

The original documents are located in Box 71, folder “Town Meeting '76” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Looking at the Future In Very Different Ways

By Randy I. Bellows
Special to the Washington Star

One group called its meeting Hori-



June 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MILT MITLER
FROM: JACK MARSH

What do you or ARBA know about the attached article? Would it be a good idea to meet on this?

Washington Post, Sunday, June 27, 1976 article entitled
"Bicentennial Event Mulls Future"

JOM/dl



Washington Post
Sunday, June 27, 1976

Bicentennial Event Mulls Future

By Charles R. Babcock

Washington Post Staff Writer

Using "impact matrices"

The Town Meeting followed a format developed

by the nonprofit Institute

Town Meetings across the nation.

Early results showed in-

June 28, 1976

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- Washington Post
Sunday, June 27, 1976

Bicentennial Event Mulls Future

By Charles R. Babcock
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Town Meeting, fol- Town Meetings across the
lowed a format developed nation

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JUL 9 1976

July 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

MILT MITLER *Mitler*

Jack, "Town Meeting '76" is a national effort sponsored by the Institute for Cultural Affairs out of Chicago. They have ARBA recognition.

Such meetings have been held in various parts of the country and are designed to bring people together to discuss local as well as national matters and to offer possible solutions. The headquarters merely sets the format and a local element, which varies with the community, and does all the work including raising the necessary funds for the project.

Although ARBA says the program has been successful, I haven't seen any results except for the fact that such meetings have been held and have received fairly good press in most cases. They have also extended plans for a continuation of the program throughout this year and possibly into next year.

Attached is a folder covering the program. We were approached by the Institute last year. However, at that time they needed help in securing the initial funding for the program and we could not assist with that.

I really don't believe there is a need to meet on this. The program varies from community to community. I'm sure, if you desire, ARBA could secure a compilation of the recommendations which have resulted from some of the "Town Meetings '76" thus far.

Attachment (Folder covering the "Town Meetings '76")



TOWN
716
MEETING

TOWN
76
MEETING

local America: toward the next two hundred years



TOWN 7/6 MEETING

WELCOME

TALKS

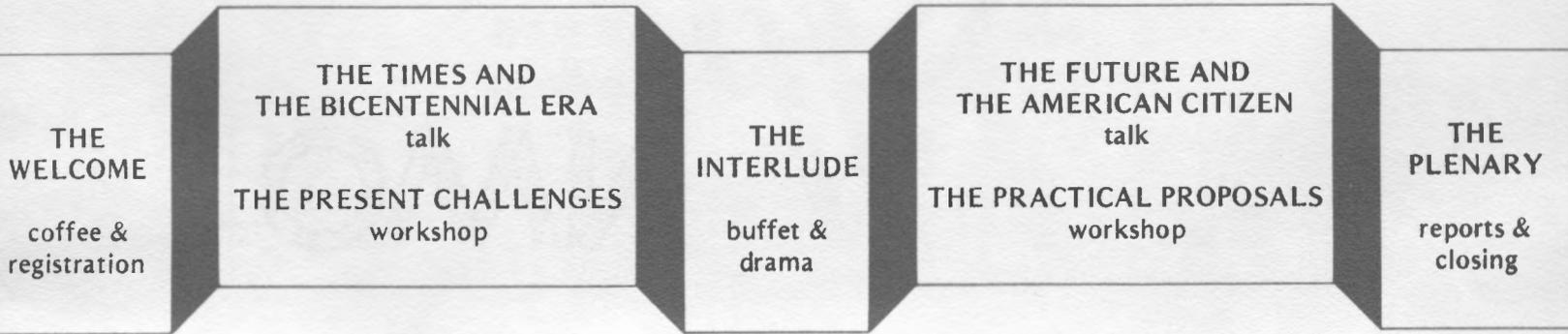
INTERLUDE

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY

TOWN MEETING '76 is a one-day community gathering celebrating the American Revolution Bicentennial. Sponsored by local groups in some five thousand American communities, TOWN MEETING '76 will engage more than one million people in creating practical proposals for the nation's future direction. The

quarter million proposals will be summarized as an inclusive vision of the future of America in the new world of the next two hundred years. In many communities TOWN MEETING '76 has catalyzed continuing citizen involvement in shaping the community's future.



WELCOME

TOWN MEETING '76 is a community forum with a format carefully designed for use in some five thousand communities. While the day's activity is structured, the atmosphere is informal. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts, the opening plenary session includes community singing, conversation and visiting. The day includes two workshop sessions, a celebrative lunch, two talks on the Bicentennial Era and the American Citizen, and a closing plenary session.

WELCOME

TALKS

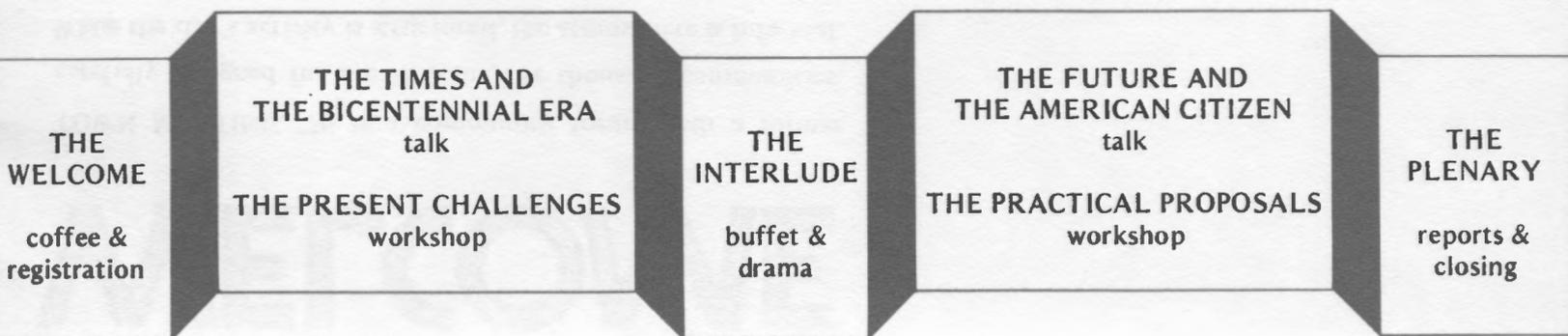
INTERLUDE

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY

"We have arrived at an
historical vantage point...
where the wasteland ends and...
human wholeness and
fulfillment begin."

Theodore Roszak



TOWN MEETING '76 sets the context for the two major workshops with two short talks beginning the morning and afternoon sessions. The first, The Times and the Bicentennial Era,

TALKS

articulates the new world we are entering at the threshold of the next two hundred years. The second, The Future and the American Citizen, indicates the issues, responsibilities, and possibilities given us as citizens in this new era.

