

# Visioning Workshop 2: Summary

The City of Minneapolis and the engagement team (4RM+ULA and the Cultural Wellness Center) conducted Visioning Workshop 2 on June 25, 2024.

Approximately 75 people attended the event at The Square at the Chicago Ave Shops. At the event we discussed what matters most to the community, and focused on memorials, the Peoples Way and the Right-of-Way at George Floyd Square.

A brief presentation was shared by the City of Minneapolis and the Cultural Wellness Center identifying the agenda and sharing early studies and information relative to the three projects in the square: Memorials, Peoples' Way and Right-of-Way. Jordan also shared first responder response and the building of the fists at the intersection. After the presentation, the previous groups established in Workshop 1, met and discussed the three projects and visioning for the Square.

Group A:  
Victor Jones - Leader, Rebecca Parrell - Note Taker

Group B:  
Stefanie Levi - Leader, Nathan Koster - Note Taker

Group C:  
Phi Khaler - Leader, Lyssa Washington - Note Taker

Group D:  
Lynn Hinkle - Leader, Noa Havillo - Note Taker

Group E:  
Did not meet

Group F:  
Zena Kocher - Leader, Mary Altman - Note Taker

Group G:  
Atum Azzahir - Leader, Prince Corbett - Note Taker

## Highlights and Themes from Workshop 2

### General Highlights and Themes

- There is mistrust with the process and mistrust with the systems. Encourage council members to be present at the visioning workshops.
  - Provide transparency about the process and specifics about recommendations that come out of this work.
  - Identify how "systems" will change.
- GFS is an authentic place created by the community; any improvements need to keep significant portions and the spirit of what is already there.
- The pain is real. It is what has brought so many people to the Square.
  - Healing happens in the Square.
- Healing cannot happen without repair.
- Reparations were referenced in multiple notes.
- Supporting Black businesses and community members is essential to any improvements that happen.
- Prioritize people.

### Memorial Specific Highlights and Themes

- The memorial is the entire Square extending from fist to fist in all directions. Including the Peoples' Way and Say Their Names Cemetery.
- Memorialize the process and conversations - demonstrate accountability.
- GFS is a sacred place that acknowledges all of the stolen lives.
- Community gardens are part of the memorial.
- See next pages for additional Memorial highlights.

### Peoples' Way Specific Highlights and Themes

- Include community gardens in the final plans.
- Maintain space for visitors to gather.

### Right-of-Way Specific Highlights and Themes

- There is no consensus on whether the Square should be closed, limited or open. Strong opinion exist for closing the street and keeping it open.
- Pedestrian safety is paramount in any improvements to the Square.

### Contact

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact Office of Public Service, Alexander Kado, 38thandChicago@minneapolismn.gov, 612-673-3080. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850.

Para ayuda, llame al 311. Rau kev pab hu 311. Hadii aad caawimaad u baahantahay wac 311.



