



July 31, 2015

Ald. Ashanti Hamilton  
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## **Alderman Hamilton Invites Residents to Participate in Vacant Lot Challenge**

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, in collaboration with Mayor Tom Barrett, is inviting Milwaukee residents to take part in the “Vacant Lot Challenge.” Participants will submit ideas for creating, improving, and activating a vacant lot, and the winning team will receive a \$10,000 reimbursable grant for project implementation.

A special public workshop about the project will be held in the 1<sup>st</sup> District from **6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4** at the Villard Square Library (in the community room), 5190 N. 35<sup>th</sup> St.

The challenge is a pilot project that will showcase creative ideas and strategies for transforming Milwaukee’s vacant land into an asset that contributes to a community need. Nonprofits and business leaders who have an interest in improving neighborhoods are encouraged to partner with residents and submit ideas.

“The Vacant Lot Challenge can inspire drastic change in the neighborhoods that need it most,” said Alderman Hamilton. “This is an opportunity for residents to take ownership in the transformation of Milwaukee, one vacant lot at a time.”

Strategies should engage residents and address a community need such as food systems, art, community space, economic development, education and storm water retention. Project selection criteria will be based on:

- Creative ideas and solutions that address a community need
- Combining different ideas to address multiple needs or concerns
- Response to unique site characteristics and local community context
- Connections to other existing neighborhood activities and programs

**The submission deadline for the challenge is Friday, August 14, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.**

For more information about the “Vacant Lot Challenge,” or the submission process, please visit [www.milwaukee.gov/vlc](http://www.milwaukee.gov/vlc).