

## Big Ideas Summary | Public Facilities

PDR staff received 362 big ideas related to Public Facilities. The ideas included both citywide and location specific recommendations

### Location Specific Big Ideas

Participants provided 55 location specific big ideas which primarily addressed the redevelopment of existing sports venues and potential locations for new facilities:

- **Coliseum and Boulevard Redevelopment:** Redevelop both the Coliseum and the Boulevard including the baseball stadium. Prioritize fixing schools over these large projects. Create state of the art sports and entertainment facilities. Include a bus transfer center in the Coliseum redevelopment. Comments varied on how this redevelopment should be funded.
- **Libraries:** Construct new libraries in the Huguenot area, Stratford Hills (vacant storefronts), Southside Community Center and the Greater Fulton area. Expand and improve the Broad Rock Library and the Main Library.
- **Community Centers:** Construct new community centers in Battery Park, in Stratford Hills, and at the new Elkhardt Middle School. Improve Humphrey Calder Community Center and develop the old Elkhardt Middle School as a City welcome center. Create a City Services Facility in Southside.
- **Growing Neighborhoods:** Plan for new facilities in neighborhoods with growing residential populations including Scott's Addition, Church Hill, and Southside.
- **Fire Stations:** Construct a new fire station or hire more fire fighters for the #25 Station in the Huguenot area. Improve the maintenance on Fire Station #12 on Cary Street.
- **Grocery Stores:** Encourage grocery stores on the Boulevard and in Southside.

### Citywide Big Ideas

Participants provided 307 citywide policy recommendations. The largest number of recommendations involved improving City schools. Below is a summary of the citywide big ideas.

- **Schools:** 101 big ideas were related to this topic.
  - **Priority:** Fixing City schools must be a priority. Invest in Richmond Public Schools.
  - **Facilities Plan:** Develop a facilities plan that includes upgrading existing schools, constructing new schools, and closing schools that are underutilized. Sell underutilized schools to fund RPS. Consider new schools in order to reduce class sizes.
  - **Maintenance:** Maintain existing school buildings. Adequately fund maintenance of facilities.
  - **Community Spaces:** Allow the community to use school buildings and athletic fields for other activities when school is not in session.
  - **Specialty Schools:** Create more charter and specialty schools that include schools that teach trade skills and entrepreneurship.

- **Accessibility:** All City facilities must be accessible for people with disabilities. Facilities should be safely accessible by multiple modes include biking, walking, and transit.
- **Building Design:** Public facilities should set the standard for private development by incorporating green building design include incorporating solar and green roofs and storm water management, by employing architecture that reflects the character of the neighborhood, and by incorporating elements to promote street level activity.
- **Community Centers:** Locate community centers in every neighborhoods within walking distance to housing to allow more families access to resources for healthy lifestyles. Co-locate community centers at schools. Provide more opportunities for affordable child care.
- **Homeless Services:** Develop a plan to provide homeless services including temporary housing and a new cold weather overflow shelter.
- **Libraries:** Upgrade libraries to allow evolution to support the community's need to include improved technology and co-working spaces. Expand hours of operation to include Sunday hours at all libraries.
- **Maintenance:** Improve the maintenance of all City facilities to ensure they are clean and attractive.
- **Parks and Green Spaces:** Develop more green spaces and parks throughout the city. Construct more public pools with extended hours of operation.
- **Police Stations:** Create smaller police stations. Provide better connections to the community by co-locating police stations are community centers and having more interactive events
- **Restrooms:** Provide public restrooms and water fountains throughout the city including in parks.
- **Streetscape:** Improve the streetscape by incorporating more plantings. Provide transit amenities including benches and protections from the wind and rain. Implement Complete Streets in all neighborhoods
- **Underutilized and Vacant Facilities:** Consolidate services to allow the closing of underutilized facilities. Allow the redevelopment of facilities for other uses. Sell vacant properties at market rate to fund schools.
- **Upgrade Facilities:** Modernize existing facilities.