), Leadership Training, Success Measures Evaluation, Community Reinvestment Act, NCCED advocacy, NDC certification trainings, work in Social Entrepreneurship and the formation of the North Avenue CDC.

2000 – 2003 UEDA begins to broaden its work to include housing, by becoming a local technical assistance provider for HUD, creating MCDIT and providing administrative support to NOHIM. Additionally, the organization is active in financial literacy and lending issues, CDC standards and capacity-building, tax credit and incentive programs (New Markets, Renewal Community, etc.) and CDFIs.

The first Community Development Summit is held in 2001. UEDA continues Quarterly Breakfasts, CD Brown Bags, Annual meetings and other Membership activities.

2004 – 2006 The organization continues its work in asset-building, by becoming a lead organizational partner in the Making Connections Milwaukee initiative and helping to form Money Smart Week. Also, UEDA launches BACOM, continuing its work in business development and begins to seek opportunities to provide individual technical assistance to small businesses and increase the number of CDFIs in SE WI. The organization also starts to offer contracted/management services for the King Drive BID and Wisconsin Nonprofits Association. Work in housing and HUD TA continues as well as other nonprofit capacity-building activities.

The organization continues to hold annual Summits and Quarterly membership events, except for in 2006, when UEDA experiences a complete transition in staff.

2006 – present UEDA begins to transition out of financial literacy work, tax credits/financing and business development, focusing more on broad economic and community development issues such as regional transit, foreclosures/homeownership outreach and community-level evaluation. Capacity-building for nonprofits and CDCs remains strong, as well as HUD TA projects.

The Community Development Summit begins again in 2007 and UEDA holds its first organizational fundraiser, now known as "Carnival Milwaukee." The organization continues to hold Quarterly and Annual membership events, and developed a monthly membership newsletter.