

# imagine Columbia's future!

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Contact:  
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January 2, 2008

To: Members of the Sponsors Council:

Dr. Gerald Brouder, President, Columbia College  
Dr. Phyllis Chase, Superintendent, Columbia Public Schools  
Dr. Brady Deaton, Chancellor, University of Missouri  
Mr. Darwin Hindman, Mayor, City of Columbia  
Dr. Wendy Libby, President, Stephens College  
Mr. Ken Pearson, Presiding Commissioner, Boone County  
Mr. Bill Watkins, City Manager, City of Columbia

From: M. Dianne Drainer, Co-Chair, Visioning Committee  
Dr. Jeffrey R. Williams, Co-Chair, Visioning Committee

RE: City of Columbia Vision and Action Plan, Final Report

We submit to you the final report for Imagine Columbia's Future. This vision and action plan reflects the collective efforts of over 1,000 members of the public to envision a better community and contains the shared goals and strategies to attain it as identified by residents and community leaders.

As you know, discussions regarding this undertaking were initiated in early 2006. Subsequently, in May 2006, over 400 residents participated in a community forum to learn about the experiences of other cities that have conducted similar projects. The levels of citizen engagement visible in these early meetings set the tone for subsequent events connected with the visioning process. Nearly 400 participants took part in the BIG (Big Idea Gatherings) Meetings conducted one year ago, and over 400 volunteers continued to work to identify our common values and goals while fostering transformative initiatives that will improve our collective way of life in Columbia. This has indeed been a citizen-driven process. Nonetheless, we are extremely grateful for the considerable efforts of city staff in making this a well-coordinated and cohesive process.

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As stewards of the vision, we have sought to maintain the integrity of the process set forth by ACP Visioning and Planning. In addition to the Visioning Plan we are offering a plan for implementation based on the recommendations of the Visioning Committee and intended as an integral part of the report (Attachment: Supplement to Chapter 5. Implementation). Involving stakeholders from all segments of the community, this plan will help to foster the public/private partnership crucial for successful implementation. Further, it will also ensure the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, and openness that have characterized the process to date. Specific recommendations include the use of existing commissions rather than creating new entities, the identifications of specific implementation tasks and timelines, and guidelines for convening, managing, and coordinating citizen groups to sustain maximum citizen engagement.

In closing, we want to thank members of the Sponsors Council for selecting us as Co-Chairs of Imagine Columbia's Future. The substantive levels of citizen participation in this process have made this an extremely rewarding experience that demonstrates why Columbia is such a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,



M. Dianne Drainer



Jeffrey R. Williams, Ph. D.

cc: Mr. Keith Schnarre, Former Presiding Commissioner, Boone County

Attachment: Supplement to Chapter 5. Implementation

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