“The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by sceptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need people who can dream of things that never were”

John F Kennedy

Rob Hopkins
Naresh Giangrande
A transition town is a grassroots community project that seeks to build resilience in response to peak oil,[1] climate destruction, and economic instability. Local projects are usually based on the model's initial '12 ingredients' and later 'revised ingredients'.[2][3] The first initiative to use the name was Transition Town Totnes, founded in 2006.
Dr. Bullard: The Quest for Environmental Justice
Environmental Reparations
Actions: TEN, 21st Century EJ Leader Ford Foundation, Climate Justice Corp, EJI, YPI
Transition Towns and the Urban Environment...

...Social Justice, Social Action and 21st Century

- Transition Town as a grassroots initiative
- Building Community Resilience in response to Peak Oil and Climate Change
- The birth of Urban Transition Cities Movement in 2012 after Thrive Training
- Economic Instability and “Economic Gardening Principles”
- Design Local projects that demonstrate Transformational Leadership
- Utilize Ecodistricts as a framework for macro systems change with measurable outcomes
ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM AND NEOLIBERAL
“Neo-liberalism”

Neo-liberalism" is a set of economic policies that have become widespread during the last 25 years or so. Although the word is rarely heard in the United States, you can clearly see the effects of neo-liberalism here as the rich grow richer and the poor grow poorer.
“Non-Violence and Social Change”

The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.
Urban Ministries

Dr. Ron Peters: “Two Spheres of Urban Ministry: Parish and Public,”
How does Environmental Racism Occur

This is what environmental racism looks like.

Suncor Refinery  Aamjiwnaang First Nation
A Leaders Heart

Grow a Leader-Grow the Organization

Working with change agents:

- Vision
- Leadership
- Scholarship
- Innovation
- PRAXIS
Structuring the Community Organizing Environment in a Global Context.
Greenburg, Kansas May 2007
Larimer Neighborhood 2011

• The Larimer Community—Once supported over 13,000 families, now it supports 1728 families (2010 Census)
Visioning our Future.... What would a post carbon, energy scarce world look like?
Promoting Collective Genius
The Larimer Pivot

2035 population 6,500

STABILIZE
CONSOLIDATE RESOURCES

GROW
ECONOMIC SECURITY

DIVERSIFY
INCREASE RESILIENCY

SUSTAIN
MAINTAIN VIBRANCY

1940 population 13,350

COMMUNITY PROGRAM
SITE PROGRAM
INFRASTRUCTURE
Public and Private Property
Imagine Larimer software
[education, awareness, community activation, building sustainability culture]

Summary: The Imagine Larimer Software is a tool designed to help educate and empower both individuals and communities. It is a platform that helps you to proactively engage participants in conversations about sustainability. Users are presented with design interventions, such as trees, rain gardens, housing + trails that they can drag-and-drop into their homes or communities. The impacts of those interventions are reflected visually in a dashboard to help users clearly understand the impacts of their choices. The Imagine Larimer Software can be accompanied by the Kingsley Association’s Imagine Sustainability curriculum.
Ecodistrict planning quantifies system performance, assigns value to ecological processes and promotes social equity in scalar economies.

Urban design goals typically include the creation of diverse, mixed use, walkable communities, the identification of economic drivers, and improved connectivity.

Ecodistrict planning quantifies system performance, assigns value to ecological processes and promotes social equity in scalar economies.
Urban Transition Cities Movement: Integrating Micro, Meso, and Macro Systems

Designing Transformational Programs

- Environmental Justice
  Community Alert Matrix
- Ecodistricts focus:
  - Air Quality
  - Energy Production
- CAT: Community Action Teams
- Partnerships:
  - GASP
  - Homewood Children’s Village
  - University of Pittsburgh
- Measurable Outcomes
  - Informed and mobile community
  - Improved process for mitigating issues
Urban Transition Cities Movement

The Pivot T4T
- T4T has a stronger historical connection to various ethnic groups around the world
- T4T has a focus on beginning the process with your own demise set
- T4T is largely dominated by non-people of color
- T4T supports letting it go where it goes

