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
To empower emerging leaders and community-minded individuals to affect positive change in Northeast Florida through a platform of results-oriented issue forums and leadership development programs. (Rev. 5/06)

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 to our community. These workshops offer a foundation for leadership skills by offering members the opportunity to learn and better understand the community in which we live through expect presenters in their fields of endeavor.

Training Sessions
Training sessions offer JCCI Forward members opportunities to learn and improve their leadership skills, such as facilitation, consensus-building, and how to run effective meetings. Four new trainings were added to this year’s program.

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**

**Creative Community: What’s in it for us?**

To help find the answer to this question, the Issue Forum Committee explored how citizens can support, encourage and appreciate artists in order to cultivate a creatively vibrant community. Participants heard from art consultants, patrons, government, community organizations, and artists themselves. Additionally, the committee wanted to understand the relationship between art and a vibrant community: Why should we support artists and art in Jacksonville? What’s in it for me, for us? *(Note: Please refer to individual issue forum reports for respective key findings.)*

**Action Goals & Strategies**

The Committee identified 5 key areas for action to cultivate a creatively vibrant community:

- Improve funding for artists & projects
- Increase media advertising and promotion of arts in Jacksonville
- Create a comprehensive website for the arts and artists
- Encourage an Arts Savvy Community
- Create a funky fabulous touristy centrally located 8-block Arts District for Downtown Jacksonville

Several groups are currently working to create an organization for area artists and address the above action items.

**Forum Participants:**

**Rosalind Marshall, Chair**

**Jennifer Mansfield, Vice Chair**

**Committee Members** *(attended two or more meetings)*

- Karen Barnes *
- Scott Chadwell
- Toni Chadwell
- Michael Connolly *
- Susan Demato *
- Nofa Dixon *
- Tiffany Duhart
- Annelies Dykgraaf
- Sarah Gay *
- Henry Gonzales
- Cameron Hartley

**Resource Speakers:**

- Scott Abrams - Director, Improv Jacksonville Comedy Theatre
- Anthony Allegretti - Arts Advocate and Special Assistant to the Mayor
- Louise Freshman Brown – Artist and teacher
- Ingar Brunnett – Melt Into Arts, Inc., cultural planning consultant
- Michael Corrigan – City Council Vice President, Council District 14
- Preston Haskell - The Haskell Company, patron of the arts
- Jacque Holmes – Consultant, Art in Public Places and Fine Arts Advisor
- Alan Hopper - Executive Director, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra
- Princess Rashid – Visual artist
- Suzanne Saltmarsh – Dancer & choreographer
- Warren Skeels - Director, Tigerlily Media
- Tri Vu – TTV Architects, Inc., architect and artist
- Robert White - Executive Director, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville
- Dot Wilder – Jazz singer
Issue Forum

Streetscape to Skyline: Do we need higher design standards?

For this Issue Forum, a citizen committee met with resource speakers from the community to discuss the past, present, and evolving development of downtown Jacksonville. Expert resource speakers from public and private spheres--City Council, City staff, developers, architects--addressed the committee and shared their knowledge, experience, and vision. Their presentations centered on these questions: What design standards do we currently have in place? Do we need higher design standards for our downtown core? (Note: Please refer to individual issue forum reports for respective key findings.)

Action Goals and Strategies

Short-term Goals:
1) Presentation of Key Findings to the city of Jacksonville's Design Review Committee (DRC) for higher design standards for Jacksonville; and 2) to improve clarity in DRC’s role, openness for community participation, stronger mix of design-oriented professionals serving on the DRC, and greater enforceability of DRC actions.

Longer-term Strategy:
Propose a specific project based on the higher design standards discussed in the Findings and act as a catalyst and a convener to get good/better projects built. Specific strategies including the possibility of design competitions; partnering with existing efforts, such as Emerging Architects and Downtown Vision; and working on a potential site for a river park.

