

**Discovery Centre Opportunity Study (Preliminary Option):
Community Feedback Summary, Summer 2023**

As part of revisioning how the property could be used, City staff conducted an Opportunity Study that identified a ‘preliminary option’ for the Discovery Centre building.

A survey was conducted to collect feedback about what people like most and whether there were any concerns about the preliminary option for the Discovery Centre building.

The survey was made available on Engage Hamilton between August 17, 2023 and September 13, 2023. During this time 113 survey responses were collected.

In addition, a Discovery Centre Opportunity Study Open House was held on September 12, 2023 where participants were also provided an opportunity to complete a paper version of the online survey.

This document provides a summary of the responses received from the online survey and the paper surveys and sticky notes collected at the Open House.

Q1 What do you like most about this Preliminary Concept?

A total of 129 responses were collected for this question.

- 113 online survey responses from Engage Hamilton
- 6 paper survey responses from Open House event
- 10 sticky note responses from Open House event

The following are the most common responses about what respondents liked most about the Preliminary Concept, listed with the more common ones first.

- the library
- the café
- the exhibits and gallery space
- the multi-use aspect, variety of uses
- the visitor facilities, washrooms
- the Indigenous community gathering area
- all aspects of the concept
- the space is inclusive, for everyone
- public/community space/area

- educational/learning component

Q2 Are there any concerns or considerations in further developing this concept?

A total of 133 responses were collected for this question.

- 113 online survey responses from Engage Hamilton
- 5 paper survey responses from Open House event
- 15 sticky note responses from Open House event

The following are the most common concerns and considerations respondents provided about further developing the Preliminary Concept, listed with the more common ones first.

- Space needs to be welcoming for everyone
 - concerns about Indigenous community space not being accessible/welcoming to others
 - space should be for public/everyone, should not be for just one race, religion, culture etc.
- Williams Café:
 - Interest in keeping Williams
 - concerns about competition with Williams, another café not needed.
- Dining options:
 - more food, dining and/or restaurant options should be available
 - suggestions for restaurant with view
- Availability of parking
- Space should promote tourism, attract more people
- Losing the skating rink
- Affordability, low/no fees to access

Additional comments provided

Beyond the more common themes of feedback from the two (2) survey questions about the preliminary concept, the following is a summary of some additional suggestions or comments provided by respondents:

- Ensure washrooms are always open and clean
- Use the space for:
 - showcasing Hamilton’s history
 - music performances, plays, arts
 - community gatherings
- Maximize usage of outdoor space
- Support car-free access with transit, pedestrian friendly features, bike parking
- Ensure accessibility considerations for washrooms, provide breastfeeding rooms
- Promote the inclusion of local businesses
- Environmental considerations such as protecting greenspace, incorporating green energy sources
- Ensure extended hours of operation into the evenings/weekends