CIVIC CENTER NEXT 100:
CIVIC CENTER PARK + BANNOCK STREET CONCEPT DESIGN

Public Workshop #2
Engagement Summary

Summer 2021
CONTENTS

1. Project and Engagement Overview
2. Concept Options Feedback Summary
3. Key Takeaways Park-Wide
4. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
1. PROJECT AND ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW
CIVIC CENTER NEXT 100: Civic Center Park + Bannock Street Concept Design

What do you imagine for the next 100 years of Civic Center?

The world’s greatest communities are defined by timeless public spaces where people gather, connect and belong. Now more than ever, active spaces are critical to the mental and physical health of a city’s residents as well as its economy. For Denver, our crown jewel is Civic Center.

Located at the heart of the city and surrounded by many of our key civic and cultural institutions, Civic Center has served as Denver’s most significant gathering spot for cultural events, festivals, and First Amendment rallies for over 100 years. It is Denver’s first National Historic Landmark and we must honor Civic Center’s history as we envision its future.

‘Civic Center Next 100’ takes the 2005 Civic Center Master Plan and brings it to life for the Denver of today and the generations to come.

Project Vision

Improvements to Civic Center will catalyze new activity and animate the heart of Denver. The transformation of four key areas will fulfill past community-driven planning visions and elevate Denver’s First National Historic Landmark for the next 100 years with new energy, world-class performances, and events.

Concept Design Timeline

**FALL 2020**

1. *Existing Conditions, Analysis, Goal Setting*
   - Public Workshops & Survey Kick-Offs

2. *Design Concepts*
   - WINTER 2021

3. *Preferred Concept*
   - SUMMER 2021

4. *EARLY FALL 2021*

---

FOUR INTEGRATED PROJECTS

**Bannock Street**

- An Event Space and Extension of the Park Balanced with Human-Scale Elements for Daily Use

**Central Promenade**

- Historic and Adaptable Event, Market and Pedestrian Corridor

**Central Gathering Feature**

- A New ‘Uniquely Denver’ Destination at the Heart of Civic Center with a Water Feature, Garden Spaces and Public Art

**Greek Theater**

- A Civic Park Space Transformed into a Premiere Outdoor Performance Venue

---

**Civic Center Station**

**Denver Art Museum**

**Denver Public Library**

**Colorado State Capitol**
Project Principles

**Principle 1:** Enliven Civic Center as a place for people. Make it active, engaging, welcoming and comfortable to everyone (children, residents, visitors, tourists, workers) every day.

**Principle 2:** Elevate Civic Center to form a prominent destination centered around distinct cultural and community anchors.

**Principle 3:** Celebrate the historic significance of the Civic Center landmark.

**Principle 4:** Incorporate resilient design to ensure Civic Center is a model for successful urban ecology, sustainability and long-term vitality for the next 100 years.

**Principle 5:** Unify Civic Center by implementing city-wide connectivity visions to link to surrounding cultural, recreational and civic spaces and reinforcing physical and visual connections to the surrounding district.
PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2 Engagement Sessions

**Stakeholder Committee Meetings**
- June 8, 2021 - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- June 8, 2021 - Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)

**Focus Group Meetings**
- June 8, 2021 - Operations and Management Focus Group
- June 9, 2021 - Community Connections Focus Group
- June 9, 2021 - Greek Theater Focus Group
- June 10, 2021 - Events Focus Group
- June 10, 2021 - Daily Activation Focus Group

**Paper Survey Event Outreach**
- June 4 - July 5, 2021 - Civic Center EATS
- June 4 - July 5, 2021 Showers for All
- June 4 - July 5, 2021 St. Francis Lunch Service

**1,355+ points of feedback**
for 'Civic Center Next 100' Workshop #2

**1,141 survey responses**

**Attendee counts:**
- Operations and Management and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting **26**
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting **26**
- Community Connections Focus Group **10**
- Daily Activation and Events Focus Groups **18**
- Greek Theater Focus Group **10**
- Civic Center Conservancy Board **15**
- Public Workshop #2 **35**
- Public Workshop Video Recording Views **74+**
- Paper Surveys **34**
- Online Surveys **1,107**

