



DRAFT

DOWNTOWN PLAN
Sense of Place(s) Session Results

On June 26, 2008 members of the community met in the Overture Center to share ideas regarding Downtown “Sense of Place(s)”. The meeting attendees formed three groups; each group was asked to answer the following three questions:

- 1) What about the Downtown, or portions of it, contribute in a positive way to the character of the surrounding neighborhood or the Downtown as a whole, and why?
- 2) What opportunities exist to create or enhance special places within the Downtown?
- 3) How can your big ideas about “Sense of Place(s)” advance the goal of sustainability?

Below are the groups’ answers for each of the three questions. These comments are taken from flip-chart paper used by the groups as well as comment cards that were filled out individually. The answers are grouped into broad categories. An asterisk denotes comment card comments. Additionally, the groups wrote and drew some of their ideas on maps. Those ideas can be found on the summary maps which are available through the Downtown Plan website.

This information is being provided for informational purposes only and will inform the Downtown Plan during the next steps of the planning process.

1) What about the Downtown, or portions of it, contribute in a positive way to the character of the surrounding neighborhood or the Downtown as a whole, and why?

CAPITOL SQUARE ENVIRONMENT
Starts with capital building
Capitol building-can wander through it
Capitol Square* (two comments)
Capitol Square
Greenspace around it
Trees-big trees
Historical buildings*
Historic buildings
GEOGRAPHY, VIEWS
Lakes (2 comments)
Lakes* (2 comments)
Vistas
Open Vistas*
Geography*
Geography
Water*

PEOPLE
Wonderful people*
Wonderful people
Students
DIVERSITY
Diversity
Diversity of jobs
Diversity of businesses
Diversity of Opportunity*
ENERGY
Vibrant City
Vibrancy- People, Restaurants, clubs, things to see and do*
Nighttime vitality
Intellectual, cultural atmosphere
NEIGHBORHOODS & DEVELOPMENT
West Washington Revitalization
MLK-human scaled
Block 89/good infill
King Street
Mansion Hill
State Street corridor and redesign
Street character
Each neighborhood has harmonious theme*
ARCHITECTURAL/BUILDING VARIETY AND QUALITY
Historic architecture
Good new architecture
Variety of density and heights
UNIQUE, QUALITY BUSINESSES
Unique and Locally owned shops (2 comments)
Good restaurants and street cafes
Pedestrian scale retail
Fraboni's
CULTURE/ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS & PLACES
Vibrant & Free events
Farmer's market
Concerts on Square
Winter events
Union
Majestic

Orpheum
UW
UW* (2 comments)
Bascom Hill
Kohl Center
Camp Randall
Boat house
OTHER PARKS AND PLACES
James Madison Park
Law Park -ski team
Law Park*
Pocket parks
Privately owned greenspace
Monona Terrace
FAMILY FRIENDLY
Family friendly to visit
New Children's Museum
Museums
DOWNTOWN ACCESSIBILITY, TRANSPORTATION
Bike path
Accessibility of downtown by a variety of transportation
Bus shelters
Walkable*
MORE IDEAS
Downtown living
Downtown creates bridge btwn history of community and new metro community- downtown does not need to be commercial hub to be central*

2) What opportunities exist to create or enhance special places within the Downtown?

PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE/NEEDS
Enforce pedestrian safety
Outer loop-not ped-friendly
Better street/pedestrian amenities
Benches
Wider sidewalks
Path to Terrace
Lighting*

Lighting
More trash cans
Lighting-creative along John Nolen
Make State St. more people friendly, less cars and buses*
Make inner ring more people friendly, less cars and buses*
LAKES
Lakefront as a place to be
Lake Monona-public access
Law Park and lake access
Frances-Lake connector
Lake clean-up (2 comments)
Enhanced waterfront
Extend N. Frances to Lake*
PUBLIC SPACE/GREENSPACE
Trees
Trees along John Nolen
Shade for harsh open spaces like Monona Terrace
Enhance greenspace
Seating areas-more
Revitalize Brittingham Park
Make street-end parks more usable
Cleaner, less trashy environment
Lack of/have more special little places (like behind library)
Informal community gathering spaces
Public art*
Public art
Public events on front lawn of Kohl Center
NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER/HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Enhance unique character of downtown neighborhoods
Historic preservation*
Historic preservation
Improve maintenance of historic buildings
Local neighborhood stores*
Local neighborhood stores
Façade improvement grants*
Façade improvement grants
Better public architecture
Create a consistent architectural theme that can be woven through the preservation of older buildings and the construction of new ones*
PARKING, TRANSPORTATION, MASS TRANSIT
Parking ramps-activities at night?
Expand Monona Terrace parking deck

Parking ramps-beautify them!
Service on parking ramps
Public transit: rail, trolley, circulator, station
Station/transit oriented development
Connect John Nolen traffic flow to downtown-signage
Shut down <u>all</u> traffic on Square and State Street
Get rid of (some) one-way streets
Reduce bus traffic on State St.*
MONONA TERRACE AND CAPITOL SQUARE USE PLANNING
Planning group for Monona Terrace
Planning group for Capitol Square to better use spaces in ongoing ways
Do more with Monona Terrace
Do more with Capitol Square
Work with State on more uses for Capitol Square (apt., etc.)
Year-round farmer's market* (two comments)
Year-round Farmer's Market
DOWNTOWN LIVING
Workforce Housing*
Childcare*
Childcare
Grocery Stores*
Movie Theatre/Cineplex*
Improve housing stock that is in transition (I.e. small-cap TIF, etc.)
Training on living an urban lifestyle
Homesteading* (two comments)
Homesteading
Resolve tensions in a way that everyone wins (e.g. panhandlers, etc.)
Dignity village.org and homeless parks/areas
PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT
Brayton lot opportunities
Liner retail
Coordination with UW Master Plan
Enforce ordinance requirements
TIFs
Fight private encroachment
Our big idea is that what makes a difference is a lot of little ideas
Enhance outer ring*
More multi-use*
TIFs*
MORE IDEAS
Edgewater (squat, looks like parking ramp)

EAH
Offices and Employment Opportunities*
Market forces
EAH*

3) How can your big ideas about “Sense of Place(s)” advance the goal of sustainability?

SUPPORT AND BROADEN DOWNTOWN OPPORTUNITY/SERVICE MENU
Make downtown living and activities attractive to reduce transportation to outlying areas
Neighborhood stores* (two comments)
Neighborhood stores
Local retail support
Local business support*
Local business support
Local services
Diversity
Preserving and using what we have = sustainability
Historic preservation is sustainability*
PUBLIC SPACE/GREENSPACE
Urban greenspaces
Creating public spaces and interactions
Improving and enhancing community gardens and parks (address urban heat sink)
Lake clean-up
TRANSPORTATION
Transit
Transportation mix, esp. non-motorized
Bike friendly*
GREEN TECHNOLOGY
Adaptable buildings*
Adaptable buildings
Green roofs
Shifting MG&E from coal (5-year plan exists)
MORE IDEAS
Activities can be large and small
More connection with natural elements and people*