

YES! House Futures Committee Meeting #3
May 11, 2023, 5 - 7pm at the YES! House building

YES! House Futures (YHF) is a community-led process to establish a 1-2 sentence vision statement for the future operations and stewardship of The YES! House building. A 7 member committee will meet 4 times between January and June of 2023 to establish the vision statement.

Present: Paul Drees (YHF Committee Member), Tamara Isfeld (YHF Committee Member), Melissa Peterson (YHF Committee Member), Harold Goedgedrag (YHF Committee Member), Autumn Cavender (YHF Committee Member), Beth Pullan (DoPT Board Member), Luwaina Al-Otaibi (DoPT Staff Member), Sarina Otaibi (DoPT Staff Member), Ashley Hanson (DoPT Staff Member)

Absent: Fern Cloud (YHF Committee Member), Crystal Johnson (YHF Committee Member)

Welcome & Introductions

Revisit Group Agreement and YHF Process Overview

Together we will:

- Listen for understanding
- Hold each other accountable
- Speak honestly and from our own experience
- Respect each other's experiences
- Appreciate silence and processing time
- Exercise self-care
- Own our mistakes, our intentions, and our impacts
- Respect the process and the people involved
- Mess Up Forward Falling (MUFFING) - we all want to move forward and we are not trying to be rude with anything we say during these meetings.

YES! House Construction Update by Ashley Hanson, DoPT Creative Executive Officer

- Ceiling tiles in, functional bathroom, new interior doors, flooring is on backorder
- Olson Plumbing and Heating completed HVAC on main floor and basement
- Heartland Electric is installing conduits along the main floor by the end of May 2023. Temporary lighting will be installed. Performance lighting grids are being looked at.
- Inspection goals for early June 2023
- After current phase of construction, we are going to pause on construction and focus on fundraising
- Work on completing main floor over the winter as long as fundraising goals are met
- Construction will be ongoing through 2023 and 2024, pending contractor schedules
- Committee Member asked the following question:

- What is the accessibility going to look like for the building—is it membership oriented/free to access?
 - **DoPT response after the meeting:** There will not be a membership structure in place for use of the space. When construction allows, we will be setting consistent weekly open hours for the space (certain days/hours based on staffing availability); we may make changes to these hours as we go to continue experimenting with best times to be open. We likely will not be able to be open every day because we don't yet have the staffing structure and capacity to accommodate so many hours. (Note: the words “co-working space” may be unintentionally misleading. The co-working and community gathering space will not be a membership-based co-working venue; we only mean to imply that the public will be able to gather together to “co-work” as desired when the building is open.)
 - Some working definitions:
 - *Open Access*—means available to the public for free during open hours for communal use. These spaces will also be available for reservations and/or rental for private and public events which may affect availability during those times. These spaces will include the following (when finished): co-working/community gathering space, media lab, and performance venue.
 - *Limited Access*—means available to the public by appointment, reservation, rental, and/or at scheduled times. These spaces may require specific training or supervision to use. Availability is subject to scheduling and staffing. These spaces will include the following (when finished): recording studio, climbing wall area, and basement workshop space.
 - *Restricted Access*—means generally not available to the public except with explicit permission from and/or supervision by authorized DoPT staff. These spaces may be available at times throughout the year for reservation and/or rental at the discretion of DoPT staff. These spaces include the apartments and spaces on the second floor above The YES! House, the roof areas, and storage areas throughout the building.

Committee Discussion

Revisit Vision Statement Discussion

- Very different to what I understood, but better
- Building a 5 year plan with a short statement could be taken wrong
- Basic formula for vision statement in non profit. This org wants to do these things in realization of these goals. Quick recipe. I have a concern that it can be very broad because we don't have any part of the future 5 year plan. I dont think it's helpful to structure it in 5 years from now. Should be a short blurb, and then paragraphs of what it means and more details.
- If it's not outward facing then the simplicity of it matters a lot less. What I am hearing is how we engage in stewardship of this building. Our goal here is to try and figure out okay how do we make this thing work from a revenue side?
 - Sarina responded in the meeting that budgeting and revenue is outside the scope of the YES! House Futures Committee. It is part of the business plan process which will be conducted by DoPT Staff.

