

PBOT COMMUNITY SOUNDING BOARD

MEETING SUMMARY

Date and Time: April 5, 2023 | 12:00PM-1:30PM

Location: Zoom

[Street Plazas Program Website](#)

Attendees:

Community participants included:

Ellen Schoskes, Portland State University

Henry Miller, Street Trust

Izzy Armeta, Oregon Walks

Keith Jones, Friends of Green Loop

Kirk Green Rea, Symbiop

Ross Garlow, Montavilla Plaza

Nic Cota, Overlook Neighborhood Association

Tanya Hartnett, Venture Portland

Teala Smith, City Repair

Timur Holove, NW Slavic Community Center

Staff attending included:

Consultant team

Fabiola Casas, Espousal Strategies

Derek Abe, Alta

Katie Mangle, Alta

PBOT team

Nick Falbo, Transportation Planning

Sarah Figliozzi, Transportation Planning

Adrienne Schaefer-Borrego, Permitting

Key takeaways:

Locations shared as favorite public spaces:

- Ladd's Addition
- Ankeny Alley
- Duckworth Dock
- Dog parks
- Halperin Sequence
- Public parks, specifically Mt. Tabor
- Portland Mercado
- Saturday Market
- Seattle festival streets
- Sherrit Square
- Detroit Dequindre Cut corridor connecting riverfront and eastern market.
- Cart blocks in Portland
- 5th Ave Market in Eugene, OR

Characteristics that make them favorite spaces:

- Intentional, social gathering opportunities; community building.
- Proximity to public and pedestrian-friendly transportation.
- connections between places.
- Sense of place, culture, and history.
- Business/commerce opportunities.
- Establishing

Poll results showed participants are interested in the following (in order):

1. Design standards (10 selections)
2. Community Engagement (9 selections)
3. Funding (8 selections)
4. Governance and Stewardship (4 selections)
5. Other – including activation, representation of diverse communities, expanding community input opportunities.

Reasons participants are most likely to stay engaged in the Sounding Board process:

- There is a demonstration of how input collected is informing program development; seeing results.
- Roles and process are made clear; both for the project itself and the development of the Street Plaza program. Specific interest around what responsibility PBOT is going to take in managing and maintaining plaza spaces.
- Each meeting has a clear outcome.
- Specific interest in permitting process, opportunities for direct engagement and activation of existing public spaces and staying informed about activation activities planned at existing plazas.

Engagement Opportunities

[BIPOC business survey](#) - closing Wednesday 4/12

- This survey is intended to better understand the perspectives of Portland business stakeholders who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color.
- Input will inform how the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) designs technical assistance for the new outdoor dining permit program focused on the needs of business owners identifying as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color.

Broader [Healthy Businesses community survey](#) - closing Wednesday 4/12

- This survey is intended for customers, neighbors, or operators of a current Healthy Businesses installation – or those who are considering street seating installations in the future.
- Input will inform program updates in areas including:
 - Safety and visibility
 - Design guidelines and standards
 - Accessibility
 - Site operations
 - A new seasonal permit option!
 - Permit fee

Agenda Item	Description	Notes
Welcome & Public Comment	Public Comment Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No public comment provided.
Review objectives, SB and staff roles, group norms	Objectives Staff and Sounding Board introductions Group norms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fabiola shared objectives - Staff and community sounding board members were invited to share their name, pronouns, and the lens(es) they are bringing to this work. - Fabiola shared group norms – all attendees agreed to them and did not have anything to add or change.
Overview of programs & Guiding Values	Outdoor dining program & Street Plaza program Guiding values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nick provided an overview of the outdoor dining and street plaza programs. - Guiding values will be shared next time.
Group discussion/ activity	Opportunity to share stories related to public spaces and understand interest in this process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fabiola facilitated a group discussion around which public spaces participants enjoy and why (see key takeaways). - Participants completed a poll to identify which project elements they are most interested in (see key takeaways). - Fabiola facilitated a group discussion around what will help sounding board members stay engaged in this process (see key takeaways). - Fabiola attempted to create a collaborative word cloud around <i>what does equity mean for this project</i>. Due to technical issues and time constraints, this will be done at the next meeting.
Engagement approach	Partners – government & community Engagement formats Outreach opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fabiola and Nick shared a list of internal and external partners and stakeholders. - Fabiola shared an overview of engagement formats (see slide #37)
Next steps & Closing	Scheduling the next meeting Follow up communications Closing thoughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fabiola will share a doodle poll in the next two months to find a day/time in early summer for meeting #2. - Fabiola asked participants to share closing thoughts and ways they would like to play a role in broader community engagement.