

project	ROXBURY:GARDENS
location	ROXBURY, MA
client	Stephen Moore
project type	COMMUNITY PLANNING, URBAN DESIGN

neighborhood revitalization
 self-sustaining micro-economy
 promote local empowerment

rejuvenate

Based on Stephen Moore's award winning 2008 AIA Convention Dudley Square Design Competition for Best Green Design, Roxbury Gardens and its 2009 Summer Youth Design Summit, aspires to bring an understanding that neighborhood revitalization can occur through urban farming and community gardening as well as teach young people about healthy lifestyles and the importance of sustainability.

Site research found that there were an overwhelming amount of vacant, under-used and under-performing lots in Roxbury, which consist of an upwards of 3000 abandoned parcels and 90 empty homes. Within that research it was found dozens of organizations doing great work in small pockets throughout the city and in the Roxbury neighborhood to integrate learning and working opportunities in sustainability. Whether its green jobs or vacant lot gardens/parks, good work is happening. Partnering with these groups - bringing their efforts to light and hopefully adding to their underlying goal - we believe is the key to the success of this project.

The goals of the project is to create a model of urban rejuvenation that is self-generated and can be applied to other neighborhoods looking to empower communities to participate in their own revitalization by reconnecting with the earth and each other. The by-products of such efforts are the possibility of better nutrition, the creation of a local and self-sustaining micro-economy, fostering community pride and sense of ownership.

The project also intends to serve as a catalyst for the design and coordination of community revitalization strategies that could create locally-based jobs, encourage supportive mixed-use development, and forge working relationships between the entities that foster self-sustaining systems in neighborhoods.

