Reimagining the Vashon Farmers Market

FINAL DESIGN PHASE

STOREFRONT STUDIO

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Design work by University of Washington Storefront Studio architecture graduate students, who are working with the Vashon Island Growers Association on the project. This project is supported by a King County Community Services Area Grant.
INTRODUCTION

In 2013, as part of a general Vashon Island Main Street Study, the UW Storefront Studio proposed enhancements to the existing assets of the Vashon Island Village Green Framers Market. At that time, the Market had grown too large the 8 stalls building in the center of the site, and needed to expand. The Market has continue to grow, and in 2015 the Vashon Island Growers association asked the UW Storefront Studio to return and lead a community participation design process whose purpose was to Reimagine the Market. This report is the first of three phases of that process. The next phase will be market stall design development, prototype fabrication, and construction costing. A third phase will return to site design and infrastructure.
The Vashon Farmers Market at the Village Green is the community nexus for an island wide constellation of Vashon’s farmers, gardeners, artisans and artists. It serves as the island’s community storefront, as well as the front porch, backyard, parlor, and kitchen.

FARM STAND
CONSTELLATION
This proposal recognizes the site as both park and market, a village green. This ensures that the market site is also a space for community ownership, conservation, child’s play and public art.
DESIGN PRINCIPLES
& MARKET STUDIES
MARKET TYPOLOGIES

SINGLE LOADED CORRIDOR

DOUBLE LOADED CORRIDOR

SINGLE LOADED CORRIDOR WITH CORNER

SINGLE LOADED ARC

EXISTING CONDITIONS & DESIGN ADAPTATION

ORIGINAL MARKET

DANCE FLOOR

MUSIC IN THE CORNER

MUSIC UNDER THE TREE

CLUTTERED ENTRY

CLEAR ENTRY

LIMITED FACILITY

EXTENDED SERVICES

MUDDY GROUND

PERMEABLE PAVERS

FIXED TABLES

TABLE STORAGE
After reviewing previous market studies, and the input of an Island Stakeholder group, two proposals for reimaging the Farmers Market at the Village Green were developed. One, The Market Hall, with consolidated market stalls forming a single building to the south of the site, and a second, The Market Promenade, where the stalls were grouped into two structures lining the north and south boundaries of the site. Both proposals featured the existing site trees as a community-gathering place, and expanded site service facilities. Both proposals were presented to the Vashon community, and based on feedback; a third hybrid proposal was developed and presented.
OPTION 1

PROMENADE

The Market Promenade Proposal shows the market stalls in two rows, lining the north and south of the site, leaving the center of the site open, to act as a village green and town square, centered on the existing trees.
OPTION 2
MARKET HALL

The Market Hall Proposal consolidates all the stalls under a single roof, shown here with a long span structure. The Village Green is to the north side of the site, where the existing trees are framed by the open space.
"Love this design, opens up the property nicely!"
"I want to see less of the gauntlet and more
equality in the stall layout."
"The space needs to be useful to the community
past market times."
"It’s important for us to make a clear entrance to
the market."

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK
“The design with the middle open is the way to go. I think of this as *Europeanizing* the site. The center becomes a little *town square*, with pavers and café tables and chairs.”

“Windbreaks are critical to the north and south. This will also stop sideways rain. To the south, use clerestory windows or openings for summer shade and winter light. Then, create a focal point. Maybe a small stage to the east. Maybe a wood-fired bread/pizza oven with a tall stack in the middle. BYO wood and dough. Imagine the smell of fresh bread wafting around the market. A spot to warm your hands for a moment.”
Farmers market remodel is explored

VIGA plans to use designs to garner funding

BY NATAILIE MARTIN

The Vashon Island Growers Association (VIGA) is on the road to revamping the farmers market, starting with help from local architecture students in redesigning the Village Green.

Last weekend a group of University of Washington graduate students and their professor gave islanders a first look at their ideas for a redesigned Village Green, early plans that VIGA co-chair Dan Carlson said were much promise for improving the Vashon Farmers Market.

"I was very pleased and very impressed... They clearly had been listening to people and had done their homework," he said.

At a Saturday afternoon meeting at the Vashon Library, Jim Nichols, who heads UW's Storefront Studio program, and those architecture students showed two different building designs for the Village Green. One included a large covered structure at the south end of the park with a swath of lawns on the northern portion, while the other featured two long covered areas flanking each side of the park, with the lawns in the middle.

