



The Classic Center Arena, Public Engagement Session #2
Summary of Questions and Answers from Community
April 19, 2021

1. Concern regarding local labor: making sure people are paid a fair wage regardless of their role in the project.

One promise we made when we applied for the SPLOST funding was that we would pay a living wage for employees of the facility. We will stand behind that commitment. Beyond that, we are looking at the arena and convention center working together as a working lab to allow Athens-Clarke County residents to learn jobs in the hospitality sector. Stagehands/riggers are in big demand. We are working with the Riggers Union to set up a training program for the community. Our contractor was selected in part because they had a program planned to train local labor and use local contractors in the construction of the facility. We are looking at all ways to maximize revenue so that The Classic Center can generate enough revenue to support operations and generate a living wage for all employees.

2. Both designs would work. Love the Georgia map feature.

Noted.

3. How many loading dock spaces will we have, and are they convenient to the event level?

The loading area is directly adjacent to the arena floor. There is a drive-in ramp so that trucks can drive onto the floor. Bus parking is provided with shore power in the service yard. The dock area is generous and has dock doors to control the interior environment. We are working with local business contacts to fix the exact number of loading bays, the rigging system, locker facilities, and so on. We will have somewhere between four and seven dock spaces.

4. I am excited about the music component. Will the exhibit be static or interactive?

We have had an initial meeting with the exhibit organizers. We are looking at static displays as well as 4-5 “experiences” focused on particular subjects. These features are planned to be interactive. We are also looking at the outdoor pedestrian pathway and how to engage that as well.

5. Concept 1 may have better opportunities to tell the story of Athens and its importance as a commerce center.

Noted.



6. African American artists are an important part of the music history of Athens.

Noted.

7. From a tourism perspective, I like concept number 1.

Noted.

8. I like the brick. There were many adaptive reuse opportunities lost when buildings were demolished.

Noted.

9. I like concept 2 as it's more contemporary and appropriate to an ice arena.

Noted.

10. I like concept 1; it's reminiscent of old baseball stadiums and ensures the facility ages well.

Noted.

11. Concept 1 is too much like a school building; a little bland. Concept 2 is more exciting.

Noted.

12. Have we had conversations with local business owners, particularly minority-owned businesses?

We have not gone door-to-door. We are hoping that the public engagement sessions and the online connection will get the word out and obtain comment from the neighbors. The contractor plans to do an outreach to the neighborhood to talk about impact of construction activities on the neighborhood.

13. I like the views toward the river from the concourse; is it possible to have public access when the arena is not hosting an event?

The exterior plazas will be open to the public. Access to the Firefly Trail will be enhanced. The project will open access to the river area from downtown in a wonderful way. The facility will be used in off hours for training with students through the learning lab. The facility will also be used for corporate and other private events when performances and sporting events are not taking place.

14. Could we review the technical issues associated with maintaining the ice floor?

The ice slab is thicker than typical slabs and is monolithic. The pipes are embedded in the slab. There are insulation and heating pipes below the slab. There are inserts through the ice for items which must be fixed to the ice floor. The dasher boards and



other items are removable, and there is a large storage area for these items. There are very specialized contractors that do this work, and we will select someone with experience. The ice stays in place during the winter season unless there is an event which might damage the surface, such as motocross.

15. Bringing more of the Greek god imagery would be great (similar to Athena statue).

Noted.

16. Request to fund 5th grade through middle school fields trips to come see the music collective.

Noted.

Next steps: We have had 2 sessions and are now prepared to bring the design to the Mayor and Commission. They asked us to hold these public sessions to get feedback from the community to help inform their decisions. Maximizing private funding and enhancing access from downtown to the river were major issues for them. We intend to have one final session which will be advertised in advance. The Classic Center Authority appreciates everyone who took the time to join us for these sessions.