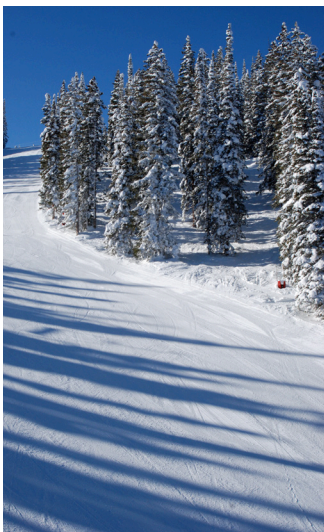


Sustaining the Aspen Idea



Vision

We are committed to rediscovering and sustaining the original intent of the Aspen Idea.

Philosophy

We recognize that mind, body and spirit are fully integrated parts of a whole and balanced person; this interconnectedness entails the cultivation of all three. Our community provides opportunities to cultivate lifelong education, civic engagement, physical health, personal responsibility, spiritual development and an environmental consciousness.

Cultivating arts and culture is a core element of the Aspen Area's heritage and identity, enriching our quality of life and reinforcing Aspen's national and international profile. We value authentic engagement with others, including habits of civil discourse about the kind of community and world we want to create and maintain. Our physical health is tied to our natural environment and recreational opportunities.

Non-profits, businesses, institutions and the public sector should coordinate and integrate a range of offerings to reflect a myriad of experiences and a sense of discovery. This approach can rebuild local enthusiasm for the Aspen Idea, create common ground to reduce stratification in the community and diversify and strengthen our visitor base into the future.

The History of the Aspen Idea

The roots of the Aspen Idea can be traced back to the Goethe Bicentennial Convocation, held in Aspen in 1949. The purpose of this convocation was to bring together leaders from around the world to plan for the future of civil society, while reflecting on the works of one of the greatest humanists of all time, Johann von Goethe. At the conclusion of the convocation, there was a consensus that Aspen provided a unique venue for gatherings of this kind, and that a way must be found to continue to take advantage of the potential this special place.

The current shorthand description of the Aspen Idea "Mind, Body, and Spirit," only hints at its full meaning and value. *Fortunately*, sixty-one years of experience has proven that the suspicions of the 1949 convocation attendees were correct. There is something very unique about the Aspen area and its ability to cultivate lifelong education, physical health, civic engagement, personal responsibility, spiritual development, and an environmental consciousness.

Policies and Action Items

The policies and action items below are adopted to address the following critical issues: 1) Rediscovering the Aspen Idea, and 2) Arts Facilities.

I. REDISCOVERING THE ASPEN IDEA

Policies

I.1. Rediscover and sustain the original intent of the Aspen Idea.

I.2. Encourage collaboration between local government and local businesses.

I.3. Foster greater inclusivity and participation in cultural events from within the spectrum of community residents and visitors.

Action Items

I.1.a Research the historical roots of the Aspen Idea to help rediscover and revitalize the original concept. *(I – local organizations)*

I.1.b Establish a program to educate the community about the Aspen Idea *(LT - CR)*

I.2.a Explore reconvening a local Council on the Arts and Humanities to promote collaboration and coordinate planning. A Council on the Arts and Humanities could:

i) Coordinate special events so they are balanced throughout the winter and summer seasons.

ii) Organize experiences that embody the Aspen Idea through a range of activities that balance the mind, body, and spirit.

(I – City Manager, County Manager, local organizations)

Special Events

The Aspen Area is home to a wide variety of events - from the Music School and Festival to Food & Wine to Winerskol (pictured to the right) to X-Games - that play an important role in the communication of the Aspen Idea to visitors and locals alike.



I.3.a Establish and leverage a comprehensive, user-friendly, web-based calendar / resource to facilitate dissemination of information and schedules of events. *(I – ACRA)*

I.3.b Make arts and culture, including live programming, visible in the streetscapes and landscapes of the community. *(I – City Manager, County Manager, local organizations)*

I.3.c Encourage recreational and cultural programs that support personal growth, enhance family relationships and encourage civic involvement. *(LT- Community non-profits, CR, City Manager, County Manager)*

I.3.d Create incentives for alcohol free, family friendly community events *(LT- Special Events)*

II. ARTS FACILITIES

Policies

II.1. Maintain the legacy of the Aspen Idea by enhancing and quasi-public facilities and spaces and ensuring that development of new facilities is consistent with community goals. (see also Growth Management & Economic Sustainability Chapter)

Action Items

II.1.a Explore amendments to the City and County Land Use Codes to include standards to ensure that when a facility expansion, re-development and/or new development is proposed it:

- Allows for use by a diverse range of people;
- Includes programs that reach outside the facility itself and into the public realm, making art and culture visible in the community;
- Facilitates meaningful and affordable local participation in its programs and offerings, and encourage local talent;
- Emphasizes renovation and adaptation of current structures
- Requires reusable materials and renewable energy in its design and construction;
- Requires collaboration with other non-profit groups during the design to broaden the utility of public space;
- Provides multi-purpose space for the Aspen Area community; and
- Maintains high quality facilities.

(I - P, City Manager, County Manager, non-profit groups, etc)

II.1.b Explore community partnerships, amendments to the City and County Codes, and other methods to prevent the conversion of civic or non-profit facilities to private use. *(I - P, City Manager, County Manager, non-profit groups, etc)*



The Wheeler Opera House is one of Aspen's many facilities dedicated to arts and culture.

