**Temple Heritage Center Visioning Session January 24, 2014**

**At Tabernacle Presbyterian Church**

**Report to the Board and Advisors**

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**February 6, 2014**

It was a pleasure to be with my colleagues, the Temple Heritage Center board and forward thinking community leaders. We brought together about forty remarkable people from educators to business leaders to congregational leaders and not-for-profit leaders. With you, we were able to think creatively, smarter and strategically and with you we began to distill many, many ideas into more cohesive thinking. This report is intended to organize all your good input in order to shape consensus and informed decision making. Most importantly Temple Heritage Center is focusing on end game outcomes.

**What we accomplished:**

**First, we asked you to think about organizational documents: Mission, Vision and Values. In each case we asked you to contribute your ideas and then vote for those ideas you thought were most important and compelling.**

**Mission:**

**Here are the ideas you determined were most important.**

**Remember, honor, learn, communicate and educate**

**Host, welcome and include**

**Connect to the broader community and create a grand destination**

**Be vibrant, vital, relevant and immersive**

**Therefore, for discussion, here is a draft mission statement.**

**Our mission is to honor our history and enrich our community in everything we do.**

**Vision:**

**Here is what you decided:**

**Remember, learn and educate**

**Host, welcome**

**Connect, convene, welcome and include**

**Therefore, for discussion, here is a draft vision statement.**

**We will become integral to our community and to our city by:**

**Establishing the renovated Beth-El Temple as a model of inspired citizenship for our community and other communities**

**Values We Believe In:**

**Here is what you decided:**

**Cultural Heritage is very important**

**Strong Neighborhoods are essential**

**Unity of purpose through diversity**

**Taking action and making positive things happen**

**Sustainability**

**Therefore, for discussion, here are draft value statements.**

**We believe in:**

**Honoring cultural heritage**

**Strong neighborhoods**

**Unity of purpose through diversity**

**Taking action and making great things happen**

**Fiscal responsibility**

**Second, we asked you to brainstorm as many ideas for experiences Temple Heritage Center could create in support of the organizational documents both at the Center in the community.**

We have categorized the myriad ideas and organized them into three themes. While all the ideas put forth do not fit snuggly into one of the three themes, we should keep them all as an **active archive** for future possibilities. On the other hand some ideas fit in more than one theme. That is very good since all three themes should be interwoven whenever possible.

**Three themes for initial experiences and programs both on and off site or both**

**Tolerance**:

Experiences and programs that serve diverse audiences

Live and work together

Cooperation through the arts and humanities

Become a site for community discussion of issues

Research other organizations that focus on tolerance

Create a tolerance and respect curriculum for all levels of public and private schools

**History and Stories**:

Learn from and apply best practices of like minded organizations

Collect the oral histories of local residents and past congregants, distribute electronically. Find archival and academics collaborators

Document the physical history of Beth-El Temple and the neighborhood

Document the cycles of life in the community, both the natural and built environment

Honor the past but change with the times/history is alive and in the making

**Community Collaborations and Partnerships:**

Work with rather than for the community

Work with other cultural organizations such as The History Center, State Museum, State Library, IMCPL and others.

IUPUI Museum Studies and other Universities

Indiana Landmarks

City of Indianapolis

Mid North Church Council

Schools at all levels

Interfaith (27) churches

IMCPL

Host events on site with Community Groups

Create an Urban Neighborhood Lab

**Next Steps:**

**Strategic Thinking; How Will Get This Done?**

We will ask the questions below as fundamental to our next steps. You will receive a detailed proposal for a strategic thinking process shortly after the February 20th board meeting.

Below are questions we know will lead to many, many more

**What will we do to begin with, content, substance?**

**Who will do it, staff, volunteers, interns?**

**When will it happen, timeframe, milestones?**

**How will we evaluate our performance and value?**

**How much will it cost, capital and operations pro forma?**

Also, several ideas from the visioning session relate more to strategic thinking and will be included for discussion during strategic thinking planning sessions.

For example, many comments referred to sustainability, revenue streams, paid for programs, rentals, food, weddings, and parties.

Should we become a business, a not-for-profit or perhaps a hybrid?

Funding: individuals, foundations, corporate?

Who is this for, define our target audiences?