



**VOICE VISIONING SESSION REPORT OUT
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012
4:30 P.M.
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 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."

warm winters
riverfront
initiative
awakening
young professionals
welcoming spirit
hospitality
progressiveness
youth headed
hard working
hospitality
friendliness
home
growth of downtown
family oriented
history with war
neighborhoods
beautiful buildings
loyalty
Midwestern warmth
potential
theatre community
support military
cultural life
family oriented
riverfront

volunteers
passion
arts community
warmth
diversity
friendliness
hospitality
family oriented
inclusiveness
progressiveness
opportunities
riverfront
size
strong sense of community
nature
youth sports
zoo
cMoe
small town
riverfront
diversity
downtown
zoo
new arena
architecture
nice people
school

donut bank
sincere people
work life balance
volunteer community
family oriented
parks
lack of traffic
friendliness
welcoming spirit
library
historic houses
friendly people
fall festival
variety

large smallness
commitment to improvement
downtown
hidden treasure
emergency response
education opportunities
summer weather
gives back
helps others
cooperative in small and large
groups





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: Phyllip Davis

Small group 1 scribe: Sarah Dauer & Alisha Aman

Small group 1 recorder: Jeff Gruszewski



Carry Forward	Leave Behind
community identity	community divisiveness
positive attitudes in growing community	closed mindedness
improvement with afterschool programs	separation of classes
great parks system	stoplights on expressways
growth of arts district	backwardness
downtown development	attitude of nothing to do
growth and celebration of diversity	drug problem
attitude of community outreach	
development of arts district	separation of groups/cliques
progressive	McDonald's/fast food/unhealthy food
x-boxes and wireless internet	
shopping	bad people
riverfront activities	sewer smell
develop multi-sports complex	apathy
health awareness	over exploiting of bad eating habits
unique places of identity/local establishments	fear of change/lack of execution
more sense of place	
traditions	obesity stigma
growth of diversity	attitude that Evansville doesn't have anything for young adults
improvement to historical district and downtown	divisiveness in law enforcement
value of what is here	lack of park maintenance
works better for local businesses	excessive building regulations
treatment orientation for addictions	perception and causes of drug problems
expectations and standards for youth	
enhance downtown entertainment opportunities	
growth of universities	urban sprawl
I-69 into Evansville	
mentoring programs for youth	attitude that kids can't contribute
continual growth of infrastructure	poor air quality
mental health care	lack of mental health care
churches	gangs
health awareness	



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: Nicky Tesh

Small group 2 scribe: Marcia Forston & Timothy Weir

Small group 2 recorder: Makenzie Coulter



Carry Forward	Leave Behind
inclusiveness	negativity
focus on youth	negative image people have of Evansville
pride in the city	status quo
centrally located events	attitude of when I graduate I'm leaving Evansville
arts and cultural events	resistance to change
energy for downtown development	pessimism- can't do attitude
Physically active city	directional attitude (east side/west side)
respect and interest in diversity	fear of others difference
positive attitudes	negative attitudes
Midwest can-do attitudes	Cannot- do attitudes (I can't)
Cultural diversity	Racism and discrimination
Support for nature	Lack of equity- others don't know what Evansville is about- lack of a brand
Dance studios	smell
Medical improvements- studies/cures	alleys
Real understanding of diversity	"I can't do"
Platform for consensus building	Divisiveness
Positive things to do at night	Deconstructive
Strong public school system	Fear of the city (downtown at night) Safety
Organization of recycling	Ignoring schools or areas that need improvement
Bike paths	Abandoned buildings
Growth of activities to do- especially downtown	Idea that there is nothing to do in Evansville
Downtown development	People leaving Evansville
High quality higher education	East side/west side division
Better understanding of how things operation- how things are accomplished inside the city	
Healthy farm to table organic dining	Good old boy network
Integration of students with businesses	Lack of cross walks
Destination city	Soda machines that cause kids to be overweight
Economic Development	Crab in the bucket mentality-good as long as you don't have more than me
Downtown as vibrant as Indy	Drugs
Multi-cultural entertainment	Prices of toys
Kid friendly activities	Cut offs for eligibility as applies to housing, employment, etc
Donut Bank	Lack of cultural awareness
Affordable housing for all	Needs analyzing ourselves to deaths
Cultural awareness	
Effective sales of our assets- asset focused	



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

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

Group 1A

- no smoking, pray, have fun
- river city, recreational use of river, dedicated bike and walk lanes, churches - interfaith outreach, diverse people worshipping on Sundays, 24/7 college town, recycle, reduce, reuse - sustainable
- diverse people coming together for social activities and recreation, downtown sports, food, arts where different people can come to play together

GROUP 1B

- centrally located business, condos, play areas, pubs, coffee, school, river activities, running, bikes, Jimmy Buffet outdoor concert, arts district, Amtrak station, international airport
- more green space adjacent commercial buildings, more trees, sports complex, less stoplights, downtown needs park area
- local businesses, penny lane, small businesses need to stay in Evansville, construction worker maintaining infrastructure, artists and cultural activities businesses, government encourage young people involvement

Group 1C

- great day outside
- a city united, connected, church, factory, workplace, stadiums, city coming together at events and prospering
- people outside enjoying weather and riverfront, sunshine

Group 1D

- mental health court to assist in integrating chronic offenders into community
- after school programs, focus on youth - leadership programs, art programs, youth participation, self discretion and individuality, self expression, decriminalizing addiction - focus on treatment
- ice skating, river focus, schools, drug awareness, community center
- more city parks with activities for kids and families, pride for schools and neighborhoods, continuing growth downtown

Group 1E

- trees, birds, no smoking in public, swings in parks, lake, sun, singing, trash cans because littering is bad
- inclusive community with businesses, river, houses all together
- graduation caps toward 100% graduation, stages for homegrown and out of town entertainment, farm to table fresh food options, rapid ways to get around city, highways for access

Group 2A

- park with slide and swings
- hometown with tree house and fence; easy living
- get rid of quarry, put in beach on riverfront, connect franklin st to downtown with lots of public transportation between; add more social activities

Group 2B

- riverfront activities, beach, swimming, picnics, dining, green space, recycle
- living for good - non-profit appreciation
- important activities involving children, literacy, nature, nurturing good lifestyle, freshen mind and soul

Group 2C

- pre-teen center, art supplies, stage, recycling center, war museum, park open for big events
- vibrant downtown with all kinds of activities, sections being identified with signage, community pride working together - churches and schools, all schools are #1, a destination city
- get people to city
- central core to city accessible from all areas,

Group 2D

- downtown more residential condos, incubators, small business; east side eliminate stop lights, expand greenway, bicycle and walk ways, planned neighborhoods with walkable services and businesses
- greenway connected and finished, north main redeveloped, focus on haynies corner and arts district
- more parks for kids, skateboarding, making friends, no bullies

Group 2E

- bus - vibrant activities, something to do every day all the time, dance factory, everybody everywhere
- have work, play, art studios, greenways, farmers market - work play restaurants all together
- sunny, optimistic, lots of graduates 100% - and getting good jobs here in community
- diverse people holding hands, neighborhood markets and stores for everyday needs rather than big box stores, bigger events to draw people in, Floridians wanting to come to Evansville for vacation





