THE GRAND PROMENADE
Design Charrette

Summary Report 11.2018
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The Grand Promenade Landscape Design Strategy represents a pivotal opportunity for the University of Victoria to establish a distinct and memorable public realm that celebrates the spirit of place and contributes to a vibrant, inclusive campus. While the Ideas Fair in October sought feedback and insight from the general campus population, this workshop used a group of key staff, student and faculty stakeholders from across the campus to provide feedback and design visions for the Promenade.

The goals of the workshop were:
• To inform and update
• To gather aspirations/concerns
• To determine emerging themes
• To engage the stakeholder group in a deep-dive session
• To generate initial big ideas
• To confirm design principles/vision for the Grand Promenade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEST GRAND PROMENADE</th>
<th>CENTRAL GRAND PROMENADE</th>
<th>EAST GRAND PROMENADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SITE ANALYSIS</td>
<td>RESEARCH</td>
<td>DEVELOP VISION AND DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES</td>
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<tr>
<td>WINTER 2018</td>
<td>SPRING 2019</td>
<td>FALL 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESIGN CHARRETTE</td>
<td>PREPARE DRAFT LANDSCAPE PLAN BASED ON FEEDBACK</td>
<td></td>
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<td>FALL 2018 IDEAS FAIR</td>
<td>COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE</td>
<td>PRESENTATION TO CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS</td>
<td></td>
<td>PHASED IMPLEMENTATION</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDEAS FAIR</th>
<th>WINTER 2018</th>
<th>SPRING 2019</th>
<th>FALL 2019</th>
<th>PHASED IMPLEMENTATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REPORT OUT ON OPEN HOUSE</td>
<td>FINALIZE DESIGN DIRECTION</td>
<td>MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #1

What are your top 3 aspirations?

In this first exercise, participants were asked to write down their top three aspirations and top three concerns related to the Grand Promenade. Each participant discussed their top priorities to their table.

Some of the aspirations we heard:

“Mix of social and teaching space”
“A vibrant space”
“A welcoming place for all”
“A place of celebration”
“Integrated sustainability elements”
“Smooth, non-slip surfaces”
“More indigenous plants”
“Multiple uses/movement”
“A place to gather and sit”

A word cloud created from all “aspirations” stickie notes
What are your top 3 concerns?

In this first exercise, participants were asked to write down their top three aspirations and top three concerns related to the Grand Promenade. Each participant discussed their top priorities to their table.

What are your top 3 concerns?

- Tree health and longevity
- Conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists and vehicles
- Safety at night
- Quality of paving material
- Lacks cohesive character
- Growth means less natural environment
- Ring Road crossings

A word cloud created from all “concerns” stickie notes
ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #1

What are your top 3 aspirations?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plants</th>
<th>Spaces</th>
<th>Trees</th>
<th>Spaces</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Trees</th>
<th>Spaces</th>
<th>Trees</th>
<th>Spaces</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More Indigenous plants</td>
<td>Interactive natural spaces</td>
<td>Native veg</td>
<td>Native veg</td>
<td>Native veg</td>
<td>Native veg</td>
<td>Native veg</td>
<td>Native veg</td>
<td>Native veg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shady spots to sit</td>
<td>Designated slacklining posts</td>
<td>Mixed use</td>
<td>Mixed use</td>
<td>Mixed use</td>
<td>Mixed use</td>
<td>Mixed use</td>
<td>Mixed use</td>
<td>Mixed use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking paths through trees</td>
<td>Public art + Indigenous art</td>
<td>Multiple use</td>
<td>Multiple use</td>
<td>Multiple use</td>
<td>Multiple use</td>
<td>Multiple use</td>
<td>Multiple use</td>
<td>Multiple use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are your top 3 concerns?
ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #2A

What are the emerging themes?

The next exercise involved reviewing the aspirations and concerns and classifying them into Emerging Themes. Each table listed 5-10 Emerging Themes and then reported back to the larger group. As a large group, these Emerging Themes were further summarized and discussed (see following pages).

A word cloud created from all “Emerging Themes” stickie notes
What are the emerging themes?

- **Vibrancy**: The paseo is more than a linear corridor. It should be a place where people connect with each other.
- **Place Making**: Through built environment and furniture.
- **Ceremonial Space**: Welcoming arrival/points for all.
- **Indigenous Culture + History and Knowledge**: Indigenous language and historical signage are important. "Grand Promenade" is problematic.
- **Sustainable Fundry and Resources**: Opportunity to plant Indigenous plants & restore ecosystems.
- **Pedestrian Accessibility**: Conflict w/peds, bike & service veh.
- **Identity**: Flow is important! (traffic, people)
- **Society + Learning Spaces...**: Opportunity to plant Indigenous plants & restore ecosystems.
- **Tree Health + Long Term**: Thinking outside the box re: character & planting.
- **Vegetation**: Beautiful place
What are possible Design Responses to these themes?

Once a shortlist of Emerging Themes was determined, these themes were randomly assigned to the various tables for further, more focused, inquiry. The facilitator provided guiding questions to determine Strategies and Action/Design Responses for each of these specific themes.

**SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY**
- “Address conflicts between various modes of transportation.”
- “Use material and signage as indicators”
- “Vehicle-free zones”
- “Use bollards and lighting”
- “Weather protection - covered areas and surfacing that doesn’t puddle”

**VEGETATION**
- “Edible/Healing Plants”
- “Use Indigenous plants along the Promenade”
- “Trees as important aspect of resurgence, regeneration, healing, etc.”
- “Opportunity to plant Indigenous plants and restore ecologies”
- “Think outside the box re: character and planting”

**VIBRANCY**
- “Places to sit and interact, gathering space”
- “Flexible spaces for ceremonies, performances, informal gathering”
- “Activate building edges”
- “Outdoor classrooms”
- “Variety of spaces”
- “A place that is the ’Heart’”

**IDENTITY**
- “One consistent material palette with special zones - site specificity”
- “Consistent signage and lighting”
- “Art and installations”
- “GP like a nurse-log - supports campus vitality”

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ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #2B
“Places along the promenade to slow down: nooks, gardens, ‘rooms’”

“The Promenade is more than a movement corridor... it should be a place where people connect with each other”

“Long-term vision for a clear path alignment”

“Art Commissioning”

“Totems as gateway features”

“Multilingual signage and wayfinding”

“Indigenous interpretive elements integrated in furnishing, lighting etc.”

