

DUSIUN SQUARE TOGETHER

OPEN HOUSE 1 FULL REPORT

Thursday, August 15, 2019

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- Summary
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BOSTON OVERVIEW

The first Boston Square Together open house took place on Thursday, August 15, 2019. Over 200 people came out to provide feedback and input on a 9-acre site in the heart of the Boston Square Business District. At registration, guests were asked to report if they currently lived in the Boston Square area (defined as Hall, Giddings, Burton and Eastern), worked in the area, or lived or worked elsewhere. Over 75 percent of those who registered currently lived in the defined area. Participants visited booths centered on Jobs & Entrepreneurship, Neighborhood Building Blocks, Oakdale Neighbors, Boston Square Neighborhood Association, and Design. This document shows the feedback for three of those stations in two ways: summarized and detailed.

A few quick highlights:

- During the first open house, nine contractors signed up for Dimensions, a program offered by Rockford Construction to support minority contractors.
- EPIC, a newly formed non-profit, hosted a meeting with 20+ minority contractors. Amplify GR and Dimensions were invited to share information regarding Boston Square Together.
- Some participants wanted to learn more about Oakdale Neighbors and Boston Square Neighborhood Association. These organizations received contact information for those participants.
- Participants interested in a forming homeownership planning group received an email from Amplify GR.

The second open house is scheduled for Thursday, September 5. Here participants will see ways that their feedback could fit into the 9-acre site. Amenities available in the plan include: flexible, shared spaces like community hubs and small business incubators. It also includes concepts for the overall site.

We appreciate so many of our neighbors spending time with us to share your thoughts and help create a community-centered, shared vision for the site.

Key:

Remarks in **blue** indicate feedback from a person that lives in the BSQ area.

Remarks in red indicate feedback from a person that works or owns a business in the BSQ area.

Remarks in yellow indicate feedback from a person that has other interests in the

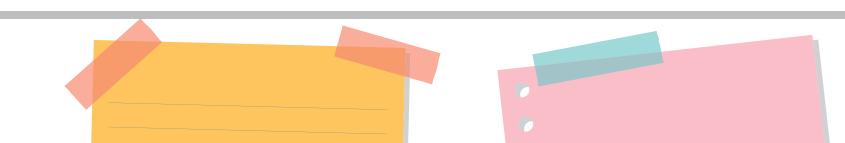


A COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY DESIGN

JOBS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Economic opportunities without displacement

ORIGINALLY, WE HEARD THE NEIGHBORHOOD COULD USE: YOU CONFIRMED AT OPEN HOUSE #1 THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THINGS LIKE: HERE'S HOW WE'D LIKE TO INCLUDE YOUR FEEDBACK INTO THE 9-ACRE SITE



Small business & food incubators





Good paying jobs and economic opportunities for all



Work with neighbors, business and neighborhood organizations to attract and retain employers that meet the needs of the community.

Ask for Employer commitments in exchange for reduced rent/ fees.

BOSTON SOUAKE TOGETHER

JOBS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP **Economic opportunities** without displacement

Are we missing anything else from Board 1? (Use your post-it to write in your response and attach it to the board!)

- Online marketing with residual income
- Bistro
- Laundry mat
- Farmers market/Fresh fruit and Vegetables
- Boutiques/black owned
- Consignment/Second hand retail store/Fresh food
- Family owned restaurant
- Re-open Boston House/Multicultural/Affordable fresh Market/ Pro active Legal help
- More businesses
- bank
- Neighborhood Banking
- Banking
- Black owned bank & Restaurant

- Center for Childcare
- Health/Mental health/Financial education
- Family programs/Movie night
- Youth Job training
- Learning center
- Wellness center/Spiritual/Mental Health/Physical exercise (YMCA)
- Well being
- Wellness facility/ Community Engagement facility
- Computer station for kids and Adults
- More jobs-No chemical
- No chemical job
- Restorative/Regenerative/ Infrastructure/Architecture
- Family Gathering Place

- Ethnic Food Corridor
- I support it all
- Community center for sports/Jobs
- Market small grocery store
- Better working hours
- Light Industrial/Business Development

Bakery

- School for Indigious people/ Business ownership
- Daycare/Senior Daycare
- Place to learn differen types of art ie; pottery, jewelry making and writing
- Business Ownership/Good paying Jobs

- Bank
- Affordable restaurant
- Incubator space/Pop up shops
- Bookstore
- Dollar Tree/McDonald's/Bank/ Aldi's
- Eye doctor/Dentist/Family entertainment/Outdoor Dining/ Breweries/ Dog or pet friendly store
- Farmers Market/Theater
- Hardware/Drugstore
- Flower shop
- Fresh food/Florist/Small shopping Center
- Tobacco store/Fresh Produce
- Community Center-Youth Center/ Affordable Housing/Trees
- Childcare
- Got it covered
- Church/Yoga
- Recreational Center
- Community Center offering activities like Art activities /

- Educational Opportunities
- Fitness Center
- A safe place for seniors to meet
- Black Cultural center to house Ebony Road Players, Music, Art, dance classes and performances
- Youth Center
- Childcare, Fitness Center, Jobs for teens
- Gathering place for Children
- Learning center
- Library
- Community Center/ Childcare
- Transportation Service
- Community Gathering Center
- Soul food Restaurant/Jazz club
- Budget planning
- Credit Union

- Ice Cream shop
- Grocery store
- Childcare
- Retail and Banking
- Teenage Job opportunities
- Sports complex Fitness/Wellness Space
- Strong local churches
- Childcare
- Top Schools
- Health Care Offices
- Childcare
- Health/Wellness facilities (mental & physical)
- Advertising-lack of advertising makes it impossible to gather community support
- Clean spaces in the Community
- Schools & Health Centers
- Academy
- Transportation
- Teaching kids about gardening and growing
- Tech Center







JOBS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP **Economic opportunities** without displacement

What new businesses would you like to see along Kalamazoo Ave? (Use your post-it to write in your response and attach it to the board!)

