

## DEED Advisory Group and Advisory Committees Input Summary

<b>Edit Reference (Appendix 2)</b>	<b>Input/feedback received</b>	<b>Advisory Committee input/feedback received from:</b>
1	Inclusion of ' <i>safe Downtown</i> ' within the Vision Statement as safety is a priority for residents and visitors.	Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
2	' <i>welcoming</i> ' was added to the Vision Statement as it is described as more inclusionary	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee
3	' <i>cooperative spirit</i> ' was added to the Vision Statement.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee
4	District was used rather than Downtown as Downtown is referenced twice in the Vision Statement, it was seen as more impactful to reference the District.	Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
5	' <i>strengthens</i> ' replaced the word 'creates a sense of' as there is an existing sense of community in the Downtown	Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
6	' <i>our diverse</i> ' was added to the guiding principles as welcoming contributes to a feeling of safety and health.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee
7	Added 'land's heritage' respective of the first peoples of the land and support reconciliation efforts	Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
8	' <i>welcoming</i> ' was added to promote inclusionary language	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee

*Table will be updated as input and feedback is received from the DEED Advisory Group and Advisory Committees throughout February and March.*

*All input and feedback will be incorporated for the report to City Council scheduled for March 29, 2023.*



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February 24, 2023

General Manager, Transportation and Construction Division  
Director of Technical Services  
General Manager, Community Services Division  
Senior Project Manager  
Senior Project Planner

Dear Administration:

**Re: Downtown Event and Entertainment Vision Statement and Guiding Principles - Feedback [MHAC2023-0201]**

The Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, at its meeting held on February 21, 2023, heard a presentation from the Administration related to the draft Downtown Event and Entertainment Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.

During discussion of the matter, the Committee was requested to provide feedback on the matter.

Please find attached the requested feedback from the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stevie Horn".

**Stevie Horn, Chair**  
Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee

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# Downtown Event and Entertainment District Vision Statement and Guiding Principles - Feedback

## Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee Feedback

February 24, 2023



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### Members Review and Comments

#### **1. From the perspective of the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, are there any major concerns about the draft vision statement or guiding principles?**

- Happy to see indigenous history and reconciliation recognized. It may be helpful to expand on what TRC Calls to Action or areas of UNDRIP are being incorporated (although I understand that doesn't necessarily live in this document).
- Happy to see history/heritage in the first bullet point.
- The principles need to inspire us – and go beyond the general
- Believe the reconciliation item should be first.
- My major concern is that the vision could better emphasize its commitment to preserving and increasing awareness of Saskatoon's heritage.
  - Safety has been a number one priority for our residents, visitors, members, and partners in recent years, so I would love to see that addressed in the vision.
  - 'Downtown' is mentioned twice, so it might be more impactful to use it once.
  - "creates a sense of" - could be a more impactful phrase or word; maybe 'enriches', or 'nurtures', or 'strengthens'
  - "attracts" works, but it is slightly falling flat. I think a word such as 'inspires' denotes more of a level of engagement that we want people to feel when in the district. We want them to feel empowered to proactively engage with the centre, and their new surroundings.

I have adjusted the wording slightly to accommodate the suggestions: *"A safe and vibrant district that is a welcoming and inclusive place for all people to come together. It supports a strong economy, strengthens the community, and inspires people to live, work and play in the Downtown."*

#### **2. From the perspective of the Committee, is there anything missing from the draft vision statement or guiding principles?**

- I would like to see Heritage recognized in two ways from the earliest stages of planning and incorporated into these foundational documents:

- a) preservation of history/heritage - ensuring that any heritage resources/assets in the district and surrounding area are protected and not affected by the construction.
- b) celebration/awareness of history/heritage - actively incorporating heritage/history into the planning and development (e.g. planning for showcasing features like infographic/wall installations that have historical information).
- The vision is thoughtfully worded. My suggestions clarify some elements and would build in a clearer commitment to heritage preservation. I have placed my edits in green simply to make them more obvious.
  - Vision statements second sentence “It supports **respect for heritage**, a strong economy and creates a sense of community which attracts people to live, work and play in the Downtown
  - Guiding Principles
    - Distinctive identity. In the spirit of TRC and the useful footnote in Appendix 4 (p 55 of MHAC agenda), I suggest placekeeping comes before placemaking. Then to enhance this concept I suggest “celebrates **the land’s heritage**, the city’s history etc”
    - Place Reconciliation section following Distinctive Identity which supports comments about placekeeping and TRC commitment.
    - Add **public** to Reliable and efficient **public** transportation options
    - Add to Leadership in Sustainability etc. ... through **respect for heritage**, urban infill choices etc.
  - I believe MHAC requirements are captured within this statement: Recognize and enhance a District that celebrates the city’s history and heritage.
- I assume to be able to celebrate, that encompasses a few things relevant to MHAC:
  - having an inventory of valuable heritage in the area before its potential removal/change,
  - appropriately incorporating relevant stories (perhaps physical plaques/monuments, but also intangibly in things like the name) within the new district build,
  - recognizing that there may be nothing of significance worth carrying forward.
  - of note, the Sid Buckwold Theatre should probably make it onto that inventory list...