Stewardship + Operations Forecast

Based on input from the past two meetings, the working assumptions are:

In 5 years, the YES! House is guided and cared for by a Community Advisory Board in partnership with the Department of Public Transformation (DoPT). The Community Advisory Board is a group of local community members committed to transparency, accountability, and connection. The YES! House is staffed, financed, and managed daily by the Department of Public Transportation (DoPT).

How does this paragraph feel as a starting point?

Committee Discussion & Ideas Proposed:

- I like it as it is. Coming into the idea of what the advisory board is going to be. What is going to be its role?
- Agrees that it is an important part of the process
- This statement is fine with the knowledge that the name is under construction, and the YES! House is at least partially staffed and managed by DoPT. If space is rented out then they are presumably staffing and managed.
- Remove daily from the paragraph

Do we agree a Community Advisory Board should be established to guide and care for the YES! House?

Committee Discussion & Ideas Proposed:

- Yes, the language we use around naming the board is important. Advisory board is relatively neutral, but given the conflicts between all community org maybe that it be called community accountability board.
- Advisory board feels like it lacks power and decision making ability
- Difference between advisory board and steering committee- steering has more teeth
- Does the YES! House have a Board of Directors separate from DoPT's board of Directors? DoPT staff answered no. The YES! House is not its own nonprofit organization.
- Committee for YES! House to be DoPT staff
- Everybody agrees about the community led committee

Do we agree DoPT staff, finances and manages the daily operations for the YES! House?

- All agree
- If something comes up, that can change, so there needs to be flexibility to that

What kind of representation is important on a community advisory board? Artists? Partners? Residents?

- Refer to meeting 2 list of potential partners

Roles of community board, DoPT and CCT - how do they intersect / work together?

Committee Discussion & Ideas Proposed:

- Role of community-led group being dependent on final vision statement. Are we putting the cart before the horse? Depends on what we will be doing here at the YES! House
- Community-led group role to ensure accountability for what the YHF came up with
- Community-led group should be formed with at least a couple of months after the building is open and functional
- Sometimes if there is too much time between one thing and another - you can lose purpose in community - maybe it's quarterly and check in with the community while it's being created.
- The YES! Mess - what is it? Heard that from the community. They do not know what it is, and what's happening here.
- I agree that this is the role it needs to play. In small towns it is really easy for rumor mills to get started. People have no idea how YES! House has any money, which makes people suspicious of the organization.
- If you are not involved in the nonprofit world that people do not understand
- Community-led groups are community liaison to the rest of the community. If you know someone that is involved they can share.
- When people are given info that directly contradicts their opinion. They will dig in harder, so what needs to change is the experience of a thing to change the opinion.
- Agrees with community liaison, we need an interim group that ensures the vision statement is being held accountable

See, Hear & Feel

In 5 years, the YES! House is an inviting, welcoming and open space where community members will **see:** people, open door, teens, young families, enthusiastic local volunteers and staff, local organizations, thrilled visitors, loitering, hesitant locals, college students, artists, theater, musicians, community engagement, shared work space

In 5 years, the YES! House is an inviting, welcoming and open space where community members will **hear:** happy & lively chatter, laughter, music, weird and alien ideas, collaboration, thoughtful questions, kids, presentations, conversations

In 5 years, the YES! House is an inviting, welcoming and open space where community members will **feel:** excitement, happy, optimistic, hesitant, calm, restful, understanding, integration, being heard, welcome, valued

Discussion Questions:

- Are there any changes or additions to the top statements?
- Ask each member to take 5 minutes and create their own combined version of the statement, then share with the group

Committee members shared their own versions of the above statement.

In 5 years, the YES! House is an inviting and welcome space where community members will see hesitant locals and musicians make music together and be happy where everyone can feel welcome and excited.

Where thrilled visitors, hesitant locals and array of artists can build relationships where novel ideas and creations are shared, and where local culture is nourished.

Will be an open community space where volunteers and staff host locals, visitors and artists in conversations, collaborations and work in an understanding exciting environment.

Be a space that is more open and transparent in the community. Community member will see and participate in activities, hear laughter and conversations, and feel more comfortable and less confusion about the space.

Yes! House will still be messy, but in a good way, community events, people participating in art and collaboration of thoughts and ideas.