Based on feedback from VIGA and attendees at the meeting, the group will further develop the designs, Nichols said.

The program "has a large set of people who understand what this is, who want to be part of the solution," said University of Washington architecture student Rachel Voss, who led the project on this side of the park.

"We used a lot of feedback from VIGA attendees to create this initial design," Voss said.

University of Washington architecture student Alex Tschetter said their group "tried to create a more centralized park that drew the whole island together, around the Village Green, and not just the farmers market." Their design included an expanded restroom and a storage shed and would move the space for live music, which vendors say can interfere with discussion, to the west side.

"It was a really fun process, and I feel like it's been a great collaboration with VIGA," said Tschetter.

The UW Storefront Studio will present more detailed designs at a public meeting at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27. The location has not yet been announced.

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MARKET
CONTINUED FROM 1

one of the designs is present more detailed plans at another public meeting in two weeks.

"I feel strongly that the end result will be a 
design that is a collaboration between 
us... and the community," said Michael Riha, 
one of the architecture students. "Together we 
are designing this space."

The other two graduate students volunteering for the project are Kirk Nealsichak and Jared Luther. The group, led by Nichols, came up with the designs based on work around the farmers market done by past Storefront Studio groups and feedback from the market it has gathered from farmers, other market vendors and VIGA representatives.

VIGA recently sought the students' help as part of its effort to take local agriculture to the next level, Carlson said. While most people are happy with the farmers market's location in the Village Green, the market has outgrown its covered structure, he said. The existing structure can hold only eight vendors, and the space is restricted and often dark. The market can become crowded, making it difficult for customers to get through. And when people walk up to the market, they see the backs of vendors, rather than their faces and what they are selling.

Both designs the group presented reworked the space to provide room for more vendors under covered structures and in portable tents, and both would work to create more light-filled spaces. Both designs also included an expanded restroom and a storage shed and would move the space for live music, which vendors say can interfere with discussion, to the west side.

Carlson said the group seemed to create sort of a "front porch" under the tree.
HYBRID SCHEME

A Vashon community preference was clearly expressed for the Market Promenade Proposal, while some concerns were expressed for an area with maximum rain protection. A combination of the best of both directions lead to the development of a hybrid proposal. As in the Promenade Proposal, market stalls line both the north and south perimeter of the Village Green, but the southern wing, is wider, doubling the roof width from eave to eave. A stage and community meeting area is located under the existing tree, and additional support structures provide enhanced storage and services.
SITE SECTION LOOKING EAST

- Permanent Structure
- Stage
- Permanent Structure
- Temporary Tent

TO PARKING
MARKET STALL BEST PRACTICES AS REALIZED WITHIN STRUCTURAL BAY
In addition to providing a central identity to the market and the community it supports, the Village Green Farmers Market proposal is developed to provide programming and use flexibility, seasonally and daily, as well as enhancing nonmarket use of the Village Green for special events and everyday activities.
After additional community comments, an alternate music stage location is being studied, and critical dimensions for stall layouts are being confirmed. Constructing scale physical models and reviewing them with a structural engineer, will finalize the stall’s structure. A single full-scale market stall is proposed to be constructed in actual materials and installed on site. A set of as-built drawings will be developed for contractor pricing and VIGA fundraising.
FURNITURE QUANTITIES

(25) 3'x6' TABLES
(12) 3'x6' CORNER TABLES
(14) TEMPORARY TENTS

STAGE
STORAGE
VILLAGE GREEN
3 COMPARTMENT SINK
WATER CISTERN
EXISTING BATHROOM
TEMPORARY TENT
FOOD TRUCK
THANKS

Michael Kenney - VIGA board member, farmers market vendor, local business owner
Jordan Beck - former VIGA Farmers Market Manager
Emily Scott - current VIGA board co-chair, past farmer and vendor
Laura Cherry - current VIGA board member, farmers market vendor, local business owner
Amanda McConnell - current VIGA board member, local business owner
Mary Robinson - farmers market vendor, farmer, past VIGA Board member, founding farmers market member
Celina Yarkin - farmers market vendor, farmer
Jim Marsh - Vashon-Maury Chamber of Commerce Director
Caleb Johns - Current VIGA Farmers Market Manager
Elaine Ott - Vashon Park District Executive Director
Dan Carlson - VIGA board Co-Chair
Kathrina Simonen - University of Washington Department of Architecture Associate Professor
Sarah Lowry - Reimagining the Market’ Project Manager, Farmer, Vendor, Past VIGA Board Member