

D6

DISTRICT SIX PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

WORKSHOP 3

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, building on previous work done and developing the concepts of the 2012 Spatial Development Framework in more detail. 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 activating the public realm.
- Improving way-finding to provide a fitting welcome and enhanced environment for the community of District Six and the 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 3 - 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 third of six workshops was held on 28 October 2021 at the District Six Museum Homecoming Centre.

The workshop centered on the spatial systems at the scale of District Six and then zoomed into focused areas and the public spaces located within them.

1. Feedback + Recap: As part of the introduction to the workshop, we held a discussion session where Caretakers gave feedback from their communities, organisations or groups. The team had a recap session of the previous workshop followed by a discussion on what makes good public space.

2. Zoomed in Areas: We then focused on different areas of District Six. Caretakers were asked to consider the future public spaces, their functions and characteristics. The groups then came together to present their ideas and bring together the ideas for the different areas, creating a larger map from the parts.

GROUP WORKING SESSIONS

In this portion of the workshop groups map out public spaces within different zoomed-in areas of District Six. The 2012 Local Spatial Development Framework serves as a base that will be developed in more detail (and later for implementation), with additional ideas, strategies and richness feeding into the Public Realm Strategy through these workshops.

These were some of the spaces identified as important within D6:

1. **New Hanover Street** - pedestrian local business spine, wider sidewalks, slower traffic
2. **Chapel Street** as ceremonial and green link to link to many small multi-functional spaces
3. **Old Hanover Street** as pedestrian oriented space with multi-storey buildings that have retail at street level
4. **Caledon Street** as green link from City to CPUT
5. **The gateway junction** at Castle and the start of New Hanover Street (location of historical toilets)
6. **Religious Cluster** - (Muir Street Mosque, Aspeling Street Mosque, St Marks, and the Moravian Church) - multi-functional open space next to and linking various religious institutions
7. **Holy Cross and New Apostolic - Squares** and link to New Hanover Street + Zonnebloem schools area
8. **Circle below Nelson Mandela Blvd Highway** needs intervention
9. **Trafalgar park** - open edges and improve management
10. **Secondary spaces** - small parks and spaces connected by green spines
11. **Public Space at Silvertree/ schools at the end of New Hanover Street** - for safe kids drop-off and waiting area
12. **Shared facilities and playing spaces** along Zonnebloem edge
13. **Educational route along Constitution** - Micro spaces, tree clusters, pausing points, waiting spaces for children
14. **Space at Ellesmere Street Mosque** as moment along route
15. **Memorial Park** as multipurpose park with play spaces, learning spaces, gathering spaces, viewing decks and commemorative spaces along educational route
16. **McKenzie Park** as activity, community and play space
17. **Harrington Square** + Clinic public space as multi-functional
18. **Small local streets** seen as public spaces, narrow, slow vehicular movement and safe for children, with eyes on the street and trees. Retain fine grained historic street grid.
19. **Memorialisation** across the site
20. **Activation and Events** to build community incrementally

DISCUSSION SESSION:

The day started with a discussion session, where the Caretakers gave feedback from their groups.

The team gave a brief recap of the last workshop and then a presentation and discussion about public space. What makes good public space? What interventions are possible?

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GROUP WORKING SESSIONS

Each group focused on different areas. They identified important locations for interventions, mapped public spaces and talked about how these would function. The maps were then pinned up to create one larger map of District Six. A caretaker from each group presented their ideas and public spaces alongside the larger map.

Here are some of the ideas expressed during the workshop:

GROUP 1:

- Harrington square as multipurpose space – parking, market, events. Management is an issue. Community oriented space.
- Public Space in front of the clinic - Waiting space for the day hospital.
- McKenzie Park with activities – small amphitheatre, skateboarding, play area, trees, etc.
- The junction at the start of Hanover St marks a gateway to D6 at the Castle. The old public toilets located here are of historical significance.
- New Hanover St - prioritise pedestrians
- The entire area should be walkable - leave cars at home and walk into city
- Green pedestrian connection along Caledon St.

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GROUP 2

- Currently D6 movement in the area is focused on religion.
- Trafalgar Park to Chapel St is an important link to be reinforced.
- Hanover St is primarily vehicular-oriented space. It needs to be safer and people-oriented.
- Need for a multi-functional parking / urban park area at Mosques to serve various functions and relieve parking congestion on Hanover St.
- A potential link to be created between the 3 mosques in D6.
- Safety, movement and function/s of the circle along Chapel Street under highway to be addressed.
- CPUT to open inner areas for public use and connect to wider city.

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GROUP 3

- Trafalgar Park - defined but lacks management
- Chapel Street – Re-designing as pedestrian-dominant – it is a spine connecting with numerous important public facilities (schools, clinic, church) – Important Green Spine
- Flexible spaces (circle area, school parking, and other hardened courts) – Spaces that have different functions at different times of the day, - re-utilise these spaces with innovative solutions
- Secondary spaces – Smaller parks that must connect with greening to the central spine of Chapel road.
- Issue of space making and management of space.

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GROUP 5

- Create 'micro spaces' and pausing points along Constitution St 'education route' shade (tree clusters) and safety (traffic calming and activation)
- Retain the size of historic grid block to create small pedestrian streets where children can play & be curious
- Buildings surrounding parks to have public interfaces (not fences)
- Memorialisation to happen across the whole area
- Memorial park to be a stop along route - multi-use space and linked to green/play systems/ learning, as well as a commemorative space of memory showing remnants of site
- Incrementally build activation through events linked to institutions

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GROUP 4

- Make new public space at the top of New Hanover St [safe for school kids] + drop-off
- Link square to Holy Cross
- Make wider sidewalks on New Hanover St
- Underground parking at the head of New & Old Hanover St
- Displace temporary taxi rank back to station deck
- Re-establish Old Hanover Street as pedestrian oriented street with cycle and tuk-tuk service
- Multi-storey development with retail on street level between New and Old Hanover St
- Constitution St - Reduce speed & make friendly for pupils walking
- Open historic axis between schools
- Make playing fields available to local schools + multiple entrances to sport fields [both sides] and develop sports facilities along contours between fields

