

11/20 Top of State Design Workshop Public Comments By Table

Workshop #1: Design

Table 1

- Goal: comingling of homeless, businesses and public in space/area
- Impossible to consider the intent of creating a space for community people w/o problems
- Is this symptomatic of Madison itself – opportunity to address racial/class disparity /institutional racism
- Summary – move from design to programming
- Examine successes
- Improve engagement of space / lighting
- Successes: pianos, lit trees, Jazz @5
- What might happen with larger redevelopment? De-cession of artwork?
- Space issues:
 - Artwork impedes flow of pedestrians
 - Bike bath thought space?
 - Visual access seems directed away from purpose
 - Entity to itself
 - Not apparent art work
 - Finally get to sit and play -Improve engagement
 - Sacrifice controlled space
 - Purpose was just to talk
 - Oral history idea: why not use space to engage displaced people about their stories
- Design
 - Too dark
 - Canyons of building
 - Where will money come from?
 - Part5icipate collective art – sustain Dane is doing some
 - Use as springboard for other ideas

Table 2

Existing – good stuff:

- Stage, Trees & plants
- Lights on trees – keep all year
- Does art have to stay?

Existing issues:

- Too busy
- Not green
- Dark (especially compared to nearby areas)
- Too much stuff
- Weird pockets
- intimidation
- Does not feel safe
- Spots to hide
- Pedestrians threatened by the people hanging out there
- Perception of

Connections:

- Connects overture and library
- Lots of pedestrian movement – maybe more room is needed
- Shortcut to State Street & the Square
- Stage is good, but needs more and regular events
- Programmed activities (we need a programmer) get rid of bad behavior (but not homeless)

Ideas:

- Common patio / movable chairs – needs to be welcoming
- Lack of public restrooms
- Visitor's center & Toilets in adjacent building?
- Police outpost
- Movable tables
- Don't impede pedestrian traffic – make it wider
- Programming to activate space
- Better / more lighting
- De-clutter

Table 3

Context:

- More pedestrian flow needed
- Activate the corner
- Bike connection needed
- Doesn't fit with flow of Capitol Square or State Street
- It exists as a resting or gathering space

Existing design:

- Design doesn't support people watching
- Keep trees and art
- Lit trees are nice

Ideas for space:

- Dog friendly environment
- Active kid friendly/family friendly
- Splash pad/ice rink
- More trash cans
- Expand formers' market
- Space to bring seating in for events
- More lighting
- Open up to create main thru-way
- Cobblestone plaza for cars and pedestrians environment that is flexible
- Market place
- Preserve art and trees
- Active storefronts

Table 4

- Preserve the funky and unique feeling and vitality of State street
- Rotating installations / events to encourage new/repeat visitors
- No matter what the programming ... what happens during “downtime”
- Part of the plan to solve behavioral problems rather than displace/move the issue
- Bike/auto/pedestrian traffic
- Flexibility of the space
 - Less issue with open space like the stage area...Mifflin needs to be opened up with seating on the side
- What is the function of the space?
- What happens to the Hovde buildings?
- Visual appeal of Philosophers’ Grove – it is disjointed from the stage area
- Larger problem of the population currently using the space

Table 5

- Connects
- Library, square, State Street
- Movement through the space
- Accommodating and supporting diverse populations
- Public bathroom and ambassador program
- More art
- Is the issue WHO? Spends time there? Social issue vs Design issue?
- Permanent well designed info booth
- Public bathroom
- Remove planter behind stage
- Solutions that accommodate diverse population
- Close off cul-de-sac to create bigger central walkway
- Bike access
- Bigger walkway through area so more people feel safe walking through

