

City of University City
Comprehensive Plan Update

D.I.Y. (Do-It-Yourself)
Community Workshop Packet

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Welcome...

This packet is designed to provide you with all of the tools and information necessary to conduct your own community workshop. These small group discussions help us to reach as many citizens of University City as possible to create an updated Comprehensive Plan.

Your packet contains the following:

- Facilitator Introductory Letter
- Step by step instructions for conducting the workshop
- Workshop Discussion Questionnaires (make copies based on number of attendees)
- An Agenda
- A “Ground Rules” poster
- A Community Workshop sign
- Facilitator Evaluation Form
- DIY Kit Request Form (if others want to host another workshop)

City of University City Comprehensive Plan Update

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The following table summarizes all materials to be assembled and provided as part of the DIY Kit.

Item	Quantity	Instructions
Facilitator Introductory Letter	1	For facilitator
Step by step instructions for conducting the workshop	1	For facilitator
20 Workshop Discussion Questionnaires	1	Make copies for attendees
Workshop agenda	1	Make copies for attendees
Workshop "Ground Rules" poster	1	
Workshop door sign	1	Make copies for each door
Facilitator Evaluation Form	1	
Return Envelope	Not Provided	Address to: <i>Raymond Lai, Deputy Director City of University City 6801 Delmar Blvd. University City, MO 63130</i>

Facilitator Introductory Letter

Dear Facilitator:

Thank you for agreeing to lead a workshop as part of the City's updated Comprehensive Plan. The DIY Community Workshops are one of several types of outreach we are conducting in order to get broad community participation in the plan process. The results of your workshop will be reviewed with the results of other outreach activities to provide the City and the consultant team with the community's perception of issues and opportunities that should be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. This document provides all of the information you should need to facilitate your DIY Community Workshop.

What is a Facilitator?

A facilitator is a neutral party who leads a group in thought and discussion to achieve a desired result. In this case we are asking the facilitator to make sure each participant is provided an opportunity to be heard; that participants are respectful of each other and the process; and that the workshop be conducted in a timely fashion.

The Role of a Facilitator

The Facilitator's role during the workshop is to:

1. Clarify the purpose and agenda of the meeting.
2. Make sure that all participants are given the opportunity to have their point of view heard and documented.
3. Stay true to the established timeline and process.

Specifically this includes the following:

- Complete all items on the workshop agenda (provided) with a maximum duration of 1 hour
- Read through the ground rules for the meeting (provided)
- Provide a clear explanation of the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and the community workshop (provided)
- Be sure to ask participants to write as legibly as possible on their sheets
- Establish an environment where all can participate equally
- Ask directly for participant input to encourage everyone's participation
- Support each participant and listen to his or her input
- Collect all papers at the end of the meeting and return them to:

Raymond Lai, Deputy Director
City of University City
6801 Delmar Boulevard
University City, MO 63130

Preparation for the Community Workshop

- Invite a maximum of 20 participants to the workshop to allow for sufficient time for each person to provide comments within the allotted time. A larger group also becomes more difficult to facilitate.
- Give at least one week notice prior to the meeting date
- Select a location that will allow for a group of 20 people to sit down with a direct line of sight to the facilitator
- Be sure to fully understand the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and the purpose of the community workshop so that you can provide a clear explanation to participants

Facilitator Instructions

Step 1:

Preparing for the Workshop

A. Preparing the Room

- Place the Community Workshop Sign on the door at the primary entrance to the building where the workshop is taking place.
- Place the Ground Rules poster and Agenda on the wall towards the front of the room where the workshop will occur.
- Arrange chairs so that they are generally facing a focal point towards the front of the room. (Tables or clipboards are especially helpful since participants will be asked to write down answers on a sheet of paper.) As facilitator, you can be standing or sitting in front of the group where everyone has clear line of sight to you.

Step 2:

GETTING STARTED

A. About the Meeting

(please read aloud to the group)

- This workshop is one of many opportunities to be involved in the planning process. Community input is vital to the process, and events to gather feedback and input will be conducted throughout the next month or so.
- Throughout the discussion and exercise, please consider both short-term issues as well as long-term issues and opportunities facing the City. The Comprehensive Plan has a 15 year focus.
- Your input from today's workshop will be analyzed and included along with results from other workshops from across the City to gauge public opinion about issues and opportunities in the community.
- The workshop should last approximately one hour.

