

The UB Center for Urban Studies

Strategies for Strengthening Communities  
PD&R Office of University Partnerships

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# The New Battlefield: Urban Education and Neighborhood Redevelopment

April 23 - 26, 2012

New Orleans

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## **Purpose of Presentation**

- The Relationship between Underperforming Schools and Distressed Neighborhoods in Buffalo
- Why We Sought to Move Beyond the Community As Classroom Initiative by Launching the Mini-Education Pipeline Strategy
- The Mini-Education Pipeline

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# **The Underperforming Public School and the Distressed Neighborhood Problem**



- Develop Students who are Critically Conscious
- Produce Civically Engaged Citizens who are Committed to Remaking Troubled Neighborhoods and Building a Better world....

# Must Transform Schools & Distressed Neighborhoods at the Same Time.

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# The Underperforming School Problem

On the Road to Nowhere ....





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# The Futures Academy Story

# A Problem-Based Pedagogy



## Students Learning About the Fruit Belt Neighborhood



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## Connecting Futures Academy to Neighborhood Revitalization

# The Community as a Classroom Initiative

*Using Knowledge and Skills Learned in the Classroom to work with Others to Solve Neighborhood Problems....*







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# **The Clean-A-Thon Project**

# Our Place



# Collective Work and Responsibility



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# **The Community Art Project**

# Using Community Art to Change the Visual Image of the Community



# Turning Abandoned Houses Into Works of Art

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# A Wall of Respect



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# Grappling with Simulated Problems

## **The Future City Competition**

Learning How Public Policies Shape  
the City and Their Neighborhood



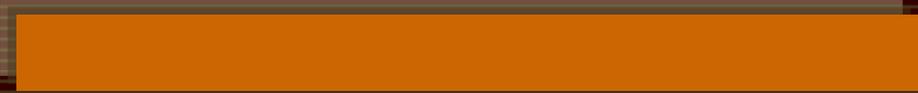


# Urban Agriculture

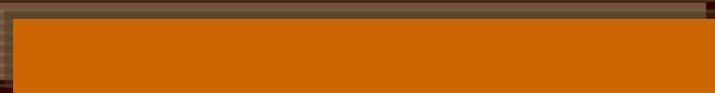


# Harvesting the Mustard Seeds





# Upscaling the Futures Academy Initiative





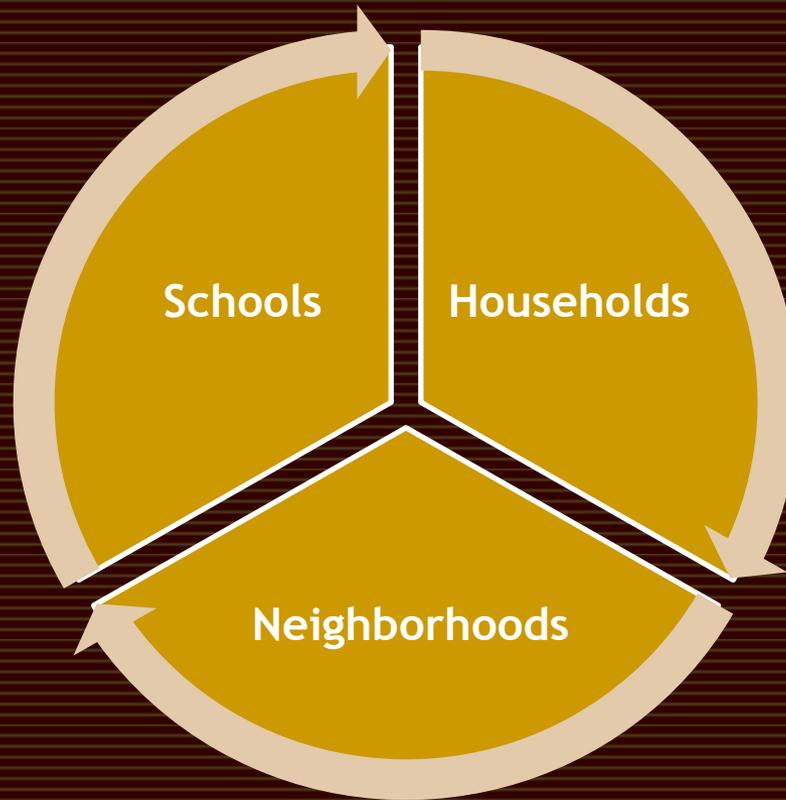
Futures Academy is Just  
One School....

