R2G NEW YORK STATE

RE-ENVISIONING UPSTATE NY CITIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN, PLACEMAKING AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

MESSAGE TO UTICA’S FUTURE...

people

utica

THE WORDS ABOVE REPRESENT UTICA RESIDENTS’ RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: “WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CREATE, ADAPTE, REINVENT - ENCOURAGE - INSPIRE - CULTIVATE?” THE SIZE OF THE WORD REPRESENTS THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH EACH WORD WAS USED.

Project Leaders:
Paula Horrigan, Landscape Architecture
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ACROSS THE COUNTRY, CITIES TODAY ARE BECOMING MORE ATTRACTIVE TO CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY. MEANWHILE, ECONOMIC TRENDS—GLOBALIZATION, THE DEMAND FOR EDUCATED WORKERS, THE INCREASING ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES—are providing cities with an unprecedented chance to capitalize upon their economic advantages and regain their competitive edge.

…, THESE CITIES NEED THOUGHTFUL AND BROAD-BASED APPROACHES TO FOSTER PROSPERITY.

"RESTORING PROSPERITY" AIMS TO MOBILIZE GOVERNORS AND LEGISLATIVE LEADERS, AS WELL AS LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES, BEHIND AN ASSET-ORIENTED AGENDA FOR REINVIGORATING THE MARKET IN THE NATION’S OLDER INDUSTRIAL CITIES.
R2G Questions

- How can cities and regions foster sustainable green development and what role can we at Cornell play?

- How can rust-belt cities pursue revitalization and sustainable prosperity? What barriers and how to overcome them?

- What contributions can university make to advance mutual public and academic interests?

- What can we learn together—models, policies, theories emerging from our collaboration and partnership?
**Participatory Action Research**

**Principles**
- Reflection
- Relevancy to community groups
- Participants engaged in process
- Problem solving and change inherent
- Promise of:
  - Real empowerment
  - Capacity Building
  - A long-term impact

**Methods**
- People help develop research questions
- Communities help gather information
- People discuss data meaning and implications
- People provide clues to and shape research results
- Mixed methods: qualitative and quantitative
- People contribute to project emergence, products, actions and project evaluation

PAR is a fundamentally different kind of research. It is concerned with establishing processes where stakeholders are vitally involved throughout. Action is seen as an integral part of the research process... part of an ongoing cycle of action and learning from these activities. Rather than functioning in a single, straight line, it is an ongoing, fluid, process that can continue for the life of your service.
Rust to Green Utica

OUR VISION:
“Growing our city into a resilient, vibrant, sustainable community for the 21st century”

OUR MISSION:
Cultivate an open and dynamic network
“WE CAN’T DO IT ALONE”
Identify and nurture our assets
“CELEBRATE WHO WE ARE”
Craft and share adaptable principles, tools and practices to guide the way
“LEARN AS WE GO”
Take action to accomplish our vision of a resilient, sustainable and vibrant 21st Century Utica
“DON’T TALK RUST, ACT GREEN”

www.rust2green.org

What’s R2G Utica?
Rust to Green Utica is a local effort seeded by the R2G New York State Initiative. R2G Utica will soon be housed downtown, in the Green Century Building at 253 Genesee Street. R2G Utica has been identified within an immediate action step set forth by the goals of Utica’s new Master Plan. (http://www.uticamasterplan.org)

R2G Utica will be engaged in identifying and advancing strategies and projects particularly related to greater urban livability, sustainability and resilience.

R2G Utica aims to widen local participation, involvement and inclusion in shaping and guiding Utica’s transition from rust to green.
R2G ‘Smart’ Network

December 7, 2010
Ecological Infrastructure

“All natural, semi-natural and artificial networks of multi-functional ecological systems within, around and between urban areas at all spatial scales.” (Tzoulas, 2007)

Combined to form a living matrix of…
- wetlands
- woodlands
- waterways
- conservation lands
- nature preserves
- wildlife corridors
- wilderness areas
- forests
- farms
- ranches
- parks
- viewsheds
- greenways
- wildlife habitat
Regional College Consortium
Genesee Street Visioning

Urban Learning Community Reactivates Baggs Square

Urban Learning Community: Social Benefits

Urban Learning Community: Connecting Utica’s Assets

- New York Traveler.net

- New York Traveler.net
Reimagining Utica’s vacant lands
A Food Secure Utica

Ujjiji Davis, Naomi Drucker, Laura Durgerian, Megan
Future Project: Greening Franklin Square

Genesee Street @ Oriskany to Columbia

• Currently a patchwork of distributed, small scale open spaces that together form the Northern gateway intersection to downtown

• These underutilized, concreted spaces will undergo planting and design interventions to alter their ecological, social and cultural functions

• Final project will include self-guided walking tour signage describing the physical changes, historical background and sustainability features

Vision:
A transformed Northern gateway to downtown, with “pocket parks” that function as outdoor learning environments which model sustainable infrastructure while promoting natural resource conservation and beautifying the historic main street
Future Project: City Center Complex

Harza/Fraser building

173 – 181 Genesee Street

• Northern Gateway to Downtown, Located at the “Busy Corner”

• Originally Fraser’s Department Store (1880 – 1939) then F.W. Woolworth’s (1940 – 1980) then Stetson-Harza (1980 – 1990) then City Center (1995)

• Currently a mostly vacant, City owned surplus property

• R2G will occupy the 12,000 sq. ft. first floor and four storefronts
Future Project: Roundabout

Oneida Square

Genesee Street @ Park/ Onieda/ Plant/ State

• Forms the Southern gateway to downtown

• Utica’s first large-scale Master Plan implementation project

• Follows Complete Streets and Creative Placemaking models

• Three phase project: transportation; arts district creation; “green” live/work space
Future Project: Arts District

VISION:
The downtown arts district will be a magnet and anchor for artists, cultural organizations and creative-friendly businesses, which will spur neighborhood revitalization and promote Utica’s diverse range of high quality cultural offerings.
Future Project: “Green” Century Club

253 Genesee Street

• Currently a vacant, surplus, City-owned property on Utica’s “main street”

• Auditorium addition in 1897 by F. Gouge

• Formerly the New Century Club, formed to promote women’s voices in civic life

• Listed on the National Register

• Italianate style mansion, 1826

VISION:
The downtown home of R2G; a community research and mapping center; a shared multi-college “campus”; and a public venue for lectures, events and education
RUST TO GREEN
UTICA

www.rust2green.org
OR
on facebook.com at:
Rust To Green Utica