

Westminster Municipal Courthouse Project

The current municipal court is more than 60 years old. Originally constructed as two smaller buildings, which served as City Hall and the police station, the two buildings were merged to form the existing facility over multiple renovations and additions.

EVENT SUMMARY

Project Open House #1

May 22, 2024, 6-9 p.m.

On May 22, 2024, the City of Westminster hosted the first Open House for the Westminster Municipal Courthouse Project at The MAC. This event provided a platform for community engagement and information sharing about the upcoming project. Leaders from the project design team and City of Westminster were present to discuss and answer questions about various aspects of the project, including:

- **Exterior Design Elements:** Attendees were able to explore aesthetic examples and architectural features, and share their preferences for the new courthouse.
- **Playground Design Options:** Design concepts for the playground were presented, highlighting how the space will be both functional and engaging for children.
- **Outdoor Site Amenities:** Information was provided on the options for outdoor features and amenities that will enhance the courthouse surroundings.

Additionally, staff from the City of Westminster were on hand to engage with community members on other critical topics, including:

- **Sustainability Goals**
- **Construction Impacts**
- **Project Funding**
- **Project Timeline**



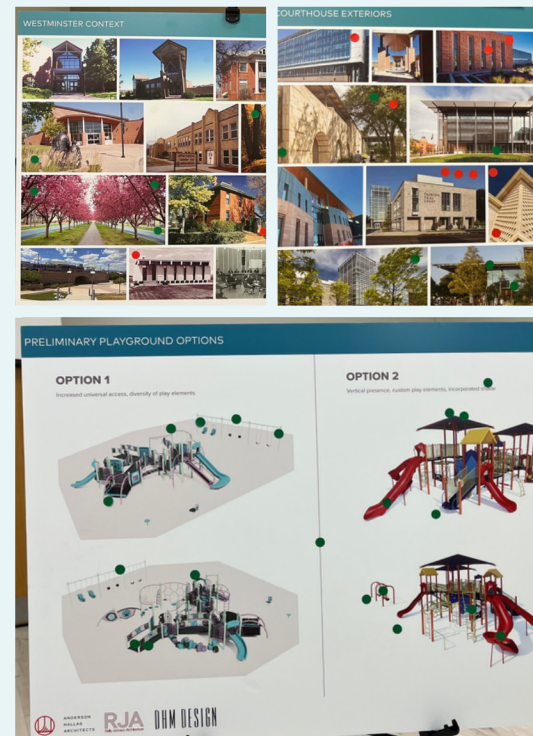
The project design team presented conceptual site plans to the public, illustrating the approximate locations of campus buildings, parking areas, playground, and other elements.

BUILDING CHARACTER EXERCISE

Attendees engaged with early versions of building character boards and playground design concepts (right).

Participants were provided with green and red dots to mark their preferences on concept boards regarding images they favored and those they didn't. These visual boards were designed to convey:

- Entry-ways
- Plantings and walkways
- Playground designs
- Current architectural preferences across the city



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Project Open House #1 Design Team Feedback

Following the project open house event, members of the design team shared feedback summarized from conversations with some attendees. Comments have been consolidated to generally represent consistent sentiments.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- The History context board garnered comments from long-term residents, reflecting on the campus's past and expressing excitement for its future development.
- Long-time residents voiced positive sentiments about the city's investment in the courthouse and surrounding areas, looking forward to more attractive facilities, improved security, and enhanced park spaces.
- The open house boards were acknowledged for their comprehensive storytelling and effective communication of the project's details.
- Attendees appreciated the integration of park elements into a cohesive space, enhanced security measures for the north parking area, and the playground design.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- There was shared interest in the construction schedule, with several attendees inquiring about when construction would commence.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

- Parking availability during construction was a notable concern among attendees.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Environmental impacts during demolition, especially for nearby residents (such as asbestos removal), were a topic of concern.

VISUAL CONCEPTS

- Attendees favored design concepts that included buildings integrated with plantings, large-format masonry with warmer tones, and expanses of glass mixed with masonry.
- There was a general disfavor for design precedents lacking a civic presence and those with monolithic facades without articulation.
- The visual feedback on the boards, with more positive "green" dots than negative "red" dots, may indicate a generally favorable sentiment towards the project.

PLAYGROUND

- While both options were generally well-received, the consensus favored two key features: 1) Shade, and 2) A design that ensures a high level of accessibility.
- Concerns were raised about the potential shutdown of the playground once construction begins.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- CAT members in attendance felt their input from past meetings was accurately represented in the project plans and open house materials.
- Positive reactions were noted regarding the consistency of CAT members present at each meeting, which fostered a sense of continuity and reliability.

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