The “Art” in Floodplain Mitigation: Sculpting a Community Asset & Economic Driver
City of Ann Arbor
Kingsley and First Street Rain Garden

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Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Project History
3. Project Concept
4. Stewardship & Management
5. Community Asset
6. Budget & Results
Introduction

Location: N. First St. and W. Kingsley St.
2 History

- Allen Creek enclosed in early 1920s
- House constructed 1924
- Remained unoccupied after 2000 event
PDM Grant Application

- 2007 Flood Mitigation Plan made City eligible for FEMA Mitigation Grants
- Attorney’s Office involved in enforcement, but grant a more palatable process with voluntary owner
- 2009 filed grant application
  
  Cost Estimate $288,964.00
  Federal Share Percentage 75% - $216,723.00
  City Stormwater Fund Share Percentage 25% - $72,241.00
Rain Event: Flooding
March 15, 2012
3 Project Concept

- Leave a depression for a rain garden
- FEMA requested the City take the rain garden out of the grant application
- November 10, 2010 FEMA Grant accepted by the City
- Properties purchased on February 24, 2012
- Purchase price $185,000
- $60,400 less than anticipated in the 2009 grant application
About $28,000 of City Stormwater Funds identified in the CIP to cover the rain garden costs and hire Consultant National Call for Artist (22 Submissions) Three finalist selected for final interviews City commissioned Joshua Wiener of Boulder, CO. through Arts Commission Public input on final concept as various venues and events over two months
Demolition:
September 10, 2012
Site Stabilization

Placement of Engineered Soil & Finish Grading

Planting: August 18, 2014
Art Installation:
August 18, 2014
Stewardship/Management:
- Washtenaw County provides staff through Raingarden Program
- City pays the County Staff
Stewardship/Management:
- Prescription Ecological Burns
- Weeding
Fish Fry / Smoked Fish

March 6, 2016
In 2005 The Multi-hazard Mitigation Council documented that FEMA flood mitigation dollars have a 4 to 1 cost benefit ratio.
5 Community Asset

Oct. 2015
“20 developments to watch around downtown Ann Arbor”
6 Budget & Results

Final Project Budget

- Purchase and Demo - $226,621.77
  - FEMA Share $169,966.33 (75%)
  - City Share (Storm) $56,655.44 (25%)
- Rain Garden (Storm) - $27,940.00
- Art Installation (Art) - $24,970.00

- Total FEMA - $169,966.33
- Total City - $109,565.44
- Grand Total - $279,531.77
Results

- FEMA funded purchase and removal of 1 structure
- Community invested in creating a community asset
- 3 additional structures mitigated with private funds
- Redevelopment of safer structures spurred
Questions?

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