



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MAYOR

KATJANA BALLANTYNE

MEMO

To: Somerville Redevelopment Authority
From: Ted Fields, Senior Economic Development Planner,
OSPCD – Economic Development Division
Date: October 19, 2022
RE: 90 Washington Street– Proposed temporary uses

On October 6th, at the final meeting of the public outreach process for the redevelopment of 90 Washington Street, the Economic Development Division and the Capital Projects Division announced a program of temporary municipal uses of the site while the City selects a development partner in 2023 and prepares for redevelopment in 2024. This memo details this temporary use program for the SRA's review and approval.

90 Washington Street, encompassing four acres, was acquired by the SRA under eminent domain in 2019 as the site for a new Public Safety Building, along with complimentary residential, commercial, and civic structures. Since acquisition, the Department of Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM) has cleared the site of the former Cobble Hill Shopping Plaza and erected a construction fence around the site's perimeter. Last year the Department of Public Works used part of the property for temporary snow storage. In response to the poor condition of the existing fence, IAM is proposing to:

1. Erect a new construction fence with opaque scrim panels as soon as possible. This new fence is shown overleaf in Figure 1, by the thick black line. This new fence will divide 90 Washington Street into four distinct areas:
 - a. **Civic Space** – At the corner by the intersection of Washington & New Washington Streets, the Economic Development Division will engage consultants to program public events, celebrations, art performances and exhibits on approximately 5,000 sf of land.
 - b. **Passive Recreation** – Along the perimeter by New Washington Street, existing lawn and landscaping areas will be preserved for passive public recreation.
 - c. **Municipal Storage** – The northern portion of the fenced area will be used for temporary storage of materials from Art Farm by IAM and DPW. This is accessed by the existing curb cut on Washington Street.
 - d. **Municipal Operations** - The southern part of the fenced area will be used for temporary use by DPW for storage of snow and material from municipal construction projects. This is accessed by the existing curb cut on New Washington Street.
2. The new construction fence will also be draped with banners depicting art from local artists, curated with the assistance of the Somerville Arts Council.

APPENDIX A: Temporary Use Plan for 90 Washington Street, Fall 2022

Figure 1: Temporary Use Plan, 90 Washington Street, October 2022

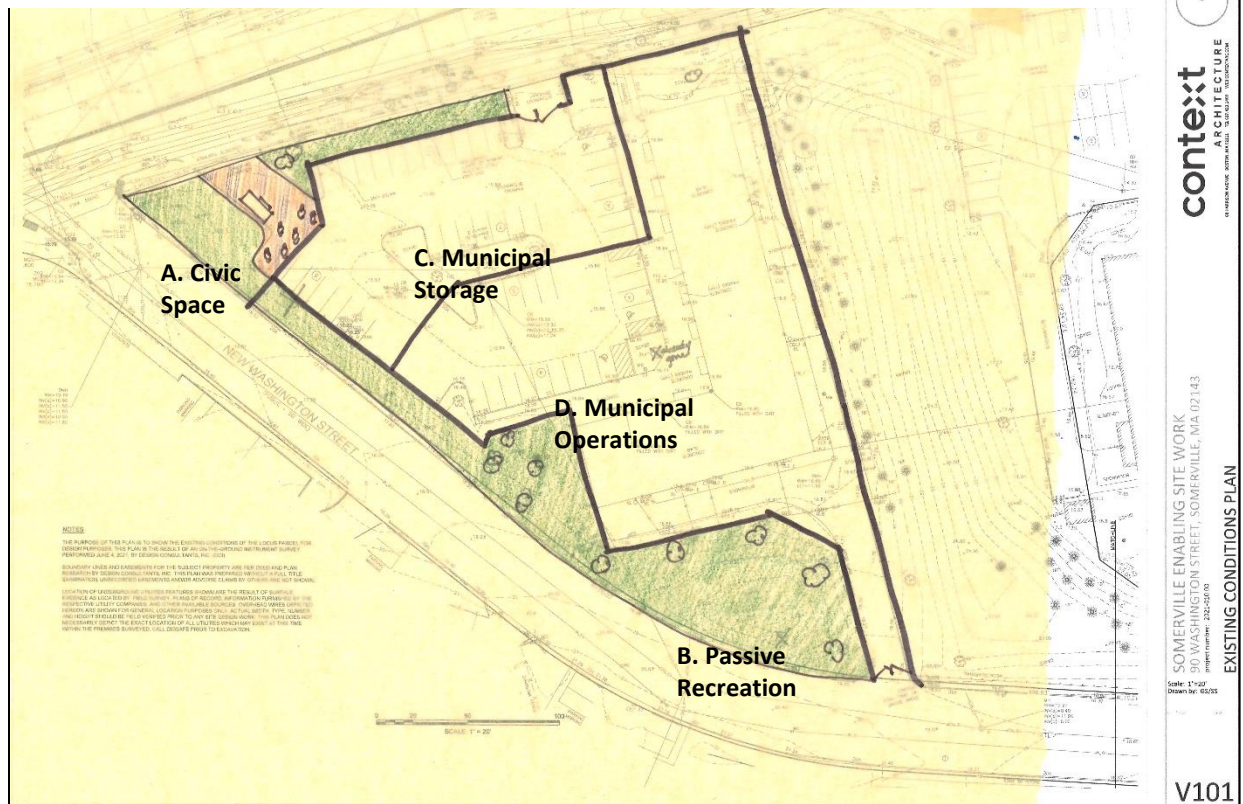


Figure 2: Example of Activate Civic Space



Figure 3: Example of Fencing w. Artwork

