

Perkins&Will

Meeting Minutes

Date: 6.25.2020 **Authored By:** Uttara Ramakrishnan

Meeting Details

Meeting Date: 6.25.2020

Project Name: George Washington Carver Center

Meeting Time: 6.30 PM

Project Number: 215011.000

Meeting Location: WebEx

Attendees:

George Washington Carver Center:

Carre Adams

Austin Parks and Recreation Dept:

Gregory Montes, Megan Eckard, Larry Williams

COA African American Employees:

Doreen Boyd, Jennifer Steversen, Ruby Robinson, Benson, Kerri Lang, Tia Boyd, Moyo Oyelola, Victor Carr, Jolene Cochran, David Grey, Greg Ferrar

Smith & Company Architects:

Terry Smith, Juarez White, Ivonne Canez

Perkins and Will:

Stephen Coulston, Malcom Davis, Paul Ward, Uttara Ramakrishnan

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Discussion

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY	ORGANIZATION
1	Greeting A brief introduction of the project and the purpose of the meeting to seek the help of the participants to define a vision for the future of the Carver Center. Review agenda and uncertainty of timeline.	Carre Adams	George Washington Carver Museum
2	Welcome to Master Plan and Process A briefing of the project initiation and selection of the design team.	Gregory Montes	COA Parks and Recreation Department
3	Design Team Welcome Design Team: S&C + PW consortium, has a long history of working together; and individually on key projects of local and national significance. Both value diversity and inclusion.	Terry Smith	Smith & Company Architects
4	Facilitate Virtual Guests Intros Brief introduction by each participant – who they are, how are they related to the Carver center.	Carre Adams	George Washington Carver Museum
5	Exercise: KEEP TOSS CREATE The Design Team engaged with the participants to understand their relationships with and aspirations for the Carver Center. The aim of this exercise was to garner detailed information regarding programming, expansion needs, infrastructure, transportation, neighborhood connectivity, environmental concerns, and any other relevant issues affecting the development of the identified area. The participants were asked questions: (details below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What they enjoy the most at Carver? b) What they least appreciate or dislike about Carver? c) What is missing/ what new programs would they like to see? 	Malcolm Davis & Stephen Coulston	Perkins and Will
6	Q&A	Carre Adams	George Washington Carver Museum
7	Wrap Up	Gregory Montes	COA Parks and Recreation Department

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KEEP What do you currently enjoy most at the Carver Center?

Outdoor events (would like to do larger if possible)	Juneteenth emancipation exhibit	timeline (adjacent to juneteenth exhibit)	Theatre -- would love to see this expanded / improved	Display space, cultural displays	christmas tree display! (the entire exhibition space of the top floor and down the hall to the theatre)
warm, inviting feeling	Genealogy center	flexibility of the facility for multiple uses	full service kitchen (could be upgraded / expanded)	intergenerational vibe, something for everybody	ability to have space outdoors for events
I like the full service kitchen					

Exercise: Keep, Toss, Create

1. Keep: The participants were asked what they enjoy most at the Carver.

The replies covered multiple concerns:

a) Idea of the Building:

- The participants conveyed that the building elicited a warm, inviting feeling that they deeply cherished.
- The Carver complex has an inter-generational vibe that the participants greatly enjoy.

b) Experience:

- The building opens to the courtyard permitting programming of the outdoor spaces. The participants indicated they would like more outdoor spaces.

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- Exhibits such as Juneteenth Emancipation or the temporary Christmas tree displays – liked by the community.
- The historical timeline adjacent to the Juneteenth exhibit is also of immense value to the community.

c) Programs:

- Participants mentioned that they liked the theatre and used to actively. They indicated that it would be beneficial to the Carver and the community if the theater is expanded.
- The Genealogy Center is another program valuable to the community.

d) Spaces in the building:

- Display spaces in the building focusing on culture are valuable to the community.
- The participants mentioned that they liked the flexibility of spaces in the building to accommodate multiple uses.
- Full-service kitchen (potential to upgrade)

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TOSS What do you least appreciate or dislike?

