

# Canby Visioning Community Focused Group Discussion Highlights

**Overview:** 5 small groups developed more details around 5 themes and then identified assets and gaps for each at their meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Themes include Arts and Culture, Education, Diversity and Small Town Attributes. Verbatim details from the discussion can be found at [www](http://www.ci.canby.or.us/visioning.htm).

<http://www.ci.canby.or.us/visioning.htm> Below are summaries of the consistent ideas, assets and gaps for deeper discussion at the Large Group Meeting at 7 PM on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Cutsforth Thriftway Town Hall.

## Summary of Themes and Group Input

**Arts and Culture:** This theme encompasses suggestions to:

- **Increase and Promote Public art** such as murals, Vietnam War Memorial (helicopter) fine art and featured artists displayed in public buildings
- **Increase and Promote Events** such as music, dance and drama
- **Increase and Promote Tourism Draws**
- **Physical spaces** such as a cultural center that celebrates arts and culture
- **Artistic styles** such as authentic art or art that incorporates world influences

### **Assets:**

- **Artistic associations** including the Canby Arts Association, Allegro Dance, and the Canby Livability Coalition.
- **Cultural and Artistic events** such as the Cruise In, Dahlia Festival, County Fair, Slice of summer music festival, summer Drama, summer parades, and Flower Farmer.
- **Existing public art** such as the Vietnam War Memorial (Helicopter), artistic bike racks and downtown banners.
- **Art and culture venues**
  - **Buildings** such as Richard Brown Fine Arts Center, new library, St. Patrick's, Hope Village and Canby Adult Center
  - **Open spaces** such as Canby Gove, City parks such as Wait Park Fair Grounds, Art Park at Holly and Territorial, community gardens, and sports fields.
  - **Artistic related businesses** such as Wall Flowers Gallery quilt shop and Miss Adeline's.

### **Gaps:**

- Public art space
- Need more art
- Funding
- **Communication and outreach:** about art and event opportunities including access, and schedule availability; to everyone including added focus on younger generations and the Latino community and across silos.

- **Additional events** such as outdoor movies, music opportunities and concert venues and celebrations of minority communities and culture.
- **Expanding existing events** such as a multicultural Slice of Summer, and movies in Spanish and other languages at the movie theater.

**Education:** This theme encompasses suggestions to:

- Improve Schools – they need to be great. This includes better pre - kindergarten to college opportunities in Canby
- Expand adult education including continuing education, technical education and lifelong educational options.
- Encourage more community and business expertise and involvement
- Smaller class sizes
- Add content including more arts, social and physical education, and activities less sitting and teaching to the test.
- Better maintenance.
- Expand access to technology

**Assets:**

- College Credit opportunities and Community education
- **Facilities** such as Ackerman Center, Canby Community Center and fine Arts Center, and athletic fields.
- Staff
- **Canby School District programs** including Career Technical and Education (CTE) programs, foreign language programs in Spanish and French, foreign exchange, trips, Canby Peace Program, athletic programs and extensive technology such as iPad and iPod use.
- **Other community programs** such as Canby Telcom computer classes, St. Patrick's Art Classes and Library Lecture series, Community Cable through OCTS.
- Support from the community and businesses

**Gaps:**

- College opportunities – CCC satellite campus in Canby
- Schools are declining
- Class size is increasing
- Continuing education
- Preschool
- Funding
- at risk communities and socioeconomically challenged
  - continued community support, open houses and access

## **Diversity – Culture and Ages**

- Embrace diversity through inclusive communication, events and arts.
- Leverage neighborhood associations (especially 99E/township/ Ivy area)
- Integrate communications to overcome language barriers particularly by schools, city, fire and police)
- Foster structured programs and activities that connect the community (youth and seniors, different cultures). This could include games night, English / Spanish coaching– an added benefit is that translating helps people keep their first language, language immersion programs, technology training, and library programs)
- Expand opportunities to match students with employment opportunities, internships and community work.
- Teach respect and understanding of differences
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### **Assets:**

- Diverse community
- Social groups in place (Canby Center, Adult Center, Churches)
- Light the night
- Library
- Cutsforth - great ethnic food selection and diverse staff
- Shared family focus and other similar values like education
- Schools do a good job of connecting.

### **Gaps:**

- More personal ambassadors and connectors
- Add Hispanic music groups to Slice of Summer
- Need a single organization or community resource that supports diversity as its sole mission
- Better communications needed – try getting the word out through churches, Canby Herald not an information source for Hispanics,
- Expand Bilingual program
- Need more adult non English speakers

## **Small Town Attributes**

- Strong sense of community – it’s a feeling. People know who you are and you know about them.
- People are friendly in stores, on the street; at the library... you bump into people you know everywhere.
- Size (land area)

- Well interconnected spaces
- Safety – good police force that connects as people
- Growth control
- Avoid becoming a Bedroom Community
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- Proximity to Portland

**Assets:**

- Strong community spirit
- Healthy downtown
- Activities include school sports and activities, athletic clubs, swimming pool, movie theater, pudding river, and Canby Rod and Gun Club
- Strong organizations such as churches and schools
- Diverse economy
- Growth control
- Zoning map

**Gaps:**

- Bowling
- Physical activities for youth
- YMCA
- Brew Pub
- Late night activities