

# Civic District Engagement

## *Feedback Overview*



# Past Plans & Studies

## *Citizen Feedback Summary*

*Citizens.....*

Need to know that the Centre City is **clean** and **safe** before they will live, work and play there

Value **beautiful** and **welcoming** public spaces and are attracted by **programming** and **special events** in those spaces

Want the Centre City to be **connected** inside and out - easy to get to, move around in, and leave

**Value** and want to **make the most** of what already exists

Want **quality architecture**, **unique districts** and **public art** to make the spaces unique and **memorable**

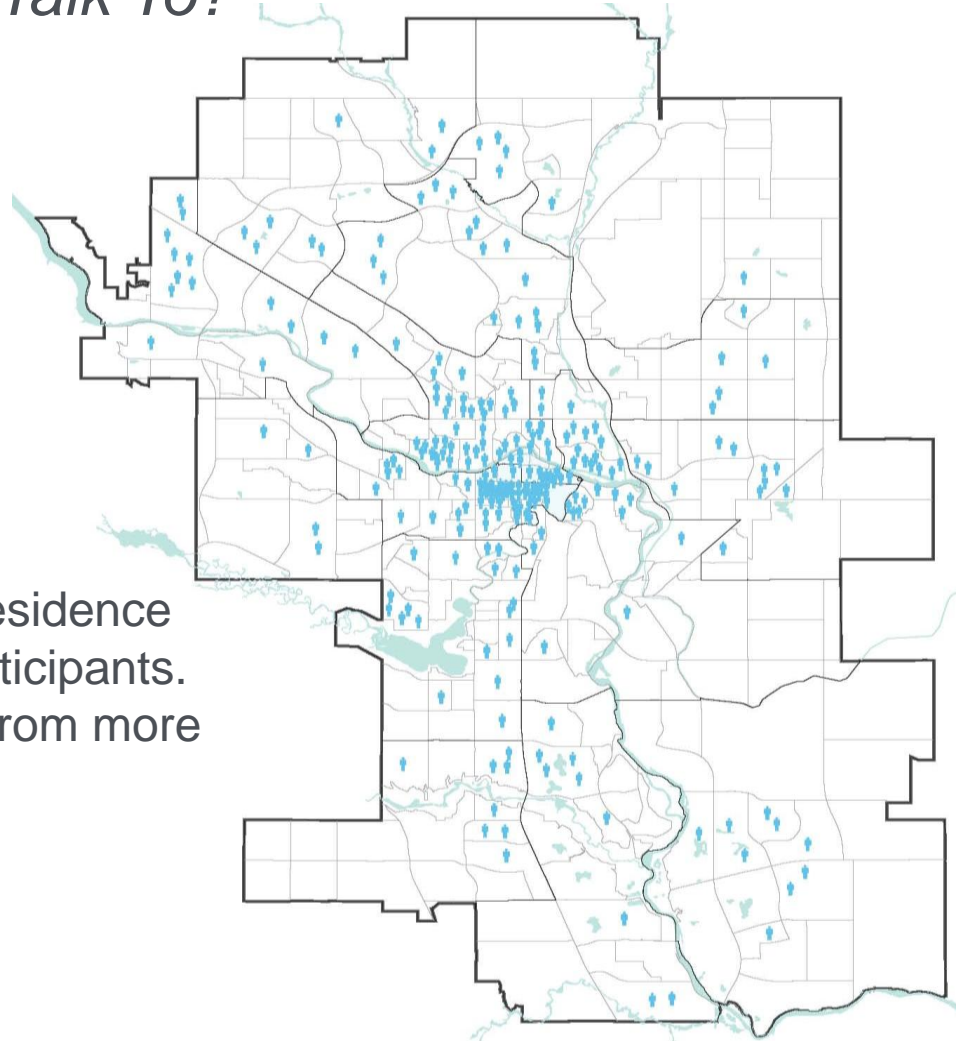


# Project Citizen Engagement

## *Who Did We Talk To?*

*Citizens at large*

Map of Calgary showing the general residence location of the Public Engagement Participants. (Over **1500 comments** were received from more than **350 Calgarians**)





# Project Citizen Engagement

## *Who Did We Talk To?*

### *Organizations*

#### **Business Organizations**

- Aspen Properties
- Calgary Arts Development
- Calgary Chamber of Commerce
- Calgary Downtown Association
- Calgary Economic Development
- Calgary Hotel Association
- Calgary Municipal Land Corporation
- Remington Development
- Rocky Mountain Plaza
- The Teatro Group
- Tourism Calgary
- Transformation Calgary
- Victoria Park BRZ
- Yale Properties

