

# Executive Summary

## Goals of the Community Engagement

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation developed the 21st Century Parks Initiative as a way to address gaps between users (current and potential), recreational facilities, and services offered by Ramsey County. Specifically, the vision is to create a dynamic, community-centered system that provides opportunities for the community to engage with inclusive and welcoming parks and recreation sites and programming.

To advance the vision, the County engaged in a two-phase process with community members regarding their experiences and recommendations for facility use and programming for the Ken Yackel - West Side Arena (Saint Paul, MN). Phase 1 began in the Fall of 2021, seeking to connect with residents of the community and user groups of the arena. Phase 1 sought community consensus for the future of the arena and to help ensure the county is contributing positively to the West Side neighborhood's future. Key themes of the first phase indicated that residents were interested in access to ice as a form of recreation and additional opportunities for other recreational uses during the months when the ice is not in operation. Other key themes included a desire for the facility to be more welcoming and accessible, and for spaces like the parking lot and green space surrounding the building to be used for events and other activities.

Parks & Recreation partnered with ACET, Inc. to carry out Phase 2 of the project (September - December 2022) and engage with community members and stakeholders to continue with local community collaboration to develop program plans for the arena site through focus groups and community events. These focus groups and community events will inform future investments into the arena and help to strengthen relationships with West Side organizations and residents to elevate the local community voice.

## Methods and Data Analysis

ACET worked with Parks & Recreation to develop a focus group script and question bank for the listening sessions and community events. ACET facilitated both in-person and virtual focus groups (nine in total) and attended four in-person community events from September through December 2022. In total, feedback was collected from 156 individuals, including community members, youth, and other stakeholders.

ACET utilized qualitative methods to analyze the collected data, including a thematic analysis approach, specifically a semantic approach, to generate overall themes among responses from the focus groups and community events. Detailed results can be found in Tables 3-9, starting on page 11.

## Key Findings from the Community Engagement

- The majority of participants from the community engagement project proposed ideas for community-centered activities and partnerships. Ideas for additional recreational activities at the arena site focused on sports, community events and spaces, community support services, classes or programming, and markets or community sales. The

majority of proposed activities focused on both indoor and outdoor spaces for sports, especially skating (not including hockey), soccer, basketball, and football/flag football.

- Partnership ideas included local non-profits, schools, artists, churches, restaurants, sports organizations, and other community organizations. The majority of partnership ideas focused on nonprofits and schools, with one participant stating: *“There needs to be a connection or partnership [with] local schools.”*
- Community members expressed hope that the arena can be a gathering space for people to come together recreationally and for community service and other community-building activities: *“Having a meeting space here where you're mixing generations and bringing older people and younger people together.”*
- Community partnerships could lead to new uses, programming, or events in the space: *“Partner with West Side Community Organization for as many of the events or planning thereof as possible.”* Other potential partnerships are listed on pages 11 and 12.
- Building and landscaping alterations will make the building more welcoming and inviting, as will increased communication about what the building is and who is invited to use it: *“[Improve] the welcoming nature and [improve] the outdoor space.”*

## Recommendations for Next Steps

- **Partner with local community organizations and businesses** to bridge the gap that exists between current users of the arena and community members. Current users travel from outside the community to use the arena during ice months. Community members expressed that they did not know that the arena existed or was for public use.
- **Publicize the indoor and outdoor spaces at a low cost** to community partner organizations to use as flexible sites for summer events such as flea markets, farmers markets, concerts, seasonal or cultural festivals, or other community-hosted events.
- **Convert the ice hockey arena into mixed-use recreational indoor space** during the non-hockey seasons, including courts for other indoor sports and additional space for classes or other programs and activities.
- **Transform the exterior into a safe and accessible green space** for families in the community, including adding a playground or other outdoor recreation elements such as a community garden managed by a local community organization or community members.
- **Consider updating the arena signage** to invite other activities (besides hockey) to take place in the space. This update will help promote the future expanded use of the space with the intention to welcome community members to make use of the space in new ways. Arena or County staff could also attend community events to promote the space’s updated use(s).
- Overall, participants from Phase 2 of the community engagement expressed a desire for the arena to be a welcoming, community space offering a variety of activities and other opportunities for community connection.

