

Vision Commission Report on Topic 4. Community Pride and Human Relations

April 2015

The Vision Commission began in January 2009 with the charge to track, measure and report on progress of vision implementation to the community. Beginning November of 2013, the Commission plans to deliver regular reports on one of the thirteen Vision Topics using at least three ways to track and measure progress on the Vision:

1. Report the scope of **Implementation Efforts** taken to address strategies and objectives in the Vision document.
2. Recognize **Significant Events** that could have an impact on one or more of the 13 Visions.
3. Develop a set of **Progress Indicators** that will help the community see whether the 13 Visions and their related goals are being fulfilled.

Vision: 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.

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

4.2 Diversity/Inclusion – 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.

4.3 Sense of Community – 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.

Implementation Efforts

4.1 Youth	4.1.1 Youth organization leaders meet regularly to coordinate efforts	Youth Community Coalition http://yc2.org/ meets monthly with local, county, and state partners
	4.1.2 Youth organization leaders define "responsible citizenship"	At the beginning of 2015, the Columbia City Council created a Youth Board of Commissions made up of high school students from all four high schools in the Columbia Public Schools.
	4.1.3 City creates Youth Services Director to coordinate services and communication	The Columbia Housing Authority supports the YC2 coalition by providing staff - http://www.yc2.org
	4.1.4 There is a web page and booklet on Columbia's youth services	Currently have the website www.yc2.org
	4.1.5 There is a plan for shared youth facility	No plan but issue is being discussed informally, Boys and Girls Club has opened a new teen center
	4.1.6 There is a youth champion	The organization known as YC2 is recognized as the champion for youth by raising up a youth leadership board that will serve on city boards and commissions and advocate for policies that promote the healthy development of children and youth. They annually monitor
	4.1.7 There are more volunteer opportunities for youth	YC2 Plans to increase opportunities; City has offered a Youth summer volunteer program for last 8 summers, also publishes a summer volunteer directory. Volunteer Guide covers youth - https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/Documents/Volbrochure6-29-12.pdf
4.2 Diversity/Inclusion	4.2.1 Human Rights Commission is reorganized and expanded to review city policies and suggest revisions	Supported and advocated for Police Review Board. Columbia one of few MO communities with local civil rights ordinance; only city of our size with dedicated human rights staff, has domestic partnership registry and partner benefits, won national award for diversity and inclusion efforts in 2008. Has budget for human rights educational programs
	4.2.2 City policies revised and ordinances passed per HRC recommendations	Police Review Board established
	4.2.3 City employees will undergo training to raise understanding and appreciation of others	2010 plan - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/HR/Affirmative_Action_Program/index.php , Journey to Excellence Plan - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Journey/orderofevents.php

	4.2.4 There will be an intercultural council to create events to foster inclusiveness	Human Rights Enhancement Program http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/CommunityServices/Programs/Human_Rights/hrcfund.php ; MU Diversity program @ http://diversity.missouri.edu/news/ ; Columbia Values Diversity Committee @ http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/CommunityServices/Commissions/CVDC/ ; Columbia College Unity in Community resource manual @ http://www.ccis.edu/offices/StudentDevelopment/unityinthecommunity/
4.3 Sense of Community	4.3.1 There is a community champion	There are a lot of community champions depending on the issue, but no single person that represents all aspects of the community – probably fitting, given the city’s tagline
	4.3.2 There is a community calendar that people use	city website of local calendars @ http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/About_Columbia/things-to-do.php#festivals
	4.3.3 Several times a year there are events like Spark in the Park or Trading Places	No planned events with this specific function, however individuals and groups seem to be taking the initiative to generate/organize either regular or spontaneous events – see significant events

Significant Events in the past year

2014

January 2014

Pride – City seeks volunteers for (MLK Day) litter cleanup - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-seeks-volunteers-for-litter-cleanup/article_08901a1e-7a2a-11e3-9776-10604b9f6eda.html

Pride, Downtown, Government – Council Oks special events process that gives committee more authority - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/council-oks-special-events-process-that-gives-committee-more-authority/article_d069e672-77ce-11e3-b063-10604b9ffe60.html

February

Pride - New Columbia-based foundation helps local organizations - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/new-columbia-based-foundation-helps-local-organizations/article_8b98b212-9286-11e3-a2e1-10604b9f6eda.html - \$2,500 grants available for focus on children, education and literacy and the arts

