Our goal for our capstone project is to bridge the gap between the Lafayette student community with the rest of Easton. There is a disconnect and a lack of communication between the Easton community and the student community at Lafayette. We would like to solve that problem so that Easton can go from having two distinct parts (Lafayette and the rest of Easton) to one unified area. We proposed that one method of doing this is to facilitate projects among artists and engineers from both communities. One such project that we are suggesting is to evaluate the options that exist for the re-creation of the industrial memorials in the town from both an artistic and technical perspective. By increasing the quality of the relationship between the two communities through open communication, the hope is that we can all work toward bettering the city of Easton.

When we were looking at current projects in Easton in which both citizens of Easton and Lafayette students worked together, we came across the Redevelopment of the Simon Silk Mill. The Silk Mill project is the redevelopment of the older Simon’s Silk Mill located in Easton. The City of Easton has planned for the Silk Mill to be revamped into a mix of commercial, residential spaces and artist spaces. The space will be potentially used for a community art space with gallery space, artist studios, and community meeting rooms, an artist live-work facility, and a hotel. (Market Feasibility of the Simon Silk Mill Complex) After looking at that project, it was important to gain insight on what has been done with other large industrial buildings within Easton. It was found that many of the industrial sites, buildings, and railroads that defined Easton in the past are not being used anymore. Instead, they are being replaced with small shops, businesses, or have just been abandoned. Because the Easton and Lafayette communities are already linked together by being in the same post-industrial area it is important to gain information about what both communities would like to see happen in the future of these abandoned industrial spaces that are rich in the history of Easton.

The Silk Mill project along the Karl Striner Arts Trail is a great example of how to utilize the artist communities within the Easton area. Integrating the art student community with Easton is important because it will lead to a better community that will attract more artists to come and settle. Many artists will choose to reside in a place based more on how welcoming the community environment is and less based on economic considerations. It is also important to integrate the two communities because the integration will give students at Lafayette a better learning experience by presenting them with more opportunities to get real life experience within the City of Easton. Having communication with Easton and Lafayette will open up more internship opportunities and projects that students could participate in around the city. We are hoping that student and community collaboration will lead to more projects such as the Karl Stirner Arts Trail and the redevelopment of the Simon Silk Mill. Easton is full of very talented artists and having their help will lead to better projects. Not only will uniting the communities
create a market for artists but a stronger relationship between the City of Easton and Lafayette will add to Easton’s diversity.

Many cities around the US, including Easton, are post-industrializing and therefore it is important to know how to integrate an art community in a post-industrial economy in a way that would have the best economic benefits. Easton used to be a major industrial town for shipping and manufacturing because of its location. But now, along with many other cities across the US, Easton’s economy is shifting from an industrial to a post-industrial one. This means that Easton’s economy is now focusing on services, information, and research instead of on manufacturing. The old industrial buildings of the past are now abandoned as large memorials from better times. The industrial sites should be changed and utilized because they are sometimes dangerous and require much financial attention. It is discussed in “Artful business: Using the arts for community economic development” that there are several ways to enhance community in a post-industrial economy in a way that maximizes the city’s economic potential. One example described in the article is through art cooperatives, which is when a group of artists come together to market and promote their works and tourist venues. This is in fact one of the methods being used for the redevelopment of the Silk Mill. Once it is known what Eastonians and students would like to see in the post-industrial sites in Easton future students will be able to apply these methods along with others to unify the two communities through program initiatives that both communities support.

Our outside contact is Professor Toia, who is an art professor at Lafayette and is also a high school art teacher in Easton. He was also one of the professors who have been involved in the Karl Stirner Arts Trail with the Silk Mill, so he has experience working within both communities that we are trying to acknowledge. In our first meeting with him, he suggested that instead of making a physical sign or poster that we would present to Easton, we should have a final product that would include or facilitate an actual conversation between both parties, Lafayette and Easton.

