

Toledo Museum of Art
Museum Place Community Conversation #2 – Mott Branch Library
Meeting Date: 12/4/17
10 people in attendance

Who Attended: Jason Daniels of JAYRAMON LLC introduced himself as facilitator for the evening. There was a total of 10 community stakeholders present for the meeting and two representatives of Toledo Museum of Art (TMA).

Why We Are Here: In early 2017, TMA became the official property owners of the Museum Place (MP) Residences—five historic buildings along Monroe Street and Collingwood Avenue, in Toledo’s Old West End Historic District. As a trusted institution in the Toledo community, the Museum is hosting a series of public community conversations about the next steps and plans for the MP properties. Current MP residences, community members, neighbors in the surrounding neighborhoods, and other area stakeholders all invited to attend the community meetings and provide feedback. There will be a total of 10 Community Conversations taking place in or near neighborhoods surrounding TMA campus. Each meeting will be led by a facilitator and last up to 90 minutes.

What to Expect: Each meeting will include the same questions. What will be different are the discussions and themes suggested by stakeholders. Notes from each of the 10 meetings will be posted to the TMA website at www.toledomuseum.org/museumplace. At the conclusion of the meetings, a final report will be created and shared with the community, TMA staff and board of trustees.

Question 1: What kind of art do you like and what do you like about it?

Table 1: Art that activates or is built into existing spaces. Installation, graffiti, art pieces that are experienced through the built-in environment. Performance and visual art.

Table 2: Visual and performance art, anything interactive and visual. Garden art. Have an appreciation for graffiti but dislike painting and graffiti on historic buildings. Housing and historical building photography. Performance space within the community. Music and theatre.

Table 3: Big fans of architecture and art featured in the TMA.

Common Themes:

- Visual and performing art
- Graffiti art

Question 2: What do you currently like about this neighborhood?

Table 1: Community garden on Glenwood where sunflowers grow. Vibrancy across urban landscape and greenery. Green space around Glass Pavilion. Walking paths. Largest historic district in Toledo. Sculptures around the garden are children-friendly. Flow of traffic on Monroe Street is one of the best for flow and is pedestrian-friendly. Speed is a problem at times. Landscaping is nice, but it needs to be up-graded in front of The DelMar and The Lincoln at Museum Place.

Table 2: We like the social economic diversity of the neighborhood. Not really identified as a rich, poor or middle-class neighborhood. Diverse and inclusive neighborhood.

Table 3: Green space and overall neighborhood aesthetic. Mixture of historic and new buildings providing beautiful spaces. Affordability to live. Diversity of neighborhood. Variety of people who live in the neighborhood. Highly walkable neighborhood. Neighbors are involved and connected to the neighborhood, beyond Old West End. Residents proud to live here and care about the surrounding neighborhoods too.

Common Themes:

- Vibrancy of urban landscape/green space
- Diversity of neighborhood
- Walkability
- Residents are connected and involved community

Question 3: What do you aspire the neighborhood to look like 10 years from now?

Table 1: A lot of opportunities for artists to learn (especially children), work, socialize, network and live. Communal gallery spaces. Artist mixers and socializing events? Plentiful spaces for artists to mingle. More than four walls to work in, want to know who my fellow artists are. A neighborhood where people know their neighbors.

Table 2: Less vacant homes and buildings with businesses that stay open on Monroe Street. Increase of support from the City of Toledo to help with keeping the historic integrity of the buildings and maintain its current historical look. More families moving into the neighborhood as opportunities become available. Young families focused on children verses keeping up with historic homes of the neighborhood. The TMA to show leadership in surrounding neighborhoods, not just OWE, but Englewood, Dorr, Uptown, etc.

Table 3: Maintain the historic charm of the neighborhood but spruce it up. Less vacant homes. Even more diversity by interweaving the blocks; better mix of ethnic, culture diversity. Keep housing affordable-don't want to push families or people out who have already been there. Changed perception of neighborhood so people aren't afraid to come downtown and enjoy a neighborhood with "cultural mecca." Lots of art hubs for people to enjoy – especially year-round spaces. Numerous programs for surrounding communities to be represented. Monroe Street businesses are thriving.

Common Themes:

- Art spaces for people to socialize and learn
- Business and housing revitalization
- Attracts families to live in the neighborhood
- Residents have a thriving community live, work and play

Question 4: How could we reimagine Museum Place?

Table 1: Iron fencing around the buildings and parking lot feels institutionalized-take them down. Yellow leasing signs cheapen the facilities. The TMA should consider being committed to keeping it residential. There should be more

business and networking spaces available in one of the buildings. Offer temporary housing to executives who are here for 3-6 months, the bonus is its close to the TMA and a beautiful neighborhood. Stronger partnerships with corporations in the area. Maintain the historical interior of the buildings, positively reverting to what the buildings once were.

Table 2: Artists live/work space; possibly gallery space. More bike-friendly environment with more walking paths. Unique opportunity to have residential space for families/young people to be exposed to visual, performing, literary arts. The TMA neighborhood could become a model for other neighborhoods that wish appreciate the arts. Example: Jeff Wilson metalworker works downtown by the Dirty Bird. Integrate art so residents and visitors can appreciate. Add art to Museum Place buildings and property but keep integrity of buildings – it's a way to introduce art visually.

Table 3: Since the TMA is an arts institution, are you going to rent to artists or to executives? Making the buildings artist-focused.

Common Themes:

- Live/work space for artists
- More communal networking/social spaces
- Integrating art into/onto the buildings and grounds of Museum Place

The Parking Lot: Sometimes ideas that are raised during a discussion are interesting and worthwhile to follow up, but are not necessarily of direct use to the goals of the current meeting. The following ideas made it to the parking lot and will not be forgotten, as it is documented for discussion in the future.

- Museum Place should have performance art and music integrated as programming in its building or a building
- Expressway completely cut off the neighborhood behind the Museum. The TMA should find a way to include them as its "neighborhood."
- Promote programming at the TMA. Seems like the museum is on an island
- The TMA and city looking out for and caring for other neighborhoods, particularly Englewood
- Add kid-friendly sculpture gardens to the grounds of Museum Place
- Who will be renting in the future?