



## Sage Hill Civic & Mixed-Use Centre

Report Back // What we Heard, What we Did  
June 21, 2017

### Project overview

The City of Calgary is currently examining potential uses for a City-owned green field site located at 251 Sage Hill Boulevard NW. There is a known need for a Calgary Public Library branch and a transit hub to serve current bus routes and the future NW BRT and the City is exploring if other civic services could also be housed on the same site. It is expected that the proposed Civic Centre could also include additional and integrated floor space to accommodate community, social, arts & culture and meeting needs, in addition to an outdoor public plaza.

### Engagement overview

The City invited each of the five Symons Valley Community Associations (Kincora, Sage Hill, Nolan Hill, Sherwood and Evanston) to attend a meeting to gain preliminary insight into uses and activities for a potential community space and outdoor public plaza as a part of the Civic Centre.

The City intends to seek additional input from the larger community in April 2018.

#### Representatives from the following groups attended the meeting:

- Sherwood Community Association
- Kincora Community Association
- Sage Hill Community Association
- Calgary Neighborhoods
- Ward 2 Communications and Communities
- City of Calgary Facility Management
- City of Calgary Arts & Culture
- Sage Hill Library
- B&A Planning Group (consultant)

There communities of Evanston and Nolan Hill were unable to send participant

The meeting format was an informal and casual roundtable discussion where ideas for potential uses were shared among community representatives.

#### Part One: Project Update

The first part of the meeting focused on providing participants with meeting objectives, desired outcomes, project background and information to support discussion about preferred and desired community activities, arts and culture activities and outdoor public plaza activities. The project background information included a PowerPoint presentation on site context, project stages and process, site location, city policy context and a preliminary Site Vision.



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### Part Two: Interactive Group Discussion

The focus of the facilitated, interactive group discussion was on exploring and gaining further insight into **potential public uses** for the proposed community space and outdoor plaza including **community, social, and arts & culture** activities.

The discussion consisted of three topics along with supporting questions. Participants took five minutes to write their ideas on sticky notes. Ideas were collected, organized on idea boards and then discussed as a group. Participants then identified their two priority activities by placing dots on their preferred activities.

The group spent 30 minutes per topic, prior to a group reflection and wrap-up.

### What we asked

This meeting was not intended to seek official input, as the Sage Hill Multi-Use Service Project was still in its exploratory stage. This includes keeping the discussion focused on ideas for potential activity uses only, and not physical requirements such as square footage, entrances, furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Part two of the meeting consisted of a discussion about three topics:

1. Community Activities
2. Arts and Culture Activities
3. Outdoor Plaza Activities

### Supporting Discussion Questions for Each Topic

- What activities do you believe surrounding residents are interested in?
- What activities do you feel cannot be accessed nearby?
- Who do you feel would use this space?
- Would one large space be of best use or should the space be dividable?

## What We Heard – COMMUNITY ACTIVITY IDEAS

During this discussion, several overarching considerations regarding community activities and space became clear.

### Symons Valley Hub & Gathering Place – Connecting the Five Communities

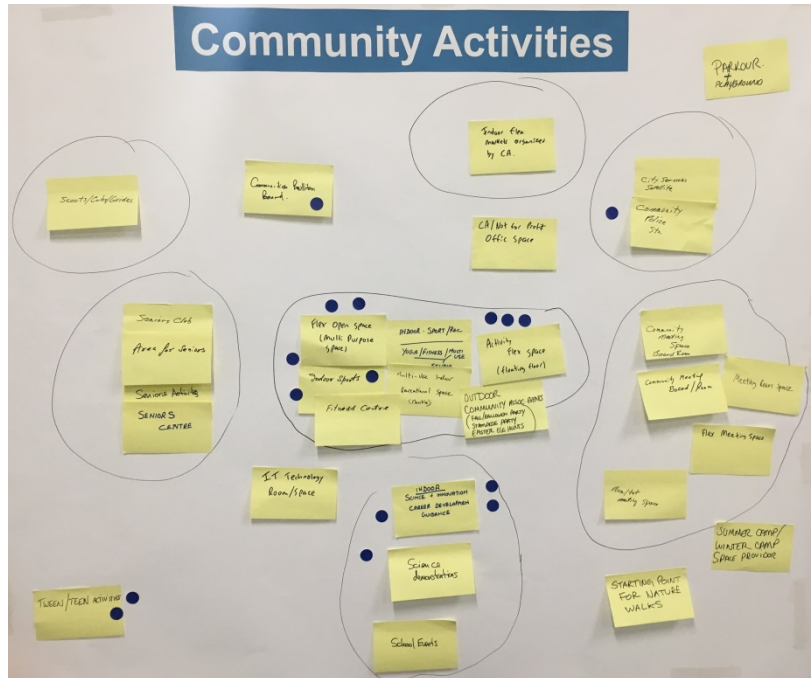
Overarching feedback included the desire to establish a new gathering place that would allow all five Symons Valley Communities to better connect and grow relationships. This was especially important given the recent fire at the Ranch House.

