

4.8.08

BRAINSTORM FROM CHICAGO:

Major problems and issues facing our city?

- Fractionalized government - xx governments in Chicago region
- Economic integration - disparity
- Racial integration
- Leadership not representative of the population
- Industrial neighborhoods left behind
- Urban sprawl
- Crumbling infrastructure
- Degraded transit system
- Land use changes & shoreline development
- Storm water management
- Energy inefficiency
- Perception versus reality
- Recycling
- Corruption
- Recognizing benefits of immigrants

Solutions

- Mayors administration has a lot of environmental initiatives - enlisting Chicago Dept of the Environment and Sadhu Johnston, Chief Environmental Officer - trying to get policy in the books before end of term
- Lakeview Action Coalition
- Nonprofit sphere - center for neighborhood technology
- Olympics - making this a global and creative city, welcoming immigration
- Mayor Daley gets what he wants done (can be a negative)
- Adapting immigration laws to reality
- Public displays of affection for ethnic populations

In 20 years...

- Greener, more trees
- More equality
- Better storm water mgmt
- Better transit
- Better jobs

REPLY FROM ROCHESTER:

Hello Chicago

We both have senator's bidding for the opportunity to run for the white house - this could help to advance our causes especially if GLUE is able to get an urban agenda into the national discussion.

In terms of economic integration-disparity, getting a change in the top level of leadership with a new face could help to change things. However, we in Rochester seem to have a history of leadership that has done a "great" job of creating and maintaining segregation and economic disparity.

We feel that an important issue we both face from different sides of the same coin is the issue of perception versus reality of our cities in the national consciousness. We

here see Chicago as a member of the top tier of American cities- successful in many ways that we wish Rochester was able to emulate. Reading your concerns it seems that there are many areas that you feel could be improved upon. On the other hand, the perception of Rochester is essentially already a “failed” city- something we do not feel is entirely accurate, given the resources we still have as a community.

We have a similarity in both having really good schools.

While you don’t have the most current transportation infrastructure, the fact that you have something in tact and to work with is a good benefit.

We probably both face similar challenges in suburban sprawl but our perception is that your downtown is in better condition than our crumbling, but possibly starting to rebound, downtown.

You have a different history that is rich - you could build on this.

We share a similarity with a lakefront that is neglected and a shoreline that could be developed more sensitively. The land use/clean up of the great lakes, is a regional issue that we all will face and need to tackle that as climate change continues, we in the great lakes megaregion will need to figure out.

Our recycling system could be better but it interesting to hear that a city that is trying to bill itself as being green doesn’t have recycling.

Putting a public face on the perception versus reality may help to change/expose this more. For example, artist actions.