

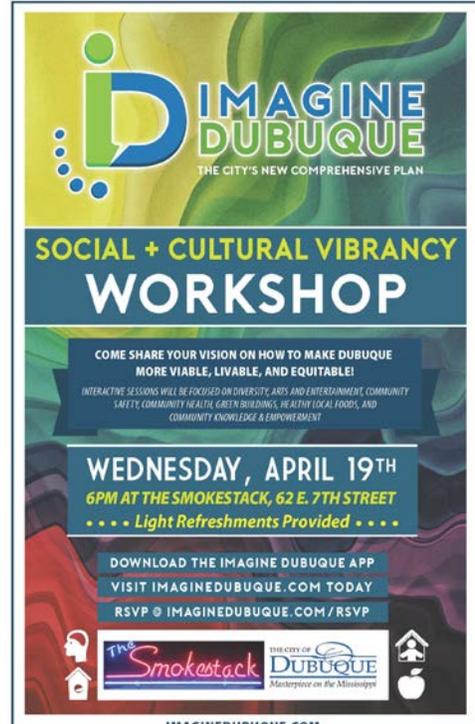


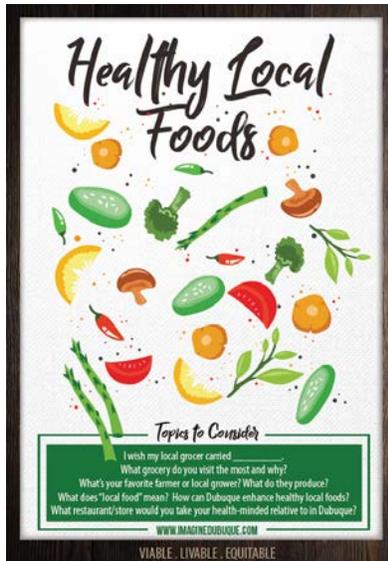
# Social and Cultural Vibrancy Community Workshop Summary

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Smokestack  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Imagine Dubuque’s Social + Cultural Vibrancy Workshop, which took place on April 19th, 2017 from 6-8pm, was an evening to remember. Graciously hosted by The Smokestack (62 E. 7th Street), the historic, pre-Civil War venue served up atmosphere, inspiration, delectable local fare and an “Idea Gallery” with art-infused topic zones.

Following a brief introduction and project update by Ose Akinlotan (City of Dubuque) Mike Hoffman (Teska Associates, Inc.) and Bob Barber (Orion Planning + Design), participants were free to tour the gallery and topic stations, jot down ideas and graphically collaborate at their own pace. Topics included diversity, arts and entertainment, community safety, community health, green buildings, healthy local foods, and community knowledge and empowerment.





### Topic 1: Healthy Local Foods

#### *I wish my local grocer carried :*

- Variety of organic food
- Vegan foods
- Juice bars + more vegan options
- More healthy foods at food pantries & St. Stephen's Food Bank
- Would love to have access to farmer's market food during the week. Would be great to have small, local grocers carry local food from our farmers throughout the week

#### *What grocery do you visit the most and why?*

- Aldi
- Hy-Vee
- Hy-Vee is good at getting things in – just communicate
- → no they're not
- I am happy with Hy-Vee ☺

#### *What's your favorite farmer or local grower?*

##### *What do they produce?*

- Convivium has all homemade muffins, quiche, soup

#### *What does "local food" mean? How can Dubuque enhance healthy local foods?*

- Establish a local food commission
- Strong farm-to-school initiatives! (3 Votes)

