



2700 S Nelson St Placemaking Plan

Design Options Community Feedback Summary

November 2022

Prepared by Graham Projects for Arlington County.

Project Summary

In total, the Graham Projects design team and Arlington County officials engaged nearly 400 participants through several outreach strategies; including targeted meetings with key stakeholder groups, a public virtual Kick Off Presentation, two in-person Pop-Ups reaching residents at popular gathering spots, and an online Engagement Web Page where folks could respond to different examples of public art and placemaking; and share their ideas for colors, thematic inspiration, local history, and on-site programming.

Two design options were presented to the public via an online website and invited folks to share their thoughts on the two designs. The design feedback website was published via email, website, and online social media and ran from October 31 through November 21. There were 87 submissions received via the online website.

On the following pages you will find a summary of public space features favored by the public along with comments and preference of design options. Information from this process will lead to a final design to transform the site into an inclusive outdoor public space for arts programming and performances driven by and serving the community.



Grid Design Option

Top Three Features

What are your top three (3) favorite features in the Grid design?

Large Event Space	56
Community Tables	47
Temporary Public Art Space	41
Small Performance Area	36
Workshop & Maker Zone	27
Natural Berm Seating	25
Built Seating	20

Top Comments

What aspects of the "Grid" design would make you want to visit this place? Why are these features important?

There is a place with intentional space for Creatives (Art, Music, Makers)

- *"I love the community tables and the large event space. It's nice to have a small performance space and a large performance space also. That gives flexibility for the types of programs that can be done. The maker's space is also a cool idea..."*
- *"This proposed art space is much needed in the community. The Large Event Space, Workshop & Maker Zone will be a draw for artists in the Green Valley and Shirlington areas. The Community Tables will help link neighbors. The close proximity to Jennie Dean Park will increase all kinds of community participation. This is a wonderful proposal.*

There are various size spaces for performances or to sit and picnic

- *"Performance spaces and seating areas. They serve to draw people into the area in both 'active' and 'passive' ways. This includes people who may be in the area primarily to get their car worked on at the shops on Nelson Street. It's a great way to potentially engage not only residents but people from throughout Arlington and/or Northern Virginia in the arts in Arlington..."*

Glade Design Option

Top Three Features

What are your top three (3) favorite features in the Glade design?

Pergola Gallery	58
Large Event Space	55
Workshop & Maker Zone	34
Small Performance Area	29
Temporary Public Art Space	27
Built Seating	21
Natural Berm Seating	21

Top Comments

What aspects of the "Glade" design would make you want to visit this place? Why are these features important?

There is a Pergola Gallery for art and abundant seating

"I enjoyed the more organic, soft curves of the space, the abundant seating options and how the space is zoned for different activities. Few if any such spaces exist for a large gathering."

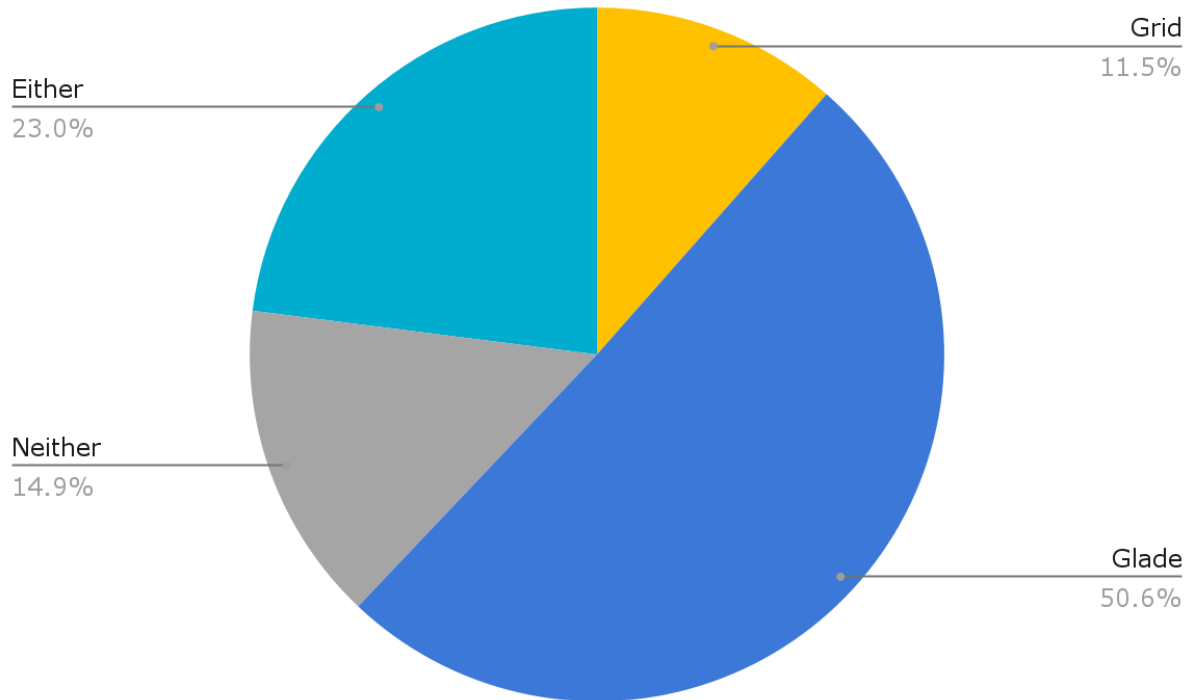
"pergola gallery looks like a nice relaxing place to hang out, the public art looks interesting and comfortable seating is always important."

