



Village Chats

SOUTH BATON ROUGE

The **South Baton Rouge 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 South Baton Rouge community members that represent the issues that differ from other communities.

Generation Gap | ← → |

One of the most frequently discussed topics across questions in the South Baton Rouge Village Chat was the **disconnect** between older residents and younger people. Participants commented that the age gap is a barrier to **community building** as well as **sustaining the community**. They mention that it is “hard to connect to younger generation,” whom they want to be future residents of South Baton Rouge. Community members believe that the “younger generation has moved on,” which prevents the neighborhood from blossoming into the vibrant and thriving community that they envision. They advocate for infrastructure improvements as a way to help draw the younger generation back into the neighborhood.

Additionally, South Baton Rouge community members recommend engaging younger generations in conversations about the neighborhood to promote community building. Community members stated that they need to attract “young ppl with good paying jobs” which will lead to “[a] **housing boom, good education, [and] childcare.**” In order to do so, participants believe some of the old ways of doing things need to change like the “traditional ideals being imposed on young people”

Stakeholders

The discussion of stakeholders among South Baton Rouge participants was the greatest of all the Village Chats. Because of the long history of the South Baton Rouge community, community members were able to think through former residents, who are now famous, that may be helpful in **bringing their vision of a more livable neighborhood to fruition**. For example, they mentioned actress Lynn Whitfield, former LSU and NBA basketball player Collis Temple, former Southern University Law School Chancellor Freddie Pitcher Jr and former state senator Cleo Fields as examples of influential individuals with ties to South Baton Rouge.

South Baton Rouge community residents also uniquely centered the **Black church** as an important structure within the community that is important to co-creating their ideal neighborhood. Participants ask for more church and community member collaboration commenting that “There will be more cohesiveness with business owner[s], churches, homeowners.” South Baton Rouge community members also believe that churches should be donating to help achieve the community’s vision.

Community members focused on these elements based on the uniqueness of this community within Baton Rouge. These areas of focus may not be applicable to other areas of the city.

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

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