



# BUILDing Capacity for Erie Neighborhood Revitalization

Daria Devlin, Hamot Health Foundation Tom Hardy, AICP, Altair Consulting Group

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### **About Us**

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# Agenda

**Objectives** 

**BUILD Erie Projects** 

Vacant buildings into functional housing and commercial

Findings in the Planning Process
Housing, economic opportunity, and social determinants
of health

**Lessons Learned & Key Takeaways** 

**Pivot: The Creation of BUILD Erie** 

A Community Development Corporation creating housing

**Question & Answer** 

## **Objectives**



Review a planning framework based on the social determinants of health



Discuss how to engage partners outside of the traditional community development space



Outline key lessons learned and applications for your community



### **ECAT and Wayne Health & Wealth Equity**

# **Wayne Health & Wealth Equity District**

- > Established by Erie Center for Arts and Technology, a local nonprofit providing job training and arts education
- In 2019, ECAT purchased and renovated the Wayne School Building to be a community hub to house their programming.
  - Afterwards, ECAT started envisioning Wayne Health andWealth Equity District, a community-focused initiative to bring positive, lasting change to Erie's East Side.







#### **ECAT and the Wayne Health & Wealth Equity District**

# **Creating the Structure and Centering the Community**

Wayne Health & Wealth Equity District Community Engagement

#### 1. Neighborhood events

- Coffee in the Community
- HalloWayne
- Community Dinner
- Open House

#### 2. Resident Surveys



#### 3. Steering Committee

- Residents and local business owners as participants
- ECAT and Altair staff as facilitators

#### 4. Stakeholder Interviews

#### 5. Resident Involvement in Data Collection

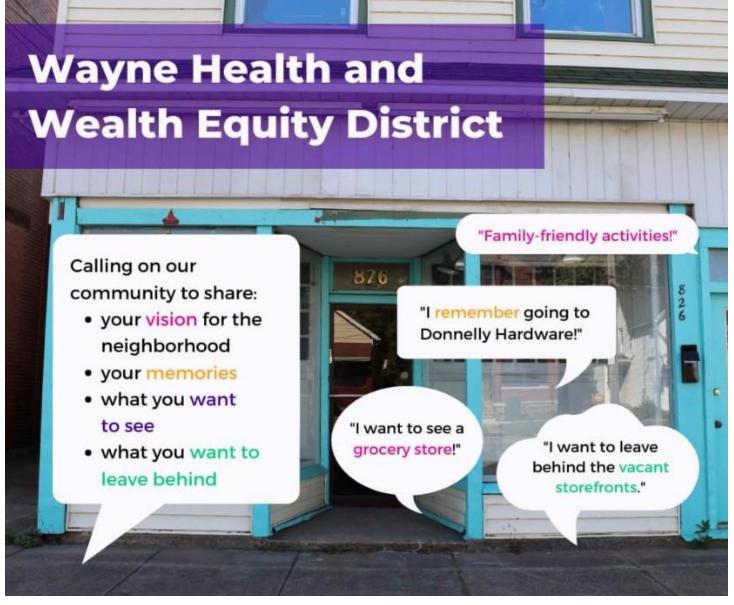
- Basic conditions analysis





# **Data Collection** & Visioning

Visioning process tapped into the sense of history and community stories.







### **Findings in the Planning Process**

# **Findings**

#### Wayne Health & Wealth Equity **District**

- > Increase and enhance opportunities for wealth building
  - Rehabilitating owner-occupied homes
  - Job and entrepreneurship training
  - Improving available housing stock and commercial space
- > ECAT lacks organizational capacity to engage in real estate development



#### **Whole Homes**



- 17% of Residential parcels are in **poor** or **unsound** condition.
- There is a concentration of poor and unsound properties in the 7th - 9th street corridors.
- Residents expressed strong demand for for **roof** and **window repair**.



#### **Entrepreneurship and Economic Mobility**

- Despite other other economic barriers, residents of the Wayne Health and Wealth District are have a comparable to higher rate of employment than the balance of Erie County. This demonstrates strong aptitude for skilling up.
- 25% of Respondents indicated they do not own a business but would like to one day.



#### Reimagine Our Way on East Ave.

- There is a strong concentration of poor and unsound properties along the 8th to 10th Street Corridor of East Avenue.
- Strong demand from residents to reactivate vacant and abandoned spaces.
- There is a cluster of vacant lots at the corner of 12th and East Avenue which could be idea for placemaking opportunities.
- The District has a younger population than the City, and opportunities should be created to engage the youth population.