**PAST ENGAGEMENT**

[ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY DOCUMENT FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1]
2. CONCEPT OPTIONS FEEDBACK SUMMARY

At Public Workshop #2, the project team shared the feedback from Public Workshop #1 and presented concept design options for the 4 project areas. Feedback was collected in a variety of ways during the workshop including live polling, open comment, and interactive question and answer. Following the workshop, the online survey was open for input for a month. Additional, in-person engagement was conducted in Civic Center Park to gather feedback on the concept options.
Central Gathering Feature

A New, ‘Uniquely Denver’ Destination Within Civic Center with a Water Feature, Garden Spaces and Public Art

OBJECTIVES

- Complete the original vision for the park
- Honor the historic City Beautiful aesthetic with a contemporary expression
- Incorporate water and gardens per the Master Plan
- Create a magnetic attraction within the center of the City
- Celebrate the historic civic and cultural axes
- Represent historically marginalized voices
- Incorporate joy, delight, and new perspectives
- Draw diverse visitors of all ages 365 days-a-year
- Flexible to work with rallies, festivals, and programming
Central Gathering Feature

**CONCEPT 1: Interactive Plaza**

- At-grade interactive water feature
- Garden edge with surrounding seat walls
- Shaded grove
- Light and sound elements

**CONCEPT DETAILS**

- Desire for more shade (interest in concept 3 if it had more shade)
- Interest in limiting water usage and using it sustainably
- Concern about feeling safe in the space and need to maintain clear sight lines across the park
- Desire to maintain American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility
- Desire to preserve and/or enhance iconic sight lines
- Interest in adaptive lighting and technology that engages the central sculptural element

**CONCEPT 2: Circular Water Feature**

- Circular elevated lawn
- Circular water feature
- Shaded plaza
- Public art
- Garden edge

**CONCEPT DETAILS**

- Programmable light and sound elements

**CONCEPT 3: Water Wall and Overlook**

- Floating overlook
- Sloped lawn
- ADA ramp walk
- Water and ice wall
- Shaded seating
- Plaza

**CONCEPT DETAILS**
**Central Gathering Feature**

**SURVEY RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT 1</th>
<th>38.6%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>389 responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT 2</th>
<th>34.3%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>345 responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT 3</th>
<th>27.1%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>273 responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"I like the 2nd option's water feature [circular stepped interactive water feature] that can be seating when the water's off."

"Thinking about our future, let's limit areas that need water unless it's recycled water fountains or pools. Minimizing grass is another good idea."

"All of these are nice, but there is no point unless the city does something about [the fact that] the park is not clean, welcoming, or safe."

"The 3rd concept - while intriguing - creates additional spaces that will be difficult to keep safe."

**KEY TAKEAWAYS AND NEXT STEPS**

The 2005 Civic Center Master Plan and 2009 Design Guidelines suggest that the Central Gathering Feature "will bring artistic beauty and a memorable civic space to the 'heart' of the park." By recommendation of these visioning documents, the Central Gathering Feature will incorporate water, sculpture, and gardens into the final design. This space "is envisioned as a lively and active gathering spot, drawing people into the Park."

The final design will include a strategy to celebrate the iconic, historic viewsheds as well as utilize adaptive lighting technology to animate the space in the evening and during periods when water use is not feasible.

Over the course of the outreach process, stakeholders and the public's preference for the three concepts varied and were largely split between the three Concepts. Further discussions and public comments illuminated a preference for Concepts 2 and 3 due to the inherent integration of art, architecture and landscape design. We heard an interest and enthusiasm for an artistic water element at the Central Gathering Feature. Additionally, we heard from the public that the preferred design should prioritize sustainability and develop a water system that minimizes waste and is appropriate for Denver's climate. The community repeatedly called for trees to provide shade. There was some concern noted from the public that critical sight lines should be preserved. Finally, we heard overwhelmingly that this space must feel safe, active, and engaging 365 day a year, 18 hours per day.

