

DEED Advisory Group and Advisory Committees Input Summary

This table references the input and feedback from the DEED Advisory Group and Advisory Committees that has been included in the edited Vision Statement and Guiding Principles. The numbered edit reference applies to the highlighted change reflected in Appendix 2.

Edit Reference (Appendix 2)	Input/feedback received	Advisory Committee input/feedback received from:
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 vision statement as a stronger recognition of reflecting the diversity of communities in Saskatoon.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee
7	' <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> ' was added to the guiding principle to honour Indigenous Peoples, in addition to histories, languages and culture.	DEED Advisory Group
8	' <i>Establish</i> ' replaced the word 'enact', as a more appropriate action in the context of this project.	DEED Advisory Group
9	Added ' <i>land's heritage</i> ' respective of the first peoples of the land and support reconciliation efforts.	Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
10	...celebrate ' <i>community's culture</i> ' was incorporated based on feedback to emphasize celebrating culture.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee and Public Art Advisory Committee
11	' <i>embraces our winter city</i> ' was incorporated based on input and feedback.	Input through Technical Advisor workshops and GPC
12	' <i>Preserving the Downtown as the cultural, social and employment center of the community</i> ' was incorporated to emphasize the role of Downtown and how the project could provide a wider benefit to all.	Public Art Advisory Committee
13	' <i>welcoming</i> ' was added to promote inclusionary language.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee

Input and feedback received from the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee – February 24, 2023.



Office of the City Clerk
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon SK S7K 0J5

www.saskatoon.ca
tel (306) 975.3240
fax (306) 975.2784

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

SH:ht

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



Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee Feedback

February 24, 2023

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. **[Administration adjusted the vision statement to reflect this feedback]**
 - 'Downtown' is mentioned twice, so it might be more impactful to use it once. **[Administration adjusted the vision statement to reflect this feedback]**
 - "creates a sense of" - could be a more impactful phrase or word; maybe 'enriches', or 'nurtures', or 'strengthens' **[Administration adjusted the vision statement to reflect this feedback]**
 - "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."* **[Administration adjusted the vision statement to reflect this feedback, while recognizing a balance for input and feedback from all advisory committees]**

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).

[Administration has recorded the input and feedback of the committee regarding the project. Administration will consider this input and feedback for future project work and how this can inform future targeted and broad engagement plans]

- 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

[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principle: *A distinctive identity through placemaking/placekeeping* responds to this by ...celebrating the land’s heritage, city’s history...]

- 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”

[Administration adjusted the guiding principle to reflect this feedback]

- Place Reconciliation section following Distinctive Identity which supports comments about placekeeping and TRC commitment.
- Add **public** to Reliable and efficient **public** transportation options

[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principle: *Reliable and efficient transportation options* speaks to both public and private options]

- Add to Leadership in Sustainability etc. ... through **respect for heritage**, urban infill choices etc.

[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principle: *A distinctive identity through placemaking/placekeeping* responds to this by ...celebrating the land’s heritage, city’s history...]

- 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 actuary 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.

[Administration has recorded the input and feedback of the committee regarding the project. Administration will consider this input and feedback for future project work and how this can inform future targeted and broad engagement plans]

Input and feedback received from the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee – February 24, 2023.

Input and feedback related to the vision statement and guiding principles:

- Stronger recognition of diversity of communities in Saskatoon. It should be clearer that the District is inclusive of all communities in the city.
[Administration adjusted the vision statement to reflect this feedback]
- 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.
[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principles responded to this feedback]
- 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.
[Administration adjusted the vision statement to reflect this feedback]
- 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.
[Administration adjusted the vision statement to reflect this feedback]
- This document doesn't capture how these principles will be visualized and acted upon.
- Celebration is a good word to use to express celebrating cultural diversity.
[Administration adjusted the guiding principles to reflect this feedback]
- Suggestion 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.
[Administration adjusted the vision statement to reflect this feedback]
- The guiding principles should make it clear that spaces can exist within the entertainment district where you do not have to spend money.
[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principle: *A healthy and safe community, responds to this by including that ...everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging and has the opportunity to participate*]

Input, feedback, comments related to the overall project:

- 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.
- 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.

[Administration has recorded the input and feedback of the committee regarding the project. Administration will consider this input and feedback for future project work and how this can inform future targeted and broad engagement plans]

Input and feedback received from the Municipal Planning Commission – February 28, 2023.

Input, feedback, comments related to the overall project:

- 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 in 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 store(s), 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?
- The City should look into and consider what other cities in Canada have done regarding entertainment districts.

[Administration has recorded the input and feedback of the committee regarding the project. Administration will consider this input and feedback for future project work and how this can inform future targeted and broad engagement plans]

Input and feedback received from the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee – March 10, 2023.

Input and feedback related to the vision statement and guiding principles:

- Just as there is a huge emphasis being placed on people who are Indigenous at this point of time, the entire spectrum of the group of those with living experiences of systemic barriers needs to also be included in the same manner as is afforded the Indigenous community.
- Every attention being provided to the Indigenous community should be afforded to all the people who are included in the people living with experiences of systemic barriers. The

statement used in regards to Indigenous Peoples should be repeated for people with living experiences of systemic barriers.

