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# *Central Library Development*



## *Visioning Session* *Meeting Notes*

*Regina City Hall Forum*  
*June 17, 2008*



# Central Library Development Visioning Session Meeting Notes

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# 1. Introduction

On June 17, 2009, the Regina Public Library, along with Harvard Developments Inc. and P3A hosted a Visioning Session to solicit thoughts and ideas from interested stakeholders for the future of the Central Library. The Visioning Session was conducted in the Forum Room at Regina City Hall between 12:30 PM and 5:00 PM.

The stakeholders taking part in the session represented a wide range of organizations and individuals from the government, business, non-profit sectors and included area residents, Library staff and other interested individuals. A complete list of participants is included in Appendix A.

The session included slide presentations that highlighted diverse examples and images of libraries, mixed-use developments and successful public spaces. The intent of the presentations was to demonstrate a variety of design and development possibilities and to challenge participants' thinking about library development. Presentations were provided by the City of Regina (proposed Downtown Plan), RPG (library examples), Nick Milkovich Architecture (public space examples), and P3A (mixed-use and public building examples). Following the presentations, stakeholders participated in facilitated small group discussions at tables with 6-10 people. The stakeholders were randomly assigned to table groups to ensure a diversity of organization affiliations in each discussion.

The findings of the small group discussions are identified in this report. The first discussion quickly identified key words the stakeholders' associated with libraries. The second discussion – Break Out Session #1 – asked participants to consider questions relating to the importance of the Central Library and components that should be considered in a central library development. Break Out Session #2 was a mapping exercise that explored the relationship between the Central Library and the surrounding area.

This report records all participant statements and uses the exact wording presented at the Visioning Session.



## 2. “What the Library Means to Me” – Key Word Exercise

As an introductory exercise, stakeholder participants were asked to express, in three single words, what the Central Library means to them. The results are as follows:

- Home
- Inviting (3)
- Thought provoking
- Culture (2)
- Imagination
- Connected (2)
- Beautiful (2)
- Vital
- Dramatic
- Peaceful
- Multi-generational
- Internet
- Archive
- Knowledge (2)
- Accessible (4)
- Awesome
- Cultural hub
- Community (2)
- Sanctuary
- Vibrant
- Stimulating
- Culturally sustainable
- Effective
- Gathering
- Safe
- Iconic (2)
- Solid
- (place for) Adventures
- Clean
- Reflective
- Learning (2)
- Diversity (of experiences)
- Sustainable (2)
- Green (2)
- Inspiring (2)
- Dynamic
- Welcoming (2)
- Busy
- Grand impact
- Heritage
- Functional (2)
- Accessible
- Comfortable
- Non-institutional
- Multi-functional
- Family-friendly
- Representative (staff, materials)
- Seamless
- Teaching
- Integrated
- Energetic
- Educational (2)
- Energy efficient
- All-season

Note: The number indicates the times the word was identified.



**“What the Library Means to Me” – Key Word Exercise** **Continued**

- Fantastic
- Engaging
- Information
- Active
- Creative
- Entertainment
- Residential
- Happening
- Contemplative
- Destination
- Community hub
- Architecturally stunning
- Entertaining
- Safety
- Heart
- Public
- Enjoyment
- Visionary
- Collection
- Aboriginal themes
- Reflection
- Attractive
- Meditative
- Visible
- Cosy
- Open
- Colourful
- Clear
- Community centre
- Inclusiveness
- Centre
- Respectful
- Youth-oriented
- Commercial
- Interaction
- Integral
- Spiritual
- Child-friendly
- Friendly
- Adaptable
- Historical
- comprehensive



### 3. Break-Out Session #1: Importance and Potential Components

The first stakeholder break-out session posed the following two questions to participants:

1. Why is a new Central Library important?

*Some participants chose to answer this question more generically, that is “Why is a central library important to a community”, whereas other participants chose to answer the question “Why is it important to replace the current Central Library with a new Central Library”. All responses are included in this section.*

2. What would you like to see included in a new Library development?

*A broad range of uses in addition to a library were identified. Participants also identified specific uses within a library facility.*

#### **Question 1: Why is a new Central Library important?**

##### **Theme 1: Current Library deficiencies**

- Space concerns – it is too small from staff perspective
- There is not an opportunity now for other activities – science, reading
- It will allow the Library to do its job better – and more efficiently - well used and loved already
- Needs must be rationally accessed
- Functions have changed over time
- More space needed
- Print / electronic balance
- Added workload of electronic
- Meeting spaces are needed
- Comfortable reading spaces
- Writers /readers space
- The centre of library services
- Need more space, flexibility, functionality
- Energy efficient and sustainable
- Provides critical mass of needs and services in one place
- Can house important materials
- Style of architecture is corporate, dated, lacking in personable spaces, public spaces overlooking park and street
- Reading is solitary, libraries are interactive places
- Could be more efficient in handling library materials



