



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

City Centre and District Plan

Project Description

The City Centre and District Plan (Plan) outlines a vision and strategic initiatives to support the proposed Downtown Event and Entertainment District (District) and broader City Centre. The Plan aims to establish a framework for the future to assist City Council and its Administration, builders, investors and residents to understand and realize opportunities within the City Centre over the coming decades.

The Plan will be used as the foundation upon which future City Centre and District-related budget requests, both capital and operating, will be based. Additionally, it will foster ongoing community dialogue with civic and community partners.

Community Engagement

Indigenous Leaders, Elders and Knowledge Keepers (throughout 2023/2024)

Indigenous engagement is a key component of the overall engagement strategy for this project. A group of Indigenous community leaders, Elders and Knowledge Keepers to represent First Nations and Métis communities and interests in Saskatoon was established in May 2023. Since the initial meeting, the City has been working with Indigenous Community Elders to develop important themes around the City Centre and District and find out how the City Centre and District can better support and recognize the Indigenous experience and history of Saskatoon. Themes shared during individual interviews with Indigenous Elders can be found [here](#).

Vision and Guiding Principles (Winter 2023)

Prior to City Council consideration, a draft version of the vision and guiding principles was presented to the DEED Advisory Group as well as six advisory committees of City Council. Input and feedback were received from each advisory group and that information was presented to City Council for their consideration of the input received before approving the vision and guiding principles. The input received from the advisory committees regarding the vision and guiding principles can be found [here](#).

Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Phase I (Spring 2023)

This was the first phase of engagement regarding ideas around the potential District and included engagement related to the Event Centre/Arena, Convention Centre and surrounding public realm. This phase of engagement was about understanding what community members would like to see in the District. Questions were intended to promote brainstorming and creativity.

The Governance and Priorities Committee, at its meeting on December 12, 2023, considered the [Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Phase 1 Engaging on Ideas Engagement Results](#) report.

City Centre and District Plan – Targeted Engagement (Fall 2023)

In October and November 2023, the City of Saskatoon (City) conducted targeted workshops and a public survey. Targeted engagement was conducted with the public, University students, Downtown businesses and residents to better understand what is important to community members when developing the City Centre and District.

The City asked for feedback on specific topic areas for the City Centre and District, including green and open spaces, connectivity and mobility. The input received from community members signaled priorities and considerations on these topic areas to be considered in the development of the City Centre and District Plan. In addition to the targeted workshops on specific topics, the City also engaged with University students and Downtown residents and businesses to receive broad feedback on potential impacts for the City Centre and proposed District.

The Governance and Priorities Committee, at its meeting on February 14, 2024, were presented the results of the engagement. The full results can be found [here](#)

City Centre and District Plan – Update to Advisory Committees – June 2024

Before presenting the finalized Plan to City Council, Administration shared the preliminary transformative projects and information for the new Plan, contained in this report, with City Council Advisory Committees for their information. Input and feedback received was considered during finalization of the City Centre and District Plan.

What's Next

The City Centre and District Plan has been shared on the City's website, along with supporting background information ahead of City Council consideration.

A public open house is planned for September 17th to share the City Centre and District Plan in person. The open house will provide an opportunity for the public to ask City staff in attendance questions about the Plan ahead of City Council consideration.