#### **Community Groups & Social Organizations**

- Beltline Community Association
- East Village Neighborhood Association
- Salvation Army
- The Mustard Seed
- YWCA
- Chinese Community

#### **City of Calgary**

- Animal & Bylaw Services
- Calgary Police Service
- City Manager's Office , Office of Sustainability
- City Wide Policy & Integration
- Community & Neighborhood Services
- Community Services & Protective Services
- Corporate Properties & Buildings
- Customer Service & Communications
- Local Area Planning & Implementation
- Parks
- Recreation
- Roads
- Transit
- Transportation Planning
- Water Resources

#### **Cultural Institutions**

- Bow Valley College
- Calgary Public Library
- Calgary Tower
- EPCOR Centre for Performing Arts
- Glenbow Museum
- National Music Centre
- Telus Convention Centre

# Project Citizen Engagement

## *What is Working Well?*

### Olympic Plaza

Is a **great destination** for the public. Citizens enjoy the location, its **events**, its **connectivity**, and the **gathering of people**.

### East Village, Cultural Institutions & Public Spaces

Citizens see **huge potential** in the East Village, from the key **amenities**, such as **River Walk**, **New Central Library** and the **National Music Centre**, to the community's **walkability** and the animation that it will bring to the Civic District.

### Culture.

Arts Commons, Glenbow Museum, City Hall, Convention Centre, Calgary Tower, Central Library and Bow Valley College are **important cultural and visitor institutions** in our city that draw many Calgarians and visitors to the area.

### Stephen Avenue

Is a **great pedestrian walk**. Citizens love the **animation** that the street brings to the city, and many people expressed the desire to **extend the pedestrian walk** into East Village.

### Transit

Many citizens felt that the **mobility and accessibility** into and out of the Civic District was **good**, and that the recent **improvements** to the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue CTrain corridor have **greatly improved the transit experience**.

# Project Citizen Engagement

## *What Can Be Improved?*

### Improve the Safety and Comfort of Visitors

Suggested improvements include additional **pedestrian lighting**, more **programming** and **events** to draw people to the space, provide **additional social services** to support vulnerable citizens, and **increase police/security presence**.

### Olympic and Municipal Plazas

Need to be improved with **additional amenities**, such as ice skating rentals, engaging public art and water features, coffee shops and sunlit patios.

### Improving the Public Realm and Pedestrian Experience.

Citizens felt that many of the **pedestrian routes** in the area are **uninviting** and **lacking interest**.

Suggested **improvements** include creating **beautiful walkways** with **more greenery** and trees, improving **night-time lighting**, providing engaging public **art**, more **street furniture** and adding **wayfinding** signage to better direct visitors to the areas many cultural institutions.

Citizens also felt that **cultural institutions** should play a role in **improving the quality of public spaces** by modifying their **blank walls** and creating visual interest at street-level, such as **engaging lighting** and **art** and providing **transparent windows** to see inside the buildings.

### Pedestrian Connections Need to be Improved.

Citizens felt that surrounding **communities are not well-connected** to the Civic District and identified many **barriers** to **pedestrian movement**. Citizens expressed an expectation for stronger **pedestrian connections** between **East Village** and the **Downtown Core**, particularly along **Stephen Avenue** and around the **Municipal Building** Complex. Respondents also felt there should be **improved connections** between the Civic District and the **Bow River pathway** system, **RiverWalk** and communities north of the Bow River, as well as improving the **CPR underpass** connections that connect to the Beltline.

