

Great Reach Visioning Workshop

City of Costa Mesa

June 19, 2013

EVENT SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

As part of its General Plan Update, the City of Costa Mesa hosted a community visioning workshop on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the City's Emergency Operations Center. The workshop's primary purpose was to work with members of the community to understand their ideas and visions for the future growth and development of the City. Participants shared their experiences living and working in Costa Mesa and detailed what they perceive as its strengths (features and assets), issues, and weaknesses. The workshop concluded with a representative from each breakout group summarizing key vision statements developed in conjunction with their peers.

The participants requested six topics to be discussed at subsequent Great Reach events. These topics are: open space, noise, conservation, safety, additional focus on land use, and approving the vision.

COMMON THEMES AND VISIONS EMERGING FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

A number of common themes emerged when listening to the breakout groups summaries and evaluating the workshop materials (visioning worksheet, maps, flip chart comments, etc.)

Features and Assets:

Arts and Recreation: Participants identified the arts community as an important distinguishing asset that adds to the cultural diversity of Costa Mesa. Participants agreed that Costa Mesa does a good job providing ample opportunities for all-ages recreation and offers a number of well-utilized parks and open spaces.

Diversity: Participants celebrated Costa Mesa's diversity – diversity in its residents' ethnicity and economic backgrounds, diversity in neighborhood character, and diversity in the types of housing and commercial developments.

Issues and Concerns:

Homeless Population and Traffic Congestion: Participants identified the City's homeless population as an area in need of improvement. They also noted that traffic continues to be a local problem, but could be somewhat alleviated by making it safer and easier to use other modes, such as walking and bicycling.

Community Values:

- Strong ethnic and economic diversity
- Extensive public open spaces as community anchors
- Distinct neighborhood character contributes to larger sense of community

Vision Statements:

- Explore opportunities to expand and create additional public gathering places
- Focus on mobility solutions to improve access and circulation for residents and visitors
- Enhance public safety

Vision for the Future Breakout Group Discussions and Comments

Workshop participants were randomly placed into three breakout groups. Each group identified and discussed community values, Costa Mesa's features and assets, Costa Mesa's issues and concerns, and visions. The following is a transcription of the observations and comments that emerged during the course of the visioning workshop.

GROUP: ORANGE, LIGHT GREEN, YELLOW

Features and Assets:

- Strong live/work mix
- Great access
- Weather
- Good open space
- Cultural
- PAC, Estancia Park, Noguchi [Garden]
- Strong education system

Issues and Concerns:

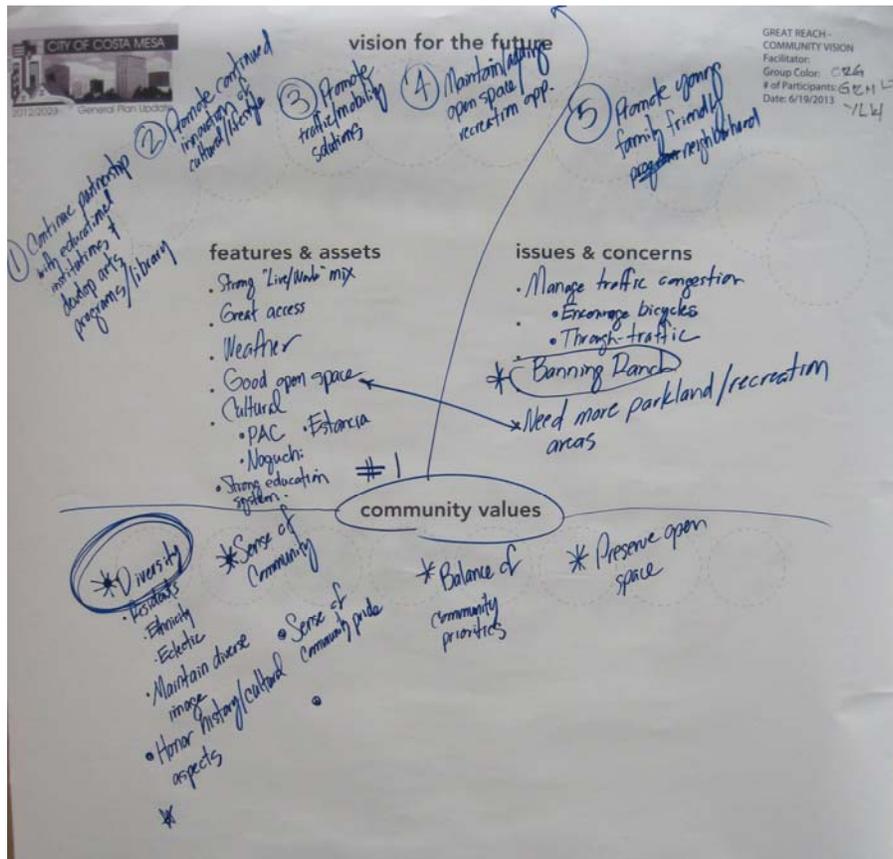
- Manage traffic congestion
 - Encourage bicycles
 - Through-traffic
- Banning Ranch
- Need more parkland/recreation areas

