

LEARNING TABLE #11 & #12: Community Engagement Review: What have we heard from the community at 38th and Chicago

Minneapolis Public Works plans to reconstruct the intersection of 38th & Chicago (George Perry Floyd Square) and will begin this effort by engaging with the community. Engagement throughout the project is intended to help redesign the area in a way that reflects community needs.

Learning Table #11 & #12: Community Engagement Review: What have we learned from the community at 38th and Chicago



Learning Table Topic: Community Engagement Update;
August 28 & September 25, 2023



Upcoming Learning Table: George Floyd Square Community Engagement Framework presented by the City of Minneapolis, Office of Public Service

October 23, 2023 ; 6pm; Sabathani Community Center

Created by Public Policy Project, The Learning Table provides the “learning water”; a place to ask critical questions and develop the “learning glue”; a place to develop relationships, create partnership, share ideas, and make commitments, to explore for incorporation in the 38th & Chicago Re-Envisioned Project. At the Learning Table, we Learn Together; Create a Shared Approach; Coordinate Efforts; and Ensure Community Benefit.

The **eleventh and twelfth learning tables** in August and September focused on presenting the results of community engagement completed to date. The conversation on community engagement, led by NEOO Partners, Public Policy Project and 4RM+ULA, featured a facilitated discussion on community engagement that has occurred as a part of the 38th and Chicago Re-Envisioned project. We began with a brief overview of what was shared at the August Learning Table including an overview of the project and engagement activities, a summary of data collected to date, and themes that have emerged from community stakeholders. Following the presentation, meeting participants had a circle conversation on their current thoughts and ideas around George Floyd Square, what they would like to see in the future and the next phase of the project. The notes below provide the raw transcription of the public response to the prompts.

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People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500



What We Heard

The 31 attendees of the eleventh Learning Table and 40 attendees of the twelfth Learning Table were presented with questions to discuss and answer.

Round table discussion

Person 1

Lives at Elliot, a lot of her neighbors have not been present to give their insight.

Person 2

32 years in Powderhorn

Has organized NNO (block leader) for many years, and met many times after the murder.

Heard different stories about interactions with police. Have not seen any action and nothing is being honored, curious about the process.

Something that honors the consciousness that came out, placemaking and making a vibrant community.

Jacob Frey- called her when she was a delegate, how he handled the set-up.

Appreciated by the occupation and how it looks, but it doesn't support the message. MPLS has not publicly recognized what has happened here.

Person 3

Lived in Phillips for a long time, concerning. Wants GFS to be by and for the people. The procedure is there and people get represented.

Concerns, don't see the police behaving better, so much stuff going on. Real justice.

unpopular - see the police harass unhoused people, talk with them on the bus. The traffic flows, we need to have justice before anything else.

The city wants to look prosperous, building pretty buildings. Believes the current cops are corrupt.

Person 4

Have been visiting GFS for the last 3 years, 3 hours a day-

Caretaker of people and the square, giving water, conflict resolution, connecting w/ people at the square. Agree with a lot that has been said, not just a landmark but opportunity for transformation.

Another perspective of the aesthetics- people leaving their mark, raw, emotional, hard to face, so something like that doesn't happen again. if the focus is on changing the aesthetics first.

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Round table discussion continued...

Person 5

Lives at 42nd-lived near GFS as well. It was the only place to afford to buy a house. Was there 3 hrs after the murder of George Floyd.

City intention is to erase history at GFS. Lots of talk about healing.

The same policies are still in place, GFS being a place to see real history.

There are lots of people who have dropped off and nothing has been enacted. The process is going on and people are getting sick of the process, we are where we should be.

Person 6

Lived on 38th street, their entire life. Would like to see it to look more decent, if it was her family member she would be offended by how it looks I-healing, memorial, things we can all utilize as a community, bring family, would like the corner store to go away. Nothing has lasted, bring in stuff we can utilize except the church.

Transit- unsure if the bus should go there, but elders have to walk 3-4 blocks for a bus. Memorial, pictures, less vacant buildings.

Person 7

Resident of this area, most of her life. Disappointed in the way the area looks. The aesthetic is unpleasing. If one of the relatives visited them they would not want to take them there.

The way it looks now, is not conducive for healing, but it can be a place of healing and restoration if we want to.

