



DOWNTOWN TAOS: STRATEGY SESSIONS MEETING SUMMARY



Held between February 5-7, 2018, the *Downtown Strategy Sessions* provided opportunities for different parts of the community to discuss their ideas for the future of downtown Taos. These sessions allowed for focused and engaging, small-group conversations in a comfortable setting, as well as the opportunity to tailor the discussion to the different needs and interests of different constituencies.

The goal of these conversations was to discuss the key themes that have emerged from public input so far, and to begin exploring some of the community's ideas and strategies for the future of downtown Taos. Each session was organized in partnership with local host organizations who brought representatives of their constituency into the dialogue.

Input from these conversations was used to craft a set of draft goals for Downtown Taos. The draft goals were then taken back to the community during the *Downtown Taos: Moving Forward* meetings to be vetted and prioritized.

Strategy Session Meetings:

- Youth Strategy Session (Taos Charter School)
- Economic/Business Leader Session
- Town Staff and Commissions Session
- Non-Profit Groups Session
- UNM Faculty, Staff and Student Session
- ESL Students (TECC)
- Agriculture & Trails Session (Taos Land Trust)

Key Themes Explored:

1. Land Use and Development
2. Housing Choices and Affordability
2. Transportation and Mobility
3. Placemaking and Sense of Place
4. The Economy
5. Implementation

Draft Goals for the Downtown

We want a downtown that...

- Is safe, walkable and easy to access
- Has places and opportunities for the community to come together
- Is a place with thriving local businesses that support the community
- Is an authentic place that reflects our creativity, culture and heritage
- Has a network of streets, alleys and pathways that connect people to places
- Offers a variety of housing choices affordable to people who live and work here
- Offers fun and unique things for Taosenos to do and see
- Is a place where local businesses and entrepreneurs can thrive
- Is the economic and cultural heart of the community