# Petaluma Fairgrounds Panel Charrette Outcome

October 2, 2022 Charrette





On October 2, 20 Healthy Democracy Panelist and six local professionals gathered at the Lucchesi Community Center to conduct a Charrette to make their visions come to life.

There were 5 tables, each with a team of 2-6 panelists, a moderator, and 1-2 architects and landscape architect professionals drafting the ideas.



# Why did we feel the need to have a Charrette?

The Panel members came up with the idea to host a Charrette in an attempt to provide more context to the "Vision" statements created by the entire panel within the Third Report: Final Recommendations. The report holds our visions and ideas for site use options within each vision.



#### What is a charrette?

If you google "charrette" this is what you find: A charrette is a meeting in which all stakeholders in a project attempt to resolve conflicts and map solutions.

For us it was a means for us to literally draw our visions onto paper with the guidance and support of an architect. We wanted a focused session to collaborate on the true meaning behind each vision and to see what it could actually look like if we applied directly onto the fairgrounds site map.



## What was the process like?

A subcommittee was empowered to coordinate the event and was able to have approximately 20 panels participate along with 6 architects (one of them a landscape architect) and 3 moderators participate in the event. The event took place at the Community Center in Petaluma on October 2, 2022.

Panelist were split up into 5 tables, Vision 1 had two tables, Vision 2 was originally 2 tables and decided to combine into 1, and lastly Vision 3 had two tables. One moderator was assigned to each Vision to help folks stay on track since we had to accomplish this big feat in 2 hours. An architect was assigned to each table and since Vision 2 decided to merge, it had two architects supporting that specific drawing.

Each table had copies of their vision and the Third Report to help guide decision making and were able to put some great ideas onto the fairgrounds site.



### What was the outcome?

Each vision was represented well! We kept in mind that these were going to be shown as "examples" of ways to realize these visions so folks creatively demonstrated their visions.

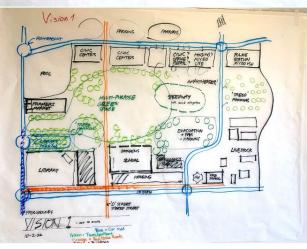
Below are the drawings with a brief narrative of each drawing under their respective vision.











# Vision Statement 1

2 interpretations

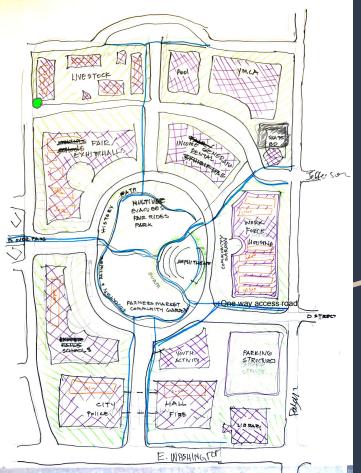


A welcoming public space that adapts to fit the needs of the diverse & changing community. A space for events that showcases nature & agriculture while being climate positive & removing greenhouse gas emissions.

## Vision 1a

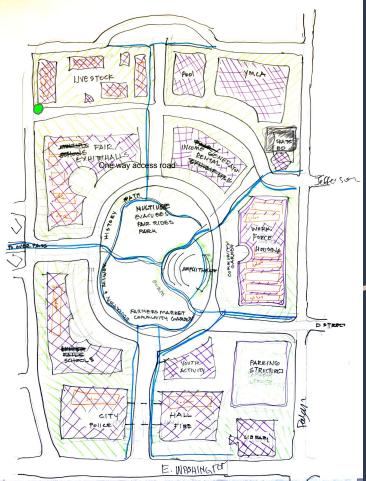
Site Use Options
Considered for This
Drawing

- Having the City Hall/Civic services as the front door of the site with an archway to allow for pedestrian traffic
- Large open park-like space at the center of the site that can be converted for annual Fair event use at that time of year or year-round farmers market with an outdoor amphitheater
- Multiple walking paths and vehicle access to different parts of the site
- A YMCA with underground parking
- Solar or green roof on all structures
- Underground parking garage
- Livestock area
- Exhibit halls that can be rented to the community or used for the annual Fair
- Workforce housing with community garden
- Relocation of the Swim center and upgraded
- Space for schools (existing and new)
- Relocation of the skate park
- The blue lines show pedestrian access through the site along with an interactive historical/educational walk that can showcase the Miwok or other education topics.
- Space that is available for the City to get creative to generate income to help support the public functions of the site.



