

Neighborhood Engagement

Goal and Work Plan Priorities

Goal Statement

Engage citizens in contributing knowledge, desires, and visions for a better community that will promote the development of quiet, safe, beautiful, walkable neighborhoods that enhance social interaction that will develop neighborhoods that are supportive of its residents, and engaging in the community through clubs, committees, and councils ensuring that all residents across the entire community have equal opportunities in the shaping of Duncan's future.

Work Plan Priorities

General Neighborhood Engagement Priorities

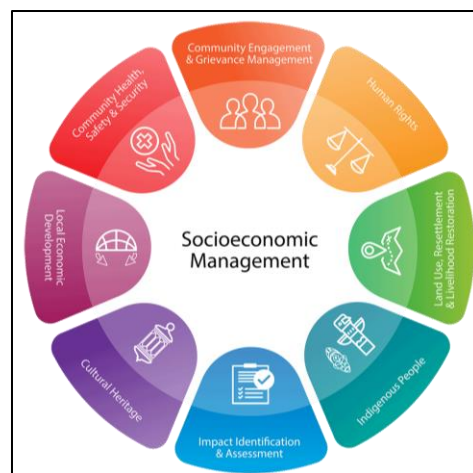
Develop a program that celebrates minority-owned and female-owned businesses throughout Duncan

Duncan's diverse cultures and ethnicities are rich with success and should be celebrated so that future entrepreneurs are encouraged to bring their business ideas to the table. Some of the fastest growing demographics for business owners are those lead by minorities and females, and providing a platform to hear their success stories may inspire future generations to chase their dreams. By celebrating these businesses, we recognize their success in the market, we support their business so that they may continue to provide services locally, we highlight their contributions to paving a path for future generations, and we advocate for them and their businesses so that they have stronger representation in the regional and global markets. This will further strengthen and diversify Duncan's local economy.



Ensure programs and policies include and benefit all citizens of different socio-economic backgrounds

City codes and ordinances regularly need to be reviewed, and amendments made to better reflect the changes that occur in society and with advancements in technology. Often left out is how these amendments may impact different socio-economic classes within the community and may cause additional hardships that could otherwise be avoided. City staff needs to be aware of the potential impacts that changes in policies and programs may have on the diverse population that exists in Duncan, and when possible, the positive impacts should be given priority in any change considered. Policy changes should consider community health, engagement, cultural heritage, and economic development opportunities for all citizens of Duncan, Oklahoma.



Utilize public spaces, convenience stores, pharmacies, and laundromats mats to share community events with residents

To better engage all citizens, information about upcoming events needs to be readily available for those that may not have access to various forms of social media and/or new sources. One option recommended by citizens involved in this planning process is to make sure that information about upcoming events is posted at various public spaces and buildings, in convenience stores, at pharmacies, and at laundromats to reach some of the underrepresented population of Duncan. Sharing information, and inviting residents to attend events, will ultimately build a stronger and resilient community.



Connecting with the Underrepresented Priorities

Develop mobile programs that encourage social engagement for the community's aging population

Social engagement opportunities can help improve our mental health, our physical health, and our longevity but as we age being able to access the opportunities of social engagement becomes more difficult. Working with non-profits, schools, and entities that offer program opportunities, a mobile program can be developed where activities can be provided to neighborhoods, community centers, and nursing homes that will help encourage participation in activities, help support healthy aging and provide some resources and support to caregivers.



Develop mobile programs that enables social engagement for households that have restricted access to transportation

Raising the quality of life for all residents of Duncan means finding ways to ensure that activities and programs are made available and accessible by those that may have restricted access to transportation – which may mean developing mobile programs that can travel throughout the community bringing the activity to the doorsteps of the citizens. More and more communities across the United States are implementing programs that are held in neighborhood parks, at local churches, and in other public and semi-public spaces to allow social engagement to occur. This not only makes all citizens feel valued, but also allows for relationships that may not otherwise exist form and thrive.



