

Listening Session 12.17.2020

On December 17th, 2020 at 5:30 PM, City staff conducted a public meeting over zoom in partnership with the City's BOOST team, who are partnering Institution for Local Government Program staff. There were roughly 40-50 participants at the meeting, many of whom stayed for the full hour-and-a-half meeting and took part in the small group breakout sessions. The meeting started with a 2020 report out from Arcata City Manager Karen Diemer, then transitioned to a variety of polling questions, then transitioned to breakout group sessions. The meeting ended with a short overview of upcoming City planning efforts and upcoming opportunities for future engagement.

Watch the recorded video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8LfsJLLZxU>

Stay in touch with us!

Call us: (707) 825-5955

Email us: comdev@cityofarcata.org

Visit our site: <https://www.cityofarcata.org/896/Strategic-Infill-Redevelopment-Plan>

Sign up for e-notifications: <https://www.cityofarcata.org/list.aspx>

Compiled Notes from breakout groups

Questions: *How do you envision Arcata for the next generation? How would you design for this Arcata 2040 vision?*

Common Themes

Sustainability - We need to work to protect the environment and ensure our ongoing continued use and stewardship of natural resources.

Climate change and Sea level rise - We need to prepare for a changing climate and sea level rise. What can we do to both prepare, and not decrease quality of life for residents, but instead improve it through collaboration and innovation?

Reconnecting with indigenous people - We need to connect and reconnect with our local indigenous communities and look to them for guidance on how to navigate a path forward in partnership.

Engagement/Civics/Reconnecting with our community - We need to work to connect, and to reconnect, with neighborhoods, decentralize decision-making, engage youth civic leadership programs, and more in light of COVID-19 and beyond.

Valley West - We need to focus more on Valley West and allocate more resources to it and other under-served areas of the City (communities gardens, more resources for families, expansion, need study, recreation, trash cans)

Art - We need to incorporate art into the streets and community life, art for health, economic frameworks that support art

Racial Equity and Arcata for all – We need to provide help to the most vulnerable; a trickle-up effect, undocumented community members are left out (suggestion - city sponsorship program) - making Arcata is a place for all, economic development so people can thrive; healthy Arcata (health leads to housing, climate, art (spiritual health))

Youth Engagement - We need to make our political structures accessible and inclusive; HSU is a huge draw; youth leadership program and structure for civic engagement

Humboldt State University (HSU) - We acknowledge HSU is a huge draw; education opportunities/collaboration: Humboldt was being built on resources that are here, in the community. How can we reconnect with HSU?

Thoughtful City Growth - We need to be mindful of growth patterns; maintaining what Arcata is and expanding with sustainability; controlled growth

Accessibility and Mobility – We need to focus on basic infrastructure, more transportation access

Economic development – We need to build economic frameworks that support art, economic development so people can thrive