The UTCM Trajectory
- UTCM addresses the issue of vulnerable transient populations
- UTCM seeks to use annual benchmarking to empower vulnerable community’s ability to take responsibility for their lives
- UTCM focuses on the people of color specifically and relationship development
- UTCM is intentional about strategic collaborations for long-term success
The EVOLUTION:
Initiating our collective genius

WE CANNOT SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE SAME THINKING WE USED WHEN WE CREATED THEM

-Albert Einstein
Hedgehog Concept: Simplicity Within The Three Circles

- Passion
- Purpose
- Product
A call to action for ecodistrict planning.

moving together towards a greener future
COMMUNITY CAPACITY

- Decision Making
- Organizational Learning
- Legal Structure
- Financial Resources
Transition Towns Approach

- Organize a Great Unleashing
- Form Groups
- Use Open Space

Larimer Community Activity

- Introduction of the Larimer Vision to Action Plan
- Development of the Larimer Consensus Group
- Community Charrettes used to design Open Space use
Leveraging Sweat Equity

The LAT’s have contributed over $1.5 Million Dollars in volunteer hours
Green Wall

NetZero Shipping Container Project
Sustainable Systems

NetZero Shipping Container Project
PROJECTS IN MOTION?

Evolution of the Consensus Plan

Larimer/East Liberty Choice Neighborhood Community Meeting
Larimer Avenue

Meadow Street
(north of Larimer)
MBS October 11, 2013 Tax Credit Site Plan
Building Bridges Towards Sustainable Community Design

*From Transactional to Transformational*
HCV MISSION STATEMENT

To simultaneously improve the lives of Homewood’s children and to reweave the fabric of the community in which they live.
“To simultaneously improve the lives of Homewood’s children...”

Our Impact:

• 1,000 kids a day
• 3 Schools
• FSCS
• Bridge to College
MISSION STATEMENT PART 2

“To simultaneously improve the lives of Homewood’s children and reweave the fabric of the community in which they live.”
The Story of Homework

- **Stable Environment**
- **Healthy Atmosphere**
- **Parent Leadership**
Homewood Statistics

- Poverty (27.4%+)
- Male Unemployment 16 to 64 years old (34.0 %+)
- Dropouts (16-to-19-year-olds) (23.0 %+)
- Female Headed Household (37.1%+)
Homewood’s population has dropped by **79%** since 1940…

…now it supports **6,442** residents

(2010 Census)
The Vision of a Sustainable Community:

1 to 1 Relationship Development

Operation Better Block

Cluster Approach

- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Political Empowerment
Homewood At A Glance

- **Homelessness (19-27%+)**
  - 20% of PPS Homeless Population is Faison and Westinghouse Students

- **Mobility (43%+)**
  - Faison and Westinghouse Students

- **Asthma Rate: 2x higher than US National Average**

How can our students truly succeed when their environment presents metaphysical stressors before they ever get to school?
1. Set up steering groups and design their demise from the outset
2. Raise Awareness
3. Lay the foundation - Local challenges
4. Organize a Great Unleashing
5. Form Groups
6. Use Open Space
7. Develop visible practical manifestations of the project
8. Facilitate the Great Reskilling
9. Build a bridge to local government
10. Honor the elders
11. Let it go where it wants to go
12. Create an Energy Descent Action Plan
OUR WORK: FOUR “C”s

**Convene**
We convene individuals and existing service providers who work with Homewood’s children and families.

**Coordinate**
We coordinate services that individuals and organizations provide to the children and families of Homewood along our developmental pipelines.

**Build Capacity**
We build capacity of individuals and organizations to develop, deliver, and track the services provided to Homewood’s children and families.

**Support Community**
We support broader community initiatives to develop the physical and socio-emotional environment of the Homewood community.
Building A Sustainable Community

- Intentional Relationships
- Strategic Partnerships
- Reciprocal Accountability
- Measurable Outcomes
Building Sustainable Practices

Sustainable Futures

Sustainable Communities

Sustainable Partnerships

A nation that can't control its energy sources can't control its future.

-Barack Obama
FIRST
CHANGE THE WAY
WE THINK ABOUT DESIGN
**HEALTHY LIVING**
Promote physical well-being by providing healthy homes

- Improve environmental condition of homes to improve resident health.
- Work with Homewood Children's Village to support studies and research on reducing the prevalence of asthma in the community.
- Demo units located along alleys.

