



**VOICE VISIONING SESSION REPORT OUT  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2012  
10 A.M.  
CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**



## What VOICE is About

VOICE brings together diverse members of our community in facilitator-led group discussions to draw out and capture everyone's ideas for the future. Together, we'll discuss our hopes and dreams for Evansville in a comfortable, open forum that's fun and inspiring, too. The sessions will allow respectful conversations to take place, and all voices to be heard, and every opinion to be documented and shared. VOICE will ensure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to take part in creating a desired future. Absolutely everyone.

## The VOICE Process

Leadership Evansville will facilitate discussion sessions each month starting on August 15 at easy-to-access public locations, such as Evansville Public Library System branches and Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation schools. The sessions will be advertised in neighborhood newsletters, the newspaper, television, radio and via the initiative's website: [www.evansvillevoice.com](http://www.evansvillevoice.com).

Comments from each session will be available to the participants and the public. A summary and detailed notes will be posted on the VOICE Web site within one week of the session.

Once all comments are collected, additional community sessions will occur to verify that the information collected truly represents participants' opinions.

Then, common themes and ideas will be grouped by topic area to serve guidance for those organizations, businesses, universities, individuals, and government bodies with interest in that topic to move forward with further research and planning toward common goals.



## VOICE SESSION SCHEDULE

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

GROUND RULES

THE POSITIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY

CARRY FORWARD & LEAVE BEHIND

VISION DRAWING & PRESENTATION

WRAP UP/ WHAT'S NEXT



## **LARGE GROUP OPENING- Lead Facilitator**

“One or two words describing why you are passionate about our community.”