Arcata Community Listening Session

⚙ Settings

AGENDA

REPORT

Participants: 40

Total Meeting Time: 00:16:29

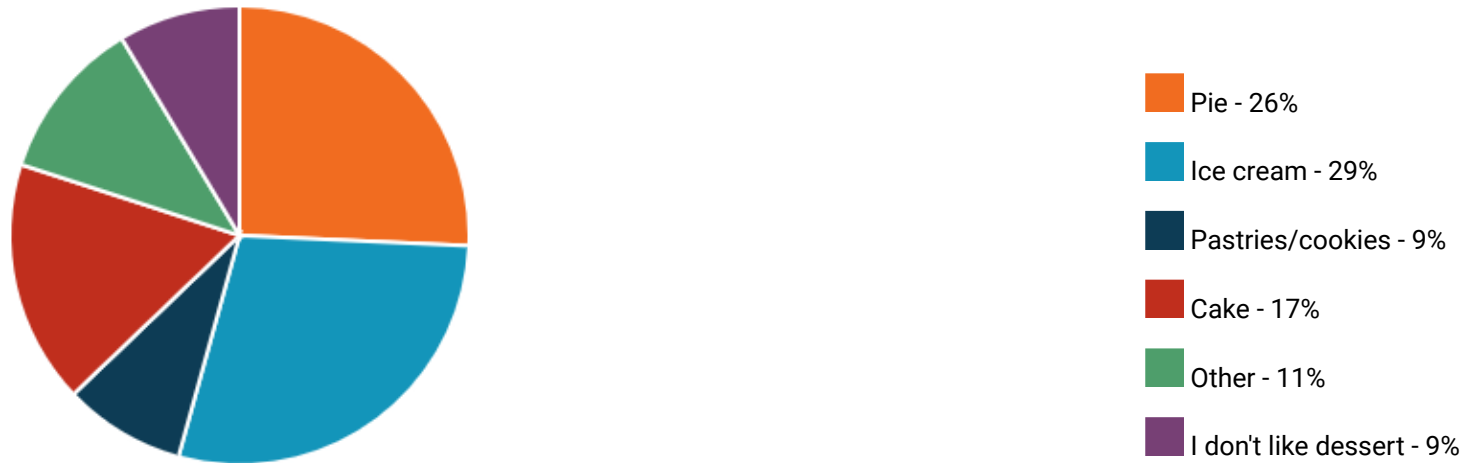
Export as: csv or excel

First section

Start: 01:40

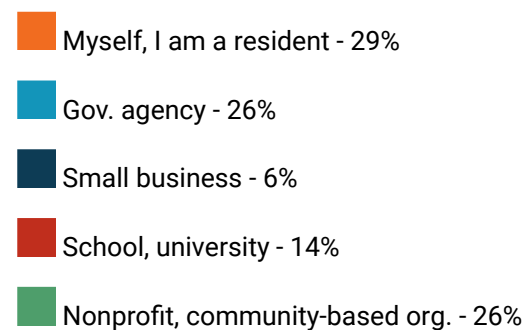
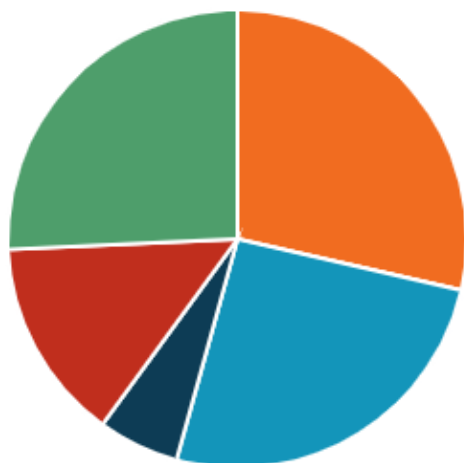
What is your favorite dessert?

duration: 00:00:56



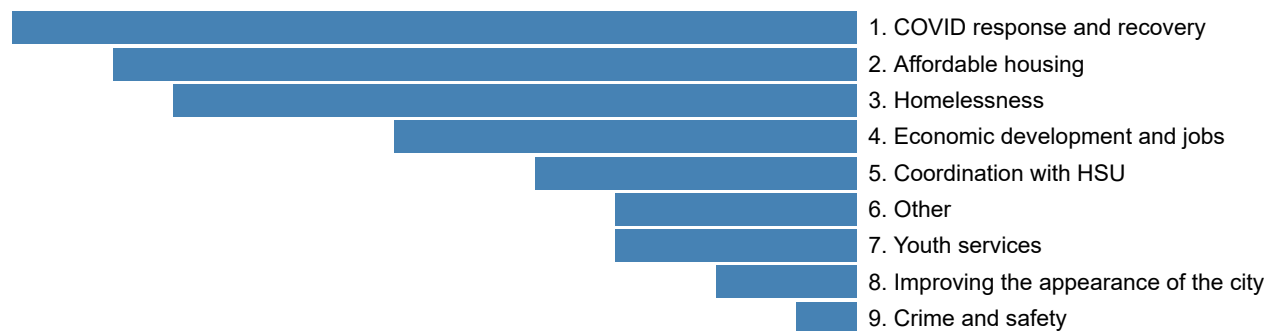
In this workshop I am representing...

duration: 00:00:58



What 3 issues are most important to you as we enter 2021?

duration: 00:02:59



In three words or less, what does the term "equity" mean to you?

