

# ROUNDTABLES ROUND 1: DISCUSSION GUIDE

## ASSESSING OUR PRESENT, IMAGINING OUR FUTURE

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES TOTAL)

Welcome by facilitator

*(If your facilitator is a no-show, choose someone to assume those duties for today)*

Overview of the process:

- » Leading the conversation requires a neutral role
  - » Facilitators can contribute as individuals but should not *advocate* for particular positions or otherwise *influence* the direction of the discourse.
  - » Facilitators ensure the group stays focused with a fair and productive conversation.
- » Ground rules:
  - » Everyone gets a chance to speak.
  - » One person speaks at a time.
  - » Speak for yourself, not as a representative for others.
  - » Help the facilitator keep things on track with time monitoring or flip chart note taking.
  - » Do not quote or attribute group conversation outside the group.
  - » Keep cell phones muted or off.
  - » Listen to understand before responding.

### THE DECATUR WE ARE (55 MINUTES TOTAL)

#### 1. Introductions (15 minute subsection)

*(If your full group met at the Kick-Off, you may expedite this section as appropriate)*

- » For the benefit of those who have not yet met everyone:
  - » Where did you grow up?
  - » What brought you to Decatur? Where in town do you live or work?

## 2. Where are we now? (40 minute subsection)

- » Please discuss the following questions:
  - » How do you “talk up” Decatur? What are the positive qualities or successes that you hold and share as a source of pride? What stories do you tell to those who don’t know our community as you do?
  - » What problems or challenges do you see or experience in our community? How do those issues impact your positive thoughts about Decatur? What stories do you tell in sharing such problems?

### THE DECATUR WE COULD BE (45 MINUTES TOTAL)

- » Please discuss the following questions:
  - » Describe community qualities that would inspire you. Are such qualities within Decatur’s grasp?
  - » What does the *future Decatur* you envision look like? How does it differ from today?
  - » How do you want Decatur to be known? Please complete the phrase: “In my ideal future, Decatur is a city where \_\_\_\_\_.”

### WRAP-UP (10 MINUTES TOTAL)

- » Solicit suggestions for ensuring the group is well connected and everyone’s effectively receiving updates and reminders.
- » Confirm everyone knows the dates for subsequent rounds of meetings. Groups will continue to occur on the same day. Times are expected to stay the same. Locations may vary based on space availability so stay tuned for confirmed information.

#### ROUND TWO

Monday Groups: March 9  
Tuesday Groups: March 10  
Wednesday Groups: March 11  
Thursday Groups: March 12  
Saturday Groups, March 14

#### ROUND THREE

Saturday Groups: March 28  
Monday Groups: March 30  
Tuesday Groups: March 31  
Wednesday Groups: April 1  
Thursday Groups: April 2