February 24, 2026

NPAC – Spanish Virtual Gathering

On February 24, 2026, Portland Parks & Recreation's Community Engagement and Assets & Development teams met with Spanish-speaking community members to gather input on the final design concept for the North Portland Aquatic Center (NPAC). This session was part of a broader engagement process that included meetings with the Project Advisory Committee, a focus group, and an in-person event at Roosevelt High School.

After reviewing the design concept, participants moved into virtual breakout rooms to discuss the project and provide feedback on art and expression. To conclude the meeting, the group reconvened to submit the poll answers shown below. The following notes capture the discussions from those breakout sessions.

<u>Breakout Room #1</u>

Max Katz – **Facilitator** | Paul Riek – **Notetaker**

Design

- In general, the group enthusiastically supported the final design concept. Among the elements they highlighted: keeping as many trees as possible and planting more trees; the water slide; plenty of seating for spectators; lots of ways for natural light to enter the building.
- Concerns expressed:
    - The group hopes that funds allow for everything to be built as planned – especially the splash pad, which is very important for children who can't use the pool.
    - The multipurpose space (community room) should be larger; the Hispanic community places a high value on holding events (birthdays, *Quinceañeras*, etc.) where lots of people are invited. Recommended room capacity: 150-200 people. (This would be a source of rental income for PP&R.)
    - During the previous session (August 2025) the community proposed including a snack stand similar to the one at the Chautauqua pool. Was this considered? Is it possible to include it now?

- Safety concerns about glass used for art: How strong would it be? How resistant to breakage?

Art

- Priority locations:
  - At the main entrance to the building – both inside and outside
  - Near the pools
  - In the community rooms
- Favorite inspiration images:
  - A – Patio Screen & Canopies
    - #1 Multicolor (NOT #3 Green)
    - #4 Multicolor Glass – joyful, reflects light, lifts spirits, "makes this place a refuge for those looking for emotional wellbeing"
    - #6 Mural Panel
    - #8 3D Mosaic
  - B – Outdoor Plazas & Paths
    - #10 Sculpture – "I like having sculptures in a park, because as a family, sometimes we want to take a group photo; I like photo-friendly locations."
    - #11 Furniture – "It would be good to have a place to sit down and watch the children playing."
    - #12 Integrated Texture – "That would make the place magical!"
    - #13 Interactive Sculpture – "You see something like that, and the children start to play with it, which makes walking around fun."
  - D – Main Lobby
    - #1 2D Mural – "A mural inside the entrance would be great because it would feel like a welcoming space where you could go with your family or friends." "It would be another great place for a group photo."
    - #5 Chalkboard
  - E – Locker Room Concourse
    - #6 Mobile – "I like every option involving hanging something from the ceiling, in the main lobby or elsewhere."
    - #9 Light-Catching
  - G – Community Rooms
    - #15 Art Glass
    - #17 Collage
    - #18 Representational

- General comments:
    - Most prefer art that is more realistic and less abstract or geometric.
    - "They put a lot of art in parks, but often the community doesn't take care of it. It would be better to use cultural references in the art installations."
    - (Re #F14 Textured Mural) "There will be children there, and they will pinch it and pull on it, and it won't last very long."
    - "Can art from local students be included?"
    - "I think it would be great to feature photos and stories of historical figures from North Portland, or local artists, or people who founded St. Johns, or North Portland landmarks like the [St Johns] bridge, or the history of St Johns. Things like that would give the place an identity."
    - "In the new clinic at NE 42nd & Killingsworth there is art that represents the different communities. That would be good."
    - "It would be great if everything could be integrated, if exterior and interior could be related, if there were a common thread, both in the theme and in the color scheme."

Breakout Room #2

Victor Garcia – **Facilitator**, Jesús – **Notetaker**

About the Design

- The group asked that the area around the building needs to feel safe, particularly at night. She asked if a fence would be constructed around the building.
- Jesús informed the group that there will be lighting around the building and that the bus stop is being moved closer to the entrance to main entrance. There is no plan to build a fence around the entire site.

Exterior Art

- The group wants art that represents the history of North Portland
- The group wants art that honors the original land stewards of this land
- The group wants art that is multi-cultural
- The group and others suggest having a mural rather than abstract art

- Furniture art seems to be favored for its rustic look and practicality
- The group mentioned the risk of interactive art being vandalized due to the city's current state
- Interest in spaces or panels that could allow murals

