

PUBLIC STREET PROJECT

WORKSHOP 02 REPORT

12.13.22 - MET SCHOOL, 325 Public Street

Visioning Meetings

On December 13, 2022, the Racial Environmental Justice Committee, Providence Sustainability Department, and community members met at the MET School Black Box Theater - 325 Public Street Providence, RI - to gather input to transform the Public Street Waterfront area into a safe and accessible space for the neighborhood residents.

Agenda

01 Welcome

- Introduction (Project + Team Members)
- Meeting Purpose + Community Agreements
- Land Acknowledgement

02 Project and Site Context

- Overview of Site Analysis
- Design Concepts

03 Community Discussion

- Breakout Tables
- Report Out

04 Debrief and Wrap Up



Public Street Community Workshop

Participants

City of Providence

Elder González Trejo - Sustainability Department
Kevin Proft - Sustainability Department
Ian Cullings - Department of Public Works
David Everett - Department of Planning

Design Team

Manuel Cordero Alvarado, RA, ALEP - CIVIC
Valeria Portillo - CIVIC
Adam Anderson - Design Under Sky

Community Representatives

Monica Huertas - Racial and Environmental Justice
Committee & The People's Port Authority
April Brown - Racial and Environmental Justice
Committee

Facilitators

Lily Guca - CIVIC
Megan Holzrichter - CIVIC

Community Members

(Based on sign-in sheet)

Tarshire Battle	Helene Miller
Greg Gerritt	Carrie Taylor
Linda Perri	Danielle Becker
Chris Garynor	Sam Gwen
Greg Ohadoma	Tiara Mack
Sarah Hashem	Erica Hammond
Hector Lee	Tyson Bottenus
Jed Thorp	Emily Koo
Maggie (no last name provided)	Sheila Dormody
Jacqueline Hale	Alex (no last name provided)

The Public Street Community Workshop included a diverse audience with a broad cross section of individuals : residents of South Providence, members of REJC, State Senators, visitors of Providence, community members of Washington Park, ect.

Visioning Meeting - Activities

01 Goals for Public Street

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR PUBLIC STREET?

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO PUBLIC STREET?

- CLEAN-UP OF THE STREETS
- ADVOCATED FOR CALM DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC STREET AS A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP THREE GOALS? WHY?

- 1 WELCOME ACCESS TO THE RIVER FOR THE COMMUNITY - WE NEED MORE!
- 2 EXPAND ACCESS BEYOND JUST THE END OF THE STREET - BOTH ALONG THE SHORE AND INTO THE RIVER
- 3 CELEBRATE BOTH CULTURE - PAST + PRESENT - AND THE RIVER ITSELF

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02 Priorities for Public Street

Option: Oyster Farm

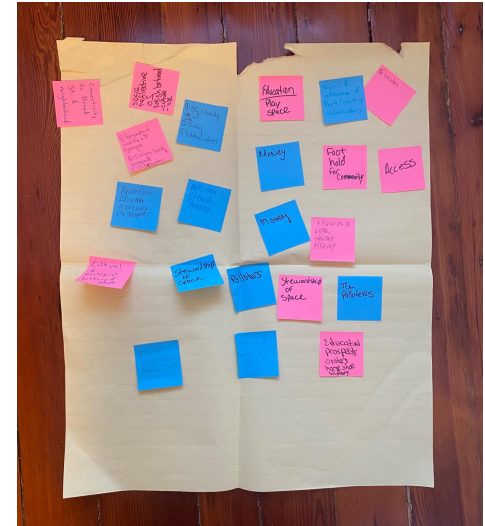
- water filtration
- community care
- educational benefits
- it deemed environmentally acceptable over time, food source
- can also include mussels, other food sources
- water water is filtered/cleaned

PUBLIC STREET - CONCEPT II - "BIO-BOARDWALK"

DESIGN UNDER SKY | CIVIC | NOVEMBER 2022 | SCALE 1/8" = 1'

- solar powered lights
- native plants
- plants w/ air and water filtration mechanisms

03 Challenges + Opportunities for Public Street



Activity 01 - Goals : Relationship to Public Street

The **Goals Activity** first asked each participant to describe their relationship to Public Street. Below are a few quotes that were captured.

"I live in Warwick but work and spend a lot of time in Providence and I often bike/ drive right across public street. I find myself enjoying the parks and green space in Pawtuxet and India Point with little opportunity in between".

"I meditate & connect with nature on Public Street".