### Activities for a Broad Range of Community Members

It was also clear that regardless of the type of activity, participants found it important to have a broader range of community activities that can cater to all demographics and cultures in the community. It was recognized that there is currently a lack of activities and available meeting space that can cater to youth, seniors and other groups and that a new shared meeting space could help with this issue.

### Emerging activity themes & priorities

Participants' ideas were categorized into groups and several themes and priorities emerged. This section provides a summary of these priority themes along with the individual ideas shared by participants.



<b>Theme 1: Flexible, Indoor Multi-Purpose Space for Sports &amp; Recreation (8 Priority Dots)</b>
• Flex Open Space
• Indoor Sports
• Fitness Centre
• Indoor Sports & Recreation
• Multi-Use Indoor Recreational Space
• Activity Flex Space (Floating Floor)
• Events – Halloween, Stampede, Easter Egg Hunt Parties



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<b>Theme 2: Indoor Multi-Purpose Space for Educational &amp; Career Development Activities (4 Priority Dots)</b>
• Science & Innovation
• Career Development & Guidance
• Science Demonstrations
• School Events
• Youth Programming & Youth Leadership
<b>Theme 3: Community Group Meeting Space</b>
• Community Meeting Space – Board Room (x3)
• Flexible Meeting Space
• Mom/Tot Meeting Space
• Winter & Summer Camp Space Provider
• School Events
• CA/Not for Profit Meeting Space
• Scouts, Cubs & Guides
<b>Theme 4: Seniors Activities</b>
• Seniors Club
• Area for Seniors
• Seniors Activities
• Seniors Centre
<b>Other Ideas</b>
• Tween/Teen Activities (2 Dots)
• Starting Point for Nature Activities
• IT Technology Room & Space
• Community Bulletin Board (1 Dot)
• City Services Satellite Location (1 Dot)
• Community Police Station
• Indoor Flea Markets

## Other Recorded Community Activity Notes:

- No longer have the Ranch House for Outdoor & Winter Activities
- Need to accommodate up to 500 people at an outdoor event
- Important to cater to a broad range of demographics – children, babies, seniors, tweens & teens
- Important to include physical activity for above groups
- An indoor multi-purpose space should accommodate a wide range of activities – yoga, fitness, dance classes, etc.
- Bring all of the Symons Valley Communities together
- Create a Hub & Gathering Space
- Meeting room for youth leadership/youth council

## What We Heard – ARTS & CULTURE ACTIVITY IDEAS

During this discussion, several overarching considerations regarding Arts & Culture and space usage emerged.

### *Celebrate the Cultural Diversity of Symons Valley in all Four Seasons*

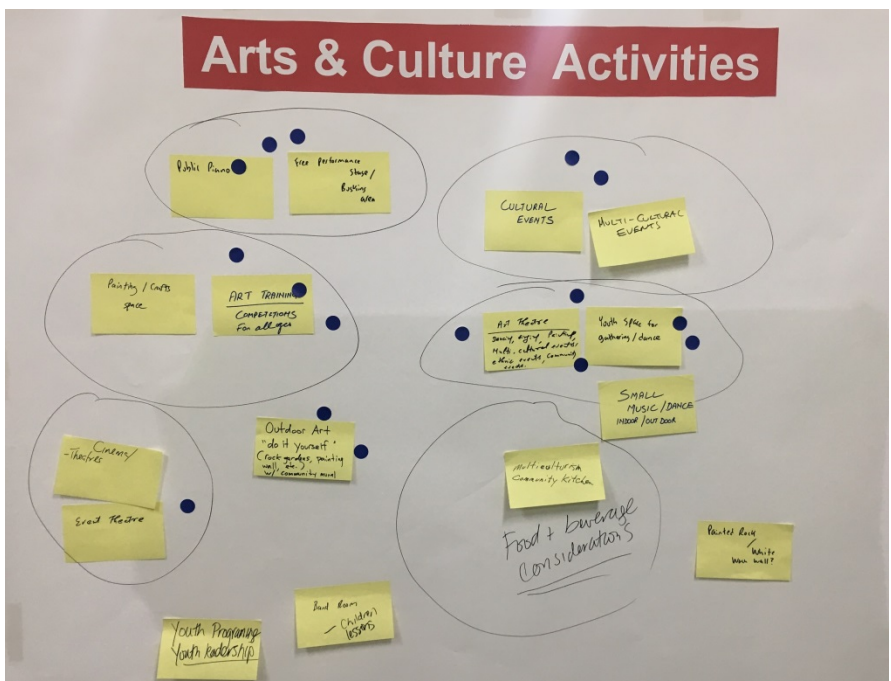
Overarching feedback indicated the desire to have more multi-cultural events and celebrations where Symons Valley can celebrate and learn about the different cultures within their community. It was also important to consider a space (indoor or outdoor) that can better accommodate events in all four seasons.

### *Diverse Arts & Culture Activities*

There was an overarching desire to have more activities that encompass a broad range of Arts & Culture areas including music, dance, art, theatre and performance.

### Emerging activity themes & priorities

Participants' ideas were categorized into groups and several themes and priorities were identified. This section provides a summary of these priority themes along with the individual ideas shared by participants.





