

Mifflin Plaza

Design Considerations and Precedents 1/30/25 Virtual Public Meeting

Meeting Participant Demographics https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/madison_meeting_demographics





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Agenda

- Efforts to Date
- Expanded Scope
- Design Considerations
- Design Examples
- Process and Next Steps
- Questions and Comments

Wisconsin Veterans Museum

State St.

Overture Center

3

Wisconsin History

Center

Future

Development

Themes from April 2024 Public meeting:

Focused solely on Mifflin Street Plaza

Existing Space

- Sterile, dead
- No activity
- Can feel unsafe

Few front doors that create positive activity are on the space

What should the space be?

- More activity
 - Café spaces, busking etc.
 - Winter
- Flexible
- Lighting dynamic, vivid
- Students and kids
- Complimentary design
- Bold and Wonderful
- Art
- Expand to entire block

Expanded Scope and Potential Phases



Safe Growth Evaluation

- Staff from MPD, Public Health, Planning, Library, BID
- Findings:
 - Crime decreased dramatically since 2020
 - Problems identified:
 - No identity, not a destination
 - No daytime uses, only bars/restaurants
 - Feels like an alley
 - Dark
 - Drug use/ dealing in cul-de-sac turn around
 - Prostitution in parking adjacent to alley



Safe Growth Evaluation

Strategy 1: Nighttime Lighting Experience

- Downlighting, colored lights and potentially projection art
- Test technology for a longer-term installation.



Strategy 2: Daytime Fence Art Experience

• Wisconsin History Center created their own fence screen with Museum images.

Strategy 3: Redesign Plaza Space



Design Goals

- Activate the spaces
- Welcoming and comfortable
- Gateway between Capitol Square and State Street
- Flexible, durable, timeless





Who uses the space?

- Events: Jazz at 5, MadLit
- Vending: Night market, Farmers market
- Visitors and students: Capitol, museums, library
- People passing through: bikes and peds
- Lunch crowd
- Unhoused population services nearby





Who isn't there that should/could be?

- Families and children
- Seniors
- People in the evening
- Businesses aren't using the spaces
- Events underutilize space





Design Considerations

Building Fronts/Backs



Building Fronts/Backs



Flexibility vs. Features





Features vs. Flexibility



Features vs. Flexibility



Features vs. Flexibility



Planted vs. Paved





Planted vs. Paved



Focal Point: Activity







Focal Point: Art



Albany, NY



Aurum – San Francisco, CA



Seating Cylinder - Netherlands

Sonic Boom - London



Red Planet Playground - Shanghai, China



Rainbow Machine - Aukland, NZ

Lighting





Lighting







Furniture









Design Examples

East Market Plaza

- Activated by adjacent businesses
- Moveable features furniture and planters
- Flexible no fixed objects



The Highline

- Heavily landscaped
- Interspersed seating and gathering areas
- Narrow space





Beekman Plaza

- Planters direct activity to center of space
- Greenscreen covers blank wall
- Variety of fixed and moveable seating
- Pavers create texture



Larimer Square

- Pedestrian-oriented street
- Colorful outdoor seating, planters, painting and festival lights
- Businesses activating the space



Pearl Street

- Pedestrian Mall
- Fixed features in center
- Pathways on the side
- More formal, less flexible
- Banners, lighting, planters create sense of place



Anticipated Schedule and Process

- February: Begin design work
- Q2: Concept design meeting
- Q3: Design revisions meeting
- Q3-4: Programming meeting
- Q4: Final design meeting



Questions

- What are your goals for the space?
- Who should be coming to Mifflin Plaza that isn't there now? How do we attract those people?
- What would bring you to the plazas and keep you there?

- What design features seem most important to include?
- Do you support removing the roadways and parking (while still allowing limited vehicular access)?



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www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/mifflin-plaza-redesign/3942/