BUFFALO, NY

Friends of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor

MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

The Friends of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor (FMSAAHC) will focus on advocacy, funding, staffing and community engagement to support programming and initiatives within the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor to make it a more desirable place to live, work and visit. FMSAAHC will work in collaboration with the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission (MSAAHCC) and its stakeholders to connect the residents and supporters to the initiatives that are being planned for the corridor, in order to ensure their success and sustainability, and to create new initiatives that enhance the vitality and marketability of the corridor as a tourist destination. Together, residents, corridor supporters, and the Commission can combine efforts to preserve and enhance the area’s landmarks, increase tourism, stimulate economic development and foster neighborhood pride.

Current initiatives include:

- Development of front-yard heritage gardens
- Renovation of the Jesse Clipper Park: Installation of community garden and monument to African American military women
- Staffing and programming support for corridor attractions and events
- Urban design and infrastructure improvements

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

The Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor, which is located on the East Side of Buffalo, was identified as a critical place for the celebration and recognition of Buffalo's African American heritage locally and within the national context. The Corridor was a key location for activists and thinkers during the Abolitionist period and the Civil Rights Movement. The Corridor was also a historic melting pot for immigrants coming into Buffalo in the 1800s, and in the early 1900s a cultural hot-spot for jazz. Today the Corridor is home to important historic and cultural institutions such as the Nash House Museum, The Colored Musicians Club, The Langston Hughes Institute and the Michigan Street Baptist Church.

I hope to see a vibrant African American Heritage Corridor that has stimulated business development, created employment for residents, preserved the physical spaces where history was made, educates residents and tourists, and lastly instills pride in the accomplishments and achievements of local African Americans.

Planning a Change

ACTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

- Hold an initial visioning session and recruitment meeting with Partners for a Livable WNY on 11/1/14
- Strategic planning for the FMSAAHC
- Complete application to Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo for the Jesse Clipper Community Garden
- Support community block club events
- Plan a fundraiser for Fall 2015

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Partnerships

FUNDING RANGE

$0 - $5,000

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

IDEA PLAN ACTION

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Michigan Street Corridor, City of Buffalo