

Code:	517049
Subject:	Michael Owen
Date:	June-23-2008
Interviewer:	Joe Culley
Special Notes:	Northside Developer Old Building lover and restoration Artist

Minutes:

- 0 Interviewers brief backgrounds
- 1 Students are going into school and are very deficient in there education
Personal background information Born Fort Campbel Kentucky Father a corpral in
- 2 101st Airborn
Studied Realastate Fascinated with the media Focused upon old buildings German
- 3 Village in Columbus
- 4 Learned by Osmosis about development and realistate

- 5 As child he played a lot with crayons As an adult keeps a visual drawing journal
- 6 Outsider Art Reverand Albert Wagner inspired him with his prolificness

- 1976 he moved back to Akron during dormant economy throwing away old
- 7 buildings. He is oldest of 4 children and family was here. Grew up in North hampton
Urban recycler. Nexus between creative people and revitalization Did this
- 8 revitalization with BF Goodrich around the country
Then he went into business for himself hired as a consultant AES building first
- 9 project by Cascade Locks Set out to create an arts district
Blue Star Arts complex in San Antonia Texas inspiration for Northside endeavour
- 10 Rock star restrauts Chrissy Hines from the group Pretenders
- 11 AMHA backed building of 270 brand new homes sears craftsman design
Akron can use a good art district to attract a creative class providing an environment
- 12 of suckh lifestyle
- 13 1870 Ice House working with kindred spirit David Shimotakahara Ballet
Can do anything in Akron you can do in NY city only that you go back to the same
- 14 place the next day

- 15 Northside constructed to be a magnet for people who are going to the metropark
Names specific artists within Northside project Ice House coolest building he has
- 16 ever done

- 17 Secret garden behind Ice House was a junkyard for 30 years prior to his acquisition
He Loves the ice house because it has rail sidings, 60ft high space, tall fences
- 18 multiple gate openings and cobblestone AMHA eradicating urban blight
- 19 No one was rolling the stone alone anymore in redevelopment of the area
Its all done with a regard for history rivers, rails and roads. It's ashame that urban
renewal took out old buildings out Expadicious "A workable plan today is better than
- 20 a perfect plan tommorrow
- 21
- 22 Mission Helped a lot of emerging artists giving them a state to play
- 23 Old building restoration Environmental diabilities lead paint, aesbestos, pcb's
Love 100 year old brick I've built 17 buildings I'm like a Bll in a china shop I piss a lot
- 24 of people off

- 25 If you want to take a piss you have to have a meeting, making there rat holes nice
Your either in or out of the club, I'd rather be left alone This towns leadership at
- 26 times is fasciat and Old boy network

Akron has weather and reinvented the past 30 years and that only happens with
27 strong leadership
28 Capital reinvestments back into the neighbors in the city
Fathers influential role on his life we do it differently and Jesuit education you can
29 make the world a better place

30 Change of the area, it use to be a ghetto 1995 when he started changed perception
31

32 65 dollar tofu sandwiches at Vegeteranian resturant. His future vision of the area.
33 Northside name origin and logo Seattle Mariners "I like Compass Points"

34 People will come back into the city because of the stressed economy gas prices etc.
In 1976 you could shoot rifles downtown mainstreet Now you have 3,000 19-27 yr
35 olds at 1:30 in the morning Saturday night
36 One of the Richard Sparhart? Bicycle shop entrenprenaur interesting character
Virginia W hero built a part of her life on a dream and making the cascade locks
37 come to fruition
Ghepetto more than Picasso Get out of the door by 8 o'clock you are ahead of
38 75% of the rest of the people in the world
39 Joy of being one of the Northside irregulars
Philosopher Camus quote "The rebel from the second he says no,begins to say yes
40 and has to say yes to survive"
Childhood sense of place The Woods, Greenhouses, watched stuff getting made,
41 Mother was a floral designer
42 Undergraduate school experiences. Loves to build tree forts.
His sacred place in the Northside area. "Secret garden behind Ice House" bought
an airstream trailer. 1957 humpback trailer and put it in the secret garden comes to
43 Akron to camp I'm a big reader
44
What role would he take in a circus. Ring Leader or sharpshooter. He's now in a
45 transition in life, tired of being in the center
46 Breaking down limitations. I'm 54 and tired of the battles and I want to do less
47 Families perspective of his endeavours
Utilizes Family skill of to communicate with people. Tom Sawyer school of
48 economic development
Personal strategy in creating momentum. Momentum builds on itself run into
49 people Northside Nepotism counts for everything
I want less in my life rather than more, mking more money doesn't get me back to
50 my fort quicker End game how do I perpetuate my vision
51 Empty nester and have good health. I got a Big journey in me
Personal Epiphanies. I was rise on Norman Vincent Pea's philosophy. I I was raised
empowered. Make no little plans because they have no imagination to stir man's
52 blod."

53 He wants his kids to find more peace than he has
54 Intrinsic satisfaction that fortifies you and feeds you for the next project
55 Observing all his impact
56
Children of Today not getting the foundation stuff...being read to, playing catch void
57 of mental and physical activity it's all instantaneous Living Virtual
58 I'm a ludite

I feel bad that my generation has left your generation a mess I feel we have done
59 them a disservice

60 My son has seen and witnessed how things are transformed

61 Where does your drive come from? My father Making forts with shit I've found

62 You got to take changes Letting Go to grow

63 Hasn't had a job in 19 years

64 Chaotic life would love to have a 9 to 5 job

My life has made a difference I feel really blessed and I've done it with wonderful
65 people with common experiences

66 Advice to others Dream Big work Hard do something that interests you

Transforming the Ice House into a 200 seat theater is the culmination of my lifes
67 work

68 Explanation of the interview

Book called " From the Ground Up Seeds of america Enpreneuers" published by
69 Harvard library book

70 My children can see my buildings. Time Capsle

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