



**WHAT'S
NEXT**

ALEXANDRIA

#WHATSNEXTALEX



Community Dialogue

November 15, 2012





Mayor Euille

City of Alexandria

Welcome

John Porter

ACT for Alexandria

Introduction



What is **What's Next Alexandria?**

A City initiative to **begin a community conversation** about civic engagement and planning for the future.

How Alexandrians can best **participate in the public decisions** that shape the City.

Principles that will guide civic engagement and planning in Alexandria.

Process

POLL

**COMMUNITY
DIALOGUE**
NOVEMBER

1

Introduction of the What's Next Alexandria process
Exploration of civic engagement principles

Online Interaction and refinement

**COMMUNITY
DIALOGUE**
JANUARY

2

Refine and confirm civic engagement principles
Create engagement framework and begin to build toolbox

Online Interaction and refinement

**COMMUNITY
DIALOGUE**
MARCH

3

Refine and confirm engagement framework and toolbox
Exploration of planning principles

Online Interaction and refinement

**COMMUNITY
DIALOGUE**
MAY

4

Refine and confirm planning principles

NEXT STEPS

5

ALEXANDRIA



Approach

How will the **What's Next** effort will be approached:

We will be reaching out to the **entire city**

We will be **asking** the community, **not telling** the community

We will **meet in person to facilitate meaningful conversations** among community members about problems and solutions

We will **offer alternative non-meeting options** for those who can't come to meetings

We will be **learning from experts** and **what works** in other parts of the country



Agenda

7:00 Welcome

7:10 **ACTIVITY** | A powerful experience

7:25 What is most compelling about what you just heard?

7:30 Report on the Community Poll

7:40 **Guest Speaker** | Carolyn Lukensmeyer
Executive Director, National Institute for Civil Discourse
Founder and Former President, AmericaSpeaks

8:10 **ACTIVITY** | Brainstorming Principles

8:50 What is most compelling about what you just did?

8:55 **Next Steps** | Online and Next Meeting

9:00 Adjourn and Meet Your Neighbors

Activity

A Powerful Experience



Activity | A Powerful Experience

What is something that someone else in Alexandria has done that has deeply touched you?

Share with your neighbors.

What is most compelling about what you just heard?



Activity | A Powerful Experience

What is something that someone else in Alexandria has done that has deeply touched you?

Share with your neighbors.

What is most compelling about what you just heard?

An orange speech bubble with a white outline, containing text. The bubble is centered on a white background.