Exhibit hall - not large enough, need space for more elaborate exhibits	more appropriate space for traveling exhibits	inadequate meeting space, need to meet in spaces not set up appropriately	design of the theater space - steepness is an issue, wayfinding to theater is an issue	lack of functional lighting in common areas (offices, classrooms, conf. rooms, dance etc.)	acoustics in the meeting rooms are important, sometimes we have film screenings in the rooms and the	need to think about circulation and ability to move people and objects through building	park space between the school and carver could use better lighting and other improvements
Acoustics in the drum / lobby	overall facility technology could be improved	sunken stage and back pavillion area is underdesigned, in need of more landscaping / food cultivation (carver after all!)	kitchen space - location is not great for renters, have to wheel it around, could use a support space adjacent to main	leaks in the ceiling	often having to do makeshift set-up for fabrication	Archive needs proper tools and storage	the ventilation system in the basement make a disruptive squeaking noise whenever the AC is turned on
wayfinding is an issue, recognition within the community, needs a signifier	lighting is an issue - parking, for example, sets the tone for comfort, safety, welcoming	landscaping to the rear of building, maintenance and upkeep, water collection	Reception desk within The Drum, both look and function	office space / storage is not adequate, things spill out	Chair storage - it is like Jenga in there!	loading dock - onramp and maneuvering are circuitous. lighting is improved but not great	
need more room for things like tool cart (storage near areas to support thier uses)	Darkroom - not currently used very heavily, how can this be better incorporated	Bathrooms - lighting is poor, difficult for maintenance (great barometer for comfort / emotion in a	employee break room should be more spacious, the door doesn't fully open due to the lack of space	Dance studio needs better floors, better lighting	Exhibits - need better support systems, hanging and understanding access, anchor points, electrical, lighting needs	safety is a concern overall	

2. Toss: The participants were asked what they appreciate the least or dislike the most about the Carver?

The replies elaborated on various issues:

e) Way finding:

- The Carver complex lacks adequate wayfinding and signage. It needs a signifier to enable instant recognition in the area.
- Safety is a concern.

f) Parking and Accessibility:

- Participants indicated that they often felt unsafe during nighttime around the Carver on account of the lack of lighting in the complex. The parking lots set the tone for the Carver and are not well lit.
- Park space between the school and Carver could use better lighting and other maintenance and wayfinding related improvements

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g) Design and utilization:

- Exhibit hall - not large enough, need space for more elaborate exhibits.
- The Carver museum needs well designed spaces for high quality travelling exhibits.
- Participants conveyed that the Carver lacked adequate meeting space on account of which they currently end up meeting in spaces that are not setup appropriately.
- Theater is very steep and poses a hindrance to accessibility.
- Wayfinding to the theater is an issue.
- Lack of functional lighting in common areas (offices, classrooms, conference rooms, dance studios etc.)
- Meeting rooms need good acoustics to prevent sound bleeds and echo.
- Circulation is cumbersome at present and not conducive to move displays with ease up-down the building.
- Bad acoustic in the drum and lobby.
- Overall facility technology could be improved.
- Sunken stage and back pavilion area are under-designed and in need of more landscaping.
- The location of the kitchen is not great for renters. A support space adjacent to the main kitchen to store/wheel stuff around would be useful.
- Leaks in the ceiling.
- Renters often must do makeshift set-up for fabrication.
- Archive needs proper tools and storage.
- The ventilation system in the basement make a disruptive squeaking noise whenever the AC is turned on.
- The open space to the rear of the building lacks proper landscaping, maintenance and upkeep and oftentimes becomes a collector of overflowing water.
- Reception desk within The Drum is not well designed – aesthetically and functionally.
- Office space and storage is not adequate. Things often spill out. The Carver needs to have more room for things like tool cart (storage near areas to support their uses)
- Loading dock - onramp and maneuvering are circuitous.
- The darkroom is not used much at present and the new design should increase usability of this space.
- Bathrooms - lighting is poor, difficult for maintenance (great barometer for comfort / emotion in a building)
- The employee break room should be spacious. At present, the door does not fully open due to lack of space.