Moving forward, the City and County of Denver intends to create a "Call to Artist/Design Team" to further define and advanced the vision for the Gathering Feature. Public input collected to date will be used to help define the parameters of the future "Call to Artists." In the interest of preserving flexibility for a future Art/Architecture Team to continue the design in this space, the current project team will pause on development of the Gathering Feature concepts and work with Denver Parks & Recreation to build a project narrative based on the public input received to date, to be utilized by the Art/Architecture Team. That narrative will include the current framework options developed to inspire a future vision for the future art/design team. The narrative will also include a summary of design research and input received as additional guidance for this space.
The Central Promenade

An Historic and Adaptable Event, Market and Festival Corridor and a Comfortable Pedestrian Space

OBJECTIVES

- Infrastructure to allow for adaptable use
- Increase day-to-day comfort
- Ensure past events can continue, include adaptability for new programs
- Preserve historic paving pattern
- Adapt to current stormwater best management practices
- Improve to be more durable for heavy event and vehicular use
Central Promenade

CONCEPT 1: SEASONAL SHADE & BANNER KIT

- Summer and special event banners
- Hidden pole + power sleeving

CONCEPT DETAILS
Adaptable infrastructure for seasonal banners | Artful shade canopies | Event power and lighting | Paving replacement

CONCEPT 2: SUMMER LIGHT & SHADE STRUCTURES

- Summer artistic shade structures
- Integrated lighting

CONCEPT DETAILS
Large scale, durable, artistic shade structures | Integrated lighting elements | Paving replacement

FEEDBACK THEMES

- Desire for durability of shade structures
- Interest in seating beneath the shade structures
- Preference to maintain accessibility for people, food trucks, and events
- Support for unique lighting features
SURVEY RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT 1</th>
<th>CONCEPT 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>54.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>45.4%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

538 responses

448 responses

"It seems like the City could integrate additional seating/shading elements within the design to accommodate EATS and other events."

"Shade is desperately needed."

"Like the idea of a year round evolving system. Some lights and banners of different types would look great. Shade could be awesome at different times too."

"Compared to #1, the umbrellas of #2 feel like they would interrupt that rare wide-open feeling that currently exists. I really like the idea of special banners and light installations in the canopies of #1. It seems like these offer much more flexibility for creative uses of the structures."

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND NEXT STEPS

Focus group conversations asserted that the paving must be replaced with more durable and maintainable materials that are capable of supporting heavy vehicle loads for events and programs. This should be integrated into any selected concept. Of the two shade strategies presented, there was interest in both concepts – survey takers favored Concept 1 while focus groups were interested in Concept 2 as an opportunity for seasonal, artful shade structures. As the team reviews these concepts, they will consider public demand for year-round vibrancy, durability and shade.

The Civic Center Design Guidelines suggest that any additive element must be easily, and regularly removed (seasonal or otherwise) to preserve and prioritize the historic character of Civic Center Park. The design team will explore year-round lighting improvements that are adaptable for events, along with other necessary infrastructure improvements.
The Greek Theater

A Civic Park Space Transformed into a Premier Outdoor Performance Venue

OBJECTIVES

- Serve as a regular activator of Civic Center Park with rallies, music, cultural performances and community events
- Preserve as a venue for first-amendment gatherings, rallies, and other civic activity
- Create an adaptable venue for eclectic performances and community-focused events
- Make the theater area comfortable for day-to-day and performance use
- Preserve pedestrian and ADA access when events are not in-place
- Maintain the historic integrity of the space
Greek Theater Stage

