

May 18, 2019 Community Relations Assessment Workshop Data Summary

The May 18, 2019 Community Relations Assessment Workshop had approximately 30 participants comprising five tables/working groups.

Part One Exercises

***Develop a SWOT analysis list assessing Upper Arlington's cultural environment.
(SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats/Timing)***

The following lists capture all comments posted on large notepads by the eight working groups:

Strengths

- Safe
- Services
- Parks
- Library
- Retail
- Schools
- Location
- Walkable
- Restaurants
- Family-friendly
- Support
- Generous
- Friendly
- Age-friendly for seniors
- Community Events
- Affluent
- Clean
- Educational opportunities
- Location
- Strong sense of community
- Family connections, legacy (return)
- Accessibility
- Diversity



Weaknesses

- Affluent
- Lack of diversity
- Land-locked (residential)
- Pressures of Tradition
- Aging community
- Growing community
- Homogenous
- Resistant to change
- Expensive (tax/real estate/rent/activities)
- Reputation
- Facebook groups
- Intolerant of difference
- Unfriendly
- Cliques
- Lack of childcare
- Selective connection with history
- Lack of accessibility
- Demographics

Opportunities

- Perception
- Communication
- Education
- Address bias (systematic and individual)
- Info-sharing (facts vs. best practices in region)
- Welcome new residents
- Community center (Kingsdale?)
- More communication in other languages (signs, city communication)
- Equality/diversity reps in schools (officer on school board)
- Use privilege (\$ and connections) to benefits others
- Grants to remove barriers to entry
- Work-employment
- Social media- "tool"
- Mentors
- Volunteers-participation
- Sustainable economic development
- Younger generations have greater exposure to different cultures
- Resources + engaged community allows for discussion and change
- Chance to highlight changes
- Encourage discussion with neighbors
- Equal
- Partnerships
- Public spaces



- Awareness of community needs
- Holidays
- School system
- Public spaces

Threats/Timing

- The time is now
- Threat- staying authentic
- Threat-isolation
- Threat-mental health
- Threat-lack of belonging
- Affluence
- False sense of security
- Losing people from community
- Traditional structures
- Stubborn
- Comfort
- Politics of city
- Lack of leadership
- Fragility
- Privileges
- Complacency
- Ignorance
- Hesitant to change

From what you have learned from the SWOT analysis, what recommendations would have the biggest and most positive impact on advancing the Upper Arlington community?

- *Step One: Working groups to identify key big ideas*
- *Step Two: Each participant given 5 dots, asked to place dots on their top ideas*

Working Group 1

4+votes

- Workshop series
- Community relations (city gov't board, task force, non-profit)
- Community spotlight campaign ("We are UA")

3 Votes

- Affordable housing grants
- Grants to leadership UA/Recruitment practices

2 Votes

- Community/rec center



1 vote

- Formal mentor program

Working Group 2**3 Votes**

- Mentor workshops

2 Votes

- Collaborations with library, community orgs, businesses, schools, and gov't entities
- Communication source
- Centralized help center
- Repurpose school lunches/snacks

1 Vote

- Welcome wagon

Working Group 3**4+ Votes**

- Diversify housing opportunities
- Strategize for community relations + bias training (5-year plan plus workshop series)

3 Votes

- Celebrations reflective of community

2 Votes

- Community grants to encourage neighborhood collaboration
- Community center
- Dog park

1 Vote

- Welcome new residents
- Community-driven events through grant funding
- Community flea market

Working Group 4**3 Votes**

- All-day kindergarten
- Mentoring program
- New resident welcome

1 Vote

- Workshops on implicit bias

Working Group 5**4+ Votes**

- Good neighbor commission/committee
- Equal UA/501c3
- Welcome Table at 4th of July
- Low-cost/no-cost afterschool programs
- Inclusion (“nothing about us, without us”)
- SACC- better options

