

Historic Macon Foundation | Neighborhood Incubator

January 24th, 2017 Public Meeting Summary

We cannot say thank you enough for coming out on January 24th and participating in Historic Macon Foundation's Neighborhood Incubator Public Meeting in partnership with the Fanning Institute at the University of Georgia. We promised that night to update you on what we learned from our discussions and to provide instructions on the next steps of the project, laying out ways you can stay involved. This is us fulfilling that promise, we hope you enjoy.

I. INSIGHTS

- Below are your answers and inputs to our questions asked throughout the night in various forms to give us a broader sense of what you think a neighborhood incubator program should do and which community needs it should help to address.

A. TOP 10 TOPICS

Topic	Avg Score
Growing Community Engagement	4.78
Communicating Better	4.64
Creating/making stronger neighborhood associations	4.61
Identifying and using local resources	4.56
Running a Good Meeting	4.50
Valuing Diversity	4.49
Planning & Implementing projects	4.46
Working with government	4.44
Managing Conflict	4.43
Building Coalitions	4.38

B. QUOTES

- **What do you need in the neighborhood to consider it a thriving neighborhood?**
 - “Community meeting/utilization space outdoor for community garden and mixed use”
 - “Neighbor involvement, interaction, communication, discovering likes & dislikes”
 - “Having a good relationship with governmental offices to improve conditions of safety, home values, having a voice with government that is listened to.”
 - “Rejuvenation, circulation, new blood, organization, desire to maintain & sustain new families”
 - “Influence of different cultures connection of other people”

- **What do you need to grow your ability to engage in your neighborhood and be an active community member? (*How can you be a part of making that happen?*)**
 - “Leadership that articulates a clear pathway to a vision for community as a whole and for individual neighborhoods”
 - “Vision or plan that I can relate to and help with – belief in a goal”
 - “Honest communication between neighbors – not being scared to share ideas/concerns”
 - “People need to recognize what they can offer – classes to provide help; self-growth before neighborhood growth”
 - “Need templates. Starter kits. Partnerships are important to getting things done. How do you pull the elements together?”

- **What other training would help you get more involved and accomplish your goals in your neighborhood?**
 - "Building Asset Based Communicates, John McKnight, Evanston, Ill - working with community members on self worth and moving forward.”
 - "Creating a viable communications platform to more accurately reach as many people as possible! "
 - "More meetings like this one, where the community is invited to make decisions.”
 - "Blight, new home ownership, making landlords responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of their properties
 - "How to accomplish projects that require a lot of infrastructure/county partnerships. (i.e. street lights, sidewalks, parks)”

C. SCHEDULING PREFERENCES

- As you can see below the scheduling preference question was such a tight race we will employ a hybrid of both evenings and Saturdays throughout the duration of the program.

Scheduling Choice	# of selections	% of total selections
Saturdays	18	42%
Evenings	19	44%
No Answer	6	14%
Total	43	

II. IDEAS TO ACTION

- Now with your voice heard we took that into account to craft a five month training program that incorporates the following themes at monthly sessions.

Neighborhood Incubator Program Outline

A. Meeting 1: Community Engagement

1. Growing Community Engagement
2. Valuing Diversity
3. Inspiring Community Action
4. Planning process for NI grants

B. Meeting 2: Skills of an Effective Leader

1. Managing Conflict
2. Building Coalitions
3. Understanding Leadership Styles
4. Building teams
5. Making Group Decisions
6. Convening and facilitating groups

C. Meeting 3: Local Resources

1. Identifying and Using local resources
2. Working with local government

D. Meeting 4: Building an Effective Neighborhood Association

1. Communicating Better
2. Running a good meeting
3. Planning & implementing projects

E. Meeting 5: Building an Effective Neighborhood Association Continued

1. Finding and applying for grants *beyond the HMFNI grants*
 2. Forming and/or strengthening a neighborhood watch
 3. Navigating Legal Issue
 4. Creating a Neighborhood Council in Macon
- We are discussing the idea of not just creating and implementing a neighborhood leadership program, but having the incubator also host a series of open sessions that will go over specific resources and organizations that could be leveraged to galvanize change in your neighborhood.

IV. NEXT STEPS

- Apply for the **Neighborhood Leadership Institute** by filling out the application <http://bit.ly/MaconNeighborhoods> or by contacting Historic Macon for a paper application. *Please help spread the word.* Forward this email to friends in the community you know would be interested in participating in the Academy or our public sessions and continue to raise awareness for community driven neighborhood action in Macon.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with YOU (the community) to work towards creating a better Macon for ALL and hope you will continue to work WITH us to make our vision of Macon a reality.