OPEN HOUSE
Design Advisory Committee
April 6, 2016
5:30-7:00 pm
Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

. . . . WELCOME! . . . .

PARQUE de CASTILLO
Design Advisory Committee Members

- Lolo Castillo, Resident
- Chacho Estrada, Resident
- Milissa Silva-Diaz, Business Representative
- Sarah Foster, West side Transit Team
- Terrence Galbreath, Clinton Homes Representative
- Rick Hernandez, Westside Community Organization and West Side Boosters
- Virginia Hernandez, Resident
- Shad Lukas, Neighborhood House representative
- Gail Merriam, NEDA
- Carol Neumann, Resident
- Mark Thomas, Resident
- Gilbert de la O, Resident
- Jesus Ramirez, Resident

. . . . THANK YOU! . . .
Project Overview:

Project Goal:
Create a concept plan for improvements to Parque Castillo to improve the play area and create a vibrant public space.
Project Schedule:

August – September 2015
- Internal meetings and Discussion
- Community outreach: Attended National Night out, visited neighboring businesses, assemble Design Advisory Committee, and online survey

September 23, 2015 – First Design Advisory Committee Meeting
- Introduce the project, review survey results, discuss site organization options and determine main priorities for the site

November 19, 2015 – Second Design Advisory Committee Meeting
- Review concept plan option
- Determine direction for ART, PLAY EQUIPT, and SPLASHPAD

January 27, 2016 – Third Design Advisory Committee Meeting
- Discuss Artist applications
- Discussion of Park safety
- Finalize play equipment and splashpad design

April 6, 2016 – Public Art Workshop & Project Open house
- Artist will work with community for public art input
- Present final concept design for Parque de Castillo

March – June 2016 – Develop construction documents

Fall 2016 or Summer 2017 (To be determined) – Construction starts
**Survey Results**

An online survey was available in August 2015 to September 2015 for community members to give their feedback on the play area and site improvements of Parque Castillo. 73 people participated in the survey. 51% of them live 5 min walk within the park. 25% visit the park weekly and 30% less than monthly.

1. **What do you like about the play area and the park?**
   - Ball Fields
   - Proximity
   - Playground
   - Community
   - Relax
   - Park
   - Close to Home
   - Slides
   - Location
   - Gym
   - Nice
   - History
   - Street
   - Gathering Space

2. **If you were to choose a theme to INSPIRE the park design, what would it be?**
   - Castillo Music Neighborhood
   - Community Cultures Park
   - WestSide Colors
   - Historical event Aztec Mexican
   - Cesar Chavez

3. **What type of play equipment would you like to see in the new play area?**
   - Traditional: 8%
   - Modern: 41%
   - Net Structure: 9%
   - Combination (Baseball - Fitness): 70%

4. **What would you like to see in addition to new play area equipment?**
   - Park space: 68%
   - Landscaping: 46%
   - Additional seating: 45%
   - Additional shade: 48%
   - Water Feature: 74%
   - Paved area for community: 40%

5. **What type of play surfacing would you like to see in the new play area?**
   - Synthetic Surf: 19%
   - Synthetic Resilient: 46%
   - Sand: 43%

**Suggested Additions to the park:**
- Tribute to veterans
- Colorful benches
- Concert stage
- Mural
- Water fountain
- Mosaic

**Suggested Artistic Influences:**
- John Acosta
- Frida Khalo
- Diego Rivera
- Ta-coumba Aiken
- Caprice Glaser
- Emily Slover
- Andrea Steudler
- Jake Keeler
- Lucas Glusenkamp
- Hispanic traditions
- Mexican-American
- Aztec
- Monarch Butterflies
**HISTORY & SCULPTURES**

**1940 - 1950**

Mexican migrants arrived, many to work in meat packaging, for the railroad and sugar and canning companies. They settled on the Flats of the lower West Side.

**1962**

Heavy recruitment led to another surge of Mexican migrant workers for sugar and canning industry.

**1972**

Community Health Center started as a volunteer clinic. People travel far distances to access the state's largest community clinic.

**1981**

The Cinco de Mayo Community celebration began. It becomes the largest outdoor Latino Festival in Minnesota.

**1999**

The business area on the West Side was named District del Sol by the Riverfront Economic Development Association.

