



Are **WE** an **US?**

**A guide for
dialogue
about
community**



A conversation that matters

Welcome to Trib Talks Forums, A Conversation That Matters! [The Columbia Daily Tribune](#) is a family-owned newspaper with a long history of serving central Missouri's residents, businesses and institutions.

For 115 years, the Tribune has reported local news and provided a platform for members of the community to share opinions and information. The Tribune also supports the community in other ways, sponsoring the Newspapers in Education program and underwriting many local events. It employs more than 200 people. Throughout our history our readers have relied on us not just for information but also for context and opportunities to connect.

A free and informed press is a critical component of our democratic system – a system that many think is in need of improvement. As technology evolves it presents new opportunities for citizens to connect with each other through the news media and work together to solve the issues that face our growing community. This is why — consistent with our core values of honesty, integrity, accuracy, innovation, community leadership and customer satisfaction — we joined in a learning exchange with The Kettering Foundation, an organization that studies what makes democracy “work as it should.” For the past year we have been hosting forums — both on-line and in person — and inviting comments on how we might:

Our community partners:

The League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County is a nonpartisan organization committed to open, responsive, and effective government brought about by informed, involved citizens. It sponsors voter registration, community TV programs, educational events and open forums on issues and elections.

Civically Engaged African Americans, a project of the Minority Men's Network and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (Kappa Chi Omega Chapter) is a nonpartisan group working both to educate candidates about the special needs of the African-American community, and to engage that community more deeply in the political process.



Link people to actions, opportunities and each other;

Identify and promote dialogue on the issues community members want to discuss, and

Report back on not only those dialogues but on who is listening and what actions are taken as a result of this form of citizen engagement.

In this work we have been assisted by [The Communications Center](#), a locally owned firm. The result is this guide, which reflects what was shared and which invites ongoing dialogue. We are glad you can join us. Welcome to Trib Talks, A Conversation That Matters.

— **Jim Robertson, Managing Editor**
Columbia Daily Tribune

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TRIB  TALKS

COLUMBIA DAILY
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Some facts about “us”

 **The City of Columbia holds more than half the population of Boone County**

 **Household incomes in Columbia range from less than \$10,000 to more than \$2 million**

 **During the recession, Columbia retained the lowest unemployment in the state**

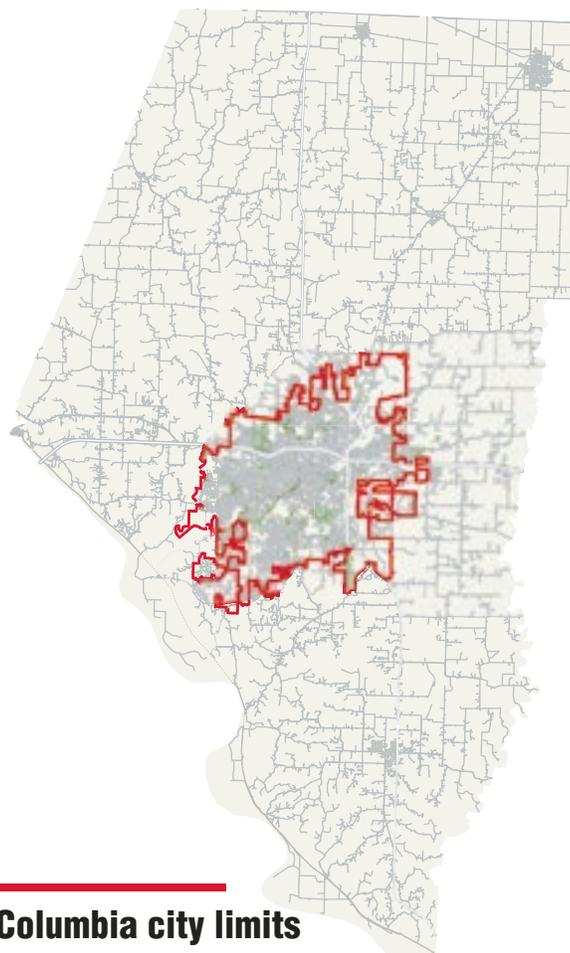
 **More than 57 languages are spoken in Columbia Public Schools**

As of the end of 2015, more than 115,000 people called Columbia, MO home. Columbia’s population has grown rapidly over the past 20 years. Our population passed the 100,000 mark in 2008, and the county is expected to exceed the 200,000 mark by 2030. Although many residents still refer to Columbia as a “college town,” and it has for many years been recognized as one of the [top 10 “College Towns”](#) in the USA, the [Patchwork Nation project](#) assigns Boone County a primary identity as a “Boom Town.”