## Highlights and Themes from Workshop 2 - Memorials Specific

### Memorial Specific Highlights and Themes

- It should not be a traditional memorial. It should be unique.
- It should be a living memorial with people at the center. It should change over time and allow for opportunities for expression and experimentation.
  - GFS is a living memorial.
  - The Peoples Way must continue to allow for a wide variety of human expression and be able to change over time.
  - Create videos of interviews, experiences, ideas, public testimony. Present these documents in a central place
  - “living memorial” - site to change based on the City Intentionality in painting the names, part of experience
  - “living art” and memorial - first experience “protest art” living breathing ; longest running occupation
  - GFS is an honest and authentic place and should remain so.
  - Memorialize conversation --> Accountability
  - Say Their Name site has been part of a personal daily meditation practice.
  - The gardens are such an important part of the memorial.
  - Grassroots and changing - platform for expressions to happen over time
  - outdoor memorial, expression to allow for mourning, mutual aid - sharing the abundance of community.
  - “Platform” instead of memorial - use of space in own way to express diverse experiences - supportive infrastructure to allow for expression
  - Memorial invokes the past. This is an active process.
  - It is an interactive space and place with the people at the center – it is more than just a physical place.
  - Centering life, express experiences.
- Locations: The memorial is the sum of its parts. the Peoples Way, Say Their Names Cemetery, the Names in the Street, everything. You can't take one part away and still have the same experience.
  - There is agreement that keeping the fists at the intersection is important. There is disagreement about vehicular traffic. The majority support some form of vehicular traffic.
- Consider the people who live here and move through the space daily, as well as the international visitors and youth. Consider their experiences and grief.
  - Some voices question how can we memorialize all of it? People live and work here. How can it also do the community justice for people living and moving in and through the space?
  - Justice and change are critically important, but the physical future of the streets at GFS and the Peoples Way must be more than remembrance and protest.
  - This is a crossroads where different communities come together.
  - Many visitors are weeping from the moment they see the start of the Square.
  - People come here to mourn, protest, express themselves because they don't have anywhere else to go (how this has become about many)
  - Involve youth.
- Memorialize the bodies stolen and be a voice for not killing black and brown people.
- Memorialize the murder, the organic community response and the movement generated, and continue to encourage this movement. (This is a clear theme from the last meeting as well.)
  - It is important that GFS continue to both remember all the black and brown at the hands of the government and demand justice, change, and an end to the killing.
  - Memorializing the spectacle murder of George Floyd, the collective international experience, the organic community response.
  - Death is what brought people here, move forward with love and healing
  - The idea for this space should include getting to know people, community and artists
  - holds up symbolically –
  - Ask Floyd family what would George want, and how to include his family?
  - Something that acknowledges the tragedy of what happens. Take the higher road and use this as a fulcrum to bridge the divide.
  - This is a place that signifies all of the stolen lives. Uprising from that.
  - We can build from that.
  - Will this space (the square) become a leading voice for not killing Black men?

## Highlights and Themes from Workshop 2 - Memorials Specific (Continued)

- That shows that there was a moment when things changed. Memorialize how the community came together.
- The space and people focused on justice
- Important and provides connectivity to larger story in the country and throughout the world
- Memorialize not just the spectacle murder, but the movement, honor it, facilitate the acceleration of this movement.
- Not just about George Floyd anymore
- Reminder of what happened here
- On going action
- See the history
- Bookmarked, honored and done
- But this is ongoing and work is not done - memorialize continuity Honor and keep that flame
- Create a space for reflection, pain and healing.
  - Not physical but real/raw for healing
  - How to create a sense of healing
  - Opportunity to reflect, healing,
  - Pain, connection and how people have come together
  - Pain from where we came from and healing
  - Keep healing going
- Possible City roles include funding, preservation and ensuring sustainability.
  - Some voices want the City to be involved in preserving what the community has built at GFS over the last four years.
  - Some voices want the City to take a larger role at the square with more funding now and into the future to ensure it is sustainable.
  - If the City wants to help, the City can give us money to do more.
  -
- Examples
  - Pittsburgh, Center for Media ( City building, a City park)
  - Lorraine Motel, The National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN
  - Montgomery Lynching Museum
  - Havey B Gantt Center, Charlotte NC
  - The Holocaust Museum
  - National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta
  - The Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C.
  - African American Museum
  - Apartheid Museum in South Africa
- Suggestions for existing memorials
  - In order to do that - you have to keep a lot of what is here today.
  - Key pieces (Angela and Paris) - sacred space at location where George Floyd died
  - Re-purpose art into infrastructure
  - Save what can be saved. There might be unique and creative ways of doing that.
  - Make names permanent, reduce maintenance and refreshing
- Suggestions for design
  - Physical ideas (fist, names, “movement”)
  - Walking bridge over intersection
  - Uncle Bob has a drawing of a large scale bust of George Floyd. One hand over the heart. One open. Names on his back. 26’ wide. 15’ high. Partly in the sidewalk, partly in the street. Would protect the memorials. Give them some shelter.
  - We could cut out the names of the street and put in colored names. Example on Selby avenue, off of Lexington. Bob has colored stains and paints to spray on the concrete permanently. We shouldn’t have to paint them every year.
  - Put in real stones at the flood pond. Sidewalk at flood pond is illegal and dangerous. Make it safe for people around the world.
  - Humanize the police officers. We need community officers.
  - Having it be a space that we cannot just drive over. Something of permanence.
  - One idea was to consider the drive itself through the Square as a possible memorial.
  - We need statues of prince and MLK.
  - Group member has concept proposal for speedway site
  - Cut out street location and bring to Peoples’ Way site, raise, add garden and 9 pillars for each minute
  - Add names from street to pillars
  - Art Gallery, conference center
  - Visual expression thru different medias storytelling and experience
- Miscleaneous
  - There was discussion about historical designation. If a designated historic site, there may be too many restrictions to how the square evolves over time. Agreement that the

