BUFFALO, NY

Market on Michigan (MOM): Shipping Container Mall & Small Business Incubator - “We Do Business in a Box!”

OUR IDEA FOR CHANGE

The mission of the container mall (Market on Michigan) is to create and stimulate economic opportunity, by minimizing barriers to entry for new entrepreneurs. The market will ultimately provide those living, visiting and working on the eastside of Buffalo, a destination that promotes economic development, community building, and neighborhood beautification.

The Market on Michigan is a sustainable mixed use business incubator that takes storage containers and retrofits them to meet the qualifications of a commercial kitchen, vendor spaces, and rental space. The market will use solar energy to offset the expense of electricity and the vendors will be encouraged to use the latest technology to reduce the cost of heating, cooling and security. Vendors will be encouraged to use local farmers and businesses for all their needs. The market will also grow produce for sale to the public and market vendors. There is no other Buffalo project that is using storage containers as a twenty four hour multi-functional space that serves as a community meeting place, a small mall, and provides entertainment and educational programming.

The Market’s three objectives are:

- Provides low cost rental space and business support to vendors.
- Provides food and retail to an underserved area in the city, which is trying to attract businesses that serve residents, tourist and students with healthy low cost food options and needed services.
- Provides nutritional education, wellness programming and positive social interaction to a diverse population of varying economic background.

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

The Market on Main will be located on a vacant site in the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor in Buffalo, NY. Our hope is that the market will become a destination for residents and visitors who want to experience unique and affordable food and retail vendors as well as attend cultural events designed to celebrate the diversity of the Corridor and Buffalo at large.

Planning a Change

ACTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

- Launch a community engagement campaign
- Write a business plan
- Seek funding and support

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

- Funding
- Site in the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor
- Architectural and urban design support
- Business plan development

FUNDING RANGE

$225,00- $250,00 to support design services and develop container mall

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

IDEA PLAN ACTION

About the Champions...

Della Miller’s extensive career began in high school as a foodservice worker. She later went on to found two community food and garden co-ops thru Vista/Peace Corps, developed and directed a 1 year pilot nutrition education campaign on the west side of Buffalo and received funding for five more years extending the program to New York State region I & II. She also managed and monitored 20+ licensed food service facilities in Erie County.

Growing up in Harlem during the 1950’s and 60’s, Gail was exposed to many legendary civil rights leaders who taught her about the use of non-violence to inspire social change. Since then, Gail has organized countless cultural and educational activities that have caused social change both in New York City and Buffalo. Her accomplishments include co-founding the University at Buffalo’s Black Student Union, serving on the first Juneteenth Committee, and co-editing Buffalo’s first Black owned magazine, Buffalo After Dark.

Gail was also co-owner of Watu Sokoni (also known as “The People’s Market”), and co-founder of the Center for Positive thought (also known as the “Black Dance Workshop”).

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