

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Every group is dealing with the same core problems: not enough space, not enough storage, not enough meeting rooms, parking issues, and serious funding pressure — especially since the City pulled its subsidy. A lot of these organizations are small, mostly volunteer-run, and they're all struggling with visibility and getting enough people through the door, especially younger folks, families, and Spanish-speaking communities.

The goal is consistent: a well-designed, centrally located Commons would be a game-changer. People see it as the practical solution to help organizations collaborate, share costs, boost visibility, and actually serve the community better.

What people keep asking for:

- Flexible multi-use spaces (no fixed seating) and plenty of meeting/classrooms
- At least one good commercial or community kitchen
- Decent restrooms that are actually in the same building as the events
- Storage (archives, books, emergency supplies, etc.)
- Stage/performance area for the arts groups
- Outdoor space
- Good parking and accessibility
- Some dedicated but shared office/co-working space where groups can keep their own identity and privacy when needed

Size-wise, groups are thinking anywhere from a few thousand square feet up to a total complex around 18–20K sq ft. Most want 6–7 day access with long hours.

Location thoughts:

- O'Reilly property keeps coming up as really promising because of the parking and existing infrastructure.
- Downtown/near the Plaza for visibility and walkability.
- Some folks like the broader corridor idea (Burnett to Ives Park area) or North Town.
- Strong preference for fixing up existing buildings rather than starting from scratch.

Interview specifics:

- The Community Cultural Center really needs performance space and sees the Commons as key to keeping concerts and events alive.
- Senior Center is bursting at the seams and needs room to grow.
- Health clinic likes the idea of co-locating services and emergency preparedness.
- Public radio wants to reach more Spanish-speaking and Indigenous families and needs proper event space with kitchen + restrooms.
- History folks want display areas and storytelling space.
- Library Friends and civic groups want work/storage space and better coordination.
- Almost everyone is open to partnerships and sharing resources.

People also talked about the bigger picture — we need better marketing, restored City support, more public-private partnerships, and real outreach to all parts of the community, especially our diverse and lower-income residents.

A few folks suggested we think about multiple hubs instead of just one giant building, which is worth considering.