## Highlights and Themes from Workshop 2 - Memorials Specific (Continued)

- square is historic but must also change over time.
- Future memorial; trigger
- Foundational information for public art and processes
- Movement still going because things/ needs haven't changed
- Are the memorial connected? Is there a reparation/cultural corridor? (Sabathani, Dreamland, The Coop, People's Way, Say Their Names Cemetery)
- We didn't ask to put in the community memorials.
- Having a competition where a local artist or artistic group is able to submit designs.
- Can we purify the water for people?

## General Feedback Received After Breakouts Groups

Additional feedback and summaries were provided after the breakout sessions. Some general themes and comments emerged and are highlighted below:

- Mixed feelings about vehicular access vs pedestrian only.
- Consider the experience of the memorial as you move through the space. If vehicles are allowed it should not be a typical driving experience.
- This place is about life, not just death
- Engage the youth
- 24 hr bathrooms should be included in the plans.
- Make the names in the street permanent.
- Need more BIPOC people in decision making process.
- Share videos, interviews, public testimonials.
- This is a living memorial and will change over time - plans need to accommodate that change.
- Consider who is showing up - who else do we need to engage?
- Discuss additional community priorities:
  - Anti-displacement
  - Affordable Housing
  - Community Health
- Vision statement from different groups:
  - "This is a place of pain, this is a place of possibility."
  - "Acknowledge stolen lives."
  - Place of sacredness and spirituality (health and wellness)
- We are at the epicenter and the trauma happened here. Do not need to compare with other places that have memorials.
- Peoples' Way timeline seems aggressive.
- Consider what happens above street - lighting, canopy . . .
- Consider Intermittent closing of street and options and opportunities for how people move through space.

Additional information:

- July 20th CVC meeting
- Business focus sessions being setup for July and August.
- 16-20 youth focus group being developed to meet in August and September.
- Agape office hours 6-8 PM (3741 Chicago Ave) Wednesdays ongoing.

## Engagement Timeline



## Group Breakout Session Highlights

### Group A

Victor Jones - Leader, Rebecca Parrell - Note Taker

#### General:

- There is significant mistrust that still exists with the process. There is mistrust of the City, elected officials, and organizations that have grown out of the devastation of George Floyd's murder.
- We need to remember and consider that people live in the square and surrounding the square. We need to consider the homes and lives of those closest to the square when making decisions.
- There are significant financial hardships of residents, businesses, and the community members that have historical roots and present-day realities that also must be considered. The area needs home repair funds and tax relief.
- The MN History Center was proposed as a possible recourse for planning and designing at the square.
- The City should buy the church property across the street from the Peoples Way.
- The small group conversation covered a lot of topics but did NOT talk about how African Americans feel about what happened on May 25, 2020, which is the whole reason George Perry Floyd Square exists in the first place.

