WELCOME!
Improvements to Copley Square Community Meeting 3

We will get started soon.

This meeting is being recorded.

To promote a community feel, we'd like to see you if you are comfortable putting your video on! Please keep your microphone on mute if you are not speaking to minimize background noise.

Have A Question?

JOINING BY WEB (Computer, Tablet, etc):
- Click to raise your hand
- Q + A

JOINING BY PHONE (Dial):
- Press *9 to raise your hand
- Press *6 to unmute/mute yourself

Participate in Live Polling

JOINING BY PHONE:
Text SASKIPOLLS to 22333 to join the session.

JOINING BY WEB:
Navigate to pollEV.com/sasaki_polls
Improvements to Copley Square Park

Community Meeting 3
April 14th, 2021

Boston Parks and Recreation
AGENDA

Part 1: Presentation (30 minutes)
  • Introduction and Process
  • Conceptual Foundations
  • Refined Concept

Part 2: Small Group Q & A (15 minutes)

Breakout groups to ensure that everyone has a chance to have their questions answered and initial thoughts heard

Part 3: Live Polling (15 minutes)
Introduction + Process
Project Schedule | The Design Process

We are here!

SITE ANALYSIS
- Understand the Square’s past and present
- Understand community perspective and vision for the future

PROGRAM + SCHEMATIC DESIGN
- Concept Options
- Refined Conceptual Plan

DEFINITIVE DESIGN
- Design Development
- Construction Documentation
- Refined Plan (Some Detail)
- Enough detail to build the Project

CONSTRUCTION

GOAL:
- LISTEN
- TEST CONCEPTUAL IDEAS
- CONFIRM REFINED CONCEPT
- REFINE DESIGN

Ongoing Coordination with BPL, PFD and BPDA
WORKSHOP

GOALS

The city and the design team want to hear from you.

We'll share what we've heard so far and the refined design.

We hope that you:

▷ Learn more about what the community values about the Square and consensus points on the community's vision

▷ Express your thoughts on what works in the refined design scheme, and what would need improvement

▷ Share your excitement about the future of Copley Square with others who might want to express their opinions
Conceptual Foundations

A Contemporary Vision grounded in History, Culture and Community Voice
More than a Century of Design Evolution, Similar Themes to Today

1880s - 1960s
Two green triangles bisected by Huntington Ave

1960s - 1980s
Mid-Century Style Sunken Piazza with Fountain

1980s - PRESENT
Level Plaza with Lawn and Fountain with a Classic Feel

KEY DESIGN AND PLANNING VISION
An Arts-focused Square, framed by cultural institutions

Angles to balance the architecture, a sense of enclosure

A quiet and calm community "living room" with active edges
Why renovate today? Update a much-loved urban square to 21st Century standards

- Trees are stressed
- Heavy use requires strategic thinking
- Pavements are uneven
- Fountain needs repairs/updates
- Lawn in disrepair
...the challenges run deeper than Copley's surface.

**WHAT WE SEE**

- **Trees are stressed**
  - Compacted soils and limited soil volume prevent trees from thriving

- **Pavement uneven and lawn in disrepair**
  - Not designed for heavy vehicular use or modern ADA standards -- needs additional structural support

- **Fountain needs repairs / updates**
  - Mechanical equipment needs to be replaced and brought to modern standards

- **Square is heavily programmed**
  - Need to update utilities, infrastructure and vehicular service for events
2,000+ touchpoints with the community, and counting

1,244 Online Survey Responses in Phase 1

439 Online Survey Responses in Phase 2 (860 touch points total)

16 Steering Committee Members have attended 3 meetings

27 Meetings with Parks staff

85 Attendance at first public forum, including live polling

65 Attendance at second public forum, including small group discussions
Today Copley is many things to a diversity of visitors

*Summarized from over 1,300 survey responses and conversations in Phase 1*

**OPEN AIR MARKET**
"I love the farmer’s market and think it would be great to have a rotation of vendors on a weekly basis."

**SKATEBOARDING SPOT**
"Copley Square has been a beacon for skateboarding in Boston for decades."

**LUNCH HANGOUT**
"Great place to bring your lunch and relax and be entertained by skateboarders"

**RELAXING PARK**
"It is wonderful to have a place where one can go to relax (walk, sit) amid the hustle and bustle of the city"

**HISTORIC ICON**
"The beauty of the Square is in the harmony of historic architecture"
An Iconic Landmark at the Heart of Back Bay

An Inclusive Bostonian Gathering Place

CORNERSTONES OF A SUCCESSFUL COPLEY SQUARE

CHARACTER

PEOPLE

Program

A Vibrant Destination within the Hub

A Durable and Sustainable New England Landscape

ENVIRONMENT

NOTE: More detail on the project guiding principles, including detailed goals, can be found on the project website.
A few key elements resonated most among the conceptual options