Our final product is an interactive puzzle with an image of a map of Easton with the land use within the city which also depicts current industrial sites, abandoned sites, and different businesses. For the display of our product at the Easton Farmer’s Market (EFM) on May 4th we also presented a large poster with instructions on how to complete the puzzle and images of different sites that were once being used and have now been abandoned. We provided a small map of Easton from 1897 in order to depict the physical changes in the economic landscape. Participants ranged in ages and knowledge of Easton and were asked to complete the puzzle image. Upon completing the puzzle, they were asked to point out the differences between the past and present in Easton. It is evident that there are now lots of small businesses in Easton and less active industrial sites. Once aware of the changes within Easton and abandoned industrial sites, participants were asked to answer a two question survey. The survey provided information to us about what students and Eastonians would like to see in the future of the abandoned industrial sites.

We made it clear that Lafayette College is included in this area, and asked how could/should we have Easton progress so the two communities are more linked together? By having this direct conversation with people we believe that we are taking a huge step in communicating within
both communities. Although we have a physical product, communication is our ultimate goal that we have been striving and have also managed to achieve. The benefits of this communication will create a stronger relationship between Easton and Lafayette, internship opportunities, field trips, and more connections in the Lehigh Valley Area.

In order to create this interactive puzzle event, materials needed to be acquired like the images of the maps that would be used. A group member had previously interned at the City of Easton Department of Planning and Codes and was able to retrieve old and current maps from the city planner. We modified the land usage maps to create the images for the puzzle that was used for the event.

Organizing this event was an ongoing process that had involved constant communication with several different people. We had to contact the manager of the EFM in order to get approval for the event. Once our event was embraced by the EFM, we got into contact with several professors at Lafayette in order to obtain supplies to support our interactive puzzle at the market like a tent, table, etc.

With the completion of the Easton Farmer’s Market, our final product of communication between Easton and Lafayette was achieved. Although communication was achieved, not many students attended the EFM. If this project continues into fall of next year, we recommend that more information be obtained from students. In order to do so we suggest a different venue for the same activity. We hope that the next year’s class will be able to further the level of discussion between Lafayette and the City of Easton. Hopefully, they will be able to take the results that we gathered and implement the ideas that our audience suggested in future projects involving the abandoned buildings.

We have left with a sense of what the Easton Arts Community cares the most about so that in the future more Lafayette students can take these opinions and use it to better interact with the Easton community.

Appendix A: Annotated Bibliography
Appendix B: Survey results and analysis
Appendix A: Annotated Bibliography


A public radio does an interview of local residents of St. Louis about redevelopment or demolition. The reporter interviews several people: Roland Comfort, Comfort is building demolition supervisor for the Land Reutilization Authority of St. Louis, Michael Allen is the Director of the St. Louis-based Preservation Research Office, Sam Moore a St.Louis Alderman representative of the historically black fourth ward, and previous interview recording from Detroit's Mayor from different positions in the community. A historian suggests that older buildings in the city should not be demolished because of the buildings’ historic place in St. Louis history. Another person says that the buildings should be demolished because the citizens are paying for these unoccupied buildings. These buildings are filled with guns, drugs, and gangs. The people have many opposing points; however, the site that we are looking at is not in line for demolition but redevelopment. Several of Easton’s buildings are already occupied and will be redeveloped in the next coming years. The source gives the negative effects of leaving a vacant/unoccupied buildings standing. There is an increase of crime and loss of money within the city.


This website provides information from the U.S. Census Bureau within different communities and will be utilized to find specific demographic information for the city of Easton. Several sources, like that of Shaw, have portrayed and utilized demographic data in order to objectively understand different social contexts within the geographical areas of study. The information will be used to better understand the community within our surrounding environments through not only our own experiences but through statistical data as recent as 2011.


This interview on Morning Joe by MSNBC interviews several men including Jesse AshLock, Detail magazine author, about redevelopment of the rust belt in the Midwest. Old manufacturing plants are reopening for different purposes. The redevelopment is being used to keep citizens in urban centers instead of leaving older manufacturing towns. Some cities in the rust belt are giving entrepreneurs the chance to buy old facilities and create startup companies, which create opportunities for others. These are interesting points, however, the buildings that are in the Easton area are being used for the arts and condos. The source provides examples of people who are attracted to the old industrial factories that have redeveloped these factories into
businesses. Easton is similar to these larger industrial city and the ideas of these entrepreneurs can be applied to Easton, which can potentially start new jobs for citizens of Easton.


