

Together
with
LSC

EAST SIDE

Launch Report | East Side Community | 2022

With Gratitude & Solidarity

The LISC WNY team is immensely grateful to the organizations, residents, and practitioners of the East Side communities who have shared, taught, and trusted us with their thoughts. Their experiences, especially within the context of the Covid-19 era, inspired us, and shaped the creation of this framework. We are constantly humbled by the leadership, strength and resiliency that we encounter daily from the people who call these places home.

We write these words as practitioners, working in partnership with community, centering the needs, lived experiences, wisdom and leadership of our Indigenous, Black and brown neighbors. We honor the sovereign Haudenosaunee (hoe-dee-no-SHOW-nee or hoe-den-oh-saw-nee) Six Nations, original stewards of this land we live on—the Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca and Tuscarora—and the places where the following work took place. May all that we do strive toward partnership with a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. And from this reconciliation, let us begin to heal.

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 Broadway Sattler Theater
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 Buffalo Center for Health Equity
 Buffalo Commons Charter School
 Buffalo Federation of
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 Buffalo Food Equity Network
 Buffalo Freedom Gardens
 Buffalo Go Green
 Buffalo Moose Club
 Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus
 Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
 Buffalo Public Schools
 Buffalo State College Small Business
 Development Center
 Buffalo Transit Riders United
 Buffalo United Front
 Buffalo Urban
 Development Corporation
 Buffalo Urban League
 Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency
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 Canisius Womens Business Center
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 LaShonda Davis, Mailbox Artist
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 Methodist Church
 Locust Street Art
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 Partnership for the Public Good
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 Population Health Collaborative
 Preservation Buffalo Niagara
 Pride in Place Buffalo Planning
 Team & Contributors
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 PUSH Buffalo
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 Renata Toney
 Restore Our Community Coalition
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 Development Center
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 / Wakanda Alliance
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 University at Buffalo Food
 Systems Planning and
 Community Health Lab
 University at Buffalo
 Regional Institute
 University at Buffalo School
 of Architecture & Planning
 University District Community
 Development Association
 Urban Fruits and Veggies
 Urban Land Institute
 Urban Vantage
 vonetta t. rhodes, Poet
 Westminster Economic
 Development Initiative
 White Bicycle Design Studios
 Wise Young Builders
 WNY Foundation
 WNY Minority Media
 Professionals, Inc.
 WNY Urban Arts Collective
 WNY Women's Foundation
 Workforce Development Institute
 WSP

LISC Commitment

At its core, WITHIN makes space for community members to be the architects of their own neighborhoods. As an open, inclusive, community-driven initiative, we bring together neighborhood voices, trusted partners, and supportive funders in an effort to better the wellbeing of all who call Buffalo's East Side home. Together, we collaboratively identify projects that sustain positive momentum, and together, we get things done.

LISC WNY facilitated planning for three focus areas in the East Side, under the WITHIN WNY program. In alignment with the mission of LISC, to “forge resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity”, WITHIN supports community-activated progress. Centering the concept that to invest in a community, one must know the community, LISC WNY designed the WITHIN East Side process as a two-pronged approach—integrating economic development and quality-of-life planning.

Why an integrated methodology? The two types of planning efforts are largely intertwined. Both economic development and quality-of-life planning require understanding community history and dynamics, collaboratively identifying projects, building relationships with diverse stakeholders, and turning community priorities into progress. In this particular case, we also are planning to drive resources to effectively combat the underlying issues that have created inequities in the East Side.

LISC Commitment continued...

These neighborhoods were selected because of the existing dichotomy. People of color make up 78% of the East Side's total population¹, and this section of our city has not received the same level of investment as others. Showing immense resiliency, these communities still find ways to flourish even without resources; but without additional support and investment, these communities are at risk of displacement and erasure of culture and existing rich narratives. Intentionality is necessary to strengthen the connective tissue between residents and the surrounding developments.

In 2022, the neighborhoods are at a critical juncture. The nexus of adversity and previously unattainable support offers a unique opportunity to enhance these neighborhoods. The framework for WITHIN began with intention to ensure that community members were able to capitalize on imminent large-scale programs like the ESD East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund and lift community goals that still need attention and investment, powering the ideas and vision of the people. With the onset of COVID-19, this work became even more critical. The added trauma following the racist massacre on May 14, 2022, at the Tops Markets on Jefferson Avenue intensified the calls for action and assurance that the surge of funds and recovery efforts truly result in positive transformative change.

Throughout this process, we listened to hundreds of community members around their priorities for health, housing, jobs, small business, mobility, safety, development priorities, and culture. We analyzed demographics,

¹ [Buffalo Billion East Side Corridor Fund Report, 2019](#)

LISC Commitment continued...

economics, employment and housing trends, reviewed existing plans, examined neighborhood conditions, and interviewed stakeholders.

