



# Vision 2020

Report  
to  
Town Meeting

May 6, 2015



To: Town Meeting Members and Town Officials

From: Vision 2020 Standing Committee and Task Group Chairs

Chair: Juli Brazile

Adria Arch, Brad Barber, Kathleen Bodie, Steven Byrne, Claire Carswell, Adam Chapdelaine, Joe Connelly, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, David Garbarino, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Gordon Jamieson, Elizabeth Karpati, John Leone, Josh Lobel, Gail McCormick, Cheryl Miller, Angela Olszewski, Stephen Ricci, Paul Schlichtman, Michael Stern, David White, Bonie Williamson

Date: May 6, 2015

Subject: Vision 2020 Report to the 2015 Annual Town Meeting

The Vision 2020 Standing Committee and Task Groups are pleased to present this report on their activities during 2014, Warrant Articles 12 and 34, and the 2015 Annual Survey "Help Shape the Future: Energy, Mobility, Business, Schools, and the Arts."

Details about the work Vision 2020 volunteers performed in 2014 appear in the Town's Annual Report 2014, pages 95-112, which briefly reviews Vision 2020's history, describes specific accomplishments, and presents a summary of the results of the 2014 Annual Survey.

We have two articles in the warrant:

- Article 12 (Vision 2020 Standing Committee). Following the approval of Town Meeting, we will begin advertising the open positions and meeting with residents who are interested in joining the committee. We hope to have a description of the Standing Committee available soon with information about who to contact for information and how to apply.
- Article 34 (Water Bodies Fund). The Finance Committee supports funding again this year and Appendix E of their report details treatment and testing projects covering FY14 to FY18.

The 2015 Annual Survey was mailed to 18,910 households. By the cut-off date of March 17, we received 6058 completed surveys and we are pleased that the difficult winter did not deter Arlington residents. The 32% response rate is just lower than last year's. Given this volume of response, we are exploring updated tools for survey scanning. It is labor-intensive work and any simplification would be welcome. Although we have not completed our analysis, we can report that, for the first time since we started asking how long people had lived in Arlington, the highest number was 0-5 years. Complete survey results will be available on the Town website this summer. Initial data tables follow this introduction.

Updating the composition of the Standing Committee begins a new phase in our re-visioning process. We will develop more written procedures internally to manage communication across the entire organization and seek to engage residents with new initiatives. And, now that Town Meeting has approved the new Standing Committee structure, we will begin advertising the openings and seeking residents who are interested in joining the Standing Committee.

# Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2015

## Demographics

Total Responses:  
6,058

### Precinct

	#	%
Pct 1	221	3.8%
Pct 2	281	4.8%
Pct 3	273	4.7%
Pct 4	291	5.0%
Pct 5	247	4.2%
Pct 6	308	5.3%
Pct 7	290	5.0%
Pct 8	320	5.5%
Pct 9	284	4.9%
Pct 10	302	5.2%
Pct 11	270	4.6%
Pct 12	333	5.7%
Pct 13	253	4.3%
Pct 14	261	4.5%
Pct 15	258	4.4%
Pct 16	271	4.6%
Pct 17	291	5.0%
Pct 18	273	4.7%
Pct 19	283	4.8%
Pct 20	271	4.6%
Pct 21	274	4.7%

### Household includes ages:

	#	%
under 18 yrs	1,531	16.8%
18-29 yrs	910	10.0%
30-44 yrs	1,942	21.3%
45-54 yrs	1,440	15.8%
55-64 yrs	1,351	14.8%
65-74 yrs	1,073	11.8%
75+ yrs	864	9.5%

