

Irvington Town Hall Meeting
Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity Discussion
February 21, 2004

Facilitator: Todd A. Durnil, Irvington Community School Board.

Discussion:

The following issues were noted during the facilitated discussion. There is no prioritization in the listing.

1. Evaluate the creation of street banners by deciding the locations and which events to advertise, and assess cost and funding source.
2. Expand the number of resources utilized and which events to advertise in local publications.
3. Construct information kiosks at strategic locations, which advertise community events.
4. Assess the financial cost and sources to bring the Irving Theater up to acceptable market, or non profit use.
5. Resurrect the Free University of yesteryear by utilizing vacant buildings.
6. Partner with higher education to offer a satellite location for adult courses.
7. Attract an art gallery and artists studio, possible location being Irvington Plaza.
8. Address the perception of high crime in the Irvington neighborhood.
9. Coordinate cultural and arts events to stimulate economic development.
10. Increase the support by Irvington residents for local businesses.
11. Increase communication efforts with the Latino community to help break down cultural barriers.
12. Implement new civic theater in a vacant building, possibly the Irving Theater.
13. Create a profile of the Latino community in Irvington with assistance from the Hispanic center.
14. Emphasize art education in secondary schools and continuing education.
15. Improve services for the aging population.
16. Retain and improve the walkable spaces in the Irvington neighborhood.
17. Define and focus on a niche in terms of the uniqueness of the Irvington neighborhood as an arts community.
18. Attract a quality bookstore that reflects the Irvington neighborhood.
19. Link to the Historic Irvington website to improve event coordination and promotion.
20. Encourage the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library to emphasize programs that focus on Irvington's literary history.
21. Attract arts oriented businesses by supporting a restaurant's ability for limited alcohol sales.
22. Continue support of the Irvington Community School.
23. Maintain and emphasize the cooperation between Indianapolis Public Schools and the Irvington Community School.
24. Explore the potential of the Bona Thompson Center as a cultural center for the Irvington neighborhood.
25. Increase the numbers of volunteers that tutor children at the Guardian Home.
26. Expand the farmer's market.
27. Improve the promotion the Irvington Art Fair to increase attendance.

Visit <http://www.historicirvington.org/> for more information regarding the plan.

28. Construct Town markers at the boundaries of the Irvington neighborhood.
29. Seek additional funding for the Irvington Events Calendar through the Irvington Leadership Circle.
30. Resurrect the Irvington newspaper.

People who have agreed to be on the Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity Committee:

Facilitator: Todd A. Durnil,

Members: Viola Abbott, Sue Barnett, Paul Deibold, Jack Eichacker, Maureen Griffin, Maureen Griffin, Blade Hauth, Dean Ilingworth, Sarah Katz, Becky Langsford, Micheal Mace, Karen Martin, Jennifer Meehan Mills, Joyce Newland, Lucy Newton, Jennifer Richardson, Paula Rominger Lewis, Patrick Sullivan, Mary Jane Teeters Eichacker, and Mike Williams

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity is scheduled for Thursday, March 25th at 7:15 p.m., Irvington United Methodist Church.

Notes taken by Tim Hayes, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis