



BIG™ is a green-village-builder, a national network, one of America's most diverse eco-orgs, and a thought leader in green community education and trade development for communities of color...across 13 economic sectors. We teach a whole-system solution for the whole-system problems common to black communities everywhere through our platform, The 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building™ and its precursor, Grannynomics.™ Together they offer a culture-specific prescription with universal value.

We Teach Green Community Economic Development “One Square Mile At A Time” We Start With Community Performance As A Healing-Bonding-Organizing-Revenue Tool Register For Summer Semester: “Organizing Your [Walk-To-Work Walk-To-Shop Walk-To-Play] Village”

BIG™ was born to remind generations of our great cultural legacy - which is our stewardship of the land – and to reinvent that legacy in the age of climate change. Informed and inspired by America's great Underground Railroad story, our system teaches the primacy of self-help and the importance of allies across the bounds of race and class. Our vision is self-sustaining black communities everywhere. Our mission is to link, leverage, and lead through a new breed of environmentalists. Our goals are to invent, invest, manufacture, and merchandise, our communities into walkable, self-reliant, mixed-income villages. Through our strategic operating system – The BIG Village™ – BIG Hub™ – BIG Toolbox™ – we foster and sustain green, neighbor-owned businesses in communities of color. Our green-villages are walk-to-work/walk-to-shop communities anchored by these neighbor-owned businesses, which become the agents of “jobs-driven development.” Only jobs-driven development stabilizes neighborhoods through the health/wealth enhancement of present residents, avoiding forced or voluntary neighbor migration to “better” neighborhoods, or the influx of “better” neighbors – benign or hostile. Resident money stays active locally supporting community self-interests, and the heritage of a place is preserved. Around the world, the case has been made for such interdependent local living economies as greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Such sustainable community initiatives should be supported in Black neighborhoods, too.

OUR 8 PRINCIPLES OF GREEN-VILLAGE-BUILDING™ **A New Paradigm For Green Community Economic Development**

1. **Micro-Saving/Lending, Local Currency/Wealth.** Each village has its own measures, exchanges, and repositories of wealth.
2. **Local Energy Production & Transportation.** Each village produces its own energy for heat, light, and transportation.
3. **Shopping & Waste.** Each village supplies all basic goods and services to neighbors, converting waste to wealth in the process.
4. **Affordable Green Homes & Gardens.** Each village is sustained through jobs-driven development without displacement, providing low-income housing and producing high-quality food through land trust CDC's.
5. **News & Networks/Stories & Structures.** Each village celebrates its past, present, and future culture through stories in print, digital, and theatrical forms.
6. **Village Centers & Borders:** Each village is a walkable, self-sustaining whole with perceptible borders, interdependent local ties, and global context.
7. **Health, Education & Welfare.** Each village fosters life-long learning through hubs, which are epicenters for green training, development and lifestyle transformation.
8. **Green Jobs & Enterprise.** Each village circulates its wealth through neighbor-owned businesses which invent, invest, manufacture, and merchandise locally.

Bringing the new green economy home – one square mile at a time.™



Grannynomics™ refers to the values which ruled our households and guided our transactions when small was plenty. In my life, they are derived from the economic soul of my own grandmother's home and business management. She was Adelia Thompson Siggers of Minter City, Mississippi, a sharecropper's wife. By understanding her operating system – the one in which my mother was raised and the one in which I was raised – I've been able to begin distinguishing whole-system solutions which once operated sustainably in our villages, but which have disappeared in the generations since my walkable village in St. Albans, Queens flourished by circulating its dollars vigorously. BIG™ is committed to reinventing that village here in the age of climate change.

Values Underlying Our 8 Principles Of Green- Village-Building™

- ❖ **Everyone must work:** even the lilies of the field must draw water and harvest sun.
- ❖ **All youngsters learn a trade:** by age 10 you're an apprentice.
- ❖ **Cash is often optional:** grow your own food, make your own clothes.
- ❖ **Pay as you go:** use the catalog to dream big, spend small, and appreciate your possessions.
- ❖ **Compete to improve:** in raising hogs or in a spelling bee, be your best.
- ❖ **Earn respect:** trade in the Golden Rule.
- ❖ **Define and regulate yourself:** your spouse's boss' wife cannot tell you what to do.
- ❖ **Be courteous, honest, proud:** you can be certain your Creator -- and others -- are watching.
- ❖ **Clothe, feed, educate, and restrain your children and yourself:** adopt others' children if they can't.
- ❖ **Keep yourself and your things beautiful and neat:** even your laundry on the line should shine.
- ❖ **Eat well and rest:** take care of the goose that lays the golden eggs...enjoy featherbeds and whole grains.
- ❖ **Surround yourself with flowers:** chicken poop makes great fertilizer.

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