The author is a writer for an online newspaper that is active in the conversation of arts and community. An abandoned church is transformed into a building that stands out in the community in Southwest D.C. with the use of paint by an artist from Atlanta, GA in order to rekindle the use of the building within the neighborhood. This project livens and excites the community atmosphere, which is what we would like to do, but instead of utilizing the historical building or public space, the project completely overrides and hides some of the history of the community. Specifically, this project is a straightforward approach to completely changing a historic building's use since it will be used for an art museum. However, much like the response from the Percy-Smith article, we are welcoming outstanding ideas while hoping to preserve and utilize Easton's industrial city. This is a reminder that we can utilize the physical walls or barriers between the art communities and the fact that we would like many people to be able to notice our product.


The video produced by the BBC interviews the citizens of Dubuque, Mississippi. Dubuque used to be an industrial town along the Mississippi River, however, due to the record unemployment, citizens have left the city. Currently, the city is redeveloping an 85,000 square foot industrial factory. John Gronen is the redeveloper, a man born and raised in Dubuque. There is space set aside for housing and arts. The city is focusing on bringing businesses and arts back to Dubuque. The video provides information about a revitalization of old factories with Dubuque. The main project is a redevelopment of industrial plants that are being converted into apartments, which is similar to the Simon’s silk mill. The source gives an example of a city of similar scale to Easton and a project that is currently happening in Easton.


Christopher Bentley is a Chicago-based journalist, documentary filmmaker and photographer. He specifically, researched large city centers projects within Ohio. Ohio is redeveloping its urban centers in Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Columbus. Local governments and developers are trying to take inner city industrial sites and redevelop them. They are trying to bring suburbanites back to these urban centers. In older industrial sites, plans have been set to meet the demand of citizens who want rental property. The websites provide numerous examples of potential use of space within the urban centers. The relevance of this source is that provides examples of potential
industrial space ideas. Also the larger cities are trying to bring suburbanites back to the cit, which will bring money to the city centers. We hope that redevelopment of these major industrial sites will attract people to Easton, which will potentially bring money back to the city of Easton.


With sociological and economic backgrounds, the authors of this article assess a proactive organization they helped create, that specifically engages and connects the college students at Hartford, CT, to the surrounding community. This organization specifically assigns research assignments to college students to apply to the surrounding community’s needs and uses. It is a great example of building a sustainable relationship with the community directly outside a college campus, which is also mentioned in the Lucena text. Active communication between the outside community and college community is taking place through this organization and active communication is what we hope to achieve through our project so both arts communities can be aware of different events happening simultaneously within each one.


The authors are professors at the University of California who teach in the Department of City and Regional Planning and the Department of Theatre, Dance, & Performance Studies, who have come together for the common concern of social change within the fields of arts and city planning. Data from specific arts districts in Oakland, California, is presented in order to depict thriving artistic districts that have common goals in respect to planning and performance studies. The main argument is that by integrating the arts within the planning process, new concerns can be addressed in the future. This source, with support from the Lucena text, sets up a foundation for the how and why my group is doing our project. We are trying to understand the issues from both arts' communities in our environment and the underlying contexts that separate them in order to bring them together.


This paper discusses the future of old heavy industrial sites throughout Europe. Both authors are professors at the University of Silesia, whose focus are Earth Sciences. The paper focuses on two locations in Europe: the Ruhr Metropolitan Area in Germany and the Metropolitan area of Silesia in Poland. Both cases involve an industrial trail that travels through postindustrial metropolitan areas. The trails are routes for tourists to travel. The result of these sites have become major tourist attractions. An economic benefit of these trails is that the trail are
profitable. Many city governments will not attempt to do a project unless it is profitable. This source provides valuable information for our project because both cases involve a tourist trail similar to the Arts trail in Easton with the old industrial facilities along the Bushkill Creek.

Eger, J. M. (2006). Building creative communities: The role of art and culture. *Futurist, 40*(2), 18-22. This article, written by an expert on information technology at San Diego State University (SDSU), argues to a business audience about the ways in which a community should adapt to the post-industrial economy. Through studies of current post-industrial cities, he concludes that communities must utilize art, culture, and community involvement to be successful in today’s economy. Easton, with projects such as the Bushkill Creek Sculpture Trail and redevelopment of the Simon Silk Mill is trying to utilize art as the city is switching from an industrial to a post-industrial economy. We will use this article to assess Easton’s community involvement and what the economic implications of that are.