- → Summer farming program at local schools
- Promotion & education in schools (2 Votes)
- Planting native plants + pollinators. Not many known how to properly grow + harvest
- → Bring in a local group like "Backyard Abundance" to teach about gardening, herbs, sustainable yard, etc.
- Disincentivize lawns
- Economic incentives + support for local chefs, fewer chain restaurants
- Get a Whole Foods store
- Bring back co-op (4 Votes)
- Farmer's market should run later into the day (2 Votes)
- Winters farmer's market will need a new location (2 Votes)
- Publicize efforts like sustain collaborative farming
- Get bigger farmer's markets on West Side – then promote them!
- Classes to teach immigrant population how to prepare local foods
- → How about they teach us?
- → I choose to take this as "preparing what is here," not as a request to conform
- Collaboration with ISU Extension
- Small farm plots on unused city ground (churches, schools, etc.) (5 Votes)
- Edible landscapes
- Downtown is a food desert
- Expand/double up food bucks for low income neighbors
- Local food/cooking in schools
- Fix the food desert issue
- Teach store clerks to use fewer plastic bags/ask if one is needed at all
- Incentives for restaurants who use local foods
- Have cooking classes at farmers markets using veggies, etc. being sold there. Focus on children
- More weekday evening farmers markets



- Make available land for more fruit + vegetable gardening
- More restaurants with ethnic foods and vegetarian options (2 Votes)
- → Ties in with Diversity: learning more about different cultural foods + growing and cooking these here in Dubuque
- Bunnies attack gardens!
- Community gardens? Can be grown at schools. Loras has one.
- → ALE has garden + chickens!
- Too many greasy restaurants
- → not healthy

**What restaurant/store would you take your health-minded relative to in Dubuque?**

- Brazen / L. May – they have options
- Tour DBQ Rescue Mission Gardens to learn how to grow without the garden
- There is a city garden tour summer – some have food gardening
- I take people to Inspire Café & Charlotte’s

- Solar shingles
- Building materials with low inherent energy
- Grants/funding for adaptive reuse
- Restoration
- No/fewer pesticides & good ventilation (especially workplaces)
- Power
- Use of green energy+ energy saving mechanisms
- Create green roofs
- Integrate edibles in landscape (3 Votes)

**What’s your favorite building in Dubuque and why?**

- H+W Building – I’d like to see more nice low-income housing

**Do you use more or less energy than your neighbors? Why?**

- Less, they keep the heat on very high.

**What energy/water saving measures have you installed at home?**

- Signed up to receive home electricity from renewable energy sources thru Alliant
- None

**What sustainable/eco-friendly measures work best here and why?**

- Focus on ‘green’ drainage issues with old sites to manage storm run-off... protect our rivers!
- Steeple Square Model – repurpose historic buildings to meet community needs
- Restore old buildings (agree)
- IA interfaith power + light – DBQ
- Incentivize rain barrels – return to native species
- Gronen Restoration doing it right
- Bring cistern idea back to reuse rain water
- Encourage food companies and distributors to donate food over throwing it away! Set up food bank for this
- Several years ago, child plastic swim pools were turned into gardens... maybe do it again... and encourage rain barrels for homes
- Sprawling subdivisions are neither green nor sustainable – build close in



**Topic 2: Green Buildings**

**What makes a building green?**

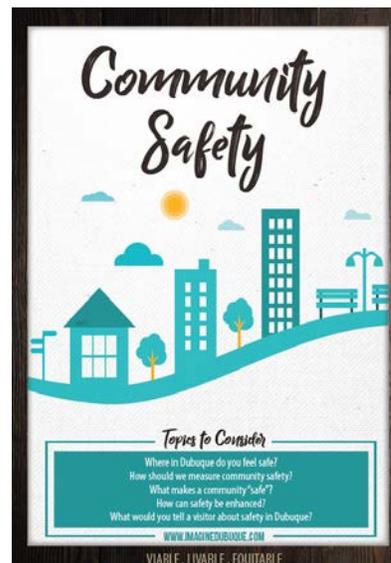
- Free from toxins – (lead, chemicals, mold, etc.)
- Clean air (use of air purifier)
- Uses recycling + composting



- There are many options + pros should tell us and we should listen ☺
- The “Smokestack Model” – preserve, not tear down
- Continue + expand on educating the community about green building practices. New construction retrofits

