

Opportunities for Programming



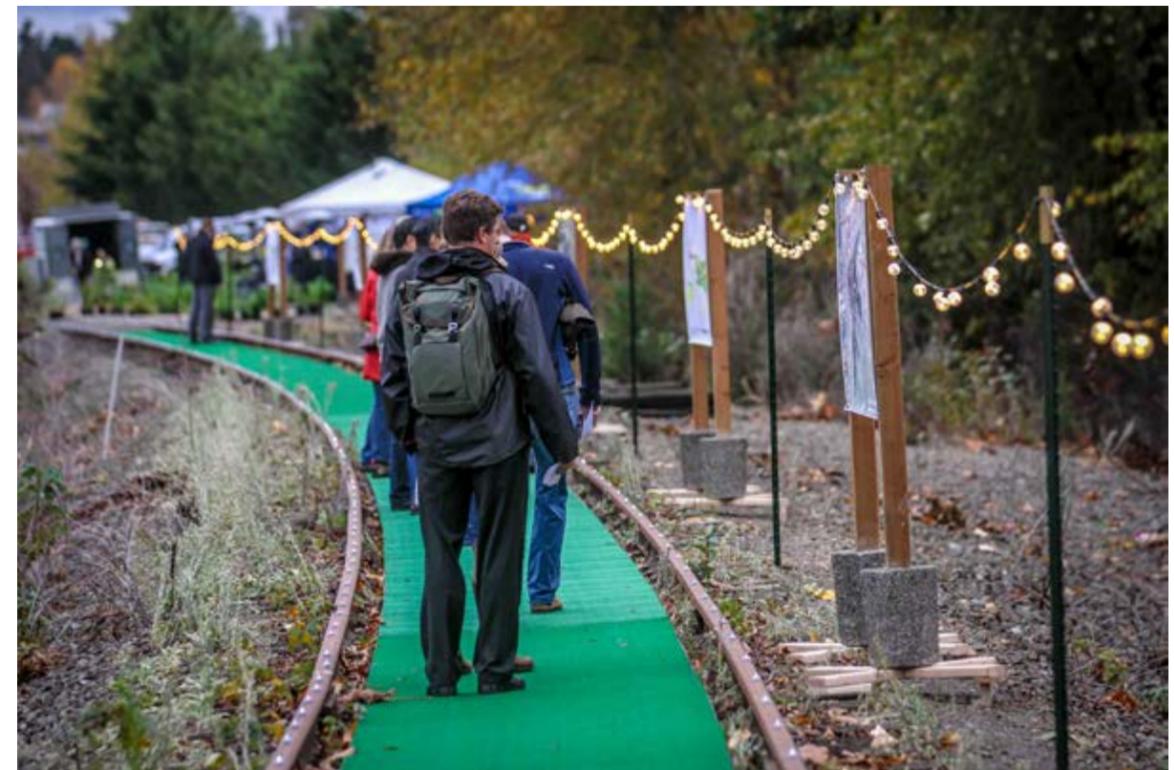
I imagine...
running & hiking
with my Daddy Greg

Programming

Overview

Through public engagement, programming was identified as one of the most important elements of the Grand Connection. Interviews at Compass Plaza, the Downtown Park, and Bellevue Transit Center identified a number of existing and potential programming opportunities desired by the public. In support of the physical improvements recommended, the design team has provided a number of recommendations to activate these improved public spaces that support local industry and culture. The recommendations include events, installations, and refinement to existing programming that are attractive to Bellevue's diverse population as well as users of all ages.

Programming opportunities also offer an opportunity for pilot projects, or tactical urbanism, that will allow the City to test long term strategies and concepts with little investment. These strategies are designed to exhibit the potential of projects to users, facilitate further community and business engagement, and offer an opportunity to measure and test the success of potential long term improvements.



▲ King County and the City of Bellevue partnered to create a pop up cafe to exhibit the potential of the intersection of the Grand Connection and Eastside Rail Corridor.

Shipping Containers

The design team identified shipping containers as an opportunity for partnerships, programming, art, education, and showcasing local businesses and technology. A mobile event unit could be created that could serve a diverse set of events and be deployed quickly and inexpensively, functioning similar to a pavilion. Programming for the mobile event unit could include:

- Virtual Reality Demonstration
- Bicycle Repair
- Consumer Technology Testing
- Mobile Library
- Cooking Demonstration and Food Vendors
- Outdoor Education
- Exercise

Artists could also be commissioned to fabricate unique containers that serve both a functional and sculptural use. Similar to the Hanko Ice Cream Kiosk, the container can serve as a vendor by day and a public art installation by night.

