SEED TIME: 1984

WE'RE LIVING IN A FUTURE THAT WAS ORGANIZED INTO EXISTENCE





- **1984 — The Seed**

  Residents organize through DSNI to reclaim the neighborhood's future.

- **1988 — Taking Root**

  DNI is established to hold land for lasting community benefit.

- **Today — Imagination Made Material**

  Homes, gardens, parks, and community spaces carry that vision forward.

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WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is the work of nourishing the roots—our relationships, resources, and institutions—that hold the tree strong enough to bear fruit for generations.

It is the continuing practice of self-determination.



BEHIND THE HARVEST

ALL ROOTS ARE INTERDEPENDENT

THE TREE

A COMMUNITY-OWNED ASSET

THE FRUIT

STABLE HOMES · AFFORDABILITY ·
NOURISHMENT · GATHERING SPACE ·
LIVELIHOODS · COLLECTIVE POWER

THE ROOTS

- RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT AND POWER
- GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- PROPERTY AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
- FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
- LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND COMPLIANCE
- ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND CONTINUITY



YOUR ROOT SYSTEM

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

CHOOSE A REAL ASSET OR STEWARDSHIP EFFORT YOU KNOW.
WHAT SHOULD IT PROVIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY?

ASSES EACH ROOT

STRONG · NEEDS STRENGTHENING · NOT YET IN PLACE · UNKNOWN

ONE ROOT WHERE YOU WOULD WELCOME HELP

- WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE?
- WHAT'S ALREADY IN PLACE, OR WHAT HAVE YOU TRIED?
- WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE HELP THINKING THROUGH?

DEVELOPING A NEW EFFORT? CONSIDER THE ROOTS YOU NEED TO ESTABLISH.

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PEER EXCHANGE



1 MINUTE: INTRODUCE YOUR ASSET OR EFFORT AND SHARE YOUR CHALLENGE.

2 MINUTES: PARTNERS ASK QUESTIONS AND OFFER EXPERIENCES, IDEAS, OR RESOURCES.

WHAT HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED?

WHAT HAVE YOU TRIED?

WHAT MIGHT HELP?

CHOOSE YOUR STORM



CHOOSE ONE ASSET OR EFFORT YOUR GROUP DISCUSSED.
SELECT A DISRUPTION THAT FITS:

- URGENT REPAIR: AVAILABLE RESERVES WON'T COVER THE COST.
- STAFF DEPARTURE: A KEY PERSON LEAVES UNEXPECTEDLY.
- RESIDENT CHALLENGE: RESIDENTS SAY THEY WERE EXCLUDED FROM A DECISION.
- FUNDING LOSS: A FUNDING SOURCE ENDS; RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUE.

THE STORM TEST

- WHICH ROOTS ARE UNDER PRESSURE?
- WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN FIRST, AND WHO SHAPES THAT RESPONSE?
- WHAT PEOPLE, RESOURCES, OR AGREEMENTS CAN WE DRAW ON?
- WHAT WOULD WE STRENGTHEN FOR THE LONG HAUL?

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ROOTS & STORMS
LESSONS FROM STEWARDING AN AGING LAND TRUST

FINANCING HEALTHY HOMES

IMPACTED ROOT

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

STORM

AGING HOMES NEED REPAIRS. HOMEOWNERS HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, LONG-TERM FINANCING THAT WORKS WITH CLT OWNERSHIP.

INTERVENTION

WE'RE BRINGING HOMEOWNERS, LENDERS, AND ENERGY PARTNERS TOGETHER TO PILOT AFFORDABLE FINANCING FOR REPAIRS AND CLIMATE UPGRADES THAT KEEP CLT HOMES HEALTHY, SAFE, AND AFFORDABLE, WHILE BUILDING A MODEL OTHER COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS CAN USE.

LESSON

PERMANENT AFFORDABILITY REQUIRES ONGOING INVESTMENT.



LANGUAGE JUSTICE AND RESIDENT GOVERNANCE

IMPACTED ROOT

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT AND POWER

STORM

LANGUAGE ACCESS PRACTICES WEREN'T EMBEDDED IN THE ORGANIZATION. STAFFING CHANGES AND INSUFFICIENT FUNDING ERODED THE INFRASTRUCTURE, WEAKENING PARTICIPATION AND GOVERNANCE.

INTERVENTION

WE'RE REBUILDING THE TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LANGUAGE JUSTICE SO RESIDENTS CAN PARTICIPATE, LEAD, AND SHAPE DECISIONS IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES. THIS INCLUDES INTERPRETATION EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, CLEAR STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SUSTAINED RESOURCES TO ENSURE LANGUAGE ACCESS ENDURES THROUGH STAFFING AND LEADERSHIP CHANGES.

LESSON

RESIDENT POWER DEPENDS ON ACCESS, CAPACITY, AND CONTINUITY.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

IMPACTED ROOT

PROPERTY AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

STORM

LIMITED MANAGEMENT CAPACITY AND FUNDING LED TO REACTIVE CARE, UNSUSTAINABLE PARK COSTS, AND TREE REMOVAL NEEDS HOMEOWNERS COULDN'T AFFORD.



INTERVENTION

WE RETURNED DENNIS STREET PARK TO THE CITY WITH AN MOU ESTABLISHING THAT IT WOULD REMAIN A PARK. WE'RE NEGOTIATING A NONPROFIT RATE WITH A LOCAL BLACK-OWNED LANDSCAPING COMPANY, WITH DNI COVERING PART OF THE TREE REMOVAL COSTS TO REDUCE THE BURDEN ON HOMEOWNERS. TO BUILD ONGOING STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY, WE'RE SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE THAT COULD SERVE DNI, OTHER CLTS, AND LOCAL CDCS WHILE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY.

LESSON

MEETING STEWARDSHIP NEEDS CAN ALSO BUILD COMMUNITY ECONOMIC POWER.

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A SEED FOR THE NEXT SEASON



ONE ROOT I WILL STRENGTHEN IS...

ONE ACTION I WILL TAKE IN THE NEXT 90 DAYS IS...

ONE PERSON OR PARTNER I NEED TO BUILD WITH IS...



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STAY IN TOUCH



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