There are flexible spaces for various events with shade

"..The large event space is great, turning one of the walls into a movie projection as well. I can envision numerous bands performing for a cultural event, especially musicians that are local and are just starting out. What I most appreciate about the Pergola Gallery is the shade.."

Preferred Design

Based on the 87 submissions and comments about each design option respondents either shared a strong preference for a design, neither, or expressed support for the project but had no preference.



Grid	10
Glade	44
Neither	13
Either/ No Preference	20

All Grid Comments

- vegetation
- I like preserving the history of Inner Ear, and the maker space & workshops sound fun. I'd most likely visit for a performance or maker event. Having paved pedestrian-only space would be good for robotics events maybe?
- I like the large event space and I like how the temporary public art space has concrete pavers to make it feel a bit separate (is there a concrete that's permeable? I like not having just grass in that space, but also want to be mindful of how much impermeable surface covers the site). The long community tables are nice, but should also have the covering of the pergola like in the other design. I like the small performance area design in this one more than the other one.
- The large performance space and the temporary public art space.
- The large event space because it can host concerts and the like.
- Really like the visual elements inspired by music and the historic railroad. The described lights would make the space welcoming and can picture a magical evening with a live music performance.
- The grid design makes sense but seems too orderly for a creative space. I like the overall concept but the location is hidden, hard to find so it needs to be connected to the surrounding area. Specifically, it seems accessible from all sides but how walkable is it? Need to consider signage and pathways to bring people here. Surrounding area is relatively unfriendly, industrial, car-centric, (unless familiar with the dog park), so it needs to be integrated with Shirlington, Green Valley + nearby Columbia Pike neighborhoods, Jennie Dean Park, and sidewalks/trails along Four Mile Run and Arlington Mill.
- Events - like roller skating nights, art exhibits, musical events, kid events (similar to the Kennedy center recent block party!), theatre, eating/adult beverage options, something similar to union market
- I believe the variety of seating and activity areas will be useful to the community. You'd be surprised how hard it is to find a spot to picnic or do a big craft project with friends.
- Unknown
- easy access for cars, especially adequate parking. Any recreational design without parking to accommodate the estimated car traffic is NOT an enhancement.
- I like how the seating is oriented towards 1 and 2
- Nice flow and like how there are multiple places and opportunities for individual and small group gathering.
- path pulling me through space, stages, bern seating, art, workshop
- Not sure what the "community tables" are for. Would prefer a larger maker space that offers camps for children like the Garden in Alexandria. Not sure

what the vertical stripes represent at the top of the image, but I'm afraid the entire black space is pavement. Please incorporate more pervious surface and less pavement. More canopy trees are needed for shading.

