# TOWN MEETING: IOWA

"TOWARD A PRACTICAL VISION OF THE FUTURE OF SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES"

A composite report based on the work of 3000 local citizens in 80 Town Meetings held throughout Iowa in communities with populations under

Prepared by staff and volunteers of the Institute of Cultural Affairs,
Des Moines, Iowa
March 1978

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Town Meeting was developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a not-for-profit corporation engaged in community development around the world. In 1975, pilot Town Meetings were held in 100 communities across the United States. In 1976, 500 Town Meetings helped our nation celebrate the Bicentennial. In 1977 lowe became one of the first states to launch a state-wide Town Meeting campaign.

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## A QUOTE

In a real sense, problems do not exist. They are abstractions from real situations. The real situations from which they are abstracted are messes. A mess is a system of interacting problems. Planning should be concerned with messes—not problems.

The solution to a mess is not equal to the sum of the solution to its parts. The solution to its parts should be derived from a solution to the whole--not vice versa.

The question of priorities is misleading. All messes should be dealt with simultaneously and interactively.

We waste too much time trying to forecast the future. The future depends more on what we do between now and then than it does on what has happened up to now. The thing to do with the future is not to forecast it, but to create it. The objective of planning should be to design a desirable future and to invent ways of bringing it about.

--Russell Ackoff Telegram, Council for Urban Economic Development GREETINGS FROM ROBERT D. RAY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA

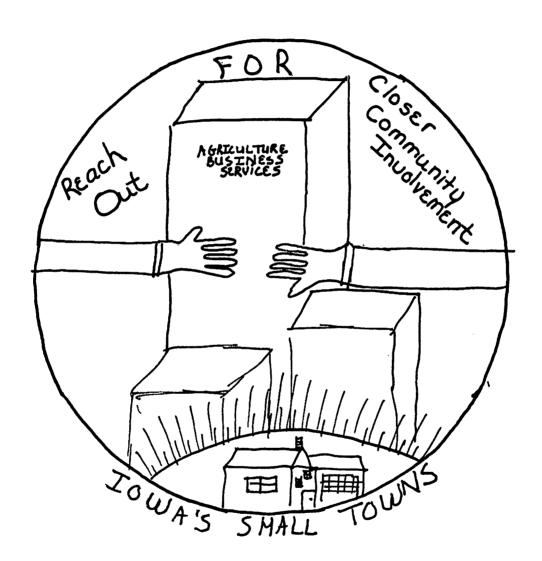
I am pleased to extend my greetings on the occasion of this statewide Town Meeting. I only wish my schedule was such that I could personally join you for what promises to be an interesting and stimulating meeting.

As you gather, you do so with the knowledge that you live and work in a state with a strong tradition of citizen involvement in government. For decades Iowans have fought to make meaningful contributions to the decision making process in our state. And they have. Most recently, Iowans have spurred the Iowa 2000 program through their participation in decisions related to life enhancement in the closing years of this century.

Today as you gather for this Town Meeting Assembly, you too are helping to shape the future course and direction of Iowa and its communities. I appreciate your willingness to join in this work, and I offer my best wishes for a successful assembly.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Ray Governor



## TOWN MEETING ASSEMBLY STORY

The past was a time of neighborly concern for others. It was a period of creating your own diversions because transportation limited areas of activity. Local trust among small towns prevailed.

Today the development of transportation has directly caused the deterioration of small town Economy, but, the people are returning despite the hardships of commuting to Big City Employment.

The transition of people from the rural to the city in the past two decades is reversing due to the fact that they realized the 'Pot of Gold' was not in the Big City, but actually in their own back yeard. Now, instead of the end, we small town people may be viewing the beginning.

#### TOWN MEETING ASSEMBLY SONG

# SMALL TOWN IOWA TUNE: HEY LOOK ME OVER

Hey, Look at Iowa It's a great State to see With all it's small towns and communities

Hey, we're from Iowa
We've a lot to give
One of those small towns in Iowa is the
place you'll want to live

We've so much to offer, don't put us down Community and families, fun for everyone So join together and help us grow, we'll soon be on our way.

Oh, come on folks join us today.

CLUES TO WHAT COMMUNITY IS
Keynote Address by Kit Krauss
State Director
Institute of Cultural Affairs

## A shared or common experience of:

SPACE:

created space, personal bond - Rhodes Park

TIME:

actively engaged in history - Russell, Iowa

CARE:

participate in Life Journey of others - Friendly Neighbor Clubs

CAUSE:

contribute to something larger - Iowa feeds the world

PROFUNDITY:

rehearse the profundity or greatness of who you are -

Humphrey Funeral

## YOUR TOWN

If you want to live in the kind of a town,

Like the kind of a town you like;

You don't need to put your clothes in a grip

And start on a long, long hike.

For you'll only find, what you left behind,

There is really nothing new;

It's a knock at yourself, when you knock your town,

It isn't your town--it's YOU!

Real towns are not made by men afraid

lest somebody else get ahead;

When everyone works and nobody shirks,

You can raise a town from the dead.

And if while you make your personal stake,

Your neighbor can make one too;

Your town will be, what you want to see,

It isn't your town--it's YOU!

#### --Anonymous

A poem recited by W.P. McNeil at the close of the Town Meeting Assembly, Saturday, March 18, 1978.

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#### INTRODUCTION

## AIM

The following is a composite report based on the work of 3000 local citizens in 80 'town meetings' held throughout Iowa in communities with population under 1000.

The aim of the report is to make the results of the small rural community town meetings practically available to communities, and anyone interested in their future and well-being.

It represents the vision of local people, their perception of the issues blocking their vision and what they see they can do to tackle these issues locally.

## VITAL STATISTICS

The meetings were held on a one per county basis over a five month period, November 1977 through March 1978. Of the 80 meetings, 25 were held in communities in the under 250 population range with an average attendance of 31. The largest number of meetings, 45 were held in communities with populations between 250 and 500. For this group the average attendance was 40. The remaining 15 meetings were in communities of 500 to 1000 population with an average attendance of 44.

All of the meetings were open to both town and country people and it is felt that, overall, a good balance was achieved. In many of the meetings people talked briefly about the length of time they had lived in the community and in most cases there was a surprisingly good range of 'old timers' and 'new comers'. The fact that most of the meetings began with a pot luck supper and because there was usually a major effort at personal invitation, many of the meetings drew people outside of the "active few". However, one group which tended to be under represented was the highschool age group.

# STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The structure of this report follows exactly the flow of the town meetings themselves. Section I, The Operating Vision is based on a "Hopes and Dreams" brainstorm, which is the first major step in the workshop procedure (see Appendix D). The question which each group answered was "what would you like to see this community be like in the next 10-15 years".

Section II, The Present Challenges is based on a workshop which began with the question "Relative to your list of hopes and dreams, what are the present issues in or facing the community which would hinder or block their realization," of "If you were to try to implement these hopes and dreams what would you have to overcome to be successful." These 'blocks' were then grouped and discussed, and then summarized as a basic challenge facing the community.

Section III, The Futuric Proposals, is based on a second workshop which begins with the question "for each of the basic challenges we've identified, what are practical, doable ways which the community can respond?" These responses were then grouped and discussed, and then summarized in the form of Practical Proposals" statements.

Section IV, The Activating Events is based on the practical proposals statements. Within each proposal statement were mentioned specific events or activities which would "activate" the proposals intent in that given community. The charts in this section were produced by workshop groups during the Town Meeting Assembly, using lists of events and activities from the original town meeting documents.

The Appendices are largely self-explanatory and are intended to give a more complete picture of the town meeting project and its impact to date.

#### I. THE OPERATING VISION

At the beginning of each Town Meeting, the question is asked, "What are your hopes and dreams for this community 10 or 15 years down the road?" Everyone has a chance to talk about the things they would like to see happen-- perhaps it's a new park, more places to shop or even a community festival.

It is out of these hopes for the future that the operating vision of the community emerges, and from it they decide what issues in the community need to be addressed.

The Operating Vision Chart was derived from the Hopes and Dreams conversations at the Town Meetings. The Hopes and Dreams fall into three major categories, a) toward refocusing the local economy b) toward achieving community vitality, and c) toward creating an attractive environment.

Small Rural Communities Phase March 1978

INSTITUTE of CULTURAL AFFAIRS TOWN MEETING: I OWA PROJECT

# I.OPERATING VISION CHART

A summary of the existing operating vision of the people in small rural communities, as indicated by the lists of

				Hopes and	Dreams	from 80	Town Me	etings						
REFOCU	A. TOWARD REFOCUSING the LOCAL ECONOMY in the arenas of				B. TOWARD ACHIEVING COMMUNITY VITALITY						C. TOWARD  CREATING AN ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT IN the arenas of			
COMMERC SERVICES		Suppor INDUS		EXTER RELAT		Commun INTERA		BAS (	AVAILABLE HOUSING			COMMUNITY APPEARANCE		
	Community Education		Transpor- tation	Improving	Retell Heritage	Encouraging	Public Spirit	Insuring	law enforcement		Senior		Remove Eye so <b>re</b> s	
Stimulating the	Coordinated Advirtising	Keepina Agri-	Storage	Public Image	create attractions	Cooperation and	Common Goals	Health and	Fire	Expanding number and	Low	7 7	Renovate Main Street	
market	Markeł Research	cultural Base	and Marketing		Promote Advantages	Planning	Leadership Coordination		Medical Emergency	types of Units	rent	and	Care For Public	
	Market Promotion		Services	Securing	Res earch	Developing	broad based Involvement	Improved	Water and Sewer Roads		Quality and Safety Controls	Beautifica- tion	Areas Landscape Homes	
<b>.</b>	Restaurant And Grocaries	Cairi	Employ-	from	Correspon- dence	Community Wide	Varied Programs	Ο'	and Sidewalks Gas and		Zoning		Historica) Sites	
		Gaining Small Manu-	ment	Bureacracy	Application	Programs	Regular Events	Living	Trash	Encourag- ing	] ~	Planning	Park Space	
keeping Approprinte LOCAL	and Services	Service	tax base	Establishing Commun-	Gounty	Providing	Youth	Accommo- dating	Education	rention maintain- ance rention and Ages ctings Renovation	Maintainana Ordinance		New	
Business	Leisure	Industry	new	ication With	State	More Enrichment Opportun- ities	inrichment Adult	Community	All Ages Meetings		Improve-	Use	Residentia 5 ites	
	Financial And Legal		people	Represen- tatives	Federal		Elders		gafferings Church		incentives		Best use	

### II. THE PRESENT CHALLENGES

The Present Challenges workshop began with the question, "Relative to your list of hopes and dreams, what are the present issues in or facing the community which would hinder or block their realization." These blocks were then grouped and discussed, and summarized as a basic challenge facing the community.

These challenges from all the communities were then grouped and ordered according to the number of times they appeared. Reading the chart from left to right, it is organized such that the most commonly expressed issues are on the left. The numbers in the boxes refer to the number of times that the issue arena appeared in a Town Meeting report.

Institute of Cultural Affairs
Town Meeting: IOWa Project

Small Rural Communities Phase March 1978

# II. Present CHALLENGES Chart

A Summary of the Issues blocking the realization of the Vision of Small Rural Communities

<u> </u>		<del></del>							
CITIZEN Involvement	ECONOMIC	INFORMA- HON	POPULATION	LEADERSHIP	COMMUNITY	COMMUNITY		STRUCTURAL	REFOCUSING
TMA OF A SI-IFIA I	MENT 62	COMMUNICA- TION 59	DILEMMA	DEVELOPMENT			8	INADEQUACY	VISION
8/			Need to	37	36	36	31	31	21
No Interest in Gommunity 23	limited resources	Need Com- munication <u>to</u> govern- ment 20	increase housing and Land sites	No one Wants	Non- Cooperation	Lack of	Government Systems exclude	fixed	Unwilling to
CITI ZEN	2.0	Need Com-	20	Responsibility	12	Pride	Local	incomes	Risk
un-involvement	not enough industry	munication from Govern	Nothing to		lack	in Community	12		9
16	or '	ment 15	hold	20	of	19	Distribution	15	Reluctant
Door support	Business 14	Powerless From	youth //		aggreement 1	Need	of Federal		to
Local Business 14	Inad equate	Ignorance	Population too	Too few	_	for	Resources	inadeaunte	Chanae
Interest	tax	Uninformed	Small	leaders	Dis-unity	Creative Thinking	,	facilities	traditional
Primarily IN Self 11	14	Public			7	inmking	Bureacracy		problem-
	Not enough	7	Human	13	Poor	11	·	12	solving
lack of	incoming money	Need specific Know-how	Resourges SPREAD foo	lack	Coordination of	Depreciating	8	Poor	4
motivation //	10	4	thin 8	of	groups 6	, ,			no
too busy"	Financing	Need Com-	site	leadership	conflicting	town	ot	community	1
excuse	means	munity Education	limits revenue	skills	interests	image	Powerless ness	administration	competition
6	9	4	3	У	4	6	2	4	,

