PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION℠
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

# North Portland Aquatic Center | Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

## Meeting Notes and Summary of Group Discussions
## Phase II Community Engagement - Cycle #3

Monday, February 9, 5:00–7:00 PM, Held on Zoom

**Attendees**

- **PAC Members in Attendance:** Crystal Ball, Daniel Smith Wright, Henry McIntosh, Jamar Summerfield, Jenny Hoyt, Laura Tock-Toggenburger, Millie Haley, Samuel Garcia, Toni Linnell

- **PAC Members Not in Attendance:** Ashley Bubnick, Itzel Cruz Megchun, Derrell Wheeler, Erica Cuesta, Morgan Spriggs, LA Walker, Sheryl Juber, Teresa Cook.

- **PP&R Staff:** Jesús Rodriguez, Robin Johnson Craig, Max Katz, Maija Spencer

- **Consultants:**
  - Scott Edwards Architecture (SEA): Kara Grothen, Yen-Ting Lin Jennifer Marsicek
  - Dive into Diversity: Diane Maise
  - Stanton Global Communications: Jessica Stanton
  - Jeanna Woolley Associates: Jeana Woolley

**Meeting Summary**

The meeting began with a presentation of the Final Design Concept for the NPAC facility and covered the following items:

1. **NPAC Project Updates**
   a. PP&R general update(s)
   b. Project schedule
   c. Revisit Project Goals
   d. Construction Forecasts and Need for Potential Scope Reduction/Value Engineering
   e. Fiscal Responsibility and Operational Needs
2. **NPAC Community Feedback**
3. **NPAC Final Design Concept**
4. **Art and Expression**

The PAC was split into two breakout groups to discuss the design and art and expression. Below is a summary of the group discussions.

**GROUP 1 DISCUSSION SUMMARY**
**Jennifer, Max, Yen Ting, Diane, Jeana, Toni, Daniel, and Laura**

About the design:

- Appreciate that it keeps the tennis courts, keeps a lot of the trees, and preserves park space for other recreation uses including the soccer field.
- Also that it has minimal impact on traffic on Geneva.
- Beautiful design – feels like a beacon in the park.
- Like variety of siding – vertical screening. Hesitant about bright colors if they fade over time – how will they be maintained?
- Impressed by efficiency of design. Appreciate solar and wood roof – efficient and thoughtful use of materials. Art on the roof – would be enjoyed.
- In the structure of the roof interior, there should be something to indicate pool edges. Beams should be symmetrical with pool.
- Like how wood continues in underside of roof – ties inside with outside.
- Consider use of fake wood produced with other materials – imagine same could be done with bright colors, to have low maintenance needs.
- Using wood in areas that will be more protected from pool water.

Art Locations:

- Like the idea of the outdoor plazas and paths for art – everyone gets to enjoy whether using pool or not.
- Plazas and entrances will have high impact for art.
- Outside wall of the building on south side by park could be interesting to soften building's presence in park.
- Enjoyed the higher elevated art pieces in areas there is double height space – something to look up at such as along the locker room concourse.
- In areas with height, it would be great to have hanging art – feels elegant and doesn't clutter the walkway. Brings life to the space.
- Don't want to neglect any space but would prioritize the exterior into the lobby then the long corridor as most important places for art.
- The main pool areas should have some art but less busy than other entrances or community areas. Will have to be careful what kind of art can be in pool spaces due to chemical and maintenance uses.

Art and Expression Preferences:

Exterior

- Like #3 exterior that is green and looks like grass, like randomness of it.
- Like #8 – 3D mosaic that feels fun.
- The materiality is what grounds the building to the bioregion – and the art feels like it is what grounds it to the people and the culture of the area.
- #6 mural panels – would like these with texture incorporated into them so kids could touch (at a lower height)

- #13 – interactive is always good
- Like the furniture – places to sit down on a nice day
- #9 – ripple - water drop concrete is very clever
- #17 textured – has mix of colors and texture.
- If splash pad stays in design, it would bring interactivity, places to sit, and color pavement likely.

Interior:

- #2 like mixed media (not necessarily this one) but it allows for incorporation of different materials – could be part mural, textural, etc.
- Would like space for temporary art displays – Max noted this is possible but would possibly take additional staff time to coordinate and manage.
- Like hanging options – mobile and light catching ideas, it really elevates the space and makes a statement
- Use color in an intentional and thematic way – such as a major thematic mural that sets the colors for the facility.
- Locker room seems less necessary area for art given you are there to shower and change. It's not where you are going to spend most of your time.
- Like the idea of the art glass such as the thematic one especially if it could be on wall between two pools and be seen on both sides.
- Like collage idea for community room – it feels mellow, good for a meeting space.

