



Crossroads Resource Center

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Tools for Community Self-determination

Agenda

Minneapolis Sustainability Roundtable—January 17, 2004

Session I (Vision)

10:00 am to 11:10 am

Purpose:

To generate and collect images of what a more sustainable Minneapolis would be like in 50 years. These will be used to define a draft vision for the Minneapolis Sustainability Plan

Activities:

- Participants gather in groups of four—better with someone you don't already know. Choose one person of the four to be a *recorder*, who will take charge of taking notes and collecting your group's work and handing it in to the facilitators.
- Moderator will pose four questions, asking each of you, working alone or in groups, to come up with an image, story, drawing or headline that shows your vision of life in Minneapolis' future. You can find samples on page 7 of your packet. Then people in your group will exchange insights, and the recorders will track highlights of this conversation and produce a written summary to hand in.
- Images, drawings, headlines and stories developed by members of each group will be written on paper (include the creator's name and the date). Be sure to hand all these images, stories and headlines in to one of the floaters, so we can use these in defining the vision in the city's sustainability plan. If one or more names are listed, credit will be given if we quote your work. Otherwise we may cite this work anonymously.

Question 1: An Equitable City [20 minutes]

Work by yourself and then discuss your vision with the group.

- Take 2 minutes by yourself to *write an image, story or news headline*, or to *draw a picture* of what you imagine your daily life would be like in about 2054 if community life in Minneapolis were as **equitable** as you would like it to be.
- Go with the first thing that comes to mind. Be very specific about describing the 5 W's: *where* you find yourself, *who* you are with, *what* you are doing, *what* you feel, see, and think.

- Then pair off with one other person in your group to share what you came up with.
- After each of you has presented your image or story to your partners, your entire group should meet together. Each one of you should present highlights of your partner's image, story, headline or picture to the group.
- Discuss any common themes, differences, or surprising things you learn from others' imagery.
- The group's recorder should summarize your reflections on the images, issues and insights shared in the group discussion, writing these on the Group Visioning form provided. As a group, identify the key elements of your **group's** vision for this future.

Question 2 [10 minutes]: An Economically Healthy City

Work together with a new partner to create an image, story, headline, or to draw a picture. These two pairs will then exchange perspectives they gained by working with their partners.

- Choose a new partner from your group of four.
- Together, the two of you should take 4 minutes to *draw a new picture* or to *write an image, story or news headline* showing a scene from your daily life in Minneapolis in 50 years if it were as healthy **economically** as you would like it to be. As before, give very specific details using the 5 W's.
- Then take the next 6 minutes to share these images, stories, headlines or pictures with the other pair of people in your group. Discuss any common themes, differences, or surprising things you learn from each other's imagery.
- The group's recorder should summarize your reflections on the images and insights shared in the group discussion, writing on the Group Visioning form provided. As a group, identify the key elements of your **group's** vision for this future.

Question 3 [10 minutes]: An Ecologically Healthy City

Work as a group of four

- Working now as a group of four, take 5 minutes to write the group's *image, story or headline*, or to *draw a picture* of what Minneapolis would be like in 50 years if it were as healthy **ecologically** as you would like it to be. As before, give very specific details using the 5W's.
- Then take next 5 minutes to discuss these images, stories, headlines or pictures with the group. Discuss any common perspectives, differences, or surprising things you learn as you do this exercise.
- The group's recorder should summarize your reflections on the images and insights shared in the group discussion, writing on the Group Visioning form provided. As a group, identify the key elements of your **group's** vision for this future.

Question 4 [20 minutes]: A Sustainable Minneapolis

Work by yourself and then with your group of four.

- Take 2 minutes by yourself to write an *image*, *story* or *headline*, or *draw a picture* of what your daily life in Minneapolis would be like in 50 years if it were as **sustainable** a City **economically, socially, and ecologically** as you would like it to be.
- For example, you might imagine what would happen if residents of all races had adequate access to affordable housing on land free from pollution, and then create a more detailed depiction of this using the 5 W's. The floating facilitators can show you some samples.
- Describe your image or tell your story to the rest of the group.
- As a group, discuss any common themes, differences, or surprising things you learn from others' imagery.
- The group's recorder should summarize your reflections on the images and insights shared in the group discussion, writing on the Group Visioning form provided. As a group, identify the key elements of your **group's** vision for this future.

SAMPLE IMAGES & VISIONS OF A SUSTAINABLE MINNEAPOLIS IN 2054

*THESE ARE EXAMPLES ONLY
USE THESE AS A STARTING POINT
TO DEFINE YOUR OWN*

Images:

(Be specific! Answer the who, what, where, when and why)

"I can walk down the sidewalk any time I want with my brother and sister and not worry about being bothered by gangs."

"My neighborhood in South Minneapolis has a cluster of homes designed in an African style, and I feel proud of my heritage there."

"Minneapolis looks like a City in Sweden, with healthy people biking & walking to work, good public transit, well-kept buildings that look like they belong together, and we have free time to enjoy being with each other."

Stories:

(Use details! Imagine what all five of your senses would experience)

"I head to the store to buy groceries, and most all the food I see was raised by people I know who farm near the city. The land where the food is raised is farmed sustainably, and the people who raise the food and deliver it to my neighborhood all make a good living."

"When I got out of college for the summer I came back to my neighborhood and got a job with a local restaurant that is run by a family I like a lot. They gave me a summer job. Although I started by washing dishes, I soon was able to help a bit in the kitchen. By the end of the summer I was cooking on Saturday afternoons. When I graduated, I was able to get into cooking school. Then I came back to take over the restaurant when the original owners retired."

Headlines:

(Be brief and to the point. Show something that is different from current times)

"Health disparities fall to zero"

"Tenth Latino Mercado opens "

"Study shows that 35% of all city businesses owned by people of color"

"Half of all Minneapolis Energy is Renewable"