### III. THE FUTURIC PROPOSALS

The Futuric Proposals chart on the next page represents the practical activities proposed by 3000 participants in 80 Iowa Town Meetings. These practical proposals were identified as activities that community residents could do which would begin to effectively deal with the underlying challenges identified earlier in the meetings.

The proposals grouped themselves into 5 types: Economic Development, Physical Improvements, Community Involvement, Community Involvement, Community Identity and Basic Services. Under each type of proposal are four specific proposal areas. The heaviest weight of proposals was in Community Involvement. More than 25% of all proposals were of this type. The other four types of proposal groups were closely interrelated with each other and hinged on increased community involvement.

# THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS TOWN MEETING: IOWA PROJECT

# SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES PHASE MARCH 1978

# THE FUTURIC PROPOSALS CHART

	nmunity SICAL DEVELOPMENT	Community MOTIVATION+ENGAGEMENT.	Community SERVICES + COMMUNICATION		
ECONOMIC	PHYSICAL	COMMUNITY	COMMUNETY	BASIC	
DEVELOPMENT	IMPROVEMENTS	INVOLVEMENT	EDENTITY	SERVICES	
PROPOSALS	PROPOSALS	PRO POSALS	PROPOSALS	PROPOSALS	
New	Clean-up +	Planning +	Community	Public	
IndusTry	Beautification	Coordination	Symbols	Utilities	
Local Business SupporT	Business District Rehabilitation	All Community Projects	Community Resources	Law Enforcement	
Business	Housing	Community	Internal	Youth	
Expansion	Expansion	Meetings	Communication	Opportunities	
Assistance	Housing	New	Advertise	Senior	
Research	Rehabilitation	Comers	Community	EngagemenT	

# ACTIVATING EVENTS

The following Activating Events Charts were prepared during the State Assembly.

The specific suggestions and events used in the workshops were taken from proposals made in the Town Meetings. From these the group chose the four events they thought would most effectively activate the intent of their proposal arena. Then they created the implementing steps for these events. These charts indicate the results.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL ARENA:PROPOSALS	PROPOSAL TITLE: NEW I	NDUSTRY IOWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978
INTENT SENTENCE: (why) - To	start and maintain growth enhance desirability of living	ng in the area	
(what)	ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities v	which do the proposal intent)
Attract small Industry	Investigate loans and grants	Research possibilities thru Iowa Commerce Commission, etc.	Use existing buildings
(How, who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS		
Work and establish a zoning committee 1	Government lending 1	County Extension Service	Force Owner to tear down or remodel
Area resources - ie - 2 transportation labor for	Local backing	Consult with Legislators 2	Remodel as a Community Pro
Promote thru Development 3 Committee	3	3	3
4	4		

INTENT SENTENCE: (why)

The purpose of local business support is to keep our local businesses thriving and thus preserve our small towns.

(what)	ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities w	hich do the proposal intent)
Organize local business promotion group	Advertise buying locally	Create local summer entertainment to attract business	Develop local all-ages and all-groups club to start promotio gays
(How, who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS		
Organize meeting of all businesses and 1 other interested persons	Persuade people to "talk up" their town 1	Organize softball team	Set up organization meeting - all ages and all 1 groups
Define the goals	Organize committee to meet with media re effective advertising methods	Convince businesses to adjust hours to accommodate local	Plan events 2
Set up organization		Organize homecoming or pioneer days	Apppint committees
3	3	3	3
Make assignments	Make assignments	Make assignments	Make assignments
4	4	4	4

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL ARENA: PROPOSA	LS PROPOSAL TITLE; BUS	INESS EXPANSION IOWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978
INTENT SENTENCE: (why)  ATTRACT	MORE RETAIL BUSINESS TRAFFIC F		
(what)	ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities v	which do the proposal inten
Develope publicity to gain support of community	Search for potential employers	Advertise pamphlet	Housing Task Force
(How, who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS		
Newspaper posters	Develop industrial de- 1 velopement community	Town meeting	Committee to evaluate nee
Town Meetings 2	Advertise in newspaper 2	Develop industrial committee 2	Have council look at anne 2 ation
Support town council	Finance existing business for wxpansion	Include town organizations (churches, etc.)	Find developer
Radio			
4	4	4	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **PROPOSALS** PROPOSAL TITLE: ASSISTANCE RESEARCH IOWA ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978 PROPOSAL ARENA: **INTENT SENTENCE:** Fund research committee in order to become aware of the maximum assistance (why) available for particular projects and general development. (what) **ACTIVATING EVENTS** (Practical Activities which do the proposal intent) Form Committees Making Information Available Involve Public Service and Control Small Town to Public Church Groups Discrimination (How, who, etc.) IMPLEMENTING STEPS Contact a cross section Newsletters and citizens Provide knowledgeable Work with another town to of the community speakers on subjects share expenses on projects 1 pertaining to towns we can't fund ourselves 1 --law enforcement Appoint committee members Brochure to possible new businesses 2 2 2 Explore experiences of Media Advertising other communities 3 3 Contact proper offices of federal and state

governments for assistance

PHYSICAL IMPRVE PROPOSAL ARENA:		-UP & BEAUTIFICATION IOWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978				
INTENT SENTENCE: (why) To pr and a	ovide a good visual impression for healthier environment and to promo	permanent residents and traveler te community self-satisfaction.	s; to create a safer				
(what)	ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities w	hich do the proposal intent)				
Tree planting project	On-going cleanup project	Plantings for public buildings: churches, business districts, hospitals.	Promotion of present park facilities.				
(How, who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS						
Develop an overall plan plan. 1	ting Develop overall plan with goals and objectives.	Develop a plan and appoint a committee.	Explore needs for improving present facilities: rest- 1rooms, shelter, playground,				
Locate a donar, ie. loc bank, FFA chapter, othe local or government source 2		Secure permission and support of local building owners.	Develop a park plan.				
Find a group to do plan	Explore need for local ordinances.	Raise funds to support projects. (ie, bake sales, etc.)	Publicize new facilities				
Insure continuing care through service organizand project green thumb		, Organize volunteers to carry out the project.	Insure good ongoing maintenance.				

