

Evanston150
c/o Evanston Community
Foundation
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Share Your Ideas for Our Future
www.evanston150.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2011

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EVANSTON150 GATHERS 2,201 IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

Selection Jury Prepares for Public Voting Events Oct. 15 & 16

EVANSTON, IL- The Evanston150 Steering Committee announced today that the total number of ideas collected from community members was 2,201, exceeding its stretch goal of 2,013 ideas. The submission of ideas to make Evanston a better place to live, work and play began March 26th with the Community Kick-off Rally at the Levy Senior Center, and ended on July 31st at midnight. During the four month idea submission phase, community organizations, businesses, and residents organized and hosted private and public brainstorming sessions to generate visionary ideas with broad-acceptance and long-term impact. Idea submissions more than doubled during the last two weeks of July from 1,100 to the final count of 2,201.

The next phase of the Evanston150 initiative takes place August through October as the newly appointed Evanston150 Selection Jury sifts through the ideas to determine the top 100 ideas to be presented for a weekend of public voting events October 15 and 16. A committee comprised of two Evanston150 Steering Committee members and three community volunteers reviewed the 51 jury applications submitted by community members. Evanston150 interns numbered all applications and removed the cover pages before turning them over to the Review Committee. The applicants answered essay questions about community service and volunteer experience and provided demographic data on age, race, household income, geographic area of Evanston and occupation.

“This was a blind process in which we looked at experiences, not names,” explained Evanston150 Steering Committee Member Patrick Keenan-Devlin. “The Review Committee chose 21 jury candidates,” Keenan-Devlin stated. “It was not difficult to find good candidates. We ended up with a committee that draws upon many parts of the community, without having to force it.”

Seven of the Selection Jury members are men and 14 are women. Sixteen are Caucasian and five are African-American. There were no Asian or Latino applicants. Seven jury members are under age 40 (which includes one high school and one college student), and 14 are over age 40. The Jury members, who

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Final Idea Count release

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were notified of their appointment on July 26, will attend an August retreat hosted by the Steering Committee to prepare them for their collective responsibility.

The entire community is invited to turn out for one of several public voting events being planned for the weekend of October 15 and 16. The Public Vote will narrow down the 100 ideas to 30.

On November 10, 2011, the Steering Committee will announce the final 10 ideas promising broad support and long lasting impact to the community at a festive event to conclude this phase of Evanston150. Following the November 10 announcement, community members, local institutions and organizations are invited to start collaborating, adopting projects, and implementing the ideas. The Evanston150 steering committee hopes to see many projects underway and some completed by the 2013 celebration of Evanston's 150 years.

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EVANSTON150 is a community-wide initiative that engages all of us in imagining our future, resulting in 10 visionary ideas having broad support and promising long-lasting impact to celebrate Evanston's 150th anniversary in 2013.

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