### Years in Arlington

	#	%
0-5 yrs	2,057	34.9%
6-15 yrs	1,428	24.2%
16-25 yrs	922	15.7%
26-40 yrs	550	9.3%
41+ yrs	934	15.9%

### Housing Type

	#	%
Single Family	3,170	52.3%
2-family	1,639	27.1%
3-8 unit bldg	341	5.6%
9+ unit bldg	709	11.7%

### Own/Rent

	#	%
Rent	1,595	27.0%
Own	4,317	73.0%

### How many people are in your household?

	#	%
1-2 people	3,527	59.4%
3-4 people	2,080	35.0%
5 or more people	330	5.6%

### Household includes children in Arlington Public Schools

	#	%
Yes	1,168	19.7%
No	4,764	80.3%

# Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2015



## Energy Working Group

The Energy Working Group (EWG) studies energy efficiency options for Town-owned buildings. Your feedback on new opportunities can help prioritize projects or establish broader energy goals. Responses indicate that residents are engaged with energy issues for their households and at the municipal level and there is support for changes that move Arlington away from fossil fuels.

The %'s shown on this page represent the % of total responses for each question.

With the rapid evolution of Electric Vehicle (EV) technology, an increasing number of consumers are investing in EVs. EV refers to a car that must be plugged in to charge. Does your household own an EV or are you considering buying one?

	#			% EV Ownership		
	Yes	No	No Response	Yes	No	No Response
Electric Vehicle Ownership	61	5,481	516	1%	90%	9%

	#		% EV Purchase	
	Purchase during 2015	No Response	Purchase during 2015	No Response
Considering Purchase in 2015	247	5,811	4%	96%

	#		% EV Purchase 1-3 Years	
	Yes	No Response	Yes	No Response
Considering Purchase in 1-3 Years	1,218	4,840	20%	80%

In order to establish the infrastructure necessary to own and operate an EV, would you support the development of public EV charging stations, even if it meant dedicating a few (2-3) parking spaces in each of Arlington's three business districts?

	#			% EV Charging Stations		
	Yes	No	No Response	Yes	No	No Response
Support EV Charging Stations	4,334	1,286	438	72%	21%	7%

The Town buys electricity under a multi-year contract for all Town and School buildings. When the current contract expires, would you support the Town including a requirement for some renewable energy in the new contract, even if the price were up to 2% higher than the market's otherwise best available price?

	#			% Renewable Energy Contract		
	Yes	No	No Response	Yes	No	No Response
Support Renewable Energy Contract	3,939	1,616	503	65%	27%	8%

The Town's stabilization fund currently invests in fossil fuel energy companies. Would you support the Town pursuing a planned program to divest from the fossil fuel industry?

	#			% Divest Fossil Fuels		
	Yes	No	No Response	Yes	No	No Response
Divest Fossil Fuel Industry	3,570	1,746	742	59%	29%	12%

Community solar projects allow electricity consumers to derive some of the benefits of solar energy, without having to install solar panels themselves. The energy company typically installs a solar array at an off-site location (likely not in Arlington), and electricity consumers purchase electricity from the company. Would your household consider purchasing electricity from such a regional project?

	#			% Regional Solar Project		
	Yes	No	No Response	Yes	No	No Response
Regional Solar Energy Project	4,172	1,210	676	69%	20%	11%

# Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2015

## Disability Commission

We want to understand the needs of our residents so we can seek more targeted solutions. Questions about disabilities were last asked in the 2005 Annual Survey. Capturing information on the types of disabilities our residents manage provides a baseline for future surveys. Comparing 2005 to 2015, we see a slight increase in households that report having members with a disability – from 15% to 21%.

The %'s shown on this page represent the % of total responses for each question.

If no members of your household have disabilities, please fill the bubble on this line and go to Question 4.

	#		% No Disabilities	
	No disabilities	No Response	No disabilities	No Response
No Disabilities	4,786	1,272	79%	21%

If you or members of your household have disabilities, please indicate which categories best describe the disabilities: (Fill all bubbles that apply)

	#	%		#	%
Visual Impairment	146	7%	Mental Health/Behavioral Challenge	206	10%
Hearing Impairment	252	12%	Cognitive Impairment	124	6%
Sensory Impairment	34	2%	Physical Impairment/Disability	494	23%

If any members of your household used handicapped accessible parking in Arlington in the past year, please indicate how often accessible parking could be found in the following locations.

