

Program Report

May 13th, 2008

For Board and Internal Use Only



Task Force	Chairperson/Board Liaison	Comments
Arts	<p>CHAIR Allen Ethridge Metropolitan Arts Council</p> <p>BOARD Brock Koonce Greenville Forward</p>	<p>Has broken into three sub-committees. Communications/Marketing, Public Funding Strategies, and Arts Education. Each committee meets monthly and reports back to overall Task Force at quarterly meetings.</p> <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating Arts Kiosks at locations around community in cooperation with CVB. Developing and implementing MAC's Vision for future. One of the most important visions is to become one of the 25 best small town arts cities. Developing (updating) Greenville County Schools Arts Education Plan. Developing outreach education initiative to teachers in Greenville County Schools on the availability of the artists in the Greenville community. Beginning the process of developing an Economic Impact Study of Arts on Greenville County.
IGNITE formerly Coolness	<p>CHAIR Brock Koonce Greenville Forward</p> <p>BOARD Josh Lane Ferebee Lane</p>	<p>The success of IGNITE has been mixed, and its future is being reevaluated to create a consistent group of young leaders to meet to determine how GF can help attract, engage and retain our young professionals. Greer has recently created IGNITEGreer which confuses the focus even more. Some of the programs that are happening include:</p> <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Furman Forward. A program that works with Furman students to help advance Vision 2025 goals and initiatives. Developing a survey to distribute to Young Greenville, focusing on talent attraction and retention. Survey will also be distributed to HR Managers throughout the County. Planning a community-wide launch of TheGreenStripe.com, a forum website for Young Greenville to discuss happenings and share information. Based on survey results, a report of The State of Young Greenville will be developed and shared with the community. Plan to conduct a second wave of the Student Retention Survey we conducted a couple of years ago.
Environment	<p>CHAIR Tom Keith City of Greenville</p> <p>BOARD Sally Sarratt Pazdan Smith Group</p>	<p>Group is in the beginning stages of developing The State of the Environment Study in Greenville County. The group has been divided into 6 focus areas, (Planning, Air Quality, Water Quality, Waste/Recycling, Land Conservation and Energy). Based on a series of concentrated sessions, plans are to develop the report and submit it to the community as a benchmark study to serve future reporting efforts.</p> <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a State of the Environment Report in Greenville County to be shared with community in summer of 2008. Creating forums for dialogue about the environment.
Parks and Open Spaces	<p>CHAIR Open</p> <p>BOARD Gene Smith Greenville County Recreation District</p> <p>Allen Hamada Jacobs</p>	<p>After the successful facilitation of the passage of the TRAC Plan, Parks and Green Spaces is in the process of reconvening under the direction of the Greenville County Recreation District.</p> <p>An offshoot of the Parks Group, The Green Umbrella, is meeting on a monthly basis. The Green Umbrella is working with all "green" groups in Greenville to help ensure Greenville grows green. The Green Umbrella is hosting a seminar in October at the Southern Living House at Furman.</p>

<p>International</p>	<p>CHAIR Patricia Harrison International Center</p> <p>BOARD Cristina Schleifer The Capital Group</p>	<p>Functions in three sub-committees focusing the areas of raising the profile of the international community, developing an international summit and creating an international trade and cultural center.</p> <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working local news outlets to develop an international section in local papers. • After hosting a successful International Summit, further steps will be taken to establish connections across international community. • Developing a presentation on the benefits of an international center in our community to be used by Patricia Harrison, Executive Director of International Center of the Upstate.
<p>Inclusion formerly Diversity</p>	<p>CHAIR Calder Ehrmann Riley Institute</p> <p>BOARD Marcus Williams Michelin NA</p> <p>Sally Surratt Pazdan Smith Group</p>	<p>Inclusion is a part of every task force. An few informal groups are engaged in various projects throughout County. Greenville Forward has taken the lead on many initiatives and projects in community.</p> <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted the Race Matter Survey that was presented to the community and is the basis of a series of dialogues hosted by Paul Guy and Beyond Differences. • Working with the Riley Institute to develop a Diversity Leadership Academy alumni group. • Developing a Report on the Status of Women in Greenville. • Have written a grant to support the Diversity Weekend created at Greenville High School to roll the program out to other communities. • Working with the Junior League, YWCA, DLA, Urban League and other organizations to create an Inclusion Council for the community. • Supporting “Challenge Day” for Greenville County Schools. • Working with YWCA on One Greenville.
<p>Economy</p>	<p>CHAIR Paul Chambers Rosenfeld Einstein</p> <p>BOARD Ben Haskew Greenville Chamber</p> <p>Cristina Schliefer The Capital Corporation</p>	<p>Partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to release a report on the State of Greenville’s Economic environment. Clemson University conducted this study which looks closely at per capita income. Will continue to track this study.</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>CHAIR Judy Prince USC Upstate</p> <p>BOARD Curtis Harkness Greenville Tech</p> <p>David Johnstone The Charles Townes Center</p>	<p>Is actively promoting Greenville as a “learning community.” Group has worked on a variety of projects throughout the County that help educate and inspire the community to be continuous learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with the Greenville County Library on The Amazing Read. • Developing “MindStrong” campaign that will highlight individuals in Greenville who are continuous learners. The goal is to improve Greenville as a community and culture that values learning. In May, we are hosting a series of focus groups testing the ideas. • Developing a Report Card on Education in collaboration with the Alliance for Quality Education and the Greenville Chamber. • Partnering with the Alliance for Quality Education and the Public Education Network to conduct a study on “Community Support for Public Education Survey.” This will be in association with the report card. • Working with Graduate Greenville to develop marketing initiatives for the future. • Continually writing op-ed pieces in the Greenville News and other news outlets. • Hosted state, county and city officials in dialogues to build awareness of Greenville Forward and the vision for Education.

