

Deconstruction in Syracuse, NY

Katelyn Wright, Executive Director, Greater Syracuse Land Bank

ABSTRACT

The Greater Syracuse Land Bank completed a deconstruction pilot program in 2014 involving the full deconstruction of six houses in the City of Syracuse. The project was funded by the NYS Office of Attorney General and Onondaga County. Through a public RFP process, contractors were selected, the homes deconstructed, and results quantified. This presentation summarizes the process, benefits and costs of the project. Representatives of the Syracuse Land Bank, the contractors that completed the deconstruction, and others involved will share the results of the program, as well as the future goals of the Land Bank relating to enhanced levels of material salvage, recycling/upcycling and reuse and its mission of enhancing the economies and ecology of the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County.

BIOGRAPHY

Katelyn Wright is the founding Executive Director of the Greater Syracuse Land Bank, which was incorporated in 2012 and is acting in partnership with the City and County to address a backlog of tax-delinquent, seizable properties, planning to acquire and facilitate the redevelopment of approximately 2,000 properties over its first several years. The Land Bank's mission is to return vacant and abandoned properties to productive use in a coordinated and planned manner.

Prior to her role with the Land Bank, as a planner for the City of Syracuse, Katelyn conducted data and policy analysis related to vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent property and led the team which developed the land bank's business model and the City's revised tax collection policy—a phased approach to addressing these challenges which, combined, affect nearly one in five properties within the City of Syracuse. During this time she also served as the land bank's acting executive director, building its capacity to begin operations. As a Land Use Planner for the City of Syracuse she was the primary author of the Land Use & Development component of the City's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan 2040.

Katelyn earned her MRP from Cornell University in 2010 and has a professional background in land use planning and historic preservation. She grew up in California's Central Valley and earned her bachelors at the University of Washington in Seattle.