

Public Open House #1



The first Public Open House was held at the Boise City Hall Civic Square July 16th, 2014. The public open house was conducted to inform the public of the need for the Civic Square renovation and to elicit their ideas and visions for what the new Civic Square design could look like. Over 100 participants with a diversity of ages and background came together form the below aligned aspirations for this space:

Water feature: The desire for an 'interactive' water feature was a common comment. Although both were highly rated, there was slightly more preference for a more passive water feature (slowly moving water) than an active water feature (spray feature). There were a number of references to the artists previously proposed geothermal water feature.

Common Themes: interactive water feature; "living room" of the city, inviting to people of all ages

Plant Communities (Landscape): The majority of comments emphasized the importance of native and low water-use plantings and the need to utilize landscape to soften the civic square. Trees were frequently mentioned as a priority.

Common Themes: trees; drought tolerant vegetation; attention

Seating: The comments expressed a strong desire for comfortable seating, and most related seating to shade areas. Diversity and flexibility was important, with referenced uses ranging from comfortable places to eat lunch, places suitable for small gatherings, or comfortable places to 'just hang out'.

Common Themes: shade and shelter from the elements (trees); place for lunch; charging stations for electronics; wi-fi hotspot

Shade for human comfort: There was a strong preference for shade of any type, with more emphasis for shade trees over shade structures. Many commented that the space needs to be "comfortable" with several references to accommodating different seasons. This has an obvious relationship to seating.

Common Themes: shade and shelter from the elements; comfortable places for lunch

Lighting: A common theme among comments was the importance of lighting to both extend usable hours into evening and create a sense of drama. Solar powered lighting was referenced several times.

Common Themes: shade and shelter from the elements; place for lunch

Bike facilities: Many expressed support of bike facilities, including a bike-share station, bike-work station, information kiosk, water-fill station, and bike parking.

Common Themes: diversity of bike-supportive facilities

