

Toledo Museum of Art
Museum Place Community Conversation #9 Notes – The Arts Commission
Meeting Date: 4/11/18
11 people in attendance

Who Attended: Jason Daniels of JAYRAMON LLC introduced himself as facilitator for the evening. There was a total of 11 community stakeholders present for the meeting and 2 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 TMA website. 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?

Group 1: Sculpture and landscape art. Art that incites a dialog. Performance art (TMA Block Party, Toledo Symphony Bach Around the Clock). Art that is accessible and interactive that you can touch and experience. Experience- based art that places things in context and grounds you. Kid-friendly art.

Group 2: Historic art. Art that tells a story. Art that teaches you. New kinds of art. Artists that teach me about what they do. Afropunk art really thrills me because it’s new to me, and now see it more and more in my world. Art that makes a place

for itself. Constantly shifts my world view. As an artist, I like figure drawing. Art from other cultures. Feminist art. Social justice art. Mural art.

Group 3: Performance art. Contemporary glass art and sculpture. Design and architectural art that makes us feel. Art that makes you remember you are alive and makes you step outside of yourself. Theme art (like waves crashing and art that make you feel like you are there or in the artwork). Textile and design (attracts sewers and people who work with clothes and textiles. Understanding dyes and various cultures through clothes). TMA brings famous clothing designers. Murals. The architecture in the Old West End is just fabulous.

Common Themes:

Experience-themed/based art

Architecture

Performance art

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

Group 1: Something always happening like arts and culture, rosary cathedral, Mudhens/Huntington Center. Not just arts and culture. Fair housing, social political agencies are rooted here. Activities citizens can roll up their sleeves and get involved in and make things happen. Love the aesthetic of the neighborhood- a rich diversity. Historic buildings, gardens and greenspace on Collingwood makes you happy to be here. Nice to drive down Collingwood. Pride/LGBTQ rights.

Group 2: Residential are with lots of greenspace – we need more. Potential for development or revitalization. I love Jesup W. Scott High School – People say so goes Scott High School, so goes Toledo. It really applies to this area. Schools in general help make the neighborhoods. The students play a role in the neighborhood. More people should be putting in time and effort to make sure Scott High School is preserved. Small business, coffee shops, sandwich shops, unique businesses that make the neighborhood special.

Group 3: Inclusivity and diverse. Emotionally safe and non-suburban. Open to everyone. Willingness for interaction. Block parties. Lots of pedestrians on the streets. This part of the city is very proud of their sidewalks. Trees, heavy dense forest; lots of yards and gardens but we need more gardens. Very accessible by interstate and public transportation. A lot of architectural history in the area. It's

an extension of TMA - like an open-air Art Museum. Feel taken care of by the community. Area is very neighborly. We love our front porches.

Common Themes:

Accessible for various groups, businesses

Gardens and greenspace (trees)

Neighborly and welcoming

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

Group 1: Homes built with more traditional character, with basements. More small businesses/family-owned businesses. We need more spaces our kids can visit throughout the neighborhood that are safe and clean. It's a place where everyone knows one another. More designed greenspaces with trees and perennial flowers so we can hang out in a nice area. Vagrancy problems solved so people are comfortable hanging out in the evening (safety). Cultural mixture of families so we can enjoy and learn from one another. Housing with basements, not cookie cutter homes.

Group 2: Maintain affordable housing to ensure a diverse community. A community that invest more/advocates for itself more. More art and community outreach. Theater programs for all schools and all grades. Playgrounds in the Old West End. Grocery stores within walking distance. Diverse leadership in government (people that represent marginalized groups).

Group 3: More bicycle lanes and active urban parks and neighborhood parks. Artistic walking trails like in other cities. We need historic properties maintained. Well-maintained streets. Walkability to neighborhood shops and restaurants. More of a neighborhood convenience. New businesses that come in should comply with a landscaping requirement (for every neighborhood not just Old West End). More public artwork integrated within the neighborhood. Sidewalks, lighting, and historic housing maintained. Yes, we need lighting that fits the neighborhood. It doesn't have to just be bright light. Colors are good too. Save our historic houses.

Common Themes:

Designed green space/parks/walking trails/biking

New businesses (grocery/shops)
Public art
Mixed use affordable housing

Question 4: How could we reimagine Museum Place?

All Group Conversation

-Places for people to live that are affordable: Families, young people, and poor people living together. Don't push everyone out to develop this vision. Keep it diverse and ensure affordable housing exists. Maintain the properties so they are nice and attract visitors. We want low rents that people can afford to live in. Continue to nurture upcoming and mid-career artists with creation of an artist gymnasium where artists can practice their art. Space that allows artists to connect, use equipment, practice and collaborate with their art and grow their artistic expression. It can be fee based. Turn the space into a small theater for art films for students. Maintain and nurture artists. Mentorship space. This concept can demonstrate programs to the community. It can attract visitors and retail to the area. Can serve as an incubator. TMA has artist to learn but what next.

-Opportunity to revisit the whole site and its parking situation. Consider vacating Collingwood to Jefferson Ave (next to Bartley). Make more of a campus footprint for the Museum. It will help with walkability without a street running through the property. Much safer for kids.

-Better exterior amenities. More benches and outdoor seating areas for people. Kids needs small play spaces everywhere. Art Commission benches on the property. (Lots of clamor about the need for more public seating.) What about pop-up seating in spring/summer/fall?

-Provide an opportunity for condos/co-ops for low-income families - One thing to rent/lease, but it's different when you own something. Learning experience for these individuals.

Common themes:

Affordable housing/ low-rent

Space for artists to practice their crafts
More public seating throughout TMA neighborhood

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.

- Build upon the neighborhood asset of it being LGBTQ friendly and understanding and educated around gay rights.
- Former City (of Toledo) 20/20 Plan – there were great ideas there. Can any of them benefit this process?
- Look at cities who collaborate well, especially with the arts community. What can we adopt as examples to be included in the final report out plan to reference. Here are few:
 - Louisville
 - Los Angeles
 - Minneapolis (Twin Cities initiatives)
 - Pennsylvania (Pittsburg ad Philadelphia)