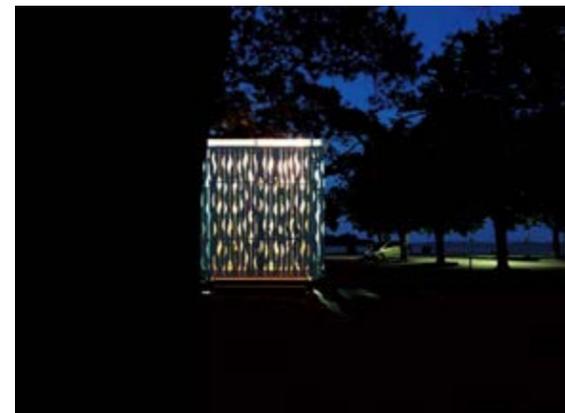
Locations: *Compass Plaza*



▲ **Hanko Ice Cream Kiosk - Helsinki, Finland** - *Satoshi Ohtaki + Working Group*



▲ **Mobile Event Unit - Image by** Balmori Associates



Outdoor Library

With a growing family population in Downtown Bellevue and to ensure public spaces accommodate users of all ages, the design team recommends outdoor library installations. Similar to Little Free Libraries™, outdoor libraries are intended to bring education and reading into the public realm. These can be specifically designed for each installation and include amenities like seating areas and weather protection to create an outdoor reading room.

Locations: *Compass Plaza / Downtown Park / Transit Center / I-405 Crossing*



▲ **Book Project - Moscow, Russia** - *Rueteple Architectural*



▲ **Little Library - Dallas, Texas** - *Leonardo Gonzalez Sangri and Scott Taylor*

Tactical Urbanism & Pilot Projects

Tactical urbanism and pilot projects provide an opportunity to test large scale changes prior to committing to them, while measuring their success. They also allow for the testing of smaller scale new ideas and events based upon new projects or themes.

Some tactical urbanism / pilot projects to consider;

- Narrowing or removal of traffic lanes.
- Activation and future vision of a public space.
- Events that celebrate local industries and commerce.
- Temporary conversion of public spaces in support of seasonal or special events.
- Temporary configuration of re-imagined public spaces.
- Small scale, temporary versions of programming to test their success and attendance.
- Temporary safety improvements such as bike lanes.
- Pop-up and green space.
- Livable Laneways.

Locations: *All Locations*



▲ **Pop Up Green Park - Lima, Peru** - Genaro Alva, Denise Ampuero & Gloria Andrea Rojas



▲ **Livable Laneway - Vancouver, British Columbia** - Project for Public Spaces



▲ **Tetris - Tel Aviv, Israel** - Tel Aviv City Hall



▲ **Enliven Wilburton! - Bellevue, Washington** - Eastside Rail Corridor + Grand Connection

Play Installations & Urban Amenities

Play can introduce whimsy and delight into the urban environment. Consistent with the overall identity of a playful landscape, the design team recommends introducing these impromptu opportunities for fun throughout the Grand Connection.

While large scale playgrounds centrally located in are important, smaller installations create moments that reduce the scale of the route, and consider users of all ages. Small play structure installations are appropriate for larger public spaces such as the re-imagined Compass Plaza, and smaller pop up play installations can activate streetscapes, smaller pockets of public space, and other areas in need of delight and whimsy. In addition to play structures, adult oriented installations that are more whimsical in nature can add to this playful landscape.

These structures may include:

- Pop up swings (children & adult)
- Small climbing structures
- Urban periscopes
- Digital or projected, touch activated screen and walls
- Life-sized board games (children & adult)
- Interactive art installations

Locations: *All Locations*



▲ **Urban Play Structure** - Image by Balmori Associates



▲ **The Porch at 30th Street Station - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** - Groundswell Design



▲ **Kalvebod Waves - Copenhagen, Denmark** - JDS Architects

Farmer's Market and Food Trucks

During public engagement the farmer's market and food trucks ranked as some of the most popular existing features to Downtown Bellevue. Most comments desired a permanent and more frequent home for the farmer's market, and a greater demand for more food trucks in more locations.

The proposed reconfiguration of Compass Plaza creates opportunity for both of those popular features. The current bank of food trucks uses the existing parking lot at the Doxa Church facility directly north of Compass Plaza. Upon a reconfiguration, space exists for a permanent, people-oriented space for the food trucks in Compass Plaza. Additionally, the public wanted to see food options and food trucks in and near the Downtown Park. The design team identified the perimeter of the park, as well as NE 6th Street adjacent to the Bellevue Arts Museum as locations for additional food trucks.

The farmer's market is typically hosted in a downtown parking lot, similar to the weekday food trucks. The reconfigured Compass Plaza creates space and opportunities for an open air market or farmer's market to have a permanent installation. This could also include other market related events or community gardens and urban orchards.

Locations: *Compass Plaza / Downtown Park (Food Trucks) / NE 6th Street and Bellevue Way (Food Trucks)*



▲ Art Box - Bangkok, Thailand



▲ Mundelein Community Market - Mundelein, Illinois



▲ 30th Street Station Flea Market - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Urban Agriculture

Agriculture has deep roots within the Bellevue community. Working in support of a permanent home for Bellevue's farmer's market and food trucks, urban agriculture can activate urban spaces in new and engaging ways.

The design team has identified opportunities for urban orchards, community gardens, and agricultural education as a means to engage and activate public spaces, while also bringing people together. These can take more traditional forms such as P-patches, or more innovative installations such as the Public Farm 1 in New York, New York.

Installations can be partnered with artists and other designers to create unique and iconic urban agriculture while still serving the focus of bringing people together to experience and learn about agriculture and Bellevue's history.

Locations: *Compass Plaza / Downtown Park*



▲ Mill Creek Towne Community Garden - Derwood, Maryland



▲ Community Garden - Wilmington, Delaware



▲ Public Farm 1 - New York, New York - Work Architecture Company