## **Question 1: Why is a new Central Library important?**

### **Theme 2: Downtown Revitalization**

- It could encourage people to walk downtown – by being inviting and opening into the streets and downtown
- It is an amenity which will attract people to the city – and to downtown
- It is a place to relax, slow down, for downtown people
- Heart rejuvenates community
- Central to downtown revitalization
- Place to go on cold winter days
- Environmental/comfort
- Support a variety of activities
- Central location/historical
- Synergies with surroundings
- Activate edge and city heart
- The heart of the city
- Connects major elements of city heart
- Meeting place for community
- Shelter/refuge
- Resource to downtown
- Civic nature of city in the downtown
- Dramatic statement in the downtown
- Economic driver
- Architectural catalyst
- Balances with other downtown uses

### **Theme 3: Cultural Considerations**

- It represents an investment in culture
- Cultural sustainability
- “Renewal” vs. “new”
- Cross disciplinary cultural centre
- Crosses cultures ages , ethnicity, information systems
- Source of education
- To counteract other cultural values, i.e. sports, entertainment
- Cultural sources are distorted
- Public forum
- Supports democracy
- Most democratic public space
- Provide other public uses (e.g. gallery)



## ***Question 1: Why is a new Central Library important?***

### **Theme 4: Other**

- Library does not reach many people, intimidates by attitudes, i.e. first nations, economic classes
- Funding opportunity
- Needs to reflect changes in society
- Balance of best aspects of current library with new elements





## **Question 2: What should be included in a new Central Library development?**

### **Theme 1: Library Services**

- More access to online databases – user friendly
- Provincial archives
- City archives
- Computer graphics and music – digital creation tools
- Media centre
- Tech. rooms (multi-media suites)
- Study space with computer plug-ins

### **Theme 2: Age targeted areas**

- Children's play space, teens
- Children area more connected to public space
- Daycare
- Game tables for people to interact
- Smart youth hangout
- Recreational places - chess
- Elder centre

### **Theme 3: Cultural Space**

- Art gallery – with improved visibility and more space – with ability to showcase local work – graffiti wall
- Film theatre with ground level exposure – larger, perhaps autonomous
- Theatre
- Plains Museum
- Art
- Prairie History Room
- Art and cultural centre
- Artist in residence
- Performance/cultural space (theatre, gallery)

### **Theme 4: Community Amenity**

- Community kitchen – where people can come in and make meals
- Public washrooms – for the park
- Bookable space (receptions etc.)
- Exterior power outlets – for events, dances, etc.



**Question 2: What should be included in a new Central Library development?**

**Theme 5: Residential Uses**

- Residential
- Market housing
- Affordable housing
- Mixed-income housing
- Artist studios

**Theme 6: Institutional Uses**

- Partners with educational affinity

**Theme 7: Commercial Uses**

- Coffee shop
- Food/drink
- Café
- Restaurant
- Commercial
- Permanent farmers market space
- Shops
- Grocery store
- Rental spaces for new business

**Theme 8: Office Uses**

- Office
- Government administrative space
- First Nation business centre



## **Question 2: What should be included in a new Central Library development?**

### **Theme 9: Architectural Considerations**

- More open space
- Architecturally pleasing stand out space
- Good outdoor spaces – reading/play/cafe
- Light
- Comfy seats – not hard surfaces
- Winter garden
- Green indoor space with water, trees
- Sustainable design – rooftop garden
- Indoor/outdoor all season space
- Contemplative space
- Socializing space
- Intellectual loitering
- Energy efficient
- Sustainable
- flexible/adaptable
- meeting spaces (at a variety of scales – open when library closed, public, in-front, large private rooms, intimate private rooms, auditorium)
- “barn door” spill-out space
- Room for expansion
- More w/c

### **Theme 10: Transportation**

- Parking (less visible) or extra bike racks
- Access to public transit
- Transit hub

### **Theme 11: Other**

- Centre for dialogue
- Tourist info
- Honour the past
- Multi-cultural (showcase diversity)
- Rock
- Mixed-use
- Go to place
- Not intimidating
- More interaction with Masonic Temple



#### **4. Break-Out Session #2: Design Mapping**

The second breakout session involved drawing and commenting on aerial maps of the proposed extended site area. To generate discussion at the tables, the following questions were posed:

*How should a new Library relate to the surrounding area and downtown?*

*What would make a new Library a showpiece for Regina and western Canada?*

Each of the six facilitated groups then discussed, drew, and commented on these questions at their tables. Each group selected two members to present their ideas to all of the participants.

The “maps” were then transferred into electronic form for inclusion into this report. The comments and images represent some significant similarities in vision between the groups. Most notable was the desire for the library to reach out beyond its existing site and actively engage the surrounding lots, buildings, institutions and Victoria Park. There was also great consistency in that all of the groups identified opportunities for the library to become “more” than it currently is. This is reflected through a desire for stronger connections with the elements identified above.