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# Rethinking the Education Strategy

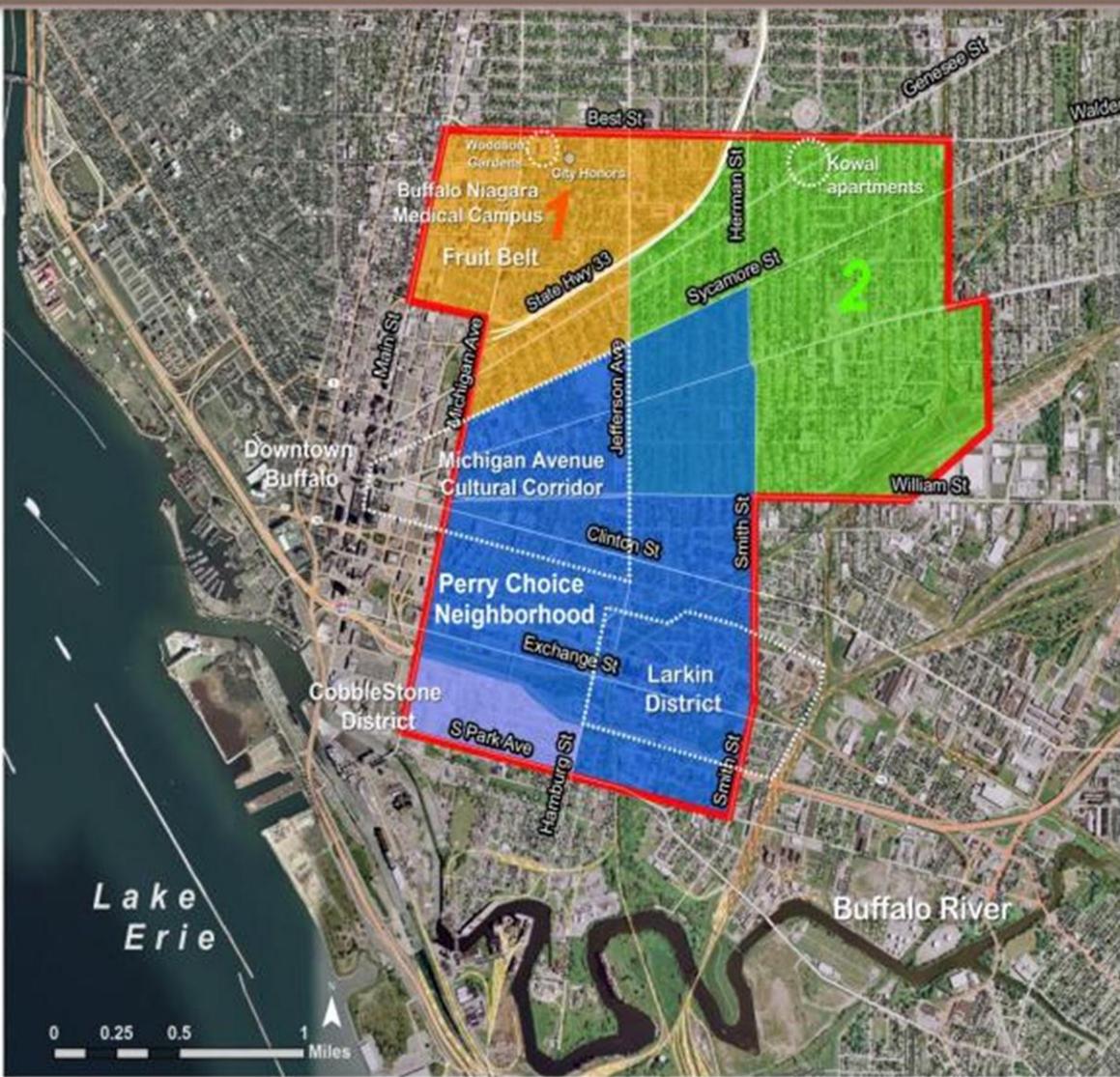
# Most Important Venues in Child's Life

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# **The Mini-Education Pipeline Strategy**



