



Meeting Details

Meeting Name:	East Steering Committee
Date/Time:	Thursday, October 26, 2017, 6-8 PM
Location:	Art Gym Denver, 1460 Leyden Street

Attendees

Steering Committee Members

Merritt Pullam, Chair; Tom Fesing; Yoal Ghebrehmeskel; Lyle Hansen; Marti Holmes; Ted Manley; Tom Meyer; Tracey MacDermott; Hilarie Portell; Wende Reoch

Denver Elected Officials & Staff

Lucas Palmisano (Office of Councilwoman Susman)

Denver Staff

Curt Upton; Elizabeth Weigle; Josh Palmeri; Jason Whitlock

Meeting Summary

1. **Welcome** – Merritt Pullam welcomed the steering committee members and asked members and participants to introduce themselves.
2. **Approval of September 28 Meeting Summary** – Merritt Pullam asked whether there were any comments on the September 28 meeting summary. No comments were raised, and members approved the summary for posting on the website.
3. **Overview of Urban Quality Tool & Field Study**– Jason Whitlock, Community Planning and Development, gave an overview of the preliminary Urban Quality Tool -- a new method for quantifying how different elements contribute to the quality of the urban environment in a specific location. The tool will be used to evaluate the urban design elements of key commercial nodes in the study area, and members will be invited to lead volunteer groups in surveying identified locations. The committee participated in a training, learning to use the tool on the west side of Krameria Street between Colfax Avenue and 14th Avenue.

Questions and comments included:

- Consider whether this tool will encourage homogeneity and/or gentrification. There are places that may not score high on the scorecard, but are inclusive and authentic places for members of the community. The committee discussed this, and agreed to think



more about how authenticity and inclusivity can be addressed in the evaluation tool or through other means during the planning process.

- Sidewalk scoring should be listed before bike lanes on the tool.
 - The thumbs down icon on the tool implies negative. Consider removing. (Response: these fields subtract from the total score as they detract from the pedestrian environment.)
 - The tool should not imply that all places need to achieve an A grade or perfect score.
 - In examining recommendations that may come out of the evaluation, the plan will need to consider some of the practical limitations, e.g., loading/parking access needs.
 - Consider including trash/recycling receptacles in the evaluation.
 - Consider including a day/time on the score card. The maintenance score could be impacted by lack of lighting or snow plowing.
4. **September Homework Assignment – Underserved Outreach.** Curt Upton highlighted the contacts members gave during the last month, and encouraged members to send more suggestions of organizations for outreach.
5. **Next Steps.** Steering Committee members were encouraged to think further about any comments on the Urban Quality Tool and locations where the tool should be utilized. City staff will circulate a draft map of survey locations for discussion at the November steering committee meeting.