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## ***Section One: The Vision***

The Hudson Opera House mobilized more than a hundred residents, building owners, public officials, politicians, merchants and people who work in Hudson to formulate a vision that would take the City into the next century. Phase One of the 'Vision Plan' included addressing the needs of Historic Warren Street, 4th Street (from the Library to the Courthouse) and the waterfront. The Hudson Opera House, applied for, and received a matching grant from New York's Urban Development Corporation to prepare a Master Plan for these core areas. A committee of the Hudson Opera House solicited proposals from consulting firms with expertise in market analysis, urban design, planning, historic preservation, waterfront engineering and citizen participation strategies to prepare the Master Plan. In August of 1995 the committee selected a consulting team consisting of The Cavendish Partnership Inc., Douglas J. Kennedy & Associates and Bourne Consulting Engineering to prepare the Master Plan. The following report is a compilation of the Hudson Opera House's 'Vision Plan' and the findings and recommendations of the consulting team.

### ***Core Areas***

Warren Street, 4th Street and the Waterfront were chosen as the first areas in the 'Vision Plan' because they comprise the core of Hudson, both physically and economically. The residential and other commercial areas that surround these core areas are also vitally important and will be addressed in Phase II Master Plan Study. It was felt, by the committee that the surrounding areas could not be revitalized without first developing an economical sustainable urban core.

The three core areas contain many elements of the City, including mixed-use urban neighborhoods, local parks, waterfront areas, cultural and historical structures, historic transportation routes, government centers, schools and vital commercial areas. When these areas are improved and linked, through a comprehensive 'Vision Plan' and new projects like trails, parks playgrounds and other cultural activities, resources throughout the City will be readily available for redevelopment and accessible to residents and visitors alike.

The three core areas as a whole, when revitalized by the community vision, will be stronger than the sum of their parts, upon which the City can prepare itself for future funding and development opportunities. In addition, they literally form a geographically cross-axis corridor that can be directly linked to the Hudson River and to other areas of the City in future planning phases. An urban trail can bring residents and tourists from the Hudson River waterfront up Warren Street and vice-versa as they visit the City's historic sites, natural resources and commercial areas.

## **Community Goals**

At a Hudson Community meeting on August 18, 1994, participants discussed several planning/project ideas for improving the Hudson Area. Through a voting system, they ranked their ideas. These ideas are the foundation for the following Community Goal:

*'Enhance the City's quality of life as a place to live, work and recreate through revitalization of Hudson's Core -- Warren Street, Fourth Street and the waterfront. Conserve historical and natural resources along the Hudson River waterfront and strengthen the link to Warren Street and the core of Hudson. Encourage compatible forms of economic development, including commercial development and tourism, while maintaining the overall historic character.'*

The Community Goal is the most significant concept underlying the development of the City's Community Vision Plan. Other Goals and policies of the 'Vision Plan' should support the goal.

## **Phase One Objectives**

### **Waterfront Development**

- ▶ More access onto the river -- boating, hunting, etc.
- ▶ Restaurants
- ▶ Depot area revitalization
- ▶ C & D dump research
- ▶ Re-use or remove oil tanks, concrete warehouses
- ▶ Dump site re-utilization
- ▶ A ferry to: Athens, Catskill and up and down the river
- ▶ Reestablish and extend City grids to the waterfront
- ▶ Promenade access to River
- ▶ Trails: natural and urban

### **Marketing and Business Development**

- ▶ Create a positive image
- ▶ Leadership meetings and coordination

- ▶ Open discussions between uptown and downtown
- ▶ Capitalize and market history and architecture (facades)
- ▶ New in-town supermarket, farmers' market, flea markets, etc.
- ▶ Clear viewshed along 4th Street
- ▶ Increase building ownership and tenant responsibilities
- ▶ Incentive system to repair and populate buildings
- ▶ Expand Hudson tourism, extend visitor stays and tourism office hours
- ▶ Attract speciality shops, gourmets, etc.
- ▶ Adaptive re-use of warehouses, industrial buildings, etc.
- ▶ A museum showcasing the history of Hudson

### ***Cultural/Recreational Programs***

- ▶ Make Hudson culturally active
- ▶ Boccie Courts reused
- ▶ New community built playgrounds, play fields, courts
- ▶ Increase youth activities/participation
- ▶ Year-round boys/girls clubs
- ▶ Support for a community center
- ▶ Community gardens
- ▶ A tie-in to Oakdale Lake City Center

### ***Visual Beautification***

- ▶ Beautify Promenade Hill and Warren Street
- ▶ Repair sidewalks
- ▶ Tree Planting
- ▶ Public Art

### ***Quality of Life/Service Programs***

- ▶ Reverse "fear"
- ▶ Quiet fire whistles

- ▶ Control Street noise levels -- Fireworks, radios, cars, etc.
- ▶ Improve and extend hours of local/regional public transit
- ▶ Help police forces/walking beat
- ▶ Improve waste collection (clean up campaigns)
- ▶ Full-time code enforcement
- ▶ Divert heavy through traffic
- ▶ Clean-up/sweep sidewalks, alleys, streets and vacant building facades
- ▶ Animal Control

### ***Common Issues***

Certain issues transcend the three designated planning areas. They include the potential for a Greenway Trail, historic resources and regional context. These issues will help link the physical areas of planning categories and should be considered by the Community throughout the planning process.