#### Memorials/Peoples Way:

- GFS is an honest and authentic place and should remain so. In order to do that - you have to keep a lot of what is here today.
- The memorial is the whole square, all the blocks, the Peoples Way, Say Their Names Cemetery, the Names in the Street, everything. The memorial is the sum of its parts. You can't take one part away and still have the same experience.
- The whole square and its people are art and memorial. It is an interactive space and place with the people at the center - it is more than just a physical place.
- GFS is a living memorial.
- Some voices question how can we memorialize all of it? People live and work here. How can it also do the community justice for people living and moving in and through the space?
- It is important that GFS continue to both remember all the black and brown bodies stolen

at the hands of the government and demand justice, change, and an end to the killing.

- Many visitors are weeping from the moment they see the start of the Square.
- Justice and change are critically important, but the physical future of the streets at GFS and the Peoples Way must be more than remembrance and protest.
- There was discussion about historical designation. If a designated historic site, there may be too many restrictions to how the square evolves over time. Agreement that the square is historic but must also change over time.
- Some voices want the City to be involved in preserving what the community has built at GFS over the last four years.
- Some voices want the City to take a larger role at the square with more funding now and into the future to ensure it is sustainable.
- An example from Pittsburgh was shared about the Center for Media Arts where there is a City building, a City park, and more altogether becoming a place for residents and visitors.
- The Peoples Way must continue to allow for a wide variety of human expression and be able to change over time.

#### Right-of-Way:

- All agree that the Basic Requirements listed are good.
- Disagreement on whether vehicle traffic (and parking) is important for business success in the Square.
- If the Square is closed to traffic, there is a change to traffic on nearby streets and alleys making other areas less safe for residents.
- There seems to be agreement that keeping the fist at the intersection is important while also continuing to allow for vehicle traffic to move through the square.
- Some voices question whether Option 3, all traffic is needed.
- Some voices believe that the square is sacred ground and traffic is a desecration of the memorial because the memorial is the entire Square.
- Some voices express the idea that having traffic doesn't overburden side streets, allows more visibility to the square, the memorials, and what it

## Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

offers.

- All agree that the current operation of the streets in the square is not safe. If all traffic is allowed to continue to there must be significant traffic calming measures taken to reduce speed and increase pedestrian safety.
- Some believed that opening the street to traffic did not make it safer. Others thought it did improve some elements of safety.
- Some traffic safety concerns today are that there is so much to look at and observe in the Square that drivers are not paying attention to driving because they have so much to look at.
- One idea was to consider the drive itself through the Square as a possible memorial.
- There was support for not treating each block of the square the same as the others. Some blocks may be open to all traffic where other blocks could be pedestrian mall.
- It is important to be able to access the space via transit and walking/rolling, a bus stop could possibly be respectfully integrated on 39th to take people to and through the square.
- As a resident who's seen the entire evolution of the square I've observed that an increase in mainstream traffic has actually improved some elements of safety, and occasional visitors wouldn't be aware of that.

### Group B

Stefanie Levi - Leader, Nathan Koster - Note Taker

Memorials:

- It's what you make of it
- Physical ideas (fist, names, "movement")
- Memorialize conversation --> Accountability
- Create videos of interviews, experiences, ideas, public testimony
  - Present these documents in a central place
- Creating pathways for youth, not physical but real/raw for healing
- Walking bridge over intersection
- How to create a sense of healing
- Death is what brought people here, move forward with love and healing
- Re-purpose art into infrastructure
- Centering life, express experiences

Peoples Way:

- Conflicted about People's Way --> New Space or Maintain
  - Keep elements of building, but need even more for intersection
- Keep authentic
- Timeline is aggressive --> What do people want?
- Need a vision, not a need to define
- Can the city sell and lease the land back?
- Maintain space for visitors of coming together w/ focus on justice
- 24 hour accessible bathrooms! And not just porta potties and open to community
- Detox the soil where the gas tanks were buried
- Other cities have memorialized GF, but don't compare and take time to other areas
- Still traumatized
- Partnership w/ Sabathani? Or Calvary?
  - Build, monitor, expand.
- Connect with institutions and history/culture

Right-of-Way:

- The space and people focused on justice
- Make names permanent, reduce maintenance and refreshing
- Cobblestone, other materials
- Open to people --> Re-think Framing
- Fists should stay
- Rise up (vertical construction over the street!)
- Prioritize People
- Make it a destination
- Involve youth, add to teams with compensation
- Pedestrian safety for people throughout the square
- Greenery!
- Can cars contribute to the experience of moving through the site?

