

KEY RESULTS or THEMES RAISED FROM SURVEY and FEEDBACK

GENERAL

- This type of facility is critical to keeping people in the neighborhood, especially families. There is no CPD presence in the South Loop
- This needs to be a unique ‘top-notch’ Facility. Design, Construction Quality, Vendors, and Programming should be quality and in character with area.
- Seek out Master Plan for other Neighborhood Parks with PDNA & City to address other issues and desires raised outside of survey.
- Demographics – Strong Mix of Family and No Family represented

FACILITY

- Top Options Desired - Fitness Rooms, Meeting Space, Indoor Playground
- Multi-use Facility with Flexible Rooms for fitness, meetings, education, crafts
- Diverse Building Function - Emphasis on Education/Art vs. Fitness/Athletic
- Green Roof and Sustainable and renewable energy design, but not at the expense of Building facilities and programming.
- Open Windows to Park, Roof Top deck, Roof Garden
- Incidental child care, NO dedicated commercial operation
- Elaborate on Plans for Veteran’s Art Museum

PATIO

- Improve Space (small fountain, repair pavers, etc) but keep function as is for Café & Community use, music, etc.
- Don’t lose the energy and commitment that Café Society provides.

PARK

- Women’s Park – Keep as is to current theme as reflective passive park

PROGRAMMING

- Diverse Use of Building with a bit more emphasis on Education & Art vs. Fitness and Athletic.
- Diverse Programming for Adults, Youth, Teens, Seniors.
- Well organized and supervised youth programming – No Hangouts. Security!
- Pay attention to the demographics of the area – consider in program plans.
- Seek out partnership with residents and other qualified organizations to bring unique activity and educational opportunities to the space.
- Let’s be clear up front on Park District’s intention for managing Space.

COMMERCIAL SPACE DESIRED

- Keep Café Society –
- Unique Boutique businesses should be sought (**Gourmet Food, Bakery, boutique restaurant, book store, ice-cream shop, art gallery**). Be creative
- No Bars, Chains, Cleaners, Banks, Spas, Night-clubs, 7-11, Passive offices
- Incidental child care for facility programs, NO dedicated commercial operation Day Care business

I. Community Survey Back Ground

The attached survey contains responses, both text and multiple choices, from a survey issued by the Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance in regard to the potential Park District Facility at 1801 S. Indiana. The survey was issued electronically to over 1,500 direct emails, including 30+ impacted Condo Associations, and other community organizations with recommendations to pass on to their members. This included members of the NSPB, GSLA, South Loop Athletic Association, South Loop Neighbors, and other groups.

As an Advisory Council is not yet in place, the Survey was designed to ensure sufficient community input into the preliminary design scoping and objectives are prepared, while also providing input to early programming opportunities.

Survey questions were based on combination of input from previous Phase I PDNA survey, input from Chicago Park District Project Manager, and review of programming at other City and Suburban Park District Facilities and their respective programming design.

II. Demographics

Survey Demographics are noted in attachment 1. The survey was initiated by **515** respondents, and completed by 426 people (completion rate of 83%). In total, approximately **1,362 household residents** were represented by the respondents.

- Approximately 70% of the respondents live in the 60616 Area Code nearby.
- Female respondents were tallied at 60%, vs. 40% men.
- Families with children made up roughly 48% of represented respondents, and 52% currently without children were represented through respondent completion.

Based on the survey comments and demographics, a balance of activities and use of the space for adults, children, and seniors is desired by most, which can be served by flexible space arrangements in the building design..

As is the trend in South Loop, this survey points out the need to more urgently address assets and programs for Early Childhood development, **as 66% are kids from the age of 0 – 5**, and lacking community anchors like schools, parks, and community centers are severely impacting the ability to retain families in the South Loop.

III. BUILDING DESIGN SURVEY RESULTS

Question #8 Interior Facilities Desired –

- A) Strongest desired were fitness center and an indoor play ground with rubberized surface. Additionally, residents indicated desire for community meeting space, and dance studios/workout rooms.

- B) Interior Facilities Not Desired** – Specifically in the voting, and open comments, was a strong desire to not incorporate game rooms, locker rooms, space for banquets, or computer work spaces. The resident feedback is not to include spaces or facilities that encourage loitering or hanging out.
- C) Other Responses** – While the write-in comments included ideas for a pool, it is generally thought that space for such a facility is limited at this location, but should be in discussion for proposed South Loop Gymnasium near Ping Tom Park & through water play parks in other parts of Prairie District Open Space Plans.

Per Question #22 in regard to the Patio Space, **95%** of respondents desire to keep the patio in the same function as a space for Outdoor Café use, and community events, with some upgrades or repair.

Question #9 - Exterior Facilities Desired –

- A)** Strongest desired outdoor facilities include 3rd Floor Green Roof/Roof Deck, and Open Space. While ornamental fountain was not the most desired, several respondents indicated if it is incorporated with existing patio theme, this would be more desirable. Responses to this question and question #22 indicated desire to keep patio in same function with minor upgrades.
- B) Other Responses** – Two responses that should be addressed in a Prairie District/Neighborhood-wide Open Space plan is children play lots and dog parks.

