

Categories of Priorities Identified at Downtown Solutions Forum



At the December 2, Downtown Solutions Forum, participants working in small groups were asked “What would help improve how we share our space together downtown?” Facilitators recorded ideas generated by participants and then asked the group to identify the top three items using a dot stickers. Each participant had three dots to place on the ideas they felt should be a priority. The priorities identified by each small group were transcribed and sorted into general categories listed below. Some priorities were repeated by several groups. While some priorities may apply to several categories they were only listed once to avoid duplication. The categories are listed in alphabetical order.

Big Ideas/Picture

Commitment to a comprehensive vision for downtown public space including \$\$
Engaging private sector/corporate sponsors for downtown projects (i.e., art, refurbishing, donation parking meters); more aggressive private/public partnerships to address downtown issues and larger issues of homelessness
Design (not engineer) public space
Develop EWEB property

Downtown Forum – Identified Priorities

Use of rooftops
Protecting spaces – existing
Create a car-free downtown
Place the railway underground (this was a City Club talk). The top would be a park, the noise would be abated, station house below.
Get rid of surface parking in favor of green open spaces / parks
Public/private collaborations to use underutilized parking lot
Transform parking lots to housing and public spaces

Health

Restrooms

Bathrooms
Bathrooms
Restrooms
Public restrooms
Public Restrooms
Safe clean public restrooms – what works in other cities?
Create access to public restrooms and showers -e.g. bus

Sanitation

Trash and recycle bin lded & info

Smoke/Tobacco-Free

Smoke free public spaces
Public areas such as sidewalks and densely populated – be smoke-free, tobacco-free -attraction/entertainment space that is versatile and multi-use

Parks, Plazas and Facilities

Community Facility

Put something positive for downtown youth and/or arts uses in old LCC building
Downtown Community Center – Rec programming, including outdoor space
Community Hub – Resource center -general information, referrals, space where you do not need to purchase something to be there
Connectivity welcome center for info/resources
Endorsed center to Eat/Wi-Fi/bathroom
Greenhouse

Farmers' Market

Year-round Farmers Market
Covered/permanent Saturday or Farmers Market

Downtown Forum – Identified Priorities

Commerce around public spaces (farmers markets)

Kesey Square

Kesey Square walls – open to businesses and other businesses open onto sidewalks
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Re-design Kesey Square – more open/useable <u>public use</u> , welcoming program
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Open Kesey blank walls (create doors to those buildings) (activate)

Open storefronts to square

Kesey Square

1 Don't build

2 Open the edges

3 Rezone to public

4 Favor public use

5 Public performances

Kesey Square – schedule of activities/keep it an active space – more of same good things (fashion show, slug queen, music); businesses to draw people when not programmed

Programming

Volunteer group to organize use of Kesey Square

Board of folks to help schedule with COE “spaces” = calendar
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Example of Directors Park in Portland

-programmed, covered space and staffed, lots of seating

Make downtown active – Focus on Diverse Programming catering to wide audience

-downtown cheerleader

More art installations that even go into after-business hours to draw people; interactive, family-oriented, activity events <u>inclusive</u> of travelers

Events regularly occurring at Kesey Square
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Public Safety & Behavior

Public Safety

More public safety officers downtown

More/priority on law enforcement

Make it safer – provide more places for the unhoused to stay
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Enhance pedestrian safety/bike safety

Rules/Expectations

More rules for behavior

Park Blocks/Kesey Square – park rules, more regulations

City ordinances blessed by ACLU that address unconstitutional behaviors (negative) to share the space

*clear expectations for behavior

Downtown Forum – Identified Priorities Services

Alternatives to Panhandling

Alternative to panhandling
Board for posting: real life fb, and post odd jobs
Cash donation meters

Mental Health Services

Mental Health services
Addiction treatment
Committed Downtown CAHOOTS

Outreach workers

Outreach workers in downtown
Positive chaperone -Attention to restroom areas and surrounding areas – identified as a “helper”

Shelter/Day Center

Homeless day center/shelters
A Public Shelter
Making use of vacant buildings for homeless day-center/living
Homeless day drop-in center (not center of downtown but not too far)
Storage lockers for belongings
Clear see-thru roof buildings – harbor from elements
Social Service Center downtown (1-stop shop for all needs) -sign up for volunteers -job opportunities

Welcoming Amenities & Fun

Amenities

Provide more amenities for denser population downtown, considerations (restrooms)
Energize the places that surround the public spaces – entrances, activities, windows, etc.
Plants, horticulture education (with facts/signs)
Free Wi-Fi service everywhere and charging stations everywhere
Food carts in Park Blocks, W & S Park Street
Add play structures – family attraction
Create an iconic art/merry-go-round piece attraction
Kid and adult-friendly interactive installments

Lighting

Outdoor lighting (like Xmas lights or ferry lights) in downtown pedestrian alleys
Better lighting in alleys, continuity

Downtown Forum – Identified Priorities

Seating

Seating for multi abilities for all
Seating with cover
Benches and tables (can't have too many)
Benches, small performance space, infrastructure to encourage use
More Seating <ul style="list-style-type: none">- more public art along the streetscape- Denver example – upright pianos, monster sounds from grates- auditorium – Montreal example- Public art as wayfinding- connect vibrant areas to each other