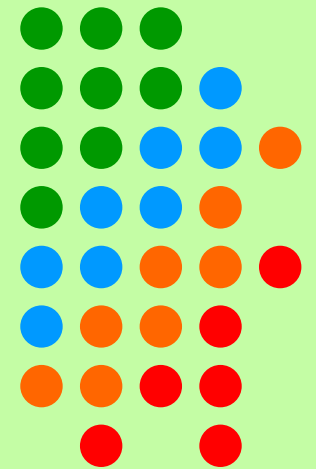
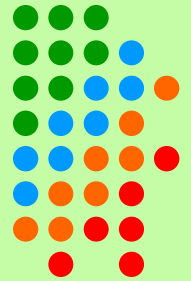




Bristol Town Council Workshop
May 16, 2007



What Is Voices for Bristol?



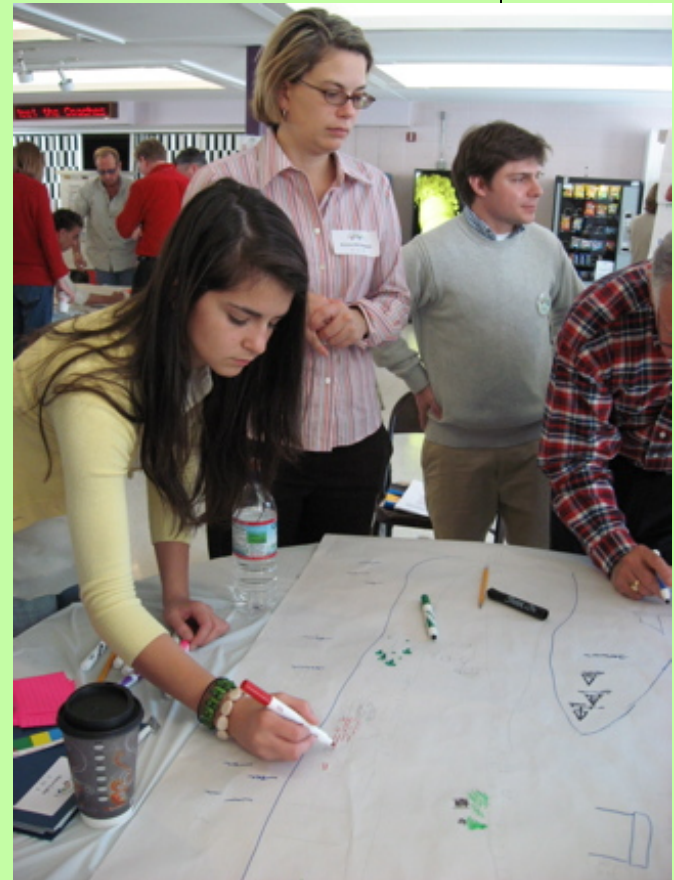
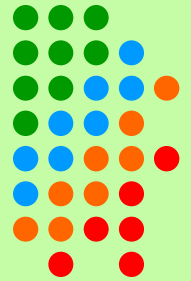
Voices is a volunteer organization that provides Bristol's citizens with a way to become involved in their town.

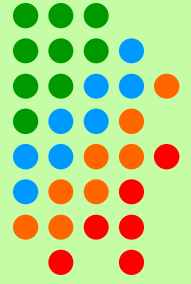


Background

Voices for Bristol grew out of the *Voices for Bristol's Future* forum in March of 2007.

Seventy-five percent of the forum participants “pitched in” and Voices for Bristol was formed.



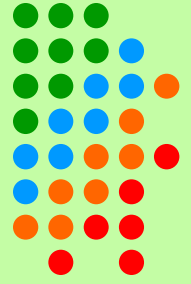


Workshop Goals

- Present report on the Voices forum
- Provide update on activities since forum
- Explore ways to work with Town Council on priority issues



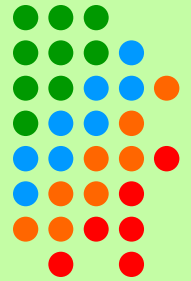
Forum Overview - Goals



- Create a shared vision for Bristol's future
- Generate recommendations to reach this vision
- Build community interest, energy and involvement

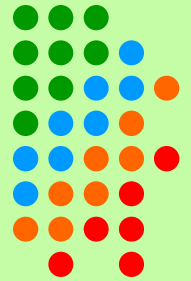


Forum Overview - Participants



- 150 citizens and volunteer facilitators participated in two-day conversation
- Forum organizers sought out participants from all walks of life and recruited those who had not been involved before
- Sixty percent of participants have lived in Bristol for more than 10 years

