

# Market Driven Places

Fortifying Main Streets in cities of all sizes

North Platte, NE  
May 10, 2021



# Rich History with Great Stories

Leveraging the past to build a brighter future





# Great Bones

Irreplaceable architecture



# Leverages Previous Investment

## Streetscapes and other infrastructure





# Downtown Living History

Since 1977



# Conducted Market Research

Built a model unit





# Community-Based Developer

Incremental success





# Renewing Assets

Organic regeneration





# Housing is Pivotal

To re-densify cores of U.S. cities



# Creating a Downtown Neighborhood

One story at a time



Photo by Greg Kendall-Ball



# Abilene Reporter-News

## Upstairs Downtown: An introduction

Reporter catches glimpse in new series

By Greg Kendall-Ball

I've lived in Abilene for nearly 10 years, and for most of that decade, the empty windows above McKay's Bakery on Cypress Street have taunted me.

There were a lot of second-story spaces, it turned out, whose siren call could no longer be ignored. And with the cooperation of a few property owners, I was granted access to those spaces and given permission to share a glimpse of what's "Upstairs Downtown."

There are people living and working in these spaces, and some spaces are just waiting to be given new life. As one downtown dweller said, "There's a whole world beyond the curb."



# Economic Foundations Shifted

Jobs and complacency disappeared





# Lack of Compelling Places Regardless of Prosperity



# Compelling Places

Have strong competitive advantage





# Compelling Places

Who are your peer cities?

## Key Characteristics:

- ✓ Population (23,892)
- ✓ Interstate Location
- ✓ Community College
- ✓ Not Part of Larger Urban Area
- ✓ Midwest and Plains States
- ✓ Population 24-30,000

Hastings, NE	24,906
Austin, MN	25,114
Mason City, IA	27,200
Emporia, KS	24,607
Fort Dodge, IA	24,278
Muscatine, IA	23,774
Ottumwa, IA	24,545
Marshalltown, IA	27,053
Galesburg, IL	30,689

# Urban Landscapes Evolve

As demographics and preferences shift





# How to Become Compelling?

No simple answer



# Patient Vision

That enhances authenticity

## Project Timeline

1929 Local Architect Robert Hugman proposes “The Shops of Aragon and Romula” combining flood control and commercial development.

Hugman branded a lunatic by those who wanted to pave over and put the troublesome San Antonio river in a box culvert.