Question #10 – Desire For After School Programming–

- A)** Desire for After School Programming was mixed with 54% *Interested or Strongly Interested*. As the activity space and programming is further designed, some programming may fill this need and can be further explored or revisited. As indicated in other parts of the survey, any after school programming needs proper supervision and focus to minimize loitering issues.

Question #11 – Adult Dancing Programming Desired -

- A)** Adult Dancing, while desired by some, was not the primary desired focus by 50 % of the respondents. Of the respondents that desired this programming, Ballroom and Salsa type lesson space was the most popular. A flexible space arrangement for class and activity space could fill most of these needs.

Question #12 Children / Youth / Teen Dancing Programming Desired –

- A)** 62 % of responses showed some desire for youth ballet programming. Additional comments indicated desire for Jazz & Tap programs.

Question #13 Early Childhood Programming

- A) Almost all the Early Childhood programming options were desired, with a general focus in crafts, playtime, kids tumbling, etc. Additionally, more summer programming was highly desired.
- B) Additional Comments of Note: While in general a balanced use is desired, even many of the respondents without family recognized the need for facilities and programming to be inclusive children needs in order to build and maintain a desirable neighborhood.

Question #14 Youth / Teen Programming

- A) Several Programming options around art, education, and fitness had some desirability. There is currently little opportunity in the neighborhood for Teen activities. Programming flexibility will be needed as resident age demographics take hold or grow.
- B) Additional Comments of Note: As noted in several question responses, focus of structured activity is important for safety and security, and minimization of loitering issues.

Question #15 Family Learning

- A) Almost all the listed activities showed some desirability for occasional annual programming opportunities for educational & family learning.

Question #16 Adult Fitness

- A) Responses to most of the Adult fitness programming were very strong including yoga, fitness/aerobics, weightlifting, etc. Space dedication will drive ability to add programming or other options.
- B) Flexible Room Design should be a priority.

Question #17 Special Events

- A) All of the Special event options for both the 1801 South Indiana Building, and existing movie in the park program were well received. Space for community event and meetings should be considered and included. Programming improvement notes will be shared with Cultural Affairs.
- B) Further discussion of rental of room for birthday party type events should be discussed, but residents in general indicate desire to allow use of facility for community events, but limit use of property for large commercial events, etc.

Question #18 Adult Visual & Crafts

- A) Most of the visual arts and programming showed excellent response with the most popular being cooking, photography, gardening, painting and music programming. Additionally, question #28 supports a facility dedicated more to Arts & Education than solely an Athletic or Fitness Facility.

Question #19 Senior Activities

- A) Senior Fitness and general wellness activities, while not the most popular in qty of respondents selecting, were most popular in the category.
- B) It is generally accepted that Seniors are the most likely to NOT have access to such surveys, however flexible space and programming opportunities for active Seniors should be taken into consideration for a well rounded facility.

Question #20 Building Green & LEED Design

- A) In general support of LEED and Green design is desired, but not at the expense of programming, building finishes, or money for other building space. Noted comments included a desire for Green Roof and renewable energy sources. (as also noted in questions #8 & #9)

Question #21 ACTIVITIES NOT DESIRED

- A) Clear responses about ensuring programming and facility changes reflect the character of the neighborhood is strong. Residents do not want to see banquet halls, bars, large commercial space rental, etc.
- B) **Café Society and Patio** – in this and other responses the support was clear for Café Society and keeping the Patio for multifunction use with the Café, community use, with some improvements.
- C) **Structured Activities** – Through responses here and to other questions, the desire for diverse programming (adults, kids, teens) is clear, while minimizing activities or facilities that allow “loitering or hanging out”.

Question #22 Building Courtyard and Building Design

- A) Overwhelmingly **95% of respondents supporting keeping** use of the courtyard (with minor improvements), in use as a Café Space and multi-function for community use/events.
- B) Café Society – There was clear support for Café Society and this type of business for the space with the outdoor space, music, and general positive energy being critical to the neighborhood.

Question #23 Use and Operation of Woman’s Park

- A) Overwhelmingly **92% of respondents supported keeping the Park** to it’s original mission as a reflective, historical, passive park for all residents and families. Special events like Music in the Park and Annual Block Party were positively received.
- B) There were some comments raised to maintaining the park as Dog Free and kid-apparatus free. We suggest addressing these issues in joint PDNA / Alderman District wide plan for children and dog area facilities in the area.

Question #29 OTHER COMMENTS OR INPUT (OPEN Question)

The question was posed to additional open comments and ideas not provided in the questions. From the responses, some key indicators reiterated:

- 1) Facility addresses and in character with unique character of community. They want and deserve a top notch facility and programming. This is what our TIF funds are for.
- 2) Residents want to be involved, liked the survey, and want to communicate on these key issues.
- 3) Commercial – Seek out unique businesses like Café Society
- 4) Café Society – Community is solidly behind this type of business
- 5) Veteran’s Museum – residents anxious to learn more about their plans.

Parking – while most in the neighborhood have walkable access and CTA access to the facility, consideration to working a proposal to making the underutilized DCFS parking garage at 2019 S. Indiana should be explored for numerous obvious benefits to the neighborhood.