- Laundromat/African American restauarants/Grocery store/ Library/Home repair for seniors
- Bank/Credit Union
- Secure Banking
- Credit Union/Bakery
- Credit Union/Gym
- Banking
- Bank
- Banking
- Banking/Retail
- Affordable grocery store/market/ Restaurants/food trucks/Social Enterprise
- Grocery store
- Fresh food market
- Local Market fresh foods

- Fresh Produce farm Market
- Food Market
- Coffee/Sandwich shop/Frozen Yogurt/Locall owned Clothing store
- Boston house restaurant revived/ Local Market/Grocery/Good paying Jobs/Local businesses reflective of the community/ Coffee shop
- Coffee shop w/tv & wi-fi
- Grocery store
- Variety of Ethnic food options
- Restaurant reflective of the community
- Soul food-Mexican Restaurants
- Clean well-lit Laundromat
- Diversed restaurants/Daycare/

- Restaurants/Gathering spaces/Quality Grocery store/Fitness Center
- Park
- Bank/Restaurants
- Farmers Market
- Farmers Market
- Restaurant/Bakery Grocery store

- Bank
- Banking & Brokerage
- African american foo, businesses and clothing
- Sandwhiches, hotdogs

- Fresh local Market
- Local Market
- Fresh Market Center
- Fresh Market
- Grocery store
- Fresh food local Market
- Grocery store/Coffee shop
- Community center/Wellness facility
- Local Market
- Locally Owned Restaurants & Retail
- Bakery/Ice cream shop/Coffee shop
- Car repair/Auto service/Venues/ Entertainment
- Grocery store/Oil Change/Bakery
- Banquet Facility
- Job training for starting a business/Ownership
- Art/Cultural lifestyle/Educational **Centers/Speakers-Entertainment**
- Black Owned Coffee shop

Senior Center-Bingo Hall

- Walking Trail
- Grocery store/park for kids
- More Homes
- Water Splash pad for kids
- Kids activity
- Affordable Childcare
- Burger palce/Craft bldg
- Lifestyle and Cultural experiences
- Green grocery
- Affordable coffee shop/Gluten free restaurant/brewery
- Asian or Southeast Asian restaurant
- Good Jobs
- Beauty shop
- Affordable restaurant
- Hair Salon/Active stores
- A place for Recreational programs for adults & kids

- Credit Union
- Fresh food Market
- Bank
- Food local Market/Bakery
- Fresh Market
- Grocery store
- Supermarket
- Banking options
- Drop in center for mentally ill adults
- Fresh food/Bakery
- Coffee shops
- Restaurants
- Restaurant reflective of the Community
- Walkable restaurants with patio
- Restaurants that serve community
- Boston foods
- Fresh Market
- Local food market healthy choices
- Local Market/ Townsquare space

- Fresh food/Good payting Jobs/ Business Ownership
- Tree services, Good Earth
- Non retail/IT services/lawfirm/ legal/art
- Clothing store
- Business Assoc
- Variety of Cultural experiences
- Non profit to help elder/disable/vet
- Kid fast food restaurant
- Credit union/co-op Banking
- Library learning Center



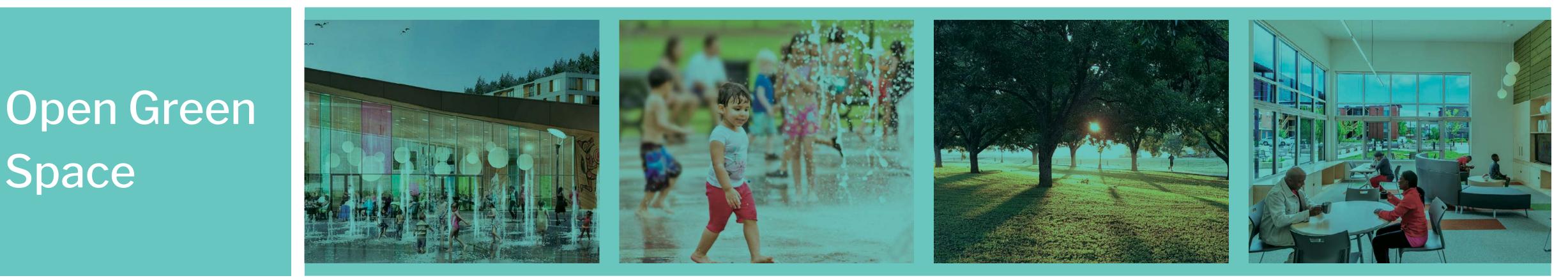
NEIGHBORHOOD **BUILDING BLOCKS**

A community that caters to the needs of neighbors today and tomorrow

>>> At open house #1, we heard the following activities and amenities are priorities for the community.



