



## **Pre-Summit Inputs**

**The following are three executive summaries of different ways Cleveland Rising engaged community members in pre-summit conversations about their ideal future images for Greater Cleveland 2030.**

Three summaries are included detailing findings around three different input methods:

1. Ten Common Ground sessions held on June 30, 2019 across the community devoted to Greater Cleveland Rising – 2030 Vision. Approximately 210 citizens participated in sessions hosted by Destination Cleveland, Cleveland Leadership Center, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Cuyahoga County Libraries, Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority and Dix & Eaton.
2. Share Your Voice sessions held in September 2019 involving approximately 75 citizens at two local libraries, two college campuses, and one minority-owned business.
3. Share Your Voice Website Inputs, which collected 44 individual write-in responses submitted on the CLE Rising Summit website.

## Common Ground Themes and Quotes

*"In 2030, visitors to Cleveland will be pleasantly surprised and we won't say, "Who knew?" but instead, "I told you so!"*

*"What we are saying is that we are poised for a great future!"*

*"There's a hunger to improve and lots of energy to move."*

### Increased Development and Access to the Lakefront

The lakefront is a great asset to Cleveland. People should have access to the lakefront. There could be an annual lakefront festival. Cleveland should have clean, safe beaches. There should be increased access and improvements to lakefront development. The lakefront could be modelled after Chicago's Navy Pier with more recreation along the lakefront. More access to fishing areas without needing a boat.

*"More recreation/parks/bike trails/dining, and less industry along the lakefront and river. Like in Chicago."*

### Reliable, Accessible, Affordable, Expanded Transportation

Transportation in Cleveland should connect all parts of the city. The public transit is well-connected, expanded, safe, and accessible to everyone. The public transit stops are walker, cane and/or scooter accessible. The public transit takes people where they want to go - doctor's appointments, shopping, to see family, etc. Cleveland becomes a central transportation hub for larger cities - a one-hour train ride to New York City and Chicago. There should be a railway to Columbus. The public transportation is more appealing to younger generations - 20-30 somethings - while still accessible by senior citizens. The airport experience has improved. There are more direct flights and the airport is expanded. Transportation of all forms is better - lake, land and air.

*"Transportation that is more easily accessible and follows a route that takes us where we need to go for example, work, groceries, doctor, family – these aren't on the regular routes."*

*"I don't spend my life commuting!"*

*"Expand on transportation; land, lake and air. You should be able to take a boat to attractions along the coast like the Browns stadium, Rock Hall, Cedar Point, etc."*

### Decent Work and Economic Growth

Job opportunities and employment for everyone. Cleveland is the headquarters for big businesses. Cleveland keeps talent within the city once people have graduated. There is more opportunity for jobs and employment growth, even outside of the healthcare sector. There is increased innovation in the industrial sector. There is a vibrant arts community in Cleveland. There are job training programs for youth at all levels and retired tradesmen and tradeswomen are hired to teach.

## **A Sustainable City**

There is a world-class downtown experience. The city and surrounding areas are run on sustainable, renewable energy. Cleveland is leading the world as a green city. There are green spaces and urban farming. The city and its amenities are accessible for adults with disabilities.

## **Collaboration and Communication**

Cleveland is a collaborative city in many aspects. There is collaboration among non-profits. There is collaboration across sectors - public, for-profit and non-profit. Cleveland is a giving community. There is collaboration across municipalities and across regions. There is regional cooperation. There is a regional outlook on topics that affect Northeast Ohio as a whole. There is no more East Side/West Side. There is full representation in public service roles. There is transparency and clarity in government issues. Efforts to fuel economic growth are coordinated across sectors and regions. There are more community centers within neighborhoods and communities. There is clear understanding of leadership and there is communication from leadership to all levels, including neighborhoods. Information is disseminated more effectively so that citizens have information on employment, support and opportunities. Funding is generated and kept within neighborhoods. There is increased communication from law enforcement. When decisions are made, there is equity and diversity in the populations represented. People's opinions matter.