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- Dance studio needs better floors and better lighting.
- Exhibits - need better support systems, hanging and understanding access, anchor points, electrical. Lighting needs upgrade.

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CREATE

What is missing/ what new programs would you like to see ?

Expand capacity
to have more
outdoor events -
better landscaping

Improve theater
technology

Amphitheater
outside - layout
on a blanket -
movie night

More meeting
spaces

Better technology
that aids flexibility

Upgrade kitchen

Permanent Wood
working or maker
space lab for staff

Elaborate on the
ability to
accommodate all -
older folks,
young, etc - inter-
generational

Shaded areas +
picnic tables
outdoor

Expand exhibit
hall / space for
more elaborate
exhibits - Eg.
Smithsonian
(travelling
displays)

Better flow into
the theater +
improvements in
accessibility

Need good
functional lighting
in common areas

improved sound
board in the
theater

Archive room
needs more
storage

Interpretative
landscape + food
garden around the
building

Mini food prep
area(sink, counter)
connected to
museum store

better speaker
system in the
drum area when
people can give
presentations

If possible,
parking
improvements

Way-finding.
Recognize / notice
the building

Lighting in the
parking

Loading dock
accessibility +
maintenance.
Need to be easy to
push things up a
cart

Need more
storage in the
offices

Room for things
on every floor. Eg.
tool cart

Dance studio
needs better
floors + natural
light. Feels cold
right now

Understand what's
behind the wall
for planning
exhibits (utilities,
lighting, access
points etc)

More workspace
in the basements -
mobile units to
put together
things here that
can be moved
across the

Mobile solutions
to functionally
move art work /
equipments up-
down the building

Improve lighting
in the whole
complex -
throughout the
'pool'

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Find ways to improve the 'pool'	enough space to hold events in the spaces they are designed for (e.g. not a meeting in a dance studio)	Digital signage (both for internal and external)	air purifiers in the staff's office upstairs is important	small child picking a fig off a tree in the museum landscape - eating it fresh	
A will-call pickup area	More inviting entry space / lobby, ability for creative setup	Billboard / sign on 11th? had looked into this previously	I'll say again, that I would love to see a dedicated community garden space that can be used by existing partners		
ensuring we have supportive technology for all events	it would be great if the carver had a camera security system	local entrepreneur space / vending / cafe/ foodservice to provide economic opportunity - recurring	Water fountain. There is something about having a beautiful fountain to invite you.		
Improve ventilation system in the basement	MEP system upgrades	CAFE (x2) make this place a destination for people on a regular basis, a place to bump into each other	Artist studio space (short or long-term)	Low cost space that can be rented hourly or daily for artists	live work space, visiting artists

3. Create: The participants were asked what programs or upgrades they would like to see here.

The replies can be categorized as follows:

h) Ideas:

- The participants conveyed that they wished to see small children picking fruits off the trees growing in the Carver complex.
- Elaborate on the ability to accommodate people of ages and stand as a true inter-generational facility.

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i) Way finding and Accessibility:

- Digital signage (both for internal and external). Digital marquee could also be placed at the front of the building to inform people of the events happening in the facility.
- Better flow into the theater and improvements in accessibility.
- The participants suggested looking into the possibility of locating a billboard / sign on 11th street.
- Parking improvements
- Wayfinding to act as a strong signifier for the building.
- Understand what's behind the wall for planning exhibits (utilities, lighting, access points etc)

j) Programming:

- The facility needs more meeting spaces.
- Permanent Wood working or maker space lab for staff.
- Archive room needs more storage.
- Mini food prep area (sink, counter) connected to museum store.
- The Carver could include a space for local entrepreneurs / vendors / cafe / foodservice to provide economic opportunity to members of the community and the facility while activating the space well.
- Artist studio space (short or long-term). The long-term spaces, could be spaces for visiting artists and have provisions for living.
- Low cost space that can be rented hourly or daily for artists.

k) Design:

- The participants suggested incorporating an amphitheater outside to host events and movie nights.
- Better technology that aids flexibility
- Kitchen needs upgrading and expansion.
- Find ways to improve the 'pool'
- Enough space to hold events in the spaces they are designed for (e.g. not a meeting in a dance studio)
- Shaded areas and picnic tables outdoor.
- Expand exhibit hall / space for more elaborate exhibits - Eg. Smithsonian (travelling displays)
- More inviting entry space / lobby, ability for creative setup.

