



VOICE EXPERIENCES FLOWER POT SUMMARY REPORT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013
MESKER PARK ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDEN



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

What Experiences do you want in Evansville

Sign Up & Form Teams

Wrap up/ What's next



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



Collaboration through Abundance

“What experience ideas do you have that you wish we had in Evansville?”

Facilitator: Meghan Seibert
Scribes: Donna Sanders & Phyllis Oeth
Recorder: Jeff Gruszewski



List of ideas generated from this meeting:

- NCAA Div II - create atmosphere outside of the events on Main St. - March on Main - get everyone involved
- Music - more experiences around mid-sized music
Venues - between Lamasco and Ford Center size - Music Cruise on River
- Beer Olympics - involve drinking establishments and restaurants in non-sport sport-like activities
- Exercise in the Mall
- Trails - hiking and riding trails to connect public spaces - Also, Quarterly events; connectivity between event coordinators - small time music venue ... possibly Alhambra for Acoustic
- Walk on 1st St. looking at homes. Establish walking tours with papers/maps - with history of homes and businesses on the route - develop phone/ipad interactivity - many things in the works - maybe team up with museum - Franklin St. - Dennis Au's neighborhood pamphlets - have interpreters at various houses/buildings
- Pop up venue downtown - one block from Ford Center - UE taking on as a project - ever-changing events ----- in Holland MI, storefronts had scenes from musicals - can involve middle school through university to be performers
- Loves Zoo events - Kudos to Franklin St. Events Association - wants scavenger hunt, city-wide, cut throat, intense for all ages to bring people and groups together
- Mesker area has lots of potential - Mesker Amphitheater could be a piece - Light up the Lake with firepots - Zoo Brew - wants to have things to do so you don't have to leave Evansville to have a cool experience
- Would like to see event series - Austin's 4th Thursday ... businesses and merchants hosted bands on their porch, restricted streets like a block party - would like to incorporate North Main
- Parade Feb 28-Mar 1, Earth Day event April 28th participating businesses become art galleries for a day - five movie nights in the park - Halloween - working for a Christmas event - North Main, Franklin, Bokeh Arts District, Downtown, UE District
- Passionate about having fun. Not many things for teenagers. Would like a Teen Dance
- Travels to see Bruce Springsteen concerts. Every January - Asbury Park, NJ Light of Day Foundation - week-long festival, multiple venues - cause based music Festivals
- People either don't know about events or choose not to go. Scavenger Hunt or something to get people to try new places

- Taste of Evansville - snack and drink at 5 different venues - create online community where groups can plan impromptu parties and events; community development needs to incorporate fun experiences as well as doing work; Streets Alive
- More trails - nature trails for families to learn about different plants and grow plants and food at home
- Dinner en Blanc - big old white dinner in NY and Paris - seasonal, social thing . . . Going to tree recycling - maybe park can be a pop up Christmas tree lot; a day of outdoor worship where all sorts of churches gathered in park over the weekend so people could go and picnic and visit each other
- Music series in park, scavenger hunt; federation of American women's clubs oversees - one billion rising . . . Eve Ensler founded . . . Feb 14 @ Washington Square Mall . . . End violence against women . . . Paula Lucas is guest speaker
- Likes to spend time with family
- Free music in the park once a month maybe at Garvin; splash park or two like fountain at ONB downtown; large sculpture park
- Passionate about photography and art; Morganfield KY, paint eastern stars on buildings all around town; character of Evansville photos blown up huge and posted on/in windows; stitch n bitch groups - tagging trees around town with knitted ornaments
- Back of children's museum is prime opportunity for big piece of art; and old Hilliard Lyons building
- Restaurant week - special event possibly tied to non-profit; cash mob - special shopping event
- "Knitta please" - knit tagging website; Erie canal park in Toledo OH - towpath and boat pulled by mules - - -
- in Owensboro, Friday sponsored riverfront events
- Pedal bars starting on franklin street and using the green way to get to Haynie's corner, go down main street, and back to franklin street
- Look at state excise laws that prohibit alcohol sales on streets and patio
- City street pot luck dinner
- Pop up art in the parks
- Music festival in the park; juried art fares ---- look at Cleveland Heights is great example
- Pot luck party on red bridge

What common themes do you see and what themes do you want to sign up to be a part of?

- Food/Beverage
- Scavenger Hunts
- Music
- Teen Fun
- Art
- Trails/Connectedness
- Communication/ Scheduling





LARGE GROUP CLOSING

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

When looking at all of the ideas listed tonight and thinking of the ideas from the first Experiences meeting, what topics do you see most and want to move forward with 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.

**Food/Beverage
Scavenger Hunts
Music
Teen Fun
Art
Trails/Connectedness
Communication/ Scheduling**

**Next Experiences meeting:
January 23, 2014
C.K. Newsome Center
6 p.m.**