B. About the Comprehensive Plan

(please read aloud to the group)

- The Comprehensive Plan is a policy document that provides a foundation for City decision-making on issues related to land use, development, community facilities, parks and open space, and much more.
- The City's current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1999. This process seeks to update that plan in order to reflect changes that have occurred in the last 15 years and set the course for the future.
- A Comprehensive Plan has a "shelf life" of 10 to 15 years but should be reviewed annually and updated every five years.
- The process to create an updated plan has just begun and is scheduled to be complete by Fall 2015.
- The Comprehensive Plan has a dedicated website (linked through the City's homepage...look for the "Comprehensive Plan update" link in the left hand column of the homepage) where you can keep up to date on the progress of the plan, complete a questionnaire, or create a map of the issues and opportunities you see in the City. Your input throughout the process is critical, and the website includes pages where you can participate, receive project updates, and review documents and plans as they are unveiled.

Step 3:

CONDUCTING THE WORKSHOP

A. Group Exercise Instructions

(please read aloud to the group)

1. I will now walk you through an exercise to assess our opinions on issues and opportunities in the City.
2. Please do NOT start filling in the questions until I direct you to do so.
3. When we begin, please only answer the question I tell you to answer.
4. Do not jump ahead and start filling in answers to the next questions.
5. The questionnaires are anonymous; there is no need to write your names on them.

(You can now distribute questionnaires to each participant)

Step 4:

COMPLETING QUESTION # 1

(15-25 MINUTES)

A. Read Question One Aloud to the Group

Q1: "Identify five (5) issues or concerns confronting University City."

B. Instructions for Question #1

(please read the following aloud to the group)

- Please take the next 3-5 minutes to write down your five answers for Question #1.
- Please write as neatly and as legibly as possible (the consultants will thank you when they are reviewing and analyzing results!)
- Keep answers brief, direct, and "to the point."
- Please do NOT go on to answer questions 2, 3, or 4.
- Please put your pencils down when you are done answering the question.

C. After Completing Question #1

- You will now go around the room and create one list of all the issues identified by the group. In an orderly fashion, ask each participant to share ONE of the items they listed in response to Question #1.
- Ask participants not to repeat an answer if it has already been said; the idea is to create a cumulative list of issues.
- If a participant has nothing new to add when it is their turn, continue to the next person.
- Continue going around the room until all the answers have been stated out loud.
- After all of the answers have been read aloud, please move on to the next step.

Step 5:

COMPLETING QUESTION # 2

(10-15 MINUTES)

A. Read Question Two Aloud to the Group

Q2: “List, in order of importance, the three (3) most important issues discussed thus far.”

B. Instructions for Question #2

(please read the following aloud to the group)

- Please take the next 3-5 minutes to write down your three (3) answers for Question #2. Remember to think about all of the issues that were raised by the group and list your answers in order of importance, with the most important issue as number one.
- It is quite possible that your answers for Question #2 are different than your answers for Question #1 after hearing the group discussion.
- Please write as neatly and as legibly as possible.
- Keep answers brief, direct, and “to the point.”
- Please do NOT go on to answer questions 3 or 4.
- Please put your pencils down when you are done answering the question.

C. After Completing Question #2

- It is now time to go around the room to hear what people wrote down.
- Start in the front of the room and go from person to person, asking each person to say out loud to the group the things they wrote down.
- After a person has given an answer, go to the next person and ask for one of their answers.
- Continue going around the room until all the answers have been stated out loud.
- After all of the answers have been read aloud, please move on to the next step.

Step 6:

COMPLETING QUESTION # 3

(10-15 MINUTES)

A. Read Question Three Aloud to the Group

Q3: “Identify three (3) specific projects or actions that you would like to see undertaken within University City.”