### Group C

Phi Khaler - Leader, Lyssa Washington - Note Taker

What are we memorializing?

- Pain from where we came from and healing
- Keep healing going
- On going action
- Pain, connection and how people have come



## Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

- together
- Seen the history
- Bookmarked, honored and done
  - But this is ongoing and work is not done - memorialize continuity
- Not just about George Floyd anymore
- Honor and keep that flame
- Reminder of what happened here

### General:

- Systems haven't changed
- Grow and raise the quality of life in neighborhood place for GF memorial as part of it but not key and central
- 7 issues that are seminal and need to be considered
  - Demographics have changed (local homeowners want street open in both directions)
  - Don't see "Peoples' way" as sacred - needs some sort development/partial
  - High home ownership; area economically disadvantaged
- How does this group like this and CVC deal with/ reconcile with differing views?
- Important and provides connectivity to larger story in the country and throughout the world
- Community bond dictated how the City has left the space for people to take care of the space
  - who is showing up to do the work"
- Gravity of the time, the event and people have had enough - that's what has people connected to each other and this space
- Ask Floyd family what would George want, and how to include his family?
- Learn from each other - those who show up help support those who take care of see and contribute art Proper funding in perpetuity
- Recognize what has happened and what is happening?
- Grassroots and changing - platform for expressions to happen over time
- Accommodate all possibilities

### Memorials:

- Future memorial; trigger
- Intentionality in painting the names, part of experience

- Foundational information for public art and processes
- "living memorial" - site to change based on the City
- Preserve/re-establish infrastructure and how to interact and set the stage for continuation
- Reluctance of releasing study
- Key pieces (Angela and Paris) - sacred space at location where George Floyd died
- "living art" and memorial - first experience "protest art" living breathing ; longest running occupation
- Redefine what memorial is
- Living memorial and holds up symbolically - brought/bring commonality
- Not a traditional memorial
- Movement still going because things/ needs haven't changed
- People come here to mourn, protest, express themselves because they don't have anywhere else to go (how this has become about many)
- What other memorials can we learn from (precedents)/ including other George Floyd Memorials?
- The idea for this space should include getting to know people, community and artists
- Ask Floyd family what would George want, and how to include his family?

### Peoples Way:

- Group member has concept proposal for speedway site
- Cut out street location and bring to Peoples' Way site, raise, add garden and 9 pillars for each minute
- Add names from street to pillars
- Art Gallery, conference center

### Right-of-Way:

- Pedestrian way - outdoor memorial, expression to allow for mourning, mutual aid - sharing the abundance of community.
- Pedestrian only space, creation of accessibility to people, connection, freedom to allow for expression
- One way - Southbound traffic for cars, busses and business access (understand problematic reroute for busses)
- Visual expression thru different medias storytelling and experience

## Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

- “Platform” instead of memorial - use of space in own way to express diverse experiences - supportive infrastructure to allow for expression

What is the vision that inspires you:

- Visual expression thru different medias storytelling and experience
- “Platform” instead of memorial - use of space in own way to express diverse experiences - supportive infrastructure to allow for expression

### Group D

Lynn Hinkle - Leader, Noa Havello - Note Taker

General:

- Several of the group participants have lived in the neighborhood for decades. Interests in art, healing, reparations, Black Wall Street, the site as an international destination and a sacred space.
- Memorialize not just the spectacle murder, but the movement, honor it, facilitate the acceleration of this movement.
- Support small local businesses
- Commitment to black owned businesses around the square.
- Don't duplicate existing small businesses in the memorial
- Reparations: growing movement in the city (centers in Detroit, Atlanta, Chicago AND St. Paul MN). Reparations commission. Wealth transfer and not just apologizing. Indigenous trustees in other examples, designing how to disperse.
- Justice and healing
- Healing can't be done without repair.
- There are people at the site for 4 years, every day. The emotional elements of the fabric that is there needs to be maintained.
- Using pieces, not erasure, to achieve full potential
- Story telling documentation
- The space itself has an expression of story.
- Some worry expressed regarding gentrification, impact to property values, worry of displacement. Importance if not destroying livability and affordability.
- “Not worried about this being “too beautiful”. I

want it to be gorgeous, and fit”

- Thriving businesses, culturally, sustainable also monetarily, grants.
- Bus with 40 people, pilgrims to the site. What is the experience if it grows as an international destination?
- This is very big
- Doesn't have to be either or. A place for organizing of the movement, but that's not all.
- First responders. Glorious organic response AND more. Important to collect, document all this information.
- Why did it happen to Minneapolis?
- Why did it happen to South Minneapolis?
- Special people who have been given a beautiful responsibility to create something that hasn't been created before.
- Sense of reverence: how to create that?
- 

Memorials:

- Say Their Name site has been part of a personal daily meditation practice.
- Are the memorial connected? Is there a reparation/cultural corridor? (Sebathani, Dreamland, The Coop, People's Way, Say Their Names Cemetary)
- Memorializing the spectacle murder of George Floyd, the collective international experience, the organic community response.

Peoples Way:

- Study how to accommodate multipurpose community needs. If the building can't be preserved that would be okay to build a taller building. The building could serve functions such as: an art gallery for the current murals, 1 or 2 cafes, offices, a global center for reparations organizers, conference spaces. Meditation and reflection space.
- Expressed desire for the project to be part of a racial healing process.
- Expressed desire for a community ownership model. Hyper local. Potentially African American ownership.
  - Suspicion for private ownership, even non-profit organizations.
  - Can the developer not be the owner?
  - Multiple stakeholders



## Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

- Community co-op model (like a solar garden type arrangement)
- Precedents mentioned:
  - Lorraine Motel, The National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN
  - Montgomery Lynching Museum
  - The Holocaust Museum
  - National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta
  - The Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C.
  - African American Museum
  - Apartheid Museum in South Africa
- Some people want to keep, some want to get away with it. A lot of contradictory emotions.
- Credit needs to be given to the people who have been caretakers. But there should also be the acceptance of change.
- Tearing it down, but archiving the process. The building can then have more floors, capacity.
- Repurposing materials.
- Sacred elements @ courtyard or internal to the structure. Opportunity to reflect, healing, as one of the facets of the building
- Form following function.
- Maybe skyway to the building across Cup Foods (“Unity”)
- Building should fit the neighborhood.
- 3-4 stories, components of education, reflection, economic development.
- Who owns: individual? Community? Parks and Recs?
- There is a morning meeting every Wednesday at the gas pumps.

### Right-of-Way:

- Inviting, welcoming, safe for pedestrians, but the need to accommodate mass transit. Some vehicular access needed. Bicycles, home and business access should be maintained.
- Can the intersection work without transit?
- Hope to maintain mass transit, so people don't have to walk 4 blocks to catch the bus. AND have it still be a place for a morning walk. AND welcoming and inviting and free flow for pedestrians. AND maybe intermittent closures?