*“Better dissemination of important information, so that all the way to the neighborhood level, people know where to find information on the resources they need like employment, support, and opportunities.”*

*“Greater accountability on the part of law enforcement to increase communication in the communities they serve and improve understanding of how they serve”*

## **Quality Education for Everyone at All Levels**

Cleveland has a high standard of education for all levels. There is a high-quality public school system. Educational opportunities past high school are funded. Cleveland invests in education and there are more educational opportunities for all levels and all members of society.

## **Affordable, Safe, and Diverse Neighborhoods and Communities**

Housing is always affordable. Poverty, homelessness, crime, drug use and racism are eliminated. We have safe neighborhoods. Neighborhoods are walking and biking friendly. There are more centers for gathering in neighborhoods as well as safe parks for kids to play in. Everyone has an opportunity to thrive in their community. The Emerald Necklace is a safe place for people. Opioid use and abuse are eliminated. Empty houses are gone and torn down. There is less segregation. There is more support for senior citizens. Neighborhoods are multicultural. There is new and affordable housing. There is access to fresh food and grocery stores in all neighborhoods. There are community centers and playgrounds in all neighborhoods. There is no more homelessness. All generations are considered. There are better re-entry programs. There is universal, affordable health care access - Cleveland is a national model. Cleveland is safe and people are no longer afraid to frequent areas of the city.

*“A thriving city where poverty, homelessness, crime, drug use, and racism is eliminated and CLE is a place for all people to flourish—with more opportunity: jobs, education, homes, great school systems, affordable health care, and safe neighborhoods, with full collaboration across all socio-economic backgrounds, ages, abilities, cultures, and races.”*

*“Taking Responsibility for activities for the Good of others.”*

*“Whether you want a loft with a great view, or large estate, you can find it in close proximity of the city and can actually afford it.”*

*“Safety – some people are afraid to frequent what is already here.”*

### **Leverage our Resources**

Capitalize on all four seasons. Cleveland is the leader in the healthcare system. We have improved access to resources. We invest in our own natural resources. We leverage our resources to become a national leader.

*“It’s a small town, big city feel, with Mid-Western kindness, a good size and cost of living with all the amenities, assets and resources of larger cities.”*

**SHARED VOICES:  
A SUMMARY OF CONVERSATIONS HAD AT LANGSTON HUGHES LIBRARY, WARRENSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
URBAN KUTZ, CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY**

Approximately 75 residents of Cleveland, and its surrounding communities, gathered over a course of five days to collectively discuss the 2030 image of Cleveland. The population of participants were diverse in age, economic status, education, and social class. Length of occupancy in the city ranged from birth to 2 weeks and captured voices from those who relocated to Cleveland from areas as far as China.

Each group were asked 3 targeted questions to help generate a plausible image for Cleveland in 2030. The questions were: What's your name, neighborhood and your proud Cleveland moment? Or Why Cleveland as your current place of residence; What makes Cleveland, Cleveland? If these elements were taken away, Cleveland would no longer exist; and lastly, what does Cleveland look like in 2030? which was asked after entering a dream state exercise.

Throughout each session, it was apparent that participants appreciated similar qualities of Cleveland. For example, as conversations started, the topic of discussion often was focused around Cleveland's sports teams. The fact that the city has the privilege of having teams in every major league is rewarding for many. Moreover, dedication and admiration of these teams were collectively shared in stories told that were highly laudatory. Specific proud moments were the Cavs Championship Parade and the RNC conference as it represented Cleveland's class and charm.

Several of Cleveland "gems" were noted and appreciated such as its cultural gardens, the history, higher education systems, healthcare, but mostly importantly - its people. Clevelanders are characterized as caring and altruistic in nature. Unanimously, the notion of being the "underdog" was a phrase that was spoken or expressed during in each conversation. This phrase evoked optimism, hope and opportunity that later began to symbolize what Cleveland means for many.

