

Visioning Workshop 3: Summary

The City of Minneapolis and the engagement team (4RM+ULA and the Cultural Wellness Center) conducted Visioning Workshop 3 on July 23, 2024.

Approximately 60 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 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 concepts and ideas for the Peoples' Way and the Right-of-Way. After the presentation, groups gathered and discussed the Peoples' Way ideas and the Right-of-Way concepts.

Group A:

Victor Jones - Leader, Rebecca Parrell - Note Taker

Group B:

Soren Stevenson - Leader, Nathan Koster - Note Taker

Group C:

Phi Khaler - Leader, Lyssa Washington - Note Taker

Group D:

Lynn Hinkle - Leader, Noa Havello - Note Taker

Group F:

Shanna Sether - Leader, Mary Altman - Note Taker

Group G:

Community Member Leader, Prince Corbett - Note Taker

Group H:

Community Member Leader, Rae Beasley - Note Taker

Group J:

Charisma Smith Leader, Alexander Kado - Note Taker

Highlights and Themes from Workshop 3

General Highlights and Themes

- People want to discuss more than the projects - specific areas of interest around systems change.
 - Multiple comments asking the City to meet the 24 Demands for Justice.
- Funding must be invested in the PEOPLE of the area - not just the projects.
- Include ethical demands in all the planning for the square - identify how options and ideas support ethical demands.
- Issues with MPD are not being addressed.
- Discuss the phasing plan of the different projects.

Peoples' Way Specific Highlights and Themes

- Include public restrooms.
- Housing is needed in the community - the Peoples' Way site is not the right location for housing.
- Include rooftop uses.
- The use of the building is important - should be a function that serves the community.

Right-of-Way Specific Highlights and Themes

- There is no consensus on which option is preferred. Strong opinions exist for closing the street and keeping it open.
- Pedestrian safety is paramount in any improvements to the Square.
- Provide more detail how will the intersections function - stop light, stop sign, yield sign? It is confusing now, need to make easier to navigate.
- Consider one-way traffic along Chicago Ave 37th-38th St.
- Provide more detail on options to close the street if the Open or Transit Mall concept is selected.
 - Can the street be closed for events, at specific times of the year?
- Provide clarification on who the space is being designed for. Residents or visitors?

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.



General Feedback Received After Breakouts Groups

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

- How will Mourning Passage be maintained as part of the ROW?
- What are the construction impacts? Past, present and future?
- How will the square be maintained for people to visit if construction proceeds?
- Can the street not be reconstructed?
- Is there consideration for one-way traffic?
- Can we consider a tunnel?
- A nonprofit developer would be preferred owner of the Peoples' Way.
- Can the community participate and see presentation outside of the Visioning Workshops?

Additional information:

- August 17th CVC meeting
- Business focus sessions being setup for July and August.
- 16-20 youth focus group being developed to meet in 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

Right-of-Way:

Overall

- Are the crosswalk locations in the best place for pedestrian safety?
- Please label where there are on-street parking stalls. It is impossible to tell in the current images.
- Please label at all of the intersections whether there will be (i) a stoplight, (ii) spot sign, (iii) yield sign, or (iv) no signage. It is confusing now, and the future project should be designed to not be confusing.
- Make a note that the median areas at the four entrance points to the square are large enough to accommodate memorial offerings or art.
- The most important thing should be pedestrian safety.
- It is important that no matter the concept, funding must be invested in the PEOPLE of the area, not just the infrastructure.
- All three options show two-way traffic. Would considering one-way options help with safety or other priorities?

Open Concept

- About half the group favored the open concepts over the other two shown.

Transit Mall

- Not favored by the group, given what we know now.
- Some questioned how this is an improvement from the open concept? Wouldn't this just be even more confusing than what it is today? How would enforcement of "no thru traffic" be accomplished? Speed bumps? Signage? This seems too hard to enforce.
- Is there any business data from other locations in the City that compares business success pre- and post- conversion from an open street to a transit mall?
- An idea emerged that perhaps the Transit Mall (or open concept) could be built with the ability to easily close the street on specific days for activities and events or the weekends, for example.

