

# Village Chats

SCOTLANDVILLE

The **Scotlandville Village Chat** was one of five conducted to gather the ideas and visions of residents in neighborhoods across Baton Rouge. There were commonalities across communities; however, each community had a unique viewpoint when considering the questions being asked. Below, we present the comments from the Scotlandville community members that represent the issues that differ from other communities.

## Community Memory and History

In Scotlandville, some of the most prevalent areas of focus (resources, stakeholders, and infrastructure) were in line with that of the other Village Chats. Unique to Scotlandville's chat was a focus on **community history**, with many of the participants bringing their memories of the neighborhood to the forefront of the conversation. More than any other neighborhood, community members in Scotlandville spoke frequently about what the old neighborhood was like, the difference in dynamics, and the impacts those differences have made in the present-day community. Community members emphasized the necessity of people in the neighborhood relying on one another more and working closely with each other. Community members highlighted the importance of unity in the past success of Scotlandville.

Importantly, Scotlandville Village Chat participants repeatedly emphasized the necessity in understanding the history of the community. One community member suggested there be a documentary developed about Scotlandville and the history of the community as a means of restoring pride.

## Morality

Similarly, community members in Scotlandville also focused on morality during their Village Chat. The participants believe the community has grown **too individualistic** and has deviated from its unified past, which ultimately causes barriers to **community building and leadership**. More than this, community members shared a tension between younger community members not wanting to participate in the labor market in fashions similar to those of Scotlandville's past. This sentiment was shared between several participants who shared their frustrations that some people no longer want to work.

These conversations about morality also transferred in commentary about familial structure, including shifting gender roles within households and blended family structures. As families are perceived to shift further away from traditional family formations, community members tend to share more morality-related critiques.

Scotlandville community members looked back to the past when developing their vision for a better and thriving neighborhood. This historically prosperous area has been a site of a vibrant attractive place to build a life. Although we can not return to the past, Scotlandville residents use their frame of community knowledge to help better understand the way this neighborhood can look again.

To read the full Village Chat Report, click [here](#).