



# YOURTOWN

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For the second year the **Stennis Institute (SI)** in partnership with other agencies is excited to announce the **YourTown, Mississippi** workshop! The workshop is scheduled for **May 24-26, 2011**, at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, Mississippi.



### What is Your Town, Mississippi?

Your Town, Mississippi is an interactive workshop that focuses on community development using basic design and planning principles. Using maps, markers, pens, and tracing paper, participants will produce designs and future plans for a fictitious Mississippi city called “*Your Town*.”

Planning professionals lead teams of participants through exercises that address common small town issues such as the impact of a proposed bypass, the identification of potential tourism opportunities, the revitalization of a struggling downtown, and other typical small town challenges.

### Who should attend the Your Town workshop?

Workshop participants include elected officials, economic development professionals, chamber of commerce representatives, community volunteers, and others actively engaged in the betterment of the community.

### What is the format of the workshop?

Your Town is a 3-day workshop (*½ day, full day, ½ day*) that is a mixture of graphic exercises, team presentations, and educational sessions with professionals.

### What topics are covered?

Participants interact with resource professionals who lead discussions on topics such as natural resources, tourism, marketing and branding, design and planning, downtown revitalization, art and cultural resources, visioning, and other related topics.

### Why should I attend the workshop?

Participants will walk away with a better understanding of issues facing small communities, opportunities for economic development and tourism, and a process that can be used in their own community to plan for a successful and sustainable future.

### What is the cost of the workshop?

The workshop costs \$150 per person, which includes registration fees, materials, meals, and lodging for two nights. (*Cost is for a double occupancy room; cost for a single room is \$225 per person.*)

### How do I apply?

Applications will be accepted until **May 6, 2011**, or until the workshop reaches full capacity at 48 individuals. Visit [www.sig.msstate.edu](http://www.sig.msstate.edu) and click on “*Programs*” to find the “*YourTown, Mississippi*” link.