Meeting Minutes

Participants: Lesley Roth
Purpose: Public Workshop #1
Location: Attachments:

Date: 6/24/2014
Project: U of C Arts Block
Project Number: 2014304
Copy to:

Item #: Discussion: Action by:

1. **Activities the Participants currently like to do in the neighborhood:**
   
   1.1. Outdoor Exercise, Dog Walking, Bird Watching
   1.2. Visit the DuSable Museum
   1.3. Eat at local restaurants: Ms. Lees, Ms. Biscuits
   1.4. Shop
   1.5. Use gas station
   1.6. Laundry
   1.7. Use Washington Park
   1.8. Visit the Michigan Theater
   1.9. Gallery Openings
   1.10. Bronzeville Community Garden
   1.11. Events at Hall Library
   1.12. Poetry Readings
   1.13. Arts classes at the DuSable and in Bronzeville

2. **General thoughts for partnership for creating the arts/cultural district:**
   
   2.1. Engage CPS students in the arts activities
   2.2. Reach out to Chicago arts institutions and museums
   2.3. Partner with the Parks District
   2.4. Partner with the DuSable Museum
   2.5. Create and Business Entrepreneur Training / Leadership Incubator

3. **Comments on the existing incubator:**
   
   3.1. Not well known within the neighborhood
   3.2. Need to make more family friendly activities
   3.3. Want uplifting art with a positive message
   3.4. Need to make more activities at more times of the day to reach a wider audience (after work)
   3.5. Create arts activities that celebrate the history and culture of the neighborhood

4. **Important Considerations for the future arts and culture district:**
   
   4.1. Policing of Washington Park / hours
   4.2. Any new facilities should celebrate and represent the full history of the neighborhood (including other ethnicities who have migrated there such as Filipinos)
   4.3. There is a strong need in the neighborhood for a business incubator; this should be considered to come before the arts uses to help fund arts and cultural development.

The above constitutes the writer's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached. Should any of the participants disagree with this meeting record, contact the writer in writing within five days of the date of this document. Otherwise, the meeting minutes shall stand as the official record of the meeting described above.

Architecture: Solomon Cordwell Buenz www.scb.com
Planning: Chicago T 312.898.1100
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4.4. Arts training for youth is a valuable way to teach good life skills, and to foster creative thinking.

4.5. Any new facilities should address the needs of all age groups, and encourage interaction between seniors and youth and the sharing of cultural knowledge. Create “Age Free Zones.”

4.6. Employ local talent, not just artists but also designers, construction workers and service industry workers.

5. **How participants would like to engage in arts and culture:**

5.1. Attend plays, theater, poetry, dance performances
5.2. Learn - take classes about cooking, painting, acting
5.3. Attend movies in the park
5.4. Participate in jazz and other music performances
5.5. Shop or dine out in the district
5.6. Learn business/marketing skills for artist
5.7. Attend outdoor art/food events, food trucks, arts festivals
5.8. Host fashion shows where up and coming neighborhood fashion designers can show their designs
5.9. Participate in cultural theme nights: Filipino Heritage Night, Jazz History Night, Families Night
5.10. Join a Boulevard dance party
5.11. Seasonal activities such as a pumpkin patch, corn maze, ice sculptures, or a winter arts festival
5.12. Celebrations
5.13. Yoga Classes
5.14. Book Clubs
5.15. Cooking classes
5.16. Kids classes
   - Not enough classes for youth
5.17. Music mentorship program
   - Teach youth about history of music
   - Expose youth to different kinds of music
5.18. Teaching opportunities for people in the community
5.19. ‘Taste of Garfield Boulevard’
   - Teach culinary arts and feature food on Garfield
5.20. Jobs training/work opportunities
5.21. Host comedians/spoken word
   - Similar to ‘Jokes and Notes’

6. **New program elements that Participants would like to see in the neighborhood:**

