


SURVEY – ENCORE CAREERS.

Lisa Dilts, founder of  COMPSRING at Lisa Dilts (ldilts@compspring.com), in conjunction with Diane Trees, Ed.D., Associate Vice President and Director, Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies at the University of Central Florida at Diane.Trees@ucf.edu have developed the idea that as people reach retirement age, they are looking for the next act of their play; they are looking for an “encore career”, potentially in a new city or region. As the many Baby Boomers reach retirement age, there will be a great movement of retirees to start new businesses, continue professional activities and otherwise stay employed, for pay or not.

The central question for city builders is – can cities and private community developers take advantage of this trend to attract people to their communities?

If so, how so? Will the availability of inexpensive work spaces influence retiree re-location decisions? Will business services for start-up companies attract new residents? Will infrastructure for entrepreneurs encourage start-up entrepreneurs to locate in one community rather than another without this infrastructure? How can the resources, spaces, and places help facilitate social fabric within a community? Can the continued engagement in the workforce help mitigate social isolation and the detrimental impacts it has on health? Lisa and Diane are pursuing answers to these questions with the support of the Urban Land Institute. Their questions are more extensive and probing than those above, but the purpose is clear. What services and/or facilities aimed at those interested in encore careers will influence location decisions of retirees, either to stay in place or move to another region?

If you are interested in the topic and the approach, contact Lisa to view the work in progress or, more importantly, to participate in developing the ideas and results.