Grodach examines the use of public space and assesses these spaces as community spaces with the assistance of his background in urban planning and anthropology. Through his study he shows that through programming and events, art spaces can be used as public spaces that facilitate community outreach but many cannot serve as public spaces because of the lack of physical connection to the communities and neighborhoods. In the Percy-Smith article, the study was done on public art and installation pieces to see the interaction between community members, but in this case, in order to get community engagement there were physical boundaries that prevented the community from engagement even though the usable spaces are public. Thus far in our project, we see the bridge of US-22 as a physical barrier between the two arts communities that we are examining and we are trying to develop a way to respond to this public barrier to enhance community outreach.


In this paper intended for communities, the authors, after studying the relationship between public art and regeneration for many years, investigate whether the claim that public art can help communities form a sense of identity, address community needs, fix social exclusion, and promote social change are legitimate claims. The information will be helpful to our project because we are exploring using public art to integrate two communities together. Although they concluded that public art may not be enough to intervene in the social problems generated by a city, we believe that for Easton, public art displays will generate support from both art students and artist’s in Easton’s community.

Katz, B. (2006, October 2). *Six ways cities can reach their economic potential.* A number of factors affect the economics of cities in the US including policies on tax, trade, transportation, wages, and health. In this paper, an economist who is the vice president of the Brookings Institute argues to a general audience that the United States is experiencing demographic, market, and cultural changes causing the modern economy to be now geared
towards knowledge, innovation, and entrepreneurship. He also argues that the amount of control the federal government has over cities should be reevaluated to allow cities to reach their economic potential. We will use this article to assess a way in which we can integrate Easton’s art community in the best way from an economic standpoint.


Kohn discusses Toronto’s old distillery district in Toronto which is in ruins and filled with old bricks, rusty drums, and old tugboats. The plan for this site is to convert the site into a leisure, entertainment, or consumption site. Toronto’s distillery district is not the first site that has developed this idea. Many post industrial redevelopment projects are profit driven. Similar districts that were redeveloped only changed because of the sites’ marketability. Local governments and investors want to make sure that the money that is put into the project is small compared to the profit that could potentially be made. The site provides nostalgia for those who have lived in the surrounding areas. This is one of the more recent articles of the other sources. The limitation of this article is that it is discussing buildings that are in downtown Toronto which is different from the City of Easton. However, some of the underlying ideas and reasons for redevelopment are similar to Easton’s.

Lippincott, G. (n.d.). Silk. Retrieved from http://www.eastonpartnership.org/silkmill/about.html This was made to inform the Easton community about the history of the Simon Silk Mill. The Mill was created in 1883 along the buildings situated along the Bushkill Creek by Robert and Herman Simon for their silk making company. When the brothers died in 1901, the area was passed around to different companies until 2006 when it was bought by the Easton Redevelopment Authority. They are planning on redeveloping the area by creating a community arts center and artist work facility. This source is purely informative. It does not present an argument about community development but we will use it to find out what the silk mill produced before Easton’s redevelopment plan, what Easton plans to do with the buildings, and how they plan to collaborate with students from Lafayette to make it happen.

outcome of the final product. This article provides helpful and useful information in regard to the future prospect of redevelopment of the facilities along the Bushkill Creek.


The authors, Lucena, Schneider, and Leydens, discuss several different engineering and development projects in third world countries. By reviewing the text, we have come to understand the importance of the themes throughout the text, which are supporting relationships within communities, understanding different perspectives in communities, and viewing cultural contexts of communities. This text is a valuable resource to our project. It is important to understand both communities (College Hill and the City of Easton) if we want communication between them.


This report was written by a group of economists to try to determine whether the redevelopment project that the city of Easton was proposing for the Simon Silk Mill would be economically profitable. Since “Easton’s economy has transitioned to be more based on tourism and the arts”, turning the lot into a center for the arts and creative industries may be the best way to utilize the buildings. The report concluded that the redevelopment project will probably be economically feasible. There is enough market interest for it within a 60-mile radius to compete with existing art community centers in the area.


