

YES! House Futures Committee Meeting #4
June 29, 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), Melissa Peterson (YHF Committee Member), Crystal Johnson (YHF Committee Member), Luwaina Al-Otaibi (DoPT Staff Member), Sarina Otaibi (DoPT Staff Member), Benjamin Domask-Ruh (DoPT Staff Member), Bethany Lacktorin (DoPT Board Member)

Absent: Fern Cloud (YHF Committee Member), Tamara Isfeld (YHF Committee Member), Autumn Cavender (YHF Committee Member), Harold Goedgedrag (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.

Committee Discussion

See, Hear & Feel Statement (vision)

Proposed statement:

The YES! House is an open community space where staff and volunteers host locals, artists, and visitors in conversations, collaborations, and ideas in a welcoming and exciting environment.

Discussion Questions:

How do you all feel about including “open” in the statement after learning about the differing access types to spaces within the building?

- Open doesn't add anything to it
- Just say community space versus using the word open. Group agrees unanimously.
- I like conversation and collaboration but “ideas” seems generic and similar to how I feel about the word “open”. Maybe “projects” or creations would be a better word that is more specific.
- It feels like a lot of words. Wonder if there is a way we can say something similar. Trying to figure out a word that encompasses all of those things
- Do you like collaborations? Others like the word collaboration
- Collaborations require two parties, and people may be doing activities on their own without collaboration
- We could say creative endeavors
- We can ask what are we trying to say with conversations, collaborations and ideas
- Like the exciting part of the statement
- Active space?
- Host visitors in a welcoming and exciting environment but cut out the other stuff

How do you all feel about including “welcoming” in the statement?

- When was the last time you really felt welcomed somewhere? What was that place, and what was the emotion that you felt?
- You feel uncomfortable and you want to leave right away even if nothing is said (when feeling unwelcome)
- The word comfortable in a space
- Knowing what you are supposed to do in a space, having that be clear
- What about the word inspiring? A member likes that word
- I like the word welcomed versus welcoming
- Can inspiring replace exciting?
- We are trying to figure out conversations, collaborations and ideas
- Discussion about inspire or exciting continues...
- Friendly does not seem to go hand in hand with exciting or inspiring
- The word inspiring is added back to the statement

Are there any changes or additions to the statement?

- Inspired vs. inspiring
- You need to come back to this statement to feel inspired or when lost
- Cut out “in an exciting environment in the end”
- Add creations to the statement
- I still like the word creative
- Does community get at the idea of inclusivity enough?
- Inspired inclusive space
- It now feels more open

All agree on the following final statement after discussion and questions:

The YES! House is an inspired inclusive space where staff and volunteers host locals, artists, and visitors in conversations, collaborations, and creativity.

Stewardship + Operations Forecast

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

The YES! House is guided and cared for by a local group committed to transparency, accountability, and community connection in partnership with Department of Public Transformation (DoPT). The YES! House is staffed, financed, and managed by Department of Public Transformation (DoPT).

Discussion Questions:

Any further changes needed to this statement? Any clarifications or additions?

- Group agrees it looks good!
- Group agrees nothing needs to be changed or added

Role of Community-Led Group to steward and care for The YES! House

Was not discussed. Committee wanted to focus on drafting the vision (see, hear, feel) statement.

Proposed plan for drafting the business plan and interim group; how would other committee members like to stay involved and engaged with The YES! House?

DoPT would like to include an interim group. 2 meetings in the fall to discuss the community-led group structure, including 2 members of YHF and 2 members of the CCT. Full CCT and YHF Committee receives draft for feedback in the winter 2023/spring 2024. When complete, the final plan will be shared publicly, in-person and online in spring/summer 2024.

The YHF Committee Meeting on June 29 concluded at 6:30 pm.