

DRAC Survey from 2003

63 responses total

What city or private sector services do you think are the most important additions to Downtown Columbus?

Grocery store (22), Trader Joe's, more green space with parks (14) including playground, recreation facilities, bike paths and bike locking stations (4), more retail pertinent to downtown living such as Dry-cleaning (6), Convenience stores (3), coffee shop, safe gas station (3), bars/lounges, electronics store, drive thru banking, Produce shopping, more mid-price dining (4), more retail especially storefronts filled and open after 5:00 PM and weekend hours(12), post office, parking, pedestrian only streets, more housing (10) and zoning that is friendly to housing mix in neighborhoods, police and security issues especially after 5:00PM, more foot patrol (6), more mass transit with COTA Link longer hours (6), Street and sidewalk cleaning, goose droppings along river(4) one comment praising the yellow and green street cleaners.

Fill empty offices space, have a health care facility downtown, movie space and more festivals rounded out the additions that people jotted down! We also, had one offer to have Downtown historic tours available to tourists and residence alike!

How would you envision replacing the empty retail space in City Center?

Fill the empty spaces with a real full service grocery store and variations on the theme like Whole Foods Market, farmer's market, Trader Joe's, Produce market, Asian market (16), Target store (5), hardware store (5), Drug store/Pharmacy (4), Dry Cleaners (4), branch banks, Day care Center, Wellness center, Deli and food court (2), Gym (2), and Barber shop/Beauty Shop.

Then there were suggestions of other stores such Home Stores, Loft living stores, Barnes and Noble, Old Navy, Gap, Steinmart, not for profit stores, Crate and Barrel, no more major chains, but independent retail specialty stores (10). Pop out walls and put in glass to the street (3) and have more restaurants (6) especially mid-price range and a movie theater

and bring Lazarus into the mall. Major renovation of the City center into Lofts and residential (5) on 3rd floor, offices on the 2nd floor and retail on the 1st floor or bulldoze the whole thing and put in an Ikea store (4)!

What motivates you the most about working and living in an urban environment?

Close to Museum, Short North, theaters, eliminates urban sprawl, preserves city center as a unit, is quiet (don't encourage any more people), close to art and artists! By far the most response was Convenience (14), Amenities (5), Energy (9), Lifestyle (8), less driving and more walking (18) and diversity of residence (2).

What issues would you like to see addressed by the Downtown Residents' Association of Columbus?

Issues they would like to see addressed as a clearing house for collection and disbursement of information with a newspaper or monthly magazine with listings of amenities of downtown,

raise awareness, resources for assistance to small business to own buildings, grow interest in downtown, promote resale of area, quality of green spaces (2),

parking was mentioned as to no 3-9AM parking, undo restrictions, two way streets are more friendly, lobbying local/state government.

Some of the most repeated issues were crime (5), Safety (6), police patrols (2),

Panhandling, noise pollution, trash pickup and visible trash cans. Transit and lite rail was mentioned along with empty store fronts, cheaper housing than what is planned,

Clippers move to downtown, grocery (2), commercial development, diversity and speaking with a unified voice for political clout!

What interesting downtown locations would you like to see the Downtown Residents' Association of Columbus use for future meetings?

Arena (5), City Center Conf. Center (5), Art Museum (4), Miranova (3), and then N. Market, Crown Plaza, Mitchell's, COSI, Athenaeum, Hartman, Top of a High Rise were all mentioned (2ea). Other mentioned place are Long St., Hotels in the downtown, Kelton House, Music Hall, Topiary Park, Library, Riffe Lobby, Ohio/Palace/Southern theater Smart Space, Buca De Beppo, Virus Fir museum, Connections, LaVeque Tower, Clipper Stadium, Churches, Quiet one(?), Athletic Club, B.L.D. Warehouse, Indian Oven, Bldg. Under development, Cultural Arts Center, Pierre's, Arsenal Bldg. Grant Hospital, STRS Bldg., M, Statehouse, 65 E. Gay, New business, Elizabethan Room of the Seneca Hotel and other hotel conf. Rooms.

What pertinent speakers or topics would make interesting and informative meetings?

Top of list was the Mayor and city council members (11), and then John Rosenburger (3), and then a list of representatives from redevelopment, retail, housing, parking, crime, city planning, recycling, public transportation, safety in the parks and streets, finance, architects, art directors, music directors, event planning, grants, children's projects. Then some of the more specific were how to partner with city hall and be heard, affordable parking concerns, how do older apt. compete with the mayors give "away's" for new units, urban leaders from other cities that have been successful, social networking aspect to meetings will help get bodies to address issues, and Richard Florida and Les Wexner to talk to us!

Which committee would you be interested in participating: (membership, safety, social, fundraising, etc.)?

Overwhelming response was social, then membership

Other comments?

Preservation of historic spaces and buildings, Christmas lights, Member directory with pictures and where they work, riverfront development?, downtown preschool k-3, promote downtown.

Probably the most interesting was a long comment on longevity! People moving into Victorian and Italian Villages did so because the houses were great and could be picked up for 1/3 the price for renovations. How are people that would sell homes in the suburbs going to afford the prices being touted for the newly developed buildings? Is anyone being realistic? People knew that they could stay in their house as long as they wanted, but what about downtown? Will it last? And at the prices that are being asked?