Rediscover History Main Street

MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

The mission of this project is to make Main Street in the historic Village of Williamsville more pedestrian-friendly and appealing by making the history of the Village more apparent on this street.

Main Street in the Village of Williamsville could be made more walkable and attractive for pedestrians. Furthermore, one way to make Main Street more appealing is to highlight the historical significance of certain sites on the street. This could potentially increase the tourism appeal of the Village of Williamsville, stimulate economic development, and promote more environmentally friendly and healthy modes of transportation. The Village of Williamsville is already conducting efforts to identify Village landmarks, as well as make Main Street more appealing through its “Picture Main Street” initiative. An initiative to combine and bolster these efforts is needed.

This project will entail placing signs in front of historical landmarks on Main Street in the historic Village of Williamsville, in order to increase the walkability of this street, as well as communicate the history of the Village more effectively. The Village of Williamsville has been identifying Village landmarks, as well as improving its Main Street through the “Picture Main Street” initiative. This project will involve strengthening and combining both of these efforts by advocating for and installing historical signs on Main Street as a strategy to both recognize the Village’s history as well as make Main Street more enticing for pedestrians.

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

This project is based on the philosophy that a pedestrian-friendly Main Street that highlights the historical significance of an area will increase the quality of life, sustainability, and tourism revenue of that area. Ultimately, this project aims to realize the vision of a walkable, attractive Main Street in Williamsville that both residents and tourists want to walk on and to learn about the history of the Village.

Planning a Change

ACCTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

Develop walking tour
Develop grant proposal
Set-up crowd funding event

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Funding, Partnerships, Volunteers, Grant Writing Assistance, Graphic Design and Sign Expertise

FUNDING RANGE

$10,000 - $50,000 for the creation of permanent historic markers and tour materials

About the Champion...

Mary Ellen Haefner has been a member of the Education Committee of Preservation Buffalo Niagara since 2011. Recently she contributed to developing the organization’s 2014 tour schedule as well as its professional development program. Through the Champions for Change program, Mary Ellen is leveraging her knowledge of the history of Williamsville in order to establish markers in front of historical landmarks on the Village’s Main Street. The goal of the project is to create a more appealing and pedestrian-friendly Main Street in Williamsville through making the Village’s history more apparent. She is collaborating with members of Williamsville’s Picture Main Street initiative, the Village’s Community Development office, the Village’s Historic Preservation Commission, and other key stakeholders to implement this project.

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