



**VOICE VISIONING SESSION REPORT OUT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012
5:30 P.M.
POTTER'S WHEEL**



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
- small community
- lots of opportunities
- inclusive
- friendly
- homey
- needs more work - jobs
- good neighbors
- love Evansville
- whole town is great
- good people
- good schools
- trophy husband and daughter
- friendly
- nurturing
- family
- riverfront
- mayor winnecke
- ford center
- neighborhood associations
- neighborhood associations
- aurora
- churches
- low cost of living
- cleanup initiative
- riverfront
- family
- schools
- family
- family friendly
- great mall
- good schools
- patchwork central
- fall festival
- innovative
- artistic
- library system
- usi
- opportunities
- parks
- health opportunities
- opportunities for youth and families
- riverfront
- ivy tech
- usi
- ue
- close to work
- hospitality
- churches
- museums
- grocery stores
- diversity
- welcoming
- small business
- hospitality
- interfaith dialogue
- potters wheel
- clean city
- schools
- friendly people
- churches
- riverfront

- police dept.
- welcoming
- friendly people
- want to share opinion
- mayor is listening
- schools
- library system
- arts district
- zoo
- housing
- community change
- generous spirit
- opportunities
- family friendly
- community faith
- good leadership
- diversity
- friendliness
- community
- entrepreneurial spirit
- evolving
- potential

- pastor mike
- safety of community
- churches
- deep rooted faith
- helpful people
- good neighborhoods
- ford center
- riverfront
- universities
- caring people
- potters wheel
- patchwork central
- empathy
- encouragement
- potters wheel
- hospitals
- talented people
- enthusiasm of residents
- can-do spirit





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: Nicky Tesh

Small group 1 scribe: Andy Herbertz

Small group 1 recorder: Jeff Gruszewski

Small group 1 participants:

Annie	Witherspoon
Ruby	McGlown
Leonard	Collins
Mercedes	Arrendondo
Marcella	Boone
Earl	Carter
Vera	Campbell
Lionel	
David	Yetter
Shawn	Hayden
Martha	Gilbert
Kelsey	Harmon



Carry Forward

- keep young people in city
- more jobs
- incentive for people to get involved in neighborhood associations
- everyone a chance to get a job
- local labor
- leadership listening
- interfaith dialogue
- mall
- more opportunities
- more activities for teenagers and youth
- extended bus transportation
- transparent government communications
- more public litter receptacles
- maintain family friendly
- education
- maintain parks and places for children to play
-
- development of main street
- stability
- affordable housing
- innovation of utility development
- break cycle of poverty
- small business support

Leave Behind

- nobody taking care of young people on streets
- negative actions, bitterness hatred
- lack of local labor opportunities
- meth
- lack of access for differently abled
- lack of wheelchair access
- bigotry, negativity, negative behavior
- homelessness
- litter
- government obstacles to small business
- bullying
- homelessness
- negative generalizations of schools
- single utility company
- sprawl
- government sponsored divisiveness (past)
- cyclical poverty
- crime
- negative reputation of certain parts of city



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: Nathan Jochum

Small group 2 scribe: Phyllis Oeth

Small group 2 recorder: Tana Whitney

Small group 2 participants:

Hilary	Braysmith
Vince	Brown
Parri	Black
David	Griffith
John	Rich
Bettye	McKezie
David	Barbre
Josh	Croll
Darlene	Wills
Timothy	Boone



Carry Forward	Leave Behind
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safe neighborhoods • regional pride • rebuilding neighborhoods • quality healthcare • community collaboration • job opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crime • cliques • gentrification • stigma against mental illness • addictions • stress of not having a job • lack of grassroots neighborhood investment • divisiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong neighborhoods • empathy • churches • healthy population • compassion • activities • green spaces • improved existing E/W road network • creativity • family/generational activities/art • infrastructure improvements • homeless shelters & programs • Unique Evansville Skyline • New leadership • commitment to life long learning • Connectivity to other communities • proactive problem solving • good living • local/regional transportation bus & train 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inactivity • prejudice • prejudice • pollution • drugs • child abuse • gangs/graffiti • old leadership • gun violence • traffic lights on Lloyd Expressway • negativity • strong emphasis on sports • apathy • negativity • unemployment • our inferiority complex



SMALL GROUP 3- SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS

"In a preferred future, what would you carry forward and what would you leave behind?"