**What else can Dubuque focus on to ensure green buildings?**

- Eliminate demolition by neglect
- Too many buildings → parking lots
- Litter is horrible in our community – clean it up
- More trash bins could help. I like seeing individual neighbors cleaning up their block, but we need all neighborhoods doing it!
- Topic not as important as others
- Stop promoting urban sprawl through incentives
- I think clotheslines in new subdivisions should be part of being green (2 Votes)
- Stronger historic preservation regulations – less vinyl, etc.
- Encourage landlords to upgrade properties
- Enforce the housing rules for rental property. Timely inspections need to be done
- More support for renewable energy fuels available for homeowners and businesses



**Topic 3: Community Safety**

**Where in Dubuque do you feel safe?**

- I feel safe in West End
- → not me
- → I feel safest in West End
- Everywhere
- I feel safe downtown
- → I don't
- → Downtown, what? I feel so safe!
- I feel safe at the malls + West End
- → I love the mall
- I admit, I feel more uncomfortable [Downtown]

**How should we measure community safety?**

- Number of actual crimes/violations not cop visits

**What makes a community “safe”?**

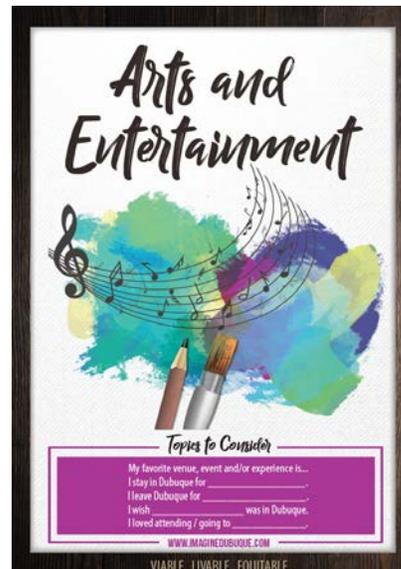
- Eliminate racial profiling
- Everyone being treated equally under the law
- Have everyone be responsible for safety, not just police responsibility
- → vigilantism, George Zimmerman
- Need to feel safe walking in all areas of the city
- → no – not at night
- Know your neighbors



- “Eyes on the street” concept (mixed use, buildings that have people invested in keeping their places safe)
- How can safety be enhanced?**
- Need to make our city streets safer for pedestrians and bicyclists (2 Votes)
  - Keep safe zones in areas in town where a lot of crime occurs (2 Votes)
  - Broadway Neighborhood could benefit from some old-fashioned city lights to enhance beauty of walking & getting to know neighbors
  - Visible cameras would increase safety. Who is watching?
  - Change people’s perception of ‘downtown’
  - Instead of thinking ‘Another crime in downtown today,’ think first, ‘Another crime? How can I help my community address it!’ (applies even if you don’t live in downtown)
  - Clean up the city so we can be proud of where we live... clean up litter
  - Maybe volunteer police helpers
  - Need to take actions to make riding bikes safe
  - More aesthetics without gentrification
  - More lighting throughout the city
  - City provides \$ to neighborhood associations for inclusive events. Do people know this? How can we take better advantage?
  - Crimes against people of color not solved
  - Allow dog walking in parks for more eyes in the parks = less crime!!
  - Neighborhood police sub-stations
  - → already in the plan
  - Safety should be enhanced with more “your speed is” digital boxes on/in residential streets
  - Talk about feeling safe with friends. Talk about places I feel safe, etc. Be positive about safety.
  - Having safe zones would help. Kids shouldn’t be afraid to go outside their home at dark... this happens often.

**What would you tell a visitor about safety in Dubuque?**

- We have more safety than Chicago
- Police Department is doing great with solving crime
- “Downtown stigma” – safety issues all over (4 Votes)



**Topic 4: Arts + Entertainment**  
**My favorite venue, event, experience is...**

- MFC
- Programs in the parks (Eagle Point, Grandview, Neighborhood Parks, etc.)
- Town Clock festivals are awesome
- Inspiring People series at Inspire Café
- College Jazz Nights at the Venue
- Five Flags Theatre and Opera House for family events
- Steeple Square – new, unique venue
- Best of DBQ’s events is Pechakucha. Very diverse and inclusive and personal + covers a broad range of topics.
- → fabulous way to learn + connect
- Engaging Dubuquers in the NEW downtown venue spaces
- Dubuque and All that Jazz
- Farmer’s Market