- If it was additional parking. Please stop building more parks and structures that bring no financial gain (paid parking), just financial drain on O&M.
- Who cares about the "grid" design? It's a regimented, static, sterile design that a kid might accomplish with a set of colorforms. And the kid would likely be more creative than "designing" a grid. I have no interest in fighting to find a parking space in overbuilt, underresourced Green Valley to visit this insipid attempt to create a space for "art." Why anyone would want to visit it remains a mystery, which is probably the most interesting aspect. How much money is being wasted on this "temporary" installation?
- "General comment applicable to either design: The Inner Ear building should be retained (but remodeled for alternative uses) to include a small museum-like exhibit of various posters, a few recording equipments, etc. Possibly an indoor gallery and the new site of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, Virginia
- At the very least, retain Inner Ears building's facade."
- Large community gathering and art making tables. Large performance space. rotating outdoor art
- The picnic tables and colorful sidewalk painting. It's easier to get my family to get up and go somewhere that's visually attractive and little kids need space to run but also sit. I like the thought of outdoor music, or performance art in the theater area.
- I love the community tables and the large event space. It's nice to have a small performance space and a large performance space also. That gives flexibility for the types of programs that can be done. The maker's space is also a cool idea and I would like to know more.
- Do not like this design. It does not flow naturally and seems like several ideas meshed together without a purpose.
- The large event space and workshop maker zone are the most appealing to me, and most likely to be used by community members and art groups. I would like to see more innovation and intentionality around the small performance area. The seats for community seating could be more creative visually.
- Seeing art and artists!
- I really like the small performance space, especially that is captures the history of the building that was there before and that it includes inclusive art and flags. I can envision individuals and small groups gathering here for performing, speaking and sharing. I feels approachable and accessible. The natural berm seating feels inviting as well and having more green spaces to sit and be sounds wonderful; much better than cement seating. The temporary

public art space can invite not just sculptural artists, but can be a place for community projects and installations that engage the public.

- The temporary public art space seems to be the center of attention and feels more like an area dedicated for art display, when compared with the glade design.
- I like to find welcoming places to just sit and be, whether that be reading a book or eating lunch
- This design feels super manufactured and kind of dull. I wouldn't want to visit this place unless there was some kind of programming to go with it - seems like space that will sit mostly vacant for 70% of the time. The "small performance area" with the tribute to the Inner Ear studio is also embarrassing. Basically says "we tore down actual arts that were already here to build this little stage that never gets used." I'm also generally confused by the "workshop/maker space." Will this space be open daily? Weekends? Or will this be a shipping containers that gets opened twice a year? Also, I'm not sure how you can say it will have "wheelchair accessible grass." Grass tends to be uncooperative... Lastly, I envision a space like this getting pretty tired pretty quickly... The large amounts of cement and asphalt also don't help.
- indoor and outdoor space and a bigger workshop and maker zone.
- String lights, plantings, and color will make the space welcoming. The "room" concept would promote exploration. The public art area is on the way to the picnic area, inviting investigation.
- This is not my preferred design, but I do like the various spaces for distinct activities and events.
- I would be interested in having spaces available on a walk-up basis for small groups of artists or performers who want to work together to create. For example, developing or practicing a dance routine, or meeting a group of artists to learn or make a particular type of art or to collaborate on a piece they all contribute to. Also, walk up spaces for eating (for example if a family bought lunch and wanted to eat it at a table). Also, public restrooms.
- "Good venues for smaller and larger performances
- Fidelity to musical and industrial history
- Incorporation of natural elements"
- I like this design for its flow. The clear layout makes sense.
- Ok design but needs some sun protection. Event and small performance space, temporary art displays are all good. I'd like to see performances by community arts and theater groups and movies. I hope the tables are used for youth art projects, among others.
- Large event space and seating - seems like a good use of the space. Would be nice to host and attend events...
- I like the diversity of possible uses, and the incorporation of existing buildings and materials into the design.

- "None of the features here would make me want to visit. There is no reason to visit - program is everything and the features don't support anything unique. Even the designated program zones are boring and flat. I am only voting for a feature because otherwise this survey won't accept my comments.
- Without any 3-dimensional features that capture and articulate the space or shading (not just insignificant popsicle sticks as shown), this space will be an unused desert. The flat, 2-D lick-and-stick applied ground plane treatments and very uncohesive environmental graphics are very amateurish. Hire an actual architectural firm to get a deeper, more coherent design!"
- The large event space would be a great gathering place for street festivals and community movies. I also like the large community tables for events and the public arts space. I wish it had shade around seating
- space for performances, art viewing area for informal interaction.
- Seating and tables.
- Arlington has a beautiful fountain with seating near the metro at Wilson Blvd but taxpayers can't enjoy it because it is filled with homeless people. How do we know this space won't just become filled with homeless tents?
- This plan needs SHADE structures. I read the report and shade was one of the things mentioned that is not in this plan.
- For inspiration on how vibrant such a space can be take a look at a similar project at <https://raumutrecht.nl/>
- Cold and sterile. Who would want to work on creative projects in a Conex box?
- I'm excited for the large event space and hope for some great music and outdoor movies here!
- I like the large event space. I would attend local concerts, movies, etc. if they were held here.
- "The one thing I prefer about the Grid design is that it does provide more appropriate built seating around the performance areas. However, it doesn't seem that inviting from the street. A major problem with both plans is the idea of berm seating. Rain will turn it into mud at the bottom and lack of rain will require irrigation. A flat surface with built seating would make far more sense."
- Large Event space and community tables. Both would be fun to use as pop-up restaurants. Both could be used by area schools for fundraising events, shows, or school functions, like cross-county grade level trips.
- "1. Spaces to sit (e.g., chat/share a meal with friends)
- 2. Seems to offer more uses of the space than the Glade design, which seems to have more sidewalk space than activity space"
- Needs shade
- seating