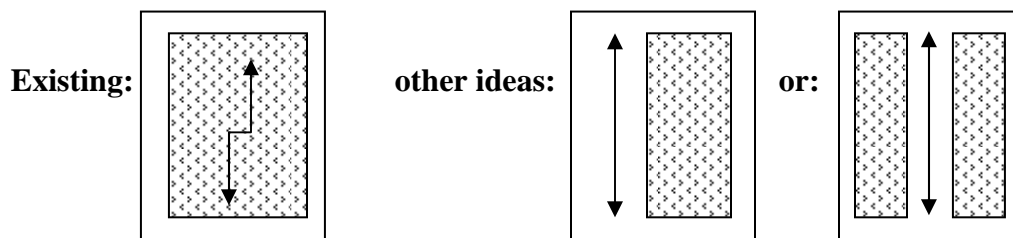


Table 6

- Open up flow – currently an obstacle course
- Create gateway
- Activate – manager needed to “serve the space”
- Special place – event/activity
- Make it like a park – or regulate it like a park.
- Ideas:
- Farmers’ market

- Ticket booth
- Night or winter market
- Drop off point for school busses for museums
- More lighting
- Sports/ basketball, tennis, badminton, pickle ball
- Playground
- Open and flexible space – nothing permanent – it needs to be multi-purpose
- Close 100 block of State and Mifflin completely – make it a pedestrian only mall

Table 7:

- Lots of lights
- Open up the area
- Don't need a gathering place at this certain spot
- No stones
- Taxi stand
- Activities – performances, art
- No food carts – restaurants do not need competition
- Opening up the street
- Not enough traffic
- Hanging lights
- b-cycle station
- overflow restaurant seating

Table 8

- Artist as part of conversation – how?
- No problem with art work – maybe reshuffle stones?
- How space doesn't work: varies with time of day, events and weather
 - Dealing drugs
 - Open intoxication
 - Harassing/screaming
 - Intimidating behavior
- How does it currently flow?
 - Pass through library, overture, museums , capitol
 - Current design blocks flow to above
- What we like?
 - Rest area, places to sit
 - Jazz at 5
 - Downtown ambassador (visitors don't come though...)
- Individually elements are good (trees art etc) but together they put up a barrier to movement
- Make this more of a bike area – bike path separate from pedestrian path

Workshop #2: Programming

Table 1

- 24 Hour – oral history project e.g. story corps
- Future of Corner – short term programming, future redevelopment
- Pop-up events – tactical urbanism: small changes affect larger
- Public events for pragmatic purposes – engage and instruct those in need
- Development 100 State – Link 608 – platform for all resources, centralized services at library, mobile areas – kiosks – ipad – people walking around
- Partnerships: Library, local museums, all public (security),
- Use art space to engage those who need services
 - Mitigate the complaints
 - Avoidance of abusive vocal behavior
 - Oral history
 - Use mobile/high tech
 - UW Morgridge Center for public service
- Create a model that engages community at large to address beyond
- Project will fail if we do not address the people who are already using it & partnerships with library, and high tech, tactical urbanism

Table 2

Opportunities:

Short term:

- Market
- Lighting
- Remove bike racks
- Outdoor seating
- Performances
- Winter art fair / booth
- Targeted policing
- Yoga
- Museum exhibits

Long term:

- Drones
- Reconfigure with redevelopment
- Bike route
- Consistent programming (staff)
- Front doors and windows
- Ice rink
- Interactive feature

Activities:

- Ice rink
- Splash play
- Neighborhood weekday market
- Yoga @ noon (classes through UW)
- Bike station
- Promotional events for museums and library
- Pumpkin carving / snowmen / ice sculpture
- Music (non-amplified)
- Exhibits from museums
- Chess/checkers – oversized?
- Table tennis
- Kids play feature

Partners:

- University
- Free Services (Barber/eye care/dental)
- Museums
- Local athletic clubs
- Jazz @ 5
- Overtire
- Local Churches (activities for homeless)
- Library
- State Street BID

Other ideas:

- Post expected behaviors
- Targeted police surveillance w events (before & after)

Table 3

Activities:

- Splash pad / playground
- Midweek seasonal market / farmers' market
- Artists and artisans
- Theater encouraged on stage
- Local restaurants and expanded cafes
- Outside beer garden

Partnerships:

- Businesses / State Street
- Dane C Farmers' Market
- Dane County Social Services
- Operation welcome home
- Overture center
- Jazz @ 5
- BID district
- Capitol neighborhoods
- Downtown Madison Inc
- Library
- Churches
- MEDIA

