

City of Rome Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

Supplemental Engagement Activity: Rooted in Rome | October 18, 2017

Meeting Attendees

Attendees ranged from:

- Real estate brokers;
- Mohawk Community College students and faculty;
- Existing and perspective City of Rome residents;
- Existing and perspective people working in the City of Rome.



Ted Liddell and Meagan Aaron from Bergmann Associates facilitated multiple interactive activities that engaged participants to think critically and give their ideas on the DRI process and projects. Three stations were set up at the Rooted in Rome event. Rooted in Rome aimed to take a fresh look at the City's assets and demonstrate why Rome is a great community for all generations to live, work, and thrive.

The following is a brief summary of the feedback received at each station.

Station 1: What is the Downtown Revitalization Initiative?

The first station gave a brief description and overview of the DRI process, goals and outcomes. Participants were encouraged to ask any questions they may have on the program, process or study area.

WHAT IS THE

DOWNTOWN?

REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE?




\$10 MILLION EACH FOR
COMMUNITIES



- The Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) is a \$10 million effort to improve the urban vitality of city centers across New York State.
- The initiative will invest \$10 million in 10 communities, transforming downtown neighborhoods into vibrant communities where the next generation of New Yorkers will want to live, work and raise families.
- The state's Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) nominated the 10 DRI communities after thoroughly evaluating each downtown's potential for transformation.



FOCUS AREAS

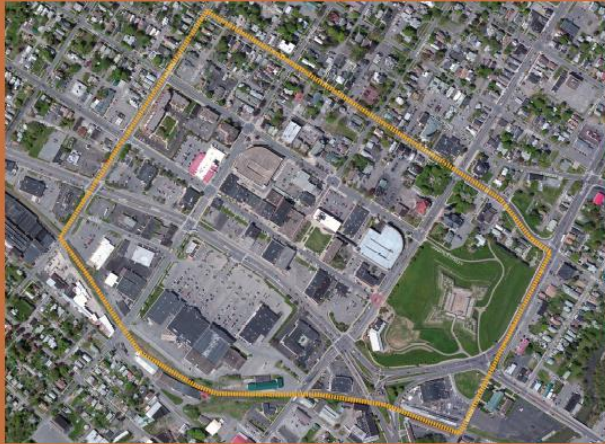
-  vibrancy
-  housing diversity
-  workforce development
-  small business development
-  arts and culture
-  connections
-  streetscapes

WHY

ROME?

- opportunities for development
- planned and ongoing investment
- strong public-private partnerships
- vibrant downtown
- real momentum

DRI BOUNDARY MAP



CONTACT

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Station 2: Where do you want the \$10 million invested?

Participants were asked to place a dot under the category they would like to see the money invested in. Most of the participants selected Arts & Culture as the category they would like to see the \$10 million invested, followed closely by small business development.



A number of the participants supported more housing being established downtown, but voiced their concern with parking. They stated that currently the downtown core experiences a shortage of parking and by increasing the number of residents in the area, the parking issue would be amplified.

- Shops
- Restaurants
- Art studios
- Bakeries
- Big box stores
- Senior living facilities



Other items identified by attendees:

- Implementing sidewalks throughout the City
- Cleaning up West Dominick Street and West Liberty Street
- Incentivize homeowners to maintain and improve their property
- Incentivize young families to stay in Rome
- Increase educational programs for at risk youth
- Promote small businesses
- Increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists during winter months
- Beautify Rome!
- Along the periphery, outside of the DRI study area participants noted that there are pockets of crime