129 likes



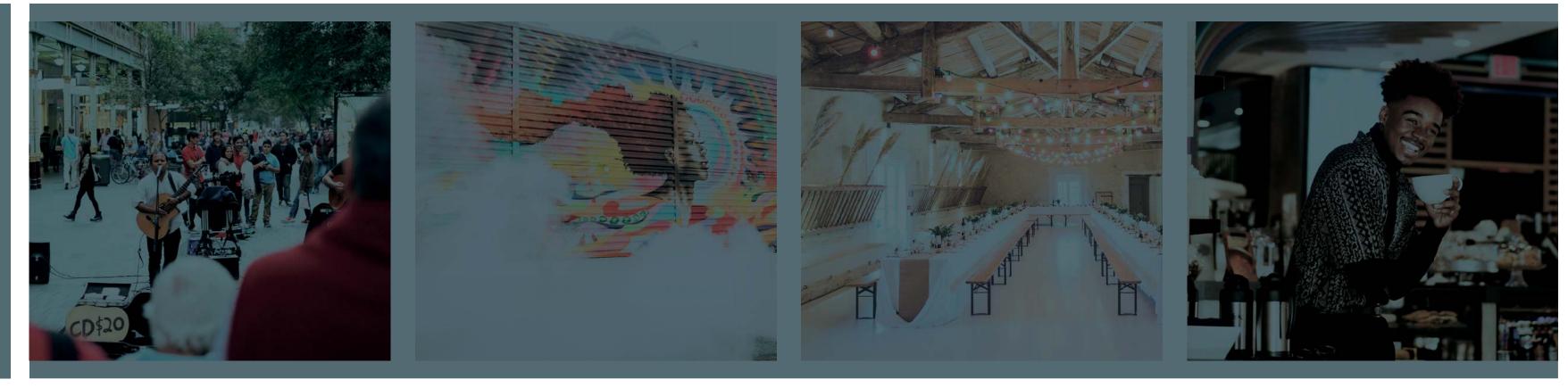
114 likes



111 likes

Arts & Culture

Space



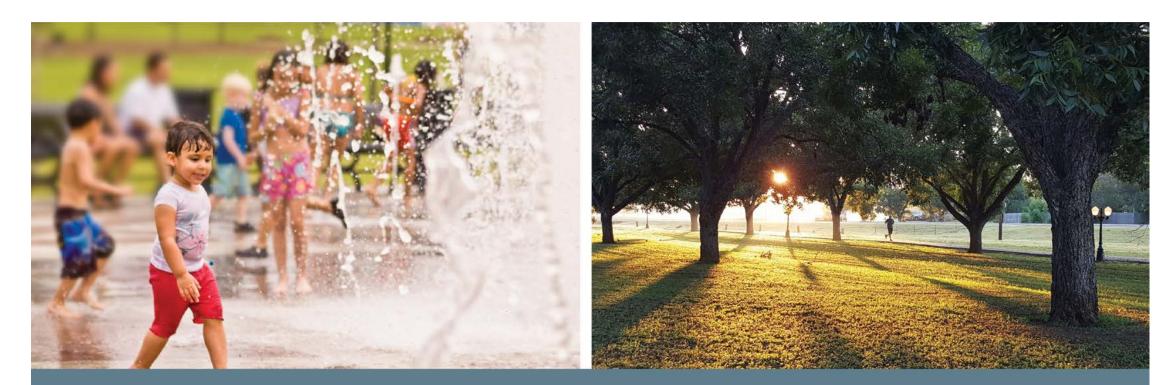
100 likes

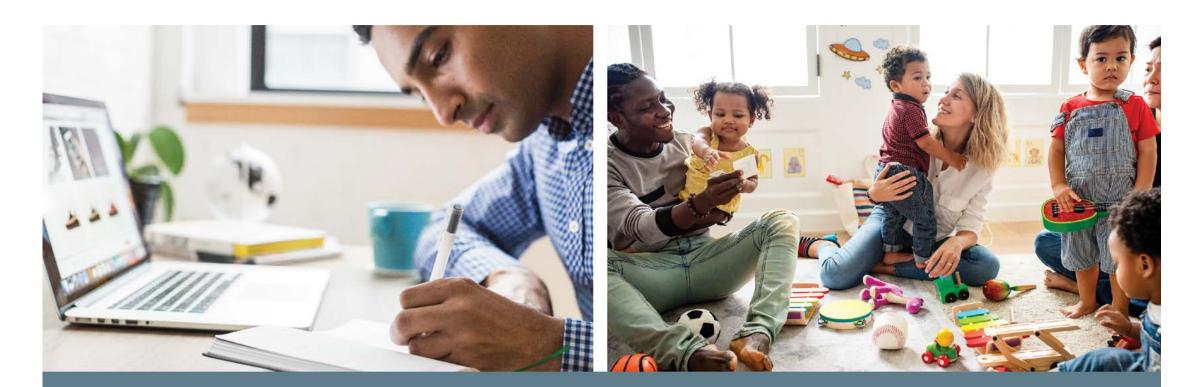




NEIGHBORHOOD BOSTON **BUILDING BLOCKS** TOGFTHFD

What types of activities do you envision for dedicated community **Spaces?** (Place a dot the same color as your name tag next to four designs you like!)