Forum Participants

Martin Edwards, Chair
Heather McEachen, Vice Chair

Committee Members (attended two or more meetings) * Management Team
John Allmand *  
Oliver Barakat *  
Steve Congro  
Kay Ehas  
Ron Gay  
Amy Harrell *  
Daniel Herbin  
Rachel Johnson  
Meredith Klein  
Steve Kowkabany  
Chris Kuhn *  
Jeff MacFarlan  
Jennifer Mansfield  
Mike McCollum *  
Amy Miller  
Cynthia Neal  
Vitina Pellot, Issue Forums  
Susan Pitman  
Aaron Plewke  
Marvin Reese  
Lisa Sheppard *  
Rhonda Williams

Resource Speakers
Mike Balanky – Developer
Oliver Barakat - Design Review Committee Member & Commercial Real Estate Broker, CB Richard Ellis
Susan Cleveland, LEED AP – U.S. Green Building Council, North Florida
John J. "Jack" Diamond, FAIA - Rink Design Partnership
Thomas O. Ingram – Pappas Metcalf Jenks & Miller, P.A.
Suzanne Jenkins - City Council Member, Jacksonville
Eric Lindstrom - City of Jacksonville, Economic Development Commission
Terry Lorince – Executive Director, Downtown Vision, Inc.
Ted Pappas - PBV Architecture
Mike Shalley – Vice-president, St Joe Company
Mike Saylor, AICP – Director of Planning & Development, City of Jacksonville
Leadership Development Workshops

The Time in Your Life
Successfully Managing Work, Family, and Community
December 13, 2005

This half-day seminar provided a unique opportunity to hear local leaders share their professional knowledge and personal experiences about how they plan and organize their lives to balance work and family with community interests. Trainer Ray White, One Source Leadership, offered valuable information about how to manage your time into four levels of importance and then addressed the time bandits that steal your time and efficiency. John Delaney, Keynote Speaker spoke to his experience in balancing his family life, with his work and service to the community. The exemplar panel, Sonny Bhikha, Elaine Brown, Dea Sims brought into perspective how they continue to do community work and still excel in business and family life.

EXTRA! EXTRA!
(Get others to) Read All About It!
May 12, 2006

During this half-day seminar, local media experts shared their knowledge and experience with Forward members in how to best reach your target market with your message. Keynote speaker, Susan Adams Loyd (Fox 30/CBS 47) was followed by a panel of media veterans, Staci Spanos (WJXT), Tom Patton (WJCT), Scott Butler (Florida Times-Union) and Liz Morgan (Public Relations). The afternoon concluded with two break-out workshops on How to Prepare for an Interview with Kevin Meerschaert (WJCT) and How to Write a Great Press Release with Sylvia Perry (The Jacksonville Free Press). Participants received a Media Toolkit that provided them with valuable information of how to get your message to the media effectively and efficiently.
Other Activities

Strategic Thinking, Planning and Implementation
Following last year’s Looking Back and Looking Forward, and this year’s JCCI Strategic Planning in spring 2006, the Forward Executive Committee decided to take a strategic look at Forward’s future. Last year Forward celebrated it’s 5th year anniversary. Now it was time to look 5 years into the future. John Spence served as organization consultant and facilitator for the leadership survey and strategic planning meeting. A focused direction was set agreed upon, calling for more community action and implementation of Forward’s issue forums. A revised mission statement was drafted and accepted by the JCCI Board in May 2006. The Strategic Implementation Team has met and completed its recommendations to the Executive Committee to move Forward in it’s strategic direction for 2006-2011.

Community Leadership Development
Leadership training sessions name core and additional trainings from Training committee
Two core plus
- Conflict Resolution – Lois Chepenik
- How to Read a Financial Statement – Fionnula Geoghegan
- Strategic Planning – Jana Ertrachter
- Action Planning – Jana Ertrachter
- Motivating and Retaining Volunteers – Rachal Wical

Social Events
A variety of social events held throughout the year offered additional opportunities to JCCI Forward participants. 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 Katrina and the Racial Divide, Affordable Housing for Downtown Jacksonville, Is Jacksonville Artsy?, and The Landing, Public or Private? Food for Thought is held in various city locations for participants. This year’s events took place at a member’s home, at the Sushi Café, The Copper Cellar, and the Blue Bamboo.