1939 Initial phase of Paseo Del Rio built with WPA funding

1968 Hemisphere expansion most significant in continuing evolution of River Walk.

1970's San Antonio emerges as a major convent



# Main Street Programs

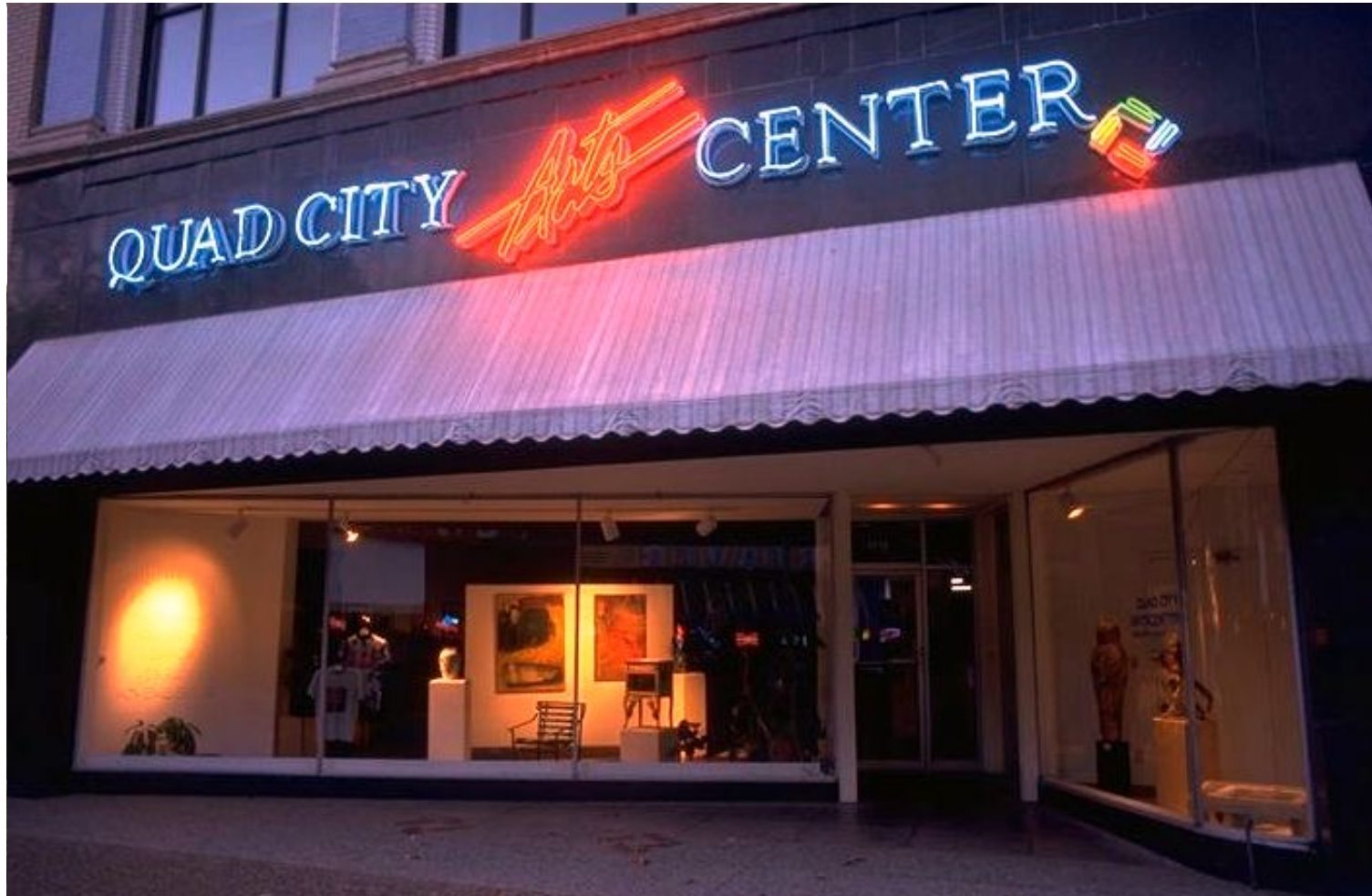
New math for austerity



$$1 + 1 = 6$$

# Main Street Programs

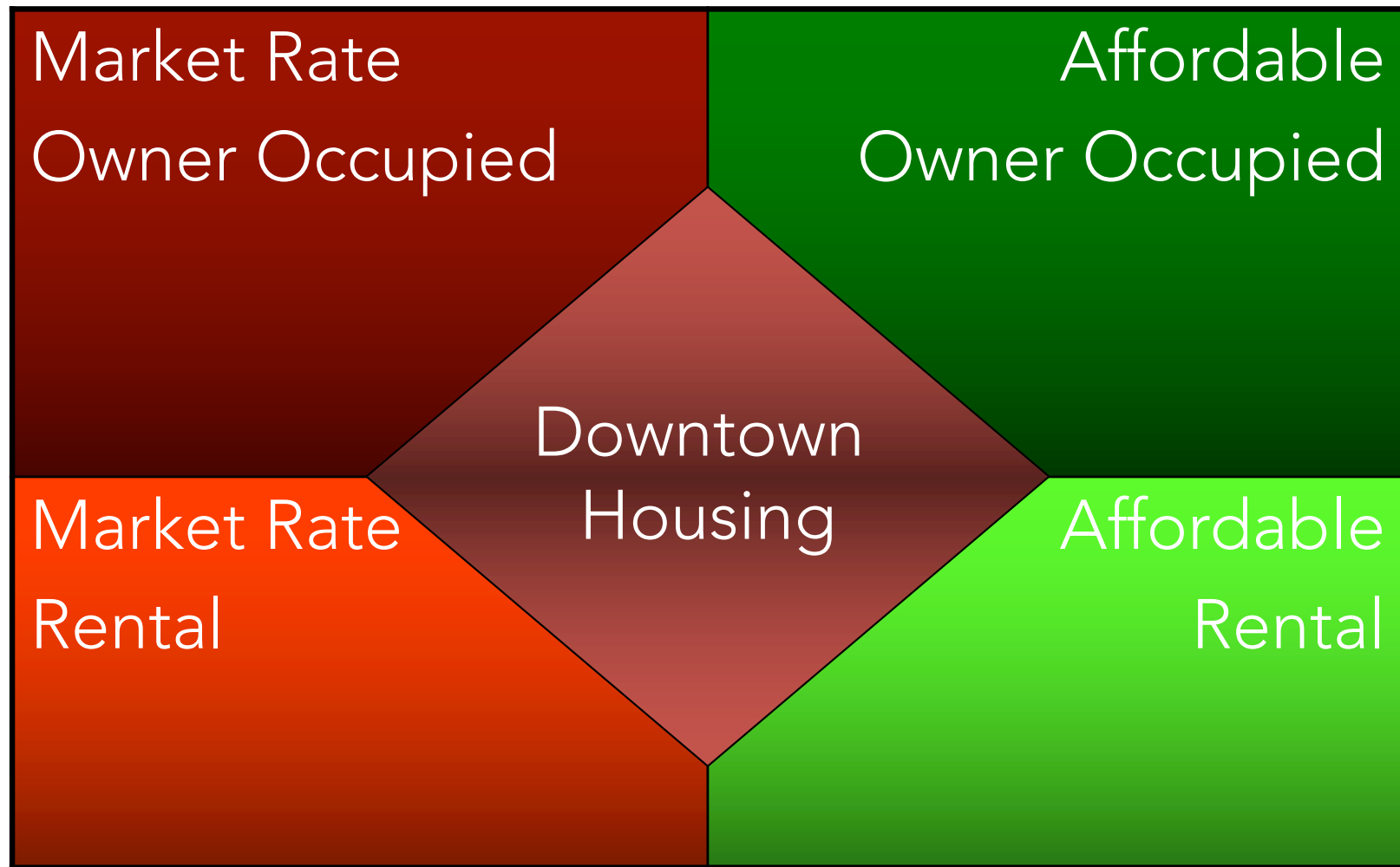
Providing the entrepreneurial spark





# Successful Downtown's Are Inclusive

It's everyone's neighborhood



# Upper Floors Are Being Activated

In cities of all sizes





# Demographics

Driving demand of urban housing forms

The most common household type found in 2010 US Census?

Couples with no kids

Second Place?