**HEALTHY LIVES**
Restore Homewood's Safe Front Porch Culture

- Couple existing AHRCO properties with adjacent parcels and strategic new construction to positively impact safety.
- Provide supportive service space in catalytic locations.
- Modify design of buildings and sites along primary streets to foster "eyes on the street" and creates "defensible space."
- Preserve affordable housing that allows Homewood residents to remain and welcome new residents to Homewood.

**HEALTHY LEARNING**
Use the arts to activate public places and healthy social exchange

- Improve psychological well-being, intellectual abilities and creativity through contact with the arts.
- Continue to support the Art House, a free arts program for school-aged children.
- Create meaningful partnership with community organizations to advance shared goals of financial independence.
- Connect residents to existing programs that provide internships, training and entrepreneurial support.
- Link job training through the construction and maintenance activities of these properties.
- Provide clean house educational outreach to residents.
Sustainable Communities Through Strategic Partnerships

Gateway to Westinghouse

Bird’s Eye View Showing Reinvestment in Creating a New Gateway to Westinghouse High School

Face to Face Occupying both sides of the street establishes a new gateway

Hold the Corner A new unit occupies the corner

Silent Community Baptist Church

Google Earth of Existing Conditions

10-15-2015 © Rothschild Dayna Collaborative

AHRCO Allegheny Housing Rehabilitation Corporation
Sustainable Communities Through Strategic Partnerships

Gateway to Faison

Bird’s Eye View Showing Panke Ave Connecting to Hamilton Avenue

Capture the Sideyard
Wrapping porches extends occupancy around the corner and creates a place for the community.

Framing the View
Architectural accents frame the gateway to Faison and the neighborhood.

Helen Faison Arts Academy
Extending Panke Way to Hamilton creates a walkable connection to Faison Elementary.

The Porch at the Community Scale

Porch Potential
Adding porches extends occupancy to the front yard.

The Porch at the Family Scale

Google Earth of Existing Conditions

10-15-2015 © Rothschild Doyle Collaborative

AHRCO
Allegheny Housing Rehabilitation Corporation
HCV 2Gen Model

Zero Energy Housing

Rebuilding the foundation of the community so that education can thrive

ESTEAM
COMMUNITY CAPACITY
decision-making mechanisms
organizational learning
legal structure
financial resources

THE RACE IS REALLY THE PRIZE
Cooperation | partnership

- Full Service Community Schools - CTE
- Green Jobs + Neighborhood Revitalization
- Food + Economic Development
Building strategic partnership

THREE AREAS OF INVESTMENT

- Talent + Leadership
  - People, Skills + Knowledge
- Economic Opportunity
  - Business + Workforce
- Safe + Healthy Environments
  - Neighborhood + Community Revitalization
PARTNERSHIP framework: Training

TALENT + LEADERSHIP

- Westinghouse CTE – HCV
  - Prepare Youth + Adults for Real Jobs
- Junior Green Corps; Urban Retrofit – OBB
  - Youth: Food Production + Civic Engagement
- Entrepreneurship Development – BCC
  - Skills + Capacity Development
PARTNERSHIP framework: JOBS

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- MEWU – OBB JGC
  - Wall Units = Production Capacity
- Aquaponics - BCC
  - New Greenhouses = Commercial Capacity
- Circles Program - HCV
  - Soft Skills + Peer Support Networks

LEFT: Mobile Edible Wall Unit | RIGHT: Commercial Aquaponics
PARTNER FRAMEWORK: Neighborhood

SAFE + HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

- Cluster Plans for Revitalization – OBB
  - Food + Culture = Destination
  - Build-out + Rehab of Commercial Corridor
- Everyday Café + Business Development – BCC
  - Pilot Market for Food Businesses

ABOVE: OBB Cluster Plan – Resident Needs
BELOW: BCC Plans for Café/Restaurant
Inclusiveness is the extent to which people feel that they are an important part of the organization, that they’re embraced, respected and welcomed, and that they have decision-making power and authority in the organization.

AJ Clemmons, Chair, Board of Directors
Colorado Women’s Agenda
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