Embedded WITHIN is the intention to connect a diverse network of community builders who share a common purpose—to invest resources and exponentially broaden impacts. This document creates a shared understanding of this local multi-sector context with both on-the-ground organizations and regional funders.

The WITHIN East Side report includes:

- A clear statement of the community’s guiding principles, goals and objectives;
- A focused list of prioritized investments and action for 2022–23 to kick start the effort;
- A series of initial performance metrics; and
- A list of additional opportunities for community implementation as resources allow.

Rather than asking one entity to adopt this plan, the project website will indicate which organizations have endorsed the plan and are committed to its implementation.

LISC Commitment continued...

This work is supported by an extensive, data rich analysis, outlining existing conditions, and a series of tools to allow community members to lead implementation: interactive online mapping tools, a development project tracker, a rubric for new development, and scenario planning tools.

The WITHIN East Side strategies are inspired and shaped by ideas and lessons from the neighborhoods. When applicable, WITHIN strategies are aligned with investment initiatives to connect the plan to plausible resources. The strategies call on community members to spark a movement, help neighbors thrive, and choose to stay. They call for community partners to forge new partnerships, drive progress, set the pace, and tap into the power of their neighborhoods. And they call for funders to power the ideas of the people, invest in inclusive and sustainable initiatives, and turn community priorities into progress.

LISC is committed to supporting the community's implementation of this vision through ongoing facilitation and communications support, training, technical assistance, grant writing and funding assistance. We are grateful for every community member that brought us to this important launch point. We are committed to supporting your collective implementation of this shared vision.

We look forward to celebrating your success.



TEEN PERFORMANCE AT BUFFALO CENTER
FOR ARTS & TECHNOLOGY.
PHOTO: BUFFALO COMMONS PHOTOBANK



East Side Community

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BACKGROUND DEMOGRAPHICS



Greater Eastside Field of Dreams Block Club. Photo: Buffalo Commons Photobank

Buffalo's East Side is Grounded by Liberation

The fabric of neighborhoods and people who make up the east side of Buffalo are often blanketed by a negative rhetoric that fails to recognize the beauty, talent, pride, and culture that is vibrant and strong. Grider, Hamlin Park, Cold Springs, Genesee Moselle, Masten Park, Kingsley, MLK Park, the Fruit Belt, Johnson, Emerson, Willert, and Broadway-Fillmore are just some of the neighborhoods with unique histories and identities that make up the core of Buffalo's Black and African American community, that now has a growing population of new Americans and diverse ethnic groups. These neighborhoods hold important stories and histories of many cultures. Today, a lively culture of primarily Black and non-US native residents live among prominent, historic

structures like ornate churches and basilicas, a fractured Olmsted park system, wood-frame cottages, the prominent Central Terminal, abandoned industrial sites, the Broadway market, the Michigan Avenue African American Heritage Corridor and the Adam Mickiewicz Library to name a few. In fact, the Buffalo Bills used to play at War Memorial Auditorium, or the 'Rockpile' from 1960–1972 before it was replaced with the Johnnie B. Wiley Amateur Athletic Sports Pavilion. The WITHIN East Side process centers the residents who live in these neighborhoods now, the history that has impacted their lives, and the promising future ahead.

Much of the information summarized in this Background section is sourced from The Circle Association's [African American History of Western New York](#).

“ Intention created the racial wealth gap. It will take intention to close it. ”

Maurice Jones

Former LISC CEO

**BACKGROUND
DEMOGRAPHICS**

Population	2000	2010	2015–2019	% Change 2000–2019
Planning Areas	54,451	38,863	38,566	-29.17%
Erie County	950,265	919,040	919,355	-3.25%
State Of New York	18,976,457	19,378,102	19,572,319	3.14%

Source: Census 2000 Data Contains: 17 Census Tracts 2010 – 2015–2019 Data Contains: 14 Census Tracts

A Brief History.

For the Black community, Western New York, Buffalo, and specifically, the east side hold historic significance in the abolitionist movement and home to many who escaped from slavery and/or led anti-slavery movements. In the early 1900s, the convention for the National Association of Colored Women was held in Buffalo, and the Niagara movement began as a precursor to the NAACP. The Colored Musician’s Club, still open today in the Michigan Ave African American Heritage Corridor, was started in 1917 and attracted musicians like Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, and Ella Fitzgerald. And, in the 1920s a Black migration to Buffalo prompts a flurry of Black-owned businesses and enterprises such as a grocery cooperative, Negro lodges, cleaners, drug stores, the Michigan Ave YMCA (designed by African American architect John Brent), and the Big Brothers’ Association.