**GROUP 2 DISCUSSION SUMMARY**
**Millie, Jamar, Jennie, Samuel, Maija, Jessica, Kara, Robin**

About the design:

- Discussed how parks improve a neighborhood.
- Traffic study has been done. PBOT does not have any parking requirements; Parks is providing the aquatic center parking to be a good neighbor and not overly impact the neighborhood.
- Felt like the splash pad has been a high priority for community, was surprised it was not included in the final design.
- Beautiful, aesthetic design.
- Imagined it looking like this, really enjoy the bright colors. Seems to make best use of the site and incorporates many of the community's desires and concerns.
- Concerned about air quality in the neighborhood due to industrial impacts. How will that impact air quality and how does LEED standards mitigate impacts?
    - The design team is looking into this and design a high performing building envelope. Will also select systems that include filters that properly treat outdoor air brought inside. LEED is more focused on what is controllable from your site/project specifically, not things beyond that. We have heard this concern and are definitely trying to keep a focus.

- Concerned how accessibility is being included in the design for people with physical disabilities – access to slide, beach entry, etc. Would like to discuss further, and Maija offered to follow up with the member. PP&R will also be presenting the design to the Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee.

**Art Locations:**

- Clarified how input from community from this round will be used to inform where art goes and what type of art. RACC will then work on the calls for specific artist disciplines (such as metalworkers, muralists, etc), and the artist selection panel will review the artist proposals and select the artists.
- Not a fan of the colors shown in the locker room – feels like the tiles will look dated in time and feels like a hospital. Love the colors shown behind the front desk and the colors of the lockers. The group also liked fall colors, purple behind front desk, green/teal shade of the lockers.

**Inside**

- Would like to see art on ceiling for swimmers when on their backs. Something projected – changing images or videos. Could also be more abstract imagery that changes.
- Like idea of art inside pool, not sure if that is desired by swimmers. Would also like art in locker rooms.
- Storytelling as you move through spaces.
- Interested in having space for temporary gallery space for changing community art. Doesn't have to be a formal gallery, but space that allows for art to be hung if there is community interest and staff capacity to support. RACC could possibly be involved as they have a permanent art collection.
- Overall, art should reflect the community that the pool is being built in and mindful of the history of this area.
- Likes the light-catching art option.

**Exterior**

- Like sculptures / sculptural furniture (10 and 11) for exterior art – things that light up at night and can also be seen in the day.
- Like #6 – color and light to make it pop.
- Important for people for driving or taking the bus down Fessenden to see it – the wow factor, invite people in.
- Plazas and patios – would like to see diverse murals and imagery that tell you what the building is before you enter it.
- Love the colorful screens – make the building fun and lots of options. Brings a sense of joy. Complements the wood as well.
- Enjoy the idea of creating a living room space for North Portland – like the idea of sculpture, furniture, and seating areas that invite people to stay for a while.
- Like green colors – represent Oregon, lush, mossy, feels timeless. Concerned how strong colors may look over decades.

- The thematic mural shown under interiors would be cool as an exterior image – so people could see that and know it is a pool.
- Could art be added to the upper exterior wall – the area where the HVAC units are shown on the east side of the building? It would be harder to vandalize and could be seen from many locations.

**LIVE POLL**
The full group reconvened for a Live Poll with 3 questions. Not all PAC members were able to stay for the live poll. The results are shown on the following pages.

**Question #1: how well does the final NPAC design concept reflect your goals and aspirations for the new center as a North Portland landmark?**

- Love it - 4
- Like it – 2
- Neutral - 0
- Dislike it - 1
- Strongly dislike it – 0

**Question #2: Select your top two inspiration images that best represent the style, look, and feeling of public art you want to see integrated into NPAC's most prominent <u>exterior</u> art locations.**

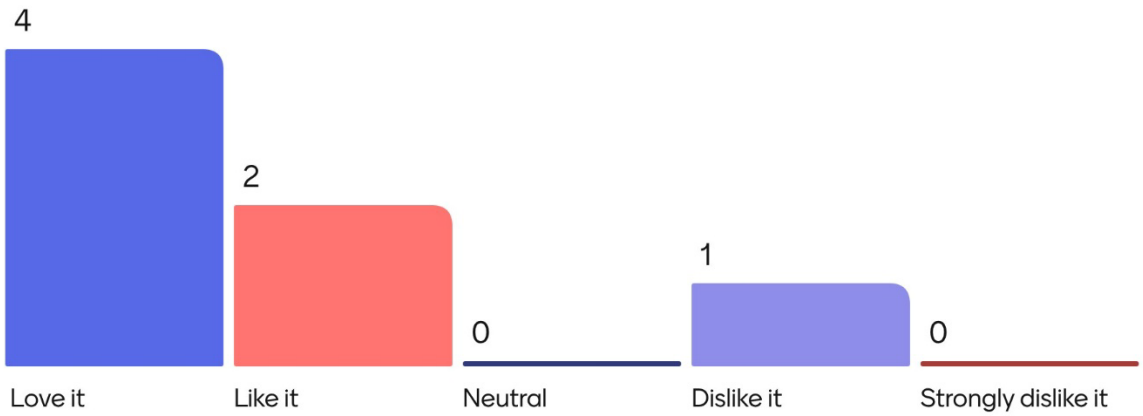
- #1 Multicolor Slats = 1
- #3 Monochrome Slats = 3
- #6 Mural Panels = 2
- #7 Vertical Fins = 1
- #10 Sculpture = 2
- #11 Furniture = 1
- #13 Interactive Sculpture = 1
- #14 Vertical Surfaces = 1
- #15 Horizontal Surfaces = 2