PH PROPOSAL ARFNA	YSICAL IMPROVE PROPOSALS	MENTS PROPOSAL TITLE BUSINES	S REHABILITATION IOWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978
INTENT SENTENCE: (why)	To impro	ove the downtown appearance:		
(what)		ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities w	which do the proposal intent)
Contact buildi and town co sell them o	uncil and	Contact a consulting firm to draw up a picture of what the downtown restored would look like	Visit other towns that have done it with local businessmen	Contact financial sources to discuss possible funding
(How, who, etc.)		IMPLEMENTING STEPS		
Get a committe 1	e together 1	Find out local contact	Take pictures 1	Visit town council meeting 1
Visit consulti 2	ng firm 2	Send committee to investigate	2 Ask how they funded	New Zoning ordinances
3	3		Get an idea cost involved	Visit owners of buildings
4	4		Find out results obtained and comments after improvements were made	4

	PROPOSAL ARENA: PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL TITLE: HOUSING EXPANSION IOWA ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978									
	INTENT SENTENCE: (why) IN ORDER TO MAKE MORE HOUSING AVAILABLE									
	(what)	(what) ACTIVATING EVENTS (Practical Activities which do the proposal intent)								
	Form Non-Profit Organization to Create New Housing	Develop Low Rent Property for Low Income People	Develop New Subdivision	Restore Unoccupied Housing						
7,	(How, who, etc.) IMPLEMENTING STEPS									
	Publicize Purpose of Group 1	Form Organization 1	Check Zoning Laws and 1 Purchase Land	Form Organization or Encourage Local Organizations to Take 1 on the Project						
***************************************	Formation of Interested People 2	Contact FHA 2	Hire Engineer to Plan Subdivision	Identify Unoccupied Housing 2						
	Pool Money 3	Secure Land, Have Access, and Plan	Hire Contractors	Purchase Houses 3						
	Form Plan and Expedite 4	Raise Local Share and Let Bids	Sell Lots 4	Restore by Local Help 4 and Contractors						

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL ARFNA: PROPOSAL		NG REHABILITATION IOWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978
INTENT SENTENCE: (why) TO BEAU	TIFY THE TOWN:		
(what)	ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities w	which do the proposal intent)
Available Funding	Youth Summer Jobs	Green Thumb Program	Local Groups to help elderly
(How, who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS	L	
Identify someone to assist with lapplication	Contact Government Summer Youth Program	Contact City Council	Contact Groups
Locate funding alternatives (HUD, F.H.A.)	Contact Church Groups 2	City Council Apply for loan	The needs
Make available information	Contact Youth Groups 3	Take applications	Who to handle funding 3
Offer Assistance	Contact Slave Day or Rent A Kid 4	Deciding on the jobs to do 4	Chairman of the Program 4

Planning and coordination IOWA ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978 Community PROPOSAL TITLE PROPOSAL ARENA: Involvement **INTENT SENTENCE:** (why) To meet the needs of the majority of the public. (what) **ACTIVATING EVENTS** (Practical Activities which do the proposal intent) Poll community needs Develop community Develop community Assess needs accomplish coordination group accomplishme action group (How, who, etc.) IMPLEMENTING STEPS Identify leadership door to door assessment Implement resources On site assessment allocated 1 1 1 telephone locate resources follow-up on resources allocated mail procure resources provide feedback 3 on progress 3 news, TV, radio allocate resources consult with elected officials 4 4

COMMUNITY PROPOSAL TITLE INVOLVEMENT IOWA ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978 PROPOSAL ARENA ALL COMMUNITY PROJECT **INTENT SENTENCE:** Everyone in the Community Must Be Involved! (why) (what) ACTIVATING EVENTS (Practical Activities which do the proposal intent) Open Meetings Special Town Day Town Improvement Expanded Recreation (celebration) Dav Program (How, who, etc.) IMPLEMENTING STEPS Form a planning Form a planning Form a planning Form a planning committee committee committee committee 1 1 1 Advertise newspaper, Announce annual Help your neighbor Share a Skill telephones, posters theme Day Day 2 2 2 Involve businesses, Schedule quarterly organizations, private Clean up community Survey Community meetings citizens. property for recreational needs Appoint leader and arrange meeting 4 place

PROPOSAL ARENA:	COMMUNITY INVOLVEMEN	NT PROPOSAL TITLE COMMI	UNITY MEETINGS IOWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978			
INTENT SENTENCE: (why)	The intent	ication coordination for (	s to involve all the member the planning for the future	rs of the larger community e and activating			
(what)		ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities v	which do the proposal intent)			
Community Bo and Action G		Assignment of all Organizations	Community Club	Decide Ourselves To Support			
(How, who, etc.)	1	IMPLEMENTING STEPS					
Contact pers every organi on rotating 1	zation	Create list of organizations	List who and what Benefits 1	Essay Contest			
Create Commu Calendar 2	nity	Context all organizations	Initial Open House	List of neighborhood priorities			
Create Commu Newsletter 3	nity	Coordination of calendars of events	Announce time & Place	Newspaper column "Why, I Support"			
Outside Reso Person 4		Report form common to all organizations	"Blow the fire whistle for Victor" - we've had our first meeting!	Publish and use town song, story & symbol			

# INTENT SENTENCE: (why)

Welcome people to the town in order to ease their transition, become acquainted and comfortable in the community and eventually become an active participant.

