Burns Park Master Plan

Stakeholder Group Work Session 4
February 10, 2015
6:00 to 8:00 pm – Map Room, McNichols Building

6:00 pm Welcome – city staff, consultants, stakeholder group members
Final Stakeholder’s Meeting

6:20 pm Master Plan Recommendations – ppt presentation
Introduction
Purpose of the Master Plan
Joint Parks Department and Arts+Venues planning process
Vision and Objectives for Burns Park
Park Program
Master Plan recommendations (plan and sketch)

7:10 pm break

7:25 pm Discussion on Master Plan Recommendations
Group Discussion - facilitated

7:55 pm Adjorn
INTRODUCTION

The Denver Departments of Parks & Recreation and Denver Arts & Venues have partnered to develop the Burns Park Master Plan. It creates a vision, uses program, concept design and implementation plan to activate the park and enhance and protect the unique recreation and art experience offered in this 13 acre site. (Burns Park is the open space triangle between Colorado Blvd., Alameda Ave. and Leetsdale Dr.)

The Burns Park Master Plan is to address holistically the many complex challenges facing it. This vision and guiding plan will inform improvements over the next decades. Like all City of Denver plans it is organic, and therefore recognizes plans that have come before as well as those that come after. Particularly this plan will respond to those ideas and recommendation that support the park vision and other values and objectives established in the Department of Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Denver Public Art Ordinance, The Game Plan and the City of Denver’s Comprehensive Plan.

It is fundamentally a park design concept. It does not address land use options and zoning or broad transportation issues that an Area or district plan might typically address. As a formally designated park, its use and its artworks, are protected by city charter and the Public Art Ordinance therefore the objective of this plan must be to focus primarily on improving the park, recreational opportunities and the art experience. (ref. to: Vision, Objectives and Program). The plan does not address land use options and zoning or broad transportation issues that an Area or District Plan might typically address.
The public outreach and process included a broad based stakeholder group that included representatives from: Council Districts 5 and 10; surrounding neighborhoods; City of Glendale; members from Denver’s art community including a member of the Denver Commission of Cultural Affairs, an art historian and curator, and several members from the Public Art staff (ref. to: Stakeholder Spread Sheet).

The planning process spanned nine months, beginning with a leadership team meeting in June 2014 and concluding with a final stakeholder meeting in February 2015 and a March PRAB meeting (ref. to Master Plan Process diagram).

Three informational briefings were given by project leaders to individual community organizations during October and November 2014.

A user preference survey was developed and circulated during August and September 2015.

*Experience 1968*, a one-day art installation and symposium event organized by Denver Arts & Venues and supported by Denver Parks & Recreation and Mundus Bishop, was held in the park August 9, 2014. Six artists created site-specific, temporary works including contemporary dance. This event enlivened the park for participants and observers of all ages.
USER SURVEY DATA

BURNS PARK MASTER PLAN
2014 Survey

The Departments of Arts & Venues and Parks & Recreation are undertaking a Burns Park Master Plan to create a vision, design and implementation plan that will inform improvements to activate the park and enhance the art experience. Your responses will help improve the plan; please take a moment to answer the questions.

1. How often do you visit Burns Park?
   - Once per week
   - Once per month
   - Several times per year
   - Rarely
   - Never

2. Have you ever visited the park solely for viewing the art? Yes / No

3. Do you visit the park for general recreation? Yes / No
   If so, what activities do you participate in?

4. Do you live in Denver? Yes / No
   If yes, what neighborhood?
   If not, in what city do you live?
   What is your zip code?

