

Public Comment Summary

Sept 2025



Introduction

In August 2025, the Civic Center engagement team collected feedback from the public on how to activate Library Square as a destination in Salt Lake City and with its future place in the Green Loop in mind. Comments were collected online and in-person at the Library, and at events such as the Twilight Concert Series and Unity Fest. The number of comments received through each method are detailed in the table below. The feedback is summarized question by question and overall takeaways are listed at the conclusion.



	Online Discussion	Library Written Comments	Event Post-It Comments	Total
Question 1 (Front Yard of the City)	77	21	3 (Unity)	101
Question 2 (Sit and Read)	24	21	Combined with Question 1	45
Question 3 (Missing Activities)	46	18	19 (Unity)	83
Question 4 (Memories)	12	18	17 (Unity) and 15 (Twilight)	62
Combined Total	159	78	54	291

1. What does the Civic Center need to become a daily neighborhood place or the City's front yard for you and your family?

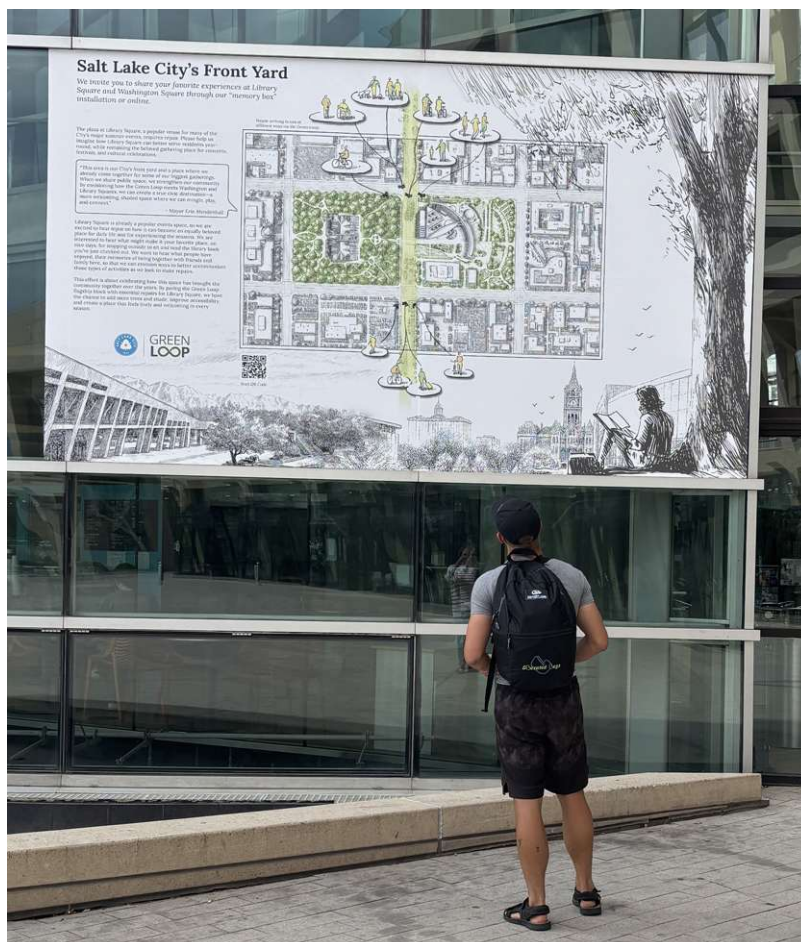
The most prominent themes in the online discussion were **ease of travel and access** to the Civic Block, **improved safety**, **compassionate care for those in need**, and the **inclusion of family-friendly amenities**, especially a skate park. The latter two topics were also the most common in the written library comments.

Several comments requested amenities that would make it easier and safer to access the area by walking or cycling, including bike lanes, mid-block crossings and bike parking. There was also support for the Green Loop because it would offer connections to other areas of the city through expanded green space.

Many comments focused on feeling unsafe due to the presence of the unhoused and cited it as the most important obstacle to them spending more time there. This concern was often brought up in connection with the desire to make the area more family friendly. There were several calls for the City to address this issue with better solutions, though some did point out that the library already offers resources to help those individuals.