**The collective vision of the 2030 Cleveland Image:**

Cleveland is now a city where the idea of East and West was eliminated thereby integrating and expanded a universal quality of life for all, connected by its breath-taking lakefront. The neighborhoods are diverse and fully occupied by way of neighborhood sustainability programs that ensures that vacant homes are not left unoccupied for extended periods of time. The cost of living in Cleveland remains favorable. Homes are affordable for all, and residents can work with local banks to obtain adequate housing loans at fair rates. Community leaders are engaged and work to ensure that universal progression within our neighborhoods take place in unison. Furthermore, careful attention is paid to the allocation of tax dollars and resources to ensure that all neighborhoods are consistently thriving and are safe.

Legislation has adopted a robust succession planning protocol to ensure that the community remains successful throughout the transition of city leaders. Community leaders work with the community to ensure that resources and opportunity remain in sync. Local non-profits are collaborating with the community, therefore, amplifying a shared voice that is echoed throughout the city.

Cleveland is a place where businesses are known to thrive, which is made possible through their aligned partnership with the community though its shared vision for the greater good of Cleveland. The community has a voice that is heard in its inclusive economic environment. Businesses are also seen as a resident of the community and are accountable in this regard. Public, private and civic organizations are equal residents of Cleveland as they have been a major facilitator of development. Succession planning for Cleveland leaders and business has had a positive impact on the city.

The heart of Cleveland is made up of its neighborhoods. The sense of family, while embodying the essence and harmony of villages and community, is embedded throughout. Crime has decreased significantly compared to 2019. Police and other civic officers work with the community to understand concerns and develop effective training programs for targeted serves areas with efforts to meet the needs of Cleveland residents.

Each neighborhood has a local school where resources are equally allocated to ensure all schools throughout the city function at and by the same standards, while holding our children, families, and education system to higher expectations and accountability. Cleveland schools are no longer being closed, nor are resources being removed to strengthen the other systems. STEM, the arts and Cleveland history are now incorporated into the curriculum of all education institutions.

The universities, colleges and skilled trades centers continue to strive and remain recognized across the nation. Bridging programs with local businesses provide employment for young adults after completing high school and/or college. While Cleveland still captures national attention for its world class health care, access, and advances, Cleveland prides itself on its environmental developments to eliminate pollution and waste through its enhanced recycling program that now includes compost disposable that is repurposed in ways that is ecologically sound.

Residents are provided with free resources to sustain employment at a fair wage, thereby eliminating the need to work multiple jobs to provide for one's family as experienced in 2019. In return, the unemployment rate is an all-time low and poverty has significantly decreased. Additional programs for the recently released inmates and military vets to become reintegrated into the community has been established and are successful.

By way of its safe sidewalks and designated bike lanes, Cleveland's walkable neighborhoods offers access to family-owned cafes, grocery stores, schools and so much more. Cleveland's circular transit system that allows easy access to various areas of the city for recreational transport. The effective subway system or bullet train is the primary method of transportation for our professionals to join the "Cleveland Hustle" as it offers a fast and safe commute to work, thereby eliminating the need to live near one's place of employment. While car transportation is not a requirement for Cleveland living, superhighways with exit ramps to all communities are available.

Aesthetically, the eastern corridor has been filled in with beautiful and intelligent architecture that provides an amazing outlook onto the city. In addition to various multigenerational spaces, Cleveland's boardwalk offers a relaxing view onto the lake and is a place for residents to unwind and inhale the city's beauty. Downtown even more inviting with a touch of professional class as it is seen as the business center of the city. The highlight of the city is its lakefront. Its beauty is captivating and is admired by all who dwell upon it. The arts and culture are embedded throughout the city. From the free museums to the architecture and layout of the city and its greenery, Cleveland continues to adhere to its reputation as the Forest City.

The culture of the community is more engaged than ever and embodies the appreciative inquiry mindset. While Cleveland remains the "underdogs," the sense of opportunity and optimism rings throughout the city and its residents. The personality of Clevelanders remains humble and accepting of all regardless of race, culture or associated communities.