B. Instructions for Question #3

(please read the following aloud to the group)

- Please take the next 3-5 minutes to write down your answers for Question #3. Remember to think about *projects* or *actions* that the City should undertake, and not just identify issues in the City. (Example: “transportation” may be an issue, but “increase bus service” is an action)
- Do not feel constrained by fiscal realities (this is the time to dream big).
- Please write as neatly and as legibly as possible.
- Keep answers brief, direct, and “to the point.”
- Please do NOT go on to answer question 4.
- Please put your pencils down when you are done answering the question.

C. After Completing Question #3

- It is now time to go around the room to hear what people wrote down.
- Start in the front of the room and go from person to person, asking each person to say out loud to the group the things they wrote down.
- After a person has given an answer, go to the next person and ask for one of their answers.
- Continue going around the room until all the answers have been stated out loud.
- After all of the answers have been read aloud, please move on to the next step.

Step 7:

COMPLETING QUESTION # 4

(10-15 MINUTES)

A. Read Question Four Aloud to the Group

Q4: “What are the primary strengths and assets of University City?”

B. Instructions for Question #4

(please read the following aloud to the group)

- Some planning recommendations will most certainly imply some sort of change. However, the plan should also aim to preserve what you value about the community. I want you to take a moment to think about the City’s strengths and assets – the things we would never want to change or lose. Please take the next 5 minutes to write down your answers for Question #4.
- Please write as neatly and as legibly as possible.
- Keep answers brief, direct, and “to the point.”
- Please put your pencils down when you are done answering the question.

C. After Completing Question #4

- It is now time to go around the room to hear what people wrote down.
- Start in the front of the room and go from person to person, asking each person to say out loud to the group the things they wrote down.
- After a person has given their answers, go to the next person and ask for their answers.
- Continue going around the room until all the answers have been stated out loud.
- After all of the answers have been read aloud, please move on to the next step.

Step 8:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

A. Instructions for Additional Comments

(please read the following aloud to the group)

- If you would like to take a few minutes to write down any additional comments you may have regarding the City and the comprehensive plan, you may do so now. Please turn your paper over and use the back to write down any additional comments.

Step 9:

THANK YOU...

COLLECT QUESTIONNAIRES AND RETURN THEM TO THE CITY

- Thank everyone for coming and participating in the workshop
- Remind them about the project website (linked through the City's homepage...look for the "Comprehensive Plan update" link in the left hand column of the homepage)and the ways they can participate on-line (on-line questionnaires, sMap tool, etc.)
- Collect the questionnaires from everyone
- Place all materials and completed questionnaires into the provided envelope
- Complete the "Facilitator Evaluation Form" and place it in the envelope with the other materials

Seal the envelope and return it to

Raymond Lai, Deputy Director
City of University City
6801 Delmar Boulevard
University City, MO 63130

City of University City Comprehensive Plan Update
Community Workshop

Today's Date: _____

Group Name: _____

1. Identify five (5) issues or concerns confronting University City.

2. List, in order of importance, the three (3) most important issues discussed thus far.

1.

2.

3.

3. Identify three (3) specific projects or actions that you would like to see undertaken in University City.

4. What are the primary strengths and assets of University City?

City of University City Comprehensive Plan Update

Workshop Agenda

1. Purpose of the Plan
2. Purpose of Today's Workshop
3. Meeting Ground Rules
4. Distribute Questionnaire Sheets
5. Group Exercise
6. Collect Questionnaire Sheets

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MEETING GROUND RULES

- Start On Time
- Listen to Each Other
- Stay on Track
- Avoid Side Conversations
- Turn off Cell Phones
- Finish On Time
- Have Fun

City of University City
Comprehensive Plan Update

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

City of University City Comprehensive Plan Update

Facilitator Evaluation Form

Please complete this evaluation form and place it in the return envelope.

Your Name: _____

Agency/Group Name: _____

Date of Meeting: _____

Meeting Location: _____

Number of Attendees: _____

Did you find this Do-It-Yourself packet easy to use?

Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve this packet?

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DIY Kit Request Form

“DIY” Workshop kits are available to groups, organizations, schools, and others interested in conducting their own workshops and provide a unique opportunity for citizen-led outreach activities.

Please complete the following information and a kit will be sent to you.

Contact name:

Name of group or organization:

Address:

Phone:

Email: