

Toledo Museum of Art
Museum Place Community Conversation #10 Notes – Toledo Museum of Art
Meeting Date: 4/18/18
26 people in attendance

Who Attended: Jason Daniels of JAYRAMON LLC introduced himself as facilitator for the afternoon. There was a total of 26 community stakeholders present for the meeting and 3 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 end 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: All aspects of what the Museum has to offer. Vast diversity of art. Music. Poetry. Referenced TMA Sneaker exhibition that was unique and different; diverse art. Glass art. Dutch masters portraiture, photography, and art that is engaging. Special exhibits with variety and gives people a reason to return. Diversity of art. Beyond the visual. Murals. Sculpture-materials. Outdoor art. Art that connects to and connects youth. Gateway to more experiences, learning, and exploring new ideas.

Table 2: Abstract art. Photography. Art and artist like Ansel Adams, Afro-Punk,

Matisse, O’Keeffe, Warhol, interactive art, glass art, contemporary art, impressionist art, watercolor, mixed media, pottery, metals, sculpture, and creative mediums. The ability to touch art and experience the story it tells. Incorporating music, culinary and literary art.

Table 3: Art that engages the community, photography, street art, murals, landscape art, lighting around the city, and beautiful parking structures. Different public sculptures. Changing how we view or elevate the landscape. Baroque and Rococo style art. Landscaping art to engage with the community

Common Themes:

Diversity of art

Art that engages (community)

Photography

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

Table 1: The expressway put a dividing wall between TMA’s south community and there’s not much we can do about it, so we don’t know about the other side of the expressway and their community (not in a good way). New neighborhoods like the Adams Street Corridor have developed and blossomed over the past several years. Businesses, residents, restaurants. A new catalyst. Spirit of the Old West End. Very active in the community. People speak out, have meetings and communicate. They celebrate. We must engage with these neighborhoods we are separated by. Not easily defined (Broadway St. Murals to Old West End architecture), allows free expression. Diversity. Level of engagement and commitment of residents. Walking traffic. More open to a mixed population than in previous years. Potential value of faith community. Preservation of old buildings. Old West End has great history and architecture. Robust avenue of churches. I hope we are community that does not allow our churches to be torn down.

Table 2: We love the proximity and accessibility to anchor institutions. History, pride, block watch programs, architecture, local hub for small businesses. Schools – schools “make” our community better. Growth and vibrancy of downtown. Love the Avenue of the Arts. The Collingwood Arts Center. The young professionals and mix of older neighbors. Dual citizenship of Old West End and downtown. The

diversity of housing, services. Elected officials live in the neighborhood. Key people to make connections with. Biking route and TARTA. Growth of downtown community.

Table 3: We love the diversity of the housing: houses, apartments, renters, owner, kids, range of ages, friendly people, families, individuals. Dog-friendly. Very engaged. Accessible to major venues like the Museum, downtown. Engaged and connected citizens. Beautiful: architecture, trees, green space. The arts. The library branches. The schools. An incredible history. Public transit. Area has a lot of potential. Those who work and live in the area are very committed to it.

Common Themes:

Diversity

Downtown growth

Engaged citizens

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

Table 1: Art in public places in areas south of highway, same with Old West End traffic flow. Spaces to celebrate the diversity of the area. Less separation between the smaller sub-areas in the neighborhood. Promote more safe walking areas within the neighborhood. Safe walking places. Need for new businesses, other shops and services that people can walk to. Bike paths. More renovations, fewer abandoned buildings. Functioning green space. Build on how it's a community, not a neighborhood. More activities for youths. Add sculpture or art to the green space. Incentivize retail space.

Table 2: Love to see a vibrant community. TMA should help "fix" the other side of the expressway. Build street presence/more walkable communities. Would love to see a movie theater. One stop shops, hotels, chain grocery store, commemorative signage to tell the story of Toledo. Use Whole Foods to engage those in the culinary arts. Add a Sweet Basil! Environmental design. Love lighting and digital signage. We like the digital signage downtown and, in the suburbs, but we need to add more of it to the neighborhood. Crime prevention. Create more spaces that are friendly. Concentrated effort on sustainability, rehabbing homes. Need to rehab homes and more construction/newer homes. Everything is

maintained. Studio space for emerging artists that is affordable.

Table 3: More flourishing local business. Commercial businesses such as a grocery store. Additional and improved green space. Bike trails. Building of the corridor between Old West End and downtown. No absentee landlords. Less vacant lots. A dog park. Abandoned homes revitalized. A trolley or people mover that would happen more often than special events. There is a disconnect between TMA and the surrounding neighborhoods-Not having the neighborhood and Museum be disconnected. Walkability.

Common Themes:

Safety/walkability

More businesses/grocery store

TMA should help connect neighborhoods and better understand them

Abandoned homes rehabbed/revitalized

Question 4: How could we reimagine Museum Place?

Table 1: Make Museum Place recognizable to the community – better branding. More art in buildings and on grounds. Housing for art students and/or artists. Make everything look better. More diverse occupancy. Opening it up to guest artists and others. A gallery or performance space. Community space. Brand the complex. Provide guest housing for people who are visiting – make it open to long term visitors with the opera and symphony. Upgrade the landscaping and make a walking plan. Make it look nicer. Adding art work to the public grounds. Guest housing for arts organizations. Add more community space.

Table 2: Shared outdoor community space and better landscaping. More intimate musical spaces. Reevaluate existing parking plans for a better plan- there may be too much space that can be better utilized. Short term housing for visiting artists, interns, business leaders, something that would be furnished. Community room for residents to have their events. Potential performance space for community events. A community that consists of all the Museum Place buildings-being inclusive.

Table 3: Possibility of alternative housing opportunities such as a bed and breakfast, a living co-op. Live/work spaces for artists. Art visibility for residential

projects. Live plans and grounds that are accessible for people with disabilities. Be mindful of affordability- don't price people out and lose the diversity. Include innovative design concepts. Partner with Toledo Spain for a global art exchange. Displaying art around TMA campus and in the community.

Common themes:

Live/work spaces for artists

Community spaces

Better landscaping/greenspace

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.

- Engage and better understand residents on other side of the expressway.
- Two areas TMA could engage in conversation
 - Mott Branch neighborhood
 - LMHA is in their 3rd phase of development with its properties. Maybe there is way to collaborate to connect the areas.