

# Changing the Way We Do Things

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Recommendations and Findings of The Futures Committee

October 1997

## Precepts of a Healthy Community

- Precept 1. Healthy communities offer economic opportunity for residents to become producers, as well as consumers, through participation in the work force and/or entrepreneurial activity.
- Precept 2. Healthy communities reflect and build positive values. The moral and intellectual development of individuals takes place in the context of significant interaction with others who are of diverse backgrounds.
- Precept 3. Healthy communities nurture and sustain families and children.
- Precept 4. In healthy communities, individuals have multiple opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.
- Precept 5. Healthy communities provide a public forum for common conversation, shared stories, and diverse expressions.
- Precept 6. Healthy communities are supported by political structures and processes that encourage responsible citizenship and accountable government and balance individual interests and local needs with the needs of the larger community.
- Precept 7. Healthy communities have strong mediating institutions, such as churches, schools, and community organizations with the power to affect important issues.
- Precept 8. Healthy communities identify, nurture, and promote leadership.
- Precept 9. Healthy communities value the past as they invite the future and are able to manage change.
- Precept 10. Healthy communities manage and invest in local properties, public spaces, and public ways, so as to enhance each community's ability to prosper.
- Precept 11. Healthy communities provide opportunities for artistic and cultural expression that nurtures individual talent and celebrates the events of community life.
- Precept 12. Healthy communities offer a convenient array of retail stores and professional and human services.
- Precept 13. Healthy communities maintain superior standards of public health, environmental integrity, and safety.
- Precept 14. Healthy communities are accessible to people of all colors, all income groups, and those who have special needs, including the homeless, the elderly, and disabled.