



2004-2005

FINAL REPORT

July 15, 2005



About JCCI *Forward*

Established in July of 2000, JCCI Forward is an initiative of Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. (JCCI) that seeks to engage men and women ages 25-45 in civic involvement and to prepare them for their future roles as community leaders. JCCI Forward is an ideal way to interact with city leaders, to experience leadership development, and to build a network of friends and associates who all share the common goal of improving our community.

Mission

The mission of JCCI *Forward* is to provide a dynamic forum for developing leaders and community-minded individuals to identify and discuss issues facing Northeast Florida and to strive for solutions.

Activities & Events

JCCI *Forward* provides the information, tools, and resources needed to develop strong leadership skills and to help affect positive change in our community. Like JCCI, JCCI *Forward* hosts its own community forums and workshops, all with the three-fold aim of studying the issues which are central to our community's growth, providing an opportunity to meet, interact and work with our community's existing leadership structure, and focusing on the skills critical to assuming a leadership role in our community's future.

Issue Forums

Issue Forums offer participants a venue to interact with respected community leaders and resource experts on issues of concern to Northeast Florida's citizens. Participants explore issues critical to the community's growth, seek understanding of related problems, and come to consensus on proposed action plans that can be implemented locally.

Leadership Development Workshops

Leadership Development Workshops are half-day seminars devoted to keeping JCCI *Forward* members involved, engaged, and connected. These workshops offer a foundation for leadership skills by allowing members to study important community issues in a dynamic setting, while interacting with expert resource speakers.

Training Sessions

Training sessions offer JCCI *Forward* participants opportunities to learn and improve their leadership skills, such as facilitation, consensus-building, and how to run effective meetings.

Leadership Opportunities

While JCCI *Forward* is supported by JCCI, it maintains an Executive Committee and several established committees that offer opportunities for individuals to get involved and hold leadership positions. Additionally, Issue Forum Management Teams provide participants with hands-on planning experience.

Other Events

Networking Socials allow members to connect with each other, strengthen relationships, and learn more about JCCI *Forward*. **Mystery Guest Lunches** provide participants with access to local leaders in the intimate setting of lunch with a community leader. **Food For Thought** gatherings offer an additional way for members to connect, network, and discuss community issues.

Issue Forum

(Note: Please refer to individual issue forum reports for respective key findings.)

Downtown...Greentown?

This issue forum examined downtown Jacksonville's green space, studied the costs and benefits of green space areas, investigated what other communities have done, and explored opportunities that may exist for expanding green space in downtown Jacksonville.

Action Plan:

Committee members will form an advocacy group in order to focus their efforts on the issue of Jacksonville's downtown green space. Other members of the community are welcomed and encouraged to join in these efforts as well. The group will work to educate the community about green space and will coordinate a charette to provide community leaders, citizens, and other interested parties the opportunity to discuss the growth of Jacksonville's downtown green space.

Forum Participants:

(Bold Names = Management Team)

Vitina Pellot, Chair

Martin Edwards, Vice Chair

John Allmand
Oliver Barakat
Elissa Brockmeier

Phil Bruce

Cara Connolly
Eugene Damaso
Christopher Davis

Lew Fabrick
Nathan Fabrick
Sarah Gay
Lynn Gilley
Tom Gilley

Barbara Goodman

Erin Gornto

Jennifer Gornto

Neil Gornto
Ron Gould
Catherine Hajcak
Erin Moody Isaac
Matthew Isaac
Jay Johnson
Melissa Johnson
Charlene Kingsnorth
Kathleen Klein
Brian Lee
Eric Lenard
Terry Lorince
Jennifer Mansfield
Mike McCollum
Emily Melick

Jeremy Miller
John Nooney
Jessica Osterer
Dorothy Pate
Becky Schaefer
Shannon Scheffer
Noah Standridge
Leonard Stevens
Patrick Thompson
Steve Tool
Paul Tutwiler
Lauren Weedon
Rhonda Williams
Marlo Zarka

Resource Speakers:

Phil Bruce, *Parks & Recreation, City of Jacksonville*

Ed Burr, *LandMar Group*

Jack Diamond, *Rink Design Partnership*

Lara Diettrich, *Planning and Development, City of Jacksonville*

Susan Grandin, *Jacksonville Office, Trust for Public Land*

Peter Harnik, *Trust for Public Land*

Michael Herzberg, *Planning and Development, City of Jacksonville*

Sean Kelly, *Planning and Development, City of Jacksonville*

Ed Lehman, *NE FL Regional Council*

Terry Lorince, *Downtown Vision, Inc*

Ted Pappas, *PBV Architects*

Chief David Stevens, *Jacksonville Sheriff's Office*

Susie Wiles, *Office of the Mayor, City of Jacksonville*

Carol Worsham, *HDR*

Issue Forum

(Note: Please refer to individual issue forum reports for respective key findings.)

The Underground Connection

This issue forum examined overhead and underground utilities in Jacksonville, explored the benefits and challenges of overhead and underground utilities including those related to storm outages and neighborhood improvement, looked at how other cities handle utilities and related costs, and considered the options for Jacksonville.