Sam, teammates proved gay athlete shouldn’t have to choose secrecy - http://www.columbiatribune.com/sports/mu_football/sam-teammates-proved-gay-athlete-shouldn-t-have-to-choose/article_ed4cc8da-921e-11e3-a4d3-001a4bcf6878.html

United Way cuts budget after campaign falls short by \$1 million - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/united-way-cuts-budget-after-campaign-falls-short-by-million/article_9cae292e-8584-11e3-8d85-10604b9f6eda.html – dip might be due to adoption of community impact model

March

True False panel explores domestic violence issues - http://www.columbiatribune.com/true_false/true-false-panel-explores-domestic-violence-issues/article_371ee3f8-a10b-11e3-a243-10604b9f6eda.html

April

University of Missouri event challenges participants to experience life in a wheelchair - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/university-of-missouri-event-challenges-participants-to-experience-life-in/article_2093e260-bd4d-11e3-80ad-0017a43b2370.html

PACE playwriting contest honors fellow champion of diversity - http://www.columbiatribune.com/blogs/art_axis/pace-playwriting-contest-honors-fellow-champion-of-diversity/article_e0e485e4-c403-11e3-985c-001a4bcf6878.html

Brandon Coleman’s mother speaks to violence task force - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/173922/brandon-colemans-mother-speaks-to-violence-task-force/>

May

Racial disparities among top challenges identified in Community Health Assessment - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/racial-disparities-among-top-challenges-identified-in-community-health-assessment/article_f63c3126-d7a4-11e3-b33e-10604b9f6eda.html

Douglass HS hands out 92 diplomas - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/douglass-high-school-hands-out-diplomas/article_de2ff7e6-e2a5-11e3-8b0f-10604b9f6eda.html – schools largest ever graduating class

June

The Center (LGBT) Project celebrates 10 years in Columbia - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/the-center-project-celebrates-years-in-columbia/article_cec26567-e0b7-5be4-8b9c-2cf5db754bbc.html

UM System adds gender identity, expression to nondiscrimination policy - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/um-system-adds-gender-identity-expression-to-nondiscrimination-policy/article_b43c115a-f7f8-11e3-8910-0017a43b2370.html

Local organization honors refugees' sacrifices - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/local-organization-honors-refugees-sacrifices/article_1e44e228-f9c2-11e3-92fc-10604b9ffe60.html – refugees in mid-Missouri celebrate World Refugee Day at Broadway Christian Church

July

Volunteers help boost show me state games - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/volunteers-help-boost-show-me-state-games/article_ee43189a-9a0c-5cda-b0a3-2d37a1827447.html – about 900 volunteers to help run the games

Puerto Rican Festival celebrates many ethnicities - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/puerto-rican-festival-celebrates-many-ethnicities/article_08c3f41b-c88a-55e9-84cb-e4c4379b564b.html – 3rd annual Puerto Rican festival drew hundreds from all over Missouri

Douglass Park baseball coordinator supports alcohol ban, park users, neighborhood leader oppose proposal - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/douglass-park-baseball-coordinator-supports-alcohol-ban/article_7e36726a-f06f-5683-a71a-63640ad447cc.html

PS: Gallery and magazine collaborate on women-driven exhibit of words, images - http://www.columbiatribune.com/arts_life/ovation/ps-gallery-and-magazine-collaborate-on-women-driven-exhibit-of/article_c87efb92-f36f-11e3-8639-10604b9f6eda.html

August

Celebration of Yoruban culture brings together community - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/celebration-of-yoruban-culture-brings-together-community/article_b863c20d-d1fb-55bd-aba4-e06963dc02bf.html

Pride - Youth job trainees receive awards now bearing names of community leaders - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/youth-job-trainees-receive-awards-now-bearing-names-of-community/article_14c4ecc8-9b83-5656-826a-d3762d3859de.html – Wynna Faye Elbert Outstanding CARE Trainee Award and Almeta Crayton Tenacious Spirit Award

Job Point receives federal grant to continue, expand local work with at-risk youths - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/job-point-receives-federal-grant-to-continue-expand-local-work/article_40fc766a-d8b3-5542-90a4-66327dd88efc.html – will go toward Youth Build Program

EnCircle equips autistic young adults with technical skills - <http://www.columbiatribune.com/a/176926/encircle-equips-autistic-young-adults-with-technical-skills/>

African group emphasized importance of preserving culture at 15th anniversary - <http://www.columbiatribune.com/a/177430/african-group-emphasizes-importance-of-preserving-culture-at-15th-anniversary/> - Descendants of Oduduwa celebrate 15th anniversary

