



VOICE CITY CORE FLOWER POT SUMMARY REPORT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SOUTHWEST
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

Recap and Brief History of VOICE

Small Group Breakout

Main themes in City Core

Sign up

Wrap up/ What's next



LARGE GROUP OPENING- Lead Facilitator
Welcome & Brief History of VOICE



Collaboration through Abundance

"When looking at the list of current items we currently have in our city core, is there anything missing? What new ideas do you have? When looking at the new items and the current list from the first City Core meeting, what would be your top three items you want to start and participate in?"

Facilitator: Jenn Schultheis
Scribes: Lavonia Lewis
Recorder: Jeff Gruszewski



Current List from the first City Core Meeting at the Arts Council 10/30/13

Convention hotel downtown
IU Medical Center
Patchwork Central
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
UE - Theatre Dept.
UE Basketball playing at Ford Center
USI office at Innovation Pointe
Hosting Division II Basketball tournament
Walnut St. - free bread at Rescue Mission
Downtown Living
Victory Theatre
Evansville Icemen
LST
Franklin Street Events Association
Seeing people form associations and get active
Meeting people who are motivated to change their neighborhoods
Central Library and other untapped downtown treasures
Houses being built on the Southside
EAAM - 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
East end development corp. Letcher St in Henderson
Local harvest market coming in Henderson with gardening classes coming

Urban architecture and reclaiming downtown buildings
Zesto's Zest Fest
Twilight Bistro Downtown
Penny Lane - music events
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
Aurora - Gingerbread House contest
Evansville Sports Corp. Division II cross country championship, elite 8 basketball
Civic Theatre
Expansion at Evansville Museum
Excited to hear about all sorts of things he never heard of going on
Excited that people are out to be involved, and likes restaurants
Wine Fest
Arts in Evansville and Building renovation
Energy and leadership in efforts to revitalize downtown and core neighborhoods
Signature School downtown and students volunteering around the city
Food trucks
Matt Wagner Design and April Boeke, and other new businesses and entrepreneurship
Collaborative attitudes that people and organizations are adopting
Local ownership of boutiques and restaurants
Healthy communities initiative - fountain view min mart - working to bring food market, working to create mobile food market
Main Street
Running events like the half marathon
Brew Ha Ha
Reitz Home
Children's Museum of Evansville

What is missing from this list?

- Garvin Park/Bosse Field
- LST - Bosse Field connectivity
- Bicentennial Park
- Making sure people know about events and activities - all inclusive calendar/communications tool
- Take advantage of River
- Alhambra Theatre
- Employment opportunities - downtown development spurs economic opportunities and housing
- Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra
- Specific Neighborhood Efforts need to be delineated
- Entry gateways to the city from all directions
- Beautification - Greening of Main street and Riverfront and Parks

What new ideas do you have to add to the list?

- Beautification efforts
- Anchor restaurants
- Angel Mounds - cross country course - national cross country meet
- Creative Place Making events downtown - Art Place America established fund to support arts centric - Art Place America.org
- Complete Streets - strategically reclaim parts of streets for people and activities, urban green spaces
- Example Franklin Tennessee - cute boutique stores and restaurants
- Incentives for boutique stores - merchant associations and coalitions to coordinate restaurants and studios - efforts to help small businesses be successful - looks, branding, marketing assistance
- Arts Council Brown Bag Lunch - regular scheduled casual events
- Trolley downtown to help people move quickly during lunch hour and dinner to help with time crunch
- Bikes and connectivity - need bike hub - where can I go to shower after I've biked to downtown from Newburgh, bike rental spot - or bike share
- More Apartment/Condo living in low and mid income range
- Make things "cute" - like Just In Time on Franklin
- More Bike Racks in destination neighborhoods

If you had to pick three (3) things from the combined lists to start with, what would they be?

IU Med School
 Bosse Field/Garvin Park
 Connections between cultural assets
 IU Med School
 Improving info

Small business boutique and eats
 Riverfront

IU Med School
 IU Med School
 Affordable housing

IU Med School - downtown
 Downtown children's play area downtown - like Owensboro - play, amphitheater, water feature

Complete Streets

Anchor Restaurants
 Improving Information Sharing
 Creative place making
 Complete streets
 Riverfront

Creative place making
 Economic development/employment
 Farmers market
 Anchor Restaurants
 Stronger neighborhoods/mobilization

Beautification

Affordable living downtown
 Expanding Farmers Market
 Affordable living downtown
 Marketing creatively
 Boutique stores/Anchor restaurants
 Beautification/complete streets
 Bicentennial park
 North main street activity
 Affordable Living
 Beautification

