



# Brainstorm Session & Design Charrette

Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 p.m. @ 111 North Main Street in Downtown Benton



## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

Over 50 people gathered together to discuss their ideas!

THV 11 covered the event, filmed during the walk through and the brainstorming session!

My Saline posted reminders & event info before and after the meeting to help spread the word!

PopUp Benton currently has 185 followers on Facebook!

25 people signed up with their email address to keep up to date on PopUp!

## **BRAINSTORMING IDEAS:**

### **Landscape:**

**Key Takeaway:** *Soften the hardscape with plantings to create a more inviting feel.*

- Hanging Baskets on light poles to soften the streetscape.
- Farmer's Market – Building is beautiful but surrounded by hardscape. Surround with plants and flowers.
- More seating on Courthouse Lawn.
- Add Pocket Parks
  - More greenery needed throughout streetscape – the panorama highlighted just how much stark paving / hardscape we have.
- More outdoor seating – could create pallet seating for outdoor movies.

### **Amenities:**

**Key Takeaway:** *People of all ages want to hang out downtown – day AND night!*

- Restaurant (open at night!)
  - Classy Date Night Steakhouse / Speak Easy / Brewery Café
  - Take advantage of weekend events and soccer tournaments at CW Lewis stadium.
  - With Live Music!
- Coffee Shop
- Brewery!
  - PopUp Brewery potential at Federal Building if owner is open. Create outdoor dining area in front – potentially take in 2 parking spots with temporary pallets.
- Vendors
  - PopCorn near Movie Area
  - PopUp Vendor Market (on Market!) in vacant DG space if possible.
- Beer Garden
  - Providing gateways at ends of Alley to control entry / exit / safety.
  - Have adjacent to live music.

- Playground / Activities = more than just a place to sit:
  - Owens Mooney Park:
    - Fountain (additional or reworked) as splashpad or kid & dog fountain – a fountain to play in, not just look at.
    - Swings for all ages
    - Games
  - Courthouse Lawn:
    - More seating for parents to watch kids play on lawn.
    - Chess tables on lawn.
    - Oversized checkerboard (12 feet by 12 feet)
    - Incorporate education with memorials – have veteran programs (office across the street) lead programs for kids at memorials with activities on lawn afterward.
    - Incorporate First Responders into educational events for kids near the Courthouse memorials.
    -
  - Games / Event Ideas:
    - Shuffle board
    - Ping Pong Tournament
    - Arcade
    - Escape Room in Fed. Building
    - Watermelon eating contest
    - Hayride
    - Year-Round Horse Carriage Rides
- Nightlife:
  - Movies on Main!
    - Outdoor movie screen that could be located in the Alley, in Cleo's parking lot... could use furniture during show?
    - Could paint wall white to screen shows.
  - Live Music:
    - In Alley, or on Courthouse lawn, or at Cleo's parking lot if possible. "Pocket" concerts.
- "Porch Swings!" – add to hidden area in Alley that leads to the skinny passage.
- Dog Park
  - Potential locations: North of Farmer's Market Pavilion, or in skinny green space behind Main St. Station parking lot.

## Lighting / Art:

**Key Takeaway: Our downtown is Beautiful – now let's add the finishing touches!**

- String Lights:
  - Hang string lights overhead in skinny access to Alley to create a light blanket / special entry to the Alley for events.
- Photo Ops – Little Murals at Alley, back wall of Habitat building facing Farmer's Market, or on West wall of Owens Mooney park.
- Art Alley for showcasing local artists' and local students' work (8-80) in Cleo's parking lot.
- Expose and restore the Dr. Pepper Mural.

## Streetscape:

**Key Takeaway: Create better connectivity / walkability / bike-ability / & dedicate more space to pedestrians so that people can stay awhile!**

- Bike Lane:
  - Along Market Street (idea is to test fit a bike lane that could connect downtown businesses to the newly planned bike trail to the south – we're the mid-point of the LR Central High to Hot Springs route! Join forces with Friends of the Southwest Trail)
  - Provide PopUp Bike training workshop during event.
  - Create bike racks in front of Market Street businesses.
- Temporarily change double one-way streets to single one-way streets = give more area to sidewalks at Main and Market streets in this area for people to sit and stay awhile.

