

**PUBLIC STREET PROJECT**

**WORKSHOP 02 REPORT - SUMMARY**

**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

## 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".

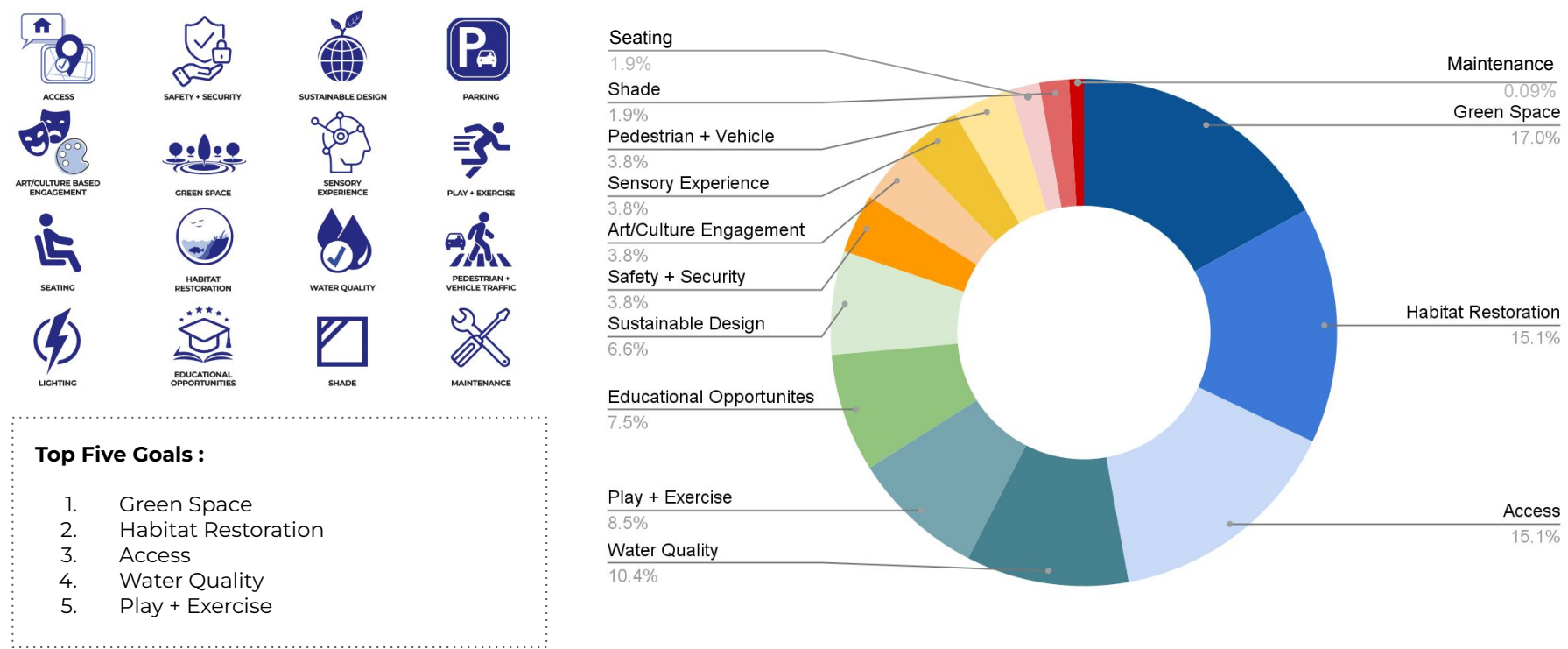
"I live very close by in Washington Park for over 40 years."

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

*The Public Street Community Workshop included a diverse audience with a broad cross section of individuals : residents of South Providence, members of REJC, elected representatives, community members of Washington Park, etc.*

# 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. 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.

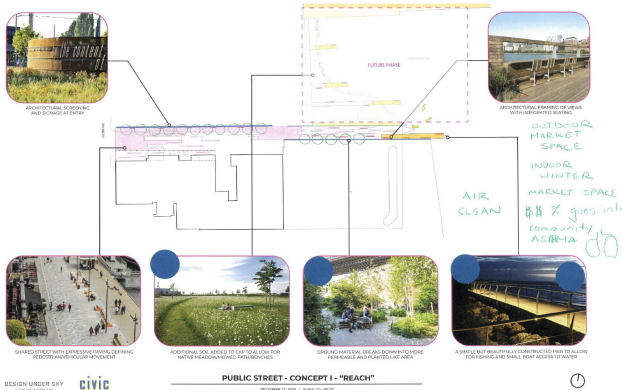




# Activity 02 - Priorities for Public Street

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 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?



## CHALLENGES :

## Pollution

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

## Safety

- Safety in an "isolated" space
- Access at 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

## Design Concerns

- Maintenance and clean-up
- Maintenance of educational programs

### OPPORTUNITIES :

## Environmental Aspects

- Water quality: Habitat restoration, aquatic farming
- Green space: Native plant, preservation of wildlife

### Culture/ History

- Culture: Indigenous communities, reflective of neighborhood and culture
- History: Acknowledging/honoring history of immigration and cultural & ecological history

## Design Elements

- Qualities: Painted supergraphic, signage, pavers

## Recreational Use

- Learning: Outdoor Classroom, Field trips/ research site
- Activities: Play space, Market, Future swim spot

## Access

- Connectivity: walkway connections, bike paths