Action Plan:

Committee members will inform the community about its findings by sharing the final report with the Jacksonville community and with various specific entities, including: City Council, the Mayor, the City Planning Advisory Councils, JEA, Comcast, and BellSouth. In addition, committee members will research other ways to share the report with the public, such as through links on relevant websites. These information-sharing efforts will seek to encourage community leaders, service companies, and citizens to develop a greater common understanding of the many facets of utilities in Jacksonville and how to best move forward.

Forum Participants:

(Bold Names = Management Team)

Michael Connolly, Chair

Rosalind Marshall, Vice Chair

Alonza Jamaal Anderson

Peggy Barber

Mike Barile

Lee Brown

Stu Burgess

Reginald Caldwell II

Frank Carbone

Kevin Feldt

Christal Fish

Matthew Harris

Laura Herzog

Jenny Huang

Charlene Kingsnorth

Brian Mills

John Otterson

Patty Otterson

Karl Pelletier

Sabina Pryce-Jones

Marvin Reese

Leonard Stevens

Anita Sullivan

Jim Varian

Hamid Zahir

Resource Speakers:

Mark Belton, *BellSouth*

William D. Brinton, *citizen*

Carol Ann Colbert, *Davis Islands Civic Assn.*

Robert Freeman, *Bryant Miller & Olive P.A.*

Suzanne Jenkins, *JaxPride*

George Moore, *Clean Energy and Research Program, USF*

Marlene Murphy-Roach, *JEA*

Greg Perrine, *JEA*

Leigh Rassler, *JaxPride*

Marty Senterfitt, *Emergency Preparedness, City of Jacksonville*

Bill Watson, *Comcast*

Hamid Zahir, *JEA*

Issue Forum

(Note: Please refer to individual issue forum reports for respective key findings.)

Forward Thinking: How to Effect Change in Jacksonville

This issue forum explored how positive change happens in Jacksonville, including government processes, and how to create and lead positive change using skills such as identifying and leveraging resources, taking initiative, and building relationships with individuals and groups.

Action Plan:

The group developed *personal action plans*, discussing how what they had learned would apply to them or had served as a call to action. The information learned from resource people highlighted specific and different training needs for each individual. While JCCI can bring in outstanding external resources to help in action plan development, these assets must be leveraged and *Forward* must inventory and develop its own internal expertise.

Forum Participants:

(Bold Names = Management Team)

Art Graham, Co-chair

Amy Hays Holliman, Co-chair

John Allmand

Christine Allmand

Jordan Boss

Dan Davis

Brian Fuller

Sarah Gay

Fionnuala Geoghegan

Jennifer Gornto

Melissa Gross-Arnold

James Holt

Jill Jinks

Jay Johnson

Melissa Johnson

Leslie Kirkwood

Georgia MacLean

Charles K. "Chuck" Mann

Heather McEachen

Jeremy Miller

Ju'Coby Pittman-Peele

Eileen Raynor

Dan Richard

Scott Shine

Jim Varian

Valerie Williams

Stephen "Ken" Wilson

Resource Speakers:

Matt Carlucci, *Former Jacksonville City Council President*

Sandy Golding, *Beaches Watch*

Mike Langton, *Former State Legislator*

Andy Wojcicki, *Board Member, St. Johns River Keeper*

William D. Brinton, *Leader of three citizen initiatives amending city charter*

Diane Kerr, *North Riverside Community Development Corp.*

Leadership Development Workshops

Closing the Deal: The Art & Science of Persuasion

November 4, 2004

This half-day seminar provided a unique opportunity to hear local leaders share their professional knowledge and personal experiences about persuasion, negotiation, and positive influence. **Fifty attendees** heard opening speaker **Dr. Suzanne Montgomery** (Montgomery, Copley, & Associates) who set the stage for two panels that included **Martha Barrett** (Chair, Duval County School Board), **Elaine Brown** (City Council President), **Hank Coxe** (Bedell Law Firm and 2006-07 President of the Florida Bar Association), **Carlton Jones** (President, Renaissance Design Build Group), **Jim McCollum** (BellSouth Regional Director of Corporate and External Affairs), and **David Sillick** (Publisher, Jacksonville Business Journal).

Tapping into Your Entrepreneurial Spirit

May 11, 2005

During this half-day seminar, local leaders shared their perspectives on the skills and qualities of the entrepreneurial spirit (such as visioning, risk-taking, and using resources effectively) that can enhance professional and personal endeavors in any arena. Nearly **fifty attendees** heard opening speakers **Charles “Bucky” Clarkson** (The Clarkson Group) and **Alan Rossiter** (Enterprise North Florida). Attendees then enjoyed a one-hour panel session of successful entrepreneurs from varied industries who are peers of JCCI *Forward* members: **Sandy Bartow** (Jacksonville Women’s Business Center), **Jane Craven** (JMOMA), **Chad Munsey** (The Grotto), **Shaleen Shah** (Seventhman), and **Jermyn Shannon-EI** (Blacksonville). Rounding out the program were breakout sessions when participants met with community leaders **Preston Haskell** and **Mike Shad** who have been successful over the long term as entrepreneurs and as investors in the entrepreneurial process.