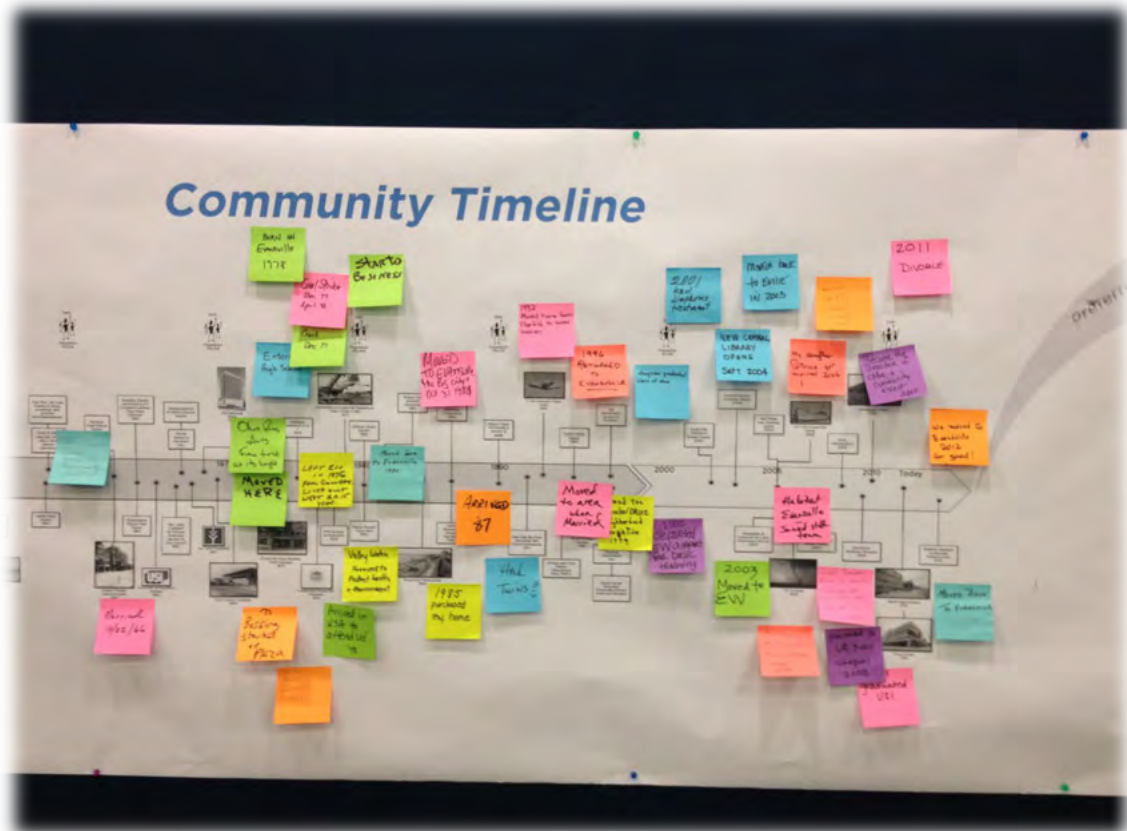


## LARGE GROUP OPENING- Lead Facilitator

“One or two words describing why you are passionate about our community.”

- Supportive
- Thriving
- Unlimited potential
- Supportive
- Polite
- Kind
- Hopeful
- Family
- Home
- Dynamic leadership
- philanthropic
- caring
- progressive
- culture
- livable
- warm
- family
- home
- knowledgeable
- problem solver
- Hopeful
- beautiful
- Family
- home ownership
- welcoming
- creative
- vision
- community
- home
- potential
- surprising
- optimistic
- change
- resilient
- redundant
- energized
- welcoming
- warn
- welcoming
- home
- Hopeful
- home
- friendly
- comfortable
- potential
- friendly
- education diverse
- urban
- rural
- safe
- riverfront
- potential
- friendly
- diverse
- philanthropic
- friendly
- caring
- caring
- potential
- Family

- Hopeful
- optimistic
- Family
- willing
- playful
- thoughtful
- volunteers
- potential
- library
- first responders
- library
- giving
- safe





## **SMALL GROUP 1- SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS**

“In a preferred future, what would you carry forward and what would you leave behind?”

**Small group 1 facilitator: Nicky Tesh**

**Small group 1 scribe: Don Crankshaw & Meghan Seibert**

**Small group 1 recorder: Jeff Gruszewski**

### **Small group 1 participants:**

Sara	Murray
Jared	Wells
Jamie	Madigan
Stephanie	Terry
Stephen	Standiford
Sean	Georges
Linda	Bennett
Emily	Baxter
George	Postlewaight
Bill	Wooten
Melanie	Atwood
Zac	Parsons
Micah	Schweizer
Charlene	Tolbert
David	Matthews
Nicolas	Churque
Ben	Schmitt



Carry Forward	Leave Behind
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• progressive thought</li> <li>• family unit</li> <li>• inventiveness/entrepreneurs</li> <li>• education</li> <li>• library system</li> <li>• religious plurality/celebration of interfaith beliefs</li> <li>• philanthropy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• east-west divide</li> <li>• indifferences</li> <li>• negative attitudes</li> <li>• racism</li> <li>• poor self esteem</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• planning and engagement</li> <li>• we are a large city</li> <li>• diverse setting</li> <li>• learn about our neighbors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meth</li> <li>• glass ceiling</li> <li>• apathy and indifference</li> <li>• we are a small town</li> <li>•</li> <li>• inclusive</li> <li>• lack of creativity in problem solving</li> <li>• lack of willingness to change</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• family centered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• us vs. them</li> <li>• negative attitudes</li> <li>• limited thinking</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• openness to change</li> <li>• quality of life, arts, culture</li> <li>• collaboration</li> <li>• parks</li> <li>•</li> <li>• sense of growth</li> <li>• enthusiasm for our youth</li> <li>• sense of community</li> <li>• quality of life institutions</li> <li>• zoo</li> <li>• education</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apathy</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• lack of engagement</li> <li>• delinquency</li> <li>• drugs</li> <li>• sprawl</li> <li>• "Fat city"</li> <li>•</li> <li>• negative attitudes</li> <li>• stop lights</li> <li>• non self sustaining</li> <li>• intolerance</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• neighborhood diversity</li> <li>• intergenerational interaction</li> <li>• hope for the youth</li> <li>• path for youth to follow</li> <li>• bold community leadership</li> <li>• sustainable education</li> <li>• wider engagement</li> <li>• intelligent risk taking</li> <li>• mutual respect</li> <li>• partnerships</li> <li>• generation of good</li> <li>• economic development</li> <li>• complete streets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• car centrism</li> <li>•</li> </ul>