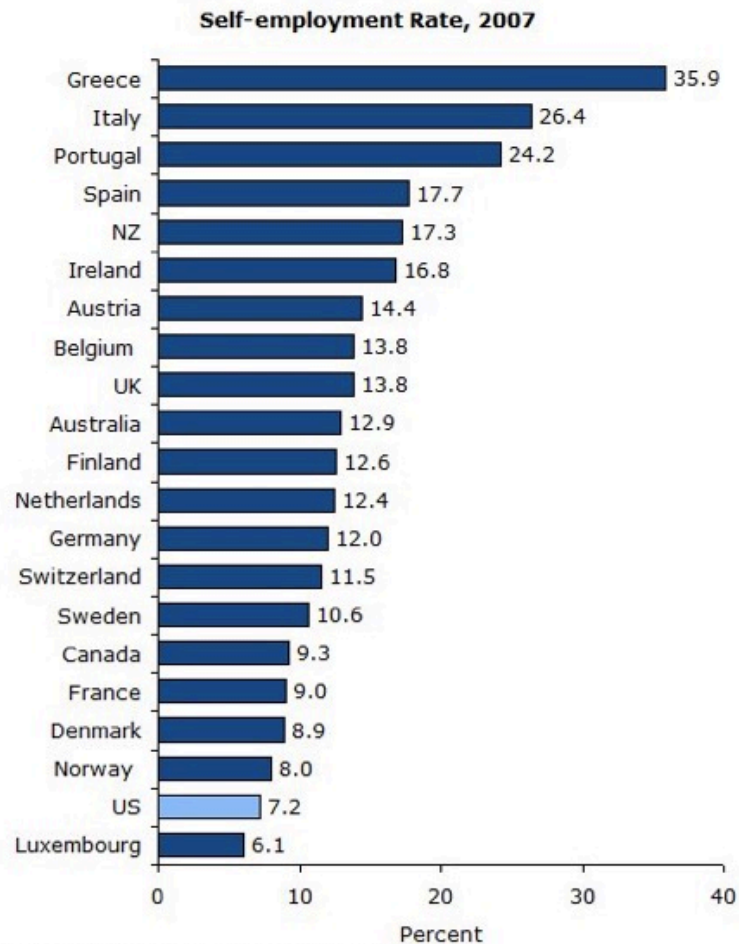
The Single Person

Only 21% of US households have school-age children



# The Future of Work

50% of the workforce will be consultants by 2025



Source: CEPR Analysis of OECD Data



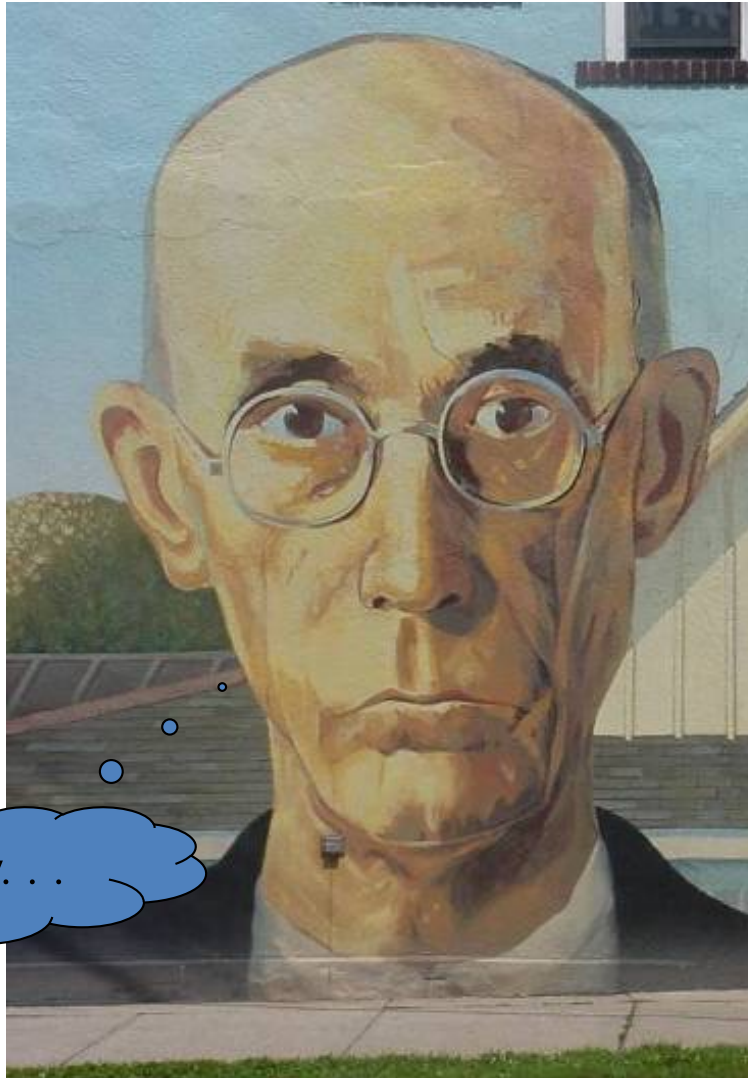
# Consumer Preferences Changes



What's a "household" ?

# What We Desire Changes

Variety of urban amenities as we age



Oh my. . .

**LIVE FREE ON THE WARD**

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*New Construction*  
*Luxury Loft Apartments*  
425 East Menomonee  
Historic Third Ward  
**414-276-LOFT**  
One Address Brings You Home™ [www.mandelgroup.com](http://www.mandelgroup.com)



