
incourage



**PHASE 3, MEETING 6: DECEMBER 1
MEETING SUMMARY**

What happened at the December 1 Tribune meeting?

On December 1, 2015, residents participated in a Tribune public meeting at Renaissance Learning. Attendees received updates related to the Project and Incourage, as well as the local makers group. Additionally, in response to conversations at previous meetings about a need for an information sharing tool, Community Connections team members introduced a forthcoming online platform, scheduled to be released in January 2016. Following updates, residents participated in two activities to help shape events offered in 2016 while the Tribune is under construction, before it opens in early 2017.

Updates included...

Environmental Sustainability Presentation: We are working with Concordia to confirm a new date for the Environmental Sustainability learning opportunity in early 2016. Please stay tuned and plan to join us to learn more about the building's sustainable design and functionality. Copies of the Environmental Sustainability Educational Brief are available at Incourage or at our website.

Construction: The interior demolition phase of construction began at the Tribune in early November. This work includes building abatement and removal of non-structural interior walls, ceilings, electrical, and plumbing. [See photos here.](#)

Incourage remains committed to utilizing local subcontractors in the Tribune renovations who demonstrate commitment to building a better community. The companies selected showed dedication to their employees and community, and displayed knowledge of the Tribune and its potential for our shared future. Contractors for this phase include:

- Altmann Construction Company, Inc., Wisconsin Rapids (Demolition)
- Current Technologies Inc., Port Edwards (Electrical)
- Kohls Plumbing & Heating Inc., Vesper (Plumbing)
- Mavo Systems, Inc., Wausau (Abatement)
- Tweet-Garot Mechanical Inc., Wisconsin Rapids (Mechanical)

ArtPlace: ArtPlace efforts continue! During the past few months, Kindergarten-12th grade art educators and students from the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools, Port Edwards School District and Assumption High School have been working hard to create a handmade paper mural under the guidance of Artist Thomas Grade from Menasha, Wisconsin. [See photos here.](#)

Students have studied various aspects of the south Wood County area such as its local industries, history, ethnic cultures and natural resources. They are now working to design various symbols which will be incorporated into a river scene made of stamped paper pulp and luan lumber. Community members were also invited to take part in the project through open lab workshops in October and November, which you can see in the photos above.

Another ArtPlace artist, August Kochanowski, hosted local students on field trips to his blacksmith studio in Junction City, where they learned about his art form. Additional opportunities, including a community open house at the Blacksmith Studio, will be available in 2016.

Tribune 101: In an effort to share the Tribune story with the community, team Incourage has continued to offer “Tribune 101” presentations. Since our October public meeting, we have given Tribune 101’s to several groups, including: Local Young Professionals, the Heart of Wisconsin Leadership class, teachers and administrators at WRPS, Immanuel Lutheran, St. Vincent, and Port Edwards schools, and a public 101 open to all at McMillan Library. To date, we have presented the Tribune 101 to over 200 community members. Upcoming presentations are scheduled at Lincoln High School, River Cities High School, Vesper Community Academy, Lowell Center, and Woodlands Church.

Through the Tribune 101’s already conducted, we have had a number of valuable learnings. Just a sample of those learnings can be found below:

- There are still many people in the community who do not know about the Tribune’s final programming, and the enterprises and community spaces that will be available.
- WRPS Administrators shared that the Tribune will be a marketing tool for them to recruit young professionals to our community.
- Teachers are particularly interested in the educational opportunities present within and the Tribune. They shared that they could see potential field trips to visit the ‘live learning lab’ that will be present through classes in the culinary kitchen and creative workshop, as well as the sustainability features that will be present throughout.
- Most importantly, there is a definite sense of pride and excitement for the potential that the Tribune holds for our community.

If you know of a group or anyone else who can benefit from a Tribune 101 presentation, please contact Incourage at 715-423-3863.

Online Communications Platform: In January 2016, residents engaged in the Tribune process to date will be given the opportunity to experiment with a new online communication tool. The site will provide a space for residents to share information related to their interest group(s), learn what is happening in other interest areas, view a 2016 calendar of Tribune-related events, and receive Project updates. The site will be free and integrate with other platforms such as Facebook. For more information, please contact Corey Anfinson at Incourage (715-423-3863).

ACTIVITY 1: Experimenting in 2016 - Classes and Events

Focusing on four categories (Culinary Kitchen, Microbrewery, Arts, and Creative Workshop), residents worked together at their tables to help narrow down classes and events they would most likely attend if they were offered in 2016. These categories were selected because of how they could cater to the overwhelming interest in classes and youth integration. Working from ideas generated in October, each table was asked to select up to 12 classes and events they would like to see offered. They were allowed four options per category. Once narrowed down, each table reported out their selections to the large group. All selections were recorded on flip chart paper to be used in Activity 2.

Top selections for each category include:

Arts:

- Stained Glass classes
- Photography classes
- Local Artist Exhibition
- Kids art classes
- Wisconsin Rapids Idol Competition

Creative Workshop:

- Kids classes
- Woodcarving classes
- Electronics classes
- Makers Exhibition and competitions

Culinary Kitchen:

- Harvest preservation cooking classes
- Multi-generational heritage cooking classes
- Local food tasting event
- Kids cooking competition
- Diabetic cooking classes

Microbrewery:

- Beer/food pairing event
- How to get started with home brewing class
- Home brewing club
- Home brewing best practices class

ACTIVITY 2: Category Discussions

Using the selections reported out in Activity 1, residents were asked to select one of the four categories in which they would like to help plan or attend events and classes. Each category group discussed the options selected in Activity 1 to determine which options should be considered for the 2016 calendar. The following questions were used to help guide their conversations:

- Is this already offered in the community? If so, is it accessible to all people?
- Is this a feasible option? (Consider cost, location, equipment, etc.)
- Will this option attract a wide variety of people? (All ages, experience levels, etc.)

After all groups reported out, learning opportunities through classes continued to garner the most interest in being included in the 2016 calendar. These classes include:

- Repurposing furniture/easy DIY
- Photography
- Cultural cooking
- Harvest preservation cooking (including fish and game)
- Wood carving/turning
- Makers exhibition
- Pairing beer/nonalcoholic beverages with food
- How to start home brewing

What will happen at the next meeting?

Residents who are interested in helping to plan classes and events for 2016 will be invited to planning sessions in January 2016. We anticipate learning events and classes to start in early spring 2016. If you are interested in helping to plan classes and events or would like to teach classes, please contact Corey Anfinson at Incourage (715-423-3863 or canfinson@incouragecf.org).

Where can I learn more?

Please visit TribuneBuilding.org, or call Incourage at (715) 423 - 3863.