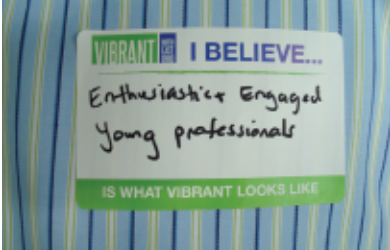


VIBRANT

NORTHEAST OHIO



DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE NORTHEAST OHIO WITH TODAY'S YOUNG LEADERS

Theorists all over the globe have written about the importance of young, creative talent in revitalizing cities and communities—but we don't need to look in a book to realize that today's youth are a vital element in shaping our tomorrow for the better. Our artists, students, professionals, and activists will be the drivers of much needed change and energy. The future leaders of our region deserve to inherit a community that represents their passions and priorities, and therefore deserve a place at the table as we formulate an idea of what these communities should look like.

Through our Vibrant Northeast Ohio initiative, we here at the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC) asked you young people to dig deep and let us know what you believe makes a **vibrant community**—and answer you did. Over 330 participants at five different venues pooled together to address three topics about their community:

- **What is working well**
- **What existing programs or organizations can help turn our communities around**
- **How successes can be scaled and built upon**

The quality and scope of responses we received was not only impressive, but incredibly inspiring. Participants at each location offered differing opinions on what makes for a vibrant region, but there were also striking similarities across the board. These are presented on the next page, followed by a summary of each event individually.

Our hope is that we will continue to receive valuable feedback from Northeast Ohio's young leaders—to inform **future action**, as both an organization and a region. This is only the beginning. Each quarter will welcome another meeting in each of the five areas of Northeast Ohio. We hope that you will continue to attend and offer your voice, as well as get involved in other ways. By **joining a subcommittee for your region**, you can help shape both the region and future events. Also be sure to check out our Conditions and Trends Platform, which we'll be sharing on June 26th. Information can be found at our website: www.neoscc.org.

Another set of meetings will take place throughout the region three months from now (see the next page for upcoming dates). We've made a commitment to give you a seat at the table. *Help us make this region yours.*

NEOSCC.ORG

Combining all of the responses gathered from the five Vibrant events, the following are the responses that young professionals viewed as what is working and the key aspects that are turning communities around in Northeast Ohio, as well as potential actions we can take to leverage these successes in the region:

WHAT'S WORKING

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
COMMUNITY GARDENS
PUBLIC ART
SUPPORTING ETHNIC DIVERSITY **THEATER** ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT
METROPARKS SYSTEM LOCAL AND BIG BOX RETAIL
PROMOTING A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLE
TRANSIT SYSTEMS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
CITY PARKS
BUSINESS INCUBATORS

WHAT'S TURNING

CREATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES
SUSTAINABILITY AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
FIXING INFRASTRUCTURE
CONFERENCES AND PROGRAMS TO FACILITATE DIALOG
COMMITTING TO A COMMUNITY
CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
REUSING VACANT BUILDINGS
CITY COMMUNITY MOVEMENTS
POSITIVE ATTITUDE
ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF TALENT
COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

WHAT WE CAN DO NEXT

Young professionals focused on ten aspects- which can guide future steps to revitalization of the region:

1. Change the perception of our communities and our cities by educating people about issues
2. Embrace regionalism
3. Incorporate inclusivity of cultural diversity
4. Reverse the brain drain by giving incentives to the creative class and to other target populations
5. Create more space for urban agriculture and green area
6. Promote the benefits of public transportation options such as transit or biking
7. Combine efforts of economic development, philanthropy, and government
8. Encourage individuals to become more community-oriented via neighborhood block parties and festivals
9. Support programs to help mitigate drug use and crime in communities
10. Encourage a positive outlook on the community



