



Strategic Blueprint

Our Mission

The Gephardt Institute fosters a vibrant culture of civic engagement throughout Washington University, realized by engaged citizens, scholarship, and partnerships that advance the collective good.

Our Vision

We envision civic health.

All people take responsibility to actively engage in the progress and vitality of their communities.

Our Context

Because Washington University is located in and responsible to St. Louis, the Gephardt Institute focuses on the St. Louis region. And, as the university's reach spans from local to global, it is vital that we equip the Washington University community for life-long civic engagement at local, national, and international levels.

Our Goals

- ▶ Educate students for life-long engaged citizenship
- ▶ Catalyze partnerships that respond to community needs and priorities
- ▶ Infuse civic engagement throughout the Washington University experience

Our Values

Inquiry

We believe that humility, intellectual curiosity, and reasoning form the foundation of informed and responsible civic engagement.

Integrity

We believe that upholding ethical behavior, respecting others, and honoring commitments are cornerstones of trusting and reciprocal partnerships.

Empathy

We believe that seeking and considering multiple perspectives transforms how individuals and communities engage with one another.

Equity

We believe that our efforts should foster access, opportunity, and dignity for all, and should address structural and power imbalances.

Collaboration

We believe that partnerships are most impactful when rooted in shared goals and decision-making.

Action

We believe that effective civic engagement is an active process requiring courage, dedication, and participation.



A Look Ahead: Strategic Planning

Our Process

The Gephardt Institute’s strategic planning process lays the foundation to engage with the profound opportunities and pressing challenges before us. Central to this process has been clarity of purpose and strong guiding values that can support changes and growth in the coming years.

Through dialogue with over 250 students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, community partners, and friends of the Gephardt Institute, we have defined a strategic framework to serve as a blueprint for our future that is adaptable to continuously changing environments within the university, St. Louis region, nation, and world. Our three priorities represent the first steps in an ongoing strategic planning process, and will be supplemented by future priorities through a dynamic and responsive strategic planning cycle.

For the next stage of our process, we will convene taskforces to recommend strategies, timelines, and key performance indicators for each strategic priority. We look forward to sharing our complete strategic plan with you by the end of 2019. We welcome your ideas and partnership as we work together to integrate civic engagement as a hallmark of Washington University and in our shared pursuit of civic health.

Our Strategic Priorities

