

Building Dynamic Groups



A VALUES AND VISIONING EXERCISE

- Objective:** To encourage participants to look to the future by setting the stage to look to the past.
- To set the stage for creating the future through positive discussions.
- Procedure:** Hand out copies of the Values and Visioning Exercise. Allow time for the group to complete the exercise. You may want participants to take this home and return it or mail it prior to the group meeting. It is very effective to compile the answers before returning the entire copy to participants.
- Participants generally want to discuss what they picture the future to hold for their community, their organization, their neighborhood. We need to picture the future and what others might wish for in the community before we can try to identify the steps to achieve our vision. This exercise works well to help “ease” groups into strategic planning.
- Materials Required** Copies of the handout included (next page.)
- Approximate Time** Twenty minutes to complete the worksheet, an hour or more to compile answers from each worksheet and ten to twenty minutes for discussion.

Reference: Unknown

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VISITING YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP

In your mind's eye, please think quietly and deeply about the following imaginary experience.

This year, for some reason it became necessary to move hundreds of miles from your current group in the community. You made the move and developed a life for yourself in this new community and it was not possible for you to go back for a visit until 20 years later. Twenty years is a long time – not a lifetime, but enough time to notice changes.

As you wander through the community you left, you happen to meet with each of four people, a resident, a high school sophomore, a business owner, and an elected official.

What would you like each of these people to say about your community group? What kind of group is it today? What are its values? What difference did your group have on the lives of these people? What kind of character did this group develop? What were the group's greatest accomplishments since you moved? What was the main purpose for its existence?

Here come the speakers. What would you like each one to say?

1. A Current Group Member
2. A Retired Member of the Group
3. A Community Citizen
4. An Elected Official