Representing more than half of the total population of Boone County (total population 175,000), Columbia is the center of commerce for most of central and north central Missouri, with three major industries — education, healthcare, and financial — and an expanding industrial base. [The University of Missouri main campus](#) (35,000+ students in 2015), is located in the heart of Columbia, as are Stephens College (850 students) and Columbia College (over 2500 students on campus). [The Columbia Public Schools District](#) is the area’s third largest employer and serves over 18,000 students from preschool through high school. MU is Columbia’s largest employer, followed by University Health Care (2), Boone Hospital Center (4), and Truman Memorial Veterans’ Hospital (6). Five insurance companies have their corporate or regional headquarters in Columbia, as do several banks. The university owns the largest nuclear research reactor in North America, and with law, engineering, veterinary, medical, and agricultural science programs all located on one campus, has helped support growth in the fields of nuclear medicine and bio-medical research.

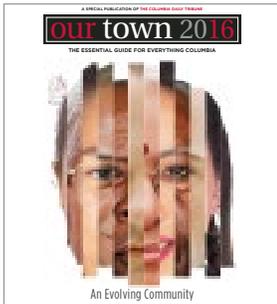
Columbia also has many retail and fast-food jobs that pay minimum or close to minimum wage, and [median household income](#) (\$42,898, 2013) is lower than the statewide median (\$46,931, 2013). During the recent recession, Columbia maintained the lowest rate of unemployment in the state and was one of the first cities to rebound.

We are a diverse community in many different ways. We are home to both college students and retirees. We have a long-standing African-American community and a rapidly growing immigrant community. More than 57 languages are spoken in our public schools. Our faith communities include [B’ahai](#), [Hindu](#), [Islam](#), [Judaism](#), many different

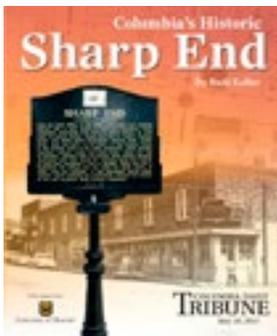


Columbia city limits

Want to know more?



The Tribune annually publishes a guide, **Our Town**.



The **Sharp End**, published in 2015 looks at the history of our African American community.



The city also publishes a **Citizen Handbook** to orient residents on the many services and functions of our city government.

Christian denominations and other faith communities. Some of our residents come from families who helped found the city. Others arrived just last week. Our household incomes also have a wide range from less than \$10,000 to more than \$2 million annually.

Columbia's rapid growth has exacerbated existing tensions of race, income, and profession; tensions within and between neighborhoods; conflicts between developers and those who would like to slow development; and between "old" and "new" Columbia. Yet a study done for the 2006-2008 "Imagine Columbia's Future" visioning process, published in February 2007, indicates that much of the population growth in Columbia comes from those who grew up here and chose to stay, those who come for school or work and settle in, and family and friends who come to join them.

There is much to love about Columbia — family and friends; parks, trails and gardens; its focus on learning and education, a vibrant arts community, festivals and college athletics; higher than average income and education levels; stable, healthy businesses, and growing communities of entrepreneurs. And there is much to be concerned about: a **Harvard study published in January 2016** found that children in low-income families in Boone County have very little opportunity for upward mobility. In fact, Boone County was in the lowest 20% in the country for income mobility, and in last place for the state.

