

# **THE ARTS DISTRICT AND FLORA STREET**

## **MAKING PLACES FOR PEOPLE**

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*AUGUST 2006*

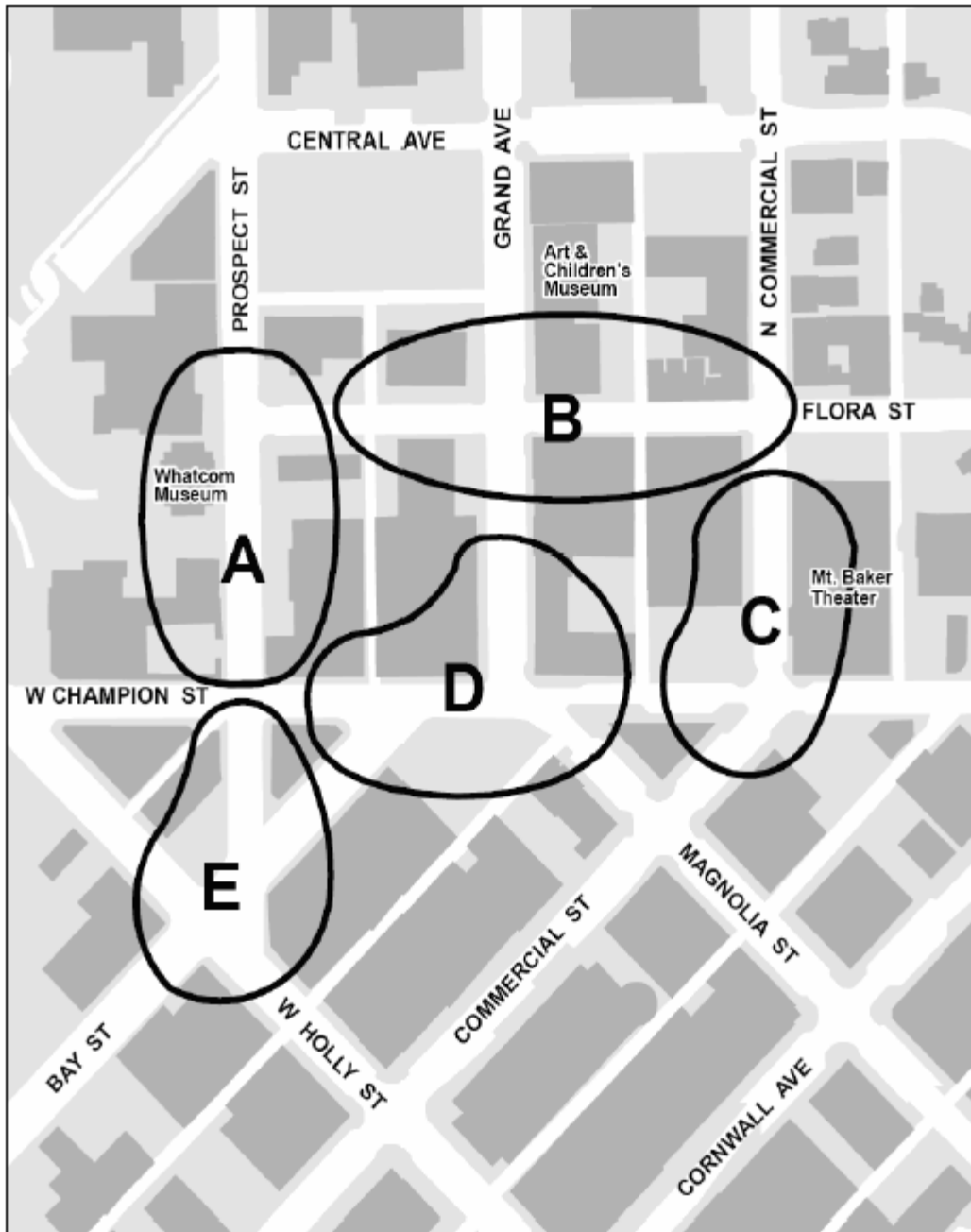
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# PLACEMAKING QUESTIONS

1. What do you like best about this place? / **BEST FEATURES**
2. List ideas that you would do to improve this place that could be done right away and that wouldn't cost a lot: / **LOW COST IDEAS**
3. What changes would you make in the long term that would have the biggest impact? / **LONG TERM IDEAS**
4. Ask someone who is in the "place" what they like about it and what they would do to improve it. Their answer: / **COMMENTS FROM THE STREET**
5. What local partnerships or local talent can you identify that could help implement some of your proposed improvements? Please be as specific as possible. / **PARTNERSHIPS**

