



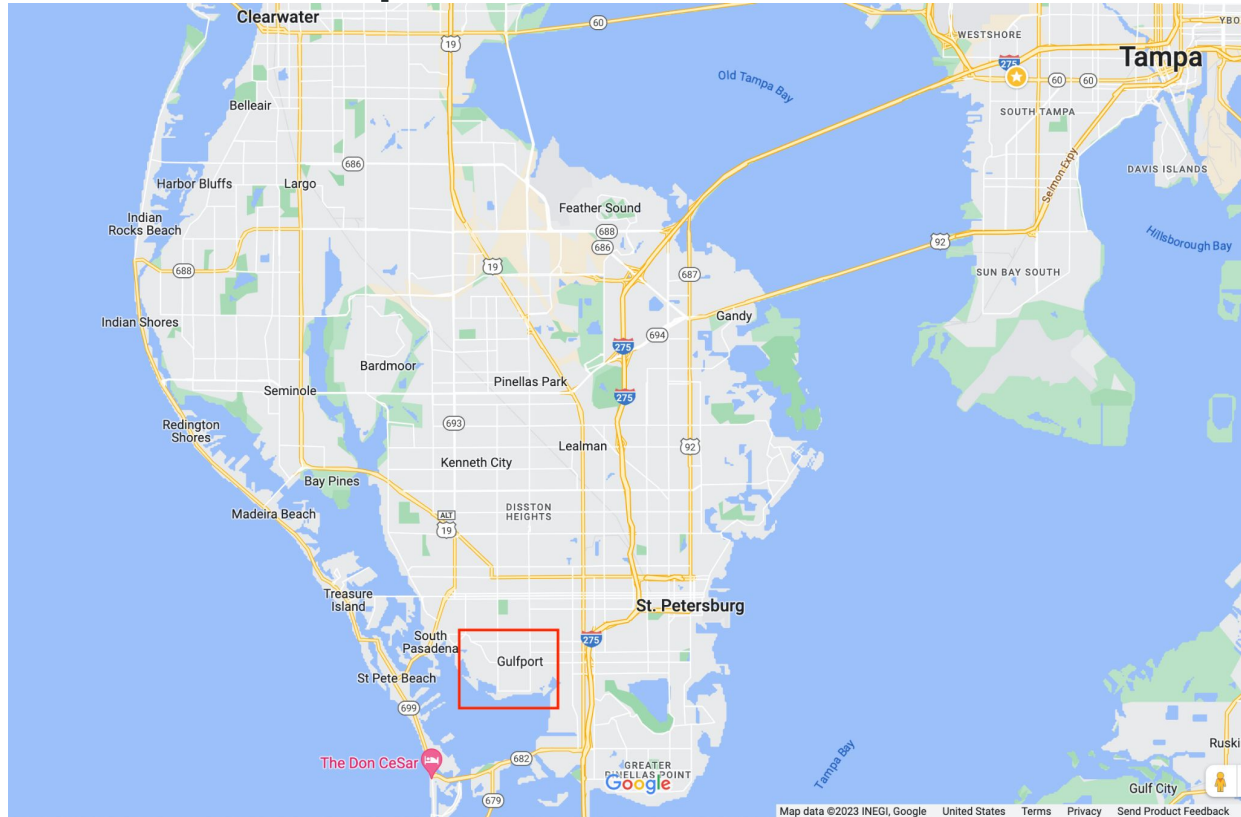
Gulfport on the Edge
Community Conversations

Bringing people together to shape a vibrant future for Gulfport

WHY are we making this presentation?

- Provide a case study for using World Café to
 - Foster connections and build trust
 - Crowdsourc and document relevant information
 - Encourage civic involvement
- Inform and inspire you to explore possibilities
- Demonstrate what people are capable of doing
- Recognize the contributions of the City, Council and volunteers

Where is Gulfport?



Gulfport Demographics

11,830 population

Year-round residents

Snowbirds

Sailors & Transients

Visitors & neighbors

Median age - 58

- 2019 data



City Government & Management

Mayor - 3 year terms

4 City Councilors from 4 Wards - 2 year terms

Professional City Manager and Staff

Police

Fire & Emergency

Sanitation



City Services & Facilities



- Historic Casino Ballroom
- Recreation Center & Beach
- Heritage & Culture Centers
- Marina, Pier & Mooring Field
- Parks & Playgrounds
- Dog Parks
- Food Forest

Education

Stetson Law School

Boca Ciega High School

Gulfport Elementary

Gulfport Montessori

Sunflower School

Creative Play



Professional & Civic Organizations

Gulfport Merchants Chamber

Food Forest

Lions Club

We know how to have a good time

Art Walks

Parades

Festivals

Gecko World

Music venues

Fresh Market

Food Forest



...and do good.