At 19.5%, Columbia has **the highest proportion of people in poverty** among Mid-Missouri counties. Over 90% of our school age children attend the Columbia Public Schools, and over 50% qualify for free and reduced price lunch. In 2006, the number of children **qualifying for free and reduced price lunch** was 30.4%. Because approximately 30% of Columbia's **general fund revenue comes from sales tax**, the city has struggled to find sufficient funds to meet the costs of growth — new police officers or fire-fighters, and new roads, sewers, and other infrastructure — as more and more citizens shop online. And although Columbia as a whole has recovered from the recent recession, many citizens were left behind. In 2013, unemployment in the African-American community was near 16% compared to only 4% for non-minorities. Also in 2013, 47% of African Americans in Columbia made less than \$20,000 and 21% made less than \$10,000 annually. Despite efforts to address the disparity, a higher percentage of African-American students continues to receive in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and referrals to juvenile authorities.

The City's 2016 to 2019 strategic plan states a goal of becoming "the best place for everyone to live, work, learn, and play." Our forum participants recognized we are not there yet, and getting there will require involvement and commitment from all of us in our growing, ever-changing community.

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2013 EMPLOYMENT

Employed: 96% Unemployed: 4%

Among non-minorities

Employed: 84% Unemployed: 16%

Among African-Americans

Why this guide?

“Since 1974, Columbia has grown and the sense of community is not better.”

“we seem to be drifting”

“Community is kind of fractured, lack of common goals”

“I’m just presenting a very personal feeling that we seem to have lost the sense of community that once defined this city.”

“Groups of people getting together and talking is never a waste of time! That is the only way to build communities.”

The Trib Talks forums to date have made it clear the citizens of Columbia are concerned about where we are going as a community. As noted above, the rapid growth over the last 10 years has resulted in tensions and stressed existing divides of place and race, town and gown.

Lack of a common vision for our future was another theme across the comments received, yet forum participants also expressed hope that by working together — talking and listening with one another — citizens could heal the divides and strengthen our community.

Forum participants also identified potential actions that could help. Those actions are grouped below under three themes that were also identified and explored through our forums. These were to address existing inequities, use more “citizen centered” planning, and build bridges between individuals and groups. This guide is intended to provide more opportunities for citizens to explore these questions and approaches and identify new actions as we work together to strengthen our community.

“Past experiences of residents do not make for commonality of perspectives or commonality of goals.”

“people tend to hold to their own interests, etc. Sectors are very insulated/isolated.”

“What would it be like if we could come together as one WHOLE community?”

“Media could be helpful by not focusing on the confrontations and divisions but rather helping create more opportunities for people to have honest dialogue and be in contact with others whose experiences differ from their own.”

INVITE

LEARN

CONNECT

LISTEN

RESPECT

SHARE

Where might we go together?

The following sections explore the three approaches for building community that emerged from our forums. Not surprisingly, participants in our forums had different definitions of “community.” These included:

- “A place where all people are included in decision-making.”
- “A place where you are not threatened”
- “A place that is diverse – age, race, ethnicity, income, level of education.”
- “interdependence and interaction”
- “A community needs to serve everyone in the community.”
- “purpose and belonging”

Overall three different aspects of community emerged: Care, Collaboration and Connection. These different aspects of community are reflected in the three approaches for creating and strengthening community that emerged from past forums. These three different perspectives – which are not mutually exclusive – can be summarized as follows:

- Address inequities (Care): As some groups prosper from growth and development and others fall behind, caring for one another and common goals have been compromised. Crime increases as some experience loss and despair. In order to strengthen our community, we need to acknowledge our interdependence, invest in each other, and make sure all members of our community have opportunities to move ahead.
- Use more citizen-centered planning (Collaboration): When only a few understand “how to play the game,” suspicion, anger, and conflict rise. Our community will be strengthened if citizen voices are incorporated and respected at all levels, from long range planning, to zoning, to specific decisions to build. We must incorporate both citizen voices and values into our planning for growth and development and be transparent with both processes and information.
- Build bridges between groups (Connection): Rapid growth and increasing diversity have made it harder for us to know our neighbors and communicate about things that matter. We need to be intentional about providing spaces and places for people to interact with those they don’t know. The sense of community will naturally grow as people connect.