“Honor the history of the land”

“Consider the name of the Promenade itself”*

“‘Grand Promenade’ is problematic”*

“Use soil vaults”

“More permeable space by trees”

“Water is important...make stormwater management visible”

“Sustainable funding and resources”

“Interpretive panels to explain renewable energy, stormwater”

“Integrated stormwater management”

*One discussion that kept surfacing was the name of the Promenade which was deemed “problematic” and at odds the Campus’ longstanding commitment to and relationships with Indigenous communities.
**ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #3**

**Design Exercise - What's Possible?**

Each table spent about 45 minutes discussing how the emerging themes could be reflected on the Promenade plan. Prompts for sketching included: How do we apply the emerging themes to the site? What should the promenade look like? What should the character be?

**TABLE 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Promenade tells a story</th>
<th>West: more naturalized</th>
<th>Reinforces connection to watershed</th>
<th>Demonstrates Sustainability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houses</td>
<td>Natural Wetland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORY LINE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POWERED BY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supports <em>connectivity</em> and places for slowing down and <em>connecting</em></th>
<th>Eddies: places to slow down and gather</th>
<th>Strengthen connection between FPH and Promenade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Supports *connectivity* and places for slowing down and *connecting*
Connect Promenade to green nodes along extents

Positions FPH at the physical and cultural centre of the Promenade / campus

Encourage both meandering and direct connections

Allow promenade to expand into adjacent landscape where appropriate

Places to sit, eat, meet, garden

Use art to provide a sense of cohesion and identity
ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #3
Design Exercise - What’s Possible?

TABLE 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gateway</th>
<th>Remove invasives</th>
<th>Natural areas - medicinal, restoration etc.</th>
<th>View to water at University Club</th>
<th>Shared space at Transit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Gateway - Welcome
Remove invasives
Natural areas - medicinal, restoration etc.
View to water at University Club
Shared space at Transit

TABLE 4

Totem Gateways at East and South Extents
Future stream daylighting and connection with Bower Creek Headwaters
Welcome Totems at key gateways
Footprints of old growth trees on Quad lawn

Connections between Petch Fountain and First Peoples’ House

Stewarded Camas Meadow

Fire Pit/cook space

Improve Petch Fountain

Opportunity at Ring Road Intersection

Gateway -
WHAT WE HEARD

The Design Charrette successfully brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to envision a vibrant future for the Grand Promenade. We heard many concerns that hadn’t previously been acknowledged, such as the problematic connotations with the name of the Promenade itself and the enthusiasm for a central connection with the First Peoples’ House.

It’s clear there is strong desire for a cohesive vision that also responds appropriately to the shifting context and character. Through active discussions and sketching, the future Promenade was envisioned as a place, not just a corridor, that celebrated the culture, history and vibrancy of the UVic Campus.

The big ideas that emerged from this process will be invaluable insight for the design team in the development of the Landscape Plan.
The Promenade tells a story
It has an identity and sense of cohesion

The Promenade expresses a gradient of character
From natural (west) to modern (east)

The Promenade has a heart
The Quad-Petch Fountain-First People’s House is the Centre of the Promenade

The Promenade (and people) take precedence
Where the Promenade intersects with Ring Road, pedestrians take precedence

The Promenade is green in character
Defined by its tree canopy and sense of walking through a landscape

The Promenade is a place not just a corridor
It expands to connect with green nodes and social spaces along its extents
**DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

*Draft Principles Presented at Design Charrette*

1. Ensure design presents a cohesive vision of the entire Grand Promenade.

2. Integrate mature and any new trees as key and defining features of the Promenade.

3. Create a variety of outdoor spaces integrated with the Promenade that support social and academic interaction.

4. Ensure design reduces conflicts between pedestrian, cyclists and service vehicles.

5. Embed demonstrated sustainability practices into every design solution.

6. Ensure the design of the Grand Promenade responds to campus mobility and accessibility.

7. Ensure any design responds in a meaningful way to adjacent buildings and broader campus connectivity.

8. Ensure the entire extents of the Grand Promenade is a safe, secure and inclusive path during all times and weather conditions.

9. Ensure all material are durable, regionally appropriate and adaptable over time.

10. Embed indigenous culture, history and connections to land into the design process.
DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Updated Principles based on Feedback from Design Charrette

1. Embed indigenous culture, language, history and connections to land into the design process.

2. Integrate mature and any new trees as key and defining features of the Promenade.

3. Create a variety of outdoor spaces integrated with the Promenade that support social and academic interaction.

4. Ensure design reduces conflicts between pedestrian, cyclists and service vehicles.

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6. Ensure the design of the Grand Promenade responds to campus mobility and accessibility.

7. Ensure any design responds in a meaningful way to adjacent buildings and broader campus connectivity.

8. Ensure the entire extents of the Grand Promenade is a safe, secure and inclusive path during all times and weather conditions.

9. Ensure all material are durable, regionally appropriate and adaptable over time.

10. Ensure design presents a cohesive vision and narrative of the entire Grand Promenade.

11. Ensure design supports learning opportunities.

12. Ensure proposed design is economically sustainable and will be maintained over time.