

## **MAOR THEMES ACROSS ALL SUBJECTS**

### *Interconnectedness*

Physical: Rivers, neighborhoods, green space, downtown, arts, focal points, transportation

Human: People, institutions, events, gathering spaces, associations, police, administration

*Beauty*—streets, downtown, green space, public arts, rivers

*Involvement*—residents, police, city administration, schools, institutions

*Uniqueness*—walking and biking culture, arts, culture and heritage, green space, preservation

*Integrity*—lawfulness, code enforcement, zero tolerance

*Responsibility*—quality education and homeownership, youth, safety

*Prosperity*—economic development, marketing, downtown, river fronts

## **RIVERS**

1. Create comprehensive walking/biking usability across entire riverfront and provide access for ALL neighborhoods.
2. Identify community with river heritage
3. Balance development with conservation and public use
  - a. Link to other cities' riverfront development
  - b. West Covington riverfront development
  - c. Increase public access (boats, canoes) to rivers
  - d. Develop riverfront parks and gathering places
  - e. Conserve and clean river and riverbanks
4. Cross cuts
  - a. Green space
  - b. Education

## **EDUCATION**

1. Create world-class learning in the urban core that invokes pride and attracts new residents
  - a. Get every child ready to succeed in school (pre-school readiness)
  - b. Make sure every child graduates ready to succeed in life
  - c. Provide continuing education for adults
2. Strategies
  - a. Get parents, other non-parent volunteers and entire community (including partnerships with local colleges, businesses, neighborhood associations, etc.) involved in the schools
  - b. Develop students as community leaders
  - c. Provide more choices of classes, extra-curricular activities and learning models
  - d. Prepare students for global society
  - e. Find ways to attract and keep the best teachers (reward accountability)
  - f. Market the success and good qualities of Covington schools
3. Cross cuts
  - a. Arts and culture education
  - b. Housing
  - c. River conservation

## **ARTS, CULTURE AND PRESERVATION**

1. Prioritize arts, culture and unique preservation to make Covington an arts destination
2. Organize arts community to better market and assist artists
3. More public art—connect neighborhoods through art
4. Balance preservation with development—change zoning to allow more creative re-use
5. Youth/student/family involvement in the arts
6. Cross cuts
  - a. Arts education for youth
  - b. Include art as a big part of neighborhood focal points
  - c. Downtown identity, preservation marketing and destination attractions
  - d. Green space to include arts

## **DOWNTOWN**

1. *Downtown living*: more loft condos and apartment rehabs, new residential construction, and new residents in the downtown area.
2. *Neighborhood retail*: Upscale grocery store and other businesses in the downtown area that cater to urban dwellers.
3. *Unique destinations*: Need more unique (not chain) restaurants, retail stores, (ice cream, book store, heritage store) a boutique hotel and "art" movie theater.
4. *Aesthetics*: City cleanliness, improved streetscapes, sidewalk cafes, better signs to public destinations and parking.
5. *Parks*: People wanted a town square (with a winter time ice rink), more green space and parks (including dog park), public art, and planned events in the downtown area.
6. *Transportation*: Improved public transportation, possibly a street car system, pedestrian and bicycle friendly streets
7. *Miscellaneous*:
  - a. Market downtown businesses, cultural attractions and housing
  - b. Improve Riverside area
  - c. Comprehensive downtown community/advocacy group
  - d. Provide economic development assistance to small businesses
  - e. Walking tours, Architrex, info center, signage, maps, ambassadors
8. Cross cuts
  - a. Arts and preservation
  - b. Green space connectivity

## **GREEN SPACE**

1. Get residents involved in developing, maintaining and using green space (create and connect gardening groups)
2. Connect all green spaces with bike/walking trails to connect neighborhoods and to connect entire network to Devou Park mountain bike trails
3. Create more green space
  - a. Reclaim more of riverfront as green space, including a Licking River trail system
  - b. Build dog parks
  - c. Add Downtown garden/park/green space
  - d. Add more pocket parks
4. Map and market all of the green spaces, including historical elements
5. Tax breaks and other incentives to encourage green space creation; have green space reps at table with developers
6. Use green space for events and as gathering places
7. Cross cuts
  - a. Downtown
  - b. Transportation
  - c. Rivers
  - d. Arts
  - e. Education

## **OUR PEOPLE**

1. Provide jobs, health care, recreation
2. Get citizens engaged
3. Create and market tolerance and diversity
4. Deal with lead issue
5. Get city employees to live in city

## **SAFETY**

1. Better on-the-ground police-community relationships
2. Greater resident involvement and responsibility
3. Get youth, parents and schools involved in safety initiative
4. Zero tolerance for petty crimes, "broken windows"

5. Increase homeownership
6. Encourage responsible and engaged landlords (enforce codes)
7. More lighting
8. Market the perception of safety
9. Hire more police and get them to live in Covington
10. Cross cuts
  - a. Education
  - b. Downtown
  - c. Green space

## **TRANSPORTATION**

1. Increased signage and maps to communicate bike paths, historical routes, destinations, shopping, parking, etc.
2. Better access to bridges
3. Regional biking-walking plan
  - a. Connect bike paths with bike lanes
  - b. Licking River bike and walk way (connect to Ohio River bike/walk route)
4. Transportation committee to develop updated plan with community involvement
5. Better regional coordination and connection (bike paths, I-75 bridge, South Bank, OKI)
6. Implement Madison Ave. redevelopment plan
7. Community education and marketing re: transportation issues and options
8. Develop alternate transportation strategies
9. Cross cuts
  - a. Green space
  - b. Downtown
  - c. Neighborhood focal points
  - d. Arts and Culture

## **NEIGHBORHOOD FOCAL POINTS**

1. Expand use of existing gathering spots
  - a. Add chairs, tables and benches to existing gathering places
  - b. Develop our landmarks into focal points
2. Physically connect focal points to each other and green spaces via bike/walking routes
3. Every neighborhood should have a focal point to celebrate its identity and uniqueness and build community pride
4. Residents *of all ages* must make it happen through the neighborhood associations and other civic groups finding low cost solutions to our dreams
5. Focal points should promote neighborhoods to other residents to build more relationships and greater capacity to achieve other goals
6. Hold family activities and fun events in welcoming, positive locations
7. Promote focal points to potential residents, artists
8. Synergy is key—open businesses, green space, public art
9. Cross cuts
  - a. Arts and Culture
  - b. Transportation
  - c. Green space

## **HOME OWNERSHIP**

1. Increase home ownership rate and property values,
2. Offer incentives to home owners, good landlords and renters to become owners
3. A better/stricter code enforcement system
4. Market the positives about owning a home in Covington, and how to make it happen
5. Improve streetscapes—make them beautiful
6. Get families to stay in Covington by improving schools
7. Everyone must work together to improve ownership conditions (home owners, landlords and residents); build relationships through block clubs, events

8. Cross cuts
  - a. Education
  - b. Focal point
  - c. Safety