At this time, Buffalo was an important industrial hub as a major steel producer, railroad center, inland water port, and flour milling. Approximately, 500,000 people lived in the City and over 1.5 million in the metro area. The 1960s saw major White migration to the suburbs of Buffalo, while the Black population within the City was growing.

Disinvestment is Intentional.

As more African Americans became leading educators and political leaders in Buffalo, more racist policies and practices were uncovered and pursued. Jim crow public school practices, discrimination in public housing, real estate and banking segregation all contributed to the relegation of African Americans in inner city neighborhoods, where they long term impacts of these racist practices are evident today.

While more Black leaders took on roles in the arts and civic service, such as the late Lorna Hill and the founding of Ujima Theater Inc in 1978, Marian Bass of the Buffalo Police Department, Eva Doyle of Buffalo Public Schools, Ernestine R. Green of the NFTA, the 80s began with more violence on Buffalo’s Black community.

While the 21st century continues to raise up important Black leadership from Buffalo and the east side, we are faced with the realities and consequences that historic disinvestment, racism, segregation, poor infrastructure planning, and an abandoned and polluted industrial age left throughout history. The neighborhoods are now challenged by swaths of vacant land, neglected parks, streets and sidewalks in disrepair, old housing stock, significant health and wealth equity gaps

BACKGROUND DEMOGRAPHICS

related to poverty, and inadequate services across the social determinants of health.

Resiliency Reigns.

Buffalo's east side and its Black residents have been the anchors that remained in Buffalo while many fled the City for other economic opportunity and suburban sprawl. It was the fortitude of these east side abolitionists of the past who protected freedom and created opportunity for Black Americans in and out of Buffalo, and it will be the creativity, entrepreneurship, and fraternity of the east side that will change the opportunities of the future.

The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the 2020 racial justice movement escalated the urgency to address poverty, racism, and health disparity across the nation. Locally, east side neighborhood residents experience the same injustices inflicted by systems of oppression that have gone unchecked for too long. The impacts of the pandemic on our Black and Brown communities were predictable and largely preventable. We witnessed first-hand the strength of our residents, community services, and community organizers who most effectively served the most vulnerable people in the neighborhood by providing essentials such as food, transportation, housing assistance, testing services, vaccinations, and social and mental health support.

Race/Ethnicity.

When looking at who lives in each of the planning areas, the census tracts show that as many as 92.24% of people are Black or African American in planning area A (ranging from 56.76% – 92.24% by census tract). Planning area B has the census tract with the highest percentage of Black or African Americans (94.54%). The census tracts in planning area C, are more diverse ranging from 23.97%–83.31% Black or African American. The

census tract just north of Broadway and east of Fillmore that has the lowest percent of Black or African Americans is categorized as “Asian,” according to the ACS, 2015–2019 data.

A recent 2021 study projects regional population trends. The study expresses that “the net population gain between the two time periods is driven entirely by growth in populations of color. The population of white (non-Hispanic) residents is projected to fall by 2.2% between now and 2050, decreasing the group's share of Buffalo-Niagara's population to 74.1%. At the same time, the population shares of all other groups are projected to increase. The largest population gains are expected to occur among persons who identify with “Other” or multiple racial groups (+47.3%) and persons who identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander (+36.3%).” The researchers conclude that in the next 30 years, Buffalo-Niagara's population will become slightly more urbanized and racially diverse, though it will remain essentially unchanged in overall magnitude.

The increase in diversity of the planning areas results partially from a growing population of people who were not born in the United States. Of those born outside of the US, in area A, the predominant countries of birth reported in ACS, 2014–2018 are Guyana, Ghana, Pakistan, Yemen, and China, and while English is the primary language spoken in the whole planning area, other languages popular in area A include: Chinese, Spanish, African Languages, Urdu, and French. In planning area B, the predominant countries of birth reported in ACS, 2014–2018 are Nigeria, Bangladesh, China, Other East Africa, and Belarus, and the other languages include: Spanish, Other Indo-European Language, and Arabic. In the census tracts of area C with the most people born outside of the US, the country of birth is reported as Bangladesh, and other tracts include Belize and Vietnam. The popular languages other than English in area C are: African Languages, Spanish, Other Indic Languages, and Chinese.

**BACKGROUND
DEMOGRAPHICS**

■ Indicates a noticeable increase
■ Indicates a noticeable decrease

Race / Ethnicity	IN PLANNING AREA			IN NYS
	2000	2015–2019	% Population 2015–2019	% Population 2015–2019
White	7,472	4,718	12.23%	63.66%
African American	45,320	28,927	75.01%	15.66%
Asian	434	2,733	7.09%	8.42%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	16	5	0.01%	0.05%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	214	115	0.3%	0.41%
Other Race	198	1,189	3.08%	8.66%
Two or More Races	797	879	2.28%	3.15%
Hispanic	891	2,156	5.59%	19.01%

Source: Census 2000 Data Contains: 17 Census Tracts 2015–2019 Data Contains: 14 Census Tracts

Age.

