Boston City Hall and Plaza Renovations

Public Feedback

June, 2019

Mayor Martin J. Walsh
City of Boston Operations Cabinet
Public Facilities Department
The City Hall Plaza Design Process:

**PROJECT TIMELINE**
- 2015-2017: MASTER PLAN
- FALL 2018 - SPRING 2019: CONCEPT + SCHEMATIC DESIGN
- SUMMER 2019 - SPRING 2020: DESIGN DOCUMENTATION
- FALL 2019: UTILITIES
- SUMMER 2020: CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

**GOALS**
- Establish high level vision and principles.
- Define the approach and create a road map for all related projects in the future.
- Explore plaza design ideas in line with Master Plan vision.
- Explore a range of options with design and space studies. Establish initial costs.
- Choose a preferred design strategy, program and spatial organization.
- Document the design concept. Make an estimate of construction cost.
- Develop a detailed version of the preferred design.
- Develop and document technical requirements, choose materials, define program and assign spaces.
- Focus on documentation to enable construction.
- Construction of the project is underway!
- Review the process, quality and schedule of construction.

**OUTPUT**
- MASTER PLAN FOR CITY HALL
- CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES
- REFINED CONCEPTUAL PLAN
- PHASE 1 PLAN
- REFINED PLAN (SOME DETAIL)
- ENOUGH DETAIL TO BUILD THE PROJECT

**QUESTIONS FOR YOU (OUR USERS!)**
- Do these principles represent your vision for how this place can be better?
- Do you believe this plan is the right course of action for the long term?
- Are your overall needs of the project addressed?
- Have important details been overlooked?
- Are there parts of the design you want to see taken further?
- Do the specific materials, site equipment, building and mobility details work for you?
- Does the programming support how you want to use this space?
- Is the project timeline and process clear?
- Do you feel up-to-date with the delivery schedule?
- Do you have options to navigate the space during construction?
Recap of Engagement Activities

**PLAZA ACTIVITIES**
JUNE 5 2019

- Panorama Viewing Stations + Selfie Stations

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**
JUNE 5 2019

- Formal Presentation

**OPEN HOUSE**
JUNE 5 2019

- Topical Stations + Comment Cards

**ONGOING ENGAGEMENT**

- Online Survey, Plaza Feedback Stations & Conversations w/ Event Organizers

-- Casual Visitors to the Plaza
-- Engaged Public
-- City Hall Employees
-- Public not at the June 5 Presentation
An online survey is collecting further feedback, which will be added to the existing library of comments.

Additional plaza and activities and conversations with event organizers will take place this summer.
Comments from Plaza Activities & Open House

- When will this be built? Want it now!
- What is part of phase 2? When will that be announced?
- That’s the coolest playground I’ve ever seen
- It’s about time we did something with BCHP.
- More flowers!
- Appreciate a new civic building with public restrooms
- Why can’t we do the same to the building?
### Most-Mentioned Topics from Comment Cards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>I wish.../I wonder..</th>
<th>I like...</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Hall building/ architecture</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>North entrance</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play/ Playground</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**122** Total comments received
Feedback from Comment Cards

I wish/ I wonder...

Why the fortress-like brick elements of the building that are completely unwelcoming are being left in place?

Significantly greening up the space/adding a living wall to the building’s exterior might help.

If plaza and City Hall history will be showcased somewhere?

I like...

How you kept the integrity of the architecture when opening up the north entrance and paid homage to the plaza’s past using stone inlays.

Eliminating so many steps, grades, and trip hazards, both for limited mobility citizens, and the general public.

I love the playground. Plays off the existing architecture in a fascinating way.
Feedback from Comment Cards

I wish/ I wonder...
How many different event spaces will there be and what kind of person capacities will each have?

I wish/ I wonder...
Was there any consideration given to opening up plots to private development to help “activate the edge” of the space?

I wish/ I wonder...
Like the reopening of the north entrance. Plaza should better provide an enter from surrounding freedom trail to current civic engagement.

I like...
The idea of City Hall Plaza being an important part of our democracy and an attractive space to gather and be entertained.

I like...
All the activities around it makes it really vibrant and the teaching about storm water management.

I like...
The flexibility of the planned event spaces.
Feedback from Online Survey

- I like that it offers a more accessible, better lit, and safe walking paths. The increased number of trees is also excellent.
- Since the city is working to become Age-and Dementia Friendly, have those elements been incorporated in the design?
- I like the shaded spots provided by the trees, and I love that there’s a playground.
- As one of the main foci of the city, it would be nice to have a design element celebrating the diversity and history of Boston.
- How long will this take?
- Love! Pretty much everything. Would be so wonderful if we can do even a fraction of this. Looks nice and has great functional enhancements.

12 Total survey responses

2.5 Average familiarity with design (scale of 0-4)
Take the online survey: boston.gov/cityhallplaza