

# SHAPING THE VISION FOR THE LONG BEACH CIVIC CENTER

Following multiple outreach meetings where the DTLB community was asked to share their vision for the new Long Beach Civic Center, we convened DTLB stakeholders, business owners, and residents to look at Plenary-Edgemoor Civic Partners (PECP) proposed Civic Center design in order to help shape it. From public space to public safety, special events to retail, we asked our stakeholders to look at the current proposal and note the most important features that should be considered in the final design.

## KEY THEMES

ACCESSIBILITY  
FLEXIBILITY  
PRIDE

## DETAILS THAT MATTER

- ▶ **Activation of Space through Continual Programming**  
Providing opportunities for everyone to use the Civic Center.
- ▶ **24 / 7 Destination**  
Uses and activities that extend beyond the typical 9-to-5.
- ▶ **Need for Cleanliness, Lighting, and Clear Sight Lines**  
Making the space feel more connected, accessible, and safer.

### PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN & CONNECTIVITY

The need for **activation every day of the week**—with a specified team designated for creating and managing that programming—was a recurrent theme amongst participants discussing this topic. With PECP's proposal, we have a vast amount of park space that could become a source of recreational love amongst residents and visitors alike. However, that is more easily said than done. The need for **regularly maintained and clean restrooms** along with **clear site lines for entry** provide a much needed sense of security. **Flexible spaces** that permit a variety of programming paired with **the accommodation of all forms of mobility**—public transit, walking, biking, skateboarding—should be the focal point of bringing people forth to activate the space. Without people, activation is impossible.

### ACTIVATION, SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

The types of events the community wishes to see are not much different than any area of culture's desires: **concerts, farmers markets, and physical activities for all ages** are, according to many, lacking in the current Civic Center and remain key to the future Civic Center's cultural viability. The cog, however, that will tie these events together seamlessly is **programming, both big and small**. In order to achieve this, **temporary spaces with removable seats, canopies, game kiosks, etc.** as well as **built-in infrastructure** that provides staging, power, sound, lighting, clean restrooms and easy-to-use facilities.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

This is the topic that flowed most into other categories, as there is an unquestionable sense of discomfort when it comes to the current Civic Center's safety. **24/7 activation with proper lighting during all hours** dominated discussions, as the presence of people using the Civic Center deters unwanted activities from occurring. When guests are not using the park, the need for **cameras and security** becomes even more essential. Community members spoke of the need to **bring transit through the Civic Center** in order to increase foot traffic, making the **1st Street transition from the Transit Mall into Lincoln Park a seamless pedestrian experience**, and **the removal of tall planters and barricades** in order to create a better sense of safety.

### RETAIL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

If there was a common thread amongst all participants in this category, it was the fact that **"low-hanging" retail should be avoided**. Long Beach, particularly DTLB, prides itself on local, unique businesses that lack a corporate-like feel and flavor. This didn't necessarily mean eschewing all larger brands: **higher-end grocers** like Whole Foods or Trader Joe's are desired in order to **create a sense of destination**. Examples like the Grand Central Market in DTLA and The Camp in Costa Mesa were provided. Commercial spaces should be sized to accommodate these desired retailers. And once again, expanded hours dominated discourse with participants expressing the need for **late night food options** and **activation past 5PM**.

With a Downtown visioning process that began more than five years ago, the DLBA will continue to play an active role in the coming months and years by giving our stakeholders a voice in the process. We look forward to working with Plenary-Edgemoor Civic Partners and the City of Long Beach in making the new Long Beach Civic Center a world-class space for our community. Stay up to date on opportunities to contribute to the Civic Center development by visiting [downtownlongbeach.org/civic-center](http://downtownlongbeach.org/civic-center).