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11-15-2006

## Interview with Jason DeSanto, Our United Villages, 2006 (audio)

Jason DeSanto

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Portland State University Oral History Project  
Interview Index

INTERVIEWEE: Jason Desanto

Interviewer: Joe Arbow

Date: November, 16 2006

Location of Interview: Interviewees home

Research Assistant: Amy Evangelista

Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN  
EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

| Time  | Notes   |
|-------|---|
| 00:53 | Born in Yonkers, NY in 1972   |
| 1:29  | Education a combination of public schools                           |
| 1:50  | Humboldt State. Environmental activist                              |
| 2:07  | Business management degree  |
| 2:52  | Rebuilding Center with Shane  |
| 3:45  | Our United Villages   |
| 4:41  | Albina neighborhood for Rebuilding Center. Vaughn St in NW Portland |
| 5:38  | Asbestos, lead products and other materials that can't be sold      |
| 7:08  | Non-profit status instead of a business                             |
| 9:37  | 5 years ago – entered real estate                                   |
| 10:52 | Used to do all aspects of business, still does but uses some help   |
| 12:17 | Uses Rebuilding Center and craig's list for materials               |
| 12:32 | Embodied Energy concept   |
| 14:25 | Economics vs. throughput  |
| 15:00 | Tax incentives  |
| 16:30 | Rebuilding Center size and workload                                 |
| 18:20 | Market for recycled building materials                              |
| 20:18 | Green building tactics in his business                              |

| Time  | Notes   |
|-------|---|
| 23:22 | Rebuilding Center – store manager duties  |
| 25:20 | Advertising – word of mouth and trash route advertisements  |
| 26:30 | Bargaining power, creating a community  |
| 31:03 | Solutions to the state of the ecosystem   |
| 32:00 | Timber harvesting vs. utilizing old building lumber   |
| 35:57 | Used building materials association of America  |
| 36:30 | Non-profits using a business model  |
| 38:00 | Our United Villages – using profits from the Rebuilding Center, employee benefits and deconstruction services |
| 39:12 | Giving advice to similar recycling centers in Iceland, Africa, U.S.   |
| 40:45 | Rejuvenators  |
| 41:31 | Greenscaping – retaining walls and zero-scaping   |
| 42:26 | Landscaping, using native Oregon species  |
| 42:50 | Water use issues  |
| 45:45 | Building codes, energy efficiency and the use of recycled materials   |
| 48:45 | Newer vs. older materials, pros and cons  |
| 50:05 | Consumer preferences  |
| 53:12 | Childhood influences: antique interest  |
| 54:20 | Economic influence: counter cyclical business   |