TALKS

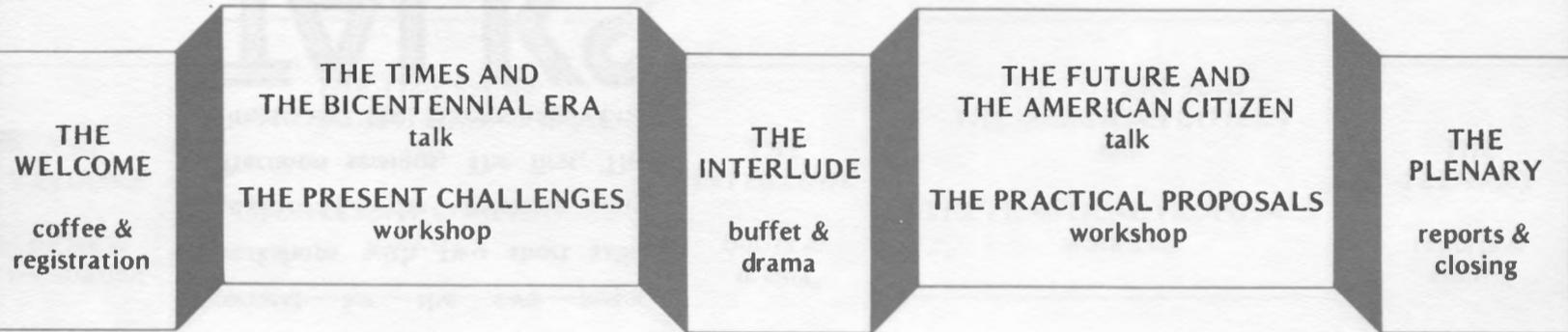
INTERLUDE

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY

"Man
must humbly but with courage
accept responsibility
for the destiny of mankind."

Clyde Kluckhohn



TOWN MEETING '76 celebrates the creativity of the local community with a festive noonday interlude. As the community representatives enjoy an informal lunch, special guests and local leaders are recognized, and an array of local

INTERLUDE

entertainment (professional and amateur, planned and spontaneous) highlights the meal. Dancing, music, comedy, and singing blend into a powerful happening in the middle of the day.

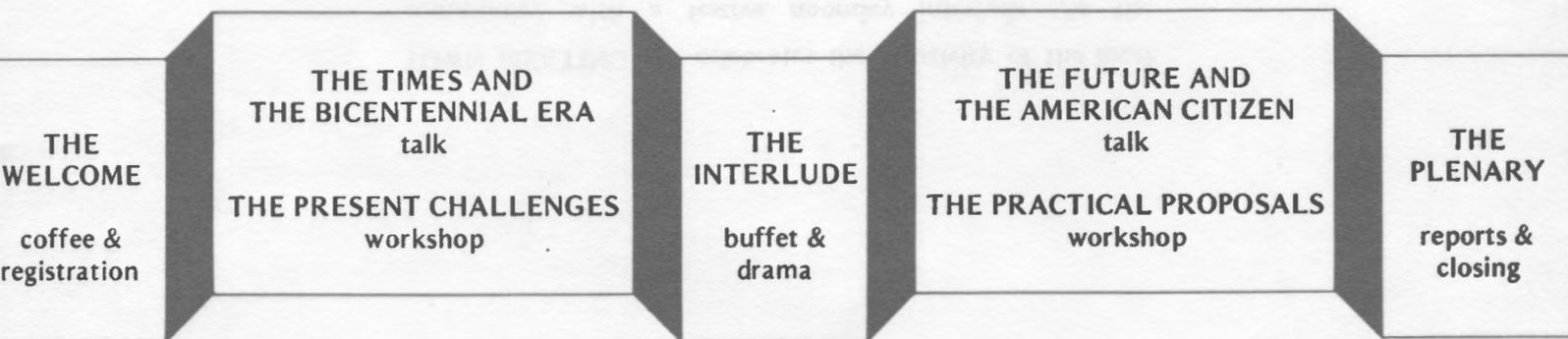
INTERLUDE

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY

"All the great civilizations
had one thing in common,
a positive image of the future
infusing the present with
purpose and expectation."

Robert Bundy



TOWN MEETING '76 appropriates the unique insights of community residents in two major workshop sessions. In the morning session the participants analyze the underlying challenges facing our nation. In the afternoon they use

WORKSHOPS

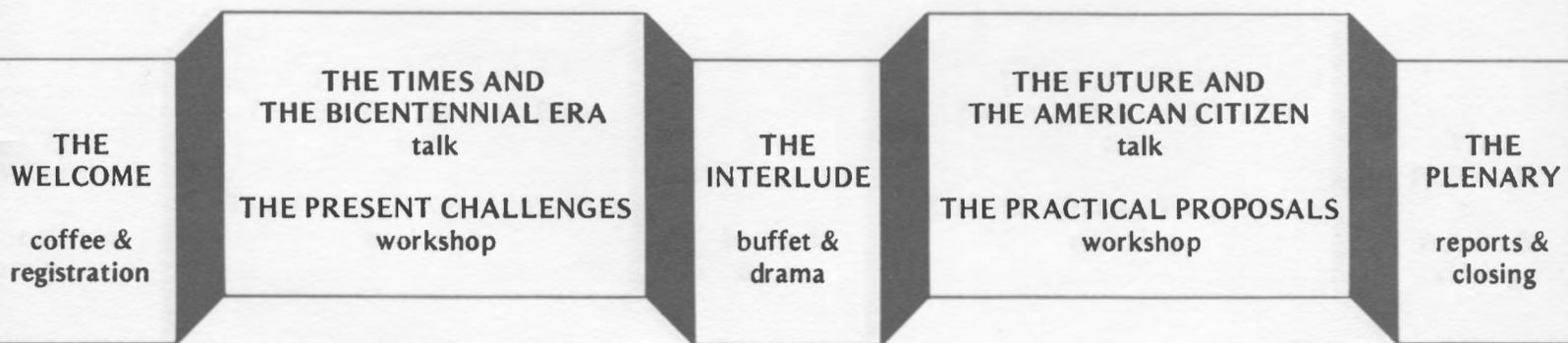
the data from the morning's work to write practical proposals for meeting the present challenges, and create a story, song, and symbol for America's Bicentennial Era.

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY

"We hold this annual celebration to remind ourselves of all the good done in the process of time, of how it was done and who did it and how we are historically connected with it. And we go from these meetings in better humor with ourselves —we feel more attached the one to the other and more firmly bound to the country we inhabit."

Abraham Lincoln



TOWN MEETING '76 ends with a closing plenary session which draws together the day's work with reports from each of the workshop groups. It is cast in a highly celebrative mood, marking the dramatic conclusion of the day. At 5:00 p.m. the community residents return home with a document holding their proposals for the future, a new story articulating their community's role in American history, and a renewed sense of the American revolutionary spirit.