Mystery Guests
Neil Armingeon - St. Johns Riverkeeper
Kevin Hyde - President, City Council
Martha C. Valdez-Pellino - Chair, Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board
Sherry P. Magill - President Jessie Ball DuPont Fund
Maarten van de Guchte - Director Cummer Art Gallery and Gardens
Rick Ferrin - Director JaxPort

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 2006-2007 events and activities. More information can be found on the JCCI Forward website at: http://www.jcci.org/forward.
Major Community Supporters

BellSouth, Visionary Sponsor
The City of Jacksonville

Support for Activities

Issue Forums
Creative Community
Liberty Properties
Streetscape to Skyline
Office Environments and Services
King Engineering Associates, Inc.
The Stellar Group

Leadership Development Workshops
The Time in Your Life!
The Auchter Company

EXTRA! EXTRA!
Interline Brands
Auld & White

Social Events
Jacksonville Association of Firefighters (1)
Gresham, Smith, and Partners (3)

Trainings & Facilitation Volunteers
Jana Ertrachter, Ertrachter Group
John Spence, Flycaster & Company
Rachel Wical, leadership trainer
Ray White, One Source, Inc.

In-Kind Contributions
Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Town Center
Biscotti’s
Boomtown
The Florida Times-Union
The Florida Theatre
Good Things by Good Friends
Herb n’ Chef Personal Chef Service
Hovan Gourmet Restaurant
Improv Jacksonville Comedy Players & Theatre
Jacksonville Magazine
Anonymous donor

Thank you to all volunteers, resource speakers, and additional supporters for donating their time and resources throughout the year.
2005-2006 JCCI Forward Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive Committee
Kay Ehas, Chair
Jill Jinks, Chair-elect
Fionnuala Geoghegan, Treasurer
Amy Hays Holliman, Vice Chair Action Plans
Ajani Dunn, Vice Chair Communication & Technology
James Holt, Vice Chair Fundraising
Vitina Pellot, Vice Chair Issue Forums
Ryan Whitaker, Vice Chair Leadership Development
Worksheets
Jennifer Gornto, Vice Chair Socials
Michael Connolly, Vice Chair Recruitment
Eric "Brian" Smith, Jr., Immediate Past Chair

Action Plans Committee
Amy Hays Holliman, Chair
Kay Ehas
Brian Fuller
Oliver Barakat
Scott Shine

Communications & Technology Committee
Ajani Dunn, Chair
Brant Boatright
Dan Fryer
Gregory Bruce

Fundraising Committee
James Holt, Chair
Oliver Barakat
Mike Barile
Kay Ehas
Melissa Gross-Arnold
Bill Kwapil

Issue Forums
Vitina Pellot, Chair

Leadership Development Workshops Committee
Ryan Whitaker, Chair
Heather McEachen
Dawn Gilman
Eric "Brian" Smith, Jr.
Mitchell Velasco
Lauren Weedon
Rachel Wical
Amy Whitaker

Recruitment Committee
Michael Connolly, Chair
Elexia Coleman-Moss
Jennifer Mansfield

Social Committee
Jennifer Gornto, Chair
Brant Boatright
Toni Chadwell
Jenna Rowland

Training Committee
Jordan Boss, Chair
Kay Ehas
Heather McEachen
Fionnuala Geoghegan

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AD HOC COMMITTEES

Nomination Orientation
Jill Jinks, Chair

Strategic Thinking and Planning
Kay Ehas, Chair
Oliver Barakat
Michael Connolly
Ajani Dunn
Brian Fuller
Jennifer Gornto
James Holt
Jill Jinks
Ryan Whitaker

Strategic Implementation Committee
Oliver Barakat, Chair
Jordan Boss
Michael Connolly
Ajani Dunn
Kay Ehas
Brian Fuller
Jennifer Gornto
Jill Jinks

Thank you to all the volunteers who make this program possible!

JCCI Board Forward Liaison
Michael Boylan

JCCI Staff
Executive Director: Charles R. “Skip” Cramer
Forward Planner: Karen Kempf
Administrative Assistant: Esther Hollander
Deputy Director: Ben Warner
Development Director: Cheryl Murphy
Finance Director: Michelle Simkulet
Communications Director: Laurie DeWitt