



SUMMIT OVERVIEW

The 2005 Economic Summit has been organized to gather input from residents, business leaders, educators and elected officials to identify where we are and where we want to be in 10 to 20 years. Over the next two days, you will hear from experts in business development and sustainability, view case studies from successful communities from around the world, and review analyses and recommendations by study groups assigned to specific segments of the local economy. Participants will then gather for a visioning session to build consensus on the direction our policy makers and business leaders should pursue.

In 1993, a similar summit recommended that Palm Beach County invest in targeted cluster industries. This public-private planning approach focused on traditional cluster-industry recruitment and retention, and creating an environment of controlled growth that reserves increasingly scarce real estate for future business development. Data gathered here at the 2005 Economic Summit will serve as the springboard for a phased, multi-year revision of the Palm Beach County Strategic Economic Development Plan.

For several months, volunteers have been meeting on a regular basis exploring specific segments of the local economy. These subcommittees will each present their findings in separate break-out sessions with opportunities for comments and questions. The break-out sessions will cover the following topics: Industries of the Mind; Agribusiness, Equestrian and Food; Smart Growth and Transportation; International Investment; Quality of Place and Total Education.

Summit organizers and volunteers are committed to sustaining Palm Beach County's economic vitality and unique character by raising awareness about local and regional business issues and exploring new emerging opportunities. Together we will develop a shared community vision that evaluates current economic conditions, identifies upcoming challenges with potential solutions, sets economic priorities and uses "best practices" to pull it all together. This is an important opportunity to engage citizens with diverse backgrounds and interests in meaningful public policy discussion and to propose solutions that will meet the agreed-upon long-range economic goals.