



Early County 50-Year Master Plan

HFA conducted a pre-charrette economic visioning weekend to facilitate community involvement in developing an economic plan for the next 50 years in Early County, Georgia, a very large agricultural county with a small population experiencing a depressed rural economy.

HFA used a variety of workshop techniques, including Open Space Technology, Facilitated Stakeholder Meetings, Idea Train, and Asset Mapping, to draw out community concerns, build support for the process, and begin the process of “growing” leaders to carry on the long-term work of community development.

Barton Rice, the Executive Director of the Rice Family Foundation said to the Early County News, “The community enthusiasm for this effort was wonderful and the meetings were very successful. The result was an outline of ideas and perspectives that we will use as the basis for the upcoming “charrette” next week, which will solidify the details of the initiative and will be incorporated into plans that will be implemented over the coming years.”

In addition to developing and facilitating the public meetings and workshops, **HFA** provided public policy and program development guidance. Key pieces of the final report that drew on **HFA's** work included recommendations related to overall economic development strategy, a “Buy Local” campaign, joint marketing and events for downtown, and community lobbying for access to government funds and services.



Photo Credits: PlaceMakers

Client:

PlaceMakers and EC2055

Location:

Early County, GA

HFA Services Provided:

- public involvement
- stakeholder interviews
- stakeholder facilitation
- stakeholder documentation
- meeting management
- visioning
- public workshops
- charrette planning
- event planning
- project communications
- community organizing
- open space technology
- asset mapping
- idea train
- community development
- public policy
- economic development