OPEN GREEN SPACE



EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING



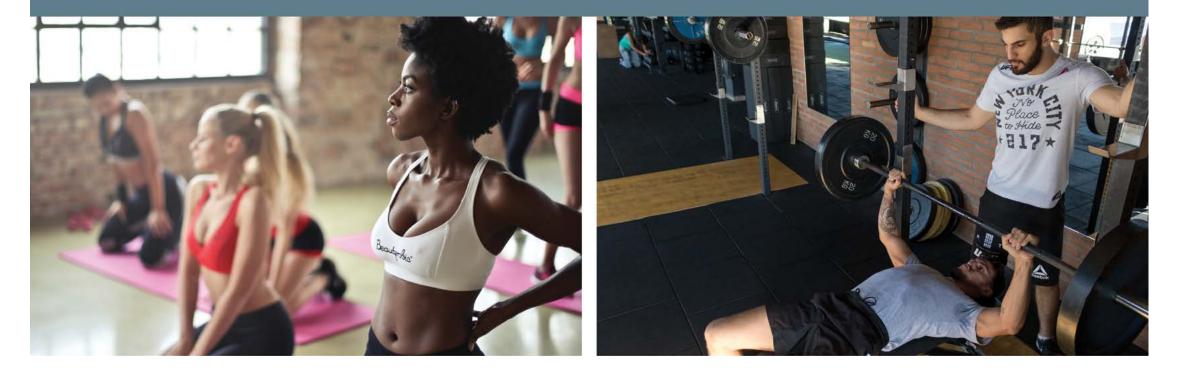
TOTAL: 114 Blue: 81 Red: 7 Yellow: 26











ARTS & CULTURE

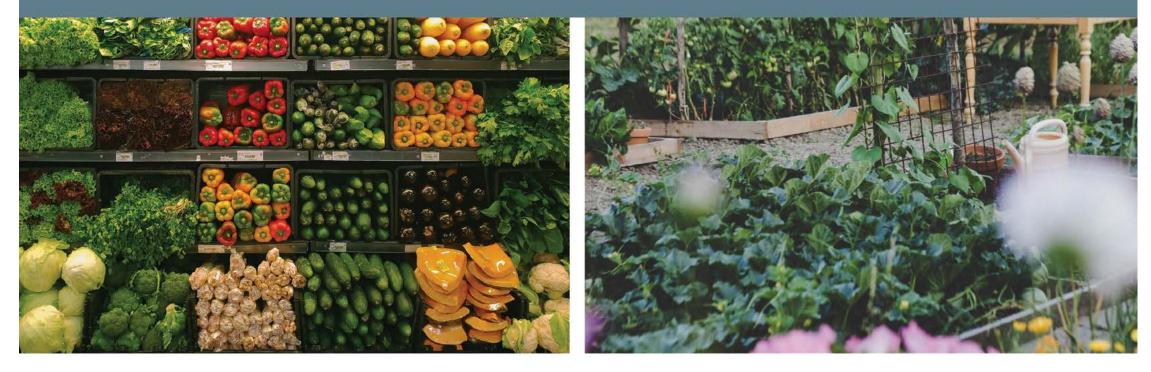


TOTAL: 92 TOTAL: 100 Yellow: 29 Yellow: 23 **Red: 6 Blue: 57 Blue: 68 Red: 9**



SUSTAINABLE FOOD



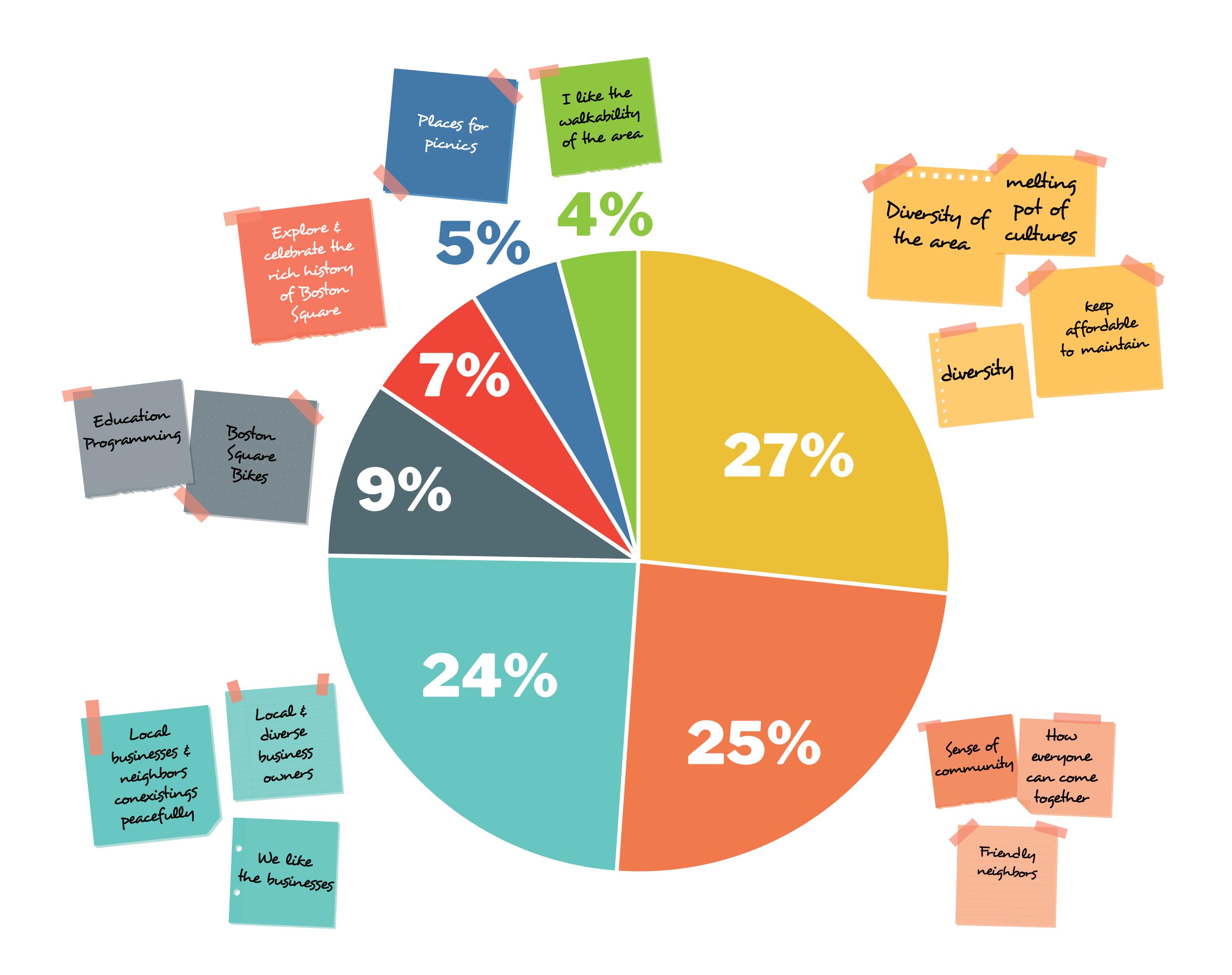


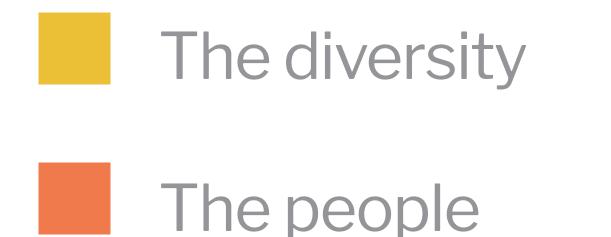
Blue: 71 Yellow: 29 **Red: 11**

NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDING BLOCKS

A community that caters to the needs of neighbors today and tomorrow

>>> According to our community, the following cultural assets make Boston Square unique:











The accessibility of the neighborhood



NEIGHBORHOOD **BUILDING BLOCKS** A community that caters to the needs

of neighbors today and tomorrow

What cultural assets make Boston Square unique and should be celebrated? Tell us why.

 Walgreens. Shell station.
 Community. Stability. More quiet family roots

The diversity of people in this area

BOSTON

TNGFTHFR

- Diversity of the area
- More picnics
- Diversity of residents
- Education + programming
- Banking, more green space (park)
- Walkability of the area. Area to be safe.
- Lots of space for new developments
- Yearly memorial for those who got shot on SE side
- Diversity (monoculture)
- The people + Boston Square CRC
- It is within reasonable distance to downtown hospitals and other services. There is diversity of people in residence.
- 1. Area and 2. **Opportunities**
- Banking
- The diversity of the

- It's my neighborhood! I've been here forever.
- Would _____ better sidewalks
- I grew up here. The changes that are happening are awesome.
- How everyone can come together and have a good time. Family/friends and the diversity
- Experienced the exporting of community dollars and privatization of schools which stole from the community and public institutions.
- _____ (ethnic / social, etc.). Local businesses
- The history of Boston Street area
- The heart of the people
- Hard working families
- The people and how we're
- able to come together. The programs.
- Better parking for businesses instead

- Diversity.
- Multicultural homeownership. Quiet neighbors.
- Diversity
- Modern Hardware!!! Walgreens
- My neighbors. Access to get to mall and downtown.
- The diversity in this community is to be celebrated and this should remain a multicultural community
- Convenient bus line very easily accessed
- Safe environment. Togetherness.
- I want plans for the green space on Ballard Street. Let's talk!
- Leave small businesses + hardware, drug store
- Bus system. More grocery stores.
- Fresh market
- What you like: Physical

- Walkable for jobs!
- Diversity, and it includes former home of activist Carl Smith
- The culture of the neighborhood. The traditions. Bring back Boston House
- Diversity. Income. Culture.
- I like having a business here and that I know my neighbors
- Diversity. Not gentrified. No displacement.

- People
- Convenient location to downtown.
- Quiet neighborhood
- Churches. Long standing businesses. Diversity.
- Some long term residents have been here for decades
- Restaurant/Bakery Grocery store

- Small business. Schools.
- Educating our own children about true history
- We like the businesses
- The diversity you can see. It's multicultural now
- It is a beautiful area and always has been. It'd like to see it stay that way. A Neighborhood Association.
- Integrated neighborhoods in the 80s & 70s
- Diversity
- PARKS
- Committed businesses
- Stability. Diverse ethnically.
- Good simple restaurants. Siete Mares. Boston Square Café.

- neighborhood. We have life long homeowners
- Proximity to anything
- Diversity + collaboration of residents
- Actual residents who want to be involved
- Diversity/small owned businesses of color
- Long term residents, walkability, diversity, small business, education
- Friendly neighbors
- Education, Good schools, Families move/stay in neighborhood with good schools
- 1. Lots of trash cans, 2. Flowers, 3. Bike lanes, 4. Dollar tree nearby, 5. Bring back Boston House
- Diversity of people groups, building things, Silver creek
- Bring back Boston House
- Unlimited potential! **Rich history. Family** friendy. Long standing

- of parking in front of residences
- Keeping the neighborhood diverse and inclusive
- Community events inform neighborhood about programs available
- Boston Square Café. 7 Mares. Modern Hardware.
- Local businesses serve needs
- The businesses. The churches. My neighbors who have lived there for years.
- Core African American community in GR **Revolution Church. Allow** them to use parks. 7 Mares. Modern Hardware.
- The diversity. Keep it affordable to keep the diversity.
- Love the diversity in the hood
- Don't close the hardware store! Don't kick out Revolution Church by

using up all the parking

- appearance of Gateway looks better. Like to see: Minority owned businesses
- Local gas station. Walgreens. Harware.
- Multi-cultural
- Families & homeowner community!
- Celebrate and empower cultural capital that already exists. Bricolage.
- I love the mixed age groups, income levels, ethnicities, etc. I love that it is affordable to live and shop here.
- Streests cleaned more often. People focus inclusion.
- The close shopping and pharmacy. Need a community garden, get kids involved
- Diversity. Parks. Friendly neighbors.
- Diversity. Home ownership.

