

**Paper: Boston Herald (MA)**

**Title: 'Urban village' eyed for Dudley St. neighborhood**

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After working for more than a decade to stabilize a Roxbury **neighborhood** once plagued by arson fires and abandoned buildings, activists now plan to turn the area into a thriving "urban village." "It's going to be a struggle. We still have a lot of things to do," said Nilda Quijano, a 16-year **neighborhood** resident. "We have to accomplish more to have a safe environment for our children."

Residents of the **Dudley Street neighborhood** came together in 1984 out of fear and anger at the ills that threatened their lives. Since then they have cut down on illegal dumping and arson fires, demolished boarded-up buildings and built more than 130 new quality homes.

Their accomplishments were chronicled in "Holding Ground: The Rebirth of **Dudley Street**," an hourlong documentary film. Activists say the "urban village," featuring ethnically oriented markets and shops, will help bring jobs to the area. African-

themed restaurants would also be part of the project.

Key features of the village include:

A town common at **Dudley**, Blue Hill Avenue and Hampden **Street**, serving as the gateway to **Dudley** village.

Converting the old **Dudley** Mill Works building into Youth Build Boston's training headquarters and charter school. Commercial space will also be available.

Renovating the Vine **Street** municipal building for use as a community center. "Job creation is the next stage," said Gregory C. Watson, executive director of the **Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative**. Watson said community development corporations and a loan fund will provide seed money for the projects.

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