



**VOICE VISIONING SESSION REPORT OUT
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012
3:30 P.M.
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN 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 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.

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



CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE



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."

riverfront
business opportunities
nice people
USI
West Side
West Side
Mesker Park Zoo
diversity
progressive
culturally rich
USI
inclusive
diligence
EPO
work hard
take ownership
giving
historical district
EVPL
UE
educational atmosphere and
opportunities
museum
bike paths and running paths
loyalty
bike paths
family
charitable

cultural inertia
people
diversity
haynies corner
Evansville otters
river
medical school at USI
melting pot
colleges
people
collegial
engaged
history
generosity
volunteerism
generosity
volunteerism
southern hospitality
philanthropic
nonprofits
cmoe
parks
5 star library system
growing downtown
trails coalition
potential
safety
cultural richness
open and welcoming



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: **Nathan Jochum**

Small group 1 scribe: **Sarah Dauer & Timothy Weir**

Small group 1 recorder: **Jeff Gruszewski**



| Carry Forward | Leave Behind |
|--|---|
| | |
| job opportunities | |
| way to welcome people when they come to town | closed communities |
| innovation | political cronyism |
| library system | rivalry between east and west |
| community activism | |
| expanding downtown | |
| family restaurants downtown | |
| downtown growth and development | urban sprawl |
| build on historic district/maintain historic buildings | resistance to change |
| more accessible to people with disabilities | barriers to access |
| expanded downtown hours/more shopping | concrete slabs from buildings torn down |
| | vacant strip malls |
| greenway | abandoned strip malls |
| | resistance to change |
| continue and increase momentum of downtown growth | meth and drugs |
| redevelopment with higher architectural standards | brownfields |
| enforce littering laws | trash |
| recycling | |
| collaborate with other communities in region for regional growth | |
| sustainability/LEEDS program | |
| opportunities for youth | Roberts stadium |
| support cultural and arts institutions | |
| Otters, cMoe, Aces, Ford Center promotion | |
| independent dining opportunities | |
| be constantly engaged | |
| fitness trails and physical activities in parks | |
| diversity economy | |
| elevate the trades and skilled labor | |



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: Phyllip Davis

Small group 2 scribe: Abraham Brown & Julie Moore

Small group 2 recorder: Megan Linos



| Take Forward | Leave Behind |
|---|---------------------------|
| better food options | suicide rate |
| educational institutions and their relationships | traffic lights |
| contribution of local hospitals like st. marys | brain-drain |
| volunteerism | negativity |
| getting young people involved in public service | cancer |
| improve METS | poor air quality |
| improving preparedness of young people | bad public transit |
| keep evansville beautiful | inferiority complex |
| investment in USI | pornography |
| investment in at-risk youth | abandoned buildings |
| LST military history | traffic issues |
| innovation point expansion | leave stigma of east/west |
| alternative energy sources | meth and drugs |
| Evansville "has it all" | image of obesity |
| revitalize downtown riverfront | environmental issues |
| investing in recreative facilities | attitude that "we can't" |
| preservation of historical district | |
| better marketing of greenway and community assets | |
| semi-pro sports teams and athletic involvement | |
| developing downtown as a destination | |
| parks, development | |
| urbanization | |
| not-for-profit organizations | |
| technology | |
| resource for this rural area | |
| rich history of manufacturing | |
| manufacturing companies | |
| Evansville as a test city | |
| foster partnerships with organizations | |
| better marketing of "we have everything" | |
| more small businesses | |



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

- downtown, riverfront business and industry, opportunity for places for people to go, utilize unique architectural, youth activities and sports,
- bike paths, places to sit, ball fields, community activities, good schools for kids
- home sweet home, places for kids to play, houses of worship, school, hospital, trade services, office work, factory work, safe community

GROUP 1B

- compact layout, religious diversity, main street with restaurants , shops, church, hospital, greenway, river, park, offices, senior housing, bike trails, - compact diverse welcoming
- intact family with lots of food to nourish kids and send them off to school with trained teachers well equips supported by businesses and lots of jobs, surrounded by parks and greenspace

Group 1C

- lots of green space, completely accessible, great library and school, airport

Group 1D

- lots of teen activities - dedicated building, outdoor tracks and basketball
- elementary school with happy, safe kids, park bench with elderly couple, downtown is inviting, open at night, welcome to evansville sign city pride
- new technology, safe neighborhoods, tour bus

Group 2A

- riverfront very attractive, bigger restaurant industry, greenway, connect greenway to ivytech,
- center for nonprofit, center for urban relationships
- more loft and apartment spaces
- no stoplights on lloyd or 41
- traveling riverboat based in Evansville
- historic buildings are assets not only downtown but also on east and west sides

Group 2B

- on edges of city turbines for wind energy for alternative, buildings with solar panels, hydroelectric facility on Ohio
- downtown incorporates greenspaces, pollution controlled
- community gardens throughout the city so kids can learn about environment and good food; bike paths throughout city, diverse people including young generations, developing new, young, upcoming leaders

Group 2C

- downtown with lots of entertainment, outdoor eating, dancing in the streets, walks and houses of worship, blue collar and white collar
- city buses on time, riverfront with sailboats and activities, house and school, diverse group of people, retired person walking kids to school, bike paths, always sunny in Evansville