duration: 00:01:59

Participant Input

- Opportunities for all
- Facilitating access

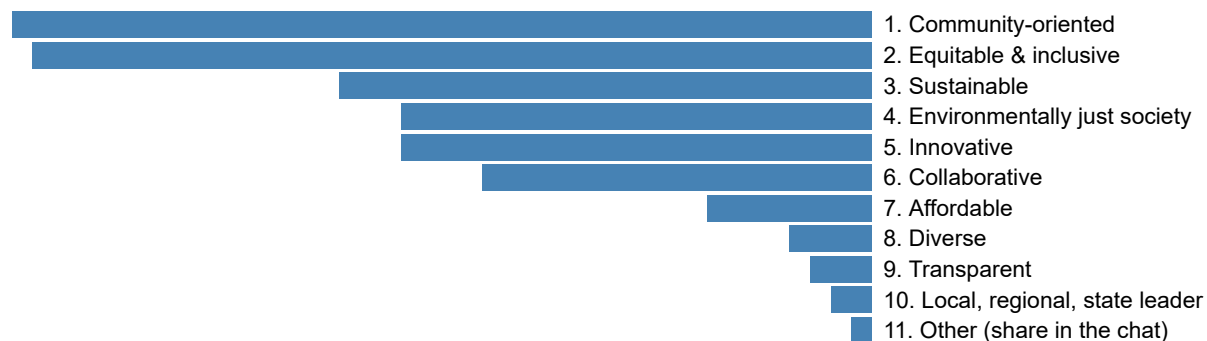
- Guaranteed housing
- Opportunity
- Access resource justice
- Helping others balance out
- The same opportunity
- Equality
- Open opportunity
- Access to uplifting services
- Sustainable resources for all
- Equitable resource distribution
- Housing at all income levels
- Access to resources
- Opportunity and assistance
- Leveled playing field
- Inclusion of all voices
- Opportunities for all
- Empowering, access, opportunity
- Safe, inclusive
- Diversity
- Fairness acceptance inclusion
- Minimum acceptable outcomes
- Openness, compassion, diversity
- Dismantling systems of oppression
- Sharing space
- inclusion to all voices
- All can thrive
- Supportive resources
- fairness, empowerment, diversity

Word Cloud



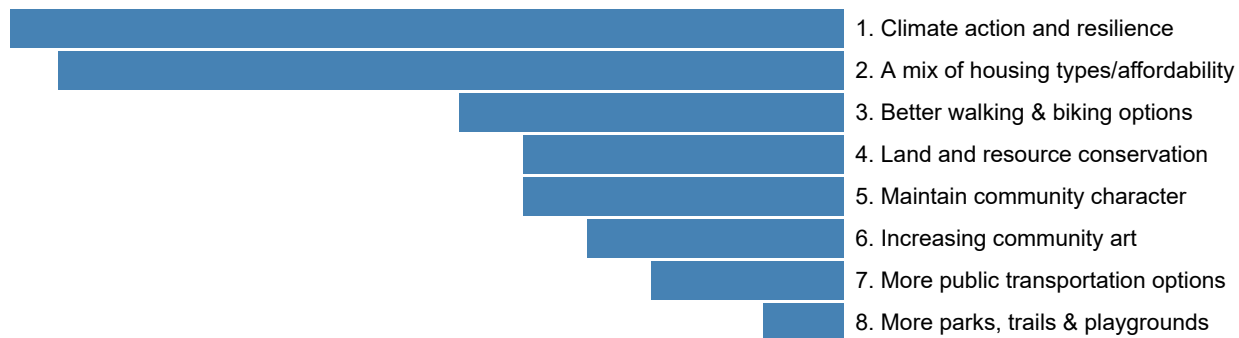
How do you envision Arcata in 2021 and beyond (pick top 3)?

duration: 00:02:11



As our community grows, what is most important to consider in the planning?

duration: 00:02:22



In your opinion, what makes the City of Arcata special?

duration: 00:05:04

Participant Input

- university town
- Trees
- The people
- Welcoming community
- Variety
- Walkable
- Hippies
- Variety
- Openness, compassion, diversity
- University
- Lots to do
- Progressive approach
- People, nature, community
- Innovative
- Town and Gown relationship
- Retro-futuristic.
- Quirky
- HSU & location
- Indigenous wisdom
- Willingness to lead

- Counter culture
- Plaza
- Wiyot Land
- Beautiful open public spaces
- Natural spaces
- Forest
- Events Community University
- arty
- People
- Leadership open to input and debate
- HSU
- The community
- Nature and community
- Playgrounds
- Unique, environmental stewardship, entrepreneurs
- Forests
- Relationships
- Nature
- Community
- Wiyot land
- Weather

Word Cloud



37 participants were anonymous.

