

In person Workshops August 17th and 19th, 2024 | Downtown Chandler Library

Virtual Workshop August 17 – 23, 2024

WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE?

The focus of the **VISIONING** workshops was multifaceted. A formal presentation overview of the project and process was provided along with an open house format with stations to collect community input. Various interactive exercises were offered at individual stations, allowing participants to consider the unique conditions of the Downtown Region as a whole and at each of the five districts. Comments and feedback from the workshop will directly assist in informing the Scenario Workshops as well as the contents and direction of the area plan. Materials for this workshop were developed using initial community input gleaned from community interviews and an online questionnaire.



Downtown Region:

Downtown Region Vision Statement – Collect input on the draft community derived Vision Statement for the Downtown Region as a whole.

Each District:

Guiding Principles Draw out the priorities gleaned from initial input for each district to create guiding principles.

Areas of Change Mapping Respond to the designated PRESERVE.SUSTAIN.EVOLVE areas.

Community Design through Visual Preference Select images and input that provide insight to aesthetic design priorities of the community. The responses will help develop region and district specific design standards.

Preserve. Sustain. Evolve.

- **Preserve (pink)**
 - Areas that should be protected and remain largely in their current condition. These areas may have significant development constraints, historic resources, neighborhoods with a significant heritage, school sites, public lands, and parklands.
- **Sustain (orange)**
 - Areas that should remain generally in their current condition but may see minor changes and transition of use over time. These areas may experience adaptive reuse of older structures or incremental changes.
- **Evolve (green)**
 - Areas that have potential to support new development or be reused as development patterns change over time. These areas may be vacant, transitioning, or underdeveloped.

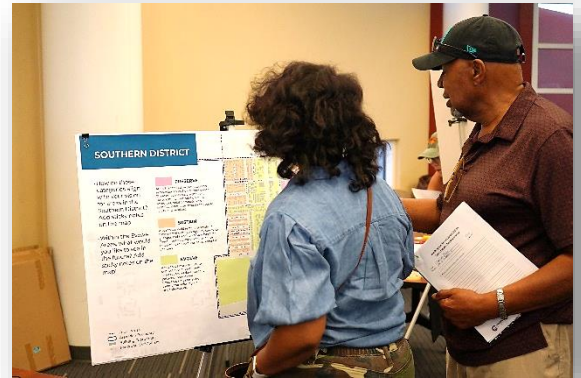
**WORKSHOP 1 - VISIONING
SUMMARY**

September 5, 2024

WHO ATTENDED?

The meeting was advertised widely via the [project website](#), the city’s social media channels, news radio, eLists, and a local billboard. **52 online participants** had the opportunity to engage in the detailed, fully interactive virtual workshop consisting of exercises that mirrored the in-person event. The mapping and visioning activities yielded several insightful comments.

72 in-person participants over 2 separate workshops heard a brief project overview and engaged in a series of interactive visioning and mapping exercises.



WHAT WE HEARD:

The following is a summary of what we heard for the two VISIONING workshops. These results will be reconfirmed at the SCENARIO workshop series planned for September 7th and 10th at the Downtown Library.

Regional Vision Statement “What’s missing from the draft vision statement?”:

Shady streets – welcoming character – safe for pedestrians and bikes

Guiding Principles:

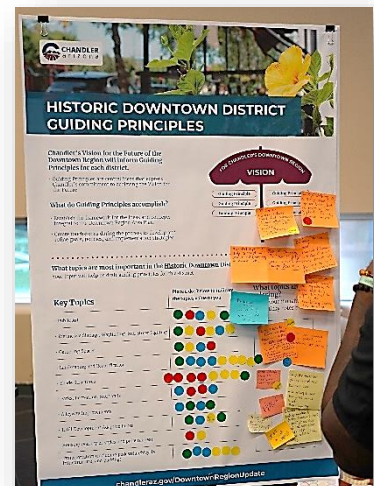
Historic Downtown District

Main priorities: Landscape and beautification, shade structures, transportation options, public art, and distinctive character.

Specific comments: Downtown should be closed periodically for Art Nights, more support for infill housing projects, California Street needs redevelopment and has too much traffic, better work/live options, needs a gym nearby, a small walkable grocery store, prioritize the residential aspect of Downtown, better pedestrian and bike safety features, more land use buffering, protect neighborhoods from commercial parking issues, preserve the unique identity of the district, increase retail, alley improvements, lifestyle services, better access to canal path, and traffic speed control.

Eastern District

Main priorities: Landscaping and beautification, housing (varied style and price), transportation, and shade structures creating a sense of arrival to the Historic Downtown District.



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Specific comments: Education facilities should be highlighted in the district and concerns about street vendors.

Southern District

Main priorities: Distinctive signage, gathering spaces, landscape and beautification with an opportunity to create a more vibrant identity.



Specific comments: Restrict storage facilities, clean up both sides of AZ Ave, and identified location for a new Fine Arts/Community Center.



Northern District

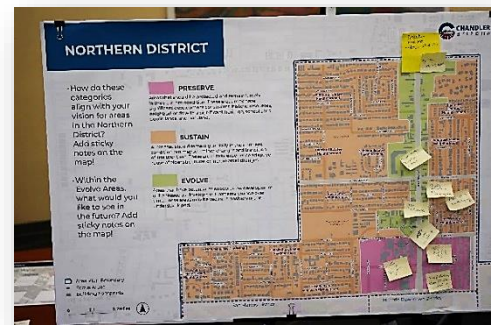
Main priorities: Landscaping and visual beautification, parks and distinctive character.

Specific comments: Improve green infrastructure, rainwater harvesting and cisterns, trails and paths creating better connection between districts and adjacent neighborhoods, and protected bike lanes and shade along 87.

San Marcos District

Main priorities: Parks, recreation opportunities and trails, and infill development.

Specific comments: Interpretative signage that educates on the history of the district, better connection to downtown, preserve the historic golf course as open space, and tear out a portion of the golf course and make it a dense neighborhood center.



QUESTIONNAIRE 1

Questionnaire 1 was launched in both English and Spanish on the project website on July 1, 2024 and will be live until September 3, 2024. This questionnaire along with community interviews drove the material for the Visioning Workshop. The questionnaire has been promoted via social media, eLists, and at the Visioning Workshops. As of this date there are **743 responses** providing valuable insight into the character and aspirations of both the Downtown Region and the five Districts.