# Arts District & Flora St. Placemaking Sites



# COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

**August 7, 2006  
11:30am-1pm**

## Area A

### BEST FEATURES

#### Site specific

- Museum frontage
- Area next to Theatre Guild Building
- One bike rack at Museum
- Back side of Whatcom Museum
  - Overlook, gorgeous

#### General for the area

- Mature Trees
- 2-3 Story Height – Open Space – Sky
- Mt. Baker view corridor – Openness to natural backdrop.
- Historical Buildings
- Potential Connections to:
  - Maritime Heritage Park
  - New Whatcom
  - Post Office
  - Greenways
  - Farmers Market
- Public Owned Property – Opportunity
- Street Lights
- South side of Flora – Enlarged Brick Paving
- Buildings (Ionic) serve as wayfinding
  - Bellingham Towers
  - Mt. Baker Apts
  - VECO
  - Courthouse
  - Museum
  - Mt. Baker Theatre
  - Mural on Cascade Laundry Building
- View of Sehome Hill
- Wide Sidewalks
- Visual and physical position to Water
- Destinations
- Cobble Stones
- Solar Panel usage on Museum
- Wayfinding
- Singular Buildings
- Historic recognition and representation of culture here

## LOW COST IDEAS

### Site specific

- Remove parking behind Museum
  - Pedestrian Plaza
  - Allow Deliveries only behind building
- Viewing platform behind the Museum
- Telescope behind the Museum
- More programs at Maritime Heritage Park
- Specific focus group for back of Museum
- Landscaping around Lock Shop
- Awning brought out further at Wild Garlic location
- Take out parking on weekends and make a plaza around Wild Garlic location

### General for the area

- Utilize Downtown Design Review Board and make good use of it
- More Seating in appropriate places
  - Movable Seating – Experiment – ask merchants for help
  - Benches
- More bike racks
- Fix Sidewalks and Driveways
- Pedestrian Signage
- Encourage use of empty storefronts
  - Artists
  - Children Murals
  - Other ideas
- Light Post Hooks
  - Arts
  - Plants
  - Other ideas
- North side of Flora remove parking
- Cobblestones extended to lot of Lock Shop to create a corridor
- More small business, food, café's
- Sound buffers from road
- Better crosswalks
- Wayfinding signs have the information on both sides
- Heighten Buildings
- Bike Paths
- Working Clock
- Games painted on sidewalk
- Have children do designs for their areas
- Public Art in the right of way
- Permanent art in the planters
- Bocce ball courtyard for public use
- Student concerts on sidewalk outside of music store
- Litter pick up along street

# LONG TERM IDEAS

## Site specific

- Boardwalk at the top of crest behind the Museum
- Plaza on North side of Annex – Roofed
- Improve pedestrian crossing from Flora to Museum
- Open up space in front of Wild Garlic
- Better use of County parking lot/ Garage?
- Add a public plaza with tables & chairs where County parking lot is now
- ADA railing down to Holly from Prospect and Champion
- Bench in front of Work Source turned into chess board/checker board table.

## General for the area

- Remove buildings – Cascade Laundry, Children’s Museum and create a park that links to Maritime Heritage
- More Retail – Move office space up
  - Restaurants
  - To go food
- Underground Power/utilities
- More landscaping/Trees
- Pedestrian Street – Close Existing
- Brick Paving – Accents Wayfinding
- Sustainable Building Strategies
- Plaza – Central Attraction
- Audio Traffic Signals
- Bike Lanes
- Attractive Bike Racks / Hire local artists to create
- Creative Clusters
  - Artists Housing Studios
- Make Flora Pedestrian Only
- Path to Maritime Heritage Park
- Break up endless blacktop, more spaces for small businesses
- Buildings on Prospect block view of park, more of a corridor to park, continuing to Flora
- Raised brick crosswalks
- More activity
- Take out angled parking
- Children’s Flea Market
- Paving accents
- Piazza
- Art/Studio Center
- Sidewalk Vendors
- Games on Sidewalk
- Cater to children
- Narrow the streets

## COMMENTS FROM THE STREET

- More landscaping
- A view tower
- Area is clean with a small community feel.
- Need bike trails
- More shops, businesses, restaurants
- Parking lots are not for people
- View of the Bay