BREAKOUT GROUP ONE- DETAILED NOTES

- Sustainability
 - zero waste - focus on reuse instead of using single-use containers; reducing waste
 - be sustainable with land management. Sea level rise will impact transportation land, people who are living in the sea rise zones
- Economic development
 - so that people can thrive
 - economic frameworks that support art
- Biking, walking, mobility
 - don't focus on incentivizing parking
 - focus on bike and pedestrian safety
 - because we live far away, biking is a challenge; there are definitely opportunities
 - task force for the plaza also had a discussion about parking, incentives, biking
 - increase accessibility for wheelchair users
- Civic and community engagement
 - teach people how to be more civically involved; what are the opportunities (serving on the commissions, attending council meetings, public workshop, etc.)
 - personal invitations to participate and one on one conversations are effective ways to get people to participate
 - local special districts are working on the civic engagement seal for high school kids
 - leadership development to support young leaders and get involved with public office
- Make Arcata a place for all
 - HSU students who want to stay here – what do they need to stay?
- Policies and infrastructure for housing system to make it accountable
- 2040 and technology; entrepreneurial changes.

BREAKOUT GROUP TWO - DETAILED NOTES

- Festivals, arts, natural beauty. Start arts as young as possible. Don't just make it about test-taking, not just make it about the test taking.
- For long-term planning document, climate crisis should be at the top or close to the top because it has potential to drastically change the way we live. Climate action isn't just things we have to lose, we can make improved quality of life.
- Be creative, not everything will be acceptable but stand up for it

- Capitalize on our built environment, tell our stories and our legends, have a complete vision of who we are and how we ended up here.
- Focusing on guaranteed housing, affordable housing for every resident. Because people are happier, can afford food, crime goes down. Set an example for the county and the state.
- Community-HSU-would we even be here without HSU? We wouldn't have the cultural background that we have here.
- Arcata brings in educated, passionate people, some who follow partners who are HSU instructors. HSU is Arcata's anchor institution.
- Art X housing X climate as health.
- Rethink public spaces and land uses. Make streets as our public space less for cars and more for open space and art and community. Creative reuse of the streets-Los Bagels parking lot-celebrating arts and natural beauty.
- We are a rural community and cars are always important in a rural area, especially for an aging community. If we want density-we are too low! We need more stories.
- Development is getting less and less affordable-how do we continue to build?
- How do we make people's lives better today and not just tomorrow? Focus on equity, redistributing resources, help out the people that are the most vulnerable. Trickle up, not trickle down.
- Contemplating and appreciating the comments about HSU and why are we here because of that. He always wanted to be around a college town-it keeps people youthful, thoughtful, and progressive.
- Transportation and reducing driving-increases quality of life e-bikes? Mode shift in Vermont. Rethinking public transit system with on-demand transit systems, use new technologies to create public fleet systems. Like zipcar? Or autonomous vehicles could be on a dynamic routing system kind of like a public transit version of uber and lyft.

BREAKOUT GROUP THREE – DETAILED NOTES

- For the Wiyot Tribe to have a more leadership role in their territories. More active representation with the leadership. More active representation in the city.
- Arcata is on a growth path (rapid growth) and is mindful of our growth patterns and accommodates the future as it morphs over time.
- Policy and infrastructure for housing creating a system that holds landlords accountable, helping tenants fight slum lords and harassment from property management- our property management has a power dynamic that creates inequitable practices for example, that if someone doesn't have a co-signer and they can't get into homes even if they have money and good credit. Students with families have a hard time getting into housing. We need more mixed-use housing situations. So families can find housing.
- Valley West - receives few resources for development and support. A conversation (visioning sessions) was had with a difference of opinions that led to a perception of a scarcity of resources- Assists parents of young students - have more immediate resources for families such as community gardens and day centers.