In this article intended for an artistic audience, 2 economists discuss the economics of art communities around the US and what social factors cause artists to settle in a particular community. According to a study where the authors found out what the distribution of artists were throughout the US, the art occupation is not fixed to a particular type of city or economy, and also vary in working for industry in larger organizations or being self-employed. The authors conclude that artists tend to care more about residing in a community with a nurturing environment than the size or economic situation of the community. We will use this information to assess Easton as a community and whether it is a place where artists would want to reside. We want more artists to want to live in Easton so that the new Simon silk mill will have a bigger market and a better chance of integrating with Lafayette’s art community.


In this article intended for economists, a once economics professor at Harvard University investigates economic development in industrial and post-industrial cities. We will look at the economic impacts of industrial and post-industrial cities with this article. After the industrial revolution, more and more products and industries were beginning to be mass produced so that cities can keep up with the economies of the time period. In the modern world, a similar thing
happened with the information and communicative industries of post-industrialism where industries would become clustered. The author concluded that while economic development is different for every city, empty buildings tend to attract investments to utilize. Therefore, there should be very little government intervention in economic development.


The author, Miles, specifically assesses the “Nine Mile Run Greenway” project in Pittsburgh. It has an agenda of transforming an industrial waste area into a public space through negotiations in the contexts of environmentalism, democracy, and the arts. By examining this project he utilizes his expertise of teaching Cultural Theory in the School of Architecture, Design & Environment at the University of Plymouth in the UK. The “Nine Mile Run Greenway” project has a variety of people involved such as water engineers, environmentalists, city authorities, citizens and even students from Carnegie Mellon. While there is an integration of fields within this specific project, it is more focused on changing an area for a specific purpose through environmentally friendly ways and lacks a more creative approach like that of the Percy-Smith text. For our group project, we are trying to be considerate in respect to the post industrial environment in Easton and we would like to do so by being a bit more creative with these environmental aspects in mind.


This organization strives to unite artists and communities by participating in the creation of murals with local artists, students, and volunteers to transform public spaces. The organization is welcoming to new members who want to get involved and creates another example for the utilization of public space in order to enhance community involvement within the arts through active volunteer work and education. With the city’s support, educational involvement through the arts in the community is reminiscent of the Miles text although it was more geared towards environmentalism. There are educational benefits from engaging with this organization along with physical changes that participants feel from having been involved with the participation. This is what we hope to add to the two arts communities in our study. We would like to add familiarity within the two communities.


This paper discusses cultural clustering strategies. The paper focuses on five case studies located in the Netherlands. It focuses on the complex dynamics involved with bringing culture to postindustrial cities. It also focuses on the opposition of economics versus culture. The source is very useful in providing examples for our similar project. It provides valuable information about cultural clustering. The project combines several facilities that will have similar culture clustering effects around the Bushkill Creek. A limitation of the article is that the Netherlands are
different from the City of Easton. There are different rules and regulations at the country, state, and local levels.


The authors both have a background in educational research and utilize these skills in order to assess public art and installation art in public spaces. They specifically look at the ways children interact with such art in order to explore different ways of thinking about designing and utilizing urban space in a playful manner. In order to enhance the arts community, the examples used are specifically taking community input into account in order to build the arts community rather than just listening to professionals and adults like in Miles' assessments. These projects are targeted to the youth in the communities and add playfulness to public spaces, so for our project we are doing our best to be open minded and creative with feasible ideas for our final product.


An associate professor in the Urban and Regional Planning Department for the University of Florida wrote this article for an artistic and educated audience about how art is an integral part of community economic development. She analyzes four different methods that communities have been using to redevelop while at the same time becoming more economically stable. The methods that she discusses are arts business incubators, arts cooperatives, tourist venues, and comprehensive approaches. The author conducted her analysis by looking at case studies in different cities for each of the four methods listed above. She concluded that these methods can be very effective for economic community development and the specific method that a community might want to adopt will differ depending on what the goals of that community are.


This article, which was written by an investigator in industrial economics, states that the silk industry has been in high demand during the industrial time period because of its high utility especially for products in warfare and in art and design. For that reason, the silk industry was regarded as one of textiles “key industries”. A limitation of this article is that it is addressing the economics of the entire silk industry and not just the specific situation of the Simon Silk Mill in Easton. However, we would use this article to best estimate the economic situation the Easton’s Simon Silk Mill was facing in the industrial time period.


