

# NASHVILLE CIVIC DESIGN CENTER

[www.civicdesigncenter.org](http://www.civicdesigncenter.org)

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

May 31, 2006 meeting at the Adventure Science Center (50 people in attendance)

## **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:

Philadelphia, PA (2)  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Chicago, IL  
Washington D.C.  
Columbus, OH  
MGM Grand, Las Vegas  
Calgary, Alberta

### **Site selection considerations:**

- Convention Center should be placed in a location that will allow for nearby future development; (6)
- Convention Center should meet parking needs for both conventioners and surrounding area (5).
- Convention Center should be in the immediate proximity of rest of the downtown vicinity; walkability to other cultural venues, restaurants, entertainment & current hotels; (8)
- Convention Center site should provide suitable space for expansion (4)
- Maintain the street grid (3)
- Consider a site bordering downtown that will not destroy the present culture of SoBro; (3) (Example given: Gulch between Church and Charlotte)
- Site should be close to/on Cumberland River, creates a river park; acts as an urban tool; expandable in many directions; complement landscape. (Example given: Steiner-Liff property on East Bank of Cumberland River)

### **Design considerations:**

- Convention Center design should incorporate public art & green spaces; it should also include the local art community (3);
- Convention Center should be a Green building; sustainable design (3)
- The design of Convention Center should draw from what is unique about Nashville; CC should be attractive to locals as well as visitors; create a civic destination; include all genres of music (7)
- Designers should weave Convention Center into downtown neighborhood; 24/7 facility; new development should be able to flow around CC by neighborhood planning; integrate retail & entertainment into facility; Multi-story, smaller footprint; flexible space (13)
- Convention Center should be technologically advanced ex: Wireless internet (3)
- Design should use “liner buildings” to create an active street level; No “dead” spaces (2)
- Well-placed bus drop-off and hidden loading docks; No “back door” (5)
- Accessible Mass transit; Easy traffic flow; Don’t disrupt street grid, flow of traffic and pedestrians (3)

### **Additional comments:**

“Convention Center Committee needs to be planning beyond 20 years.”

“Is this the least expensive and also practical site?”

“Why does the design aim to include a significant # of seats in a theatre-like venue inside of Convention Center? The GEC, Symphony Hall are large venues, so why not use the existing venues?”

- Alternatives: Lafayette - lacking immediate proximity
- Gulch - future development/not close enough to city center
- Potential design competition for Convention Center
- Convention Center should have minimal corporate influence