# City amenities

Strong competitive advantage over suburbs



# Influence of Automobiles Waning

## Mobility isn't what it was

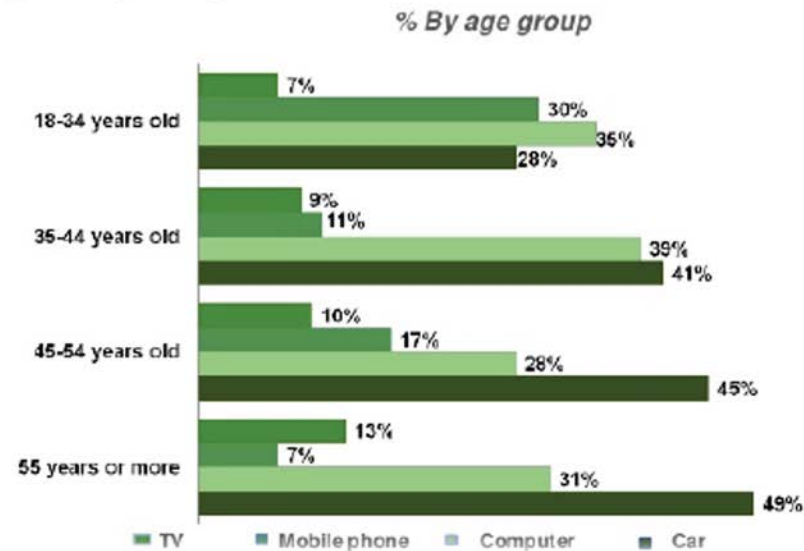
### Millennials Say They'd Give Up Their Cars Before Their Computers or Cell Phones

EMILY BADGER FEB 28, 2013 COMMENTS

Once a week or so we come across yet another sign that Millennials care much less about car ownership than previous generations. They're *less likely to drive* than their parents. They've got *less debt* tied up in cars. They'd rather hang out with their friends on Twitter than *get in a car to go see them*.

And here's yet another: Ask Millennials which piece of technology they could least live without, and it turns out they'd more happily part with their cars than their computers or cell phones. That question, graphed below, comes from the *third installment* of Zipcar's annual Millennial survey.

In your daily routine, losing which piece of technology would have the greatest negative impact on you?





# Urban Housing Needs Less Subsidy

No need to extend infrastructure

- Green field sites long benefited from communities' desire to grow. Cities invested in costly extension of public infrastructure and services.
- Downtown housing takes advantage of existing infrastructure and services that require far less public investment

# Developers Often Risk Adverse

Many burnt by the real estate market cycle

- The average length of the real estate market cycle is 18 years.
- Many long-time developers went through the financial wringer as demand contracted sharply when real estate markets moved quickly from boom to bust.



# Great Recession Impact Lingers

Regarding household formation & mobility

## Household Formation

- ✓ Average household size continues to decline
- ✓ The rate of household formation plunged after the Great Recession but has recovered some.

## Household Mobility

- ✓ Mobility dropped 50 percent in the Great Recession and is slowly recovering

# Long Term Pandemic Impacts TBD

Regarding household formation & mobility patterns as well as space demand for traditional uses.

## Households

- ✓ More kids moving in with parents
- ✓ More parents moving in with kids
- ✓ Where to do you work?
- ✓ Childcare issues

## Space Demand

- ✓ Recovery of hospitality and retail sectors
- ✓ Online dominance
- ✓ Office space



# Secondary Markets More Savvy

Mixed-use projects are the new “normal”

- Initially the growth of secondary finance markets encouraged product standardization.
- Since the Great Recession, secondary markets have been forced to become more familiar with mixed-use product as urban housing markets recovered faster than suburban markets.

# Main Street Are Strong Competitors

In housing markets that value urban amenities

- ✓ Greater emphasis on aesthetics
- ✓ Access to cultural amenities
- ✓ Proximity to adult learning
- ✓ Reduced auto dependency
- ✓ Energy efficiency



# Proving Demand

When there is no supply



# Traditional Market Studies

Market absorption of currently available product



- ✓ The focus on comparative sales analysis feeds an insulated spiral that reduces choice and variety of housing product.

# Housing Market Potential Studies

New data to estimate demand for urban housing

- ✓ Study Migration patterns of households that moved in recent years now (30-50% of the total)
- ✓ Use IRS data to determine where people move from in order to better understand draw areas.
- ✓ Market segmentation data helps assess which new residents will have an interest in urban housing.



Proprietary Housing Potential analysis developed by:  
Zimmerman / Volk Associates, Inc. / Clinton, New Jersey



# Segmentation Analysis

You are known by your expenditure pattern

- ✓ Systems classify of all US neighborhoods into segments. (i.e. 65 for Tapestry\* or 66 for PRIZM\*\*)
- ✓ Household buying patterns from credit card data helps identify segments likely to be interested in urban housing product.