Hundreds of MU students volunteer community service for Step Forward Day - <http://www.columbiatribune.com/a/178143/hundreds-of-mu-students-volunteer-community-service-for-step-forward-day/>

Columbia rally for Michael Brown aims civil rights message at new generation - <http://www.columbiatribune.com/a/178088/columbia-rally-for-michael-brown-aims-civil-rights-message-at-new-generation/>

Environmental award program announces application dates - <http://www.columbiatribune.com/a/178058/environmental-award-program-announces-application-dates/>

The District gets Downtown Merit Award for partnership with Douglass High School - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/177753/the-district-gets-downtown-merit-award-for-partnership-with-douglass-high-school/>

Violence task force makes 3rd recommendation, looks at more projects - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/175648/violence-task-force-makes-3rd-recommendation-looks-at-more-projects/>

Teen Court designed to help keep kids out of legal system - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/perspectives/transforming-transportation-nine-years-in-getabout-columbia-says-more-people/article_72006e06-6cb5-557a-b36d-53dc32b59f3f.html

Incident at Blue Ridge Elementary prompts letter to parents - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/incident-at-blue-ridge-elementary-prompts-letter-to-parents/article_872abef9-f6db-581a-939a-f37d46fd8801.html... dozens of students were made to stand outside in the summer heat.

High temperatures don't keep Pridefest attendees away - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/high-temperatures-don-t-keep-pridefest-attendees-away/article_dcea4ea5-d5de-5cf9-b52e-c3a4715eca72.html

Volunteers clean up Rock Quarry Road as panel considers its future - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/volunteers-clean-up-rock-quarry-road-as-panel-considers-its/article_c682e812-d819-52c9-a9ed-97918e1dd1d2.html

September

Race, law enforcement main topics at second Columbia public forum on violence - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/crime/race-law-enforcement-main-topics-at-second-columbia-public-forum/article_b9c62b4f-b114-573b-84a1-e289aea091b0.html

Anti-violence task force hosts forum for young people - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/crime/anti-violence-task-force-hosts-forum-for-young-people/article_eb9afec3-6dc6-5213-aff1-3342b4ab209f.html

First community violence forum draws crowd, generates ideas - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/crime/first-community-violence-forum-draws-crowd-generates-ideas/article_3585a0c9-5ea1-5aae-813d-97ff70f133ae.html

County's Children's Services Board still reviewing proposals - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/county-s-children-s-services-board-still-reviewing-proposals/article_44bf1477-8662-51ce-bd7e-555df3d24149.html

Improvements slated for Douglass Park; alcohol ban proposal on hold - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/improvements-slated-for-douglass-park-alcohol-ban-proposal-on-hold/article_26a598f1-036a-5d75-bff9-9ddf0509ce67.html

MU to host live performance, panel discussion emphasizing veterans' health - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/178847/mu-to-host-live-performance-panel-discussion-emphasizing-veterans-health/>

Congregation volunteers at food bank for nationwide event - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/178756/congregation-volunteers-at-food-bank-for-nationwide-event/>

October

A look at the anti-violence task force's recommendations - http://www.columbiatribune.com/blogs/probable_cause/a-look-at-the-anti-violence-task-force-s-recommendations/article_37131ab1-ae91-5281-ad6c-d423a2de4229.html

Police: Disturbance at Battle included 'staged' fight - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/police-disturbance-at-battle-included-staged-fight/article_4942b9bf-6215-5067-937a-8bc0c8143267.html

November

Columbia Interfaith Council disbands, cites lack of participation - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/columbia-interfaith-council-disbands-cites-lack-of-participation/article_cc33bbf3-30a3-5841-88a0-0f3843418b57.html

Room at the Inn extends winter shelter period - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/room-at-the-inn-extends-winter-shelter-period/article_c9547e05-afe5-5899-89bf-f630604aaf21.html

Homeless Youth Awareness Month Dodgeball Tournament - https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Public_Comm/Public_Information/Press_Releases/view.php?id=2821

December

City celebrates Kwanzaa early - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-celebrates-kwanzaa-early/article_3b8df8e7-60d9-5527-8959-318414d792f9.html

Boone County employees gain same-sex employment, retirement benefits - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/boone-county-employees-gain-same-sex-employment-retirement-benefits/article_6826c646-7daf-5ea1-a9e3-a0f83afc7d2e.html?comments=focus

Roxy's wristband, nationwide events spark downtown protest - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/roxy-s-wristband-nationwide-events-spark-downtown-protest/article_625e4802-1248-5769-9ee5-1b16f608822f.html