The authors of this article, both Portland State University professors, discuss the separation of
arts districts or neighborhoods in Portland, Oregon, by taking a sociological approach. Awareness of the distinct separation between the arts area within the community and understanding why there is this difference is important. While other articles, such as the Chapple article, have assessed the success of integration between the arts community and planning, this article discusses an actively thriving arts community that caters to certain people where some citizens in the community feel left out or exclude themselves from the culture. Throughout our project we are striving to find what separates the Lafayette Arts Community from Easton's Art Community, and this article, although seemingly based on race, does in fact depict different sociological boundaries between two environments, that of the neighborhood and the arts community.
Appendix B: Activity Analysis:

The Results were divided into their respective questions. The first question was “What would you like to see more focus on in Easton? (Education, small business, etc.)”. The second question was “What would you like to see the abandoned industrial buildings of Easton used for” (education, environmental awareness, society/cultural use, business, etc.). The highest results of the first question was Small business and the second highest was education. The largest result of the second question was a tie between Education and Social/Culture uses. The second largest result was environmental use. The group was pleased with the amount of people willing to answer the questions. Overall there were a total of 37 surveys taken. However, many of the surveys supported several ideas, which caused some confusion. The group decided to incorporate the expressed ideas into the set categories. For example, specific ideas expressed like coffee shops would fit into small business, or ideas like environmental awareness would fit into education and environmental. This gave the results a more robust result.

In the Excel Spreadsheet attached, the most notable results were posted next to their respective category. Small businesses and education got the most attention with 22 and 13 votes for what citizens would like to see more of in Easton. Social/culture and education both got 14 votes for what citizens would like to see in the future of abandoned industrial buildings. This was not surprising since many people had mentioned that they wanted either community centers where kids could hang out or small businesses like coffee shops or toy stores during our time at the Easton Farmer’s Market.

We noticed several different things while interacting with the citizens of Easton. From solely the puzzle only, we discovered which Eastonians actually knew the landscape of Easton from the ones who did not know. For example, older citizens of Easton and the young adults were very quick at the puzzle. We also saw that many of the Easton residents valued their children’s input in respect to the puzzle and survey. Parents were quick to teach and show their kids about the city in which they live and would have their kids put the puzzle together by having the kids find where they live. The fact that children have high value in Easton is also evident in the survey results. For example, one participant suggested a central location for a youth/community center. Easton has youth/community centers however; they are located further away from some families. This specific participant also stated that they wanted a socio-economic center that encompasses all status from rich to poor. One unified community center that would have more space for children to play would also help more residents of Easton understand each other, especially if all economic statuses were joined.

Several participants pointed out the fact that they were literally putting Easton together through the puzzle while also noticing that they were giving input to unify Easton and Lafayette through these industrial spaces. Through both processes Easton was being unified. Not only was the entire landscape of Easton being put together, but as students we realized how much Easton values Lafayette. For example, one specific participant hoped for a center within Easton that would specifically have Lafayette students encourage the youth of Easton to pursue college careers in general and in engineering. It seems as though some people in Easton would value more influence from Lafayette. Another idea that struck our group as a surprise was the fact that
a young adult participant encouraged the idea for a community center specifically geared towards the LGBTQ community within Easton. As students we take for granted the resources that we have at Lafayette like the Quest club and the fact that the Quest club has its own space on campus. Easton has no center like this. This was a reminder of how fortunate we are, and how since we do share some of the same values we should do so through spaces within Easton that are not just accessible to Lafayette students. We should share these values through shared space within Easton.

As a team we pieced together a common bonding theme through the surveys. The citizen's of Easton want the future of the city to be a safe, intellectual, and cultured space for their young to grow and prosper. Furthermore, not only did we gain value in Easton but we saw that people of Easton value Lafayette. We did not realize the strength in these values until doing this activity. We hope that in the future, these values can be implemented into programs within these post-industrial sites for a unified Easton community.
Support for Post-Industrial Site Use

Number of People Who Support Value for Post-Industrial Site Use

Values/Ideas:
- Housing
- Education
- Social/Culture
- Tourism
- Small Business
- Manufacturing
- Art Studios
- Museums
- Environmental
- Diversity
- Mass Transit
- Grocery Stores
- Economic Use