# Introduction

## Overview of the Community Engagement

Created in 2019, the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department developed a new vision for the parks and recreation system in the county as a way to address gaps between users and recreational facilities and services offered by the county. The vision foresees “*A dynamic, community-centered system that provides opportunities for our ever-changing community to engage with inclusive and welcoming parks and recreation sites and programming.*”<sup>1</sup> One aspect of the vision is to provide arena facility and programming improvements at County arenas such as the Aldrich Arena (Maplewood, MN), the Charles M. Schulz - Highland Arena (Saint Paul, MN), and the Ken Yackel - West Side Arena (Saint Paul, MN). These projects include gathering “*community input on infrastructure needs, improving user experience, and expanding access to better serve all residents at [the] arenas.*”<sup>2</sup>

To advance the vision, the County engaged in a two-phase process with community members regarding their experiences and recommendations for facility use and programming for the Ken Yackel - West Side Arena (Saint Paul, MN). Phase 1 began in the Fall of 2021 and sought to connect with residents of the community and user groups of the arena. Parks & Recreation partnered with ACET, Inc. to carry out Phase 2 of the project (September - December 2022) and engage with community members and stakeholders.

## About the Parks & Recreation Department

The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department oversees the County’s “*parkland and recreational facilities, manages natural resources, and facilitates recreational programming. The Ramsey County parks system encompasses more than 6,500 acres.*”<sup>3</sup> The parks system includes regional parks, county parks, regional trail corridors, open space sites, indoor ice arenas, an indoor fieldhouse and turf facility, golf courses, a nature center, and a family water park.<sup>4</sup>

## Background of the West Side Arena

As detailed by Parks & Recreation, the West Side Arena, located in Saint Paul, MN, “*opened its doors in 1973 and was named to honor a storied NHL, University of Minnesota, and Olympic hockey player from the neighborhood, Ken Yackel. From October through early March, the arena is heavily used by youth hockey and an in-line skating group. For the remainder of the year, the building is closed, occasionally hosting group events.*”<sup>5</sup> Currently, the building is open from October through March and closed the remainder of the year. As stated above, the goal of the community engagement is to provide year-round options for recreational opportunities and

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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/21st-century-parks-initiative>.

<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/21st-century-parks-initiative>.

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/departments/economic-growth-and-community-investment/parks-recreation>.

<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/departments/economic-growth-and-community-investment/parks-recreation>.

<sup>5</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/21st-century-parks-initiative/west-side-arena>.

activities that are “inclusive of racially and ethnically diverse West Side community members’ needs.”<sup>6</sup>

### Ice Rink at West Side Arena



## Phase 1 Results

To reiterate, Phase 1 engaged residents of the community and user groups of the arena through an online survey and in-person and virtual sessions. To guide potential plans, the County presented four options for the future of the arena. These options are presented below, with the top choice from the survey and listening sessions highlighted in green.<sup>7</sup>

### Potential Plans for the West Side Arena

Option 1	Option 2
Current facility upgraded for multiple year - round recreational uses and events; maintain the ice rink for winter use.	Current facility upgraded for multiple year - round recreational uses and events; remove ice rink.
Option 3	Option 4

<sup>6</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/21st-century-parks-initiative/west-side-arena>.

<sup>7</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/21st-century-parks-initiative/west-side-arena>.

Construct a new building designed to support multiple, year-round recreational uses.

