

Buffalo Urban Development Corporation (BUDC)

2026 Mission Statement and Performance Measurements

Draft Pending Review

BUDC Mission Statement:

The mission of Buffalo Urban Development Corporation (BUDC) is to support the urban economic development efforts of the region through acquisition, remediation and management of distressed properties, and to engage in related real estate development activities for the purpose of attracting and/or retaining new and existing businesses to the City as part of the region. The mission of BUDC also includes supporting the revitalization of downtown Buffalo by serving as the lead management entity for Buffalo Building Reuse Project (BBRP) and Race for Place initiatives, working in collaboration with the City of Buffalo; including the coordination of financial assistance for downtown adaptive re-use projects and public right-of-way improvements. BUDC also serves as the lead management entity for the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park transformation.

BUDC Performance Measurements:

Goal: To reclaim abandoned and distressed land and buildings for future development.

Objective A: Continue to establish the Northland Beltline (“Northland”) as the prime urban area for reclamation, by implementing the redevelopment strategy and continuing to engage in appropriate planning processes and leasing for future development.

Measurement: Continue Construction on 612 Northland “B” Building; 541 East Delavan Ave.; Clean Energy Microgrid and other relevant infrastructure improvements for a timely completion.

Measurement: Execute Contract with LeChase and begin construction on 631 Northland Avenue.

Measurement: Continue effective M/WBE Utilization and Workforce Participation programs for remaining Northland construction with goals of 25% MBE/5%WBE participation.

Measurement: Assemble any additional properties that become available which are needed to enhance Northland.

Measurement: Obtain City of Buffalo Planning Board approval for various phases of Northland redevelopment as they occur.

Measurement: Obtain State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) approval to maximize the preservation of structures that will contribute to the redevelopment of Northland and the select demolition of structures that are an impediment to the redevelopment.

New Measurement: Manage all compliance and milestones related to the financing for including Historic Preservation Tax Credits, Brownfield Cleanup Program Tax Credits, and bridge loan financing for 631 Northland Avenue.

Measurement: Negotiate new lease agreements with tenants for available space at Northland Central.

New Measurement: Close on Land Sale Agreement with Lighthouse, Inc. for development of Fillmore parcels.

Measurement: Continue to implement the Soil (Site) Management Plan (SMP) for Northland Central, under the NYS Brownfield Cleanup Program.

New Measurement: Complete demolition of 741 and 777 Northland in coordination with SHPO and partners.

Measurement: Continue to work with the NYSDEC regarding Superfund investigation and remediation at the 537 E. Delavan site.

Measurement: If funding becomes available, begin renovations or other actions necessary to bring other space across Northland to a “ready-to-lease” condition.

Measurement: Continue the Community Outreach Program, with one additional Public Meeting and one additional Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting, and additional community outreach through social media.

Objective B: Secure funds to continue to advance the Northland Beltline projects.

Measurement: Identify additional funding sources (i.e. grants and tax credits) and income opportunities for future phases of Northland Beltline projects.

Measurement: On a monthly basis, coordinate all Northland property maintenance and repairs with Comvest.

Measurement: Coordinate and/or participate in two (2) networking/programming events in the Northland Beltline area.

Objective D: Prepare land and buildings for development through remediation, select demolition, infrastructure upgrades/construction, site improvements, and amenity construction.

Measurement: Assemble appropriate properties throughout the City to increase inventory for future brownfield projects.

Measurement: Number of acres remediated to shovel-ready condition.

Measurement: Number of building square feet rehabilitated to leasable condition.

Goal: To attract and/or retain new and existing businesses to the City and region.

Objective A: Market BUDC properties as an urban alternative for new construction of light manufacturing, distribution and office facilities.

New Measurement: Finalize the Alternatives Analysis/Remedial Action Work Plan and apply to the DEC for a Part 380 variance for 193 Ship Canal Parkway.

Measurement: Execute an Exclusivity Agreement with a qualified developer for various Buffalo Lakeside Commerce Park parcels.

New Measurement: A minimum of six (6) “earned” media appearances and at least one hundred thousand (100,000) website page and social media views.

Measurement: Maintain infrastructure amenities to enhance the marketability of the BLCP and Northland properties.

Objective B: Support the economic development efforts of the City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning (OSP) with the task of expanding or relocating businesses of a diverse nature in the City.

Measurement: Number of businesses contacted, as directed by OSP.

Objective C: Support the economic development efforts of the City by maintaining procurement practices that encourage the participation of local (50%), minority (25%), and women-owned (5%) businesses.

