

## GREAT LAKES BIOMIMICRY COLLABORATIVE

The Great Lakes Biomimicry Collaborative (GLBio) was established to drive sustainable regional economic development by *creating conditions for place-based innovation inspired and tested by nature*. Four key activities are being undertaken: to explore and evaluate, through a biomimetic lens, Northeast Ohio (NEO) as place; to identify place-based assets/opportunities including, and engaging, NEO's unique natural physical features, logistical infrastructure, land use potential, human skills and capabilities, and organizational and educational resources; to articulate a value proposition arising from how regional assets and opportunities combine and integrate to present a unique ecosystem for the establishment of a Biomimicry Center in NEO; and, to design for action and attraction, creating a place-based economic engine for NEO and the greater mega-regional area.

GLBio seeks to establish: a biomimetic attraction and development organization, to identify (globally) entrepreneurs, start-up companies, regional university technology transfer partnerships, and ideas originating in NEO involving biomimetic solutions to human (and other) problems, and then locate and foster them in NEO; a venture philanthropy fund to support regional biomimetic focused companies (birthed in NEO, external to NEO, or developed through collaborative NEO University technology transfer partnerships); a STEM (5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade) through Ph.D. educational consortia, to provide new regional educational opportunities as well as current and future graduate employment in fields utilizing biomimicry; a professional track, as well as a business track, biomimetic education process to bring the lens of biomimicry, an additional tool to help solve human and organizational problems, to NEO corporations and organizations; two exploratory groups seeking to leverage all sustainability assets, as well as all fresh water assets, in the Cuyahoga Watershed Region, to determine the opportunity and efficacy of a collaborative, nationally recognized duo of NEO place-based organizations; and, lastly, the Strategic Organization for Advanced Resources (SOAR), an effort seeking to preserve and grow NEO's precious resource of foundation funding, through a process for all aspiring NEO not-for-profit organizations to develop business plans, work with accounting and law firms, partner with business volunteer organizations to identify and seek opportunities for collaboration with similar NEO organizations, and establish a methodology to identify the worthiest ideas, with all data provided to funding not-for-profits. The intent would be to enable the funding foundations to mitigate significant due diligence, by requiring that potential clients go through such a professional process prior to fund application.

GLBio is endeavoring to develop a *place-based, living learning laboratory environment process*, unique only to NEO in the entire U.S. GLBio will team with existing NEO economic development organizations (NorTech, TeamNeo, BioEnterprise, JumpStart, NEOInc, Austen Bio, etc.), to avoid costly duplication of effort, while providing a revolutionary, and sustainable, privately funded capability and focus.

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