- Needing more essential community safety services from local municipalities. Investing resources into better supporting the Valley west communities, working with existing groups, and organizations, who support the need to improve and better represent the Valley West community.
- An Arcata that takes care of basic necessities/infrastructure. This community takes on a lot of large pie in the sky ideas when we need the basics like more trash cans and lighting. (How do make them safe and secure while still offering them)
- In 2040: The city looks colorful and inclusive and accepting and clean.
- Better social services and more support.
- Easier access to medical, dentist, and mental health.
- Arcata provides more alternatives for transportation in and outside of Arcata. More convenient transportation. Great breadth.
- We would like to have the student voice heard in our politics. Make opportunities for their voices to be heard by inviting and creating inclusive conversations.
- Cage capitalism - time banked hours council meetings in exchange for hours of help (students and others struggling do not have time to make their voices heard because they are trying to make ends meet)
- Empower the people - more worker owned businesses.

BREAKOUT GROUP FOUR – DETAILED NOTES

- Need to Focus on Valley-West Area:
 - Need more resources/amenities (trash cans, lighting, parking, community space)
 - Need more access to farmer's markets and healthy food options
 - There was a Needs Assessment Study already completed, we need to implement it.
- Need to increase engagement, with an emphasis on Latinx populations
 - Workshops should offer Spanish translation.
 - Should do extra outreach for low-income, tribal and Latinx populations
 - Can ask public to partner in writing grants
- Focus on Climate Sustainability and Adaptation
 - Concerns over Sea-Level rise near the 101 corridor
 - Look into microgrids for energy reliability
 - Get rid of Natural Gas
- Expect more from companies and industry/ Economic Development
 - SunValley should be more accountable for worker rights violations
 - Negotiate with Green Diamond
 - Opportunities to negotiate with Pacific Cable
 - Illuminate health issues with 5G
 - Push for more local investment (Brios)

- Develop small businesses and local employment opportunities
-

BREAKOUT GROUP FIVE – DETAILED NOTES

- Arcata to lead the way for global arts and cultural. Integrate art and culture into everyday life in Arcata. Include it into the civic and public areas, transportation, community design, landscape and activities, etc. Make it art and culture open and accessible to all community members. There could be a program that promotes this integration: “Arts and health; Arts and transportation; Arts and housing; Arts and food; Arts and education; Arts and”. (Basically fill in the last word with every aspect of daily life in Arcata).
 - Economic development and post Covid pandemic recovery that celebrates the arts. Arts can heal the community.
 - Arcata as a leader in sustainability, zero waste, deep ecology, equity.
 - Expand and move forward equitable practices. Reach out to vulnerable groups to meet their needs. Promote on-going safety net for undocumented community members that don’t have access to support.
 - Improve Valley West neighborhood – Beautify the area; incorporate projects and activities for residents, community members and visitors; utilize the large canvas behind shopping center (Valley East Blvd), connect Valley West with the rest of the community; in-fill large parking areas and increase underutilized air space (increase the height of buildings (missed opportunity for economic development and housing).
 - Increase the number and variety of housing types: micro, senior, affordable, mid-range, luxury. Allow flexibility in housing types. Increase affordable housing. Increase housing. Housing is economic development.
 - Plan for climate change, sea level rise. Create community citizen science projects.
 - Incorporate alternative transportation. Create access to coastal and forest resources. Create access to coastal and forest resources.
-

BREAKOUT GROUP SIX – DETAILED NOTES

- More horizontally collaborative (working with neighboring counties to encourage tourism locally). Create a California Adventure district (outdoor focused tourism).
- Excited about HSU’s vision to become a polytechnic
- Would like to see science of cannabis and sustainability focus at HSU/CR
- Create opportunities for future generations to stay here locally and thrive
- Focus on sustainability with a mind for climate change
- Create a more connected and engaged community
- Incorporate Art’s into the planning and vision for Arcata
- How would you design for this Arcata 2040 vision?
 - Attract new businesses and grow opportunity by getting people to visit/travel here

- Consider the impact the fires and climate change in general will have on our population (increased relocation here)
 - Consider how technology is going to change the area- drones, driverless vehicles, small planes that can carry small groups of people
 - Create a more robust pipeline strategy in the K-12, CR, and HSU systems and include the business community and trades.
 - Controlled growth considering our resources and grow strategically
- Quote that stood out:
 - "With a county that only has 33 people per square mile you can build a hell of a vision!

