

Kimmel Center Public Spaces Project Civic Feedback Session

Moderators; Louise Giugliano and Eddie Battle

The Kimmel Center

260 S. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA

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Ten participants were in the group and most expressed professional backgrounds, i.e. designers, accountant. All were eager to give their responses to the student presentations.

Flipchart Notes

15th St. entrance is an important entrance.

- Parking made closer to 15th St. entrance
- There are dying shrubs in this location, not much sunlight in this area.
- Kimmel, entrance on Broad St., is part of the *Avenue of the Arts*. Should the 15th St. entrance be considered part of the Avenue of the Arts?
- This entrance is a good place to spend dollars.
- Glass should be used to open up this location.
- Stairs are a major impediment.

Corner Stage

- Easy to do.
- Accessibility
- Musicians will like to play there.

Wall of Water

- Feels like a shower.
- Hard to maintain, increase heat, growth of algae
- Soothing
- Fountains placed near stairs, may be used as a variation on the water-wall theme.
- Tone it down, too noisy.
- Could be used as a water show.
- Dull the sounds of people talking.
- Project images of water on the wall, instead of using water.

Vertical Garden

- Helps with acoustics or controlling noise.
- Concerns about allergies.
- Too tall, the space is narrow.
- Vines from roof trailing down, not good.

Stairs

- Don't like the Plaza Tower.
- Like stairs wrapping around Perelman Theater. Add lighting to the stairs.
- Consider a pedestrian ramp that wraps around the Perelman Theater.

Exterior

- Kimmel's façade, on Broad St., has a long stretch of brick that is not attractive.
- Use electronic signage.
- Interactive illuminated sidewalk. Some participants liked the concept and others didn't. Some felt it wasn't in the style or theme of Avenue of the Arts.
- Canopy, as it exists, is not good. Replace it with glass arches.
- Canopies should be placed intermittently along the sides of the Kimmel.
- Make it possible to cut through Commonwealth Plaza from the northeast to the southwest.

Draws you in

- Glass coffee café.
- Inside/out and Outside/in design principle was viewed as very important
- Gift shop needs an entrance from the street.
- Glass wall on Spruce St. was viewed favorably
- People scale elements, i.e. bay windows.
- Music, music library.
- Fun activities for kids.
- Exhibits projected on to walls.
- Social gathering spaces, nooks for 1 to 4 people.
- Roof top garden used for exercise classes.
- Interactive art.
- Climbing wall
- Have water exhibited somewhere.
- Bar located in Hamilton Garden.

Concluding observations

The group overwhelmingly found *Inside/out and Outside/in* and *Create magnets to lure mixed uses and mixed users* as very important design principles for the Kimmel Center. Comments both supported and disapproved of many design concepts, i.e. exterior design and water wall usage.

Generally, participants see a need to improve the Kimmel's public space attractiveness and usage. Many of the design concepts improved the public space and other concepts needed to be adjusted or removed, i.e. more entrances to the building, lighted stairs that wraps around the Perelman Theater and no Plaza Tower.

Submitted by,

Louise Giugliano and Eddie Battle