6.1. Grocery store / food market (mentioned at all the tables)
6.2. Coffee Shop / Cafe
6.3. Dog Park
6.4. Enhancements to the design of the CTA station (like at IIT)
6.5. More retail

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6.6. Safer pedestrian crossings to the park, slowed vehicular traffic
6.7. Improve safety through better lighting
6.8. Cinema / Film Center / Movie Theater
6.9. Art and craft supply stores

6.10. Performance spaces
- Community oriented/accessible
6.11. Divvy Station
6.12. Greater mix of uses
- Closest library is on 61st and Cottage Grove
6.14. Quality commercial/retail space
6.15. Computer store
6.16. Community center
6.17. Soup kitchen
6.18. Shared commercial kitchen/Co-op
6.19. Community Resource Center
6.20. Welcome/Visitor Center in historic CTA station
6.21. Information Technology Hub
6.22. Job Training Center
6.23. Dance hall/Club
- Blues/jazz theme
6.24. Shared parking
6.25. Farmers market
6.26. Community garden

6.27. Exercise facility
6.28. Culinary School
6.29. Micro-lending for small business

7. Design Ideas, Concepts and Elements for the new arts/cultural district:

7.1. Needs a ‘Wow’ attraction, something to attract a broad range of visitors
7.2. Visitor Center, create a tourist friendly environment
7.3. Bowling alley with local art theme
7.4. Community Garden, fresh foods market, local foods store, co-op kitchen, or Culinary Institute
7.5. Buildings should be transparent, so the neighborhood can see the arts activities in process
7.6. District should be colorful, sustainable and exciting
7.7. Create and arts library, a gathering space for studying/reading for the neighborhood
7.8. Nightlife, tied to the history of the corridor
7.9. Shakespeare/theater performances in the park
7.10. Create a center that teaches youth creative arts skills and positive life skills through a fun and interactive Video Game format. This would be a fun way to get kids off the streets to engage in the arts community.
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7.11. Utilize technology to engage youth
7.12. Create a space where seniors in the community can teach traditional arts and crafts such as quilting, pottery, painting, printmaking and wood working to children. Share cultural knowledge.
7.13. Create a mobile performance stage that can drive around the district / neighborhood.
7.14. Create spaces and activities for families with small children
7.15. Create an “age free zone” where all ages and generations get together
7.16. Engage the 5 senses
   - Sight – Arts Incubator
   - Sound – Performance
   - Touch – Kids and Art
   - Taste – Café
7.17. Transparency – buildings should have lots of light, windows and ‘bring the outside in’
7.18. Use color
7.19. Use traffic calming with curb bump-outs, raised crosswalks, colored crosswalks, signals and more stop signs.
7.20. LEED certified buildings
7.21. Rooftop gardens/green roofs
7.22. Alternative energy sources – solar power
7.23. History of Washington Park

8. Design Ideas for the landscape, streetscape and public realm:

8.1. Light up Hopscotch
8.2. Jumbo Chess boards
8.3. Light installations along the boulevard
8.4. Flower gardens, landscape, botanic garden, sculpture garden
8.5. Quotes from famous neighborhood residents, on buildings or sidewalk
8.6. A historical timeline of the community that celebrates all the diverse cultures, incomes and activities of the area.
8.7. Create exciting building facades with positive messages for the community, use large photographs to help activate blank walls.
8.8. Create a fountain or sculptural water feature, places that children can understand and play
8.9. Digital displays that change often
8.10. Median sculpture display that honors the Great Migration
8.11. Sculptural pedestrian bridge that leads to Washington Park
8.12. Reduce the traffic lanes to slow traffic
8.13. Widen sidewalks
8.14. Signage and wayfinding
8.15. High-low streetlights
8.16. More activity in boulevard
8.17. Improve the proportion of buildings to the width of the street
8.18. Preserve historic architecture

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8.19. Enhance gateways with art features and signage
8.20. Murals that depict positive messages, Hope. Get young and old artist involved
8.21. Change lighting to articulate different use zones
8.22. Piano in the park