

City of Alexandria
Waterfront Plan
Arts Night – March 8, 2010
Group Notes

Identifying Best Opportunities

Business wants to work with the arts community and others on the waterfront plan. Important to recognize that a sufficient amount of density will be needed to support redevelopment.

Be careful of themes; likes the element of surprise; good art should surprise.

Arts, history and business speak different languages. Develop a master plan that works jointly and that creates a common grammar to better communicate with each other.

Plan will not happen overnight.

Sense of identity is important. Do not run away from our identity. Figure out what we want to represent (ex: St. Louis waterfront).

Important that we work together . . . history community and arts community should work together. Can be part of a joint master plan effort.

Would like to see maintenance included for any art program.

Public art and landscaping linked through lighted paths, along King street. Trellis at the base of King Street (water).

Maritime museum is too risky . . . too expensive.

Bronze plaques on stakes for signage.

Unite a walkway to reflect history through brick, wood, iron (basic materials to reflect commerce eras).

No large institutions.

At the end of King Street, old mast of a clipper as a vista to draw people to the water.

Three vertical sails at end of King Street instead of a boat.

Interactive activities for children . . . important to plan for all ages.

Water Spray Pool/Fountain (ex: Arlington Spray Fountain).

Mobile flexible activities that move around the waterfront (ex: mobile box car theatre; mobile fish)

Carousel . . . different themes: horses, water horses etc. Historic carousels.

Important that the waterfront appeal to residents as well as tourists

Great opportunity to incorporate local history into the art.

Performing Arts . . . this is a tremendous opportunity to incorporate the performing arts . . . a jazz festival, a Shakespeare festival, children's theatre as weekend events. Festivals could occur annually.

Old Town is the most successful neighborhood . . . be mindful of the proximity to residential areas that are nearby.

Security of the art pieces should be taken into consideration.

Do not forget the Art League . . . important that artists have a place to show/exhibit/learn; they need a store which sells art supplies . . . the Art League store is the only one nearby. . . could make it available to the public.

Art league attracts people who invest in the economy . . . shopping, dinner etc.

Great if Art League could be more exposed as a tourist attraction in their own right. . . . allow artists to be seen/showcased more.

Pottery, weaving, glass blowing, sculpture, and their store could be more exposed for the public to see and access.

Art Walk presentation reflected high quality art. Let artists help interpret history through artistic opportunities on the waterfront (art and history achieving a common ground). Important to reflect authenticity.

Pottery is a way to reflect history . . . new and old.

Pottery also an opportunity to engage children.

Interested in knowing what has worked in other cities--other waterfronts. Archeology, visual arts have succeeded in places that have an art conservancy. Do we need one?

Battery Park City . . . the park has people that can staff activities that have a cost to them.

Quality of landscaping . . . should be unique and interesting. Universal accessibility is also important.

Art should be participatory, interactive and appealing.

Don't forget about a shared culture. Buenos Aires.

Types of art: Incorporate contemporary art also. Good to juxtaposition with historic fabric.

Stories of the city are the best opportunities for sources of inspiration for public art and are part of the identity of Alexandria. Ensure that the full history of the city is represented in public art.

Identifying Priorities

Identify plants (common and botanical names should be reflected; maintenance of plants can be included to tell people if and how the plant can grow at their home/in their climate).

Design unique park furniture – consistency throughout park. Doesn't necessarily have to be expensive but must be well thought-out.

Maybe bungle themes:

--connectivity: landscaping, pathways, materials

--uses: visual arts, performing arts, places (ex: Art League, museums, etc.)

--unifying art/history (art through archeology)

Local identity (something uniquely expressing our local identity).

Property (identify properties that are available for uses that we need): ex: public facilities; uses that are missing.

Attractions along the waterfront that are visual from landside and waterside and that mark the waterfront

Dramatic night lighting. . . can be a tool that unifies the various attractions along the waterfront.

Organic components (part of the infrastructure).

Parking is important.

Consistency is important.

Quality design is important.

Art League building and public art in all parks.

Path with creative benches.

Gardens, professional landscaping.

More piers/wharves.

Amphitheatre in Oronoco Park.

Bronze markers for history information.

Old schooner for kids to climb on.

TOP FIVE PRIORITIES

--Performing Arts Venue: indoor or outdoor (outdoor may be more readily achievable: a) Outdoor Festivals; b) Shared Facilities for Events; c) Providence RI – Waterfront Fire Festival). Events should be celebratory/signature events; use centralized scheduling.

--King Street: ship, masts

--Art Walk and Bike Path with signage to mark historical places (highest design possible)

--Lighting (buildings, paths, etc)

--River must be a draw

--Chicago examples – waterfront (lots of examples on a small scale)

--Great signage

--Art, Fountains, Reflecting Pools and Water

--Interactive activities for families