



August 2, 2023

Raja Sethuraman  
Public Works Director  
City of Costa Mesa  
77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

**RE: Community Outreach for Newly Proposed Park Designs: Shalimar and Ketchum-Libolt Parks**

The City of Costa Mesa recently received specific state funding for the redesign, improvement and enhancement of both Shalimar Park and Ketchum-Libolt Park. This funding is extremely unique in that it included community outreach, design, and ultimate construction of both parks. It was decided early on by Council Member Chavez that new park design recommendations would come from the neighborhoods and communities adjacent to each park through a series of community outreach events.

In June, Costa Mesa retained the services of PatWest LLC to work with both the Costa Mesa Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Department to facilitate this outreach. In July, Costa Mesa brought on board the design services of City Fabrick, a local firm specializing in placemaking in an urban environment. City Fabrick participated in the community outreach early on, prior to considering any design proposals. Community outreach included 'pop-up' events at both Shalimar and Ketchum-Libolt Parks. Shalimar Park had events on Saturday, May 6 and on Thursday, June 22, while Ketchum-Libolt Park saw 'pop-up' events on Saturday May 6 and on Thursday, June 15. Additionally, during this Spring's annual "Love Costa Mesa Day" festival on Saturday, May 20, there was a staffed booth that gathered community input for the redesigns of both Shalimar and Ketchum-Libolt Parks.

Each community outreach event was advertised thru social media and in neighborhood flyers, City Council newsletters, and neighborhood canvassing. These were all City sponsored events with full support of multiple departments including the City Manager, Planning, Public Works, and the Parks and Recreation team, all which provided outreach, set-up, snacks and beverages, and the mobile recreation vehicle. Each event was attended by team members from PatWest LLC and City Fabrick to engage the community through surveys and activities and discuss with individual community members issues with each park and what the neighborhood would like to

see in a new design. Survey's regarding the parks were distributed in both English and Spanish with comments collated into a summary for consideration. Each attendee was not only encouraged to complete the survey, but to leave an email (or home) address so they could be included in future events and follow the process as the City continued to solicit ideas and comments to be incorporated in the new park designs.

Comments from the community regarding **Shalimar Park** included:

ADULTS

- Not enough light
- Park needs to feel safe
- Needs more play area
- The back area needs to be visible
- Do not remove the rock, it could be historical
- Add outdoor gym area
- Place for families and community to gather
- Consider the back area to be multi-purpose, active space (i.e.: soccer, handball, basketball, or pickle ball)
- Close the park at night

KIDS

- Swings
- Vertical climbers
- Overhead climbers
- Keep the tire swing, slide, trees and small area behind the trees
- Room to play soccer

Comments from the community regarding **Ketchum-Libolt Park** included:

ADULTS

- New play equipment
- More visibility
- Remove the concrete
- More grass
- No sand
- Larger play structure
- The wall along Victoria should be more transparent
- Have an aviation theme to honor the fallen officers
- When the park gets dark there is loitering and drugs
- Playground is old and not functional for kids under 5
- Picnic area is not functional

KIDS

- Would like to see swings
- Slides
- Vertical climbers
- Spinners
- Balance features for playground
- Soccer area
- Keep the tables but move them to a more open space area

This engagement provided valuable insight into park users concerns and wishes for City Fabrick to initiate design options for both parks. City Fabrick also engaged Parks maintenance staff, Public Works, and the Police Department to consider the operations of the future parks. Two design options were developed for both parks, both built on common themes drawn from the engagement process, while testing diverging ideas from the community (example handball court versus half-court of basketball). These two options can be used to continue engaging community members, city staff, and the commission to opine for the ultimate design direction.

At the August 10, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, members from PatWest LLC and City Fabrick teams will be available to present and answer questions about the potential new optional park designs.

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West, Principal  
PatWest LLC