(what)	ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities which do the proposal inten-			
Services pamphlet Coupons Businesses, Social Events, and Civic matters	Clubs Newcomers Women for Better Community	Newcomer Tour	Map of town and Services		
(How, who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS				
1 Leader and Committee	1 Leader Identification	ኪeader and Committee	կeader and Committee		
Solicitation of Businesses	Activities 2	Where, When, and What	Map 2		
Printing -Cooperation of schools, churches, etc.	Place to meet	Transportation	Solicitation of Services		
Distribution 4	Plan of action at meeting	4	Printing and Distribution		

PROPOSAL ARENA. COMMUNITY ID	ENTITY PROPOSAL TITLE COMM	MUNITY SYMBOLS IOWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978		
INTENT SENTENCE: We need to establish community symbols to provide identity, show traditions (why) and goals, and to promote pride and community spirit.					
(what)	ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities w	hich do the proposal intent)		
l. Town logo (town meeting symbol)	2. Annual Celebration	3. Town Bulletin Board	4. New sign on highway (with new logo		
(How, who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS				
Town Meeting Contest for symobl	Find sponsoring organization or organizations	Design suitable location	Design 1		
Community to judge	Determine type, date, place	Raise funds for construction	Raise funds		
2	2	2	2		
Give prize	Plan and organize	Hire or seek volunteer labor	Suitable location		
Determine usage of logo	Advertize and promote	Mainteance-Committee 4	Hire or seek volunteer labor 4 for construction		

PROPOSAL ARENA: COMMUNITY IDENTITY

PROPOSAL TITLE: COMMUNITY RESOURCES

IOWA ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978

**INTENT SENTENCE:** 

(why)

IN ORDER TO CREATE A FEELING OF PRIDE AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY, WE INTEND TO EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE THE RESOURCES OF OUR COMMUNITY.

ŀ				
	(what)	hat) ACTIVATING EVENTS (Practical Activities which do the proposal		hich do the proposal intent)
	Research Local Talent	"Plug into" Outside Resources	Tap Local Organizations and Industries	Rublish Community Calendar
(How, who, etc.) IMPLEMENTING STEPS				
23	Conduct Survey	Consult University and College Libraries 1	Interview Leadership of Groups 1	Contact Newspaper or Area Reporter 1
	Creativity Fair (Talent, Hobbies, etc.) 2	Consult State Extension Service 2	Choose One Organization	Establish Information Collection 2
	Resources Fair	Publish and Distribute List of Resources 3	3	3
	4	4	4	4

COMMUNIT	<b>D </b>	RNAL COMMUNICATIONS IOWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978
INTENT SENTENCE: (why) OUR A: THEM I	IM IS TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF FEEL INCLUDED IN ALL ACTIVIT	THE COMMUNITY TO BE INFORME	ED AND TO HELP
(what)	ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities w	hich do the proposal intent)
Form a Community Cent	cer Community Bulletin Board or Community Meetings	Newsletter or Town Paper or reporting news to area papers, POSTERS	We need a local restaurant or recreation hall, need a Doctor
(How, who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS		
Establish a Board of Directors	Voluntary Help	Board of Editors or news writers	Create a commercial club
Enlist voluntary hel to build the buildings 2	Cooperation of the churches	Form telephone committees	Establish a recreation hall with volunteer help
enlist a committee to plan events for children, youth and 3 senior citizens	Plan community events to involve everyone socially	3	Entice young businessmen 3
telephoning committe	Plan money-making projects to involve all organizations	4	4

PROPOSAL TITLE IOWA ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978 PROPOSAL ARENA. COMMUNITY IDENTITY ADVERTISING COMM. INTENT SENTENCE: To attract business plus professional people (why) (what) **ACTIVATING EVENTS** (Practical Activities which do the proposal intent) Manufacturing Recruit Dr., Vet. (How, who, etc.) IMPLEMENTING STEPS 25 Bumperstickers could be sold for band boosters 1 <sup>2</sup>Weekly Newsletters 2 3 Sign Boards 3 3 Raise cash through service organizations for ads in 4 business papers and trade 4 papers

PROPOSAL ARENA:	Basic Services	PROPOSAL TITLE	Public Utilities IOWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978
INTENT SENTENCE: (why) comm	elp in the proces unity health and	s of orderly development sanitation.	of the community and to assure	good
(what)		ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities w	hich do the proposal intent)
Assess need.		Express/explain issues.	Research available federal and state monies.	Progress report from city or town council.
(How, who, etc.)		IMPLEMENTING STEPS		
Town Meeting Newsletter	h	ntact newspaper to see ow it can be set up. epare for a series.	Give the council the opportunity to find out.	Different reports from different people.
Collect goss (listen to 2 expressed	ip Co needs as to	ntact a newspaper reporte get it reported as you nt it.	Follow up to see who is appointed by the counci l.	Celebrate the progress: picnic, dance, pictures 2 in the paper.
All age grou	ps Tr	y to have placed in a sable section of paper.	If no one is appointed, have persons to suggest.	Celebrate final victory Invite special guest. 3
School, busi service orga 4 business/non	nizations, he	ctures of issue would lp.	Monitor follow-up. Print information.	4

**INTENT SENTENCE:** 

PROPOSAL ARFNA. Basic Services

(why)

IN ORDER TO GIVE EQUAL AND SATISFACTORY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR

ENTIRE COMMUNITY, WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING:

(what)		ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities which do the proposal inte	
	ceer Groups l in law cement	Inform public to town ordinances	Multi-Community law enforcement action	Social problem Alert System
(How, who, etc.) .IMPLEMENTING STEPS				
	rganize central teering committee	NEWSPAPER 1	Meet with area communities for 1 protection system	Child Abuse Awareness System
	heck out all egal aspects	Public Meeting 2	Check funding possibilities 2	Alcohol& Drug Alert System 2
3 re	heck for local esources (trans., adio. egpt., etc.)	Update and create 3 ordinances regularly	Check all legal aspects	Senior Citizens Needs 3
Co t: 4 w:	oordination of ime and locations ith local law nforcement	Work with local law enforcement 4	Set up operational procedures 4	Minority Groups

PROPOSAL ARENA. BASIC SERVICES

PROPOSAL TITLE: YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

IOWA ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978

INTENT SENTENCE:
 (why)

TO PROMOTE ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ALL AGE GROUPS ALL YEAR ROUND.