Generally, the themes and suggestions included the following:

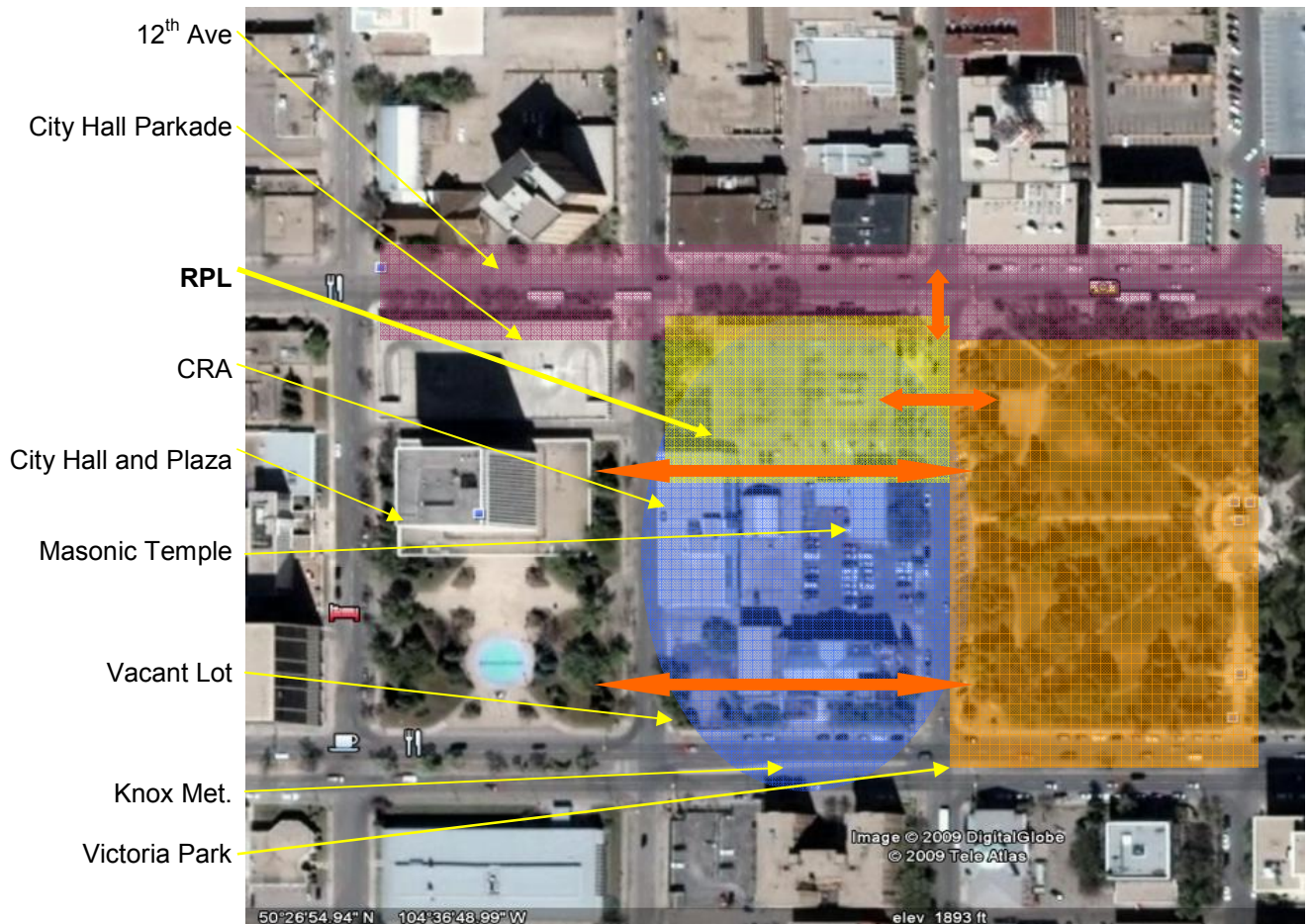
- Explore the opportunity to remove/ recreate the existing CRA building and the utility building located to the south of the current library.
- Enhance the library’s presence to Victoria Park.
- Create a pedestrian connection to City Hall Plaza
- Address the new issue of the proposed bus interchange on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Enhance Lorne St. as a public plaza
- Provide mixed use development, including but not limited to, performing arts, meeting, housing, and retail.
- Explore opportunities to create a new civic icon for the City of Regina that enhances downtown. The groups presented this concept as either as a reuse of the existing library building, or as a completely new construction on the site.
- Incorporate the Masonic Temple into the development.
- Explore partnerships with other institutions including (but not limited to): the U of R Fine Arts Department, City of Regina, Sask Sport, YWCA, Provincial Archives, Regina Little Theatre, Regina Performing Arts Centre.