Measurement: All informal bids, formal bids, request for proposals, and requests for qualifications will include the City’s participation goals listed above.

Goal: To support the revitalization of Downtown Buffalo.

Objective A: Serve as lead management entity for Buffalo’s Race for Place initiatives.

Measurement: A minimum of twenty (25) companies contacted.

Objective B: Coordinate financial assistance for adaptive re-use projects and/or new construction projects.

Measurement: A minimum of two (2) projects assisted.

Measurement: Explore new incentive options for adaptive re-use and/or new construction projects that encourage mixed income residential development, minority developer participation, M/WBE entrepreneurship and ground floor activation.

Objective C: Assist coordination of public right-of-way and public space improvements.

Measurement: Complete Downtown Infrastructure Project Prioritization Plan through contract with Buffalo Construction Consultants (BCC) to assist with implementation of Downtown and Waterfront area Infrastructure Improvements and establish an infrastructure improvement project status page on the BUDC website.

Measurement: Promote and coordinate added creativity and innovation within the public realm.

Measurement: Further the recommendations included in the Downtown and Waterfront area infrastructure improvement plans in coordination with the City of Buffalo and BCC.

Measurement: Coordinate at least two (2) placemaking enhancement projects.

Measurement: A minimum of five (5) city blocks and two (2) public spaces improved.

Measurement: Facilitate a strategy to improve downtown infrastructure maintenance and sustainability.

Measurement: Coordinate with partners to develop strategy for a capital campaign to solicit private funding for public realm improvements.

New Measurement: Secure additional funding to support downtown and waterfront area placemaking and public realm projects.

Measurement: Coordinate with City of Buffalo, Empire State Development, and BCC to further advance the construction of Erie- Shelton Square Greenway Project.

Objective D: Coordinate additional phases of Queen City Pop Up (QCPU).

Measurement: Build upon outdoor QCPU Concepts and continue QCPU initiatives that support downtown area restaurants and retailers.

Objective E: Continue coordination of the publication, marketing, and online promotion of Downtown Buffalo.

New Measurement: Work with Downtown area partners to coordinate a Downtown area Marketing Campaign to increase visitation and business development opportunities.

Objective F: Build awareness of Downtown programs, tools, and incentives.

Measurement: At least three (3) earned appearances on regional and/or national platforms.

Measurement: At least two (2) presentations to business associations, professional organizations, and community groups.

Objective G: Promote the construction of additional units of downtown housing.

Measurement: The announcement of two hundred fifty (250) units to be constructed, with at least 20% affordable units.

Objective H: Coordinate the resolution or redevelopment of targeted problem properties within the central business district boundaries.

Measurement: A minimum of three (3) problem properties addressed.

Measurement: Collaborate with the City of Buffalo and partners to advocate for development tools, partnerships and resources that support the recommendations outlined in the Queen City Hub Revisited initiative, such as commercial office to residential conversions.

Goal: To transform LaSalle Park into Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park, and a world class waterfront park and recreational amenity that will serve both neighborhood residents, regional citizens and visitors.

Objective A: Assist the City of Buffalo and other partners with the management of the design and due diligence phases of the project.

Measurement: Manage the design team to ensure that the project proceeds on schedule and within budget.

Objective B: Assist the City of Buffalo and other partners with the overall management of the project.

Measurement: Manage the contract and deliverables for the project management team.

Objective C: Assist the City of Buffalo and other partners with identifying, securing and managing funding for the implementation of the project.

New Measurement: Work with the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation to manage grants that have been committed for project construction.

Measurement: If needed, work with other partners, including City of Buffalo, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation, to identify additional funding sources to implement and construct the project.

New Measurement: Prepare, submit and execute grant with Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation for Phase 2 construction.

Objective D: Assist the City of Buffalo and other partners with ensuring effective and sustainable long-term maintenance and operations of the park.

Measurement: Continue to work with the City of Buffalo, Gilbane Companies and the Ralph Wilson Park Conservancy as needed, on park sustainability and equitable access to the surrounding community during the construction phase of the project.

Goal: To effectively manage property, development projects and initiatives.

Objective A: Engage in all aspects of productive property management including marketing, leasing, maintenance, etc.

Measurement: Keep property related costs within budget.

Objective B: Support development projects by working with regional utility companies to include their grant programs in local initiatives. Package other economic development incentives to enhance the marketability of properties.

Measurement: A minimum of two (2) projects referred.