

# NASHVILLE CIVIC DESIGN CENTER

## Foreword

Mayor Bill Purcell

A city begins with its people. Usually, there are just a few of them, arriving over the hills or the prairie, or following the circuitous route of a river. Always, they are seeking something which includes the freedom to live the lives of which they dream. If they have made the right choices for the right reasons others follow and then a city grows. Generation after generation, more choices are made and change follows. In all of this we are not all involved or effected. But there is a critical period in the life and ultimate success of a city where an overwhelming majority come to believe that they are the identity of their city; and they define the place in which they live; and the city is their shared responsibility.

I believe this is the beginning of Nashville's Century because the people of Nashville now acknowledge and accept their responsibility, and the Plan of Nashville is important and very tangible proof of this truth. The Plan is the result of two years of committee meetings, discussion groups and neighborhood forums. Literally hundreds of Nashvillians have participated in the process, sharing their hopes and dreams; their concerns for their city, as it is right now and as it might grow to be; their vision of a future that preserves and perfects the place they have come to call home.

In the Plan of Nashville, the people of Nashville--as they face the new century--have written down their dreams, and even drawn pictures of what their city might be. It is a city that will continue to be a better and brighter place, for the generations that come after us, for our own children and their children, and for families who have yet to know that this is the place they will choose to make their own.

If it is used rightly over the decades, the Plan of Nashville will serve as a point of reference. Sometimes, Nashville will go back to it and discover that goals have been met or dreams have been neglected. At other times, it may serve as an intriguing reminder that, as time passes, the details of the dream may find different directions, even while the ideals remain the same. This Plan, then, is a gift to the people who will build our city's future, but it is also a gift we give to ourselves. I am personally grateful to every Nashvillian who has helped make it happen.