

D6

DISTRICT SIX PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

WORKSHOP 4

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 4 - 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 fourth of six workshops was held on 18 November 2021 at the District Six Museum Homecoming Centre.

The workshop was focused on exploring how the urban principles discussed in previous workshops can translate into **making spaces**. We looked at activating public open spaces at a human scale, through the use of a toolkit with pedestrian pavements, trees, seating, planting, water, cycling lanes, or art.

Making spaces: While previous workshops focused on urban principles, broader spatial systems and locating public spaces at a large scale, this workshop focused in on smaller generic spaces, applying the ideas within the public space. Three areas were chosen: 1) Activity Spine/ local business street; 2) Spaces next to a religious institutions; 3) Local streets.

MAKING SPACES + BUILDING:

Below are some of the ideas expressed during group discussions and debates and in their presentations:

- Public space to be **people-oriented**. Streets with generous walkways on both sides of the streets and safe pedestrian-dominated square at intersection. **Raised intersections**. **Traffic calming measures** for pedestrian safety throughout. **Reducing car lanes** to one lane in each direction on **New Hanover Street**.
- '**Storied**' pavements on New Hanover Street and throughout District Six. **Signage** and opportunities for **community art** that supports memorialization throughout the area. '**Memory Lane**' in Chapel Street with place-making linked to historical figures and trees as **living memorialisation**. Celebrate **old materiality** of the cobbled paving. Mobile Apps to help visitors to connect to historical content through **modern technology**.
- Ensuring that **community engagement** is a basis for any art or memorialisation to foster **ownership by community**.
- Local Streets (like Chapel Street) to encourage use of space and **pausing moments** with **street furniture**, **tree clusters at build outs**, **benches**, **social lighting** in front of houses as well as **resident parking** and **generous pedestrian pavements**.
- Active building edges and "**eyes on the street**".
- System of tree clustering/lighting/benches in **public realm specifically in front of active institutions** such as school, religious and community centres.
- Public / local community **access** to be allowed to institutional spaces such as area in front of Moravian Chapel.
- Public space to allow for **multi-functionality**, pop-up markets, gathering space, local concert venue, with planting + benches.
- Softening of public space by providing **suitable indigenous trees**.
- **Water** incorporated into public spaces through bioswales, borehole water, spray parks, etc.
- Streets as **ecological corridors** with shade, bioswales and for being **outdoor rooms/living spaces** for people.
- **Parking** as a major concern during prayer times and events for institutions in the area. Parking spaces as **multi-functional spaces**, with paving, tree planting and benches. Alternative methods of movements and sharing spaces can be investigated.
- Flexible spaces, incremental changes and tactical urbanism interventions allow for changes over time.

RECAP PUBLIC SPACES:

1. Recap of Public Spaces and Spatial System: We discussed the work done in the previous workshops, defining the system of public spaces and locating public spaces. We showed how this overlays with the 2012 Local Spatial Development Framework, developing this plan further. Then we discussed and redrew the spatial system and public spaces within them.

GROUP WORKING SESSION:

Within the three groups, caretakers were asked to make/build generic public spaces identified within the area. This provided a basis for exploration and debate regarding strategies for better public spaces and streets.

The workshop used the making, modeling and building of streets and spaces to explore what they could look like in the future. How can we apply the ideas and urban principles discussed in the previous workshops in a public spaces?

While broader urban principles and ideas could be applied in similar situations, the emerging ideas were also space-specific, acknowledging the given context.

- SPACE & WALKS FOR PEOPLE, PEOPLE WITH DOGS & OTHER PETS (THINK OF CHILDREN, ELDERLY & DIFFERENTLY ABLED)
- CYCLISTS, SKATEBOARDERS, ROLLER BLADERS, & SIMILAR (NON-MOTORIZED NETWORKS)
- SPACES FOR TREES, VARIOUS PLANTS (GROUNDCOVERS, SHRUBS), AND OTHER PERMEABLE FINISHES (GRAVEL)
- WATER (MAINLY STORMWATER)
- BUSES, CARS, MOTORCYCLES, TAXIS, TRUCKS & OTHER VEHICLES

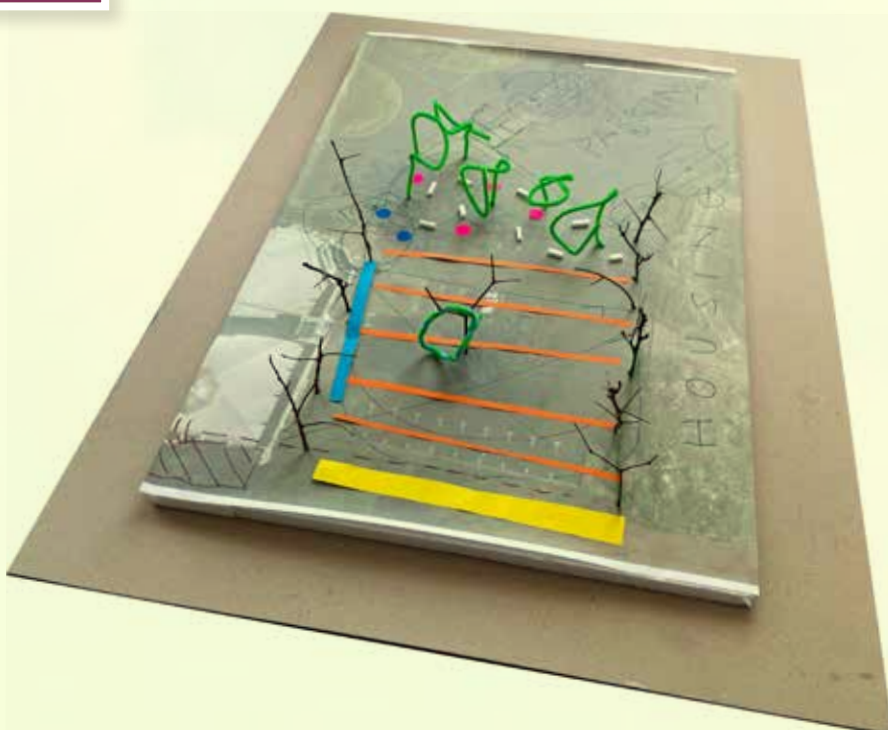
GROUP 1:

Model Areas: New Hanover Street (Active Commercial Street) and Old Hanover Street (Smaller Local Business Street); and courts next to the Moravian Chapel.



GROUP 2:

Model Areas: Chapel Street (Local Street) intersection with Grey Street; and Chapel street at Chapel Street Primary School.



GROUP 3:

Model Areas: Chapel Street (Local Street) intersection with Grey Street; and Chapel street at Chapel Street Primary School.

