



Miller Center

for Social Entrepreneurship

Name of social enterprise: Innovation Works

Mission statement: to reduce Baltimore's neighborhood and racial wealth divide by teaching and accompanying members of disinvested communities to build and own successful social enterprises that create sustainable neighborhood economies and result in better family living, more resilient communities, and a safer, more vibrant city.

Webpage: <https://www.iwbmore.org/>

Headquarters: Baltimore USA

Location of research: Baltimore USA

Prior Miller Center engagement: Miller Center 2020 Annual Report <https://www.millersocent.org/annual-report-2020/> and video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7NwtEGWSak>

- 2020 Fellowship project: a replication playbook <https://www.millersocent.org/portfolio/innovation-works-2/>
- 2021 Fellowship project: videos and strategic communication plan (forthcoming)

Regardless of the pandemic, this fellowship project will run in person in 2022.

Background: Innovation Works is a domestic US social enterprise accelerator, and a strategic partner of Miller Center. It facilitates mutually beneficial cooperation among neighborhoods, entrepreneurs, social innovation assets, and investors with the common goal of building sustainable neighborhood economies in Baltimore. Innovation Works and Miller Center are revising and contextualizing Miller Center's GSBI® methodology to better serve urban American social enterprises. This action research project embeds fellows with Innovation Works, and builds upon prior years of collaboration, including curriculum development and the 2020 GSBF project of a replication playbook.

The challenge: To enhance and scale up social impact assessment by aligning Innovation Works and its local social entrepreneurs, and to design compelling neighborhood economic development narratives.

Action research products needed:

1. With the Innovation Works team, develop an assessment of how Innovation Works engages its local social entrepreneurs to help them assess and report their social impact, with recommendations for continuous improvement.
2. With the Innovation Works team, design and craft a community economic development framework that can be applied to IW's targeted neighborhoods (where household income is \$40K or less)."

Student skills needed: Social science research methodologies, survey design, excel, community economic development analysis.

Keywords: Social impact assessment, impact metrics, economic assessment.