WHY *Gulfport on the Edge*?

Post-pandemic realities and challenges

Changing demographics

Leadership team alignment and development

Opportunity to harness the experience, energy and engagement of residents and snowbirds



New Realities 2022



Disruptions

Economic Uncertainty

Pandemic

Political Discourse

Climate Change

Workforce Challenges

Social Inequities

Wars

Bring people together to...

1. Share knowledge, energy, and resources
2. Build connections and develop leadership skills
3. Increase involvement in local organizations
4. Create shared vision of a vibrant, resilient community



WHAT did we do?

Inclusive, interesting, safe conversations

Document ideas, data, questions

Opportunities to meet neighbors

Connect with community groups

Identify resources for resiliency



WHO is involved?

Produced by a volunteer team of 30+ neighbors and friends

Sponsored by Ward 1 City Councilor Thanos

Supported by City of Gulfport

Involved community & service groups

Attended by business owners, civic leaders, residents, media

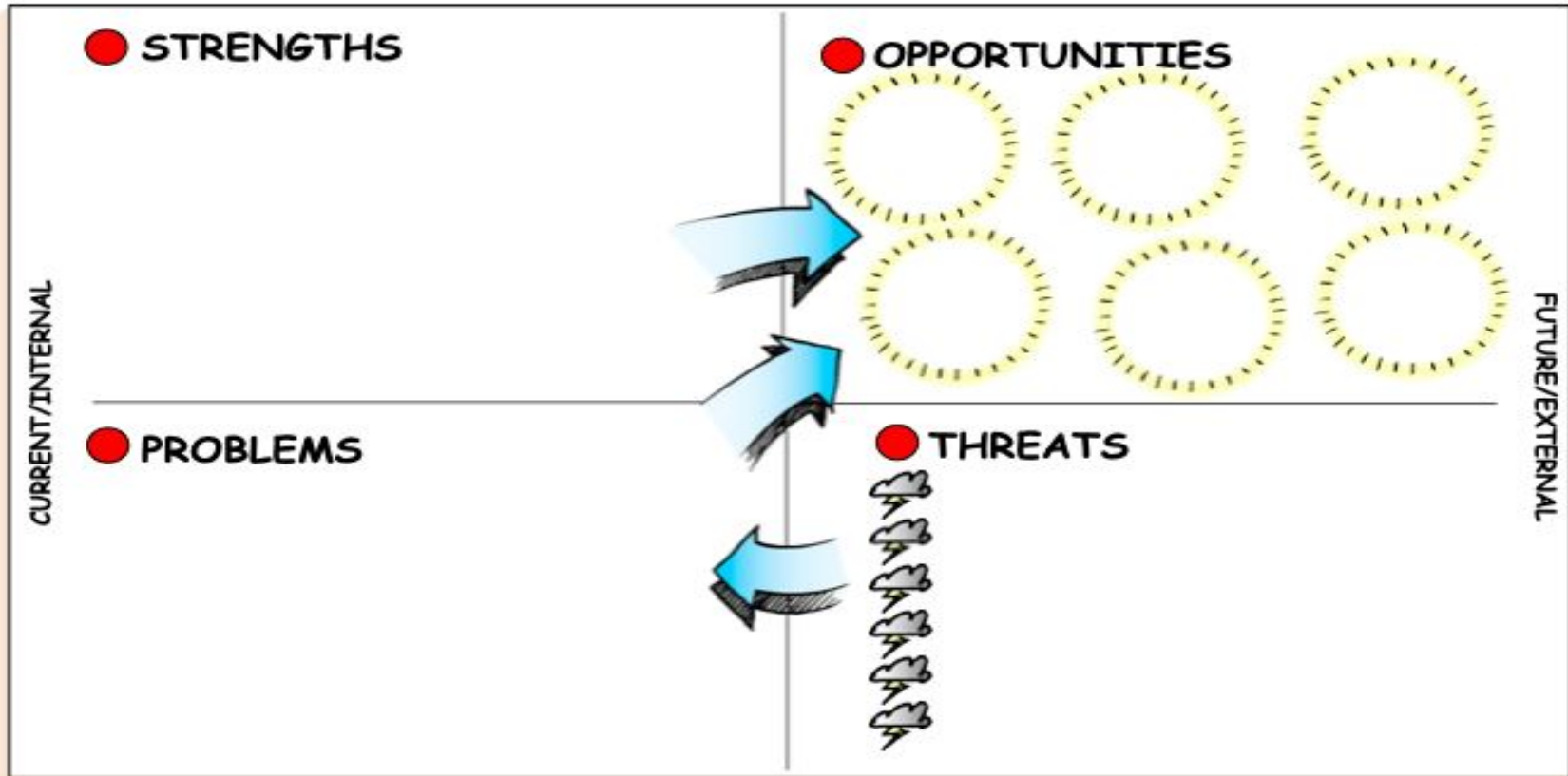


Gulfport on the Edge: 3 Events

- **Finding Common Ground** - November 14, 2022
- **Trends & Forces Impacting our Region** - January 30, 2023
- **2030: Envisioning Possible Futures** - April 10, 2023



Finding Common Ground: *Where are we now?*



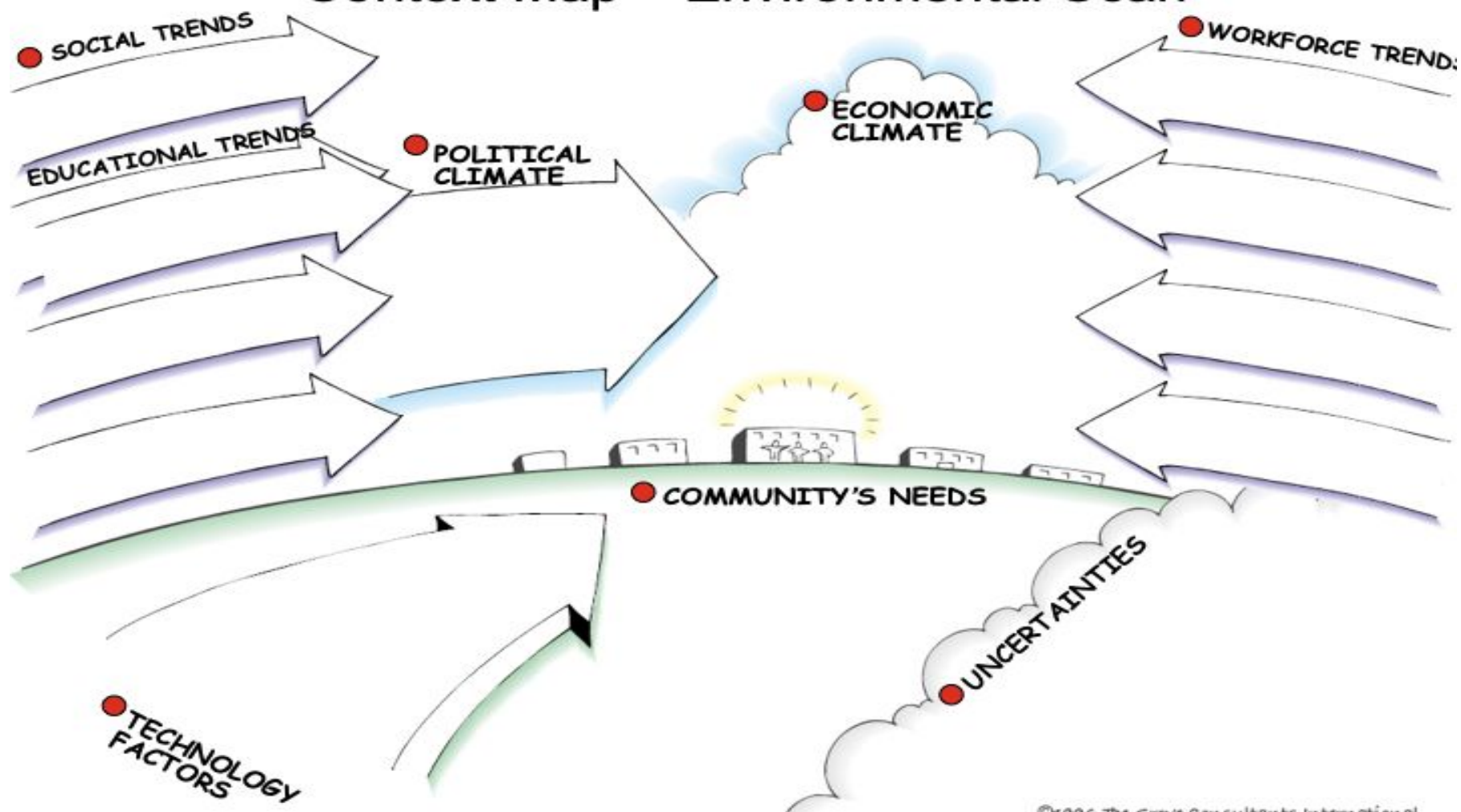
Where are we now?


