

Colorado Springs 2020: Our Town Our Future

Colorado Springs Citizens Speak Out About Our Future


By

Katie Donnelly, M.A.

Colorado Springs 2020: Our Town Our Future

Futurist and Social Architect, Gus Jaccaci, portrayed Mr. Thomas Jefferson speaking from the year 2020 and answered citizens questions about the future of Colorado Springs. One of his enduring messages from the future regarded the importance of remembering to Love saying “if we would build anything, to build it on a web of Love and it would be enduring....”

Citizens were then given an Opinoinnaire on the Future totaling 140 questions. The Opinoinnaire on the future consisted of two parts. The first part, CS 2020: Our Town Our Future, asked 67 questions all related to Colorado Springs now and in the future. Questions came from: The Center for the Study of Government and The Individual, our City Council representatives, our faith based community and both our transportation and planning departments. The second part of the Opinoinnaire on the future covered the State of the Union Address, created by the Forum Foundation, a non profit educational/research based in Bellevue, Washington. The State of The Union portion of the Opinoinnaire was used to assess what we as a community feel about the current state of our Nation.




Gus Jaccaci, Futurist and Social Architect portraying Mr. Thomas Jefferson



Futurist Jay Gary

Creating our Shared Future


Futurist Jay Gary in his civically inspiring presentation, “Creating Your Future”, spoke about the importance of using foresight when planning our Communities future. He ended his presentation discussing what choices we as a community face as well as how we can best respond to these choices in our shared future to increase our communities Quality of Life.



Community Foresight?

The graph shows a line representing the quality of life over time from 2000 to 2020. It starts at a baseline labeled '1. Probable Business as Usual'. A red line labeled '2. Possible Crisis' dips below the baseline. A green line labeled '3. Preferable' rises above the baseline, with an arrow pointing to it labeled 'Voluntary Transformation'. A blue line labeled '4. Ideal' rises even higher, with an arrow pointing to it labeled 'Post-Physical Growth Economy'. A red arrow labeled 'Collapse' points down from the peak of the blue line towards the year 2020. The y-axis is labeled 'Increasing Quality of Life' and the x-axis is labeled 'Possible Timeframe'.

Source: W. Torres, 1999



Our Day in the Sun


- After Futurist Jay Gary’s presentation, “Creating Your Future,” we all shared, “A Day in The Sun” process to promote both a dialogue on the future of our community, and to create civic articles.
- During the Day in the Sun process, citizens also discussed their Vision of their preferred or ideal future of Colorado Springs in the year 2020.
- This also included a section on both our community strengths and weaknesses, or areas in need of improvement in order for their ideal future to be able to come into being.

Citizens speak out and share their vision of how they would like to see Colorado Springs evolve by 2020.

Our Ideal and Preferred Future

Our citizens’ ideal future covered seven topics:

GROWTH
OUR ENVIRONMENT
OUR ECONOMY
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION
COMMUNITY
SOCIAL PROGRAMS



Community Strengths

“Colorado Springs is a friendly, patriotic community with a small town feeling. We are a community that cares about people and have a respect for cultural diversity. We are concerned and active citizens who have access to a good responsive local government, and we are a proud community, a community proud of our Air Force Academy, our good symphony, our top-notch Police department, our significant historical buildings and our very low taxes.”

“We are proud of our current comprehensive plan that allows for plenty of open spaces, parks and trails, and we are proud of the natural beauty of Colorado Springs and being able to live beneath “America’s Mountain”.



Community Weaknesses

Participants were asked to identify components or attributes we as a community are lacking, compared to those they had identified as needing to be present for their ideal future to come into being.

Participants identified and make suggestions concerning eight areas in need of strengthening within our community :

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Growth | Transportation |
| Environment | Health |
| Business | Housing |
| Education | Law Enforcement |

Town Hall Meeting on the Future

After sharing our “Day in the Sun,” Dr. Jim Null gave an informative presentation on the topic of “The Role of Citizens and the Government in the Future.”



Dr. Jim Null

Following Dr. Null’s presentation, a Town Hall Meeting on the Future of Colorado Springs was held.

Participant groups were asked, knowing how they would like to see the future of CS evolve, to create one or two civic articles per group, which were then presented, defended and voted on during the Town Hall meeting on the future. The purpose of creating civic articles was to give our citizens an avenue to identify and discuss topic areas they felt our city council might focus, during decision making that would help council implement our citizens ideal future into being.

Civic Articles for the Future of Colorado Springs

These articles began... “Towards the year 2020, to see if the Citizens of Colorado Springs will...”

“Create an efficient, effective, affordable, safe, environmentally compatible transportation system that contributes to a sense of community”

Passed 83%

“Create an alternative transit system”

Passed 69%

“Improve our environment”

Passed 82%

“Embrace the vision of our founders by regulating development”

Passed 72%

“Develop a positive environment for broader citizen -based participation and to implement an investment plan to develop a growth strategy to protect and enhance our quality of life”

Passed 72%

“Develop an indicator program by 2005 to monitor our Community’s quality of life”

Passed 82%



CS 2020: Our Town Our Future Opinionnaire on the Future Highlights

OUR COMMUNITY

GOVERNMENT

GROWTH

CS 2020:Our Town Our Future Opinionnaire on the Future Highlights

Employment

Environment

Human Services

Transportation

Colorado Springs 2020

Our Town Our Future



Any Questions ?