



Shaping the Future of the West

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Planning Education Forums: Planning for Economic Development

Durango, CO –

Planning for Economic Development, the first in a monthly series of Community Planning Education Forums organized by the Sonoran Institute will take place on Monday, September 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Durango Community Recreation Center Sunlight Room. The forum will include a presentation by Gabe Preston of RPI Consulting and a member of the La Plata County Comprehensive Plan consulting team. The presentation will cover the economic health of the county, what strategies local organizations are engaged in currently, and best practices for growing and diversifying the economy.

During July and August, La Plata County conducted a community visioning process as part of its Comprehensive Plan update. The results of the visioning have been compiled into a Draft Community Vision Statement that will soon be released next week for public comment and review. The visioning process identified what residents love about the County, their issues and concerns, what they would like to see different, and what they want the county to be like in twenty years. Economic vitality and growth topped the list of community concerns, followed closely by affordable housing and the cost of living. In general, residents expressed a desire a county that has more job opportunities for all residents, higher paying jobs, is less prone to booms and busts, and allows for youth to remain in the County to start their careers. The challenge is for the County and residents to agree upon and articulate a strategy in the Comprehensive Plan to achieve these results. This first forum will be the first step in that direction.

Information and background materials on the La Plata County Comprehensive Plan update can be found at the County's website: <http://co.laplatacountyplan.co> The entire list of comments regarding community concerns can be read on the La Plata County Plan website under Project Documents.

For additional information about the comprehensive plan update, please contact Jason Meininger at La Plata County at (970) 382-6267. For more information on the education forums, please contact Marjo Curgus at the Sonoran Institute at (719) 207-4563.
