What is a Charrette?

Charrette means “cart” in French; various architectural school legends hold that at the École des Beaux Arts in 19th Century Paris, students were still sketching as carts carried their boards away to be judged.

Today, the term is used to describe a high-speed, intensive creative session in which a team concentrates on specific design problems with citizens and presents solutions.
Why Do A Charrette?

Involve Everyone!
OUR VISION?

This Decision Must Be Made Locally

Town Center?
Is This What You Meant?

Advance Our Planning From This…
And This…

And Even This!
Advance Our Planning From This…
Benefits Of The Charrette Process & Community Based Planning

• Brings people together to SOLVE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS
• Respond to DIFFERENT SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY
• Advertise & unify INTENTIONS FOR THE CITY’S FUTURE GROWTH
• Protects the CHARACTER AND CHARM OF THE CITY
• Wide CITIZENS’ SUPPORT AND OWNERSHIP
• Attracts INVESTMENT
• Makes INFILL AN OPTION AFFORDABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS
• Makes plans more TANGIBLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE
• Creates an environment where INFILL OUTPERFORMS THE SUBURBS
• Helps achieve DESIRED AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES
• Form a RELIABLE AND DEFENDABLE BASIS FOR CHANGE
• Prioritize ENHANCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS
• Help SECURE FUNDING
• Embed CITIZEN IDEAS IN THE LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
• Provide CERTAINTY TO CITIZENS AND INVESTORS
• Eliminates LONG AND COMPLICATED APPROVAL PROCESSES
• Puts FUN BACK INTO CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

THE EIGHT PHASES OF A WELL RUN CHARRETTE

STEERING COMMITTEE
STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS
OPENING PRESENTATION
CITIZEN DESIGN WORKSHOP
DESIGN
WORK-IN-PROGRESS PRESENTATION
CHARRETTE REPORT
FINAL PRESENTATION
Establish A Charrette Steering Committee

1 to 3 months in advance of the charrette

• Secure location for charrette and studio
• Assist with organization of all public events
• Respond to the press and residents
• Recommend charrette boundaries
• Assist with advertising
• Identify stakeholders for interviews
• Review preliminary charrette results
• Champion the plan

Interview Stakeholders

1 to 2 weeks before the charrette

In thirty minutes or less... tell us all you know about Royal Poinciana and Palm Beach!
Day 1: Opening Presentation

1 Hour To Educate

Citizen Design Workshop

Table facilitators & hands-on citizen interaction
Kids have some of the best ideas

Citizens’ Presentations

The Citizens’ Plans
Days 2-7: Design - We work all day ...

... and into the night
The Team

Urban Designers
Architects
Transportation Engineers
Retail Consultants
Biologist
Others as needed
Charrette Report

- Form reliable and defendable basis for change
- Involve your constituents in planning the community’s future
- Mend fences
- Prioritize enhancements and community improvement
- Improve communication between parties

Eight Weeks
Final Presentation

• November/December 2007: Steering Committee, preliminary work
• February 2008: Public Workshop
• February 2008: Presentation of Work in Progress
• May 2008: Final Report & Adoption of Master Plan

Timing
“We should have a local concept. We should cherish a love and pride in local conditions and local achievements. In a word, we should frame a concept, an ideal of what we wish the city to be, and then we should make it one of the controlling purposes in the development of the city plan.”