



2005-2006

FINAL REPORT

July 14, 2006



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 expert 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 *	Marsha Hatcher
Scott Chadwell	Amy Hays Holliman
Toni Chadwell	Linda Johnson
Michael Connolly *	June Lundy
Susan Demato *	Gil Mayers
Nofa Dixon *	Heather McEachen
Tiffany Duhart	Megan Mickler
Annelies Dykgraaf	Nancy Murrey
Sarah Gay *	Joseph Nairon
Henry Gonzales	Marvin Reese
Cameron Hartley	Valerie Rubin

* Management Team

Tonya Smart
Lou Gena Smith
Suzette Solano
LydiaStewart*
Tatyana Ta
Laurence Walden
Marjorie Weibe-Reed

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 *	Steve Kowkabany	Susan Pitman
Oliver Barakat *	Chris Kuhn *	Aaron Plewke
Steve Congro	Jeff MacFarlan	Marvin Reese
Kay Ehas	Jennifer Mansfield	Lisa Sheppard *
Ron Gay	Mike McCollum *	Rhonda Williams
Amy Harrell *	Amy Miller	
Daniel Herbin	Cynthia Neal	
Rachel Johnson	Vitina Pellot, Issue Forums	
Meredith Klein	Chair	

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 an 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 its 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 its 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 – Fionnuala 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
Workshops
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
Scott Shine

Oliver Barakat

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

Brian Fuller
Jill Jinks
John Otterson

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