The electronic drawing and commentary on each of the plans developed is provided on the following pages. The groups appear in no specific order. Full size (11”x17”) follow each of the group descriptions.



All of the groups were provided with a color satellite image for reference which included some basic reference notes and some suggestion as to what the “site” discussion could include. This diagram is included below for reference. Additional aerial images were provided to provide some 3 dimensional scale to the site and buildings.

*Birds Eye View*





## Group One

- Parking expansion to the City Hall Parkade to the west.
- Include SaskSport and adjacent tenancies into the new library development.
- Provide a pedestrian connection between City Hall, City Hall Parkade and the RPL Site.
- Tie into (programmatically or physically) to Knox Met. Church.
- Use Lorne St. as an urban plaza.
- Explore the potential to use the CRA Building and the Masonic Temple.
- Create a connection and presence on Victoria Avenue.
- Create a vista to the Park and define the western side of Victoria Park.

*(Refer to the following page for a 11"x17" map)*





INCLUDE  
SASKSPORT?

MORE  
PARKING?

PEDESTRIAN  
CONNECTION

REMOVE  
PARKING?

PED.  
CONNECT.

? RELOCATE?  
(KEEP USES)

VISTA

Gym  
Meeting  
Rm

Sanctuary  
Auditorium

Group 1



Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

50°26'53.14"N 104°36'49.50"W elev 576m

Eye alt 975 m



## Group Two

- Parking expansion to the City Hall Parkade to the west and identification of the proposed transit centre in the Parkade.
- Highlight the relationships (positive and negative) to the bus interchange on the north side of the site.
- Create public connections through the “greater” site on the north and south sides of City Hall.
- Expand the library to the south lane and relocate the Masonic Temple to the north east corner of the site.
- Restrict Lorne St. and potentially use it to create a winter garden.
- Consider access to Library partner spaces that should be accessed during library “off-hours” such as the art gallery and theatre.
- Expand theatre into a performing arts space.

(Refer to the following page for a 11”x17” map)







**OPEN LIBRARY COMPONENTS DURING "OFF-HRS"**

- THEATRE
- GALLERY

**A KNOX MET ARE A "PERFORMANCE SPACE" MULTI-PURPOSE, PART OF DEV'T**

Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

**Group 2**





### Group Three

- Focus the library to the middle of the block to balance the block.
- Tie Victoria Park to the Library development
- Relocate the Masonic temple to improve public engagement (permeability) of the street facades.
- Absorb and or remove CRA Building to attempt to create an engagement with City Hall and Smith St.
- Concern with the air quality issues associated with the Bus Transit Hub.

(Refer to the following page for a 11"x17" map)





**RETAIL**

- Library in middle of block
- Balance block
- Pathways from park lead through
- Victoria Park side most vital
- Relocate masonic temple
- Lacks public engagement.
- Beautiful building/heritage but introverted

**TRANSIT**

- New building has potential to create vibrant spaces where there is currently unsafe, unused space
- Mixed use entrances at library park location
- Create engagement on Smith Street (currently none)
- Issue with transit hub location and affect on air quality

**OUTDOOR SPACE**

**NODE**

**PLAZA**

**Group 3**



Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

50°26'53.14"N 104°36'49.50"W elev 576m

Eye alt 975 m



## Group Four

- Parking expansion to the City Hall Parkade to the west.
- Convert buildings to the north into residential buildings and provide additional residential development on the north-west corner of the site.
- Create a pedestrian mall through the building and focus the main entry of the Library to the park.
- Link Victoria Park to Victoria Ave. with a new urban plaza space.