PLENARY

PLENARY



TOWN MEETING '76 was developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a not-for-profit research, demonstration, and training group concerned with the human factor in world development. It is offered under local sponsorship by a nationwide volunteer staff of specially trained community leaders. For further information, contact the Institute of Cultural Affairs:

AMARILLO	806/372-2226	INDIANAPOLIS	317/925-9297	PITTSBURGH	412/231-8131
ANCHORAGE	907/274-3689	KANSAS CITY	816/931-6765	RAPID CITY	605/342-1343
ATLANTA	404/377-0669	LOS ANGELES	213/387-7356	RICHMOND	804/355-3163
BALTIMORE	301/539-4622	MANCHESTER	603/668-0010	ROCHESTER	716/647-1656
BILLINGS	406/252-3072	MEMPHIS	901/527-0513	SACRAMENTO	916/929-5042
BOSTON	617/262-7890	MIAMI	305/573-7594	ST. LOUIS	314/241-6915
BROOKLYN	212/276-1953	MILWAUKEE	414/372-6880	SALT LAKE CITY	801/363-1012
CHICAGO	312/722-3444	MINNEAPOLIS	612/871-7244	SAN ANTONIO	512/224-8927
CINCINNATI	513/861-7227	NEW ORLEANS	504/895-2810	SAN FRANCISCO	415/285-3939
CLEVELAND	216/421-8545	NEW YORK CITY	212/666-8330	SAN JOSE	408/295-0060
DALLAS	214/827-8650	NEWARK	201/722-0111	SEATTLE	206/322-2425
DENVER	303/333-1984	OKLAHOMA CITY	405/236-5529	TULSA	918/583-0028
DETROIT	313/866-3443	OMAHA	402/466-1260	WASHINGTON, D.C.	202/832-0007
GREEN BAY	414/432-1262	PEORIA	309/674-6240	WICHITA	316/682-7587
HARTFORD	203/242-6413	PHILADELPHIA	215/382-0418		
HOUSTON	713/697-4738	PHOENIX	602/255-7522		

TOWN 76 MEETING

A Directory of Program Consultants

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Brooklyn 212/276-1953	Randy Williams 178-40 137th Street Jamaica, New York	Walter Liggett New York City-Rand Institute New York City, New York
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Chicago 312/826-1976	M. George Walters 410 S. Trumbull St. Chicago, Illinois	George W. McBurney Sidley & Austin Chicago, Illinois
Cincinnati 513/861-7227	Robert Booher 2376 Kemper Lane Cincinnati, Ohio	James C. Armour Procter and Gamble Cincinnati, Ohio
Cleveland 216/421-8545	George Packard 1626 Magnolia Drive Cleveland, Ohio	Jack Gilles B.F. Goodrich Company Brecksville, Ohio
Dallas 214/827-8650	David Morton 4845 Swiss Street Dallas, Texas	John Chapman United Assoc. of Plumbers and Steamfitters Fort Worth, Texas
Denver 303/333-1984	Gary Forbes 1741 Gaylord Street Denver, Colorado	Donald P. Elliott, M.D. Cardiac Surgery Denver, Colorado



RECOGNIZED BY
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL
ADMINISTRATION



A Directory of Program Consultants

INFORMATION	ICA COORDINATOR	ICA CONSULTANT
Detroit 313/866-3443	Rod Rippel 60 Avalon Street Highland Park, Michigan	Ron Gregg Hooper, Hathaway, Fiscera, Price & Davis Ann Arbor, Michigan
Green Bay 414/432-1262	John Gibson 403 Kellogg Street Green Bay, Wisconsin	Steven H. Smith Associated Bank Services, Inc. Green Bay, Wisconsin
Hartford 203/527-0209	Robert Hansen 118 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut	Anders Myhr Hartford National Bank & Trust Company Hartford, Connecticut
Houston 713/697-4738	Donald Clark 1234 Neyland Street Houston, Texas	Randolph P. Johnston, M.D. Post Oak Psychiatry Associates Houston, Texas
Indianapolis 317/925-9297	Roger Butcher 3148 North Pennsylvania Indianapolis, Indiana	John B. Webster Dept. of Communications, Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana
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Los Angeles 213/387-7356	Richard Deines 1049 Magnolia Boulevard Los Angeles, California	D.E. Elder Business Systems Technology Orange, California
Manchester 603/668-0010	Leroy Philbrook 70 Kelley Street Manchester, N.H.	Harry A. Bliss, M.D. Private Practice South Portland, Maine
Memphis 901/527-0513	Frank Powell 1201 Peabody Street Memphis, Tennessee	Barry K. Morris Dept. of Economics, University of N. Alabama Florence, Alabama
Miami 305/573-7594	Joseph Hays 2012 N. Bayshore Drive Miami, Florida	R. Scott Stahr Eastern Airlines Miami, Florida
Milwaukee 414/372-6880	Frank Cookingham 912 West Burleigh Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Thomas L. Smeltzer Blue Cross of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Minneapolis 612/871-8382	Stefan Laxdal 2302 Blaisdell Street Minneapolis, Minnesota	Lewis H. Pierce, D.D.S. Private Practice St. Paul, Minnesota
New Orleans 504/895-2810	Joseph Clift 1925 Milan Street New Orleans, Louisiana	Wayne E. Stracener Engineered Process Equipment, Inc. Mobile, Alabama

INFORMATION	ICA COORDINATOR	ICA CONSULTANT
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Newark 201/484-2441	Glen Wheeler 156 Mt. Prospect Avenue Newark, New Jersey	Donald E. Baker American Standard, Inc. New York, New York
Oklahoma City 405/236-5529	William Bailey 1415 N. Hudson Avenue Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	Thomas L. Whitsett, M.D. University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
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Philadelphia 215/382-0418	Richard Alton 3725 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Stephen Redfield Univac Division, Sperry Rand Corporation Bluebell, Pennsylvania
Phoenix 602/255-7522	Mark Poole 2206 West Monroe Street Phoenix, Arizona	Frederick G. Emerson The Greyhound Corporation Phoenix, Arizona
Pittsburgh 412/231-8131	Don R. Francis 3442 Perryville Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Ben C. Ball, Jr. Gulf Oil Corporation Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Rapid City 605/342-1343	William Salmon 621 East Boulevard North Rapid City, South Dakota	Don C. Hopkins South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Rapid City, South Dakota
Richmond 804/359-4238	John C. Ballard, III 2205 Monument Avenue Richmond, Virginia	Richard N. Galbreath Old North Manufacturing Company Richmond, Virginia
Rochester 716/647-1656	Carl Hickey 53 Lakeview Park Rochester, New York	Ralph E. Black State University of New York Geneseo, New York
Sacramento 916/929-5042	Edgar Higgins 2989 Del Paso Boulevard Sacramento, California	Larry C. Lester Hagginwood Community School Sacramento, California
St. Louis 314/241-6915	Richard Macomber 1840 Hogan Street St. Louis, Missouri	Raymond G. Robison Wilson and Company Cedar Rapids, Iowa



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INFORMATION	ICA COORDINATOR	ICA CONSULTANT
Salt Lake City 801/363-1012	J. Donald Johnson 157 East 7th Street Salt Lake City, Utah	James C. Overall, M.D. University of Utah College of Medicine Salt Lake City, Utah
San Antonio 512/224-8927	Wesley Lachman 2018 West Commerce St. San Antonio, Texas	Craig Allen Craig Allen Architect and Associates San Antonio, Texas
San Francisco 415/285-5553	Robert Vance 955 S. Van Ness Blvd. San Francisco, California	Jon C. Thorson, M.D. Hillsborough, California
San Jose 408/295-0060	James McCabe 102 South 14th Street San Jose, California	David Crampton Hewlett-Packard Company Palo Alto, California
Seattle 206/322-2425	Richard Kroeger 2706 Harvard Avenue East Seattle, Washington	Bruce W. Robertson Seattle—First National Bank Seattle, Washington
Tulsa 918/585-1300	William Slicker 116 East 16th Street Tulsa, Oklahoma	Roger E. Alexander Phillips Petroleum Company Bartlesville, Oklahoma
Washington, D.C. 202/832-0007	Donald Cramer 1212 Otis Street N.E. Washington, D.C.	H. Richard Riley, Jr. MITRE Corporation McLean, Virginia
Wichita 316/682-7587	Richard Whitney 1604 North Fairmont Wichita, Kansas	Nathan B. Richards Vickers Petroleum Corporation Wichita, Kansas