Community Values:

- Balance of community priorities
- Preserve open space
- Senses of community and community pride
- Diversity (residents, ethnicity, eclectic)
- Maintain diverse image
- Honor history/cultural aspects

Vision Statements:

- Continue partnership with educational institutions and develop arts programs/library
- Promote continued innovation of cultural/lifestyle
- Promote traffic/mobility solutions
- Maintain/add open space recreational opportunities
- Promote young family friendly neighborhood

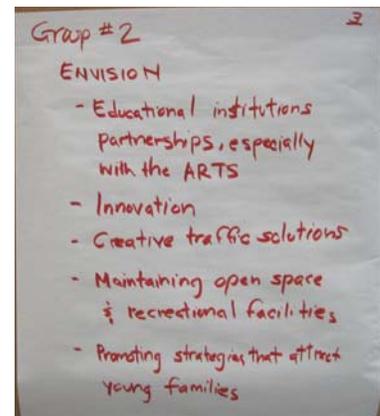


Group: Orange, Light Green, Yellow

Group Orange, Light Green, Yellow Reporting Notes

Envision:

- Educational institutions partnerships, especially with the ARTS
- Innovation
- Creative traffic solutions
- Maintaining open space and recreational facilities
- Promoting strategies that attract young families



GROUP: DARK BLUE, LIGHT GREEN, BROWN

Features and Assets:

- Public safety
- Fairview Park/parks in general as an open space/nature oasis
- Safe streets for bicycles (e.g. Broadway)
- 17th Commercial/Harbor
- Westside – birthplace of action sports
- OCC
- High rise/office complexes
- Fairgrounds
- South Coast Concert Hall
- Arts District
- Diversity
- Climate

Issues and Concerns:

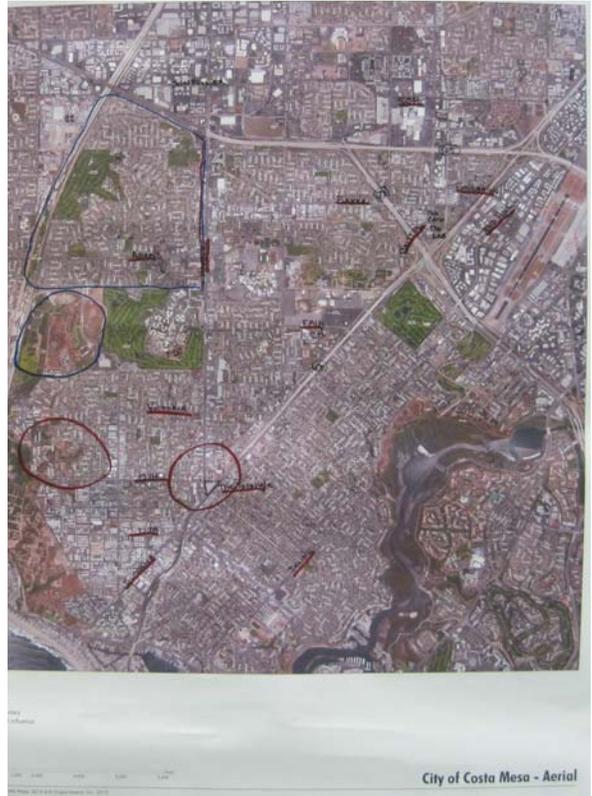
- Senior housing
- Homeless/low income
- Gisler Bridge
- Cut-through traffic (esp. Eastside to Westside)
- Safer bicycle paths/walkability
- Shade for pedestrians
- No downtown
- Slow traffic in residential areas
- More bike racks in commercial centers
- 55 FWY extension completion
- Rampant variances