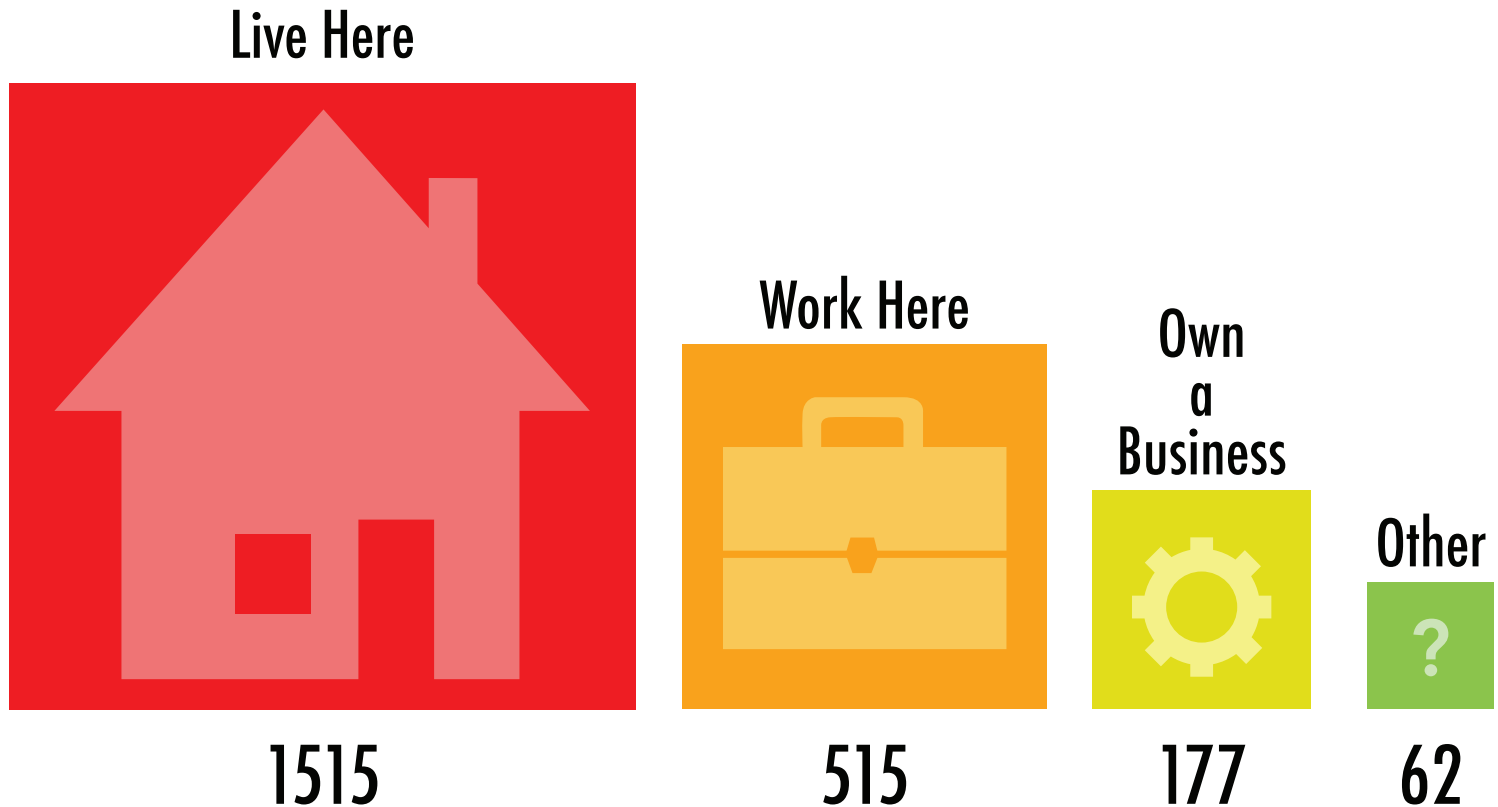
Allen Lomax

Report on Community Poll

Q:

What's your connection to Alexandria?

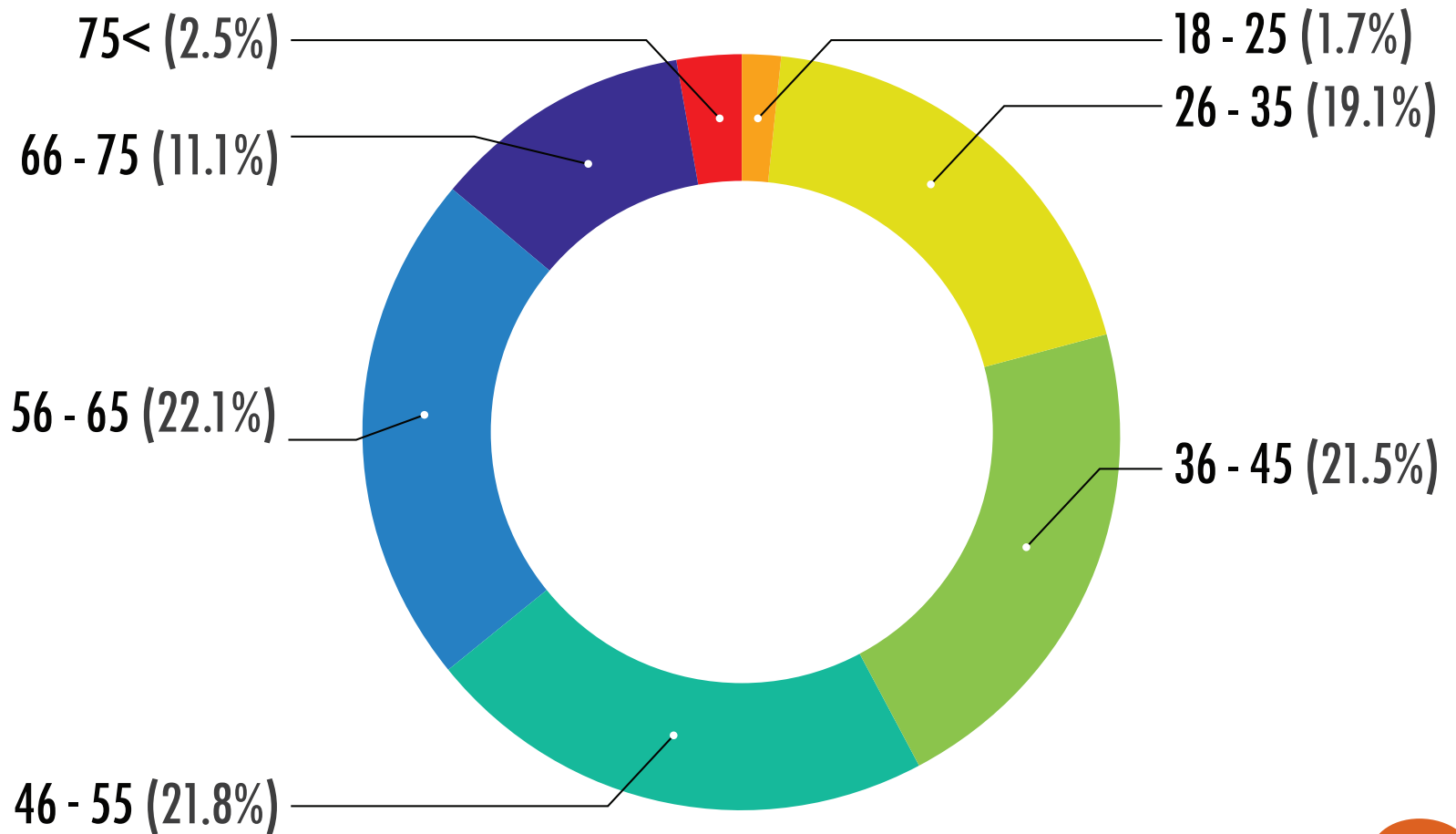
A:



Q:

What's your age range?