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a research, training, and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. Headquartered in Chicago, and chartered as a not-for-profit corporation in Illinois, the ICA operates through its offices in forty-seven American cities and in consultation with representatives from a wide range of business and professional fields. The ICA serves as a program consultant for Town Meeting '76, a national Bicentennial program involving five thousand communities. The ICA staff and Consultants work with local sponsoring groups to coordinate program development and provide resources, training, and follow-up services upon request. The ICA Consultants listed above represent task forces in each of the forty-seven cities. The names of corporations and agencies are listed for identification purposes only. For further information, contact the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

4750 Sheridan Road
Chicago, Illinois 60640
telephone 312/769-5635





2/28/'76
at the Whitmer Human
Resource Center

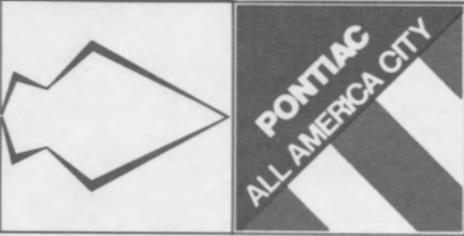


**PONTIAC
BICENTENNIAL
COMMISSION**

2



PONTIAC BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION



HONORABLE WALLACE E. HOLLAND, MAYOR, CITY OF PONTIAC
VICE CHAIRMAN MAYORS' COMMITTEE ON THE BICENTENNIAL
U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
FRANK MAZZA, PONTIAC BICENTENNIAL COORDINATOR
JOSEPH NEUSSENDORFER, PONTIAC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

60 E. Pike St., Pontiac, Mi. 48058, 313-857-7676

March 3, 1976

Dear Mr. Warner:

Herewith, please find a copy of the document that came out of Pontiac's "Town Meeting '76" program held on February 28, 1976.

Your comments on this report would be most welcomed.

Yours, In the "Spirit of '76"

Joseph Neussendorfer,
Chairman

*Programs
replied*



John W. Warner, American Revolution Bicentennial Administration
Howard F. Lancour, Michigan Bicentennial Commission-Executive Director
Benjamin Franklin Thomas IV, Oakland County Bicentennial Commission Coordinator

Wallace E. Holland, Mayor John E. Appleton, Mayor Pro Tem
Commissioners - Robert W. Bowens, H. Tom Padilla, Louis M. Palace,
Robert J. Parker, Elizabeth M. Stogdill





2/28/'76
at the Whitmer Human
Resource Center



**PONTIAC
BICENTENNIAL
COMMISSION**



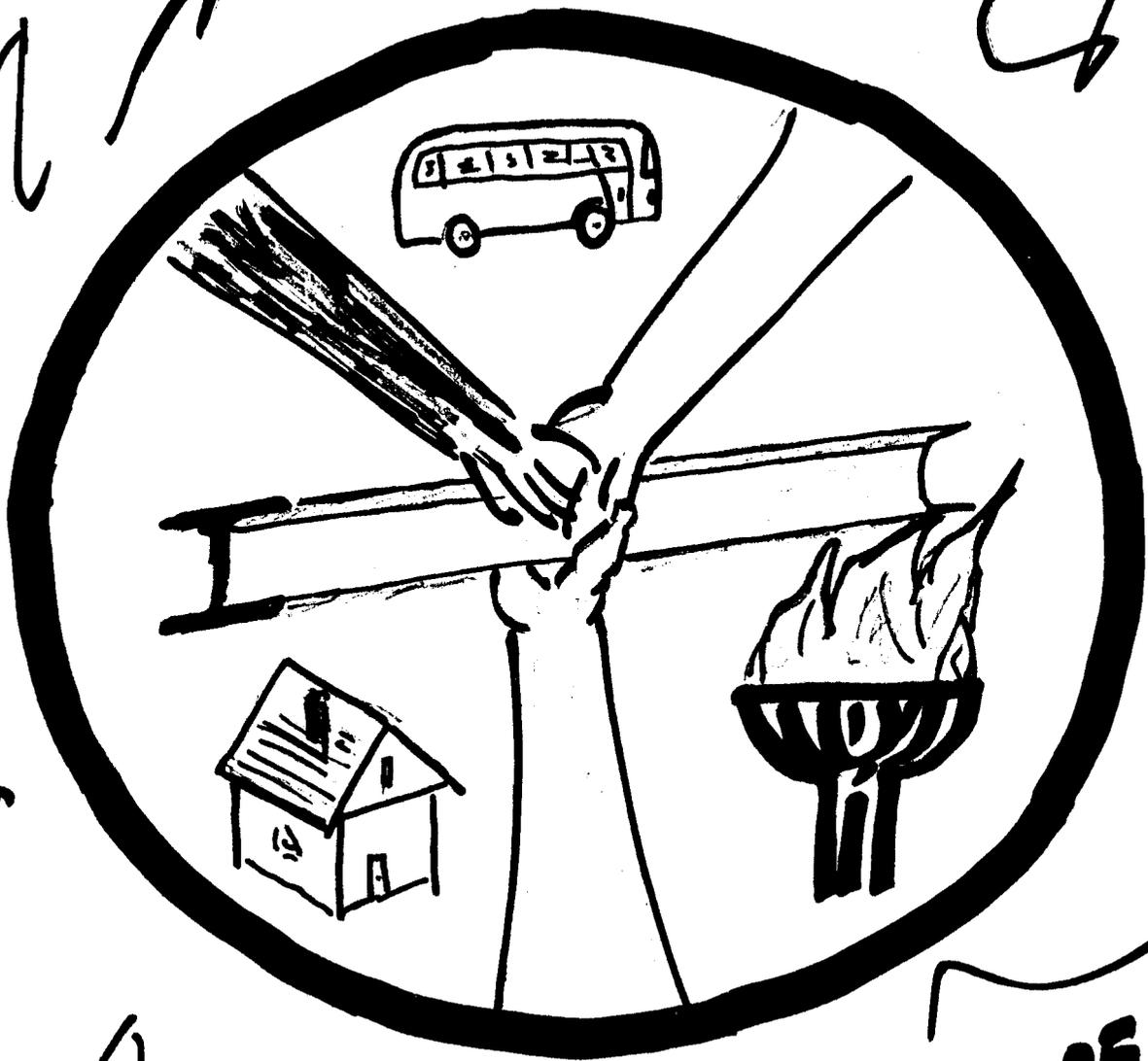
A STATE-WIDE AND
NATIONAL HAPPENING

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

April	3	-	Detroit (St. Peter Claver Community Center Area)
April	10	-	Macomb County
April	24	-	Madison Heights
May	8	-	Ann Arbor
May	8	-	Mt. Pleasant
May	15	-	Sault Sainte Marie
May	20	-	Flint
May	22	-	Kalamazoo

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

The Institute of Cultural Affairs
60 Avalon
Highland Park, Michigan 48203
(313) 866-3443



PONTIAC POW WONS THE FUTURE

NEW SONG

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

PONTIAC IS HERE FOR YOU AND ME

CHORUS: This Town is your Town, this Town is my Town
We'll work together, to make it better
It's now or never, so lets get going
Pontiac is here for You and Me.

