

*Vision Statement: Congress Square is a high quality, distinctive urban space that epitomizes the Arts District while remaining accessible and inviting to all. Year-round, the Square provides a welcome break in the dense, historic district street wall where one encounters a range of activities including events and installations that celebrate local arts and culture, and fosters spontaneity, informal gathering, and fun. As a gateway intersection, the redesigned Congress Square places priority on the pedestrian experience and safety while accommodating all transportation modes in an efficient manner.*

Final design of the redesigned Congress Square shall:

- Deliver an identity for the Square as a whole
- Acknowledge that the Square is the heart of the Arts District
- Be conscious of its context within the Congress Street Historic District and surrounding landmark buildings
- Be of high quality and visually interesting (with quality materials, details, and lighting)
- Incorporate the proposed public art installation(s)
- Maintain the flexibility necessary to accommodate events and daily uses
- Accommodate programs & events ranging in size from 25 to 400 attendees (such as First Friday, political rallies, musical performance, temporary or interactive art installations)
- Attract a range of users of all ages (including employees, residents, visitors, shoppers, and hotel/museum/theater patrons)
- Prioritize the pedestrian experience and safety by enhancing visual and pedestrian access throughout space
- Be accessible to varying physical and financial abilities (elderly, ADA, children)
- Provide for daytime and evening use
- Provide for year-round use adding features to extend the use of the Square through the seasons
- Feature appropriate balance of green space and hardscape
- Provide adequate seating of various types and in a variety of conditions (sun/shade, etc.)
- Be simple and durable with maintenance needs in mind
- Address lighting, power, and security needs

Further Considerations for Design:

- Potential for introduction outdoor dining, food vendors and/or trucks, water feature, and/or public restrooms
- Potential for transit accommodations (e.g. bus shelters, stop improvements)
- Relationship amongst the public spaces (Museum Plaza, H. H. Hay Building Plaza, and Congress Square Park)
- Potential for shared-use intersection conversion
- Wayfinding and signage compatible with the City's wayfinding plan
- Phased implementation

Base Assumptions:

- Clock mechanism from former Union Station will be relocated
- Direct access for hotel through Congress Square Park will be maintained
- Sunken aspect of Plaza shall be re-evaluated and addressed

**Design Program** (number in parentheses refers to number of mentions during visioning process)

**Desired Characteristics:**

- Pedestrian Priority (less car dominance) (212)
- Public and Open/Inviting, Accessible (all ages, abilities) (129)
- Neighborhood/Community space (108)
- Safe (65)
- Clean/Maintained (56)
- Preserve and Celebrate Historic/Architectural Character (51)
- Economic Vitality (45)
- Arts District Identity (43)
- Active (40)
- All-Season Use
- Day/Night Use

**Activities to be accommodated**

1. Access to Green Space/Natural Elements/Enjoying Outdoors (232)
2. Food / Eating (210)
3. Performance (especially music) (152)
4. Events (especially those that activate the entire square - First Friday art walk, Markets) (144)
5. Play and Education (all ages) (107)
6. Art (potentially both permanent and temporary) (85)
7. Sitting/ Relaxing (80)
8. Hotel Entry + Apartment/Restaurant Egress
9. Gathering/Socializing (57)
10. People-watching (43)
11. Wifi/Internet access (36)
12. Restrooms (34)
13. Movie Screening (14)

**Elements**

1. Green/Landscaped Space (including trees) (232)
2. Seating (varied types/conditions to accommodate dining, people-watching, resting, reading, sun/shade) (113)
3. Water Feature (75)
4. Public Art (63)
5. Games/Interactive Play Elements (44)
6. Unique/identifying material palette and pavers (41)
7. Kiosk or Pavilion/Structure (38)
8. Gateway/Entry/ Place-making structures (28)

**Secondary elements:**

- Bike racks
- Bike share/rental station (18)
- Sign board
- Bus shelter
- Trash receptacles
- Lighting (56)
- Storage (chairs and tables, signage, umbrellas, etc)