*(Refer to the following page for a 11"x17" map)*





RESIDENTIAL  
CONVERSION

RES.  
TOWER

ADDED  
PARKING

MALL

MAIN  
ENTRY

NEW  
PLAZA

Group 4



Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

50°26'53.14"N 104°36'49.50"W elev 576m

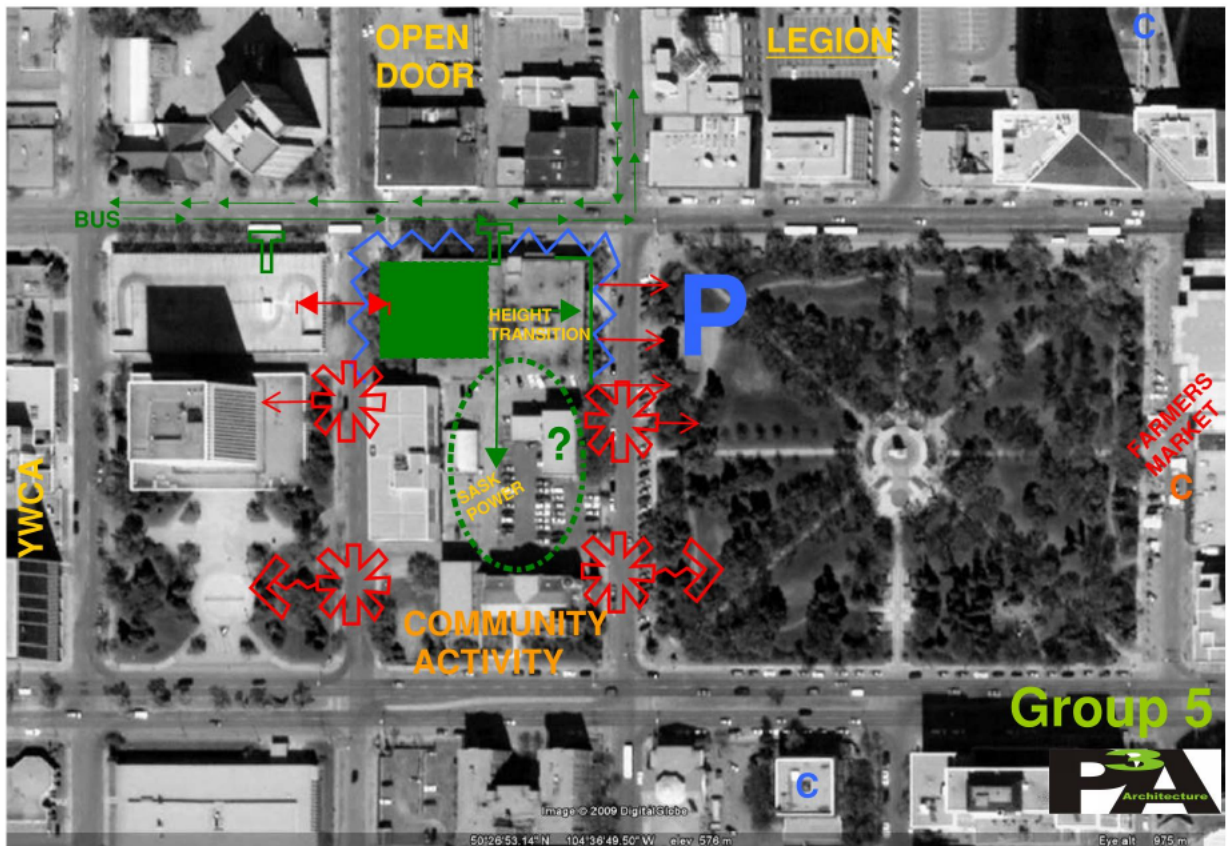
Eye alt 975 m



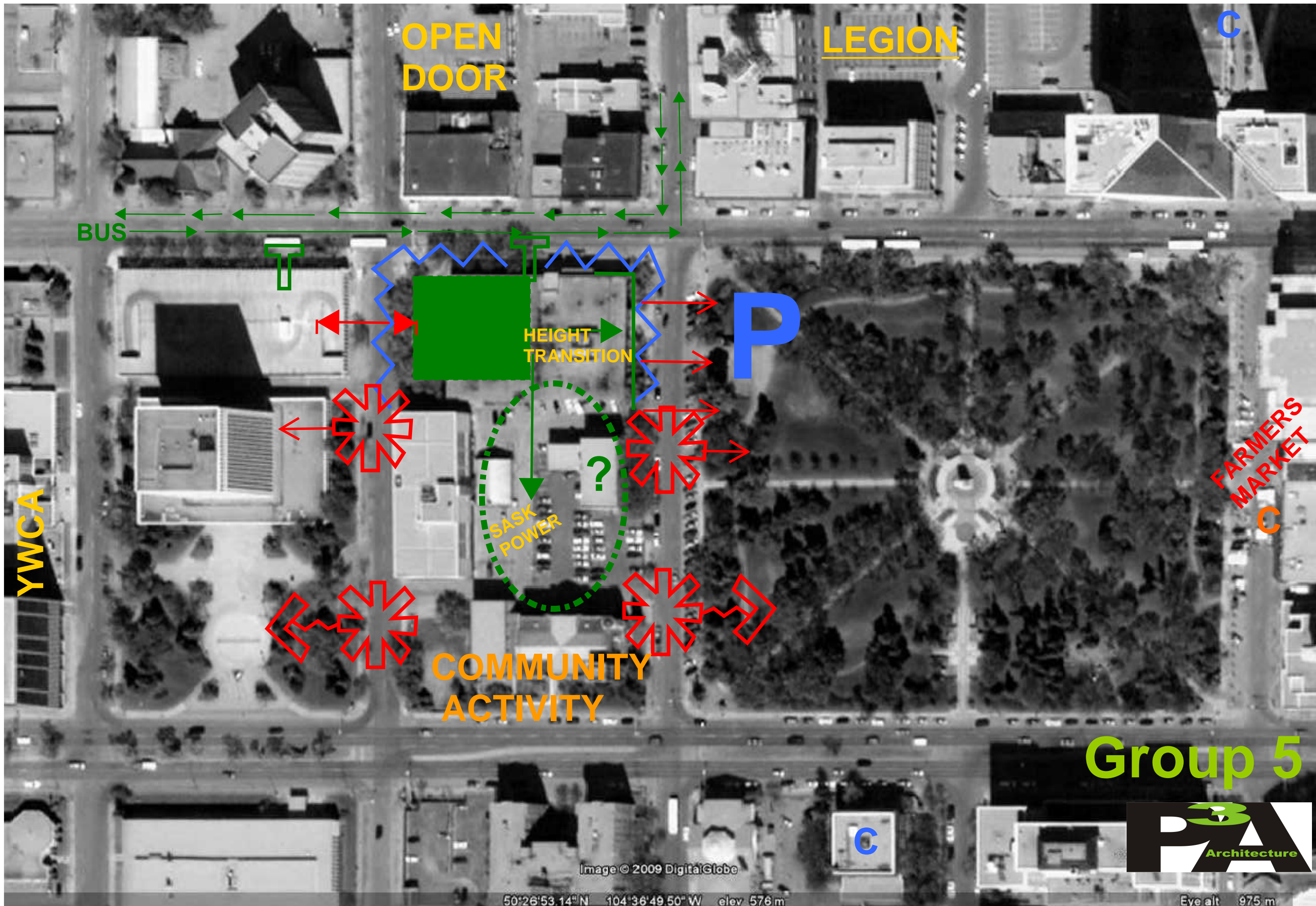
## Group Five

- Create connections (indicated with \*) to the Park, City Hall Plaza, and City Hall.
- Create working synergies with the Open Door Society, Legion, YWCA, Farmers Market and other downtown institutions.
- Increase the density of the building on the north-west corner.
- Utilize the community focused spaces of Knox Met. Church.
- Bury the Sask Power switch station and provide underground parking on the site augmented by parking at the City Hall Parkade.
- Create outdoor patio space and plaza space similar (better than) on Scarth St.
- Create a permeable edge that is transparent all around the site.

*(Refer to the following page for a 11"x17" map)*









## Group Six

- Provide green roofs on as many affect roofs as possible.
- Connect library to the Park (re-focus the entry from 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Lorne St.
- Turn Lorne St. into a pedestrian street.
- Make the main Library entry mid-block and incorporate or relocate the Masonic Temple.
- Create a library whose public spaces engage the park.
- Create a green pedestrian connection on the south side of the site connecting to City Hall Plaza.

(Refer to the following page for a 11"x17" map)







SENIORS

BUS MALL

GREEN ROOF

BUILDING TOWER

