



**AUSTIN
PARKS
FOUNDATION**



**The Trail
Foundation**



**Seaholm Waterfront Open House Meeting
September 22nd, 2017
Zilker Botanic Garden
Meeting Notes**

Project Team

Austin Parks Foundation

Katie Robillard
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The Trail Foundation

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Studio Gang

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GO collaborative/Civic Collaboration, Public Engagement

Lynn Osgood
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City of Austin Parks and Recreation

Kim McKnight, Project Manager
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Comments from On-Site Participants:

Sticky Notes:

- 20 acres new park - south central waterfront
- Waterloo / Historic Xing
- New gateway to waterfront?
- Great view of intake
- Library and Programs!
- Spring Water!
- Water taxi / pedi-cabs: seaholm, MACC, parks, SCW, etc.
- MACC Plan!
- Recycle, Recycle, Recycle
- Dogs
- Separate People and Bikes - two paths
- Swimming hole!!
- Partner with Austin Area Garden Council to develop garden park featuring Central Texas plants
- Trees and low cost parking and easy walking access is critical
- Connect to existing parking - don't use space for new parking
- Transit is really coming up for me as a key opportunity

Input Matrix Results:

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	Don't Know	total results	weighted score (5-1)	weighte d average
Activate	11	3	2	1	0	0	17	75	4.4
Preserve	7	6	4	2	0	0	19	75	3.9
Eat & Drink	8	5	3	1	1	0	18	72	4.0
Learn	6	3	4	4	1	0	18	63	3.5
Go Green	8	5	3	1	0	0	17	71	4.2
Play	10	4	3	1	0	0	18	77	4.3

DIGIAL INPUT

Q1. Community input was previously gathered to indicate what types of activities and uses people would like to see at the Seaholm Waterfront. See below the ideas gathered and potential uses and activities on the site. Does this range of potential uses and activities meet your vision?

- No: 2
- Yes: 23
- Other Comments:
 - A hybrid of these would meet my vision
 - As long as the primary route of the Butler Trail moves to the lake side of the Intake, that meets my vision.
 - Just a comment that the first part of this survey is in English only and second part is English / Spanish. Very confusing and would not be an appropriate survey for a Spanish only speaker.
 - Leave as is?
 - some of the activities do; others less so.
 - This is a piece of architecture that should be celebrated as such. Call out the architecture, preserve the architecture, and make it a place to learn about PLACE. All those things mentioned can happen there, but PLACEMAKING should be a primary goal.
 - Would be great for growing food as a temporary use. Vertical and aquaponic gardens, used as demonstration/interpretive center. Zen/meditative spaces. But also social spaces.

Q2: Based on input, the project team identified key themes that could guide the future transformation of the site. See below to review idea boards and images associated with each of the themes. How would you rank the following themes for the future site?

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	Don't Know	total results	weighted score (5-1)	weighted average
Activate	15	9	5	0	1	2	32	127	4.0
Preserve	18	9	1	3	1	1	33	136	4.1
Eat & Drink	12	6	7	4	1	1	31	114	3.7
Learn	8	3	8	7	4	0	30	94	3.1
Go Green	17	8	4	1	1	0	31	132	4.3
Play	11	9	7	1	3	0	31	117	3.8

Q3. By leveraging partnerships with non-profit and philanthropic organizations, the public sector can find innovative ways to address the financing, maintenance and operations needs of civic spaces. See the information below about local and national examples of partnerships and share your thoughts about partnerships for the Seaholm Waterfront. What do you think are potential benefits and concerns?

- A partnership with State Parks (TPWD) could turn this into a world class Activated, Green, Learning Center like the 3D attraction "Wings Over Washington-A Flying Ride" on the pier in Seattle. (See <http://www.wingsoverwa.com/>) Wings Over Washington is a unique and spectacular experience, partnered between the City of Seattle and the Washington State Parks Department. The lines to get in are always long. It is hugely popular. Austin could offer a similar 3D educational (and profitable) attraction about the Edwards Aquifer, Barton Springs Pool, the Congress Ave bridge bat habitat, and other important local nature assets. Check it out!
- Benefit: make it more viable & interesting. Concern: gets too niche and/or private (like the power plant that is now closed to the public)
- I don't want it to have corporate names or symbols. Informational displays should not be biased by corporate sponsorship.
- I like the way other park partnerships are working. Its difficult to tell from this what specifically I am asked to address. Possible my browser is limiting.
- I view the public-private partnership as the only way to make the project an outright success. The COA cannot and will not do an adequate job of operating and maintaining the

space. TTF and APF have a proven track record of enhancing and managing some of Austin top public spaces, leverage their resources to do the same at Seaholm.

