Organization Name: City of Atlanta, Department of City Planning

Organization Contact Person: Emily Giordano

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Organization Mission: The mission of the Department of City Planning is to enable high quality, sustainable and equitable growth and development of Atlanta by facilitating more options for travel, abundant housing for all people, thriving neighborhoods, exceptional design in architecture and public spaces, preservation of historic resources, innovative regulatory practices, safe and durable buildings, attentive customer service and public engagement in all our work.

Social Innovation Statement: The Department of City Planning in Atlanta is uniquely positioned to innovate as the City seeks to tackle growth-driven challenges equitably. The Department actively seeks inspiration for innovative policy perspectives from best practices elsewhere and interprets them for local implementation. A student intern at the City will be exposed to a variety of viewpoints and will have the opportunity to actively contribute to this process.

Internship Semester: Summer 2021

Project Title #1: City-Owned Vacant Land Redevelopment Research

Keywords: Research, Policy, Creativity

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Equitable Development

Priority SDGs: Good Health and Well-being (3), Decent Work and Economic Growth (8), Sustainable Cities and Communities (11)

Project Background: The City and its quasi-public agencies including the Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta (Atlanta Housing), Invest Atlanta, Atlanta Beltline Inc., and Fulton County Land Bank, among others, own more than 1,300 acres of vacant land throughout Atlanta. The City is interested in the triage and redevelopment of underutilized City-owned land; potential uses include affordable housing, community-scale commercial development, and urban agriculture sites to expand fresh food access. The project intern will assist in identifying suitable lots for development, cataloging lot characteristics to glean data insights on potential uses, researching innovative models to incentivize and facilitate affordable units in collaboration with other City partners, and contribute to the continued development of data tools to track progress.

Project Timeline: This is a long-term, ongoing priority project. The intern’s role will help to complete the first phase of research and policy development through Fall 2021.

Desired skills and qualifications: Data Analysis, Qualitative and quantitative research skills, Knowledge and interest in urban planning

Deliverables: Updated vacant land tracker dataset; Short research and policy analysis memos