- It's a great area to rebuild and give people a chance to succeed by giving them resources
- Neighborhood watch
- Great spot for small business development. Has always been here.
- Sense of community
- Bring back Boston House
- The people
- Teamwork in diversity
- Boston Square has a rich history. I would like to see its history explored and celebrated
- Meet more people of different color for friend
- Churches
- Churches should be a part of what is **Building Blocks**
- Multicultural. Need more minority owned businesses.
- Health + wellness
- Boston Square Bikes
- Restaurants + businesses. Modern

- Churches and places of worship
- Nearby parks
- Friendly people
- Wonderful family-owned Mexican restaurant 7 Mares.
- Diversity + Inclusion
- I like the restaurants
- More activity from restaurant with community
- Invested neighbors
- Celebrate diversity
- The Culture is of the community is what makes Boston Square great
- Health and wellness
- Food. Walkable. Historical. Diverse. Parks.
- The people. Make sure the people have resources to be successful.
- I love the presence of small businesses
- Sense of neighborhood, family, community
- Ethnicity. Why? Unity v. division.

homeowners.

Melting pot of cultures

The neighborhood association

Education. Fitness. Sustainable food. These are things we need to live a healthy lovely life.

spots. Been in the area since 1971. Things need redevelopment Local business and restaurants coexisting peacefully

• I like that we have access to local drug stores. I would like to see some of the housing refurbished.

Quiet neighbors. Clean.

Modern Hardware. 7 Mares. Walgreens. DIVERSITY!!!

Hardware. 7 Mares.

- Businesses
- Community building at bike shop
- Church, school, green food, affordable housing, health

Growth.

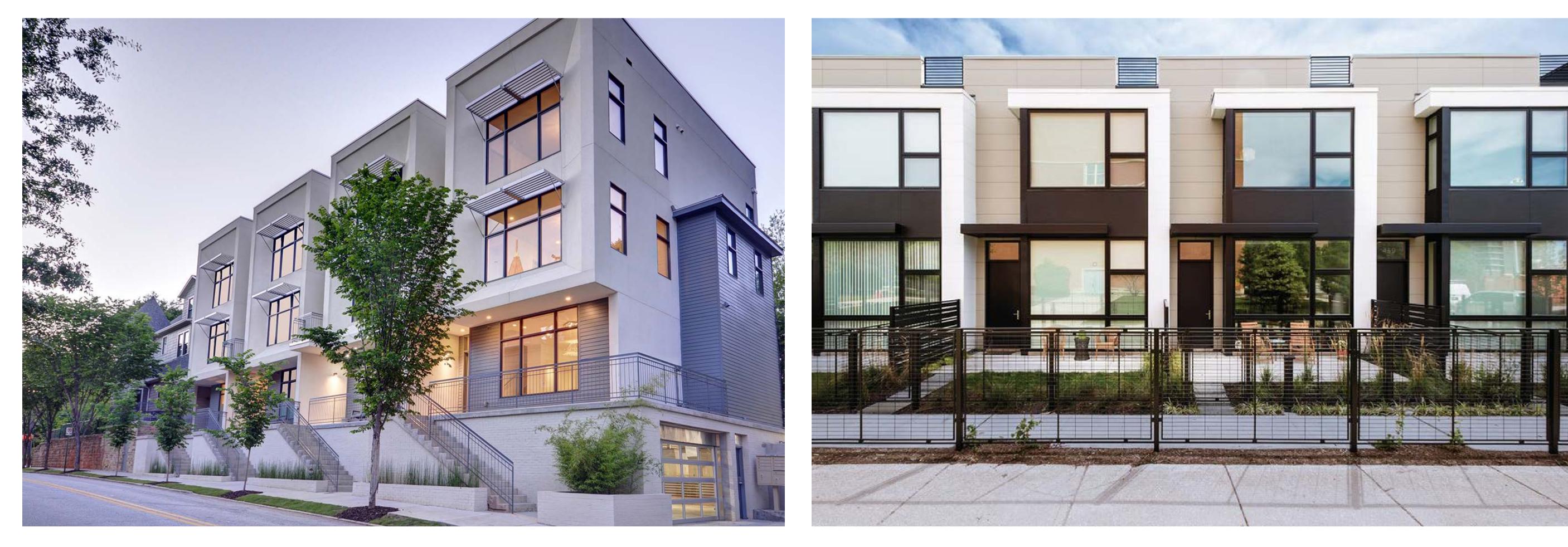
• The Culture is of the community is what makes Boston Square great

DESIGN

A neighborhood design informed by neighbors for neighbors

Based on feedback from August 15, the following are design ideas that seem to resonate most with neighbors.







Positive Feedback:

Warm feeling

Modern, clean & light

Garages and parking

Historical feel

Family, children and pet friendly

Private outdoor spaces (balconies) Fits into current

neighborhood

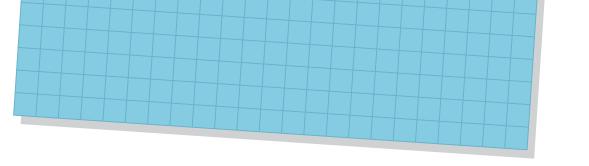
Areas to Improve:

