

## Task groups create community-based vision

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UniverCity Connections is an initiative of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado that works to create lasting, meaningful connections between three of our community's assets: CSU, Downtown and the Poudre River.

We serve as a convener of and catalyst for public participation, providing a forum for bringing together individuals, organizations and the public and private sectors to identify and tackle big vision opportunities for our community.

Beginning in 2006, eight task groups were convened to identify and create a community-based vision for the UniverCity focus area including arts and culture, CSU/city joint facilities and programs, economic development, homelessness, mixed-use development and student/affordable housing, river corridor, sustainable energy technology, and transit and mobility.

Some of the progress and achievements of the task groups to date include:

- > FortZED (Zero Energy District): a collaborative alternative energy project between the sustainable energy technology task group, the city, CSU and others that has garnered \$11.1 million in local, state and federal project funding.
- > A map of the urban Cache La Poudre River: an interpretive map detailing recreation, fishing, history, trails and wildlife through the river's urban corridor.
- > Mason Street Corridor Forum: Coming up this month, the transit and mobility and mixed-use development task groups, along with the city and CSU, will be hosting a Mason Corridor forum for the real estate development and investment community.

These are just a few of the achievements from the implementation phase of this grass roots, volunteer-driven initiative.

I will be checking in periodically with more information about how the task groups are working to realize a common community vision for positive change.

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