- Just learned about BluffStrokes.org and Plein Art Contest – Great idea! – this October

*I stay in Dubuque for \_\_\_\_\_*

*I leave Dubuque for \_\_\_\_\_*

- I would leave Dubuque for Madison
- I leave for pet friendly places, we feel welcomed

*I wish \_\_\_\_\_ was in Dubuque*

- More pet-friendly businesses
- Larger pet parks
- Better pet park amenities
- More things to do for teenagers and people under 21 (2 Votes)
- → also people over 60 (2 Votes)
- We need shows which are professional productions so not the need to go out of town (2 Votes)
- More festivals
- Beach + dog beach
- Maybe more art in the Bee Branch Creek
- Public art (2 Votes)
- How about an arts trolley with a route that included important arts destinations
- Have more architecture tours
- Bring fire hydrant painting contests back (2 Votes)
- Spoken word poetry
- Concerts along the new Bee Branch Trail (2 Votes)
- Central outdoor amphitheater (2 Votes)
- Need pavilions for events
- 9pm cutoff for kids at venues which serve alcohol doesn't allow for families to attend most music events
- More creative use of riverfront
- I miss good dance parties
- Voices groups is continuing the mural project on buildings. This helps brand DBQ as welcoming to the arts
- → bare buildings are beautiful too
- Murals! Clue people in to what's happening. Good mural spot would be the Dream Center for example.
- Let's utilize the Roshek Building

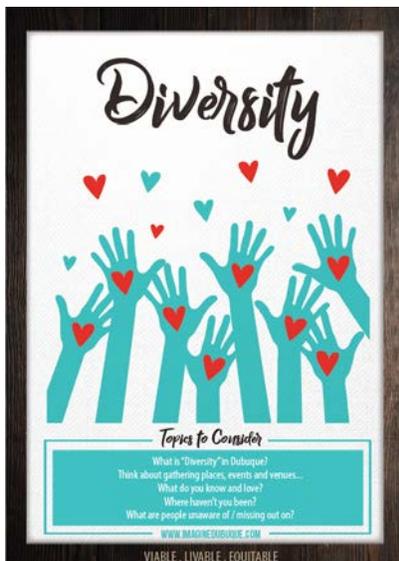
- The Riverwalk could be a hub of activity, but it's really not.
- More outdoor events for younger crowd – movies in the park, at night for example. Also more exciting/engaging public art, something interactive.
- Strong arts programs in school i.e. Prescott
- Small neighborhood festivals
- Block parties
- More river competitions like Dragon Boats
- Kayak racing
- Opportunities to engage the Marshallese community... community dance performances?
- What about living/working spaces for artists/creators/innovators? Subsidize space to live/work/create in community (2 Votes)
- → Key City Creative Center is attempting this – communal work + studio space (no apartments though)
- I want a spring art tour like in the fall
- We need to have a lecture series for people to learn about topics outside of Dubuque (part of the globe) (2 Votes)
- Use local talents for discussions on world/local issues
- More entertainment options for teens. More diverse entertainment.
- → for boomers too
- → boomers have plenty

*I loved attending/going to \_\_\_\_\_*

- I love farmers market (2 Votes)
- I love symphony, chorale, events at Heritage Center, Art Museum, Gallery C, First Fridays – many good things happening!
- I love when the symphony plays at the arboretum in the summer
- Sunday concerts at the arboretum
- Julien DBQ Film Fest
- Newcomer class was a great way to learn about arts/entertainment in the city
- Art on the river is the best
- DBQ needs more multi-use venues like the Smokestack – drinks, food, outdoor space + exciting events.



