



COMMUNITY-BASED REAL ESTATE Development Training Graduate



**Ellen
Shareef**

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Ellen Shareef is an experienced independent contractor with a passion for her hometown of Buffalo. She and her husband own 230 Pratt Street--the old Iroquois Brewery--and have big plans for the 93,000-foot property that include residences, commercial spaces, and a business incubator.

How are you connected to the East Side?

I've done a lot of residential and commercial work in the Buffalo area. I've been a big proponent of seeing more development on the East Side of Buffalo and we're seeing that come to fruition now, so we're excited to be a part of that.

Could you tell us about your building/project/goals?

The former Iroquois Brewery is such a large building that we would really like to repurpose it and bring it back to its former days as a facility that houses other businesses, provides housing, and creates jobs in the community. We also see it as a community hub of sorts - we have regular events where small businesses sell their goods, there's music and food, and people gather here. Plus, we're preserving a bit of Buffalo's amazing history. I see myself delving into development on a full-time basis once our project is up and running.

Whom would you recommend apply for the program?

I would recommend this program to anybody that's interested in developing commercial real estate. It's something that will be useful whether it's now or down the road. I gained a wealth of information that I knew I was lacking for years.

What do you want people to know about the class?

The class was extremely useful. I learned a lot of good information, I made new friends, new contacts... it was a chance to network, and I feel like I have some lifelong friends that I'll be able to collaborate with on our project as well as other projects in the community.

What's your vision for the East Side?

To see it thriving again and for 230 Pratt to be a part of it.

For information about the East Side Avenues' Community-Based Real Estate Development Training program, visit: www.EastSideAvenues.org