There were some requests for family-friendly amenities such as playgrounds, splash-pads, and more attractions at the Leonardo geared towards kids. However, the most discussed feature by far was a skate plaza. Many people pointed out that downtown Salt Lake City lacks a skate park and that similar areas are destinations in other cities. Skate parks are popular with both young people and parents because they give them a space to be active and engage with the community instead of screens.

Other topics of discussion revolved around the continued need for outdoor events and festivals and the addition of more shopping/dining opportunities such as holiday markets or food trucks.



2. Where at the Civic Center might you like to sit and read a book? What changes to the site would be needed for you to be able to do that?

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the need for more **shade** and **seating** were the most common themes in response to this question. The most ideal setting was sitting on a bench or other comfortable seating in the shade of a tree, though some said artificial canopies would also work. There was a divide on the suitability of grass for the area: several comments said there should be more grass, but there were also several requests for more water-friendly gardens and trees instead.

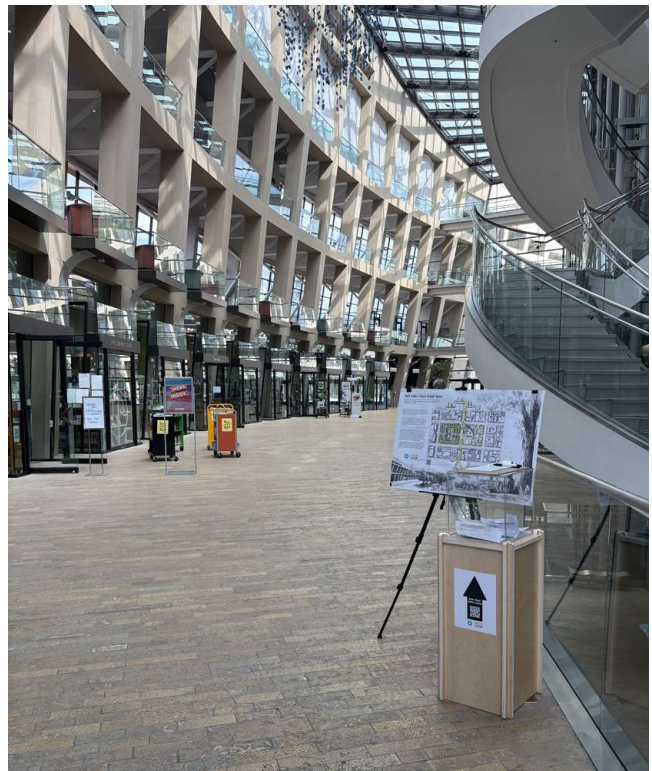
Like the first question, concerns over public safety were frequently expressed. Specifically, these concerns were that current benches are predominantly used by the unhoused. Some said that they would sit and read in the area as it is, but they do not feel safe to do so. A handful of comments suggested that activating the area with shops or interactive features like chess tables would make the area feel more welcoming.

3. Are there other activities you wish you and your family could enjoy here but aren't currently? Why haven't you been able to do those activities at Civic Center?

No single topic dominated the answers to these questions but there were several strong themes.

Like the answers to Question 2, there were complaints that the plaza is too hot and would benefit from more **shade**, **seating** and **water drinking fountains** to cool off. This was tied in a few times with requests for native trees and plants that not only beautify and cool the area but are also water friendly. Flowers and pollinator gardens would attract more people to use the space.

Regularly hosting some kind of **smaller programming** in the plaza was also a popular idea because it would make the area a reliable draw for the community and visitors. Farmer's markets, either seasonal or year-round, as well as holiday and makers markets were frequently mentioned. These markets also provide an opportunity to try local food; a related idea that received some support was to allow food trucks or carts on the plaza. Scheduled events that provide opportunities to shop and dine were widely seen as positive.



Public safety was again cited as an obstacle for many; feeling uncomfortable and unsafe prevents them from coming to activities or, in some cases, the library in general. The written library comments differed from the online discussion in that there were many requests for kid-friendly activities such as picnics, playgrounds, and even a children’s museum, but there was no related fear for safety mentioned.