### **Findings in the Planning Process**

# Social **Determinants of Health in Wayne**

- Wayne Health & Wealth Equity District census tracts 50.6% BIPOC population
  - o 33.8% BIPOC population in Erie
- In 2020, Erie County Council declared racism a public health crisis
- 24-year gap in life expectancy between underserved zip codes (including Wayne District) and Erie's privileged zip codes.



#### **Erie County Council designates** racism a public health crisis



**Matthew Rink** 

**Erie Times-News** 

Published 6:15 p.m. ET Sept. 8, 2020

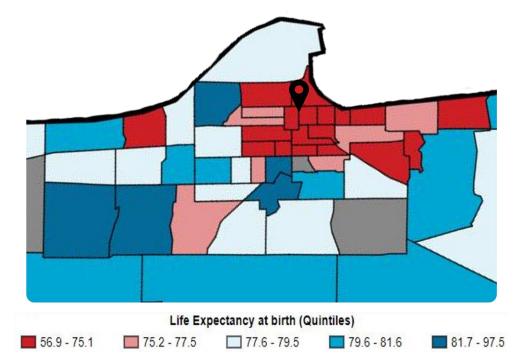








Erie County Council on Tuesday approved by a 5-2 vote a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis and expressing their intent to address the health, education, housing and economic disparities existing in Erie County.









# The Creation of **BUILD** Erie

### SDoH In Wayne Health & Wealth Equity District

- 80% of health is determined by social determinants of health
- Need for collaboration between a Community Development Corporation and Hamot Health Foundation







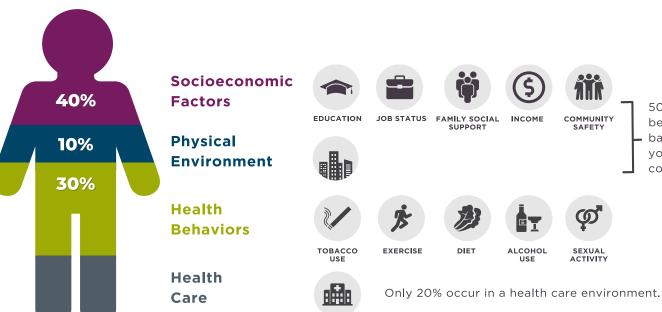
50% can

be traced

back you

vour zip

code.







### The Creation of BUILD Erie

# **BUILDing a Stronger Wayne District**

- Repairing and beautifying owner-occupied homes
- Renovating vacant or for-sale homes that are at risk for rental conversion to sell to prospective neighborhood homeowners
- Creating a UPMC Neighborhood Health Center in the Wayne District
- Intersection with ECAT's job training program by creating well-paying construction jobs in the neighborhood.



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# **UPMC** Neighborhood **Health Center**

### **BUILD Projects**

- Currently leasing four affordable upstairs units
- 8,340 square feet
- Under renovation to become UPMC's second Neighborhood Health Center















# Former Style **Station Salon**

### **BUILD Projects**

- Vacant 3+ years
- 2,984 square feet
- Three residential units
- One commercial unit (might be converted to a residential unit)













# Former Motorcycle Club

### **BUILD Projects**

- Vacant for at least three years
- 1,792 square feet
- Mixed-use building
  - One upstairs residential unit (can likely be converted to two studios
  - > One downstairs commercial storefront









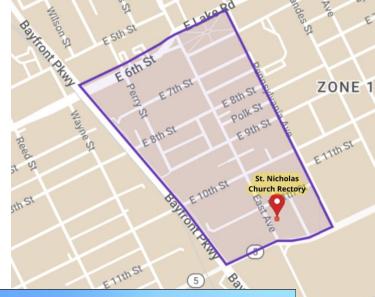




# St. Nicholas Rectory

### **BUILD Projects (Pending)**

- Former rectory, most recently a single-family home
- 2,204 square feet
- Will be converted to up to three affordable apartments









### **The Power of BUILD Erie**

### The Power of **BUILD Erie**

- Long-term, intentional community engagement
- > Setting goals based on both community desires and empirical research findings
- Collaboration with experienced organizations in their specialty area
- Geographically-focused investment
- Harnessing the two-fold power of homeownership and affordable housing













# **Lessons Learned & Key Takeaways**

- **Clear measures of success**, in this case with an emphasis on equity and social determinants of health, can help focus implementation and attract mission-aligned partners to catalyze implementation.
- A good plan includes well thought out steps toward implementation and identification of solutions to any gaps in service delivery.
- When you strike a chord, play! The process illuminated a need to help affect equity and health metrics outside the traditional planning area. And how scaling the effort regionally led to increased capacity and better outcomes



