

# Community Engagement & Idea Gathering: Strategies to Gather Topics for 2026

## ***Background***

CP Noecker expressed concerns that the current surveys may be insufficient for gathering meaningful community input; additional outreach efforts may be necessary.

Response rates to ongoing staff and resident “evergreen” surveys have significantly declined compared to 2024.

## **Strategies Identified (from September 2025 Meeting)**

1. Expand Outreach to District Councils - Six district councils remain unengaged, according to 2024 notes. Suggested upcoming meetings for 2025 engagement include:

### **D3 – West Side Community Organization**

- November 24 | 6:00–8:00 pm
- December 25 | 6:00–8:00 pm

### **D9 – West 7th / Fort Road Federation**

- November 10 | 7:00–9:00 pm
- December 8 | 7:00–9:00 pm

### **D10 – Como Park District**

- November 19 | 7:15–8:30 pm (Hybrid)
- December 17 | 7:15–8:30 pm (Hybrid)

### **D11 – Hamline Midway Coalition**

- November 25 | 6:15–8:00 pm (Hybrid)
- December 23 | 6:15–8:00 pm (Hybrid)

### **D15 – Highland District Council**

- November 6 | 7:00–8:30 pm

### **D16 – Summit Hill Association**

- November 24 | 7:00–8:00 pm (Hybrid)
- December 29 | 7:00–8:00 pm (Hybrid)

2. **Engage Non-District Community Groups** - Include organizations such as **Saint Paul Strong** that offer critical feedback to the city.

### **3. Clarify the Committee’s Role**

- Ensure departments and community members understand that the committee is conducting **performance audits**, not **financial audits**.

- Department representatives can help frame this distinction during outreach.

#### 4. Leverage Internal City Knowledge

- Invite the City Attorney's Office to share insights on frequently litigated case types.
  - This may help the committee identify focus areas for future performance audits based on potential risks.
- **Request input from Councilmembers and their staff**, who often hear directly from constituents about recurring concerns and issues.