- "performance space, having shade, space for food trucks/restaurants. Home cottage food stands so that Arlington cooks and bakers can share their creations"
- larger small stage and more sectioned off regions for privacy and multiple uses
- "Performance spaces and seating areas. They serve to draw people into the area in both 'active' and 'passive' ways. This includes people who may be in the area primarily to get their car worked on at the shops on Nelson Street. It's a great way to potentially engage not only residents but people from throughout Arlington and/or Northern Virginia in the arts in Arlington. The design of the ""Grid"" plan looks 'organized' and purposeful. The 'sound-wave' pavement art seems to 'lead' people into the site.
- TWO NOTES: a) I wish that the Grid plan (which is my favorite) also included some element of shade as the Glade plan does. Surely those floating 'sail' type canopies that pictured in the Glade plan could also be used in the Grid plan as well. b) Love the 'Inner Ear' memorial wall at the Small Performance Area. Perhaps a reference also could be made to the fact that soul icon Roberta Flack moved to Green Valley at age 5. A child prodigy, she played the organ just up the hill at Macedonia Baptist Church before entering Howard University at just 15 years old). c) Extend the shrubs into the patch of green just beside the shed at the entrance as was done in the ""Glade"" version. Unadorned (as is currently illustrated in the 'Grid' version, it registers as a 'barrier'. A few extra shrubs make it feel like an ""entrance""."
- I am not as much into the grid design. It feels hard edged and harsh. I would rather have a space that has curved seating and a more natural feel. I also do not see where the Arlington Art Truck would be able to drive into the area and park and set up an activation. Is there room for trucks to drive in and unload? Also, if you put in a field of grass and a drinking fountain for humans and dogs, then the park would be a success? Where is this drinking fountain? I also assume the natural areas are plantings and not artificial turf. We do not need more plastic!!
- An outdoor stage for performances.
- Fenced for kids
- Outdoor gathering spaces with seating. My parents are older and sometimes it's hard to find seating at parks.
- Community tables. Itself nice to have a place to sit and socialize. It looks like there are also picnic tables. That is good too. Maybe also the workshop and maker zone, depending on what is there.
- It's open and I like all the greenery. The paint lines on the pavement is cool. I wish there was more shade, though.
- Too much concrete. Not enough differentiation of spaces. Need some covered, shaded areas as well, particularly at the art-making space. Also need smaller

tables and seating areas with actual chairs and backs for people with back problems, not just benches without backs.

- This design has more paved paths and less "open lawn," which will a better job of drawing foot traffic throughout the space. Maybe needs more elements that will provide shade? Most events happen when it's HOT around here! The "maker zone" is not self-evident to me... and a barely-open shipping container does not seem enticing.
- "Worker space. Event space! Those would be awesome for creatives.
- Is there a space or Why not create a Large wall where a mural could be painted, possibly by myself - Federico Frum MASPAZ (www.maspaz.co - local Arlington artist :)"
- Feels open and welcoming as well as colorful to brighten the area. Easily accessible. Provides multiple venues for activities and community gathering. Preserves a sense of history of the area. Good use of space.
- colors, shade, art, seating.
- Outdoor area I can relax at, not loud
- This is my preferred design over Glade and speaks to this area,'s history.
- I like the large tables and the more segmented "rooms". It seems like it would give the potential for more quiet areas to work, create and relax - rather than all being one open space.
- I prefer the Grid layout to Glade and especially like the event space (including stage) and community tables.
- Workshop & Maker Zone and large area for performances.
- Shade; this looks like it would get uncomfortable hot in the summer and would offer no protection in the winter.
- There is a lovely park directly across the street. What is the plan for the parks and recreation building next door? The heaviest traffic is for the food pantry.
- The painted asphalt is intriguing. I would be drawn in by the strung lights and painted pavement. It seems inviting
- This proposed art space is much needed in the community. The Large Event Space, Workshop & Maker Zone will be a draw for artists in the Green Valley and Shirlington areas. The Community Tables will help link neighbors. The close proximity to Jennie Dean Park will increase all kinds of community participation. This is a wonderful proposal.
- I like all the aspects of the design.
- "Very practical - space for storage and impromptu art projects, movable parts, and accessibility are reflected well
- Environmentally friendly - like the idea of reclaiming old building parts and featuring them in the space
- Historical - would be nice to come and learn about the history of the recording studio"