# Cultural Heart

## What Do We Know?

Olympic and Municipal Plazas need improvement

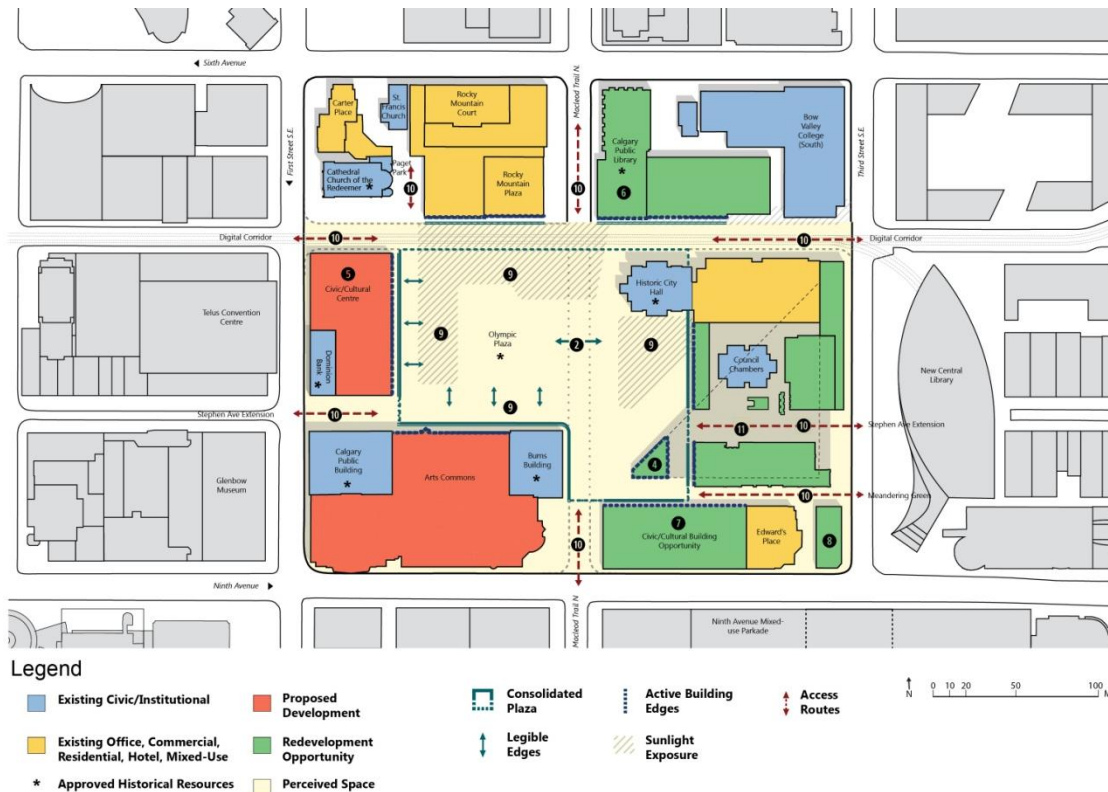
Improve the Safety and Comfort of Visitors

Improving the Public Realm and Pedestrian Experience

Improve Pedestrian Connections

Improve Amenities

**CULTURAL HEART INCLUDES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THESE ELEMENTS BASED ON THE ENGAGEMENT**



# Cultural Heart

## *What Do We Still Need to Know?*

*What are:*

The **emotionally important elements** of Olympic and Municipal Plazas for Calgarians (bricks, podium etc)

The **historically significant elements** of Olympic and Municipal Plazas

The **programming** for the plazas.

The **programming support** elements needed for this public space in the future





# Context

## Civic District Strategies

### Public Realm Strategies & Actions

In order to guide the evolution in the public realm over time within the Civic District, ten Public Realm Strategies are presented in the document. Each of these Ten Strategies are connected to existing documents and policies and have been tailored in response to specific stakeholder comments. Each is described through a set of specific Principles, Public Realm Criteria, and Actions to be prioritized and implemented as opportunities arise through public and private development initiatives. The Ten Public Realm Strategies detailed in the Civic District PRS are:

- 01 Cultural Heart:** A legible, transformative, and animated space that unites Olympic Plaza and the Municipal Plaza as the Cultural Heart of the Centre City.
- 02 Stephen Avenue Extension:** A pedestrian and cyclist-focused walk from the Mewata Armoury to Fort Calgary.
- 03 Ceremonial Boulevard:** Connecting the Elbow River, Stampede Grounds, CP Rail lines, Olympic Plaza and the Bow River.
- 04 Third Street S.E. Zipper:** An active, pedestrian-scaled street that supports connections to its diverse collection of destinations.
- 05 First Street S.E. Green Mall:** An engaging, safe, and attractive mobility street that links pedestrians and cyclists to the River pathways through a vibrant public space.
- 06 Digital Corridor:** A rich visual and auditory experience for the thousands of Calgarians who use Seventh Avenue each day.
- 07 Civic Gateway:** An iconic, welcoming, memorable Gateway connecting the Centre City to the rest of the City.
- 08 Meandering Green:** A connected, meandering, green, public art walk for pedestrians in the city.
- 09 Sixth and Ninth Avenue Parades:** Major thoroughfares and a source of pageantry in the city, defined by tall buildings and a vibrant, generous pedestrian realm.
- 10 Urban Suture:** The gradual reclamation of an historical landscape into a public experience that reconnects and reinvigorates the Centre City.

