



ENVISION UTAH HOW WE GROW MATTERS

ANNUAL REPORT | 2022

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

Guiding Our Growth
Blueprint Jordan River Refresh
Inclusivity in Planning

Envision Utah's 25th Anniversary &
The 2022 Common Good Awards

Education
Early Learning
Your Utah, Your Future Podcast

| LETTER FROM OUR CEO

The most important message I could share is a message of gratitude. As you know, 2022 marked Envision Utah's 25th anniversary. That's a quarter century of values research, scenario building, and public engagement. Two and a half decades of collaborating with communities large and small about issues ranging from land use to air quality to education and everything in between.

Most importantly, though, it's 25 years of men and women like you dedicating your time, your energy, and your resources to future generations of Utahns. Thank you for everything you've done both for Envision Utah as an organization and for our state.

Thanks to your dedication, we have helped maintain, and even improve, quality of life for Utah families. The challenge, somewhat ironically, is that that same high quality of life brings more growth, and more growth brings more growing pains – more challenges to overcome if we want to keep Utah beautiful, prosperous, and neighborly.

But that's a tradeoff I'm willing to make. I have four children, and I want them to have clean air, enough water, great jobs, a world-class education, and homes they can afford. If that means we need to constantly be refining or redefining our vision for the future – and constantly working towards that vision – I will gladly do that work. I know you and Utahns across the state feel the same way.

As you read through this report, consider the work that must have preceded everything we were able to accomplish in 2022. Nothing that we did was invented or developed this year alone. Instead, we stand on the shoulders of the men and women who have been helping to create a vision of the future since our founding.

So, once again, thank you. Thank you for 25 amazing years. Thank you for having hope for a brighter future. Thank you for engaging with us in good faith to examine what life could be like for the next generation. Thank you for creating and sustaining this great organization.



Ari Bruening
Envision Utah President & CEO

OUR MISSION

Envision Utah engages people to create and sustain communities that are beautiful, prosperous, healthy, and neighborly for current and future residents.

We are a nonpartisan public-private partnership composed of a diverse group of action-oriented community leaders. We are united by a commitment to secure a bright future for all.

For the last 7 years, our work has focused primarily on implementing the Your Utah, Your Future Vision for 2050. This vision represents Utahns' hopes and aspirations for the future and is a strategic plan for ensuring Utah remains a great place to live even while we continue to grow rapidly. Some of our projects from 2022 are a continuation of this implementation work. Others are efforts to refresh and renew core elements of this vision.

In this report, you find details about the following projects:

- 5 | **Blueprint Jordan River Refresh** - The 2008 Blueprint Jordan River vision changed the landscape of the Wasatch Front forever. This renewed vision and strategic plan charts a path for the next decade along the river.
- 6 | **Guiding Our Growth** - Utah is the fastest growing state in the country. We have partnered with the Governor's Office and many others to engage Utahns everywhere in addressing the challenges of that growth.
- 7 | **Land Use Regulation Reform for Attainable Housing** - Housing affordability tops the list of Utahns' concerns. We have begun an ambitious effort to review land-use and construction regulations and understand their impact on affordability.
- 8 | **Inclusivity in Planning** - Land use and transportation impact everyone. We aim to help communities ensure that everyone, regardless of race or income, has the chance to shape and thrive in those communities.
- 9 | **Disaster Resilience** - A major earthquake in Utah could disrupt lives and the economy for decades if we don't take the right steps to become more resilient. We're working to identify and take those steps.
- 10 | **Education** - Utahns have ambitious hopes for the future of education. We aim to ensure we have the best teachers possible and find pathways to help more students continue education beyond high school.
- 11 | **Early Learning** - How a child's brain grows in the first few years of life can have a powerful impact on learning. We empower parents to have meaningful brain-building interactions with their children.
- 12 | **Community Outreach** - From our Spring Breakfast to the Your Utah, Your Future Podcast to our 25th anniversary and Common Good Awards celebrations, it has been a banner year at Envision Utah.

THE PROCESS

The Envision Utah process has been the hallmark of our work – and the reason for our success – since the beginning. It was truly unique and innovative and has been praised and emulated in growing regions across the country. This bottom-up, nonpartisan, collaborative decision-making process is the best way to create a vision for the future that is not only realistic, but also has support from the public and the decision makers who will need to make that vision a reality.



