



BLOXHUB Update

City of Tacoma | Community and Economic Development

Economic Development Committee
July 30, 2024



● ● ● Background



- The Nordics are at the forefront regarding future-proof and livable city development, building on a strong tradition of design thinking, architecture, and cross-sector collaboration.
- A vast ecosystem of more than 400 organizations have connected in a global ecosystem through BLOXHUB – the Nordic Hub for sustainable urbanization, with a motivation to share knowledge and collaborate across disciplines, sectors, and borders.
- Through contacts at the Governor’s office, BLOXHUB has engaged in collaboration with City of Tacoma to leverage the exchange of knowledge and solutions between City of Tacoma and BLOXHUB
- Focus - Revitalizing Downtown



Problem Statement



We are seeking outcomes that spur economic development growth and draw people to the downtown Tacoma core to support our community and businesses by supporting business community led solutions, in collaboration with government and other partners, and activating its public spaces and underutilized buildings through intentional community engagement.



Timeline Phase 1





Workshop objectives



On May 15, 2024, the City of Tacoma invited a diverse group of city stakeholders and BLOXHUB member experts. Together, they aimed to envision bold solutions and identify actionable steps to revitalize downtown Tacoma.

The primary goal was to generate ideas stimulating economic development and attracting people to downtown Tacoma. This workshop marks the beginning of an ongoing dialogue on how to create an inclusive downtown for everyone.

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May 15th Agenda



AGENDA 15th May:

- 08:30 Welcome, Presentation of workshop program and the process BLOXHUB
- 08:50 Introduction to City of Tacoma, the selected challenge
- 09:15 Check in (introduction of all)
- 09:35 Overall group discussion: What does it actually mean to be a vibrant city – for all?
- 10:00 Break**
- 10:15 Inspirational talk – BLOXHUB EXPERT*
- 10:40 Group work I: Idea development and categorization
- 11:35 Inspirational talk- BLOXHUB EXPERT*
- 12:00 Lunch**
- 12:40 Group work II: Idea selection and description
- 13:20 Inspirational talk – BLOXHUB EXPERT*
- 13:45 Break**
- 14:00 Group work III: Plan and partners
- 14:45 Presentations and cross-pollination
- 15:15 Sum-up, reflections and possible next steps
- 15:30 End of workshop

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● ● ● Three breakout groups

Group 1: Transforming underutilized buildings

1. Community repair and re-make space
2. Corner Market Grocery Store: Food courts like Portland
3. Housing for low-income people
4. Flexible commercial kitchen / childcare / maker space
5. Free/low-cost meeting and event space
6. Music and art incubator
7. Design for phased growth

Case Study: 928 Pacific

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● ● ● Three breakout groups

Group 2: Transforming vacant office space into “future of work” spaces

1. Downtown campus, shared spaces
2. Create “in between” space
3. Tacoma talks
4. Nature first
5. Inside/outside space

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● ● ● Three breakout groups



Group 3: Public amenities and urban space vibrancy

1. Better separation of cars from pedestrian space
2. Public space for sports
3. Better bike and walking trails connections
4. Places for play - all ages
5. Blocking street for events. Using parking areas for events
6. Transform courts = public space

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● ● ● Next Steps



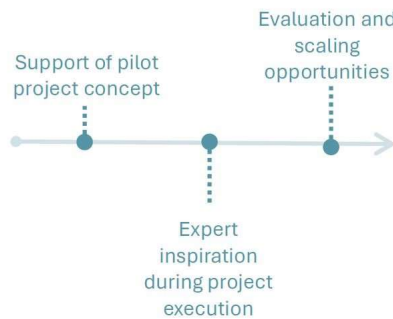
- BLOXHUB will facilitate further discussions between the City of Tacoma, selected stakeholders, and the BLOXHUB ecosystem.
- The goal is to exchange perspectives and ideas to refine the workshop outputs.
- These outputs will serve as the baseline for a Playbook of Solutions, which will contain guiding principles for revitalizing downtown Tacoma, addressing the identified challenges and the initiatives already in the planning stages.
- **Phase II**

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Phase 2



Phase 2: implementation



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Funding



- Phase I
 - Governor's office provided funding of \$30,000
- Phase II
 - Grant from Scan Design Foundation for \$45,000
 - Match from City for \$20,000

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● ● ● 928 Pacific Avenue



- Purchased in January 2017
- Redevelopment of North Park Parking Garage
- RFI released in June 2017

- 6000 Square Feet
- Two stories
- Former Restaurant/Bar

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