Committee discussion & proposed ideas around the above statements:

- Remove the 5 years part of the wordage, instead just say the YES! House IS...
- Likes the part about staff and volunteers, building functions by people
- Buildings are fairly neutral. People holding the space influences the space.
- I liked the comment about it being messy. It's messy in a way that allows change to happen.
- Being in a community means being in conflict. If you are engaged, you will butt heads with people and grow from that.
- Be okay with that if there is conflict, it sets the tone for what is healthy and how we grow and move forward from that.
- The “Host” word is chosen deliberately; there is an obligation that goes with hosting someone to make people feel comfortable.
- Majority of hesitant people that we need to reach, we need to communicate better as to what is going on.
- More comfortable and less confusing about the space and what the YES! House is.
- This to me sounds like the role of a community-led group to reach hesitant folks. It is a metric for success. Have we overall lowered community hesitation? Are there still people confused?
- Portions of the public who will not like the yes house because they do not like art, etc.
- We've also seen with events bring a lot of people in from out of town
- Even if people are crabby about GAAC or other events, they love people coming into town. But they are happy it is getting us on the map. Important to invest in people who are investing in you.
- Need to focus on the middle ground of the population. The folks who don't know what's going on.

5 Year Planning Document Discussion

The following is a possible draft outline (presented to committee):

- **Executive Summary** including overviews, legal structures, etc. for DoPT, The YES! House, CCT
- **Public Engagement Plan** including when and how to update the public at significant milestones
- **Programs and Events Plan** including planned and possible (CCT initiatives)
- **Partnerships and Collaborations Plan** including planned and possible
- **Marketing Plan** including various constituencies and strategies
- **Operations Plan** including possible personnel plan
- **Financial and Sustainability Plan** including budget and funding forecast

What would you like to see in the 5 year plan? What to change or add?

Committee Discussion & Proposed Ideas:

- Why do we care about this? (5 year plan) If you're basing a 5 year plan based on a vision statement, then is there a reason beyond this. This would be helpful when writing the paragraph.
- Maintaining welcome - you have to set the boundaries of what is acceptable and what is unacceptable.
- Welcoming word. Brewery called Hammer Heart had a statement on their wall of what they tolerate and what they do not tolerate. Part of maintaining a welcoming space was being upfront about what they are not welcoming.
- Community accountability piece: what's the plan for that
- Community engagement and marketing is the same
- Promotional instead of marketing
- DoPT Board → CEO → YES! House Committee → CCT initiative collectively managed by DOPT board and the committee. Community-led group parallel to Dopt staff.
 - Keep it up as a slide for the next meeting will be useful when writing paragraph (the 5 year plan outline)

Committee members were asked what they'd like additional clarity on at the next meeting.

- Are the things that are mutually exclusive in the space that we have to make a decision between? Eg. recording studio under the front door. The whole space can't be public if there is rented space between things. What are things we need to decide between?
 - **DoPT response after meeting:** Yes, at certain times there will need to be decisions made by staff about which spaces can be used simultaneously. For example: if the recording studio is rented out for the day to record a podcast or if a community member has reserved the performance venue for a private event, the co-working and community gathering space may need to be closed to the public for the day if it would be disruptive to those activities. We're not sure yet how sound will realistically travel around and utilize the space during certain hours—which may affect these decisions—and we look forward to learning more as construction continues and we experiment with the best open hours. This is a common scheduling consideration for spaces, such as coffee shops, bars and restaurants, museums and arts venues, which have mixed-use spaces and/or allow advanced booking for activities.
- If we are going to create this statement we do need to know if it's private or public space
- Decisions need to happen quickly as it will affect construction
- What are the requirements for the recording studio for the spaces that cannot be changed?
 - **DoPT response after the meeting:** The spaces that have restricted funding sources and cannot be changed include the climbing wall, recording studio, and performance

venue. Programming in these spaces can vary based on needs, but the use, size, shape, equipment, etc. needs to remain as proposed in the current designs.

- How much funding is needed to finish everything?
 - **DoPT response after the meeting:** Approximately \$350,000-\$400,000. The campaign is roughly 62% funded, but the budget was created pre-pandemic and we may have some cost overages. We are working hard to stay as close to budget as possible.
- Will you be wanting an interim group to help with this process as you do this business plan? Committee members Tamara and Autumn are interested. We will discuss details at our next meeting.

Other discussion & proposed ideas:

- White board in window: write it down and put it in the window

The YHF Committee Meeting on May 11 concluded at 7 pm.