- Ballet
- Live outdoor concerts during the summer
- Canoe launching on the river
- Continue “Voices at the Warehouse” this month long celebration embraced diversity, culture, arts of all kinds, and showed to young and old how arts unify (4 Votes)
- Love Mindframe
- More concerts for all ages
- Movie nights at Mindframe Theatres (show documentaries, hold panels, can cover topics of diversity)
- I like the Matter Creativity Center on 9<sup>th</sup> St.
- Love art on the river. Sculptures and craft fair that was featured a few years ago.
- → move the art around town in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year



## Topic 5: Diversity

### What is Diversity in Dubuque?

- To be truly “Diverse,” dominant culture needs to be okay with discomfort
- → we are getting there – don’t give up
- Affordable. Accommodating. Equity (not equality)
- Bio diversity
- The River
- Addressing diversity will be uncomfortable, but we must face being uncomfortable

- before we can be comfortable with it! (2 Votes)
- Diversity = inviting someone to the party; Inclusivity = asking them to dance!
- Dubuquers think that diversity is good in theory, not practical
- DBQ is already diverse! But we need to do a better job mixing social, economic, and racial groups in order to take advantage of the gift that is diversity. And improve our city for everyone. (2 Votes)
- Cronyism, much?
- Dubuque has a strong German Irish influence – my grandfather came here from Germany to start a family.
- I love the river, hills, small town feel
- People-transplants are expected to conform?
- → we are trying to be sensitive to transplants they are new and exciting
- Diversity in DBQ is accepting those who are different from each other
- We still have racism and are not friendly to outsiders
- We have a diverse population but we don’t practice inclusion well enough

### Think about gathering places, events, and venues...

- Diverse public schools
- Dubuque needs more engaging public places – parks + outdoor dining. Public attractions that bring people from all walks of life together are crucial
- Carnegie Stout
- One of my favorite events is the summer arboretum concerts – it draws hundreds of families

### What do you know and love?

- All That Jazz/outdoor events
- Inspire Café talks + meetings
- Green Drinks local meet up
- Voices + Smokestack
- Bringing diverse people together
- Convivium Urban Farmstead is awesome in the north section of Dubuque corridor

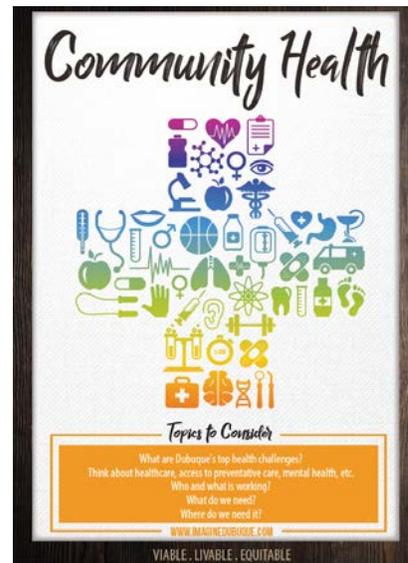


### Where haven't you been?

- There are many places I haven't been to and some I've visited that made me feel strange – like I was under a spotlight not in a good way

### What are people unaware of/missing out on?

- Concentrated pockets of poverty ☹️
- Educate community on what does diversity really mean.
- More diverse food options/events
- How about actually being welcoming in Dubuque?
- → Welcome 😊 stay
- Racial diversity is important & needs work, LGBTQ + acceptance also needs attention
- Engage all those college kids!
- It is tough to introduce diverse points of view
- Lack of compassion is real
- Make DBQ inclusive
- → and social and racial equity
- Celebrate local heritage
- People miss out on good friends + experiences when they don't wholly embrace diversity around them
- More festivals to reflect our cities cultural diversity
- All sides of the diversity issues would do well to listen to others more. All sides need to be open to speaking what they can change in themselves and not just look to change others.
- Need creative, inclusive venues for honest conversation
- People who don't buy the newspaper miss out on things – (not everyone buys or reads other's paper) (2 Votes)
- A Spanish language newspaper
- More diversity in the arts
- Making DBQ a welcoming + safe place for the LGBTQ + community members



### Topic 6: Community Health

#### What are Dubuque's top health challenges?

- Childhood obesity rate up to 44%
- Age discrimination?
- Citywide obesity
- Chronic diseases
- Autoimmune diseases
- Mental health access
- Homelessness
- Drug addiction
- Teen pregnancy

#### Think about healthcare, access to preventative care, mental health, etc.

- Ensure that individuals in mental health + substance use recovery are actively involved in decision making
- Job opportunities for individuals in mental health + substance use recovery for further recovery + reintroduction into the community
- We need more mental counselors – people have difficulty waiting a long time for an appointment (2 Votes)
- Unload the stigma of mental health. It is alright to get help (3 Votes)
- Preventive/wellness for seniors
- Not just 'care' but action
- Need more preventative health for elderly
- Higher mental health issues amongst people of color. Why? Acceptance, "feel alone at their institution," no one can relate and understand them.