"I live in Providence. I have worked with + support goals of REJC and office of sustainability. I go to Public St. to access the waterfront."

"I live in the neighborhood and would like better access to the waterfront".

"I live very close by in Washington Park for over 40 years."

"I clean up off the shoreline. I advocated for designation of public street as a public right of way."

Activity 01 - Goals for Public Street

The **Goals Activity** recognized 16 goals for Public Street and encouraged participants to select their top three goals and why they are important. The goals that were included in the activity were taken from the results of a previous Public Street Community Engagement conducted in October 2021.



ACCESS



SAFETY + SECURITY



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN



PARKING



ART/CULTURE BASED
ENGAGEMENT



GREEN SPACE



SENSORY
EXPERIENCE



PLAY + EXERCISE



SEATING



HABITAT
RESTORATION



WATER QUALITY



PEDESTRIAN +
VEHICLE TRAFFIC



LIGHTING



EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES



SHADE



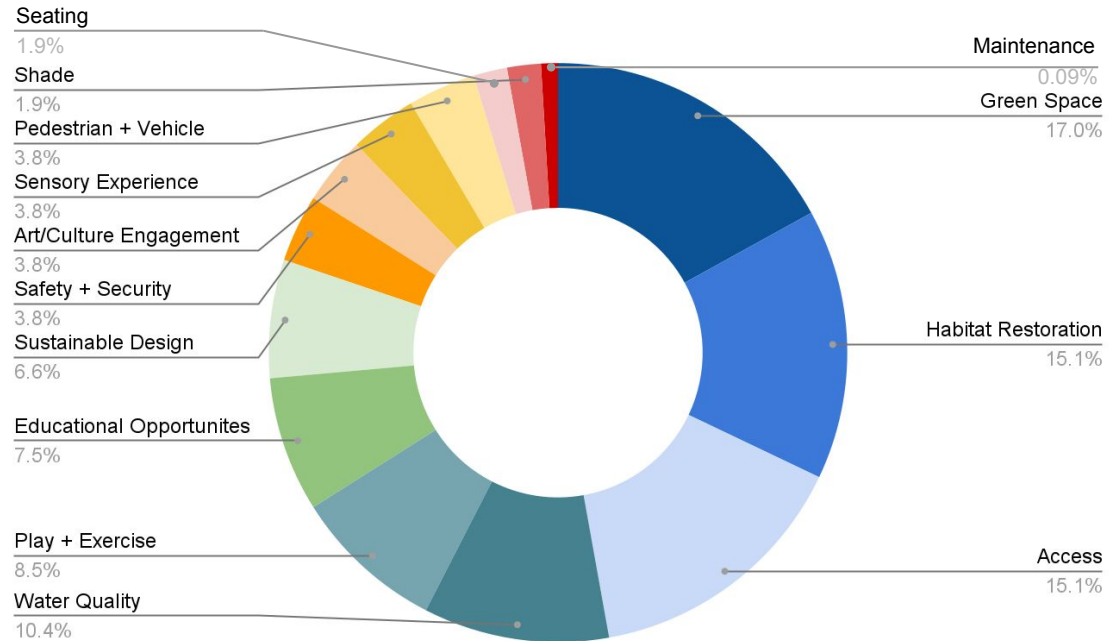
MAINTENANCE



Activity 01 - Goals for Public Street

The participants expressed that the goal for Public Street is to provide the residents with a space that will uplift and bring hope to the community. According to participants, this space should give the people a place to relax, rest, and allow for easy access to walk along the water. The pie charts documents the top goals for Public Street:

1. Green Space
2. Habitat Restoration
3. Access
4. Water Quality
5. Play + Exercise



Activity 01 - Goals for Public Street

Green Space :



In addition to providing an outdoor space for residents and guest to frequently utilize, there is opportunity for health benefits with the use a green space.

Introduce big native canopy trees in South Providence. It is really difficult to find space for large trees and lush native planting/farming.

In need of a green space that helps address air pollution while also providing the community with a calm space for the people of South Providence to explore and interact with nature.

Habitat Restoration :



The river needs to be cleaned for the health of the rest of the bay to preserve existing wildlife and all this is connected.

Can the environment we occupy sustain us if our system could not provide? By restoring habitat, there is an increase in ability to create food source space.

Water Quality :



Opens options for local resource use and reduces need for outsourcing and pollution. Water = Life.

Opportunity for stormwater filtration (on a small scale) to remediate flooding.

