



This Is My Neighbourhood

Report Back: What We Heard
Creative Ideation Session, August 9, 2017
Falconridge / Castleridge

Project overview

This Is My Neighbourhood was created to provide an opportunity for residents to partner with The City of Calgary to identify ways to help make their neighbourhood an even better place to live, work and play.

In 2016, The City of Calgary delivered more than 100 programs, services and small-scale improvement projects to a first group of 14 neighbourhoods.

In 2017, The City of Calgary is working with a new group of 14 neighbourhoods. The City worked with the neighbourhoods to first identify a neighbourhood vision. From that vision, participants, working with City staff, came up with creative ideas (programs, services and small-scale infrastructure improvements) that support their neighbourhood vision as identified in Step 1. Those programs, services and infrastructure projects will be implemented in 2018.

Engagement overview

This report covers what we heard during the Creative Ideation Session on August 14, 2017. This is the second step in the engagement process for the This Is My Neighbourhood program. The purpose of this workshop was to develop experiments to test community initiatives, programs and improvements.

What we asked

In this workshop, we divided participants into three tables and asked them to generate ideas about how the community could realize their vision, and to develop hunches about why those ideas are important. Then, based on those ideas, participants were asked to develop experiments to test their hunches.

Below is a summary of the hunches and experiments from each table, as well as a complete list of ideas that were generated.

Next steps

The improvements and experiments identified at the workshop will be selected and tested in their respective communities in fall 2017.





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Summary of input

Blue Table

Hunches

Hunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from The City around garbage • City needs to be more engaged re: garbage • Pedestrians aren't being represented re: garbage • Not a lot of pride in the community – if we can reinstate the pride, things would change • Tackle the “root cause” not the “quick fix” • Understanding what had “worked” and what “didn't” • Fund linkage between “beauty” and “changing behaviour” • Do we react to the behaviour or change behaviour? • If we had stronger community connection that may instill more responsibility of pride of ownership • Pride – why, beauty – how, slogan – How do we make this beautiful together • That change starts at home and school (pride in your community) when it comes to behaviour (i.e. littering) • Generational culture and “norms” with town and cities
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Experiments

Experiment 1: Painting a Parking Lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme – “Keep our community clean” • Conduct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sat. am/early afternoon ○ School parking lots ○ Students and community groups ○ Central space in parking • Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Artist outline design (\$) ○ Paint donations and brushes ○ Food – water, granola bars, apples ○ Attract a food truck ○ Garbage bin – City to support to come ○ “Park your garbage here” • Measure impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Show up and participate # ○ Survey – 3 questions – community cleanliness ○ Reduction in littering (in that parking lot – in coordination with the school); ask waste management at City • Program vision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch a program to do this throughout areas of Calgary
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Experiments (continued)

<p>Experiment 2: Parade – “Community Pride”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 day on weekend ○ Community leader support ○ Residents, alderman, community resource officers • Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City to close one street (main) ○ Banners – youth groups, kids ○ Outreach, community association outreach ○ Organizing committee – community association ○ Supply water/garbage bins – placed along route ○ Promotion/outreach • Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attendance, media ○ If people want it next year • Annual event
<p>Experiment 3: Community Flower Pots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saturday ○ Build flower box next to community hall (next to the path) ○ Watering by community association (gardener on staff) • Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lumber/screws, purchase and donations ○ Dirt flowers, purchase and donations ○ Box liner ○ Volunteers – community ○ Advertise – sign and newsletters ○ Expertise/planes • Measure impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People want a similar structure in other parts of the community ○ # of people who sign up for repeat



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Green Table

Hunches

Selected Hunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we change the perception of spaces that were once avoided we will create spaces that are safe, inclusive and inviting.
Hunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and beautifying of alleys (hanging baskets) • People want to want to use the space • Changing perception of a scary space to active space to a space we can be proud of • Changing the perception of an alley to encourage community involvement • Changing the perception so there is no space we want to avoid • Youth is in trouble – feel included in alleys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Included/invited – changing the perception of alleys • All people want to be included and invited • Greater desire for spaces to be used the way we want to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Take back the spaces • Creative ideas in back alleys will encourage the space to be used for positive (activated spaces) • Activated alleys would lessen fears for seniors • Creates freedom for all citizens when spaces are taken back • Desire to have more natural growth in spaces • Spaces to be proud of, shared or personalized • Activate alleys get to know neighbours on both sides

Experiments

Experiment 1: Mobile Maintenance Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter and collection • Photos before/after • Free dump access from city
Experiment 2: Invitation to Participate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gift a flower/canvas (donated from garden centre) • Local businesses
Experiment 3: Invitation to Celebrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An alley walk, popcorn and walk to enjoy new plants and art