Clevelanders remain enamored by their sport teams; they are proud to celebrate the Browns' latest Superbowl win.

Respectfully submitted by Sherri White, MSPOD

**Cleveland Ideal Future Themes – Website inputs  
from 44 website responses to “Share Your Voice” option**

**Let's assume that tonight you fall into a great sleep that lasts for 10 years, when you wake up it is 2030. During those 10 years important advances and developments happened for Cleveland, and the community became everything you most wanted to see. You are now the proudest you have ever been to say you live in the Cleveland area. What is the one most significant thing about Cleveland that has changed for the better?**

**City Infrastructure**

Cleveland is clean. There is no surface lot parking downtown. Everyone has access to clean water and our waterways are clean. The air is clean. Houses and business have solar panels. There is less trash. There is a mix of neighborhoods, small businesses and green space throughout the city. Streets and other infrastructure are maintained. There is a city-wide composting program. We have pedestrian and bike friendly streets. The Browns stadium has a dome. Burke Airport is gone and in its place, there is equal access to the lake. The lakefront is developed including housing and retail establishments. Outdoor and community events take place on the lakefront where all are welcome.

*“City neighborhoods and inner ring suburbs have been significantly reinvigorated, with continued vibrancy Downtown and in University Circle, thanks to investments in lively public green spaces, re-imagined local retail/dining/apt-condo living hubs on sites of what is now a lot of older and many vacant commercial spaces in these neighborhoods and cities. Thanks to this vibrancy, residential houses/housing has attracted owner investment in maintenance and upgrades. The Cleveland Metroparks continue the great work to maintain and invest in the emerald necklace and continue to connect the city to the outdoors, towpath, Lake Erie link/s. Cultural and educational institutions continue to work at their high standards and reach out to all our area communities, with their success spurring positive growth in adjacent communities.”*

**Thriving Neighborhoods and Communities**

Neighborhoods are thriving. There are feelings of neighborhood and community everywhere. Cleveland’s neighborhoods are equal and there is affordable housing in every neighborhood. The communities are reinvigorated. There are affordable places to live and people have a good standard of living. Section 8 housing is mixed use development - stores on bottom, houses on top - so that people have more opportunities.

*“We have eliminated urban blight, both in the downtown corridor and the neighborhoods. No longer are there gaps of properties where 'houses used to be'. No longer are there vacant storefronts on main boulevards. New construction has filled in unused space, and restoration of what was vacant has been completed. More than just having the work done, is that it was completed by Clevelanders - both in design and in the actual construction, utilizing new workers who have been educated and trained locally.”*

**Reduced Inequalities**

Equity and inclusion everywhere. Support of minorities and minority owned businesses. Economic development in neighborhoods. Higher minimum wage. Focus shifted from incarceration to education and rehabilitation.

**Access to Quality Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary, and Higher Education for All**

Universal access to pre-k and childcare so that parents can pursue opportunities. Equal learning opportunities in all schools. Learning opportunities across all grade levels and neighborhoods. Education prepares students for college and career readiness. Collaboration between the school and local businesses so that students can learn skills and trades. Well-funded education systems across all of Northeast Ohio. Tuition free access to college. Technical school and technical education for all ages to bridge education to the work world.

*“More companies would invest in coming here if the talent was here and the opportunity for growth. Invest in technical schools and technical education for all ages with easy bridge to the work world- what if our city was the leader in technical education? It could be the Silicon Valley for technical companies, manufacturing, engineering, programming, robotics. It’s hard to grow your manufacturing company when it is impossible to source people.”*

## **Decent Work and Economic Growth**

No Poverty or homelessness. Access to employment opportunities. All jobs are valued. Education prepares students for all types of jobs. Living wages for all. Thriving manufacturing and technology industries. A hub for filmmakers. Attractive to businesses, especially new, innovative businesses. Minority owned businesses thrive. Businesses are attracted to Cleveland through talent and opportunity for growth. No talent or opportunity is wasted and there is more opportunities for “outliers”. Thriving arts community.