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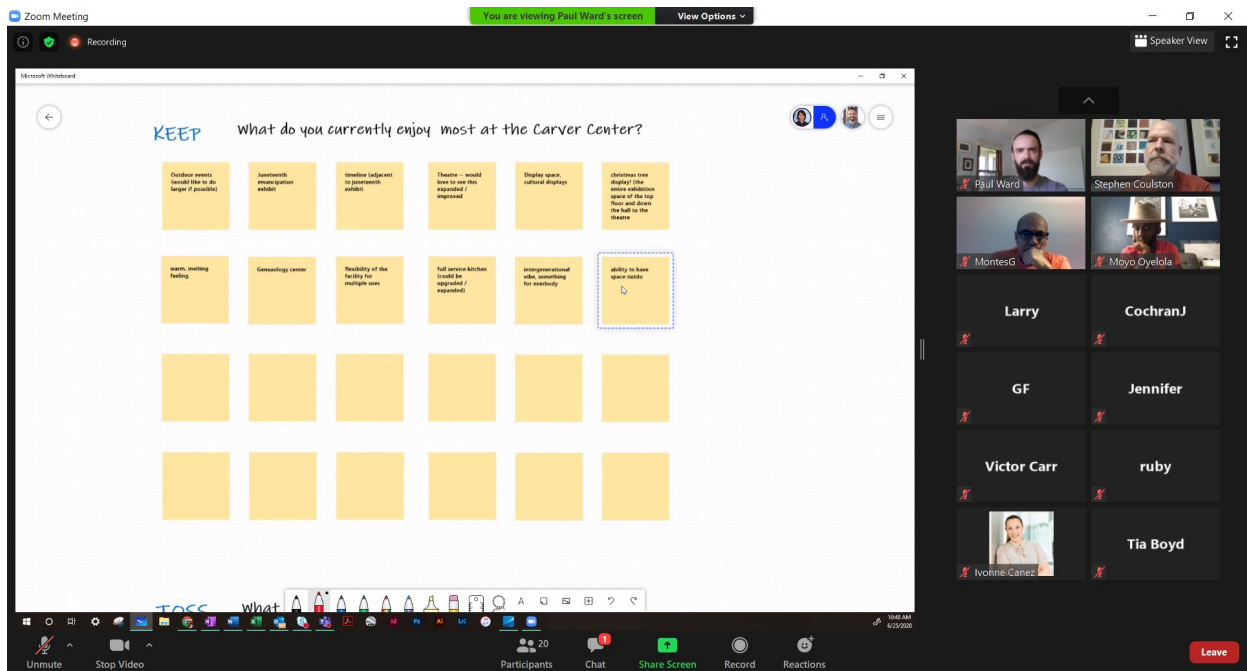
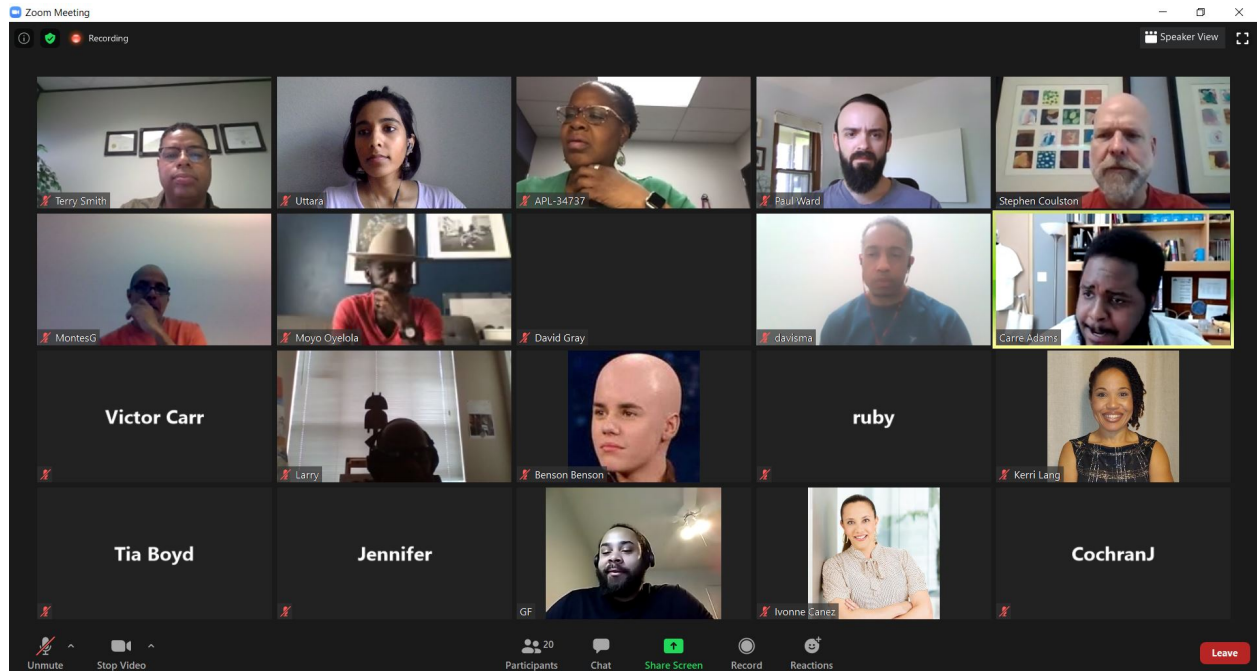
- Participants conveyed the need to include a dedicated community garden space that can be used by existing partners like the Seed to Science program and other community members.
- Interpretative landscape and food garden around the building.
- Some of the participants wished to see a water fountain in the building to welcome people.
- Every room in the Carver to have adequate tools/tool cart.
- Dance studio needs better floors and more natural light. The participants conveyed that the space feels cold right now.
- More workspace in the basements - mobile units to put together things here that can be moved across the buildings
- Mobile solutions to functionally move artwork and equipment's up-down the building.
- Providing a café area in the Carver would increase chance encounters and encourage lingering of folks. This is needed provide a strong space for the community to gather.