ACT WALL OR LIVING WALL

GREEN ROOF

SEATING FACING PARK IN & OUT

OPEN SPACE

GOOD WALKING ACCESS

SHOULD BE MOST ATTRACTIVE PART OF PARK

PEDESTRIAN STREET

MAIN LIBRARY ENTRANCE

OR BETTER CROSSING

A CURVE TO BREAK THE FORM

GREEN CONNECTION

CONNECTION W/ CHURCHES COLLABORATE

ENCLOSE THE TEMPLE OR RELOCATE IT

CAFE OPEN TO PARK

CAFE

POSSIBLE ROOFTOP GARDEN

UTILIZE THIS BUILDING

- \* GLASS AND LIGHT
- \* VISIBLE SUSTAINABLE FEATURES
- \* SOLAR PANELS, WIND, RECYCLED MATERIALS

SHOWCASE

- IDEAS: \* CURVES TO BREAK THE FORM
- \* COLOUR
- \* INTERGRATE INTO THE PARK - TRANSPARENT LANTERN
- \* MASONIC TEMPLE AREA AS MAIN ENTRANCE
- \* GREEN ROOF / WALL TO INTEGRATE W/ PARK

Group 6



Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

50°26'53.14"N 104°36'49.50"W elev 576m

Eye alt 975 m



## Unattributed Map

This map was contributed by one of the groups, however, there was no way to identify which of the groups had prepared the diagram was available at the time of writing this report.

(Refer to the following page for a 11"x17" map)







LIBRARY EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECTION

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

- What will city hall be? Why will people go? - can pay for parking tickets online, etc.?
- How will it engage the public?
- Connect to City Hall Plaza (beer gardens for folk festival)
- Potential for library to stretch over park
- Get rid of surface parking underground / above ground concealed
- Put SaskPower shack services underground
- Patio spill out in front
- Limiting parking in front

PRESERVE IMPORTANT PRESENCE OF KNOX MET.



Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

50°26'53.14"N 104°36'49.50"W elev 576m

Eye alt 975 m

## Appendix A - Participants

Stakeholder Name	Organization
Jeffie Anderson	
Julie Arie	Patron / Provincial Library
Bruce Baldwin	Regina Public School
Marilyn Belhumeur	Gabriel Dumont Institute
Susan Birley	Friends of the Regina Public School
Jenn Bloome	Regina Downtown
Sharron Bryce	Regina City Council
David Calam	Knox Metropolitan United Church
Jason Carlston	City of Regina
Aydon Charlton	Heritage Regina
Sharon Christie	Regina Public Library (observer)
Dauna Ditson	Regina Regional Opportunities Commission
Denise Donahue	City of Regina
Allan Dotson	Public
Murray Duke	Sask Sport
John Edgar	Regina Public Library
Trent Fraser	Fraser Strategy / Regina Public Library
Andre Gagnon	Regina Public Library
Joanne Gerhic	Sask Arts Board
Kevin Gilroy	Sask Sport
Glenn Gordon	City of Regina
Eric Greenway	YWCA
Frank Grolle	Grolle Consulting
Bridgitte Hagues	University of Regina
Jason Hammond	Regina Public Library
Crystal Hampson	Regina Public Library
John Hampton	
Joanne Havelock	Friends of the Regina Public Library
Gerry Hodges	Regina Masonic Temple Co.
Michael Huber	Regina Downtown BID
Renu Kapoor	Regina Public Library
Bob Ivanochko	Knox Metropolitan United Church
Ross Keith	Nicor Group
Bill Lawson	Regina Public Library
Jeannie Mah	Friends of Dunlop
Roberta McKay	Public
Mary McNutt	Regina Early Learning Centre
Gail Mehler	Regina Public Library
Foster Monson	Regina Masonic Temple Co.
Ken Orr	





## Appendix A - Participants

### Stakeholder Name

Laura Pfeifer  
Wanda Posehn  
Colleen Schommer  
Bill Sgrazzutti  
Hap Stelling  
Nikko Snyder  
Ray Webb  
Nina Wilson

### Organization

Resident  
Regina Public Library  
Regina Public Library  
University of Regina  
City of Regina  
Heritage Community Association / individual  
Regina Public Library  
Province of Saskatchewan

### Organizer / Consultant

Jeff Barber  
Campbell Berry  
Andrew Brown  
Mo Bundon  
Angie Friedrich  
Alexis MacDonald  
Julie McKenna  
Darlene Hincks Joehnck  
Mark Mehrer  
Nick Milkovich  
Alain Prince  
James Youck  
Rob Beug

### Organization

Regina Public Library  
Harvard Developments  
RPG  
Harvard Developments  
Regina Public Library  
Harvard Developments  
Regina Public Library  
Regina Public Library  
RPG  
Nick Milkovich Architects  
Nick Milkovich Architects  
P3A  
P3A



## Appendix B – Submissions

### Central Library Stakeholder Visioning Session

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the Visioning Session. I regret that I'm not able to join you; my *Friends of the Dunlop Art Gallery* colleague Jeannie Mah will represent FODAG at the Visioning Session. I have also provided a brief summary of my thoughts on the Central Library.

Regina's Central Library is the most important Public space in the city and it has played an essential role in my life in Regina from childhood onwards. I have also had the experience of working at Central as an employee of the RPL; the amount of natural light, the extensive, unbroken sightlines with the constant flow of people make it is the most pleasing environment I've ever worked in.

Central plays so many vital roles: as a library, as a learning centre, as a Public portal to a communications network, as the home of the Dunlop Art Gallery and the Prairie History Room, and as Regina's only Cinema devoted to screening Canadian and international films (as well as being Regina's only downtown movie theatre). Central is the primary Public hub in the city, drawing the widest possible cross section of people into the downtown. A rejuvenated Central should build upon all of these roles.

I am excited about the possibility of a renewal of Central, and it's essential that this renewal be done at a level of excellence equal to that put into Regina's most important buildings: the Saskatchewan legislature, Joseph Pettick's SaskPower building, the Minoru Yamasaki's buildings that established the "new campus" of the U of R, and Central's existing building itself by Izumi, Arnott & Sugiyama.

The existing Central is an essential architectural landmark in Regina and must be retained. Central is my contemporary; I was born in 1962 and while I show signs of wear and tear, I'm not ready for the scrap heap and neither is Central. In human terms, I am middle-aged. In building terms, Central is very young, indeed compared to buildings still in use such as the 2000-year old Pantheon and the 850-year old Notre Dame Cathedral, Central's "age" scarcely registers. And yet, it's been there for almost half of Regina's existence and it is introducing its third generation of Regina's to excellence in architecture and the role a library plays in its community.

Central reflects Regina's engagement with the world, its elegant, transparent interior and exterior lines, built on a human scale, reflect architectural philosophies whose *Modernist* peers in Berlin, Chicago and New York are justifiably celebrated. To abandon this building would be an act of cultural vandalism and environmental irresponsibility.