**CITY PLATFORM**
- The Platform
- The relationship between Trinity, lawn, plaza and Dartmouth Street

**RAISED CROSSINGS**
- Dynamic, connective pathways
- Intimate spaces for gathering

**FRAMED ELLIPSE**
- A sense of enclosure from the street
- A flexible, but sculptural fountain
Maintaining and Reinforcing Beloved Features of Today's Square

1. Cultural Connections
2. Open view between BPL and Trinity; flip plaza and lawn
3. Location of fountain with similar vegetation and seating
4. Linear and gridded existing trees
Refined Concept

A Contemporary Vision grounded in History, Culture and Community Voice
Cultural Connections
Important views, pathways and historic gestures

OLD SOUTH & TRINITY
HUNTINGTON AVENUE

HISTORIC MARATHON FINISH LINE
BPL & TRINITY FACADE ALIGNMENT
FAIRMONT Copley PLAZA
Tree Stewardship
Preserving and Enhancing Copley's Legacy Tree Canopy
Copley's Platform
Giving legacy trees soil to thrive; providing key views of the surrounding architecture and civic activity
A Green Oasis

Planters that protect legacy trees and shelter the square from surrounding streets; a front lawn for Trinity Church
A Renewed Square
Cultural connections, legacy trees, and a signature platform define an updated Copley
Concept Experience

A closer look at some of the details and how the design feels
Trees & Planting

Preserving and enhancing Copley's legacy trees while providing new color, seasonal interest and shelter.
Copley's Platform
Making a mechanism for tree preservation into a signature gathering place

- Local Inspiration
- Trees + Lighting in Deck
- Flexible Furnishings
- Prospect and Refuge from a Varied Edge

- Tree protection zone
- Elevated Deck
- Grid of Footings
- Precast Concrete Planks
Fountain Concept

Initial concept for the fountain, to be refined during design development.
Fountain Concept

- Interactive
- Sloped
- Flexibility wet or dry
- Texture for sound and interest
- Sit next to water
Public Art

Future locations for existing public art in the square. Goal to keep intent of original placements intact. Design team and city in conversation with artists.
WEEKLY EVENTS

+ Platform
Built in stage and seating for performances

+ Lawn
A host for group recreation

+ Plaza
Drivable surface for vendors and service vehicles

+ Infrastructure
Built-in infrastructure for Farmers Market and Events
Weekly Event Use

Potential Farmer's Market Setup

Infrastructure will be located to support tent and event set up.

Market Tents open to Dartmouth Street
Small Performances
Fitness Classes
Social Gatherings
Paving

Carpets of pavers on a vehicular concrete base define intimate spaces and routes through the larger square.
LARGE EVENTS

+Infrastructure
Plug + Play infrastructure for large events

+Connections
Plaza opens to street and library

+Platform
Built-in seats, lean rails, and elevated viewing areas

+Planters
Frame plaza and have built in seating

+Plaza
Expanded space for large gatherings

+Lawn
Durable to withstand occasional heavy use
Event Use

Potential 40'x60' Stage Setup

Infrastructure will be located to support tent and event set up.
A Renewed Square
Cultural connections, legacy trees, and a signature platform define an updated Copley
AGENDA

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Part 3: Live Polling (15 minutes)
Join the conversation live now

We will be asking a series of questions live. You can answer them in one of two ways:

JOIN BY PHONE/TEXT
Text SASAKIPOLLS to 22333 to join

OR

JOIN BY WEB
Navigate to pollEV.com/Sasakipolls
Where would you most love to be within the Square?

- On top of the platform
- At the edge of the platform
- In the shady grove
- At the fountain
- On the lawn
- Out on the plaza
- Sitting at the edge of the planters
- Other
- None of the above
How do you think it would feel to be in the Square? (one word, no spaces)
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What kind of events would draw you most? (choose up to three)

- Farmer's Market
- Street performers
- Rallies and protests
- Concerts
- Boston Marathon
- Fitness classes
- Public art installations
- Other
What excites you about this event space?
A Renewed Square
Cultural connections, legacy trees, and a signature platform define an updated Copley
Is there an area that you think is particularly successful?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The lawn</th>
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<td>The platform</td>
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<td>Circulation</td>
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<td>Tree preservation strategy</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>None</td>
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What do you want to keep providing feedback on as we develop design details?

The fountain
The platform
Paving design
The lawn
Other
Overall, how excited are you about the future design of Copley Square?

- Not at all excited: A
- Somewhat excited: B
- Neutral: C
- Quite excited: D
- Very excited: E
Have a Question?

Type it into the Chat window.

Raise Hand

Click to raise your hand

Q + A

Click to type your questions

Microphone

Click to mute or unmute

Video

Click to show or hide your video

Join by Phone (Dial)

Press *9 to raise your hand

Press *6 to unmute/mute yourself


bit.ly/copley-boston

Take the Survey & Share with Others

Updates & Info on Project Website
Questions?
B Chatfield
Project Manager
abigail.chatfield@boston.gov
617-504-7709

Project Website→bit.ly/copley-boston