CONCEPT 1

35-40 performer capacity | 1,250 seated audience (larger bowl capacity, excludes colonnade) | 1,300-1,700 standing audience | Portable ADA stage access lift available only for events | Integrated seating terraces

CONCEPT 2

80-90 performer capacity | 1,260 seated audience (smaller bowl capacity, includes colonnade) | 1,300-1,700 standing audience | Consistent public ADA access | Integrated seating terraces

FEEDBACK THEMES

» Desire to prioritize universal access principles
» Support for a stage that is usable and accessible for daily park users as well as performers
» Desire for a softened stage material – the existing material is too hard for many performances
» Preference to preserve a clear path through the structure across 14th Avenue to Acoma Plaza
» Desire to maintain the original structure
» Wish for flexibility – a space to accommodate dance performances, large choirs, battle of the bands as well as single performers
Greek Theater Shade Structure

CONCEPT 1

Standard shade structure over performance stage | Limited size and scale draws focus to the historic structure | Equipped to be seasonally removed | Provides shade for performers during events

CONCEPT DETAILS

Event-only shade integrated into standard audiovisual truss system

CONCEPT 2

Custom, year-round tensile shade canopy

CONCEPT DETAILS

Custom year-round audiovisual ‘ring truss’

FEEDBACK THEMES

» Preference for shade over the audience as well as performers – a comfortable space to rest, eat, etc. during daily summer events as well as evening performances
» Emphasis on the durability of the shade structure
» Desire to maintain the historic structure/architecture
» Need to accommodate more frequent, low-cost community performers
Greek Theater Concepts

SURVEY RESULTS

STAGE CONCEPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>21.8%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 2</th>
<th>78.2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>717 responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SHADE CONCEPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>25.2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>208 responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 2</th>
<th>74.8%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>617 responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Year round shade for performances is a good idea thinking long term."

"ADA Stage is a non-negotiable in this day and age. Blaze the trail, Denver."

"I prefer the custom design canopy option but think it should be removable or “retractable.”"

"A year-round canopy will impact the integrity of the original design."

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND NEXT STEPS

STAGE CONCEPTS

Public and stakeholder input revealed that Stage Concept 2 was overwhelmingly preferred over Concept 1. Stakeholders prioritized daily ADA access in their feedback on the concepts. In addition to preferring the ADA accessible stage, the design team was asked to consider universal access through the structure and as an iconic park arrival from the Acoma Street corridor to the south. The larger stage was also preferred for its adaptability and larger viewing area (incorporating the colonnade by extending the stage center further into the bowl). Finally, the community raised concerns about future event costs and public access to performances, encouraging adaptability in the design to accommodate low-budget or free access events.

SHADE CONCEPTS

Public and stakeholder input revealed that shade Concept 2 was overwhelmingly preferred over Concept 1. As the design team works towards a preferred concept, the shade structure plan must be refined in alignment with 2005 Civic Center Master Plan and 2009 Design Guidelines guidance. The majority of shade related comments requested a structure that covers the audience in addition to the critical need to provide shade for performers. A new shade covering must also preserve views to the historic structure and minimize or avoid anchoring to the existing structure to preserving its architectural integrity. If a smaller truss structure is selected, it would be desirable to keep the shade covering in-place when events are not underway so that shade is available for public park use.
Bannock Street

An Event Space and Extension of the Park Balanced with Human-Scale Elements for Daily Use.

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain central open plaza area for events in front of the City and County Building as the primary element of the space
- Ensure secure perimeter while also providing vehicular access to the event plaza and interior park spaces via the McNichols Building
- Balance the needs of an event market with daily comfort in the north and south areas
- Function as a bike and pedestrian transportation corridor for all but the biggest events
**OPEN CENTRAL PLAZA**

**Concept 1**

- South entry garden room
- Stormwater collection planters
- Kiosk
- Permeable pavers
- Existing CCB Entry

**CONCEPT DETAILS**

Large open central plaza to accommodate events and festivals. South garden room has large planting areas with stormwater collection, integrated seating, lots of shade, and art elements located throughout. Planting areas create edges to the north garden rooms establishing a linear amenity with seating in the middle and soft plantings on both sides. Movable kiosks are located at the edge of the garden rooms and next to the central plaza. No improvement to the plaza at the City and County building.

