



KEY FORCES IN WILMINGTON'S REVITALIZATION, GROWTH AND LEADERSHIP ALIGN TO FORM THE WILMINGTON ALLIANCE

Wilmington Leaders Alliance and Wilmington Renaissance Corporation create a stronger, better connected and more influential organization focused on making Wilmington one of the East Coast's most attractive places to live, work and thrive

WILMINGTON, DE (Aug. 6, 2019)—Two established, highly influential organizations driving the revitalization, economic growth and future opportunities for the City of Wilmington—the Wilmington Leaders Alliance (WLA) and the Wilmington Renaissance Corporation (WRC)—have created the new Wilmington Alliance to make an even greater impact on Delaware's largest City. The newly created Wilmington Alliance will place a significant emphasis on the important roles of the business community and nonprofits in the continued development of Wilmington, as well as the enrichment of cultural, educational, social and collaborative community economic development opportunities for the people who live and work in the City.

"We're excited to build on the years of experience in both organizations and accelerate the rate of economic growth for the City and people of Wilmington," said There du Pont, board chair, Wilmington Leaders Alliance. "Combined, we have more than three decades of success in removing barriers to growth, attracting investors, creating opportunities and improving the conditions for living, working and doing business in Wilmington. Our efforts have yielded a 92 percent employment rate in our workforce development program and critical improvements to downtown and are continuing to make it a hub of education and culture. The Wilmington Alliance will work to continue the current trajectory of growth and seek new opportunities for Delaware's largest City."

"This is about a new, stronger and evolved vision for our City—one that is respectful of the progress we've driven so far, responsive to what it means to live and do businesses in Wilmington right now and focused on taking the most innovative approaches in order to build a secure, prosperous future," said Renata B. Kowalczyk, managing director, Wilmington Renaissance Corporation. "Our success will come from the strength of our collaborations."

The Wilmington Alliance will add a new dimension to efforts focused on the betterment and prosperity of the City by establishing collaborative partnerships with local communities, elected officials, the Delaware Prosperity Partnership (DPP) and business organizations—such as the Delaware Business Roundtable and chambers of commerce, Greater Philadelphia and others—to cultivate economic development activities and lifestyle enhancements. The expectation is that such collaborations will enable the Wilmington Alliance to more quickly identify and respond to potential businesses and investors interested in Wilmington, as well as revitalization and community projects designed to have both economic and civic impact. These collaborations will include a number of projects already in pipelines for WLA and WRC, and increase the internal capacity for economic development. Priority projects—such as those focused on workforce development and continued revitalization and civic impact from the Creative District to other areas beyond downtown—will work to improve the fabric of the City, increase community engagement and bring new opportunities for citizens to grow and professionally.



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“The creation of The Wilmington Alliance is an organic and logical next step for both organizations and most importantly for Wilmington. The more we can work collaboratively and be laser-focused on the City’s economic vitality, the more successful we will be,” said Kurt Foreman, president and CEO, Delaware Prosperity Partnership. “DPP looks forward to the opportunity to work with the new Wilmington Alliance. “Whether we are talking about a richer arts and cultural ecosystem, developing workforce or strengthening Wilmington’s downtown retail areas, every step forward is contingent on a strong economic foundation and The Wilmington Alliance provides a more focused approach to these efforts.”

With the business community and nonprofits playing pivotal roles in the Wilmington Alliance mission, a good deal of the organization’s strategy includes motivating them to act as catalysts for growth and creating self-sustaining programs for residents throughout the City—from those living on the East Side to the West Side, Brandywine Village to the Riverfront. The Alliance will partner with community and civic leaders to ensure that Wilmington’s highest needs are prioritized, and to connect with neighborhoods, the business community and nonprofits, as well as local, state and regional economic development entities, to drive economic opportunity and cultural vitality.

“I applaud the founders of the new Wilmington Alliance for not only recognizing the potential of the programs and people we already have in place, but for also proactively taking the lead in helping to develop that potential,” said Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki. “Creating a thriving, sustainable Wilmington community isn’t about all of us working in our individual boxes. It’s about the best leaders and doers from the community working together to continually build on what we’ve achieved thus far. The Wilmington Alliance exemplifies this philosophy.”

Dr. Edmondo J. Robinson, incoming vice chair of the Wilmington Alliance, concluded by emphasizing that business and financial collaborations that create opportunities for organizations and residents to achieve sustainable growth must also maintain and nurture a healthy partnership with the people of Wilmington. “We care about the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age,” said Robinson. “We have an opportunity here to create powerful synergies resulting in a more collective and impactful positive future for Wilmington and its citizens.”

For more on the Wilmington Alliance, please visit www.wilmingtonalliance.org.

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