

Nashville Civic Design Center

www.civicdesigncenter.org

Summary of compiled survey results from the public meeting on the location, design, use and need for the proposed new convention center, hotel and garage.

May 31, 2006 at the Adventure Science Center 50 in attendance (24 completed surveys)

From a location or design standpoint, what is the best convention center with hotel that you have ever experienced, or could imagine, and why?

Specific examples of Convention Centers that were mentioned:

Columbus, Ohio + Hyatt hotel (3)
Orlando, FL (3)
Las Vegas Hilton & Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV (2)
Philadelphia, PA (2)
Atlantic City
Chicago, IL
San Francisco
MGM Grand, Las Vegas, NV
Indianapolis, IL
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Charlotte, NC
Cannes, France
McCormick Center - Chicago
Paris, France
Washington, DC

- Convention Center should have a coherent traffic and parking system (28)
- The design of the Convention Center should be revolutionary in order to create a sense of destination, and it should incorporate the following: (25)
 - Liner buildings, occupied by retail, boutiques, cafes, restaurants, should surround the convention center.
 - In conjunction with the Country Music Hall of Fame, incorporate a small park into the immediate vicinity of the Convention Center
 - An element that serves as the “beacon” to the city, ideally visible from the interstate loop
 - A uniquely designed exterior to make the city more interesting, not less
 - Varied function and pre-function space capable of accommodating a diverse array of events; spatial flexibility

- Quality on every level - good design/multi-purpose
 - Building design will attract both visitors and locals alike
- Convention Center should aid in the development and complement the area in which it is located; Example: Site should be close to/bordering downtown or SoBro, but not in the middle of it. (19)
- The Convention Center should architecturally complement the existing structure of the surrounding neighborhoods & the fabric of Nashville; create a design plan for neighborhood where center goes (18)
 - Committee should consider the potential impact the new Convention Center will have on the surrounding neighborhoods (especially at the proposed 5th & Demonbreun site).
 - The surrounding neighborhood should be designed to be pedestrian friendly; Site should encourage visitors out of CC and into local businesses.
- Convention Center should fit into and sustain the cultural fabric of the neighborhoods (18);
 - Street grid must be maintained;
 - Site must enhance the line of site to natural and artificial landmarks
- The Convention Center should be a Green, LEED-certified building w/ modern, sustainable design (15)
 - Example given: Pittsburgh Convention Center's Green design - natural lighting, water reclamation, recycling etc.
- Convention Center should be easily accessibility to existing nearby services (food, lodging, & transit) (14)
- Convention Center should not create a "back door" (6)
 - Enough affordable parking for community & surrounding areas
 - Efficient public transit system
 - Traffic flow should not be affected by new CC loading docks/bus lanes
 - Build an underground parking garage that can be used for other events as well as CC events
 - Traffic concerns must be addressed once site is determined
 - Offer public mass transit to accommodate conventioners; ex: Electric Trolley system similar to Chattanooga
- Expansion is not important; location to existing entertainment hotels & restaurants. Alternative sites mentioned: Steiner-Liff site (5); the Gulch (5); Lafayette area (3)
- Make Downtown Nashville clean and safe (2)

- Space should be active 24/7
- Incorporate public art that reflects Nashville's rich culture.

Additional considerations:

- Convention Center Committee needs to plan for the vitality of the space beyond 20 years
- How will this compete with the Opryland hotel? Will the downtown Convention Center still be the 2nd consideration in Nashville?
- Turn the old convention center into a mall; this helps with bringing more residential into downtown & it would also bring in tourist & conventioners.
- Concerning the # of seats planned for the venue - why with GEC, Symphony Hall etc?
- Financial model should build in contingencies for excess revenue/taxes to go to public education in Davidson County
- Create a design competition
- Relocate Greyhound & NURM to Gallatin
- Aggressive sales team to sell the facility