UNCERTAINTIES





Context Map – Environmental Scan



A hand holding a crystal ball against a sunset background. The crystal ball is held in the center, reflecting the sunset and the surrounding environment. The background is a soft, blurred sunset with warm orange and yellow tones transitioning into a cool blue sky. The hand holding the crystal ball is in silhouette, with the fingers visible on the left side.

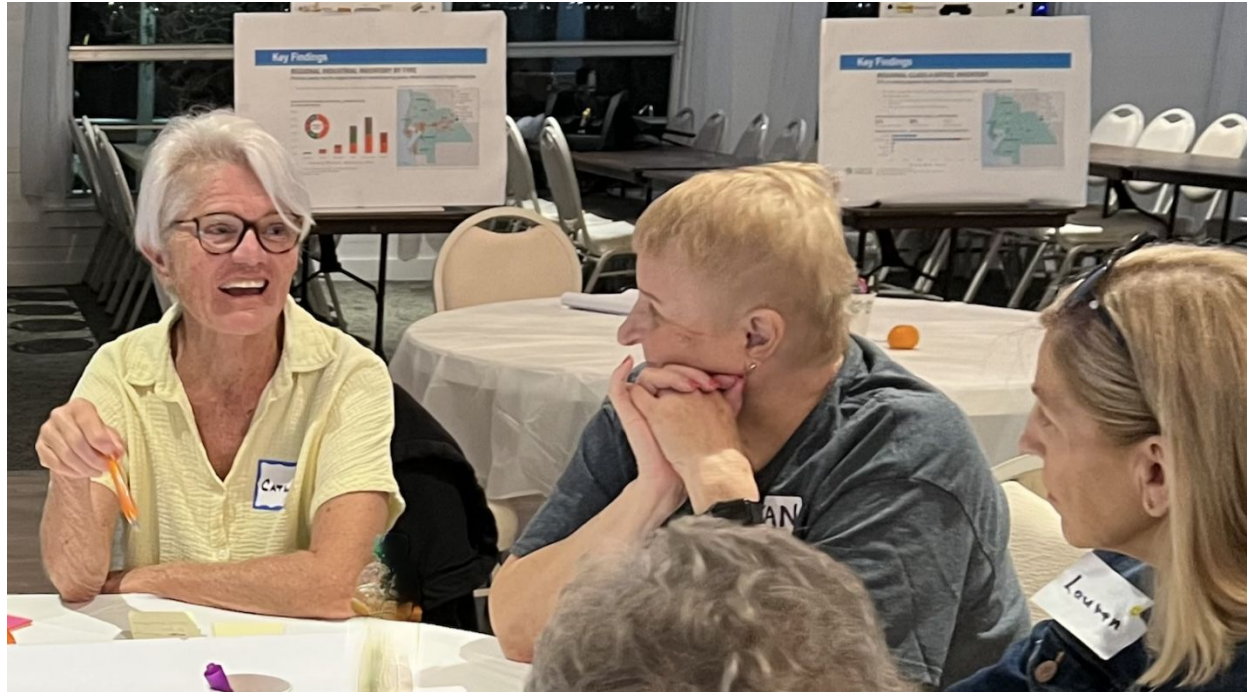
We're going into the future...
2030: Envisioning Possible Futures

Mutual Storytelling

In the year 2030...

Yes! Yes! Yes!

AND...



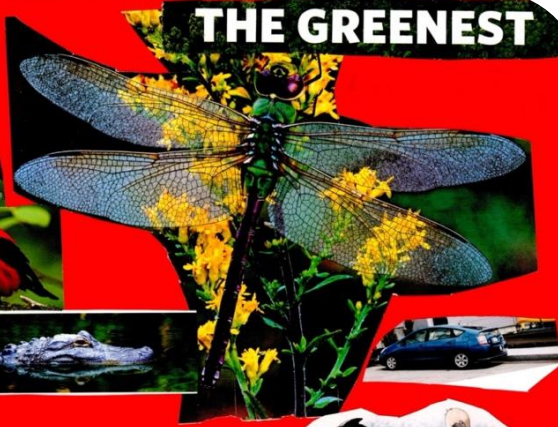
Community Engagement & Resiliency



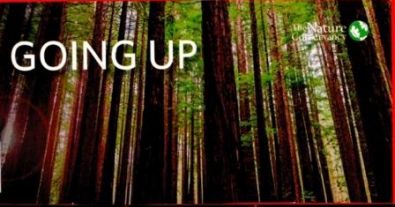
Two degrees can change the world forever.
One person can make a difference. *You.*



WILD BEAUTY
Using native materials can mean a scenic landscape that's nearly maintenance-free. What's more, it makes gardening easy, relatively low-cost, and good for the environment.



