

## Saguache Downtown Revitalization Project

### Goals

**Goal 1 (July 2008):** Convene a meeting to form public/private partnership and discuss need and desire for downtown beautification and revitalization efforts. This step has already been achieved through July 28, 2008 meetings in which valuable information was obtained through community input. Fifty-five (55) community members participated in the meetings held in July. A total of fifty-seven (57) opinion surveys were distributed, collected and tallied. The survey results showed that ninety-three percent (93%) of the respondents said that they want to see a downtown revitalization project in Saguache; no one answered “No” to this question. In addition, a majority of respondents (67%) signed up to help with the effort. There is a clear demonstration of community support for this effort. Grant monies were raised to enable ScSEED to move forward with implementation of the remaining steps.

**Goal 2 (September/October 2008): Develop of Vision.** ScSEED convened a second planning session meeting September 29, 2008. At this meeting the results of the survey were reviewed and the visioning process was initiated with more community input. Specific outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

1. Specific beautification elements were determined (sidewalk and street repair, walking/biking paths, planters and benches, etc.)
2. The overall vision for the Town of Saguache and how this project will affect the community was established.
3. Preserving the rural nature, cultural and ranching heritage of the town was determined to be the overall thematic approach for economic development.
4. A planning committee was created to work on the details of the project.
5. Data was collected with community input and vision to begin drafting a rendering and architectural design model.

**Goal 3 (October – December, 2008): Convene the Planning Committee to draft an Action Plan.** ScSEED will convene a meeting of the Planning Committee. At this meeting the committee will review the visioning process and begin to develop a specific Action Plan which will include the following:

1. Form a Plan: Define the project’s goals and action steps and determine who among the community members will accept responsibility for specific tasks. Contacting people and groups who might support or collaborate on the project is part of this step.
2. Action Steps: Action may be small at first, providing the chance to make small gains that can provide learning and be used as a base for larger gains. The project will likely proceed in phases, with the group assessing one phase before proceeding to the next.
3. Reconvene the Partnership to present the Action Plan and obtain buy-in to move forward with fundraising and subsequent implementation.

**Goal 4 (December 2008- March 2009): Obtain funding (based on Action Plan)**

1. Apply for grants through various sources including DOLA for the architectural aspects and the implementation of the beautification plans.
2. Hire architectural firm to provide specific plans.
3. Partnership implements promotional plan and obtains participation from downtown business and building owners.

**Goal 5 (June 2009 – Until all Phases are Complete) Implementation of the Action Plan.**

1. Obtain grant funds and other resources in implement Action Steps.
2. Hire local contractors to carry-out the downtown renovations.
3. Continue to attract new business to the downtown by providing façade restoration funding; downtown business incubator (ScSEED); and other value-added benefits.
4. Discuss Colorado Main Street Program- Application.