Civic Center Plaza Playgrounds
imagining a new place to play

July 15, 2014
SF Main Library
CIVIC CENTER DISTRICT
CURRENT AND FUTURE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

CIVIC CENTER TIMELINE


BILL GRAHAM CIVIC AUDITORIUM IMPROVEMENTS
POLK STREET IMPROVEMENTS
VETERANS MEMORIAL
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
NEW MID-MARKET CONSTRUCTION

1ST COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
FIRST WORKSHOP
FINALIZED DRAWINGS
CONSTRUCTION STARTS
OPENING CEREMONY

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Civic Center Playground Replacement Community Meeting 07.15.2014

Attachment A: Civic Center Plaza Background Materials by TPL
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA HISTORY
REALIZED AND PROPOSED DESIGNS, 1912-2012

- **1912**: Design by A. Lacy Warswick
- **1945**: The plaza was first used as an army barracks.
- **1958**: Proposed design by Douglas Baylis, after the 1958 plan was deemed 'too cluttered and without enough lawn'.
- **1961**: Design by Douglas Baylis, after the 1958 plan was deemed 'too cluttered and without enough lawn'.
- **1965**: Lawrence Halprin's 1966 plan was based on the 1912 plan and approved by the Arts Commission, but never implemented.

**Realized Designs**
- **1915**: Circular fountains flank each side of the ceremonial axis along Fulton Street and define a minor cross-axis.
- **1912**: Each side of the ceremonial axis along Fulton Street is flanked by circular fountains.
- **1958**: The 1958 plan was deemed 'too cluttered and without enough lawn'.
- **1961**: Design by Douglas Baylis, after the 1958 plan was deemed 'too cluttered and without enough lawn'.
- **1965**: Lawrence Halprin's 1966 plan was based on the 1912 plan and approved by the Arts Commission, but never implemented.

**Proposed Designs**
- **1969**: Mayor Christopher C. Newsom's plan was proposed.
- **1973**: "Solutions for San Francisco’s Civic Center", KMD Architecture
- **1974**: Proposed closing Polk and Larkin Streets to cars and Fulton Street between Larkin and Market.
- **1978**: "Civic Center Development Plan" by SOM and WBE (Wurster Bernardi and Emmons) with Douglas Baylis
- **1987**: Proposed closing Polk and Larkin Streets to cars and Fulton Street between Larkin and Market.
- **1998**: Lawrence Halprin's 1966 plan was based on the 1912 plan and approved by the Arts Commission, but never implemented.

**Projects**
- **1943-1946**: 9 pre-fabricated army barracks are located in the plaza between 1943 and 1946 to provide lodging for WWII soldiers.
- **1945**: The plaza was first used as an army barracks.
- **1993 and 1998**: Playgrounds were installed.
- **1998**: 136 olive trees removed from the plaza.

**Current State**
- **2009**: The current plan is to reopen the plaza to vehicular traffic.

**References**
- "The Trust for Public Land"
- "Solutions for San Francisco’s Civic Center", KMD Architecture

**Contact**
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**Community Meeting**
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07.15.2014

Attachment A: Civic Center Plaza Background Materials by TPL
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA: existing conditions 1998

Civic Center Tiny Tot Playground, opened 1994

Civic Center School Age Playground, opened 1998
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS: existing conditions 2014

North Playground, 2014

South Playground, 2014

Attachment A: Civic Center Plaza Background Materials by TPL
Data Collection, November 2013: Park Observation

- More younger children at North Playground
- Fewer teens
- Many caregivers
- More users on the weekends
- Surge of playground users on event days
Data Collection, November 2013: User Survey: Frequency of use

Playground Survey
The Trust for Public Land
November 2013
Parks for People - Bay Area

The Trust for Public Land is conducting a survey about parks and playgrounds to gather information about park use, playground preferences, and travel to parks. Your time and input is appreciated.

Date of survey: ________________
Age of respondent: ________________
Gender: □ Male □ Female
Language: _______________________

1. How do you describe yourself in terms of race or ethnicity?
__________________________________________

2. What city & neighborhood do you live in?
__________________________________________

3. Are you visiting this playground with a specific group or organization?
□ No
□ Yes, which one: ______________________

4. How often do you visit this playground?
□ Daily
□ A few times a week
□ Once per week
□ A couple times per month
□ Monthly
□ A few times a year
□ Never

5. How do you typically travel to this playground?
□ Walk
□ Bike
□ Public Transportation
□ Drive

6. Are there specific things you like about this playground?
__________________________________________

7. Are there specific things you do not like about this playground?
__________________________________________

8. Do you have any comments about safety and/or maintenance?
__________________________________________

9. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions about this playground?
__________________________________________

10. Would you be interested in participating in the design of local parks and playgrounds?
□ No
□ Maybe; please provide (below).
□ Yes; please provide:
Name: ________________________________
Phone Number: (_____________) - ______
Email: ________________________________

How often park users visit the Civic Center Playgrounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of Visit</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few times a week</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once per week</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A couple times per month</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few times a year</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First time</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When park users usually visit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Day</th>
<th>% of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Vent structures impact the playground
Aging equipment and fencing
Worn and tired surfaces
No clear entry
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
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS

imagine a new place to play

DISCUSSION / WORK SESSION

What do you like and dislike about the current playgrounds?

Please describe a favorite play experience you had as a child.
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
• We have been talking about memorable play moments from our own childhoods and how we can help encourage similar types of experiences in children’s lives today.

• What are the essential components of these common experiences and how can they inspire design?

• How can we translate these elemental experiences into a new landscape for play?
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS

imagine a new place to play

surprise + delight
retreat + escape
explore + roam
experiment + investigate
challenge + thrill

How does this feel? How might this look?
surprise + delight
surprise + delight
retreat + escape
retreat + escape
explore + roam
explore + roam

Attachment A: Civic Center Plaza Background Materials by TPL
experiment + investigate
experiment + investigate
challenge + thrill
challenge + thrill