- I really like the entrance to the space with the large sign and the string lights - feels casual and welcoming. I think the community tables are great too. Glad to have the performance spaces. Overall I think the glade design is more appealing but I like the audio waves on the pavement from the grid design. I am concerned that there is a lack of shade and that it will not get used in the hot summer months.
- Why didn't you ask if we like the first or second design better? That seems like a fundamental Q here at this point?
- Tables, seating, movie night, and concert stage. Why is there no shade? Is any of this natural planting or is it all turf and plastic?
- I don't understand why Arlington is building a park across the street from the brand-new Jennie Dean park that was just finished this year. This block is already struggling, overwhelmed with baseball/park goers, dog walkers, AFAC food pantry clients/volunteers/staff, and Shirlington overflow. This neighborhood needs parking! It's not fun and shiny, but it is necessary. Parking will support the existing park and community activities here. We've struggled with parking for years while the adjacent DPR lot stood mostly empty. Where do you expect people visiting this space to park? It's an industrial area with difficult pedestrian navigation, even people who live nearby will often drive. You should see S. Nelson Street on an evening or Saturday when cars are circling and double-parked because they can't find a space to pull over. You should see the elderly low-income Arlington residents walking several blocks with heavy grocery bags because the neighborhood infrastructure does not support the necessary local food pantry. AFAC has been on South Nelson Street for nearly 30 years and parking has always been an issue. Recreation is important in a community, but we already have a park literally on the same block. Consider how this space could be used to benefit all the people attending the many activities in this neighborhood. I encourage you to reach out to AFAC to better understand the needs on S. Nelson St.
- The stage areas (large and small) need to be better protected from the weather -- as a performer (<https://www.tedzook.com/>), I wouldn't subject my expensive and largely irreplaceable gear to the hazards to which they'd be exposed under the existing design.
- "Y'all are gonna do what you're gonna do, but it's nice to be asked. Tearing down Inner Ear Studio to create art space/park amenities was and is still, to me, an extremely odd strategy, but it happened. All the designs you've made are nice, kind of cute. The renderings are quite spiffy. I trust the public enjoys them when they are done. Likely enough, they will. Good luck with all of it.
- I'll miss Don Zientara's amazing - and fun- creative studios there, though. Great art, of international impact, was being made there."
- I don't see much lighting at night, except for the string lights overhead. I would increase the use of string light and other lighting, as this is a dark

"creepy" alley area approaching from Oakland, and also Nelson, if there are not teams on the baseball diamond. Also, the bridge between Nelson & Arlington Mill needs to be better lighted, to make it more comfortable/attractive for folks to walk along the Arlington Mill path and cross the bridge to attend events.

- Ok, but the more natural and green Glad Design is more appealing.
- I like potluck art.

All Glade Comments

- makdr zome
- Same as the other design, but I do like the shade structure and whiteboards - think it would be a more functional space for workshops in the summer.
- I like the round design aspects of this option. The pergola covering over the seating is a must.
- I like the curves and the color palette.
- Large event space and movie projection area. Summer movie showings like in Rosslyn.
- Not sure how the maker space would work, but like the idea of having something like that available. Covered seating like that with the pergola would be nice for shade and shelter from the elements.
- I like the flow and green space. I like the concept but the location is hidden, hard to find so it needs to be connected to the surrounding area. Specifically, it seems accessible from all sides but how walkable is it? Need to consider signage and pathways to bring people here. Surrounding area is relatively unfriendly, industrial, car-centric, (unless familiar with the dog park), so it needs to be integrated with Shirlington, Green Valley + nearby Columbia Pike neighborhoods, Jennie Dean Park, and sidewalks/trails along Four Mile Run and Arlington Mill.
- Events - like roller skating nights, art exhibits, musical events, kid events (similar to the Kennedy center recent block party!), theatre, eating/adult beverage options, something similar to union market - keeping green space, giving families a place to go and enjoy would be lovely - bringing in local breweries and wineries to our area (so we don't have to drive to loudon) would bring business and also people to attend. Kids and families need open warehouse spaces in the cold along with big garage doors that open to outdoor green space. Like LA and the west coast where nearly every new building development has green space (grab food and sit and let kids play) is really important to local families in Claremont, fairlington, shirlington, the dog park takes up far too much space and offers very little to actual homeowners. Shirlington has restaurants but the street makes it a challenge with kids. This could be sometime lovely but we can't depend on Jennie dean bc it's too far