(what) ACTIVATING EVENTS (Practical Activities which do			which do the proposal intent)
Keep local grade school	Hire youth for summer jobs	All age soft ball program	News sheet to advertise activities
(How, who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS		
1 Community support	Get cooperation of local 1 merchants	Service Clubs interest 1	Establish community bulletin 1 board
Demonstrate financial justifiability	Create jobs and opportunities for youth	Encourage parental involvement	Nuclesis group to stack regular news sheet
Enlist cooperation of the school board	Organize leadership	Organize leadership	Enlist cooperation of seniors
3	3	3	3
4	4	Schedule inter-community  4 activity	Local media

PROPOS	AL ARFNA: Basic Serv	ice PROPOSAL TITLE Senior	Engagement I OWA	ASSEMBLY March 18, 1978
INTENT S	SENTENCE: To involve s	enior citizens in caring for the	emselves and the community.	
(what)		ACTIVATING EVENTS	(Practical Activities w	hich do the proposal intent)
	ity Center facilities ointly by youth and s.	Provide transportation to services and activities.	News sheet to advertise available programs and services.	Create a committee of senior citizena to plan regular professional visits to communities.
(How,	who, etc.)	IMPLEMENTING STEPS		
Check facili 1	for local available ty	Provide bus service. Start 1 with volunteer drivers and vehicles.	Someone be responsible for 1 printing a news sheet.	Enlist interested elders or 1 <sup>committies</sup> .
Volunt	eer labor to fix up.	Schedule of happenings	Ask high school class to write and type.	Locate space fo clinic.
2		2	2	2
	inviting signs and	If need exists, investigate buying a van.	Subscriptions and/or advertising	Investigate mobile doctor's office medicmobile.
3	,	3	3	3
	responsibilities for ng and maintanence.	Ask town council for help with insurance and expense.	Distribute through stores, churches, post office, etc.	Enlist local groups to expa servicesas fire departmen
4		4	4	4

# APPENDIX A: TOWN MEETING ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANTS

011ie Lawrence Baker Libertyville Dorothy Van Epps Harry E. Van Epps Libertyville Robert Clark Radcliffe Page 1 Gladys Clark Radcliffe Craig A. Swartbaugt Mitchellville Colleen Cunningham Ouimby Arlington Ila Mae Rau Duwain Rau Arlington Harley Troutman Forest City Marquerite Troutman Forest City Oxford Junction Mr. Albert Clark Oxford Junction Nancy Clark Joan Pettingill Truro Pat Edwards Truro Marrit Edwards Truro David H. Wagner Truro Dale Lytton Truro Al Johnson Zearing Mary Johnson Zearing Ollie Denise Willhoit Birmingham Jolayne Wilson Helen Ocheltree Bayard Jack Ocheltree Bayard Janel Gilson Bayard John Arrowsmith Bayard Mark Tjelmeland McCallsburg Lee Parker Truro Elwood J. Palmer Truro Kathryn Kubieleur Blairstown Clarence Kubieleur Blairstown Opal Lively Blairstown Blairstown Wesley Lively Joyce Henricks Blairstown Frances Zook Swaledale Brad Frost Bussey Dave Wilson Bussey Boyd Bonnett Bussey Rev. L.P. Fitzpatrick Malcolm Alice Hoeppner Quimby Kenneth Hoeppner Qu imby Ken Robinson Bayard Mingo

Kenneth Hoeppner
Ken Robinson
Gary Geltus
Jeff Brawner
Mary Johnson
Marileen Johnson
Earl Robbins
Lois Ruckman
Mary Cary
Delores Frieze
Robert Conz
Alice Groomes
Dick Mark
Peggy Mark
Harry Smith

Bayard
Mingo
Mingo
Macedonia
Macedonia
Cedar Falls
Persia
Persia
Persia
Persia
Menlo
Finchford
Finchford
Iowa City

# APPENDIX A: TOWN MEETING ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANTS

Paul Comer Des Moines Fred W. Klein Havelock Mrs. Fred Klein Havelock Rev. Harold E. Wesley Havelock Mrs. Cliff Stevenson Quimby Cliff Stevenson Quimby Glenn B. Eddv Swaledale Merlu Eddy Swaledale Pat Ward Swaledale Marie Ward Swaledale Al Benjamin Blakesburg Ralph Boone Blakesburg Charles McMaim **Blakesburg** Dick Crayne Jefferson J. Harold Sears Des Moines Steve Melby Mitchellville Mrs. Victor Vedane Menlo Victor Vedane Menlo Dwayne A. Paulsen **Emerson** Steven A. Cobuck **Emerson** Edna Parker Truro Swaledale Jerry W. Heinrichs Swaledale Dale Cuspers New Virginia Beth Strickler New Virginia Gayle V. Strickler Mediapolis Del Terry Marvin W. Roberts Blakesburg Sherry Roberts Reinke **Blakesburg** 011ie David Gentry Ollie David Gott LeClaire Ron Leiby Helen Krueger Deloit Deloit Duane F. Krueger Jan Poggemiller LeClaire Terry R. Poggemiller LeClaire LeClaire Lee Boley LeClaire Ermine Boley Des Moines James Lynch Webster City Arden Borgen Webster City Magaret Borgen Donald E. Cuswell Des Moines W. P. McNeil Wapello Lucille Poggemiller Wapello Iowa City Marlys Svendsen-Roesler Cedar Falls Wm. Appelgate Cedar Falls Dorothy Appelgate Jefferson Rick Morain Clark Cunningham Qu imby Arlington Bessie Thompson Arlington Floyd R. Thompson Swaledale Jeannette Caspers Truro Hilda J. Denly

## APPENDIX A: TOWN MEETING ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANTS

Ronald Eckoff, MD
Kathleen Haberer
Norman Gott
Ruby Peterson
Peggy M. Mark
Charles Lunn
Mary Jane Henkelman
Francis C. Henkelman
Shirley St.John
Geroge W. M. Burney
Georgiann M. Burney
Leo Waggoner
Judge L. T. Glanton

Judge L. T. Glanton, Jr.
Ross E. Winner
Diane Miller
Debbie Ashton
Paul Sandersen
Phyliss Wadle
Stan Long
Robert Prather
Barbara Prather
Kit Krauss
Margaret Krauss
Senator Culver
Dedenia Nones
Bill Bogue

Paul K. Carroll

Keith Carroll

Cumming
Des Moines
Ollie
Washta
Cedar Falls

Cedar Falls, Iowa

**Blakesburg** Defiance Defiance Milwaukee Chicago Chicago Des Moines Des Moines Terril Minneapolis Beaman Beaman Beaman Des Moines Des Moines Des Moines Des Moines Des Moines Marquette Des Moines

## Special Guests:

Senator John C. Culver Leo Waggoner - Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Judge L.T. Glanton, Jr.

