

Angels Gate Cultural Center
Angels Gate Cultural Center & Park Master Planning

1st Public Workshop, 21 April 2007
Cultural Center Bldg H, 10 am – 12 pm

Attendance: 45

Transcript of notes from Breakout Sessions

Breakout Group #1 – Doug Epperhart, Facilitator, with Dolores Canizales and Sherri Franklin

- Access & Way-Finding
 - Adequate parking # now/later
 - Parking below – 27th St. and Minor (sp) – is sometimes (unreadable) needed to access to Angels Gate
 - Turn around area
 - Lack of ped access
 - Bicycle access
 - Better coordination of events w/ all users
 - Shuttle to/shuttle around, continuous park
 - No support for parking structure
 - Mobile home area for parking or similar site
 - Access to other uses
 - Shuttle from Port/train
 - This is a destination - end
 - Park not used enough
 - Access to international art community
 - More artist

- Circulation & Connectivity
 - Connect to all uses
 - Connect with other parks – Point Fermin
 - Connect by trails
 - Not used enough
 - Help people use more of park while here at other parks
 - Connect downtown to AG
 - Land tour
 - More kids
 - Regular open houses – 1st Thursday in AG

- Buildings/Structures in Place
 - Food service connect to museum
 - Shop for artists
 - Maintain affordability for artists

- Building standards/Code issues
 - ◆ Hot water and heat
 - Easier to rebuild
 - California style suggested
 - New structures should be comfortable together
 - GREEN – lots of yeahs!!
 - Restore original natural terrain
 - Art Magnet School on LAUSD Site
 - Adobe village style suggested
 - Preserve overall style/keep buildings
 - Pool close to Gaffey - weighs too much
 - Live work space for artists
 - Build a new pool
 - Olympic size pool - others could use
 - Fill in pool for skate park
 - Children’s garden
 - Connect athletic facilities to school
 - Indoor theater/lectures
 - Cluster the new buildings
- Open Space and Landscape Areas
 - Labyrinth - walking meditation
 - Below Marine Exchange - make the labyrinth landscaping
 - Restore natural landscaping/terrain
 - Lots of open space (cluster buildings)
 - *Recreation – lots of rec areas in San Pedro
 - Project should be environmentally friendly
 - Restore original natural terrain
 - U.S. Young Marines use the space assigned for soccer – add restrooms - facilities
 - Collaboration w/ LAUSD to develop field space
 - Place to rent bicycles/skateboards/skates
 - Determine % of site for open/recreational space/buildings
 - Focus cultural uses in the AGCC area
 - Use open space while waiting to dev (unreadable – “master plan?”)
 - Views, Edges and Context
 - Maintain views
 - History & Character

Breakout Group #2 – Bruce Biesman-Simons, Facilitator, with Nathan Birnbaum

General questions posed by group:

How green is this project going to be? Who will be responsible for upkeep of the new park? Why are children not a priority? What happened to the plan from the 1980s? What happened to the nine acres that were promised to the youth coalition?

Rough consensus items:

- Smart mechanisms for landscape management desired
- More trees desired
- Make use of concrete and underground structures
- Develop new facilities
- Current buildings are dangerous and ugly
- Food facility needed
- There is room in the park for youth recreation

General comments:

-The Cultural Center should manage the park as a whole

- Access & Way-finding
- Circulation & Connectivity
 - Massive changes to the site are needed to meet demands
 - Plan the site to serve the public better than it does currently
 - Performing arts and lecture space needed
 - San Pedro youth recreation area should be included – Sports field
 - Currently SP youth must go to Torrance or Redondo Beach High School to play
 - Design entire park together to avoid mish-mash appearance
 - Food service needed in the park
- Structures in Place
 - Artists on-site do not object to current buildings and do not want new, “carpeted” spaces – prefer that the current buildings remain
 - It is too costly to rehab the old buildings
 - There are historical and aesthetic reasons to keep old buildings, but it’s probably not economic
 - Possible litigation from hazards in old buildings
 - Architectural style of new buildings should be:
 - Congruent and similar architectural style between buildings is preferred
 - One architect – single style
 - ◆ Varied architectural styles is more exciting
 - ◆ Preserve some old buildings for historical reasons, and match new architectural style to compliment old
 - ◆ Campus style, clustered, with a central building
 - ◆ One building only
 - ◆ Plan needs to keep artist studios quiet
 - Powwow structure –

