

On March 21st, the Crescent Heights Community Association hosted a placemaking discussion to bring residents together to brainstorm around how we as residents we can be empowered to strengthen our community. Nineteen residents attended a lively discussion, and the great ideas flowed.

Ideas ranged from physical changes we can make to the community, to programs, to special events, to partnership ideas, to thoughts on how to make it happen.

Physical changes:

- Centre Street and Edmonton Trail:
 - A bus stop with swings(like this one shown in Montreal);
 - Lit paintings behind windows of unoccupied buildings;
 - Make Centre Street and Edmonton Trail into beautiful, walkable main streets;
 - Busk stops;
 - More garbage cans and fresh paint on Centre Street; and
 - More trees.
- Parks:
 - Make our beautiful parks more lively and inviting
 - A community garden and edible food forest
 - Outdoor ping-pong tables, outdoor exercise equipment, and better lighting in parks
 - More public washrooms (that are open longer)
 - Park benches that feel safe to sit on
 - Decorate the trees
 - Allow slack lining in parks.
- Community streets and alleys:
 - Info Centres / community boards at central mailboxes;
 - Calm traffic on 1st Street W;
 - Decorating the staircases on the eastern border of our community;
 - Kids at play signs to remind drivers;
 - Animating the closed sections along 2nd & 3rd Avenue NE (perhaps this idea can be combined with the community garden idea?);
 - Adopt-a-garden in roundabouts;
 - A graffiti abatement mural and painted utility boxes;
 - Street artwork (i.e. paint-the-pavement);
 - Submit requests for more crosswalks (anyone can call 3-1-1 to request a new crosswalk);
 - Little Free Libraries; and
 - Brand Crescent Heights as the neighbourhood with the “Most Beautiful Back Alleys” with beautiful plantings, and painted garage doors.

Events:

- Neighbour Day parties;
- Lemonade stands, pop-up coffee;

- Street closures, community dinner on Edmonton Trail or Centre Street;
- Pub night or card night;
- Community dance for kids, kids bike parade;
- Movie in the park, buskers in the park day, read-in at Rotary Park, marshmallow roasts;
- Group walk, meet-up to sample local businesses; and
- Canada Day street closure festival.

Partnerships: ACAD, Beakerhead, SAIT, Calgary Public Library, Green Calgary, Drop-In Centre, and the Calgary Horticultural Society.

How-to: Celebrate already exists, use the community hall space better, draw in the energy we want to foster, get the press on our side, share your ideas in a newsletter article to find out who else is interested, in certain cases ask for forgiveness rather than permission, and just do it!

