

June 5, 2019 Community Relations Assessment Workshop Data Summary

The June 5, 2019 Community Relations Assessment Workshop had approximately 55 participants comprising eight 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

- Schools/Education
- Safety
- Parks
- Libraries
- Multigenerational
- Pools
- Good safety forces
- Infrastructure- streets, etc.
- Proximity to OSU, Columbus
- Pride
- Traditions
- Engaged/Involved
- Proximity to everything
- Volunteer community
- Resources
- Amenities
- Passionate, generous community
- Stability
- Communications/different ways to communicate to community
- Generational longevity
- Residents want to return to UA
- Variety in ages
- Landlocked



- History
- Walkability
- Central location in Columbus
- Trees
- Library
- Community Events
- Sense of community
- Convenient
- Neighborly
- Civic Association/activity
- Talent
- Willing to innovate

Weaknesses

- UA bubble/hard to break in
- Defensiveness
- Lack of trust
- Change is hard
- Arrogance
- Lack of diversity
- New vs. old
- Sense of entitlement
- Socioeconomic lack of diversity
- Affordability
- Negativity/whiny-ness/pessimism/conspiracy
- Peer pressure
- Pay-to-play
- Entitle to influence
- Lack of commercial/retail
- Safety taken for granted
- Implicit and explicit exclusivity
- External perception
- Complacency
- “Lifer” attitude
- Lack of diversities
- Land-locked
- Cloistered by choice, insular
- Cost of living
- Primarily residential
- “Cool parent syndrome”
- Engaged population
- Generational longevity
- Hard to “break-in”
- Helicopter parenting
- Lack of older adult housing



- Lack of religious centers
- Lack of physical property
- Lack of rental properties
- Cost of home ownership
- Untapped community resources
- Denial of racism in UA
- Lack of diversity in leadership
- Classism
- Not welcoming
- Bubble mentality
- Lack of childcare
- Lack of diversity in school staff
- Parks
- Transportation
- Indoor community center
- Cultural center
- Celebrating diversity (racial, religious, cultural, sexual...)
- Lack of sidewalks
- Assumption that people know how to do things/know people
- No community center
- Trisected community
- Education not good for all (kids of color, transgender kids, sexuality, religion)
- Denial of problems/issues (“Rose-colored glasses”)

Opportunities

- Schools-based programs like arts, sports
- Partner with Grandview, M.C. for things like community center
- Cultural engagement
- Senior programs
- Transportation
- Playground accessible to all abilities
- Diverse speaker services
- Litchford
- People asking for new/better
- Become more connected to region (share resources)
- Engage/education people outside UA to improve perception
- Intentional about welcoming, communicating, finding opportunities to participate in UA
- Make age-friendly (age in place)
- Care for all families
- Childcare
- Community rec
- Education
- Proximity to OSU
- Networking
- Community center



- Cultural experiences
- New neighbor event
- Senior services-new concepts
- More commercial + retail
- More awareness/acceptance of racial + religious minorities
- Blue Macy's
- New concepts multi-generational recreation
- Affordable housing
- New concepts in library services
- Open-minded
- Willingness to change
- Self-awareness growing
- Equal
- Access to resources
- High level of community engagement
- Org. cooperation
- Data-driven decisions
- Increasing multi-cultural celebration (schools)
- Work to affordability/plan for growth

Threats/Timing

- Not changing/responding to change
- No new blood
- Growth of central Ohio
- Environmental issues
- Pride
- Transportation/moving people
- Ignorance/not wanting to listen
- Not enough engagement from broader population
- Affordable housing
- Land-locked
- Homogenous attitude
- Incivility
- No movement by Kroger
- Assumptions that everyone are "techies;" iPhones, laptops, iPads
- How do we balance needs of community to outside investment and development?
- "Always done things this way" mentality
- Keeping up with the Jones
- Housing options
- Lack of physical property
- Property taxes
- Cost of home ownership
- Lack of rental properties
- Outside communities with better opportunities/culture
- Not prepared for the world outside UA



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

- Age-in-place support
- Coordinated “Welcome-Wagon”
- Multi-generational community center
- Opportunity to mingle with other community members

3 Votes

- Trader Joe’s- destination retail/restaurant/entertainment (sustainable and clean-eating)

2 Votes

- Innovative approaches to affordable housing

1 Vote

- Integrated school- one-on-one meet other students
- Diversity-Inclusion board/commission
- Multi-faith organization
- Multi-cultural celebration

Working Group 2

4+ Votes

- More diverse staff/school
- Scout guide- menu of community offerings/welcome packet
- More gathering spaces
- Transportation locally (teen & senior)
- Community group promote and supports “Welcome Wagon”

3 Votes

- Weinland Park- Integrated socio-economic housing
- Support for academic and financial intervention for families in need (sliding scale for “pay-to-play”)

2 Votes

- Diversity director in schools

Working Group 3

4+ Votes

- International recruitment/development of diverse teaching staff/not from UA City Council/Safety services
- More \$ intentionally put toward supporting low-income community members (adults, elders, and students)



3 Votes

- Develop and recruit PTO leadership from diverse groups- help break-down idea that UA is/has been a certain way
- More training for teachers/librarians, etc. on implicit bias

2 Votes

- Communication- from city, schools. How do we communicate who we are to new/prospective residents?
- Multi-generational community center- proximity to others builds community and relationships
- Review and revise Pre-K-12 curriculum to shift perspectives and be inclusive with regards to class, race, gender, LGBTQ, religion, etc.

Working Group 4

- Community/cultural center with a strong wellness component
- Hire diversity liaison personnel in schools and city (separately)
- Organize an annual “international” Festival
- Litchford, Kirwan institute and OSU
- Official “welcome placard” in several languages

Group 5

4+ Votes

- Mission statement for UA. Inclusive; creed, race, etc... religion. Revise to be more inclusive)

3 Votes

- More sidewalks and bike paths
- Complete and diverse transportation system
- Community shuttle
- Establish minority alliance (cultural fair, champions all people)
- Welcome center

2 Votes

- Leadership needs to reflect our community (representation of gender, race, etc.)

Working Group 6

4+ Votes

- Community or intergenerational center
- “Welcome Wagon”- Community wide and neighborhood level

3 Votes

- Day long conference FREE. “One Community”
- Family mentoring program
- Purposeful intergenerational projects

2 Votes

- More welcoming 4th of July activities
- Conflict kitchen



Working Group 7

4+ Votes

- Centralized community center
- New resident welcome program
- Spotlight residents from different backgrounds

3 Votes

- Sidewalks/bike paths
- Use library as community hub

2 Votes

- Diversity cookbook
- Community calendar

1 Vote

- Intergenerational programs

Working Group 8

4+ Votes

- Community welcoming process- community integration
- Changing schools- improve diversity (curriculum)
- Community center
- Global scholars

3 Votes

- Volunteer programs/network

2 Votes

- Diversity in leadership
- Community relations commission

1 Vote

- Multi-cultural center
- Teach more global languages at young age
- Affiliation w/ Columbus Council on World Affairs
- Transportation for aging community
- Connectivity-bike trails

