BUDDA, NY

East Parade Circle Beautification Project

MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

I am organizing community residents from the East Side of Buffalo to achieve the creation of a respite area by designing, planning, and engaging Buffalo community members, local officials, and businesses to build a first of its kind green/blue infrastructure respite area in East Parade Circle to become the model for the State of NY. Redesign of Parade Circle should be context sensitive in order to maintain social, historic and cultural relevancy to the surrounding neighborhood and park users.

The East Parade Circle Beautification Pilot Project supports future community investment through environmentally sustainable community-based beautification efforts. This project features a rain garden to reduce run-off from burdening our over-taxed sewers and the Green Bus Hub to serve as green public and non-motorized transportation hub.

I believe this project would improve the built environment while creating a socially and culturally relevant place that elevates the perception of Buffalo’s East Side. Through investment in the built environment and in the people who live, work and play in there, we can attract private investments to turn the tide of economic decline in the neighborhood.

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

The site of this project is E. Parade Circle on Buffalo’s East Side adjacent to MLK Jr. Park. This project is needed because a small investment in sustainable infrastructure - bus stop and rain garden - has the potential to show a large investment in the neighborhood and the people who live there. The East Side has seen significant decline in its built environment and a project like this could serve as signal that things are changing for the better.

Planning a Change

ACTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

- Host a design charrette with residents and partners
- Build partnerships with site stewards
- Work with a designer
- Search for funding opportunities

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

- Funding, Partnerships, Landscape Design Assistance

FUNDING RANGE

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

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

IDEA PLAN ACTION

About the Champion...

Paul Pérez
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Paul empowers, engages, and educates communities to become vibrant, self-sustaining places that support well-being and opportunity for all. He fuels the passion for this work with his experience of being born and raised in the South Bronx, NY, where he witnessed first hand, the social inequities, violence, and poverty that plagued his beloved community. Paul’s work is strengthened by the blessings from his friends, family, and community members who believe in him and enable him to do this work. This support network has helped him define what he believes is his purpose - to become a changemaker. Paul hopes to help create positive change in all the communities in which he is blessed to work and hopes the East Parade Circle Project will get the ball rolling here in Buffalo.