

HOST-Learning Center report March 9, 2010

This is a report mainly about two meetings, plus some inputs for other members of our coalition: we clearly now need action on developing our business plan - what is going to be your input? Think about your own area of expertise and how to apply it to making the Center a reality. That will be the focus of the next HOST-Learning Center meeting.

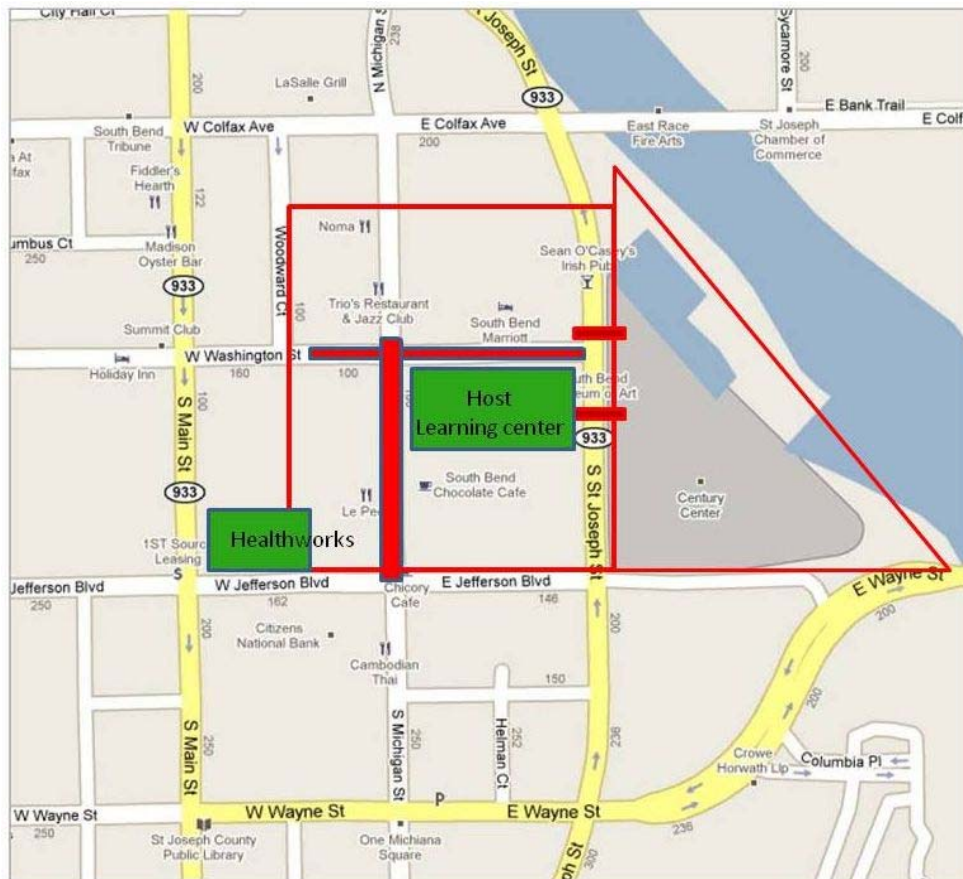
We are planning to arrange a meeting for Friday, 19 March, most probably at the downtown Notre Dame Center, time to be decided, but late afternoon looks most feasible.

Meeting #1 with Reg Wagle, Memorial Hospital Foundation; 12 Feb 2010

Two immediate points:

1. Healthworks is not interested in moving;
2. We need a “profit-making institution” - eg a well-known store such as “Nike”, Adidas”, or “Apple” come to mind - preferably stores which would link with a theme of science & technology and learning...

We do agree that the whole downtown area needs to be considered in an upgrade - and that a pedestrian and other connections between the Learning center and Healthworks should be included.



Following this meeting, I put together a map to illustrate a plan for the broader area of the center of downtown South Bend (about 5 square blocks) see the map I put together as an indicator

A model for downtown South Bend:

The map suggests: closure of Washington east of Michigan St.; and Michigan St between Jefferson and Washington.

