Host Name: Oneida County Public Market and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County (https://www.facebook.com/oneidacountypublicmarket)

Host Background Information: Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Oneida County’s mission is ‘to help people identify resources and find solutions to improve their homes, families, farms, businesses, and communities through education, experience, and research.’

Position Name/Job Title: Community Development Student Intern

Position Context: (from the CCE Oneida County press release) The former Railroad Express Agency (REA) wing at Union Station in the historic Bagg’s Square area of Utica was built nearly a century ago and now houses the Oneida County Public Market. The long, narrow structure served as a transfer building from the rails to local delivery for over fifty years. With the shift from rail to truck transport, use of the facility declined until it was closed in the 1960’s. Redevelopment of the space began in 2011 with Oneida County’s commitment to explore all possible alternatives to increase economic activity in the area. The Oneida County Public Market blends the needs of consumers with those of the region’s long-standing agribusiness sector. The market brings in area producers, farmers and artisans together to provide local goods.

Naming several institutions and area businesses, County Executive Picente said Bagg’s Square is becoming a center where business opportunities are developing. Bringing together community and having this be a place that is a launch spot for other groups to come in and use the facility will really make Union Station a community hub of activity. “This is a very exciting opportunity to celebrate local commerce and community. Through Oneida County’s long-standing partnership with Oneida County Cooperative Extension, we have worked with a number of vendors and other partners to provide a unique blend of vendors who will be offering fresh produce, meats, cheeses, yogurts, prepared food, along with arts and crafts.”

The long term project will eventually include a year round indoor public market. Many of the activities predicted for the future include a partnership with the Adirondack Scenic Railroad and to expand other events already taking place in the general area. The space has the potential as seen through the redevelopment of markets at Grand Central Terminal and South Street Seaport in NYC. “The goal is to build up the economic and community activity downtown, so that we can spur even more redevelopment and more private investment in the heart of Utica. Union Station is a gem, and the entire site has outstanding potential. The Public Market is a creative 21st century way of capitalizing on that potential, and create a special gathering place for families and friends,” Picente said.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County provides equal program and employment opportunities.
The intern position will assist with preforming asset mapping, gap analysis and data collection to help identify opportunities for economic and community development within the urban context of Bagg’s Square.

**Position Description:** The intern will be responsible for working closely with the Public Market Manager, the Rural & Community Development Specialist and the Agriculture Economic Development Specialist to create a planning and guidance document for the future development of the REA wing of Union Station and Bagg’s Square.

**Basic Qualifications and Preferred Experience:** Experience related to Ag Economics, Agribusiness, Marketing, Community Development, City and Regional Planning and/or Landscape Architecture would be preferred. Interns should be prepared to compile information and data, assist in writing the plan document, preparing maps and other graphics relevant to the plan and making presentations that will help convey concepts to the general public and potential funding sources. The student should be able to articulate ideas and concepts through written language, public speaking, and/or visual media.

**Work Schedule:** 32 hours (80%) during a standard 40 hour work week to the responsibilities of their position in (4) 8 hour weekdays and 8 hours (20%) to the community engagement project as (1) 8 hour day on Saturdays.

**Expected Outcomes (for intern):** The intern will gain experience in most aspects of the public planning process; students will have an opportunity to complete a project proposal that can be used in a portfolio of work, build public presentation skills and collaborate with other interdisciplinary professionals while acquiring practical experience in their field.

**Assigned Location:** Oneida County Public Market, REA Wing at Union Station, 321 Main Street, Utica, New York 13501