

CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

1. WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FORT WORTH?

Family oriented

Amazing downtown

Very clean city

People are very friendly (new to town, but this is what I've seen in 4 months).

Very cultural in the activities it has to offer, its demographics. Very diverse community, everyone's very proud of heritage and willing to share that heritage.

Conducive to culture

Museums open free to groups

Diverse demographics

Population size--not too big but not small

Sense of pride in the community

Good sense of identity

history--centers around the Stockyards. Since it's so celebrated it feeds into other people celebrating theirs--. It's based on something, has a real past.

Free parking downtown evenings and weekends

2. WHAT ARE THE AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN FORT WORTH?

Better public transportation between downtown and southern, western and eastern Fort Worth

Cultural Center to provide venue for visual and performing arts meeting spaces

More cross-cultural sharing, exposure, and interaction

Cross-promotion of activities

Community calendar including all groups willing to participate

Increase Texas Christian University students' awareness of Fort Worth arts activities

3. WHAT NEW OR EXPANDED SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

Advertising of library services and activities

e-mail “blasts”

partnering for cross promotion

Public transportation – subway

Community awareness campaign about library services, especially in communities where library is not visible

Computer literacy training – classes in conjunction with Fort Worth Independent School District, Tarrant County College and Texas Wesleyan.

Shared space for use by all nonprofit and grassroots organizations

4. DO YOU USE THE LIBRARY; IF SO, HOW?

One does use the Library. Two do not.

Types of Library use

Check out books and CDs

As informal tutor

Art exhibits

5. WHAT DOES THE LIBRARY DO WELL NOW? WHAT ARE THE LIBRARY'S STRENGTHS?

Has diverse resources and in many formats

Saves you money

Free resource

Lots of branches

Easily accessible

but not all communities, such as Diamond Hill and Ella Mae Shamblee

Sunday hours

Varied exhibits

Diverse programming—authors and holiday programs sensitive to the many facets of Fort Worth

Appeals to families

People feel safe at the libraries

Quiet, focused environment

Accessible to all in community (free membership)

Children's cards encourage by Library

Library ensures a place for children

Knowledgeable staff, especially in arts

Staff friendly, with good customer service

Telephone—a good communication tool for the Library

Accommodating to individuals

Library survives regardless of local economic climate; makes judicious service cuts when reductions required

6. WHAT ARE THE AREAS IN WHICH THE LIBRARY COULD IMPROVE?

- Sufficient spacing for accessibility
- Renovate and upgrade size of existing branch libraries
- Marketing – Increase public outreach in community to increase awareness of services and activities
- Provide more services for teens
- Make teens more aware of services
- Create spaces for teens in branch libraries
- Cultivate and maintain resident interest in the arts
- Have an amnesty day for overdue books
- Increase public awareness about library services
- Create links on the Library’s web site for access to other resources, including local and state history
- Ensure user friendliness
- Advertise library services
- Collaborate with community groups for special events and promotions
- Communicate with other organizations by e-mail
- “Overnight” event at the library for kids

7. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US?

- Library does a good job “taking care of everyone”
- We have a good library system
- The Fort Worth Public Library has done a good job at staying abreast of the community and has stayed in the “mainstream”
- The need for volunteers should be advertised at each branch
- Interlibrary loan and interlibrary loan are good services