

Big ideas for a brighter future

At the Summit we split up by topic to brainstorm ideas for the Dayton region. The ideas below had the greatest support from the breakout groups.

Entrepreneurship ---

- **Dayton Regional Entrepreneurial Association** – An organization that would provide a collaborative marketing resource and support network to businesses once they get started. – *“We’ve got a lot of organizations to get them started, but we wanted to come up with an association to keep them going.”*
- **Investors Conference** – Organize an investors’ conference to give potential investors access to young creative entrepreneurial ideas.
- **Mentorship Forum** – A mentorship program for young creatives to learn from successful entrepreneurs that live in the Dayton region.
- **Start a Business Dayton.com / Dayton Business Help.com** – A one-stop shop website run by an independent organization to connect new business owners with information and potential customers. – *“Run a website that combines all the resources for a SCOR, the Entrepreneurial Center and all the other wonderful organizations in the area.”*
- **Entrepreneurship Coalition**– Establish a coalition that can provide information and other resources to potential entrepreneurs.
- **Multi – University Collaboration** – A multi-university student run business incubator to encourage young creatives to become entrepreneurs and stay in Dayton.
- **Dayton Apprentice Competition** – A competition for young people in high school all the way up through college to motivate young individuals to become entrepreneurs and stay in Dayton. – *“Hopefully we’d have start-up capital for the winner and also a mentoring program as well.”*

Downtown Dayton ---

- **Cultural Pass:** A pass that would offer discounts to the many things going on in Dayton. Getting more people downtown would create an environment that feels safe and promotes activities within Dayton. – *“There are so many things to do – from the Dragons, the many restaurants to the Victoria Theatre.”*
- **Community Programs for Youth:** A project to engage youth who are in the downtown areas after school in recreational or volunteer activities that are especially coordinated for them. – *“If we can get them focused in a good direction, we’ve solved multiple problems, including just giving them direction, which is a good goal.”*
- **Living in Dayton.com** – A website that puts a face to the people who live downtown and thrive there. The site would highlight all the great things about living in downtown Dayton. – *“It’s*

basically a glitzy, sales-pitchy, this is why it's great to live here and why. People doing research about whether to live here would go there and be excited instead seeing how much it would cost to pay your taxes."

- **Wayne Avenue Corridor** – A project to make the Wayne Avenue Corridor (between Fifth and Third St.) more pedestrian-friendly. Create a more interesting, colorful, and lively corridor to connect the Oregon Arts District with the Cannery. – *"Every big city has a hub where everyone goes and Dayton is pocketed as far as entertainment and nightlife. Our idea was to get a well-lit walkway between Third, where the Cannery Arts District is and the Oregon District along Wayne Ave. There's a nice area there that could be subsidized, there could be businesses brought in, and a really well-lit walkway so people can go in between those two areas and that could be the start of an entertainment hub of Dayton."*
- **Downtown Student Housing** – Encourage graduate students to live downtown by enticing local universities to subsidize rent in a renovated building. Many law and med students already work downtown, and creating a livable, affordable space encourages a community environment, and will put more money into local business and restaurants. Renovating a currently unused building will increase the urban beautification in the area. – *"Picture something like the Cannery lofts, an upscale urban living area, where a discount is given to students going to school who want to rent downtown."*
- **Grow Downtown Dayton** – A project to create more reasons to go to our downtown area; including creating more events and places to live, eat and shop. – *"Every weekend – there should never be an excuse for someone to be able to say there's no reason to come to Dayton, there's nothing to do."*
- **Connect Entertainment Pockets:** A focus on using public transportation to connect pockets of nightlife in Dayton. – *"There should be a trolley or shuttle. RTA closes down about midnight and entertainment activity lasts beyond midnight."*

Neighborhoods & Communities

- **Renters / Home Owner Support Group** – A support group for home owners and renters to provide information, resources and tools to help people maintain their homes. A neighborhood that is well maintained is good for all residents. – *"We identified some of our barriers in our small group involved safety, a sense of safety based on deteriorating facades – often which are by people who don't have the resources, know-how or tools to do their maintenance up-keep. Combing those of us who have the tools, the resources, the know-how – providing that support might solve the problem for all of us."*
- **Media Spotlight on Communities** – A weekly one to two minute clip to highlight different parts of Dayton. Whether it's a neighborhood or an actual city, highlight everything from community events, to local businesses to encourage people to shop local. *"We've got the media here today, right? So we can get them involved. What we get is the things that are going wrong – face it, sensationalism sells, but what are the good things going on? Get people familiar with Dayton and not so afraid to get out and meet people."*

