



Discovery Workshop Summary

On August 3-6, 2020, the project team led a virtual discovery workshop (charrette) to engage with the community and develop initial design concepts focused on street design and development opportunities. During the discovery workshop, planners and designers immersed themselves in the West Arden Arcade community, hosted four public meetings, conducted numerous stakeholder interviews (also known as listening sessions), and developed initial complete street design concepts and recommendations based on community feedback.

The project team engaged with residents from the study area and vicinity, business owners, advocacy groups, and school groups. Over 50 participants were part of the August 3, 2020 public session and attendance remained strong throughout the three subsequent public sessions. During the four-day process, participants shared their experiences, their likes and dislikes, and what they hoped to see improved in the study area. Common themes emerged and were utilized in developing the initial design concepts discussed during the fourth public session on August 6, 2020.

What we heard:

- The study area is diverse and we want to not only celebrate this diversity, but also continue to encourage it.
- The streets in the study area are not comfortable or safe for those who walk, roll, or ride.
- The local family-owned business are an important asset to be retained.
- Streets could provide an opportunity to create a sense of place and identity for the community.
- Connections to and through the community are important; the study area is one part of a greater Arden Arcade area and we need to keep that in mind.
- Current development feels like it could be anywhere; future development could better reflect the community and create opportunities for housing and retail variety.

With this feedback, the design team kept the following “design directives” in mind as they developed streetscape concepts and development opportunities:

- Create a greater sense of community identity.
- Consider safety for **all** modes.



- Celebrate all of our community.
- Consider the history of the Arden Arcade, and look toward the needs of the future.

The design team developed street concepts for ten major streets in the area as well as community and neighborhood “nodes” at key locations. The draft concepts are available in the August 6th presentation available [here](#).

Recordings from the public meetings:

- **Opening Presentation and Discussion // August 3rd 5:00-7:00 PM**

On Monday (August 3, 2020), the project team kicked off the first night presentation of the Re-Envision West Arden Arcade Charrette (also known as a design workshop) and small group activity. It was a fantastic start to the week with over 50 participants attending. As part of the meeting, participants engaged in a virtual small group activity where everyone reviewed maps together, discussed likes and dislikes, and recorded participant feedback on virtual boards.

[Click to watch](#) the presentation and learn more about the project, basic design principles of complete streets, and to hear what participants shared.

- **Mid-Charrette Update & Public Input // August 4th 4:00-5:00 PM**

On Tuesday (August 4, 2020), the project team provided a shortened version of the first night's presentation and provided additional opportunities for participant discussion.

[Click to watch](#) the meeting and hear the items discussed.

- **Virtual Open Studio // August 5th 3:00-5:00**

On Wednesday (August 5, 2020), the project team welcomed the community to join the virtual studio, to learn more about what participants had said, and to get a sneak peak of preliminary design ideas for corridors and destinations throughout the study area.

[Click to watch](#) the meeting and hear the items discussed.

- **Closing Presentation and Discussion // August 6th 5:00-6:30**

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On Thursday (August 6, 2020), the project team closed the charrette with a presentation on some initial “starter ideas” to advance multimodal conditions along key corridors and opportunities to enhance the neighborhood character at key nodes throughout the study area. At the conclusion of the presentation, there was small group discussions where participants encouraged the design team to continue to refine the ideas and ways to address community concerns.

[Click to watch](#) the meeting and hear the items discussed.