

#### 4.8.08 INDIANAPOLIS BRAINSTORM

##### Major Problems/Issues

- Brain drain, not attractive globally to young talent, very traditional—not something young people look for especially in urban center, not attractive to creative economy
- Not a strong job market, doesn't attract new minds
- Even creative organizations not necessarily cutting edge, risk takers
- 30% high school graduation rate...doesn't cultivate future, isn't attractive to new people
- Sprawl and transportation. No rapid transit system, density too low—hard to make transit work. No natural barriers...expand outward over prime farmland.
- We have lots of cool stuff but most people don't realize it. Lots of resources but people just don't take advantage of them.
- Green spaces underutilized, not very eco friendly, poor recycling program...green infrastructure isn't in place
- Very corporate, not a lot of local ownership, even cultural stuff is very corporate, top down and polished. We don't celebrate being "weird"
- Public finance...city center bankrupt with high costs and taxes while suburbs flourishing with low taxes and no costs. Don't think regionally.
- We want to talk about good stuff too....we have lots of assets & opportunities and lots of good stuff is going on too.

##### 1 Sentence Dream

Indianapolis is a city of opportunity that collectively addresses challenges, embraces creativity, maintains a world-class quality of life, and embraces change as a tradition.

#### REPLY FROM CHICAGO

Chicago:

- \* Lacks green spaces
- \* No recycling
- \* Good at attracting young talent and established corporations
- \* Churn of talent - can be good (fresh minds) and bad (less investment in community)
- \* City center is pretty dense
- \* 23rd Chicago public school student killed last week

\* Have sprawl and transit issues - lake is only natural barrier, old transit infrastructure that no one will invest in

\* Tourists see the same sites and don't visit neighborhoods that hold the most interesting things, downtown is cleaned up and beautiful but people don't see the areas that are rougher - a bit deceptive

\* Getting more corporate and less local - Marshall Fields bought out, LaSalle Bank bought out

Where are those solutions?