UPCOMING EVENTS

AKRON JULY 17
YOUNGSTOWN JULY 24
LORAIN JULY 31
CANTON AUGUST 14
CLEVELAND AUGUST 21

FOR MORE INFO VISIT NEOSCC.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/VIBRANTNEO
@VIBRANTNEO

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PHOTOS | VIDEOS

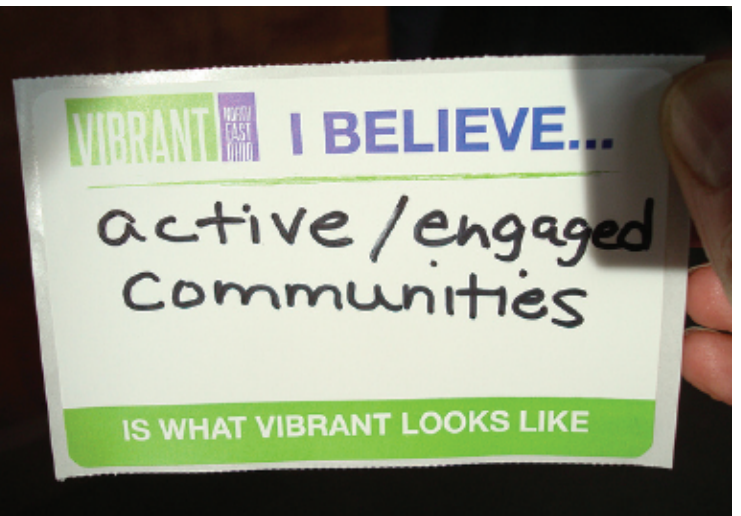
On April 17, 2012, The Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC), in collaboration with The Civic Commons and R Strategy, launched a regional campaign in Akron. The NEOSCC Young Professional event, This is what VIBRANT looks like was a interactive mixer that brought together young leaders from across Greater Akron to discuss how we can make our region even more vibrant in the near future by highlighting local successes and building upon them. Over 50 young professionals and emerging leaders from across the Akron area gathered at Paolo's Bar in the Canal Park neighborhood to discuss our three questions. What is working and what existing programs or organizations can turn the region around are combined in the word cloud below, and the list of actions proposed by young Akronites are listed.



BUILDING ON SUCCESS

1. Create more walkable spaces
2. Create more mixed-use spaces
3. Change the perception of the transit system
4. Connect the far-out parts with a train
5. Organizing neighborhood block parties
6. Promote community festivals
7. Utilize town-gown strategies
8. Integrate immigrant population
9. Have more local discussions

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PHOTOS | VIDEO



NEXT EVENT AKRON JULY 17 | FACEBOOK.COM/VIBRANTNEO
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT NEOSCC.ORG | @VIBRANTNEO

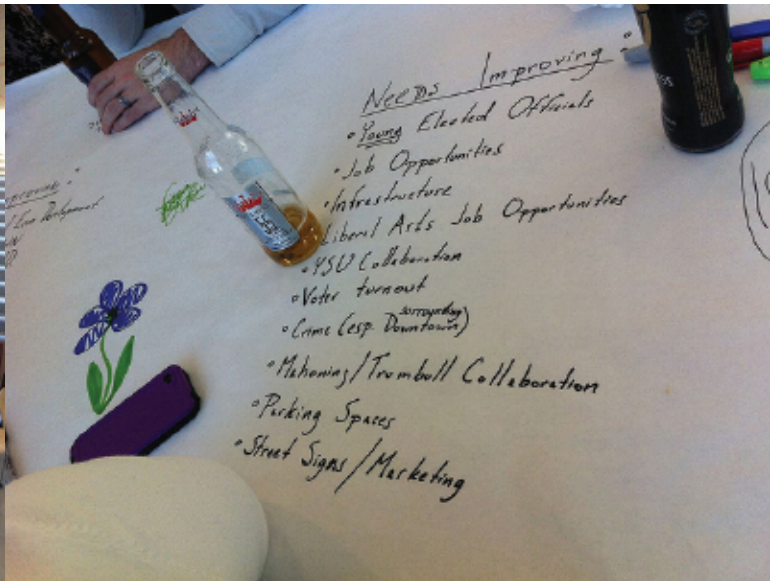
On April 24, 2012, Vibrancy became the topic of conversation in the Mahoning Valley as over 80 young professionals congregated at Overture at the DeYor Performing Arts Center to discuss the future of our region. Participants focused on revitalizing from the ground up by creating community within our neighborhoods to combat the ills of the region. The wordcloud below represents the combined responses to what is working in the region, and what is being done to turn the region and community around. A list of next steps proposed by the young professionals group is to its right.



