

Boston City Hall and Plaza Renovations

Public Feedback
June, 2019



Mayor Martin J. Walsh
City of Boston Operations Cabinet
Public Facilities Department

SASAKI

The City Hall Plaza Design Process:

PROJECT TIMELINE



GOALS

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



QUESTIONS FOR YOU (OUR USERS!)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the specific materials, site equipment, building and mobility details work for you? Does the programming support how you want to use this space? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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?
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Recap of Engagement Activities

PLAZA ACTIVITIES

JUNE 5 2019

Panorama Viewing Stations + Selfie Stations

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

JUNE 5 2019

Formal Presentation

OPEN HOUSE

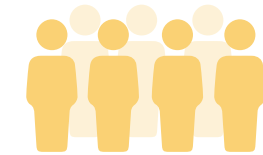
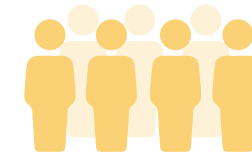
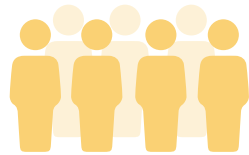
JUNE 5 2019

Topical Stations + Comment Cards

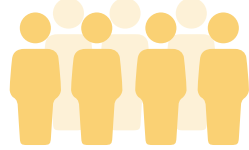
ONGOING ENGAGEMENT

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

Casual Visitors to the Plaza



Engaged Public



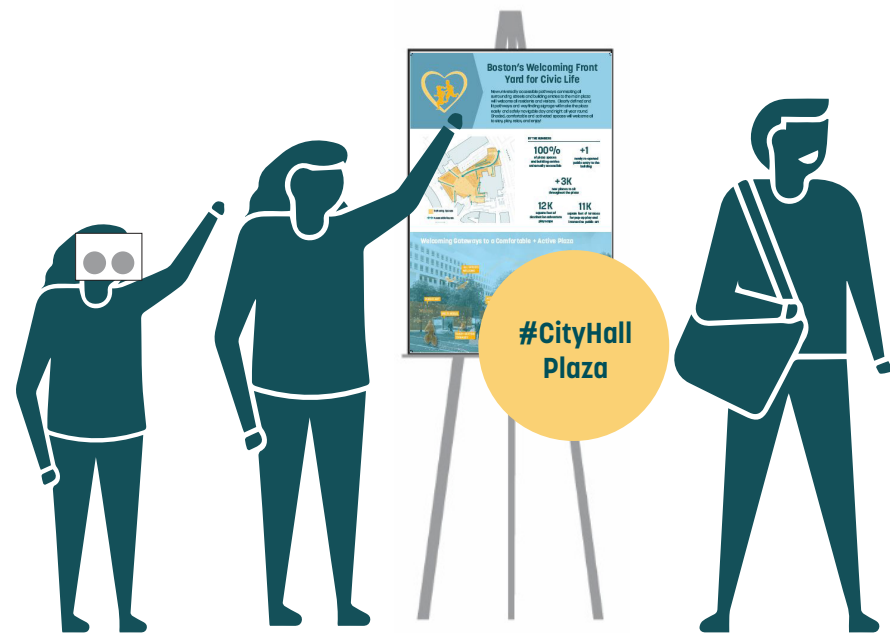
City Hall Employees



Public not at the June 5 Presentation



Process for Capturing Feedback



PLAZA ACTIVITIES & OPEN HOUSE

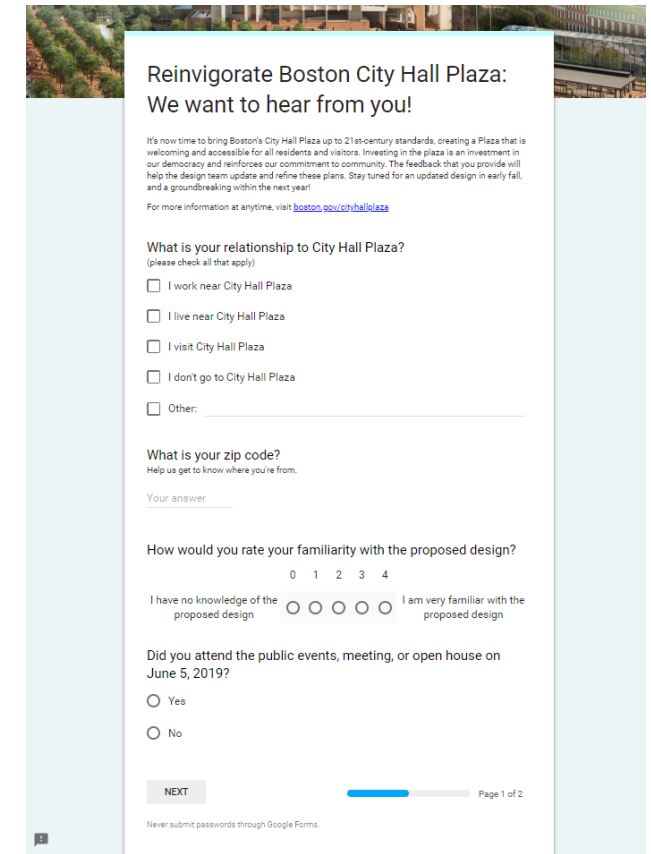
Hosts of the activity stations documented their conversations with visitors.

The design team reviewed social media content from the events with [#cityhallplaza](#) hashtag.



COMMENT CARDS

Visitors filled out comment cards at the Plaza activity and Open House. These comment cards were then logged and categorized by theme.



ONLINE SURVEY & ONGOING CONVERSATIONS

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!

That's the coolest playground I've ever seen

More flowers!

Appreciate a new civic building with public restrooms

**What is part of phase 2?
When will that be announced?**

It's about time we did something with BCHP.

Why can't we do the same to the building?



Most-Mentioned Topics from Comment Cards

122
Total comments
received



	I wish.../I wonder..	I like...	TOTALS
Events	10	10	20
City Hall building/ architecture	8	8	16
Brick	11	1	12
Grass/ Plantings	9	2	11
History	9	0	9
Accessibility	3	5	8
Maintenance/ Facilities	6	1	7
North entrance	2	5	7
Play/ Playground	1	6	7
Trees	2	5	7

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?

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
boston.gov/cityhallplaza

I wish/ I wonder...

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

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
boston.gov/cityhallplaza

I wish/ I wonder...

If plaza and City Hall history will be showcased somewhere?

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
boston.gov/cityhallplaza

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.

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
boston.gov/cityhallplaza

I like...

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

Join the conversation!
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I like...

I love the playground. Plays off the existing architecture in a fascinating way.

Join the conversation!
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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?

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
boston.gov/cityhallplaza

I wish/ I wonder...

Was there any consideration given to opening up plots to private development to help "activate the edge" of the space?

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
boston.gov/cityhallplaza

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.

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
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I like...

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

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
boston.gov/cityhallplaza

I like...

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

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
boston.gov/cityhallplaza

I like...

The flexibility of the planned event spaces.

Join the conversation!
#CityHallPlaza
boston.gov/cityhallplaza

Feedback from Online Survey

12

Total survey responses

2.5

Average familiarity with design (scale of 0-4)

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.

**Take the online survey:
boston.gov/cityhallplaza**

