

**City of Albuquerque & Samitaur Constructs
Albuquerque Rail Yards Master Plan Open House
Saturday, December 1, 2012
Summary of Flipchart Notes of Participant Comments**

Overview and Objectives

The City of Albuquerque and Samitaur Constructs (the Rail Yards Master Developer) hosted the third in a series of public events on redevelopment of the Albuquerque Rail Yards on December 1, 2012. Samitaur Constructs presented redevelopment concepts for the site, the City of Albuquerque sponsored walking tours of the existing facilities, and members of the public visited with the planning team and City officials to offer comments and reactions.

The objectives of the open house were to:

- Present Samitaur's proposed redevelopment concepts for the Master Plan based on the project's objectives and community feedback gathered through prior public meetings. Graphic boards and a three-dimensional model communicated the concepts.
- Give open house participants an opportunity to comment on the proposed concepts for the Master Plan.
- Respond to questions that have frequently been asked during the public involvement process and provide better understanding of the master planning process. Text boards summarized key points and guidelines underlying the process.
- Provide tours of the site in order to give the public an opportunity to see and assess the site's development potential through first-hand observation.

Rather than a formal presentation, the participants walked through a display of the graphic and written information and visited informally with the Samitaur team, City officials, and facilitation team members. The City staff and facilitators welcomed people and oriented them to the organization of the displays. Participants were free to arrive and leave when they wished and had opportunities to join one of a number of guided tours of the Rail Yards site. Over 200 people were able to tour the site. However, due to size limits for each tour, those who were unable to tour the site during the open house event were invited to sign up to be notified of future tour opportunities. Participants were also invited to note comments on a flipchart or on comment cards. Over 300 people attended the event, which was held midday (10am-2pm) at the Rail Yards on a Saturday.

This report summarizes the comments written on the flipchart. Comments about similar topics are grouped rather than reported in the order in which they were written.

The open house participants were highly engaged and inquisitive, whether or not they had attended a previous public meeting. There was an especially strong interest in the site tours, and the on-site location of the open house may have heightened attendance. Many people retain a strong personal connection to the site. Numerous people mentioned that a relative or, in some cases, they themselves had worked at the Rail Yards.

Comments Recorded on Flip Charts

Values/Principles for the Master Plan

- One guiding principle for the development should be environmental cleanup.
- “Synergy” is as important as the physical development, i.e., what kind of job training is available on the site to engage surrounding neighborhoods in the jobs created here? The concept of synergy should consider how this entire development improves the economic indicators in Barelás, South Broadway, etc., and not just for the tenants.
- There is enough building space in place. Let’s use what we have before building more new spaces.
- Keep the historic buildings accessible to the public.
- There is a rich history here that is important to preserve. Unless [the site] is developed, it will be lost, and we’ll never get the history back.
- The shop should be comprised of *local*, small micro-businesses (open air market), not one big business. Keep the shop open to us!

Specific Uses, Features & Site Improvements

- There should be a children’s area with grass and a play area suitable for many recreational uses.
- There should be large organic gardens for the community.
- I like the idea of a community garden. Also the [proposed] farmer’s market.
- Everything is concrete. We need trees. There are no trees on the site or in the surrounding area.
- There should be more grass, shade, and public space.
- *No* smokestack tower!!
- Residents need good transit access between the Rail Yards and other parts of the Albuquerque.
- The redevelopment concept is a good use of the space.

- Make sure to rebuild the Round House. There are only a few Round Houses in the entire county, and this Round House is an important part of Albuquerque's history.
 - *Numerous open house participants mentioned they agreed with this point when they saw it on the flipchart.*
- Keep the Round House as quaint as possible.
- Circus model builder—please help the Round House, so we can show our little circus wagons and trains!
- 2926 needs to come “home” to the Round House.
- 2926 and WHEELS need to be at the Round House.
- WHEELS must be at the Round House.
- Please save the WHEELS Museum in the Round House.
- The ideal—and this is vital—is that the Round House becomes “the museum” and the Store House becomes a place for storage.
- Keep the Store House as a storage place for WHEELS.
- WHEELS Museum must be an integral part of this facility and its process!
- WHEELS Museum is vital!
- WHEELS – a driving force for the Rail Yards.
- WHEELS Museum is a great resource for the community and the Rail Yards.
- Thanks!
- I would like to see a train car here. It would help people connect to the original purpose of the Rail Yards. Maybe it could be used as a restaurant or for another purpose.
- I would like to see model trains at the WHEELS Museum.

Tours of the Site

- I suggest having weekly tours; the tours could be a way to collect donations and build public support.
- Tour for just photographers of the site in its existing condition, preferably in the early morning when the light is best.
- Coordinate the tours with other sites, and promote it across the country to railroad buffs.
- Field trips for school kids—are they allowed?

Personal Connection to the Site and its Redevelopment

- I want to live here! The mix of uses would make it a vibrant, exciting place to live.
- I want to see the Rail Yards saved!
- This is a treasure! Please get the word out.
- Incredible!!! Thanks for sharing this treasure.
- Members of my family worked here, so I feel a strong connection to the Rail Yards.