Gardening for climate change. We're helping people just like you to live, work, and even garden in ways that reduce our carbon footprints and promote clean air and water, and thriving wildlife habitat.



Imagine the Possibilities

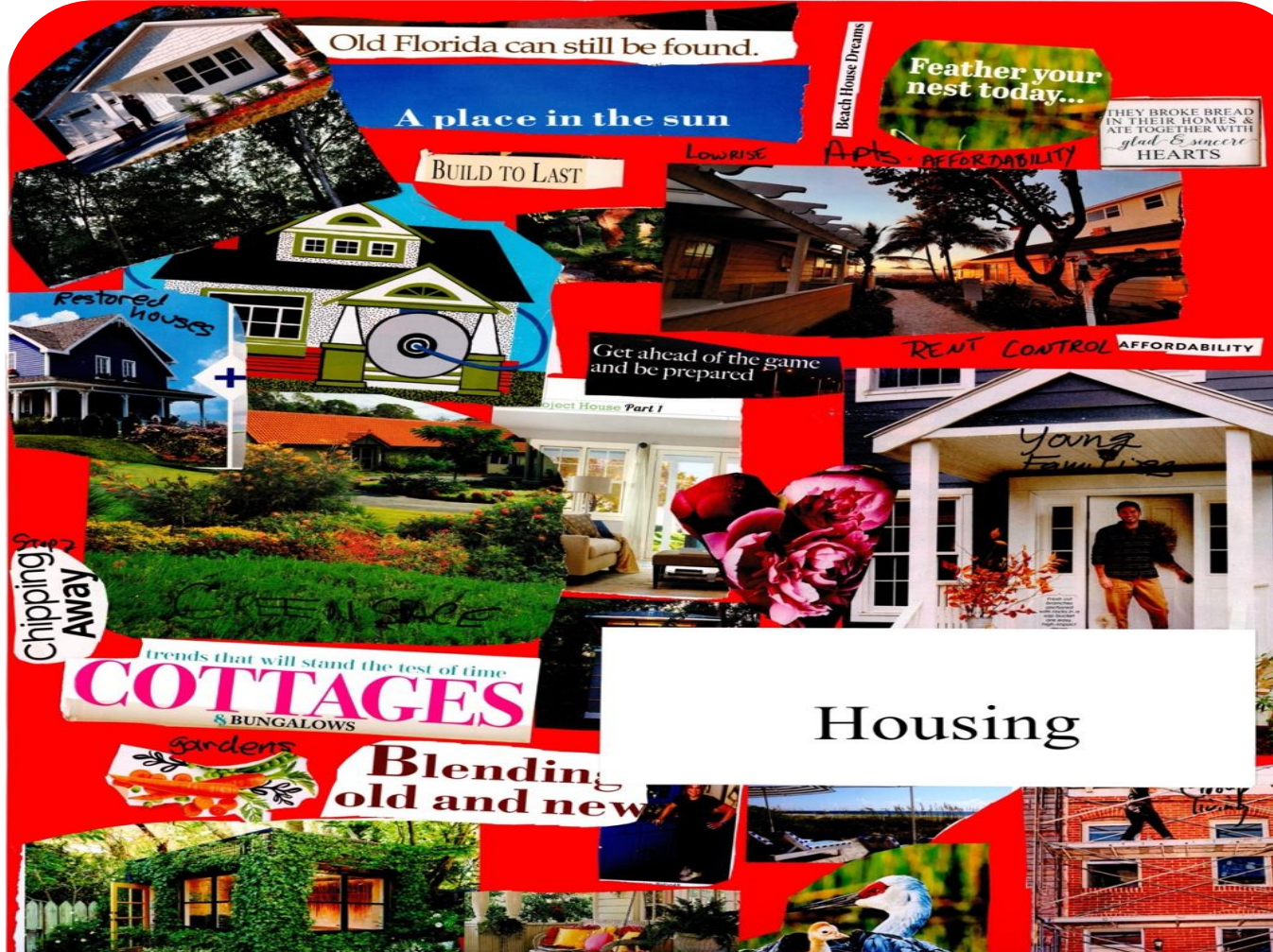
Everything.
Everywhere. All at Once

more nature saved.