BUILDING ON SUCCESS

1. More rehabilitation programs for addicts and criminals
2. Creating a dog run; dog-friendly parks
3. More landscaping downtown
4. More local writers discussing the history of Youngstown
5. Have more young elected officials
6. Urban Restoration
7. Support young entrepreneurs
8. Inspire
9. Educate and develop student entrepreneurs
10. Support local charities and philanthropies
11. Connect Local Businesses to Niche Market
12. Saving Students Money
13. Connecting and Networking with community
14. Creating Opportunities for Urban Agriculture
15. Create more affordable, livable locations within walking distance of downtown

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PHOTOS | VIDEO



NEXT EVENT YOUNGSTOWN JULY 24 | FACEBOOK.COM/VIBRANTNEO
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On May 1, 2012, young professionals from across Lorain County gathered on Main Street in Downtown Amherst, at Cork's Wine Bar and Bistro. The backdrop was a historic Main Street making a comeback. Once the center of commerce for the city, new stores are filling long-vacant storefronts. While small in number, the group was very engaged and provided not only concrete examples to answer questions but also offered words of encouragement for young professionals to take the reins and move our region forward. What is working and what existing programs or organizations can turn the region around are combined in the word cloud below, and the list of actions proposed by the young professionals are listed.

TEAM LORAIN COUNTY
ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTION
LORAIN COUNTY METROPARKS
LORAIN COUNTY PRIDE INITIATIVE
DIVERSITY WATERFRONT
LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LORAIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OBERLIN MUNICIPAL LIGHT AND POWER
CROCKER PARK
OBERLIN COLLEGE
REGIONALISM
THE OBERLIN PROJECT
MIXED INCOME
JOINT VOCATION SCHOOL
AVON COMMONS

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

1. Promote the creative class
2. Incentivize entrepreneurial activity
3. Support business attraction
4. Engage economic development, philanthropy, and government
5. Reverse brain drain
6. Encourage historical Re-Invention for Manufacturing
7. Improve PR to include more positive than negative
8. Create more opportunities for youth
9. Improve public transportation
10. Build opportunities for more dialog and conversation
11. Share ideas and resources
12. Increase tourism and self-promotion

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NEXT EVENT LORAIN JULY 31 | [FACEBOOK.COM/VIBRANTNEO](https://www.facebook.com/vibrantneo)
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On May 9, 2012, Stark County participants offered a perspective that had not yet emerged in the previous three meetings. Attendees at the event at The Auricle focused not only on the local successes of Stark County, but also on successes all over the region. Specifically, they highlighted examples in Cuyahoga, Portage, and Summit counties. What is working and what existing programs or organizations can turn the region around are combined in the word cloud below, and the list of actions proposed by participants are listed.



BUILDING ON SUCCESS

1. Build awareness to get community involved
2. Encourage more community service
3. Support agriculture and small businesses
4. Revitalization of residential properties
5. Create good energy and positivity
6. One strong business plan
7. Bring leaders together at the table
8. Organize more community volunteers
9. Solve or mitigate major drug and crime problems
10. Work on better marketing and recruiting to hit target populations
11. Find a way to stop people from leaving the inner-cities

[CLICK TO CHECK OUT THE EVENT PHOTOS | VIDEO](#)



NEXT EVENT CANTON AUG 14 | [@VIBRANTNEO](https://FACEBOOK.COM/VIBRANTNEO)
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