**EXPANDED PLAZA WITH WATER FEATURE**

**Concept 2**

- Garden promenade + seating
- Enhanced planters + seating
- Central plaza
- Garden promenade + seating
- Stormwater collection planters
- Kiosk
- Permeable pavers
- Security perimeter / bollards
- Central plaza + fountain
- Great Lawn
- North entry garden room
- Existing CCB Entry

**CONCEPT DETAILS**

Central plaza with an interactive fountain along the Civic Center Park edge. Plaza improvements include the City and County Building plaza. Garden rooms provide a variety of spaces for everyday relaxation with colorful plantings, linear seating elements, shade, art and permeable pavers. A movable kiosk is located at Colfax for access control.

**FEEDBACK THEMES**

- Desire for shade, seating and larger garden areas
- Interest in the interactive water feature but questions around water conservation
- Interest in stormwater collection planters, native plantings and pollinator gardens
- Desire for improved connection to the City and County Building plaza and entry
- Desire to maintain Bannock as a bikeway
- Need to maintain adequate space and access needs for events and festivals
- Access to the McNichols parking lot must be maintained
- Consideration should be given to event and everyday infrastructure such as water, electric hookups, etc
- Ensure that Bannock is an inclusive place and provides an equitable experience for all
SURVEY RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT 1</th>
<th>CONCEPT 2</th>
<th>A LITTLE OF BOTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>393 responses</td>
<td>422 responses</td>
<td>164 responses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"I like the idea of a fountain and more seating in the central plaza, but I also liked the shaded "garden room" idea of the first design."

"I like breaking down the street with the "rooms" so it doesn't just feel like a closed street, but a new space(s)."

"Generally, I love seeing lots of the space used for stormwater infrastructure "

"I would like to see the plaza incorporate the City/County building into a cohesive environment."

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND NEXT STEPS

Public and stakeholder input did not reveal a clear preference for Concept 1 or 2 for Bannock Street.

Comments and feedback received through the outreach process revealed a desire to maintain adequate space for events and the necessary access while also making Bannock Street a place for people by increasing the tree canopy and shade, providing more seating, incorporating native plants and pollinators, utilizing stormwater collection planters, maintaining the bikeway, connection to the City and County Building, and incorporating an interactive water feature. Many comments specifically supported larger garden rooms along with an interactive water feature. Other feedback received included consideration for the unhoused community, the need for safety and security, a desire for greater level of maintenance, improved pedestrian connections across Colfax, a desire to create equitable experiences, and the importance of supporting infrastructure needs for daily use and events.

Next steps will include integrating the elements favored by the public and stakeholders from both concepts into a single preferred concept.
3 KEY TAKEAWAYS AND NEXT STEPS

The feedback received during Public Workshop #2 will inform the preferred concept plans to be presented at the final Public Workshop #3.
Key Takeaways

The following overarching themes emerged during the outreach process from Public Workshop #2 and will be considered in the development of the preferred concept designs.

1. Ensure safety and cleanliness of the park to make the park welcoming and accessible for all.

   - Civic Center Park needs to be welcoming to all people.
   - Illicit drug use, camping, and illegal activities are not allowed within Denver Parks.
   - Additional resources and mental health supports for the unhoused within the park are desired.
   - Promote universal design throughout the park.

2. Honor the historic elements of the park and surrounding architecture.

   - The concept designs should honor Colorado history, the Civic Center Park Master Plan, the National Historic Landmark Designation, and the Civic Center Design Guidelines.
   - Consideration should also be given to support modifications that make the park more functional and welcoming to everyone for the Next 100 Years.