	#					%				
	Always	Often	Usually	Never	No Opinion	Always	Often	Usually	Never	No Opinion
Town Administration Buildings	54	80	133	254	339	6%	9%	15%	30%	39%
School Buildings	39	42	72	238	450	5%	5%	9%	28%	54%
Street or Parking Lot - Center	61	66	182	244	318	7%	8%	21%	28%	37%
Street or Parking Lot - East Arlington	43	52	122	259	370	5%	6%	14%	31%	44%
Street or Parking Lot - Heights	49	64	162	232	351	6%	7%	19%	27%	41%
Recreational facilities or parks	38	56	105	219	420	5%	7%	13%	26%	50%

### We would like to know if outdoor seating at restaurants in Arlington is creating challenges for residents with disabilities.

Has sidewalk seating at an Arlington restaurant obstructed you or any member of your household from easily navigating past a restaurant?

	#		% Navigating Sidewalk Seating	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Navigating Sidewalk Seating	105	1,353	7%	93%

Have you or household members had issues with accessibility when trying to utilize outdoor seating at an Arlington restaurant?

	#		% Navigating Seating	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Accessibility Issues Sidewalk Seating	44	1,366	3%	97%

# Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2015

## Economic Development

The Economic Development Office seeks to learn more about people in Arlington who work from their home. Of the roughly 2000 respondents who work from home, almost one quarter expressed interest in shared work space if it could be developed in Arlington.

The %'s shown on this page represent the % of total responses for each question.

How many members of your household over 16 years of age earn their livelihood by working from home some part of the week?

	#				% Work from Home			
	None	One	Two	More than 2	None	One	Two	More than 2
Number members work from home	3,835	1,524	467	20	66%	26%	8%	0%

Which category(ies) best describe the work members of your household do from home? (Fill all bubbles that apply)

	#	%		#	%
Agriculture / Horticulture	21	1%	Other Work/Services not specified above	332	14%
Transportation / Warehousing / Util	19	1%	Media Creation/Production	113	5%
Food Service/Accommodation	35	2%	Education/Health/Social Services	493	22%
Professional Science & Management	572	25%	Finance / Insurance / Real Estate	192	8%
Information/Technology Production	520	23%	Health / Biological Life Sciences	264	12%
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	196	9%	Retail / Wholesale Trade	62	3%
Public Administration	27	1%	Manufacturing - Durable/NonDurable	19	1%
Writing/Editing	303	13%	Construction/Property Management	70	3%

If you or members of your household work from home some of the week, please provide the following information.

#		%		#			%		
self employed	work for employer	self employed	work for employer	<15 hrs /week	15-34 hrs/week	35+ hrs/week	<15 hrs /week	15-34 hrs/week	35+ hrs/week
787	1,484	35%	65%	1,128	567	538	51%	25%	24%

If you or members of your household who work from home leave during the day to patronize Arlington businesses, which best describes those trips?

	#			%		
	Food and Dining	Goods and Services	Rarely Leave During Work	Food and Dining	Goods and Services	Rarely Leave During Work
Business Patronized	1,059	835	674	41%	33%	26%

If a shared work space with flexible lease options existed in Arlington, would you or members of your household be interested in renting space there? (left column indicates how many people work from home in the household)

	#		% Shared Workspace	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
None	42	379	10%	90%
One	281	1,188	19%	81%
Two	115	334	26%	74%
More than 2	5	13	28%	72%
No Response	7	43	14%	86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>1,914</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>81%</b>

# Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2015

## Arlington Public Schools

We want to learn if existing methods of communicating important information about Arlington Public Schools (APS) are reaching residents who do not have children in the schools. A slight majority of households indicate they were very or somewhat aware of the details we provided. There is some interest in expanding communication into more channels such as Facebook or Twitter, although town and school email and websites are still the most reliable channels.

The %'s shown on this page represent the % of total responses for each question.