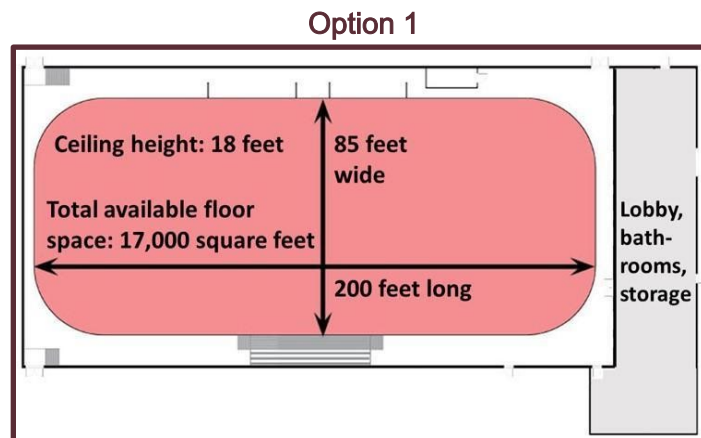
No building; park-like space designed for several year-round recreational uses and events.

Phase 1 of the community engagement centering on the West Side Arena began in November 2021 and ended in May 2022. As the Parks & Recreation Department detailed, objectives for Phase 1 included the following:<sup>8</sup>

- Provide year-round options for recreational opportunities that are inclusive of racially and ethnically diverse West Side community members' needs, meet current accessibility standards, and are financially and environmentally sustainable.
- Build mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships between the county and West Side communities to support authentic and meaningful engagement, work toward community consensus for the future of this space and help ensure the county is contributing positively to the West Side neighborhood's future.

The findings from Phase 1 indicated that respondents wanted the current facility to be upgraded to allow for a variety of recreational uses, with the ice rink being maintained for winter use.<sup>9</sup> Key themes of the first phase indicated that residents were interested in access to ice as a form of recreation and additional opportunities for other recreational uses during the months when the ice is not in operation. Other key themes included a desire for the facility to be more welcoming and accessible, and for spaces like the parking lot and green space surrounding the building to be used for events and other activities.

Option 1 centered on upgrading the existing building with heating and cooling. Option 1 would continue with an ice rink from October-March, with a dry floor cover for occasional special events. From April-September, the ice would be removed, and recreational activities could be used inside the rink area.



<sup>8</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/21st-century-parks-initiative/west-side-arena>.

<sup>9</sup> During Phase 1, there were 427 responses to the online survey and 42 participants in the virtual and in-person discussions.

The findings from Phase 1 indicated that respondents wanted the current facility to be upgraded to allow for a variety of recreational uses, with the ice rink being maintained for winter use (Option 1). Respondents shared a strong desire to keep the ice rink, but acknowledged that a mixed-use, year-round space was a more efficient use of the building and its surroundings, and better supported the community. Sample responses for this option included the following:

- *“Upgrading to support year-round activities makes the most sense, but keeping ice time accessible to a variety of communities is also important.”*
- *“Ramsey County should create a community space that allows people from different neighborhoods and community groups to interact with each other.”*
- *“Opportunities for cross collaboration and promotion exist and should be amplified to help gain community support surrounding changes.”*
- *“Demand is high for ice time in the Twin Cities. I would think making the investments in a year-round facility with upgraded amenities would be a worthwhile investment.”*

## Overview of Phase 2

Using the findings from Phase 1, the Parks & Recreation Department sought to connect and engage with community members and stakeholders, beginning in September 2022, to aid in developing program plans for the arena site through focus groups and community events. These discussions will help inform future investments into the arena and strengthen relations with West Side organizations and residents to elevate the local community voice. More information regarding Phase 2 of the community engagement can be found below, starting on page 7.



