

The teen forum on October 1, 2009 began at 6:00 p.m. in the Stewart Hazelton of the Cesar Chavez Library. Mayor Johnston and Councilmember Eggman made introductions and led the forum discussions. Councilmember Holman and Lowery joined in on the discussion later in the evening.

Six discussion circles were set up to brainstorm and discuss five questions that address the needs of our teens. The questions and responses have been compiled together. Many of the responses from each of the groups were similar. The questions and responses are as follows:

1. What are some of the issues teens face?
  - a. Teen Pregnancy/ Teen Parenting
  - b. Lack of employment opportunities for teens
  - c. Feeling of loneliness / Low self-esteem
  - d. Lack of positive/creative outlets
  - e. Feeling prejudice from adults
  - f. Lack of communication between teens and adults/parents
  - g. Lack of exposure to the world and belonging to a community
  - h. Lack of awareness of others perspectives – ethnocentric
  - i. Lack of activity during the hours of 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
  - j. Gangs
  - k. Substance abuse/addiction
  - l. Dysfunctional families
  - m. Peer pressure – to shoplift and to cut school
  - n. Colleges – determining where to go and getting accepted
  - o. Lack of leadership opportunities
  - p. Access to tutoring help with school assignments
  - q. Boredom/Nothing to do in Stockton
  - r. No voice
  - s. Abuse/violence/bullying/sexual harrassment between teens
  - t. Lack of knowledge of resources
  - u. Homelessness
  - v. Lack of public transportation
  - w. Mental Health issues
  - x. Lack of life skills
  
2. What are some of the services available to teens?
  - a. PointBreak
  - b. Teen Mothers of Preschoolers (Teen MOPS)
  - c. Public Library Teen Advisory Groups
  - d. Visions and Dreams
  - e. WorkNet
  - f. Generation Excellence

- g. Empowering Young Voices – EYV
- h. PLAY – Peace Love and Youth
- i. Churches/Temples/Mosques
- j. Teen Center – El Dorado Street
- k. Boys and Girls Club
- l. Premiere
- m. Catholic Charities – Pre-Natal Services
- n. Mediation Center of San Joaquin
- o. Extra-curricular activities at School – Sports/Music
- p. After School Programs at Schools
- q. Y.E.S.
- r. Family Youth Services
- s. YMCA
- t. Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- u. Peacekeepers
- v. Charter House
- w. YouthBuild
- x. The Women’s Center
- y. CIP Program at UOP
- z. St Mary’s Dinning Hall
- aa. Delta Academy
- bb. With our Words/Spoken Word
- cc. Girls Scouts/Boys Scouts
- dd. Kids College – San Joaquin Delta College
- ee. Youth Advisory Commission – Community Service
- ff. Beyond Please and Thank You
- gg. STORM – College Prep skills
- hh. Public Libraries
- ii. School Counselors
- jj. Joven Noble

3. What do you like about Stockton?
- a. We have lots of community activism –but there is a lack of connectivity
  - b. Great Diversity / people
  - c. Weber Point Event Center
  - d. Movie Theaters/ Bowling Alleys/Malls
  - e. Weather
  - f. Stockton Arena
  - g. Teen Center
  - h. Colleges in Stockton
  - i. Open to making changes
  - j. Downtown Stockton

- k. Waterfront
  - l. Community Involvement/Volunteerism
  - m. Musical talents
  - n. Annual Events
  - o. City's stance against graffiti
  - p. TeenFest
  - q. Close Community
  - r. Government is easy to work with
  - s. Strong History
  - t. Waterways/Delta
  - u. Sporting events: High School/College/Private
  - v. Peaceful
4. What do you want to see improve?
- a. Programs for teens between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
  - b. Alternative schools / Programs for dropouts
  - c. Bring in educational component that "speaks" to the teens
  - d. More security for teens – Parks and schools
  - e. More Community based activities / More holiday events
  - f. Concerts for teens
  - g. Improvement in means of communication/marketing
  - h. Bike paths
  - i. Better access to the arena for teens - Reduce fees
  - j. Respect from adults
  - k. Legitimize youth voice – Include teens in planning youth activities
  - l. Develop private sector venues for teens
  - m. Communication on available resources to youth
  - n. Increase bus transportation
  - o. Bring back Youthink at the RECORD
  - p. Free movie screenings for teens
  - q. Allow for more live music at venues
  - r. Clean up the environment: buildings/sidewalks, waterway, recycling
  - s. Teen/youth mentoring programs
5. How can we work together?
- a. Clearing house website where all the programs can be accessed by teens and parents. The website can be managed through SOS
  - b. All Love Production - have a festival to celebrate diversity
  - c. Assist with event planning for teens
  - d. Teen representative on the City Council
  - e. Teen to assist with publicity to target teens
    - i. Create a community calendar for teens
    - ii. Use facebook/twitter/myspace
    - iii. Improve Website

- f. Assist with creative ideas for teens to volunteer
- g. Increase collaboration
- h. Youth network – to improve communication
- i. City committee to address youth issue – Teen Forum
- j. Create a survey – needs assessment targeting teens
- k. Colleges in area to be more engaged in the community
- l. Daily/Weekly/monthly announcements
- m. Teen representatives from each school to meet monthly
- n. Partnerships between schools/churches
- o. Parenting classes/Create support system for Parents
- p. Youth tutoring youth
- q. Create opportunities for Adults and Teens
- r. Create a directory of resources/services
- s. Establish a recycling program that benefits teens fiscally
- t. Expand and increase local programs

Many of the adults and teens were pleased with the discussions that took place. Many are interested in continuing to work together to address the teen issues and concerns.

The next teen forum has been scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gary & Janice Podesto Impact Teen Center, 725 N. El Dorado Street.