Taking a closer look at each of the census tracts in each planning area, the estimated median age of all people, between 2015–2019 according to the census are area A, 22–46 years old, area B, 35–43 years old, and C, 28–35 years old showing that the Broadway Fillmore median age range skews younger than the other areas though all areas have a relatively young median age range. The MLK Park neighborhood and Broadway Fillmore Neighborhood specifically have higher concentrations of youth under the age of 18. At the other end of the lifespan, older adults age 75+ are more concentrated

of the lifespan, older adults age 75+ are more concentrated neighborhoods. Projections analyzed in the recent Regional Housing Market Study¹¹ suggests that the Buffalo Niagara region overall is aging, and natural population decreases (i.e., deaths exceeding live births) are keeping population levels relatively flat, despite the levels of in-migration in Erie County. Lower birth rates are combining with a tendency to age in place. A plan that considers what younger people and families need in their neighborhood is critical, coupled with planning, preparation, and design for the larger older adult population of the next decades.

2 [ROCC](#)
3 [Preservation Buffalo Niagara](#)
4 [Living Places](#)
5 [Buffalo Rising](#)
6 [Buffalo News Article](#)

**BACKGROUND
DEMOGRAPHICS**

Age	IN PLANNING AREA		IN NYS
	Number of People	% of People	% of People
Under 5	2,591	6.72%	5.9%
Under 18	9,494	24.62%	20.99%
Working Age 18-64	23,229	60.23%	62.93%
Aging 65+	5,843	15.15%	16.08%

Health.

One of the most significant indicators of health and wealth equity is life expectancy. For residents in the planning areas, the CDC (2010–2015) reports life expectancy at birth age estimates. The life expectancy for residents across census tracts in area A ranges from 60.4–76.6, in area B from 69.5– 71.3, and area C 68.1–72.7. Despite being located adjacent to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, the Fruit Belt neighborhood is the census tract with the lowest life expectancy age of 60.4. The life expectancy age at birth for the census tracts immediately adjacent to Main St. to the west are from 72.1–80.3. The healthy equity gap is evident across the Main St. racial dividing line, and also when compared to the Erie County average life expectancy age of 78.4. In fact, Buffalo ranks among the top cities with the highest life-expectancy gaps. For comparison, the average life expectancy of NY state is 80.5, and the US overall average life expectancy is 77.3



Disability.

In Erie County approximately 13.24% of the population report having a disability, which is higher than the State’s 11.51%. Across the neighborhood planning areas, the disability rate is closer to 20% in most census tracts.¹²

The 2021 Housing Market Study gives an analysis that shows the claim that persons of color are affected by disabilities at disparately high rates in Buffalo-Niagara. The key insight from this exercise is that, because (1) populations of color are growing faster than the white population, and (2) persons of color are disproportionately affected by disabilities, populations of persons with disabilities are likely to increase over time. If the patterns of disabilities in the current (2015–19) population were to play out in the projected 2050 population, then the populations of persons with certain difficulties in Buffalo-Niagara could grow by anywhere from 3.0% to 6.2% in the next 30 years. Those levels of growth are considerably higher than the 2% overall population growth.

BACKGROUND DEMOGRAPHICS

Thus, it seems quite probable that Buffalo-Niagara's housing stock will need to be adjusted to accommodate growing numbers of persons with disabilities in the years ahead.

One area of concern that comes with these changes is that, as a result of inequitable systemic and institutional structures, persons of color are disproportionately affected by certain health conditions and disabilities relative to their white counterparts. Apart from simply planning to accommodate different housing preferences, decision-makers in Buffalo-Niagara need to plan for making serious investments into accessible housing and public amenities to accommodate growing populations of persons with disabilities.

Families & Households.

There is a fairly even split between the number of men and women living in the neighborhood planning areas, skewing slightly toward more women. While there are many different family types and structures who live across the neighborhoods, women are most often the head of the household in single family homes, and make up 1/3 of the families in the planning area.

Another interesting trend seen across census tracts in the planning areas is related to households that include grandparents living with grandchildren, or intergenerational households. In 2015–2019 ACS data, planning area A includes tracts with 2.38% – 7.38% intergenerational households, planning area B includes 2.88% – 10.84% (the highest of the areas), and planning area C has 1.35% – 6.03%. These numbers compare to a range of 0–1.35% intergenerational households in the census tracts immediately west and adjacent to Main Street to the planning area.



Households & Families

16,313 Households & **8,692** Families in the Planning Areas

Families are groups of related people who live together.
Households are made up of unrelated people who live together, or people who live alone.

