

**Toledo Museum of Art**  
**Museum Place Community Conversation #4 Notes – Kent Branch Library**  
**Meeting Date: 1/29/18**  
**30 people in attendance**

**Who Attended:** Jason Daniels of JAYRAMON LLC introduced himself as facilitator for the evening. There was a total of 30 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: Historical Art (military background). Visual public art because it reflects the vibe of the neighborhood. Sculptures or structural art because you can view it 360 degrees. Culinary art gives everyone the opportunity to express themselves and be creative. Musical art because it possesses a universal language. Spoken art puts words to art and poetry. Visual art that reflects the neighborhood.

Group 2: Cezanne because his work is abstract and realism. Matisse and Georgia O’Keeffe because there are no boundaries and lots of colors. Film art, abstract art, any art that’s beautiful. Mark Chagall and medieval art has lots of order to the art.

Group 3: Sculptural because it's visual and helps to create place. Art that represents me/Art I can tap into personally. Art a person can connect with. Diverse forms of art people can connect with. New art/Critical art that starts a conversation and makes you think about the historical, political; Art that is mood dependent. Live performances that focus on sound paired with writing. Group art or social experience art. Native (indigenous) art or any art that represents a group of people, culture and/or history.

**Common Themes:**

Sculptural art  
Visual and performing arts  
Art as a reflection of the viewer

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

Group 1: Ease of access to the community/Toledo region/centrally located. Golf carts and connections to different parts of the city (Old West End area). Eclectic, distinct neighborhoods with different vibes and mixed experience. Front porch community (front porches are coming back according to neighborhoods winning national awards.) Architecture and history. Proximity to the Toledo Museum of Art.

Group 2: Potentially exciting space for artists and young people. Lots of diversity but not inclusive (conversation about the Toledo Museum of Art not being inclusive and welcoming as much as they could be.) Feeling and sense of community and belonging. Potential for engagement with nearby neighborhoods. Potential to do business with nearby business and shops including downtown businesses; good for entrepreneurs (Warehouse District, Promenade Park). Vibrancy throughout the neighborhood. Cultural collage.

Group 3: Mix of residential and commercial. Mix of historical buildings. Dedication to community. Variables in socio-economic status, population and cultures. Proximity to water (Museum should leverage the fact we are so close to the water). Neighborhoods are distinct and intertwined. Pride in the neighborhood and respected by others. Diversity of everything. Multiple cultures of restaurants. Rich history.

**Common Themes:**

Culture

Multiple opportunities to engage with surround businesses and neighborhoods

Diversity

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

Group 1: Street murals expanded (there should be far more art extended around the campus of the museum to let visitors know the Toledo Museum of Art is nearby). High caliber but connected to identities of the neighborhoods. Other communities nearby thriving the same way Old West End community is thriving. Improvement without displacement. Urban planning should be occurring with great intentionality, not necessarily with government support. Attract out of town visitors with vibrancy of the neighborhood. We should find a way for visitors in and around the Museum area to know how great the neighborhood really is.

Group 2: Thriving commercial corridor. Reuse of vacant property lots. Better connectivity to other areas of the neighborhood. Diminished crime to increase property values. Additional space and safe havens for children like the Y or Boys and Girls Club. Interactive space for kids to enjoy the community safely. Community green space where people can walk safely (even at night). Studio water-front apartments for visitors/Air B&B.

Group 3: Walkability and pedestrian-friendly. Not gentrified. Center-point of multicultural connections and neighborhood collaborations. Low crime. You and old working together in partnership, learning from one another. One of a kind in the country (we should be winning national awards. Toledo needs to talk of the community and neighborhood more). Diversity of human interaction and innovation. Acknowledge it as a glass city - celebrate this fact more than we do now - Don't try to be something else. Cultivate a space for underserved youth as a place where they can thrive. Preserve the history of the neighborhood.

**Common Themes:**

Safer community (pedestrian-friendly/walkability)

More creative outdoor spaces for children (families)

Reinvestment in community

#### **Question 4: How could we reimagine Museum Place?**

Group 1: Affordable luxury housing for young professionals. A place for young creatives. A global art exchange and collaboration with public schools. Subsidized housing for artists. Community coffee shop/gallery/restaurant. Visiting artists residences.

Group 2: A community common area (filled with art); Rentable space for other businesses for mixed use development. Rework court yard so it connects to residential and commercial. Create mixed use space like Secor Building for short term rental (“speak Easy”) Create a TSA dorm. A space that resembles 21 C artistic Hotel.

Group 3: Usable outdoor space. Common social space on campus. Restaurant/shops on the grounds for residents/visitors. Diversity of residents. Affordable housing and mixed income housing.

#### **Common Themes:**

Mixed use space (hotel themes)

Diversity of residents

Reimagined outdoor space

**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.

- No parking lot items from this meeting.