City Beautification

- **Guerilla Gardening** – A grassroots effort to turn vacant spaces into vibrant community gardens. – *“A bottom-up organization where you take over your own public space and turn it into a community garden or a food co-op.”*
- **Public Art (murals on storefronts)** – A citizen driven initiative to beautify vacant storefronts with local mural and public art. The project will help address the unsafe feelings some residents have when downtown. – *“Take over a blighted area or closed storefront and take an artist and create a mural for that.”*
- **Green Streets** – Create a more beautiful area by developing community and roof-top gardens, and greening street medians. – *“Create a more green-friendly downtown where we can put medians in the streets and plant some trees and flowers.”*
- **Be More Interesting, Colorful and Lively** – Improve perceptions of Dayton by giving Dayton buildings a little more TLC. – *“Perhaps as you’re driving downtown from the airport and such, putting light to it. But Dayton looks dead, and it could possibly be built up by adding lighting.”*

Dayton Marketing Campaigns

- **Buy Local Dayton** – A campaign to encourage Dayton residents to patronize local businesses. – *“Understanding that the cycle of spending our funds – from the entire grass roots of it, from the manufacturing side of things or from the agricultural side – keeping everything local and keeping money within our own local area. Keep everything well supported.”*
- **Dayton Brand Image** – An effort to create a brand image for Dayton that people can identify with locally and also outside our region. *“To be known nationally as a positive image – that everybody has a positive perception of Dayton.”*
- **Marketing our Community** – Marketing the strengths of our community and creating more pride around the City of Dayton – *“Dayton is a good place to start a family or begin your life in general. How do we market Dayton as a destination instead of a stop?”*
- **Making Dayton Sexy** – Offer tax breaks or other incentives for students to take jobs in Dayton. Possibly incentivize staying in Dayton by giving graduates a certain percentage pay back on their student loans. - *“But keeping the youth here, keeping the vibrancy here, creating the social networks to keep the youth that are already here.”*

Availability of Information

- **Greater Dayton 411** – A regional effort to virally distribute information about downtown Dayton and volunteering. – *“A grassroots network for people to unite and form a task force creating social events and using those events to also distribute info about what is going on in the Dayton area – whether be community service or any other activity.”*
- **Central Communication Hub** – A comprehensive website where people can go to get information for regional events, attributes, cultural opportunities and more. – *“Everything. It might link to other websites. But we need one website where people can get a lot of*

information. The website could also promote things like buy local and help our regional image if we have one central place to do that.”

- **How about this? / Organize Social Media Channels:** Consolidate the various information sources / community newsletters into one source so it is easier to find out what is going on. – *“Instead of getting five or six different newsletters weekly to find out what’s going on that week, you get one centralized newsletter so you can pick what you want to do – instead of getting five or six emails, you get one – focused on different events, venues, promotion. Something to get you to come out to a certain place.”*

Professional Development & Networking

- **Expand Your Comfort Zone** – Using networking events to expand your horizons and develop professional relationships to grow your career. – *“Expanding your comfort zones through networking, bringing job seekers and students into networking opportunities with businesses and other professionals.”*
- **County-wide / Cross-County Job Fair:** *“A job fair that would be a little bit more fun than the typical job fair – not something focused on a university, but something outside that is something like a festival / job fair.”*
- **Fostering new perceptions:** *“Really utilizing what we have in terms of job resources to encourage further development.”*
- **Dayton Culture Club** – An organization where young creatives could collectively come together to go out and do different events, broaden their horizons, etc. – *“If we could coordinate with colleges and local sports and arts venues, it would be great if by joining a culture club you could get discounted tickets to events all over town. UD and Wright State basketball games, Sinclair plays, Dragons games, concerts, dances, and events all over town. This way, there is a unified group exploring the arts, culture, and entertainment all over town on a specific day. You can only stay in the club if you attend a certain percentage of events, so no picking and choosing things you already know.”*

Community Service

- **Community Service Day** – Select a particular day for people to come together to volunteer in the community. – *“We get folks involved on a particular day and time to get people out to do things. We had a couple ideas tossed around, such as a community garden, painting traffic circles, or even a litter cleanup day that would basically encourage people to be the change they want to be.”*
- **Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine Stream Opportunities** – Young, creative professionals serving as mentors / tutors in technical related fields. – *“Volunteers who are willing to give their time for those certain areas to connect with children that are needing these services.”*