Consider fencing to increase the safety for children and pets



More parking is needed







DESIGN

A community that caters to the needs of neighbors today and tomorrow



show the parking area

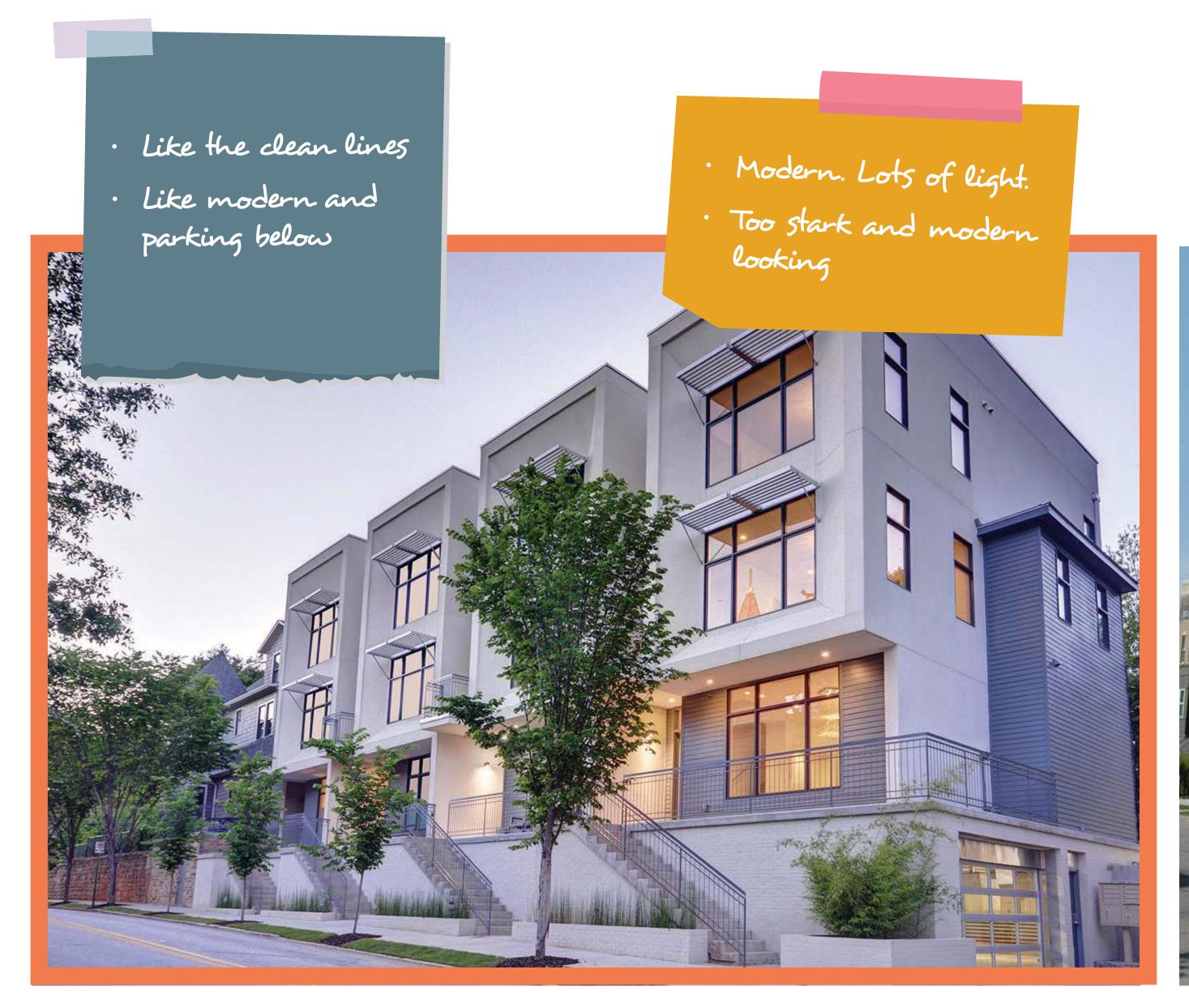
- · Has a warm feel. Could open up more and have a pop of color, landscaping, etc.
- · Like the garage
- · Don't care for townhomes. Too tall.

· Too compact for the neighborhood.

- Want some more one story for seniors. This one is better, less steps.
- · Fenced in and great for pets and children
- · Not what we need in this area
- · Like because of handicap access
- · Not child friendly

people in neighborhood





- · I think it fits well with existing buildings
- · This looks too Dutch
- Family oriented
- · Like this because it looks like Evanston, IL
- · Historical character of neighborhood
- · Townhouse design is great!

NY SAME Y

· I like the option of porches, outdoor spaces, stoops - to talk to neighbors















DESIGN

A neighborhood design informed by neighbors for neighbors

Based on feedback from August 15, the following are design ideas that seem to resonate most with neighbors.

Three Story Multi-Family:





Positive Feedback:

Warm, nice, inviting, beautiful

Private outdoor spaces (balconies)

Materials (brick, natural) Nice yet affordable

Fits into Boston Square area

Lighting and transparency

Areas to Improve:

More green/ open space Stark/cold

Think about children's safety with balconies

Add retail space

Use materials that celebrate and empower Michigan





BOSTON MARF TOGFTHFR

DESIGN

A community that caters to the needs of neighbors today and tomorrow



TOTAL: 19 Yellow: 6 Red: 0 **Blue: 13**

TOTAL: 23 Red: 3 Yellow: 7 **Blue: 13**

· Too stark

- · Looks very nice for the Boston Square
- · Cold feeling
- · This looks like a pop up house · Use materials that celebrate and empower Michigan AND 49507
- · Beautiful

· I like the balconies

- · Balconies might be dangerous for families with children
- Darker color of brick looks modern high class
- · I like the natural materials used here.

· There should be porch space - brings neighbors outside their homes.

· Balconies - outdoor spaces for apartmentr











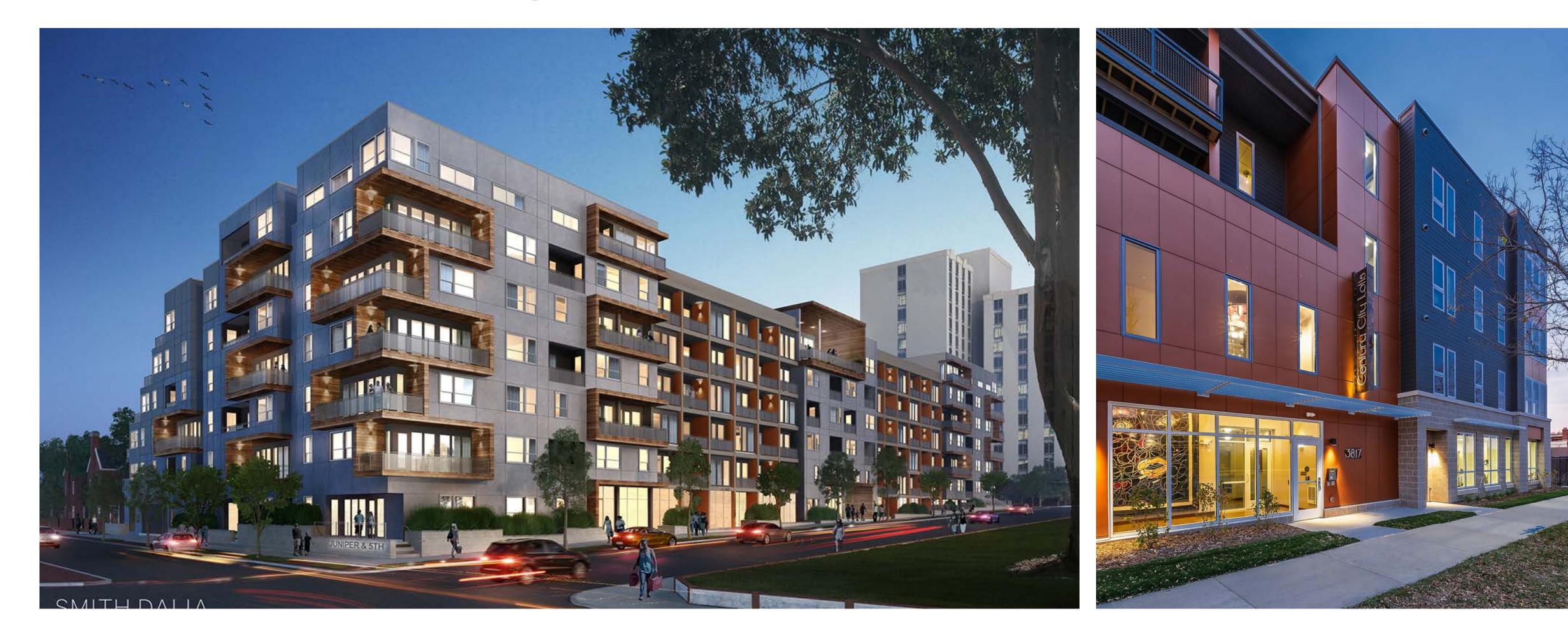


DESIGN

A neighborhood design informed by neighbors for neighbors

Based on feedback from August 15, the following are design ideas that seem to resonate most with neighbors.