# Data Collection and Analysis

## Planning for Phase 2

ACET and the Parks & Recreation Department held planning meetings beginning in July 2022 to develop and draft the focus group script and question bank, and also engage in focus group scheduling and recruitment. Questions that were asked at the focus groups and community events are presented below. Additionally, the County has committed to the seven core values developed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). These core values include the *“belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process”* and *“includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.”*<sup>10</sup>

### Focus group and community event outreach efforts:

ACET and the Parks & Recreation Department worked together to send emails and make phone calls to businesses and organizations near the West Side Arena and in the neighborhood. The goal of the recruitment emails and phone calls were for businesses and organizations to publicize the Phase 2 data collection activities by hanging up flyers in their businesses and handing out flyers and also through word-of-mouth messaging. Businesses and organizations in the West Side neighborhood that were contacted during this process included churches, restaurants, community organizations, libraries, residential buildings, schools, elected and appointed government staff, and other businesses in the area. This outreach was conducted with the goal of connecting with the local community to engage community members and other stakeholders to gather information about their recommendations to develop program plans for the arena site and build relationships and develop partnerships with the local community and West Side businesses and organizations.

Focus group participants were asked the following questions:



**WEST SIDE ARENA  
COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS**

Please join us at one of these in-person listening sessions about Phase 2 of this project.

 **Backstory Coffee Roasters**  
432 Wabasha Street S, Saint Paul  
**September 8 | 3:30-4:30 pm**

**Wellstone Center**  
Neighborhood House, Room 212  
179 Robie Street, Saint Paul  
**September 12 | 4-5 pm**

**Ken Yackel - West Side Arena**  
44 Isabel St E, Saint Paul  
**September 19 | 5:30-6:30 pm**  
**September 20 | 6-7 pm**  
**September 22 | 4:30-5:30 pm**

**Cherokee Park United Church**  
371 Baker St W, Saint Paul  
**September 26 | 6:30-7:30 pm**



LEARN MORE:  
[ramseycounty.us/WestSideArena](https://ramseycounty.us/WestSideArena)

<sup>10</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.iap2.org/page/corevalues>.

- *What ideas do you have for partnerships that the County could pursue to provide additional programming and activities at the arena?*
- *What organizations in the area could benefit from access to the facility?*
- *Are there indoor areas that you/your community seeks throughout the year?*
- *Are there outdoor spaces that you/your community seek throughout the year?*
- *How could the facility feel more welcoming to those who don't currently use the arena?*
- *What are some potential recreational activities that you could see taking place at the arena (both inside and outside)?*

For the youth focus group held at the West Side Boys & Girls Club, participants were asked the following questions:

- *Do you know of organizations that Ramsey County could partner with to provide additional activities at the arena?*
- *How could the arena feel more welcoming to you?*
- *What are some activities that you could see taking place inside or outside of the arena?*

Two questions were asked at the community events:

- *What ideas do you have for partnerships that the County could pursue to provide additional programming and activities at the arena?*
- *What are some potential recreational activities that you could see taking place at the arena (both inside and outside)?*



## Data Analysis

Qualitative analysis was used to analyze the data gathered from the focus groups and community events. A thematic analysis approach, specifically a semantic approach, was used to generate overall themes among responses.

Focus group recordings were sent for transcription and the transcripts and notes taken during the focus groups were used to analyze and theme the data. In order to analyze and theme the focus group data, ACET used the “scissor-and-sort” technique by going through the transcripts and identifying quotes that corresponded to each question from the question bank above. ACET grouped ideas, suggestions, or comments from the feedback into themes based on commonalities and then further broke them into sub-themes for a more granular understanding of each theme. Following this, simple descriptive counts were assigned to each of the themes. The analysis and theming were performed by two members of the ACET team to ensure consistency across the analysis. The analysis from the data collected during the community events also followed the same process. Results and findings from the focus groups and community events are presented below, starting on page 10. Because similar questions were



asked at the focus groups and community events, the results and findings are presented together.