- Not enough preventative measures
- Not enough time spent teaching patients
- Not enough time spent listening to patient
- Too much time spent treating symptoms vs. treating the root cause of health (integrative medicine)
- MENTAL HEALTH
- Need more attention to drug/alcohol problem in town
- Mental health affordable and available quickly (2 Votes)
- The new Y will help with prevention of health problems (A central location helps)
- Set education in schools! Recovery model vs. medical model in mental health

#### ***Who and what is working?***

- Integrative providers (chiropractors, acupuncturist, functional practitioners taking time to listen and teach patients)
- Teaching immigrant populations how to prepare local food

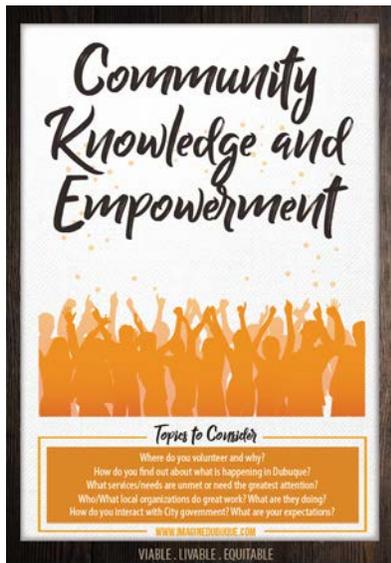
#### ***What do we need?***

- Grow compassion, volunteer!
- Tackle obesity – off-road trails
- Programs for alcoholism/substance abuse
- How are we keeping our children healthy? Schools, day cares, health fairs for children, educate them to educate their parents
- Better/more accessibility to convenient + healthy foods, juice/smoothie bars, healthy cafes, more alternatives to fast food.
- Chemical free pools ☺
- Dubuque needs a “green burial” cemetery
- Healthy food options for low income + food desert areas
- More access to lap swimming pools
- Balance between “low-income” school obesity rates and access to healthy food
- Remove fluoride from public waters
- More psych services needed. Medicaid system in IA and providers accepting it has been reduced
- Where is the concern for STD prevention? Free condoms?
- Learn to meditate

- Noise pollution of all types of transportation should be enforced
- We need healthcare professionals who have ICC training and don’t make assumptions about people
- → depends on what hospital you go to
- Water walking for seniors
- Inside tennis courts

#### ***Where do we need it?***

- Walkability on West Side and Downtown (4 Votes)
- Downtown is a food desert
- Help the halfway house on Elm St.
- Our outdoor pools need to be open longer – maybe through mid-September
- Legalize dog walking in the city parks (2 Votes)
- → On leash
- Teach people about fragrance/chemical sensitivity (esp. in workplace!!!) (MCS)
- Green space downtown (2 Votes)
- Kid-friendly apartments
- Elderly/disabled apartments
- Indoor pool! More access to gyms. I feel like people don’t go because it’s too expensive
- We need an all city recreation indoor pool recreation area. How about cooperating with city-school to get it done?
- Walking track with a view of our most beautiful asset – The Mississippi!