A:



Q:

What methods do you use to get information about the City? [Select all that apply]

A:



City of Alexandria Website or
eNews Alert (22.1%)



Word of mouth, friends,
neighbors, etc. (20.3%)



Newspaper, online or print
(20.2%)



Radio or TV
news (11.6%)



Attending meetings, City
Council, Boards, Community,
Commissions (11%)



Social Media
(9.7%)



Comcast
Channel 70
Public Access
(2.5%)



Other
(2.5%)



None
(0.1%)



How do you participate in the public decision-making process? [Select all that apply]

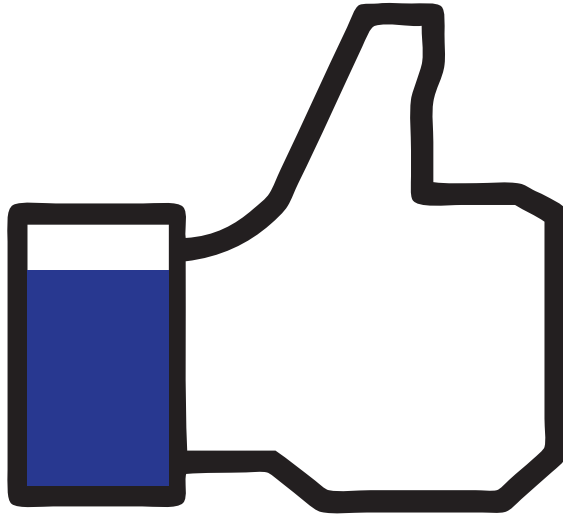


Q:

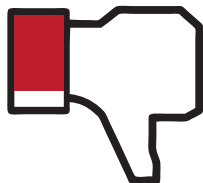
Would you increase your participation in public decision-making if you had different options for participation?

A:

YES
40.1%



NO
13.9%



I'M NOT SURE
46.0%



Q:

Which of the following community meeting characteristics would make you most likely to attend?

A:

Convenient time (of day/week)

It is clear how my input will be used

Ample opportunity for public input

Ground rules for participation

Interactive, hands-on work

Small group discussions

Transportation available or transit accessible

Childcare

Refreshments

Translation services

Q:

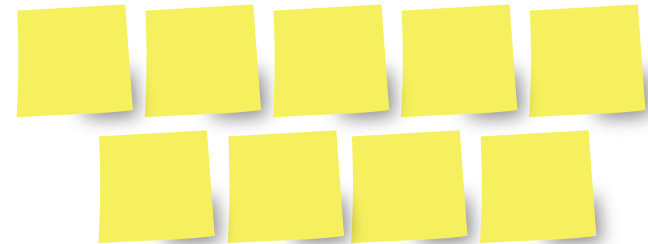
If you don't typically attend City-held community meetings, tell us why. [Select all that apply]

A:

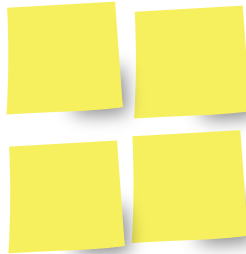
The meeting topics are not relevant to me



I do not have time. I'm too busy with my career, family or other commitments



Other



I'm satisfied with how things are going



I participate in other ways (City website, social media, local civic association, etc.)



I'm confident my neighbors will represent my interests



I am not aware of any community meetings



Q:

What do you think are the most important ways to engage the community in public decision making?

A:



Q:

As the City works to improve the public participation process, please indicate the level of importance you place on each of the following:

A:



Q:

What are the key topics you think we should discuss as a community? [Select the 7 topics most important to you]

A:

All Responses





Report on Community Poll

- Over 130 pages of written comments were submitted and read
- All verbatim comments are available on the website

Guest Speaker



Dr. Carolyn Lukenismeyer

Executive Director

National Institute for Civil Discourse

Founder and Former President, AmericaSpeaks

Activity




Building Engagement Principles Together



Activity | Brainstorming Principles

Step 1

On your own, respond to each of the following questions with a short word or phrase on a post-it note:

- What does ideal engagement feel like? 
- What is expected of you as an engaged citizen? 
- What do you expect in return for your effort? 

You have 5 minutes



Activity | Brainstorming Principles

Step 2

Discuss your words and phrases and what they mean to you.

Next, using your post-its, create one or two sentences that encompass everyone's concepts into a cohesive thought.

Do this for each of the three questions.

You have 35 minutes



Activity | Report Out

What is most compelling about the activity you just completed?

Next Steps and Meeting Evaluation

Next Steps

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Stay Connected!

Alexandriava.gov/WhatsNext

Alexandriava.gov/WhatsNextEspanol

Next Community Dialogue

January 2013



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