

Art & Soul Community Survey

Introduction

This survey is an important part of evaluating the Art & Soul project in your community. The Town and project partners, including the Orton Family Foundation, are interested in collecting information about your community to see if we have met our project goals. Your input is very important and we appreciate your willingness to complete the surveys at three different stages of your community's work!

This survey will take about 15 minutes. Your individual responses will be confidential and seen only by the evaluation team and project staff. In the survey, you will be asked confidentially for some demographic information ONLY for data analysis purposes. THANKS!

1. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-39
- 40-64
- 65 or above

2. What is your sex?

- Female
- Male

3. I am a (check all that apply)...

- Full time resident of the community
- Part time resident of the community
- Business owner in the community
- Town staff person in the community
- NGO partner of the community

4. If a resident, how long have you lived in the community?

- Less than one year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21-40 years
- More than 40 years
- N/A

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5. In what field do you work?

- Arts, Entertainment, Cultural, Recreation
- Architecture, Planning, Engineering
- Communications, Media, Marketing
- Construction
- Education
- Finance, Insurance, Real Estate
- Forestry, Natural Resources
- Health, Social Services
- Homemaker
- Hospitality, Accommodations, Restaurant
- Information Services
- Management, Administration, Professional, Scientific Services
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Public Administration
- Ranching, Farming
- Retail Trade
- Retired
- Student
- Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities
- Wholesale Trade
- Not currently employed

Other (please specify)

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6. What is your annual household income?

- \$0-24,999
- \$25,000-49,999
- \$50,000-74,999
- \$75,000-99,999
- \$100,000-149,999
- \$150,000 or more
- Prefer not to answer

Land Use Perceptions

7. Your community's Art & Soul project hopes to involve more people with diverse perspectives in identifying community values and decisions about land use and the future. For each of the following items, please check one box to indicate your personal level of agreement with the statement.

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I am interested in land use planning and growth issues in my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I understand how land use decision making happens in my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. I trust the land use decision making process in my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. My community is changing in a way that reflects my hopes and expectations for it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. My voice is heard by community decision makers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. I have a role in shaping the character and future of my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Land Use Planning Processes and Public Participation in Your Community

8. When meetings are held in town for land use or community decision making, how often do you attend?

- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

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* 9. What would make you choose to attend town meetings more often?

Select the top three.

- Earlier and more visible public notice
- A personal invitation
- Childcare offered
- More convenient meeting times
- More opportunities to participate in the meetings
- Opportunity to learn more about the background of issues
- Shorter meetings
- Food provided
- Information easier to understand
- Friends/acquaintances will be there
- Leaders committed to listening
- Less conflict in meetings
- Presentation of more creative solutions/alternative options
- Decisions more often lead to action
- Better-facilitated meetings
- I have no interest in attending more frequently
- Other (please specify)

10. How often do you talk with your neighbors, colleagues and friends about growth, development and/or redevelopment in your community?

Frequently

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Access to Information in your Community

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11. How do you typically become informed about town plans, policies and/or development proposals in your community? Select all that apply.

- Newspaper articles
- Public hearings
- Word of mouth
- Signs or posted notices
- Websites
- Newsletters
- Radio
- Television
- Local public access TV
- Local gathering places (e.g. post office, stores, restaurants)
- Phone call
- Newspaper legal notices
- Email
- Blogs
- Conversations with local officials
- Other (please specify)

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12. Please select the ways you comment on local issues. Select all that apply.

- E-mail
- Through organizations I belong to
- Letters
- Telephone
- Annual Town Meeting
- Attend meetings, hearings
- Internet
- Town website
- Blogs
- Informing, organizing others
- Local newspaper (Letters to the Editor)
- Creative expression/artistic endeavors
- Voting
- Never have commented
- Other (please specify)

13. How often do you use the Internet to access information about your community?

- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

Land Use Planning Processes and Public Participation in Your Community

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14. How do you rate your community in the following areas over the last two years?

