

INNOVATION+VILLAGE

at The Bethlehem Center

The Bethlehem Center Launches Innovation Village a New Technology Hub for the Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spartanburg, SC – June 21st, 2017 – The Bethlehem Center of Spartanburg announces the launch of “Innovation Village” thanks to a capacity-building grant received from the Spartanburg County Foundation. Working collaboratively, the team that built Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light’s “Video Village” in Highland will transform the highly acclaimed work of public art into a technology hub where the residents of Highland as well as others from Spartanburg County will learn 21st Century job skills, video storytelling, digital editing, data entry and other computer skills. The team includes: Highland Neighborhood Association, White Elephant Enterprises, Hub-Ology, Hub City Bees, Spartanburg Art Museum, USC Upstate, Wofford College and Chapman Cultural Center.

The Bethlehem Center and Highland Neighborhood Association invite the entire community to join the festivities on June 28th at 11:30am at The Bethlehem Center (397 Highland Avenue in Spartanburg). Residents and local teens will work together to assemble 25 computer work stations that will immediately populate The Bethlehem Center of Spartanburg and nearby Thornton Center.

Tim Farrell and Robyn Hussa Farrell (of White Elephant Enterprises and SHARPEN technologies), co-Directed the “Video Village” installation, and are thrilled to lead the team to launch Innovation Village.

“This is a great opportunity to continue the positive momentum created by the other projects in the area, and it fulfills the promise made to the residents of Highland – that the computer system that drove the “Video Village” film series would be converted into computers for all residents to use. This effort to merge art and innovation will help increase capacity for Highland residents and we are thrilled to be a part of it!” says Tim Farrell.

Patrena Mims, Executive Director of The Bethlehem Center said “This is a fulfillment of a long-term goal to bring vital life skills, job training and other partner resources to the Highland community. The team met over the course of 8 months to create a plan for success in the implementation of the Innovation Village. The initial plan includes three phases of workshops that will unfold in the Innovation Village at Bethlehem Center starting in July, 2017. This is just the

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beginning and we are super excited about the impact this resource will have on the community.”

Leroy Jeter, president of the Highland Neighborhood Association states, “we are very excited that the project Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light / Highland “Video Village” has generated such positive interest and the project’s mission of bringing communities together will continue in Highland through ongoing trainings at the Bethlehem Center.”

In March of 2017 the team submitted the formal request to the City of Spartanburg for equipment from the Highland “Video Village” installation, from the Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light public art initiative, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and Chapman Cultural Center.

In May of 2017 the request was granted and the supplies will now be used to build the “Innovation Village” computer stations.

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Media

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