



NIAGARA FALLS, NY
M.A.R.C.
Mentoring At Risk
Communities
 Community Center and Meeting Space



MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

My project aims to serve at-risk communities to positively change their lives by providing a safe meeting place that enhances opportunities for education, skills training, career readiness. I want to provide a space for people who have a history of drug abuse, illegal behavior, lack of family support, and low education. My vision is to create a better life for my Niagara Falls community by developing a mindset that guides them toward specific goals for self-improvement, and to develop a non-quitting spirit to overcome obstacles and to become successful achievers. I also hope to encourage citizens of the City of Niagara Falls to collectively participate in their community and improve their neighborhood.

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

M.A.R.C. aims to uplift the 14305 zip-code community of Niagara Falls, NY. When I left for my time abroad with the U.S. Army, my city had community programs that brought life to the city. Since coming back, I have seen an uptick in crime, property vacancies, high-school drop-outs, and a lack in neighborhood pride. I have met with the city, as well as the 2022 community coalition and have realized this vision will also bridge the much needed gap between community and local government participation and cooperation.

A new Community Center is needed in the community because the decline of community programs has undermined the social fabric that once held together the people of Niagara Falls. We need a place for residents to spend time improving themselves as individuals and community members so that they have an outlet for creativity and education, rather than turning to crime. This community center will change the long-term community character by decreasing crime, having city-wide program expansion increasing access to skills and education, cleaning up neighborhoods, and supporting a network of neighbors.

Planning a Change

ACTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

- Locate Building Site**
- Identify Funding Sources**
- Determine Construction Consultant**
- Organize Programming Schedule**

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Funding, Partnerships, Volunteers and Staff, Marketing, Grant Writing

FUNDING RANGE

\$500,000-\$1,000,000 for Architectural and Building Costs
\$50,000 per Year to Maintain and Run

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT



Arlene Doss
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About the Champion...

Arlene (Jackson) Doss (MSG-R), is recently retired after 38 years in the U.S. Army. She is a lifelong resident of the City of Niagara Falls, NY and the founder of Niagara United Vision, inc. As an advocate of community change, she serves as a conduit between local administration and community members. Her Champions of Change project is just one of many throughout the City of Niagara Falls. She hopes to see a transformation of One Niagara Falls, where individuals value themselves, as well as their neighbor. Arlene's many accolades include earning her Bachelor's of Social Work from Niagara University, and her Master's of Business Administration from Argosy University.