Regina has done a terrible job at holding onto its architectural heritage. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to travel and I have not visited a city that has done more self-imposed damage to its urban fabric than Regina. The pillaging of this city's built heritage must be halted and the rejuvenation of Central provides an opportunity to send a clear signal that Regina is entering a mature era of urban growth and environmental responsibility.

Buildings are not just functional, they play strong symbolic roles in their communities. If a city allows buildings with architectural and historical merit to be torn down it is saying that we do not believe this place has a future. If a city allows the construction of the cheapest building possible it is saying that we do not believe this place has a future. If a city puts up a wonderful, inspiring building it is saying anything is possible here; Central is one of those buildings.

A few blocks from where I write this in Toronto, the Gladstone Branch Library is completing an addition that will almost double its size. The addition is of a very different design than the 1913 Beaux Arts original but it engages the original in a cross-generational conversation; the function a library plays in its community is mirrored by these two buildings – simultaneously a repository of cultural history and an animator of contemporary culture.

[http://www.rdharch.com/cultural/bloor\\_gladstone\\_library/](http://www.rdharch.com/cultural/bloor_gladstone_library/)



## Appendix B – Submissions

This is the model we should think of in rejuvenating Central. There is ample room to the west and/or south of Central to create an addition to Central that will allow the library to expand, to retain and restore the architectural heritage of Central and to create a new architectural landmark that will stimulate the downtown. There are many wonderful examples of building additions that manage to showcase the architectural qualities of both the original structure and the addition and whose whole is even greater than the sum of its parts. Along with the aforementioned Gladstone Branch Library, another example can be seen at the Ontario College of Art & Design, which also realises the visionary potential of an addition. [http://www.ocad.ca/about\\_ocad/campus\\_overview/sharp\\_centre.htm](http://www.ocad.ca/about_ocad/campus_overview/sharp_centre.htm) Every time I see the OCAD addition I feel a sense of delight and I think, “there are some smart people in this city”. Regina’s rejuvenated Central should encourage Reginians and visitors to have that same thought.

We must approach any Public/Private Partnership (P3) with caution, and make sure that the needs of the Public have priority. As *Globe & Mail* architect critic Lisa Rochon notes, P3s “are starting to taint the construction of cultural facilities in Canada.” Rochon quotes the architect Gilles Saucier, who states, “The expression of our culture now goes to the lowest bidder. What counts is the price”. If depression era Regina could build the Legislature building and 1960s Regina could build the SaskPower building along with the splendid Yamasaki buildings on the U of R campus, in this time of unprecedented prosperity in Regina we have no excuses for cutting corners on one of our major Public buildings. A Public building is a statement of civic ambition. It must set standards of excellence in design, maintenance of architectural heritage and ecological responsibility and innovation.

What is essential in any P3 is that the client (i.e. the RPL) demands and receives excellence from its private partner. Architect Marianne McKenna notes, “in the competitive P3 process the architect can be far down the totem pole, and a lot depends upon the involvement of the ‘real client’. We have had good experiences with the Canadian Embassy in Berlin and Bridgepoint Hospital, where the client insisted on design quality.” The RPL must set the terms of any partnership and the RPL’s goals and needs must drive the project.

Our city has been graced by several notable buildings over its first 100 years – the result of choices made by people with vision and ambitions for the city. This is our opportunity to provide the city with a renewed Central that maintains our cultural and architectural history, and at the same time creates a 21<sup>st</sup> century library that meets the needs of a growing city. The rejuvenated and expanded Central must join the ranks of Pettick’s SaskPower and Yamasaki’s U of R Classroom, Lab and Library buildings as tangible symbols of this city’s vision, ambition and commitment to excellence. Anything less will be seen as a failure by this and subsequent generations.

I look forward to seeing a very public, very transparent process for the redevelopment of the Central Library and I am eager to take part in the discussions.

Regards,

Mark Wihak

Chair – Friends of the Dunlop Art Gallery  
Assistant Professor – Media Production & Studies, University of Regina  
[mark.wihak@uregina.ca](mailto:mark.wihak@uregina.ca)



## ***Appendix C – Slide Presentations***

The Slide Presentations are appended to the end of this report for the attendees of the Visioning Session

Presentation 1 – Regina Downtown Neighbourhood Plan, Civic Heart

- What is the future for Downtown Regina?
- Presented by the City of Regina

Presentation 2 – Images of Recent Library Buildings

- Sample library buildings from around the world, including many mixed use facilities to highlight some key design features
- Presented by RPG

Presentation 3 – Urban Planning and Urban Spaces

- Samples of urban spaces that are applicable to this project.
- Presented by NMAINC

Presentation 4 – Local Examples of Public Buildings and Gathering Spaces

- Examples of highly sustainable and rich public spaces from a couple of local building examples (attached as the last few slides of Presentation 2).
- Presented by P3A

