

# HUGHES

## Arkansas



*Plan "Snapshot"*

It's true that Hughes has seen hard times. High poverty rates, high unemployment, declining population and income levels well below the state and national averages have crippled our community and caused the loss of important services. Businesses have closed. After the railroad pulled out, our commercial district emptied. At times, it seems as if all hope for a promising future is a foolish dream.

Yet, hope sustains us. It drives us to create a better future for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. It's our undying hope that leads us to where we are today – to a time for renewal, rebirth and transformation in Hughes.

We cannot change our past. It's an indelible part of who we are. However, we should view the setbacks of our past as a snapshot in time rather than a foreshadowing of what our future holds. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." The decline that has led us to this precarious point does not have to be permanent.

Today we stand on a threshold of opportunity. We have the power to change our path and reinvent a new, vibrant Hughes. Coming generations will look back on what we do today and reflect upon our efforts. When they do, we want them to do so with wonder in their hearts at the tremendous progress we've made.

There is a fire that burns inside all of us who call Hughes our home. It's a passion to restore our community, to rid our town of blight, to provide the best education to our children and to ensure opportunity for any individual willing to work. It's a desire to provide wealth beyond monetary definitions and health beyond medical terminology. It's a hunger to instill a new spirit of optimism in our town.

That fire has been smoldering, waiting for the right time for the flames to reignite. The time has come. Each and every one of us has something to offer. Let's fan the flames of enthusiasm and commitment and turn our hope for a bright future into reality.

### PLAN DIRECTOR

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*Mayor*

*City of Hughes*

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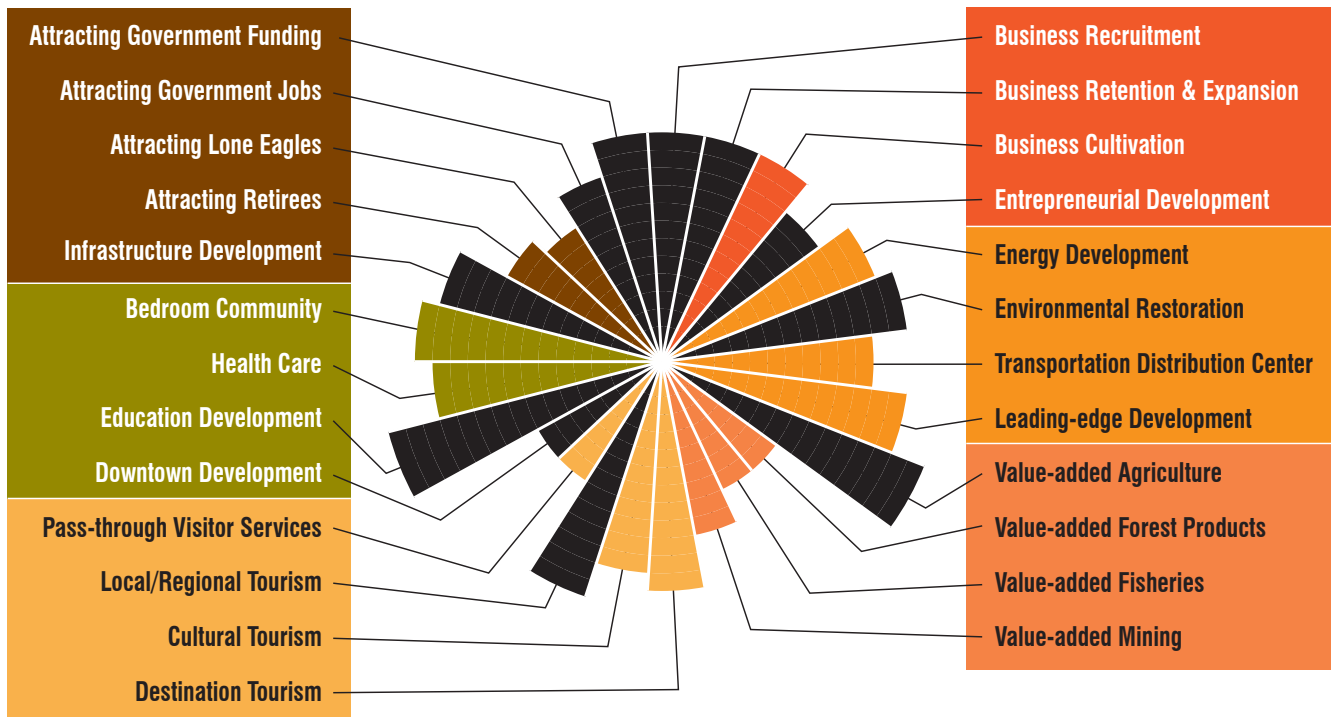
*Heifer International*

**Senchel Matthews**

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## HUGHES STRATEGY “THUMBPRINT”

The strategy “thumbprint” depicts twenty-five community and economic development strategies in terms of Hughes’ potential to successfully implement each of the strategies. The longer the “spoke,” the greater the likelihood that Hughes could see success in pursuing that strategy. Black spokes indicate strategies that have been selected for implementation by the Hughes Steering Committee.



SELECTED STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES	
Attracting Funding	Coordination of opportunities to seek outside funding assistance.
Beautification & Housing	Clean-up of dilapidated homes and buildings; code enforcement.
Business Recruitment	Preparation of industrial sites; recruitment of service businesses.
Education Development	Development of countywide district, training programs and human capital.
Entrepreneurial Development	Resource development for potential entrepreneurs.
Environmental Restoration	Clean-up and redevelopment of brownfield properties.
Health Information & Services	Feasibility study for small clinic to operate in Hughes.
Infrastructure Development	Improvement of all infrastructure, including telecommunications.
Parks & Recreation	Development of publicly owned properties into recreation facilities.
Senior Citizen Activity Center	Establishment of a community center with activities for our seniors.
Value-added Agriculture	Development of local growers to provide healthy food.
Working Together	Leadership development and citizen engagement.
Youth Activities	Provision of more, healthier activities for our youth.