and adults can't leave their kids there while they enjoy art/music/local shopping.

- I enjoyed the more organic, soft curves of the space, the abundant seating options and how the space is zoned to for different activities. Few if any such spaces exist for a large gathering.
- Unknown
- "See note above on Grid design.
- contours make the layout more interesting. If more green --e.g., ground cover, plants, trees -- that would also make it preferable."
- I don't like this one as much - the non-linear layout is confusing
- It,'s more open and probably more flexible space for larger gatherings.
- feel like the path on this one is not as compelling, but I like the circular shapes of the green spaces and spiral in the middle.
- Not sure what the "community tables" are for. Would prefer a larger maker space that offers camps for children like the Garden in Alexandria. Not sure what the vertical stripes represent at the top of the image, but I'm afraid the entire black space is pavement. Please incorporate more pervious surface and less pavement. More canopy trees are needed for shading.
- If this is built, it should be something as low-maintenance and versatile as possible to avoid future operational expenses.
- A slightly less sterile and regimented design. But the same impediments remain. How are people supposed to get to this location? Bus service takes forever. Parking is a nightmare. And the location just isn't very appealing. It's located in a confined industrial site, which also happens to be a floodway/floodplain. My advice: Build and ark. It can float and will be more useful when the next flood occurs.
- "General comment applicable to either design: The Inner Ear building should be retained (but remodeled for alternative uses) to include a small museum-like exhibit of various posters, a few recording equipments, etc. Possibly an indoor gallery and the new site of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, Virginia
- At the very least, retain Inner Ear's facade."
- "performance areas
- rotating outdoor art installations"
- "The shade over the tables. That's crucial. The open areas with seating, and the public art area.
- I know in many ways these 2 designs are the same, but I just find the grid one more inviting, however, they should work in some shade."
- I don't like this one as much. I don't think the space is used as well here.
- This design is the better of the two, if it plans to be used as a performance space. However, the mobile stage is not an appropriate option for the size of the venue. It also cannot be left open as shown all the time because of the

hydraulic system. A medium sized permanent stage could be adapted to that space instead of having two stages on the same site. This way an Intergrated lighting and sound system that is outdoor rated could be built into the stage design. It would reduce storage necessities and time for set up and strike of tech gear. This design would also allow for larger crowds and would provide an outdoor year round venue for theater, music, performance art and dance.

- The Pergola Gallery is a much better space for communal seating than the community tables. I like this simple design more than the Grid design. The small performance area looks better but would explore other designs, designers, and previous spaces that have been successful.
- Seeing art and artists.
- I actually like the Glade design better - it seems to flow better and be more open, yet has all same/similar features as in the Grid design. The large event space is great, turning one of the walls into a movie projection as well. I can envision numerous bands performing for a cultural event, especially musicians that are local and are just starting out. What I most appreciate about the Pergola Gallery is the shade! It gets quite hot in the summer. What I'd like to see more are temporary canopies for shade as well. People will not sit out in the open hot sun. Great idea for a workshop and maker zone! I can envision workshops for kids, especially, learning from others in the local community.
- The curved design features of the space complement those in the adjacent Jennie Dean Park, making it a natural extension of that public space. The gallery area looks nice and more sheltered than in the grid design.
- I like places to sit in public areas, art also makes these places more welcoming and enticing to come to rather than somewhere surrounded by nothing
- I mean this is a lot better than the first option, but still not great. I think the asphalt art for both designs could be a LOT more interesting, and the use of cement for the built seating is still not my favorite. For both designs, I still can't help the thought that this space simply won't be used unless there's programming. Have the designers considered adding a Green Valley-inspired mural on the wall that adjoins the space? Having something like that would make the space a lot more artsy, a lot more interesting, and would serve as a draw for people to visit regardless of the programming schedule. I also think more string lights would be good. I also like the pergola seating area on this design, but the community tables from the first were much better.
- indoor and outdoor space and a bigger workshop and maker zone.
- Shaded areas for picnicking, green space. The more green and shade there are, the cooler the space will be in warm months. There is a natural flow between the spaces, but they seem less intimate than the grid design.
- This design is vastly superior, visually more cohesive, while providing distinct spaces for different uses and activities.