5. What means of transportation do you use to visit the park?
   - Foot
   - Bicycle
   - Car
   - Public Transit

6. Are you aware of the “1968 Denver Sculpture Symposium” that occurred in this park? Yes / No
   Are you aware of the artists and the significance of the event? Yes / No
   Would you like to know more about the art? Yes / No
   e-mail address

7. What amenities would encourage you to visit Burns Park more often (check all that apply)?
   - Walking Paths
   - Picnic Tables
   - Benches
   - Art Installations
   - Art Activities
   - Other

8. What things stop you from visiting the park more often?

9. Would you be interested in using the park for a special event, such as a family reunion, reception, etc.? Yes / No

If you have further questions or comments please contact Mark Upshaw at 720.313.0528 or mark.upshaw@denvergov.org
BURNS PARK
MASTER PLAN TEAM

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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| MUNDUS BISHOP |

STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Bethany Sheldon  Board Member, Cranmer Park | Hill Top Civic Association
Michael Hughes  Volunteer, Cranmer Park | Hill Top Civic Association
Susan Smernoff  Board Member, Cherry Creek East Neighborhood
Dominick Sekich  Resident and Art Patron
Scott Van Vleet  Resident and Art Patron
Chris Dunn  Landscape Architect and Board Member, Cherry Creek North Business Improvement District
Josh Bertrand  Public Works Manager, City Of Glendale
Sarah Hall  City Council District 10, Parks And Rec Advisory Board
Barbara Baer  Artists In Burns Park
Petra Sertic  Independent Curator and Member, Denver Public Art Committee
Margie Soo-hoo Lee  Denver Commission On Cultural Affairs
Barry Rose  Artist and Founder, Friends Of Burns Park
VISION

The park will serve neighborhood and regional communities in a celebration of recreation and art, while creating a rich urban park experience. Burns Park is set apart from most Denver parks, as it hosts a considerable grouping of large-scale “architectonic” sculpture. The original sculptures were created through a symposium and were to be temporary, however citizens embraced the works and Mayor Currigan formally adopted them in the fall of 1968. Today the work is valued as timeless and meaningful. Park use and the national importance of the “1968 Denver Sculpture Symposium” will be enhanced by building opportunities to experience the art while being fully integrated into a well-designed park of paths, views, gathering places, activity, play, and more. The park design will complement the existing sculpture, and new areas for art and recreation will be thoughtfully integrated into the landscape. New and additional artistic components will be added to support an evolving experience in keeping with the intent of the 1968 symposium – in which the art was to be a “living thing that is changeable.” Opportunities for temporary sculptures, installations, performances, experimentations, and education will be promoted. Connectivity to city-wide bicycle and pedestrian network systems will be enhanced. Visitors and neighborhood users will use the park for recreation and cultural enrichment.
OBJECTIVES

1. Create an engaging destination with a clear identity based on Burns Park being an integrated Park/Art experience;

2. Express the original intent of the sculpture symposium and build upon this for future art opportunities;

3. Engage park users in an active, safe and inter-connected park space that garners day-to-day recreational use, and provides spaces and connections for special events;

4. Create viable connections to and from Burns Park with the neighborhood and larger community including connections for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit and vehicles;

5. Create a sustainable park landscape that responds to the sculpture in an artistic manner;

6. Ensure the park setting and art components remain as a continuum, and continue to be contemporary and relevant;

7. Engage partners and partnerships to sustain and implement the vision.

8. Educate the community to the value of the park, sculpture, and art.

9. This plan, like all Denver master plans, is dynamic; it acknowledges previous relevant plans such as Denver Moves, a multi-modal plan, and seeks to accommodate recommendations in future plans, such as the First Avenue-Leetsdale multi-modal study.
**Cohesive Pedestrian Circulation System – Park Trails:**
- Key crossing at Colorado Blvd and Alameda; key crossing at signal at south Alameda;
- Improve pedestrian crossings at Leetsdale / Colorado, and Leetsdale / Alameda;
- New Crosswalk to Bayaud Street – green street in Game Plan; and crosswalk at Cedar Street;
- Internal Pedestrian Circulation System - integrated with recreational and art experiences;
- Bicycle connections at key intersections with bike parking at CO / Alameda terrace.

**Limited Vehicular Parking with Clear Vehicular Entrance / Exit and Access:**
- Parking for 20 cars and two buses with a drop off zone; improved egress / ingress;
- Provide for service vehicles on park trails;
- Shared parking with shopping center (Glendale) for events and overflow parking.

**Transit Connection:**
- RTD Transit Stop – shelters, bicycle parking, queueing spaces, b-cycle station.
PROGRAM - SITE

Art and Sculpture
• Integrated with park experience, homage to existing sculpture;
• Art education through interpretive and programmatic means;
• New locations for views, and spatial relationships. Consider locations of non-extant 1968 sculpture;
• Temporary exhibits and pieces;
• Protective environment for art and sculpture.

Park / Recreational Activities
• Play opportunities / experimental play spaces – landform and topography, movement;
• Paths and Trails for walking, biking, running;
• Informal open recreational spaces – volleyball, kite flying, lounging, pick-up games, multiple use, exercise classes;
• Gathering spaces;
• Spaces for recreation—bocce ball, horseshoes, ½ court, pickleball, etc.;
• People watching;
• Seating to interact, view, and experience park, sculpture, and recreation;
• Overlooks / viewing points / places to view park and sculpture;
• Educational and recreational gathering areas;
• Interpretation – park / sculpture history, geology, topo;
• Picnicking (tables, spaces, grills);
• Shelter, shade, coverings;
• Entry terraces;
• Special places to experience people, art, recreation, and park.
Power and Utilities
- Electrical – lighting, day-to-day needs, special events, art installations;
- Water Quality – for storm water, and integrated as part of park and art setting;
- Potable Water – E82 vault connection for special events.

Plantings and Vegetation
- Prune and shape existing healthy trees, allow removal of hazardous or diseased trees;
- Zones of planting for water conservation, native plantings, lawn in key areas, etc.;
- Plantings to orchestrate views, provide shade, and create park character.

Operations
- Safe and durable materials and installations; parks maintenance and operations;
- Ranger patrol and other safety and security measures;
- Infrastructure for temporary installations;
- Protective measures for art.
The park will serve neighborhood and regional communities in a celebration of recreation and art, while creating a rich urban park experience. Burns Park is set apart from most Denver parks, as it hosts a considerable grouping of large-scale “architectonic” sculpture. The original sculptures were created through a symposium and were to be temporary, however citizens embraced the works and Mayor Currigan formally adopted them in the fall of 1968. Today the work is valued as timeless and meaningful. Park use and the national importance of the “1968 Denver Sculpture Symposium” will be enhanced by building opportunities to experience the art while being fully integrated into a well-designed park of paths, views, gathering places, activity, play, and more. The park design will complement the existing sculpture, and new areas for art and recreation will be thoughtfully integrated into the landscape. New and additional artistic components will be added to support an evolving experience in keeping with the intent of the 1968 symposium – in which the art was to be a “living thing that is changeable.” Opportunities for temporary sculptures, installations, performances, experimentations, and education will be promoted. Connectivity to city-wide bicycle and pedestrian network systems will be enhanced. Visitors and neighborhood users will use the park for recreation and cultural enrichment.
Burns Park is a uniquely-situated parcel of land donated to the City of Denver by Daniel C. Burns in 1940. Until 1968, the park’s primarily served as necessary open greenspace in a growing neighborhood. During Thanksgiving of 1967, a group of local artists and philanthropists envisioned building an international sculpture symposium, and identified Burns Park as the host site. The 1968 Denver Sculpture Symposium occurred during the seminal summer of 1968, and showcased nine artists creating “architectonic” sculptures on site with help from the Denver community. These large-scale sculptures were originally intended to be temporary; however the community embraced the work resulting in Mayor Currigan to formally adopt the sculptures into Denver’s public art collection. Still relevant today, the park has hosted many events and temporary sculpture exhibits that respond to the original collection – most recently “Experience 1968,” a day-long, event in which contemporary artists responded to the original symposium with site-specific works including temporary sculptures and performance pieces.
Master Plan