

# Community Building Working Group Vision Session Summary

Tuesday October 8, 2020, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

## Participants

Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS  
Allen Kemplen, Fairview CC  
Amber Cozad, DOT&PF  
Bob Butera, Rogers Park CC  
Bob Mintz, Gottstein Properties  
Brad Coy, DOWL  
Carol Wong, MOA Planning  
Carolyn Ramsey, Airport Heights CC  
Collin Hodges, MOA Planning  
Dave Post, DOT&PF Planning  
Heidi Zimmer, DOT&PF  
Katie Conway, DOWL  
Kristine Bunnell, MOA Planning  
LaQuita Chmielowski, DOWL

Lindsey Hajduk, Neighbor Works  
Anchorage  
Loki Tobin, staff to Senator Begich  
Rachel Steer, DOWL  
Renee Whitesell, DOWL  
Rep. Harriet Drummond, AK Legislature  
Ryan Riddle, DOT&PF  
Sean Baski, DOT&PF  
Sen. Tom Begich, AK Legislature  
Shawnalee Whitney, UAA  
Steve Noble, DOWL  
Pat Gaynor, DOWL  
Leo Vazquez, NCCP

## Vision Session Objectives:

- Develop a draft vision for Midtown
- Prepare for the Strategy Lab in December

## Vision Session Summary & Notes

After a brief welcome and introductions, the group picked up following September 1, 2020 Kick-off Meeting. In four breakout rooms, participants shared their stories of how they see Midtown looking and feeling in ten, twenty years. After the group reconvened, Leo Vazquez facilitated a conversation that teased out discrete components of those stories to identify the elements of a shared vision. Those were synthesized into a draft vision statement after the meeting: Midtown is where the best parts of Anchorage urban life and nature come together, a safe and attractive destination for shopping, dining, business, and outdoor events.

Before closing the meeting, Leo offered a one-hour online training in how to effectively map a neighborhood's aesthetic and cultural components/assets. A mapping exercise will be part of the Strategy Lab and so participants are encouraged to participate in the training. A homework assignment will be sent out after the training and before a winter Strategy Lab (date TBD) to collect data for use in a discussion about making the Midtown vision a reality.

Attached to this summary is the Visioning Session document capturing breakout room conversations and a draft Vision Statement created with those.