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Yellow Table

Hunches

Selected Hunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a format to encourage cultural understanding.
Hunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darshan Kang could connect people and give advice • Cultural education would reduce fears • Create a format to encourage actual understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dance ○ Learn how to put on turban ○ Open doors to temple ○ Traditional dress ○ Fashion show ○ Food • Hunch volunteers to 2018 ND • Use food people will come • City funds/grants would allow learning and connection • People want same things, just need to come together to accomplish it • We could get volunteers to clean up • A lot of kids in the area – programming for kids would encourage participation • Small dead spaces to activate • Encouraging religious groups would work • Fear about bridging diversity – so people don't • Food – around the world in 8 hrs. bike tour • Need faith and community leaders to connect with other groups to talk about similarities • A lot of people disappointed, we can't make this work • A lot of schools – safer and speeding • Volunteers = success • One idea will lead to more

Experiments

Experiment 1: Ask Me a Question!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage bus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prairie Winds Park ○ Faith/cultural spaces ○ Schools • Ensure wide ask for cultural representation • Ask for cultural rep to program bus for 1 hour (dance, food, traditional dress, etc.) • Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAs and cultures ○ Bus ○ Volunteers (cultural groups) ○ PA system ○ Ask me
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Other ideas

- Painting parking lot (sidewalk, garbage cans, utility boxes, alleyway, etc.)
 - base experiment gets you "x"
 - but a full paint transformation program could look better (hire an artist)
- Parade (or lantern parade)
 - Start small i.e. bike/kids
 - Street party – cycling groups volunteer to support
 - Theme – "garbage cleanup" (hand out garbage bags)
- Mural/Collage (made out of garbage?)
 - temporary
 - Engage students – created by students
 - Statement made by community to bring awareness
 - Tie to education program
- Community flower box – along the blvd
- Flower and plant walking tours in the community
- Photo walking tour – what does our neighbourhood look like?
- Close off main street (part of it – entrance into the community)
 - Collect garbage around community and drop all garbage in big pile with a "clean the community" theme
- Collect garbage as community
 - Pile together
 - Make day out of it
 - Make temporary art piece out of it
 - Make statement
 - Engage everyone
- Build community pride (e.g. Bowness) so that people will feel like caring for community
- Crews that walk around encouraging not littering with positive reinforcement
- Have homeowners take care of property
- Youth pride club "I love F/C"
- With a diverse community, it is hard to communicate a single plan
- School programs to encourage youth to not drop (garbage)
- Bike decorating party
- Community for a day? Get a grant and city-wide volunteers
- Education for community about community
- Store owner need to clean store parking lots and areas
- Community garden
- Celebrity cook
- Community tool sharing
- Volunteer network to help people meet someone who can support with maintenance
- Home maintenance workshops linked to funds and volunteer crew
- Close off main street – "Dump garbage from can"
- Parade with banners – "Keep our Community Clean"
 - Hand out free garbage bags
- Lantern parade
- Decorated bike parade – reclaim a street
- Collage party (with paper material)/artist trading cards
- Mural from garbage
- Paint a garbage can contest
- Purchase paint, paint a sidewalk with BGCC and community volunteers
- Photo walking tour – what does neighbourhood look like?
- What is local plant and flower? Walking tours, education – encourage growth; indigenous
- Paint a parking lot day
- Community flower box build
- Giant flower pots along Falconridge Blvd
- Covers for garbage so stuff doesn't blow about
- Community grants for replacing fences/planting flowers, etc.
- More community garbage cans
- Take free paper boxes from bus stop
- Clean, litter free, beautiful – not just more garbage cans, but more City pick up
- Painting benches/flower pots/electrical boxes/bus stops
- Painting pedestrian crosswalks
- Painting games on pavement (tic-tac-toe, etc.)
- Decorating garbage cans
- Painting murals on blank wall/dead spaces
- Banners
- Mural
- Community art wall