#### Vision 1a

Centrally located, Fairgrounds connects and brings together the entire city. The beautiful eco-friendly **civic center** is the gateway that welcomes civic participation from all residents. The central park has an amphitheater surrounded by **sound-mitigating berms**. Native plant and tree lined bike/walk paths celebrating diverse local history and via landscaping and evolving outdoor exhibit, meanders the periphery of the central park and connects neighborhoods. All structures **showcase** Petaluma's leadership in climate readiness.

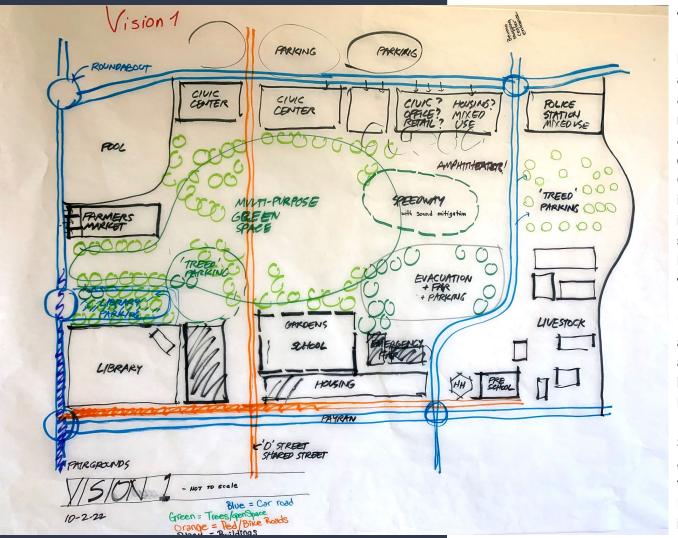


**Affordable activity** centers for all ages (YMCA, youth activity center, swimming pools) brings foot traffic. Fairgrounds with livestock area and exhibit hall occupies the SE corner. Eco-friendly workforce housing near public transport hub is on Payran. Community gardens next to schools and housing. **Farmers market** is incorporated in the central park. Fairgrounds with fair exhibit halls/spaces and livestock area, and ag incubator occupies the SE section. Schools are moved to NE corner (or SC section) **Undefined income-generating** structure is also added to finance the construction and maintenance. Unobtrusive parking vertical structure occupies the space behind the library and under the YMCA.

## Vision 1b

Site Use Options
Considered for This
Drawing

- Incorporating a welcoming space that would have the farmers market at the entrance of the space.
- Large green open space that could have multiple uses.
- Several locations for parking that would have sustainable features such as porous concrete to help with drainage and a lot of trees for shade and help with sound mitigation throughout the site.
- Moved all building to the outside of the site to allow for easy access from rounds.
- Incorporated workforce housing on Payran
- Included mixed use buildings and civic center onsite.
- Incorporated a police station that could have mixed use.
- Incorporated an outdoor amphitheater
- Kept a dotted line around the speedway that would require sound mitigation if it was left in place.
- Created a throughway for vehicular access (blue)
- Created a direct pedestrian and bicycle pathway through the site (orange)
- Livestock spaces were preserved.



#### Vision 1b

Multi-purpose abundantly green space anchors the space. Must include sound and CO2 emission mitigated Speedway racetrack, if Speedway is kept. Library and Pool is left intact with beautification of any fencing (no chain link fences!). Civic center, mixed use building could include shops/restaurants below and low income housing above, also police substation along Kenilworth Dr. Low-income workforce housing on Payran St. Farmers Market welcomes visitors along East Washington. Permeable parking areas are filled with shady trees to keep a park-like appearance. Livestock area kept for Fair and Evacuations. All Buildings would be renovated or rebuilt.

**Safer road design:** Pathway for walking & biking connects D street that leads to the overpass connection to East Petaluma. Roundabouts are at every intersections in the surrounding streets.

