

# COLLABORATION NATION: STRATEGIES FOR URBAN REGENERATION, JOB CREATION, AND MATERIAL REUSE.



ReuseConex  
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# ReUse Action



*Ideas to action consulting...  
turning liabilities into assets!*

# Buffalo, NY.

## 'our learning laboratory.'

- Water resources
- Arts and culture institutions
- Livable neighborhoods
- Affordable real estate, available land, and manufacturing infrastructure
- Unique architecture



# Half full or half empty...



15,000 vacant structures

Acres of vacant land

3<sup>rd</sup> Highest Poverty Rate among large U.S. cities

50% drop out rate

Last Super Bowl appearance 1993

# Buffalo ReUse: Community, Jobs, Resources



# Green Demolition Innovations



## Goals:

Economically Viable ... profitable, competitive

Independent ... foundation free in four

Worker safety

Rapid, sustainable, and smart growth

Community sensitive

Proactive

# Green Demolition Strategies



Articulating the need

Hybrid Model – Steep learning curve

A solid business plan, vision, mission, values

Diverse start-up funding stream

Government and private sector collaborations

Determination, diligence, and patience

# Green Demolition Outcomes



Cost competitive with demolition

Enabled the start-up of a community reuse store

95% earned income supported

Region-wide name recognition

Identified and expanded markets for reuse

# ReConnections

Goals:

RESPECT

Community Engagement

Neighborhood Improvement

Proactive Solutions

Promote Service

Unique Collaborations

Diverse Partners



# ReTree Strategy

2 years = 1,200 trees  
NFP Collaboration  
Target neighborhood  
1,000's of volunteers





# The ReSource Strategy

Low Cost Materials  
Community Anchor  
Cultural Interaction  
Architectural Preservation  
Community Education  
University Partnerships



# Food Security Strategy



Utilize Vacant Land  
Individual Empowerment  
Improved Nutrition

# Young Adult Mentoring Strategy

JobReadiness  
Positive Mentoring  
Community Improvement  
Interpersonal  
Development  
Relevant Job Experience  
Placement



# BIG MEDIA Strategy

National Recognition  
5,000 volunteers  
Innovative Approach  
Community Pride



# Liability???

## Pile of single-paned windows



# Asset!

## Tool for Community Improvement!



"Problems are only opportunities in work clothes."  
—Henri Kaiser



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