Community Values:

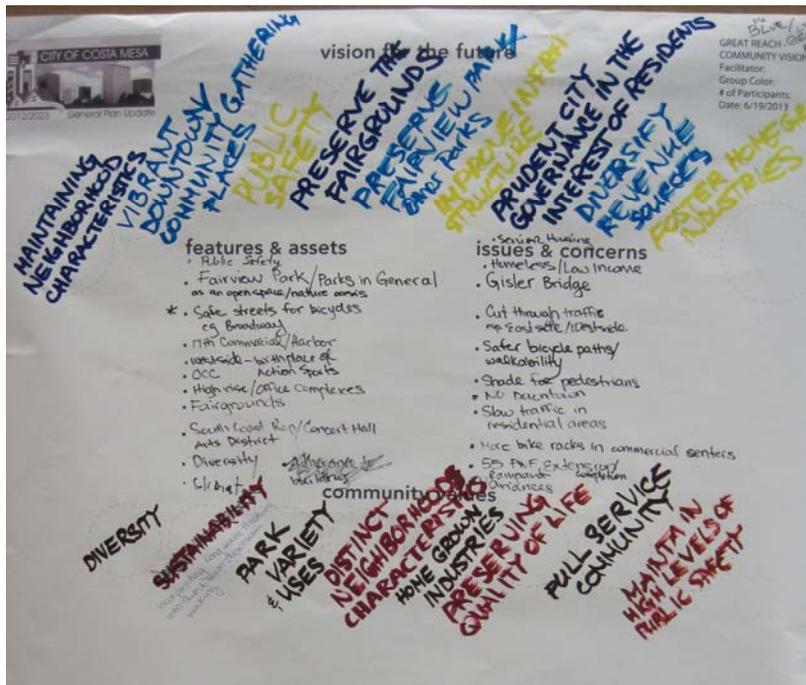
- Diversity
- Park variety and uses
- Distinct neighborhood characteristics
- Homegrown industries
- Preserving quality of life
- Full service community
- Maintain high levels of public safety
- Incorporating long term thinking into short term discussion

Vision Statements:

- Maintaining neighborhood characteristics
- Vibrant downtown community gathering places
- Public safety
- Preserve the fairgrounds
- Preserve Fairview Park/other parks
- Improve infrastructure
- Prudent city governance in the interest of residents



- Diversity revenue sources
- Foster homegrown industries



Group: Dark Blue, Light Green, Brown

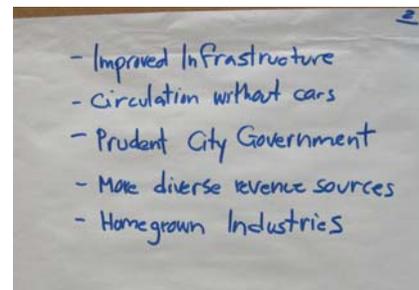
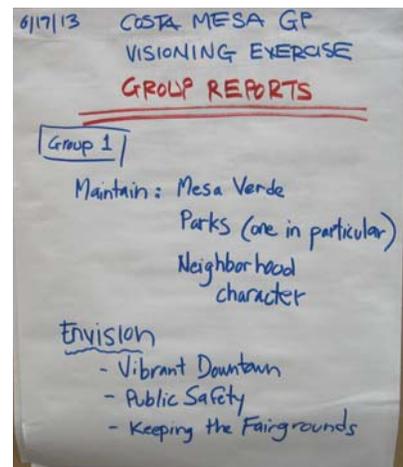
Group Dark Blue, Light Green, Brown Reporting Notes