IU

Creative place making





Collaboration through Abundance

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Facilitator: Mike Davis
Scribes: Nate Hahn
Recorder: Becky Kasha



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IU Medical Center	Zesto's Zest Fest
Patchwork Central	Twilight Bistro Downtown
More people living downtown initiatives	Penny Lane - music events
North Main Merchants Assoc. - Bosse and Garvin Park	Opportunity for growth downtown
Jan 28-29 Asian Performing Arts Fest at Center Ford Center	500 people who started a church and meet at the Centre
Farmers Market Downtown	Rescue Mission - new facilities at Mission; independent restaurants popping up
Greenway	Aurora - Gingerbread House contest
Pancakes at Peephole sat & sun	Evansville Sports Corp. Division II cross country championship, elite 8 basketball
UE - Theatre Dept.	Civic Theatre
UE Basketball playing at Ford Center	Expansion at Evansville Museum
USI office at Innovation Pointe	Excited to hear about all sorts of things he never heard of going on
Hosting Division II Basketball tournament	Excited that people are out to be involved, and likes restaurants
Walnut St. - free bread at Rescue Mission	Wine Fest
Downtown Living	Arts in Evansville and Building renovation
Victory Theatre	Energy and leadership in efforts to revitalize downtown and core neighborhoods
Evansville Icemen	Signature School downtown and students volunteering around the city
LST	Food trucks
Franklin Street Events Association	Matt Wagner Design and April Boeke, and other new businesses and entrepreneurship
Seeing people form associations and get active	Collaborative attitudes that people and organizations are adopting
Meeting people who are motivated to change their neighborhoods	Local ownership of boutiques and restaurants
Central Library and other untapped downtown treasures	Healthy communities initiative - fountain view mini mart - working to bring food market, working to create mobile food market
Houses being built on the Southside	Main Street
EAAM - Evansville African American Museum	Running events like the half marathon
United Neighborhoods - living downtown is exciting	Brew Ha Ha
River City Ramblers - downtown walking groups	Reitz Home
Meetings to bring people together to improve Franklin St.	Children's Museum of Evansville
Working toward bettering our community	
East end development corp. Letcher St in Henderson	
Local harvest market coming in Henderson with gardening classes coming	

What is missing from this list?

- Jacobsville master planning
- Christmas parade
- Zuki opening downtown
- Tropicana
- Glenwood comprehensive development
- disc golf

What new ideas do you have to add to the list?

- Market rate housing on Franklin
- Interfaith council
- Apartments younger people can afford
- Mobile fix-up van; shared tools
- Handyman volunteers
- Pop-ups
- Densest neighborhoods need destinations (walkscore.com)
- Better mapping of cultural resources; bike map
- Mac and computer labs for creative people (office pods)
- Wi-Fi
- Urban living centers that debunk the myths about living downtown
- Mid to up-scale food experiences downtown
- Encourage people to live in large old homes on First and Second Streets
- Better way finding signs, esp. at major intersections
- A way to make downtown a day-long affair
- Grocery store and gas station downtown
- Complete streets
- Library lend tools
- Grown-up activities in our parks (shuffle board)
- Aesthetics of downtown (ugly buildings need to go)

If you had to pick three (3) things from the combined lists to start with, what would they be?

Changing restrictive zoning
New businesses

Gas and groceries
Complete streets

Mapping
Something to walk to in dense neighborhoods

Residential downtown
Changing zoning
Way findings
Remove blight
Changing zoning
Changing zoning
Affordable housing
Remove blight
Wi-Fi hot spot

Destinations
Affordable housing
Affordable housing
Affordable housing
More destinations and restaurants
Way finding
Gas and groceries
More hip stuff downtown
Young people activities

Way findings
Grocery
Family friendly activities downtown
Way finding
Interfaith and non-profit council
Groceries and gas
Civic theatre
Remove smell of sewage downtown
Family friendly activities downtown





LARGE GROUP CLOSING

Top topics emerged| Sign up to one or every topic| What's next

When looking at the topics from the first City Core meeting and the topics discussed today, Leadership Evansville and volunteers found the synergies and most discussed topics to move forward in the project planning process.

Note: This is how we are going to choose where to get started. It doesn't mean we aren't going to focus on the other things on the list or that those things aren't important, we just have to pick a place to start.

Neighborhoods/ Housing- more and affordable
Infrastructure- complete streets, way finding
Thriving core/ Things to do- restaurants, groceries, events, family friendly
Riverfront/ Connectedness
Zoning/ Ordinances/ Ease of Doing Business
Organization to Foster Innovative Growth in core
IU Med School

**Next City Core meeting:
January 16, 2014
Patchwork Central
6 p.m.**