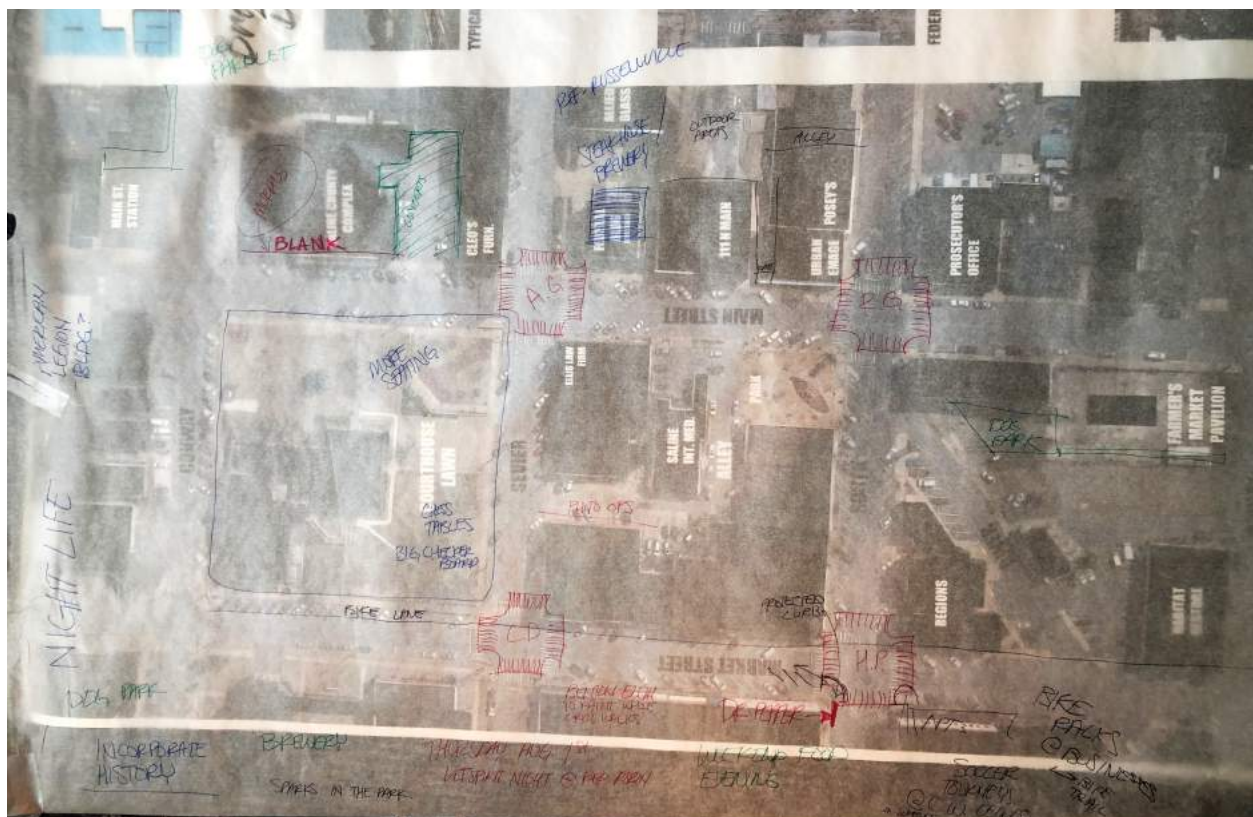
- Intercom system for music and announcements along Main + Market streets.
- Signage:
  - Historical signage as artwork along Main Street.

## Safety:

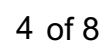
**Key Takeaway: Pedestrians could be better protected in our downtown at crosswalks and sidewalks.**

- Sidewalks:
  - Need repair to existing along Main at Farmer's Market Pavilion to Owens Mooney Park.
  - Add sidewalk at south portion of Farmer's Market Pavilion on Ashley Street.
- Street parking has allowed 'passing' at intersections when someone in a hurry wants to turn right – this could be a danger to pedestrians – provide temporary encroachment of curb to block the cut-through.
- Crosswalks – chalk them either in cross walk area – or the whole intersection.
  - Idea to allow each of the 4 Benton Elementary schools to 'adopt' a whole intersection at the 4 corners of Sevier, Main, South, and Market streets.

And if you've made it this far through the report – CONGRATULATIONS!!! You're almost there! See the photos below of each group's markups that were shared and discussed at the end of our Charrette event. Enjoy!









## A photograph of a street scene in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. The Gateway Arch is visible in the background, and a traffic light is in the foreground. The street is lined with trees and buildings, and there are cars parked along the side.

