

City of Rome Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

Public Meeting I | November 1, 2017

Meeting Summary

Kimberly Baptiste and Meagan Aaron from Bergmann Associates facilitated multiple interactive activities that engaged participants to think critically and give their ideas on the DRI process and projects. The workshop consisted of five stations, each with activities aimed at understanding local priorities and identifying potential DRI eligible projects.

The following is a brief summary of the feedback received at each station.

Station 1: Where do you want the \$10 million invested?

Participants were asked to place a dot under the category they felt the DRI investment should be focused in. Arts and culture received the most votes with 20 followed by small business development with 18.

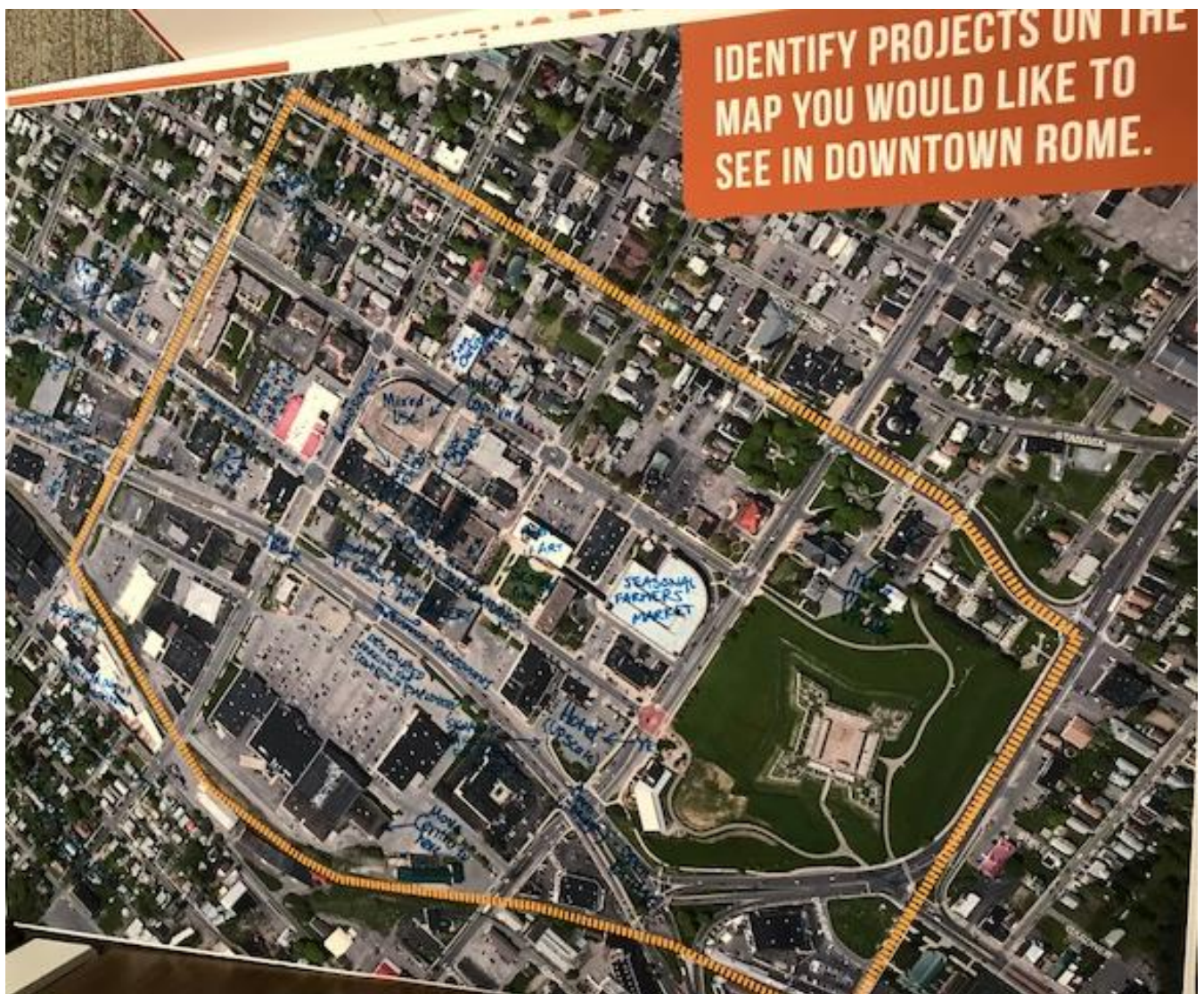


Station 2: Identify projects you would like to see in Downtown Rome

Participants were asked to draw on the map of the DRI study area projects they would like to see implemented.

Project ideas identified included:

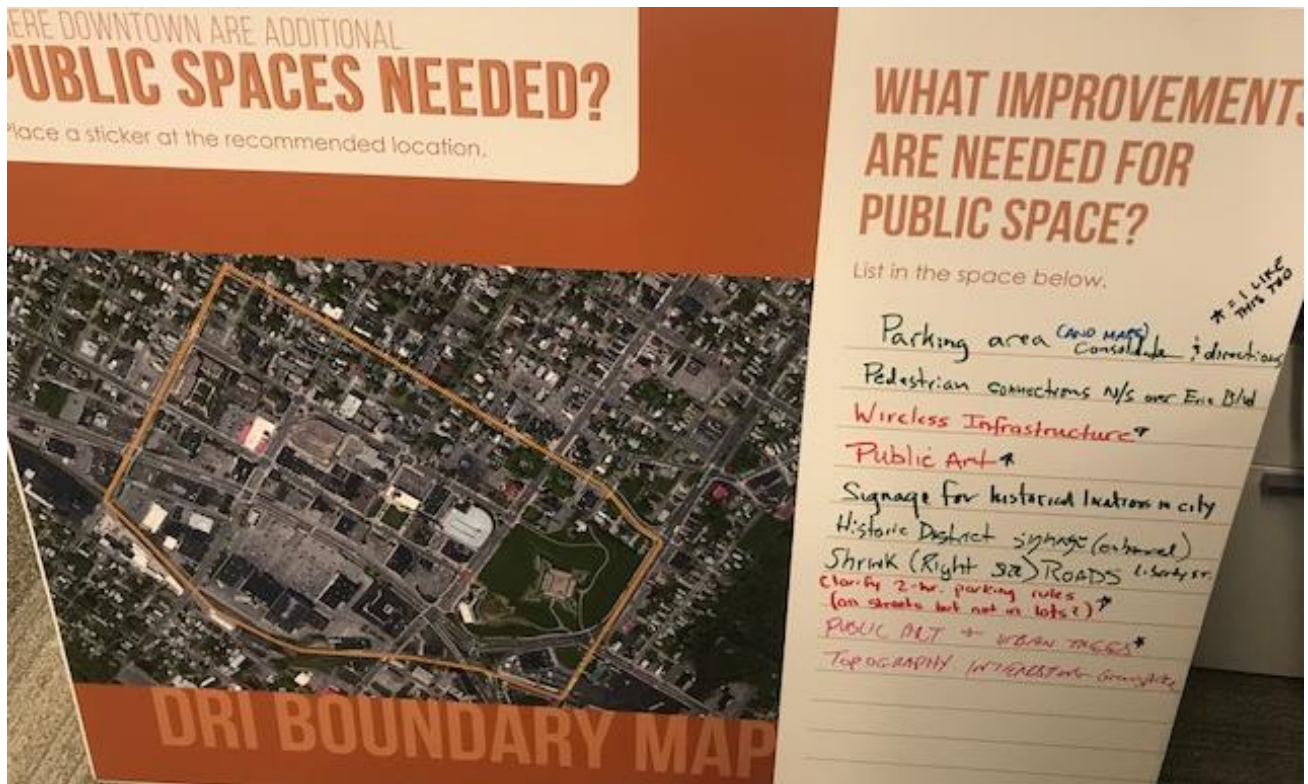
- seasonal farmers market,
- skating rink,
- bowling alley and
- mixed-use developments.



Station 3: What public space improvements are needed?

Participants were asked to identify the types of public improvements they would like to see downtown. The following improvements were highlighted:

- pedestrian connections over Erie Boulevard,
- public art,
- signage for historical locations,
- reduced road widths,
- parking improvements,
- public wifi and
- urban trees.

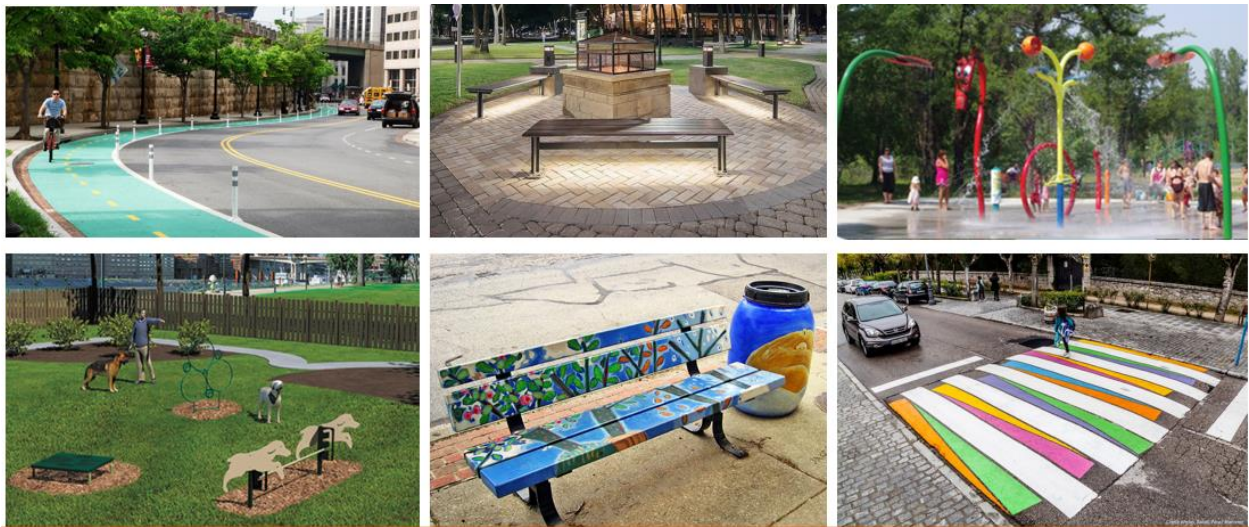


Station 4: What types of public realm improvements would you like to see in downtown?

Participants were asked to choose their favorite design ideas from two dozen images that represented various public improvement design aesthetics.

Stickers reflected streetscape improvements, pedestrian amenities and parks and open spaces.

The images below reflect the stickers that were most often selected by the public as representative of design ideas they would like to see implemented in downtown Rome.



Station 5: In a Word Exercise

Participants were asked to describe downtown Rome today, as well as how they would like to describe Downtown Rome in 5 years, using one word. The results from this exercise are below:

The words for today indicate hope and promise with no negative terms chosen.

The words for the future indicate a desire for a vibrant, mixed use downtown center.