## Focus Group and Community Event Data

Table 1: Focus group participants	
Number of focus groups held:	9 groups ( <i>n</i> =28)
Number of in-person groups:	7 groups; 26 total participants
Location of in-person groups and number of participants: 9 events ( <i>n</i> =28)	<p><b>Backstory Coffee Roasters (formerly Bootstrap)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 participants</li> </ul> <p><b>The Wellstone Center, Neighborhood House</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 participants</li> </ul> <p><b>Ken - Yackel West Side Arena (3 groups)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 09/19/2022: 0 participants</li> <li>• 09/20/2022: 0 participants</li> <li>• 09/22/2022: 5 participants</li> </ul> <p><b>Cherokee Park United Church</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 participants</li> </ul> <p><b>West Side Boys &amp; Girls Club (youth)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 participants</li> </ul>
Number of virtual groups:	2 groups; 2 total participants

Table 2: Community event information	
Number of community events attended:	4 events ( <i>n</i> =128)
Community events: ( <i>n</i> =128)	<p><b>“Recreation as Resistance”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted by: West Side Community Organization (WSCO)</li> <li>• Date: 09/10/2022</li> <li>• Reached 20 attendees</li> </ul> <p><b>“West Side Best Side! Neighborhood Art Fair and Cultural Market”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted by: WSCO</li> <li>• Date: 10/02/2022</li> </ul>

- Reached 36 attendees

**Bingo event**

- Hosted by: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
- Date: 10/29/22
- Reached 18 attendees

**Fall Family Night event (youth and adults)**

- Hosted by: Humboldt High School
- Date: 11/17/22
- Reached 54 attendees

## Phase 2 Results

The following section presents an overview of the focus group and community event results for Phase 2 of the community engagement initiative for the West Side Arena.

Across the focus groups and events where ACET collected feedback, community members expressed a strong preference that the West Side Arena grow into a place where community members can come together for recreation, learning, and bettering themselves and others. This was raised in the context of potential modifications to the interior and exterior of the facility as well as to the exterior space. As one respondent stated, “[The County should be] tailoring to the communities and the youth that are around that can have easy access.”

When asked about partnerships to provide activities and programs at the arena, community members expressed particular excitement about partnerships that could lead to the arena playing host to events. They also described that schools could be key partners: “We can tap into the high schools, all the middle schools.” Some community members also named sports organizations and nonprofits (see Table 3). Some suggested “interviewing the surrounding institutions, organizations to see if they need additional space and how they can tap into this.” Community organizations that participants thought would benefit from some kind of access to the space included community organizations such as local social support organizations, churches, gardening organizations, and the library (see Table 4).

Community members discussed needs for both indoor (Table 5) and outdoor spaces (Table 6) in the neighborhood. Indoors, making space for sports beyond ice skating and hockey was important to respondents, as was space for community events and shelter space. Outdoors, respondents wanted more green space, “Just having like a green space where you feel good as a teenager in the city, like, it’d be great.” More specifically, they suggested outdoor event space, family areas, and outdoor sports areas.

Focus group participants were asked how the space at the West Side Arena could be made more welcoming (Table 7). One said: “[Let] the community know that they can use the space and rent [the] space and use it now.” Many agreed that redesigning the exterior would be helpful, especially with better or more signage and to a certain extent, improving the layout of the entrance to the building. One respondent said: “I’ve heard people complain, they don’t even know where the door is, what the entrance is.” Some respondents suggested the space would be

more welcoming if it was repurposed or even demolished completely. Some thought it would be more practical to rename or re-envision the building as something other than an arena: “*Maybe if you would call it a community center instead of a hockey arena.*” Another important consideration that was made clear through participant feedback was affordability. Participants wanted to ensure that any future activities or programs are affordable and accessible to the community. Other facility changes that were suggested to make it more welcoming were to install a pool, increase the natural light by adding windows, or otherwise redesign the interior space.

The additional recreational activities (Table 8) that were mentioned most by focus group participants and community members were sports, including modification to the existing skating and hockey programs, and the addition of a roller skating component. A significant number also suggested recreational community events, whether holiday or seasonal events, art events, or social events, such as festivals. Others suggested classes or programs to add like “*yoga classes and mom and child/baby exercise classes.*” Some hoped for community support services like food shelves or shelter areas. Other feedback mentioned swap meets, flea markets, or community sales in the space.

