



Creative Salon Summary

“Rebuilding Our Communities From the Inside-Out”

April 24, 2008

A community discussion hosted by



MountainsideMedia, Inc.

www.mountainsidemediamedia.com

and



www.collectiveimpact.com

facilitated by Bruce Decker,
Collective Impact



Discussion Highlights:

What is Social Capital?

Social Capital is about PEOPLE. Our greatest resource.

Neighborhood Associations are examples of social capital in action. Neighbors connect with neighbors and neighborhoods also connect with each other. They discuss issues and brainstorm solutions. Together, they are an effective, collective voice at City Hall.

The people who show up are most often, the ones who will “do”. Everyone wants to connect – but not everyone is an organizer.

True social capital is developed when people of all backgrounds and means are given the opportunity to participate in their community.

Social capital is the ability to harness what you need from other people.

Social capital is critical, but undervalued. A house divided against itself cannot stand. The opposite of social capital is destruction.

Social capital happens when people come together to get things done – when they think outside of themselves and plug into their community.

What is a Creative Community?

A Creative Community sees the extraordinary in the ordinary. Citizens are innovative thinkers.

A Creative Community can envision what needs to be done and will push to make it happen.

Leadership is key. Energetic people create energetic results.

A Creative Community is multigenerational. It respects the new ideas of its youth and the wisdom of its elders.

A Creative Community considers all aspects of the quality of life.

Addressing small issues creatively can make a big difference.

A creative community is energized, not demoralized by problems.

Not everyone in a creative community needs to be creative. But they do need to be EMPOWERED.

The people that live in a creative community are innovative thinkers, leaders and risk-takers. They bring uniqueness to their community.

In a creative community, there are opportunities to bring people together.

Creative communities combine existing resources for new outcomes.

In a creative community, there is openness to new ideas.

A community's creativity is reflected in its music, food, art, sights and architecture.

A Creative Community draws out the "artist" that is in everyone.

A Creative Community is diverse.

Our Community Visions and How We Get There

Huntington and Wayne County should be a "garden spot" destination. We must capitalize on our natural beauty.

We envision a community with civic interest, ownership, responsibility, and pride. This positive energy will expand and attract others.

Community gatherings like the Creative Salon are an important tool for generating and supporting positive energy for change and connecting with positive people. We must continue to create these venues and recruit people to attend.

The Herald-Dispatch should consider a "positive" editorial page, where the only letters printed talk about good things happening or solutions to problems.

It's important to break the political "good old boy" network and put positive, progressive people in office.

Huntington and Wayne County should collaborate on tourism and marketing opportunities.

We need to market and emphasize our greatest strength – our HOSPITALITY.

Recommended Internet Links

bettertogether.org

Better Together provides interactive ways to celebrate and learn from the ways that Americans are connecting, and provides tools and strategies to connect with others.

createwv.com

Create West Virginia is a statewide group working to build West Virginia's Creative Class so that it will be competitive in the New Economy.

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To participate in future Creative Salons, please contact



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