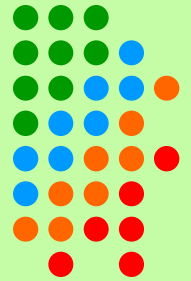
Participant Age Range



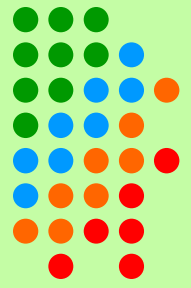
Age 16-20	5%
Age 21-35	12%
Age 36-50	30%
Age 51-65	43%
Age >65	10%



Forum Agenda



- Reflect on Bristol's assets
- Listen to presentation on historical trends, demographics, school and economic data
- Brainstorm a vision for the town's future
- Identify key priorities for the town
- Create potential short and long term solutions

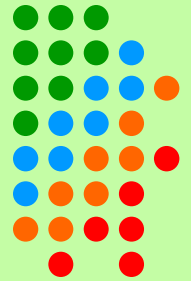


Forum Results - Priorities

- Education
- Environment
- Downtown
- Waterfront
- Economic Development
- Recreation & Cultural Arts
- Smart Growth

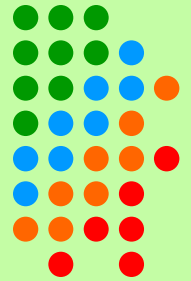
EDUCATION 5+6	(71)
ENVIRONMENTAL/GREEN 12+8	(71)
ECONOMIC 1+2	(36)
WATERFRONT 7+9	(37)
DOWNTOWN 11+10	(64)
RECREATION 3+4	(34)
SMART GROWTH	26
TRAFFIC/TRANSPORTATION	14

Forum Results – Overwhelmingly positive



- Participants valued
 - The diversity of opinions
 - The interest and enthusiasm of Bristol's citizens
 - The opportunity to express themselves and meet others
- Participants learned
 - That everyone loves Bristol
 - They have common ideas, interests and vision with other demographic groups
- “Don't let this die!”

Forum Observation



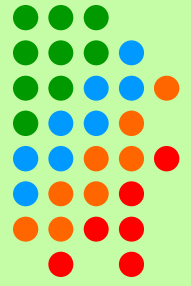
"The real story is that many of us had a lot of fun. I met a lot of great people, heard a lot of great ideas and felt that I was taking part in something bigger than me. It was energizing."



Scott Pickering

Bristol Phoenix, March 8, 2007

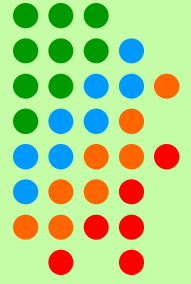
Accomplishments Since the Forum



- Refining our strategic plan for maintaining the momentum
 - Creating a Steering Committee
 - Exploring grants from the Rhode Island Foundation

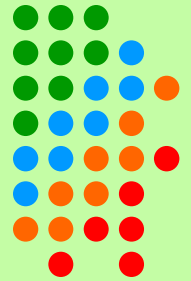


Accomplishments Since the Forum



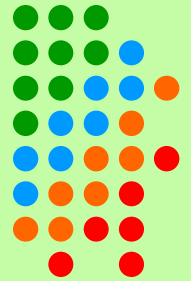
- Established seven Task Forces on identified priorities.
- The Task Forces will:
 - Become more educated on issues related to identified priorities
 - Educate others and build awareness
 - Identify and supplement efforts of existing groups
 - Gather further input from the townspeople on their concerns and ideas
 - Promote consensus around the best solutions

Moving Forward with Voices



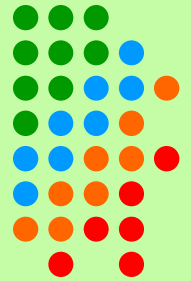
- *Coordinate* with Town Council, town departments, boards and other civic groups
 - Workshop is a first step
 - Encouraging townspeople to attend meetings
 - Encouraging townspeople to join community groups that interest them

Moving Forward with Voices



- *Expand* outreach
 - Develop a communications strategy that includes the Internet, a newsletter, and regular community discussion forums
 - Continue the work started
 - Keep public informed of Voices opportunities
 - Promote civic engagement by welcoming new dialogue

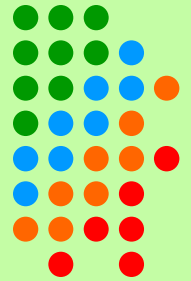
Moving Forward with Voices



Contribute the resources of a large, inclusive group of committed volunteers

- Provide analysis of important issues
- Assist town leadership in gathering input and facilitating discussion on key issues
- Identify emerging issues
- Add value by helping existing groups
- Work in the community – we're feet on the street

Voices and the Town Council



- We hope to work with you on priority issues
- We would like your input based on your areas of interest and expertise
- We appreciate your support for the forum and value your feedback
- How can we work together?



Thank you!