<p>Government</p>	<p>CHAIR Paul Wickensimer Greenville County Clerk of Court</p> <p>BOARD Jim Burns Greenville County Council</p> <p>Chandra Dillard Greenville City Council</p> <p>Mark Cothran Office of Senator Jim DeMint</p>	<p>Group currently is not meeting regularly. Plans to re-engage group are being formalized. Plan to meeting 3rd or 4th Quarter 2008, if necessary.</p>
<p>Planning and Infrastructure</p>	<p>CHAIR Open</p> <p>BOARD Jim Burns Greenville County Council</p> <p>Mellone Long Greenville County Planning Commission</p>	<p>Plans to work with City and County on comprehensive plans are underway. Greenville Forward conducted the community survey for the City of Greenville Comprehensive Plan and will be involved in follow up process. Hopefully, we will be invited to help the County with their Comp Plans as well.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>CHAIR Pat Haskell Robinson The Robinson Companies</p> <p>BOARD Mark Cothran Office of Senator Jim DeMint</p>	<p>GF currently discussing re-invigorating this group with the help from the City of Greenville and other organizations and individuals.</p> <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Leadership Greenville, Class 33 to establish new, improved bus shelters across the transit lines. • Continuing conversations with City of Greenville and Greenville Public Works about where GF can contribute. • Engaging the old transportation committee to reevaluate transportation beyond just the bus systems.
<p>Families and Social Services</p>	<p>CHAIR Bruce Forbes Share</p> <p>BOARD Deb Richardson Moore Triune Mercy Center</p>	<p>Meets monthly with a focus on early childhood poverty as a root cause of issues facing individuals and families in our community. The task force believes that childhood poverty is the root cause of many issues including homelessness, substance abuse, fatherhood issues, poverty and other social issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with The United Way to identify gaps in our community dealing with Social Service issues. • Working with United Ministries on Poverty Simulation implementation in community. • Currently developing a plan for a Poverty Summit to take place in 2009. From this Summit, the goal is to align the community's definition on what poverty is. From this Summit, a goal is to create a poverty reduction plan. • Exploring the potential in creating a

<p>Health and Wellness</p>	<p>CHAIR Lillie Hall DHEC</p> <p>BOARD Liz Seman Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>Group focus remains on advocacy and education efforts along with promoting collaborative initiatives that advance the Vision for health and wellness.</p> <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have raised \$75,000 to field a Health Reassessment for Greenville County . Assessment uses 15 focus groups and over 800 telephone interviews with an emphasis on the medically underserved. • Finalizing report on Community Healthcare Dialogues conducted in 2007-2008. • Working with Childhood Obesity Council sponsored by Piedmont Healthcare Foundation. • Working to educate community leaders about the goals and initiatives of the Task Force.
<p>Latino</p>	<p>CHAIR Adela Mendoza St. Francis Episcopal Church</p> <p>BOARD Brock Koonce Greenville Forward</p>	<p>Group is working in partnership with local Latino group ACCH. Currently members of each group are working on various projects that promote Latino and Hispanic events throughout community.</p> <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a series of focus groups of Latino and Hispanic community members. • From focus group study, will develop and distribute a report of The State of Latino Greenville. Report to be done 1st quarter 2009.
<p>Other Initiatives</p>	<p>Greenville Forward is engaged in several other initiatives throughout the community including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the Community Cultural Calendar. In partnership with the Non Profit Alliance, we hope to create a comprehensive calendar of community events. • Youth Master Plan. We are helping to formulate the survey instruments. • CEO's for Cities. The University Center is sponsoring a membership in CEOs for Cities. Hopefully, we will be involved in this. 	