



Co-Hosted North Beacon Hill Council & El Centro de la Raza Community Engagement Event
Plaza Roberto Maestas
Community Feedback
June 19, 2012

Meeting Notes:

Environmental Design Considerations:

- Concern about creating vibrant landscaping around center. Directing storm water to planters/storm water runoff.
- Great opportunity for rainwater capture. 1st-irrigation, 2nd-flushing toilets in cultural center.
- Water feature in courtyard representing 4 Amigos
- More plumbing fixtures on women's side (bathrooms) of cultural center
- Solar panels-incentives to buy Washington state produced solar panels – rate of pay is higher than additional costs
- Below grade parking garage serves as heat source for heating water for all units – domestic hot water
- Flow through ventilation primary source of cost savings, rainwater collection is second in savings. Central closed corridors present heat/electrical energy-significant design change.
- LED & compact fluorescent energy efficient lighting
- Zip Car
- Bike racks, bike storage room for residents, bike lockers for public use
- Deciduous trees planted at southern elevation for shade in summer, sunlight in winter
- Look at possible grants for geothermal energy option
- Concern about air pollution and air quality related to increased traffic
- Rainwater collection and storage from roofs and at the central plaza feature
- Rooftop gardens please
- Evacuated solar hot water tubes for hot water pre-heat
- Question of the cost of which sustainable features will be transferred to residents and which features will save them money?
- Traffic & General concerns:
 - increase volume noise pollution
 - rush hour traffic increase
 - light rail, residential, vendors, push carts
 - 3rd runway – noise pollution increase, relationship to increase rates of respiratory diseases
 - maintenance of landscape, historically neglected

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- security in greater community
- possible decreased property value of existing housing
- festival day events impact on traffic & parking
- possible increase in emergency vehicles, delivery vehicles
- visitors of residences
- six story building block views
- impact of high density
- low-income residents friends & visitors, possible safety issues
- if 16th is changed to 2-way where will existing home owners park?
- neighborhood characteristics, multi-generational households, multiple vehicles.
- single family homes up to five or more vehicles

Housing – Location, Arrangement and Amenities:

- Open plan concept
- Commissary with kitchen in community center rented out for home caterers & carts – revenue generating. For flexibility - dry storage & flexible refrigeration.
- Open concept interior design
- Portion designated for seniors or people with small children
- Noise insulating walls, windows and doors facing the public plaza
- Perhaps make the courtyard more shallow by one floor?
- Areas outside but under cover along the plaza
- Two building concept with families in one building and seniors & singles in another building.
- Laundry facility on family courtyard
- Traffic & General concerns:
 - possible decreased value of existing housing stock
 - increase number of residents in a space that previously had none. 115 units = as many as 500 plus individuals; families visiting, traffic pollution, safety in larger community due to “magnet feature” of businesses and plaza
- Share car to mitigate driving
- Light rail contribution
- Lack of view
- Trucks off 17th a concern
- Concern about property values
- Historical landscape
- Landscaping
- Retain RP2 parking
- How many parking will be allowed per family?

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- Cars & pollution
- Neighbors notified of construction times, etc.
- Parking concerns
- Don't want to pay (for parking) but if low cost willing to pay
- Obstruction of view of neighbors
- Possible increase of noise level
- More public input from neighbors wanted
- Parking concern – limited street parking & traffic congestion
- Define income eligibility for potential residents
- Attendees like hardwood floors
- Latino attendees don't like dishwashers
- Green wall & mosaics on stair towers at plaza

Business Opportunities – Retail Spaces:

- Micro banking
 - cash safes
 - payee services
 - check cashing
- Verity credit union spaces – currently at V.A.
- internet provider, improve service
- construction impacts on business
 - mitigation plan
 - touch base with local businesses
- vendor carts – custom design?
- limited corporate lease of carts
- round spaces & forms on buildings
- wellness center with massage, movement, yoga & spa
- micro business opportunities – time sharing space
- bank-on for people without traditional accounts
- **Types of Businesses**
- BECU
- Health Center
- Community Clinic/SEAMAR/IDHC
- Ice Cream!!
- Bakery
- Info Center that Supports Business in Neighborhood / Corner?

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- Support Businesses during construction
- **Events**
- Movie Night! World Cup!
- Potluck Community
- Craft Fair----Bazaars
- Bike Racks
- Products like this 'Micro Vendors'//Landmark attraction-vendors destination of city
- Small businesses/balanced with stable retailers
- Anchor businesses to create stability
- 1200-1400 --Cafe?
- Loft spaces for business
- Live work spaces?
- 1000 SF good size for small business
- Like the Food Cart but need variety--no competition
- Evening business hours--2 AM
- Worried about dead space
- Awnings will attract customers to businesses
- Like round columns
- No security grilles/gates (pike place ok)
- 'Satellite Macpherson's!!'
- Toy Store-Bookstore?
- ATM
- Outdoor Furniture great--all season
- Public art
- Art Walks
- Fountain/Memorial

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Community Amenities- Main Plaza & Connections

- Like the wider plaza
- Marketplace---weekends?
- Like the iron archways
- Softening
- Noise Level—Neighbor concerns
- Practice space for musicians (acoustic)
- During construction --limit disruption of Festival Street
- Beacon Rocks