The area surrounded by the red square and triangle would become pedestrian only, except for St. Joseph St.

There exist 2 crossings to the Century Center, one over from the Marriott and the other underground from the CFHOF building (usually closed).

**Meeting 2: Jeff Gibney/Gordon Berry on City Development of a downtown South Bend Citizens' Civic Plaza and the vision for the HOST-Learning Center
8 am February 19, 2010**

But , previous to this meeting

Our question:

How do we develop a successful multi-use central civic area in the style of Chicago's Navy pier?. (Jeff thinks more in terms of the Chicago Cultural Center building - at the corner of Michigan and Randolph). These visions fit into our original vision of an "educational exploratium" (San Francisco).

Primary Suggestion

- close one block of Michigan street and 1 block of Washington to make a pedestrian-only area
(See map of proposal)

Goal: - to link the new HLC (old CFHOF) building with the First Source Bank Building, the Century Center, the Riverbank, Healthworks/parking, stores, American Insurance building (NW corner of Washington/Michigan)

Primary needs:

How to involve plans for all buildings in a coherent vision for downtown pedestrian area

Detailed plan of how to better utilize space in the Century Center (& other buildings)

Ease of parking

At least one foodstore, and one pharmacy store (others?); other store to make a downtown visit attractive and productive.

Other needs/suggestions:

1. Enhance the pedestrian links over/under St. Joseph St between the central plaza area and the Century Center.
2. Can we revitalize the use of Century Center so that it becomes useful to both our own community as well as for conferences for mostly out-of-town people?
3. How can we link this area with the Plaza in front of the Morris auditorium theater?
4. How can we link this area to the river? - as an outdoor children's area
- more than just the present "island" which is NOT children-friendly.
5. How can we link this area to a revitalized East-Bank area? - through a pedestrian bridge?
6. The plan does not include a usage for the downtown theater presently underutilized.

The new HLC (old CFHOF) building:

The HOST-LEARNING CENTER (HLC. <http://hostlearning.net>)

- the centerpiece for the South Bend Central Civic area
- a multi-use facility of a combination of for-profit and not-for-profit facilities
- Give it a name! - (Someone or some company can pay for this - e.g .an anchor store, or local rich donor)

Ground floor - OPEN

Dinosaur exhibit area to replace present gift shop (which goes downstairs)

We have access (and local expertise) to the best available specimens - best scenario: one very large dinosaur, and several small dinosaurs - hands-on exhibits downstairs (in style of Indianapolis Children's museum.

At least one store, but with significant open area

Need ideas for use of open space in front of building...

Downstairs - OPEN

- entry to **HLC**, and other N-F-P organizations

- a walking area for gift-shops and other shops and restaurants

how can we open up and make more welcome the connecting "tunnel" to the Century Center? - can these facilities extend into the Century Center?

- the "**theater**"

- A Digital Planetarium facility - similar but slightly smaller than the present ND-DVT

- feasibility verified (in terms of dimensions) we are developing a cost estimate for this facility - assuming an 80-seat facility

- Note 1 - theater cannot be adapted to become an IMAX theater

- Note 2 - it could be utilized for other shows/presentations, etc

Exhibit space

The HLC will have mostly rotating and some permanent exhibits - most of these will be hands-on style

Many rooms, each dedicated to a specific area of science and technology - each will have a local focus with extensions to cutting edge R&D elsewhere

Learning Activities for children and learning activities for adults

- a **science-learning laboratory** not a museum.

Embrace constant change - experimental in its science, programs and design.

An Indiana D.O.E. Science Standards Lab.

Links to the eight LEARNING components in programs and experiments.

Committed to building learning partnerships with local museums, business, industry, K-12 education districts, and higher-ed institutions (six in St. Joseph County).

HLC will be a leader in learning not a follower.