Activity 01 - Goals for Public Street

Access :



Features that welcomes access to the river for the community - need more of! May expand beyond just the the end of the street both along the shore and into the river.

Take into consideration of the natural landscapes history - would like a clear idea of what the green spaces would look like

There is currently no easy access to the water from the south side, the community needs a space that allows for everyone to capture the benefits of the views, nature, and connection to the water.

Play + Education :



Create an opportunity for persons of all ages to be familiarized with the natural world in which they occupy. Could use the space for education on the environment and habitat.

Provide a comfortable space for light recreation and outdoor activities such as kayaking and kid friendly play materials.

Culture + Art :




An environmental and cultural/social HUB that celebrates the past and present culture of the river itself.

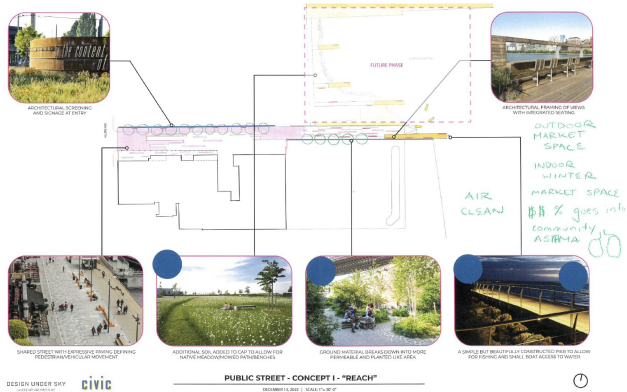
Open space that prioritizes the arts, culture and history. Financial opportunities such as the making of art or a farmers market.

Activity 02 - Priorities for Public Street

The **Priorities Activity** aimed to encourage participants to choose a specific design or element from a variety of concept and imagery options. How can the preferred design concepts connect to the goals identified in the previous exercise?

 LOVE this idea!

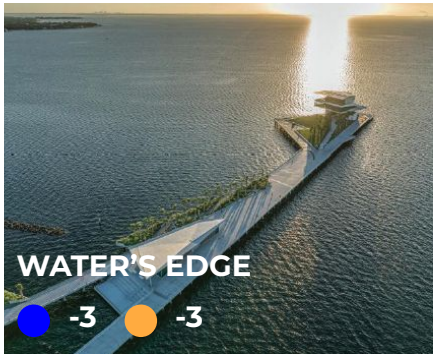
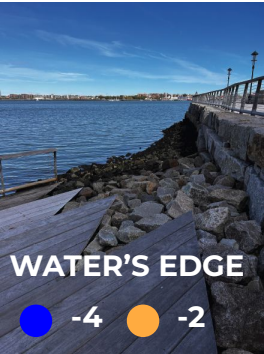
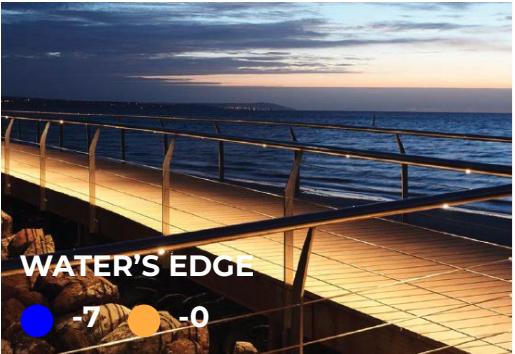
 YES, this is well aligned with identified goals



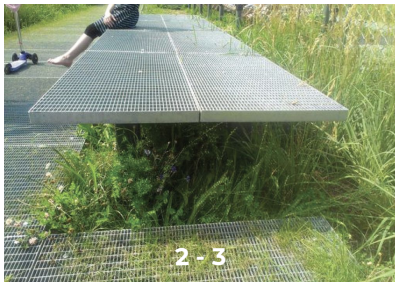
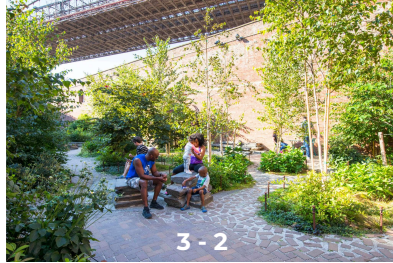
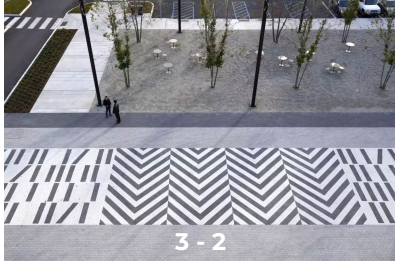
Activity 02 - Top Priorities for Public Street



