Elmwood Festival of the Arts—August 24th, 2013

Community Feedback—“TELL US WHAT YOU THINK”

Members of the One Region Forward team attended the Elmwood Festival of the Arts on August 24th, 2013. Team members distributed approximately 200+ palm cards out to the community that included information about the organization and One Region Forward’s upcoming November workshops. Additionally, 29 community members signed up with their email address to receive the monthly e-News that One Region Forward sends out.

The community was then asked to answer three questions, displayed on presentation boards, regarding sustainability in their neighborhood. For the first two questions, community members were instructed to write down their responses to the two questions onto post-it notes and to affix the post-it note to the appropriate presentation board. For the third question, community members were asked to choose between four options and to affix a sticker under the chosen answer. Community members could also choose the “other” option and affix their own response on a post-it note to the appropriate presentation board. All community member responses were displayed for the duration of the festival for others to see. Responses to the three sustainability questions are below.

- What would you change about your community to make it more sustainable?
  - Either abolish the ECIDA (Erie County Industrial Development Agency) or have elected members
  - Abolish the NFTA
  - Redesign the Kensington Expressway
  - Take down the skyway
  - Increase the number of community centers for young people in the city
  - Improve and increase the number of street lights
  - Host an NBA franchise
  - Stop cutting down old growth forests
  - Promote the city and its assets to suburban and rural residents
  - Change the state and local regulations in order to protect our drinking water
  - Increase the number of economically and racially integrated schools in Buffalo and stop making charter schools.
  - Increase the number of farmer’s markets and their hours
  - Install bike tire pumps and racks
  - Abolish core educational standards—they create automatons
  - Increase the number of walkable neighborhoods
o Increase water conservation and the protection of our great lakes
o Improve bus service to South Buffalo
o Consolidate governments and school districts
o Stop growth in Amherst, Clarence, Lancaster, and Hamburg
o Pass a $1.00 “Arts” tax for all sporting events (such as the Buffalo Bills, Sabres, and Bisons) to go towards permanent WNY arts funding.
o Extend the NFTA light rail from downtown to the airport via Central Terminal and Galleria mall.
o Get rid of politicians and artificial democracy
o Abolish parking fees. This will bring people back into the city
o No more cul-de-sacs
o More marketing of awesome events, especially to college kids
o More bike lanes and awareness programs about bikes
o More and better dog parks
o Do more in Niagara County and Niagara Falls
o Increase urban wind power
o Use existing train lines in the city and suburbs to expand public transportation
o Get rid of grass lawns and encourage residents to plant alternative shrubs and plants. Maintaining grass lawns is a waste of water and gas (from lawn mowers).
o More local, humane food sources
o Recruit more artists and creative people for boards of organizations (ex: government and public transportation boards) besides art organizations

- **What about your community do you want to save for future generations?**
  o Community gardens
  o Farmer’s markets
  o The development of the arts community
  o The development of the waterfront
  o Investment in the East Side
  o Continue to raise awareness about Silo City
  o Wind turbines
  o Art festivals
  o The outer harbor
  o Historical silos and grain elevators
  o Green space

- **If you could choose one thing to make Buffalo Niagara More sustainable, what would it be?**
  o Expand public transportation and increase alternative ways to get around: 45
  o Grow more food: 16
o Limit fossil fuels: 11
o Reinvest in Communities: 26
o Other, write in your own:
  ▪ Regionalize
  ▪ End suburban sprawl
  ▪ Put people before cars
  ▪ Build the downtown culture