**A Convening: What it is and how it works**

**A Convening is** a gathering of individuals with different perspectives on a topic to accomplish a clear purpose. The intent is to draw out unique individual responses from all participants.

**The purpose of this Convening** is to identify the interests of EVAT members related to the Economic Vitality section of the *Community Sustainability Action Framework*.

**The driving forces** for initiating this process are the need to accelerate implementation of sustainable economic development and to use our time and resources more effectively during EVAT meetings.

**Convening Process**

1. **The Order** –The facilitator determines the order of respondents to answer the questions.
2. **Participation** – Each participant is expected to respond during the first round for each question, expressing their unique answer to the question.
3. **Interruptions** –Participants may not interrupt the designated respondent. Listening closely to each person’s response is a key part of the process.
4. **Taking Sides** –During their turn, a participant may not say that they agree, challenge, or disagree with any other participant.
5. **Own Words** – Participants must provide responses to the question in their own words without directly copying the positions or words of other participants.
6. **Time Allotment** – Participants may take up to 2 minutes to respond to Questions 1 and 2 below. Concise responses are preferred.
7. **Second Round** – After all participants have responded once, the facilitator asks if anyone has additional responses. If one person says “yes”, the facilitator leads a second round. Participants may pass during this second round.
8. **Succeeding Questions** – When all are satisfied that the first question has been answered, then the facilitator asks the second question using the same process.
9. **Notes** –Participants are encouraged to take notes.
10. **Outcome** –Participants will receive a summary of take-away points and next steps.

**Questions to Be Covered at 1/11/22 Convening**

Opening question: **What is your prior connection to the Sustainability Coalition, or have you just recently decided to join the Economic Vitality Action Team?** (30 secs.)

Question #1:The *Community Sustainability Action Framework* that guides our work has the following vision for Economic Vitality: “Corvallis is home to a vibrant, diverse and sustainable economy anchored by a broad spectrum of local, environmentally-friendly businesses.”  **What aspect of that vision interests you most?** (up to 2 mins. to respond)

Question #2:The Economic Vitality section of the Action Framework has three goals, with strategies and actions under each goal. **What strategy or action are you interested in working on as a member of the Economic Vitality Action Team? Or if you have an additional action in mind, what is it?** (up to 2 mins. to respond)

Closing question: **How do you want to be contacted – by phone or email?** (10 secs.)

**Notes**

\* Note, video was unable to capture. The following notes were taken, but obviously not verbatim.

**Question 1:**

Annette: “Vibrant”. Lots of relationship-building & activities between businesses. Increase connections.

Sean: All components of sustainability: environment, economy, equity, & livability. Not just about growth.

Aliza: Vibrant, environmentally friendly. In line with Sean & Mike, not just about growth.

Kate: Environmentally friendly. Future is looking ghastly. Promoting environment. 2nd Round: Lived in many cities. Unsure of how to inject new ideas into this community. Resistance to letting things spin.

Biff: Sustainable. Point of view of number of things it implies: environment, sustainable economy. Growth will occur, need some level, supporting local business, equitable employment, opportunity for all. Help locally businesses get started & stay as we grow.

Kirk: Local economy solutions. Different options case studies to try. Buy local.

Adrienne: Sustainability – 3 components: heart, mind, soul. Economics: cooperative activity rather than competitive. Environment: not just the natural environment, but our minds, our communication, and technological world. Intentional evolution.

Mike: Sustainable. Includes equity, which is important. Real question: how do we have sustainability not be a regimented control, but also vibrancy. Growth that’s innovative & interesting, but reduce consumption.

Ruby: Local. 2nd Round: People are on the same page. Agree with Kate, ideas just stop.

Jerry: Vibrancy. Lack of connection with community; very disconnected. Amazon can be quite appealing. Local spaces for local arts, food, & events to find connection.

Jeanette: Vibrancy. Latin “to sway”. Movement, synergy. Keeping our community alive. 2nd Round: Importance of local.

**Question 2**

Annette: Continue working on Buy Local First; but now year-round. Not just the holidays. Better job coordinating with other BLF activities. Also, County’s sustainable business program. Help promote. Business of the Week Program; one of our most popular. Elevate businesses that have adopted green actions.

Aliza: Food is important. Noted that many in the farm/ag/food system cannot afford to live in Benton County. Also address equity & health outcomes that work in the food system.

Adrienne: Strong feeling about small business, on the other side she’s an artist & owner; reminded of the disconnect. Invested in BLF. But if business goes down, can’t help. So business needs to succeed to stay as a model. 2nd Round: Build models for integrated success.

Biff: Often need for financial investment to local businesses. Solarize Corvallis. Other effort is what it takes to create a local food industry.

Jerry: City-branded pilot projects that are seasonal that activate public space, protected bike lanes, preapproved event permits. Difficult to get food trucks to parks.

Ruby: BLF, but not if holiday only. Educate people on whatever we’re doing. Publicize our success.

Kirk: Reuse & repair of items. Business directory.

Jeanette: Green businesses. But the one thing is a Repair Mall. Working with County’s SWAC, Repair Mall was official recommendation. Also Reuse Directory. 1-1-1: biz-to-biz trading. In Eugene is Mecca. Would be willing to create a place like that.

Sean: Goal2/Strat3: connecting employers & employees. Making the connection stronger between business owners & employees. Build that we’re all in this community & economy together.

Mike: 3-2-2: local currency & bartering options. Local businesses became sinks for Hour-Dollars. 2nd Round: supported Aliza: local foods & better wages & Sean: more fair employee/employer relations.

Kate: Shared she’s pretty much done. Done it all. But she can help with communication.

Chat Notes

From Jeanette Hardison to Everyone 04:40 PM

https://materials-exchange.org/

From Ruby Moon to Everyone 04:40 PM

another Jim the Fixer

From Kate Hickok Feldman to Everyone 04:40 PM

Repair Mall/ Materials exchange/ Maker Space

From Jeanette Hardison to Everyone 04:43 PM

Repair Malls are also opportunities to teach/learn trades and keep them alive with small classes, such as textiles and leather repair, electronics

definitely a connection to the arts! Maybe [Maxtivity](https://www.maxtivitycreative.space/) in Philomath has some growth/expansion opportunity

From Adrienne Fritze @ RemarkableArts / Conundrum House to Everyone 04:45 PM

Maxtivity is a great emerging model. BTW, they are this quarter’s recipients of our $$ donations @ Conundrum House.

From Jeanette Hardison to Everyone 04:45 PM

NICE