Civic Center Temporary Closure

- Civic Center Park was temporarily closed on September 15 for serious public and environmental health risks due to unsafe conditions associated with rodent infestation, human waste, trash accumulation and illegal drug activity.

- The area will be access restricted for purposes of cleaning, restoration and abatement.

- The closure is temporary, and the park will re-open when abatement and clean-up measures have been completed and the park is safe for everyone to enjoy.
Welcome & Introductions
Civic Center Next 100

Team

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Today’s Topics

- Feedback Opportunities
- Vision and Principles
- Final Design Concepts
  - Bannock Street
  - Central Gathering Feature
  - Greek Theater
  - Central Promenade
- Q&A
- Next Steps
This Zoom webinar is being recorded and will be made available after the presentation

*Please note, participant camera and audio have automatically been disabled*
How to interact with the presentation:

*Answer open-ended questions and share general feedback using the Chat interface*

- The Project Team may read back some responses and will collect the rest to inform the design vision.
How to interact with the presentation:

Ask the Project Team questions using the Q&A interface

- Everyone will be able to see Q&A entries and responses
- Use the “upvote” feature if someone else asks a question that you would also like to see answered by the panelists today.
- The Project Team will publish question responses to the project website next week.
How to interact with the presentation:

*Participate in live polls*
- We’ll share polls during the presentation that will automatically appear on your screen
- Response tallies will automatically be shared with everyone.
Vision & Principles
Civic Center Next 100 Vision

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

Enliven Civic Center as a place for people. Make it active, engaging, welcoming and comfortable to everyone (children, community members, visitors, tourists, workers) every day.

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

Celebrate the historic significance of the Civic Center landmark.

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

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.
What we’ve heard...
Public Workshop #2 Engagement

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

Stakeholder Committee Meetings
June 8, 2021 - Technical Advisory Committee (TAO)
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

PAST ENGAGEMENT
ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY DOCUMENT FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1
Overall Engagement

Almost **2500 points of feedback to date** for Public Workshops

- Public Meetings (attendees and online views): **371 people**
- Survey Responses (online and paper): **1,924 responses**
- Focus Group Meetings: **207 attendees**
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meetings: **86 attendees**

- Other in person or hard copy outreach
  - *Civic Center Eats, Showers for All, flyering at libraries and recreation centers city-wide*

- All outreach was bilingual (English/Spanish)
Key Takeaways from the Second Workshop

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

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

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

4. Be thoughtful with the use of water.
Key Takeaways from the Second Workshop

5. Integrate more gardens with native and flowering plants.

6. Focus on sustainability, resiliency and maintenance.

7. Consider ways to connect to the surrounding neighborhoods and destinations.

8. Create a location for food and beverage for year-round use of the park.

9. Create active spaces and new types of programming.
Polling Question

Which of the following Civic Center Next 100 outreach efforts were you able to attend/participate in? (select all that apply)

A. I attended Public Workshop #1 (February 2021)
B. I took Survey #1
C. I attended Public Workshop #2 (June 2021)
D. I took Survey #2
E. I attended Public Workshop #3 (September 2021)
F. I participated in a stakeholder or focus group
G. Other/not sure
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
Bannock Street

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

Concept 1
- South entry garden room
- Stormwater collection planters
- Permeable pavers
- Existing CCB Entry
- Kiosk
- Security perimeter / bollards

Concept 2
- Enhanced planters + seating
- Extended central plaza
- Security perimeter / bollards
- Stormwater collection planters
- Central plaza + fountain
- Garden promenade + seating
- Kiosk

Similarities
- Bike lane
- Service drive / promenade
- Trees and gardens on eastern edge
- No everyday vehicular access
- Maintains access for events and to McNichols

Differences
- Trees, design character and scale of garden rooms
- Water feature
- Width of service drive / promenade
- Modifications to City and County Building plaza
Public Workshop #2 Takeaways

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
- Need to maintain adequate space and access needs for events and provide infrastructure
- Access to the McNichols parking lot must be maintained

CONCEPT 1: 40.1% (393 responses)

CONCEPT 2: 43.1% (422 responses)

A LITTLE OF BOTH: 16.8% (164 responses)
The reimagined Bannock Street creates a vibrant public space and reinforces connections between the City and County Building and Civic Center Park.
3 Spaces for People

- Pedestrian & Bike Promenade
- City and County Building Plaza
- Bannock Central Plaza
- Garden Room
Historic Forms and Views of Civic Center

- East-west paths through park extend through the garden rooms and into the plaza
- Trees aligned with trees on edges of Great Lawn
Bannock Central Plaza & City and County Building Plaza

- Paving extends into the City and County Building plaza
- Horticultural display in planters with native plants and pollinators
- Edges and places for people to sit, gather and linger
- Interactive water feature honors the historic axis of Civic Center and has adaptable lighting to celebrate events and festivities
- Gateway / Arched water feature
- Water Feature Scrim
- Scrim water feature next to Great Lawn is reflective and interactive
Interactive water feature honors the historic axis of Civic Center and has adaptable lighting to celebrate events and festivities.