The following pages summarize comments made about each option, suggested actions that might be taken as we move forward, and concerns related to the actions identified. All of these are drawn from the input we received during our first round of dialogue. At the end of the section for each approach, we provide room for your own suggestions and notes. Although each section focuses on different aspects of community, because the three approaches are not mutually exclusive, you are free to mix and match as you please. Keep the conversation going! The final section of this guide tells you how you can do that.

Address inequities

Address inequities (Care): As some groups prosper from growth and development and others fall behind, caring for one another and common goals have been compromised. Crime increases as some experience loss and despair. In order to strengthen our community, we need to acknowledge our interdependence, invest in each other, and make sure all members of our community have opportunities to move ahead.

There are efforts at many levels to address inequities. Social equity is at the heart of [the city's 2016-2019 strategic plan](#). Voters have also shown a willingness to invest in other members of the community, [approving tax levies and bond issuances](#) for the public schools, [a county wide tax to improve services](#) — including those related to mental health — for our teens. Part of these funds are dedicated to a new [Family Access Center for Excellence](#), which will connect families in need to a range of social services and is being developed in partnership with the University of Missouri. Various nonprofits including the Food Bank and the Center for Urban Agriculture have tackled hunger, and both the city and others combine to run [Project Homeless Connect](#). The county's alternative courts provide options and support for veterans and those struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. The Tribune publishes weekly a list of opportunities for members to become involved in these and other organizations, and also hosts the [annual "HERO awards"](#) to recognize the work of our community volunteers. The city also hosts a comprehensive [volunteer site](#).

Yet there is also a sense that more remains to be done. As one participant commented:



“There are many, very good initiatives taking place, but no-one has a holistic understanding of all of the efforts. To too many individuals it looks like nothing is happening and no-one cares.”

Although many forum and survey participants expressed a concern that historical and systemic inequities adversely affected many in our community, others emphasized personal responsibilities, questioned the underlying causes of inequities and expressed concerns about parental and family discipline and involvement.

This tension was captured in [an article written in the August 2015 issue of Inside Columbia magazine](#) by publisher Fred Parry explaining what he learned while serving on the committee that interviewed executive director candidates for the Heart of Missouri United Way:



“We like to focus our attention on the many quality-of-life amenities we publicly fund and our reputation as Missouri's leading producer of Presidential Scholars. In truth, we're still one of the state's most racially segregated cities. We seem to be content in our ignorance about those living with mental illness, hunger and a variety of social ills we'd rather not discuss.”

— Fred Parry

These thoughts were subsequently endorsed in [an op-ed written by Gene Robertson](#), an MU professor emeritus,

local columnist, and member of the Minority Men's Network. This divide was also reflected in many comments we received:

“In Columbia some folks seem to be saying “If it’s not on my side of town, I don’t care.”

“I’m concerned for our future since our low-income kids have some of the worst rates of upward mobility in the state and even nation. If we see a divide now, imagine what it will look like in the future if we don’t address that.”

“too many people in the community who don’t get it.”

“Problems dark skin brings often not acknowledged in family or in community.”

“Even if focusing on child education, can’t succeed unless parents are helped too. It’s a circle.”

“How support families and children that deal with stress and trauma?”

Other participants specifically referred to a need for more [affordable housing](#), jobs that “give people a chance,” and public transportation that is matched to locations where people needed to travel for work.

So the question is, what more can we be doing as citizens, and as a community, to address inequities? The following table captures some ideas that were suggested during our forums along with some related concerns.

Use this space to gather your thoughts for dialogue, to make notes as others speak, or to reflect:

MY EXPERIENCE:

I CAN LIVE WITH:

WE SHOULD START WITH:

MY IDEAS:

I CAN’T ACCEPT:

WHAT I CAN DO NOW:

Suggestions

Concerns

My thoughts

Citizen groups, restaurants, and grocery stores could work together to reduce food waste and redirect food that would otherwise be wasted to people in need.

This could be unsafe and lead to food poisoning. It also reduces self-reliance and motivation to work. Would also be difficult to coordinate and supervise.

