

What Should Our Civic Center Have?

That is the question currently before our community, and our City Council and I are interested in hearing from you as we undertake improvements to our Civic Center that will shape our community for generations to come!

The City has begun the design work for Phase II of West U's Facilities Master Plan, which involves a new Senior Center, Community Building, and Library on the current Public Works site. (add very simple graphic)

Phase II is broken into the following three parts:

1. **Civic Center Urban Planning** – This part involves designing the outside space and evaluating possible improvements to this area, which could include making sidewalks wider for increased pedestrian mobility and safety, designing a plan for easing traffic in West U, offering a more efficient parking design to increase spaces while also reducing our parking footprint, and, finally, creating more open and green spaces that our residents can enjoy.
2. **New Senior Center, Community Building, and Library** – This part includes designing the indoor spaces for our new building (or buildings) that will enhance gathering areas for our community, along with library and senior services.
3. **Recreation Center** – The final part of Phase II involves repurposing the space at the Civic Center that will be vacated by the Parks Maintenance division when they move to the new Public Works facility next year. This part of Phase II will take a look at the existing facility to ensure that this space will still be able to meet the needs of our community decades into the future.

Your Input Matters

Over the coming year, West U's City Council and staff will work closely with our community on this exciting project that will shape our Civic Center for generations to come. There are a lot of questions to be answered: Will the Civic Center include one, two, or three buildings? Will there be more open or green spaces for our community's use? What pedestrian improvements will be included? How will the building(s) function? How will the 3800 blocks of Amherst and Milton streets be utilized? With your participation in our planning meetings, all of these questions will be answered during this design process.

I, for one, am excited to witness our community's participation in this unique opportunity to reimagine this space and create a true center for our community. The following meetings have been designed to solicit feedback from the community:

- Urban Planning – We have already completed an online survey and a town hall meeting. The City Council will hold its first workshop on June 25 to discuss these improvements and will hold a second workshop on July 8.
- New Buildings – In early June, we held our first of three scheduled town hall meetings, and we will hold the other two town hall meetings on November 12 and on March 4, 2025. In between these larger meetings, there will be City Council workshops and meetings with stakeholders, among other planning events. The dates for these meetings have not yet been determined.

- Recreation Center – The first town hall meeting on this will be held on November 12. Other meetings will involve the City Council, board, and commissions. The dates for these other meetings have not been determined at this time.

There will be other opportunities to participate as additional meetings are added to the schedule.

Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity

The Civic Center area and new building(s) will be community spaces that should reflect our community and our commitment to providing our residents with best-in-class facilities. These new facilities will serve our current and future generations by providing a state-of-the-art library, along with spaces for our community to gather and for our seniors to stay active and engaged. People are social by nature, and these new facilities and improvements to our urban space will provide a place for young and old alike to stay active and connected to their community.

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime project that our City Council, staff, and myself do not take lightly. Everyone who grew up in our city, or who moved to West U, have their own unique reasons for calling our community home – and the Civic Center is our opportunity to design a space that reinvests in this commitment to call West U home for current and future generations.

We look forward to your participation at the planning meetings for this new Civic Center project!

For more information on the Facilities Master Plan and the upcoming project phases, please visit www.westutx.gov/fmp.