

Visioning Voices Speaker Series



Mission - To organize a regular series of Visioning Voices events through which we **listen, learn, and share** experiences that spark ideas and inspire us to create positive and supportive neighborhood environments.

Project Description - The Visioning Voices Speaker Series introduces and promotes discussion of the characteristics of our environment, natural and built, deliberate and accidental, that affect the quality of individual and community lives. The activities of the events bring awareness and information about the physical, environmental, cultural and social factors that shape our daily lives in the neighborhoods in which we live, work and play. With this knowledge residents and organizations are better prepared to take part in planning discussions and decision-making, recognize unacceptable or dangerous conditions that should be corrected, and take part in action projects to make positive change.

Organization: The Visioning Voices Speaker Series is managed by a 6 to 8 person steering committee that is composed of representatives of neighborhood organizations, city departments and the SUNY ESF Center for Community Design Research (CCDR). This group determines possible topics, selects potential speakers, coordinates with host neighborhoods, develops budgets, and seeks funding and donations.

Each event includes: 1) a Neighborhood Walking Tour; 2) a featured speaker and panel discussion around the yearly theme; and 3) a Neighborhood focused Workshop to learn and apply participatory approaches and methods that can yield ideas and actions.

Each event is held in collaboration with a “host” neighborhood to highlight the diverse characteristics, activities and opportunities occurring throughout the city. People from the host and other neighborhoods join in the conversation, learn, and share new ideas that can be applied to their own neighborhood. Representatives from the host neighborhood help plan and organize the event to ensure that the series venues are welcoming to all, food and refreshments are from local sources if possible and that the neighborhood residents are an integral part to the event. Host neighborhoods are identified based on interest expressed by neighborhood residents, recommendations from organizations and current planning initiatives underway related to the year’s topic.

Speakers are invited who can share their experience in making positive change in neighborhoods outside of the City of Syracuse through a combination of design, community engagement and action projects that take advantage of physical and social assets to address issues and challenges similar to those that exist here in Syracuse. Learning from other communities can bring new ideas and inspiration to build on what we are accomplishing in our own neighborhoods.

For further information, contact Maren King, SUNY ESF Center for Community Design Research (CCDR). mfking@esf.edu or 315-470-4721.

Primary support for the 2016-2017 Visioning Voices events is provided by the Helen R. Brady Residuary Trust and the Gifford Foundation.

Visioning Voices Speaker Series Role of Host Neighborhood

1. Show an interest and capacity to assist in planning, executing and ensuring a successful event.
2. HN Planning Committee – this group should consist of no less than 6 neighborhood residents/stakeholders who can assist in all event planning aspects, with a coordinator who serves as the liaison with the Visioning Voices steering committee.. Group members should be able to attend a large majority of planning committee meetings. Meetings typically occur one to two times a month for several months prior to the event.
3. Assist in all marketing efforts including flyers, posters, and presentations at local groups.

Venue – host neighborhood locate possible venue for the event.

1. Accessible space for minimum of 50 people, available 2:00 – 8:00 pm the day of the event.
 - a. Sign in area
 - b. Area to set up and serve food
 - c. Main event space
 - d. Restrooms
 - e. Available tables and chairs for 50 people
 - f. Parking for 30 cars on site or on street.
2. For workshop setup, people working in groups of 6 to 8 around six tables, preferred size is minimum 30 x 35. This allows for space to move around tables and separation between tables.
3. There is a budget of \$150 for space rental. HN is encouraged to have space donated and the venue identified as a sponsorship.
4. Childcare – have an area for childcare and provide a volunteer (funding is available).

Event

1. Event
 - a. Volunteers for Set up (2-4 ppl)
 - b. Volunteers for Registration – (2- 4 ppl)
 - c. Walking Tour
 - i. Purpose of walking tour is to introduce the neighborhood to event attendees, highlighting area of strength and progress and well as challenges and opportunity.
 - ii. Tour should be led by a neighborhood representative(s) who is knowledgeable of the people and places and comfortable speaking to a group.
 - iii. Total time should be about 1 hour
 - iv. Tour should include stops at neighborhood businesses and organizations that have agreed to have group stop in. They should be asked to provide a brief (5minutes or less) welcome and description of their business or organization.
 - d. Food & Refreshments
 - i. Provide drinks (coffee/water) for entire event
 - ii. Food should be provided by a neighborhood caterer, restaurant or food business, if possible. The budget for food and refreshments is \$600 (50 people at \$12).
 - iii. Volunteers to Staff Food Table (2-3 ppl)
 - iv. HN is encouraged to seek donations for snack and drink items in exchange for sponsorship identification.
 - e. Volunteers for Clean up (3 - 4 ppl)