City could require all new developments to have a certain number of units that qualify as affordable housing, and ensure that all neighborhoods have a mix of housing.

This forces people to associate with others they may not want to and limits options that the current housing market shows people want.

Interested citizens and organizations could create funds within the Community Foundation that provide short term low interest loans to people in need, microcredit loans for small entrepreneurs from underrepresented populations, and low cost financial assistance for qualified candidates who otherwise might not afford college.

This is not necessarily a good way to distribute community resources. It could lead to defaults, discriminates against some people in need and undermines personal initiative.

The city could create a “ride share” bulletin board to connect those who need rides with others in their neighborhood who can give them.

This raises safety issues, could expose the city to potential liability and undermine the use of existing public transportation options we already are paying for.

Employers can provide or help working parents find affordable high quality care and adopt family friendly policies that help employees balance family and work demands.

This could be costly for business, which would be reflected in higher prices, and besides, it is not the job of the business, it's a family responsibility.

Using an inclusive process for goal-setting, the community could design, and city government and businesses could implement, an “affirmative-action” program to develop, identify and advance qualified workers from underrepresented populations.

This is costly, divisive, and takes opportunities away from those who have prepared themselves.

Citizen-centered planning

Use more citizen-centered planning (Collaboration): When only a few understand “how to play the game” suspicion, anger, and conflict rise. Our community will be strengthened if citizen voices are incorporated and respected at all levels, from long range planning for infrastructure, to zoning, to specific decisions to build. We must incorporate both citizen voices and values into our planning for growth and development and be transparent with both processes and information.

The subject of how to deal with growth and development has been a source of community conflict for many years. Current issues include [downtown development](#) and [sewer and transmission infrastructure](#). Conflict over development has been so persistent and generated such emotion that many in the community call it the “development wars.” The city has provided new portals for citizen input, consolidated some programs and services for easier access and developed an advisory comprehensive growth plan, yet the city’s own 2015 Performance Report said that, at 28 percent, “citizen satisfaction with how well the city plans for growth has reached a new low.”

The tensions and divergent views generated by growth, particularly with regard to current downtown development, were well reflected in our surveys and in forum comments:

“I am concerned about the city council’s blatant disregard for business development, especially downtown. The lack of economic development will kill our town.”

“No growth = no business = no jobs = more crime”

“Columbia is trying to grow too fast and the city leaders are not listening to the cries for help.”

More of the comments, though, reflected frustration with the process community leaders use to make decisions. These included concerns about lack of vision:

“Our city council is guilty of being RE-ACTIVE instead of PRO-ACTIVE. They spend most of their time cleaning up messes rather than presenting clearly defined programs aimed at achieving specific goals.”

“they don’t think big; they avoid the hard issues until those must be addressed, they don’t hold boards and commissions accountable and at times seem to ignore.”

“Do we want Columbia to become very large and very urban?”

“Vision, don’t forget VISION!!! Our current elected officials and paid staff appear to lack VISION. They are always working in hindsight mode.”

“Everyone is concerned that our city leaders oppose growth rather than have a goal where the city could go.”

They also included concerns about how “citizen input” is sought and used:

“I believe that every-time the city has a big meeting, says we hear you, and subsequently doesn’t change their action or direction or explain their lack of action they cause significant damage to the public trust.”

“Hold more meetings during the day and evenings. Not everyone can get to a meeting for discussion at night. The buses don’t run all that late. Announce these meetings in the paper, radio and TV more than one time.”

“Citizens are less likely to engage in processes, even ones that seek to be inclusive, when they hold little faith that the results of those processes will be implemented.”

“City asks for citizen input and then doesn’t do anything with it.”

The list of specific issues identified by participants as ones where leaders were “not listening” included trash roll carts, sewers, streets, “dismantling ‘nostalgic’ buildings” and parking.

As to these and other issues, participants also want adequate information to evaluate both the issues considered and the decisions made:

“I would like to see more analysis of development issues. The growth of the city is an important topic, and we really only hear the views of people who are really wealthy and people who are really angry about any change downtown.”

“People want to be informed.”

“Convey to the public the goals, the process, and the outcomes.”