VALUES

We start every project by asking Utahns what they want for the future, with an in-depth analysis of what residents most value about life in Utah or the issue we're trying to understand. We learn not only what residents care about and prioritize, but why they care about those things.



STAKEHOLDERS

Next, we engage local stakeholders and experts with a wide range of experience and opinions. Stakeholders include those with power to implement, experts who understand the issues, and voices who need to be heard.



SCENARIOS

With the assistance of our stakeholder and expert teams, we draft scenarios for what the future could be like depending on the choices we make. These scenarios include both the actions we could take and the outcomes of those actions.



PUBLIC INPUT

We present the scenarios to the public to figure out which scenario Utahns want to work towards in the future. This is not just about polling Utahns on their favorite scenario; it's a learning exercise. When residents can compare alternative future outcomes, they learn what it takes to create the future they want. This understanding creates buy-in, support, and engagement.



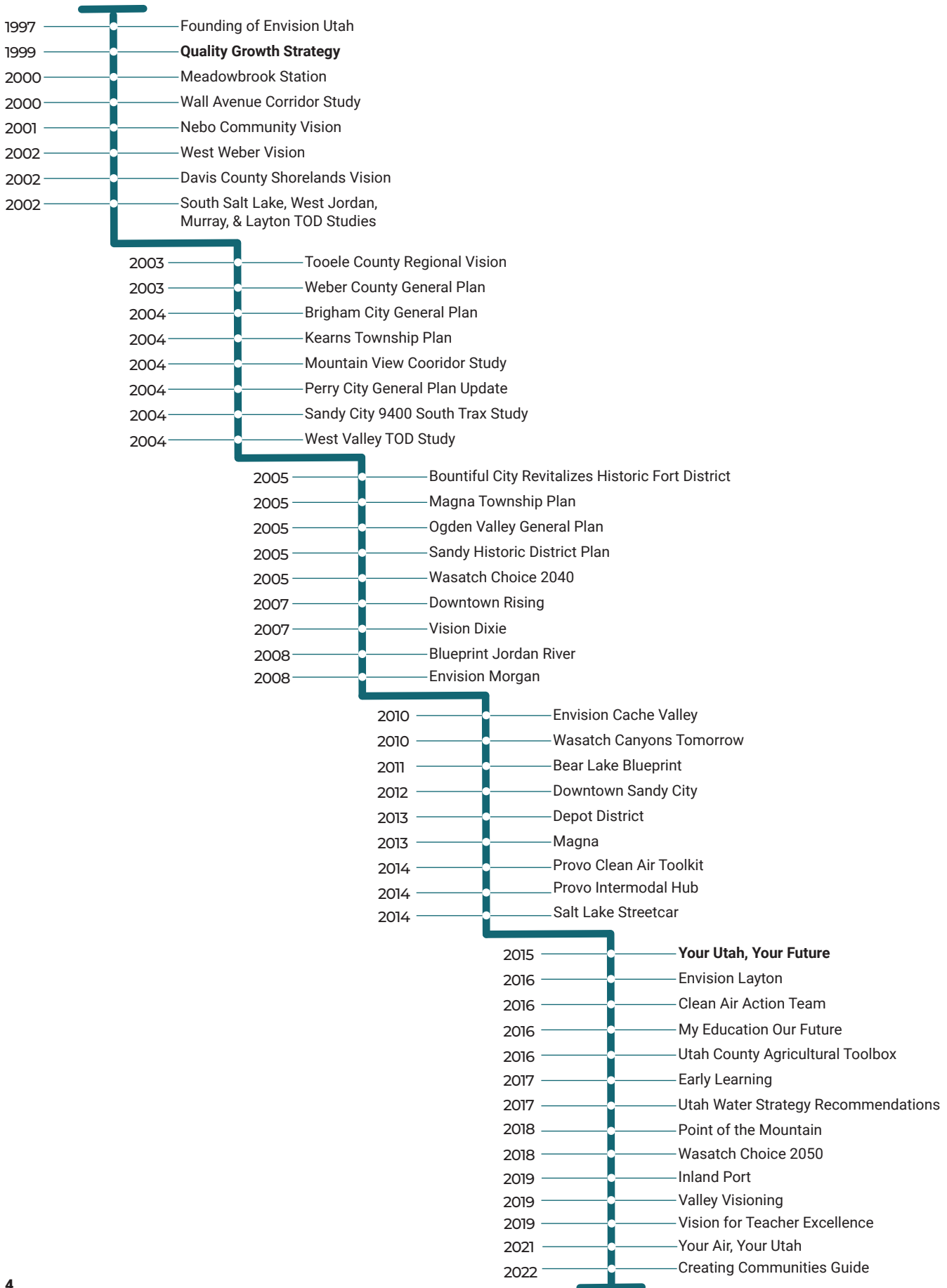
VISION

Finally, we take the public's input to create a vision—a roadmap—for the future, and continue to work with officials, residents, businesses, and other organizations to make Utahns' vision a reality.

Utah is a better place today than it would have been without this process, and our future will be brighter because Utah residents and leaders continue to follow this process and work together to leave Utah better for future generations.

OUR PROJECTS - 25 YEARS IN REVIEW

For twenty-five years, the Envision Utah Process has shaped visioning efforts across the state. To date, more than 100,000 Utahns have participated in Envision Utah-facilitated efforts, and we've partnered with more than 100 communities across the state on various projects. Those projects include:



| BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER REFRESH

In 2008, Envision Utah produced the original Blueprint Jordan River, creating a compelling vision for the future of the parkway. That vision spurred the creation of the Jordan River Commission, the completion of the lake-to-lake trail, and the transformation of the river. In 2022, Envision Utah, working with the Jordan River Commission and expert stakeholders, completed a refresh of that vision. This refreshed Blueprint for the Jordan River Parkway and its extensive watershed reminds us that Utahns care deeply for this treasured natural resource and want to see continued progress. Thousands of area residents participated in our renewed vision and strategic planning effort, and it reflects the growing support, recognition, and appreciation of the Jordan River and the many community benefits it provides.