Other Activities

Training Sessions

Leadership Skills Training Sessions held in February 2004 and May & June 2005 helped participants learn facilitation and consensus-building skills, tips on running effective meetings, and networking skills. Resource speakers included **Lois Chepenik** (former JCCI Executive Director), **Skip Cramer** (current JCCI Executive Director), **GinaMaria Jerome** (trainer, speaker, and author), and **Jonathan Lever** (formerly of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida).

National Make a Difference Day

October 23, 2004

JCCI *Forward* participants teamed up with Jacksonville University students in a National Make a Difference Day project for the **Housing Partnership of Jacksonville**. Volunteers enjoyed a day outside as they helped to paint a house, build a stairway railing, and do some light yard work for a Housing Partnership client.

Social Events

A variety of social events held throughout the year offered additional opportunities to JCCI *Forward* participants. **Networking Socials** allowed members to connect with each other, strengthen relationships, and learn more about JCCI *Forward*. **Mystery Guest Lunches** provided participants with access to local leaders in the intimate setting of lunch with Executive Director Skip Cramer and a local community leader as the "mystery guest". **Food For Thought** gatherings gave participants the opportunity to network and discuss topics of the day, such as the media's role in political division, the Better Jacksonville Plan, and Super Bowl XXXIX. Events took place in different locations around the city in order to provide varied opportunities to participants.

Stay Tuned...

JCCI *Forward* is planning its upcoming calendar year, including its next series of Issue Forums and workshops. Current JCCI *Forward* members and the general public are encouraged to participate in the 2005-2006 events and activities. More information can be found on the JCCI *Forward* website at: <http://www.jcci.org/forward>.

Major Community Supporter

The City of Jacksonville

Support for Individual Activities

Issue Forums

Downtown...Greentown?

The Jacksonville Bank
Office Environments & Services (OE&S)

Forward Thinking: How to Effect Change in Jacksonville

Bank of America

Leadership Development Workshops

Closing the Deal: The Art & Science of Persuasion

Jacksonville Airport Authority

Tapping into Your Entrepreneurial Spirit

AmSouth Bank

Social Events

Amsterdam Sky Cafe
Drayton's in the Seminole Club
Mongo's Flat Hot Grill
Presser, Lahnen & Edelman CPA
The Grape

In-Kind Contributions

Kent Jennings Brockwell
Cendant Mortgage
The Clarkson Company
Clearwire
ImprovJacksonville
Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation
J Crew
Jessica McClintock
WJCT

Thank you to all volunteers, resource speakers, and additional supporters for donating their time and resources throughout the year.

2004-2005 JCCI *Forward* Committees

Executive Committee

Eric "Brian" Smith, Jr., Chair
Kay Ehas, Chair-elect & Vice Chair Issue Forums
Fionnuala Geoghegan, Treasurer
Perri Cohen, Vice Chair Socials
Dawn Gilman, Vice Chair Action Plans
Abel Harding, Vice Chair Recruitment

Amy Harrell, Vice Chair Communication & Technology
Martin Harrell, Vice Chair Leadership Development
Workshops
James Holt, Vice Chair Fundraising
Jill Jinks, Vice Chair Nomination Process
Earl Johnson, Jr., Immediate Past Chair

Action Plans Committee

Dawn Gilman, Chair

Communications & Technology Committee

Amy Harrell, Chair
Brant Boatright

Dan Fryer
Jay Magee

Bobby Phillips
Amy Whitaker

Fundraising Committee

James Holt, Chair
Oliver Barakat
Michelle Barth (ex-officio)

Kay Ehas
Fionnuala Geoghegan
Melissa Gross-Arnold

Bill Kwapil
Carla Marlier
Al Ocasio

Leadership Development Workshops Committee

Martin Harrell, Chair
Dan Appelo
Peggy Barber
Allison Graff

Heather McEachen
Christine Reitz
Mitchell Velasco
Lauren Weedon

Rachel Wical
Ryan Whitaker

Nomination Process Committee

Jill Jinks, Chair
Lee Brown

Adrienne Conrad
Fionnuala Geoghegan

Eric "Brian" Smith, Jr. (ex-officio)

Recruitment Committee

Abel Harding, Chair
Jordan Boss
Elexia Coleman-Moss

Michael Connolly
Lisa Felts

Jennifer Gornto
Jill Jinks

Social Committee

Perri Cohen, Chair
Denise DuBose
Marilyn Galan

Jennifer Gornto
Ashley Hays
Janice Johnson

Renée Lavalée
John Thompson
Melanie White

Issue Forums

See pages 3-5.

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### JCCI Board VP Forward Development

Michael Boylan, WJCT

### JCCI Staff

*Executive Director:* Charles R. "Skip" Cramer

*Associate Director:* Ben Warner

*Forward Planner:* Anne-Marie Logrippo

*Development Director:* Cheryl Murphy

*Finance Director:* Michelle Simkulet

*Communications Directors:* Laurie DeWitt, Jennifer Parsons, Scott Sanborn

*Administrative Assistants:* Chandra Echols and Esther Gaido