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Toledo Museum of Art
Museum Place Community Conversation #5 Notes – Sanger Branch Library
Meeting Date: 2/6/18
5 people in attendance

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Who Attended: Jason Daniels of JAYRAMON LLC introduced himself as facilitator for the evening. There was a total of 5 community stakeholders present for the meeting and 1 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?

Jaume Plensa's *Spiegel* and outdoor art. Impressionist. The Manet exhibit was impactful. Brought so many people here because it was only shown in the States in Toledo. One of a kind exhibits drive interest, membership, and a conversation to make the Museum better. African art - Can't always relate but enjoy looking at it and trying to figure it out. Art that is educational. Living by the Museum has broadened the types of art that I like. My go-to is Impressionists. Makes me feel warm. Ancient art. Beautiful objects that were part of their life. Really enjoyed *Glorious Splendor.* Classical and neoclassical architecture is instrumental in helping to put a city together. Appreciate the mural project the Museum did with Monroe Street buildings. Nice reminders of what's in the collection. Helps encourage people who might never go to the Museum. Seeing murals on the

buildings was fascinating. Murals evoke a sense of pride. Museum rooms themed to the art within them shapes the way you inhabit the room. Examples include the Cloister, Peristyle.

Common Themes
Impressionism Art
African art
Murals

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

Victorian houses and touring them. Collingwood Arts Center. Education institutions - public and private schools. Sociable neighborhood - especially during Old West End Festival. Gorgeous area architecturally. Big old trees. Great restaurants. Historical churches with social programming. Porches. Manicured lawns with artwork and shrubbery. The Toledo Museum of Art Block Party. Hardworking neighbors and homeowners. Everyone tries to keep up their house. Friendliness of neighbors. Sense of comradery in the Old West End. Sharing of tips for homes. Little changes make such a big impact. Could use electronic message boards on interstate to announce Museum's presence. Better signage. Signage that helps people visiting the city know the Toledo Museum of Art is here. Gardeners and folks who grow native plants.

Common Themes
Festivals and events
Lawns and gardening/landscaping pride of homeownership
Sense of community, diversity

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

Neighborhood should resemble Coventry (Cleveland) - national and local businesses intermingled with homes. Transit hub away from downtown. Area between downtown and museum would be prime. Preserving the historical buildings in the area is a must. Bikes, with a hub for easy access. Urban farms or creative ways to grow food. Full grocery store to address food desert issues. Traffic calming. Can be creative in how we use our roadways. Traffic calming around the Museum. Smooth roads, efficient utilities. A park for families to picnic, people can fish. Whole area feels more like a neighborhood, not just the "ideal"

Old West End neighborhood blocks. Museum should reach beyond the typical areas. Abandoned houses and dilapidated buildings should be ALL of our responsibility. Repurpose empty churches – Find creative ways to utilize them. Black Cloister to have an Old West end location. Grand Rapids brewery that used to be a funeral parlor – be creative.

A place where I can feel safe to walk in the neighborhood. Safety is a key issue for kids. Safety is an issue, comes the neighborhood. Beef up security.

Common Themes
Traffic calming/Better transportation ease– make easier to get through neighborhoods (bikes included)
Preserve and repurpose historical churches/buildings
Safety

Question 4: How could we imagine Museum Place?
Turn properties into condos. Small hotel or something where you could have a public space that could be rented out to individuals and businesses. Detroit Foundation Hotel- Old Fire Station turned into a hotel and restaurant but maintains its architecture. Very creative job with its goods coming from within a 100-mile radius of the city. Connectivity/communal space to conduct business. More spaces for people to have conversations (inside and outside of properties). Communal tables for people to enjoy. Have a restaurant on the property.

Common Themes
Combo hotel/restaurant space
Communal spaces throughout properties for residents and visitors to enjoy/connect

The Parking Lot: Sometimes ideas that are raised during the course of 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.
- Research Detroit Foundation Hotel as an example.
- Research Cleveland's Coventry Neighborhood as an example.
- The Toledo Museum of Art needs better signage on the interstate and around the nearby communities.