Wasteland: A Manifesto for Resurrection via the Fringe

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Abandonment. Decay. Void. All of these describe the current state of such an incredibly large portion of the city of Baltimore that they can become synonymous with the city itself. It's an epidemic that has crippled the city. This incredible area requires large sums of money to police it, to pay for its education. As the trend continues, the hole is dug deeper and becomes increasingly insurmountable. Individuals driven to the county by the existence of sociological, racial, or monetary pressures ring the city, choking it to death.

The visible problem is the abandonment and decay. Its roots lie much deeper, in the political and social histories of the city. There are a large number of economic problems here at the root of this. High property taxes choke out the life of the city when much more reasonable alternatives lie just miles away in the surrounding county. A perception of crime, and of disintegration, while not real, does not help the cause. This need, however, is met as a last resort of Baltimore’s problems. Each step to maintain the old ways is a lost battle, futilely attempting to sustain a failing that change happens. The visible problem is a net draining of life into the city. It will find appreciation, and find itself again somehow.

The fringe is a strange and unique direction. The word happened in a number of ways, by the forces of nature and human design. The people of the city have come to accept its presence, and to struggle within it. The fringe is often seen as an area of opportunity, and a place for the arts and artists. It is a place where new ideas can flourish, and where old ideas can be discarded. It is the place where the urban dweller, a term as broad as the challenges that face it, can come together to create a vibrant community.

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LOGAN NEWTON
While beginning in a wealthier area, the campus has expanded towards North Avenue, pushing out the "fringe." MICA EXTENSION maintains connection to North Avenue from "fringe" condition.

Currently under renovation, the MICA THEATER fronts North Avenue. Located in another "fringe" condition, it is a key element of the development.
GRAFFITI ALLEY