

Vision Commission report

The Columbia Vision Commission was established to engage the community regarding the implementation of the city's strategic plan, future strategic visions and goals, and other initiatives deemed appropriate by the city council. (Ord. No. 20081, § 1, 10-6-08; Ord. No. 21571, § 1, 1-7-13; Ord. No. 023533, § 1, 5-7-18) Visioning was defined as a "continuing and ongoing process where new information and public input are integrated with the work of agencies, paid consultants and the business community."

(Ord. No. 20081, § 1, 10-6-08; Ord. No. 21571, § 1, 1-7-13; Ord. No. 023533, § 1, 5-7-18)

Over the last few years, the Vision Commission has gathered public input through public meetings, community events such as Family Fun Fests at Cosmo Park, and the Black-Owned Business Expo. The Vision Commission also developed an online survey regarding the strategic plan. This survey was made available on BeHeard CoMO. Hard copies with a QR code leading persons directly to the survey were distributed at public events, including at least one City Council meeting. Data was collected until December 31, 2022, with a report following to Council.

At the November 28, 2022 meeting, the Vision Commission was tasked with "re-visioning" or further developing the purpose and role of the commission.

We propose that the revised purpose of the Vision Commission is to promote alignment between the strategic plan and relevant governmental boards, commissions, departments, and nongovernmental entities (stakeholders) in order to foster transparency and accountability.

It is with this guidance in mind, as well as the initial legislation creating the vision, that the following is suggested for the future of the Vision Commission:

1. Our first order of business, given the time sensitivity, would be to work with stakeholders to align ARPA spending to strategic plan focus areas.
2. The Vision Commission will complete a thorough review of the current strategic plan and relevant governmental boards, commissions, departments, and nongovernmental entities.
 - a. The Vision Commission will identify active city stakeholders that are currently addressing specific initiatives within the strategic plan.
 - b. The Vision Commission will create a document (report) that clearly indicates the findings and potential alignment.
3. The Vision Commission will continue to meet monthly (10 months per year) to gather public input, as well as provide information on the city's strategic plan.
 - a. A timeline will be created to commit to each Strategic Priority Area on the strategic plan (5 areas).
 - b. We will initially gather information from stakeholders within that Strategic Priority Area.

c. Following meetings will be dedicated to presenting that information in a public hearing, as well as gathering public input during a scheduled Vision Commission meeting.

d. All information gathered from these meetings will be summarized in a report to Council.

In closing, thank you for your time and dedication in supporting our purpose. We look forward to collaborating with you on aligning ARPA spending and the strategic plan.