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# Imagine to announce seven big ideas Wednesday

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#### By RYAN BRINKS

After months of public creativity and input, and on a symbolic date this week, community leaders will unveil the seven big ideas to guide Marshalltown into the future.

"Get ready, Marshalltown, your world is about to change," said the steering committee of the Imagine 2011 campaign in previewing Wednesday's announcement of the final seven ideas during the Central Iowa Fair.

"Some big ideas are in store for the city and citizens are going to be wowed," said Sue Martin, committee member.

A program beginning at 6:54 p.m. on the Consumer's Energy Stage will culminate in a reading of the list at 7:11 p.m.

The final seven big ideas on how to help make Marshalltown a better place to live, work and raise a family were arrived at through a process that started last fall with an initial brainstorming of more than 3,000 ideas submitted by residents throughout the area.

A 15-member selection committee was named in January to narrow down the long list of ideas, and it met at least once, and many times twice a week, to winnow them down to 100.

Citizens were then asked to vote in April for their top 21 ideas from the list of 100 through a dual voting process that involved hand-held voting devices monitored by the Vernon Research Group and online voting made available through BDH Technology.

The selection committee has since worked together to define the final seven big ideas.

After Wednesday, however, that committee will no longer have a direct role in implementing the seven big ideas. The implementation role will be left to members of the community, whose ideas they were to begin with.

Contact Ryan Brinks at 641-753-6611 or rbrinks@ timesrepublican.com

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