

Welcome Dayton Plan



Overview

Why create an immigrant friendly plan?

- Help immigrants get settled and increase civic engagement
- Increase immigrant business development
- Ease access to social services
- Nurture mutual trust, respect, and a welcoming environment
- Compete in global economy by attracting immigrants & talent to our workforce



Overview

Planning process:

- Dialogue with city leaders and Human Relations Council lead to civic engagement process
- Implemented community conversations over a 6-month period - envisioned possibilities, gained commitment and composed Plan
- City Commission approved a Resolution to accept the Plan



Overview

The Plan

Residents self-selected into the following four content areas:

- Business and Economic Development
- Local Government and Justice System
- Social and Health Services
- Community, Culture, Arts and Education



Overview

The Plan (continued):

- The four planning groups designed their own process but all groups met together 3 times over the 90-day planning period
- A fifth group of city staff and community members consensed on the Plan's name and logo design
- Plan reflects a personal story for many Daytonians and is viewed as a living document



Goals

Business & Economic Development Goals:

- Identify a strategic neighborhood business district as a center for immigrant businesses
- Reduce the barriers for immigrant entrepreneurs to open new businesses anywhere in the city



Goals

Local Government and Justice System Goals:

- Increase immigrant participation in government and community organizations and activities
- Increase trust and communication between immigrant communities and law enforcement
- Overcome language barriers in courts and prosecutors' offices
- Promote increased access to government services by having language services available



Goals

Social and Health Services Goals:

- Eliminate barriers to services caused by lack of interpreters and limited understanding of cultural and access issues
- Systematically review all local laws and practices that create artificial and unnecessary barriers to immigrants and refugees



Goals

Community, Culture, Arts and Education Goals:

- Increase the availability of ESL and literacy courses for adults
- Actively involve all community youth in international connections and community building
- Encourage cross-cultural programming among community's cultural and arts organizations



Goals

City Government Goals:

- Adopt the Welcome Dayton Plan as framework
- Establish a Welcome Dayton committee to coordinate and implement the Plan
- Identify lead person in CMO to coordinate city efforts
- Seek financial partners to fund facilitation efforts for 3 years



Implementation

- Identify city and community resources to staff the Welcome Dayton Committee to facilitate/coordinate efforts
- Formation of Task Force groups within Plan's areas of focus
- Encourage immigrant groups, other government agencies, community institutions, and business leaders to undertake their own welcoming initiatives
- Create website that connects and supports Welcome Dayton
- Maintain grassroots structure and civic engagement practice upon which the Plan was formed



Economic Development Benefits

- Enhance Dayton's competitiveness in the global economy
- Strengthen ability to recruit talented individuals from around the world
- Focus on Dayton's resources, welcoming climate, and diverse population base
- Support growth from within through immigrant entrepreneurs



Timeline

2011

February - April: Community conversations

April - June: Community composed the Plan

July - August: Logo designed, Resolution organized

Sept – Oct: Commission Work Session/Resolution approved

November – December: Designed and populated web site

2012

January – March: launched web site; City Manager's task force

April: Commission selection of Welcome Dayton committee



Welcome Dayton Plan

The Welcome Dayton **process** clearly revealed **ongoing** local initiatives by small and often cooperating groups of people to develop a welcoming community.

Welcome Dayton, to succeed, must link with and be **supportive** of and **collaborative** with local non- governmental and non- corporate organizations.



Questions?

Questions or Comments?

For more information, please visit: www.welcomedayton.org

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Welcome Dayton Plan

Thank you!