2015

January

University of Missouri is recognized for community engagement - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/university-of-missouri-is-recognized-for-community-engagement/article_38d4dd6e-415c-5b95-8b7f-e97bc71d29c1.html

Poor People's Breakfast combines food, fellowship, community activism - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/poor-people-s-breakfast-combines-food-fellowship-community-activism/article_108bbfae-3cfb-5cbb-ac31-a3629378c693.html

City council approves a youth advisory council - <http://kbia.org/post/city-council-approves-youth-advisory-council>

King celebration focuses on achieving dream of equality - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/king-celebration-focuses-on-achieving-dream-of-equality/article_4d872572-f91d-59d4-ac21-2b6b0e075ece.html

February

International students, scholars get training on life in Columbia - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/international-students-scholars-get-training-on-life-in-columbia/article_90a9e5b9-c15d-5dfa-9394-9a52e7add60e.html

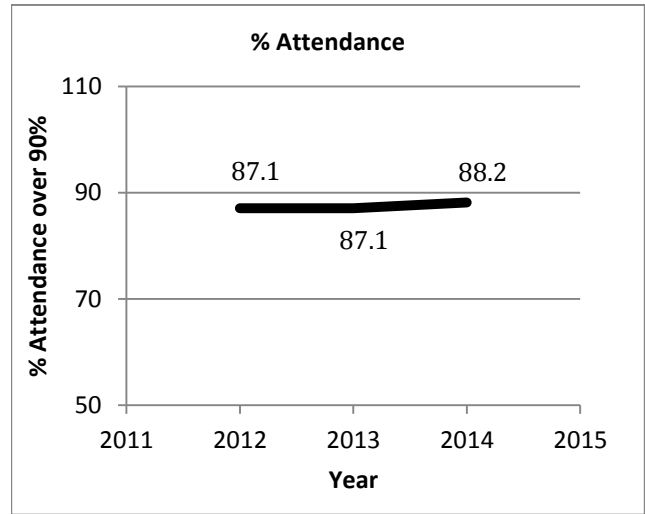
Progress Indicators

4.1 Youth

Columbia Public School Attendance



Stock Image from Wikimedia



Rationale – School attendance is (in part) a measure of student belief in the value of school and their personal sense of responsibility for completing school. Lack of regular attendance can affect a student’s learning and ability to graduate.

Data Explanation – The data are the percent of students who have 90% or better attendance each year.

Data Source – Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education School Report Card

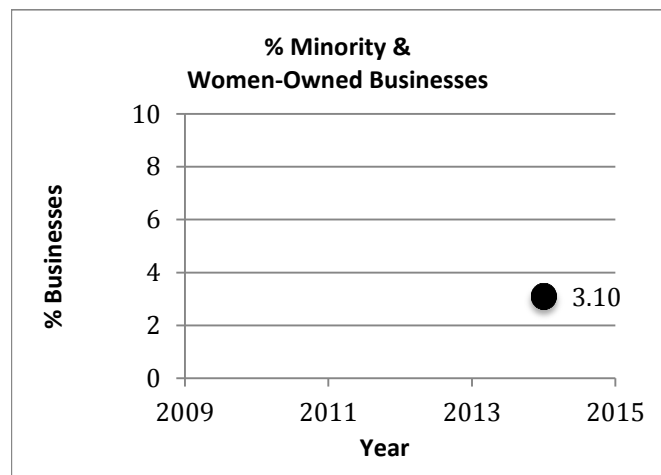
Cautions – Family, economic and community factors also play an important role in student attendance and must be considered in evaluating student attendance.

4.2 Diversity / Inclusion

Minority and Women-Owned Businesses



Photo from Lindsey Rentals website



Rationale – If Columbia is an inclusive community, the percentage of minority and women-owned businesses should be similar to their percentages in the population.

Data – The number of self-reported minority and women-owned businesses divided by the number of business licenses in Columbia

Data Source – Minority and women owned business data came from a special section in the Columbia Tribune. Business license data came from the city Business License Office.

