

Summary of Community Forum Evaluations - Hardcopy and Keypad Polling

Hardcopy : April 4th and 12th , 2011

Total Number of Participants: 80

Number of Participants completed evaluation :32

Keypad Polling : April 5th , 7th , 8th , 9th , 11, 2011

Note: Evaluations were not completed at staff sessions

For keypad polling, no comments were collected, as evaluations were done by keypad

1. The information presented at the session was clear and easy to understand

Scale	Community Forums hardcopy		Community Forums keypad polling		Total Forums	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Strongly Agree	18	56	37	44	55	47
Agree	13	41	43	52	56	48
Disagree	1	3	2	2	3	3
Strongly Disagree	0	0	2	2	2	2
Not Sure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Responses	32	100	84	100	116	100

Please explain:

- Clear, straight-forward
- There was no explanation of the purpose of the budget kit
- Budget kit document is excellent. Break and sessions sometimes bit off topic
- The powerpoint presentation was clearly developed

2. The session today increased my understanding of the City of Calgary Budget Engagement Process and how to participate in it.

Scale	Community Forums hardcopy		Community Forums keypad polling		Total Forums	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Strongly Agree	10	31	20	24	30	26
Agree	17	53	52	62	69	59
Disagree	5	16	7	8	12	10
Strongly Disagree	0	0	3	4	3	3
Not Sure	0	0	2	2	2	2
Total Responses	32	100	84	100	116	100

Please explain:

- Concise, clear intro and willing to answer questions
- Already knew
- Process of engagement is clear
- The handout book is really helpful and a great takeaway

3. I now have a better understanding of the complexity of issues, values and perspectives related to City programs and services.

Scale	Community Forums hardcopy		Community Forums keypad polling		Total Forums	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Strongly Agree	7	22	23	27	30	25
Agree	15	47	47	55	62	53
Disagree	9	28	13	15	22	19
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Sure	1	3	3	3	4	3
Total Responses	32	100	86	100	118	100

Please explain:

- Good to hear other thoughts and opinions. Good way to network and sense emerging priorities
- Some pre-reading about this would have been helpful. Still not entirely clear on the complexity of the true budgeting process.
- Already knew
- Had good understanding previously
- The workbook does a good job delineating competing priorities
- Already did
- Learned mainly through dialogue

4. The session today provided good opportunities for dialogue and sharing of ideas.

Scale	Community Forums hardcopy		Community Forums keypad polling		Total Forums	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Strongly Agree	18	58	51	59	69	58
Agree	12	39	31	36	43	36
Disagree	1	3	3	3	4	4
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Sure	0	0	2	2	2	2
Total Responses	31	100	87	100	118	100

Please explain:

- I felt open to sharing ideas but not necessarily dialogue- this was ok due to time constraints
- Enjoyable and energizing
- Good to hear what community members had to say.
- The stickies were helpful - pointing out provincial versus city was good

5. The facilitators encouraged everyone to participate.

Scale	Community Forums hardcopy		Community Forums keypad polling		Total Forums	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Strongly Agree	21	68	59	69	80	69
Agree	10	32	21	25	31	27
Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0	1	1	1	1
Not Sure	0	0	4	5	4	3
Total Responses	31	100	85	100	116	100

Please explain

- Would have been better to have facilitators at each table (could have used CNS staff for this)
- Very friendly facilitators - great paraphrasing and capturing ideas

6. Please tell us how you heard about the workshop? (Circle all that apply)

Source	Community Forums hardcopy		Community Forums keypad polling		Total Forums	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Website	3	8	3	3	6	5
Email	15	39	14	16	29	23
Twitter	2	5	1	1	3	2
Facebook	3	8	1	1	4	3
Newsletter	1	3	not asked	-	1	3*
Organization	9	24	9	10	18	14
Other	5	13	12	13	17	13
Newspaper	not asked	-	18	20	18	20*
Radio or TV	not asked	-	2	2	2	2*
Bold Sign	not asked	-	11	12	11	12*
More than 2 of the above	not asked	-	19	22	19	22*
Total Responses	38	100	90	100	128	119*

* numbers adjusted for not having asked same sources at all sessions.

If you said Organization or Other, please specify:

- Organization
- City of Calgary - 4 respondents
- Social Outlook Network - 4
- Thrive email. Also saw signs for other sessions in my neighbourhood, received emails and had contact from City
- Email forwarded by someone who was emailed by Thrive
- Alberta Health Services
- Hull Child and Family Services
- Thrive network - 3
- Client with an organization that provides service to those with disabilities - 2
- Momentum
- VIA ECCC

7. Please provide any comments or suggestions you may have regarding the Calgary Budget Engagement Process.

- This is an exciting process and I encourage more of this. For the future, continue to ensure marginalized communities are engaged.
- Thanks for helping to revolutionize the budget process through more proactive, inclusive citizen engagement, and sessions like today.
- It was amazing how much information was pulled out of us in such a short time. I'm very interested to see how it translates and where it goes from here.
- Great the city is doing this, please continue this in other areas.
- This session did not make good use of people's time
- Began 30 minutes later than advertised on the invitation and ended 15 minutes early, and that was after 10-15 minutes to discuss additional ground rules.
- It was difficult to move from station to station, especially after everyone had already commented. It would have been good to see earlier feedback. Some of the values were interesting; it is better to stay there but when we get specific, I begin to wonder if this is where we should be; is this actually something we should invest in. For example, I don't believe that safe communities require more policy. I believe there are other ways to achieve safe communities.
- I really like conversation model. Calgary Foundation hosts Vital Conversations using libraries - consider adding to the options
- Structure it somehow, to see how City can form partnerships and alliances with corporations and private sector e.g. Use empty buildings to respond to housing space needs. Take holistic view and match needs, number of resources and money = result.
- Identify waste
- Excellent venue for participation
- Thanks for the opportunity
- Promote to citizens who are not part of the groups - community newsletters to start.
- Separating value and budget leads to increased expectations. We should have been considering cost and value.
- I'm not sure how many people from general public are aware of engagement process.
- My own contacts are not aware. How to get the information out further to public?
- Concerned re: balancing of this information with statistically valid surveys.
- Session was very noisy - difficult to hear comments.
- I'm hoping for more Calgarian participation. This is a great community forum!