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Museums
- Whatcom County
- Allied Arts
- Follis Realty
- City of Bellingham
  - Parks & Rec
  - PW
- Services Organizations
- Downtown Renaissance Network
- School District
- Senior Center
- Huxley/WWU
- Bellingham Technical College
- Non-Profits
- Railway Museum
- Small Business Development Center
- Trillium
- Developers
- Whatcom Community College
- Community Garden Groups – Landscape
- Association of Bellingham Neighbors
- Mayor’s Neighborhood Advisory Commission
- Bellingham / Whatcom County Tourism Bureau
- Public Facilities District
- Multi-Cultural Organizations
  - Tribes
- Build a 3-D Model of Area

**August 9, 2006**  
**11:30am-1pm**

## **Area B**

### **BEST FEATURES**

#### **Site specific**

- Brick/cobblestone by Video Store
- Old Theatre Guild Building
- Glass windows at Tae Kwan Do Studio – ability to view activity inside
- Future Art Museum
- Grand Avenue Tavern
- Apartment building on corner of Commercial and Flora
- Bellingham Towers
- Mt. Baker Theatre
- Signs of coming events at the Mt. Baker Theatre

#### **General for the area**

- Trees
- Short Street
- Views @ both ends of Flora
- Wide Sidewalks/bulbouts
- Connections w/ other venues such as Library and Museum
- Future Potential/Opportunities
- Visual sense of history
- Possible Link to Waterfront
- Opportunity to connect downtown with the library
- Opportunity for Temporary closure of streets
- Flora Identity (?)
- Location of Flora Street to Mt. Baker Theatre and Downtown
- Storefronts facing street
- Awnings are nice
- View of Museum

### **LOW COST IDEAS**

#### **Site specific**

- Better repair & painting of alley behind the towers
- Planting street trees on West side of Grand Ave
- Flower boxes on the Apartment Building
- Eliminate parking on North side of (Flora?) to create more sidewalk space
- Café where Video Store is

- Parking lot N of Mt. Baker make Bocce Ball Court, lunch tables/chairs/Community Garden
- Encourage Whatcom Community Foundation to make front of their office a seating “dining” spot and partner with the Grand Ave to deliver lunch there. Eventually DEA could get rid of it’s parking and dining could expand that whole section of the block.

## **General for the area**

- Better pedestrian signage traveling West
- Flower Baskets – Use as direction tool
- Encourage sidewalk accessible coffee shops, etc.
- Sidewalk retail encouragement
  - Awnings
  - Wider Sidewalks
- More Bike Racks and More Attractive Racks
- Public Trash Cans
- More Street Art
- Better Trash Control
- Tradesmen signage (British Pubs). Overhead as walk down street, Perpendicular to sidewalk
- More Awnings including on the new Museum
- Try a scooter parking area w/ awning. Make it free.
- Encourage Businesses to have livelier windows & open doors
- Volunteers for public spaces (?)
- Banners on Light Poles
- Flower pots/landscaping
- Murals/Art on Blank Walls
- Encourage businesses to have visual signs of what goes on inside
- Better signage to cafes, bookstores
- Traffic calming
- Repair and paint unsightly areas
- Make places to sit and watch activities in the street
- Allow businesses to use sidewalk
- Move offices “up”
- Use sandwich signs
- Improve Alley & Brick – Pedestrian Link to Library
- Encourage Businesses to front on alley by banning automobiles

## **LONG TERM IDEAS**

### **Site specific**

- Murals on Mt. Baker Theatre, Bellingham Towers; op art on vertical stripes
- Convert alley behind the new Museum and Bellingham Towers to green space (or bricked) w/ bike path can connect from Library to the Triangle building

- Kiosk in the Theatre Parking lot - Retail
- Move Syre Building – View to the bay
- Livelier windows on Whatcom Community Foundation Building
- 

## **General for the area**

- Public Restrooms (street level and signage)
- Pedestrian only or mostly pedestrian only
- Easily accessible, safe off street parking
- Icon murals for building purpose
- Secondary entryways off of the alley – Living Alley – with retail shops, people space
- Underground utilities
- Common street light design
- Eliminate parking on North side of street (which?) to make sidewalks wider for public spaces.
- Pedestrian Boulevard
- Close Street in front of Theatre on a Temporary or Permanent basis
- Turn parking lot south of Baptist Church into a public retail space
- Public art on pathways, corners.
- Paint Bellingham Tower
- Parking garages aren't being utilized to full potential (specifically the one behind Bellingham Towers)
- Additional Economic Development
- A retail anchor
- Cobbles for separating – Pedestrian, bike, road
- Re-Orient businesses to Flora or Multiple entry facades
- Evaluate homeless situation and find solutions
- Incorporate Scooter parking with car parking on the streets with some pedestrian corridors.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE STREET**