\*ESRI, Business Information Systems

\*\*Claritas

“Urban Chic residents clearly prefer expensive townhouses or high-rises in the city.

“Urban chic residents attend to lifestyle more than ambience. Residents travel extensively, maintain luxury cars, and embrace city living by visiting museums, attending dance performances, participating in civic activities, such as working for political parties, and shopping at upscale establishments.

“Laptop and Lattes lives in multistory apartment buildings with more than 20 units, the neighborhoods are older, and virtually untouched by urban renewal.”

They listen to classical, all-news, and public radio and read airline, travel, and women’s fashion magazines.”



Each market is a different collection of segments.

**Table 7. Educational Attainment, 2005 (Population 25+)**

Segment	United States	Michigan	Grand Traverse County	Micropolitan Area
No HS Diploma	15.8%	12.9%	8.6%	10.5%
HS Diploma	29.6%	31.4%	27.5%	30.5%
Some College	20.1%	22.9%	23.8%	22.6%
Associates	7.4%	8.00%	8.5%	7.9%
Bachelors	17.2%	15.1%	20.2%	18.5%
Post-Graduate	9.9%	9.5%	11.4%	9.9%

Source: ERA, U.S. Census

#### Tapestry Analysis

To further understand the demographic, economic, and cultural characteristics of Traverse City and the region, ERA utilized an analysis tool called Community Tapestry, developed by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). Tapestry is a tool that divides households into 65 categories or segments based on several key factors, including a variety of demographic characteristics of households and geographic characteristics of their neighborhoods. These segments correspond to certain age groups, income brackets, and education levels, as well as lifestyle choices, neighborhood housing preferences, and consumer spending habits. The following table highlights relevant concentrations of defined segments in the five-county area and Grand Traverse County.

**Table 8. Tapestry Segments in the 5-County Area and Grand Traverse County**

Segment	Households	% in 5-County Area	% in Grand Traverse	% in Michigan	% in U.S.
Rural Resort Dwellers	16,444	23.75%	5.99%	2.51%	1.60%
Midland Crowd	10,336	14.93%	16.87%	3.12%	3.63%
Green Acres	7,954	11.49%	16.46%	6.82%	3.11%
Rooted Rural	4,095	5.91%	-	1.89%	2.45%
Up and Coming Families	3,929	5.67%	8.73%	1.77%	3.21%
Midlife Junction	3,676	5.31%	8.15%	2.25%	2.50%
Senior Sun Seekers	2,691	3.89%	4.38%	1.18%	1.18%
Old and Newcomers	2,499	3.61%	7.28%	2.32%	1.97%
Silver and Gold in Style	2,373	3.49%	1.33%	0.25%	0.93%
Metropolitans	2,099	3.03%	6.11%	2.96%	2.48%
Southern Satellites	1,943	2.81%	5.66%	1.49%	1.19%
Crossroads	1,691	2.44%	-	1.57%	2.76%
Milk and Cookies	1,366	1.97%	3.98%	2.67%	1.48%
Exurbanites	1,167	1.69%	3.40%	1.06%	1.90%
Salt of the Earth	1,086	1.57%	1.50%	2.93%	2.45%
Rustbelt Traditions	985	1.42%	-	5.57%	2.77%
Simple Living	955	1.38%	1.15%	7.01%	2.87%
Home Town	880	1.27%	2.56%	1.26%	1.45%
Connoisseurs	871	1.26%	-	1.78%	1.50%
Prosperous Empty Nesters	777	1.12%	2.26%	0.98%	1.40%
Cozy and Comfortable	754	1.09%	2.20%	1.67%	1.84%
Retirement Communities	366	0.53%	1.07%	7.54%	2.84%
Retirement Communities	313	0.45%	0.91%	1.94%	1.69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,230</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>62.14%</b>	<b>49.00%</b>

Source: ERA, ESRI Business Solutions

Of the 65 tapestry segments, 23 are represented in the five-county area and identified in the above table. Slightly fewer, 19 segments, are represented in Grand Traverse County. The above table lists the number of households in each segment in the region. As the table shows, the "Rural Resort Dwellers" segment is