Household includes children in Arlington Public Schools

	#	%
Yes	1,168	19.7%
No	4,764	80.3%

As Arlington continues to attract families with school-aged children, enrollment has increased significantly putting pressure on budgets and causing crowding to be a concern in many buildings. Our total school enrollment has increased by 450 students in the past three years alone, which is a nearly 10% increase. Additionally, enrollment will likely increase by more than 125 students next school year.

Are members of your household aware of the increased enrollment in Arlington Public Schools?

	#				%			
	Aware	somewhat aware	Not aware	No Response	Aware	somewhat aware	Not aware	No Response
Aware of Increased Enrollment	1,434	1,797	2,624	203	24%	30%	43%	3%

Arlington High School is evaluated by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges every 10 years. The most recent review identified problems with the physical plant that impact education. A failure to address these issues could jeopardize reaccreditation in 2022. School Administration and Town Officials submitted a formal Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in 2014 regarding improvements at the high school.

Are members of your household aware of the condition of the high school facilities?

	#				%			
	Very Aware	Somewhat aware	Not Aware	No Response	Very Aware	Somewhat aware	Not Aware	No Response
Aware of AHS Condition	1,452	1,606	2,769	231	24%	27%	46%	4%

As the planning process to address the physical plant at the High School continues, the School Administration will want to keep residents up-to-date on important milestones. Additionally, APS is interested in better informing residents about other school-related opportunities such as Adult Education, Community Service programs, and Concerts/Performances. Please indicate your preferred methods to receive information from APS. (Fill in the first bubble or all that apply)

Yes and No below indicates whether household has children enrolled in Arlington Public Schools.

	Yes						No						No Response																								
	#		%		#		%		#		%		#		%		#		%																		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%																			
All options	283	7%	771	6%	13	5%	568	13%	2,134	16%	27	11%	429	10%	446	3%	7	3%	414	10%	1,766	13%	29	12%	113	3%	464	4%	7	3%	37	1%	164	1%	4	2%	
Arlington Advocate	287	7%	1,601	12%	35	14%																															
Fliers Library & Senior Center	74	2%	739	6%	15	6%																															
Public Forums	132	3%	471	4%	11	4%																															
School Parent Email List	754	18%	278	2%	11	4%																															
Town email notices																																					
School district website																																					
Town website																																					
Facebook																																					
Twitter																																					

# Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2015

## Arts & Culture

Arlington has a growing number of arts and culture offerings that are available to the public. The following list highlights just a few of the many opportunities and resources spanning the length of the town from the East to the Heights. These results indicate that information about some newer offerings has not reached all residents. We plan to look deeper at the data to determine if some events have neighborhood support, but not town wide awareness, so we can target publicity and outreach better.

The %'s shown on this page represent the % of total responses for each question.

Leave both bubbles blank if your household is not familiar with an item.

	Know About		Notice/Attend	
	#	%	#	%
Dallin Art Museum	2,201	43%	852	21%
Arlington Center for the Arts	2,425	47%	1,144	28%
Spy Pond Mural	872	17%	639	16%
Arlington Book Festival	871	17%	279	7%
Chairful Where You Sit	1,167	23%	716	17%
Transformer Box Paintings	981	19%	915	22%
Art Rocks Menotomy	719	14%	474	12%
Jason Russell House	2,592	50%	1,100	27%
Old Schwamb Mill	2,349	46%	1,011	25%
Arlington Cultural Heights Walk	417	8%	125	3%
Arlington Friends of the Drama	1,643	32%	615	15%
Shakespeare in the Park	1,509	29%	477	12%
True Story Theater	336	7%	118	3%
Arlington Children's Theater	1,618	31%	385	9%
Arlington International Film Festival	2,281	44%	298	7%
Capitol Theater	2,967	58%	3,170	77%
Philharmonic Society of Arlington	793	15%	198	5%
Menotomy Music Series	373	7%	125	3%
Regent Theater	3,080	60%	1,835	45%
Arlington Alive	332	6%	107	3%