

June 2, 2024

Chair Stephanie Bloomingdale  
City Plan Commission  
City of Milwaukee  
809 North Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Chair Bloomingdale and members of the City Plan Commission,

The Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (UEDA) is pleased to provide this letter of support for Growing MKE and encourage the City Plan Commission to vote to recommend its adoption as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan to establish a collective vision for how housing development can advance Milwaukee's goals for housing choice, equity, affordability, economic development, and climate resilience.

As a membership organization, UEDA works on a variety of issues related to community and economic development. One of our long-time areas of work has been in sustainable homeownership and housing, through our *Take Root Milwaukee (TRM)* program. TRM is a consortium of 55+ members that represent various parts of the sector and include homeownership counseling agencies, financial institutions, Realtors, local government, neighborhood organizations and other community partners.

The City of Milwaukee DCD is an active member of both UEDA and TRM. Their staff are critical partners as we work together to strengthen and sustain homeownership in Milwaukee neighborhoods. The proposed Growing MKE plan aligns with the common goal of preserving and promoting sustainable, diverse neighborhoods by updating the zoning code to allow additional types of housing options and choices.

The updates to Milwaukee's Zoning Code recommended by Growing MKE aim to promote more inclusive and equitable development throughout the city. By removing barriers that contribute to racial and economic segregation, these changes could foster greater diversity in housing options across all neighborhoods. Our hope is that this plan will create more opportunities for first-time homebuyers to enter the housing market.

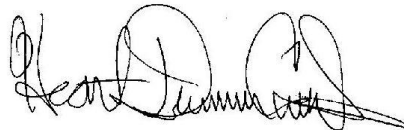
Reducing barriers to different housing styles can also open opportunities for a more diverse range of developers, including graduates of programs like ACRE and other emerging developers of color. By creating a more inclusive environment for development, the city of Milwaukee can empower these developers to contribute to the housing market and build wealth within their communities. This not only promotes economic growth but also fosters greater representation and equity within the local development landscape.

Adopting Growing MKE will create a strong framework for the City to utilize its land use, zoning, and housing policy tools to meet the changing housing needs of our City.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sincerely,



Kristi Luzar  
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Take Root Milwaukee Program Director | [heather@uedawi.org](mailto:heather@uedawi.org)

#### ABOUT UEDA

The Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin (UEDA) is a 501(c)(3) membership association dedicated to facilitating effective, cross-sector collaboration, meaningful connections, and strengthening capacity in Wisconsin's community and economic development sector. Our vision is that the members and communities we serve are inspired and thriving, with equitable access to investment and opportunity. Learn more at [www.uedawi.org](http://www.uedawi.org).