A significant element of 4UE continues to be the engagement of internal and external stakeholders to influence the Project as both a process and a product: identifying issues, finding collective solutions and influencing design opportunities.

The Design Charrette I (DCI), held on May 8, marked the second of four opportunities for interested stakeholders to actively participate in the design process. The following handout outlines the key messages we heard that day.

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**A TWO-FOLD APPROACH**

With a focus on enabling and encouraging pedestrian movement, a key objective of the 4th Street SW Underpass Enhancement Project is the provision of a safe, comfortable and attractive public space. This requires the execution of a robust public art strategy in conjunction with a series of pragmatic urban design improvements. Towards that end, the Design Team developed a two-fold approach to the Project, which was presented to stakeholders at the outset of the Design Charrette I session:

1. **A high-level urban design strategy**, composed of five critical gestures, to address concerns such as the 9th Avenue turnoff, east stairwell, and constrained sidewalk width along the length of the site; and

2. **Three conceptual options for the public art strategy**, to offer unique ways to think about, and ultimately celebrate, this space.

Working within teams, participants were asked to discuss the three proposed public art concepts within the context of the Project’s seven Design Mandates.

*Additional Information on the aforementioned strategies can be found on the project website: calgary.ca/4thstreet.*
At the outset of the Project’s engagement process, stakeholders established a series of Action Items which bridged the existing performance of 4UE with the potential for excellence inspired by world-class precedent projects. The Design Team synthesized these Action Items into seven conceptual Design Mandates: qualitative metrics by which the performance of the proposed designs could be evaluated. Conceivably, a strong design would execute all seven Design Mandates at a world-class level.

During Design Charrette I, stakeholders were tasked with evaluating each concept’s success towards achieving that goal. Enticing design elements alongside missed opportunities specific to each concept were identified and captured within in the adjacent comment matrix.

For each of the design mandates (A-G), stakeholders were asked to rate their level of agreement with the following statement: “We believe this concept achieves the design mandate”
Since we met last, the Design Team has synthesized this feedback in the production of several Strength/Weakness/Opportunity/Threat (SWOT) analyses: identifying internal (concept-specific) and external (environment-specific) attributes which either contribute to, or take away from, the successful execution of each Design Mandate.

As a strategic planning tool, the SWOT Analyses have propelled the Design Team towards the next engagement milestone. By developing themes common amongst the strengths, minimizing shared weaknesses and capitalizing on the recognized site opportunities, the previous three directions have been consolidated and improved upon.

In other words, through the direct input provided by the Project’s stakeholders, a ‘fourth’ design strategy has emerged for development.

**DESIGN DIRECTION:**
Continue to explore methods for shifting experiences within public art. Celebrate the connection to the sky. Take advantage of the spaces beyond the occlus (particularly beneath the bridges) to reinforce the experience. Ensure legibility/activation in both low and high ambient lighting conditions. Consider the scale and experience of the single individual. Ensure lighting does not create a distraction for other users.

**DESIGN DIRECTION:**
Consider how programming in conjunction with form can prevent user fatigue/boredom. Explore variable external inputs. Explore the passive experience (where there are no users within the space). Avoid intense soundscapes - space should feel open, comfortable. Develop a higher level of technical resolution.
DESIGN DIRECTION:

**Take advantage of the spaces beyond the oculus (particularly beneath the bridges) to reinforce the design.**

Illumination levels and experience must be considered along entire length of project, including occupants of adjacent buildings.

Ensure light sources are tamper proof. Ensure lighting does not create a distraction for other users, including pedestrians of adjacent buildings.

**Develop a higher level of material resolution, including maintenance and seasonal considerations.**

Develop materials that can withstand high traffic volumes and severe winter conditions.

Equal legibility/activation in both low and high ambient light conditions. Ensure experience of public art is conduitive to movement through the space. Ensure final illumination levels meet safety and comfort standards throughout entire length of project.
**SAVE THE DATE**

Following Design Charrette I, the Design Team has been active in soliciting Calgarians’ input on the three designs. Over 192 additional comments on the design strategies were collected during several public engagement opportunities, including:

1. Public Feedback Event on Stephen Avenue (May 12 from 11am to 1:30pm & 3:30pm to 6:00pm);
2. Public Feedback Event at Lilac Festival (May 31 from 10am to 6pm); and,
3. An Online Survey (open from May 12 - June 2).

Verbatim records of all feedback collected through these events can be found on the Project’s website: calgary.ca/4thstreet.

Thanks for your ongoing participation and support. We look forward to Design Charrette II, and the opportunity to share the evolved public art and urban design strategy. See you then!

**DESIGN CHARRETTE II**
Presentation of and discussion around single design concept.

**IMPROVE CONNECTIONS**

Design focus favors the pedestrian - explore the experience for vehicles/cyclists. Ensure lighting does not create a distraction for other users. Consider activation of space beneath bridges. Ensure legibility/activation in both low and high ambient light conditions.

**ATTRIBUTES OF CONCEPT**
HELPFUL TO ACHIEVING THE MANDATE

- C1: Assumes success.
- C2: Agrees that concept improves connections.

**ATTRIBUTES OF CONCEPT**
HARMFUL TO ACHIEVING THE MANDATE

- C1: Not a step up or down from current connectivity.
- C2: Does not change.
- C3: Does not impede the pedestrian realm, but it is not clear if the lighting is too bright or bright enough.
- C4: Bartlane – user experience, but only pedestrian.
- C5: Does it improve experience for some ultra-cyclist extremeists?
- C6: Doesn’t really address situation at street level.
- C1: May be a hard impact on all user groups.
- C3: Yes. What about motorists?
- C3: The two underpasses could draw you through the space. Media wall could be really great here.

**ATTRIBUTES OF ENVIRONMENT**
HELPFUL TO ACHIEVING THE MANDATE

- C1: Introduction of bicycle and wider pedestrian facilities.

**ATTRIBUTES OF ENVIRONMENT**
HARMFUL TO ACHIEVING THE MANDATE

- C1: Improves the situation but falls short because of site limitations.
- C2: Will it be distracting for drivers?
- C3: Could be very distracting for drivers and cyclists.
- C2: Draws you through the space, but perhaps not during the daytime. Lacks of daytime presence.

**END OF JULY**

Photos from the 4UE Feedback Booth at the 2015 Lilac Festival