**BACKGROUND
DEMOGRAPHICS**

Family Composition 2015-2019	In Planning Area		In Erie County	
	# Of Families	% Of Families	# Of Families	% Of Families
Families	8,692		229,105	
Married With Children	1,135	13.06%	58,421	25.5%
Single With Children	2,916	33.55%	34,771	15.18%
Single Female With Children	2,572	29.59%	27,518	12.01%
Other Families	4,641	53.39%	135,913	59.32%

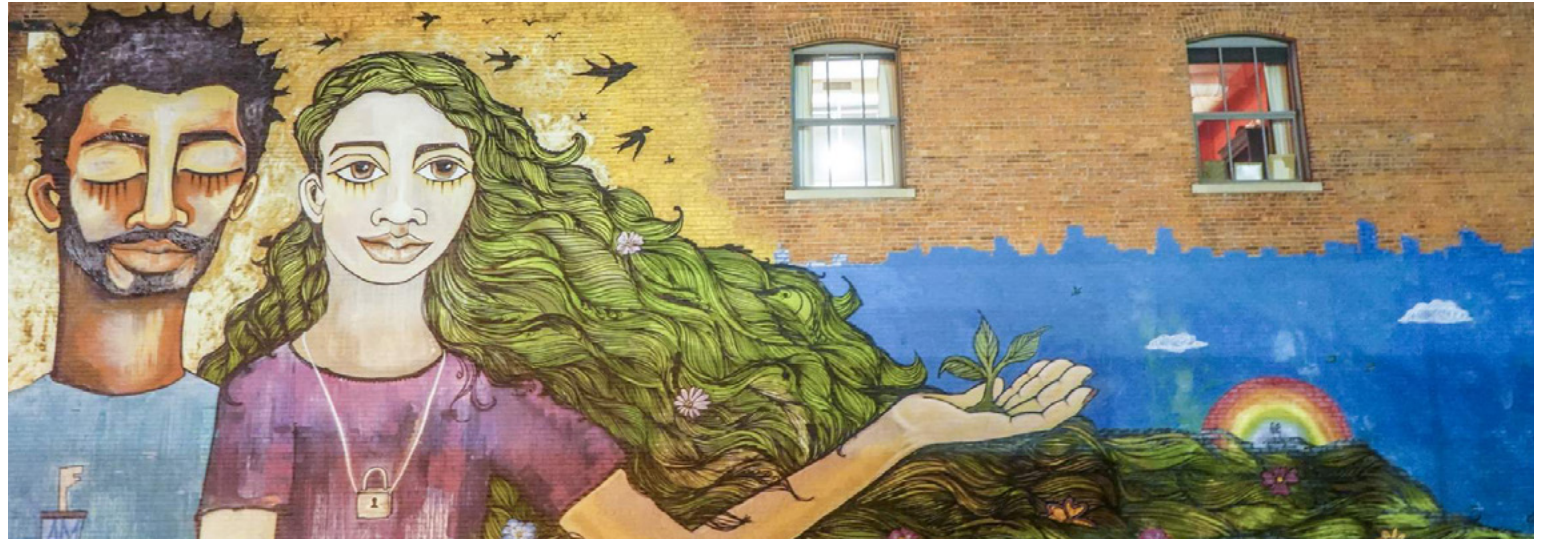
Source: Census 2015–2019 Data Contains: 14 Census Tracts

Note: The category "Single with Children" includes all families that are "Single Female with Children", so all categories do not add up to 100 %.

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Voyage by Chuck Tingley. Photo: Google

The WITHIN WNY quality of life planning process, developed with neighborhood partners, uses a comprehensive approach to create a neighborhood action plan that addresses neighborhood priorities across [LISC program areas](#) including Affordable Housing, Community Leadership, Creative Placemaking, Economic Development, Education, Financial Stability, Health, Safety & Justice, and Sports & Recreation. It embodies the LISC model of grounding the pooled public and private resources LISC has access to in local communities by working with place-based neighborhood partners.

The three neighborhood areas located just east of Main Street were selected to launch the new livability planning program based on identified historic disinvestment patterns and the greatest gaps in health and wealth equity compared to the rest of the region. Simultaneously, in late 2019, early 2020, LISC Western New York was building a team to carry out the livability planning program in coordination with the economic inclusion, housing, and capacity building program areas.