Pedestrian Mall

- About half the group favored the pedestrian mall concept over the other two shown.

- Concerns that this will only work if the area is actively programmed with activities, music, events, ect. If it isn't actively programmed, then the area will not thrive for the businesses. Programming takes money and some people in the group expressed having never seen this done successfully in the City of Minneapolis.
- This concept is appealing because it is makes it very intentional that this is a sacred space, a unique community space, a space to Rise and Remember.

Peoples' Way:

Overall

- Include a roof top use.
- Can parking be built underneath the building?
- Why are the buildings so boring as just white boxes? The new building should be a unique architectural design.
- The use of the building is the most important thing. It should be reserved for a use that serves the community.

Idea A

- Why keep the building? Overall, the group was interested in a new building.

Idea B

- Fine, but not very original.

Idea C

- The outdoor space focusing to the corner of the intersection is appealing.
- Having the larger building and the single-story "addition" is appealing and creates a unique place.

Idea D

- This version was NOT preferred by anyone. It feels like the City is trying to hide community activism by limited the outdoor area to just a small slice between two buildings. It also feels like it's providing more "cover" for illegal drug use.

Idea E

- Too tall. Building should NOT be six stories tall.
- Having outdoor space on Chicago and 38th is appealing.
- The shape of the outdoor space isn't good because if you're sitting at the far west end of the space on 38th you can't see what's going on in the area facing Chicago.

Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

Group B

Soren Stevenson - Leader, Nathan Koster - Note Taker

General:

- No one present in the group lives in the immediate neighborhood surrounding GFS.

Right-of-Way:

- The ped plaza has ulterior motives from the city about biking and walking that has broader impacts in the neighborhood.
- Require permits for vehicles that restrict access to residents and businesses.
- Restrict vehicle access by time of day to prioritize space for pedestrians and gathering.
- How can you close access for vehicles further?
- The ped plaza is underwhelming and was looking for more, but understand why it is drawn after understand needs for access.
- Painful to drive over the names.
- The city must understand and respect artist rights.
- Mourning passage is not well represented and moving it does not make sense.
- Has the city considered dead-ended all directions?
- Can you close 38th and keep Chicago open, or vice versa, to further restrict traffic?
- Why is a reconstruction needed? Just let the street stay, it's working fine and was created by residents for very little money. The street project will impact people gathering and will disrupt and displace those holding space as well as visiting the square.
- Residents south of 38th really would like to see traffic calming and slower vehicle speeds.
- How are we engaging with residents who aren't showing up at the workshops?
- Have you considered a tunnel for transit?
- Focus on the environmental impacts of vehicles, busses, and pollution. How is the community being harmed?
- Consider adding stormwater treatment like Grand Ave to let nature heal.
- How are we looking at energy efficient designs that can be included for the street and nearby residences?

Peoples' Way:

- There are risks for developer and making money, it's a very uncertain future.
- City is looking good no matter what happens, yet there is no change at MPD and they are getting a big raise.
- Until the root causes of systemic racism are addressed, nothing will change.
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Group C

Phi Khaler - Leader, Lyssa Washington - Note Taker

General:

- Have the 24 demands been into the actually addressed in these "Visioning sessions"?
- The survey not really addressed - the real needs and concerns of the community aren't being heard or taken from the survey.
- Vacant properties - how is it addressed - especially mixed use buildings
- Feels like no system of accountability for business - PROPERTY owners and who really matters
- What is plan for businesses/property owners when failing businesses or businesses don't open?
- How are we really addressing the residents south of 38th?
- Still not addressing underlying issue of police - citizen relationships
- Amnesty and really treating this space as public space no penalty for who you are (houseless)
- Timeline rushed
- Moving timeline for events - attached to mayoral campaign cynical; this influence
- More informed Q and A discussion with residents/ neighbors should happen
- Hard to separate the art, social justice, from place even from a technical perspective
- Intersection is Intersectional
- Technical - "purchasing" the art
- Appraisals
- Art is protest against city; city owning it feels wrong
- Incorporation of newer technologies to counter global warming
- Officers working here should carry own their own insurance
- If uniformed cops here guarding - traumatic for everyone (residents, etc)

Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

- Environment: think remediation
- Can we incorporate remediation
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for more comprehensive or more focused based on actual extents of the project/s?