FIRST VERSE: We can remember, the past with pleasure
The times of progress, and peaceful leisure
When one could work hard, and raise a family
This Town's been good for you and me.

SECOND VERSE: Today we've come here, to work on problems
To find solutions, to all our troubles
We seek the answers, that oft elude us
We can, together if we try.

THIRD VERSE: Stand up be counted, it's time to rally
Lets get together, and help our City
Lets push for changes, that bring us progress
We can be better, than we are.

TUNE: This Land is your Land.

NEW STORY

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

In the years long gone, Pontiac was a city of pride - it was a great city to raise children in, good schools, churches, opportunities for employment, a city one could walk in safety.

It was a city built by people power. These great goals were the result of the concerted and cooperative efforts of the citizenry of the city of Pontiac. Pontiac was a city built by people power. People built and created a great place to live.

Pontiac finds itself in the midst of great struggles and possibilities as seen in the hope of renewing downtown Pontiac with the implementation of the "Pontiac Plan" - a dream of residents to put a new facade on the downtown buildings in a manner of beautification. After game shuttles for spectators at the stadium have the potential of bringing in new entertainment economy. Auto corporations cut back in employment points toward a need for diversified economy. Wide-track drive, a controversial symbol of this community, is both a sore point for unfamiliar drivers and a useful tool for those who know it. As you can see, Pontiac stands in the urban crisis with the possibility of creating projects other communities would emulate.

Where does Pontiac go from here? Our hope for Pontiac is to be such an idealistic city that people are waiting to move in. Pontiac will look for People Power - a city built on ethnic, cultural, racial and religious diversity. A people who take a stand on determining their lives. A place where civil servants are civil servants. A place where all people can grow. A place where there is no unemployment, and as a result, no crime. Pontiac has come from the image of a noble Indian war chief to the image of a proud, noble People.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

We now mark the beginning of our Third Century as an Independent Nation as well as the 200th Anniversary of the American Revolution. For two centuries our Nation has grown, changed and flourished. A diverse people, drawn from all corners of the earth, have joined together to fulfill the promise of democracy.

America's Bicentennial is rich in history and in the promise and potential of the years that lie ahead. It is about the events of our past, our achievements, our traditions, our diversity, our freedoms, our form of government and our continuing commitment to a better life for all Americans. The Bicentennial offers each of us the opportunity to join with our fellow citizens in honoring the past and preparing for the future in communities across the Nation. Thus, in joining together as races, nationalities, and individuals, we also retain and strengthen our traditions, background and personal freedom.

As we lay the cornerstone of America's Third Century, your very special part in this great national undertaking is most commendable.

Ronald R. Ford

THE WHITE HOUSE

February 28, 1976

Dear Friends:

It was a special pleasure to learn of Pontiac's "Town Meeting '76." I am delighted to join in sending warm greetings to all who are participating in this Bicentennial observance.

May your program, actively demonstrating the continuing spirit of individual involvement which has made our country great, be a most stimulating event for each of you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Betty Ford

Pontiac's "Town Meeting '76"
Pontiac Bicentennial Commission
60 East Pike Street
Pontiac, Michigan 48058

William G. Milliken
Governor of the State of Michigan

presents this

Executive Declaration

in Observance of

February 28, 1976

as

PONTIAC TOWN MEETING '76 DAY

Town meetings symbolize our democratic heritage.

In a form of direct democracy unique to America, our forefathers actively participated in the workings of government.

As a legislative assembly, the town meeting provided a framework for our present system of government.

Today, the town meeting remains the basic unit of local self-government and one of America's most cherished institutions.

It is only appropriate, therefore, that in observance of our nation's 200th birthday we, by utilizing the town meeting, examine local economic, political, and cultural issues and the underlying challenges of America's third century.

In the Spirit of America and this Bicentennial, we do hereby declare February 28, 1976, as Pontiac Town Meeting '76 Day, and recognize the City of Pontiac for its tribute to our democratic principles and ideals.

Given under our hand on this ninth day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred seventy-six and of the Commonwealth one hundred fortieth.



William G. Milliken

GOVERNOR

Janeé Johnson

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



WILLIAM S. BROOMFIELD
19TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

DISTRICT OFFICE:
430 NORTH WOODWARD
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48011
PHONE: 642-3800

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 23, 1976

COMMITTEES:
**INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEES:
EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF
ALL SUBCOMMITTEES
SMALL BUSINESS
WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
SUITE 2435
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
PHONE: 202: 225-6135

Pontiac Bicentennial Committee
60 East Pike Street
Pontiac, Michigan 48058

Dear Citizens of Pontiac:

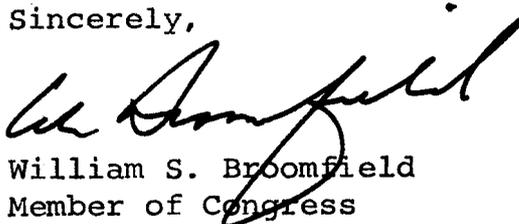
Although previous commitments prevent me from attending your Town Meeting '76 program, I heartily endorse the concept of this project, and congratulate all of you who have worked so hard to make it a success.

The Bicentennial celebration provides us with an excellent opportunity to look back with pride at our past, and at the same time, look forward with hope to our future. One of the great strengths of America during these first 200 years has been the active participation of our citizens in our democratic process. How our future is molded rests in large part on a continued commitment by all communities and citizens to this participatory role.

As we head into our third century, I am proud to see Pontiac, through the Town Meeting '76 program, exhibiting the leadership needed in this area, and I am confident other communities will follow suit to help make the next 100 years as eventful and fruitful as the first 200 have been.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



William S. Broomfield
Member of Congress

WSB/jgm



Oakland County Executive
DANIEL T. MURPHY



February 27, 1976

Mr. Joseph Neussendorfer
Chairman
Pontiac Bicentennial
Celebration Committee
60 E. Pike St.
Pontiac, Michigan 48058

Dear Mr. Neussendorfer:

This Bicentennial Year is a time of celebration, a joyous recognition of our successful evolution from a tiny band of colonies to a great nation.

But, also, it is a time for thoughtful reflection on the attitudes, philosophies, and actions which have framed our success and made it possible.

One of our national attributes has been a strongly held, consistent belief that the people can and must govern themselves. The town meeting is the epitome of that concept.

Although we have grown too large to continue the town meeting in its original form, Americans everywhere still frequently and unhesitatingly exercise their right to gather in assemblies and discuss issues of the day. This is more than just a tradition, it is an important part of the American way of life and a significant factor in our ability to retain "government of the people" as a viable concept.