## Community Resource Fair:

Paul Comer J. Harold Sears Jim Lynch Donald E. Criswell Harry Smith Kathleen Haberer Barry Porter Norm Riggs Christine Miller Lloyd Scott George McBurney Lee Boley

Iowa Development Commission Small Business Adminsitration Office of Planning and Programming Conservation Commission Institute of Public Affairs Marlys Svendsen-Roesler State Historical Society Energy Policy Council Library Commission I.S.U. Extension Iowa Arts Council Federal Housing Administration Institute of Cultural Affairs Town of LeClaire, Iowa

#### Special Thanks:

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Gestetner The Paper Corporation Iowa Credit Union League

Fred Dowie Catering Addressograph Multigraph United Methodist Iowa Area Headquarters

#### Town Meeting: Iowa Volunteers:

#### Coordination: Kit Krauss

Margaret Krauss Richard Mark (M.C.)

#### Set-up:

Bob Prather Bill Appelgate Dorothy Appelgate Barbara Prather Jolayne Wilson Mark Tjelmeland Marileen Johnson Mary Johnson Joanne McCabe Dedinia Nones Shirley St. John Peggy Mark

Lee Boley Ermine Boley Lucille Poggemiller Terry Poggemiller Jan Poggemiller Ron Leiby Margaret Borgen

Arden Borgen Stan Long Mary Price

Registration:

Dorothy Appelgate Lucille Poggemiller Ermine Boley Peggy Mark Margaret Borgen Arden Borgen Bill Appelgate

Production: Harry Miller Roger (Gestetner) Dorothy Appelgate Margaret Borgen Bob Prather

Workshop Leaders: Terry Poggemiller Jan Poggemiller Ron Leiby Marileen Johnson Mirja Hanson Bill McNeil Dedinia Nones Shirley St. John Lucille Poggemiller Mary Price Barbara Prather Georgiana McBurney

Joanne McCabe

#### APPENDIX B

# PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES BY SIZE & COUNTY THROUGH MARCH 1978

# I. TOWN POPULATION UNDER 250, (25 mtgs.)

COUNTY	COMMUNITY	*POPULATION	ATTENDANCE
Allamakee	Dorchester		50
Audubon	Ross		17
Blackhawk/Butler	Finchford	120	40
Bremer	Frederika	190	40
Cerro Gordo	Swaledale	222	80
Clarke	Woodburn	222	10
Clay	Dickens	240	25
Decatur	Van Wert	244	16
Des Moines	Sperry		4
Franklin	Alexander	249	30
Grundy	Beaman	222	45
Hamilton	Kamrar	243	55
Henry	Mt. Union	200	25
Iowa	Parnell	175	18
Johnson	Shueyville	187	19
Lee	Houghton	120	38
Lucas	Lucas	247	10
Monroe	Melrose	192	25
O'Brien	Archer	134	75
Pocahontas	Havelock	248	23
Palo Alto	Ayrshire	243	15
Sac	Nemaha	117	35
Winnebago	Leland	223	+
Woodbury	Cushing	204	45
Wright	Woolstock	222	<u> 16</u>
	Total Attenda	ance	- <b>-</b> 756
	Average per M	Meeting	31

# II. TOWN POPULATION 250 - 499, (45 mtgs.)

COUNTY	COMMUNITY	*POPULATION	ATTENDANCE
Adair Adams Buchanan Buena Vista Carrol Cherokee	Orient Prescott Lamont Marathon Dedham Quimby	324 305 498 447 325 395	55 30 60 85 38 60
Chickasaw Crawford	Alta Vista Deloit	283 279	30 28

<sup>\*1970</sup> census +not held in time for inclusion

COUNTY	COMMUNITY	*POPULATION	ATTENDANCE
Dallas	Minburn	270	
Darias	Minburn Pulaski	378 255	105 9
Dickinson	Terril	255 397	10
Dubuque	Ashbury	410	+
Fayatte	Arlington	481	55
Floyd	Rudd	429	+
Fremont	Riverton	331	25
Guthrie	Menlo	391	48
Hancock	Crystal Lake	276	88
Harrison	Persia	316	60
Ida	Arthur	273	25
Jackson	Monmouth	257	55
Jasper	Mingo	260	40
Jefferson	Libertyville	329	28
Keokuk	Ollie	268	60
Kossuth	Fenton	403	25
Madison	Truro	359	30
Mahaska	Beacon	431	20
Marion	Bussey	498	30
Marshall	Rhodes	347	9
Mills	Emerson	484	70
Montgomery	Elliot	423	4
Muscatine	Nichols	396	15
Osceola	Melvin	325	10
Page	College Spring		80
Plymouth	Hinton	488	+
Poweshiek	Malcom	388	45
Ringgold	Diagonal	327	25
Shelby	Defiance	392	92
Story	McCallsburg	307	25
Taylor	Gravity	286	30
Union	Lorimor	377	17
Van Burren	Birmingham	452	11
Wapello	Blakesburg	403 452	45
Warren	New Virginia Lineville	385	40 4
Wayne	Kensett	361	+
Worth	Kensett	201	<del></del>
	Total Attendan		<u>1621</u>
	Average per me	eting	<u>40</u>

# III. TOWN POPULATION 500-1000, (14 meetings)

COUNTY	COMMUNITY	*POPULATION	*ATTENDANCE
Appanoose	Moravia	699	65
Benton	Blairstown	612	30
Cass	Lewis	526	25
Cedar	Stanwood	642	65
Clayton/Delaware	Edgewood	796	70
Guthrie/Greene	Bayard	628	45

<sup>\*1970</sup> census +not held in time for inclusion

COUNTY	COMMUNITY	*POPULATION	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
Hardin	Radcliffe	548	75
Humbolt	Livermore	510	13
Jones	Oxford Junctio	n 666	40
Lyon	Inwood	644	25
Monona	Ute	512	35
Tama	Garwin	563	30
Washington	Riverside	794	90
Webster	Otho	581	
	Total Attendan Average per me		<u>615</u> <u>44</u>

