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Introduction

This report presents a summary of the feedback received from the City Skate Park community and other stakeholders as part of a public engagement process for the proposed new Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre (HJCRC).

Three events took place in the Spring of 2018: Design Workshop 1 on April 14 at Centennial Theatre, CityFEST on May 5 adjacent to the existing City Skate Park, and Design Workshop 2 on May 22 at Centennial Theatre. All events were open to the public; sign-up was available online or by phone for those that wanted to register ahead of the workshops, and drop-ins were welcome.

The purpose of the public engagement was to hear the City Skate Park community's ideas about how they'll use the temporary and proposed new skate plaza. A participant feedback form was provided at each of the design workshops to record the community's feedback in relation to the materials presented at the workshops.

Design Workshop 1

The first Design Workshop was held in the lobby of the Centennial Theatre, which neighbours the existing City Skate Park. Graphic boards showing precedent images and options for skate plaza features, materials, and the overall flavour of the plaza were presented. Approximately 25 people attended this workshop where we gathered input as to what local City Skate Park users wanted to see in the new and temporary skate plaza.

The workshop included a presentation by the skate plaza designers, New Line Skateparks, two “dotmocracy” (voting with dots) exercises on the graphic boards, participant feedback forms, and an open group discussion. The participant feedback form sought information on where the participant currently lives, their current riding ability level, what the participant's interest in the new skate plaza is, what is important about the overall design of the skate plaza, desired feature-types for the temporary and new skate plaza, and any additional thoughts, comments, or ideas they'd like to share.

The workshop was very conversational with participants sharing both what they cherish about the existing skate park, as well as what they'd like to see in the new skate plaza. Some main themes were noted during the workshop and recorded in the participant feedback form. The things most noted to make the existing skate plaza unique are the flow and ease of movement, the wide variety of ledge features, and the “cornerstone” high starting point that allows views and surveillance through the entire plaza before a rider takes off on a line or ride. A fairly unanimous desire was noted for a seating / viewing / social space for skate plaza users in a new “cornerstone” high starting point. Low to medium impact stair sets along with technical flatground features were strongly desired as features for the new skate plaza.

CityFEST

We attended CityFEST, the largest Youth Week event in the Lower Mainland, with a booth to provide information and seek feedback about the new skate plaza and its proposed location. The annual event is located at the site of the existing City Skate Park and surrounding area. 40 people were polled at the event, of which 38 expressed support for the new skate plaza. Two people expressed concerns that were not specific to the skate plaza, rather to the overall HJCRC redevelopment.

While the purpose of this event was to reach a wide variety of community members, including those that may not use the new skate plaza, the opportunity was also seized to obtain additional insight into the wants and needs of the City Skate Park users. We recorded ideas and comments from their conversations with the community on a large flip-chart.

Design Workshop 2

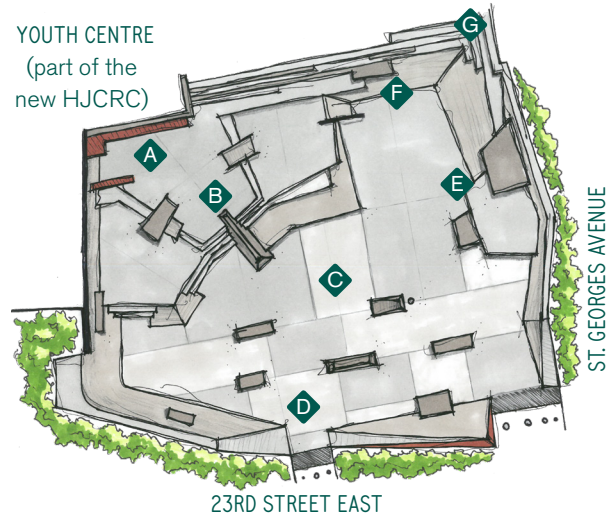
The second Design Workshop was held at Centennial Theatre and presented two conceptual designs for the new skate plaza, which were based on the input received at Design Workshop 1 and CityFEST. The emerging concept designs were presented with the differences between the two clearly highlighted. Approximately 30 participants attended this workshop where we gathered feedback on their preferred concept design.

An open and informed conversation followed, with the opportunities and challenges of each concept design being explored. Questions were posed both from the participants to the planning team and from the planning team to the participants, resulting in a robust discussion. Following the discussion, participants filled out feedback forms. The participant feedback form sought information on where the participant currently lives, what the participant's interest in the new skate plaza is, and which of the two skate plaza concept design options they preferred and why.

Concept 1 was preferred with 92% of participants selecting this as their preferred option.

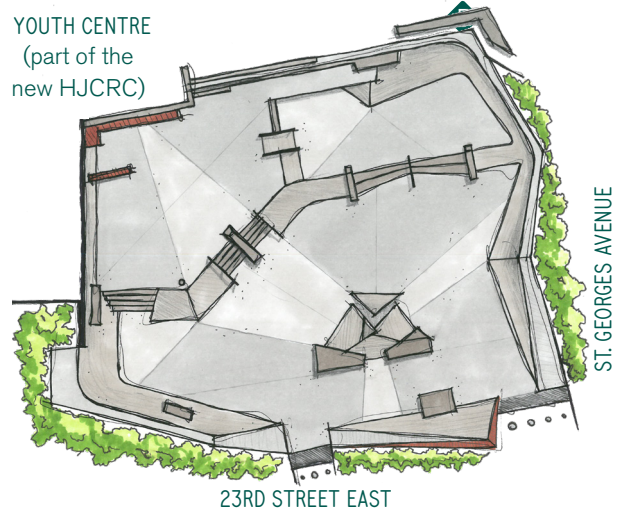
Other main themes noted in conversation and written comments included the incorporation of a roof structure covering a significant portion, but not all, of the plaza, as well as lighting for evening, shoulder and winter season use. An outdoor water fountain was also noted as important by multiple participants.

Concept Option 1



- A** CHILL ZONE AND STARTING AREA
- B** RAISED UP SIZE: 3 UP, 2 UP, 2 DOWN, 3 DOWN WITH MAIN 5 SET
- C** FLATGROUND ZONE
- D** PERIMETER FLOW BANK, TRANNY FEATURES
- E** LEDGE MANNIES, LEDGES INTO BANK
- F** LEDGES, MANNIES INTO BANK, BANK TO LEDGES
- G** VIEWING AND SEATING AREA

Concept Option 2



- A** CHILL ZONE AND STARTING AREA
- B** RAISED ZONE WITH 2, 3 AND 5 SETS
- C** FLATGROUND ZONE
- D** PERIMETER FLOW BANK, TRANNY FEATURES
- E** LEDGE MANNY INTO BANK, BANK TO LEDGES
- F** VIEWING AND SEATING AREA

NOTE: SKATE PLAZA WILL BE PARTIALLY COVERED



Next Steps

City of North Vancouver Council consideration of the project is anticipated in July 2018. Should the overall Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre project be approved, the design teams will proceed with detailed design of both the temporary and permanent Skate Plazas as part of the overall project process. There will be opportunity for further feedback from the skate plaza users and community later in 2018 and early 2019.

