

Toledo Museum of Art
Museum Place Community Conversation #8 Notes – ProMedica Ebeid Institute
Meeting Date: 3/8/18
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 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 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: All Art. Art that challenges and provides a sensory experience. Portrait and floral art. Variety of new and old art. Art that celebrates diversity. Kids art. Installation art and murals. Interactive art. Art that trains our youth/students.

Group 2: Coordinated lighting art (special exhibits). Architectural art (homes and historic buildings). Culinary. Theatre. Music.

Group 3: Ancient art that plays/intertwined with pop culture. Glass art. Abstract art. Modern art. Public murals and sculptures.

Group 4: Video game art. Common art. More than just art hanging on a wall. Antique billboards.

Common Themes

- Variety of Art
- Glass Art
- Public murals and sculptures

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

Group 1: Diversity. Multi-generational. Good supply of artists, entrepreneurs and musicians. Weekend festivals. One mile to downtown. Churches. Walking and biking friendly neighborhood. Surprising number of foreign visitors. Bus service.

Group 2: Diversity. Architecture. Renovation, preservation of neighborhood. Initiatives to meet neighbors. Neighborhood is welcoming, cool and progressive. Neighborhood is diverse and multicultural. Rich culture. History of homes and neighborhood.

Group 3: Affordability. History of homes/neighborhoods. Old West End Festival. Women of the Old West End organization. Activism and organization. Magnificent churches (Cathedral). Friendliness. Beautiful big trees. Quirkiness of neighbors.

Group 4: Architecture. Colors of the homes. History and connectedness. Opportunity for growth. Green space. Energy and revitalization. Libraries. Great schools. Opportunity for collaboration with cultural and performing organizations. Affordable and diverse housing. Proximity and accessibility to highway. Family-friendly entertainment district (consider kids more than we have).

Common Themes:

- Diversity
- Walking and bike friendly neighborhood
- Architecture/History of homes and buildings

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

Group 1: Attract national chains and brands to open in the heart of the Old West End (recognizable brands). Scott High School is a vibrant school and its hub activity is outwardly focused (use space that is public and open). Maintain safe housing that is affordable. Build an artistic community. Utilize people movers (trolley). Community-based businesses. A walkable city/neighborhood.

Group 2: Continued preservation of the historic structures. Ability to attract more young families but maintain neighborhood with a variety of ages and diversity. Small business growth. Larger grocery store. A cohesiveness of blocks. Additional housing availability in Uptown. Increased use of vacant land in Uptown. Adoption of TMA's Master Plan. Increased partnerships with varied sectors. Maintain vibrant neighborhoods (all around museum). Increased walking and bike paths. Creating areas of interest for wide range of ages. Improved school success pre-K through grade 12. Variety of retail: Basic needs and boutiques. Mixed affordability (housing and retails businesses).

Group 3: Good roads and sidewalks. Bright street lighting and LED lighting. Improved education in existing schools. Yards kept up. More home ownership. Fix up foreclosures. Free community Wi-Fi. Extend bike paths to downtown. Historic preservation. More recreational opportunities in green spaces and parks. More grocery stores. Hyperloop.

Group 4: No boarded up or abandoned houses. Work with all neighborhoods to better organize (there should be a unity here). More signage of displaying the Museum. Diversity. Mixed affordability. Improvement of services in grocery, Home Depot. Restaurants. More activity at night so people feel safe to visit. More business in economic development for all neighborhoods. Better transportation. Connected bike trails. More neighborhoods history being told. Dog park. More focus on children. Empty lots being put to good use. Street lights and benches. Historic lights. Better accessibility for seniors.

Common Themes

- Biking/walk friendly neighborhoods

- Less vacant and abandoned property
- Increased street lighting
- Increased mix of residential and business with mixed affordability

Question 4: How could we reimagine Museum Place?

Group 1: Mixed housing for artists (visiting artists, glassblowers, etc.). Bartley becomes a single-family home. Outside sculptures throughout the TMA campus. Commercial opportunities inside these buildings. Destination spot for the whole community (parking needs to be worked out). Historical signs for buildings. Toledo Spain park across the street to be used for music, poetry, outdoor piano (lots of applause for outdoor piano and music, especially for kids).

Group 2: Glass air walk from CVA to Museum Place to keep families safe. Arts incubator for business planning and development for the arts. Abundant garden landscaping and designs (how could the Metroparks or area nurseries help build this?) More community events sponsored by TMA occurring in their parking lots. Color code buildings to help with identification. Utilizing specialized murals.

Group 3: Use housing as a benefit package for corporations and businesses to help attract and retain talent. Leverage Museum Place to attract and retain talent in Toledo. Shared space for art education. Space for art students. Retain historical architecture. Avoid tearing down and rebuilding. Mixed use space.

Group 4: Use a portion for art galleries, breweries, coffee shops (like Starbucks). Major upgrades to buildings with high energy efficiency. Parking structure of some sort. Secure bike rides. Condos (tax abatement).

Common Themes

- Mixed use space
- Housing for artists
- Need for more parking
- More community spaces

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.

- Additional signage and billboards throughout neighborhoods and on expressway letting visitors and community know there is a museum to visit.
- Better tracking of group homes: TMA should keep an eye out on individuals who buy up property for group homes. These supportive businesses are needed but people are buying large homes for this purpose. Concerns of what this could do to community over time.
- Research Habitat for Humanity Model for shares space for artists (call for artists programming to help with house builds such as Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity. Could his model be leveraged throughout all neighborhoods?
- How is TMA engaging with Toledo tech communities regarding Hyperloop, especially if its in our future of possibilities?
- Review and consider Denver outdoor pianos (16th Street Malls).