



My City Summit Case Study

2012 My City Summit: Redefining Community Engagement

Inspired by the Knight Foundation's Soul of the Community survey findings, which suggested that there is a correlation to the "attachment" of a community and its overall economic vitality, and that three main qualities attach people to place - social offerings, aesthetics, and openness. The survey showed that Fort Wayne lacked strong community attachment among young college graduates.



2014 My City Summit: Connect & Thrive

Capitalizing on the momentum generated in the 2012 My City Summit, the 2014 format allowed participants to make new introductions and connections, discuss courageous leadership for social progress, and explore how engagement and attachment impact economics and place. The focus was on increasing our economic outlook by breaking down barriers and creating connections to increase attachment.



Attendance

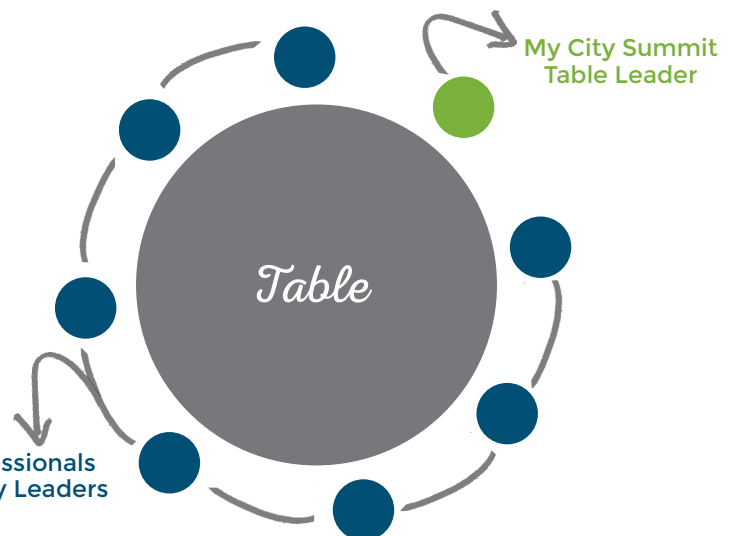
Both the 2012 and 2014 Summits had **200+** young professionals and community leaders attend.



2014 Event Details

The Format

Each table consisted of a group of young professionals and a selected government, business, and/or non-profit city leader with the willingness and experience to champion new ideas. Throughout the Summit, individual tables engaged in breakout sessions to discuss ideas for Fort Wayne's development and growth.



35 Handpicked My City Summit Table Leaders

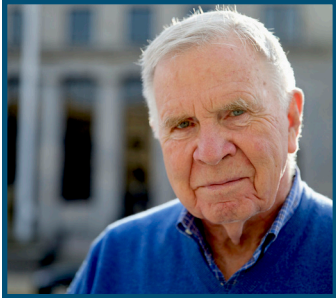
165 Engaged, Enthusiastic, and Passionate Community Mentors

Young Professionals & Community Leaders



Opening

National speaker Jake Greene used anecdotes, humor, and an encyclopedic knowledge of pop culture to set the stage for open dialogue amongst the tables. Jake encouraged brave, outrageous thinking to help to spawn unfiltered creativity.



Courageous Leadership Award

YLNI honored Ian Rolland, former Chairman and CEO of Lincoln National Corporation, with the Courageous Leadership Award for his defining example of civic leadership by championing issues of equality and education in Fort Wayne.

Starting in 2015, YLNI will present the *Ian Rolland Courageous Leadership Award* annually to those who have followed in his footsteps by demonstrating similar passion and integrity.

Presentation: "The Power of Place: How Engagement, Happiness, and Attachment Could Shape the Midwestern City."

Featured a presentation by Ellen Cutter, urban planner and Director of the Community Research Insititute at IPFW, and Zachary Benedict, architect and Partner at MKM Architecture + Design, illustrating what engagement, happiness, and attachment could mean to the continued revitalization of Downtown Fort Wayne.



The Results

The 2014 My City Summit brought people together to imagine, discuss, and plan new ways to cultivate attachment in our community.

My City Summit provided an extraordinary example of courageous leadership to help inspire attendees to identify opportunities for courageous leadership today.

My City Summit examined how the role of place and attachment to a local economy can further impact Downtown Fort Wayne's development.

Positive feedback gathered from post-event surveys and the personal connections formed between established and emerging community leaders verify that YLNI and the My City Summits play an integral role in crossing boundaries of professions, generations, and socio-economics to inspire true engagement and interaction crucial in creating a truly thriving community.