“Even when there is good information that contradicts the angry public conceptions on a topic, our council repeatedly fails to point out that information and argue against incorrect viewpoints.”

“This is all really complicated and needs to be unpacked in a way that people can read and understand.”

Participants also wanted information on how planning aligned with citizen needs, offering comments like “think about infrastructure for all — ability to get around, access to jobs, etc.” and “[r]eliable transportation and infrastructure is key to increasing mobility and consequently equity.”

Some participants were more likely than others to see city government as well organized and open, stating that “... many do not realize they do have means to make their voice heard or know how to go about doing so.” Others

also recognized citizen responsibilities to “tune-in, speak-up, and listen to other citizens.” One summarized as follows: “Who is responsible? Has to be a mix. Government has to invite involvement, community has to respond.” Other comments by participants included “stop yelling and faulting,” a fear of retaliation for speaking up, and references to a “vocal minority” diverting attention from the interests of the “vast middle.”

Overall, participants wanted to see “more open democratic systems for discussion,” beginning with participation when defining the goals to be met or the problems to be solved. They also want adequate information, presented in a timely way, in context and in formats that are easy to understand. Add to this adequate opportunities for dialogue beyond the traditional “hearings” and public comment. And they want their elected leaders to report back on actions taken, decisions made, and the reasons for those actions and decisions.



Overall, citizens want opportunities for meaningful input, beginning with participation. They also want adequate, accessible information, more opportunities for dialogue and for elected leaders to report back on actions with reasons.

One participant recommended that in making changes, we should “start now, before the city grows more.” The following chart sets out some of the changes suggested by forum participants, along with some related concerns.

Use this space to gather your thoughts for dialogue, to make notes as others speak, or to reflect:

MY EXPERIENCE:

I CAN LIVE WITH:

WE SHOULD START WITH:

MY IDEAS:

I CAN'T ACCEPT:

WHAT I CAN DO NOW:

Suggestions

Concerns

My thoughts

Community members can work together to hold elected leaders accountable for using the community vision and values to make longer term planning decisions.

In our diverse community it is hard to say what is a “community value.” The free market provides an adequate mechanism for balancing individual choices.

City council and county commission should regularly report back to citizens on decisions made and the pattern, pace and metrics of growth in the area.

This is a diversion of staff time and such reports not only cost money but could invite further conflict.

Businesses can work with the city to ensure adequate transportation access for low income residents to areas with jobs.

Where to live and work are individual choices. This approach to planning could be costly and inefficient for both businesses and taxpayers.

The city would work to strengthen neighborhood associations and proactively engage them in planning decisions.

These might not be representative or inclusive and such a process could unreasonably constrain market choices.

All community leaders can model civil disagreement and acknowledge different points of view.

We elect our leaders to make decisions and, like us, they have freedom of speech. They can best decide what works in advancing their goals.

Government and other community organizations could actively work to involve those they serve in planning on how to best serve needs, including schedule meetings at different times, providing child care, etc.

This is costly, inefficient and delays decisions. And the overall benefit is unclear — citizens have opportunities for input now that they don't use.

Local media could invite citizen ideas for resolving identified problems and identify the source of suggestions.

This has a cost, and is not necessarily aligned with the news mission. It may also give unrealistic expectations for change.

Building bridges

Build bridges between groups (Connection): Rapid growth and increasing diversity have made it harder for us to know our neighbors and communicate about things that matter. We need to be intentional about providing spaces and places for people to interact with those they don't know. The sense of community will naturally grow as people connect.

There are a range of events in Columbia — from the annual “[Columbia Values Diversity](#)” and community [Thanks-giving celebrations](#), to art and music festivals, — that are designed to bring people together. Organizations like the [Children's Grove](#) seek to promote kindness and connection. City government has helped launch the online “My Neighborhood” social media platform and otherwise sought to strengthen connections in our neighborhoods. Yet forum participants identified many divisions between different neighborhoods and individuals in our communities.

“City being divided like St. Louis with north and south. Growth headed south instead of all directions.”

“Realtors tend to say, “Well, you don't want to go to this section of town...” Affects the way a town is.”