- I'd need more information, or better examples, about what is meant by "partnerships". I think it would be interesting to have different areas of the property sponsored by non-profit and philanthropic groups to create a sort of ecosystem of interests
- I'm for whatever works. Those buildings should have come back to life long ago.
- Millennium Park is oh-so-ugly. Please preserve and maintain green space.
- NA
- No thoughts on partnerships except that having coffee/food vendors and potentially a "market" of vendors would be a great asset.
- None
- Seaholm Waterfront must maintain civic use. The partnership with the City should include revenue generating capabilities for sustainability and maintenance.
- Seeing as private financing will likely be necessary to realizing this project in the near future, a partnership will be important to undertake with great care. The largely private nature of the primary Seaholm building should be avoided with immense caution - that such a historic building has been rendered for private use only is a great tragedy. While it is clear that the waterfront will be public, it is important to maintain both a) accessibility and b) inclusivity. So while the non profit will use the space for private events (as is the norm at this point) these events should be mandated to make up less than 1/6 of weekends and 1/4 of weeknights or some similar. Public spaces within the buildings need to be for all, not for instance only patrons of a potential cafe. Obvious benefits include faster financing and the capability to undertake projects outside of the city's limited and gradual bond funding timeline. Further by making the space managed by a non-profit the event opportunities above are magnified which are important both financially and for visibility.
- That there won't be enough "public" input to make the project feasible. Can't rely completely on the private sector to make this happen.
- The City should partner with an organization that is philanthropic, that can celebrate the building as a building, but also make it a place of gathering. The fear of making it a "recreation" place is that the building will be less celebrated, and the recreation part will take precedence.
- TTF and APF well-positioned to take a leadership role!

Q4. What else is important to you that you haven't seen talked about? Are there any questions you still have?

- A pedestrian bridge or other safe passage (undisruptive to traffic) to the new Austin Public Library.
- Austin is becoming so polished and losing its unique character. How about we install the cathedral of junk?
- Celebrate the architecture and the building itself, in tandem with the water/ lakeshore.
- I don't want a lot of city money spent on this because downtown already has so many amenities and there are many needs in other parts of the city. Because of the location, I think it will be accessed primarily by higher income and white people. What will be the multi-modal access to the site?



- I'd be interested in hearing it talked about as a community center. A place where people can come from all over austin... especially under represented populations (I.e. Hispanic, African American, Asian Americans, and Indian Americans) can go to experience AFFORDABLE classes geared towards education enrichment like pottery, art, theater, and dance classes. Under represented populations like Hispanics and African Americans also tend to struggle with access to wellness programs so things like various exercise classes ... even family exercise classes like mommy and me/ daddy and me/ baby and me... would be ideal for all populations and are really lacking in the Austin area's public sector. Class fees could be donation based, or be income/need based to make them more inclusive. I feel deeply that there needs to be a strong "community center" feel to the project.
- Improving trail conditions in the area (making sure that traffic to/fro the waterfront buildings and main Seaholm area does not conflict with trail crossings), ensuring access from water (boat dock for boats from surrounding rental areas), pressuring Austin Energy to relocate their powerlines so that the small building can be used for public purposes, putting in ample bike parking, improving connections (visual and actual) across Cesar Chavez, ensuring plenty of seating areas with riverfront views, improving access to the informal fishing pier on east side of buildings, putting a slide in towards that area would be cool and easy. Making sure that any potential concessionaires are local businesses is obv. important.
- Intentional ways to invite people from all over the city to this area. Hike and bike trail is a gem, but used mainly by a certain demographic and class of people. How can this space be opened up to even more of the city?
- It can never be all things to all people. My dream for it is that it is an Urban Center of some kind, where a steward (the Austin Foundation for Architecture!) is a careful caregiver for the building, while providing a venue for multiple organizations to meet and discuss and celebrate placemaking. There should also be a place to eat and drink. It should be a destination for people to go to find out where else to go in Austin. The beginning of walking tours, and even kayak tours, a place to learn about PLACES in Austin, including parks, trails, and other buildings, both new and historic.
- It is important to me that this historical structure is the anchor to bring both tourists and also locals to the downtown, Seaholm, Second Street area. It is most important to me that this faculty is adapted for reuse into a profitable, world class attraction, not just another restaurant, meeting venue, or art gallery.
- NA
- No amplified music - acoustic only please.
- None
- Ping pong. Just provide a cool space -- art on the walls, tunes like at any coffee shop, smoothies, coffee, beers, ping-pong tables. No need for HVAC. People will love it.
- Space should be used to integrate art that educates the public about local flora / fauna / environmental concerns in Texas.
- The appearance of the site should be preserved. Decorating the site with additional visual/design elements should be avoided as much as possible to avoid undermining the existing design.
- The Butler trail routing currently is very poor at the Intake because walkers and bikers have to travel close to Cesar Chavez and climb elevation on both sides. Rerouting the trail on the water side in front of the intake is far and away the number 1 priority for this project in my opinion.

- The site should become a destination spot for people visiting downtown. I would really like to see the building "used as a machine" and its utility be a part of how it is used today.
- Would love a place to be able to hang out and relax/work/gather with friends

Demographic Questions

Gender	Number	%
Male	14	47.7%
Female	19	52.3%

Total responses = 33

Ethnicity	Number	%
White	25	81.2%
Hispanic or Latino	2	11.8%
Black or African American	1	2.2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	1.3%
<i>Native Hawaiian</i>	0	.04%
Asian	0	3.0%
Other	2	

Total responses =

Asian	0	3.0%
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Total Responses = 30

Age	Number	%
Under 18 / Menos 18	0	0.9%.
18-24	2	6.0%
25-34	9	41.9%
35-44	7	37.3%
45-54	8	27.9%
55-64	6	16.7%
65-74	1	5.4%
75 years or older / Mayor de 75	0	1.7%

Total responses = 33