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<b>Theme 1: Multi-Purpose Space for Arts &amp; Culture Activities including Dance, Theatre, Cultural Events, etc. (5 Dots)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Space for Dance &amp; Gathering</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small Space for Music/Dance Indoor/Outdoor</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theatre Space – Dancing, Singing, Painting, Multi-Cultural Events, Ethnic Events</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 2: Painting, Art, &amp; Arts &amp; Crafts Space (3 Dots)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Painting/Crafts Space</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art Training - Competitions for All Ages</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor Art – “Do It Yourself” (rock gardens, painting wall, community mural, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 3: Music (3 Dots)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Piano</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free Performance Stage &amp; Busking Area</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Band Room – Children’s Lessons</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 4: Multi-Cultural Events (2 Dots)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-Cultural Events</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-Culturalism Community Kitchen</li> </ul>

**Other Recorded Arts & Culture Activity Notes:**

- Consider events for different seasons & cultural differences, festivals (Harvests, Lights, etc.)
- Large Public Art – Interactive
- Space for Theatre & Arts – (Vocal, Dance, Sing, Ethnic)
- Folkarama – Visit Tents
- Kitchen (Cooking Classes)
- Licensing (Wine, Kitchen)

## What We Heard – OUTDOOR PLAZA ACTIVITY IDEAS

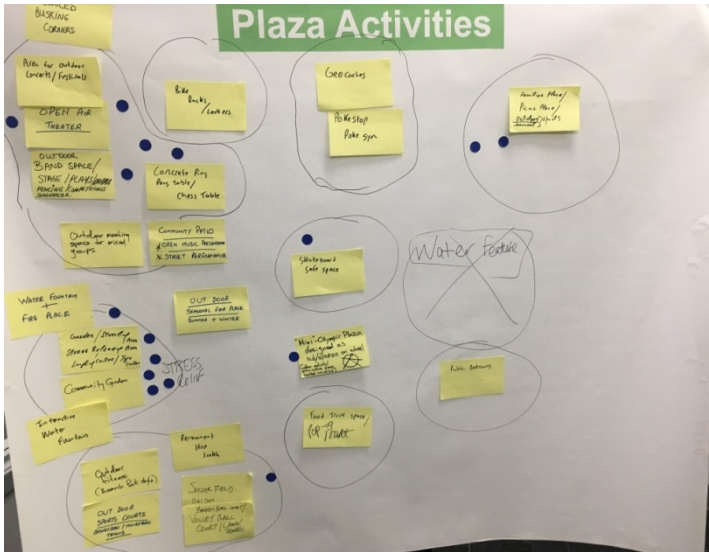
During this discussion, several overarching considerations regarding Plaza Activity Ideas became clear.

### A Shared Gathering Place

Similar to the community activity ideas discussion, participants shared an overarching desire for a hub and gathering places where the broader Symons Valley community can connect.

### Diverse Features

Participants felt the outdoor plaza should have a number of uses that bring together recreation, family and arts and culture activities – whether it is an area for outdoor markets, cultural events, fitness or simply an area for relaxation.



### Emerging activity themes & priorities

Participants’ ideas were categorized into groups and several themes and priorities emerged. This section provides a summary of these priority themes along with the individual ideas shared by participants.

<b>Theme 1: Relaxation &amp; Serenity Features (6 Dots)</b>
• Interactive Water Feature
• Water Fountain
• Fire Place
• Community Garden
• Stretching Areas
• Stress Releasing Areas
<b>Theme 2: Space for Theatre, Concerts &amp; Festivals, Meetings &amp; Other Cultural Activities (5 Dots)</b>
• Open Air Theatre
• Area for Outdoor Concerts, Festivals
• City Licensed Busking Corners
• Community Patio
• Open Music Presentation
• Street Performance



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• Seasonal Fair – 4 Seasons
• Outdoor Meeting Space for Mixed Groups
• Picnic and Family Gathering Areas
<b>Theme 3: Outdoor Fitness &amp; Recreational Activities (4 Dots)</b>
• Outdoor Fitness Facilities (Research Park Style)
• Outdoor Sports Courts (Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis)
• Soccer Field
• Permanent Hop Scotch
• Concrete Ping Pong Table/Chess Table
• Skateboard Safe Space
• Scouts, Cubs & Guides
<b>Other Ideas</b>
• Bike Racks/Lockers
• Public Restrooms
• Geocaches & Pokestop
• Food Truck Space
• Mini Olympic Plaza with five spokes on wheels to represent 5 Symons Valley Community Association (other activities located around the five spokes)

## Plaza Discussion Notes

- Busking stations at Busy BRT
- Street Performance area (no booking) – with benches, water feature and fire place
- Small open air theatre
- Hub Design – Arms for each of five communities
- Maintain Symons Valley Ranch Market Theme – history is preserved  
Family gathering space

## Next steps

- ▶ Feedback collected at this meeting will be reviewed and considered as part of the Master Planning Stage
- ▶ Further engagement with the community associations and the broader community is anticipated in March/April 2018