

## **Principles Of The Visioning Process**

1. This process is based on the premise that all great things are built on a foundation of relationships.
2. Through this process you will have conversations that you haven't had before with people you haven't met before.
3. Simply, new conversations build new relationships that lead to a different future for Covington - a future that isn't built on the past.
4. We will focus on creating new possibilities, not solving old problems. People must leave their old complaints and stories at the door – though we honor all perspectives, desires and dreams, we will not repeat the same conversations that have gotten us nowhere.
5. Through this process, citizens and stakeholders must take ownership for their reality. We all must be responsible for creating a different future for Covington.
6. City government is not solely responsible for making things happen – WE ALL ARE. Without owning our participation in what IS, we have no power to create something different.
7. This administration is committed to working in partnership with committed citizens and stakeholders in a transparent process. The City wants citizen/stakeholder guidance in how to allocate its annual resources, and this process will generate a strategic plan to accomplish that. The City is committed to an ongoing dialog with stakeholders so we can hold ourselves accountable for our commitments.
8. One hope of the process is that the new relationships forged will lead to ongoing work by the stakeholders which occurs independently of City actions.
9. We believe that the future of Covington is dependent on people with diverse interests finding a way to come together in a way that is not just an extension of the past.
10. An undertaking like this always begins with a certain amount of ambiguity and uncertainty, and in a way is vague by design. This is not an effort to apply a formula or sell a process or answer for the challenges facing this community. It is a design to create an opening for something new to emerge.
11. If you do agree to participate, and we hope that you do, we want you to understand we will be coming together under the following ground rules:

- a. We come together to create a new possibility through having a conversation we have not had before. We do not come together to negotiate interests, share our stories, or problem-solve the past or future.
- b. No one will be asked in any way to yield on their commitments or interests. We begin with the belief that the commitments and interest of each of us have to be honored and taken into account by all.