When given room to bring up any additional comments or suggestions, many focus group participants and community event attendees brought up safety concerns like the high amount of traffic in the area immediately surrounding the West Side Arena. Others asked that alternatives to the police presence be considered when thinking about safety or traffic control in the area.

**Table 3: What ideas do you have for partnerships that the County could pursue to provide additional programming and activities at the arena?**

Themes	Selected Quotes	Number of Responses
<b>Nonprofits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<i>...Partner with West Side community organization for as many of the events or planning thereof as possible.</i>”</li> <li>• “<i>... There's a bunch of organizations nearby that have done lots of stuff that would come to mind, like the Girl Scouts, or the Neighborhood House, or something like that.</i>”</li> <li>• “<i>St. Paul American Indian Center.</i>”</li> </ul>	<b>6</b>
<b>Schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<i>There needs to be a connection or partnership [with] local schools.</i>”</li> <li>• “<i>Partner with South St. Paul Public Schools.</i>”</li> <li>• “<i>...Local colleges or whoever...</i>”</li> </ul>	<b>5</b>
<b>Art/artists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<i>I think there's a lot of opportunity for more community artwork and community art installations.</i>”</li> <li>• “<i>...Community murals on the side of the building from local artists, probably specifically like Latino/Latina artists from the neighborhood.</i>”</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>

<b>Churches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Co uncil of Catholic Women.”</li> <li>• “St. Paul Deanery via the St. Paul Churches (Archdiocese).”</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “[Restaurant name], and this restaurant here are all notable to this neighborhood, people come. So if there’s a sign that says come here, vice versa...”</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sports organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minnesota Wild has... [Little Wild]. [...] Maybe it’s a few years old and maybe that program died out, but it was a community outreach, get inner - city kids playing hockey and I think it had subsidized equipment, and ice times, and things like that.”</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
<b>Community organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Give salsa size classes by Los Alegres Bailadores...”</li> <li>• “El Rio Vista community groups, seniors, teens, and others.”</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>

**Table 4: What organizations in the area could benefit from access to the facility?**

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Selected Quotes</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
<b>Local community organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Dorothy Day Center is working on new stuff, and they’re closed down for the most parts of the meals. And I think a lot of that stuff is coming down in this neighborhood, and it would be best to have something to serve the community. ”</li> <li>• “I think Growing West Side for gardening.”</li> <li>• “When I was [at] the National Night Out event, people were explaining, ‘I raised my kids in this library.’ So, using those words suggest that the library is an important hub of activity in the community.”</li> <li>• “...Finding out what the churches are doing in the area and trying to find those gaps are probably where you get the best use...”</li> </ul>	<b>4</b>

**Table 5: Are there indoor areas that you/your community seeks throughout the year?**

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Sub - Themes and Selected Quotes</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
<b>Space for sports</b>	<b>Skating (6 responses)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “...As long as it’s court space that people in the neighborhood can —like it’s not something that they’re charging a bunch of money to have this exclusive club.”</li> </ul>	<b>11</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Set it up for roller skating parties."</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Soccer (2 responses)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"...We don't have, for example, indoor soccer fields. Could [this] building be a site?"</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Other sports mentioned (3 responses)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hockey</li> <li>• Badminton</li> <li>• Tennis</li> </ul>	
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<b>Space for flea markets and garage sales</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"A flea market would be good because half these people probably can't get down to St. Paul to buy their vegetables and stuff and half the people around here grow stuff. So they could go sell their product here, their veggies, and whatever else."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Community garage sales."</i></li> </ul>	<b>4</b>
<b>Drop - in sheltering space</b>	<p><b>Rain shelter (2 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Opening it up when it rains to just wait it out."</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Designated cooling space (1 response):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"I could see a benefit to having open space that's air - conditioned in the summer."</i></li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
<b>Space for community and cultural events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"The outdoor Cinco got canceled because of safety concerns and because there'd be like too many people in the street and cars around, and people drinking and stuff. But if it was like a PG - 13 experience inside, maybe some of those safety concerns wouldn't be an issue."</i></li> <li>• <i>"... [A] spot for Cinco de Mayo for arts and little like local shops"</i></li> </ul>	<b>2</b>

Table 6: Are there outdoor spaces that you/your community seek throughout the year?