[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principle: *A healthy and safe community, responds to this by including that ...everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging and has the opportunity to participate. Engagement Plans for the project include targeted engagement with individuals with living experience.*]

- Just as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is included in the guiding principles, so also, should these two be included: United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons.

[Administration included United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in the guiding principles as the City of Saskatoon has adopted UNDRIP]

- Accessibility is incorporated and referenced within the guiding principles. Appreciates the consideration given to inclusion of this within this document.

Input, feedback, comments related to the overall project:

- Significant challenge in the Downtown now for people who are disabled. A lot of streets have clutter, making it difficult for people using mobility aids to move around and navigate obstacles.
- Considerations for the deaf community. If this goes ahead, considerations for deaf people being closer to the front (event centre and convention centre), if there is going to be an interpreter, and that deaf people need to be closer to the front. Think about things from the perspective of deaf people.
- There are four broad categories of accessibility to consider:
 - Information technology
 - Communications
 - Services
 - InfrastructureAll of these should be considered at the beginning, throughout and implementation of the project.
- There is a Saskatoon accessibility program which allows those who have an accessible placard to park in loading zones and loading bays. Will this cause a conflict to loading materials, food, instruments, etc. into the entertainment venue? How can accessible parking and events with a time deadline be accommodated if the loading zone has this dual purpose.

[Administration has recorded the input and feedback of the committee regarding the project. Administration will consider this input and feedback for future project work and how this can inform future targeted and broad engagement plans]

Input and feedback received from the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee – March 17, 2023.

Input and feedback related to the vision statement and guiding principles:

- The guiding principles appear to balance environmental, social and economic factors.
- There is an expectation that this is a revitalization of Downtown.
- It's positive there is a focus on social aspects and Indigenous reconciliation.

- Transportation aspects should focus beyond parking, glad to see a focus on other forms of transportation such as BRT. Accessibility advisory committee would have lots to comment regarding transportation.
- Specific architectural features should be considered such as solar panels, wind studies, reducing bird strikes, grey water reuse.
- Using sustainable/recycled building materials would save on costs and waste.

[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principle: *Architectural and public realm design excellence*, responds to this by including that ...*the use of environmental design principles in buildings and public spaces.*]

- Currently there is not a lot of high rises Downtown to support density. Need to eliminate grade level parking that exists, including city owned. 26% of the city centre is surface parking lots. Where is the grocer? Vacancy rate in Downtown is high (18.4%).

[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principle: *Downtown density with a focus on housing*, strives to address this concern.]

- Will LEED certification be followed in the building design.

[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principle: *Architectural and public realm design excellence*, responds to this by including that ...*the use of environmental design principles in buildings and public spaces. All civic facilities of a certain size must comply with the City's High Performance Civic Building Policy*]

Input, feedback, comments related to the overall project:

- What's the relationship to between the Transportation Master Plan and the District?
- Consideration for the impact on the rest of the transportation network in the city if transit is being directed to the District. Access to the Downtown core is important, but what's the impact on the rest of the city?
- In-camera meetings and the lack of transparency are a cause for concern.
- Cost is a concern. The population base of Saskatoon is too small to support a high level use. What's included as part of this project and the cost, does it include TCU Place?
- Outdoor gathering space would be nice for a variety of users.
- Need a Downtown Community Association.
- Engagement with surrounding community associations should be considered, particularly regarding traffic, parking and noise and the impact this will have on adjacent neighbourhoods.
- How is this going to impact other City programs and services due to cost. What is the long-term affect to property taxes?
- Consideration for barriers due to construction – access to services such as dental offices and the YMCA.

[Administration has recorded the input and feedback of the committee regarding the project. Administration will consider this input and feedback for future project work and how this can inform future targeted and broad engagement plans]

Input and feedback received from the Public Art Advisory Committee – March 17, 2023.

Input and feedback related to the vision statement and guiding principles:

- The guiding principle related to '*A robust and diverse economy*' could be elaborated on what that diverse economy looks like.

[Administration adjusted the guiding principle to reflect this feedback]

- It would be great if a public arts sector is included. Art space is trying to find a suitable place within the city that can accommodate a lot of businesses like glassworks, ceramics, etc. that can all be located within a centralized area. If this economy could be included, that would be great.

- Site could include cultural sector, professional art businesses, not just hobby artists.

[Administration adjusted the guiding principle to reflect this feedback]

- This project could be successful if the City is creating space for a launching platform for the artistic community in this plan. Studio spaces for artists include glassblowing courses, clay or silk-screening workshops.
- Indigenous component is important to consider for public art.

[Administration felt the intention of the guiding principle: *Reconciliation by honouring Indigenous Peoples, histories, languages and culture and A distinctive identity through placemaking/placekeeping*, responds to this input.]

Input, feedback, comments related to the overall project:

- Is there a grocery store coming back to the area?
- Other cities have located artist's hub nearby to busy locations like this.
- Having a focal point as a catalyst can provide opportunities for this. Other cities have utilized empty store spaces and other incredible ideas.
- Consideration for placemaking/placekeeping to be a consistent theme throughout the District.
- Assurance that there are places where public art can be exhibited within this new area.
- Art must be prioritized at this stage of planning.
- The committee would like to see administration come back later in the process to clarify the role of the Public Art Advisory Committee in relation to the project.

[Administration has recorded the input and feedback of the committee regarding the project. Administration will consider this input and feedback for future project work and how this can inform future targeted and broad engagement plans]
