Acting Together: Cultivating and Fostering Change Through Creative University-Community Partnerships

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university-community knowledge network engaged in actionable community research, design and development fostering change from *rust to green* resilient places

launched “from the ground up” with R2G Utica in 2010 and Binghamton in 2014

aspires toward “democratic civic engagement” model (*with* not *for*)


**re-storying the rust belt**
How do we live in a changing world?  Living with...
“Valley of Opportunity”
The Flood of 2011

**Tropical Storm Irene** hits in August followed by **Tropical Storm Lee** in September.

Storm displaced about **20,000 people** in the **Binghamton** area when the **Susquehanna** set records by **cresting** higher than **25 feet** and flowing over the city’s retaining walls.

**Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s** request to **President Obama** was **quickly approved** to declare the flooded region a **major disaster area**.

Also, **major flood in 2006**...
Place Character
What is the place character of Binghamton and its rivers?
Living with Water

Foster active local government and community co-learning about local flood stories, understanding of local flood risk issues, and **actions to build community resilience and sustainability.**
How are we “acting together”?
Living with Water Summer Scholars Program

Rust to Green Binghamton Summer Scholars 2017
Luna, Sophia, Allie, and Quan

Rust to Green Binghamton Summer Scholars 2016
Sam Morrison, Dana Schmidt, and Lily Moran
Creative Placemaking
Live on the Waterfront
Performing Our Future Institute at Appalshop (Summer 2016):
Rust to Green Utica and Rust to Green Binghamton teams
Story Circles

- Held August-Sept. 2016
- Facilitated by Civic Ensemble and R2G team
- Audio-recorded and transcribed
- 57 Participants
- Locations
  1. VINES Urban Farm
  2. First Ward Senior Center
  3. Community Member Home (aka Bob’s crib)
  4. Broome County Public Library
  5. Binghamton Housing Authority
  6. Centenary-Chenango United Methodist Church

- Also 22 narrative interviews conducted with government and community leaders in 2015

- Riverfront development survey and interviews in 2017
Summer 2015 CU Interns and Exchange Students from Thailand

Living with Water Story Map

Created by Summer 2015 Interns: Charlotte Tate and Jacob Kuhn
Staged Reading of Play

- Narrative interviews and story circles informed the creation of a play written by playwright, Sarah Chalmers of Civic Ensemble

- Excerpt of the play performed at Galaxy Brewing (10/7/16)

- Play performed at the KNOW Theater (in collaboration with Tim Gleason, Founder and Artistic Director)

- Post-play facilitated discussion and evaluation survey
Living with Water Play

Recording of Play: https://youtu.be/PHZ2vGzMjQU?t=1m7s
Do community-based arts projects result in social gains? (Newman et al. 2003)
How enhance place character?