BREAKOUT GROUP SEVEN – DETAILED NOTES

Passionate about Arcata, love Arcata and its history has shown the possibilities of this amazing place, want it to come back, not embracing HSU, moved here 47 years ago, definitely my home, tuned in because I want to experience people talking and sharing again, much disruption over the past few years (KHSU, statue etc)

- What is your vision for Arcata for the next generation (In 2040)
 - Peace love and sustainability
 - Circular economy - making the best of what you have; what the native people had to do; being creative, collaborative and timely in using what we have
 - Using the brain power of HSU, how do we use the creative students to stay from HSU to be entrepreneurs
 - Develop a society that as a community we look toward the land back movement ; look to the Wiyot, Karuk – how we develop the forest and parks spaces using the guidance of the indigenous population around equity, food sustainability
 - The arts can be a part of the culture, not an extension of the community; integral to our society
 - For the native people everything has a spirit; much more protective; need to embrace the native perspective
- Next year – develop a more solid acceptance of everyone in our community; unhoused are valued in our community; connected with the indigenous people, connected with the youth just moving in or growing up here.
 - Jobs available for people to relocate and stay here
 - Universal healthcare; access for all; universal way to have affordable housing
 - Innovation through the arts; all kids come out as innovators through education
 - Incorporate actual world history; revamping our education system
 - Be able to see the empathy and understanding
 - Investing in our youth; investing in making it desirable to be here for medical professionals

- Walk and bike everywhere; electric cars or no cars; better public transport at night and on weekends from outlying areas; safe streets for kids to bike (Valley West to Pacific Union)
- Valley West in the next 5 years; allocate resources to valley west to connect people within valley west and to connect valley west to the other parts of Arcata. Population of socio-economically disadvantaged families. City needs to make up for lost time and step up for valley west.
 - Creative, collaborative and timely
 - Pride of your neighborhood – before and after pictures with prizes (i.e. bagel party)
 - How would you design for this Arcata 2040 Vision? Expand on the concepts of equity, growth, town character
 - Consider the circular economy – what resources are here for use
- Decentralizing decision-making; how do we place the decision-making control in the neighborhoods that are affected? How do these neighborhoods become a part of these decisions? Giving people pride of place and buy into what is going on. Lessons the workload on the City. – perhaps as an extension of the neighborhood watch and business watch
 - Find a way for neighborhoods to visit other neighborhoods to participate in their projects
 - Build for investment in the youth; senior housing is also important to free up larger housing
 - Intergenerational neighborhoods – multi generations

Notes from the Zoom Chat Box

From David Loya - Arcata to Everyone (in Waiting Room): 05:28 PM

We'll be right with you. Thanks for coming! Thanks everyone for attending. We'll be ready in a moment.

From Shoshanna, Arcata Main Street & Creamery District to Everyone: 05:45 PM

Says waiting for host to start sifting

From Sarah Schaefer, Arcata City Council to Everyone: 05:45 PM

Mine is saying waiting for hist to start sifting

From Jane Woodward to Everyone: 05:45 PM

I'm on a laptop.

From David Loya - Arcata to Everyone: 05:45 PM

yes. She hasn't started yet. you're good

From Judith Mayer to Everyone: 05:48 PM

I'm doing this low-tech, so won't be responding on extra apps. I am a planning commission member, but I'm not representing the planning commission in this meeting -- I'm listening, though.

From Delo Freitas-Arcata to Everyone: 05:48 PM

thank you, Judith!

From Colin Fiske - CRTP/Resident to Everyone: 05:49 PM

Other: Addressing the climate crisis

From Molly Steele-Arcata Chamber of Commerce to Everyone: 05:49 PM

Equity

From kenhamik to Everyone: 05:49 PM

SUStainability

From Tobin McKee - Cooperation Humboldt to Everyone: 05:49 PM

Other: Regenerative energy

From octavio acosta- centro del pueblo to Everyone: 05:49 PM

other: facilitating access to community resources and spaces to the Latinx and Southern Indigenous community

From Hayley Connors-Keith (she/her) to Everyone: 05:50 PM

Yes- the climate crisis and sustainability

From Meridith (she/her) ODEI-HSU/TK-12 Equity / equity arcata to Everyone: 05:50 PM

^An equity lens to the most important issues identified

From kenhamik to Everyone: 05:51 PM

Yes, Merideth

From Krystle Heaney - Resident to Everyone: 05:54 PM

Safe

From Tobin McKee - Cooperation Humboldt to Everyone: 05:56 PM

Economic equity

From Jane Woodward to Everyone: 05:58 PM

Community engagement The people who are so actively engaged

From Chip Sharpe to Everyone: 05:59 PM

No one listed weather!?