- I like the curviness of it. Same comment as above - it would be nice to have small spaces people could use for their own creating and for small gatherings, such as a place for a family to sit together and eat.
- "Organic, pleasing shapes and lines (not all right angles)
- Streamlined place yet many features
- Shade"
- I find the Glade design less inviting
- Much more attractive curvy design, much needed sun shades, better design for the small performance space and valbum covers display. Same comments about the performance and art displays and what I'd like to see there.
- The flow doesn't seem as clean in this concept
- Love the design, multiple uses, and incorporation of existing materials and building parts. The design is very welcoming.
- None of these features would make me want to visit this site - I only voted on the spaces because otherwise I could not share my opinion - they are all underdeveloped ideas. There is no sense of space, articulation of outdoor "rooms", everything is very superficial and cheesy.
- I like the pergola gallery with shade. I wish it had more seating for larger events. The large event space doesn't seem to have as much space as the other design has.
- more green areas than the other design
- Large performance area...there is no reason to visit this area unless something is happening there.
- I love the idea but worry that this space will lack purpose and just be another area for homeless people camp out. Arlington has beautiful areas with fountains and benches/outdoor space but taxpayers can't enjoy because of homeless people. I would only come here if it was well regulated and safe.
- The Glade plan does have 'some' shade structures. But, I think it still needs more. I'm wondering how comfortable concrete blocks will be to sit on, particularly in the summer when people are wearing shorts and, thus, make skin contact with the blocks. I'm also wondering how long this is expected to exist. Both plans have a lot of grass and plantings. How will they be watered and weeded? Would it be better to use artificial turf so that it doesn't need to be watered. Also, artificial turf would be an easier surface for wheelchairs to navigate. They wouldn't have to worry about getting stuck in mud after rain storms.
- Space for food and drink.
- This design offers a slightly more organic feel than the Grid design, however it still looks like it was designed by an undergraduate architecture student using elements picked out of the Google 3D Warehouse. An arts and maker space should have elements that inspire wonder and awe.

- I'm excited for the large event space and hope for some great music and outdoor movies here!
- I like the large event space. I would attend local concerts, movies, etc. if they were held here.
- It's far more inviting from the street. But the biggest thing is shade and rain cover. I'd replace the berm seating with another pergola and consider another for the northeast of the large event space.
- Large event space & small performance area
- pavilion covering that the pergolla gallery offers could be useful on warmer days
- Needs shade
- The flow of the space is welcoming, and the space stands out nicely because of curvature of the design, which is a good contrast to the grid/box shaped neighboring building.
- "performance and shade.
- Musicians, cultural festivals to highlight the many immigrant communities"
- Open area and better natural lines
- I like the pergola gallery and 'sail' shades used in the "Glade," and hope they can be used in the "Grid" plan (which I prefer). I think shade is an important element. The cross-hatched lines used in the "Glade" version look 'confusing,' haphazard and forbidding (much like Arlington's unusual street layouts).
- "I liked the curved lines which makes for a more mellow feel. I assume the green areas are real grass and plants and not artificial turf. We do not need anymore plastic. The fumes from that plastic are uninviting.
- There is more open space around 4 and 5 to allow for a Truck or vehicle to drive and unload. Llike this one better. Need a drinking fountain for humans and dogs."
- It's nonlinear so it doesn't look boxy.
- Spaces to run and play w childfen
- Small performance area. I like that it pays homage to the history of the site.
- Pergola gallery is there is a place to sit and visit with others in the shade.
- I really like the oval shapes and openness of the areas, and the way the built seating blocks connect the ovals to reach other.
- Glade is better -- rounded curves are more attractive. More shaded areas (SHOULD BE EVEN MORE SHADED AREAS). Still need more seating possibilities including seating with actual chairs with backs, not just benches. Maybe in the play/art area have some outdoor game possibilities like a large tic-tac-toe or tables with chess/checker squares on them.
- Like the shaded tables to keep cooler. Seems to fit fewer things in, though, compared to the Grid design.
- "Event space, large and small. Gallery maker space.