# Other Market Research

To identify potential housing demand

The screenshot shows the Brookings Institution website. The header includes the logo and the title 'CITIES AND SUBURBS'. A breadcrumb trail reads 'Brookings > Cities and Suburbs > Housing > Downtown housing'. The date 'June 27, 2007' is displayed. A left sidebar contains a navigation menu with categories: Home, News & Events, Scholars, Research, and Programs. The main content area is titled 'DOWNTOWN HOUSING' and lists several articles:

- Charting a Course for Downtown Living: Denver**  
by Alan Berube  
(Speech) *Downtown Denver Partnership*  
5/18/2006
- Who Lives Downtown**  
by Eugenie L. Birch  
(Report)  
November 2005
- Keep HOPE (VI) Alive**  
by Henry Cisneros, Bruce Katz  
(Op-Ed) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution\**  
5/17/2004
- Vacant Land in Cities: An Urban Resource**  
by Michael A. Pagano, Ann O'M. Bowman  
(Report)  
January 2001
- Ten Steps to a Living Downtown**  
by Jennifer Moulton  
(Report)  
October 1999
- A Rise In Downtown Living**  
by Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, the Fannie Mae Foundation  
(Report)  
November 1998

A search bar on the right side of the page is labeled 'SEARCH BROOKINGS' and includes a 'GO' button and links for 'Advanced Search' and 'Help'.

# Multiple Forms of Market Research

Provide strong empirical evidence for demand

Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District - Mozilla Firefox

http://downtownfortwayne.com/housing\_survey.php?cat=3

Home | Downtown Fort Wayne | Visiting Downtown | Living Downtown | Teens Dig Fort Wayne | Summer Events | Downtown Events

Take the Downtown Housing Survey!

### DOWNTOWN HOUSING SURVEY

Help the DID make Downtown a better place to live by telling us what you would want out of Downtown Housing. We know this survey is long, but it will be immensely helpful in allowing us to determine the best course of action is for Downtown housing improvements.

Name:

Age:

Sex:  Male  Female

Your Current Residence:  Own  Rent

Your Living Situation:  Live by yourself  
 Live with other members of your family  
 Live with other unrelated individuals  
 Other