COVID-19

Just after hiring the first WITHIN WNY Program Officer, and as we planned for the launch of this process, our community was significantly impacted by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. LISC operations quickly moved to a virtual, work-at-home model and the new team strategized pathways to move forward in the context of the pandemic and lived realities of the communities and partners engaged in the process. The pandemic only exacerbated the health and wealth equity issues within Buffalo. We saw initial, large scale spread of the virus in Black and Brown communities, areas already more significantly impacted by underinvestment in the social determinants of health. Deaths rates resulting from the virus were also disproportionately impacting people of color. Concerted and focused efforts by community leaders like the African American Health Equity Task Force, places of worship, community centers like Delavan Grider, food providers, health

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providers like Jericho Road and GBU-AHN, and mutual aid efforts were among the most critical community responders who advocated for an intentional County and City focus on the communities of color. Testing centers, and eventually vaccine distribution hubs, were set up in Black and Brown neighborhoods, including the three planning areas, in the first wave of interventions. This intentionality helped to level out the disproportionate impact of the pandemic in these communities, though health data still shows inequities according to race and zip code.

The socioeconomic impact of the pandemic has also had a tremendous impact on the neighborhoods in all of the planning areas. First, a transition to physical isolation meant people lost their jobs and/or had to choose to continue to work in frontline or service industry jobs in the height of the risks from the virus. Children were sent home from school and/or childcare, which also meant parents made difficult decisions to balance work and childcare/schooling. Small businesses were pressed to make rapid transitions to virtual platforms or socially distant services in order to survive, otherwise many closed their doors. The neighborhood environment was brought to the forefront as families looked for safe outdoor places to go, exercise, and access resources. Walkability, food access, the quality of green space, bicycling, and transportation have been critical factors for navigating the pandemic. Affordable, safe housing, an important issue even prior to the pandemic, rose to one of the most significant concerns of families during this time. Spending more time at home meant the need for stable housing with broadband access and adequate utilities. While the renewed focus on these inequities by multi-sector partners is promising, communities continue to be challenged by circumstances related to under investment in their environments and social and economic systems that support their families.

Racial Justice

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the obvious and known race-related health and economic inequities locally and nationally. This was compounded by the renewed racial justice movement that followed the unjust murder of George Floyd by police, also in early 2020. George Floyd’s murder was one among many cases of police brutality and murder in the media in 2020. Black Lives Matter brought communities together, amid the pandemic, to demand justice and equity. Locally, Buffalo experienced both the raised community awareness and action and the effects of police brutality.

Organizations and government entities demonstrated a renewed commitment to racial justice and a new wave of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice advocacy continues to be a priority. In this moment, organizations also are beginning to understand the need to center race in order to more effectively close wealth and health equity gaps throughout communities.

**APPENDIX A
PROCESS
TIMELINE**

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX C

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pre 2020

2004

Masten Park Cold Springs Housing Competition

2017–2018 LISC

City of Buffalo hire Urban Design Associates to conduct neighborhood outreach around Masten Park/Cold Spring Housing Goals

2019

East Side Avenues Starts

HUD Section 4 funding administered to BUDC for a Northland Planning Grant

LISC Staff Hired for Economic Inclusion Work

2020

March

COVID-19 Work from Home Begins

April

LISC Staff Hired to manage WITHIN WNY Neighborhood Planning Work

Ongoing Economic Development Report Review-Staff collected and compiled past data to inform Economic Inclusion portion of investment plan

Outcomes: Staff gathers community’s previous feedback on Buffalo Billion, REDC Key Industries, Northland Brownfield Opportunity Area, City-released Reports, Neighborhood level reports (like 2017 Fillmore Streetscape Plan, 2004 Masten Neighborhoods Plan, ROCC Studies, etc)

May

AARP Funding Received for Pride in Place. In partnership with the Buffalo Center for Health Equity

August

6 Livability Meetings Summer 2020 - Goals: Learn about each organization’s top 3 goals and opportunities for collaboration

September

Attorney General’s Affordable Housing 101 Training Released. 8 entities receive pre-dev funding and expected to produce 382 units of affordable housing

October

First Equitable Neighborhood Development Summit kicks off with 116+ virtual attendees



**APPENDIX A
PROCESS
TIMELINE**

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX C

CONTRIBUTIONS

2021

January

Prospect Hill Consulting is hired by LISC team for data mapping and HUB Site development

February–June

Outcomes: Staff gathers data relative to Buffalo Green Code, Main Street e-TOD, Buffalo Sewer Green Infrastructure

Intensive Multi-Sector Data Collection

LISC National Resources available for Economic Inclusion. LISC partners with Buffalo Urban League (BUL)

July

HUD Section 4 funding to Buffalo Urban League assists in hiring Jacques Consulting for outreach assistance.