## Topic 7: Community Knowledge + Empowerment

### *Where do you volunteer and why?*

- I work with Crossing Borders – an immigrant advocacy group
- Love volunteering with nursing homes but there's ability to help on a more local/private level
- I volunteer to give back to the communities or organizations that helped shape me
- To give back to a great city
- AmeriCorps
- I volunteer with Catholic Charities
- Community foundation
- Arts orgs
- Volunteer/support the Lantern

### *How do you find out about what is happening in Dubuque?*

- I love looking at bulletin boards in coffee shops, can we take this concept and expand it
- Telegraph Herald website + print copy for events (2 Votes)
- Facebook + facilities' websites
- Events in 365 magazine (3 Votes)
- How do people want to hear about events? (Not everyone has a computer)

- I find out what is happening in the newspaper, but it only has articles the same day or after it occurs ☹️
- Julien Journal has events but it costs \$4
- Podcasts 😊
- Need centralized communication tool for all seniors for events and local information
- Social media
- 365 INK, paper copy and internet
- 365 does a great job, but folks must submit events first, so please submit!
- We need a central calendar for events
- Word of mouth (I don't know many people)
- In general there is an info vacuum; you have to work to get information
- 365ink Magazine; Dubuque365.com is my resource for what's happening!

### *What services/need are unmet or need the greatest attention?*

- We need more streamline media
- More support for peer support model
- Recovery programs needed
- Intersectionality in city planning
- Senior citizens are very overlooked (2 Votes)
- Empower people to try new things and explore new facets to the community
- Need more ways to get information to younger Dubuquers to get them involved in local issues
- → make teams
- Progressive media outlet needed
- Naming painful realities and touting over awards!
- Mental health service needed

### *Who/what local organizations do great work? What are they doing?*

- The Millwork District turned out great – maybe Central Avenue will too
- Circles Initiatives
- Service Learning courses & programs at local colleges
- Dubuque Dream Center
- Higher education institutions provide lots of opportunities and news to students.



- Reaching out can increase awareness of events.
- Green Dubuque (Advocacy, Good Governance, Transparency. Inclusion. Walk the Talk)

**How do you interact with City government?**

**What are your expectations?**

- Share + read city Facebook posts
- Attend commission + council meetings
- Contact City staff
- Offer to partner

- Sometimes are listen to?
- City is making great use of nextdoor.com
- Our City staff and leadership are very accessible. If you have a concern they will listen. They are seen out and about in many social/cultural events. (2 Votes)
- I interact with the City by joining a committee (resilience) to help communicate wishes of myself + community
- Transparency in government!



**Social + Cultural Vibrancy Mind-Map Comments**

- More public offerings in Port of Dubuque. Not private.
- Get your mural on...
- Green murals
- We need to look at food + chemicals + toxins in lower economic status populations. Diseases, behaviors all correlate with toxins from multiple sources. Start with food. Food is medicine.
- Affordable housing throughout Dubuque
- Better balance of renters to owners in older neighborhoods
- More small grocery stores and “bodegas” or delis, especially downtown to carry the basics/pick up a sandwich, etc.
- Empty storefronts need to be filled for walkers
- Please work on buildings on Central Ave. from 30<sup>th</sup> Street to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street – storefronts and houses look dumpy

- Leadership from the community – not from the top
- Have events in parts of town that we’d like to bring more business or attention to outdoor concerts, plays, kids’ activities, etc.
- More free activities or events in parks (i.e. chess, bocce ball, concerts, etc.)
- Beautiful river with no accessibility – sad (2 Votes)
- Pets in parks! It will bring people together! Empty parks are sad!!
- Indoor climbing gym
- Childcare co-op
- Strong, local foods system
- Farm to school
- Know your farmer, know your food
- Barter, share, & trade
- Arts: paintings, spoken word, music, musical gatherings, talent show showing off cultures and their forms of art
- Get billboards out of residential areas



- Availability of culturally appropriate fruits + vegetables
- Bringing people together through multi-cultural events – prompting different cultures through similarities
- Moss graffiti
- Police friendly
- Social and cultural vibrancy equals new experiences
- Downtown walking tours marked on the sidewalks
- Acceptance + awareness to overcome barriers
- Potential business owners need a place to go for ideas + incentives
- More engaging ambitious public art. Should be a destination! Should be Instagram-worthy → free advertising for the city
- More outdoor dining! Come on! Especially on the river! How about a dinner train: Dubuque to Bellevue maybe?