# Vision Statement 2



We envision a safe Green Open Space, with activities that can be shared and enjoyed by the greater community, an inviting Central Park-like setting on Washington St., with the added attraction of a year round Farmers Market at the entrance, as well as agricultural education, and a place for the annual fair to remain a center for emergency evacuation services.

Site Use Options
Considered For This
Drawing

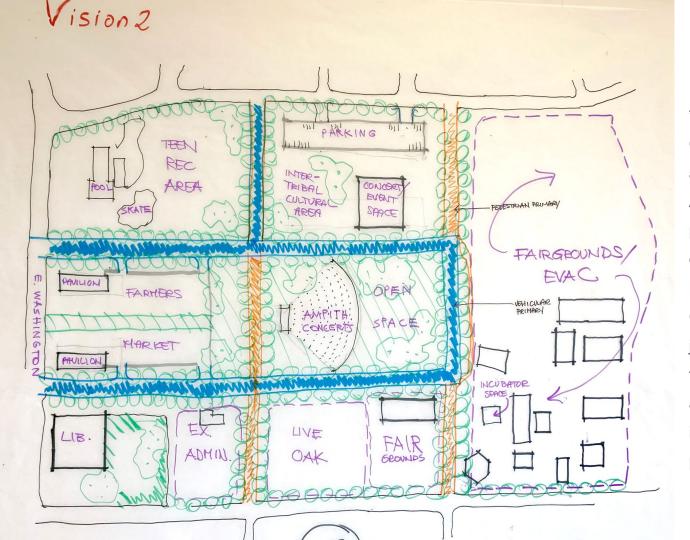
- Created a welcoming open space that has space for a year-round farmers market at the E. Washington entrance. The open space ahs pavilions, and outdoor amphitheater.
- The thick blue lines show vehicular access through the site.
- The orange lines show pedestrian and bicycle access through the site.
- Spaces outlined for Teen recreation center, inter-tribal/cultural area, annual Fair event use or evacuation use, space for an agricultural incubator, concert event space, space for the Live Oak Charter school, and administration.
- Trees and greenery surrounding as much of the site possible.



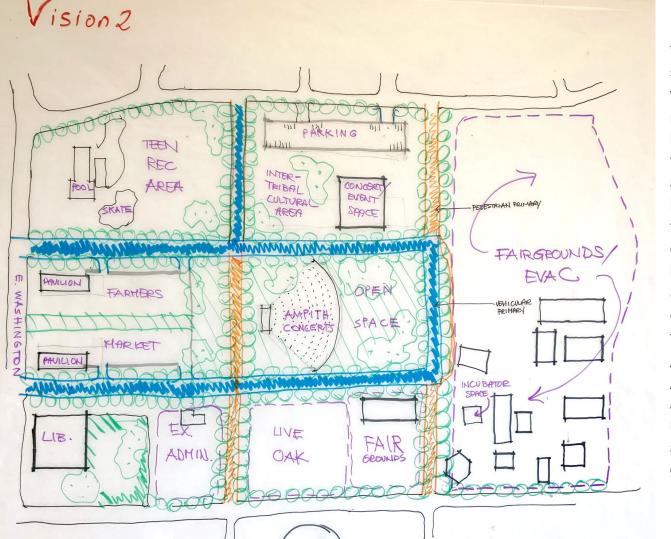
#### **VISION 2**

\*We begin with an inviting Central
Park-like setting on Washington St.,
with the added attraction of a year
round Farmers Market at the
entrance, an Open Air Amphitheater
--projecting away from the City-- with
Green Open Space to be shared if
and when needed.

\*The **Pool and Skate Park** remain the same, with the addition of turning Johnson St. into an Green Open Space for a Teen Activities Rec Area. The cross street traffic will be moved further south down Kenilworth.



\*There is a multipurpose Concert/Event center with an attached Inter Tribal Cultural Area honoring the First Nations people of the area, open to their ceremonies, but used by all of Petaluma and/or Sonoma County. – This area also shows just one example of the potential for various smaller, easily accessible lots to be implemented around the property.



