

## ETHNIC LEADERS

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

### 1. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT FORT WORTH?

It's an honest city--based on its roots

Brings set of moral and ethical values based in those roots that are part of the life

Can bring people together here to promote peace (Example: People to People for Peace)

Environment is very friendly and open

Provides an opportunity to foster my career plans (health services)

Laid back, not fast pace you'd find in Dallas or NY or Chicago

It's friendly

You can get to know people of all walks of life; you don't meet strangers.

Good place to raise children

- Churches and schools and organizations like girls and boys clubs, scouts, etc.
- They work together

Steak!

Public transportation not so bad and is getting better

Museums and libraries are in good shape

We have the airports, tourists, and out festivals.

We are an active city, lots going on.

- It hasn't always been that way.

Multi-ethnic ethnic environment

Safer now than 10 years ago

### 2. WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT FORT WORTH?

Too many businesses are based in Dallas

- Would like us to be more of a business center
- We have a couple of big companies, but we're lagging behind.

Still have certain % of population that basically doesn't accept diversity

- Some resistance to accept diversity
- Encountered some discrimination.

See need for access to more health care particularly for diverse populations

- Also lagging behind in advanced medical treatment that may exist in other cities
- Emergency room services aren't very good
- So many barriers to health care

Gap between haves and have-nots is widening

- We have food banks but we still have hungry people
- School lunch programs don't prevent hungry children

Dropout rate is too high for whatever reason – pregnancy, don't like school, drugs.

There is low tolerance for crime in Texas and punishments don't always fit the crime

Aggressive drivers

On balance, thumbs up

### **3. WHAT NEW OR EXPANDED CITY SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?**

I want an African American Museum

Need a city resource center for newcomers

Better transportation, particularly mass transportation and light rail

Improved communication from the city to people about services

In their own languages

More than just English or Spanish

We need bookmobiles again!

Enhancements to current services to disadvantaged and diverse populations

Encourage entrepreneurs

- Help them develop small business skills, including promotion, training, support.

Nursing homes need to have younger people visit

- Maybe a program with the schools

**4. WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION?**

Internet

Library -- I'm not a computer person

Other people

Word of mouth

Newspapers

TV, ads, radio

**5. HOW DOES THE LIBRARY FIT INTO THE CITY AND THE SERVICES IT OFFERS?**

**WHAT SERVICES SHOULD THE LIBRARY BE OFFERING?**

Expanded Internet access

- More stations
- More time on stations

Remote access to library services

New and current materials, not so much older stuff

When I think of the library I think of a place where people get together to discuss topics, seminars – libraries as community centers

More hours especially weekend and evening hours

Interlibrary loan and interagency transfers

Programs on how to use library

Services for nursing homes and shut-ins – delivery

More innovative ways to involve the community

Programs for special audiences like GED

Programs to help people beyond GED--trade/work related / educational programs and seminars.

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

Right now, looking for information in journals, for career (and that's probably there)

Information and entertainment

My branch has small section of Vietnamese books and videos. Our children were raised here and the videos help us give our children a taste of our culture

I have 27 grandchildren, we use it a lot

Use the meeting space

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

Very good library

- Disseminating information

On a scale of 1-10 we are an 8

Staff is helpful

- Always available

The library is a good place for kids

They provide meeting spaces for the community

**8. WHAT ARE THE AREAS IN WHICH THE LIBRARY COULD IMPROVE?**

My experience with other libraries is that our library doesn't have new things.

The library is at the mercy of the city budget process

**9. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US?**

This group has given me a fresh perspective – maybe because many of us are new, but we're hearing here that this is a friendly and open place.

The library needs to do a better job marketing

The library can be a virtual place