Participants also expressed the sense that as Columbia has grown, it had become harder for individuals to connect with each other.

“Things that are too popular grow out of reach of the community.”

On community: “Columbia waxes and wanes. Now on the downside.”

“lack of neighborliness – techonology and time”

“We don't know our neighbors.”

Participants pointed out that with fewer connections, it is easier to stereotype, fear, and avoid those who are different than us.

“People want to stay in their comfort zone.”

“Some folks don't want bridges built.”

“De facto segregation here.”

“We get into niches that fit us too well.”

“Advised not to ‘go north of Broadway.’”

“People don't trust other people.”

Participants also asked: “A bunch of communities making a larger one! How do you bring those communities together?” And they had a number of answers, including gathering together, listening, “getting to know each others’ stories,” using social media, and otherwise interacting and enjoying each others’ company:

“Create community by learning together and developing a common knowledge and understanding – of what our values and beliefs and what our common points are that give us a point to start working together.”

“We need to stay in touch with our own perceptions and the perceptions of others in order to begin to develop a true sense of community.”

“Centralized community forums can encourage diverse discussions by the nature of the central location and discussion.”

“MUSIC UNITES PEOPLE.”

In addition to promoting stronger connections between neighbors and neighborhoods, participants suggested strengthening connections between city and county governments, between city government and staff and citizens, between schools and the communities they are located in, and among organizations doing similar work. The potential actions and concerns that are suggested on the following page primarily focus on connecting neighbors and neighborhoods.

Use this space to gather your thoughts for dialogue, to make notes as others speak, or to reflect:

MY EXPERIENCE:

I CAN LIVE WITH:

WE SHOULD START WITH:

MY IDEAS:

I CAN’T ACCEPT:

WHAT I CAN DO NOW:

Suggestions

Concerns

My thoughts

Individuals can knock on their neighbor's doors and get to know them.

"If you knock on a door, you don't know if the person who answers will have a gun and want to shoot you."

Community groups could work together to bring together diverse groups on a regular basis in order to maintain a focus and dialogue on "the common good."

For what purpose? This could be a big waste of time and people are busy!

Local media can plan a "trading places" program covered by news media so people can experience how each other live.

This could be exploitive, costly and reinforce rather than heal divides.

The city could offer a tax or fee incentive for residents to interact with their neighbors using the Neighborhood Watch model.

This does not address inter-neighborhood communication. It's also not a good use of our tax dollars. Neighbors shouldn't need a payment to be neighbors.

Schools could work with neighborhoods to create "neighborhood events" that are open to the whole community.

Could be costly and it takes away from mission of schools.

Media organizations and community groups could work together to create accessible grass roots events involving music that draw people to different neighborhoods, especially those with mixed reputation.

This creates potential liability for host organizations and would be difficult to organize and sustain.

Keep the conversation going!

As a citizen you have a voice that matters. We want to hear your voice.

Join us in this conversation on community – a conversation that matters to us all.

There are many ways to join in. Participate in one of our in-person or online forums. The current schedule of forums is [online](#) and also available in print at various forums and at the Tribune's main office.

Join the conversation on the [One Community One Columbia blog](#).

Hold your own forum! Download a guide [online](#). Then report in as directed below.

If you join a forum or host one of your own, reflect on your experience and report in.

Share your experience and invite others through your Facebook page or other social media.

We would like to know your answers to questions like, What new information or insights did you gain? How did this affect your thinking about the issue? About others? As a group, what actions were we most willing to support? Why? Least? Trade-offs most likely to accept? Least? Why? What connections were made or actions taken?

When dialogue leads to action we want to know! Or if you have identified an action and need resources, share that as well! You can download a reporting form [online](#).

How do you report in? Send an e-mail to editor@columbiatribune.com using the subject line "Trib Talks Forums."

We look forward to hearing from you.

Participate in this conversation by joining or hosting an in-person or online forum. Read and comment on the One Community, One Columbia blog. Reflect on your forum experiences and report your thoughts back to the Columbia Daily Tribune.

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A CONVERSATION THAT MATTERS