- dream of home ownership for everyone
- 
- trails and green space
- look at problems from can solve perspective
- smoke-free community
- more openness to new technology and new media
- economic diversity
- stronger connection between business, education, and local community
- downtown redevelopment
- mentoring program for youth
- improved bandwidth
- more funding for WNIN
- more financial support for early childhood development programs
- find resources for problem solving
- 
- 
- sense of resignation
- 
- 
- fear of new technology
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- competitiveness



Leave Behind

Fear of technology  
Competitiveness

LEAVE BEHIND

East/West divide	lack of creativity
Indifferences	limited thinking
Negative Attitude	lack of willingness to change
Racism	"us" vs. "them"
Low Self-Esteem	lack of engagement
Meth	diligence
glass ceiling	Sprawl
Apathy	"Fast City"
Small town	Stop lights
inclusiveness	unsustainable
inferiority	intolerance
Obsession of	car-centricism

CARRY FORWARD

PROGRESSIVE THOUGHT	SYNERGY - BUSINESS/MEDIA
FAMILY UNITY <sup>CLUSTER</sup>	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
ENTREPRENEUR	IMP. BROADBAND MEMBER PROGRAM
EDUCATION	HOPE FOR YOUTH
LIBRARY SYSTEM	LEARNING MORE ABOUT NEIGHBORS
RELIGIOUS PLURALITY	SENSE OF GROWTH
PHILANTHROPY	SENSE OF COMMUNITY
PLANNING : ENGAGEMENT	QUALITY OF LIFE INSTITUTIONS
LGE CITY	COLLABORATION
ENTHUSIASM FOR YOUTH	PARKS ZOO
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP	EDUCATION
WIDER ENGAGEMENT	GOOD SCHOOLS
INTEL. RISK TAKING	NEIGHBORHOOD DIVERSITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	DIVERSITY
HOME OWNERSHIP DREAMS	SELF-SUSTAINING
POSITIVE PROBLEM SOLVING	CELEBRATION OF GOOD
NEW TECH/MEDIA	MUTUAL RESPECT/PARTNERSHIPS
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV.	COMPLETE TRANSIT
	TRAILS : GREENSPACE
	SMOKE-FREE COMMUNITY
	ECONOMIC DIVERSITY
	RESOURCES FOR PROBLEM SOLVING

# voice

CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE





## **SMALL GROUP 2- SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS**

“In a preferred future, what would you carry forward and what would you leave behind?”

**Small group 2 facilitator: Nathan Jochum**  
**Small group 2 scribe: Marcia Au & Kelly Martin**  
**Small group 2 recorder: Becky Kasha**

### **Small group 2 participants:**

Lynn	
Jennifer	Borgra
Birdie	Harrison
Don	Carrell
Sarah	Dauer
John	Blair
Mariela	Moscoso
Kim	Mulfinger
Jael	Churque
Ellen	Sprepski
Lori	Reed
Bruce	Griffin
Anna	Hargis
Betty Sue	Taloff
Rick	Cameron
Jerry	Yezbick

Carry Forward	Leave Behind
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• optimism and positive attitude</li> <li>• volunteerism</li> <li>• keep it clean, pick up trash as you see it</li> <li>• be open to different cultures</li> <li>• riverfront as a community asset to be developed</li> <li>• service</li> <li>• healthy attitude</li> <li>• walkable community</li> <li>• parental education of kids</li> <li>• neighborhood associations</li> <li>• we're a metropolitan community not just a city or county</li> <li>• follow through on projects and ideas</li> <li>• collaboration among groups</li> <li>• new attitude of continuous improvement</li> <li>• enforcement of upkeep for rental properties</li> <li>• focus on education at all levels</li> <li>• more educational opportunities</li> <li>• thinking big picture</li> <li>• help small businesses thrive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inferiority complex</li> <li>• closed mindedness</li> <li>• rotting city core and development only in suburbs</li> <li>• stagnation in leadership; that's the way we've always done it</li> <li>• "the status quo is OK" mentality</li> <li>• pollution</li> <li>• sprawl mentality, car-centric lifestyles</li> <li>• unfriendly boater riverfront</li> <li>• fast food nation</li> <li>• broken sidewalks</li> <li>• drugs</li> <li>• apathy</li> <li>• territorialism in solving urban issues</li> <li>• can't do attitude</li> <li>• unkept properties</li> <li>• lingering discrimination</li> <li>• focus on old technology in education</li> <li>• focus on teaching things we don't need in the job market</li> <li>• project-only vision and tunnel vision</li> </ul>