## Group E

Did not meet

## Group F

Zena Kocher - Leader, Mary Altman - Note Taker

### General:

- We need a big vision for the whole space.
- We need to remember why we are here. Police murdered a man. We are here until change takes place.
- We have to keep showing up. That's what this space needs to continue to be.
- Doesn't sit great with me that the City will have a lot of power.
- What would feel better? Trying to find a different way. Maybe it is community run. Why does an organization need to be in charge? We have been living into a different way of being. There is no organization in charge.
- Put African American context study here in the notes.
- Involvement of Jeanelle Austin and Rise and Remember organization (the family requested the name change. They wanted it to be about all stolen lives.) Formerly GFGM.
- They are deeply engaged thinking about what is art. Pouring of liquor is a tradition. Someone who is a professional may not understand it. Jeanelle is really good at that.
- Notion of historical district is important. All of 38th to Minnehaha and all of Nicollet Avenue. Oldest black-owned in MN—spokesman. On 38th.
- Help all local black small businesses. Greater friendship missionary Baptist. School, church, non-profit.
- Should give preference to people who live in the heart of GFS—being offered funding first.
- This is global, international destination.
- The way the community has been operating at the 8:00 meetings. We are there with one heart trying to heal. We need to include other cultures. We all rise together. Look at the data on the disparities. We are number one in the nation.
- Number one priority is economic development. It

## Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

would be so tragic if this moment passed without generating economic development.

- How the hiring process can happen without some kind of vision, world courage, to support BIPOC and Indigenous folks.
- This is the opportunity for Minnesotan's to be their best selves.
- City has program supporting Cultural Districts. Applications now open. <https://mplsartsandculture.org/cultural-districts-arts-fund>.
  - City should advertise this to Insight, Spokeman, KFAI. Those outlets need to be utilized.
- Connect to Sister City programs. This is an intergenerational community.
- This is Dakota land. They were chased out here by the Ojibwe and the soldiers. I would like to take Columbus out of here. Let's change the name of it to Little Crow.
- Some people are not here because they are tired and don't trust the City.
- These conversations are happening at the community vision council.
- The nitty gritty of all of this is when we when into the center and prayed. That made this land sacred.
- We need statues of prince and MLK.
- We never got an apology. We want an apology from the mayor that we have been brutalized by the police.
- The world is watching us because the police are acting the same. We are not safe.
- I'm more afraid of the police than the gangs
- Jeanelle sends people home to do the same. Gather clothes where you live. Sacred tour. Share books. "Go out into the world and ...."
- Same with economic development. How can we do it differently?
- Labor that builds the project. The money doesn't go back to white businesses. It goes to black businesses. Money needs to go to the right places. To this community. Link up to Summit academy OIC.
- Education is huge. Healing and health.
- Reparations. Evanston Illinois model.

### Memorials:

- Uncle Bob has a drawing of a large scale bust

of George Floyd. One hand over the heart. One open. Names on his back. 26' wide. 15' high. Partly in the sidewalk, partly in the street. Would protect the memorials. Give them some shelter.

- We could cut out the names of the street and put in colored names. Example on Selby avenue, off of Lexington. Bob has colored stains and paints to spray on the concrete permanently. We shouldn't have to paint them every year.
- Put in real stones at the flood pond. Sidewalk at flood pond is illegal and dangerous. Make it safe for people around the world. Humanize the police officers. We need community officers.
- I would like to see it be like no other memorial. We do not need to follow a previous example. It needs to be something completely different.
- We didn't ask to put in the community memorials. If the City wants to help, the City can give us money to do more.
- Having it be a space that we can not just drive over. Something of permanence. That shows that there was a moment when things changed. Memorialize how the community came together. This is a crossroads where different communities come together. Save what can be saved. There might be unique and creative ways of doing that.
- Something that acknowledges the tragedy of what happens. Take the higher road and use this as a fulcrum to bridge the divide.
- Are there any memorials that you love: The Lynching memorial (<https://www.npr.org/2022/04/21/1093573398/equal-justice-initiative-civil-rights-lynching-memorial-alabama>)
- This is a place that signifies all of the stolen lives. Uprising from that.
  - We can build from that.
- Are there ways we can change our language around memorials? Can we to something more experimental. Memorial invokes the past. This is an active process.
- The gardens are such an important part of the memorial.
- Having a competition where a local artist or artistic group is able to submit designs.
- Can we purify the water for people?

### Peoples Way:

- We need to keep some of the walls in the People's Way.

## Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

- There needs to be a space for homeless people to sit, rest.
- Create affordable housing that is part of economic development. Businesses on first two levels. Housing on the top.
- Arts, entertainment and media.
- Model where you can't own the land, but you can buy a house (Nicollet Island.)

### Right-of-Way:

- Block off streets. Bring in black businesses.
- People are not feeling safe. We need to secure these streets down again. We need police officers to be here.
- Purple street lights in honor of Prince.
- Businesses want traffic. What is the desire in terms of the road. I like to see 38th be open to buses. Shut Chicago down. That's the memorial.
- A pedestrian mall gives access to our neighbors. Central library model. They provide services. They have a coffee shop. It's cold here in MN. Closed Mall—common area. Didn't work out in Brooklyn Park. Enclosed Mall. I like buses. But a lot of people don't like it. Buses could be dangerous.
- The unhoused people need to be included and addressed in the right of way. Provide an enclosed and a safe and warm place to go.
- We will take the buses, but not the police cars.

## Group G

Atum Azzahir - Leader, Prince Corbett - Note Taker

### General:

- Its written how the City Council and Mayor makes the decision. There is a dark spot as there are not council members here today.
- We want to demystify the fact that we have to go to them (elected) but they should come to us
- The tragedy of George Floyd hasn't been addressed by the City. The 24 Demands... some of them have been met. The George Floyd Act has been killed and in limbo. Black men are still fearful of law enforcement.
  - Can the George Floyd Act be included in the City of Minneapolis's Legislative priorities?
- Police protection and police raises need to be

addressed.

- The suffering and murdering of people by law enforcement have not been addressed by the City.
- Are we addressing the harm and the laws and police qualified immunity?
- When Jamal Mitchell was killed the mayor and council called him a hero. The City has not called any of us a hero... us being those who are protecting community in the Square.
- Police got their raise and can afford insurance
- Talking about Black Wall Street - I had a coffee shop and the majority of my customers were white. We need to understand what Black Wall Street Was
- When the building was bought out then a lot of dynamics change. The building owners were white and the property managers were Black. There was a false perception
- We need economic development in this area
- Genuine economic development in the ADOS (African Descendants of Slavery) community and a form of reparation
- This trauma generated millions and how much have touched the ADOS hands in this community
- There should be a genuine investment in this community.
- I want voting power for ADOS people in this community in the City decisions making processes
  - Being transparent about the percentage of voting power for decisions about the Square?
- There is a way for the resources to go to Black people in this community.
  - Brass Solidarity is an organization that was brought up
- How you gonna re-envision when you wasn't involved in the vision?
- Medicine and health education- we need alternative health
- People coming to the square are not people who have been traumatized by police violence
- I want to see intentional investment in those who live in the neighborhood
- My property taxes will be going up after all of this and I don't want my property taxes to go up
  - The City should find a way to provide property tax relief that can be provided for property owners in this community as this project ?

## Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

- Public Works (city) employees moved the Peoples Closet to get to a water line and they were 7 white workers
- Who are the leaders with individuals and groups?
- No closed meetings about the Square and transparent
- Getting more clarity about RFQ process for the People's Way? We (community) need to have more decision making power
  - The City should explain the RFQ/RFP process in further detail

### Memorials:

- Will this space (the square) become a leading voice for not killing Black men?
  - We (community) enforce the laws.

### Peoples Way:

- Keep the community garden or have community garden in plan for Peoples Way - The plants that are planted in the square were planted for people who visited the square from all over the world. We dug up old soil to represent unearthing old truth and planting new plants to represent new truth
- We need (all Black owned) education center (not necessarily formal education), we need media and entertainment (news), economics and land trust, banks, law firms,
- Justice Education – we need a justice center/ justice program.

### Right-of-Way:

- I built the round about per city spec and also the bump out garden, now the City has a bunch of bump out gardens
- We wrote intentional words under the bump out garden

### What are we memorializing?

- We need to memorialize the disruptors and activist who have been here disrupting the system