

Date * Time * Location: Tuesday, May 12th at 4pm – City Library

Recommendation Number and Name: 5.16 – Enhance Cultural Engagement & Understanding

Attending: Iona Grundman, Maria Lopez, Kris Schneider, Amanda Levos, Rob Czaplewski, Dee Price, Michelle Schultz, Ann Chambers, Jocelyn Schade, Steve Fosselman, Lisa Avila O’Connor, Jennifer Saleena, Tammy Morris, Audrey Lutz, Sondra Barrera, Steve Lamken, Betty Frausto, Stephen Geng, Carlos Barcenos, Nicki Stoltenberg

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION / WHO	WHEN
Welcome & Introductions	Carlos welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves. Participants also shared why cultural engagement is important to them.	Carlos Barcenos	
Brief History of Grow Grand Island & Grander Vision	<p>Grow Grand Island was the initiative that was led by the Chamber, CVB and EDC, as well as 30+ business and community leaders from Grand Island. They came together to further enhance the community’s economic and business development efforts. The strategy was developed to help elevate the community’s competitiveness for new jobs and investment.</p> <p>Collectively, the plan produced 5 pillars (Existing Business; Entrepreneurs; Image; Workforce; Community Assets) which represent the foundation of our community.</p> <p>The Grander Vision was a grass roots effort that was managed by the City and lead by over 40 community volunteers. The goal was to build upon the HV efforts and to develop a united vision for Hall Co. that would set the stage for the future of our region. A comprehensive community outreach campaign was held and we heard from several 1000s of people through a bi-lingual survey and bi-lingual web site, stakeholder discussions, focus groups, open houses, etc. In November of 2014, we announced 26 recommendations under the categories of LIVE, WORK, PLAY, LEARN, and UNITE.</p>	Nicki Stoltenberg	

	<p>Through the months of January & February, the EDC, CVB, Chamber, the City of Grand Island and the County of Hall, worked to merge both plans together.</p> <p>As a result, we have an Implementation Grid that contains approx. 35 recommendations. These recommendations reorganized by the five pillars original Grow Grand Island pillars; incorporating all of the High & Medium Action Steps from the Grand Vision plan.</p>		
<p>Review GGI Recommendation 5.16</p>	<p>The consultant's recommendation & goals/objectives were presented: Enhance Cultural Engagement & Understanding: *Provide an emphasis on bi-lingual or multi-cultural knowledge, learning & cultural competencies for everyone.</p> <p>*Promote opportunities for learning that reflect the current population, e.g. offer free, sponsored or low-cost Spanish and/or Arabic Immersion Workshops with open enrollment policies that target English-speaking employers & residents of all ages. Allow participants to experience engagement by participating in art, music, story-telling, cooking, language and other cultural activities.</p>	<p>Nicki Stoltenberg</p>	
<p>Group Discussion: Cultural Engagement & Understanding Strengths & Opportunities: -What are some of the best things about living, working, doing business or providing services in our community? What gives you the most pride? What could be our greatest strength? What opportunities do we have to offer?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We accept people from other cultures / races; "we are comfortable with being uncomfortable" • Powerful, growing city; we are NOT dying; dynamic and hard working population • Excellent youth participation; good student/adult interaction • Howard Elementary Community Service Fair (2001) • People are willing to work • Extremely generous community; very caring; volunteer • Great pride in our educational system • GISH Welcome Center • Low crime; safe place 		
<p>Group Discussion: Cultural Engagement & Understanding Key Issues & Concerns: What concerns you the most about living in our community? What could be the biggest issued in the future? Are we missing any opportunities? If so, what are they?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to treat our rich diversity as positive. Look to is as an asset to enrich our lives and the lives of our children • We need tend to judge people • We should have more of a desire to learn from populations of our community that are different from us • More diversity representation / more leadership; strike a balance that truly represents our community • Desire to understand more; be less stereo-typical 		

Strategies / Goals for 2015 & 2016	Our time got cut short, so we were only able to chat about a couple items. They were: Education & how do we define 'diversity?'
Schedule next meeting	We hope to meet every 6 weeks. The next meeting date/location will be shared with the group upon scheduling.