



# IMAGINE FLINT

Over 450 people spent Saturday afternoon at Mott Community College shaping a vision for the future of the City of Flint and talking about some of our biggest challenges. The Imagine Flint workshop focused on three critical issues:

1. How can we reshape the Flint economy?
2. How do we provide a better quality of life to our citizens with the reality of declining revenue?
3. How can we re-imagine our neighborhoods to better serve our smaller city population?

Participants most of the day in small group discussion with the support of over 40 volunteers facilitators. This input was summarized in real time and then presented back to participants as a list of common themes. Participants then used wireless keypad polling devices to prioritize the ideas from their discussions.

## Social Equity – Opportunity for All

The first discussion of the afternoon focused on the goal of creating greater social equity and equal opportunity for all residents. The following actions were identified and prioritized by participants. (% participants choosing it as a top priority)

1. Expand quality education opportunities for all ages (38%)
2. Everybody needs to feel safe everywhere (38%)
3. Make youth a priority through increased access and quality of programs (27%)
4. Design a diverse economy using local job base (26%)
5. Transform blight into beautification – enhance city image (19%)
6. Everyone needs access to fresh, healthy foods and safe, walkable communities (17%)
7. Government transparency – public participation in city (12%)
8. Ensure equal investment and access to resources for all (10%)
9. Accessible and affordable transportation (3%)

## Who was in the room?

Participants used their voting keypads to help us identify the demographics of the participants and compare them to the 2010 Census estimates for Flint.

Gender	March 9	Flint
Female	48%	52%
Male	52%	48%

# Vision and Goals Workshop March 9, 2013 Mott Community College Partial Preliminary Report



Age	March 9	Flint
20 - 24	4%	11%
25 - 34	14%	19%
35 - 54	31%	39%
55 - 64	27%	16%
65 +	22%	16%

Race/Ethnicity	March 9	Flint
Asian America	1%	0.4%
Black/African-American	43%	56%
Latino	3%	3.9%
Native American/Indian	0%	0.4%
White/Caucasian	46%	38%
More than one race	6%	3.3%
Other	1%	0.1%

Household Income	March 9	Flint
Under \$25,000	24%	52%
\$25,000 - \$50,000	27%	26%
\$50,000 - \$75,000	18%	12%
Over \$75,000	26%	10%
Not Sure	5%	N/A

Ward	March 9	Flint
Ward 1	5%	12%
Ward 2	9%	11%
Ward 3	4%	11%
Ward 4	3%	8%
Ward 5	19%	10%
Ward 6	9%	11%
Ward 7	15%	13%
Ward 8	7%	12%
Ward 9	6%	12%
Not from Flint	23%	N/A

For each topic, participants reviewed several potential strategies presented by the planning team. They used their keypad polling to prioritize these strategies by selecting the two they believed had the greatest potential. Through their table discussions, participants also developed additional strategies. The theme team identified the most common themes and participants prioritized them with keypads. The results are below.

### **Topic 1: How can we reshape the Flint economy?**

#### **Potential Strategies (percent people voted for)**

1. Prepare Flint's workforce for today's jobs with education and training (49%)
2. Market cultural and natural assets and change Flint's image (36%)
3. Expand education and health institutions and encourage collaboration (32%)
4. Expand the number of local businesses through better services (27%)
5. Take advantage of infrastructure, transportation, and vacant industrial brownfields (25%)
6. Leverage downtown to strengthen institutions and capitalize on the daytime population (14%)

#### **Additional Strategies (percent people voted for)**

1. Create programs that encourage youth to take pride in their neighborhoods, prepare them for jobs, and engage in city decisions (45%)
2. Workforce development begins with adult literacy and parenting (32%)
3. Create greater access to small business loans and encourage residents to buy local (28%)
4. Develop crime prevention strategies and ex-offender programs (27%)
5. Replicate downtown development model into other areas of the city (22%)
6. Focus on quality of life to attract businesses – including free wi-fi (16%)
7. Increase public transportation system to provide access across the city (8%)
8. Review and update zoning code and charter (8%)

### **Topic 2: How do we provide a better quality of life to our citizens with the reality of declining revenue?**

#### **Potential Strategies (percent people voted for)**

1. Create specific neighborhood plans by partnering with other groups (25%)
2. Develop neighborhood-serving businesses to reduce the retail gap (22%)
3. Re-establish neighborhood policing and expand ex-offender re-entry programs (16%)
4. Repurpose schools as community hubs and service centers (15%)
5. Empower private groups to provide services that the City can't (13%)
6. Consolidate schools and re-establish a central high school (8%)

### **Additional Strategies (percent people voted for)**

1. Develop public and private sector partnerships to invest in youth and local-based growth (46%)
2. Build neighborhood togetherness to encourage community problem solving (41%)
3. Create more opportunities for recreation and youth programming (33%)
4. Repurpose vacant buildings (27%)
5. Utilize new and effective technologies for security cameras and crime patrols (24%)
6. Increase code enforcement (15%)

### **Topic 3: How can we re-imagine our neighborhoods to better serve our smaller city population?**

#### **Potential Strategies (percent people voted for)**

1. Concentrate demolition activities in areas with the highest crime rates (42%)
2. Encourage mixed-use development (39%)
3. Cut infrastructure and utility costs by redesigning systems to work with nature (26%)
4. Target areas around key community assets and along major corridors for higher density development (25%)
5. Assemble vacant properties to create opportunities for less dense living in select areas (20%)
6. Establish "green" areas to serve as urban open space for parks and recreational uses (18%)
7. Focus on walkability, cycling, and transit for new development pattern (18%)

#### **Additional Strategies (percent people voted for)**

1. Create pathway for home ownership, rental maintenance and mini grants for residents to improve homes (26%)
2. Make Government accountable to follow Master plan and transparent about expenditures (25%)
3. Look for innovative models for demolition and reducing cost (22%)
4. No liquor stores near neighborhoods (22%)
5. Bring entertainment, festivals, community gardens, recreation to the neighborhoods (21%)
6. Change policies that make it easier for residents to purchase lots and vacant homes (20%)
7. Improve code enforcement to stabilize neighborhoods (19%)
8. Create more incentives for businesses to come to the city (18%)