

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS | OVERVIEW

Draft Date: 3/20/18

WHAT	2018 Community Conversation to inform City Priorities
PURPOSE (WHY)	Listen to citizen’s perspectives on the top priorities for the City of Olympia, so that City Council can use those perspectives to inform the City’s budget investments over the next two years.
WHO	A focus group of Olympia residents who collectively reflect a demographically representative sample of Olympia citizens. Participants are drawn from a list of over 500 registered voters who participated in the 2017 citizen survey and invited via letter from the Mayor.
WHEN	Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon Note: Depending on level of interest and lessons learned from this initial conversation, the City may host or co-host additional meetings.
WHERE	Olympia Community Center light refreshments, parking/transit, and children’s activities provided
HOW	Conversation café exercises are designed and warmly hosted to include and accommodate people from a diversity of backgrounds, experiences and abilities. Human centered meeting design emphasizes generative listening and participatory leadership practices.
INTENTION	The hope and intention is to foster conditions where citizen voices may be more authentically expressed, and elected and appointed leaders may listen more deeply. In turn, we hope this will foster even more meaningful and inclusive dialogue, creating more cohesion and trust in our city.
MORE INFO	Stacey Ray Long Range Planner with the Office of Performance and Innovation sray@ci.olympia.wa.us (360) 753-8046 www.ci.olympia.wa.us/actionplan

Process

Shape of Meeting Design for April 14 community conversation

1. **Welcome:** warm welcome and brief statement of purpose (Mayor Selby)
2. **Orientation:** materials and brief narrative (Debbie Sullivan and Stacey Ray)
3. **Engagement** activities (Larisa Benson and Kerensa Mabwa)
Primary objectives (in rank order):
 - a. Listening to voices of citizens -- city gains useful insights and citizens feel heard, seen and respected
 - b. Prioritization -- a list emerges that may confirm or disconfirm what we think we heard based on survey results and Council's 2018 priorities
 - c. Shared meaning -- city initiatives (budget and community indicators data) become infused with deeper meaning and stories from citizen's point of view
4. **Closing Reflections**
 - a. What we heard (Council members Bateman, Parshley share reflections)
 - b. What to expect next (Debbie Sullivan and Stacey Ray express intention)
 - c. Gratitude (all)

Products and Results

- A summary sheet that includes at a minimum: a list of citizen priorities and citizen stories (quotes and impressions)
- Updates to these existing products: the City's five outcome areas, Council's key initiatives 2018, the community indicators dashboard and the budget
- Metrics of success:
 1. a ratio of 75% citizen air time to 25% city staff air time during the meeting
 2. 50% or more rate the following as likely or very likely:
 - "I felt my views were heard"
 - "I believe my input will influence city priorities"
 - "I pay more attention to city government since the workshop"

People & Roles

- Mayor Selby, Debbie Sullivan, Stacey Ray: opening welcome & orientation:
- Larisa Benson & Kerensa Mabwa: meeting design and co-facilitation
- Chelsea Baker (from CP&D) and youth facilitators: visual scribing
- Councilmembers Parshley & Bateman: ethnographic listening and closing reflections
- Stacey Ray: project coordinator and steward of final products