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.
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
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
Project Concept continued

• 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
4 Stewardship & Management

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.
Community Asset

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

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
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