

## 2015 Co-Hosted Community Open House

### SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COMMENTS

*Compiled and copied from original submissions by Champion staff*

On Saturday afternoon, May 16, 2015, approximately 150 community members attended a community open house at the Century Ballroom with the selected developer of the Capitol Hill light rail station TOD. The meeting was co-hosted by the Capitol Hill Champion and Sound Transit. Community members were given the chance to chat with members of the developer team and see what they have planned for the station sites. A comment box and white board were available to collect comments and feedback from attendees regarding the proposals (**attached**).

**Comment Board**– comments written on white board during the meeting

#### *Design*

- “Love the attention to high-quality materials”
- “Use wood for storefronts”
- “More light – variety of height”
- “Curves – away from straight edges”
- “...building design that reflects local architecture”
- “Please use a more vibrant color palatte for this development. So much new development in Seattle has a muted exterior color palatte, and this is no different. Accents of red and yellow don’t go far enough to visually engage such a creative neighborhood. BUILD BOLD.”
- (Conflicting comments) “More height and density: nope (to more height and density)”
- “...boring design”

#### *Plaza design and programming*

- “Step up security”
- “Enforce [No public] smoking rules...”
- “News stand”
- “Make station fun for kids – maybe a train on playground to climb on and in...”
- (Conflicting comments) “Dog swimming pool : wet dogs better at Cal Anderson park”
- “Public-private management of plaza areas, please. So they are vibrant and well maintained, welcoming to all”
- “Gas, electrical, and water hookups for food trucks”
- “Dance floor in plaza”
- “Create a truly public plaza – NOT a pseudo-public place. Have the city purchase the land and build a park – do not count on corporate interests to maintain a public space. “

#### *Housing*

- “Don’t allow anymore residential development without parking”
- “Senior housing quotas”
- “...we need housing now!”...“More housing is critical, and that much is appreciated!”

## *Community space and amenities*

- “Music practice space for bands”
- “Affordable daycare”

## *Retail*

- “Love the marketplace concept! How about including more ‘cheap eats’ and thriftstoers/eco minded clothing stores?”

## *Lightrail*

- “Build massive more rail”

## **Comment Box** – written comments collected during the open house

### *Festival street*

- “Keep Denny closed as much as possible to encourage pedestrians”

### *Plaza design and programming*

- “Tables with integrated game boards – check out pieces at community center or BYO”
- “NYC style pretzel/hotdog/falafel carts – imagine HOT pretzels in wintertime!”
- “Newsstand – smaller version of [Bulldog News](#)”
- “Electric/water/gas hookups for food trucks”
- “Sculpture for Plaza with integrated solar panels to help offset pedestrian lighting costs”
- “Commission more embedded artwork like the ‘[Dancer’s Steps Series](#)’ into sidewalks and plaza”
- “Use embedded LED lighting for interesting artistic effect AND wayfinding ( i.e. “train this away”)
- “IF providing children’s climbing structures (Jungle gym) make sure they are train-related”
- “...please make sure the giant vertical “Market” sign is retained.”
- “Special ‘pet watering’ stations combined with water fountains – like at [Volunteer Park](#)”
- “Astroturf areas for dogs ... that use sprinklers to wash...dog swimming pool”
- “Transit info kiosks showing all nearby transit & next departure times...functional art”
- “Flea Markets”

### *Community Center*

- “Have the plaza management coordinate planning the community center with Parks & Rec who run our current community center to ensure space is appropriate to help plan classes and activities.”
- “I love the LGBTQ Community Center idea. Would like to know what resources are open to homeless in need ... will we be opening more shelters nearby?”

### *Retail*

- “Please, no supermarkets in space...”
- “put retail in the ground floor of [Site] B South. Ground floor residential units are weird with all the plaza ped traffic going by. The traffic would serve retail much better.”

### *Community engagement and neighborhood concerns*

- “Between station completion and train testing, have a station public open house where [the] public can tour [the] station and see art and get excited for our new...station. Station entrances can be used to promote development like today’s event as well.”

*Community engagement and neighborhood concerns, cont'd...*

- “As the process develops and these *meetings* continue, the post office should be a consideration... in the conversation and the community should be informed as to what is going to happen across the street...”

**@CapHillChampion – twitter comments.**

- “What about resources for the existing community? Social services, affordable housing/food?”
- “crafts fair for locals to sell their wares on Saturdays”

## **SUMMARY OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

*Collected via optional survey cards distributed at sign-in and compiled by Champion staff*

A total of 94 (of an estimated 150) community members who attended the open house opted to provide demographic data. The demographic survey template and questions were provided by the City of Seattle RSJI Department.

### *Race*

A majority of respondents (73%) answered “White/ Caucasian”, 6% “Multi-racial”, 4% “Asian”, 3% “Black”, 1% “Hispanic” and 4% “Other”. Some (3%) chose not to answer.

### *Language spoken at home*

A majority of respondents (96%) speak English at home.

### *Gender*

A majority of respondents (60% ) answered “Male”, 36% “Female”, 1% “Other” and some (3%) chose not to answer.

### *Age*

A majority of respondents fell into the “25-34 year old” category (27%) and the “65+ category” (22%). The remaining age categories represented in descending in order are: 18% “35-44 yrs”, 18% “45-54 yrs”, 12% “55-64 yrs” and 3% “Under 25”.

### *Own or Rent*

A majority of respondents (54%) “Own”, while 39% “Rent”, 4% “Own and Rent” and 3% chose “Other” or did not answer.

### *Zipcode*

A majority of respondents (70%) live near the station development ( 98102, 98112, or 98122).