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Sub - Themes and Selected Quotes</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
<b>Green space</b>	<p><b>Community Garden (3 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"I think it being a park with [a] community garden centered around it, I think that would be an incredible use of the space."</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Park (2 responses):</b></p>	<b>9</b>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“If they live in the neighborhood and they can walk here, instead of driving up to Charity Park or something, or crossing another big street to get to Parque de Castillo.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Other (4 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Just having like a green space where you feel good as a teenager in the city, like, it'd be great.”</li> <li>“Infuse the urban space with as much nature as possible.”</li> <li>“Need trees.”</li> </ul>	
<b>Outdoor event space</b>	<p><b>Markets or Vendors (2 of responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“That could also be your flea market area too.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Entertainment Space (2 of responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Be some sort of live music, some local music in the evenings. Like, Thursday Night Music in the Park, something like that.”</li> </ul>	<b>4</b>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“I don't know how many [playgrounds] there are even in this neighborhood, but we have so many families with children that come here.”</li> <li>“Something like a little part of a playground, it would just bring more opportunity for families to come here and benefit.”</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sports areas</b>	<p><b>Kickball (1 response):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“It's that big of a space and you really could be doing that kickball and whatever else.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Soccer (1 response):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“...what might be good with the green space is to have soccer nets, a couple of field goals, things where kids can just play.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor Ice Skating (1 response):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Outside ice skating rink.”</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>

Table 7: How could the facility feel more welcoming to those who don't currently use the arena?

Themes	Selected Quotes	Number of Responses
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<b>Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"It looks like a factory. So definitely redoing the exterior signage, murals with very explicit language that it's culturally relevant, that it's inviting."</i></li> <li>• <i>"It is odd; when I was first looking for it as an arena, I'm thinking, you know, how do we get into this place? Even after going there several times, you're still not sure what's the easiest way to get in."</i></li> <li>• <i>"I think bigger, better signage is huge."</i></li> </ul>	<b>11</b>
<b>Building redesign</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"It'd be cool if there was like maybe a bigger lobby space with....maybe like a little desk center that has flyers for community events with a big community board. Then...you could [have] some sort of individual rooms, maybe a meeting space for community events..."</i></li> <li>• <i>"It's just kind of drab and it's really dark. I would almost love to see windows in there. Let's open up some of that, so that it's not so dismal."</i></li> <li>• <i>"So I think for this facility, I would like to see probably more like a complete revamp of what it is currently."</i></li> </ul>	<b>9</b>
<b>Expand building uses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Right now it's very single purpose. It's just a hockey rink or an ice rink. There's always the opportunity to open it ..."</i></li> <li>• <i>"...Even if we come up with the programming ideas, is this building even amenable...?"</i></li> <li>• <i>"I also think about the rec. center by my house in [name] neighborhood... There is a playground there, and there is an outdoor hockey rink in the winter, which is awesome, and it's very busy. Because it's welcoming, because you can tell what it is."</i></li> </ul>	<b>6</b>
<b>Other/misc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Encouraging atmosphere."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Everyone treats you like family."</i></li> <li>• <i>"A good environment."</i></li> </ul>	<b>4</b>
<b>Concessions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Having hot chocolate."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Food."</i></li> </ul>	<b>2</b>

**Table 8: What are some potential recreational activities that you could see taking place at the arena (both inside and outside)?**

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Sub - Themes and Selected Quotes</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
<b>Sports</b>	<b>Skating (32 responses):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Roller skating."</i></li> <li>• <i>"I want to go ice skating."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Space for figure skating."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Open skate in the evenings or weekends for</i></li> </ul>	<b>94</b>

