



*A Civic Vision for the Central Delaware
Principle Sessions, 2/12 – 2/20
Session #2: Saint Anne's Social Hall, 2/19*



**Report: "Variety of diversity and culture" discussion group
SUBMITTED by moderator Beth Perry**

Why is this issue of diversity so important for the design of the waterfront?

A diverse waterfront neighborhood population, if provided with easy connections (walking, biking, transit) with other neighborhood, allows people from all over the city and region (and beyond) to feel interested in, and comfortable visiting, the Philadelphia waterfront.

What forces drive this issue of 'Diversity'?

-- Active (not passive) involvement in activities along the waterfront brings different sorts of people together through shared experiences.

Penn Treaty Park is the most diverse part of Fishtown.
It brings in people from all over the city.

-- Specific waterfront attractions (making use of our culture and history) will pull in many different sorts of people.

-- The stable waterfront neighborhoods of the twentieth century were not very diverse, but now that has changed.

Fear: The current 21st century diversity is at risk.
Current gentrification means new homogenization.
Neighborhoods will be redefined along income lines.

-- Children are especially open to diversity -- so give them lots of varied activities along the waterfront. Currently, organized sports programs are the main (or only) activities for young people in the neighborhood. How about arts, drama, dance, etc.?

-- Do not have big "blocks" (stores or otherwise) of only one use as far as the eye can see. We need a diversity of uses/attractions along the waterfront over short walkable space to attract various kinds of people to the same spot.

-- Develop easy connections between neighborhoods to facilitate ease of movement and mixing of people.

-- Fear: Casinos attract just one demographic layer. Not diverse, they will decrease diversity.



Key Design Steps:

- Walkways/Bike paths connecting city neighborhoods to the waterfront -- and parking solutions.
- Sculpture garden using influences from many different nationalities -- reflecting neighborhood history /diversity.
- Murals for I-95 underpasses.
- Public art for drawing people to the river.
- Green spaces with waterfalls and trees.
- Creative water features along the waterfront. Capture rainwater. (Stormwater management -- permeable pavement).
- Benches, pavilions, shade, bathrooms, cafes.
- Internet cafes.
- Swimming pool (and recreation center) right along on the river.
- Solar energy project to electrify the waterfront.
- Interpreting history (neighborhood and city) in some way along the waterfront.
- Music festivals, dance festivals, ethnic festivals.

Report: "The environment" discussion group
SUBMITTED by moderator Louise Giugliano

Major Themes:

- Port activity is fascinating to the general public, it is entertaining, people enjoy seeing ships.
- Increased access to the water's edge is important. // zoning setbacks from riverfront would create access. //walking and biking paths.
- Revisit transportation infrastructure, Delaware Ave. and I-95 are obsolete but RR is important, improve port to rail connection.
- Expand port south toward Navy Yard and dredge river for larger vessels. // Maintain but don't expand the port. Increase commercial activity near Navy Yard. // consolidate the port, pull it together into a single area tied to transportation.
- Fear of big box entertainment and retail, chains taking over sucking life out of lots of smaller businesses. //economic diversity // increase private ventures and not just traditional manufacturing jobs // more like Reading Terminal
- Desire to use waterfront as a location for educational institutions, school or university. // New technology campus. //put Gazella and SS United States here.
- Entertainment venues should be winter proof. // year-round activity.
- Encourage tourism. // more visibility for city internationally. Cruise lines, day cruises and ferries. // include history of the port back to 1700s // Williamsburg-like
- Support family activities
- Eco-friendly development.
- Find other ways to improve the economy. //gambling will provide jobs
- More water activity between Phila. and Camden.
- Need port careers for young people.
- 24 hr. day waterfront promotes safety, animate the area

Design Examples:

- Areas designed where unloading ships could be observed safely. //
- Overlooks to see activity of watching ships loading and unloading.
- A marina that encouraged mixed use areas that tied leisure boats, restaurants, fishing, shops etc. closer to the shipping activity.
- Shipping and ship building.
- Link the neighborhoods with the waterfront.
- Include gardens and parks. //dynamic use of horticulture.
- Walking and biking paths.
- Shopping and museums to serve people of all ages and ethnic groups.
- Historic markers and interpretive signage. // Make useful for international user. // put Gazella and SS United States here.



- Concentrate port activities in contiguous area.
- Expand public transportation through perpendicular roads and trains.
- Cruise lines, day cruises and ferries.
- New technology campus. // Merck

Rules:

- Ensure open access, clean lines of site, places to sit and watch the traffic on the river including casual restaurants. // Hiker-biker paths with overlooks of loading and unloading of ships.
- No big box, corporate entertainment, small locally owned businesses
- No dirty manufacturing // keep out hazardous businesses
- Design for all-season use.
- Bring horticulture dynamism to waterfront.
- Cluster port into one or two major zones with optimal rail access.//
improve port to rail connection.
- Renew river as means of transportation, both to Camden and up and down the river.
- Create industrially zoned parcels that would attract high-tech campuses.



**Report: "Economic Sustainability" discussion group
SUBMITTED by moderator Ilene Wasserman**

Themes:

- ***A working waterfront:*** The waterfront has historically been a part of the community. It should continue to be connected with the living space and the historic district.
- ***An accessible waterfront:*** Accessible to ships, shops, restaurants large office parks and warehouses.
- ***Quaint fishing villages:*** Some people suggested quaint fishing villages in the same conversation as others who suggested large offices and shops.
- ***Less Proscribed to Align with history:*** Penn's landing is too proscribed. Spaces are defined in their purpose (i.e., This is where you sit; This is where you play ball etc...As such it doesn't not have the feel of Philadelphia. (More Penn Treaty Park and less proscribed spaces)
- ***Diverse use:*** Expand the waterfront economy by having residential with commercial along side light industrial.
- ***Increase port jobs that will feed the Philadelphia economy***
- ***Involve the Universities:*** study the river (ecology) eco-pharmaceuticals, dredging issues, other types of environmental research

Design Principles:

- An historic footprint that is pedestrian friendly
- Different uses for spaces: sitting for elderly, jogging, recreation
- Direct connection with the Federal Buildings (maybe get a grant from the Feds to connect the historic buildings with the Delaware?)
- Manageable spaces both architecturally and environmentally
- Diverse use – broken up (not all the same uses together)
- Incorporate different sectors (business, education, government)
- Use waterfront as a teaching tool
- Philadelphia ports are a unique point of entry that sets us apart.
- Affordable housing for businesses
- Fresh food markets
- Art integrated throughout

Report: "A safe place to live" discussion group**VALUE:****A safe place to live:**

We value a neighborhood where children can play outside, where adults and kids alike walk the neighborhood, where they can feel safe because they know and trust each other, whether they live or work in the community.

Major Themes:

- Connectivity, continuity and access are the key to safety. We are and feel unsafe when we are isolated, cut-off or trapped. Alternatively, we feel and are safe when places are easy and safe to get to, when there is a lack of barriers, and when it is safe to walk and play.
- Connect with culture and history of city (as well as physically connect)
- Open and easy access to and from other areas is important – so activity is part of the open flow that creates safety.
- Children and adults should feel safe to roam – to ride bikes, stroll, stand and talk or play.
- Cleanliness – lack of trash and litter, of broken glass, and graffiti – is important.
- It's about regular public safety, but not about a large police presence. Being safe *from* crime came up, but very rarely. Rather, it was about being safe *to do* things – play, picnic, walk, etc.
- Create safety by creating activity.

Design Examples:

- Create activity with small commercial facilities, including restaurants, stores, "festival pier" structures.
- Provide open spaces – free form with multiple uses – to picnic, play Frisbee, relax, etc. Open space should be "free form" for multiple uses, grass and trees, not lots of concrete.
- Mixed residential and commercial and respite uses.
- Bike paths
- Highlight historical elements. This might include signs about historical events and then create activities with them.
- Well-lit streets and walkways connecting neighborhoods to the waterfront.
- Cover I-95 in places with green areas for walking.
- Materials should be user friendly – rubber padding in play areas, maintain grass
- Trash cans for and rest rooms for cleanliness.
- Well lit with lighting to lead people

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:



- Maintain lateral streets from neighborhoods to the waterfront. Create new access routes where possible.
- Whatever is done should have fit the historical feel of the city – neighborhoods and culture.
- Mixed uses will bring more activity. Plans should have recommended percentages for different kinds of uses along the waterfront. Include with zoning if possible.
- All development should support access and connectivity.
- Human scale lighting – in line with cultural and historical nature of Philadelphia.

NOTE:

For some, the waterfront is like a “clean slate” on which lots can be done. We can connect it to the neighborhoods and improve it for more use by citizens. There are cultural and historical connections that we might highlight.