Host events and programs in community centers and public venues to develop trust and build relationships

The Department of Community Development has hosted several public forums in the community – DETA, Duncan Heart and Soul, Chickasaw Placemaking Project to name a few events – that were well attended by citizens. These opportunities allowed for citizens that often feel left out of the conversation to further engage in improving the Duncan community. The Department of Community Development, and other city departments, should continue this



process that will allow citizens to develop trust with city staff and build lasting relationships with community leaders.

Ward and District Development Priorities

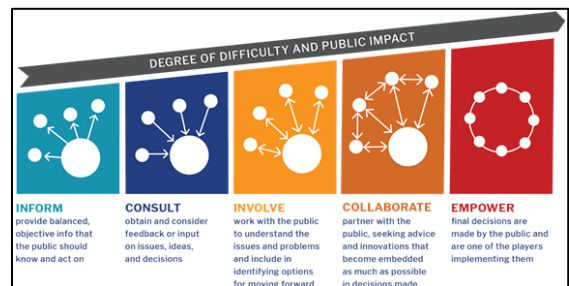
Encourage neighborhood holiday decoration strolls

More and more residents are setting up decorations for July 4th, Halloween, and Christmas and citizens are taking notice by seeking locations to walk and enjoy the displays. Much like the Halmark Movies that many enjoy during the holidays, creating an atmosphere of enjoyment and celebration can make Duncan a destination for future businesses and residents making the community feel like home. These actions of setting out decorations and displays need to be encouraged throughout the community as these holiday decoration strolls can promote a new level of social engagement and enjoyment. The City of Duncan regularly posts on social media where clusters of decorations and displays may exist, and with the help of citizens this can grow for public enjoyment.



Establish “Ward Ambassadors” that can serve as a liaison between local government and residents that may have a difficult time getting to community meetings

Coming from the Duncan Heart and Soul program, citizens have expressed the desire to see “Ward Ambassadors” formed that can help serve and a liaison with city staff and leadership to those citizens that want to be involved but are unable to attend community meetings and events. Citizens have stated that these ambassadors should reflect the community in which they reside, able to build lasting relationships with other citizens and local leaders and be able to attend meetings at both city hall and at community centers or churches within the ward to share information and insight. The ambassadors also can help provide updates on various community programs and events to the City Council, city staff, and other local leaders and assist in finding potential resources to allow programs to succeed.



Develop a “Mobile Block Party” trailer that citizens can use for neighborhood events

The Department of Community Development has researched the successes of other communities that have developed a “Mobile Block Party” trailer. The trailer is provided for free to community and neighborhood events as it is seen to engage citizens, promote stronger communities, and build lasting relationships. These trailers often include tables and chairs, various games and activities for all age groups, and supplies that help the community/neighborhood host put together a fun filled event for their friends and family to enjoy. Once funded, hopefully through grants, the trailer can be reserved for the weekend on a first come first served basis by contacting the Department of Community Development.



Work Plan Priorities Matrixes

General Neighborhood Engagement Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Develop a program that celebrates minority-owned and female-owned businesses throughout Duncan	2025	Mid-Range	Local Businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Community Development
Ensure programs and policies include and benefit all citizens of different socio-economic backgrounds	2025	Mid-Range	Community Development, City Council
Utilize public spaces, convenience stores, pharmacies, and laundromats to share community events with residents	2025	Long-Range	Local Businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Community Development

Connecting with the Underrepresented Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Develop mobile programs that encourage social engagement for the community's aging population	2025	Mid-Range	Community Development, City Council
Develop mobile programs that enables social engagement for households that have restricted access to transportation	2025	Mid-Range	Community Development, City Council
Host events and programs in community centers and public venues to develop trust and build relationship	2025	Mid-Range	Community Development, City Council

Ward and District Development Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Encourage neighborhood holiday decoration strolls	Ongoing	Ongoing	Community Development, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, City Council
Establish "Ward Ambassadors" that can serve as a liaison between local government and residents that may have a difficult time getting to community meetings	2025	Mid-Range	Duncan Heart and Soul, Community Development, City Council
Develop a "Mobile Block Party" trailer that citizens can use for neighborhood events	2025	Mid-Range	Duncan Heart and Soul, Community Development, City Council