

# OREGON DISTRICT MEMORIAL

## Discussion Groups – Report of Input

JUNE 2022



FAHLGREN MORTINE

## composition of groups/interviews

- Seven (7) adult groups
- One (1) youth group
- Three (3) one-on-one telephone interviews
  - One adult group was the Steering Committee – abbreviated session
  - Twelve (12) residential neighbors
  - Four (4) friends/family of survivors
  - Three (3) first responders
  - Fifteen (15) students, aged 12 - 17
  - Fourteen (14) community members (several are former Oregon District residents, or live CLOSE, but not directly in the Oregon District)
  - Twelve (12) business owners/employees
  - Two (2) friend of victim's family
  - Three (3) family members of victims
  - One (1) survivor

*(Reflects how people identified themselves; and many individuals self-identified in several of the above categories)*

## recurring, dominant themes

### Space for Reflection

- A bench, place to sit - to have a moment to contemplate
- The Memorial for Flight 93, lots of contemplative, unstructured space
- Something we can touch/interact with – maybe take something with you
- Quiet, calm, contemplation, a sense of peace
- Maybe it's larger than just that night, maybe it's all gun violence, all violence
- What needs to happen (call to action) – solutions to violence (this can't be the end of the discussion)

## recurring, dominant themes

### Celebration of Life

- Trees – tree of life – trees go through a cycle
- Supports/encourages diversity – the community coming together
- Names of victims
- Not sad

## recurring, dominant themes

### Uplifting Inspiration

- One or more quotes that inspire hope
- Resilience of the community
- Immersive
- A call to action, inspired to action; point to resources/access

## recurring, dominant themes

### Other ideas

- Ideas of a water feature are frequent , water is calming
- Correctly identifying all victims – names of those killed
- Do Something!
- Making the area safe for all cultures, the widest diversity of people
- How to incorporate a healing element

## recurring, dominant themes

### Honoring Those Who Survived


- They participate in some way, place stones
- How do we define “survivor”?
- Survivors choose “if” and “how” they are honored

## recurring, dominant themes

### Location

- Being in the Oregon District is incredibly important
- Residents believe it should be in the “business” district of the Oregon District
- Not on a busy street, in a busy place, not **at** the site – not so exposed





# ADDITIONAL INPUT LESS FREQUENT/ONE TIME

## additional input – less frequent/one-time

### Space for Reflection

- Don't want to draw loiterers
- Shape of the space, maybe circular, to symbolize that "life" never stops
- Could be hard to get quiet, water may help
- A quiet place in the midst of a busy area
- People visiting are not visible to passers-by, not crowded
- Both a public spot and a private spot
- A place we are drawn to
- Will need a proper amount of space
- Share your own story
- What are we asking them to think about in this space?
- What are we reflecting on, perhaps we're reflecting on what happened

## additional input – less frequent/one-time

### Celebration of Life

- A garden, trees have branches that interconnect, that weave in and out, with roots, go through cycles/seasons, always growing
- Engage the senses (sight, touch, sound, sensual comfort)
- Caring for others
- A "light" something shining
- A place we can all go back to – someplace to all be together
- Abstract: taking flight – that's not sad or overly religious
- Include information about victims' diverse interests, the joy they brought to the world – the loss of their potential – what can we/should we know about that person and their lives, the difference they made
- Joyful
- Recognizing the way the community connected, celebrated diversity, there are unifying elements that emerged from this tragedy
- Dayton is such a connected community; everyone knew someone, so many were affected

## additional input – less frequent/one-time

### Uplifting Inspiration

- Respect that life is precious – go out and live it
- Hope – what can we do as a community, as individuals
- Ability to stand in the space
- Tall enough to be noticed, and so that people are looking “up”
- Explain what happened – but NOT the focus - perhaps with a QR code, so people opt in to learning the story
- Names of helpers – maybe not names, but symbols, some kind of recognition
- Provide action steps – how to be a helper, see warning signs, etc.
- NOT a bunch of well meaning, trite quotes and words
- Not to ever be forgotten

## additional input – less frequent/one-time

### Other ideas

- Kinesthetic sculpture – that appeals to kids
- Provide helplines and resources for people who visit
- Use symbols rather than names
- Actions of Dayton First Responders are recognized
- That it can be moved, not dependent upon a building that could be razed, etc.
- Magical
- No names on the ground to be walked upon
- Some kind of multimodal element
- Six of the 9 killed were black, this is not lost on the black community
- Can there be, should there be programming in the space?
- Ideally a local artist, or artist with local connection
- Can artist/s speak directly to people/community
- Can there also be an element of programming and training – anti-violence – quarterly forums
- Pillars in the communities/neighborhoods of the victims – invest “IN” the communities and neighborhoods

## additional input – less frequent/one-time

### Other ideas

- Don't want to do what other communities have done
- Can we push the resources to something that makes the City a safer place?
- It would be very strong to say "we're going to donate resources to make this a safer place" rather than an object, a piece of art
- Utilizing a QR Code to provide further details of event and individuals involved
- Incorporate music into unveiling

### Other ideas: Healing

- Finding a way to give back, or prevent violence
- Concert date/food trucks event to support victims of crime
- What we do needs to be different
- Healing is not a straight line; it is ongoing
- Showing people our progress
- Justice is part of healing

## additional input – less frequent/one-time

### Honoring Those Who Survived

- Use of sticky notes, leave one, take one
- A fence with 12” spaces between posts – symbolizing the randomness of where you are/were
- Do something throughout the District, close it down, turn the entire District into a memorial
- More abstract
- A ripple effect or spheres, circles, not linear, a component of motion
- Fireflies, stars
- Have a call to action
- Experiential
- A way to include their voices; a wall of quotes from the survivors

## additional input – less frequent/one-time

### Location

- Easily accessible, on 5<sup>th</sup> street
- Where the SHINE event was
- Priority opinion to those who live/work there
- The OD is a legally defined area
- Accessible, high walkability
- Not "the defining thing" of the OD, that can be trivialized by people who don't know
- Not a constant trigger
- Respect the daily pathways of those who live, work there
- A space that requires people to "opt in"; it's not unavoidable, not in your face
- Very visible – people will grow to appreciate it as part of the OD
- Not a backdrop for selfies
- The Oregon District is forever defined differently
- Should not be in the Oregon District, we have to live and work there