Peoples Way:

- Type of business is crucial - lower focus emphasis on retail, commercial
- Port-a-potties - community funded - important to maintain 24 bathroom access
- Space and ability to service Biff's 2x/week
- Plus handwashing \$1200/month average
- Peoples ' way 24' station for bathroom and handwashing
- Building at Peoples' way site

Right-of-Way:

- Complexity of Mourning Passage and pulling up the asphalt
 - Preserving the piece AND the ritual
 - (tea lights were regularly added to names)
 - Creation of in-lays as an option? (this nullifies the ritual)
- What is impact of cars, vs, buses or all modes
 - Should be a factor in decision-making for community

Group D

Lynn Hinkle - Leader, Noa Havello - Note Taker

General:

- The list of 24 demands. Black women leadership and us were fighting for the demands. Racial healing and justice. A way to move forward the ideas of the people that have been active in the square.
- The 24 demands
- Transformation, progressing of the movement, anti-fascist and anti-white-supremacist.

Peoples Way:

- We should look at other examples that are anti-racist. Alabama adjoining building for equal justice. We also need a space to meditate and organizing, move to action. Shops. Coffee shops.

Global reparations center. Conference rooms. Art gallery that preserves the art in the square.

- Design similar to Idea C (attached) George Floyd's family considered is a sacred space. The spot where he was murdered should be raised into a garden of remembrance, bronze casting, 9 slabs to represent the 9 minutes, say their names engraved. Desire to show all the offerings at an art gallery, and other art.
- Idea C identified as preference by one community member.
- Memorial, but also the resources to make a change so option 1 is not good enough. But a building that is too tall also won't fit. So option 5 is also not appealing. The ones in the middle would be good.
- Feels like it's trying to erase. Don't move that spot. Her son and his dad are dead. Black lives matter is an international movement and people are already coming from all over the world. Medicine wheel to show our connectedness. We are them. The People's closet were you can pick stuff up for free. Prefers option 1, the least change. There is another corner lot that is empty on 37th and Chicago that can have that program. Husband is an internationally renowned artist (Francis Yellow). Art that shows how people are fighting to live.

Right-of-Way:

- There is already double parking that is much needed. How can reducing parking be mitigated for residences and businesses.
- Transit issues are a concern.
- Option 3, more space for pedestrian plaza.
- Worry about not having a bus. A bus would help with the parking
- Access to places is important
- My son died because the hospital is so far.
- Bus rapid transit
- Diverting traffic only for festivals etc.
- We've done without the traffic. That was okay.

Memorials:

- Say Their Names Cemetery visit is a daily ritual for him. There are other aspects, not just the building.

Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

Group E

Did not meet

Group F

Shanna Sether - Leader, Mary Altman - Note Taker

General:

- Hard to read. Should have been on packet. Heavy on the text.
- A frequently asked questions section would have been helpful, instead of asking all the questions.
- Answer the questions about phasing, how long it's going to take, etc.
- Shanna describes the PW concepts.

Right-of-Way:

- The concept of open is wrong. Open to the people. This option prioritizes vehicles over people.
- Use public alleys, not driveways.
- Pitting the bikelane against people.
- Prioritize pedestrians then bikes, then transit, the cars. This is not in the notes. Is complete streets not prioritized. Don't see complete streets reflected in this drawing.
- This could be a demonstration project for complete streets.
- Don't see the climate action plan being followed either.
- Does not meet the needs of the community.
- All-38th sidewalks have not been widened at all. No gathering on the 38th.
- Green spaces need to be places where people can gather. Not hedges.
- Pedestrian Plaza gets us closer.
- Why do we need bikes in this area.
- Let's turn 10th avenue into a greenway. If there is appropriate bike lanes in other areas, not having bike lanes is good.
- Needs to show it within the comprehensive traffic/bike plan for the area.
- Community member asks what's missing Rules out an option of completely closing the street.
- Could you make the street feel more like a pedestrian mall ?
- All of these options drastically change parking. Is