Mid-Rise Buildings:





Positive Feedback:

Nice Beautiful

Holds a lot of people Projecting bays and balconies

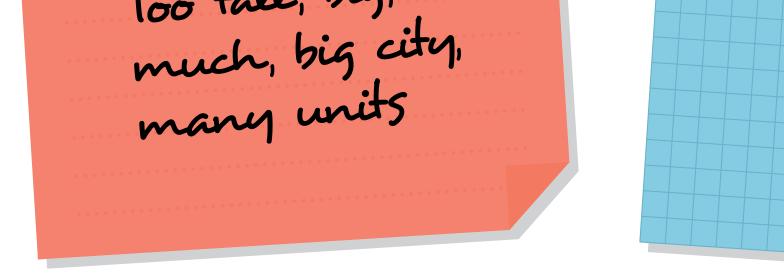
Building with housing and stores Efficiency of housing

Areas to Improve:

Where is the parking? Too tall, big, dense,

Looks too much like other areas in the city

Seems unaffordable to today's residents (Rents & Taxes)





DESIGN

A neighborhood design informed by neighbors for neighbors



for our community, but I like the efficiency of housing

- · Very nice
- · Too tall and anonymous
- · Looks more upscale likes
- · Too much
- · Too big for the space
- · Building with housing and stores
- · Too large
- · Too congested

- Too packed, too dense
 Absolutely beautiful
- · Holds a lot of people
- · Too "big city"
- Would not want community to be TAXED out of their homes
- look like this
- · Likes that there is more room inside with bays
- Neighborhood Assoc, residents,
 business owners
- · Like projecting bays and balconies
- Like the design. More color on building
- These buildings seen too big/compact for our neighborhood

· No community feeling

· Tall buildings don't fit

neighborhood

· Too many people in the neighborhood





- · Looks like college dorm
- No. Looks like a nursing home.
- Too many different colors of brick, clashes with green shutters. Not enough trees.
- · Too congested and tall
- · Too tall for space
- Looks like it would cost
 too much for a low
 income family
- ...would date the building
 quickly (fad)
- Enjoy the mixed colors.
 Feels more friendly
- · Avoid "norm-love" architecture, please.

This appears to be a big jail or projects.
 Not a home

- · Too many units
- · Looks like projects & too many different colors
- · Looks like dorm
- · Too big. Feels like housing project.



- · Sidewalks, height, balcony
- Make sure parking is always available for residents















DESIGN

A neighborhood design informed by neighbors for neighbors

Based on feedback from August 15, the following are design ideas that seem to resonate most with neighbors.







Positive Feedback:

Bricks & trees are welcoming Central, large green space Social spaces Open concept

Outer spaces to talk to fellow neighbors builds comunity Lighting in and out Secured Well populated Plants

Outdoor seating for warm weather

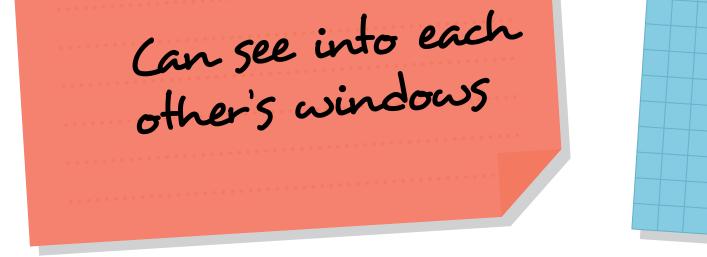
Well lighted walking spaces

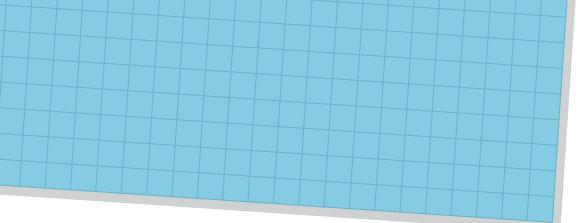
Nice, open could incorporate public and art and performance Spaces

Areas to Improve:

Green space and community gardens

Access to grocery and stores for people without cars





DESIGN

A neighborhood design informed by neighbors for neighbors

Streetscapes:

Social spaces - likes

Don't like the apartments, but the streetscape is nice.

· I love outdoor space · Able to sit out during warm weather. Social area

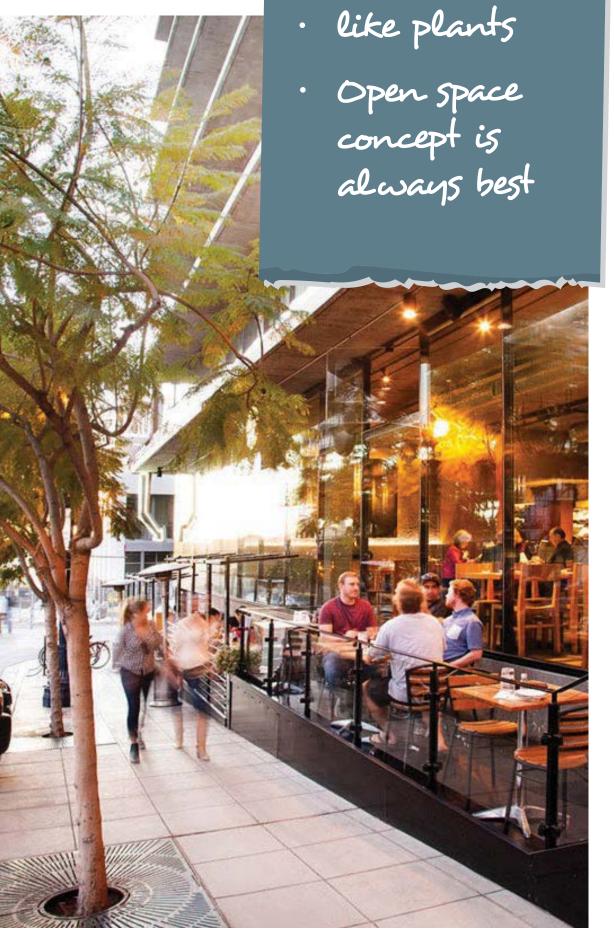
Like the plants and space Like the plant space too but maintenance should be a must to keep up the landscape

- · Need living infrastructure
- · Green space integrated into the area (co-op, community garden)?
- · More green space and

· Buildings with porches, balconies, outdoor spaces to talk to fellow neighbors builds community

· This streetscape design offers lighting / intout exits + entrances. It appears to be populated well with security.