**Question #3: Select your top two inspiration images that best represent the style, look, and feeling of public art you want to see integrated into NPAC's most prominent <u>interior</u> art locations.**

- #1 2D Mural = 1
- #3 Vertical Slats = 1
- #6 Mobile = 1
- #7 Multilevel = 2
- #9 Light Catching =2
- #13 Thematic Mural = 1
- #15 Art Glass = 4
- #18 Representation = 2

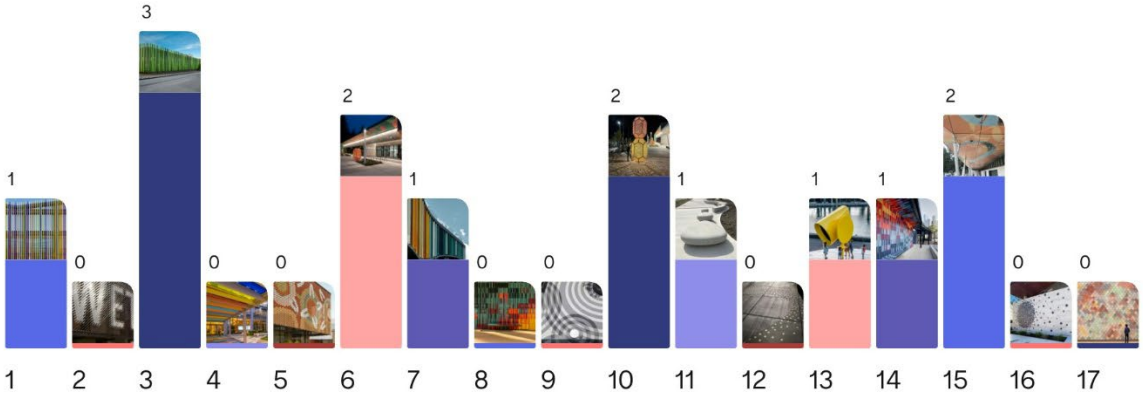
Mentimeter

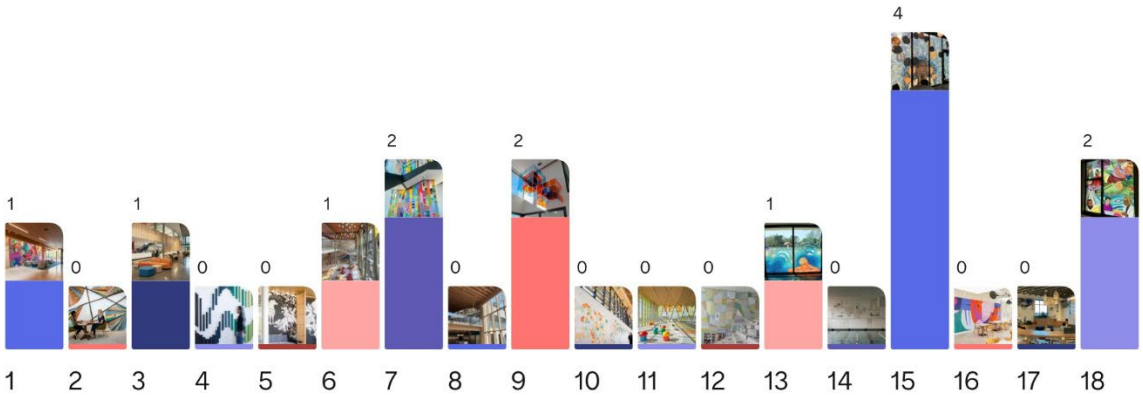
How well does the final NPAC design concept reflect your goals and aspirations for the new center as a North Portland landmark?




Mentimeter

## Exterior - Click on images to enlarge



Mentimeter

## Interior - Click on images to enlarge