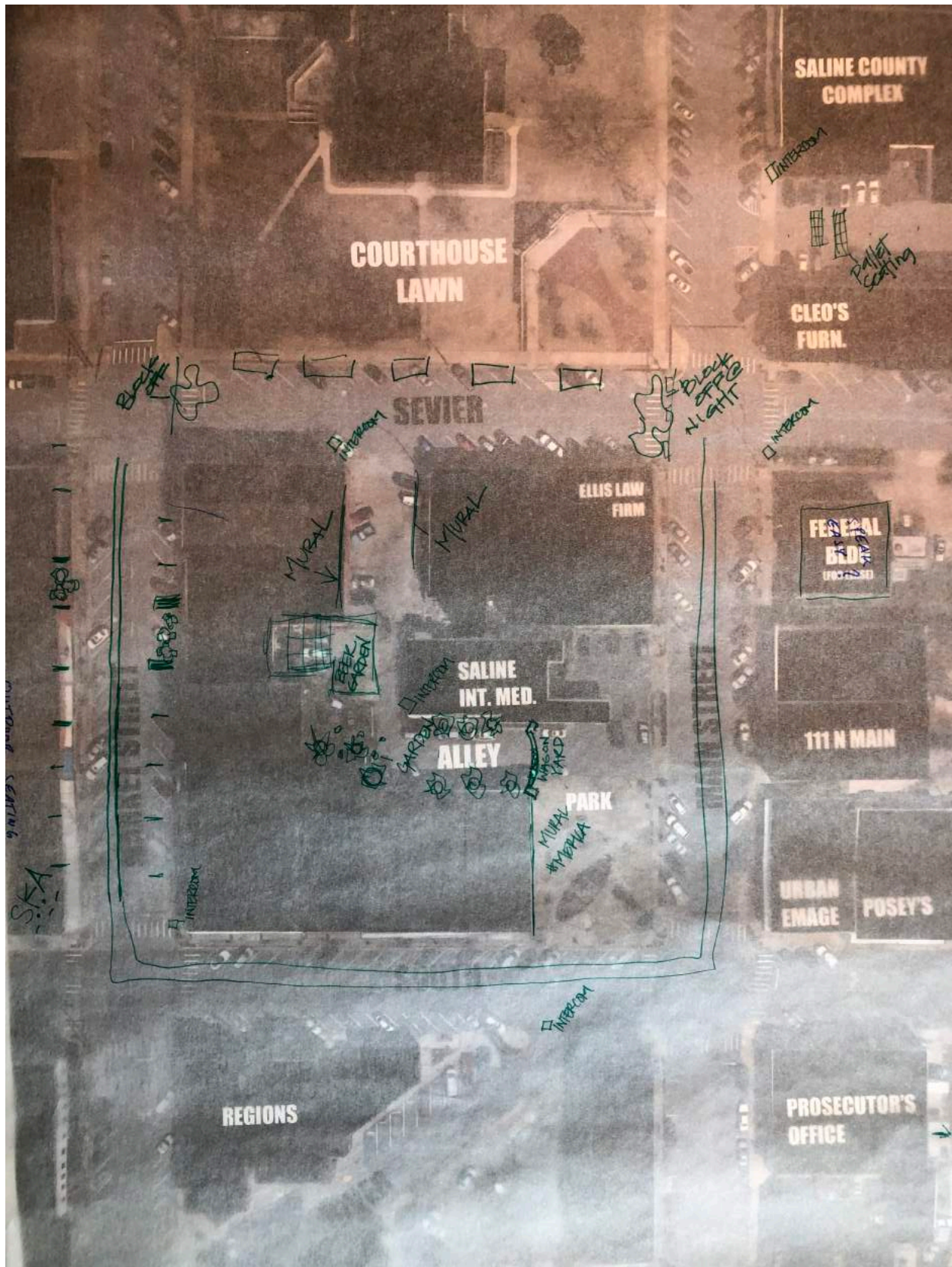
EAST ST. MULTI  
LIVING  
SPACES



\* Horse Cartage  
year around

[illegible]









STANDARDS / FOOD  
 SYSTEM FOR  
 MOVES IN MAIN  
 LIVE MUSIC  
 MARKET STREET. IMPORTANT!!  
 TICKET INFO  
 • DRAWING  
 • PROTEST MISTERS.  
 • OUTDOOR SEATING  
 • BEER GARDEN / TENT.  
 • CHANGE LIVES

Design  
 Creative