- parental engagement in education
- instilling personal responsibility to be engaged in big picture
- local business and locally driven ideas
- link education to local jobs requirements/opportunities
- healthy city and healthy homes
- personal responsibility for keeping sidewalks and alleys clean and safe
- this platform for collective impact
- downtown projects privately funded (ball park, riverfront, mall in the middle of town)
- make riverfront friendly for boaters
- public transportation
- corporate headquarters
- cleaning up urban blight
- entrepreneurial spirit
- educate people about enforcement processes for getting rid of urban blight
- Darmstadt as secluded from the rest of the community
- chain and franchise businesses
- abandoning existing buildings and building new
- brain drain
- 
- 
- 
- rock pile on the riverfront
- entitlement attitude
- 
- 
- unsafe homes
- meth, domestic violence, hopelessness



# voice

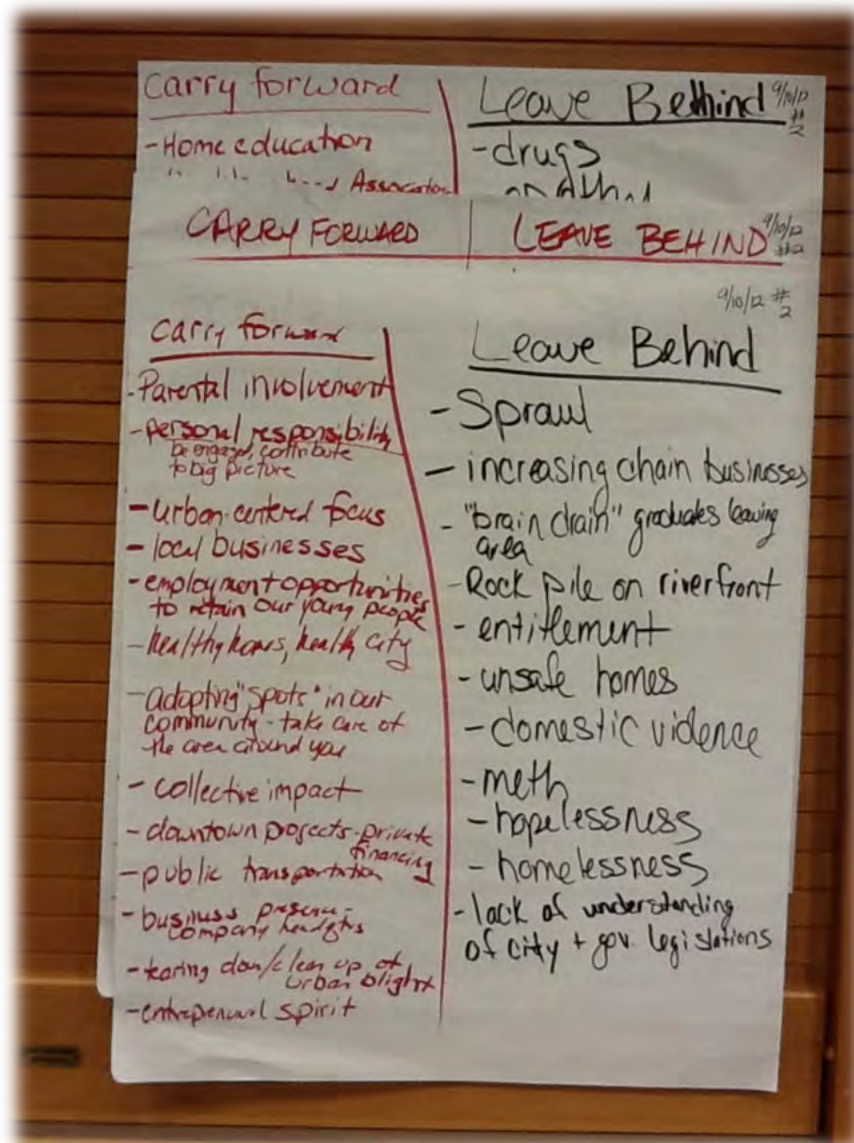
CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE





# voice

CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE

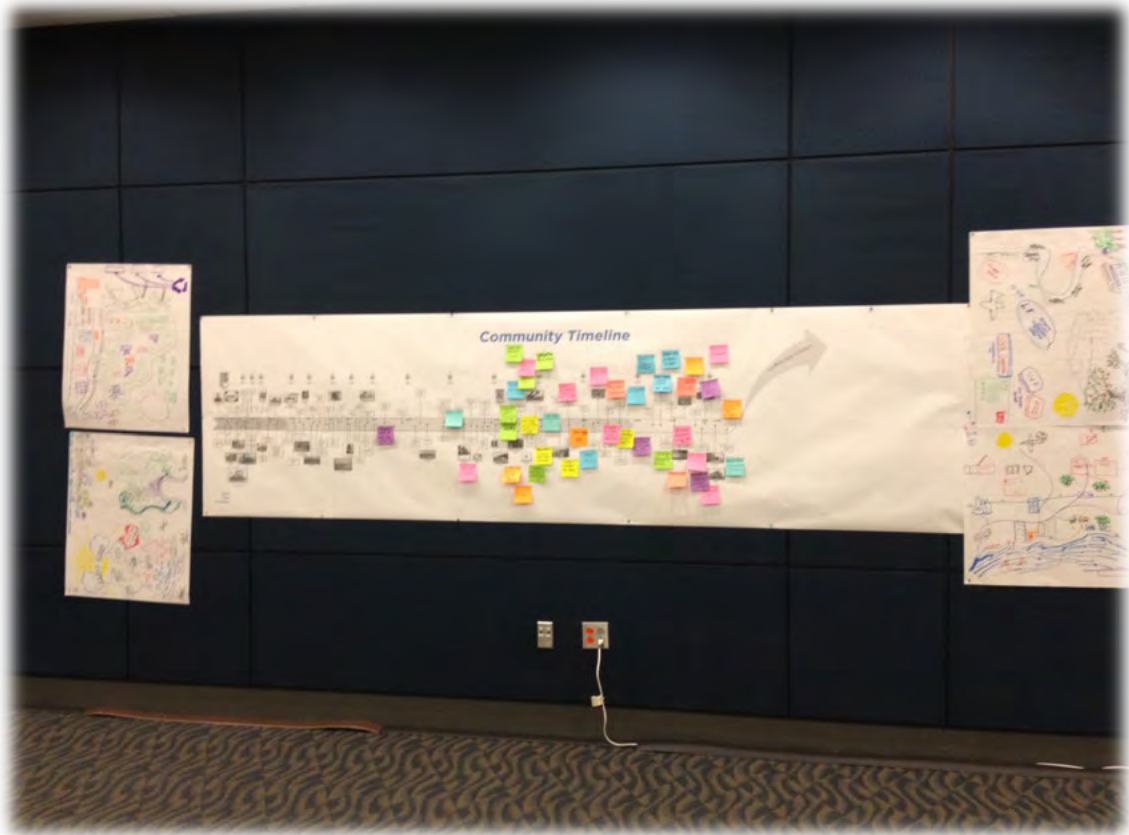




CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE

## LARGE GROUP CLOSING

Recap of "What elements have you drawn into your visions of Evansville's Preferred Future?"





