



Bringing Communities Together

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What comes after Reality Check First Coast? Duval County Check!

Thursday, October 22, 2009, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Jacksonville University, Frances Kinne Center
2800 University Boulevard North, Jacksonville

On May 21, 2009, Reality Check First Coast brought nearly 300 leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors together in groups to discuss, analyze and develop growth scenarios for the 1.6 million new people and 650,000 new jobs expected to be added to our region by 2060. At the Reality Check First Coast event, regional leaders were challenged to rethink where and how to grow the First Coast in a way that adds value to the local economy, while preserving our environment and quality of life. By placing Lego® bricks on large-scale regional maps, Reality Check First Coast participants constructed growth scenarios and were able to review and compare the growth patterns created in the exercise.

The next step in creating a regional vision is co-sponsored by Region First 2060, the partnership that put on Reality Check First Coast, and the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc., which is working on a regional vision at the request of the Northeast Florida Regional Council. County Check exercises will share the results of the Reality Check First Coast exercise, and then repeat it in each of the seven counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns) that make up the Northeast Florida region during the months of October and November. County Checks will allow participants to share the experience of thinking about how the region should grow. The County Checks will not change the results of Reality Check First Coast, and they will add useful perspectives to efforts to create and implement a regional vision. Duval County Check is co-sponsored by Jacksonville University and will be held at JU's Frances Kinne Center.

Registration is open through October 20th for Duval County Check at http://www.regi.biz/RCFC_Registration.html. There is no charge to participate in County Checks, but pre-registration is required. Please contact Jennifer Hewett-Apperson at (904) 279-0885, extension 104, if you would like additional information regarding the County Check events. Additional information about Reality Check First Coast, including results of the multi-county event held on May 21, 2009, may be found at www.realitycheckfirstcoast.com.