

Build Your centre

Nova Centre Public Space Engagement

WESTIN NOVA SCOTIAN, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, OCTOBER 24TH, 5:00PM – 7:00PM

The Nova Centre public engagement team invited stakeholders and members of the public from the Metro Halifax area to our conversations around Nova Centre and its public spaces.

- Present designs of the public spaces
- Provide information, context and inspiration for the public conversations on the public spaces surrounding Nova Centre
- Engage the public in conversation around the public spaces
- Capture key themes to support the architect's design and the planning of Trade Centre Ltd. and its partners



Nova Centre developer, Joe Ramia welcomed us and then Rachel Derrah, facilitator, introduced the public engagement collaborative, the meeting agenda and spoke to the opportunity the session offered to give concrete feedback on the use and design of the public spaces. We also heard about the Nocturne Street Party event where hundreds of people were engaged around what they would like to see in the public space on Grafton Street.

Stephen Coyle of Economic Rural Development and Tourism then talked about the provincial engagement

outcomes and how these spaces relate to the province as a whole. Additionally, Scott Ferguson of Trade Centre Ltd. spoke about the vision for the public spaces in relationship to the new convention centre.

Around the tables, we discussed:

What would bring you to the public spaces within Nova Centre and how can these public spaces help revitalize downtown?

Build Your centre



We heard in response:

- Public events on the plaza
- Local people enjoying the spaces
- All season usage
- City connects on Argyle Street
- Regular life happens here
- Connection to the ocean
- Water component
- Sound of water
- Variety in downtown
- Quiet meeting and relaxing spaces
- Spectacular and different
- Food and wine

Nova Centre architect, Noel Fowler introduced the latest designs for the public spaces, primarily the atrium and Grafton Street events plaza.



We then had conversations at our tables around the question:

What is exciting about what you heard and what else would you like to see?



We heard in response:

Atrium Experience

- Place to “people watch” in the atrium (not just benches)
- Grafton Street feels public and the atrium feels private
- Why is the roof solid? Why not have all glass where possible? (Galleria)
- Atrium should flare out onto the street
- Make the atrium all steps with interlacing ramps – could become an impromptu sitting / performance area

Showcase Nova Scotia

- Showcase all of Nova Scotia
- Must see interactive high tech celebration of Nova Scotia

Events Plaza and Programming

- Seasonal themed events in the plaza
- Large space needs a lot of programming (frequency and scale)



Build Your centre

- Rain protection
- Grafton Street needs more light/loft/sky (ex: Brookfield Place in Toronto)
- Early evening music/talent showcase
- Event management resource to implement presentations
- All season spaces with trees and color

Local Halifax

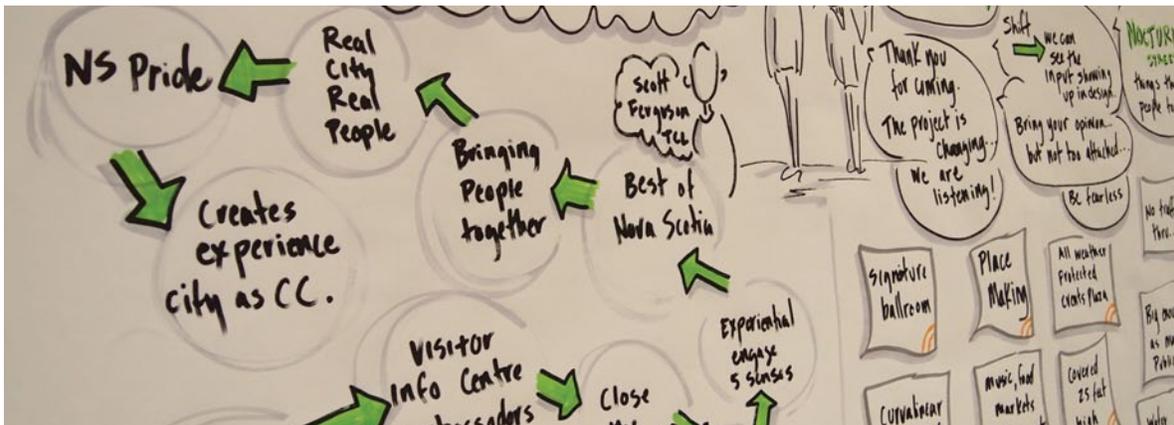
- Appeal to Haligonians and therefore appeal to visitors
- Inviting for locals
- Programming should be focused towards locals

Streetscape

- Looks like an urban mall anywhere
- Series of storefronts (visually)
- Small shops
- Less corporate – more civic

Flow in Design and Levels

- Levels, glass
- Idea of flow
- Lacking connection between street and upper levels



Marguerite Drescher visually captured the entire meeting and Craig Moore live streamed the meeting. Dave Fultz played music as people arrived and during discussions. This gathering generated many concrete suggestions that will inform decision makers about how Nova Centre's public spaces will be designed and used.

