



# NEWS Press Release

## For Immediate Release

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## Rustbelt Revitalization Effort Founded and Driven by Young People Launches at Buffalo Museum of Science; 'A Regional Renaissance is Within Our Grasp'

**BUFFALO (May 30, 2008)** -- Members of the **Great Lakes Urban Exchange (GLUE)** and their friends in Buffalo have one message to send from the steps of the **Buffalo Museum of Science**: "Older industrial cities around the Great Lakes *can* come back", and if we have anything to say about it, they *will*. On **Saturday, June 21 from 7:00-10:00pm**, GLUE will be celebrating the **launch of its new website**, [gluespace.org](http://gluespace.org), with a **bronze pour by Simon Griffis**, drumming by **MUSE**, **Buffalo storytelling**, and **night sky viewing** with the Buffalo Astronomical Association. Buffalo is the first city to kick off the launch series before GLUE heads to Detroit, St. Louis and Duluth. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (716) 896-5200 or visit [www.buffalomuseumofscience.org](http://www.buffalomuseumofscience.org).

To commemorate the launch of GLUESpace, the Great Lakes Urban Exchange is holding a celebration of the industrial "rustbelt" and its future potential. The celebration's theme, "Community Transformation, Reinvesting in the Urban Core," will be interpreted by a team of local community members ranging from artists and science buffs to active bloggers and students and alumni from the International Center for Studies in Creativity at Buffalo State College.

Attendees will contribute stories about Buffalo for the website in real time via video, live blogging, podcast, and photography. Local innovators will share their "Enhance Buffalo" ideas with the public at stations inside the museum and local artists will present a series of performances intended to symbolize the transition of our economy from sole reliance on heavy industry. The highlight of these will be a sunset bronze "pour" conducted by Simon Griffis of the Ashford Hollow Foundation and a team of molten metal sculptors on the grand front steps of the museum. The products of the pour will be four square panels containing the emblematic images of our logo: urbanism, regionalism, story-telling, and network building.

The GLUE initiative and its Buffalo launch have been made possible through the generous support of the Brookings Institution, the John R. Oishei Foundation and the University at Buffalo Regional Institute.

### About GLUE

GLUE was developed by Pittsburgh and Detroit residents Abby Wilson and Sarah Szurpicki to combat negative perceptions about their cities. Its mission evolved from new media boosterism to issue-based network-building and resource-pooling, and from a brain trust of two to a core planning team of over forty young, devoted, and solutions-oriented leaders from GLUE cities Akron, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Des Moines, Detroit, Duluth, Erie, Flint, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Lansing, Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Pittsburgh, Rochester, St. Louis, Toledo, and Youngstown.

Civically engaged post-boomers in cities like Buffalo, Detroit, and Milwaukee want to put a dent in the cynical speculation,

anachronistic stereotypes, innovation-averse attitudes, and inter-city isolation that have stymied progress in their similarly challenged communities for too long.

They know cock-eyed optimism and glossy boosterism aren't enough. These cityphiles are painfully aware of the problems their homes face: population decline, an underdeveloped workforce, urban segregation, and crumbling infrastructure, to name a few. Their cities need new solutions.

GLUE's answer: build a diverse network of younger people devoted to equitable, sustainable cities. Put them in touch with each other. Give them an opportunity to exchange ideas and hold multi-sector, multi-city conversations. Empower them to tell stories about their cities using new media in order to get the world's attention and to bring new people into conversations about public policy's links to everyday life. Elevate and replicate ideas that work. Rinse and repeat.

After several months in development at Detroit's College for Creative Studies, GLUESpace, the project's online home, is ready for prime time. GLUESpace will embody the values of GLUE: inclusivity, dynamism, and innovation. The site will offer more than multi-media, city-focused citizen journalism; it will afford visitors the opportunity to connect with urbanists from Rochester to Minneapolis around the issues that will transform the Great Lakes' urban communities:

- ***Environmental justice and sustainability***
- ***Responsible economic development***
- ***Empowerment of communities and individuals***
- ***Quality of place***
- ***Civic participation and government transparency***

For a complete schedule of other launch activities this summer, please email [abby@gluespace.org](mailto:abby@gluespace.org) or visit [www.gluespace.org](http://www.gluespace.org).

*GLUE was sponsored in its infancy by the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program through its Great Lakes Economic Initiative (GLEI), building upon the analytic foundation laid by Brookings' "Restoring Prosperity" and "The Vital Center," seminal reports about the immediate needs and shared challenges of cities at the core of GLUE's mission. For more information, visit <http://www.brookings.edu/metro>.*

*The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 600,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at **1020 Humboldt Parkway** and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. General admission to the Museum is \$7 adults; \$6 seniors (age 62+); \$5 students and children over 3; and free for members and children under 3. The Museum also operates Tiff Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land; The Elmwood Science Spot, a satellite studio of the Buffalo Museum of Science located in the heart of the Elmwood Village; and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Genesee County, NY, one of North America's richest Ice Age sites. For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit [www.buffalomuseumofscience.org](http://www.buffalomuseumofscience.org).*