

On Wednesday, March 11, updayton invited the community to come together to discuss the state of diversity in our city. Over 50 people from all walks of life participated in the conversation and shared their reasons for hope, pride, and frustration.

The following is what we heard.

Updayton will carry this information forward to the Young Creatives Summit on April 18 to ensure that the action plan created will both respect and make great use of our differences.

“Segregated” “Divided” “First Base”
Where we are now...

“Severely Lacking” “New” “Stuck”

PLACE

FAVORITE DIVERSE PLACES

Our Festivals bring out the best in everyone!
We love locations that offer good food and a central access.
Our museums, and the arts community, all provide a gathering place.
Other diverse locations: multicultural churches, the YMCA, and Riverscape.

Personal Attitudes:

As suburbs grow and develop, “it’s now possible to live your entire life south of town, or east of town,” so people are no longer obligated to break out of their comfort zones and explore.

Our Troubles...

Government: In attempts to protect communities, governments take actions - like gated communities - that place a stigma on a neighborhood.

Media: “The media deal a very heavy hand in how this community sees itself.” Some media perpetuate the idea that “the only place kids fight is at Third and Main. And I know better.”

**And unfortunately:
“We expect our communities to fail.”**

Encourage personal responsibility; get out and make a change to make others feel comfortable.

Be careful of the labels and pictures you use - appearance is important to encourage diversity.

Don’t just be against discrimination – also promote acceptance of diversity.

More opportunities to get people together in a meaningful way.

Solutions

The community has a responsibility to make people comfortable, but it goes both ways. Diverse people need to help the community understand and accept them.

On April 18, the **Young Creatives Summit** will bring together young creative professionals and students from across the region to tackle the topics of Entertainment/Nightlife, Education/Schools, Neighborhoods/Community, Entrepreneurship, Job Opportunities, and Civic Engagement.

A focus on diversity will permeate through all topics and the young creatives will build an action plan that makes our mark on the region.