

# NEWS & RECORD

## Design team shows ideas for new downtown park

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**GREENSBORO** — A children's area.

Vendor shops. An arts and crafts market. Food kiosks.

A temporary, movable stage.

These are among the ideas for the new downtown park that will border the planned performing arts center.

The team designing the Carolyn and Maurice LeBauer City Park shared ideas and tentative drawings with the public Tuesday during sessions at the Greensboro Cultural Center, amid the attractions that will border the park.

Another public drop-in session will take place from 1:30 to 3 p.m. today.

The 2 1/2 -acre park will be developed with a bequest from the late Carolyn Weill LeBauer to the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

It will border North Davie Street and back up against the Central Library on North Church Street. Both the park and the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts are expected to open in March 2016.

"This park is linking the whole cultural district together," Community Foundation President Walker Sanders said. "It's the opportunity of a lifetime to make a connection of all of our major cultural assets."

The design team received park ideas from the public in August. It will take public feedback from this week's sessions and return with refined proposals in about 45 days, said Ken Mayer of Moser Mayer Phoenix Associates, a local architecture, engineering and interior design firm.

Mayer's firm is working on the project with Katalyst, a California planning and urban design firm; Halvorson Design Partnership of Boston, Mass.; and **Biederman Redevelopment Ventures of New York.**

Joe McClyde III of Katalyst presented design ideas to arts organizations based in the cultural center and representatives of other neighboring attractions, including the library, Greensboro Children's Museum and Greensboro Historical Museum.

Aside from a garden that Carolyn LeBauer requested, the park could include a children's area, McClyde said.

The park also could feature vendor shops, public art, a bar or beer garden, picnic grills, video screen, a dog park, restrooms, fitness equipment, food kiosks and a food-truck zone on Davie Street.

The existing Price-Bryan Performance Place stage in Festival Park could be replaced with a temporary, movable stage, to allow more flexibility for performances there.

The park would have full-time management.

Several arts groups liked the possibility of adding a new entrance from the park into the cultural center.

Some also said that they hoped the park would draw on existing programs, such as the ArtQuest children's art program in Greenhill gallery, to provide activities and not compete against them.

"The children's museum and Greenhill charge an admissions fee," said Laura Way, Greenhill executive director. "If programming in the park is free, that could impact our business model."

It's not the park's intent to compete, designers said. It would seek to partner with existing organizations to offer activities, without stretching their staff resources.

"Our hope is that we can showcase what is happening in this facility in a more public fashion," McClyde said. "It will hopefully attract more people to this facility and all of the great things that you do."

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