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- Recipe wall or cookbook; pot lucks?
- Creating temporary park spaces in parking spots/streets/open/dead spaces (park-lets)
- Horseshoe pit
- Flower exchange (herbs?)
- Block clubs with a "leader" who is in charge of engagement
- Community cleanup days
- More neighbour day events
- Family soccer day
- Dedicate days for bike only/walk only areas (summer weekends?)
- Programming park spaces
- Coffee shop outdoors, dog-friendly
- Physical – using existing resources, city personnel to help group those we need to communicate with
 - Invite families to dinner to get ideas
- Solar lights to light the dark pathways/walkways
- Balloon walk in "scar" spots
- Increase CPD force
- Safe – cameras in problem areas
- Police presence on all days of the week
- Better lighting in parking lots
- Community cleanup/park cleanup day
- Community owning the park/green space (i.e. plants/flowers)
- Green spaces made fun for kids to play (away from streets)
- Programming for kids so there's things to do, low cost or free
- Activate parks with community programs
- Community event
 - Bike maintenance
 - Help folks find safe walking and cycling routes
- Improved communication about construction projects
 - Unusual signs
- Letters to property owners (landlords) to encourage them to include safety guidelines in tenant lease/agreement
- Kids days
- Identify locations for community gardens
- Neighbourhood activities
 - Teach clubs (art, reading)
 - Clean up
 - Garden
 - Share veg, toys, clothes
 - Recycle
 - Barter skills
- "Yard" on a budget team work to do each other's yards
- Move plants
- Pop up cultural booths at elementary schools
- Shareable gardens/flower pots that can be moved from street to street
- Group potlucks on streets
- Shareable comm. Come hell or high water
- List of skills to share help
 - Fence repair
 - Yard work
- Fence action day (to fix)
- Tool shed lending library so people can take care of their yards with whatever is needed
- Beautiful – fences on main roads
- Safety – lights in alleys
- Lighting in back lanes
- Clean alleyways – easier for emergency vehicle to safely pass
- Community parade
- Lumination on street (decorative lights)
- Theme yards for community. Encourage all residents to plant "red" flowers
- "Graffiti" competition, art competition
- Chalk art on the crosswalks
- Pavement markers so drivers are alerted for children
- Narrowing streets using traffic calming curbs, painted lines to slow traffic
- Sign post in crescents "This is a residential street. Please slow down."
- Welcome to Falconridge sign with our logo and flower pots
- Beautiful – Community signs
- Safe – Crosswalks
- Buddy walking
- Additional police presence to enforce traffic speeds
- Active and safe routes to school program, walking or biking school bus



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- Safe – speed bumps to reduce speed
- Safe – solar lights on all properties facing back alleys
- Safe – speed reduction
 - Change surface
 - Narrow road
 - Bike lane
 - Speed bumps
- Safe - ask roads for “slow down” signs
- Safe – Resident engagement to know their neighbours/recognize strangers
- Safe – before/after school care that is affordable
- Safe – lighting on sidewalks and parking lots
- Safe – community evening events (e.g. BBQ, bon fire, live music, movie in park) – Reclaiming Common Spaces
- Safe – fences around park. Park benches with shade for parents to sit
- Safe – education around safe play in the community at school/home
- Well maintained – neighbourhood cleanup
- Well maintained – Community garden or other shared responsibility
- Well maintained – flower pots at intersections on Blvd
- Well maintained – road cleaning/Blvd cleaning. Needs more attention to this
- Well maintained – garbage cans near mailboxes for “junk mail”
- Well maintained - see what other neighbourhoods do re: rubbish
- Conversation – invite them to coffee and conversation to discuss the opportunity of this project
- Physical – (May) gift each resident with flower plants and pot for back fence/alley
- Neighbourhood cleanup or gardening
 - Citizen engagement
 - Cleanliness
 - Develops relationships
- Track, observe peoples’ experiences in the new alley
- Terracotta painting (plastic)
- Talk to neighbours/police to identify locations
- Purchase/ask local greenhouse to donate flowers/raspberry bushes
- Purchase/donate canvases and paint and brushes
- Ask if neighbours want to sponsor canvases or flower pots/baskets
- Work/put the call out to youth and neighbours to paint/plant/clean up space
- Animate a stretch of alleys with paint, decoration; have an alley party
- Plant raspberry bushes down all alleys
- Help with lawn/fence maintenance somehow
- Block party
- Garage sale in the alley
- Something that we can try again
- Plant swap
- Mobile maintenance group
- Night market in green spaces
- Planter hangers
- Spray chalk art competition on the alley road
- Alley walk night/day
 - Promenade with popcorn, nuts; like an old festival
- Identify alleys/locations with the community that are scary by doing a community walk/mapping exercise with Boys and Girls Club, police, CA, seniors’ groups
- Back alley garage/yard sale day presented by the “back alley cats
- Flower pots in one area – enough to be significant (low volume)
 - Observe – get home owner to be interested
 - Feedback – survey online to get feedback; big QR code on sign
- Address alienation
 - Diversity of uses of space, communities
 - Meet people where they are (conceptually)
- Parking lot improvement
- Slow down drivers, speed bump? Median?
- Alternate routes
 - Form pathways
 - Infrastructure that supports
- Diverse mobilities



- Shift roadways to other uses
- Ex. Sunday walk day
- Help with lawn/fence maintenance somehow
- Walking tour from Falconridge to Mission and vice versa
 - Where are the borders?
- Prairie winds used better
- Neighbourhood speed dating
- List resources (grants, etc.) that support related projects

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- Do an asset map that supports well-maintained, safe (paint stores, unemployed teens, bike non-profits)
- Lantern parade/night market
- More light around green spaces
- Reach out to pop frightened by police
- Police/teen “games” i.e. soccer, video etc.
- Higher police presence
- Better paths
- Progressive dinner