

Institute for the Ages Continue the Conversation

Meeting Summary

On the 15th of October, 41 community members gathered to continue the conversation around about what we imagine will be the business of the Institute.

Updates

- The Research Triangle Institute (RTI) has finished Phase 1 of a 4-phase of technical assistance process designed to help SCOPE develop a business plan to fully launch the Institute for the Ages. Phase I activities confirm we are on the right track in terms of adopting a lens that seeks to understand how this community thinks about building place and connections among its members, given the demographic realities of an environment in which people are aging. One challenge will be to safeguard the potential for leaping over the quality assets of Sarasota County's demographics and the individuals and organizations that appreciate this factor.

Formation of Conversation Groups

Six (6) preliminary themes emerged from earlier *Continuing the Conversation* sessions:

- Universal Design
- Arts and Vitality
- Workforce Potential
- Health Care
- Personal Psychology: Identity, Purpose, Connections
- Intergenerational Community Development

Participants of the October 15th session suggested an additional theme, Politics of Public Policy and Neuropsych. Small conversation groups were organized in accordance with the above topics. Participants are free to take part in more than one group. Some common concepts among the six groups resulted from this initial session with regard to potential roles the Institute might carry out:

- Offer public awareness/education on the selected strategies that define and build 'community'
- Lead the way in defining both the scope and strata
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information and connectivity between people of all ages
- Silo-buster

Each small group identified someone who will take the lead in convening the next meeting to *continue the conversation*. Each group is encouraged to jot down and forward their ideas to Kim Weaver. SCOPE will inform participants of future meeting dates, times and locations of each conversation group.

Below are bullet point summaries of each of the group discussions.

Healthcare: report out by Arthur Lerman

Next meeting: Wednesday, Nov 4th from 8:30-10:00am at Roskamp/Patterson, (1226 N.Tamiami Trail Suite 100, Sarasota)

Convener: Steve Roskamp

- Clearinghouse for information on strengths and gaps
- Connections among community members and institutions
- Identify gaps in needed services
- Availability of healthcare looked at from a broader definition
- Role of education and advocacy in the context of intergenerational issues
- Intergenerational activities
- Looking beyond traditional long term care in order to support our aging community
- Availability of healthcare funding for primary care and behavioral health services
- Promote physical and emotional well-being

Personal Psychology: report out by Julie Cotton

Next Meeting: October 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Plymouth Harbor (700 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota)

Convener: Harry Hobson

- We defined it as the root to longevity with a sense of belonging and having a purpose.
- Concept of a clearing house
 - Where one would go to get the feeling of connection in Sarasota and what assets are already here in Sarasota.
- A website and a physical boutique called something like *Sarasota Connections* for a one stop connector for newcomers and others to find all the great resources in Sarasota easily and quickly.
- We need to define what we mean by personal psychology
- The domains of personal psychology comprise our root to longevity
- Strategies to enhance a sense of belonging and connection.
- This group will need to get more focused.

Arts and Vitality: report out by Janice Mee

Next Meeting: November 12th at 9:00 a.m. at Pelican Cove

Convener: Janice Mee

- Creativity is both a life-long interest and attribute
- Value of the art-making process; It generates positive interactions between individuals
- Building community through art-making experiences, events or 'happenings' that bring people of different age groups together in a creative process.
- Public libraries and other resource centers can be convening sites
- Sarasota is an arts-rich community and cultural destination.
- Intrinsic role of arts and healing in a community that is aging
- The Society for Arts in Health Care as a partner to conduct evidence-based research
- Ringling College of Arts & Design is piloting educational programs for three different audiences: adults with medical conditions, family caregivers and health professionals.

Intergenerational Community Development: report out by Dan Bailey

Next Meeting: To be determined

Convener: Mike Mahon

- We need to define the scope and strata of intergenerational community development
- Importance of connection between generations, mostly family, but it doesn't have to be.
- Higher education organizations and the Institute can focus on and study the isolation in gated communities and it can also take a fresh look at revitalizing a more inclusive Downtown
- Lifelong learning programs offers programs that connect people
 - Many programs already exist that connect the community that people aren't aware of.
- Often the connections are family (ties extend beyond one's 'blood' family)
- Age-neutral places of community (e.g. congregations, YMCA)

Universal Design: report out by Gordon Okawa, Convener: Gordon Okawa

Next Meeting: Time and Date to be determine, at Plymouth Harbor

Convener: Gordon Okawa

- Most conversations focus on individual homes and the internal house however, this will also encompass the whole of Sarasota County.
- Big part is education to the public in order to change stereotypes that exist.
- Overcome barriers of implementing universal design by raising awareness about developers and prospective users about its benefits
- This would also include design and livability and adaptive technology
- We would like to have more professionals certified in Aging in Place
- Policy issues such as co-housing could be tried out here.
- Livability is intergenerational and benefits the whole community.
- Universal design can bridge living in autonomy to living in community.
- The key is individual option and choice for people so there is a sense of independence as one ages.
- We could see the institute addressing design components through research, writing, publishing and doing trials within the county.
- The Institute would also facilitate the discussion between stakeholders, and groups within the community.
- Can builders afford to build affordable housing?

Workforce: report out by Kathy Black

Next Meeting: To Be Determined

Convener: Kathy Black

- We would look at the economic disparities that exist in this community'
- Encore workers as bringing gifts of work ethic, responsibility, commitment, and wanting to do what "matters
- How much is work for money and how much is it for volunteer?
- What agencies can assist here?
- Strategies that can help people remain in the workforce
- Increase Gerontological competencies of people who work in service community professions (e.g. restaurant and grocery store personnel)