As a Conservation Champion, you can be a hero for nature. A recurring gift helps ensure we're always ready to take action — when and where it's needed most.

Climate & Nature

Character, Accessibility & Diversity



Housing

Leadership



Mission Inclusive Events (Jun 2024)



Co-op for housing Artists



Murals



Jazz + Classical Chamber music

Theater in the Park

PLAY

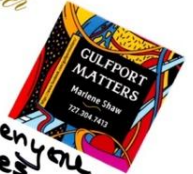
SUSTAINABILITY MAKES A SPLASH

Strong culinary

49th St. District

PARTNERSHIPS

discover



Everyone Cares

Portable stage (concerts)

Sculpture

GARDEN

THE PURSUIT OF BEAUTY IN NATURE

ART CLASSES



WOMEN'S music lessons



Poetry Not Your Typical Family Vacation SLAM



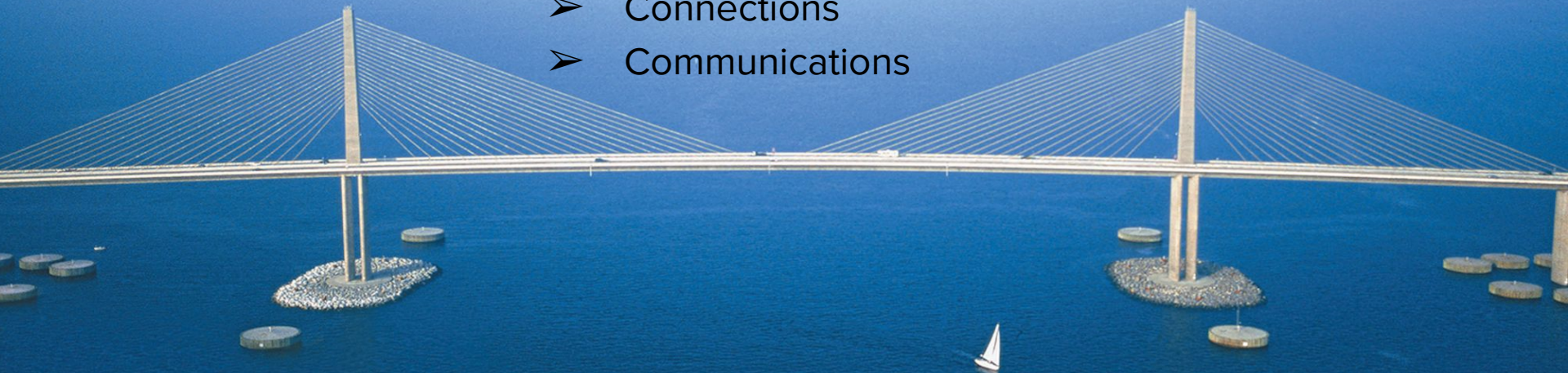
Street Scaping



Arts & Culture

Bridge to the Future

- Projects
- Research
- Connections
- Communications



Start building toward future OPPORTUNITIES

What are YOU willing to do?

Outcomes

1. Data collected and shared with City leaders
2. Surfaced concerns, information opportunities, lessons from other cities
3. Learned more about Gulfport and how the City works
4. Identified innovative ideas, recurring themes, linkages
5. People learned from and about each other
6. Discovered kindred spirits and allies



Impact

1. Timely responses to questions and corrected misinformation about City policies and services
2. Prototyped interactive, focused, and productive Town Hall format
3. Civic and service group participation
4. *Welcome to Gulfport* event coordination
5. Earth Day Neighborhood Block Party
6. Citizen - City partnerships on projects

Lessons (re)Learned

1. Buy-in from key stakeholders from beginning
2. Alignment through shared vision
3. Clear focus & methodology
4. Organizational expertise
5. Clearly defined roles, authorities, responsibilities
6. Leadership & facilitation training
7. Involve community, faith, youth, civic & club leaders
8. Communicate, communicate, communicate



Next Actions

1. Summaries and stats available
2. Project planning and leadership resources on City website
3. Encourage citizen-led projects
4. Gulfport Votes 100%
5. Launch Leadership Mastermind group



2030 VISION & PHOTO SHOW

THE FUTURE IS IN OUR
HANDS...

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?





Gulfport on the Edge
Community Conversations

Bringing people together to shape a vibrant future

You belong here.