Economic Inclusion Steering Team Formed

Eight Economic Inclusion Focus Groups: Commercial Districts, Creative & Cultural Economy, Workforce Development, Real Estate, Main Street Businesses (x2), Childcare Economy, New American Business Owners

Regional Housing Report Released in partnership with Partnership for the Public Good

August

Moving Forward Together funding received with several housing partners for East Side modular housing developments

Four public engagement sessions occur at Kuleta Pamoja, Funk Fest, Manna @ Northland, SuperStreet

Individual Interviews ongoing with Economic Inclusion & Livability Partners-Summer 2021

September

Virtual Scenario Planning Event - Sept 2021

Interactive Digital HUB Site available to the public

October

Presentation of Shifting the Narrative: ROI on Healthy Communities

All data and engagement materials get compiled in WITHIN East Side Report draft



APPENDIX A

PROCESS

TIMELINE

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX C

CONTRIBUTIONS

2021–2022

November–January 2022

6-part Commercial District Management 101 Training Released. Administered by LISC in partnership with ESA. Nov 2021–Jan 2022

Weeks of partner interviews on WITHIN Report for public feedback and investment plan endorsement through Q1 2022

February

Finalist for NYSERDA Clean Neighborhoods Challenge with HOCN, GOBike, SMI, East Side Bike Club, BNMC, CEJ

April

Implementation Council Convenings Kick Off April 2022

May–December

Finalized WITHIN Report is launched

Ongoing fundraising for Investment Plan Implementation

Continue Implementation Council convenings as funding allows.



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

means that a household’s housing costs, including energy, does not exceed 30% of its gross monthly (family) income.

ARPA

American Rescue Plan Act

BIPOC

Black and/or Indigenous People of Color

CDFI

Community Development Financial Institution

CDBG

Community Development Block Grant

DIVERSITY

The terms that most often come to mind are race, ethnicity, and gender - though the term “diversity” is also used in relation to age, national origin, religion, difference of ability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, language, and physical appearance. It also involves different ideas, perspectives and values.

EQUITABLE / EQUITY

is dealing fairly and equally with all concerned.

ERAP

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

ESA

East Side Avenues

E-TOD

Equitable Transit Oriented Development

HOME

Housing Opportunities Made Equal

INCLUSION

Authentically bringing traditionally excluded individuals and/or groups into processes, activities, and decision/policy making in a way that shares power.

MWBE

Minority and/or Women-Owned Business Enterprise

MOBILITY

is the ability to move or be moved freely and easily.

MULTI-MODAL

simply means involving several different forms of activities.

OPEN4

A private funding initiative focused on regional inclusive entrepreneurship

RACIAL WEALTH GAP

The rate at which white householders own their homes compared to African American householders. Further, the overarching housing values in African American predominant neighborhoods are just a third of values in the region’s predominantly white neighborhoods.

RACIAL INCOME GAP

This refers to the income gap between white residents in the region and Black and Latino residents. In Buffalo-Niagara, this gap is more than doubled for white residents compared to Black and Latino residents.

SECTION 8

The housing choice voucher program is the federal government’s major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.

TOD

Transit Oriented Development

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**AFRICAN HERITAGE
FOOD COOP**

ALBRIGHT KNOX

AMERICAN AXLE

BCCWNY

Black Chamber of Commerce
Western New York

**BEAU FLEUVE MUSIC &
ARTS**

**BELMONT HOUSING
RESOURCES FOR WNY,
INC.**

BFNC

Buffalo Federation of
Neighborhood Centers

BFNHS

Broadway Fillmore
Neighborhood
Housing Services

BNMC

Buffalo Niagara
Medical Campus

BTRU

Buffalo Transit Riders United

BUDC

Buffalo Urban
Development Corporation

**BUFFALO FOOD
EQUITY NETWORK**

**BUFFALO FREEDOM
GARDENS**

BUFFALO GO GREEN

BUL

Buffalo Urban League

BURA

Buffalo Urban
Renewal Agency

CANISIUS COLLEGE

CAO

Community Action
Organization

CATHOLIC HEALTH

CDC

Community Development
Corporation

CDFIS

Community Development
Financial Institutions

**CEDARLAND
DEVELOPMENT**

CEJ

Center for Economic Justice

CEL

Center for Entrepreneurial
Leadership

CITIZEN'S ALLIANCE

CITY OF BUFFALO

**COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
GROUPS**

COMMUNITY FIRST

CTRC

Central Terminal
Restoration Corporation

**DEVELOPING OUR
TRANSIT FUTURE
PARTICIPANTS**

DOT

NYS Department of
Transportation

EAST SIDE AVENUES

EAST SIDE BIKE CLUB

EAT OFF ART

ECIDA

Erie County Industrial
Development Agency

ECMC

Erie County Medical Center

EFORALL

Entrepreneurship
for All Erie County

ESA

East Side Avenues

**ETOD COORDINATING
COMMITTEE**

FBCLT

Fruit Belt Community
Land Trust

FILLMORE FORWARD

FOOD FOR THE SPIRIT

FOOD FUTURES WNY

GBNRTC

Greater Buffalo Niagara
Regional Transportation
Council

GJABA

Greater Jefferson Avenue
Business Association

GOBIKE BUFFALO

GRASSROOTS GARDENS

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HEALTHY CORNER STORES INITIATIVE

