STUDIO PRESENTATION TO:
THE ARBOR HILL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

OPEN SPACE, COMMUNITY RESOURCES & PUBLIC ARTS:
INTEGRATING ARBOR HILL
The Teams: *Three coordinated projects within one studio class*

- Advisor Gene Bunnell, PhD, AICP
- Open Space Team
- Website
- Public Arts Program

3 TEAMS - 1 MISSION
AN OVERVIEW

- How we got here and what we looked to accomplish
- Open Space
  - Providing Community Resources
- Website
  - A resource for community growth & communication
- Public Arts Program
  - Fostering pride by promoting arts in the community
Our Focus: Bringing Arbor Hill Together

Establishing links between Arbor Hill and the greater Albany area
Building off the momentum of existing initiatives

- The Albany Barn / Albany Housing Authority
  - St Joe’s Revitalization into artist’s living/working units and performance/community space; arts incubation movement
  - Housing and mixed use development underway along N. Swan Street
- Founding partnerships and initiating dialogues with committed local figures, group and agencies
- Attending community meetings over the Spring, Summer & Fall
  - Arbor Hill Neighborhood Association (AHNA)
  - Arbor Hill Implementation Team for the neighborhood plan (AHIT)
- Understanding local issues and creating a proposal for involvement!
Recognizing the community’s assets
- Rich Cultural Heritage
- Rich History
  - Role in colonial America
  - Underground Railroad
  - The life and heroics of Henry Johnson
  - Historic buildings
- Community full of committed individuals!

Strengthening the community’s resources
- Fostering pride in the community
- Facilitating communication and providing information in the Arbor Hill community
- Developing green and open space throughout the neighborhood

Connecting Arbor Hill within the community and within Albany
Parks & Open Space
North Swan Street Park

- **Project Objective:**
  - Develop schematic design for multi-use outdoor meeting place/park complementing existing basketball court at adjacent site
Parks & Open Space
North Swan Street Park

_the process_

- Reviewed prior reports, recommendation for a park at N Swan St
- Interacted with Arbor Hill community
- Acted in accordance with community goals and vision
- Visited North Swan Street and vicinity
- Feedback - Survey respondents & people interviewed on site favored an active park
- Return the neighborhood to a safer, more family-friendly environment.
Parks & Open Space
North Swan Street Park

- Gateway to the Park (Main Entrance) with information kiosk
- Decorative Stamped Concrete Walkway
- Playground Structures Sitting Areas (Benches)
- Appropriate Site Amenities
- Transition from Street to Park Elevations
- A ramp, graded from N Swan St entrance (nearest basketball courts)
- Curved Masonry Step-like Sitting Area
- tucked into the rear of the south eastern corner of the park
N Swan St Park Today
N Swan St Park
N Swan St Park
N Swan St Park
N Swan St Park
N Swan St Park
N Swan St Park
Parks & Open Space
North Swan Street Park

- Next Steps
- Developing cost estimates
- Documenting potential funding sources/grants
- Identifying leaders/advocates
What is a greenway?

- Long, thin park
- Public open space connection
- Environmentally sustainable
- Recreational facility
- Conservation of green space
- Alternative transportation

Arbor Hill Greenway

- Pedestrian greenway
- Continuous loop
- Connects parks
- Connects other public places
- Safe route to schools
- Designed for safety
- Placemaker
Mission:

- To provide an online resource that links the present to the future

Goals:

- To provide a reference and a source to the Arbor Hill community’s historic and prideful past
- Engage and involve the community in a new way
- Provide a valuable community resource
BACKGROUND:
* The studio has been structured to cultivate a sense of pride in the community
* Developing a public arts program involving the community and as part of the existing Arbor Hill Neighborhood Plan

PROJECT SCOPE:
* Create a Mural in the AHCC by engaging local youth
* A small-scale version toward developing a comprehensive public arts program
* Creating a road map for future public arts efforts (studio report)
Project Milestones

- Developing community partnerships
- Selecting a site & focusing the project
  - Community Center indoor mural
- Student design activities (drawings)
  - Engaging local youth
- Acquiring resources
- Execution
  - January 2009
- Unveiling & Celebration!
  - February 2009
Key Partners

- Arbor Hill Neighborhood Association
- Arbor Hill Implementation Team
- The Albany Housing Authority
- The Albany Barn
- Arbor Hill Community Center
- New Covenant Charter School
- Black Dimensions in Art
- SUNY Albany Artists Cooperative
- The City of Albany
- Barbara Smith, Councilwoman and Resident
Questions/Comments

Thank you