



VOICE CITY CORE FLOWER POT SUMMARY REPORT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013
ARTS COUNCIL OF SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA



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 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

VOICE brought together diverse members of the community to discuss their dreams for Evansville in an open, positive forum. The facilitation was led in such a way that respectful conversations occurred, all voices heard and visions documented, ensuring that the entire community had the opportunity to take part in creating a desired future. Through the facilitated process, we compiled all the visions to look for common themes to build collaborative strategic actions.

A summary and detailed notes from each session are available to the participants and the public via www.evansvillevoice.com.

Once all visions were collected, additional community sessions, referred to as Big Action Meetings (BAM) were held to verify that the information collected truly represents participants' visions and reveal the top themes that were captured from 32 visioning sessions. These top themes are Healthy Green Space, City Core and Experiences.

Any interested citizen and stakeholder are invited to participate in these themed meetings to move forward with further research and planning toward common goals and strategic actions.



VOICE SESSION SCHEDULE

Welcome & Instructions

“PopUp Hood” video

What are you doing or do you know of that currently exists in our City Core

Main themes in City Core

Collaboration through abundance

Wrap up/ What’s next



LARGE GROUP OPENING- Lead Facilitator

Welcome & Introductions

Greeters: Anna Hargis, Tony Carraro, Nancy Higgs, Kaylene Kittle, Carol Pace, Hunter Pace



LARGE GROUP OPENING- Lead Facilitator

"What are you doing or know do you know currently exists in our community regarding our city core?"

- Convention hotel downtown
- IU Medical Center
- Patchwork Central
- Hafer - more people living downtown initiatives
- North Main Merchants Assoc. - Bosse and Garvin Park
- Jan 28-29 Asian Performing Arts Fest at Center
- Ford Center
- Farmers Market Downtown
- Greenway
- Pancakes at Peephole Sat & Sun
- New Restaurants on Main St and Franklin
- UE - Theatre Dept. - Sweeney Todd coming next
- UE Basketball playing at Ford Center
- USI - Innovation Pointe
- Hosting division II Basketball tournament
- Walnut St. - free bread at Rescue Mission
- Downtown Living - all the running events - Half Marathon
- Victory Theatre, Evansville Icemen, LST
- Franklin Street Events Association - 1800 people came out to Halloween event 1st time
- Seeing people form associations and get active
- New Hotel and Med school downtown
- Meeting people who are motivated to change their neighborhoods
- Central library and all untapped downtown treasures
- Houses being built on the Southside
- Evansville African American Museum
- United Neighborhoods - living downtown is exciting
- River City Ramblers - downtown walking groups
- Meetings to bring people together to improve, Franklin St.
- Working toward bettering our community
- Downtown new housing efforts
- East end development corp. Letcher St in Henderson
- Local harvest market coming in Henderson, gardening classes coming
- Urban architecture and reclaiming downtown buildings
- Franklin, North Main, Zesto's Zest Fest
- Lieberman Technologies - Twilight Bistro Downtown

- Franklin Street was packed on Friday night
- Penny Lane - music events
- Chamber of Commerce - opportunity for growth downtown
- 500 people who started a church and meet at the Centre
- Rescue Mission - new facilities at Mission; independent restaurants popping up
- IU Med School and multidisciplinary approach to medicine
- Likes playing downtown and its potential
- Aurora - Gingerbread House contest
- Ford center and music, hockey, basketball
- Evansville Sports Corp. Division II cross country championship, elite 8 basketball
- Civic Theatre - currently doing Le Miserables
- Expansion at Evansville Museum
- Excited to hear about all sorts of things he never heard of going on
- Collaboration between schools for IU Med Center
- Excited that people are out to be involved, and likes restaurants
- Franklin St., Wine Fest, Brew HaHa
- Med School and Convention Hotel
- ACSWIN - Arts in Evansville and Building renovation
- Energy and leadership in efforts to revitalize downtown and core neighborhoods
- Growth and new energy downtown; loves seeing people walking downtown
- Signature School downtown and students volunteering around the city
- Loves downtown and Franklin St. Excited about leadership and people getting involved
- Food trucks
- Matt Wagner Design, April Babies, other new businesses and entrepreneurship
- Collaborative attitudes that people and organizations are adopting
- Local ownership of boutiques and restaurants
- 5 museums downtown: LST, Evansville African American Museum, Reitz Home, CMOE, Evansville Museum
- Wants to live in sticks, but wants a great downtown to come to, likes that citizens are coming together to figure out how to make things work rather than expecting someone else to do it
- Healthy communities initiative - fountain view mini mart - working to bring food market, working to create mobile food market
- Likes enthusiasm in core of Evansville and spreading to region
- Franklin, Main, North Main activities, city on the brink of a renaissance





Collaboration through Abundance

"What could you give in each topic area?"

Facilitator: Lynn Miller Pease

Scribes: Phyllis Oeth, Bashar Est, Stephanie Gerbig, Carol Pace, Hunter Pace, Alisha Aman, Tony Carraro, Jenn Schultheis

Recorder: Jeff Gruszewski



People living in the City Core| Downtown organization to foster innovative growth| Ease of doing business| Neighborhoods| Pop-ups| Vibrant, Beautiful, Arts, Entertainment| Infrastructure| Riverfront Development



Collaboration through Abundance

"What could you give in each topic area?"

People living in the city core

- Promote safe place to walk
- Bringing the neighborhood feel to downtown
- Housing/community development
- Urban development and planning
- Share experiences of living urban
- Welcome kits
- Change zoning in Franklin St. area
- Protect living affordably
- Retain current residents through future growth

Riverfront development

- Help communicate appreciation of walking/being downtown
- Networking/ event planning
- Attend events
- Event planning
- Facilitate student volunteer activities at UE
- Adopt a park
- Help with IT projects
- Team building
- Vision for "River City"
- Help bring a trolley loop back in Evansville
- Booking bands

Infrastructure

- Bus system
- Ride the bus
- Employee engagement
- Renovate old buildings
- Trail connection, education, UE
- Public bathrooms
- Trolleys

Vibrant, beautiful, Arts, and Entertainment

- Culturally diverse activities and networking
- Promoting arts and marketing
- Selling art
- Support Arts, Theatre, UE
- Live music and booking bands
- Mini museums in empty buildings

Pop-ups

- Management skills
- Marketing
- Connectivity
- Event planning
- Music booking
- Free events
- Space/exhibits

Neighborhoods

- Winterize homes
- Bringing groups together
- Comprehensive community development
- Adopt a park
- Building homes, mobilizing people
- Welcome kits for new residents and businesses
- Living on Franklin Street
- More music and live festivals
- Buy properties
- Promote cycling in neighborhoods and using Greenway
- Expand the farmers market

Ease of doing business

- Engage employees
- Planning experience
- Small business development center
- Urban planning background to help
- IT help
- Welcome kits for new businesses
- Forms online for business via the City
- Financial support
- Walk through forms and processes
- Feedback and review of ideas prior to seeking approvals

Downtown organization to foster innovative growth

- Energy efficient homes/ winterization
- Encourage Kiwanis/Rotary clubs to get involved
- Employee engagement
- Give feedback on ideas
- Event planning
- Finding funds
- Connected trails, bicycle paths, volunteers, Arts support
- Adopt a park
- Urban planning
- Connectivity, Youth United, UE, mobilize volunteers
- Employee engagement
- Update housing codes





LARGE GROUP CLOSING

Sign up to one or every topic| what's next

**Next City Core meeting:
November 21, 2013
Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana
8:00 a.m.**

Link to PopUpHood video:

<http://vimeo.com/33187820>