- ◆ Not an added value
 - ◆ Spiritual heritage is consistently underplayed
 - ◆ Spiritual heritage of Indian area is important
 - ◆ Native American community not really represented by current activities
 - ◆ More stuff could happen in Indian area
 - No more density, and nothing higher than 2 stories
 - Sub-terrain concrete structures – Can they be utilized for tours or other?
 - ◆ Currently, lots of graffiti and trash
 - ◆ Infested with skunks
 - ◆ Cannot remove the concrete structures
 - ◆ Coast Guard trains there. Action regarding these structures would take place in Alameda.
 - All utilities should be undergrounded
 - San Pedro needs a swimming pool
- Open Space and Landscape Areas
 - Eliminate the poison sprayed on lawns and used as edger – residents downwind are affected
 - Keep lawns longer, greener, and healthier
 - Include more ground covering – too much dirt blows into studios
 - Include more trees
 - Consider volunteers and./or private entity to manage grounds and landscaping
 - Phase out non-indigenous plants, phase in native plants
 - Plant native Toyon trees
 - Plan for xeroscape: native plants and grey water
 - Less grass
 - Create environmentally “green” project
 - Consider solar power
- Views, Edges and Context
 - Boardwalk with seating along perimeter to better enjoy the views
- History & Character
 - Old Master Plan developed in the 80’s included nine acres for San Pedro youth recreation – though which nine acres were not specified

Breakout Group #3 – John Greenwood, Facilitator, with James Allen

- Access & Way-finding
 - Provide better signage
 - Remove fences – they are not inviting and exclude the public
 - Make it more accessible – it currently is not serving the population as a whole
 - ◆ Make it more available to local youths and neighbors
 - Open up North Gaffey and all entrances
 - Use Site A (see aerial map) as the best location for a new building with landmark entrance.

- Circulation & Connectivity
 - Continue artist studio use
 - Display place
 - Performing Arts space
 - Include sound studios for recording
 - Classrooms are a priority
 - Museum
 - Multi-cultural community
 - We have fields at AGCC that we under use
 - No league teams
 - Respectful integration of activities
 - Needs in the community for recreation creativity
 - Scale of project: Small and local, or grand and global?
 - Santa Monica Library is a similar idea
 - Important that it is world class, but not over crowded
 - A small Santa Fe New Mexico

- Structures in Place
 - Build selectively
 - Adaptive reuse of gun emplacement
 - Tear down some buildings
 - Most buildings should be replaced

- Open Space and Landscape Areas
 - Maintain open space
 - ◆ Unstructured space left
 - Make it look like a park

- Views, Edges and Context
 - Take advantage of views with new structures

- History & Character
 - This ground is SACRED

COLLECTED WRITTEN COMMENTS (differing from breakout session comments)

- Access & Way-finding
 - Street access somewhat dangerous from Gaffey – Signage is poor at street entrance
 - Make access more dominant
 - Signage should be attractive, informational, and directional

- Circulation & Connectivity
 - Buildings should represent diversity

- Spread out like a village
- Use wind and solar energy
- Café and deli with a view

- Structures in Place
 - Spiritual heritage of Hoops (?) area
 - Restrooms – standalone structure
 - Use at least one bunker as an amphitheater
 - Keep the Indian area
 - Keep the pool

- Open Space and Landscape Areas
 - Xeroscape
 - Trails for hiking and walking
 - Plan funds for maintenance of landscaping
 - Should be environmentally green – Should be gray H2O
 - Need short ground cover on all dirt areas

- Views, Edges and Context
 - Use mulch everywhere
 - Do not block any ocean views

- History & Character
 - Spiritual site restored to serve that function and others as well
 - Keep bunkers and recider (?) useful
 - Would like the underground tunnels to be saved
 - Remove Indian structures that have become permanent
 - Save at least one (1) of the current buildings for historic purposes