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Climate change related urban transformation and the role of cultural heritage
Matthias Ripp & Christer Gustafsson (Eds.)

The Power of Local Government Policy for Building Resilient Cities and Communities: The City of Edgerton, Wisconsin as a case study

*Sarah E. Braun*¹

Abstract

Understanding how to build resilient communities around traditional heritage systems is reliant on policy development both in sizeable cities, as well as smaller local governments and the policies they implement. The research performed over six years in the City of Edgerton, WI (United States) covers valuable insights into rural, Midwest community development, where sustainability policies are often put aside, especially when heritage initiatives are involved. Serving for four years in the local community as Alder and six years on the Heritage Preservation Commission, the research demonstrates the importance of grass-roots implementation of UN sustainable development goals for economic growth, climate change infrastructure policy, and heritage tourism development. The findings illustrate victories and challenges relevant to the future of urban transformation, and future pathways for communities of all shapes and sizes. Creating multi-level stakeholder buy-in, education on principles and best practice, or access to resources are all pieces of this complicated puzzle we aim to solve as heritage professionals in an increasingly uncertain global climate. How to mitigate risk and manage factors we may not be able to foresee or predict in a post-Covid-19 world are all part of the equation. Our government policies and the officials that create these guidelines must be knowledgeable and open to collective, innovative ways to grow and change the cities and communities they represent.

Keywords: Urban Transformation, Urban Governance, Sustainable Development, Heritage Tourism, Climate Change

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¹ Sustainable Development Consultant - PO Box 226 - Edgerton, WI 53435 USA, PhD Fellow Urban & Regional Development - University Polytechnic of Torino - Viale Pier Andrea Mattioli, 39 - 10125 Torino TO Italy
Email: sarah.braun@polito.it



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