- Enjoy the Christian Science Reading Room
- Enjoy book stores
- To improve: Garbage flying in around
- More people walking by
- Better Parking
- Like heritage in the area
- Mix of incomes important (concerns about gentrification)
- Parking on cobblestone, No access
- “More Park” (like)
- ID Business Signage

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

- Whatcom Community Foundation
- Building & Property Owners
- Parking Garage Owner
- Law Office Parking
- Evaluate Homelessness in Bellingham & Address: Included design elements to discourage it
- Social Service Agencies
- Landscape architects and Nurseries
- Mike Hollander/Bellingham Towers
- Grand Avenue partner with Whatcom Community Foundation and DEA
- Bellingham Public Market
- Whatcom Volunteer Center
- Clearwater Communications
- Trillium
- Bellingham Towers Owner

**August 9, 2006**  
**5:30pm – 7pm**

## **Area C**

### **BEST FEATURES**

#### **Site specific**

- New Mural on Crown Plaza
- Street Lights in front of Studio Theatre
- Brick triangle building

#### **General for the area**

- Mature Trees
- View – Bay & Mt. Baker Tower down commercial
- Street Lights
- Energy of people going to the Theatre
- Historic Buildings
- Lots of windows in the area
- Potential activity at street level
- Offices

### **LOW COST IDEAS**

#### **Site specific**

- Chairs & Benches @ Triangle Building corner of Champion and Commercial and number of locations along that corridor
- Encore Room and Street Level windows of Bellingham Towers have art in the windows
- Umbrellas / Awnings on Studio Theatre
- Information Kiosk and Pedestrian Signage at the corner of Champion and Commercial
- Understanding the Traffic Flow
  - Can't see the Mt. Baker Theatre because of One Way Traffic on Champion and part of Commercial
- Pacific Café have outdoor seating
- Concert @ Crown Plaza parking lot and Towers lot
- Planters in front of the Tower
- Temporary Closure of Commercial in front of Mt. Baker Theatre and the Tower for events, art walk
- Torre' Café more seating

## **General for the area**

- Walking tour maps – art, etc
- Construction site viewing
- Street Painting
- Improvements in parking lot
- Shuttle system from City to County
- Rotating art exhibit on street
- Signage that identifies “you are in the Arts District”
- Retail business on the street

## **LONG TERM IDEAS**

### **Site specific**

- Park @ Crown Plaza parking lot or simple improvements to the lot such as brick
- Change signage at freeway that directs traffic down Ellis and signage to the Arts District
- 3 feet of front windows of Mt. Baker Theatre have snacks/café
- Flat screen TVs in the window of the Studio Theatre with a button on the building exterior that allows passersby to hear and view arts activities in the community or upcoming events at the Theatre
- Dressing room at Mt. Baker Theatre have a street performance through the window or a poetry contest

### **General for the area**

- Parking garage with retail below
- Parking and shuttle system
- Parking garages instead of lots
- Need a gather spot near by that allow people to meet prior to shows at the Theatre
- Sidewalk vendors before and after the shows in any of the parking lots near by
- Add condo space somewhere

## **COMMENTS FROM THE STREET**

- Loves Historic Buildings
- Restore don't replace buildings

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

- Senior Citizen Center – Activities and Shuttle from Senior Center
- Allied Arts – Gallery walk
- Mt. Baker Posters
- Bellingham Towers
- Downtown Renaissance Network
- Vendors
- Douglas Building
- Existing businesses spill out into sidewalk

**August 10, 2006**  
**11:30am-1pm**

## **Area D**

### **BEST FEATURES**

#### **Site specific**

- Pedestrian friendly
  - Champion/Magnolia/Grand
- Chairs and bookcart outside Latte Books
- Latte Books
- Mt. Bakery
- Black Drop
- Like planters on Bay Street
- Love having books on Grand
- Open feel where parking lot is currently on Champion/Bay/Magnolia

#### **General for the area**

- Diversity of business
- Diversity of potential partners
- Bookshops / Chairs
- Mature Trees
- Already a happening place
  - Lots of pedestrian
  - Lots of partnerships
- Brick Paving
- Views
- Landscaping
- Views
- Ample sidewalk width in some places
- On street parking good to separate sidewalks from travel way of autos
- Bolted down furniture dated and lacks character

