

Strategic Priority: Cultivate a Sense of Community

This document outlines the City Council's charge to the Cultivate a Sense of Community Taskforce, their findings and recommended implementation strategies for each finding. Implementation strategies have been designated to be completed by specific departments with an approximate start date. All initiatives will be reviewed and aligned with any updates as a result of the Envision Lakeville 2023 Update.

I. City Council Charge: Develop a proposal to initiate a community survey to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the City's efforts to *Cultivate a Sense of Community*.

A. Taskforce Finding: Complete a full update of Envision Lakeville in 2023 utilizing the community's cumulative feedback to guide development of questions.

1. Implementation Strategy:

a) *Conduct a community survey with specific questions addressing the major themes identified by the task force: sense of belonging, schools, building connections, community events and communication. (Spring 2023) [City Council & Staff]*

b) *Ensure that the community survey reaches underrepresented communities by desiring participant sample to match Lakeville's demographic profile reported in the 2020 Census. (Spring 2023) [City Council & Staff]*

c) *Enhance participation in the Envision Lakeville update task force from underrepresented communities by attempting to match Lakeville's demographic profile reported in the 2020 Census. (Summer 2023) [City Council & Staff]*

II. City Council Charge: Utilize collected community input to propose action steps and strategies to enhance the City's efforts to *Cultivate a Sense of Community*.

A. Taskforce Finding: Increase efforts to communicate and work collaboratively with schools boards, staff and other interested parties.

1. Implementation Strategy:

a) *Implement the Youth Advisory Commission striving to include underrepresented communities (Fall 2022) [Administration]*

b) *Explore approaches to enhancing our partnership with school districts ISD192/ISD194/ISD196/ISD917/Private Schools in an effort to open communication (Winter 2022/2023) [City Council]*

B. Taskforce Finding: Continue community conversations both informally and facilitated.

1. Implementation Strategy:

a) *Explore options for training for City Council, Staff and community members as we look to update Envision Lakeville in 2023. (Winter 2022/2023) [City Council]*

C. **Taskforce Finding:** Refine existing and develop new methods to communicate with residents and businesses.

1. **Implementation Strategy:**

a) *Inventory current outreach efforts and work with the Lakeville Chamber to expand communication in new ways including with new residents (Begin Fall 2022) [Communication Staff & Lakeville Chamber of Commerce]*

D. **Taskforce Finding:** Increase engagement and outreach activities throughout the year.

1. **Implementation Strategy:**

a) *Take action to enhance diversity represented at annual Lakeville Arts Fair (Begin Fall 2022) [LAAC Staff]*

b) *Take action to enhance diversity within activities offered by Parks and Recreation (Begin Fall 2022) [Parks & Rec Staff]*

c) *Restart and scale Citizens Academy (Begin Spring 2023) [Police Department]*

III. City Council Charge: Provide recommendations to create better awareness of current census data about who we are today.

A. **Taskforce Finding:** Take steps to have the next survey better reflect the community to utilize in decision-making processes and address the needs of a fast-growing city.

1. **Implementation Strategy:**

a) *Workshop the implications of the community survey results as a full council and city staff director group within the context of the Envision Lakeville update in 2023. (Summer 2023) [City Council & City Staff-Directors]*

B. **Taskforce Finding:** Address the fact that many in the community do not realize the true composition of Lakeville's demographics.

1. **Implementation Strategy:**

a) *Develop a communication campaign of who we are by sharing monthly facts/profiles that illustrate Lakeville's census information through Social Media, the City webpage and in the local paper. (Begin Fall 2022) [Communications Staff]*

IV. City Council Charge: Provide recommendations to City Council for community events with the purpose of celebrating who we are and developing deeper connections among community members.

A. Taskforce Finding: Create a new community event centering around music, dance and food with a focus on increased ethnic diversity and multi-cultural exposure.

1. Implementation Strategy:

a) Partner with LAAC to encourage and highlight the diversity of our community in our Outdoor Summer Concert Series. (Summer 2023) [LAAC & Communications Staff]