### **Additional comments.**

- I've been to several convention center's and sports arenas, and it is nice to see some of the displays that are in these spaces that tell the story of the city (or in some cases the sports team or prominent community figures, etc.) or are spaces for actively displaying historically significant items.
- It is really important to emphasize is that the addition of the arena district – really enhances and deepens the story of Saskatoon as a new addition to the

heart of our community! And adds to the historic fabric that will, hopefully, remain a marker for a 100+ years – and not something that has to be demised in 40 years or less as we currently do with such structures. But rather, something that can be built – that can be innovative, adaptive and a contributing and respectful member of our community’s heritage.

- Imagine – we do such good through this development – that it stands the true test of time alongside the Bess, the Sturdy Stone Building and other spaces around our downtown.
- We need to do this in a beautiful, thoughtful, respectful, well-meaning way.
- I do welcome the opportunity as both an MHAC member and Saskatoon Heritage Society rep – (coupled with a planner’s hat on too) to continue to influence hopefully in thoughtful and meaningful ways – alongside all the other fabulous colleagues we have amongst us through MHAC and beyond.
- I appreciate admin requesting input from the city’s 6 advisory committees.

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee – February 24, 2023:

### Notes paraphrased from meeting date

- A stronger recognition of the diversity of communities in Saskatoon. It should be clearer that the District is inclusive of all communities in the city;
- Is there a way to indicate that we would optimize or take advantage of the other projects in the City? Can we put this into the guiding principles? Like BRT, etc.;
- Appreciates the guiding principles. They are positive and demonstrate the importance of how this project can enhance peoples lives in the city and beyond. They are comprehensive and appreciated;
- Related to the vision statement – the first sentence regarding a welcoming and inclusive place is a good start, but it could also incorporate the guiding principles in a stronger way;
- Guiding principle related to reconciliation – a stronger sentiment could be integrated into the vision. City clearly wants to do a good job of showcasing diversity, but it could be stronger in the vision statement;
- This document doesn't capture how these principles will be visualized and acted upon;
- Look to other entertainment districts (Edmonton) ensuring that Indigenous language is utilized;
- Regarding architecture and public realm – gender inclusive washrooms should be flagged for facilities. These should not be combined with family and accessible washrooms. These facilities are difficult to change after they have been developed and can have a large impact on how users enjoy/experience potential future events;
- Celebration is a good word to use to express celebrating cultural diversity;
- Suggest to incorporate '*co operative spirit where all diverse communities may live, work and play*'. We need to work on cooperation and living, working and playing together;
- Are there ways to mitigate risk in the engagement strategy so that it's clear that human rights are not determined for public debate?;
- Specific language around reconciliation is appreciated. Other languages should also be included to enhance inclusion and diversity of those in our community;
- Would like the City to look into community benefit agreements so that various inclusive practices that the City does are expanded upon. As this project relates to infrastructure and development of Downtown, having community benefit agreements thought about at this stage is critical; and
- The guiding principles should make it clear that spaces can exist within the entertainment district where you do not have to spend money.

## Municipal Planning Commission – February 28, 2023:

### Notes paraphrased from meeting date

- How will transportation into Downtown be addressed?;
- Clarification regarding Bus Rapid Transit, is it included with the District Plan or separate?;
- Any changes Downtown will have impacts elsewhere, considerations should be made for surrounding neighbourhoods;
- What is being done with the current SaskTel Centre building and site?;
- Are all modes of transportation going to be given equal weight and consideration?;
- The BRT project is top of mind for a lot of the public, the BRT system will have to be ready in order to support the District;
- Downtown rail tracks should be considered for accommodating vehicles coming to the Downtown from the North end. Only two streets from the North end to get Downtown, this will have an impact;
- Another topic that is top of mind for the public is Downtown grocery stores, that should be considered within the project work, along with other previously identified issues in the city;
- Regarding a robust and diverse economy guiding principle – the District is more than just an arena, consideration should be given for commercial vacancy rate before introducing more commercial spaces;
- The commission deals with the Zoning Bylaw – what impact will the District plan have on the Zoning Bylaw?; and
- The City should look into and consider what other cities in Canada have done regarding entertainment districts.