CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS

goals

• Create an inviting, inspiring, fun and safe place for families
• Create unique and artful play spaces that fit with the scale of Civic Center
• Increase programming opportunities with cultural institutions
• Engage and activate children’s sense of play
Existing playgrounds

North Playground, opened in 1993

South Playground, opened in 1998

North Playground, opened in 1993
Data Collection, November 2013:
Park Observation and User Survey

- Surge of playground users on event days
- Some large school groups at lunchtime on a field trip
- Most (50%) visit playgrounds 1x per week
- 30% visit several times per week
- 10% visit daily
- 20% were first time visitors
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS: today

What we heard

What is working
- Great location
- Near many youth + family destinations
- The fences creates an enclosed space

What is not working
- Current equipment is not challenging enough for older youth and teens
- Flooring is old + wood is splintering
- No group sitting areas
- Lack of trashcans
- Tall vent structures impact the playgrounds
- Views into the playground are blocked at the corners
- Unclear pedestrian access to playgrounds feels unwelcoming
- Low evening lighting makes the space feel unsafe
Playground Design / Community Outreach Process

- July 15, 2014 - First Community Outreach Meeting - Presented the project, existing conditions and gathered information about use - 40 people
- August 6, 2014 – Site Focus Group – 20 people
- September 03, 2014- Tenderloin Network Bay Area Women and Children Center Focus Group at Library- 40 people
- October 02, 2014 – Second Community Meeting- presented concepts
- October 21th, 2014 – Site outreach at playgrounds
- October 23, 2014 – Kids focus group at Tenderloin School- approx. 20 kids
- November 5, 2014 - Kids focus group #2 at Tenderloin School- 5th grade- 32 kids
- November 6th , 2014- Tenderloin Network Bay Area Women and Children Center Focus Group at DeMarillac Academy - 30 people
- January 7, 2015 –Third Community Meeting- present concept design
- April 16, 2015 - Presentation to Asian Art Museum staff
- April 30, 2015- Presentation to SF Public Library staff
- May 13, 2015- Tenderloin Network Bay Area Women and Children Center at SF Public Library – 30-40 people
- May 20th, 2015- Civic Center Community Benefit District
- June 9th, 2015 – Presentation to Alliance for a Better District 6
School workshops
IDEAS
What do you like doing at Playgrounds?

SPORTS
SPACE TO RUN
SWINGS
BASKETBALL, GAMES
BIG METAL TUBE SLIDES
TIRE SWINGS (x2)
MONKEY BARS
SKATEBOARDING
ARCADE (yes!)
PONDS WITH FISH
ROCK CLIMBING
FISH TANKS (x2)
LOCOOGS SLIDES

RIDE BIKES
SNACK BAR
MAKE SURE BALL
DOES NOT GO
INTO STREET

"I LIKE THE
CLOUD FOREST ONE.
BETTER. IT IS COOL.
ARCHERY!"
Playground Design / Agency + Organizations Coordination

City Agencies

SF Recreation and Parks Department
SF Planning Department
SF Department of Public Works
SF Public Utilities Commission
SF Department of Real Estate
Office of Mayor Ed Lee
Mayor’s Office of Housing & Community Development
Supervisor Jane Kim’s Office

Other Institutions and Organizations

Civic Center Community Benefit District
SF Public Library
Asian Art Museum
Bay Area Women’s & Children’s Center
Tenderloin School
Bill Graham Auditorium / Another Planet Entertainment
Playground Design / What We Heard

• **Equal:** Two Equally Great Play Areas
• **Inclusive:** Play for all, each playground includes all ages and abilities
• **Safe and Secure:** Playgrounds are enclosed and well lit with open sight-lines
• **More Fun!** Play experiences are enriched
• **Location:** Playgrounds are next to other key destinations
• **Key experiences:** Include swinging, sliding, connection to nature
• **Comfort:** Add seating, shade
Proposed Playgrounds

- Plaza symmetry is reinforced with playground boundaries.
- Playgrounds pulled in and away from the street and restroom.
- Circulation space is increased on pathway from garage building and around Brooks Hall vents.
- Sightlines from the corners are created.
- Line of symmetry with City Hall is enhanced.
Cloud Forest
Concept diagrams

two symmetrical playgrounds
tethered cloud sculpture
North Playground

Overview
North Playground

Pre-school swing and Disk swing
North Playground

Sky punch
North Playground

Ripple pond

- Path
- Screen
- Logs
- Slope
- Crawl tunnel with holes
- 30” climbing wall
- Logs

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North Playground
Rainbow Curtain

concept for art collaboration wall
final graphic tbd.

Note: Rainbow curtain could include some interactive elements such as touch-sensing, musical sounds and lights.
North Playground
Cloud drift fairytale

- Concept for illustrated narrative graphic, final graphic tbd.
- Material and graphic inspiration

Note: Cloud drift fairytale could include some interactive elements such as touch-sensing, sounds and lights.
South Playground Overview
South Playground
School-age swing and Tire Swing
South Playground

Lenticular cloud
South Playground
Cumulus City
South Playground
Fog valley
South Playground
Stratus garden
Pole forest

views from sidewalk

views from sidewalk
Donor Signage

HELEN DILLER CIVIC CENTER PLAYGROUND

north

south
North Playground
Donor Signage

View from Larkin and McAllister
North Playground
Donor Signage

View looking towards the Asian Art Museum
South Playground
Donor Signage

View from Larkin and Grove
South Playground
Donor Signage

View looking towards the Library
South playground
North playground