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Abstract

GEODE: Complexities in Community Building

When describing the role or purpose of GEODE in this city, the term “community building” arises again and again, and it is not just a goal but a philosophy that permeates everything the organization is involved in, from its approach to economic development, to the everyday routine activities of its staff members. Why, then, are so many people in the dark about what this organization represents and the tasks it accomplishes? The reason is simple: their physical location is currently a barrier to promoting community values because of its inaccessibility; isolation means that it cannot reach the people it is designed to help. In order for GEODE to improve their impact on the economically disadvantaged in fostering community values, the organization needs to relocate to the downtown core. While GEODE recognizes the necessity of relocation in order to sustain itself into the future, the site for its proposed relocation will not serve the economically disadvantaged as well as the organization would hope; a different venue, closer to the “heart” of downtown, should be sought in order to maximize GEODE’s potential for success in community building initiatives.