

Claiming A Street Named King



The Claiming A Street Named King is a community economic development (CED). The project was the vision of the past Georgia Client Council President Terence Dicks. The project began with research in Athens and Augusta Georgia through the University Of Georgia School Of Environmental Design. The research was led by Dr. Mary Anne Akers in collaboration with Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP), Georgia State Trade Association of Non-profit Developers (G-STAND) and Neighborhood Works America, INC.

Derek Alderman, a cultural geographer at East Carolina University, has done extensive research on Martin Luther King Jr. roadways and was a key advisor for the Clients Council and stakeholders. There are over 700 streets named after Martin Luther King in the United States. There are also a number of other countries that have named streets in honor of Martin Luther King.

Many of the streets named in honor of Martin Luther King are in beautiful well manicured neighborhoods, downtown business districts, interstate and highways. But too many Martin Luther King Jr. thoroughways are in poor, crime infested, dilapidated communities. “To name any street for King is to invite an accounting of how the street makes good on King’s promise or mocks it” states Jonathan Tilove author of “Along Martin Luther King” The Claiming A Street Named King is the Georgia Clients Council CED effort to make good on King’s promise one community at a time.

The Claiming A Street Named King is more than building new houses or rehabbing homes. This community economic development project is a citizen initiated economic development strategy which seeks to revitalize the economy of low-moderate income and marginal neighborhoods both urban and rural for the benefit of the whole community. Its principal objective is to assist consumers in becoming producers, users to become providers, employees to employers. The CED utilizes entrepreneurial methods similar to traditional business methods.*

This project has produced a PowerPoint, video, a manual of Augusta, Georgia research as a guide to revitalize communities.

*Mtangulizi Sanyika NLDA Training on Community Development July 1990