3. Incorporate trees, shade, seating and gathering spaces.

   - As our climate continues to get warmer, the designs need to add shade elements where possible throughout the park spaces.
   - The designs should provide more places for people to sit, rest, and gather.

4. Be thoughtful with the use of water.

   - In our arid climate, the concept design should be responsible with the use of water.
   - While the public expressed a desire for water features, the water features need to be designed with water conservation in mind.
   - Drought tolerant plant material appropriate to our semi-arid, high desert climate should be utilized in garden spaces.

5. Integrate more gardens with native and flowering plants.

   - Consideration should be given to plant material with a focus on drought tolerant plants—building upon the Game Plan’s Uniquely Denver goal to celebrate Denver’s diverse ecological system.
   - Pollinator gardens should also be implemented to support native habitats and species.
Key Takeaways

6. Focus on sustainability, resiliency and maintenance.
   - The designs should incorporate sustainable practices and consider long-term resiliency.
   - Utilize resilient materials that are long-lasting, durable, and easily maintained.
   - Maintenance needs should be integral to the design, including the maintenance of proposed design elements as well as the addition of site furnishings, such as trash receptacles, to help with the cleanliness and maintenance of the park.

7. Consider ways to connect Civic Center Park and Bannock Street to the surrounding neighborhoods and destinations.
   - Improve pedestrian infrastructure so that crossings are more comfortable and prioritize people rather than cars.
   - Extend park elements to edges to create strong gateways into and through the park.

8. Create a location for food and beverage for year-round use of the park.
   - Food and beverage vendors can help to create everyday activation of the park.

9. Create active spaces and new types of programming.
   - Provide more spaces within the park for everyday activation such as pick-up games, such as bocce or chess, and places for whimsy and activity.
   - The designs should create versatile places for children to engage, explore and play.
4. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)
Public Workshop #2
FAQs

1. What are the challenges associated with the Greek Theater’s existing condition?

- The current Greek Theater lacks any permanent audio/visual equipment to function as a venue. Today, performers bring their own equipment for performances. The current set up for load-in and load-out is difficult and can require multiple days for setup. In addition to the fact that setup can hinder daily park use, this is an expense that most local programmers cannot afford, thus, limiting options for community programming at the Greek Theater.
- The Greek Theater does not currently meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) access requirements as the current Greek Theater because it requires stair access to the stage, back-of-house, colonnade and the lower amphitheater bowl.
- The Greek Theater lacks weather protection for performers and equipment.
- The current stage is not usable for many types of performances due to its small size, tapered shape and hard, stone and brick base. It also lacks any sun protection for performers.
- The existing Greek Theater has spaces that require improved security due to lack of visibility.
- The existing paving in the Greek Theater Amphitheater lower bowl is eroding, creating safety, and drainage challenges.

2. How will the original Greek Theater structure be preserved and highlighted with the proposed changes?

- The 2005 Civic Center Master Plan allows for revisions to the Greek Theater structure to provide ADA accessibility and adapt its functionality as a performance venue.
- Any additions to the historic structure will be “reversible,” which implies that all changes to the Greek Theater structure will be designed in such a way that they can be removed if there is a desire to revert the theater to the original design in the future.
- Where permanent elements are added, the design team will anchor elements to points outside of the existing historic structure.
- The design team will seek to elevate vertical or overhead elements above the structure, minimizing impacts on views to the historic architecture. All improvements will complement the historic design.
- All design additions will be submitted for review and approval to the Landmark Preservation Commission.
Public Workshop #2

FAQs

3. How do these concept designs support equity and a universal, people-first approach?

- Civic Center Park and Bannock Street are public, civic spaces. These spaces will be designed to be viewed, accessed, and used by individuals of all abilities. The specific accessibility strategies vary across the concept designs for Bannock Street, Central Gathering Feature, Greek Theater and Central Promenade.
- The final concept design for each project area will meet ADA accessibility requirements and seeks to exceed this by pursuing universal access.
- Each concept incorporates design flexibility, allowing Bannock Street, the Greek Theater, the Central Promenade, and Central Gathering Feature to be adapted for gatherings, groups, art installations and programs of all size while also encouraging passive everyday park uses.
- The closure of Bannock Street in April 2020 was the first step in making Bannock a place for people by closing it as a vehicular through street and adding shade and seating elements. The design concept for the final improvements is intended to be a curbless street condition, which will provide flexibility for events as well as improved universal access.