- Is there a space or Why not create a Large wall where a mural could be painted, possibly by myself - Federico Frum MASPAZ (www.maspaz.co - local Arlington artist :)"
- Colorful and accessible. Offers opportunity for a variety of activities. Provides some shade.
- colors, seating, art, shade
- Quiet outdoor space. Don't invade, let it be natural and bring in those who want to be there. there is plenty of loud Arlington area, there isn't much for quieter outdoor areas
- Nothing about this speaks to the areas history.
- Shaded areas. I like the backdrop of the mini stage area in this design better - with the small patchwork being the main backdrop rather than flags. The use of the flags seems like an unnecessary addition of social statements that not everyone will agree with, and therefore not everyone would be comfortable using a stage with that backdrop.
- The Glade design is less appealing to me than Grid both in appearance/plan and in the number of ways that the space can be used.
- Art Space
- 4) pergola gallery looks like a nice relaxing place to hang out, the public art looks interesting and comfortable seating is always important.
- The park across the street needs more parking, especially during major baseball tournaments and other large gatherings. Expand the parking for the community that visits the park and the food pantry. There is nothing here that cannot be found across the street or as part of a renovation of parks and recreation building.
- It has a nice flow and provides shade. The curves are a nice counterpoint to the rectangular buildings.
- The open glade is nice for performances and also honors community history. These features are important in preserving community history. It can also serve as a teaching tool for new commers to our community.
- I like this area better as it appears to have more green space which would help cool the area down in the summer.
- "Important to recognize Four Mile Run Stream
- Don't care for the pergola as those generally only provide the illusion of shade
- Also appreciate the reclaimed objects, storage, and recognition of historical recording studio in this design concept"
- Same as above - glad to see the pergola, but I still wish there was more shade. I like the glade design over the grid design.
- Why didn't you ask if we like the first or second design better? That seems like a fundamental Q here at this point?
- Make space, tables, and stage. Why is there almost no shade? Is any of this natural planting or is it all astro turf and plastic?

- I don't understand why Arlington is building a park across the street from the brand-new Jennie Dean park that was just finished this year. This block is already struggling, overwhelmed with baseball/park goers, dog walkers, AFAC food pantry clients/volunteers/staff, and Shirlington overflow. This neighborhood needs parking! It's not fun and shiny, but it is necessary. Parking will support the existing park and community activities here. We've struggled with parking for years while the adjacent DPR lot stood mostly empty. Where do you expect people visiting this space to park? It's an industrial area with difficult pedestrian navigation, even people who live nearby will often drive. You should see S. Nelson Street on an evening or Saturday when cars are circling and double-parked because they can't find a space to pull over. You should see the elderly low-income Arlington residents walking several blocks with heavy grocery bags because the neighborhood infrastructure does not support the necessary local food pantry. AFAC has been on South Nelson Street for nearly 30 years and parking has always been an issue. Recreation is important in a community, but we already have a park literally on the same block. Consider how this space could be used to benefit all the people attending the many activities in this neighborhood. I encourage you to reach out to AFAC to better understand the needs on S. Nelson St.
- The stage areas (large and small) need to be better protected from the weather -- as a performer (<https://www.tedzook.com/>), I wouldn't subject my expensive and largely irreplaceable gear to the hazards to which they'd be exposed under the existing design.
- "Y'all are gonna do what you're gonna do, but it's nice to be asked. Tearing down Inner Ear Studio to create art space/park amenities was and is still, to me, an bracingly odd strategy, but it happened. All the designs you've made are nice, kind of cute. The renderings are quite spiffy. I trust the public enjoys them when they are done. Likely enough, they will. Good luck with all of it.
- Go for the Glade? Slightly less cutesy. More natural. A good thing.
- I'll miss Don Zientara's amazing - and fun- creative studios there, though. Great art, of international impact, was being made there."
- I don't see much lighting at night, except for the string lights overhead. I would increase the use of string light and other lighting, as this is a dark "creepy" alley area approaching from Oakland, and also Nelson, if there are not teams on the baseball diamond. Also, the bridge between Nelson & Arlington Mill needs to be better lighted, to make it more comfortable/attractive for folks to walk along the Arlington Mill path and cross the bridge to attend events.
- Green, natural, attractive.
- I love circles.