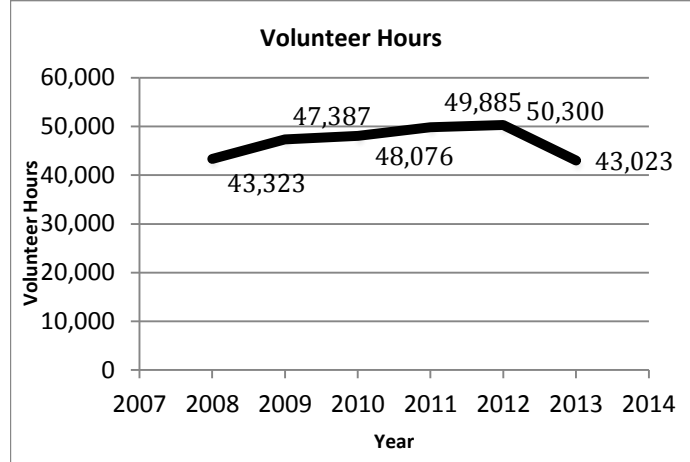
Cautions – Because the data for minority and women-owned businesses is self-reported the calculated percentage may underestimate the actual percentage of businesses.

4.3 Sense of Community

Volunteer Hours in the Community



The RBHS Muslim Student Union make a visible impact with their work removing trash from area streams, and their other service helps citizens in need. Volunteers of the Month March 2012



Rationale – Volunteer participation is a measure of community engagement

Data Explanation – The data are the number of volunteer hours contributed by individuals and groups in Columbia on a variety of projects – educational, environmental, and administrative, and using a variety of skills from gardening to guitar playing to greeting visitors.

Data Source – Columbia’s Volunteer Program: Volunteering - <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/>

Cautions – Volunteering hours only include hours reported to the Volunteer Program, so it may under-report the actual time contributed in schools, to religious organizations, to service organizations and individual efforts of Columbians.

Comments:

Scott Dean, Chair of City of Columbia Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Commission made recommendations to City Council on such items as the Brick Streets Policy, Ban-the-Box and proposed marijuana ordinances, and pending legislation. Worked with other commissions to make changes that positively affected people with disabilities and the LGBT community, amongst others. Additionally they also have their annual report for the past year.

Ron Rowe, Strategic Coordinator Youth Community Coalition (YC2)

4.1.6 Events: YC2 helped facilitate and advocate for the Youth Advisory Council and helped implement the Youth Summit on October 4, 2015. This summit trained teens on leadership skills necessary to participate in local government settings.

YC2 along with BCSD and other law enforcement held two-prescription drug take backs in 2014, collecting over 991 pounds of unused and unwanted prescriptions, keeping them out of the hands of the youth.

YC2 hosted a youth mental health first aid training; training community members on first aid for youth mental health.

YC2 funded law enforcement to conduct compliance checks in the community, ensuring that underage drinking prevention is enforced in our community.

YC2 and MU Wellness resource center hosted two alcohol summits focusing on high risk and underage drinking prevention initiatives. Over 100 community leaders and members gathered to discuss issues that our community needs to address to reduce and prevent underage and high risk drinking.

4.1.7 Events: YC2 partners with City of Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services with the Teen Outreach Program (TOP). Through this program, each teen conducts at least 20 hours of community service.

YC2 partners with Hickman High HOPE (Helping Our Peers Everywhere) group. Through this group, each teen conducts approximately 30 hours of community service throughout the year.

Valorie Livingstone, Boys and Girls Club of Columbia, MO

Strategic Plan:

- 1) Build capacity to serve more at risk youth
- 2) Focus on serving more Teens (13-18 yr olds)
- 3) Build a multi purpose gymnasium facility

May/2014 Boys & Girls Clubs opened 3rd location (former Intersection organization) dedicated to serving teens and in 2015 Boys & Girls Clubs will open their 4th location in the new Battle Elementary School this fall

Concerns:

United Way and City funding is declining which will impact organizations and the number of youth served
County Mental Health Funding is now available- but the application process is so difficult- that the club's application was denied completely and we are the largest at risk youth service agency!

Clear separation of fiscal management between- Columbia Housing Authority, Chalis, and the Youth Community Coalition.

Needs:

A Teen Focused Vision and Plan and for City leaders & council to visit agencies to better understand who they are and the role they play in the Columbia Vision

Dave Overfelt, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Missouri

A big shift here locally that I don't see mentioned has been through the Boone County Children's Services board. A county tax has opened up a significant sum of money for local social service agencies. We (Big Brothers Big Sisters) are currently engaged with Columbia Housing Authority Low Income Services and the Family Counseling Center to provide wraparound services for folks receiving Housing Choice Vouchers and separately engaged with the moving Ahead

Program to provide site based mentoring. As far as the vision is concerned, this helps break down the competitive silos that have divided so many local social service agencies in the race for funding.