

D6

DISTRICT SIX PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

WORKSHOP 1

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY?

The City of Cape Town has launched an exciting initiative to enhance the quality of District Six's (D6) streets and public spaces as part of the overall Local Area Spatial Development framework's approval. The **Public Realm Strategy** will be working alongside other initiatives of District Six. The focus is on developing the streets and spaces between the buildings as meaningful quality public spaces – stitching together the area. The project aims to create representational spaces and places within District Six, where we remember the **past**, where we share in the **present** and where we work towards a shared **future**.

This process will inform a **Public Realm Investment Framework** and **Guidelines for Public Spaces and Streets** in District Six. Through developing a Public Realm Strategy (PRS) with the community over the next few months, we seek to build on what makes District Six distinctive and to celebrate key public spaces.

THE OBJECTIVES:

- Creating a 'sense of place' – Focusing on spaces/places where people can meet and engage with one another, the natural environment and living memorialisation.
- Celebrating culture and community – taking history/memory into consideration.
- Focusing on different user groups, especially the youth and elderly and how they use spaces.
- Highlighting the value of the activating the public realm.
- Improving way-finding to provide a fitting welcome and enhanced environment for the community of District Six and visitors to the cultural institutions in the area.
- Incorporating elements of resilience and sustainability.
- Supporting sustainable communities.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK!

We are taking note of all comments via the email:

D6publicrealmstrategy@capetown.gov.za

WORKSHOP 1 - SUMMARY

As part of the District Six Public Realm Study, we are working with nominated community representatives, referred to as the District Six "Caretakers", in a series of co-design workshops in addition to larger online public meetings. The first of six workshops was held on 16 September 2021 at the District Six Museum Homecoming Centre.

The experience focused on the memories of the **past** and looking towards a vision for **future** together.

1. The Past: We held a memory mapping session where Caretakers told their stories of how they relate to District Six, how they used the public realm in District Six and how they remember life in the area.

2. The Future: We then focused on what the future can look like, by highlighting how different people will use and experience public spaces and streets to make this a positive experience for all. Caretakers were asked to consider the space through the experiences of others. Then they were asked to think of what their best performing public space would look like, and the urban characteristics that make it a positive experience.

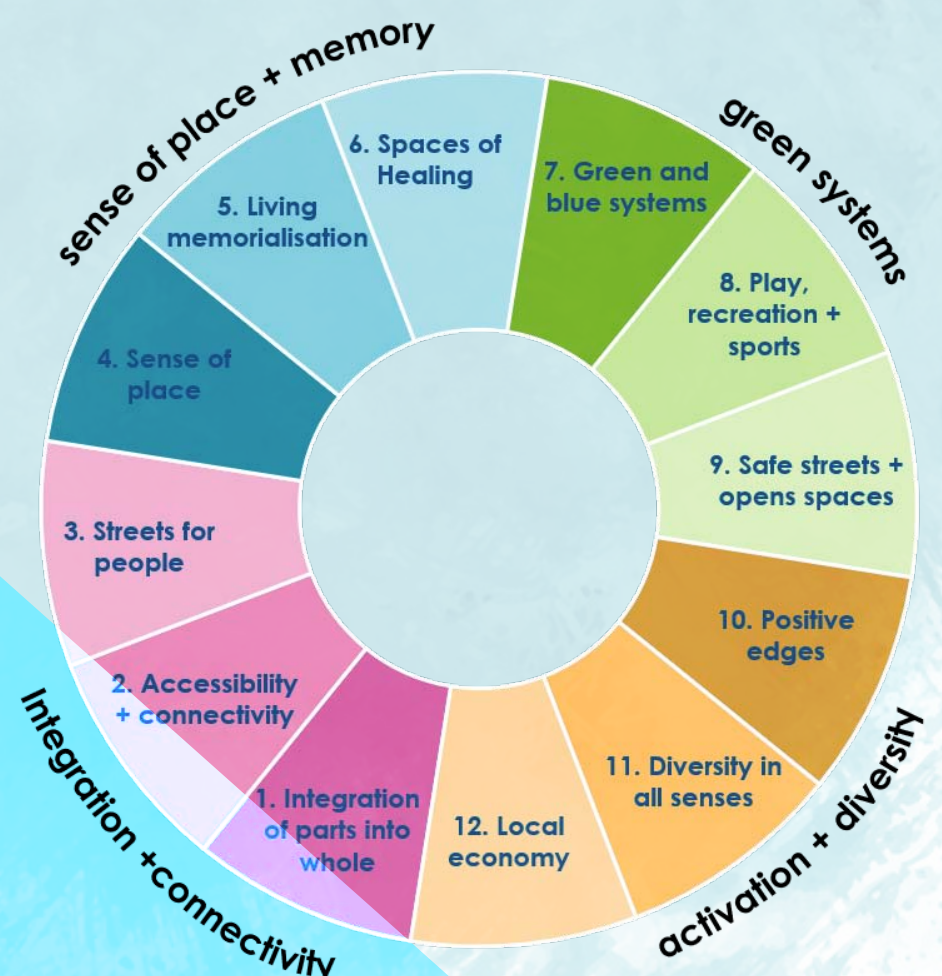
GROUP WORKING SESSIONS

The plan of this portion of the workshop was to create posters to describe a vision for public Space, streets and events.