# E \* I \* E \* I \* O

Five principles that drive prosperity in turbulent times

E Empirical

I Incremental

E Entrepreneurial

I Inclusive

O Organic



# Community Leadership

## Formulas for Success

Outstanding Leadership  
Equals Knowledge  
Times Capacity

**K X C = 18**

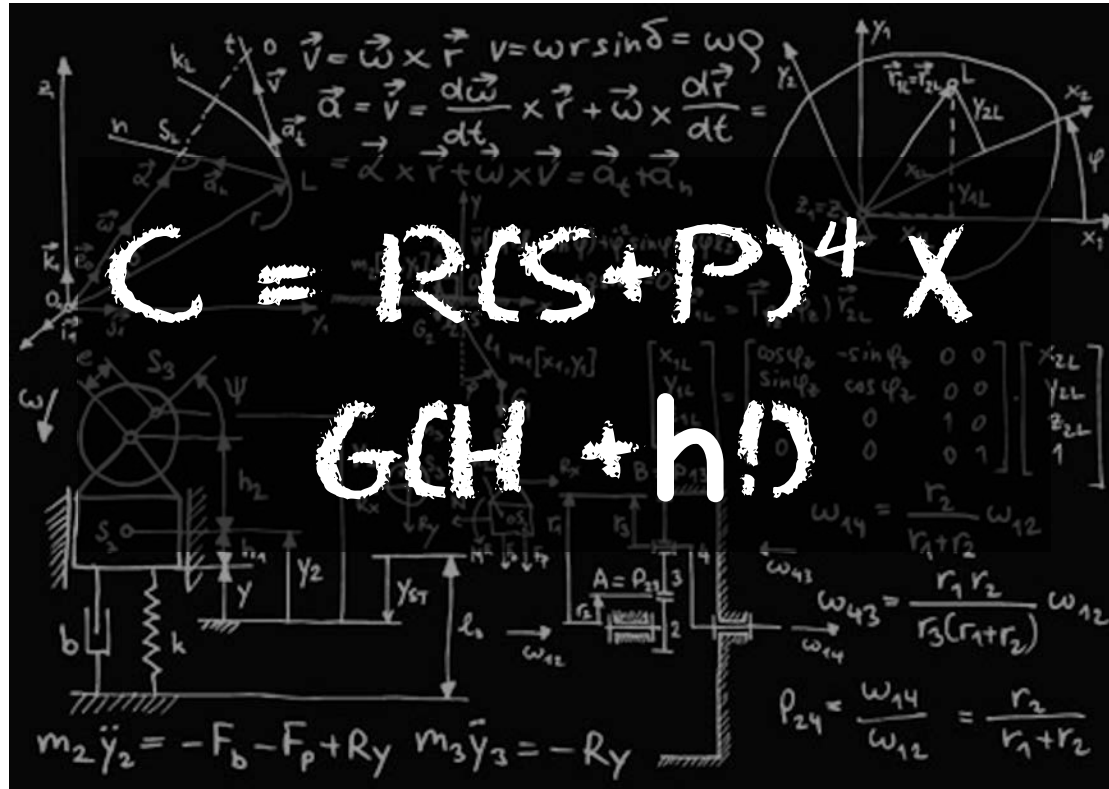






# Community Leadership

## Formulas for Success



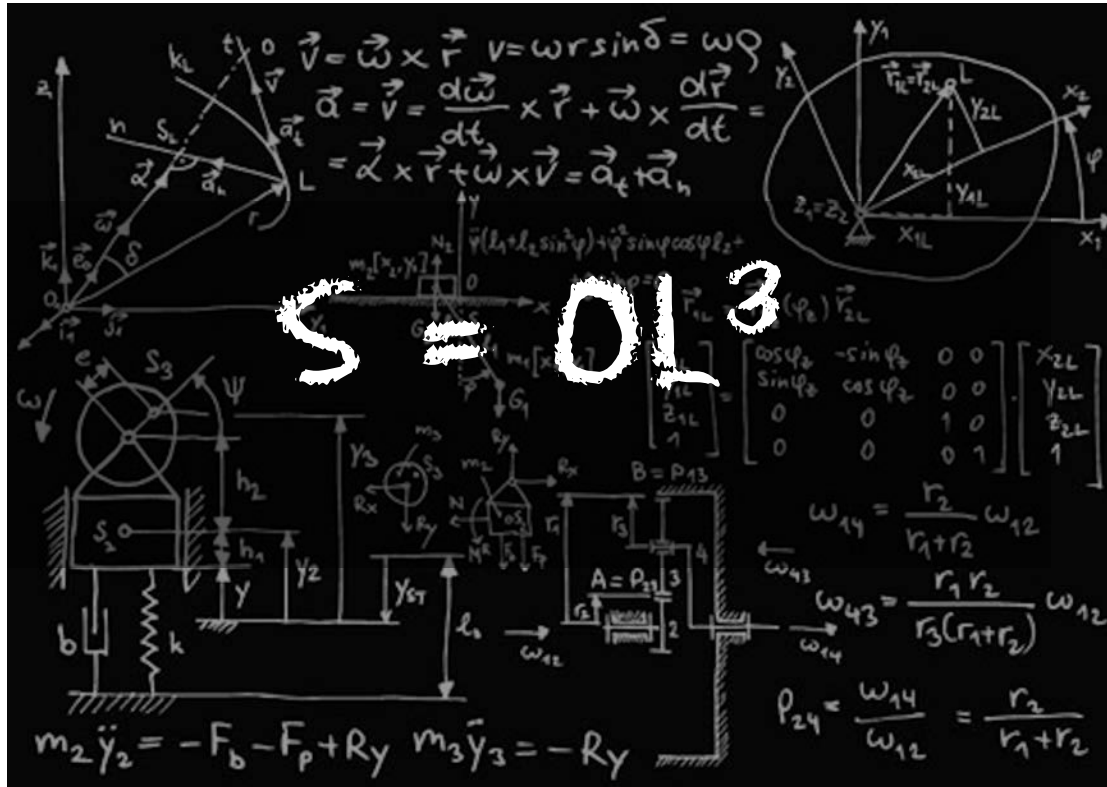
Capacity Equals Responsibility  
 Times Sum of Sweat and Passion  
 To the Fourth Power  
 Times Gumption Times  
 The Sum of (Humility and humor)



# Community Leadership

## Formulas for Success

Success Equals Opportunity  
Times Outstanding Leadership



# Work With Your Building Stock

Reduce barriers by careful assessment

