

On October 24, 2012, over 70 people came to the first public meeting for the Haight Ashbury Public Realm Plan. Meeting attendees broke into five groups to discuss their thoughts about the neighborhood - what they love, what concerns them, and ideas for improvements. Below is a list of subjects that were covered over the course of the evening; the numbers in parentheses indicate how many groups discussed that particular topic.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS

Land Use (5)

- Farmer's market (5)
- Library (3)
- Local grocery stores (3)
- Food Trucks/Off the Grid (2)
- Local bars (2)
- Other local neighborhood serving businesses (includes yoga studios, hardware stores, local eateries and entertainment, etc) (4)
- Post office
- Community art/music space
- Haight Ashbury Free Clinic
- Haight Ashbury Food Program
- Businesses that take care of their sidewalk

Parks (5)

- Neighborhood is surrounded by parks (2)
- Buena Vista Park (2)
- Panhandle (2)
- Golden Gate Park (2)
- Richard Gamble Memorial Park (2)
- Parklet hosted by Haight Street Market (2)
- Entrance to Buena Vista Park
- Street closure on Waller from Stanyan to Kezar

Transportation/getting around (5)

- Great transit access (3)
- Bike racks (2)
- Centrally located
- Ability to walk everywhere/get around without a car
- Car share locations
- Taxi stand
- Timed traffic light for bikes
- Transit bulbs at Carl Street

Attractiveness (4)

- Landscaping on Shrader (3)
- Street trees (2)
- Victorian architecture (2)
- Murals (2)
- Private landscaping

Neighborhood Character/Identity (2)

- Energy
- People
- Artistic community
- Festivals
- Tolerance

CONCERNS/IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Land use (5)

- Need more neighborhood-serving retail (pharmacy, bakery, etc), less tourist-oriented (5)
- Negative: McDonald's (5)
- McDonald's parking lot is an opportunity site (3)
- High rents make it difficult to attract local/good businesses (2)
- Need better restaurants
- Negative: vacant buildings
- Negative: Ben and Jerry's
- Food trucks on Haight hurt businesses
- Would like a community farm
- Would like a flea market at Kezar
- Empty lot at Haight/Shrader – opportunity for activities
- Too many farmer's markets in SF
- Merchants' late hours
- Sidewalk vendors hurt local merchants
- Look into a Business Improvement District

Parks (5)

- Enhance entrance to Golden Gate Park from Haight Street (2)
- Improve conditions of north-south crossings across the Panhandle (2)
- Improve Panhandle Children's Playground
- Mud in the Panhandle - upgrade sprinklers and drainage
- Mud in Michael Gamble Memorial Park

- Activate the panhandle with benches, exercise equipment, etc
- Provide better landscaping in the panhandle
- Improve access to Buena Vista Park
- Program activities for Golden Gate Park
- Consider Golden Gate Park, Panhandle, Fell Street as part of the Public Realm Plan

Pedestrian experience (5)

Pedestrian amenities (5)

- Sidewalks too narrow/widen sidewalks, especially on Haight (5)
- Extend Masonic improvements (2)
- Remove a lane of parking on Haight for pedestrian improvements (2)
- Concerns about parklets (2)
- Would like more parklets (2)
- Widen sidewalks without removing parking
- Opportunity: alley/driveway off Haight, west of Shrader
- Haight Street is cluttered
- Need more space for pedestrian seating
- Connect Cole Street to Haight Street
- Dedicate one street to pedestrians and bikes only
- Make parklets permanent through bulb-outs
- Tourists walk on Haight, residents walk on Page or Waller – more intermingling
- Pedestrian precinct with underground parking
- Streetscape should engage businesses

Lighting (5)

- Need better pedestrian-scaled lighting on numerous intersections/streets (5)
- More lighting on panhandle pathways
- Certain buildings are dark at night

Traffic Calming/pedestrian safety (4)

- Dangerous conditions or fast traffic on numerous streets /intersections (3)
- Install bulb-outs at various intersections
- Install speed bumps to slow car traffic
- Curb ramps are out of alignment
- Bus idling decreases visibility
- Address conflicts between users

Transportation/getting around (5)

Private Vehicles (4)

- Conflict with pick up and drop off at schools, after-school clubs (2)
- Conflict with delivery vehicles (noise, blocking lanes) (2)
- Congestion at Whole Foods
- Shuttles stopping at Masonic and Haight

- Double parking at post office – move mailboxes
- Need traffic light changes at various intersections
- Concern that Page and Waller will become congested if cars are discouraged from Haight

Bikes (4)

- Extend Masonic Ave bike treatments (2)
- Bike Blvd/lanes on Page (2)
- Concerns for bike safety
- Replace parking lanes with bike lanes on Haight
- More bike parking, preferably artistic

Parking (3)

- Put parking underground
- Need for parking management
- Make Kezar parking lot a public garage with residential access in the evening
- Commercial street parking does not serve the neighborhood
- Remove no parking zone on Cole Street
- Create a parking sharing program

Transit (2)

- Need better signage for transit users (2)
- Need bus shelters
- Limited service Haight Street buses

Maintenance/cleanliness (5)

- Issues with rubbish/cleanliness (3)
- Need more maintenance (2)
- More trash cans, better placement (2)
- More street cleaning
- Issues with people not cleaning up after their dogs
- Neighborhood cleanup days
- Issues with cost of sidewalk repair falling to property owner
- DPW Clean Streets

Social (5)

Social Issues (5)

- Concerns about transient population (5)
- Concerns around public toilets (4)
- Drug selling/usage on the sidewalk (2)
- Aggressive dogs (2)
- Loitering creates congestion on sidewalk (2)
- Aggression from transient population (2)
- Create docent program
- Make transient population welcome, facilitate access to services

- Conflicts between tourists and transient population
- Would like to have events at the site of encampments
- Concerns about encampments
- Concerns about improvements moving issues from one street to another
- Physical improvements may not be worthwhile if social issues are not addressed

Safety (3)

- Safety concerns at various locations within parks (2)
- Safety concerns on various streets/intersections
- Need more visible police, especially on foot
- Need to enforce laws
- Overall neighborhood is pretty safe

Signage (4)

- Gateway treatment/sign at eastern end of neighborhood (3)
- Wayfinding signage (2)
- Need signs for directions to parking at Kezar (2)
- Gateway treatment at western end of neighborhood
- Need better signage for taxi stand
- Need information kiosk/board for postings

Attractiveness (4)

- More street trees (not limited to Haight Street) (2)
- Provide maintenance funding for new and existing trees (2)
- More sidewalk landscaping, should be sturdy (2)
- Promote more art installations, including storefront art displays, rotating sculpture, artistic street furniture, artistic events (2)
- Artistic lighting/tree lights

Neighborhood Character/Identity (4)

- Promote neighborhood history (prior to, including, and since the 1960s) (3)
- Temporary street closures for events (Sunday Street, Inner Sunset Sundays) (2)
- Haight-Ashbury is “more than the ‘60s”
- Celebrate past while embracing the future – link through music
- Host neighborhood walks
- Celebrate cultural identity
- Add Hollywood-style stars to the sidewalk
- Not in favor of a Haight-Ashbury Historic District
- Underutilized resources: Chinese American School, Boys and Girls Club
- Need a community center
- Make Haight-Ashbury a destination for families
- Need for a community website – front porch forum