I) **Building Management Systems:**

- Improve theater technology.
- Air purifiers in the staff's office upstairs.
- Need good functional lighting in common areas.
- Improved sound board in the theater.
- Better speaker system in the drum area when people can give presentations.
- The park and open spaces need lighting.
- Ensuring we have supportive technology for all events.
- Improve ventilation system in the basement.
- MEP system upgrades.

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Photos/Screenshots of the meeting:



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Zoom Meeting You are viewing Paul Ward's screen View Options

Recording

Microsoft Whiteboard

TOSS What do you least appreciate or dislike?

Exhibit hall - not large enough, need space for more elaborate exhibits	more appropriate space for traveling exhibits	Inadequate meeting space, need to meet in spaces not set up appropriately	design of the theater space - steepness is an issue, sightlines to theater is an issue	lack of functional lighting in common areas (offices, classrooms, conf. rooms, dance etc.)	acoustics in the meeting rooms are important, sometimes we have film screenings in the rooms and the
Acoustics in the atrium / lobby	overall facility technology could be improved	Type here...			

Participants: 20 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions

Unmute Stop Video

Speaker View

Participants: Jennifer, Uttara, Victor Carr, Carre Adams, Mayo Oyelola, Stephen Coulston, Terry Smith, APL-34737, Paul Ward, David Gray, davisma, MontesG

Leave

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Recording

Microsoft Whiteboard

Expand capacity to have more outdoor events better landscaping	Improve theater technology	Amphitheater outside - layout on a blanket never right	More meeting spaces	Better technology that aids flexibility	Upgrade kitchen	Permanent wood working or make space lab for staff	Fast ways to improve the "poo"	enough space to hold events in the spaces they are designed for (e.g. not a meeting in a dance studio)	Digital signage (both for internal and external)
Elaborate on the ability to accommodate all ages folks - young, old, inter-generational	Shaded areas - picnic tables outdoor	Expand exhibit hall / space for more elaborate exhibits - E.g. San Francisco (traveling displays)	Better flow into the theater - improvements in accessibility	Need good functional lighting in common areas	Improve sound board in the theater	Archive room needs more storage	A well call pickup area	More meeting entry space / lobby, lobby for creative setup	Billboard / sign on 11th? had looked into this previously
Interpretative landscape - food garden around the building	Mini food prep area (sink, counter) connected to museum store	better speaker system in the atrium area where people can give presentations	If possible, parking improvements	Way finding, Reception / notice the building	Lighting in the parking	Loading dock accessibility - multipurpose. Need to be easy to push things up a cart	ensuring we have supportive technology for all events	it would be great if the Carver had a camera security system	local entrepreneur space / vending to provide economic opportunity - recurring activation of the
Need more storage in the offices	Room for things on every floor. E.g. food cart	Dance studio needs better floor - natural light, fans cold right now	Understand what's behind the wall for planning exhibits, labelling, lighting, access points etc)	More workspace in the basements - mobile units to put together things that can be moved across the	Mobile solutions to functionally store art work / equipment up down the building	Improve lighting in the whole complex through the "poo"	Improve ventilation system in the basement	MFP system upgrades	

Participants: 19 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions

Unmute Stop Video

Speaker View

Participants: davisma, Uttara, Victor Carr, David Gray, Stephen Coulston, Carre Adams, Terry Smith, APL-34737, Paul Ward, Mayo Oyelola, MontesG, Larry

Leave

11:19 AM 6/25/2020

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Recording

Microsoft Whiteboard

Expand capacity to have more outdoor events better landscaping	Improve theater technology	Amplitheater outside - layout on a blanket - move night	More meeting spaces	Better technology that aids flexibility	Upgrade kitchen	Permanent Wood working or maker space lab for staff	Find ways to improve the 'pool'	enough space to build events in the space they are designed for i.e. a not a meeting in a dance studio	Digital signage (both for internal and external)
Elaborate on the ability to accommodate all - older folks, young, etc. - inter generational	Shaded areas + picnic tables outdoor	Expand exhibit hall / space for more elaborate exhibits - E.g. Multicultural travelling displays	Better flow into the theater + improvements in accessibility	Need good functional lighting in common areas	Improve sound board in the theater	Archive room needs more storage	A well call pickup area	More seating entry space / lobby, ability for creative setup	Billboard / sign on 11th St had looked into this previously
Interpretative landscape + food gardens around the building	Mini food prep area (sink, counter) connected to museum store	better speaker system in the drum area where people can give presentations	If possible, parking improvements	Way finding, Recognize / notice the building	Lighting in the parking	Loading dock accessibility + maintenance - Need to be easy to push things up a cart	ensuring we have supportive technology for all events	It would be great if the carver had a camera security system	space / building - present - opportunity - recovering activities of the space
Need more storage in the offices	Room for things on every floor. E.g. tool cart	Dance studio needs better floor - natural light. Feels cold right now	Understand what's behind the wall for planning exhibits, utilities, lighting, access points etc)	More workspace in the basements - mobile units to put together things here that can be moved across the	Mobile solutions to functionally move art work / equipments up down the building	Improve lighting in the whole complex - thought the 'pool'	Improve ventilation system in the basement	MEP system upgrades	

Participants: 19 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Leave

Participants: APL-34737, Paul Ward, Moyo Oyelola, MontesG, Larry, Benson Benson, CochranJ, GF, Kerri Lang, ruby, Ivonne Canez, Jennifer, Connecting to...