

More Inclusive City

Cities are collections of buildings, people, places, statistics and systems. Cities, by their very nature, are not homogenous. As a community, we must acknowledge diversity in all facets and areas as a defining element of who we are. Indianapolis is a place of opportunity that should provide hope to residents old and new. Innovation, entrepreneurship and new ideas flow from and build upon the diversity that already exists in Indianapolis.

Cities hold collections of experiences that are often very intimate and personal. An important element of fostering an authentic city life is the presence of people from all walks of life, which Indianapolis has. Indianapolis is home to people from over 30 countries representing over 120 nationalities. Ninety languages are spoken here. Indianapolis has historically had a significant African American population. Demographic changes have been rapid. Between 2000 and 2010, the 11-county Indianapolis metro population of Asian descent grew by 20,179 (101 percent). During the same period of time, the Latino population increased by approximately 65,000, or 162 percent, making it the fastest growing segment of the population.²⁰

An inclusive city recognizes that what residents experience on a daily basis, and the neighborhoods they call home, vary widely across the city. Because there are disparities and barriers present throughout society, we must recognize that what is available and what is accessible are sometimes two very different things depending on who you are and from where you come. And, while

no city or society can guarantee the success of every person, an inclusive city offers the resources and opportunities for people and families to be self-sufficient.

We must ensure a sense of belonging, inclusion, participation and recognition while simultaneously working to reduce incidences of isolation, exclusion, obstruction and rejection. We must continue to strive to be a world-class, humane city where the daily experience of every resident matters. We must continue to not only welcome all, but engage everyone.

The Indianapolis metropolitan region is defined as including the following 11 counties: Marion, Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Morgan, Putnam and Shelby. The Indianapolis metropolitan area is the 33rd most populous metropolitan area in the United States. As of 2014, the population was just under 2 million people.²¹

The Bicentennial Plan asks that all ongoing and future planning efforts consider the following:

HARM

Will the approach or project disadvantage anyone who is already vulnerable?

EQUITY

Will the approach or project produce equitable opportunities and benefits for everyone, particularly for those whom the approach or project is intended to benefit?

PARTICIPATION

Does the approach or project include all, particularly those whom the approach or project is likely to impact?



CONNECTIONS

The following are examples of some of the connections that were made throughout the planning process.

INDIANAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER (INRC)

INRC’s mission is to increase neighbor engagement throughout Indianapolis neighborhoods, to increase leadership skills in neighborhood leaders, and to increase community building activities in our neighborhoods. INRC provides training, support and a variety of programs to help grassroots neighborhood organizations and neighbors address issues that affect the quality of life in their neighborhoods. By building upon their talents, working with neighbors and partners, and assuming a leadership role in their own community, INRC helps residents transform the city of Indianapolis, block by block.

INDIANAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING PARTNERSHIP (INHP)

INHP’s vision is that every person in Indianapolis has the opportunity to live in a safe, decent and affordable home in a vibrant neighborhood. Its mission is to increase affordable and sustainable housing opportunities for individuals and families and serve as a catalyst for the development

and revitalization of neighborhoods. INHP is the homeownership resource in Marion County dedicated to serving homeowners and homebuyers with low, moderate and middle incomes. As an unbiased and trusted nonprofit, INHP has empowered thousands of working families for over 25 years to become and remain homeowners. This is accomplished through an effective blend of homeownership education, financial and mortgage advising and a variety of affordable mortgage and loan options to buy a home or make improvements. Its comprehensive homeowner and homebuyer services are designed to create and support homeowners who can sustain their investment in their homes – ultimately helping to strengthen and encourage the growth of vibrant Indianapolis neighborhoods.

GIPC’S RACE & CULTURAL RELATIONS LEADERSHIP NETWORK (RCRLN)

The RCRLN is a standing committee of the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee. Established in 1995 as a forum to address the racially charged issues of the Indianapolis community, the RCRLN is unique in that it represents business, civic and community leaders who volunteer their time and services in seeking to improve race and cultural relations in the city and its institutions. The RCRLN works to improve the quality of life of all our residents and guests by coordinating a comprehensive and thoughtful response to issues and situations that have racial or cultural implications locally.

IMMIGRANT WELCOME CENTER

The Immigrant Welcome Center empowers immigrants by connecting them to the people, places and resources that enable them to build successful lives and enrich our community. Through the center’s immigrant services and



community initiatives, it equips members of the immigrant community to help one another, broadens awareness of immigrant contributions to our community, and serves as a catalyst to enable neighborhood and community partners to reach the immigrant population. Why? Because diversity means new businesses stabilizing our local economy, a flourishing arts community, new voices and leadership at community meetings, and creative approaches to addressing our city's challenges.

INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

Interfaith Alliance celebrates religious freedom by championing individual rights, promoting policies that protect both religion and democracy, and uniting diverse voices to challenge extremism. Interfaith Alliance was created

in 1994 to celebrate religious freedom and to challenge the bigotry and hatred arising from religious and political extremism infiltrating American politics. Today, Interfaith Alliance has members across the country from 75 faith traditions as well as those of no faith tradition. Interfaith Alliance works to ensure that faith and freedom flourish so that individuals can worship freely or not worship at all, so they can embrace matters of personal conscience without fear of government intrusion, and so that all can live in a vibrant, healthy society.