Movable seating and shade along edges.

Scrim water feature next to Great Lawn is reflective and interactive.
Nighttime Activation
Civic Center Next 100: Civic Center Park & Bannock Street Concept Design

A Destination Plaza for Events
Garden rooms provide a variety of space to enjoy and relax with trees, shade, and planting areas.
Garden Room

Seating and shade create spaces to gather and enjoy the park.

Native planting gardens and stormwater collection planter form garden rooms.
An Active and Flexible Space for Everyday and Events
An Everyday Space Designed for Daily Needs and Civic Services

Seating and shade create spaces to gather and enjoy the park

Shower truck or other everyday services can be located along the bike and pedestrian promenade.
Events & Festivals
Plan view with diagram showing event set up (stage and tents, etc)

Festival Promenade

10’ x 10’ Tents
Connectivity & Mobility

Pedestrian Only Path

Bike and Pedestrian Promenade

Great Lawn
A New Park Gateway

Future gateway elements to be determined during next phase of design

Future study of enhanced intersection to act as gateway into Bannock Plaza and City and County Building

Future gateway elements to be determined during next phase of design
Polling Question

*What most excites you about the final Bannock Street vision?*

A. Garden Rooms  
B. Interactive Water Feature  
C. Bike and Pedestrian Promenade  
D. Open Central Plaza for events  
E. City and County Building plaza redesign  
F. A New Park Gateway  
G. All of the above  
H. Other (please note in chat)
Civic Center Park

Central Gathering Feature
Greek Theater
Central Promenade
A Unified Cultural Axis
An 18-Hour Destination
Central Gathering Feature
Public Workshop #2 Key Takeaways

1. Unique features (Water, Sculpture, Gardens, Lighting)

2. Completes the park vision
   - Celebrate viewsheds
   - Draw people into the park

3. Incorporates shade trees
   - Places to sit in the summer heat

Gathering Feature Concept 1
Interactive plaza

Gathering Feature Concept 2
Circular water feature

Gathering Feature Concept 3
Water wall and overlook
A. Iconic Sculptural Element

- Future sculpture that represents historically-marginalized voices
- Circular form suggested
- Gathering area in the center; a new outdoor room for Civic Center

B. Unique, Intermittent, Artistic Fog Feature

- Water feature with fog effects
- Year-round interest
- Fog displays limited to certain times to minimize excessive water usage & maximize artistic effect

C. Colorado Garden

- Trees with places to sit in the shade; maintaining view corridor along Civic Axis
- Seasonal floral display at edges
- Drought-tolerant plantings
D. Dynamic, Interactive Lighting

- Interactive light elements integrated providing safety and comfort to the space
- Adaptable for light festivals in the evening
- Extends programmability of the park to winter season

E. Complete the Historic Park Vision

- Circular form references the existing historic architecture
- Celebrates the intersection of the cultural and civic axis
- Extended plaza integrates with Central Promenade for events
- Provides trees near the Central Promenade
- Flexible for park wide events or small curated events. Programming opportunities should connect to the cultural institutions
- Universally accessible

Art Guidelines
A New Art Element at the Heart of the Park

- New grove of shade trees aligned with Broadway Terrace planting
- Intermittent, low-water fog effect incorporated into sculptural experience
- Iconic Civic Center floral displays frame the perimeter
- Open center corridor preserves views between State Capitol Building and City & County Building
- (Suggested) - Sculptural element integrated into a circular form, final design to be determined by a future artist
The Central Gathering Feature was never fully implemented as intended as a key feature in the original 1917 Bennett Plan.

Let’s Create Something Spectacular for the City of Denver...
Polling Question

What most excites you about the final Central Gathering landscape vision?