# IV. CITIES AND TOWNS OVER 1000 POPULATION WHICH HAVE HELD A TOWN MEETING, (15 mtgs)

COUNTY	CITY OR TOWN	*POPULATION	ATTENDANCE
Blackhawk	Cedar Falls	32,964	50
Calhoun	Lake City	1,910	125
Clinton	Clinton	34,719	50
Emmet	Armstrong	1,061	10
Howard	Cresco	3,927	50
Louisa	Wapello	1,873	100
Lynn	Cedar Rapids	110,642	200
Polk	South Des	•	
	Moines	25,000 (est.	) 120
Pottawattamie	Carter Lake	3,200	60
Scott	LeClaire ('77	&	
	· '78)	2,520	250
Scott	Eldridge	1,535	200
Scott	N.W. Davenport	25,000 (est.	) 35
Sioux	Rock Valley	2,205	20
Winneshiek	Decorah	7,458	<u>150</u>
	Total Attendan	ce	1360

Note: Most of Group IV were all day Town Meetings in larger communities. The work of these meetings was not included in preparing this report.

#### APPENDIX C

### COMMUNITY RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

These responses are typical of those on the 25 questionnaires returned of the 50 sent out. Most responses to question 3 were "We haven't had time to tell, yet."

- Q. 1. What were typical comments you heard after the Town Meeting?
- R. "wish more had attended"
  - "talked to town council about the main issues"
  - "great town I live in!"
  - "we know problems, but solutions are difficult and complicated".
  - "nice to have outside help with the meeting".
  - "a way to find a starting point of accomplishing new projects and to shape up run-down programs".
  - "couldn't believe there wasn't a catch to it, cost etc."
  - "liked the printed document."
  - "councilmen not attending the meeting were quite disturbed."
  - "I wish I would have come".
- Q. 2. What direct action (if any) has been taken on any specific ideas or suggestions which were made at the Town Meeting?
- R. Emblem made for Mt. Union and displayed with help of Booster Club.
  - 4 committees formed to pursue each proposal further in Inwood.
  - A Cub Scout Pack with 3 dens started in College Spring and a tree planting program underway for Spring.
  - Defiance organized a community club to work on park improvement and equipment. (They had no active organization before this.)
  - Emerson is in planning stage for multi-purpose building.
  - "to prove that this meeting was not to do away with, put down, take over any of the present community programs."
  - Community recreation program on Sundays for grade 4-12 in school gym at Prescott.
  - Bussey "organized something on the order of a Chamber of Commerce." Blairstown purchased 16 mm projector for use in library.
  - Helped Nemaha begin the project of a new fire house.
  - "A Quimby placemat using the symbol designed at Town Meeting: Iowa is being planned."
  - An action club was formed in Marathon.
  - In Libertyville "progress on sewer project. Going to get a cost on street signs and possibly buy".
- Q. 3. Has the Town Meeting had an indirect affect on any projects, programs, or organizations which were already in existence before the Town Meeting took place?
- R. Opened up new possibilities for several community clubs.

  Houghton's plans for a tennis court are moving ahead.

  Increased in Phase II of Low Rent Housing apartments in Blairstown.

  Brought boosters together clean-up vacant lots.

Q. 4. What would you say was the greatest value of the Town Meeting for the community?

Community input

cooperative communication awareness of needs of elders and youth larger exposure of people to the problems seeing that a large group of people care strengthened community spirit better understanding of each other and the ideas of each group in the community just knowing you can get people together if you try one organization wanting to help another "It gave us a 'commoness' of knowing what we do have which we

like... and also what we don't have -- and to my surprise, the thoughts were quite unanimous." It made us conscious that the town is capable of doing some

things, many things for itself.

#### APPENDIX D

#### I. THE DYNAMIC PLANNING PROCESS

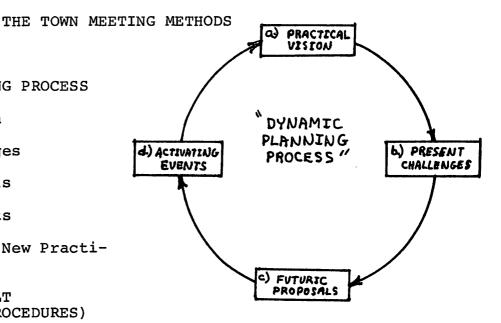
- a) Practical Vision
- b) Present challenges
- c) Futuric Proposals
- d) Activating Events
- e) New Situation New Practical Vision

#### 

- a) Brainstorm
- c) Small Group Discussion
- d) Report and Reflect
- \* Key to these procedures is the role of the workshop leader. His basic job is to insure that everyone can participate and that the procedures are followed within available time.

# III. COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND IDENTITY CREATORS

- a) Community Gatherings
- b) Community Story
- c) Community Song
- d) Community Symbols



VTSIA	CHALLENGES	PROPOSALS	REPORT
House	a) Blocks BrainsTorm	a) Response Brainstorm	
bopes Dreams	b) Group Similar Ideas, AO []#	b) Group Similar Ideas, DOOH	Proposal Reports
	G) Discuss - write Challenges	C) Discuss + write Proposals	Song Story
	d) Reports Reflect	d) Report - Reflect	Symbol Report
Son	g, Story, Symbol Workshop	Document Production	NexT Steps Discossio



# APPENDIX E: PROPOSAL PRIORITY CHART

40

e, (9

41

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a notfor-profit intra-global group working autonomously in twenty-five nations with more than one hundred offices around the world. Headquarters are located in Nairobi, Bombay, Singapore, Hong Kong, Chicago and Brussels. The Institute is supported by foundations, corporations and concerned individuals, and specific programs also receive support from governmental agencies.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. For some fifteen years ICA was a program division of the Ecumenical Institute. In 1973 it was formally incorporated as a separate yet coordinate group. During that same year the Institute staff was incorporated as a self-supporting, volunteer Service order called the Order: Ecumenical. The work of ICA is broad and varied, ranging from management seminars for executives to comprehensive community development projects around the globe.

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