



**VOICE VISIONING SESSION REPORT OUT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012
6 P.M.
CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER**



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



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
- urban form
- people
- passion
- friendly
- great health care
- friendly
- innovative
- clean
- happy
- friendly
- progressive
- opportunity
- growing
- people
- care
- neighborhood
- greenway
- home
- possibilities
- passionate
- welcoming
- history
- schools
- giving
- sharing
- family
- development
- work ethic
- friendliness
- libraries
- walkway
- right-sized
- great location
- generous
- resourceful
- increasingly diverse
- government
- close-knit
- multi-cultural
- schools
- libraries
- schools
- libraries
- wesselman woods
- burdette park
- artistic
- entrepreneurial
- friendly
- community
- riverfront
- family friendly
- helpful
- hard working
- potential
- resourcefulness
- activities
- generosity
- welcoming
- open-minded
- gardens
- opportunity
- family

- diverse
- friendly
- change
- positive
- tolerant
- changing
- pride of citizens
- generosity of businesses
- riverfront
- location
- Ford Center
- passion for youth
- work ethic

- schools
- garden
- activities
- caring
- greenery
- UE
- Wesselman Park
- Plants are pretty
- people care
- people are warm to newcomers
- easy to navigate





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: Makenzie Coulter & Andy Herbertz

Small group 1 recorder: Jeff Gruszewski

Small group 1 participants:

John	Ansbro
Rita	Eades
Gary	Burk
Abel	Carreon
Jane	Harmon
Denise	Johnson
Debbie	Juncker
Sara	Davis
Alana	Davis
Dionne	Blue
Tony	Dellmar

Carry Forward

- development of greenway
- continued growth
- leadership
- encouragement
- cooperation
- diversity
- ease of transportation
-
- healthy food
- downtown development
- activism
-
- schools
- historic preservation
- optimism
- preparation
- education
- volunteerism
- safety
- mentoring
- collaboration
- open mindedness
- acceptance of change
- caring
- happiness
- resourcefulness
- flexibility
- business opportunities
- parks
- financial stability
- the arts - focusing on music
- community gardens
- active lifestyle
- focus on wellness
- exercising
- recreation
- academic success
- revitalization of downtown
- friendliness
- educated and skilled workforce
- promote the arts
- complete streets
- retaining local graduates
- nature

Leave Behind

- repetitive lost properties - from flooding
- negativity
-
- non-tolerance
- crime
- discrimination
- dwelling on the past
- fear of change
- junk food
- violence
- learned helplessness
- old world thinking
- fear
-
- pessimism
-
- ignorance
-
- bullying
-
- drugs
- closed minds
- crime
- negativity
- destructive behavior - vandalism
- relative deprivation
- social cliques
-
- food deserts
- debt
- prejudice
-
-
-
- abandoned buildings
- unemployment
-
- divisions
- uneducated, unskilled workforce
-
- obesity
-
- bullies

- sidewalks
 - activities complex
 - city parks
 - small private entrepreneurial skills
 -
 - community pride
 - city website
- division
 - stereotypes
 - inequities
 - garage doors facing the street
 - littering
 -
 -





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: Dave Gutscher
Small group 2 scribe: Marcia Au & Timothy Weir
Small group 2 recorder: Kelly Martin

Small group 2 participants:

Phillip	Davis
Steve	Cox
Roy	McWilliams
Mark	Hackert
Jeff	Kohut
Kim	Larson
Phillip	Schulz
Julie	Frazier

Carry Forward

schools
forward thinking government

focus on fitness
roads and highways-coming into
Evansville
history and conservatism
not changing for change sake

critical thinking

more proactive planning
thinking big ex. Stadium, NCAA tourney
athletic focus

having races downtown
strong push for interactive activities
block parties for communities
spirit of entrepreneurship
sports
libraries
youth sports
promoting of Evansville
children's activities
amusement park
health initiatives
score group--assists small business
high school and college pride
development of science and
technology
i-69
friendly people
libraries
critical thinking

Leave Behind

- trash
- knee jerk reactions
- spectator events-more active events where people participate
- litter
- drug problems
- unemployment
- old homes in communities(we should clean them up)
- dangerous streets so people can ride bikes and walk
- graffiti
- abandoned houses
- expecting others to do work for you-you should be the change
- abuse cases--children, animal neglect
- trash
- woe is me attitude that Evansville has
- poisoned food
- racism



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

- Urban retail mixed use with urban landscaping
- Focus on downtown, softball complex on east side
- Amtrak coming in Indy Louisville St. Louis, METS bus citywide
- Trees, recycling, sustainable energy, recreational parks, drug free zones, basketball courts, rural areas, river, house with family
- Hospital where doctors are helping kids feel better, kids playing at playground parents at top of hill, future will be fun
- A parade in the grass
- Kids are having fun at playground, on monkey bars and slide, doctors at St. Mary's Hospital helping the kids feel better

GROUP 1B

- Green space, trails for riding, I-69, transportation coming in and out of Evansville with ease
- Flowers, color in the city, color in diversity, prosperous economy, churches, hospitals
- Patriotism at the waterfront, activities on the river

Group 1C

- Trees, flowers, music, kids out playing a lot, keep it all really clean
- Downtown evolve like Ann Arbor - coffee shops, stores, live music, restaurants - open till midnight
- Walkway with music, open on Sunday Downtown - time to spend time and money DT, open after Icemen games, bury electric lines, regulate billboard visual pollution, subway going around and through the city

Group 2A

- Two people "Glad you're here" "Thanks" welcoming newcomers - bike trails, Hwy 41 welcoming, jet way to airport terminal to make more welcoming
- Children are the future, STEM school initiative, keep kids here, end brain drain, makes no sense to educate them here only to have them leave
- Group of people on a bus - businessmen checking out our city. They see clean homes, parks, factories - jobs, happy people, want visitors to see happy people so they will build more factories/jobs here

Group 2B

- Casino, waterfront restaurants, runners, UE students by river, non-smokers, clean swimmable waterway, rooftop gardens, public transport bringing University students downtown
- Sioux Falls - best park in the world - we need of those here ---- more play/activities in all our city parks --- they need to be maintained better; overall block parties for neighbors at the parks; attract businesses with extreme activities and not just for kids - bounce houses for adults - interactive robotics games - extreme inflatables - make sure entrepreneurs are ready for technological advances

- Parks, green space, play parks for kids, dog parks, commerce with outside seating, lounge and read book, pleasant, clean places to be

Group 2C

- Promoting Evansville, belief in Evansville, diversity of activities
- Evansville is the hub of Louisville, Nashville, St. Louis, Indy - softball, soccer, football tournaments - our size is friendly and non-threatening for visitors
- Helicopter that says Evansville, trees
- Activities and Evansville as destination, bike lanes on Boeke to make it easy to get to Roberts Park, encourage ideas in innovation arts, sports and science and math, continue to be a destination for people to come to



voice

CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE



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