Maintain:

- Mesa Verde
- Parks (one in particular)
- Neighborhood character

Envision:

- Vibrant downtown
- Public safety
- Keeping the fairgrounds
- Improved infrastructure
- Circulation without cars
- Prudent city government
- More diverse revenue sources
- Homegrown industries



GROUP: DARK GREEN, RED, DARK BLUE

Features and Assets:

- Fairview Park
- South Coast Plaza
- Parks/tennis center/open space
- Youth sports/recreation
- Eastside/eclectic nature
- Trees in public realm
- Neighborhood character
- Performing arts center

Issues and Concerns:

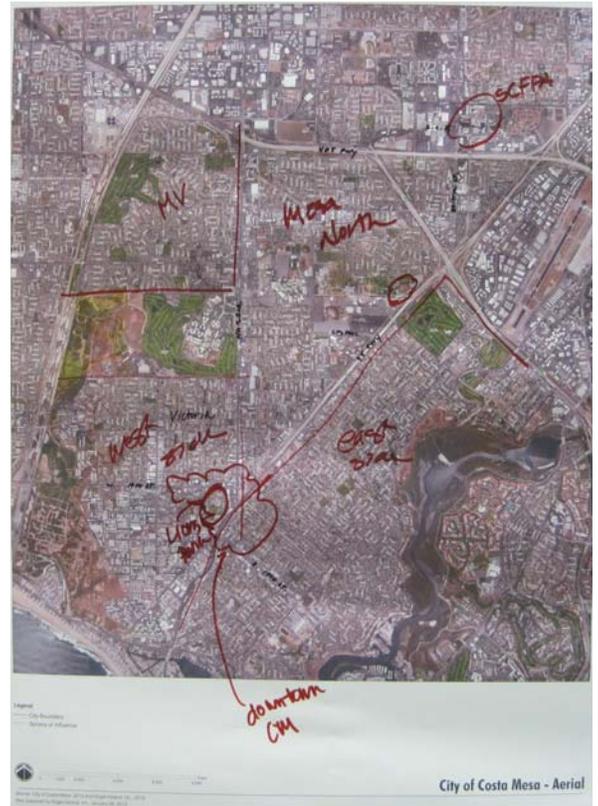
- Public safety
- Easy access for public responders
- Lions Park/homeless
- Traffic on Newport Boulevard
- CM downtown?
- Cut and cover on Newport Boulevard – impact on businesses
- More bike friendly trails and bike racks at parks

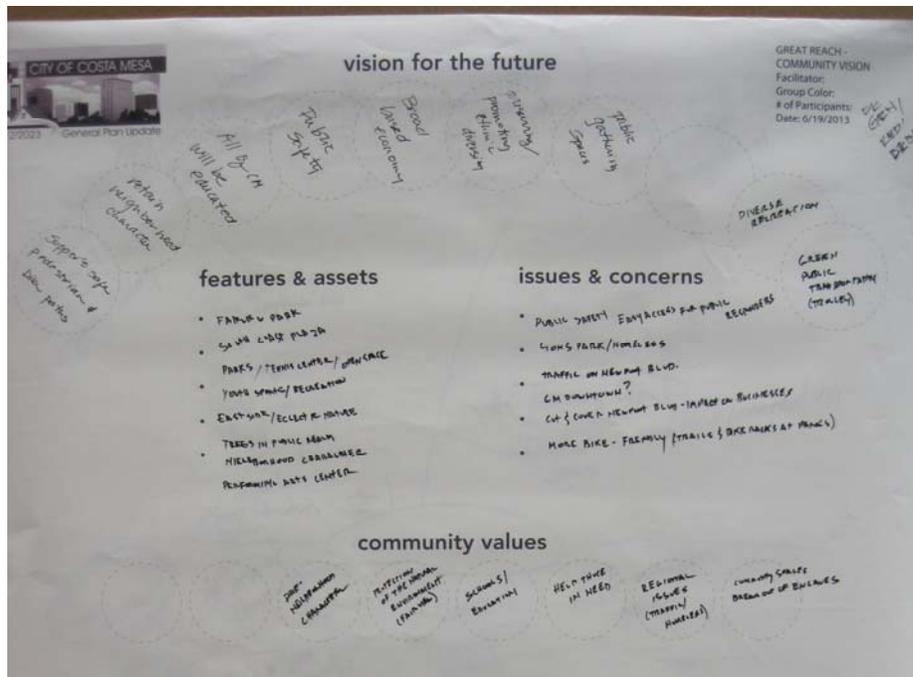
Community Values:

- Pre-neighborhood character
- Protection of the natural environment (Fairview)
- Schools/education
- Help those in need
- Regional issues (traffic/homeless)
- Community spaces – break out of enclaves

Vision Statements:

- Support safe pedestrian and bike paths
- Retain neighborhood character
- All of Costa Mesa will be educated
- Public safety
- Broad based economy
- Preserving/promoting ethnic diversity
- Public gathering spaces
- Diverse recreation
- Green public transportation (trolley)



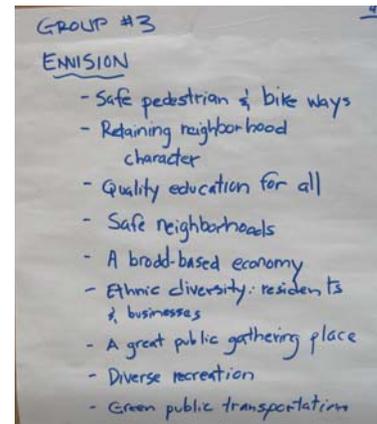


Group: Dark Green, Red, Dark Blue

Group Dark Green, Red, Dark Blue Reporting Notes

Envision:

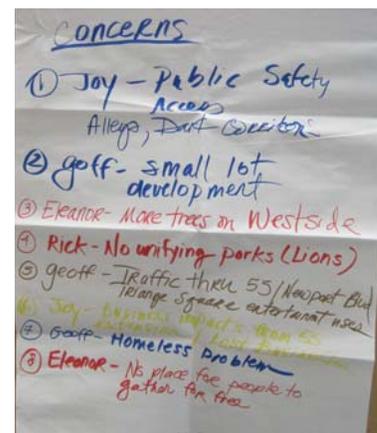
- Safe pedestrian and bike ways
- Retaining neighborhood character
- Quality education for all
- Safe neighborhoods
- A broad-based economy
- Ethnic diversity: residents and businesses
- A great public gathering place
- Diverse recreation
- Green public transportation



Flip Chart Notes: (Note the only the Dark Green, Red, Dark Blue group recorded notes on a flip chart)

Concerns

- Public Safety, Access, Alleys, Dark Corridors
- Small Lot Development
- More trees on Westside
- No unifying parks (Lions)
- Traffic thru 55/Newport Boulevard; Triangle Square entertainment uses
- Business impacts from 55 extension/lost businesses
- Homeless problem
- No place for people to gather for free



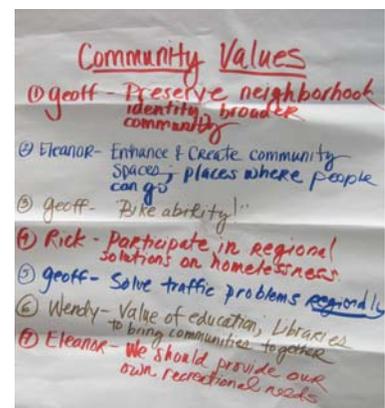
- **Great Features**

- Parks and open space
- Youth sports; parks
- Eclectic eastside
- Sense of community



- **Community Values**

- Preserve neighborhood identity, broader community
- Enhance and create community spaces; places where people can go
- Bikeability
- Participate in regional solutions on homelessness
- Solve traffic problems regionally
- Value of education; libraries to bring communities together
- We should provide our own recreational needs



- **Vision for the Future**

- Mobility, greater connections
- Need best bikeable city
- Have diverse recreation resources
- Preserving the neighborhoods we already have; retain character
- Long range plan for Westside
- Enhance educational opportunities for young generation
- Libraries
- Public Safety, safe neighborhoods
- Broad based, diverse economy