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- 3 Big Music Festivals
- Impromptu theater spaces
- Interactive space make the aesthetics support this
- Culture Center Kitchen designed to hold El Centro's cooking class. cooking school and equipped for catering for large events
- Parking for large events
- Stage area closer to the Festival street. Festivals have many events going on simultaneously
- Aesthetics should reinforce interactive relationships, concentric circles, caracoles snails
- Concern-maybe the rooms or space not enough to explore people about their culture
- Snail inspired imagery - Concentric circles worked into the theme
- Big Screen- concerned about involvement of Comcast. They have previously pulled their support from projects based on the content (effectively trying to impose censorship). They have created bad relations with the community - such as Reel Girls.
- I'd like the idea of cultural aspect to represent the diverse population
- The main intention of the Plaza space should be that interactions between people arise. Celebration, Art
- Love the possibilities of what the cultural center can hold
- The landscaping can be done by master gardeners, community participants, residents to maintain.
- What about shade/cover in the plaza for events sports during rainy days? (It's very open!)
- Main Plaza-Assure that the decorative elements respect the community.
- Advantage- It has a good cultural diversity, so people can share I take different culture among others.
- Cultural Center- We need a performing arts center that can accommodate 200 people and that can provide the physical space to music bands, theatre groups, community events. A space with a stage.
- Performance lineages/art thru out plaza
- Market place similar to Pike's place?
- Security around the arcade area @ night
- Can we get local artists to help design ideas for the decor portion of the buildings/plaza?
- Cultural center- Performing Arts center, please, consider the acoustics! A performing arts center w/bad acoustics is a big downside.
- Dancing feet: salsa patterns
- Celebration space
- Building corners intrude into people space / pinches into 2 spaces (see diagram)

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- Cultural center- should provide a space to host permanently community groups (graffiti, arts, music, circus, theatre).
- Groups that are permanently visible to the community and especially to the youth. That way they are accessible to the community year round and is very well connected w/community groups. They are a good resource.
- More thought should go into the Plaza paving pattern as it relates to the Station and Festival street
- Instrument storage.
- Design- avoid stereotypical Latino design images, Diverse population involve local artists including graffiti
- Concentric circles as theme idea
- Dance theme celebratory space
- Color
- Important to honor 4 amigos in water feature
- Fountain to Plaza entrance
- Space for youth- I do not see spaces dedicated to youth. Basketball court, skate board park, community center that hosts after schools programs. Youth is a group that desperately needs a space like this in this neighborhood
- Computer Labs
- Media making lab for youth w/digital media editing stations
- There needs to be a very tall narrow structure similar in form to the stair towers out at the street edge of the plaza (see diagram)
- Locked in vs. being pushed out Uwajimaya vs. PRM
- Childcare
- Sense of identity belonging connection to the site. Avoid spaces that are too open or cluttered.
- Youth Programs
- Underserved age group
- After school Programs
- Cultural Center
- Performance
- Practice
- Transparency
- Flexible stage space
- Community Kitchen

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Community Amenities - Cultural Center & Childcare

- Exercise/Wellness Room
- Commercial Kitchen--Teaching



- Round Columns
- Keeping Grillwork open late (2 AM)
- Business Hours (How Late?)
- Concern about obstructing view/use of plaza space
- Parking entry or here "Arterial" (preferred)**Not to 17th St. Residents (17th Ave So)
- Perhaps move further south (plaza)
- Intersection issues
- Concern about parking entrance (1 way) (DOT was preventing 16th from being an Arterial)
- Concern about depth of Family courtyard
- Location of stairs
- Need for Traffic Calming
- Flexible Stage (space)
- Acoustics Lighting
- Green room for performers
- See thru interaction between cultural center & plaza
- practice space for musicians
- theater stage - flexible, maybe movable stage in the center
- Lots of electrical outlets
- Cultural Space- assign to space for artists to exhibit their work, with the possibility of selling their crafts. Artist's collective space.
- Lighting open space in childcare
- Cultural Center... Please, be careful w/ the design and art used to decorate the place. Latino America is very diverse. Even Mexico is not only about mariachi. Seattle Fandango Project is a group that has worked closely w/El Centro
- Very Low stage for performance, flexible seating
- Music instrument storage (El Centro instruments)
- Connect the aesthete theme of conviviality together/ child care center
- Exhibit space needs speakers for music exhibits
- Lots of color
- Climatized storage space for Son Jaracho instruments and space for TARIMA-- Dance Platform
- Sport area for kids.
- Salsa Nights in the summer
- Rehearsal space for musicians for Simultaneous practices
- Words inscribed w/in site
- Quality sound speakers, mixing board, stage lights

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- Work w/Graffiti Artists Orion Center (hidmo, 206 zulu)
- Simplicity, less is more (childcare)
- Projector and screen for Film Festivals & Presentations for inside cultural center
- Childcare/create sense of belonging & identity
- More curved lines in the entrances and windows Especially in businesses
- Glass..lots of glass in the wall connected to the plaza
- Cultural Center.. Divders that can be removed and can provide acoustic separation Big space....multiple small spaces
- Climatized storage room for instruments.
- Small figures of Dancers & Musicians to support celebratory feel and groups coming together
- Need to create non-cliched images of Latinos. Check americansabor.org for inventive way of Pan-Latino culture.
- Make the Cultural Center friendly & open to children & youth

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