Small group 3 facilitator: Shawn Collins

Small group 3 scribe: Jerry Graupner

Small group 3 recorder: AC Braun

Small group participants:

Donna	Leader
Heather	Arrowsmith
Keith	Wallace
Barbara	Embry
Deborah	Sebree Tapp
Mark	Wills
Sean	Ferguson
Patsy	Cooper
Mark	Vaughn
Ashley	Hilton
Josephine	Brown

• Carry Forward

- see city step up and create ideas and programs for senior citizens - roundtable similar to the one for education
- cooperation
- work ethic
- trail system
- generosity and spirit of the city
- growth areas
- better sewer systems
- all the different nonprofit agencies
- first call for help (211) agency and expand it
- homeless prevention coalition
- see city step up and create ideas and programs for senior citizens - roundtable similar to the one for education
- work ethic
- more fresh produce, community gardens, and farmers markets in poor areas
- culture of the city
- people understand and carry forward importance of neighborhood associations
- better promotion of all the community events and activities that occur in the city
- destination home
- more positive programs and events for inner city youth
- destination home
- neighborhood associations
- rejuvenate keep Evansville beautiful / operation city beautiful

• Leave Behind

- negative attitudes of some without researching and getting information about the topic; too much mudslinging
- divisions - even outsider can see divisions
- middle schools
- limited mass transit system with no buses on Sundays
- all the empty building - retail, homes, etc.
- gang activity and crime
- nonprofit agencies not working together and duplicating efforts
- meth labs
- lack of coordination of nonprofits
- gang activity and crime
- poor nutrition
- homelessness
- lack of opportunities for minorities of all kinds / outsiders
- graffiti
- lack of traffic flow

- zoo, do more with zoo
- heavy trash pickups
- churches
- museums
- continue to expand public transportation
- we are our own worst enemy / negative attitudes
- limited neighborhood amenities like Laundromats, etc.
- lack of direct flights





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

- greens spaces, river, playing in parks, schools, churches, multicultural, diverse
- Schools, YMCA, teenagers, welcoming
- factories, good jobs for everybody, extended bus service, Sunday bus service, churches, God in hearts, affordable housing
- river, focus on river to find our common vision

GROUP 1B

- green society, windmills, solar panels
- coffee shop, school, children, houses
- good fences, new sidewalks

Group 1C

- Sun shining, people of all colors, green grass, money falling off of trees
- people crossing street, helping each other out

Group 1D

- Swimming pool, row houses, seniors, grassy area with flowers
- neighborhood identities reflected in signage, bus stops, street lights, dedicated wheelchair lanes, access to and from bus stops, street lighting, bike lanes, themed bus stops in neighborhoods
- Oak hill is good example of complete street with good access

Group 2A

- Center for children
- community health with locally sourced food, health clinic
- green industries

Group 2B

- Family outside of house with pretty flower gardens for everyone to enjoy
- Green Space, safe place for children
- car driving down road, dog in the yard

Group 2C

- home ownership, no empty lots, green space
- connectivity, east west north south connections with train and bus stations
- need unique name to claim - Evansville is the "pocket city"
- beautiful, peaceful, cooperative, supportive community

Group 3A

- Going to school and church in park environment with plenty of food, businesses
- Senior citizens row homes, senior education and activity center with playground for grandchildren to play

Group 3B

- growing up in nice community in nice environment
- riverfront has variety of attractions, farmers market

Group 4A

- safe places to call home and have people come together
- children free of all kinds of abuse
- environment, clean air, everyone smiling and happy

Group 4B

- bicycles and Walking everywhere- trails completed
- Love people, love to talk
- everything in community, schools, churches, stores, people holding hands