HOCN
 Heart of the City
 Neighborhoods

HOME
 Housing Opportunities
 Made Equal

HOME HEADQUARTERS

IDA
 Incremental Development
 Alliance

INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

LINCOLN MEMORIAL CHURCH

LISC (WNY)
 Local Initiatives
 Support Corporation
 (Western New York)

LIVE WELL ERIE

MASTER GARDENERS

MATT URBAN CENTER MISSION IGNITE

MOM MARKET
 Market on Michigan
 A

NFTA
 Niagara Frontier
 Transportation Authority
 Northland Campus

NYPA
 New York Power Authority

OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY

ONE REGION FORWARD

OPEN4
 A private funding initiative
 focused on regional
 inclusive entrepreneurship

PAPPY MARTIN LEGACY JAZZ COLLECTIVE

PROJECT RAINFALL

REGION CENTRAL

RE-TREE WNY

ROCC
 Restore Our Community
 Coalition

SALVATION ARMY

SBDC
 Small Business
 Development Center

SHARED MOBILITY INC.

ST. JOHN'S CREDIT UNION

STAND UP BUFFALO

THE EXCHANGE AT BEVERLY GRAY

THE FOUNDRY

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

UFV
 Urban Fruits & Veggies

ULI
 Urban Land Institute

URBAN PLAN 4ALL

WAKANDA ALLIANCE

WBC
 Canisius Women's
 Business Center

WNY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

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Team Support

LISC WNY, with the financial support of the John R. Oishei Foundation, provided capacity and technical support through staff and consultant teams throughout the WITHIN program.

Consultants

Prospect Hill Consulting LLC and JBK Consulting

Prospect Hill is a small, NYS Certified Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) LLC located in the Prospect Hill Historic District within the vibrant West Side community of Buffalo, NY. Prospect Hill has more than 60 years of combined nationwide experience in the environmental consulting industry and provided all of the GIS mapping data analyses, design, construction, and maintenance of the HUB site throughout the WITHIN program. JBK Consulting provided scenario planning analyses, education, and training support for LISC and community partners.

White Bicycle and Renata Toney

White Bicycle is a nationally recognized branding team based in Buffalo, New York. White Bicycle focuses on brand strategy, brand design, and brand content. Part studio, part agency, they are a group of creatives who integrate strategy, project management, and client collaboration into our process. White Bicycle contracted with Renata Toney, owner of On Message Communication and Public Relations Strategist at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, to design and develop the WITHIN WNY / East Side brand and messaging. This incredible report document design was also generated through White Bicycle.

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The Buffalo Urban League empowers African Americans, other minorities, and disadvantaged individuals to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights. The Buffalo Urban League partnered with Jaques Garcia of Jacques Planning & Consulting Services, LLC to provide support for WITHIN East Side community outreach and focus groups focused on topics in economic inclusion during the summer of 2021.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

LISC WNY

Julie Barrett O’Neill, LISC WNY Executive Director 2018-2022;

- Local Government Relations
- Housing processes, including the Regional Housing Market Study, Moving Forward Together Housing proposal and Mission Based Affordable Housing program.

Tyra Johnson Hux, LISC WNY Operations Director;

- Support for emerging Black developers through the Community Based Real Estate Development Training
- Built synergies and connections with regional economic development players
- Anchor institution & workforce development strategies
- Manages our local small business grant programs (ie. General Motors)
- Co-authored the Regional Inclusive Economic Development Agenda

Kate Rebhan, Nonprofit Coaching & Capacity Support

- Provided one on one assistance to nonprofit organizations
- Manages our LISC AmeriCorps & Section 4 grant programs
- Manages all general office grants and contract management

Saira Siddiqui, Neighborhood Business Support

- Manages neighborhood based economic development initiatives, including commercial corridor program management and placekeeping initiatives
- Co-authored the Regional Inclusive Economic Development Agenda
- Co-authored the WITHIN East Side Neighborhood Plan
- Assisted in AARP Pride in Place project & early win activities

Brittany Perez, Livability Program Support

- Secured AARP grant funding for the Pride in Place project & early win activities
- Secured Regional Plan Association funding
- Manages LISC’s health equity portfolio inclusive of transportation and food access work
- Co-authored the WITHIN East Side Neighborhood Plan

Maggie Hamilton Winship, Real Estate & Lending Support

- Support for emerging Black developers through the Community Based Real Estate Development Training
- Mission Based Affordable Housing & Affordable Housing 101 Trainings
- Provides direct financing & real estate assistance to partner organizations and businesses

Thank you.