



Spring 2019

One Region Forward's Citizens Planning School: Planning for Regional Regeneration

A partnership of:

University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning

University at Buffalo Regional Institute (UBRI)

University at Buffalo Blackstone LaunchPad

It Takes a Village Action Organization

6 Champions for Change Workshops

Every other Tuesday Evening, 6pm-8:40pm, Starting 2/26/2019

Hayes Hall, Room 403 / UB South Campus

Primary contact: Darren Cotton, d.cotton@udcda.org

More information: <http://www.oneregionforward.org/champs2019/>

SPRING 2019 CITIZENS PLANNING SCHOOL & CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

Buffalo Niagara is writing a new story about itself – a story about how an old “rust belt” region is retooling itself in the 21st century to meet the real challenge of how to live more sustainably in an era of economic instability, social inequality, and the environmental uncertainty of climate change.

As a region, we recognize that past patterns of extractive economic development have increased our collective vulnerability while hitting people of color and those living in poverty the hardest. Some have benefited from the wealth brought to this region through our industrial heritage, but many have been left behind and have suffered significant impacts in health, well-being, and access to healthy home environments.

Today is a new day. As a region, we are writing a new story of development. From 2012-2015, over 5000 citizens of Erie and Niagara counties worked to create a new vision and framework for regional development that would uplift the well-being of our people, place, and planet. Through the One Region Forward plan for Buffalo Niagara, we embrace the opportunity to work together to use our land more wisely, get around more efficiently, create great places to live, ensure a healthy food supply, and meet the challenges of climate change and a transforming energy economy.

Though this is a new story, it is also one with a rich history in our region. Hundreds of years ago, the Ho De No Sau Nee people of Western New York introduced the founding fathers of the United States to the principles of participatory democracy and the governing principle of considering the 7th generation in all planning decisions. Drawing on this legacy, we imagine a regenerative economy, with regenerative development processes that heal past harms and generate conditions that support the well-being of all inhabitants of our region.

The One Region Forward Plan is an essential framework to support this envisioned future of regenerative regional development and climate justice. But the plan means nothing unless citizens across the region continue to engage, converse, learn, adapt, and collaboratively act with one another. The Citizens Planning School and Champions for Change Programs are designed to create an environment through which we can continue together on this journey, building our collective capacity and supporting each other in realizing the future we envision.

We recognize that everything gets done through relationships and nothing gets done without them. Healthy relationships grounded in our fundamental interdependence and shared prosperity will support healthy economies and ecosystems. Through collective intention and collaborative action, we will work to heal past harms and ensure the well-being of the people and ecosystems of Western New York in their full diversity for generations to come.

The 2019 Citizens Planning School includes six Tuesday evening workshops designed to support Champions for Change in taking their intentions and ideas into concrete reality. Like past years of the CPS, this program will introduce citizens to the One Region Forward plan and tools and resources available to support its implementation. This year, there will be a special focus on Regional Regenerative Development. Regenerative development starts from a place of appreciation and gratitude. We start by recognizing the gifts available to us in our region, our assets, our allies, and our opportunities to build upon our strengths.

The Spring 2019 CPS recognizes that regeneration and well-being starts with whole individuals and extends to whole communities and ecosystems. Through 6 Tuesday evening workshops, Champions for Change will learn fundamental concepts of regenerative development and practices to support resilient leadership. Tuesday evening workshops will generally be structured in two parts: one focused on hands-on workshops where all Champions and students participate together, and another in which Champions work with students and faculty mentors specifically on their projects. The group workshops focus on developing capacities in project planning, regenerative design, social innovation, interpersonal communication & facilitation, and prototyping of ideas into action. In teams, students will support Champions in refining their stories for change, theory of change, action plans, flyer, poster, and PowerPoint pitch. In between workshops, Champions and student leaders will work together to move their action plans forward.

The CFC workshops will culminate with a community-wide IDEA Summit on May 12. At this community celebration, Champions for Change will present their projects to a public audience. The Summit will also celebrate a range of success stories of regional partners implementing the One Region Forward Plan and serve as a solutions-focused networking event.

2019 Champions for Change Schedule (Location: Hayes Hall 403)

2/26/2019

CFC WORKSHOP #1
Stories of Change

CFC Workshop #1: One Region Forward: Stories of Change

Where have we been, where are we now, and where are we going as a region? What are the stories we are creating for our future, as individuals and as a region? Champions will be introduced to 1RF, each other, and foundational concepts in regenerative regional development in Buffalo Niagara.

3/12/2019

CFC WORKSHOP #2
Theories of Change

CFC Workshop #2: Regenerative Theories of Change

What is the change we seek, and how can we bring it to life, in who we choose to be, and what we say and do? What theories of change support social and ecological well-being in a regenerative economy? How can we plan our work, and work our plans, and honor our word to create the stories we desire?

3/26/2019

CFC WORKSHOP #3
Generative Relationships

CFC Workshop #3: Cultivating Generative Relationships

Healthy relationships are the foundation of a regenerative economy. How do we cultivate them? Champions will practice relationship-building & generative listening skills to help them refine their action plans, expand their teams, and build relationships.

4/9/2019

CFC WORKSHOP #4
Powerful Conversations

CFC Workshop #4: Powerful Conversations

Knowing that the road ahead will have its twists, turns, and potholes, how can we use powerful conversations to expand our teams, build on community assets, and transform breakdowns into breakthroughs? Through a hands-on workshop, we'll practice powerful invitations, requests, and apologies to build resilient teams.

4/23/2019

CFC WORKSHOP #5
Powerful Pitches

CFC Workshop #5: Powerful Pitches

How can we present a case for action in ways that inspire others and call them into collective action? Champions will design and deliver spoken and visual presentations of their project ideas. These will be dry-runs in preparation for the 5/12 Idea Summit.

5/7/2019

CFC WORKSHOP #6
Planning Forward

CFC Workshop #6: Planning: Onward, Upward, & Forward

How can we mobilize ongoing support for project implementation, maintenance, and regeneration? What structures exist to support us moving forward, and what systems and structures can we create individually and together?.

5/11/2019 (9:15-11:30am)
COMMUNITY FORUM
IDEA SUMMIT

CFC Commencement & Community Forum: Idea Summit

Champions for Change will present their ideas to move One Region Forward, followed by a resource fair, networking gathering, and opportunity to pledge actions.