*“A city with more public art and more artists per-capita than any other. Cities with a thriving arts community are more livable and more desirable to younger people, entrepreneurs and corporations are more likely to relocate to cities that are exciting with a strong identity. We have an abundance of abandoned homes, the city could renovate these homes and through an 'Artist in Residence' program, allow artists to submit work for consideration for a true one year artist residency - housing provided in exchange for a certain number of works to be provided to the program for display, reproduction for sale and also one public piece either mural or sculpture to benefit our city permanently.”*

*“Greater Cleveland is employing millions of people “making things.” A strong manufacturing and technology base employs people of all ages who want to work – both in the city and suburbs, contributing to the overall prosperity of the region. Renewable energy and biotech are big drivers, but essentially the regional economy is diverse and robust. It now has a growing entertainment industry.”*

## **Good Health and Well-Being**

Everyone has a right to health care. Decreased infant mortality rate. Longevity of all residents. Easier access to supportive services. Better outcomes for chronic illness, which leads to better outcomes for employers. Eliminating chronic illness leading to better lifestyles.

## **Safe Cities and Communities**

Cleveland is a safe city. Everyone is safe to go running whenever they want. It is safe to let children walk to school. There is no fear of walking through different neighborhoods. There is a drop in crime rate. There is no violence. *(recommended reading: Bleeding Out by Thomas Abt)*

*“A safe city with city services that are outstanding. Not mediocre, not just okay. I want to be able to feel comfortable to go running by myself in my neighborhood, and be able to eventually allow my children to walk to school without fear of them being hurt.”*

## **Public Transportation System**

There is universal ease and access to public transportation. Public transportation is cost effective and useful. The public transportation system balances coverage, frequency and cost. Everyone uses public transportation. This leads Cleveland to be a global leader in climate change which in turn attracts new green businesses, creating new jobs and increased economic development.

*“A thriving public transit system that balances coverage and frequency, is well funded and is reasonably priced, could help solve so much of what ails us. If we had a great transit system like that, everybody - black, white, rich, poor - would use it, which means we might have to sit next to someone who is different from us, might have to look them in the eye and say, “I see you. do you see me?” If you are travelling to or from the Clinic on a certain corridor in your private car, you don't get to do that, and the race and class tensions keep on simmering. With a thriving system like that, we could become global leaders in the fight against climate change. We could attract new green businesses to our city, creating new, well-paying jobs that Clevelanders like you and me can actually get to. We could encourage people who left to come back, to rebuild our urban core and combat sprawl. We could create vibrant, diverse neighborhoods in a vibrant and diverse major city. We could do all that and much, much more in the future.”*



## **Cleveland as a Leader**

Cleveland is one of the nation's leaders in our areas of greatest resources - people, health care, Lake Erie, etc. There is ethical, effective government with competitive elections for local offices. The strong candidates running for office make people want to get out and vote. There is strong community involvement. There is collaboration throughout all of Northeast Ohio between public, profit and nonprofit sectors. Hopkins airport has become a hub again. Cleveland is a climate change refuge. Clevelanders are experts at telling Cleveland's story and there is no more inferiority complex or bad attitude about Cleveland. Rather there is an attitude of strength. We are leaders in ecological, cultural, political and economic sustainability.

*"In 2030, "Greater Cleveland" is a reality once again, with ideas and influence coming from all corners of the region. Gone is the centrist, insular, cliquy, non-profit/media/business/industrial complex thinking that has prevailed for decades, excluding outsiders and squelching dissent."*

*"The myriad organizations in Cleveland have aligned and are pursuing common goals. Education, economic development, health and human services, arts and culture, and aging issues are all being handled by consistent and focused approaches that combine public and private sector resources. Alignment is the key to a vibrant future for Northeast Ohio."*