

# Subcommittee Breakout Sessions - Minutes

**Subcommittee: Arts and Cultural Venues – Meeting 5**

**Date: 13 May 2025, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Webb 4G4**

## Attendees

- **City Facilitator:** Patrick Riley, Department of Finance
- **Members in attendance (in person),** Council Member Stacie Gilmore, Ed Scholz, Mozan Ahmed, Patty Salazar, Solicia Lopez
- **Members in attendance (virtual):** Council Member Kevin Flynn, Stephen Brackett, Andrea Fulton, Malik Robinson
- **Members not in attendance:**
- **City Staff in Attendance:** Emily Marcus, Evan Dreyer, Lisa Carpenter (virtual), Jon Graham (SME), John Hill (SME)
- Members of the public were in attendance



## Meeting Minutes with Agenda

- I. [Land Acknowledgement and Labor Acknowledgement](#)
- II. [Project Discussion](#)

### Arts Complex Garage Improvements

- Overview of project from Jon: sizable, structurally sound parking needed in this area of downtown and no improvements made since it was constructed in 19070s. General maintenance, structural concerns, fire system need updates. Lower on DAV's priority list
- History of management and operations between DAV, general services, etc.
- Potential synergies with other DPAC projects

### Garner Galleria

- John provides overview: largely untouched since put in place in 1990s – needs ADA updates in front/back of house, reimagine the space, updated kitchen
- National and local tours come through

### Chinatown/Hop Alley

- Fly through reel provided as support and presentation
- On Wazee between 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> in alleyway
- Has historical context with museum spaces, entryway structures, green spaces; TBD on lighting and not included in actual scope
- Windows/doors already in alley – project would build false storefronts and not anchor to the building
- Shared street with potential bollards to block vehicular traffic
- Precedent setting project
- Fusion project – as it becomes more activated, more community members become integrated and involved – potential reverberation beyond the proposal itself
- Discussion on history/landmarks/tourist attraction – livable areas vs. revitalizing downtown vs. greenspace vs. community services vs. attractions
- “Third space” and long-term vibrancy

### Buffalo Bill Museum/Lookout Mountain

- Brief discussion due to Mountain Parks supporting the project in the 6-yr CIP but not top priority in Bond

### Native American Cultural Facility

- Councilmember Gilmore provided background and overview: brief discussion on Indigenous People's Day, Tall Bull Memorial Grounds in Daniels Park, discussions with Elders in the community, bison transfer to American Indian tribes in Colorado and overall US – importance of buffalo on the plains (climate impact – aerate soil, health, crops, etc. + sacred animal), living land project in City Park, Sand Creek Massacre history
  - Conversations started with USFW, synergies with DPL's proposed Gateway branch
  - Importance of recognizing Native American culture in Denver specifically
- Cultural embassy for education, business, event space, ecotourism side
  - Coordinated cohesive space for American Native Indian community, a space for elders/family/communities
  - Space for ceremonies, economic development for small biz owners, food distribution, art/clothing/culture/beading work
- Solicia provides additional history and detail on importance of buffalo and Sand Creek Massacre – importance of upholding treaties and how this is long overdue for Denver to live with these truths and turn it into something vibrant, healing, and help people understand the history
- Location: near Rocky Mountain Arsenal or partnership with library in far NE. Also looking at Park Hill or by National Western Center. Real estate is looking into options.
- Full scope included in project estimate – real estate, design, etc.
- Greater need and context for what the city still struggles with – brings back to roots
- An opportunity for the city to take a step in the right direction and exciting project

### Boettcher Concert Hall

- Jon provides background and scope: last time major investment was when it was built in 1978, infrastructure beyond useful life, outdated building. Keep Colorado Symphony downtown in DPAC – update and revitalize space, which also includes ADA/accessibility for both front and back of house spaces, safety concerns, and integrate into geothermal well field in sculpture park to become more energy efficient, shift in symphony toward including education, rehearsal spaces
  - Reviewed concept drawings
  - Scope of \$125m estimate: park connection, lobby enhancement/revamp/expand, education space, balcony
- Symphony can raise partial \$s
- Ongoing discussion in the symphony itself for how to do this and the ability to get it off the ground quickly with a plan.
- Right-size the hall from ~2600 seating down to ~1800 – will assist with the acoustics and overall atmosphere
- Scaling/phasing discussed

### Red Rocks Backstage Expansion

- City has made updates in the park for visitors and concert-goers but not investment in backstage support areas (dressing rooms, below stage, catering, general support for

concerts) – not accessible/ADA, fire system non-existent – project will be an overhaul/refresh for all accessibility and modernization (it's outdated)

- Primarily back of house; restrooms would become public at bottom of amphitheater
- One of the top venues in the country, and it provides funding for majority of other DAV items
  - Bookings are highly important and a huge funding source
  - Red Rocks doesn't have a great musician experience; there are options for other musicians/performers to go, especially ones that are more financially viable for them – Red Rocks only has 9,900 seats
  - Without Red Rocks continued support other Artist Venues would suffer
  - Red Rocks provides majority of funding for Mountain Parks Ranger Program
- How does this affect the average person? Think about it like the roof of a large cultural facility – it helps keep the art in the right place and is of most use for the folks that make the shows happen
  - Highly important infrastructure and entirely lacking to function at the level it needs – infrastructure missing to function at the level it needs – not setup and people will opt not to go
  - Not ADA compliant for workers or artists
  - Softening bookings impact vibrancy of Denver. Other options with Ford and Dillon Amphitheaters, Ball Arena
  - Option of tours backstage once ADA compliant
- Think about the revenue and the name that Red Rocks brings in not to just CCD but also front range

### III. Project Tiering

- Live, anonymous vote via SurveyMonkey to tier and then review the projects
- Final tiering and commentary reviewed and approved by subcommittee members