



*A Civic Vision for the Central Delaware  
Principle Sessions, 2/12 – 2/20  
Session #1: Saint Peter's School, 2/12*

Report: "History" discussion group  
SUBMITTED by moderator Louise Giugliano

### Major Themes:

- Fabric and architecture of the city should be continued. Keep old buildings and integrate history in reuse and retain "domestic" fabric. // Sense of history experienced in the fabric and architecture of the city – embedded history. // Don't clear and rebuild anew – save important structures that speak to the history of place including domestic and industrial buildings. // Keep piers and warehouses. Have contemporary building blend in.
- Penn's Landing lacks historically meaningful experience. // It does not cut it. The design has to recall the history. Bring out the ghosts. Bring history into the design. Don't rebuild history but incorporate it. Ethnic festivals a recent experience.
- Continue the communities out to the water blending into area. // Extend neighborhoods more, including stores and homes, churches and parks. // Parks, museums, restaurants, residents, retail desirable.
- Integrate programming at a variety of scales – big events like the tall ships and smaller ones that join local use like parks with historical education. // Remembers the tall ships which is in contrast to the fabric programming for tours, marker events – these are reasons for people to get there. // Bring more people to the waterfront.
- Interpretation in the creation of parks and sculpture.
- Rail out of place.
- Keep the industrial working waterfront.
- Improve pedestrian access. // contiguous trails, improve crosswalks, traffic calming, shorten distance that people need to cross.
- Have new holiday events along waterfront, like Fourth of July. Add Veterans events, soldiers coming home. Use entire waterfront as a setting for parades and celebrations. //floating barges during 4th.
- I-95 negatively impacts the historic experience.

### Design Examples:

- More sculptures that relate to history.
- Gazella, a Portuguese ship, should go to Penn Treaty Park to be integrated in to history and civic space. It could be a teaching tool for history. Make park larger. // There is no human scale or human element.
- Many places were mentioned of historic significance that need to be preserved because they are a visual reminder of the history:
  - Phila. Coke site.
  - Federal Brown's Field.
  - Power Plant next to PTP is a beautiful building.
  - Penn Treaty Park, peace and friendship between Penn and Indians. // historic re-enactments, extend the park, put a museum in, landscape, big events like tall ships, Gazella
  - Conrail site



- PECO Plant.
- Windmill Island
- Chester Power House
- Seaport Museum brings history home but gets little traffic
- Traffic calming, bump outs both to and along waterfront.
- Use ferries between Camden and Phila..
- Thin out trees near PECO building in Penn Treaty Park to improve visibility.
- Northern Liberties area has diversity and uniqueness which speaks to the ability of each neighborhood to shine and educate about history.

**Rules:**

- Look at Vancouver, Paris and San Antonio for their development.
- No casinos.
- Must have strong pedestrian element.



**Report: "Safety" discussion group**  
**SUBMITTED by moderator Jose Morales**

**Major Themes:**

1. Safety in numbers
2. Enhanced access
3. Make it a destination
4. Balanced police presence
5. Enhanced lighting and sight lines

**Design Examples:**

1. Safety in numbers
  - Like Schuylkill river park, "it works"
  - Need to study how it attracts people
2. Enhanced access
  - Find ways to bring people
  - Cover I-95
    - Extend city
    - More points of access and exit
    - Better pedestrian, car, and boat access
    - Make it a park like "Central Park" in NYC
      - Would create a positive increase in real estate value
      - Increased opportunities to use land
      - Reduces noise and increases safety
  - Increase residential and commercial areas
    - Top level residential...lower level commercial
    - Adds a layer of economic support
    - Creates a 24 hour presence
    - Increases livability and visitability
3. Make it a destination

- Reasons for people to go there
- Additional restrooms
- Fishing opportunities
- Diverse uses: Restaurants, museums, provide facilities for group uses (fairs, cultural activities, etc.)
- Take 2 lanes of the Delaware Avenue and create dedicated mass transit lines.  
Example: In Switzerland, the train comes every 5 minutes to take tourists to the ski resorts.
- Strong “elevated corridors” between city and waterfront highlighted with art, and landscaping to attract tourists and others wanting to move to Philadelphia
- Iconify / increase pride in and around waterfront area.
  - Paris has the Eiffel Tower and Chicago has its huge ferris wheel
  - Create local Philadelphia “Icons”

#### 4. Balanced police presence

- Not too much nor too little
- Hire “safety ambassadors”
  - A cross between police and civilians
  - Placed at kiosks or substations
  - Examples: University of Penn., Center city

#### 5. Enhanced lighting and sight lines...More is better.

- More lights, like Temple University...“Even though you need sunglasses to visit the area but you feel safe”.
- Urban planning and development takes into consideration “blind spots” where people can get assaulted

**Based on what you heard, if you could make the rules for a design of the waterfront that supports safety and security, those rules would include:**

- Mandate studies prior to construction to identify and correct safety issues and identify and promote “best design practices”



- Start an initiative to identify and promote Philadelphia Icons in order to increase pride in city and waterfront
- Powers that be in urban planning and development take into consideration safety issues prior to construction/development along and within the waterfront
- Create initiatives to connect local communities to the waterfront via and increase their “stake” in the waterfront

**Report: "Variety of diversity and culture" discussion group  
SUBMITTED by moderator Dick Gross**

**Major Themes:**

- Coordinated- connected parks.
- Sense of place/public meeting places
- Variety of housing opportunities – "Not just for the rich"
- Revitalize old housing – restore historic venues – put up plaques (honor history)
- Accessibility –plan for transportation needs/public transit
- Maintain infrastructure & connectivity (fund them)
- A worthwhile destination that is funded & well-publicized
- Easy access for all neighborhoods – walkability
- Connect programs to local communities

**Design Examples:**

- Zoning reform to provide protection for open spaces/control development
- Continuous riverfront promenade (model – Chicago/Manhattan)
- Event spaces that are both quiet & active (intersperse parks with event spaces)
- Fishing piers (behind Walmarts), fountains
- Expand & replicate the Penn's Landing model (function only, not actual design)
- Continuous network of spaces (Chicago)
- Diversity of retail offerings.
- Have many bridges for access to the waterfront
- Park spaces – benches, trees, exercise route, playgrounds

**If you could make the rules for a design of the waterfront:**

Basically the same as the Design examples above – But let me add a few-

- Lots of public spaces & public access
- Universal access
- Promenades and event spaces
- Access to the River
- Restructuring zoning laws to enforce mixed economic ventures
- Set back 100 feet from River to improve access to River
- Sensible traffic control combining esthetics with efficiency
- Park in New Jersey and take water taxis (Casinos)
- Integrate planning of Camden & Philly waterfronts
- Emulate good models – Baltimore, Chicago, Milwaukee mentioned