

EDUCATORS

Friday, October 4, 2002

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

- Lots of services and entertainment attracting regional use
- Downtown development attracts residents from the region
- Revitalized cultural district
- Museums
- Stockyard District attracts
- Easy and comfortable to deal with City Hall departments, especially with neighborhood groups
- Good customer service
- Quality of schools, especially increased in past four years
- Diversity issue leadership by City Manager and School Superintendent
- User-friendly, responsive City Hall
- Lack of rancor in civic life
 - Fairly congenial working spirit
- City budget relatively stable
 - No large deficits
- Crime reduction program emphasized by City
- City services are convenient--decentralized and located throughout community
 - Library branches
 - Community centers
 - Police offices

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

Better parks – more green space, more locations, safer equipment, general upgrades

Widening of roads

City not keeping up with population growth

Community facilities -in new growth areas

Reduced community resistance to affordable, subsidized housing

Improved achievement rates for students

Lower drop-out rates

Increased diversity in public employment

Structured after-school activities for students, especially middle school students

Relevant services for persons wanting multilingual instruction, especially in English-as-a-second-language and life skills

County hospital image needs to be improved

Need for improved communication on community issues and actions

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

Life skills services and training

After-school programs for middle-school students

More affordable daycare—subsidies based on income

After-school care for all students

Service on all campuses

Greater program capacity

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

Five of six use the library

Use

Home schooling – materials, reference service, program events, and meeting spaces

Whenever books needed to supplement Internet-related resources

Public spaces for meetings

Attend author programs

Check out adult and children's books and audiovisual materials

Computers with children's software—educational and recreational

Preview materials before buying

A place to study – Downtown library (branch libraries are too active for adult study)

Access to the Internet, especially by students without home connections

Access to Library through the Internet, including checking of personal library account information

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

Customer service – both clerks and librarians

Buildings are clean-- well kept

Buildings seem safe

Technology is current

Strives to maintain resources that are current and in various formats

Desire to reach out to community

Learn what is needed

Library Fest -- Flyers in Spanish and English languages

Information about services provided in Spanish and English

City cable cast of story hours in Spanish and English

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

- Parking downtown—main deterrent to use
- Make community more aware of library services and facilities
- Smaller, older branches are bursting at seams
 - Need increased collections and equipment
 - Study areas in branches
- Evening and weekend programs for children of working parents
- Reinstate bookmobile service, especially to senior citizens and outreach to persons without transportation

To what degree to which public libraries should support education? Or, what should educational collaboration should there be between school programs and the Library?

- Partnership projects requiring use of public libraries
- Support not primary responsibility
- Need more communication about needs and services
- Branch by branch cooperation with schools
- Encourage students to use public library
- Increase student awareness of the Library's services
- Public library should not play "major" role in education of students
- Middle and younger children have limited access to public libraries

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

- Need career awareness program to attract librarians and library staff
- Need to broaden knowledge of librarians about literature and educational material
- Broaden requirements for library staff