- that is both functional and beautiul
- · Might be nice
- · Like that it is level in case of fire w/some security
- Looks like a canyon
- Like because it's exotic, like a different country

· I didn't like this. Because you can look into your neighbor's house and they can look right into yours.

community gardens · Look in each other's

windows

TOTAL: 22 Blue: 10

TOTAL: 23 Blue: 15

TOTAL: 25 Blue:16

Yellow: 9 Red: 3

Yellow: 6 Red: 2

Yellow: 5 Red: 4

· The space is nice and open, could incorporate public art, and performance spaces

- · Like community garden & socialize. For health issues
- · Central green space
- · I like the open space
- · Low income and disability affordable housing
- · Project design
- · Senior affordable homes

· People in the inner city sometimes don't have a car so it's important to have housing close to grocery, stores, etc.

Like the greenspace



Catching up with change in times

- No green space
- Well lighted walking area with trees. Looks modern.
- I like the brick and the trees are welcoming and classic

This doesn't have a neighborhood feel

















DESIGN

A neighborhood design informed by neighbors for neighbors

Based on feedback from August 15, the following are design ideas that seem to resonate most with neighbors.











Positive Feedback:

Outdoor space mixed with housing

Businesses & housing together

Creative gathering spaces

Good idea Outdoor/rooftop seating Upscale & inviting Refreshing

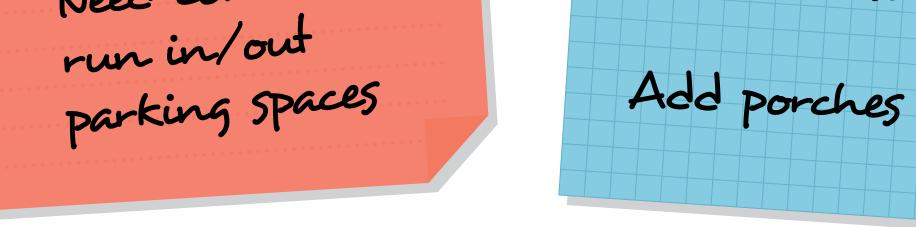
Like housing with other functions for neighbors, grocery, coffee, etc.

Affordable housing + small businesses=comunity

Areas to Improve:

Market should focus on local products Need convenient

Green space Where is the parking Scale too large



Too fancy

project



Feels like housing

DESIGN

A neighborhood design informed by neighbors for neighbors

Mixed-Use Buildings:

keep businesses and restaurants floor level. This design implies needing distance from your neighbors.

· Creative gathering space

I really like this design, but I don't want the neighbors/neighborhood to feel intimidated as if they are being TAXED out! • I love the mixed use building idea, but there should be 30 min parking available for people to run in for coffee/foodMore green space and community gardens

· More affordable housing

Parking space?

Affordable housing + small business = community

• I like housing that has something function for the other neighbors i.e. grocery, coffee, etc.

· Love the market but

- Like mixed use but need green space
- Seems a refreshing place to be
 Like the balcony but can't see inside space for quick access to the outside
- · I like the green balcony
- · Love the outdoor space
- · Love this one
- · Like outside roof
- · Like seating at roof
- · Not enough outdoor seating
- Like idea of business and housing
- · Great!

- · I like the green outdoor feeling
- I like the green space and modern design but don't want to be taxed out of my neighborhood
- · Love the outdoor mixed with the housing







- bridge street is expensive!! Make it affordable for our community!
- Convenient store on bus
 line
 - Good idea
- Market focusing on local products
- My favorite
- The scale is too large on all of these
- Good market design, looks upscale and inviting
- I like Bridge St Market,
 but it will be too much
 in our neighborhood



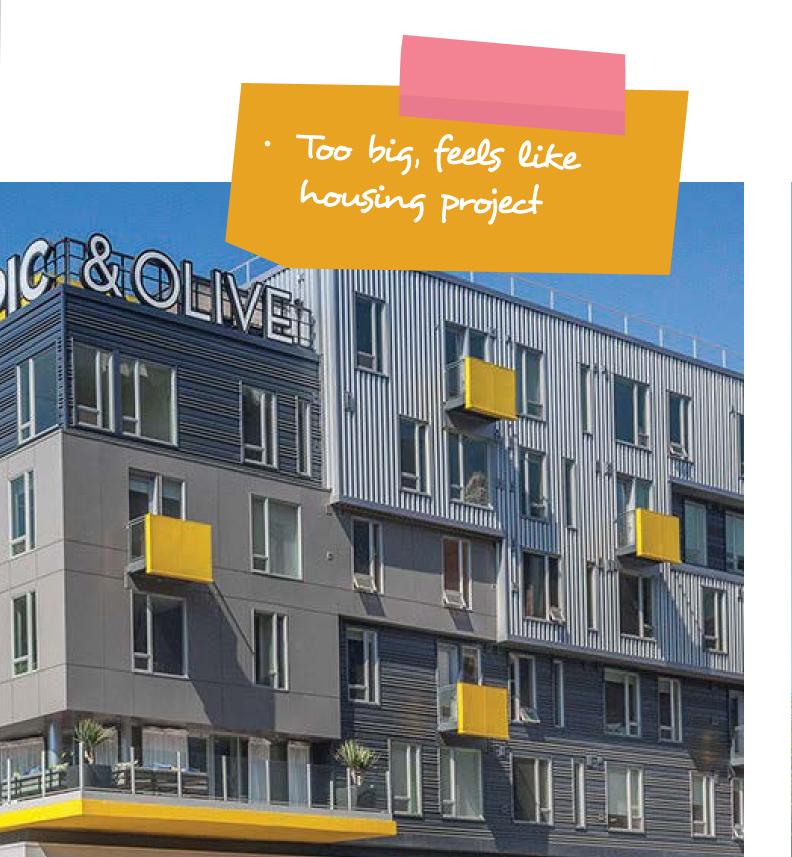


Blue: 54 Yellow: 18 Red: 4

Blue: 33 Yellow: 10 Red: 5

· No green space

- Need ______ that reflects the values/culture of the neighborhood.
 Bland/gray buildings don't do this.
- · Feels corporate and not at all friendly



- · Seems like they are trying to stack us on top of each other
- This looks like a school or firehouse. Yuck.
- · Too tall for neighborhood
- I like that mixed use meets the housing and retail needs.
- · No green space

CAM



- Not enough green space
 Looks like communism
- - · I like mixed use but none of these designs tickle my fancy! Too fancy.







Blue: 1 Yellow: 0





Blue: 4 Yellow: 0 Red: 0