

**Irvington Plan  
Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity Discussion  
Through March 25, 2004**

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

**Discussion:**

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

# Arts and Culture

## Increase the Promotion and Advertising of Irvington's Community Events

### **Create New and Utilize Existing Physical Structures to Advertise Events**

- ◆ Evaluate the creation of street banners on poles by deciding the locations and which events to advertise, and assess cost and funding source.
- ◆ Construct information kiosks at strategic locations that would advertise community events.
- ◆ Construct Town markers at the boundaries of the Irvington neighborhood in cooperation with City and State agencies.
- ◆ Construct directional signs along roads (including interstate) to note historic sites in the Irvington neighborhood in cooperation with City and State agencies.
- ◆ Utilize the Bona Thompson Center as a focal point and increase number of locations that distribute the Irvington Events Calendar.
- ◆ Research grant dollars for the construction of a Irvington information center or rehabilitation for the Irving Theater as an information center along the National Road.

### **Utilize and Improve the Forms of Communicating Irvington Events**

- ◆ Provide a link to The Historic Irvington Community Council (<http://www.irvingtoncouncil.com>) web site to improve event coordination and promotion.
- ◆ Improve the promotion of the Irvington Art Fair to increase attendance.
- ◆ Expand the number of resources utilized and which events to advertise in local publications, including resurrection of the Irvington newspaper.
- ◆ Seek additional funding to continue publication of the Irvington Events Calendar through the Irvington Leadership Circle.
- ◆ Improve organization to accomplish more projects, organizing as one community voice through The Historic Irvington Community Council.

## Recognize the Contribution of Irvington's History on the Arts and Culture Community

### **Implement New Programs Which Emphasize Irvington's Unique History**

- ◆ Encourage the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library to hold events that focus on Irvington's literary and educator history.
- ◆ Explore the potential of the Bona Thompson Center as a cultural center for the Irvington neighborhood.
- ◆ Promote, to a greater extent, the Irvington artists of yesteryear in the art gallery at Bona Thompson, and the individual art for sale of current artists.

# Physical Environment

*Improve the attractiveness of Irvington by rejuvenating business and creating a greater sense of place for residents*

## **Strengthen the attraction, retention, and expansion of business**

- ◆ Increase the support by Irvington residents for local businesses by attracting a quality bookstore (possibly half price), video store, flower shop, arts-oriented businesses, and expanding the farmer's market that reflect tastes in the Irvington neighborhood.
- ◆ Focus business efforts in Irvington Plaza.
- ◆ Draft a resolution through The Historic Irvington Community Council to encourage the renovation of Marsh in order to attract more neighborhood shopping, especially if it is a higher profit store.
- ◆ Recognize the problems associated with asbestos removal in land preparation for construction, building demolition, and building rehabilitation.

## **Acknowledge the Irving Theater rehabilitation as the cornerstone of new development, neighborhood perception, recognition, and economic revitalization in Irvington**

- ◆ Assist the Irving Theater Foundation in assessing the rehabilitation cost and seeking a fiscal agent whom can assist in buying the Irving Theater, the main problem to renovation, through a coordinated effort with Irvington Development Organization (IDO).
- ◆ Enhance a portion of Irvington's history by rehabilitating the Irving Theater to its original look when it opened in 1915.
- ◆ Use the Irving Theater as a cultural center, visual and gallery arts, home for an existing civic theater, and other non profit uses.
- ◆ Create a central corner surrounding the Irving Theater by rehabilitating nearby buildings and utilizing these nearby buildings for a use that is compatible with Irvington's history and unique culture (office, public and semi-public uses, and educational services – free university).

## **Improve the physical design and the sense of mobility and space for Irvington residents and visitors.**

- ◆ Reserve time at The Historic Irvington Community Council (<http://www.irvingtoncouncil.com>) meetings to report on arts and cultural events, thus improving community cooperation with the intent of stimulating economic development.
- ◆ Increase code enforcement to eliminate derelict buildings, especially if it hurts other property values or a sale of a building.
- ◆ Extend the Cultural Trail to Irvington.
- ◆ Improve park and greenway construction/maintenance, and street maintenance.
- ◆ Create and retain spaces for pedestrians to gather, and consequently, assisting with a negative perception of safety.

# Education

*Energize secondary and continuing education within an Irvington community with an educator past.*

**Improve secondary education by strengthening student achievement, recruit, develop, and retain quality staff, provide a clean and safe environment, and engage parents and community**

- ◆ Emphasize art education in secondary schools and in continuing education classes.
- ◆ Continue neighborhood support of the Irvington Community School by identifying location(s) for a permanent home within or in proximity to Irvington.
- ◆ Maintain and emphasize the cooperation between Indianapolis Public Schools and the Irvington Community School.
- ◆ Increase the numbers of volunteers that tutor children at the Guardian Home.

**Provide more continuing education for adults in the post secondary Irvington community**

- ◆ Resurrect the free university of yesteryear by rehabilitating vacant buildings surrounding the Irving Theater.
- ◆ Partner with higher education to offer a satellite location for adult courses.

# Diversity

Gain an appreciation for differences in culture, values, and behaviors in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Irvington neighborhood.

- ◆ Increase communication efforts with the Latino community by including a representative on The Historic Irvington Community Council (<http://www.irvingtoncouncil.com>).
- ◆ Include a quarterly briefing by a representative of the Hispanic Center or the Mayor's Commission on Latino Affairs at meetings of The Historic Irvington Community Council (<http://www.irvingtoncouncil.com>).
- ◆ Improve services for the aging population by increasing communication efforts with CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions to provide transportation, adult day care, respite care, home health aides, attendant care, home repair and modification, legal assistance, ombudsman services, and senior service agencies.

# Crime

Reduce the perception of high crime in the Irvington neighborhood.

- ◆ Create and retain spaces for pedestrians to gather, and consequently, assist with reducing the negative perception of crime.
- ◆ Combat the negative perception of crime by constructing more street lights, focusing on residential areas.