



Office of the City Manager

August 29, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Re: Update on Civic Center Vision Plan

On September 20, 2020, the City Council adopted the following vision for the Berkeley Civic Center:

Civic Center will be the heart of Berkeley's community. The Center will be the prime space for civic life, culture, and the arts. It will reflect the city's diverse identities, celebrating its history, and contributing to shaping its future. A place of shared resources and a platform for free expression accessible to all, Civic Center aims to manifest the city's values, advance social justice, and demonstrate the power of true public space.

This action marked the successful completion of the first phase of the project for a revitalized Civic Center, including the Maudelle Shirek Building ("Old City Hall"), Veterans Memorial Building, and Civic Center Park.

On June 1, 2021, City Council referred to the FY 2022 budget process a request for \$200,000 in General Funds to conduct further public outreach and develop a preferred design concept. On June 29, 2021, City Council adopted a budget and funded this referral.

On March 22, 2022, City Council received a presentation about seismic solutions for the Civic Center buildings and a preliminary schedule for this project. That schedule includes City Council's adoption of a preferred design concept by June 30, 2023; hiring of an architect and design, permitting, and bidding on the project by December 31, 2025; and construction initiated in 2026.

Public Works and the Office of Economic Development are co-leading the project's second phase, aiming to bring a preferred design concept aligned with the adopted Civic Center vision to City Council for approval by June 30, 2023.

A robust public process is planned for September 2022 to Spring of 2023 and will include the following:

- Public meetings will be scheduled for October and January, supplemented by an online survey, to gain the public's input on a preferred design concept.
- Two input sessions will be conducted with Civic Center subcommittee members from the Landmarks Preservation Commission; Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission; Public Works and Infrastructure Commission; and Civic Arts Commission.
- Two input sessions will be held with a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of staff from relevant City departments.
- Monthly updates and input sessions will be held with the Community for a Cultural Civic Center (CCCC), which was formed in late 2020 and continues to welcome new members from the public.

The project will be co-managed by Eleanor Hollander, Economic Development Manager in the City Manager's Office; and Elmar Kapfer, Supervising Civil Engineer in the Public Works Department.

cc: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
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