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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