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11.439 Revitalizing Urban Main Streets
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MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning Spring 2009
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Reflection #4
How our personal values shape our work

With our decision to use part of the reflection exercises to better understand how to address issues related to managing values and value conflicts as planners, a useful place to begin is by examining our personal values and how they may influence our work. For this exercise, please consider and write down your responses to the following three questions:

1. What are the most important values that shape your own goals and work as a planner? These may be either values about how you should work as a planner or values about the type of place, community or society that you are seeking to build, or both.
2. How are these values helping you in undertaking the project on St. Claude Avenue? How are you using them to inform or shape your current phase of work?
3. How do or might these values present challenges or problems for you in the project? To what extent do they influence how you understand or perceive issues? Do they bias you to certain conclusions, ideas or proposals?