## LARGE GROUP CLOSING- Group 1

Recap of “ What elements have you drawn into your visions of Evansville’s Preferred Future?”

### Group 1A

- Agricultural influence, business, leadership, tech training, partnerships with higher education - attract regional and global industries; holiday world needs campus at riverfront
- safe parks, family involvement center
- take advantage of river, community centers of recreation
- Fruit - ideas washing ashore maturing into new tree generating ideas and more fruit
- Continue using riverfront; place for boats to land downtown
  
- Sit and watch river activity; dining on the river; take advantage of EVSC to teach job prep
- Agricultural influence, business, leadership, tech training, partnerships with higher education - attract regional and global industries; holiday world needs campus at riverfront

### GROUP 1B

- River defines community; hiking and biking paths connecting to other areas; more riverfront activities at all hours; growth in jobs; more collaboration between hospitals, schools, etc.; increased air traffic beyond this region; trees
- Nursing homes, care for elderly; sports and recreation
  
- River makes unique - opportunities for further development; ball fields on SE side of town upgrade; greenway; high-speed rail; more mass transit;

## Group 1C

- Leave behind dilapidated houses and buildings; rejuvenation of old neighborhoods like Glenwood; new businesses downtown - donut bank; public transit, schools close, businesses close; make neighborhoods more viable so you feel good to live there
- Vision of turning downtown walkway into galleries; encourage artists to display/exhibit downtown - make it a center for the arts; instructions in arts in storefronts and parks
- Safe home neighborhoods, community gathering spaces, green spaces, places for families

## Group 1D

- Welcome to Evansville - attractive look coming in and signage throughout, fiber optic Wi-Fi for everyone; zoo and Mesker Amphitheatre revived; downtown bring in growth - attract masses of people - better access for university students
- Vibrant downtown with arts, entertainment, business, performing arts, play spaces; connected neighborhoods; positive light of how government connects with community
- Understanding of different religious traditions; organization of connecting people of different faiths; celebrate each other's cultures and beliefs
- Light Rail and METS hub that can take you everywhere; barge stage on river for performing arts; highlight Alhambra as an example of gathering points to create neighborhood identities

## Group 2A

- Downtown development - need more retail, create "Crossroads Mall" between arena and casino; new ballpark downtown; planetarium
- Cultural development - ethnic restaurants downtown; gift shops; move Visitors Bureau downtown where it is accessible; more schools downtown; trolley and river crossings
- Community is warm and friendly, until it starts to talk about itself (east vs west, north vs south) - livable, walkable community where you can meet neighbors; walk and bike trails to connect us to each other

- New water treatment facility; underwater walk way and aquarium at river; school at old water treatment

## Group 2B

- Loves to see diversity throughout Evansville; Downtown restaurants; need clean safe infrastructure, great lighting and surveillance cameras in streets and alleys; get people involved in neighborhood associations along with joining your churches to help get things done; meet people and get to know your neighbors - opportunities to learn from each other; need good, safe sidewalks - adopt a section of sidewalk - clean in, de-weed it, help maintain it
- Urban centric - downtown focus; develop and utilize what we already have; make green areas incorporating downtown; bridge to other communities from downtown; engage with surrounding communities; robust arts environment - more arts activities and engagement
- Healthy homes - living starts at home

## Group 2C

- Gardens in neighborhoods; social centers; businesses and homes together in neighborhoods; alternative energy, recycling, public transit
- Sun shining bright on Evansville - people working, people owning houses, strengthening neighborhoods
- Neighborhood centric community - in planning, think regionally, regional transportation, regional amenities; loves Bosse Field - family focus; livability; connection of neighborhoods
- Gardens in neighborhoods; social centers; businesses and homes together in neighborhoods; alternative energy, recycling, public transit

## Group 2D

- Live in metro area in global economy - need to think together and have shared vision for area; don't be afraid of brain drain - launch kids into global community



- Bring people downtown - places to meet and eat, evenings and weekends, better public transportation
- Beautiful river - it needs to be seen more, made boater friendly - need place to dock downtown; downtown campus of USI; friendly to walker and bikers