\*Much of the original fairground structures remain where they were, with some on the SE corner possibly getting moved back to isolate the fairgrounds to the rear of the property. A new important addition to this area would be the Incubator/Ag Ed Building within the area to potentially be used in conjunction with the Fair, existing kitchen and nearby Green Open **Space**. This area, now better centralized in one location, becomes the Center for Emergency **Evacuation Services and** Evacuations. The Live Oak School, Admin Building, and Library remain much the same, with the addition of more trees, and greenery.



#### Legend

- \*Blue Lines are car traffic.
- \*Orange Lines are pedestrian/bicycle paths.
- \*Green Circles are trees, trees, and more trees.
- \*The Parking on the SE side of (Kenilworth), is just <u>one example</u> of the potential for various smaller, easily accessible lots to be implemented around the property, in TBD locations, instead of one larger centralized lot.

# Vision Statement 3



Our vision is to preserve the current acreage of the fairgrounds property by renewing a modified lease with the 4DAA. The history and heritage of our community should be honored while also improving the property to meet current and future needs. Infrastructure and buildings shall be renovated or replaced with an emphasis on renewable energy and eco-friendly practices and Landscaping.

It is important to maintain flexibility and space for the safe evacuation of people and animals during emergencies. We support continued and expanded use of the speedway, and continuation of the annual Sonoma–Marin Fair.

## Vision 3a

Site Use Options
Considered For This
Drawing

- Creating a new entrance to the site and changing vehicular access with a new gate
- Keeping the Airport Express but allowing use of the rest of the parking lot for year-round farmers market
- Creating more spaces for schools.
- Creating more pedestrian access as shown in orange
- Creating sound mitigation around the speedway
- Adding updated kitchen facilities to support events and in the event of an evacuation
- Creating a space for a dog park
- Adding multilevel parking with a park on the top floor



## Vision 3a

Committed to keeping much of the current uses but adding new improvements including a dog park and **living wall** to mitigate noise pollutions.

**Year-round farmers market** will be added in the front facing section.

More **native trees/plants** planted throughout the property.

Parts of the property is gated and locked to prevent trespassing.

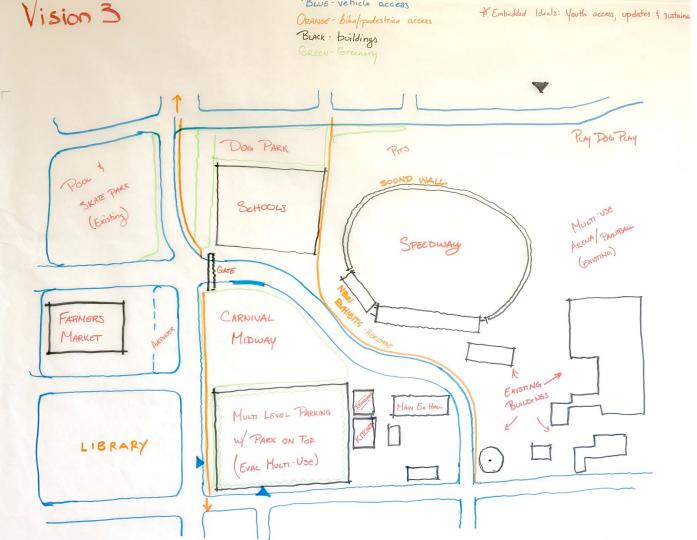
**New parking structure** will be added and improvement of some of the structures

Dog park is added

## Vision 3b

Site Use Options
Considered For This
Drawing

- Including space for a year-round farmers market at the E. Washington entrance.
- Creating pedestrian pathways (in orange) through the site.
- Creating more green space around the site.
- Rebuilding and improving existing agricultural and animal evacuation space
- Adding space for schools and teaching agriculture
- Adding a dog park
- Preserving existing business buildings.
- Creating a living wall around the entire site.



#### Vision 3b

- Creating a new entrance to the site and changing vehicular access with a new gate
- Keeping the Airport Express but allowing use of the rest of the parking lot for year-round farmers market
- Creating more spaces for schools.
- Creating more pedestrian access as shown in orange
- Creating sound mitigation around the speedway
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