

Design Idea: City Green

Design Brief

Size/Dimension/Location/Accessibility

City Green is located in Vancouver's Downtown District, with proximity to transportation corridors and noteworthy urban destinations such as:

B.C. Place Stadium

G.M. Place

Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Vancouver Playhouse

CBC Regional Broadcast Centre

Vancouver Library

Vancouver Community College

Regiment Square

Stadium – Chinatown SkyTrain Station

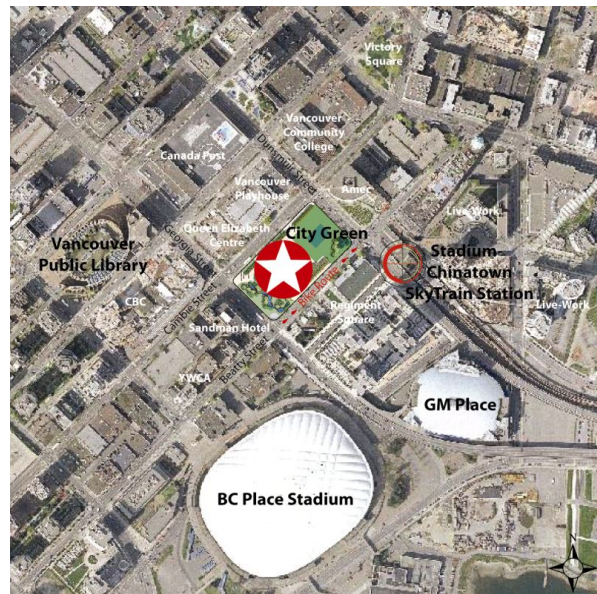
Bus and bike routes (within 200m of major transit routes)

Residential live work neighbourhood and commercial developments

Mount Seymour view corridor

The Square, 688 Cambie Street, is currently a City owned parking lot. Vancouver's Official Community Plan identifies the lot as Zone C – which permits parks and open space use. The site selection is a feasible proposition and is ideally situated to attract year round every day use, as well as special events to compliment nearby sports and entertainment venues. The size and topography of the lot is able to accommodate a diversity of spaces. The relatively level grade allows for ease of accessibility (Universal Design). The overall site size is approximately 14,350 sq.m, and can therefore comfortably accommodate more than 5,000 people standing (based on 0.14 sq.m. per person) and vehicular and emergency routes*.

*Our property information (zoning, ownership, and size) is based on *VanMap*.



The Concept

Programming/Sociability/Utility

The design reflects a sense of place that characterizes Vancouver's quintessential lifestyle – urban culture and sociability framed within a natural setting. The design also expresses Vancouver's history of urban design and cultural form through the use of seating steps, street trees, and cascading water. The *City Green* is focused on a central covered performance space and flexible open space with a diversity of surrounding green spaces. The performance space becomes the hub for activity within a green square.

Some features of the square include:

- A rain garden streetscape with a naturalized character adjacent Georgia Street. This garden suggests a palette of native plants to provide opportunity for urban habitat.
- An open grassy green for everyday play, or lounging, flanks Dunsmuir Street. The space allows for set-up and drop-off space for special events.
- Allees of trees wall the square along Cambie and Beatty Streets. These spaces enhance the streetscape, provide places of refuge to watch passer-bys, or enjoy activities at the centre stage. The deciduous trees provide season interest, offering dappled shade in the summer, and sunny places in the winter months. Openings in the trees suggest focal points for temporary or permanent public art installations.
- The City Green reaches out to the community with defined well marked, inviting pedestrian entrances at the square's four corners. Also, lighting poles with festive banners to advertise upcoming events at City Green as part of the streetscape.
- The plan provides vehicular access through the site for special event setup and for emergency vehicles to drive through. There are also drop-off areas to support events.
- The central performance area is covered for year round use. A modest water wall with a shallow pool provides a backdrop for reflection or getting your feet wet during hot weather. The stage location takes advantage of the site's topography by using steps and accessible ramps to delineate the performance space. The steps also provide options for seating and viewing the stage from many perspectives. The upper adjacent paved terrace allows for additional set-up space for performances such as auxiliary tents, or other support activities.
- Parking is proposed underground (access from Beatty Street) to support the everyday parking needs of the community and special events at the square. Storage facilities are proposed within that parking area. Some limited storage areas are proposed within the stair wing walls and benches within the square.