

D. Community Pride and Human Relationships

This chapter details the Vision Statement, goal, and strategies developed by the Community Pride and Human Relationships Citizen Topic Group. They looked at three specific subtopics:

- Subtopic: Youth
- Subtopic: Diversity and Inclusion
- Subtopic: Sense of Community

The Community Pride and Human Relationships Vision Statement is as follows:

“Our vision of Columbia’s future is one where we all embrace and help create a welcoming, just, responsive, proactive, understanding, and respectful environment for residents and visitors alike – celebrating, rather than denigrating our collective diversity.”

Youth

Goal:
Columbia will develop and promote a central resource (and possibly place), creating environments that will cultivate responsible citizenship among young people.

Strategies and Action Plans

Strategy 1: Leverage Study Circle program to build consensus and vision among youth organization leadership.

Strategy 2: Improve promotion of existing opportunities by creating a comprehensive webpage and developing a booklet to be distributed at no charge to kids and parents. Incorporate information on transportation and scholarship opportunities for programs.

Strategy 3: Research interest in developing plans for a shared youth facility incorporating safe travel and an inclusive environment. Interview teen focus groups and observe successful models.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: Depends on option chosen: OPTION #1 – Churches and faith-based groups following the model of “The Bridge” in Joplin, Missouri OR OPTION #2 – The United Way with programs similar to the ones related to services to seniors	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
Directors of youth clubs, youth-oriented social service agency leaders, youth pastors, parachurch organizers, city youth advocates, after-school program leaders	Provide comprehensive details on current opportunities; discuss potential overlaps, points/places of potential cooperation, and the achievement of greater resource efficiencies
City webmaster and elected representative youth leaders	Gather information to publish (updateable) information packet for distribution
Teen focus groups, youth facility managers (presently in use), youth leader representatives	Determine interest, feasibility, funding availability for, and managerial oversight of a shared multi-use (center of town) youth space
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
Should begin a new level of dialogue among youth service providers about new ways to cooperate The City should budget for a Youth Services Director to coordinate some of these initiatives, marshal resources, and foster communication and cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign/elect/recruit a youth “champion” within the city (either from the religious community or social service community) to lead the entire effort and begin networking with the youth-related service providers and leaders Collect ALL available information on youth-related activities and programs and compile a resource guide, which could also serve as the raw material for the development of a web-based community calendar Assemble study/focus groups to brainstorm on the feasibility and potential management of a shared use center-of-town facility

* This action plan covers all three strategies.

Diversity / Inclusion

Goal:
Columbia will be an inclusive community where people from all walks of life hear, appreciate, understand, respect, and trust each other, and where positive relationships are fostered and human rights are advanced.

Strategies and Action Plans

***Note: For further information, please see Appendix A for the Facilitator’s Summary Statement regarding Community Pride.*

Strategy 1: Reorganize and expand the Human Rights Commission, review city policy statements regarding human rights, and expand study circles.

Strategy 2: Develop and implement awareness orientation and training programs for new and existing employees.

Strategy 3: Form an Intercultural Council.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: City Manager	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
Human Rights Commission – Commission members, City staff, visioning volunteers	Initiate a reorganization plan for submission to the City Manager
Cultural awareness training – City staff, HR staff, resident experts	Review potential policy/training programs, create and recommend policy, develop and implement training, review for effectiveness
Intercultural Council – representatives from ethnic and religious groups	Cultural and religious coordinator with both the relational connections and breadth of understanding to inform, coordinate, and strategize about cultural matters
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
Use the momentum created by the visioning effort to involve interested parties within the community to review available training curriculum and involve affected sectors and personnel to participate in study circles to heighten interest and ownership in the initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION – Staff and advisory council take lead in working HR commission to develop a mutually agreeable reorganization/expansion plan including possible ordinance revision. Present plan to City Manger for advisement and eventual implementation • CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING – Research and select training material that “fits” proscribed outcomes, recruit qualified trainers, invite City Manager participation and input, present plan to governing authorities, encourage (require?) to participate in program • INTERCULTURAL COUNCIL – Recruit and inspire a diverse group of interested individuals willing to help in understanding the culture and background of various ethnic and religious groups. These individuals would then be charged with recruiting (and investing in) others that may assist in organizing events to involve the community at large. Develop committees to fulfill goals and strategies

*** This action plan covers all three strategies.**

Sense of Community

Goal:
 Connections between families, neighborhoods, and the community at large will be actively promoted through events, through broad, effective, and all inclusive communication, and through interactive and fun community challenges.

Strategies and Action Plans

Strategies 1: Explore the creation of a comprehensive centralized community calendar that is easily accessible and updateable. Research models in other communities.

Strategies 2: Investigate, encourage, and replicate events that bring various cross-section of the community together. (e.g. “Spark in the Park”.)

Strategies 3. Create an entertaining, media-supported “trading places” project to promote improvements in cross-cultural, multi-ethnic, inter-generational communications and relationships.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: A relationally-oriented person with connections in diverse communities and credibility/leverage with media outlets and the city	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
For CALENDAR – city webmaster, coordinating with community-based organizational leaders (most notably not-for-profit, cultural, educational, and faith-based groups)	Collect data for community calendar and to create updatable system for ongoing and special events
For SPARK IN THE PARK – The University community and other community leaders	Community response to “Spark in the Park” was surprisingly strong and positive. Therefore, it seems worth trying to re-create the same spirited activity in a more proactive way (not waiting for a negative group to dictate the pace)
For TRADING PLACES - KOMU and other print media like Tribune/Inside Columbia	It would seem with the journalism school (and the myriad of assignments they must fulfill each year), that this kind of initiative might be just the kind of project that would be exciting for a budding journalist
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
Identify an individual who is willing to champion these kinds of initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CALENDAR INITIATIVE – Determine the placement and ownership of the calendar information. A “wikipedia” format (self-editing/correcting) might be the easiest to implement and use. Create the website – city, Tribune, MU? • SPARK IN THE PARK EVENT Connect the “NOT IN OUR TOWN” initiatives and an on-going “Spark in the Park” event. Connecting this event as a culminating event in an already existing activity that is well-attended (i.e. “Twilight Festival”) • TRADING PLACES – A student or media outlet should take the lead in this effort, with support from members of the Citizen Topic Group

* This action plan covers all three strategies.