10 VOTES EACH



Activity 02 - Secondary Priorities for Public Street

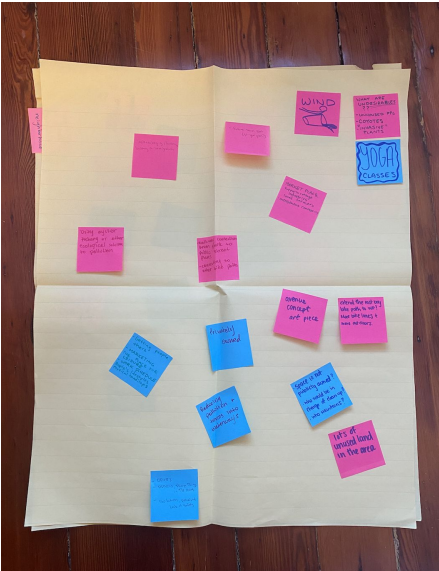


Other Options:

- Water filtration
- Community Care
- Educational Benefits
- Oyster Farm that can include mussels and other food sources (after water is filtered)
- Solar Power Lights
- Native Plants
- Plants with air and water filtration mechanisms
- Outdoor Market Space
- Not too much of a sleek modern design
- Preference for Old industrial aesthetic with Cobblestone stamped surfaces.

Activity 03 - Challenges + Opportunities for Public Street

The **Challenges + Opportunity Activity** aimed to identify: What is missing and what are some challenges in this space? What other opportunities exist at this place?



Activity 03 - Challenges for Public Street

Pollution

- Pollution, odor, and noise from industries and vehicles
- Safety and water quality (toxic)
- Debris, physical disturbances

Safety

- Safety in an “isolated” space
- Access during different times of the day

Environmental Factors

- Wind
- Enough green space?
- Invasive plants and animals

Traffic

- Parking : is it necessary?
- Should redirect abutting businesses traffic away from Public St

Process : Questions / Concerns

- How to market Public Street for leisure?
- Will DEM/CRMC permit barrier islands?
- What is the vision and influence of port/industry stakeholders?
- Will there be anti-displacement efforts to combat gentrification?
- Can space be publicly (*community*) owned?
- How much funding will go towards maintenance? Long-term after initial capital expense?
- Concern : Getting community input about how water is used recreationally.
- Concern : Community buy-in

Project : Design Concerns

- Approach to the park, pedestrian accessible and walkable
- Inclusive to all abilities
- Concerns :
 - Maintenance and clean up
 - Maintenance of education programs
 - Obstruction between people and the water

Activity 03 - Opportunities for Public Street

Environmental Aspects

[Water + Quality]

- A place on the water for fishing and habitat restoration
- Aquatic farming / aquaculture (oysters, kelp, algae, and other seafood)
- Using oyster fishery or other ecological solutions to mitigate pollution
- Stormwater management
- Water quality improvement
- Near the water and fresh air

[Green Space]

- Preservation of wildlife and green space
- Bio-Boardwalk (Williamsburg, Brooklyn)
- Native plants for pollinators
- A means to host native flora and fauna for support of local species
- Trees to help improve smells in the summer
- Incorporate natural elements with habitat and the ecological functions of the waterfront

Culture / History

[Culture]

- Involve indigenous communities & incorporate indigenous art
- Community connection to Broad St & neighborhood
- Space reflective of neighborhood and culture
- Increase community engagement
- Stable and supportive space for the community

[History]

- Acknowledging/honoring history of immigration
- Cultural and ecological history
- Horse shoe history

Activity 03 - Opportunities for Public Street

Elements

[Qualities]

- Lighting
- Painted super graphic, allows for creativity & color
- Boardwalk can include amphitheater
- Seating
- Signage on the corner of Allens Ave & Public St
- Pavers- openings for plants
- Shading
- Avenue concept art piece
- A lot of unused land in the area allows for opportunity

Recreational Use

[Learning]

- Education on oysters, biophilia and environment
- Field trip (K-12) and research sites (college + Universities)
- Outdoor classroom

[Activities]

- Play Space
- Market place - supports cottage industries and local farmers
- Yoga classes
- Future swim spot (10-year goal)?

Access

[Connectivity]

- Walkway connection from Collier Point to Public St
- Extend the East Bay Bike Path to Washington Park
- Adding bike lanes that connect to existing bike paths
- Add charging E-Bikes



THANK YOU !