

WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

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SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Civic Assembly Recommendations on Hughes Site Uses

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is for delegates from the recently convened Civic Assembly to share their recommendations and experiences with Council.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What questions do Councilmembers have regarding the Civic Assembly process?
2. What questions do Councilmembers have for the Civic Assembly delegates?
3. Do Councilmembers have thoughts on next steps as it relates to the Council priority to develop a Hughes Site Master Plan?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

One of the identified 2024-2026 Council priorities is to develop a Hughes Site Master Plan by engaging in an inclusive process to determine desired future uses on the site. In addition, another priority is to make government more accessible, approachable and fun by providing opportunities to connect with local government and community in meaningful ways. Therefore, staff recommended the utilization of a civic assembly process as one engagement tool in developing the site plan.

On August 20, 2024, Ordinance No. 106 was passed by Council on second reading to appropriate \$150,000 to Healthy Democracy (HD), a nonprofit organization specialized in implementing civic assemblies across the country.

Twenty delegates were randomly selected from across Fort Collins. This cohort was designed to reflect the city's demographic diversity in terms of age, Council district, housing status, household income, and educational attainment. Comparative data for the Fort Collins population, the initial respondent pool, and the final civic assembly delegates are shown in the attached presentation (Attachment 3).

The assembly convened for two full weekends: April 12-13 and May 3-4 to answer the following question: "Informed by the diverse needs of our community, what use of the Hughes site will contribute most

effectively to Fort Collins' long-term vitality and meet the requirements outlined in the 2021 ballot measure?"

The Civic Assembly process was designed to be transparent, informed, and collaborative. The weekends were structured as follows:

1. *Learning & Information Gathering*: Delegates heard from 9 different presenters the first weekend, as selected by the Information Committee, in order to understand the history, context and various perspectives on the Hughes site. The delegates also received reports from previous public engagement efforts. Following the initial weekend, the delegates extended invitations to several presenters, including some from the first session, to return. These individuals participated as panelists in focused working groups on the first day of the subsequent weekend. Attachment 2 contains a comprehensive list of participants from both weekends.
2. *Deliberation & Discussion*: Over the course of the two weekends, facilitated discussions were held in small groups and the larger plenary session to explore potential site uses, weigh trade-offs, and long-term impacts.
3. *Recommendation Development*: This primarily happened during the last weekend and through consensus-building, the Assembly produced their final report of recommendations (Attachment 1).
4. *Presentation to City Council*: The purpose of this Work Session is a presentation to Council, providing an opportunity for direct engagement and questions with a selection of delegates.

The videos and documents from this process are located on the Future of Hughes project page: <https://ourcity.fcgov.com/future-of-hughes>.

NEXT STEPS

Next steps will be determined by Council feedback from this Work Session.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Hughes Civic Assembly Final Report
2. Assembly Presenters and Panelists
3. Presentation