	Very HIGH	Somewhat HIGH	Somewhat LOW	Very LOW	N/A or Not Sure
a. General level of awareness that community members have for land use planning and growth issues	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
b. Level of citizen involvement in land use planning and decision making	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
c. Diversity of citizen involvement in land use planning and decision making	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
d. Level of citizen influence over decisions about planning, policies and proposals	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
e. Level of conflict present at community meetings when there are decisions to be made about land use and growth issues	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
f. Level of youth participation in community decisions	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
g. Citizens' satisfaction with community land use decisions	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
h. Ability of community to implement land use plans or decisions	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

Leadership

15. Who makes the decisions about the future of your community?

16. Which people, organizations or agencies do you think are missing from decision making in your community?

Art & Soul

17. Your community is involved in identifying and protecting its Heart & Soul, *those special places, characteristics and customs that citizens treasure and that make your community unique*. For each of the following items, please check one box to indicate your personal level of agreement with the statement.

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A or Not Sure
a. I understand the meaning of Heart & Soul and how it relates to my community's identity and ability to guide future change.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
b. Our community's Heart & Soul attributes have been identified, and there is broad agreement among community members about what they are.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
c. Our community's Heart & Soul attributes are protected through planning and other regulatory processes.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
d. Our community's Heart & Soul attributes are used as a guide in local decision making.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

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* 18. What outcomes do you expect will result from the Art & Soul project in your community? Select up to five.

- Increased public awareness and participation in town planning and decision making processes
- New voices and new faces participating in community dialogue
- Better relationships between community leaders and citizens
- Better and more widely accepted Town Plan and land use regulations
- Clarity and consensus around community values, priorities and aspirations
- New approaches and solutions to community issues
- Residents more interested and motivated to take action or volunteer on town issues
- Less conflict over land use development and conservation
- Greater integration of youth in community conversations and decisions
- Stronger relationships and greater understanding among community members and/or groups
- Greater community pride
- Greater ability for the town to absorb growth without changing its character
- Change in the quality or capacity for civic dialogue
- Greater public understanding of community issues and decisions
- Accepted role for artists, creative processes in community dialogue and decision making
- Not enough information at this time to answer
- Other (please specify)

Community Vision & Goals

19. Imagine your community 20 years from now. Please describe in one or two sentences your vision for your community.

20. Do you think that members of your community share common goals for the future of your community?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Yes common goals

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21. In your opinion, how actively is your community working toward those goals?

- Very actively
- Moderately actively
- Minimally, or not at all

No common goals

22. What would it take to inspire or help the entire community come together to work toward common goals for the future?

Planning Commissioners/Elected Officials

23. Do you have an official role related to land use planning in your town (elected, appointed, employed or volunteer)?

- Yes
- No

Yes Planning Official

24. Please indicate whether you are formally involved as an elected, appointed, employed, or volunteer member of any of the following:

- Town Council or Selectboard
- Mayor
- Town Planning Board or Commission
- Development Review Board
- Zoning Board
- Conservation Commission
- Town Planning Staff
- Town Manager
- Board of County Commissioners
- Regional Council of Governments or Planning Commission
- Community/Economic Development Committee
- Other (please specify)

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25. What is the biggest challenge to you in making decisions in your formal capacity?

26. How do you expect this project will help you in your role as a community decision maker?

27. How prepared do you feel to make land use planning decisions?

Very well prepared

Moderately prepared

Not at all prepared

Preparedness

28. What would help make you more prepared?

Follow up

Your name will NOT be used in any report, publication or discussion without your prior permission.

29. May we contact you with a brief, confidential phone call sometime in the near future to follow up on your responses? If yes, please enter your contact info in the question below.

Yes

No

30. Please enter your name and contact information if you would like to be eligible to win the survey incentive noted in the introductory email. If you choose not to include your contact information, you will not be entered into the drawing.

Name

Email

Phone

The End

Thank you from the Orton Family Foundation. If you would like more information about this survey or the project, please contact: communications@orton.org.