



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

2009 Annual Awards Program

Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

Deadline for Nominations: March 13, 2009

Complete this form (sections 1 and 2) and submit with your descriptive narrative.

SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (*select only one*):

- Community Health and Safety
- Community Partnership
- Community Sustainability
- Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program being nominated: Mission Vision

Jurisdiction(s) where program originated: City of Mission, Kansas

Jurisdiction population(s): 9,727

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented by or before January 31, 2008, to be eligible. The start date should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: August Year: 2008

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in Montréal, Québec, Canada, September 2009. (Each individual listed MUST be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Mike Scanlon

Title: City Administrator Jurisdiction: City of Mission, KS

Name: Martin Rivarola

Title: Director of Community Development Jurisdiction: City of Mission, KS

Name: _____

Title: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

Name of contact: Mike Scanlon

Title: City Administrator Jurisdiction: City of Mission, KS

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Mission, a first ring suburb of Kansas City, Missouri, experienced its greatest growth and investment during the 1960s and 70s—emerging today as a city with a population approaching 10,000 people. The City is now faced with meeting the financial and political demands of the 21st Century with little to no vacant ground available for generating critical new investment. Many residential and commercial buildings are outdated, and housing options which include modern day amenities are limited. The average household size is diminishing. Single story buildings predominate, and large surface parking lots consume valuable acreage. Flooding and storm water drainage have created expensive and challenging problems for the city. Aging infrastructure must be replaced. Finally, overall land values have increased at considerably higher rates than improvement valuations, indicating that significant investment in property improvements is lagging.

In order to maintain Mission as a vibrant city worthy of pride by its residents, the City must proactively support and pursue redevelopment of its commercial business district. We must create quality places with unique character that maximize use of the limited land available.

Recognizing these challenges, the City of Mission, Kansas has undertaken over a half-dozen planning processes in the last five years to meet these increasing demands head-on. These processes involved community visioning, inventories, assessments, and evaluating the redevelopment potential of various areas of the community. Specifically, we conducted the following:

- HyettPlama Downtown Study **(2002)**
- Design Guidelines for the Johnson Drive Corridor **(2003)**
- Rock Creek Redevelopment Master Plan, Vision Document **(2005)**
- Mixed-Use Master Plan for the West Gateway District **(2005)**

- Vision Plan for the East Gateway District (2006)
- Form- Based Code for the West Gateway District (2007)
- Various task forces on street, park, and pedestrian way guidelines (2002 to present)

These planning studies consistently pointed to several common themes, which would be necessary for any viable future growth in the city. These themes included: 1) the creation of higher density housing options (such as town homes and condominiums); 2) multi-story commercial opportunities developed in harmony with green space; 3) expansion of our transportation options to include more pedestrian-oriented development; and, 4) transit-oriented development. Many of these plans encouraged infill redevelopment projects which can be inherently difficult in a built-out urban area. Although Mission's location in the metropolitan area is more than desirable, challenges such as land assembly, site preparation, and infrastructure capacity discourage many redevelopment projects from becoming a reality.

So, how do we mold the vision of our future city into a plan which staff and the City Council can follow? That question led us to the development of **Mission Vision**. The 2008 Mission Vision was created by incorporating the various studies and visioning processes from the past five years, as well as the adopting ordinances, resolutions, and policies that put the plans into action in one central document. Mission Vision also identifies relevant issues, and proposes important policies to aid city leadership in proactively pursuing redevelopment. For example, Section 3 of Mission Vision specifically identifies goals and objectives only inferred through previous studies. A few objectives serve as proactive statements of city support for redevelopment—a position new to the city and governing body, but one that is a logical “next step.” We have to be willing to commit.

Mission Vision is a document which spans nearly 50-pages and serves as a cornerstone to Mission's redevelopment efforts. The final plan took almost six months to compile, and was reviewed and approved by our Planning Commission and City Council. The Mission Vision redevelopment plan is as important, and maybe even more so, than our Comprehensive Plan because it goes beyond land use questions, tackling issues of sustainability, smart growth, and the financing of future redevelopment projects. By unifying input from staff, the City Council, and residents, the Mission Vision plan is a comprehensive mindset of Mission with respect to redevelopment.

We have experienced some early successes with this document, including three new infill developments. Two are focused primarily on businesses/commercial redevelopment and reinvestment, while the third (Rock Creek Trail) provides an alternate transportation route while simultaneously helping the City to achieve stormwater best management practices. Each of these projects was developed using the policies and goals set forth in the Mission Vision document. Consequently, each of these works toward a common purpose by advancing the City's vision and goals. Mission Vision has not only allowed us to express our community's vision of the future, it has been crucial to our continuing efforts to make that vision a reality. We believe our Mission Vision Plan is a template that many first-tier suburbs could follow when implementing comprehensive and proactive redevelopment policies in their communities.