### **LOW COST IDEAS**

#### **Site specific**

- Mural on DreamSpace
- Touch up paint/ sidewalks on and around Black Drop
- Bulbed intersection
  - Champion Eastbound Lane
- Framing/art classes at Art & Frame Shop in the evening

## **General for the area**

- More garbage cans
- Public Restrooms – Evening and Weekends
- 2 hour parking meters
  - Credit card payment?
- Street Lights
- Maintenance friendly trees
  - Retail friendly – low scale
- Extend maintenance \_ DRN
  - More frequent
- Seating
- Screen Port of Subs dumpsters
- Expand alley opportunities
- Evening activities
- Readings at the bookstore
- Holiday decorating contest / Block by block
- Activity Kiosk
  - Manned in the Summer
- Better Maps – Coordinate what is distributed and retired
- Covered bike parking in appropriate locations
- Street cleaning – more frequent
- Evaluate load/unload zones
- Express permitting for temporary signs and short term activities/ vending/ etc
- Sidewalk vendors
- Have local artists decorate bike racks

## **LONG TERM IDEAS**

### **Site specific**

- Park @ Brown & Cole Lot
  - Night time cinema
- Bulbed corners – Expand sidewalks
  - Champion Street
- Close Bay St. – Pedestrian only
- Make Brown and Cole into park w/ activities for kids
- Evening / weekend use of Brown and Cole lot
- Retail cart in front of 110 Grand/prop management and 100 Grand/Bank
- Bulb out in front of Mt. Bakery for seating
- Redesign the parking on Grand and Champion as better use of space aka meeting area etc.
- Consider improvements or a plaza where parking is on corner of Champion and Grand
- Mature trees on Champion and Bay

## **General for the area**

- Pavers – fixed sidewalks
  - Expand into street
- Parking garage nearby w/ street level retail
- More residential
- Night time parking in pay lots (short term)
- Public Restrooms
- Integrate seating, playground type piece, bocce ball, trees, plants
- A “quick” stand to grab a pastry or coffee on the street
- Champion needs wider sidewalks, at least wider in places

## **COMMENTS FROM THE STREET**

- Entrepreneurial spirit
- Independent business
- Current business diversity
- Came to eat at the Mt. Bakery but needed more than an hour for parking (meter in front of Mt. Bakery is one hour)
- Move lawyers upstairs and keep retail on street level
- Need lighting along Champion
- Intersection funky for pedestrians and cars, not sure about stop sign or light

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

- City of Bellingham
- Area business owner
- Cultural organizations
- Tourism Bureau
- WWU/ WCC / BTC/ NWIC
  - Art
  - Music
  - Sm. Business Center – Store front
- Chamber of Commerce
- Property owners
- Logos
- Whomever owns the old Brown and Cole parking lot
- Whatcom Film Association
- Pickford
- Artists
- Book Groups
- Quist Violins (to encourage street music)
- Radio Museum
- Lower portion of VECO building to have retail

**August 10, 2006**  
**5:30pm-7pm**

## **Area E**

### **BEST FEATURES**

#### **Site specific**

- Business names on the side of Bay Street Coffee House

#### **General for the area**

- Open, wide views
- Variety of uses, Urban feel – hip
- Diverse businesses, lots of opportunity
- The mural
- Strong identity
- Hanging Planters
- Non-linear – messy, chaotic energy
- Cool views
- Intriguing industry / vista
- Opportunity for a good hang out /browsing locations
- Lots of daylight
- Unique angles
- View of round towers on GP site

### **LOW COST IDEAS**

#### **Site specific**

- Improve façade of Bay St. Village
- Make Bay Street Village an Art Mall
- Stage at Champion End (mostly in the Summer)
- Evening/closure of Bay street
- Open parking lot by mural for weekend/evening market

#### **General for the area**

- Pedestrian improvements – fast traffic on corner, poor visibility/signage
- Paint parking meters different colors
- Streetlights – improved pedestrian lighting
- Bike racks
- Public seating
- Bike racks
- Color code downtown zones – Cultural, Old Town, Waterfront
- Window Awnings
- Building names visible

## **LONG TERM IDEAS**

### **Site specific**

- Hard right @ Bay Street
- Permeable pavement / curbs on Bay Street
- Look out at the end of Bay Street
- Perm closure of Bay Street
- Open up ground floor of VECO building to retail
- Eliminate island (?)