Not just the community, waiting for leaders to be invested, the money that is needed to make the changes can't come from the community. Take the bus, 22, the detours, unsavory activities going on, there are community patrollers but there is still stuff going on. Teaching, healing and restoration moment- doesn't feel it.

Person 8

Spends a lot of time in GFS- feels very touristy. Before they were scared, they had drug issues. People coming with don't know the issues.

They are making a mural for Daunte Wright already, we are not there. If we are not helping people in this community, not bringing any resources. Not using the restaurants, no programs, resources, most . Most people are doing what they think is best.

Talk to Ms. Angela to see what she wants. Not move on, but move forward, we should have something permanent.

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Round table discussion continued...

Person 9

Diddo to person 8. Can't imagine another building going in its place. More people outside of the project area are affected, use BRT (Transit) 2x's day. Think the space needs something historic, respectful.

Person 10

Southsider -teenage to adulthood. Watched the area transform before CUP. Ties to this- Black man, same age as George Floyd. Thoughts and a lot of questions. What's up and what is next, lots of discussions, no progress, feels like the first, seems to have gone to a decline.

You don't get the stories of people on the ground.

The aesthetics- doesn't understand what the storyline is and representation.

People want to make it a memorial, it feels like the main thing, the space is decimate and it's not inviting. Tourists go there, the neighborhood people avoid it. Is not getting better, some businesses, not an inviting atmosphere.

The gas station is an eye sore, like mad max. Whatever happens there should be for those in the neighborhood, extension, people that George Floyd represents-race, gender, income. Whatever happens there, what started it can be the memorial.

Person 11

11th Ave, 40 year resident. I Want a racial Justice Center. Have not seen neighborhood associations that have not been here. Talked w/ Mother Atum about a corridor that brings together Sabathani, CWS, Kente Circle. responsibility



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Additional context from the project team on the next phase of engagement

- The Peoples Way-3744 Chicago- infrastructure- wants to lead a community engagement process, RFP process to buy the site. The City owns the property.
- The city is planning to hold a community engagement process.

Additional comments from the community

- Prioritized for the Speedway site- nothing has gone away or changed, until we get something that maintains the character that is current. This is an iconic spot. Needs to be considered, like the idea of keeping the canopy to protect people.
- Directly adjacent to GFS-The City abandoned them, benefiting from civil society. Sympathize with activists, many are not from the neighborhood and demand to live this way. Has a 4 year old daughter, hard navigating the streets. Don't want to run away, wants it to be a place for others to live. It's a place for other people, wants to fight justice. Urban planning that is disturbing black/brown neighborhoods and disrupting justice.
- People can walk around w/ families. Its fucked that all these people dying, its taking so long.
- Lives on 38th street- doesn't hear or see people of color at the events, people.
- Lives in the Lyndale neighborhood, they lost their eye and lost their sense of smell due to MPD rubber bullets.
- The frustration is palpable - how many times we can say ouch - tourism is a thing, if they see the hopelessness that we see-why would I invest here. As a person of color, been to the Civil Rights Museum- if you.
- A lot of people who are born and raised in MN, come here from outside, but don't do the same thing in their neighborhood. We allowed them to come and their voice, it holds more weight.

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Are there any other topics that you would like the Public Works Dept and the City Coordinator's office City to prioritize in the next phase of engagement, with regard to George Floyd Square?

- Whatever goes on at the corner- where are we in the process of the Speedway site
- Project Goals on the website- confirm that a racial justice site- do they want it, different elements on the website (roles/goals) the next steps and goals.
- City communication process is passive, the same level they have for voter engagement. it is a contained process, have to go to the website. This should be limited to those who live in 2 block radius, have to inform by mail, online.
- The GFS is best w/ festivals. When people can gather in the square, celebrate and learn . Lots of life comes in the square.
- Public Safety- policing
- The racial justice center deals with the causes, policing is cleaned up. We are going to have more George Floyd-getting to the root
- Serving the youth -serving youth, broader scale, self-sustaining project that supports the other goals, support building something that can support related projects and goals
- Flushing out an ideal proposal for the square, see other proposals, what is the timeline with the RFP- we estimate the RFP is gonna be 3 years, wants transparency and communication
- Don't worry about the money- it will pour in and support when there is a final plan



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