**2004**

In order for both La Clinica and Parque Castillo to have more usable space, a land swap occurred where two triangular parcels of equal size were exchanged. Park planning was conducted to spearhead funding for the park renovations.

**2008 - 2015**

City of Saint Paul granted CIB Funding for $250,000 for Parque Castillo Improvements.

**1988**

Parque Castillo is dedicated officially in honor of Nicholas Castillo by resolution of the Saint Paul City Council and the first week of May was proclaimed to be “Nicholas Castillo Week”.

**1980 - 1990**

Nicolás Castillo (1917-87) was a musician and composer of corridos. He was born in Texas into a family of migrant farm workers. He was very generous and always ready to help those in need. His family settled on St. Paul’s Lower West side in 1917. Upon his return from World War II, Castillo continued his family’s tradition of service as community leader and an entertainer. He worked to establish medical clinics for low-income families and fought to support the newly formed Chicano Studies Department at the U of M.

**Corridos** is a ballad used by Chicano musicians to chronicle the activities of their communities. Castillo’s corridos described social and racial injustices.

**Sculptures**

**They All Work Together**

Monument Artist: John Acosta. After Castillo’s death (1987), he was honored with the name of the park.

The Queen of the Wandering Races

Artist: Craig David (2004)

The piece represents a mythological mother or queen to immigrant families of the West Side of St. Paul. The different layers represent the great ethnic diversity of the West Side, from the early Jewish to the present Hispanic community. The mild steel upright was originally a tie beam on the old Wabasha Street Bridge.

David explains, “The concept of ‘The Queen of the Wandering Races’ comes to mind from the poetry of Pablo Neruda. My hope is that this art work will, over time, become an icon that represents the masses of immigrants and humanity that have moved through our community in the past, present and future.”
- Establish a presence on Cesar Chavez side that offers sightlines into the park, but enough of a buffer to make it feel comfortable

- Create strong visual connection to Gilbert de la O field and Rec Center

- Widen sidewalks and enhance pathways through the park that are intentional connectors

- Flatten the lawn space to create more useable open areas

- Reduce the strong presence of visible utilities (power pole & light fixtures)

- Trim plantings around the sculpture and/or move memorial

- Create a vibrant, active play area for children

- Create an open plaza space for community events
Concept Plan Introduction: Conceptual site organization schemes

Summary of Feedback from Meeting #1
- Curving pathway is preferred
- Play area on the Clinton Ave side of the park
- Smaller play area and a splashpad are preferred
- Create a ‘gateway’ from Cesar Chavez
- Maintain park as a community gathering space
Circle symbol represents:
INCLUSION
WHOLENESS
UNITY
CYCLES
EVERYTHING
CENTERING
REVOLUTION
INFINITY
COMPLETION
MOBILITY

Circle Symbol: It represents the infinite nature of energy, and the inclusivity of the universe.
Concept Plan:

- Event Lawn
- Garden
- Nicolas Castillo Memorial
- Wellstone Memorial
- 5-12 Play Area
- Splashpad
- 2-5 Play Area (alternate)
- Picnic Area
- Cesar Chavez
- Clinton Avenue
- Bike Rack
- Sculpture
Splashpad:

Detail of Splashpad concept

PARQUE CASTILLO
public open house
Play Area Process:

- Colorful
- Combination of colorful and musical
- More picnic tables and seating
- Natural turf area for children to play
PARQUE CASTILLO
THE COLORFUL PLAY AREA

Play Area:

Parque de Castillo
St. Paul, Minnesota

PLAY AREA PLAN VIEW

COLORFUL PLAY STRUCTURE SHADOWS

COLORFUL DRUMS

PARQUE CASTILLO
public open house
Artist: Craig David
Project Funding:

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Anticipated Budget Breakdown:

- **Play Area** $125,000
- **Splashpad** $220,000
- **Site Features** (Walks, Furnishings, Lighting, Landscaping) $152,000
- **Public Art** (DNI Field Project Funds) $6,000
- **Design & Construction Fees** $98,000
- **10% Contingency** $49,000

PARQUE CASTILLO

public open house
Project update: Gilbert de la O Field Project:
Project update: Gilbert de la O Field Project:
Moving Forward....

Next step: Complete Construction Documents and Bid Project

Project information (including Construction schedule) will be available to the public on the city website:

www.stpaul.gov/parquecastillo

Or

https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/el-rio-vista-gilbert-de-la-o

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