



For Release: Monday, October 17, 2022

Contact: Sally Crowley, East Side Avenues Communications Director, 716-392-6947 or sallycro@buffalo.edu

Applications Available for East Side 2023 Community-Based Real Estate Development Training
Program Graduates Will Be Invited to Apply for Capital Funding from Empire State Development

Buffalo, NY -- Applications are now being accepted for the 2023 Community-Based Real Estate Development Training program, which teaches East Side building owners and community members how to plan for and implement a commercial real estate development project. The program is designed to build a community of citizen developers on the East Side of Buffalo by empowering community members with the skills and knowledge to successfully complete a project. It is part of New York State's \$65 million East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund and funded in collaboration with private and philanthropic organizations who created a pooled, \$8 million East Side Collaborative Fund to support capacity building and to develop and implement programs like this.

Applications for the Community-Based Real Estate Development Training (CBREDT) program are due **Thursday, November 17, 2022 by 5 p.m.** and are available on the East Side Avenues website at www.eastsideavenues.org/CBREDT-2023. There is **no cost** to apply; accepted students will only be charged a one-time, non-refundable \$150 registration fee.

The 25-week program provides an overview of the commercial real estate development process, including pre-development, construction management, property management, and financing the project from private and public sources.

This is the fourth cohort of the successful program which began in 2019. View stories from our previous CBREDT graduates [here](#).

POTENTIAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This program will explore potential federal and state funding opportunities for commercial development in Buffalo and, in particular, for the East Side of Buffalo. Namely, Empire State Development (ESD), through the East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund, established a \$5 million capital grant program available only to graduates of the program for implementing projects on the East Side of Buffalo. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be invited to apply for the East Side Community-Based Real Estate Development Training Program Capital Fund administered by ESD and its Local Program Administrator (LPA).

CLASS DETAILS

- The 25-week program starts Wednesday, February 1, 2023 and is designed to provide an overview of the commercial real estate development process, including pre-development, construction management, property management, and financing the project from private and public sources. The program is taught by seasoned professionals.
- Classes are Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm and class starts promptly at 6:00 pm. Classes will be held at the Northland Workforce Training Center at 683 Northland Avenue, Buffalo, NY. Free, on-site parking is available.
- There will also be two (2) mandatory Saturday sessions from 10-12 noon and one (1) mandatory eight-hour Saturday UrbanPlan on February 11, 2023. The UrbanPlan class is a realistic, engaging exercise in which students learn about the fundamental forces that affect real estate development. Through role play, students will become familiar with private and public sector roles, complex trade-offs, and fundamental economics in play when proposing realistic land use solutions to vexing growth challenges.
- One additional optional Saturday session will be held. Attendance is strongly encouraged but not required. Additional optional classes will be made available such as “Excel Bootcamp” and other basic training opportunities.
- Classroom Instructors: A wide range of committed experts in the field will serve as instructors. Classes will include personal experiences from commercial real estate developers in Buffalo as well as instruction by lecture and hands-on activities.
- Mentorships: Class participants will be matched with a mentor from the commercial real estate field based on individual needs and interests. After pairing, mentors and class participants are expected to meet for one hour per month during the training program and may continue the relationship after the program based on mutual interest.
- Final Project and Presentation: Students will be working throughout the course on a final project and will be given the opportunity to present their project to a panel of jurors.

The Community-Based Real Estate Development Training Program is designed to enable community members to develop their own properties, fostering entrepreneurial spirit and creativity and to better ensure that lands and buildings along the East Side corridors are improved in a manner driven by the East Side

community. The Community-Based Real Estate Development Training Program is a collaboration of the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning, University at Buffalo Regional Institute (UBRI), and ESD.

Participants will be selected from a pool of applicants through a selection process which includes a written application and an interview. Applicants will be reviewed based on their residency, ownership of commercial property (and its location), development experience, vision for commercial property development, entrepreneurship, and impact of the project.

Questions regarding this program should be directed to ap-CBREDT@buffalo.edu or (716) 878-2440.

About East Side Avenues

East Side Avenues is a capacity building initiative developed to fund, plan and coordinate revitalization strategies and initiatives aimed at improving economic conditions in four main commercial corridors on Buffalo's East Side. It is backed by a unique partnership of private and philanthropic organizations that created the pooled, \$8 million East Side Collaborative Fund administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. The grants and supports are being provided to complement capital funding that is being awarded by Empire State Development (ESD) as part of its \$65 million East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund (ESCEDF).

East Side Avenues stemmed from UB Regional Institute's (UBRI) partnership with ESD and the City of Buffalo to reach out to community members, to listen, analyze past investments and create a comprehensive plan focused on what key stakeholders said they'd like to see happen and what projects they believe are important for promoting economic activity. East Side Avenues is led by a Project Implementation Team (PIT) from UBRI that will work to build organizational capacity by ensuring appropriate supports such as infrastructure, staff and funding are in place; assisting with strategic planning, program design and problem solving; reporting on progress and ensuring responsible use of resources. UBRI is the research enterprise of the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning. Learn more about East Side Avenues at www.eastsideavenues.org

###