### **General for the area**

- Supplemental police presence/ volunteer policing of area
- Information center on corner
- All ages venue – Whatcom All Ages Music - WhAAM
- “Gate” or border treatment marking cultural district and other downtown attractions
- Public art
- Skate park
- City provide easier permitting
- Pedestrian island and fence for safety
- Longer “walk” sign
- Bay Street sidewalk improvements
- Architectural entry to the area
- Cobble stones

## **COMMENTS FROM THE STREET**

- More evens/promotions throughout the year
- Unique buildings
- Free Parking
- Make Scooters separate
- More outdoor seating
- Bike racks
- Trash cans
- All ages Venue
- More downtown bus stops

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

- Visitor Center
- VECO
- Bay St. Village property owners
- Mt. Baker Bicycle Club, Kulshan Cycle
- City of Bellingham
- WhAAM
- AMRE
- Artists in the area

- Allied Arts
- Whatcom Film Association
- Bob Hall
- Bay Street Coffee
- Trish Harding

# COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

Rick Ghirardini  
June Hathaway  
Ellen Clark  
Shannon Maris  
Donna Auer  
David Auer  
Alexandra Taber  
Rick Flug  
Dean Kahn  
Debbie McCunn  
Bitsy Bidwell  
Jim Zervas  
Mike Zervas  
Mr. R. Nicholas  
Mike Johnston  
Caroline Flickinger  
Emily Weiner  
Michael Elmer  
Vicky Marshall  
Brian Griffin  
Faye Hill  
Fred Schacht  
Dan Burwell  
Jim Boyle  
Dolores Michaels  
Robin Halliday  
Victor Sanders  
Larry Nicholas  
Dorothy Ross  
Jonathan Winter  
Frank Ordway  
Fiona Starr  
Barb Kotsogean  
Chelsea Farmer  
Bob Prichett  
Dan Pritchett  
Rhett Winter  
Joan Beardsley  
Martha Hehner  
Erin Campbell  
Andrew Subin  
Ali Taysi  
Loretta Lindquist

# 2 DAY WORKSHOPS

## June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### AREA A

#### BEST FEATURES

- Historic “iconic” buildings, mural
- Decorative lighting – sets a nice tone for the area
- Honey locust “lace” trees: nice airy feel
- View from bluff
- Connection to waterfront and to the city as a whole

#### LOW COST IDEAS

- More business diversity: professional buildings, small restaurants, etc.
- More sidewalk activity during the daytime and evening time – additional dining opportunities
- Bicycle cabs (rickshaws)
- Small fountain for passive recreation
- Better museum interface with the street. Bring museum out to the people (activities, museum shop)
- Bind historic elements together: façade improvements, accentuate historic aspects of buildings
- Provide the district with a common feeling
- Eliminate off-street parking. Parking makes the street feel even wider; it makes the buildings feel like islands in a sea of asphalt.
- Flower boxes – adopt-a-flower-box
- Provide community garden
- Provide more places to sit. Benches are hard to find, they are not well maintained, they have no theme.
- Need signage to the park – park isn’t inviting
- Paint murals on the rears of the buildings, to improve the experience of going to the park.
- Improve the viewing area to the park / increase eyes on the park
- Provide a covered space for people to sit outside while it rains
- Improve viewing corridors between the buildings

#### LONG TERM IDEAS

- Deck / viewing behind museum
- Reconfigure Worksource Plaza
- Build upstairs residential on plaza
- Put in a grand plaza with a water feature in front of the museum. “Give people the opportunity to hang out.”
- Provide covered seating behind the museum
- Better ADA access to the museum
- Mixed residential infill
- Community garden space

## **COMMENTS FROM THE STREET**

- Slow down traffic
- Use more interesting landscaping
- More attractive buildings and uses
- More places to sit, more art / sculpture
- “Eat drink and be merry”
- Provide the amenities that will attract more children – playable climbable sculpture for examples

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

- Partner with other land owners for:
  - after-hour festivities (concerts, etc.) and
  - better use of parking and courtyards:
  - organize Alley Party in Buckland & Schaumn parking lot
  - provide outdoor dining outside Wild Garlic,
  - build three-story apartments between buildings (with chocolate shop below)
- Move out Accurate Lot, it’s ugly
- Sustainable Connections
- Downtown Renaissance Network
- Public Facilities District
- Whatcom Community Foundation
- Mount Baker Theatre Board
- Museum board

# AREA B

## BEST FEATURES

- View corridors to the museum, Mount Baker, and the bay
- Feels safe
- Ground floor windows, some interesting architecture
- Crosswalks with bulb-outs
- Nice street trees
- Tae kwon do
- But nothing to do