A. Iconic sculpture element
B. Unique, intermittent, artistic fog feature
C. Colorado garden
D. Dynamic, interactive lighting
E. Complete the historic park vision
F. All of the above
G. Other (please note in chat)
Greek Theater - Workshop #2 Key Takeaways

1. Build adaptability for everyday & events
   - Shade
   - A/V system
   - Circulation / access

2. Provide shade for audience & performers

3. Provide Universal accessibility to and through the theater (large stage)

4. Design a welcoming South Plaza and connection across 14th Avenue.

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Greek Theater Concept 1
*Extended stage*
*Standard truss with event shade*

Greek Theater Concept 2
*Stage ‘in the round’*
*Custom year-round tensile shade canopy*
A Premiere Outdoor Performance Venue
A Place for Every Day
A Destination at Night
Greek Theater Access Challenges
Gang of 19 heroes’ legacy
That supports present and future First Amendment needs

A Flexible Plaza to Meet Both Performer and Community Service Needs

- Ramped access through Greek Theater
- Linear paving monuments honor the history of the Gang of 19
- New gardens frame entry aligned with existing trees
- Open plaza with locations for seasonal performer buildings
- Movable seating and gathering space below the tree canopy
- Existing trees replaced with double row of shade trees at plaza edge
- Enhanced 14th Avenue crossing links to Denver Art Museum and Library plaza
A Flexible Plaza to Meet Both Performer and Community Service Needs

Integrated sanitary and electrical connections for event and service use

Seasonal performer green room, restroom and city service building locations

Additional clearance for performer bus/parked trailer

Space for performer trailers during events

Space for city service trailers
An Inviting Plaza Space

- New gardens frame entry aligned with existing trees
- Ramped access through Greek Theater to Central Promenade
- Existing trees replaced with double row of shade trees at plaza edge
- Open plaza with locations for seasonal performer buildings
- Linear paving monuments honor the history of the Gang of 19
Polling Question

What most excites you about the final Greek Theater vision?

1. The canopy structure to make the space comfortable for performances and everyday use
2. The improved accessibility to ensure this is a space for all
3. The expanded ‘stage in the round’ stage deck
4. The new South Gateway Plaza
5. New, dynamic theater lighting
6. All of the above
7. Other (please note in chat)
Central Promenade
Public Workshop #2 Key Takeaways

SURVEY RESULTS

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<th>CONCEPT</th>
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1. Desire for year round vibrancy, durability and shade

2. Adaptable
   - Maintain accessibility for people, food trucks, events

3. Support for unique lighting features

4. Provide seating opportunities in shade

Promenade Concept 1
*Seasonal shade and banner kit*

Promenade Concept 2
*Summer light and shade structures*
A Transformed Park
Space for Every Day

Permanent shade and weather protection incorporated in new Greek Theater cover without impacting historic structure

Adaptable poles can support lighting and seasonal banner display

Historic paving pattern restored using truck-rated permeable pavers to provide stormwater infiltration

Electrical connections available for event use

Future Promenade seasonal furnishings to integrate shade elements
Custom Light Canopy

- Distinctive, enhanced light canopy equipped for 4-season use to complement historic character
- Adaptable structure can support lighting and seasonal banner display
- Electrical connections available for event use
- Historic paving pattern restored using truck-rated permeable pavers to provide stormwater infiltration
All-Season Festival and Event Corridor

Adaptable poles can support lighting and seasonal banner display

Future Promenade seasonal furnishings to integrate shade elements

Historic paving pattern restored using truck-rated permeable pavers to provide stormwater infiltration
All-Season Festival and Event Corridor

Adaptable poles can support lighting and seasonal banner display

Electrical connections available for event use

Historic paving pattern restored using truck-rated permeable pavers to provide stormwater infiltration
Polling Question

What most excites you about the final Central Promenade vision?

1. The new enhanced light canopy
2. The adaptability for banners or other lightweight seasonal decor
3. Integrated permeable paving for stormwater infiltration
4. Iconic movable furnishings which incorporate small shade covers, such as umbrellas
5. All of the above
6. Other (please note in chat)
Of all the final preferred concepts, what are you most excited about?

*Please share your response in the chat*
Q & A

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

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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
Next Steps
Civic Center + Bannock Concept Design + Public Outreach Schedule

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- Civic Center Next 100: Civic Center Park + Bannock Street Concept Design
- Discovery + Analysis
- Design Ideas + Alternatives
- Preferred Design
- Final Concept Design & Review

Public Workshop
Including Stakeholder Advisory Committee + Focus Groups

Online Survey

Final Design Schedule

Greek Theater + Central Promenade - Final Design 2022

Bannock Street Transformation

Central Gathering Feature Public Art Process
Next Steps

CONTACT US
parksandrecreation@denvergov.org

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS
www.surveymonkey.com/r/CivicCenter100

WATCH FOR UPDATES
www.denvergov.org/theoutdoordowntown

FINAL CONCEPT PLAN
Late Fall 2021
Thank You!