From Oscar Cooperation Humboldt to Everyone: 06:25 PM

I will have to leave at 6:30pm Thank you all for the open discussion.

From David Loya - Arcata to Everyone: 06:25 PM

thanks Oscar!

From Danette-City of Arcata to Everyone: 06:26 PM

Thank you so much for joining Oscar!

From kimberleywhite to Everyone: 06:40 PM

to piggy back on Gillen's input on accessibility it would be great when we come out of Covid that we offer childcare for parents who may want to attend city council meetings

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Also our group talked about translation services for meetings like this Without translation a lot of these meetings are inaccessible for families

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I'd like to see us explore the concept of community and neighborhood asset-mapping, as was done in Portland via CityRepair.org

From Molly Steele-Arcata Chamber of Commerce to Everyone: 06:43 PM

Support for seniors in regards to houslessness and financial security.

From Jane Woodward to Everyone: 06:43 PM

Are we going to get a summary of the ideas presented here?

From Me to Everyone: 06:43 PM

Jane-yes. I will report out on this at the end.

From kenhamik to Everyone: 06:44 PM

This has been a very productive and hopeful meeting. Thank you!

From Institute for Local Government to Everyone: 06:45 PM

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From Brian Heaton to Me: (Privately) 06:27 PM

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From Krystle Heaney - Resident to Everyone: 06:47 PM

Great meeting everyone! So happy to see such a great turn out! I have to head out a little early so I will look for the recording when it is posted. Thanks for your hard work!

From Me to Everyone: 06:47 PM

thank you Krystle!

From Karen Diemer to Everyone: 06:47 PM

Thank you Krystal!

From Institute for Local Government to Me: (Privately) 06:51 PM

Do you know how many slides David has?

From Brian Heaton to Me: (Privately) 06:52 PM

hi deezie

From Institute for Local Government to Everyone: 06:53 PM

why not sign up now??? Sign up for e-notifications: <https://www.cityofarcata.org/list.aspx>

From Cati Gallardo - she/her - Arcata to Everyone: 06:53 PM

City News eNotifications will also provide updates on future engagement opportunities

From Institute for Local Government to Everyone: 06:54 PM

<https://www.cityofarcata.org/896/Strategic-Infill-Redevelopment-Plan>

From Jane Woodward to Everyone: 06:57 PM

When you will you have another visioning meeting?

From Alex Stillman to Everyone: 06:58 PM

can you make it really easy on the website to reach this planning issue?

From Meridith (she/her) HSU ODEI/TK-12 Equity / equity arcata to Everyone: 06:58 PM

Do you have a way to keep track of who is attending sessions like this one based on social identities including race, gender, class, age, ability, etc? This might help to identify any gaps where more voices/people need to be consulted.

From Jane Woodward to Everyone: 06:58 PM

Where you do you want us to send additional thoughts/ideas?

From Me to Everyone: 06:58 PM

Next visioning session in February/March! sign up for the e-notification

From Cati Gallardo - she/her - Arcata to Me: (Privately) 06:58 PM

Stop screen sharing if you are able

From Me to Cati Gallardo - she/her - Arcata: (Privately) 06:58 PM

not my screen!

From kimberleywhite to Everyone: 06:58 PM

spanish translation? future

From Me to Institute for Local Government: (Privately) 06:59 PM

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Thank you, David!

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Got it

From David Loya - Arcata to Everyone: 07:00 PM

send additional thoughts to dfreitas@cityofarcata.org yes Spanish translation in the future.

From Karalee Browne, ILG to Everyone: 07:00 PM

Community vision statement: <https://www.cityofarcata.org/151/Arcata-Community-Vision>