Kowal apartments

■ Potential Build Sites



Woodson Gardens



**Site Location Map**

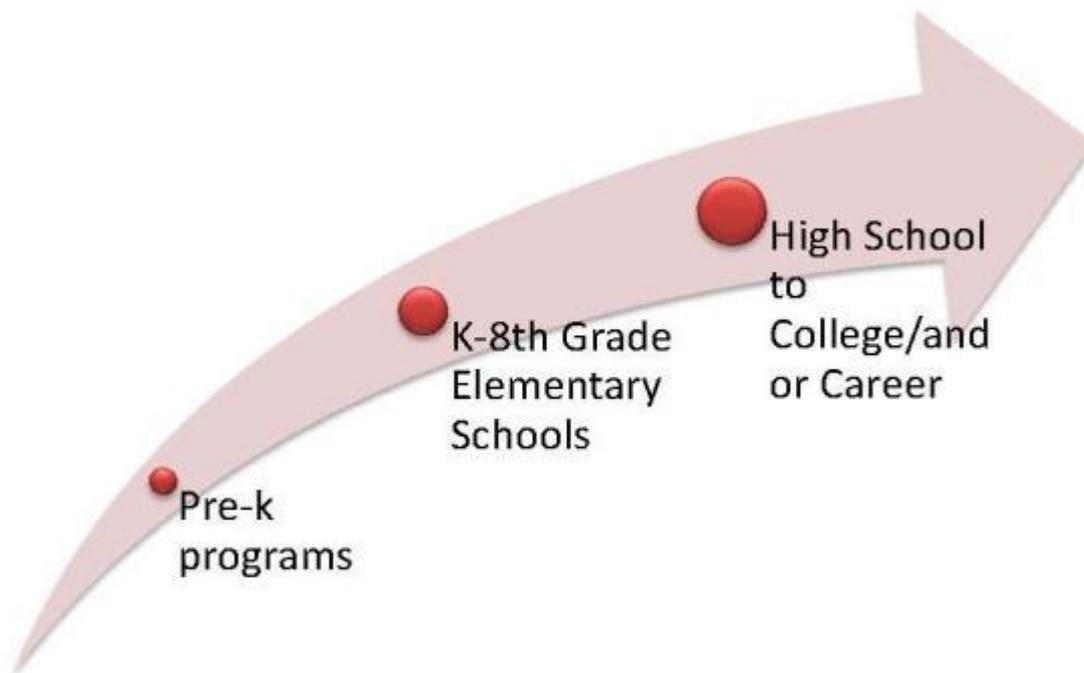
**Legend**

- Commodore Perry
- Perry Choice Neighborhood
- Development Area 1
- Development Area 2

# Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant



## The Mini-Education Pipeline System



# The Children Will Need Help With Their Studies





**Most Public Schools already have a Network of Partners that Provide Academic Enrichment & Supportive Service Programs.**



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# **Building the Mini-Education Pipeline**

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# Management Framework

Early Learning  
Programs

Academic  
Enrichment and  
Supportive  
Services

UB Academic  
Summer Camp on  
Neighborhood  
Development

School/Household  
/Neighborhood  
Connector

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Meet with Superintendent and School Board

Build Relationship with Principals

Get the Academic Enrichment and Support Services on Board.

Engage in Joint Planning

Establish Performance Indicators

Implement Program in Phases

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The purpose of education is to equip students with the skills needed to earn a living and to create a world worth living in....

**Thank You!**