	<p><i>individuals and families.”</i></p> <p><b>Soccer (12 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“...Perhaps [a] dynamic or multi - purpose field where people can actually do indoor soccer...”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Kids soccer camps...”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Soccer.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Basketball (7 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Basketball.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Football/flag football (6 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Flag football.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Indoor football.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Hockey (5 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Hockey.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Other sports mentioned (32 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Track/cross-country</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Dance/gymnastics</li> <li>• Baseball</li> <li>• Tennis</li> <li>• Pickleball</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Community events</b></p>	<p><b>Entertainment (19 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“I think the flat surface inside the hockey arena would lend itself to community concerts, dances, that kind of stuff.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Local dog show.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“...Movies or concerts...”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Festivals.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Dances.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Holiday or seasonal events (10 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Holiday activities (e.g., parties for Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving).”</i></li> <li>• <i>“I would love [it] to be an ice sculpture destination. That would be fun.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Snowman building or decorating competition.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Art events (4 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Local art shows.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“[Use] it as [an] arts festival or art space to create during the winter season...”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Other community events mentioned (31 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crafting and workshop events</li> <li>• Fundraisers</li> <li>• Bingo</li> <li>• Food events</li> <li>• Events for seniors</li> <li>• Powwows and other cultural events</li> <li>• Parties (baby showers, weddings, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p><b>64</b></p>

<p>Other general recreation or community space</p>	<p><b>Community space (9 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Open for the public to use more (not rented out privately).”</li> <li>“Community rooms.”</li> <li>“Senior meeting spaces...”</li> </ul> <p><b>Green space/outdoor space (9 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Outside space: picnic tables, grills, water feature (splash pad)...”</li> <li>“Play space for kids with benches.”</li> <li>“...If that building was not there anymore, I would really love to see this be some sort of green park space, community space.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Community garden (5 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Community garden.”</li> <li>“Food garden.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Schools (3 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“...Have a place to do roller skating as a school activity.”</li> <li>“Afterschool programs.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Other recreational activities mentioned (26 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Active and not - so- active offerings; make a place to be together.”</li> <li>“Intergenerational activities...”</li> <li>“Escape room.”</li> <li>“Bumper cars.”</li> <li>“Party rooms.”</li> <li>“Jungle gym.”</li> </ul>	<p>52</p>
<p>Community support services</p>	<p><b>Food or goods (9 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Doing something like packing lunches and having them here.”</li> <li>“Food drives.”</li> <li>“We could have a food shelf...”</li> <li>“Hockey equipment donation drop site.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Shelter (4 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Perhaps we should be rethinking about this space for folks to have a safe space to spend the night.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Other community service (2 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The restrooms, they could be turned into public showers.”</li> <li>“Fundraisers.”</li> </ul>	<p>15</p>
<p>Classes or programming</p>	<p><b>Food - related classes or programming (5 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Improve [the] kitchen (then conduct cooking</li> </ul>	<p>14</p>



	<p><i>classes); accommodate larger cooking opportunities."</i></p> <p><b>Art (3 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Art (painting/drawing/pottery)."</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Exercise - related classes or programming (5 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Room for classes, like Zumba."</i></li> <li>• <i>"...Mom and child/baby exercise classes."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Gym space."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Yoga."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Run laps."</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Other class or program (3 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Engineering activities."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Programs (Girl Scouts, SMART Girls)."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Educate/teach."</i></li> </ul>	
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<b>Markets or community sales</b>	<p><b>Commercial activities (5 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"For winter, food trucks; people gather inside to eat."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Barbershop."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Restaurants."</i></li> <li>• <i>"...A shopping center."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Sales..."</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Markets (5 responses):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Craft sales/flea market."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Farmer's markets..."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Use [the] parking lot as a swap meet."</i></li> </ul>	<b>10</b>
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