

Identifying your Community Vision & Mission: Creating a Shared Language & Purpose"

Why vision statements are so important...



"C'mon, put some muscle into it...we're not getting anywhere!"

Fieldstonealliance.org

Vision: is the shared future you want to create. This shared image of what is possible motivates your actions to create community.

EXPRESSED AS:

- who
- what
- why

IT IS:

- clear
- authentic
- simple
- present tense (happening now!)

ONCE WRITTEN WELL IT:

- describes the shared future you intend to create
- reveals and announces your group's core values
- expresses something each of you can identify with
- helps unify your effort
- gives you a reference point to return to during confusion or disagreement
- keeps your group inspired
- draws out commitment from the people in your group

"It is like a tuning fork against which you measure your resonance.....It shows how well you're doing in the theory-practice gap. It helps you aim high." Adam Wopert, Cofounder of Sowing circle/Occidental Arts & Ecology Center

It must "sound a clear note on inner levels" so it will attract others who resonate with that note. Sirius cofounders Corrine McLoughlin & Gordon Davidson

Helpful Trajectory:

Vision-->Mission----->Goals----->Strategy
Dream-->Physical Activities-->Measurable actions-->Technique

Mission: expresses your group's purpose in concrete, physical terms. It is what you will be doing and experiencing as you manifest what is possible.

Example of a Community's Vision statement:

A world where everyone has adequate, healthy shelter.

Example of this Community's Mission statement:

To build a model demonstration village using low-cost natural building materials and through outreach programs teach our building methods, particularly in developing countries.

Are the ten commandments more of a vision or mission statement for the Jewish people?



Your workshop guide:

- identify if you are creating vision or mission statement
- brainstorm phrases
- share and pick out top 3-4
- identify buzz words
- replace buzz words with more appropriate description
- put it together
- check and see if this can serve as glue for your community
- check if it is indeed a mission or vision statement

4 Main types of Community Workers:

- Architects & Analysts
- Drivers
- Relationship Masters
- Spontaneous Motivators

Questions to ponder:

Which type of community worker do you tend to be?

What can you do to support others in their roles?

How can you mediate your tendencies to balance others in the group?

Resources: Christian, Diane Leafe. *Creating a Life Together; Practical Tools to Grow Ecovillages & Intentional Communities*. New Society Publishers: Gabriola Island BC, 2003. p. 35-53.

2004 Nols Leadership Educator Notebook; Core Leadership Skills: Self Awareness