A set of characters were prepared by the professional team for the workshop. Characters were introduced to let caretakers think creatively, to place themselves in someone else's shoes, and to think of various needs in the public realm. These were representing different age, socio-economic and ability demographics, as well as non-human occupants of the public realm, i.e., trees and other plants, insects and pets. The caretakers were then asked to think through the following questions:

- What experiences has your character had in public space?
- Describe your best performing space (sight, sound, smell, feel, taste).
- What would be the broad urban principles that would make this experience possible?

The "vision" for the public realm was documented in the form of A1 poster and presented by one of the caretakers in the group as a summary of the group session. Below are some of the key principles that came out of the group presentations:



MEMORY MAPPING:

The day started with Memory Mapping session. The group talked through their memories of District Six. Each caretaker told their story of how they relate to District Six, and these stories were recorded and mapped.

D6

DISTRICT SIX PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

WORKSHOP 1

GROUP WORKING SESSIONS

Within the three groups, caretakers were asked to consider the experiences of others and think about the characteristics of positive spaces. This provided a basis for discussion and developing a vision together.

The three groups made posters and presented their ideas of their vision for the public spaces and streets of District Six.

The groups presented many overlapping thoughts on their vision for District Six. These include issues around the need for living memorialisation, local economic development, multipurpose spaces, play space, green spaces, safety, healing spaces, streets for people, integration of the parts of District Six as a whole.

GROUP A:

GROUP A

Senior: Interface between public & private
Public transport was key
People made it work. SAFETY.
Independence for all ages

musical: busking
Music as a means to bring people together

bringing people in high heat: Skills and development spaces
Current of Business Opportunities
Rehabilitation
Mix of activities in public space
Small businesses - supported by communities
Becomes formalised later.

Farm with animals: MARKET
Food security -> street vendors
Interaction between animals + humans

Best Performing Site:
Chile: Place of memory + trauma
- BUT A PLACE OF HEALING
- Inter-generational and lively public
that connects to the past
- Sounds of community, smells of food
- Good sense of place, secure +
- Beauty in spaces
- Renovated into better space

Winnipeg: Artist and murals created suburb - global
- smells food, hear music & culture
- Art and performing artists celebrated
- formalised by the City

URBAN PRINCIPLES

- Safety
- Access and mobility, coming together, integration and enabling
- Importance of local urban economy
- Positive edges of spaces
- Idea of place-making and identity (sense of place)
- Diversity in all senses
- The idea of water fountains in public spaces

Spaces - integration, come together, enabling

2 GROUP B:

GROUP B

HEALING SPACE
HOUSE GARDEN
RAUNAS
GATEWAY
PEDESTRIAN
HEALING SPACE
SPACE FOR RECREATION (SEMI-BORROWING)
YOUNGER KIDS
AND FUNCTIONS
FIELD

- Safety of spaces and Safe streets
- Accessibility of streets and street interfaces
- Greening of streets and parks
- A variation of parks with different sizes, functions and catering to various needs
- Shops etc. to be around the parks, integrated in the neighbourhood, corner shop
- Central healing space/center/gateway
- Healing across different layers - doctor, spiritual, people broader scale
- Sport, library and other civic functions part of the healing spaces
- Space for gardens - developing a seed bank

3 GROUP C:

GROUP C

NAMES
Honoring people
using names

HEALTH
History story

PUBLIC REALM
VISION
DISTRICT SIX

ACCESSIBILITY
CONNECTIONS

LINK (NEW)
DESIGNED
BLOCKS

MODERN

LINK (NEW)
DESIGNED
BLOCKS

SOPISTICATED

TRADE

ENJOY STORIES

ANALYSE

- Social integration of current and future population
- Safety in the public realm
- Promoting economic development, and activating streets and squares with local businesses
- Safe play space for kids to meet
- Creating a Living Museum
- Bringing tastes, smells and feel of old District Six
- Keeping old 'heroes' in the living memory
- Creating safe pedestrian environments for people
- Vehicular parking areas vs spaces for people
- Integration and stitching together of parts
- Accessibility and connectivity of the environment