4. How does the Central Gathering Feature relate to the existing balustrade wall? How will the design respect the original design layout of open space vs tree canopy?

- Central Gathering Feature Concepts 1-2 incorporates the existing balustrade configuration and the existing ramp, which was added in the early 1990s as a revision to the original design. The Gathering Feature concept 3 removes this ramp, tying a universally-accessible, 360-degree park and city overlook into the elevated balustrade level. At the ground level, the concept preserves an open connection below to frame the view to the City and County Building and State Capitol Buildings. Access along the Civic Axis (east-west) will be provided with a direct connection from the Broadway Terrace to the Central Promenade below the elevated overlook.
- The design team prepared a viewshed study that identified the existing view corridors and those established by the historic vegetation (planted prior to 1979), defined by the existing tree canopy. In the Gathering Feature concept options, trees have been proposed outside of the historic viewshed, adding shade canopy without creating significant changes to the existing views.
- Per the 2009 Design Guidelines, the concepts ‘maintain and strengthen the Civic Axis and the Cultural Axis as the primary organizing features of Civic Center.’
5. How do the proposed tree plantings on Bannock Street relate to the existing (and originally intended) tree canopy for the park?

- The proposed trees located along Bannock reinforce the corridor as a pedestrian oriented street. Additionally, the design team has suggested that the trees framing the Great Lawn and Civic Axis extend into Bannock Street and reinforce the views to the City and County Building.
- The 2005 Civic Center Master Plan assumed Bannock Street to be a roadway, and therefore trees were not envisioned or proposed along Bannock Street. However, the relationship of Bannock Street to Civic Center Park and the City and County Building is an important component of the Master Plan and 2009 Civic Center Design Guidelines.
- The Master Plan emphasizes the civic axis from the City and County Building to the Central Gathering Feature and State Capitol. Even though the City and County Building is technically outside of the park boundary, this is a critical relationship and component of the park. As such, the open sight line between these elements must remain.

6. How will the future design of Bannock Street accommodate the diversity of events and festivals held there today?

- The Bannock Street concepts have been closely vetted with event operators, park operations and maintenance staff, the Office of Special Events and many others.
- Through those conversations, the design team has determined that a minimum of 39’ clear zone along the entirety Bannock Street must remain to maximize flexibility and address the needs of parade floats, event set-up and break-down, festival tents, parks maintenance trucks and other needs moving in and out of the park on a regular basis. Additionally, a 60’x80’ minimum open area must be preserved in the central space for large concerts and events that have a stage or central set-up.
- The Bannock concept designs meet these requirements to provide maximum flexibility for the variety of events that currently happen along Bannock and those that may happen in the future.
7. How will the project limit water usage given the increasing drought frequency? How will native Colorado landscaping and plants be incorporated and promoted within landscaping?

- New planting additions will prioritize xeric and low-water plant species that celebrate Colorado’s semi-arid, high desert climate and ecology.
- Perennial plantings will limit spring watering as fewer new plants will need to root each year.
- Stormwater collection planters will be explored on Bannock Street to improve water quality and utilize stormwater for plants.
- Water feature(s) will integrate current best practices for resilient water features in arid climates.

If you have additional questions that were not answered in the FAQ document or if you need a Spanish language copy, please email: ParksAndRecreation@denvergov.org

Stay up to date on the Civic Center Next 100 project by visiting www.denvergov.org/theoutdoordowntown
THANK YOU