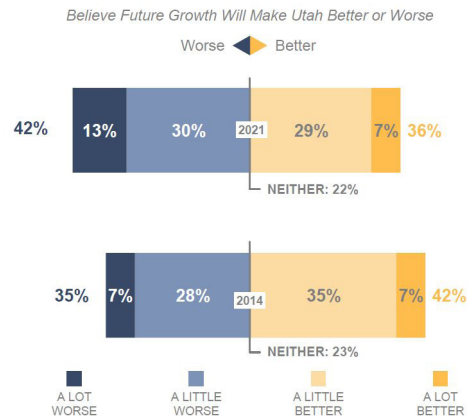
The Blueprint Jordan River balances improvements to natural wildlife habitat, water quality, enhanced in-stream flows and natural river functions, with expanded outdoor recreation opportunities, public safety, and responsible river-oriented development. It recognizes the vital role of the Jordan River Trail in connecting Utah communities to important gathering places, and to transit and trail networks across the region. This Blueprint ties the concepts of the vision to many details needed to make it happen. It will serve as a guide to coordinate and support ongoing investments and improvements as the population of the Wasatch Front continues to grow.



| GUIDING OUR GROWTH

It has been more than six years since Envision Utah completed the statewide vision, Your Utah, Your Future, and Utah has one of the most attractive economies in the country and an enviable quality life. Unfortunately, our housing supply has failed to keep up with our success and our population growth. Growth concerns, fueled by skyrocketing home prices, are at an all-time high. To solve this challenge and ensure we have a strategy to accommodate Utah's growth, Envision Utah has partnered with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to help leading Guiding Our Growth: A Statewide Conversation about Utah's Future.

We have been traveling extensively throughout Utah to engage residents and leaders everywhere, seeking to understand Utahns' greatest concerns, priorities, and hopes for how we deal with our growth. Our goal is develop a set of concrete strategies for preserving the things Utahns love about Utah and overcome some of our biggest challenges even in the face of rapid growth.



LAND USE REGULATION REFORM FOR ATTAINABLE HOUSING

Housing affordability in Utah has eroded over the past few years, threatening Utahns' peace of mind and financial security. Ordinances, codes, and policies can impede or promote housing affordability. At the direction of the Utah Department of Workforce Services, Envision Utah is reviewing land use and construction regulations and their implications for housing costs.