- a public parking lot an option in the area?
- Is there a better regional parking option?
- Think about the pleasantness of the walk from the parking to the businesses.
- What is the greenspace?
- Are we thinking about it in all seasons.
- What is it going to look like. Plan it right now, so you don't have to rebuild it again?
- Elliot was not built for the bus traffic that is there today.

Peoples Way:

- Think about all four corners.
- How long would all the options take?
- Does the City remediate the site?
- What are the other options?
- Keep it as an open plan and gateway to the community. A multiple parcel approach is possible.
- Keep out people from the east coast who want to turn it into a development. It should be an extension of the Square.
- People liked different ideas. No consensus.
- I wish more effort in addressing accessibility. Guidelines for hours, type of maintenance. Should be kept more open and late hours. With security. Museum hours will limit accessibility.
- August meeting needs to talk about phasing and memorials, and gathering.

Group G

Community Member - Leader, Prince Corbett - Note Taker

General:

- Concern about property taxers people in this community.
- I am a property owner and we want to find a way to memorize what's happened here. I grew up here and it is not cheap. I had to come in with a substantial income. This place is becoming gentrified even more
 - Can the City/County/foundations/others put together a home-buyers program for people who have lived in the neighborhood? Similar to what the City of St. Paul is doing for legacy residents of Rondo Neighborhood.

Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

- We need to have more familiarity with the bidding process
- We need to get business for businesses in the Square.
- The City should match funding

Peoples Way:

- Museum, community center could encompass a lot of art
 - The site should be able to tell a story of systemic racism and discrimination in this country.
 - We cant be shy talking about police relations, housing discrimination, slavery, Jim Crow
 - I don't see retail being applicable
- We need a culturally specific mentor programming as possible building uses
- We need a civic education center to learn how City, County's' State government work so that residents understand RFPs, RFQs, procurement, hiring processes,
- A 5-story building does not fit the vision and feel right
 - The first 3 concepts seem right

Right-of-Way:

- Preserving the autonomous zone is important
- The D-Line gets stuck going up 36th (or37th) in the winter time. I would like the D-line and 5
- People visit from all over the world to visit the Square, people walk in the street and some have gotten hit.
- Micro Transit
- I see vehicles speeding around the neighborhood.
- The design needs to consider climate-change, gas emissions from added traffic in relation to having more green space. The City needs to priorities this neighborhood/community in its Climate Equity Plan. "George Floyd Square" is only mentioned once in this plan... what are the rates of asthma for residents and how to reduce
 - What are the community health assessment

Memorials:

- There is a living memorial now so it feels weird to have another entity come in to do a memorial.

Group H

Community Member - Leader, Rae Beasley- Note Taker

Right-of-Way:

- May slow down the traffic
- Understand the economy -> transportation is important. Nobody goes to Light Rail
- Need the bus to get to school.
- In the handout it is 23' off center but city code is 28' for emergency vehicles. the walkways used to be 10'
- With the designs, do we think they are good options?
- Need 2 emergency vehicles - if you can
- Is there any reason to tear up the street? - most agree it is already in motion.
- The tear up is happening
 - disagreement on if it is and whether or not to leave it as is
- If you have to stop the flow it should be done in phases. Cutting it off is bull
- Disallow through traffic. It should only be bus, bikes, pedestrian
- No car traffic
- Tunnel for traffic
- A combo of transit and pedestrian. Regular cars can go around,
- 38th is getting the short end of the stick. Is no straight shot. It's already hard to cross. Where would school buses go? [school buses]That's a huge part of the neighborhood.
- I'm not hearing the question [about the buses] ie. for field trips.
- Q. what to do about 38th?
- Would like larger planning around the neighborhood.
- Q. where do the school buses go?
- Entire process - use energy in figuring out why the space is as it is.
- STOP KILLING BLACK PEOPLE
- Q. what are city depts. doing to take a stand in not killing black people?
- There should be ethical demands included in the planning. Ethical and morals included in the options
- How is the city going to be held accountable to the 24 Demands?
- Disagreement with digging up streets to put

Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

gardens-we DON'T have to put up gardens. It's already there. You will delay people coming together for this?