Negative Behavior: Day shelter within proximity needed

Short and long term opportunities:

- Improve esthetics
- Activate / light empty storefronts
- Create a defined path though space
- Change feel of the street to be more pedestrian friendly
- More color

Table 4

- No food carts
- Art/performances/craft sakes/mosaic
- Use of public buildings
- Ways to explore the city: ie taxi stand/B-cycle station
- 2d labyrinth
- Reflection pool
- Movie screen
- Partnerships UW & MATC
- City owned vacant properties i.e. Fairchild and Hamilton

Table 5

- Rotating programming – engage MATC – i.e. vets museum/ outdoor exhibit)
- Working with agencies and businesses in area for facilitating activities and have a city staff coordinator for activities
- Study ways to use the blank walls
- Multiple uses of space are needed
- Overture – circus exhibit outdoors
- Permanent or rotating mural on Museum Wall
- Design contest to determine mural (4 or 5 different ideas possibly)
- More musical programs (i.e. Jazz @5 or other bands)
- Have a city agency historical society plan and schedule ideas
- Children’s activities i.e. face painting
- More seating at Veterans’ Plaza (30 on the square) temporary or movable chairs
- Ticket sales/info booth
- Seasonal interest
- Bike boulevard
- Treatment / enforcement of negative behavior – need a place close to downtown for people to get help
- Engage social services community – not just rely on urban planning and design

Table 6

- Expand blink-type projects – inanimate programming and visual interest
- Central corridor must be clear for bikes, pedestrians
- No curbs – extend walkway to perimeter like a mall
- Rotating street food tents like in Asia – rentable by pop-up vendors

Table 7

- Food carts? Could draw in more business
- Art installation/programming: need to consider day/ night – bike lanes could help
- Longer term solutions are better
- Outdoor seating for restaurants – can be used by anyone
 - Will they be there for Cento and Teddywedgers next year?
- Reconfiguration is a key to making this work
- Partners could include downtown businesses, UW & MATC departments – culinary school etc
- Artist market
- Get museums and other organizations to take turns to use the space (i.e. 2 week exhibit each during the summer)
- Programming is related to perception

11/20 Top of State Design Workshop General Comment Cards:

Pat DiBiase

I came to this meeting as I think getting rid of art & trees is not a way to solve homelessness, mental health & drug issues. I still feel that way.

I do think that some good ideas about making the area more inviting came up tonight, Better lighting, streetscape, clean-up, maybe some playground equipment, b-cycle station, little markets etc could be added. We o need to figure out how to provide more services for mental health, housing, drug addiction, etc.

Lauren Benoit

Create a people focused built environment that allows for optimal default for all citizens. This needs to be a space for the whole community, this space could be an opportunity to address larger City issues (Homelessness, racism etc.) and to be seen as a model for other city spaces.

Kelty Carew

This is an incredible opportunity to directly engage an underserved population in a creative, beautiful & effective way that serves all our needs and concerns.

Yvette M Pino

Revisiting the artist intent & an inclusive environment that engages conversation & activity. Programming that includes all of the community, not just specific groups will be the key to the success of this space. I would be happy to be involved in programming ideas and partnership possibilities to help engage the space as an inclusive public venue.

Anon

1. Maintain and keep artwork & develop interactive & inclusive programming in this intended gathering space!
2. Use technology to provide resources and networking.

Anon

Useful projects to improve the area: 1 – use mobile technology to centralize resources in area and to address problematic demographics and use art work and locale to do so.
2- Use oral history project 24/7 that gives identity & voice to those who frequent the space & to invite others to do so.

Anon

- Lighting can improve space
- Address project on a bi-level short and long term given probable development of State Historical Museum
- Tactical urbanism
- Rephrase some of rhetoric (e.g. where would negative behavior move to?)

Ashley

Keep gathering space activity

Encourage people of diverse backgrounds to share space. This works best during farmers' markets. Perhaps increasing visibility would make the area feel busier during downtime.

Great Workshop!

Anon

- Found informative
- Shared ideas
- Respected one another's suggestions