Throughout the winter and spring of 2010, Loyola engaged in “Loyola is Listening,” a series of listening projects where trained interviewers asked questions, listened without judgment, and recorded community members’ answers.

Loyola University Maryland’s 2008-13 strategic plan includes an initiative to take a leadership role in the development of a plan to improve the quality of life for those living, working, and learning in the York Road corridor. Taking the time to understand community strengths, resources, challenges, and history is a critical part of this process.

Who was Surveyed?

- 85 Residents and 4 business owners
  - 10% between ages 21-36
  - 68% between ages 37-64
  - 50% Black
  - 42% White
  - 1% Asian
  - 1% Hispanic
  - 1% Native American
  - 5% Other

- 50% have lived in the neighborhood 5 or more years (of this 19% have lived here more than 30 years).
- 44% own their residence
- 37% rent their home
- 63% have children and 24% have grandchildren. Of those children 15% go to school in the neighborhood.

As a resident of this community, what would you most like to see changed in your neighborhood?

- What do you like best about living here?

What do children in your neighborhood need?

- Of those interviewed, many spoke of the needs of children in relation to the east side of York Road. These needs included: things to do (after-school programs), people to positively influence them (mentor opportunities), a safe place, and better education.
- Responses Ranked:
  1. Farmers market
  2. A new food store
  3. Community garden

Do you feel part of this neighborhood?

- 80% said yes

As of those interviewed, four main areas of strengths: a sense of community, diversity, history, and convenience.

What do you get information about what happens in your neighborhood?

- The primary ways people obtain information are through word of mouth, Internet, and associations/meetings.

How do you think Loyola could partner with you and your neighbors?

- Of those interviewed, the ideas can be categorized into seven main themes: supporting neighborhood youth, creating infrastructure, increasing campus offerings to the community, improving safety and perceptions of safety, stabilizing real estate, lending its voice and influencing the community, and involving students in the neighborhood.

Would you be interested in:

- “Better Education”
- “People to positively influence them”
- “Bridge the haves and the have-nots”
- “Bridge Youth onto Campus”
- “Set up like a little village”
- “Everyone looks out for one another”
- “Talk and listen to the community”
- “Everyone needs to come together to make it safe”
- “Rundown areas need help and stabilization”
- “A place children can go without worry”
- “Variety of people — just what I wanted”
- “Better Education”
- “Everywhere people to positively influence them”
- “Everyone looks out for one another”
- “BRIDGE THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS”
- “TALK AND LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY”
- “BRING YOUTH ONTO CAMPUS”
- “SET UP LIKE A LITTLE VILLAGE”
- “EVERYONE NEEDS TO COME TOGETHER TO MAKE IT SAFE”
- “RUNDOWN AREAS NEED HELP AND STABILIZATION”
- “A PLACE CHILDREN CAN GO WITHOUT WORRY”