

BOLDFUTURE FOR THE COASTAL BEND

VISION SUMMIT RESULTS

This report lists the top vision ideas as selected by the 300+ participants attending the BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend Vision Summit, Feb. 28, 2009. Results were gleaned from 175 collaborative ideas synthesized from input gathered from 80+ community meetings and 1,800 participants, telephone surveys from 850 Coastal Bend residents and data gathered in the BoldFuture Community Profile. Summit participants provided more than a dozen new ideas. Those that garnered sufficient votes to move the new idea to the top of the priority list are included below.

1. VIBRANT ECONOMY

- Government, business and community leaders cooperate to implement a **shared vision for economic development**.
- Higher education connects the community and industry, educating people to fill local jobs and **creating a skilled workforce** that draws employers to the region.
- The Coastal Bend is a **major tourist destination** for visitors from Texas, other states and around the world, including vacationers, conventions, and cruise lines.
- The Coastal Bend is a **world-renowned destination** that attracts people as a place to visit, study, live, work and play.
- **Tax incentives** attract businesses and industry to the region, bringing new jobs and spurring economic development.

2. THRIVING EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Corpus Christi and other areas of the Coastal Bend are alive with **vibrant, unique and modern communities and centers** that blend art exhibits, local and big name entertainers and cultural attractions.
- The Coastal Bend has good jobs, a strong educational system and appealing activities and attractions that keep people from leaving our city, while attracting **educated, forward-thinking people** to relocate here.
- A **seamless K-16 educational system** prepares students for higher education or professional trades – resulting in a better future for all our youth.
- The Coastal Bend has a greater **number and variety of quality things to do**, including festivals, restaurants, community parks, water sports, museums, large and small shops, camping, and local celebrations.
- The Coastal Bend has **top quality public school systems** with highly trained, sufficiently rewarded teachers that attract businesses and families to the region.
- **Increased Parent Education** programs and involvement in education, promote early childhood (0-4) programs, and strengthen families.

3. WELL PLANNED REGION

- Corpus Christi and other regional commercial centers **have renovated or replaced vacant, boarded-up buildings**, including the Coliseum and old Courthouse, redeveloping those areas with thriving attractions such as a new farmer's market, various shops or water park.
- Corpus Christi has **redeveloped and rebuilt the downtown area**, transforming it into a thriving district for residents and tourists to congregate.
- Corpus Christi and other Coastal Bend communities have **vibrant, active waterfronts** that are pedestrian-friendly, with a boardwalk, shops, water activities and nature events.
- The Coastal Bend has an **interconnected system of walkable, bikeable parks, greenspaces, open spaces and beaches** for people to gather, appreciate nature, and enjoy the arts, concerts and cultural attractions.
- The Coastal Bend's **urban infrastructure** (e.g., streets, water, sewer systems, etc.) has improved and is **adequately funded** to support population and industrial growth.

4. SAFE, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- The Coastal Bend is a **safe region that promotes the health of its citizens and instills a higher sense of safe and strong neighborhood pride** that is validated and protected by its citizens and that leads to responsible ownership.
- Coastal Bend communities place a **stronger emphasis on exercise, fitness and outdoor activities** to support a healthier lifestyle.
- Our educational systems in the Coastal Bend **prepare our youth for the future**, teaching them responsibility, keeping them stimulated and reducing truancy and dropouts.
- All Coastal Bend communities are **clean, livable and affordable places**, where people meet their economic, educational, health, and cultural needs.
- Corpus Christi has a **vibrant and accessible downtown** where increasing numbers of people enjoy living, working, shopping, and socializing.

5. COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND LEADERSHIP

- Local **government in the region is open-minded and forward thinking**, always working to facilitate innovation, progress and inclusivity.
- There is strong public ownership of our **region's future and civic pride** in what we have accomplished together in making it more beautiful and prosperous.
- Coastal Bend political leaders are forward thinking and open to **positive growth and progress**.

- Cities and communities in the Coastal Bend **cooperate to share resources** and promote social, community and economic development.
- The Coastal Bend is **branded and marketed as a thriving, forward-thinking community** diverse in its population, economy, education and quality of life opportunities.
- People in the Coastal Bend respect one another and **celebrate their differences and diversity** as a unique and valuable community asset while remaining a unified community with a common vision,

6. SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

- The Coastal Bend has **well-maintained infrastructure** that has grown to support an expanded population in a sustainable manner.
- The Coastal Bend has become a **leader in wind and solar energy technology**, utilizing the local environment to **generate sustainable energy**.
- Coastal Bend cities have **appealing architecture**, cleaned up or re-used abandoned and historic buildings and enforced building codes to prevent eyesores.
- The Coastal Bend is a **“green-minded” region** where residents and businesses value the environment and sustainability.
- Our **natural assets and environment have been conserved** and capitalized on in a responsible way, improving local quality of life and attracting visitors.
- Coastal Bend **beaches, paths and parks are clean, well maintained, and inviting to use**, with natural landscaping and an abundance of shade trees and greenery.
- The Coastal Bend region has reached **zero consumption**; able to produce the natural and consumable resources it needs to sustain itself.