To accomplish this, we're working with expert stakeholders at all levels – municipal, county, state, and private – to provide guidance and insights. Impacts of regulations on affordability will be evaluated with our partner, RCLCO. Research on current best practices for attainable housing will be analyzed at both the local and national levels. We'll apply these insights to an ordinance review, analyzing impacts on attainable housing for at least 35 ordinances throughout the state.

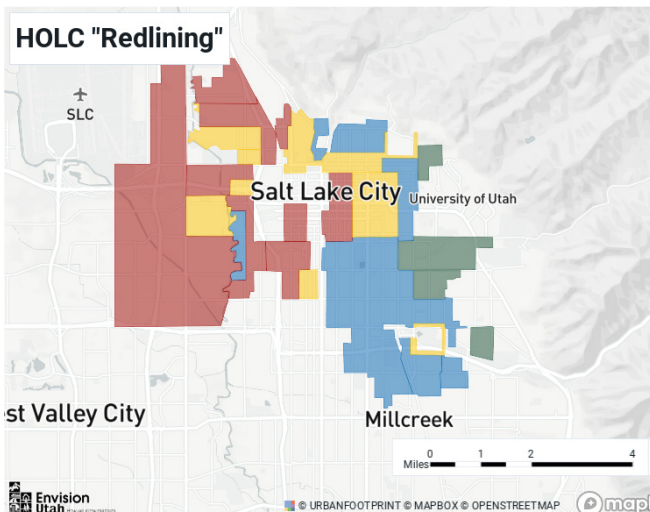
This work will continue in 2023 as we report methods for promoting housing affordability in Utah, which may include proposed changes to local ordinances and state statute, recommendations for private sector organizations, and opportunities tailored to rural and urban communities. Trainings, workshops, and presentations will be utilized to promote best practices.



| INCLUSIVITY IN PLANNING

In 2022, Envision Utah has continued to work with stakeholders and community leaders to address inclusivity within the built environment, with a focus on land use and transportation planning. The goal of our efforts has been to help bridge the gap between planners and those least heard in the traditional planning process, which ultimately will lead to better economic opportunity and upward mobility for all and make our communities more welcoming to all Utahns.

We are developing a toolkit to raise awareness of existing challenges in our communities, help individuals understand what inclusive planning and development looks like in Utah, and provide tools for leading an inclusive process. By promoting inclusive communities, the project will improve transportation access, economic opportunity, community cohesion, and quality of life in Utah.



DISASTER RESILIENCE

Throughout 2022 we continued our work with expert stakeholders to refine recommendations for the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC). The USSC is a group of seismic experts that is tasked with reviewing seismic risks and presenting mitigation recommendations to state and local governments. Accomplishments for 2022 include getting the Earthquake Early Warning System funded during the 2022 Legislative Session. Additionally, Envision Utah and our expert stakeholder group have formulated 4 recommendations to help Utah become more resilient to a large seismic event. We will present these recommendations during the 2023 legislative session. These recommendations are:

1. Invest in seismic improvements for the four major water aqueducts that bring water to the Wasatch Front.
2. Significantly limit the danger to tens of thousands of Utah children who attend school in seismically unsound buildings.
3. Increase the public awareness of the high risk from Utah's 140,000 URM buildings.
4. Ensure adequate building code enforcement for large/important buildings.



EDUCATION

Supporting great teachers and effective instruction

We are working with our education committees to refresh our “Vision for Teacher Excellence.” We have identified the top priorities for that refreshed vision, and plan to release that early in the year. This year we also shared the vision priorities with education leaders and policymakers, and we expect to see those priorities play a role in the 2023 legislative session and in school districts. We have fostered a new partnership with the Council of Education Deans, and we are working with them to support teacher recruitment and training.

Encouraging post-secondary education

The research we conducted on high school students is impacting decisions at the Board of Higher Education, and several of the strategies we identified in that research are now in development. In 2022, we completed our research of Utah parents’ perceptions of the barriers to post-secondary education for their kids, and we have shared those findings with education leaders and policymakers. We have also worked with Keys to Success to dispel some myths and misperceptions that high school students have about post-secondary education. We are in the middle of an outreach campaign that will continue into 2023 where we are incentivizing students to make and share videos with their peers about the benefits of education after high school.



| EARLY LEARNING

Throughout 2022 we focused on expanding our partnerships with healthcare providers and helping develop more robust outreach and programming with our partners who had to pause or slow down their brain-building outreach because of the pandemic. We have made significant progress in healthcare. We developed training, signage, and outreach materials to help hearing specialists teach new parents about the science of early brain development and the importance of engaging with babies and toddlers. We are currently working to develop similar programs for pediatricians.