Interior Art

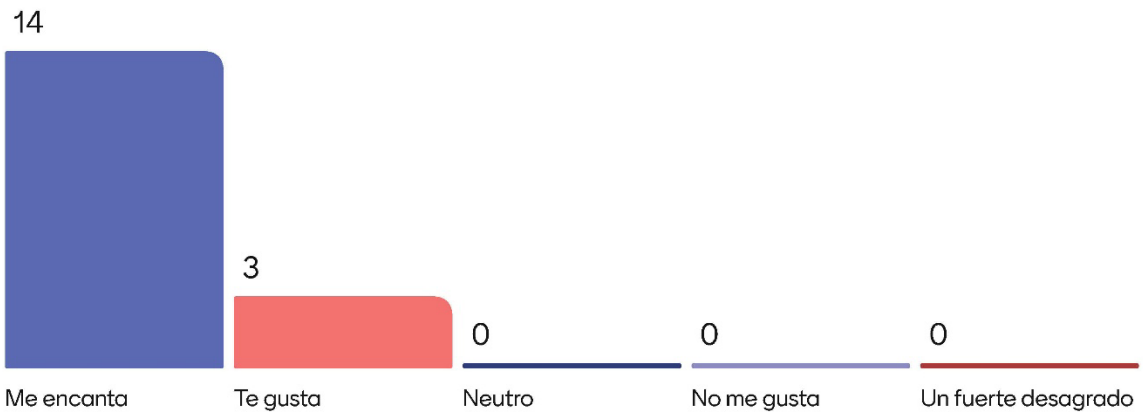
- The group thinks the art options are mostly the same. Mosaic, murals, and colorful patterns.
- The group likes the idea of a mural, but with representation of the original land stewards of this area.
- Generally, the group likes the types of art but feels that the options presented don't give context to the history of North Portland.
- The group would like to see an installation that honors the people who have contributed to planning/building of NPAC.
- Interest in having art represent both the past / original people that resided in this area along with the people that reside and represent this community today.
- There was mention of Indigenous art at the Vancouver airport as a good example.

Additional Community Feedback

- Question about sufficient parking.
- Question about opportunities for local artists or community members to be involved in creating artwork.
- Registration process online is only in Spanish which creates a barrier for some families.
- Desire for access to the pool to remain affordable for nearby residents similar to access to PP&R registration at community centers.

Mentimeter

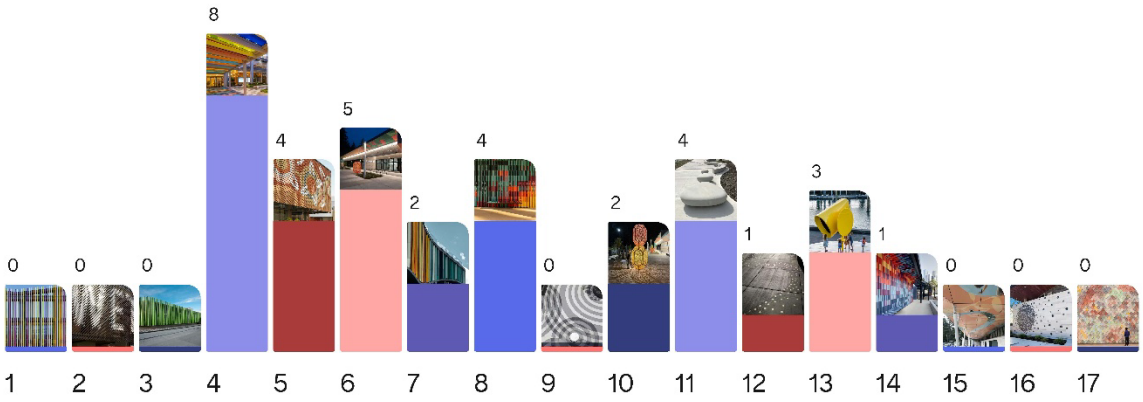
¿Qué tan bien refleja el concepto de diseño final del NPAC sus objetivos y aspiraciones para el nuevo centro acuático de North Portland?



17 / 17

Mentimeter

Exterior - Haga clic en las imágenes para ampliar - Seleccione dos imágenes

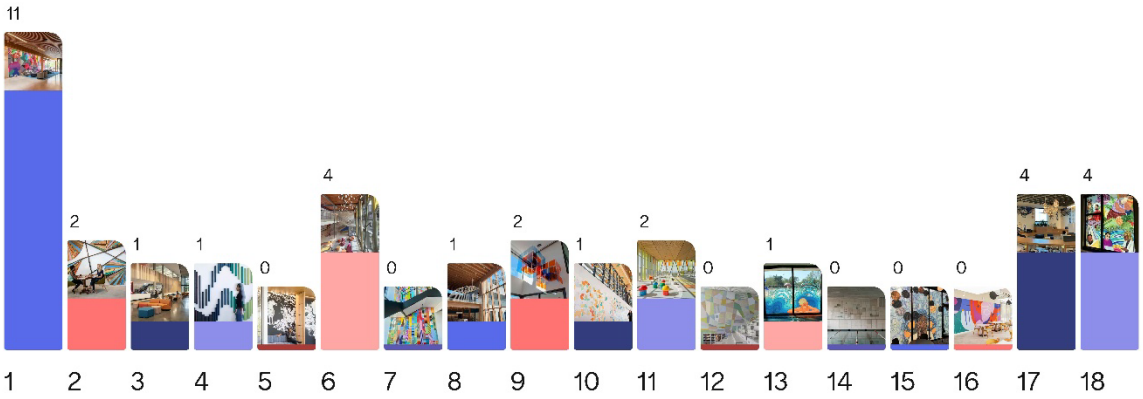


1

17 / 17

Mentimeter

Interior - Haga clic en las imágenes para ampliar - Seleccione dos imágenes



1

17 / 17