Project Background

In conjunction with the Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza Working Group process, the City of Cambridge has been developing design concepts for renovating the historic Harvard Square Kiosk. The project involves carefully restoring architectural details, adapting for future use, and redesigning the Plaza to improve accessibility and enhance the flexibility of the space.

Public Process

In 2017, the City established a Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza Working Group to create a vision for the future use, operation, and governance of the Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza.

The Working Group process has involved broad public input, including surveys, community meetings, pop-up workshops, and a Call for Ideas.

Based on this community feedback and regular meetings, the Working Group developed a set of recommendations for the future of this space in the heart of Harvard Square.

Summary of Vision and Recommendations for the Kiosk and Plaza

The Working Group envisions the Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza to be flexible, dynamic, and welcoming community assets that enhance the everyday life of Harvard Square, act as platforms for community gatherings, including civic, artistic, and social activities, and attract and serve a broad range of people, including residents, students, visitors, etc.

The interior of the Kiosk would function as a flexible space accommodating permanent and temporary community uses:

- Permanent uses would feature a Visitor Information Center with displays focused on Cambridge history and happenings and the provision of news, brochures, and other materials.
- Temporary programming would occur inside the Kiosk and around the Plaza intermittently throughout the span of a typical week, which could include functions such as: small performances, historical exhibits, interactive installations, family oriented activities, voter registration, sampling of goods or services, and other entertaining, educational, festive, civic, and community-oriented activities.


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Project Timeline

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2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020

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HARVARD SQUARE - CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
30 JANUARY, 2019

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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Project Timeline

The project timeline is as follows:

- **2017**
  - Advisory Committee in Operation
  - Design Open House & Design Refinement
  - Draft RFP
  - Public Review of RFP
  - Issue RFP and Receive Responses

- **2018**
  - Draft RFI
  - Public Review of RFI
  - Issue RFI and Receive Responses

- **2019**
  - Select Operator

- **2020**
  - Construction: Bidding and Begin Work

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HARVARD SQUARE KIOSK AND PLAZA

HARVARD SQUARE - CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
30 JANUARY, 2019

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
FEATURES AND ACCESSIBLE ROUTES

1. Trees in permeable pavers
2. Planters and seat walls to enhance space
3. Adjust finish grade of kiosk for accessibility
4. Level flexible plaza space
5. Widen sidewalk
6. Terraced seating feature
7. Reconfigured stairs
8. New glass MBTA elevator
9. Retain seat wall
10. Remove one taxi space to ameliorate pinch point
11. Remove info booth to improve circulation
PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM DUNSTER STREET - PLAZA AT NIGHT
PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF NORTHERN PLAZA SPACE
PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM DUNSTER STREET - PLAZA
FURNITURE OPTIONS

A. LANDSCAPE FORMS - PARC CENTRE (CURRENT FURNITURE)

B. LANDSCAPE FORMS - VERONA

C. KETAL - VILLAGE

FURNITURE PRECEDENT: HARVARD YARD
FURNITURE PRECEDENT: SMITH CENTER

COLOR OPTIONS

IMPORTANT NOTE: Standard choices are shown; colors are approximate. To make final color selections, please call for material samples. landscapeforms.com  |  specify@landscapeforms.com

Materials / Colors

*Colors available for an upcharge.

Powdercoated Metal

- black
- cranberry
- ivy
- blue bell
- buttercup
- grass
- ocean
- bronze
- steel
- titanium
- mercury
- stone
- silver
- stormcloud white

Metallic

- blue ash
- dusk
- obsidian
- onyx matte black
- nutmeg

Designer Palette: Architectural Series

- flambe'
- orange

VERONA

FURNITURE OPTIONS

UMBRELLA VARIATIONS
KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

EXISTING CIRCULATION

EXISTING ELEVATION

EXISTING NON-COMPLIANT SLOPES

PROPOSED ACCESIBILITY DIAGRAM

PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

UTILITY CORRIDOR

MINIMAL CLEARANCE OVER TUNNEL ROOF

MBTA STATION SLOPED ROOF TO REMAIN

INADEQUATE SOIL DEPTH FOR TREE PLANTING

RETAINING WALL REQUIRED TO NEGOTIATE TRANSITION FROM MASS AVE. TO PLAZA

WATERPROOFED TREEWAY ON TUNNEL ROOF

CURB LINE MODIFICATIONS TO AMELIORATE PINCH POINT

ADEQUATE SOIL DEPTH FOR TREE PLANTING