HLC will be a fun and educational community learning center.

In conversation with Gibney:

Jeff gave me a copy of a city development plan for the East Bank (available on the web), and is looking to do something similar for the downtown area and the Covaleski stadium area.

The Mayor's committee has been looking at such a downtown redevelopment plan -

A "charrette" of people - about half the committee members plus others met in late February to discuss such a plan - the results of their brainstorming was a very similar idea to the plan I presented - Chuck Lehman of Lehman associates led the discussions.

I have since contacted Chuck and arranged to meet him when we are both back in town (after March 6).[**added note:** March 9 - Chuck and I met and discussed how the plans are being developed, and I gave him a better idea of our objectives]

Other recent input from our alliance members:

Other local science and technology institutions with valuable experience..

1. The Geek group in Kalamazoo, Michigan - www.thegeekgroup.org

2. Bill Booth a science museum planner from Toledo

3. **Subject:** Eureka moment Ideas for the HLC

A new name for the center? **The FUTURE CENTER / SOUTH BEND**

“The best way to predict the future is to create it”. Peter Drucker

FUTURE CENTER / SOUTH BEND will be a groundbreaking information center in former hall of fame building.

FUTURE CENTER / SOUTH BEND will have the following components.

1. THE LEARNING CENTER - The Learning Center will be an expanded concept science-technology center / children’s museum. The Learning Center will be a 21st century center of learning dedicated to young and old.

2. SOUTH BEND NOW - South Bend Now will be a showcase for innovation and manufacturing taking place in South Bend today.

3. DIRECT FROM THE LAB - Direct from the lab will be a first look at experiments and developments direct from university and industrial labs in South Bend.

4. NO BOUNDARIES SPACE - No Boundaries Space will be an experimental space for artist, designers, inventors, futurists, visionaries.

5. FUTURE PLANS - Future Plans will be a space where private and public plans for the future can be exhibited and discussed.

From Greg Jones, March 6, 2010

I am glad to hear things are still moving forward. I talked with Patsy Boehler from Ethos this morning and she said that she at talked to you at the education conference in Indianapolis. We are meeting Monday to talk some more about the project. She too was glad to hear things are still moving forward. She said she thought that you may be preoccupied until semester's end. We talked about some issues regarding accessibility to the site as well as goals and objectives.

I do think we need to focus on what we are trying to accomplish at the core and then assess how that works with other objectives such as downtown revitalization and redevelopment of the hall. I can envision also considering other sites for the Center such as Union Station or Ignition Park. Ignition Park has recently caught my attention for a number of reasons. One, I am working on the site and can see the potential for growth. There is a lot of land available and this project may enhance the growth of this portion of the Tech Park. There may be sources of revenue that coincide with this through the State's Tech Park initiatives, from Airport TIF revenue, from UEZ funding and its location on the proposed "Light Rail" corridor. I could see the "Light Rail" terminating in our facility where the building would act as a retail center, Rail terminal and HOST Center. I believe that having a Center for personal enrichment for all ages within the Tech Park would be educational, entertaining and conducive to learning.

That being said I think it would be beneficial to get together a Board that could consider all these factors and begin to bring this project into focus. It is exciting to see the interest. When we had our visioning session for the Science Center in 2005 Deborah Drendall from Memorial Hospital was the facilitator. She was brought in by Becky Zakowski who was the director of Health Works at the time. At that time Becky was suggesting that Health Works was open to the idea of moving its facility under the right conditions. She felt that they were outgrowing their space and may need to consider expanding. If we were to bring in OrthoWorks along with Brad Bishop and Zimmer they may begin to reassess their commitment to their current location. There are other educational, institutional and business partners we may wish to consider.

I still believe that bringing in a third party outside organization to help facilitate the launch and

growth of the project would be beneficial. An entity that has no other stake other than it's reputation in seeing the project succeed. There of course would be a cost to this but I believe it would be money well spent.