BUFFALO, NY

The Elm Hub

MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

My project aims to enhance Utica Heights through the restoration of the historic Elm landscape initiated by its earliest resident, William Hodge. Hodge, who established Buffalo’s first nursery was instrumental in the expansion of the Elm tree in Buffalo. I believe that this neighborhood beautification project, steeped in historic significance, would help to create a new perspective and vision of the neighborhood. The Elm landscape would strengthen community pride, and create an environment ripe for aesthetic and spiritual contemplation.

I was inspired to pursue this project because I see our neighborhood as a place reflective of the “American Dream.” My parents were (more or less) orphans who discovered love and built a remarkable life. This experience of the American dream was passed down to me. Moreover, I believe that this dream, is represented by William Hodge as well as with other inspirational neighborhood residents such as William West (artist); Robert Traynham Coles (architect); Cecil Brown (politician); Rev. Hemphill (Model Cities developer) and Garfield Hinton (journalist). The elm trees would not only represent the historic legacy of Hodge, but also the strength of will and intuition - two key features of the American Dream. The elms would be a beautiful complement to the cityscape of East Utica and would help residents and visitors alike to identify the area as one of opportunity and prosperity.

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

This project takes place along the historic Hodge tree nursery site encompassing East Utica Street from Main to Masten.

Planning a Change

ACTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

Planning research
Partnership building
Funding source identification and application

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Funding, Architect/designer, Volunteers
Researchers (academics, historians, etc.), Partners

FUNDING RANGE

$5,000 - $10,000 to fund a designer
or plan-design studio at UB School of Architecture and Planning

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

IDEA  PLAN  ACTION

About the Champion...

Pamella Lomax, a native of Buffalo, New York is a graduate of the American University in Washington, DC. Upon completion of an undergraduate degree from the School of Public Affairs, she enhanced her knowledge base by working directly for industry experts and leaders in academia, finance and health care.

In 2012, having celebrated ownership of a 53-year-old, familial enterprise, located on East Utica Street in Buffalo, NY, Pamella founded and launched the Utica Heights Block Club. Since its inception, the organization has consistently engaged the community by reaching out and providing resourcefulness.

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