## LOW COST IDEAS

- Encourage private development, especially at Whatcom Community Foundation
- Landscape plaza
- Invite street vendors
- Remove front parking on Flora
- Organize annual community street festival
- Add trash cans, benches, bus shelter, signage for pedestrians and cyclists
- Improve lighting

## LONG TERM IDEAS

- The Children's Museum redevelopment is a great opportunity. The exterior of the building must be kid-friendly, it should be well connected to the street and to the whole area.
- Provide benches, street art, courtyard, trash cans, lighting improvements
- Encourage development of more retail, more residential units, kid-friendly businesses
- Build up! This space is currently underutilized.
- Pipe in music
- Convert angled parking to parallel to increase sidewalk width and activity.
- Address the fact that off-street parking is dangerous for pedestrians walking on the sidewalk

## COMMENTS FROM THE STREETS

- Safe, no sketchy people
- Ugly corner
- Not very exciting, no reason to come here
- OK to bike through
- Coordinate colors and add street trees

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Private property owners
- Bookstores
- WTA
- City of Bellingham
- Public Works

*Partnerships Continued....*

- Museum
- Western Washington University (to work with kids museum and provide support programs?)
- County
- Any residents in the area
- Transit authority (the bus stop here is just a pole in the ground, and bus service is too infrequent)
- Cultural organizations in the area: Mindport, Pickford, etc.

# AREA C

## BEST FEATURES

- Iconic block – Bellingham Tower, Theater, views of Mount Baker
- Scale / continuity
- Proximity to cultural activities
- Restaurants – Pacific Café, Torre Café
- First floor commercial uses
- Good mixed uses and potential for more
- The area is active when there's something going on at the theater but empty otherwise
- Liked SW corner of Champion and Commercial (great tree and bulb-out)
- Good proximity to transit

## LOW COST IDEAS

- Vendors
- Benches, bike racks. This is such a beautiful intersection but there is no bench.
- Improve window fronts, make them more interesting. Mount Baker theater could add playbills
- Street fair
- Move dumpsters out of view
- Create an identity for the area, use banners
- Create pockets of green / buffers
- Downtown plantings, pots
- Work with the church at the Commercial and Flora

## LONG TERM IDEAS

- Streetscaping: add street trees, brick pavers
- Mixed-use as a way to add life to iconic buildings
- Widen sidewalks and use the extra space to extend businesses into the street
- Redevelop parking: building (?); turn the parking lot near Crown Plaza into a commons and green area (there is a lack of green in the area now)
- Bump-outs at all intersections
- Cafés
- Wayfinding (Whatcom, Mount Baker, waterfront)
- Make Champion two way
- Curb “wind tunnel”
- Create a vertical element at Champion and Commercial to serve as a gateway and create a sense of scale – maybe take advantage of the fact that this is a wind tunnel and make the thing move in the wind

## COMMENTS FROM THE STREET

- Need more parking
- Need less parking
- Need more wayfinding signs

*Comments From the Streets Continued....*

- More retail, open up storefronts (storefronts in the Tower?)
- More day-long activity

**PARTNERSHIPS**

- Downtown Renaissance Network
- Vendors
- Allied Arts
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Property owners
- Church
- Arts Commission
- Theater
- Crown Plaza

# AREA D

## BEST FEATURES

- We liked the openness of the area, although it may have been even a little too open
- Street lamps
- Some seating
- Artwork
- Mixed-use buildings, retail

## LOW COST IDEAS

- Enhanced crosswalks and bump-outs
- Cut back some of the trees so the space isn't so dark
- Street vendors
- Flowers
- Mural on Dreamspace wall
- Moveable chairs
- Take back some off-street parking, it makes the area feel sterile

## LONG TERM IDEAS

- Convert the parking lot into something.
- Make sure activity from buildings (Dreamspace?) spills out onto the sidewalk
- Make Magnolia, Holly and/or Bay two-way
- Remove turn lane from Champion to Magnolia and widen sidewalk – create plaza feeling. Improve crosswalk.
- Encourage first floor retail in VECO building and maybe a couple of other buildings
- Street theater
- Close off Bay a couple of days a week
- Market – crafts market, grocery store, antique market, etc., on parking lot

## COMMENTS FROM THE STREET

- Trees are better than concrete – there is too much hard surface here
- Do something different with the parking lot
- Bank is very sterile place
- Concern about pedestrians crossing parking lot

