Education, culture, and history are essential components of Fort Lupton’s civic identity and economic sustainability. Fort Lupton is fortunate to have a healthy relationship with the presence of Weld County School District Re-8 and Aims Community College. This synergistic relationship has resulted in substantial contributions to the community. For example, during Blue Devil Pride Day, the high school students spend an entire day helping clean the community and on Youth in Government Day, middle school students spend a day with Fort Lupton Staff learning how the City operates. In addition, Aims Community College, one of the largest and most comprehensive two-year colleges in Colorado, teaches everyone from recent high school graduates to senior corporate officials. It even teaches first-graders how to draw in the summer College for Kids program. This educational system also helps people learn about, appreciate and contribute to Fort Lupton’s culture and history.

Fort Lupton residents understand that a quality education system helps attract and retain both businesses and citizens. They believe it is becoming increasingly important to provide learning opportunities for people of all ages. When asked what the number one issue facing Fort Lupton today is, over eighty-five percent (85%) thought that it is very important to continue to improve K-12 schools. Providing educational opportunities for preschoolers and adults also ranked highly.

Current and future growth in Fort Lupton offers an excellent opportunity to showcase the culture and history of the City while strengthening the education sector and preparing it for more students in the future. However, of all the challenges that face education in the Weld County School District Re-8, none is more pressing than the projected growth in the number of students. As evidenced by proposed annexations and subdivisions, there will be a need to develop additional facilities to accommodate growth. It will be critical for the School District, Aims and the City to work closely together to address this challenge and to instill in students a love of learning that will extend throughout their lives.

Guiding Principles

Preserve Small Town Culture
- Maintain strong connections between citizens and groups (chamber, seniors, schools, etc)
- Sustain pride in the appearance of homes and businesses
- Incorporate local art into the built environment
- Promote healthy, safe neighborhoods

Make Fort Lupton a Comfortable Place for Everyone
- Support all ages, ethnicities, cultures and income groups and encourage a spirit of openness and opportunity

Grow from the Core

Focus on Downtown

Create an Interconnected, Robust, and Attractive Transportation Network

Become an Educational City
- Strengthen the partnerships with Aims College and the School District
- Interpret the history, culture and nature of the area
- Incorporate public education in all public spaces
- Preserve and build on Fort Lupton’s history
- Promote life-long learning

Embrace the South Platte River Corridor
- Highlight the historic fort

Encourage Environmental Sustainability

Source: Metrowest Newspaper, Gene Sears
Future growth will also help to provide more cultural opportunities. During the public involvement process, fifty-nine percent (59%) of Fort Lupton residents who participated in a workshop noted that there were not enough cultural opportunities. Many citizens felt that it is important to learn about Fort Lupton’s unique history. They enjoy activities like Trapper Days and the Heritage Fair at the historic Fort Lupton and other opportunities to bring the community together in celebration, bolster the local economy, and provide a positive experience for everyone. The goals, policies, and strategies that follow are based on the citizens’ desires and are designed to help facilitate quality education, cultural activities, and exhibit Fort Lupton’s history.

Related Plans
Fort Lupton Historic Preservation Plan

ECH Policy 1.1: Support Weld County School District Re-8’s Fort Lupton efforts to achieve its six core goals:

- Goal 1: Improve student achievement and close the gap.
- Goal 2: Accelerate English language acquisition.
- Goal 3: Set high expectations for all.
- Goal 4: Improve relationships and increase involvement.
- Goal 5: Improve staff retention.
- Goal 6: Attract and retain students.

ECH Strategy 1.1.1: Collaborate with the School District to encourage parent, volunteer, business and community involvement in education and the schools.

ECH Policy 1.2: Continue to cultivate the City’s relationship with the School District, the Weld County Library District and Aims Community College to promote life-long learning.

ECH Strategy 1.2.1: Foster effective communication amongst the City and the School District Re-8 by continuing to: include them in meetings, participate in the School District’s biannual Community Summit meetings and by utilizing the entities’ websites to publicize important community information.

ECH Strategy 1.2.2: Continue to support activities that raise the community’s awareness about students and help students establish positive relationships with the community including Youth
in Government Day, the Youth Job Fair, before- and after-school enrichment activities and Blue Devil Pride Day.

**ECH Strategy 1.2.3:** Work with the School District, Aims Community College and the Chamber of Commerce to provide students access to and the opportunity to work with successful community member mentors.

**ECH Strategy 1.2.4:** Work with Aims, the School District, the Recreation District and the Weld County Library District to promote collaboration and innovation in providing educational, vocational and enrichment activities accessible for all children and adults, including those who are disabled, older, of lower income and working.

REF: Economic Development Strategy 1.2.7

**ECH Policy 2.1:** Whenever possible, schools and neighborhood parks should be located together to provide recreational opportunities and to promote sharing of facilities.

**ECH Strategy 2.1.1:** Identify and consider any opportunities to assist or coordinate with local schools whenever the City makes capital improvements in a neighborhood.

**ECH Strategy 2.1.2:** Investigate the possibility of developing multi-use facilities with the School District and Aims that can accommodate learning by day and community endeavors by evening or weekend.

**ECH Policy 2.2:** The City will help preserve and celebrate Fort Lupton’s cultural diversity and history.

**ECH Strategy 2.2.1:** Collaborate with the South Platte Valley Historical Society (SPVHS), the Historic Preservation Board, the Quality of Life Committee and other interested citizens and nonprofit groups to celebrate Fort Lupton’s history, to continue events such as Trapper Days and the Fort Lupton Heritage Fair and to restore significant historical features such as the Donelson House and the Fort Lupton Historic Park.

**ECH Strategy 2.2.2:** Encourage new developments to include art, interpretive signs and other neighborhood features that pay tribute to Fort Lupton’s culture diversity and history.
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND HISTORY

Goal 3
Promote the Varied Cultures in the Area.

ECH Strategy 2.2.3: Incorporate Fort Lupton’s culture and history into the banner project.

ECH Strategy 2.2.4: Work with the Historic Preservation Board and SPVHS on education programs.

ECH Policy 3.1: Engage all citizens in community activities.

ECH Strategy 3.1.1: Continue to work with interested citizens, students, etc. to help plan events related to culture (i.e. dance/dinner for Cinco De Mayo, music, sports, cook offs, etc.).

ECH Strategy 3.1.2: Encourage the Arts Council to involve local artists in developing murals, sculptures and art projects for the community.

ECH Strategy 3.1.3: Collaborate with local farmers to establish a farmer’s market downtown.

ECH Strategy 3.1.4: Institute a city-wide festival that showcases the City’s businesses, citizen success stories, etc.