On behalf of Oakland County government, I applaud the "Pontiac Town Meeting '76 Program" and extend best wishes for its success.

Sincerely,


Daniel T. Murphy
Oakland County Executive

DTM/sr

As we look to the horizon, I hope this Bicentennial year will be an unique reminder of the debt we owe to others and the responsibilities we assign to ourselves.

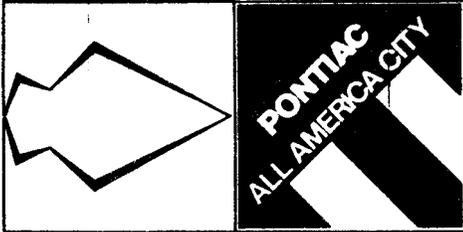
Ours is a heritage rich in achievement but even richer in promise. This Democracy is our treasure, our hope and our security.

Let us share that treasure among all of us, without prejudice, partiality, or preference. Let us transform that hope from vague, abstract striving to plain, simple satisfaction of our wants and needs. And let us build our security, not on the fear of each other, but on mutual help and mutual trust.

Secretary of State
Richard H. Austin



PONTIAC BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION



HONORABLE WALLACE E. HOLLAND, MAYOR, CITY OF PONTIAC
VICE CHAIRMAN MAYORS' COMMITTEE ON THE BICENTENNIAL
U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
FRANK MAZZA, PONTIAC BICENTENNIAL COORDINATOR
JOSEPH NEUSSENDERFER, PONTIAC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

60 E. Pike St., Pontiac, Mi. 48068, 313-857-7676

February 28, 1976

Dear Pontiac Patriots :

On behalf of the entire Pontiac Bicentennial Celebration Committee, I extend warm greetings to all Pontiac "Town Meeting '76" participants.

Today is a Great Day in the history of Pontiac, Michigan, and America.

We sincerely hope that this day is filled with many patriotic and spiritual blessings for you, your family and friends.

*Sincerely Yours,
Joseph F. Neussendorfer*



John W. Warner, American Revolution Bicentennial Administration
Howard F. Lancour, Michigan Bicentennial Commission-Executive Director
Benjamin Franklin Thomas IV, Oakland County Bicentennial Commission Coordinator

Wallace E. Holland, Mayor John E. Appleton, Mayor Pro Tem
Commissioners - Robert W. Bowens, H. Tom Padilla, Louis M. Palace,
Robert J. Parker, Elizabeth M. Stogdill

PRESENT CHALLENGES

ECONOMIC

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

PONTIAC ECONOMIC DEPRESSION

In the arena of Economic Commonality the following blocks, lack of funds, priority, wastes, uneven funding indicate the underlying contradiction of economic depression. This is illustrated by G.M. Plant layoffs, reduce tax base and revenues and consumer buying power.

Guild 3

NEW POLICY IN GOVERNMENT

In the arena of Economic Commonality the following blocks, lack of leadership, taxes too high, no educational knowledge, forced into hiring people not responsible to job indicate the underlying contradiction of favoritism in government. This is illustrated by job positions and high taxes.

Guild 4

LACK OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

In the arena of Economic Commonality the following blocks, poor planning indicate the underlying contradiction of uncreative political leadership. This is illustrated by long vacant urban renewal land.

Guild 4

SHIFTING RESOURCES AND ATTITUDES

In the arena of Economic Resources the following blocks, lack of organized efforts to keep resources in Pontiac indicate the underlying contradiction of shifting resources and attitudes. This is illustrated by neighborhood downtown deterioration and corresponding negative attitudes.

Guild 1

SENSE OF HOPELESSNESS

In the arena of Economic Commonality the following blocks, fear of downtown, buying power, revitalization of downtown indicate the underlying contradiction of lack of self-pride in the Community and therefore sense of hopelessness by the majority of residents. This is illustrated by feeling of need for the tax incentives for home improvement, desire for assistance in downtown redevelopments need for better transportation, and unemployment.

Guild 1

PRESENT CHALLENGES

ECONOMIC

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

MEASURES FOR ECOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

In the arena of Economic Commonality the following blocks, lack of public concern, governmental regulation and unwanted further taxation indicate the underlying contradiction of the public's apathy, the lack of governmental intervention, and the many unfulfilled political promises. This is illustrated by the fact that Pontiac was voted an All-American City, while the alleged renovation of downtown Pontiac has yet to fully happen.

Guild 2

ECONOMIC REFORM

In the arena of Economic Reform the following blocks, corporate control of markets, self-perpetuating welfare, disinterested parties hired to solve problems, limitations of effective participation indicate the underlying contradiction of if a problem doesn't touch you personally, you're unlikely to be willing to be committed to a solution. This is seen in the welfare system.

Guild 2

PRESENT CHALLENGES

POLITICAL

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

PEOPLE ARE POWERLESS

In the arena of Political Commonality the following blocks, people are powerless and red tape halts action indicate the underlying contradiction of politicians listening to rich and powerful and people being unaware of political processes. This is illustrated by media irresponsibility, stadium problems more important than the people's needs; not making vacant lots available for parks and gardens.

Guild 1

TRANSPORTATION; NEEDS OF AGED

In the arena of Corporate Welfare the following blocks, finance and area political differences indicate the underlying contradiction of concern and recognition and any effective plan to promote corrective action. This is illustrated by no public transportation from home (residence) to stores or health centers and insufficient funds to resolve problem.

Guild 2

POLITICAL EQUITY

In the arena of political equity—equity in the distribution of information and power the following blocks, actions to exclude the vast majority from politics and political truths indicate the underlying contradiction of a system meant to benefit the individual but which recognizes only the entities organized with political clout. This is illustrated by kids graduating politically dumb because G.M. doesn't need them politically smart. Whites turning out a bigger vote percentage-wise than blacks and sporadic street violence, bus burning of 1971 which we believe is a by product of political exclusion.

Guild 2

INVOLVED CITIZENRY PARTICIPATION FOR PROGRESS

In the arena of Political and Economic the following blocks, background, uniformed and insecurity indicate the underlying contradiction of heritage, apathy and misinformation other interests. This is illustrated by citizen participation and misinformation.

Guild 3

PRESENT CHALLENGES

CULTURAL

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL FABRIC

In the arena of Cultural Development, the following blocks, lack of motivation, lack of cultural opportunities, lack of well-rounded practical education, lack of awareness of continuing education programs, indicate the underlying contradiction of unawareness of the potential for social structural modification and the breakdown of cultural forms. This is illustrated by people showing up having inadequate basic social skills, low participation in community education programs, inefficient community communication and disintegration of ritual forms of marriage and death.

Guild 1

STRUCTURAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the arena of structural Responsibility/Cultural Commonality, the following blocks, lack of communication, leadership, proper information. Indicate the underlying contradiction of complex inter-relations with different governing structures with inadequate controls and communications. This is illustrated by the existence of an empty Pontiac Stadium.

Guild 2

HUMAN RESPECT

In the arena of Social, the following blocks, lack of respect, personal and property, parental involvement with youth education, indicate the underlying contradiction of apathy. This is illustrated by HUD homes, vandalism, crime, drugs in school, lack of attendance in community meetings.