- It's the same agenda? Q. How do we change this? EDUCATION
- Q. what is actually happening?
- There is an assumption that this will take 5 years.
- Q. what are we going to do if it is dug up?
- We want need to educate and identify what is going on and why this place is the way is Looking at education, media, supporting locally, political. Only way to get this done on the legal level is to start voting → understanding our power.
- We have to get more specific.

Peoples Way:

- Q. Renovating? [First Question]- if you're going to renovate, make sure to know who is running those services
- Does everyone want to renovate/ rebuild?
- Previous talks about having a black wall street job training, social health - not about culture
 - Q.what are you building it for? IF NOT [for the things mentioned above]. It's an empty space no matter who comes.
- Make it 6 stories
- Ex. free legal aid – so others don't leave empty handed.
- NEED to know what the building is going to be use for.
- *There are more questions before we start talking about the questions in the agenda *
- With renovating is this a shorter timeline than a new building?
- This is a much more complicated question [in the agenda]. It's not just yes or no.
- Not sure if George Floyd's family was involved.
- Put the hard questions to them/the city - on how to meet the needs of the community.
- The options - skipped some steps.
- Are there things we would like to see? - public Restrooms, outdoor space
- The amount of outdoor space determines if the community feels welcome
- It can be a barrier if there is no welcome/green space.
- Q. Is housing an option?
- MORE QUESTIONS: what type of housing? Who will be there?

- I'd believe Public works IF they built housing for the homeless. I'd believe this if they build temporary housing for folks with no homes. Q. how much impact will that have?
- The City does not have the vision.
- Q. Should there be same amount of open space?
 - Need rain coverage. Canopy/ Pergola does not keep rain out.
- If you have not met the 24 demands, how will it look to the people who come here and see the 24 demands?
- Ideas:
 - Would need to help the unhoused
 - Focus on education
 - Business development
 - Resource center
 - Judicial center - mission helping those who have been incarcerated
 - "No justice, no health, no health, no peace"
 - They need to leave/stop with the "hey I'm on my way" responses - make generational changes right now!!
- Not enough to be done with this one building. It should be done with thinking of all the good that can be done on 38th

Group J

Charisma Smith - Leader, Alexander Kado - Note Taker

Peoples Way:

- How do you embody the social justice movement?
- Prefers community gardens and green spaces.
- Concept D seems like community space is isolated from the rest of GFS.
- More indoor space = more uses.
- General site ideas were more focused on services/uses that could best support the needs of the existing community.
- A new building that is larger than the existing building can provide greater service to community members.
 - No preferences indicated regarding renovating/keeping the original building, so appetite to a new building seemed possible.
- Housing should be around the area, but not at the Peoples Way site as there are better uses for the site than housing.

Group Breakout Session Highlights (Continued)

- Form over function, form should come first as it influences how people move around the space.

Right-of-Way:

Transit mall

- This concept is important as transit serves residents and others accessing jobs and other activities. This area/community has high transit dependency.

Pedestrian plaza

- With this concept, the D-Line and the Route 5 would be detoured, but could they still enter GFS and travel along 38th St? The current detours do not go through GFS, but why can't they? Obviously, they wouldn't travel along the north-leg of Chicago with this concept, but that shouldn't preclude them from using the other legs of the intersection in GFS.

Open

- Preserves the most parking and makes it easier for people to access their homes and not have to park as far.

General Comments:

- Is this space designed for the residents and workers or for visitors (tourists)? Concern expressed over this space being more focused for design for visitors.
- Since there is less traffic in GFS than before it was GFS, it feels safer for pedestrians.
- The square provides a sense of community, so all designs should seek to support that.