

## LAFAYETTE 2035 VISION

In 2035, Lafayette is one of the nation's most exceptional communities, renowned for its rich Cajun and Creole heritage, its creative scene and culture of innovation, and its authentic *joie de vivre*. Fueled by its desirable quality of life, its highly educated workforce and the community's entrepreneurial spirit, Lafayette has attracted substantial investment and growth. This growth has been managed and absorbed in a manner that allowed Lafayette to retain its small town neighborliness and unique way of life.

The Lafayette Comprehensive Plan has galvanized the community and has guided our political leadership in their decision making, keeping us on track and making steady progress toward realizing our Vision. Through a bold collaboration and an on-going conversation among our engaged citizenry and our local government and institutional partners, we have realized our Vision by leveraging our assets, correcting shortcomings and balancing our priorities for what makes our community outstanding.

### ***Our People: A Vibrant Culture of Creativity, Innovation and Compassion***

- We remain a **caring community** of families, friends and neighbors who bring a **can-do attitude** toward bettering the community through volunteer and faith-based initiatives.
- We are a national model for community-supported investments in **information technology, health innovation** and **green infrastructure**.
- We have a **vibrant cultural scene** that celebrates and treasures its local artists and performers, its many venues (museums, Cajundome, Parc International, Acadiana Center for the Arts), and our many festivals and celebrations.
- We are a **healthy, family-friendly** community who sees our **youth** as our most valuable asset: one worthy of investment in **quality education** and school facilities, recreation, healthcare, opportunities for civic engagement and a diverse array of challenging local employment choices.
- Our **retirees** make up an important and valued share of the population as natives remain in the community, drawn –as are non-natives– by the rich culture, and opportunities for an **active** and **engaged senior lifestyle**.

### ***Our Community: Its Character, Form and Function***

- **Mobility** has been enhanced with improved **road network efficiency** and **connectivity**, expanded transit choices and bicycle and pedestrian friendly streets.
- We have raised the bar of expectations for **community aesthetics** and **development quality**, applied through innovative development standards and incentives, and revitalization and beautification initiatives.
- We have **updated** and **streamlined** our **codes** and **regulatory approval** processes to become more **transparent, predictable** and **user-friendly**.

- We have **managed growth** and development in a manner that conserves land and natural resources, is **fiscally sound**, and respectful of **private property rights**.
- We are a community of **safe neighborhoods** that provide expanded **housing and lifestyle choices** among **diverse urban, suburban and rural settings**.
- **Downtown** Lafayette is **activated** with new development of housing, retail and entertainment, supporting day and night-time **activity** and a true **urban lifestyle** –one with a **distinct flavor of Acadiana**.
- Our expanded network of **open spaces, parks and greenways** and **trails** provide quality recreational opportunities, enhancing both quality of life and property values, while promoting **healthful outdoor activity**.
- We recognize the value of our precious **natural resources** through initiatives to protect and promote public enjoyment of the Horse Farm, the Vermilion River and our bayou ecosystems.
- We have increased the **effectiveness of local governance** through improved operational efficiencies and bold **initiatives that address Parish-wide issues** and challenges, while ensuring that each municipality has an appropriate level of control over strictly local matters.

### ***Our Economy: The Prosperity of our People***

- We are home to major corporate employers, attracted by our highly **educated and motivated workforce**, our **information technology infrastructure** and our unique **quality of life**.
- We are home to locally-grown **entrepreneurs** and **small businesses** that proudly retain a progressive adaptation of the “**wildcatter**” **attitude** of independence and drive to succeed through **determination, creativity and innovation**.
- We have leveraged the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and our medical institutions to become a leading center for **R&D, technology and health innovation**.
- We have mobilized as a community in taking proactive measures to address pockets of **poverty and crime** by **expanding opportunities** for all to engage in civic affairs and to share in Lafayette’s prosperity.
- We have improved our **workforce readiness** with partnerships to link educational curricula among our high schools, University of Louisiana at Lafayette and our technical and community colleges, to the skills needed by local businesses.
- We are **business-friendly** with fair and transparent codes and regulations, and incentives and capital improvement initiatives designed to **attract and guide** desired **private investment** and development.
- We have **reversed blight** and **obsolescence** with targeted initiatives to **restore, revitalize and rebuild** along older highway corridors, nodes and interstate gateways into the community.