We also created simple messaging about brain-building for community health centers across the state. This year we successfully restarted programming with 90% of our partners that paused their work during 2020 and 2021. More than half of our already active partners have added more outreach and programming, and we have also added an additional 25 partners who are actively sharing brain-building science and tips with parents.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Envision Utah team works with the public and numerous stakeholders to maintain strong relationships and collaborate to make Your Utah, Your Future a reality. The following represent the highlights of those efforts.

SPRING BREAKFAST

This year we were thrilled to be back in person, joined by over 300 attendees for the 2022 Spring Breakfast. We heard from our keynote speaker, Ali Wolf, Chief Economist for Zonda. Ali's address focused on one of the most pressing issues facing our state: the future of housing in Utah.

Following her remarks, Ali sat down with Taylor Mammen, CEO of RCLCO, for a fireside chat and Q&A with the audience. The discussion covered topics including the main challenges of affordable housing and how the marketplace is shifting.

25TH ANNIVERSARY & COMMON GOOD AWARDS

Once a year, Envision Utah recognizes individuals and organizations who are doing great things to help make our communities a better place. This year's Common Good Award went to the **Utah Housing Preservation Fund**.

This year we also celebrated 25 years of Envision Utah. Nearly 500 Utahns joined us for the celebration where we were thrilled to honor the achievements and legacy of a few individuals and organizations who have been with Envision Utah for the past 25 years with a **Utah Visionary Award**. We also had the chance to recognize the contributions of three organizations whose involvement and support have been critical to the success of Envision Utah with a **Visionary Partner Award**.

The evening concluded with a keynote address from Dr. Jenny Schuetz, an expert in urban economics and housing policy, that focused on housing circumstances across the state. Following her address, she sat down with Envision Utah Chair Doug Wright for a Q&A with questions from the audience.

YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE PODCAST

This year we continued the production of the Your Utah, Your Future Podcast—Envision Utah's podcast that focuses on the top issues impacting our state and how we make sure Utah is a great place to live both now and for decades to come.

We sat down with the experts to produce a four-part series on **disaster resilience** where we broke down the science of earthquakes in Utah and talked about how we can move forward to increase state-wide resiliency and preparedness. We also released a three-part series that focused on **the future of housing in Utah**. Experts walked us through the current crisis and the steps we can take to ensure that every Utahn can find affordable housing in the communities they want to be a part of.





■ PRESS COVERAGE

Envision Utah media outreach helps shape local issues in a regional context and elevates the discussion on topics like air quality, education, water, and a myriad of other issues related to the Your Utah, Your Future vision.

Some of our highlights from this year include:

- Reaching nearly two million Utahns through TV & media platforms including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Google Ads.
- Organizing several in-person events attended by over one thousand Utahns, and made available digitally for Utahns statewide.
- Gaining Envision Utah social media and newsletter contacts through Your Utah, Your Future-focused outreach.
- Engaging thousands of state and local leaders, stakeholders, and residents in our various processes.
- Engaging thousands of Utahns and over thirty different communities and organizations around the state in Guiding Our Growth conversations.
- Presenting on over 200 occasions to various stakeholders and residents on growth-related challenges.
- Earning nearly 100 media mentions, including extensive interviews and project coverage.
- Producing the Your Utah, Your Future Podcast which has a five-star rating on Apple Podcasts with thousands of listeners tuning in across the state and beyond.

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Envision Utah is grateful for the ongoing support from the **George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation** and many other generous supporters:

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THANK YOU

Envision Utah credits its success to the great public and private partnerships forged over the last two decades.

We sincerely thank you for believing in our mission of helping residents create communities that are rich in opportunity and defined by unparalleled quality of life. As Envision Utah continues to move forward, we are appreciative of the monumental community support for the Envision Utah process that brings people together to find common ground and maintain the exemplary quality of life in this region now and for generations to come.



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Ari Bruening, JD, AICP

We are deeply grateful for the support we receive from visionary Utahns across the state. Your friendship, guidance, and generosity makes our work possible—thank you!

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