

Rebuilding the Economy and Quality of Life after the Control Board in The City of Buffalo & Erie County



Nidhi Subramanyam, Paul Leonhardt, Elliot Sperling
Dept. of City & Regional Planning
Cornell University

Source: <http://www.city-data.com/picfilesc/picc21085.php>

State of New York Cities: Creative Responses to Fiscal Stress
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Buffalo: From a glorious past to a promising future

Manufacturing economy to creative, service-based economy



The historic Erie Canal in the early 20th century



Proposed Canalside development

Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority (Control Board)

“Adult supervision” or “Improved fiscal management?”



Measures for fiscal stability:

- Wage freeze for four years
- City wide hiring freeze & large scale layoffs
- Switch to a single health insurance provider to save expenditures on employee benefits
- Positive budget in 2005-06 and improved credit ratings



Failed to:

- Focus on how these changes impacted the quality of life of residents
- Address structural issues like poverty and demographics

Current fiscal situation

Improved credit ratings but heavy reliance on fund balances

Trends:

- Decreasing trend in property taxes
- Renewed commitment towards expenditures for social, cultural and community services after Control Board went into advisory status
- Dependence on fund balances to close budgetary gaps

Fiscal Vulnerabilities:

- Open labor negotiations, limited flexibility to raise revenues due to property tax cap, and heavy reliance on State aid



Mayor Brown's 2013-2014 budget provides \$160,000 for the Buffalo Broadway Market

Fiscal situation in the School District

Trend towards privatization & public-non profit partnerships

Trends:

- Decline in school enrollment due to population decline & suburbanization
- Increase in enrollment of non-white children

Measures:

- Cuts to special education programs, employee layoffs, and conversion of public schools to charter schools
- Partnership with 'Say Yes Buffalo' to provide special academic services



Source: The Buffalo News, 9 March 2014

'Say Yes to Education' is providing college scholarships and support services for Buffalo Public School students

Innovative fiscal approaches

Parks Agreement with Erie County & Olmsted Park Conservancy to save expenditures



People's Mandate by Erie County

Prioritizing popular programs that matter to people



Reinvestment in the Buffalo & Erie County public library system

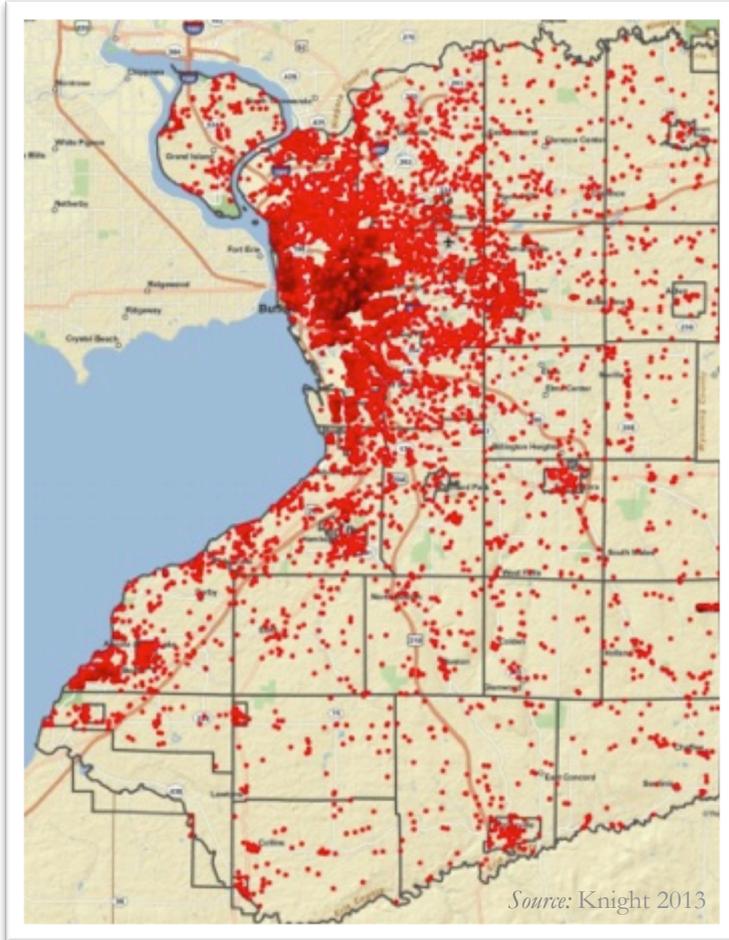


Rehabilitation of greenhouses at the Botanical Gardens

- Screening facilities for under-insured residents
- Smart Economy: Workforce development, attract tourists & investment from neighboring Canada

The Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation

Reuse delinquent properties to revitalize neighborhoods



Over 75,000 tax liens with a balance of \$58 million distributed over Erie County



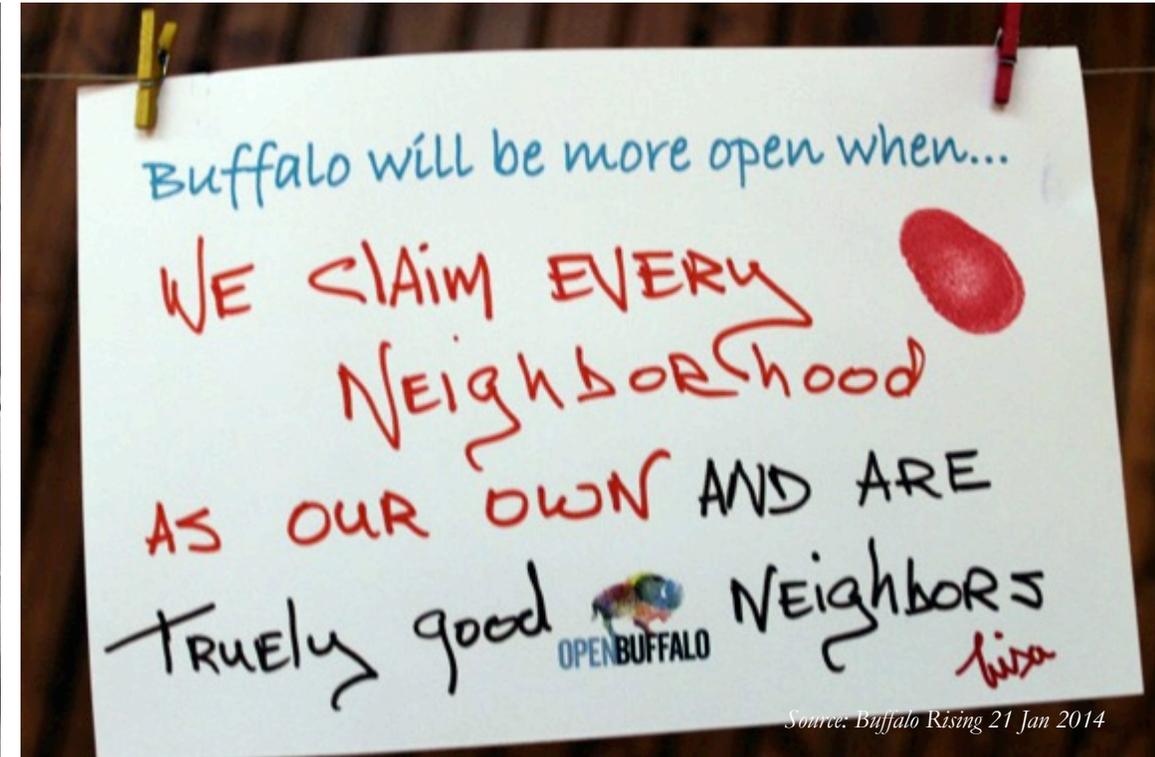
Neighborhoods suffer due to delinquent properties are often vacant and/ or foreclosed

Social Unionism & Non-profit networks

Greater voice & democratic participation in economic and community development



Cooperative strategies between unions and management in the late 1990s for economic development



Open Buffalo is a network of various grassroots non-profits to promote increased civic engagement through innovative policy making for sustainable economic development

Regional Economic Development Initiatives

WNY REDC's Buffalo Billion Investment Development Plan for long term economic development in advanced manufacturing, health, life sciences, and professional services



Artist's rendering of the proposed UB Medical School at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, which currently employs 12,000 people, in 6.5 million SF of clinical, research, and support facilities.



Theatre District Main Street Program to support commercial building rehabilitation for neighborhood revitalization to increase investments

One Region Forward

Regional efforts to solve regional problems & conserve regional assets