Guild 2

LACK OF INTEREST

In the arena of interpersonal care, the following blocks, lack of interest, apathy, interference with education, indicate the underlying contradiction of apathy of people in caring for one another. This is illustrated by the Clinton Valley lay-off of employees, lack of city pride in community and the busing controversy.

Guild 2

PUBLIC APATHY

In the arena of Cultural, the following blocks, apathy, low educational level, no sense of belonging, value system, indicate the underlying contradiction of apathy, civic responsibility, parental responsibility. This is illustrated by low educational attainment by Pontiac citizens, failure to adequately maintain present neighborhood park, absenteeism in school and factories.

Guild 3

PRESENT CHALLENGES

CULTURAL (cont'd)

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

RECREATING HOPE AND BELIEF IN PONTIAC (REVITALIZING THE PRIDE IN PONTIAC - HOPE, BELIEF, TRUST)

In the arena of Cultural Commonality, the following blocks, lack of strong leadership, indifference, lack of trust, lack of communication, indicate the underlying contradiction of citizens believing they can do nothing to give direction to their lives and the life of the city. This illustrated by small turnout for stadium vote and all elections, few professionals left in town, people not taking care of their homes, illegality of the Taubman Plan.

Guild 4

PRACTICAL PROPOSALS

FOR DEALING WITH ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

CITIZEN AND GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION

We the citizens of Pontiac in order to establish communications between citizens and government and a more efficient government propose suggestions awards in money-paid, cost-saving ideas through appointing an Awards Program Coordinator.

CITY CENTER REVITALIZATION

We the Citizens of Pontiac in order to revitalize Pontiac's citizenry propose the creation of a cultural commission to create a cultural center; a media campaign; to coordinate service-oriented organizations and to provide incentive ordinances to improve homes and businesses.

BETTER CITIZENS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDING

We the citizens of Pontiac in order to develop a knowledge and informed citizenry propose to establish a program of action through media, mobile City Hall and community groups.

REDEVELOPMENT OF PONTIAC

We the citizens of Pontiac in order to bring about the effective redevelopment of Pontiac propose that Pontiac should define what this community can be in a realistic perspective, economically and socially through: 1) conducting a marketing study; 2) develop a statement of the essential elements necessary to capitalize on this economic and social niche; 3) Develop a strategy for achieving or realizing those elements; 4) promote that strategy to those with the resources and know how to accomplish the individual element.

PRACTICAL PROPOSALS

FOR DEALING WITH POLITICAL CHALLENGES

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

We the citizens of Pontiac, Michigan, in order to encourage local citizen participation in decision making propose regular accountability sessions with government legislators and elected officials through (1) creating public interest, (2) establishing a time and place for meetings, (3) assigning service groups and block clubs to host meetings, and (4) requesting presence of all elected and appointed officials in the community.

COMMON HERITAGE - COMMON FATE

We the citizens of the world who happen to live in Pontiac in order to integrate people with people that is to promote the understanding of our common history and common destiny propose the encouragement of voluntary association for community purposes through (1) painting the Hubbard Building, etc., (2) continuing to promote dances, cleanup, summer festivals, (3) talent show, (4) expanding the 100 Club to a 1000 Club, (5) establishing a city employment agency, (6) requiring one year each of world, U.S., and Michigan history for graduation.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

We the citizens of Pontiac in order to create lines of communication between the community citizens and the city government body propose to design a system of communications exchange between the citizens of Pontiac and the governing body through (1) re-evaluating, reviewing, reviving, revising and rewriting the City Charter into languages of ethnic groups represented in Pontiac and into braille, (2) organize monthly block club meetings with city officials (Commissioners), and (3) public communication systems in the area should offer special editions and articles in order to inform the citizens of the city's department functions.

COMMUNITY SELF-HELP

We the citizens of Pontiac in order to get people working together to identify needs and match with available resources propose to use school assemblies for youth involvement, heritage festival, public hearings through lectures at assemblies, booth at festival for public input, citizen involvement at hearings.

PRACTICAL PROPOSALS

FOR DEALING WITH CULTURAL CHALLENGES

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

COMMUNICATION FOR PROGRESS

We the citizens of Pontiac community in order to clarify community awareness and develop interest propose the conscious use of media through (1) block clubs to generate interest and involvement, (2) gathering data on existing or past community programs, (3) "spots" on radio of great people, and (4) outstanding awards and (5) coordinate media team to develop program and implement it.

ETHNIC FAIRS AND TOWN MEETINGS

We the citizens of Pontiac in order to create a desire to have people get together and participate in city programs and activities propose (1) seven district Town Hall meetings with open invitation to all citizens, (2) initiate annual Heritage Festival originated in May Bicentennial Celebration through a central organization representative of the seven districts.

HIGH STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

We the citizens of Pontiac, Michigan, in order to establish an incentive and reward system for high standards of performance propose that mediocrity be eliminated as a standard of work, behavior skill development and education through the solicitation of cooperation and support for establishing quality standards and insisting upon compliance with opportunities for appropriate alternative in the event of noncompliance.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

We the citizens of Pontiac in order to stimulate cultural growth propose (1) block clubs or neighborhood clubs on city-wide basis, (2) mobile Pontiac Creative Art Center program, (3) development of a community workshop as a program resource for local groups through (1) citizens council and coordinating council of block clubs which should have intensive program with the aid of a community task force, (2) request that the Pontiac Creative Arts Center approach the school system with the support of individual citizen's support - approach the Plant City Committee for a mobile van, and (3) school district and City Development Workshop as an interesting program source.

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Drayton Plains, MI 48020

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Drayton Plains, MI 48020

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Southfield, MI

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Pontiac, MI 48054

Ted Gertz
868 Gill
Oxford, MI 48051

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611 Pearsall
Pontiac, MI 48053

Lynn Hamilton
23 Utica
Pontiac, MI 48053

Ruth Hartwell
466 California
Pontiac, MI 48053

Gwen Heard
City Hall
Pontiac, MI 48053

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Pontiac, MI 48053

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E. McQuillan
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345 W. Iroquois
Pontiac, MI 48053

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Pontiac, MI 48053

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Ralph Palacios
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Pontiac, MI 48058

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Pontiac, MI 48058

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Pontiac, MI

Barbara Livingston
737 Livingston
Pontiac, MI

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Pontiac, MI 48058

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Lillard Sandifer
255 Carriage, Apt. 610 A
Pontiac, MI

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

SPECIAL THANKS

Brian Castle
Dianne Dow
Bill Featherstone
Connie Davis
Richard Hoffman
George Jones
Sue Norman
Eunice Hernandy
Addressograph Multigraph Corporation

Dana P. Whitmer Human Resource Center
Lebaron School
Pontiac Central High School
Pontiac City Schools
Pontiac Theatre IV
Oakland University "Black Women Now & Then" - Cecilia Land, Director
Boy Scouts
Ballet Folklorico de San Visente - Aphilia Navarro, Director
Trio Azteca de Pontiac - Jesus Salozar, Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TOWN MEETING STEERING COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSONS:

RELATIONS:

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ANNA R. LANE

FACILITATION:

EDITH SHORTER
STEPHANIE CLANGHAN

PROMOTIONS:

JAN GRIX
GWEN HEARD

ENABLEMENT:

MARY GREEN
THERESA MAZZA

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Anita Alfaro
Ignacio Alfaro
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Jay Axsom
Mary Axsom
N. Louise Baker
Robert Pass
Guy Blackburn
Georgia Bonds
Vikki Bonero
Tina Bonero
Elizabeth Borsvold
John Brown
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Erma Coit
Barbara L. Cox
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Nathan Davis
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Lee Hasselinger
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Sponsored By: Pontiac Bicentennial Commission

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Oakland County Ministerial Association, Central City
Business Association, Pontiac School Board and Lions Club.
Pontiac City Library

in cooperation with The Institute of Cultural Affairs

HONORED GUESTS AND DIGNITARIES:

Senator Kerry K. Kammer	Dr. Dana Whitmer, Pontiac Superintendent of Schools
Representative Charlie Harrison, Jr.	Philip Meek, Publisher, The Oakland Press
Representative Melvin R. Larson	Johna Harrington, Pontiac-Waterford Times
Rev. James Matthews	Benjamin Franklin Thomas, IV Oakland County Bicentennial Coordinator
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WORKSHOP LEADERS:

Ann Andrew
Grant Breiner
Lois Martin
Jackie Parker
Roger Parker
Rod Rippel
Frances Roper
Jeff Roper
Greg Walden
Alice Walton

EMCEE:

Joseph Neussendorfer

ICA STAFF:

Nelson Stover
Judy Trecice
Pauline Wagner
Bob Walton

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Pontiac Town Meeting

CHILDREN'S TOWN MEETING

Edgar Johnson
Myriam Flores
Cheryl Black
Mandy Dillion
Mary Wellington
Michelle Wellington
Connie Davis
Melvin Davidson
Anthony Gomez
Jerry Irish
Phyllis Holmes
Pat Malec
Katherine Sykes
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Oakland Community College
Explorers
Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society
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Dawn Donuts

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February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

Blue Bird Baking Co.
2108 McClellan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan
822-0255

Deni's Market
3468 Pontiac Lake Rd.
Pontiac, Michigan
674-1188

Great Lakes Packing Co.
2113 Carpenter Street
Detroit, Michigan
368-8840

Felice Quality Market
1116 W. Huron Street
Pontiac, Michigan
681-1116

Frito - Lay, Inc.
Fred Arnegurd

George Felice's Market
327 Midway Avenue
Pontiac, Michigan
335-5921

Continental - Michigan, Inc.
14255 Dequindre
Detroit, Michigan
868-9800

LaRose's Market
Orchard Lake Rd.
Pontiac, Michigan
682-5193

Pontiac Fruit House
49 Turk
Pontiac, Michigan
332-8388

Tenuta's Food Market
3515 Sashabaw Road
Drayton Plains, Michigan
674-3811

Dawn Donuts
93 N. Telegraph Rd.
Pontiac, Michigan
681-2444

Tenuta's On Tap
454 W. Huron
Pontiac, Michigan
338-9639

Snack & Rack
481 Elizabeth Lake Rd.
Pontiac, Michigan
681-1177

Three Sister's Market
608 W. Huron
Pontiac, Michigan
332-3692

Schiller, Inc.
1314 Crescent Lake Rd.
Pontiac, Michigan
644-2293

Horace Barkley
1397 Gambrell Dr. Apt. A108
Pontiac, Michigan 48055

Atlas Super Market
20 E. Walton Blv.
Pontiac, Michigan
332-5192

Warren Newton
First Federal Saving Loan
761 Huron
Pontiac, Michigan 48058

Dawn Donuts
Perry Street
Pontiac, Michigan

CONTRIBUTIONS (Cont'd)

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

People Food Market
700 Auburn Avenue
Pontiac, Michigan 48058

Addressograph-Multigraph Corp.
Detroit District
1057 E. 14 Mile
Troy, Michigan

Fruit Ranch Market
125 W. Huron
Pontiac, Michigan 48058

Butler Paper Co.
Detroit, Michigan

Pearsall Street Block Club

Coordinating Council of Block Clubs

Puertorriqueno Social Club

LaLuce - (Latins United Coalitions Equality)

Rev. Bennie Williams
Gage Street Block Club

Mrs. Wallace Holland
442 S. Paddock

Mrs. John Apoleton
23 Hudson

Human Resource Department

Fildew Street Block Club

Tri-Street Block Club (Raeburn & Paddock and Elm)

Chef Josef, Restaurant and Hotel Management Instructor, Pontiac Northern
Students in his classes leaders were:

Danny Harvey
Vivian Williams
Jones Louris
Keith Smith

Elias Brothers Restaurant Chain

Horace Barkley

Alma Beadley

National Association of Negro Business and Professional Womens Club, Inc.

Robert Larose

A WORD ABOUT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Pontiac Bicentennial Commission would like to thank all of those community groups and individuals who worked hard to make Pontiac's "TOWN MEETING 76" a great success. If in our zeal, we failed to acknowledge any contributions to this program, please contact our office during normal working hours, so that your contribution may be justifiably recorded in the City of Pontiac's official Bicentennial records.

THANK YOU.

ENTERTAINMENT

February 28, 1976

Pontiac Town Meeting

BLACK WOMEN NOW AND THEN

LATINO MUSIC & DANCE

PONTIAC THEATRE IV
(See Following Page)

PONTIAC CATHOLIC
"1776 And All That"

RONALD HUTCHINSON
(Special Guest Guitarist)

PONTIAC THEATRE IV

Your Community Theatre, presents

MIAMI

book by
JEROME LAWRENCE and ROBERT E. LEE

Directed by **STU PACKARD**

Music under the direction of **MIKE DEMPSEY**

Choreography by **JACKIE RAE**

at Pontiac Northern High School (1051 Arlene at Madison)

MARCH 12, 13, 19 & 20, 1976
Curtain 8:30 P.M.

Tickets at

HUDSONS - Pontiac and Oakland Malls

SEARS - Pontiac Mall

PONTIAC - BLOOMFIELD SHERATON

Adults - \$3.00

Students - \$2.00

Special Group Rates available in blocks of twenty or more

by Special Arrangement

with **TAMS WITMARK**





ARIZONA

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

1807 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 108

PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004

(602) 271-4031

January 14, 1975



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Mr. John Warner
Administrator
American Revolution Bicentennial
Administration
2401 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20276

Dear Mr. Warner:

I am writing in regard to a project submitted to you for national recognition. The Ecumenical Institute, located in Chicago, has submitted a project entitled Town Meeting '76. The project is designed to elicit citizen participation in the identification of community problems and their solutions.

Our Commission in 1974, endorsed a local community development program (Capitol Area Renewal Project) sponsored by the Ecumenical Institute. We are now in the process of reviewing the Institute's Town Meeting '76 proposal for recognition.

I have enjoyed working with the Institute's representatives in Arizona and have been impressed with their sincerity and dedication.

I hope you will seriously consider this innovative proposal that offers local citizens an opportunity to carefully examine what the future can hold for our nation.

Sincerely,

Maurice M. Giss
Executive Director
ARIZONA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION





THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

4750 N. Sheridan Road/Chicago, Illinois 60640/phone 312-769-5635