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Downtown Renaissance Network
- Small businesses – street vendors
- Talk to the banks about improving their façades
- Involve local artists for art shows, etc. – “Weekend fun in parking lot”
- Public Facilities District
- VECO building
- Pickford theater
- Radio Museum
- Art museum

# AREA E

## BEST FEATURES

- Good views
- Diverse and funky shops that attract lots of people, including 20-somethings
- Mural and museum
- This is where many parts of downtown Bellingham converge. It's a transitional space with different identities.
- Some walking and biking
- Great potential
- Flowers and light standards
- Feels alternative without being "scary"
- Already lots of space with the potential for more
- Waterfront area connection

## LOW COST IDEAS

- Signage: for pedestrians, bicyclists, businesses and buses
- Create incentive to walk toward the bay, maybe with a walkway
- Soften the image of some of the buildings by painting them (particularly the VECO building). Make the first floor softer and more appealing. Without gentrifying.
- Enhance the mural by creating a public gathering space instead of the parking lot (maybe start with experiments a day a week, or for a season)
- Get bands to play in this gathering area – work with Wild Buffalo to make this happen. Use a portable band stage. Piggy-back on Alley Concerts. Extend them, take advantage of that "audience."
- Provide places to sit – the only seating area right now is by Bay coffee shop.
- Let businesses flow out onto the sidewalk
- Provide hanging flower pots, lighting, etc.,
- Work with VECO and other businesses to address parking needs city-wide
- Make transit more visible
- Add public art
- Extend the "trees look" from Wild Buffalo area down Holly toward Old Town
- Provide banners or other identifiers for districts, such as the Arts District ("Footprints," other coding (?))

## LONG TERM IDEAS

- Encourage housing on upper floors and visually connect existing housing to the street/shop level
- Remove the parking near the mural; Keep trees but not too many
- Tame traffic by:
  - closing the right-turn lane at Bay and Prospect and reclaiming it as public space
  - making Holly two-ways
  - closing off Holly one night a week
  - building bump-outs with seating and eating, places for gathering
- Roundabout at intersection with landscaping, etc.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE STREET**

- Huge sense of pride about the mural
- Don't gentrify
- I like it the way it is, except crossing the street takes too long
- Parking increases drove customers into free lots
- Wants more commercial floor space
- Need housing above
- Soften the look of the VECO building
- Likes Old Town feel, lamp posts, views of museum
- Relatively quiet, pleasant, close to their food (?)

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

- WPA
- Public Facilities District
- City of Bellingham
- Wild Buffalo and entertainment folks
- Taste of Bay Street and local eateries
- Arts organizations and local galleries
- Downtown Renaissance Network
- Western Washington University
- Housing groups in Kulshan
- Property owners
- Big developers, Trillium
- Various non-profits with museum-like displays, i.e. Mindport, Radio Museum, Pickford, etc.

# 2 DAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

Dick McKinley  
Rory Routhe  
Ravyn Whitewolf  
Brent Baldwin  
Chris Comeau  
Kim Brown  
Mayor Mark  
Malcom Fleming  
Janice Keller  
Dick Little  
Kathryn Hanowell  
John Watts  
Barbara Ryan  
Michael McCauley  
Julie Guy  
Allen Matsumoto  
Ralph Thacker  
Richard Maneval  
Tim Stewart  
Travis Cary  
Katie Franks  
Nicole Oliver  
Greg Aucutt  
Marilyn Vogel  
Chris Koch  
Brian Smart  
Jackie Lynch  
Kurt Nabbefeld  
Steve Sundin  
Darby Galligan  
Paul Leuthold  
Leslie Bryson  
Gina Gobo  
Jonathan Schilk  
Tim Wahl  
Dick Henrie  
Eric Hirst  
Kenni Merritt  
Pam Kiesner  
Lizz Roberts  
Faye Hill  
Tom Livesay  
Scott Wallin  
Toni Nagel  
Alex Wiley

Patricia Decker  
David Warren  
Bob Goodwin  
Jim Bishop  
Tom Barret  
Sandy Pratt  
Kirsten Shelton  
Frank Ordway  
Leslie Langdon  
Phylis Mckee  
Jim Darling  
Maureen McCarthy  
Sylvia Goodwin  
John Hergeshiemer  
Carolyn Casey  
Barbara Brenner  
Bob Frazier  
Cathy Cameron  
Sherry Burkey  
Joan Casey  
Clayton Petree  
Kathryn Brown  
Alison Roberts  
Chris Bowling  
Kenichi Nakano  
Ellen Sollod  
Ida Ottensen  
Shannon Victoria  
Tara Sundin