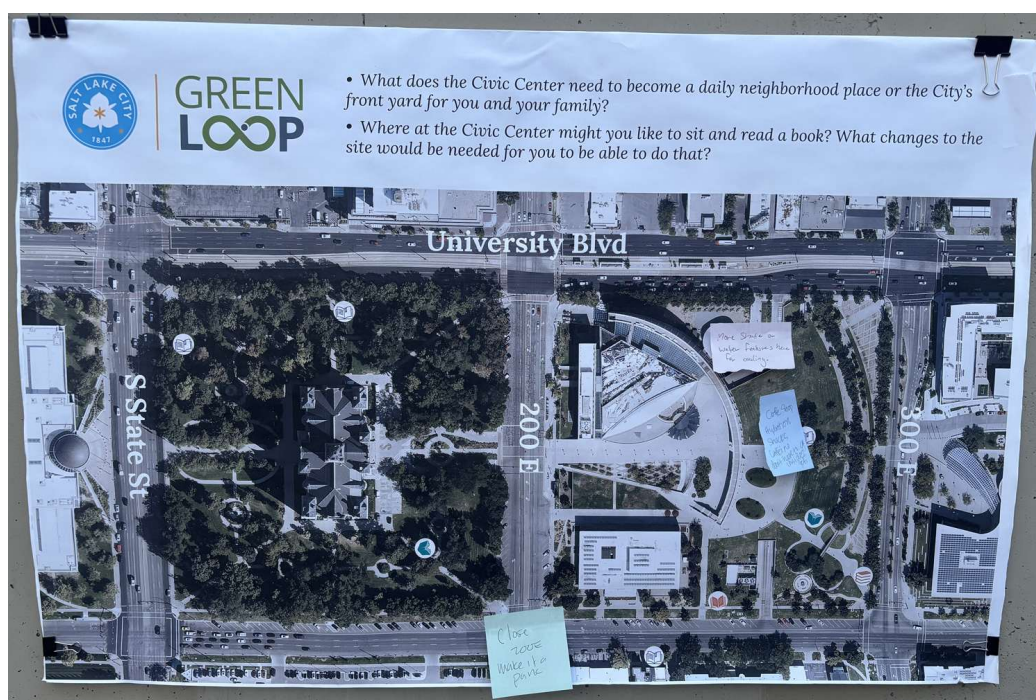
Another safety concern that prevents potential users from accessing the library is vehicle traffic. There were several requests to make the area around the library more bike and pedestrian friendly, such as making a bike path separate from the sidewalk and adding more street crossing options. One comment suggested keeping a route open through the square even when the area is closed to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians.

4. Share a memory of a favorite event or moment at the Civic Center.

Events such as concerts, Pride, art festivals and even the library’s grand opening were each mentioned multiple times. The Living Traditions Festival was mentioned the most, likely because it is a local tradition that is also affordable and family friendly. Features such as the library roof and the fountain were also cited as favorites because they enabled families to make memories together without spending a lot, though there was some disappointment that these features are often closed. Some noted that they would attend more concerts and festivals in the space year-round if they were available, rather than just in the summer.

Again, some expressed public safety concerns, though these were less frequent.

Comments from the Twilight Concert for this question overwhelmingly supported more trees, public seating and bike amenities.





Overall Takeaways

The following themes were the most common concerns, desires, and suggestions expressed throughout all the methods of outreach.



The plaza is too hot (found in dozens of comments)

- Desires for shade, especially from trees, and comfortable seating are essential to making this space a destination for both individuals and families.
- Drinking water or activities to help cool off, especially activities for children such as a splash pad, were also popular.



The area needs more kid-friendly amenities like playgrounds and planned activities such as movie nights.

- A skate park received a great deal of support.



Public safety is a major concern for many people, especially those with children.

- Some believe that the City is ignoring the issue of unhoused people in the space or that nothing should be done to improve the Civic Block until this issue is resolved.
- However, most seem to want less unhoused people in the area, in addition to things that make them feel safer, such as the presence of more people and events or police.



Events such as concerts, festivals, and markets not only form the basis for many people's fond memories of the area but are also seen as underutilized opportunities.

- There should be regular programming, such as weekly farmer's or artisans market, that establishes the City Block as a destination for residents and visitors alike.



Other themes that were less common but still notable:

- Better bicycle and pedestrian accessibility to the area
- More green space in the form of water-smart landscapes and gardens.