

Preliminary Notes:

Toward a Transformational Partnership in Higher Education, Economic Development and Place-Making

Phase 1- Thinking about Higher Education, Economic Development and Place-Making

- Write and share with others inspirational, practical and theoretical content needed to initiate civic personalities into thinking about a transformational partnership in higher education, economic development and place-making with a public university.
- Safeguard Lakewood's interest in public education and higher learning through an effective and innovative community/university partnership.
- Consider the public university as an engine for economic development and place-making in Lakewood.
- Localize higher education in Lakewood's place-making and economic development strategies.
- Restructure space with adaptive re-use of churches and schools through partnership with a public university.
- Break open narrowly defined disciplines and institutional interests for innovation in policy, action and delivery of public service informed by transformational circuits of higher learning.
- Embed the knowledge economy in Lakewood's efforts to realize the life of the good city through partnership with a public university.
- Bring Lakewood's specific cultural, economic, environmental, historical, political and psycho-demographic circumstances into circuits of public higher learning.
- Enhance individual and community perceptions about belonging, difference, identity, learning, place and value through a transformational partnership with a public university.
- Know the emotional stakes. Articulate the attachments and challenges that drive Lakewood's civic life, mixed economy and social capital, both positive and negative. Include fear factors concerning speculation, sprawl, and urban decay. Ultimately it is upon such factors that the rules of transformation governing the partnership will make a difference, which is productive of the good life in 21st Century Lakewood.

- Join Lakewood City Hall’s planning, policy-making and education to place-making and economic development strategies through partnership with a public university.
- Improve habits of learning, living, thinking and working in the creative/knowledge economy from Lakewood’s neighborhood level toward the Cleveland/Akron metropolitan region and beyond toward Pittsburg and Buffalo.
- Create world class opportunities for public higher education in Lakewood that will appeal to foreign markets.
- Re-negotiate the cost of public higher education for Lakewood citizens.

Phase 2 – Dreaming about Lakewood’s Food Court for Higher Education

- Imagine a Food Court for Higher Education in Lakewood.
- Introduce to civic personalities and prospective university partners transformational concepts concerning the university service center. That is to say, how can the partnership make a difference in the place, person, and institution of public higher education.
- Determine the feasibility of attracting a bricks and mortar university service center to Lakewood. The university service center will encourage citizens and institutions to define and shape the future of the good city in the 21st Century through higher learning, effective place-making and innovative economic development strategies.
- Field a team of committed and intelligent civic personalities that will represent Lakewood in efforts to engage a public university in conversation about a transformational partnership. This partnership will focus on creating and sustaining an effective bricks and mortar university service center that will transform Lakewood and access to public higher education.
- Build a coherent bottom-up, bottom sideways strategy for exploring how Lakewood’s “difference factor” – i.e. the assets – civic know-how, collective intelligence, community loyalty, facilities, interpersonal power, institutional relationships, land, material resources, multicultural mosaic – might compel a transformational partnership between the city and a public institution of higher education.
- Determine issues, means and ends that Lakewood civic personalities want the university to engage through transformational partnership.
- Survey Lakewood institutions concerning baseline educational needs and civic/economic development aspirations.

- Provide Lakewood data, dreams, models, planning tools and stories to the prospective university partner.
- Explore the prospective university's ability and commitment to remove constraints on imagination and invention both in its engagement as transformational partner, and in its delivery of higher learning to Lakewood's aspirants.
- Address macro-economic issues upfront. Underscore such driving factors as the affordability crisis in higher education, economic restructuring in the public sector, the need to explore protectionist strategies for public goods such as higher education, schools, and libraries in the face of globalizing market and privatization dynamics.
- Ascertain the prospective public university's capacity engage societal dimensions in economic development strategies that create access and value for Lakewood aspirants.

Phase 3 – Assessing the Market for Baseline Product

- Survey Lakewood institutions – schools, hospital, businesses - concerning baseline educational needs and civic/economic development aspirations.
- Identity expectations, interests, institutions, markets and protocols that will support and sustain the partnership in transformational dimensions.
- Assess the affective and cognitive capacity of partners to advance the transformational partnership prototype, which can make a difference on local and regional levels.
- Explore with employers, landlords and university officials how the prototype for Lakewood's place-making student internships (live/work/study) can be developed into a creative, intelligent approach to civic life and economic development.
- Locate existing sites for delivery of baseline products in public higher education.
- Develop a collaborative platform and scope of commitment to launch the partnership. This platform should provide a necessary baseline of institutional higher education needs and commitments to advance the partnership.
- Determine scope of partnership.
- Establish the baseline for initial engagement.
- Articulate the expected duration of initial engagement and evaluation criteria.

Phase 4 - Climbing the Ladder of Learning

- Establish for Lakewood the ladder of learning that will advance the transformational partnership. That is to say, articulate the rungs or levels of public university product, program, experience, and transformational engagement needed to sustain the partnership for mutual advantage.
- Examine the service commitment and transformational capacity of the university to enact, adjust and sustain the ladder of higher learning over time.
- Create among citizens and students intelligent place-based visionary leadership, policy, action and delivery through community partnership with a public institution of higher education.
- Devise new strategies of economy – exchange, reciprocity, redistribution – to address the affordability crisis in public higher education and provide a sense of belonging and value to Lakewood aspirants.
- Consider the use of an adjunct Lakewood faculty compensated in complementary currency.
- Explore collaborations with other public institutions to create civic learning experiences, honors college internships, interdisciplinary institutes, which would be uniquely suited to Lakewood's engage strengths and weaknesses in transformational ways.
- Inform local, state politicians about the transformational partnership vision.
- Obtain grants to advance the transformational partnership vision.