

# Anchorage Design Week: Fairview Symposium

## Summary

### What is Design Week?

Organized by the Anchorage Museum with community partners, Anchorage Design Week is an annual gathering of creative minds to promote and inspire place-based design and imagine the future of our city and the life-ways of Northern regions.

Anchorage Design Week partners included NeighborWorks Alaska and Fairview Community Council, taking place February 21-25, 2024.

The community events for Design Week are organized by the Anchorage Museum with community partners Alaska Design Forum and AIGA Alaska. Anchorage Design Week is a member of World Design Weeks.

### Fostering Inclusivity

Design Week welcomes community members and creatives to consider the role of design in advancing positive futures through visuals, interventions, workshops, and conversations. This year, we consider how sustainable materials and practices foster inclusivity, safety and community within Anchorage's Fairview neighborhood. Fairview recently was awarded a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant funding efforts to reconnect communities impacted by challenging transportation infrastructure.

### Vibrant Neighborhoods

Through the lens of design, we'll consider how creative solutions implemented in vibrant and vital neighborhoods like Fairview can shape Anchorage's future. We'll also share how artists are cultivating wellness and care inspired by Northern-appropriate materials in the Anchorage Museum exhibition *How to Survive*.

## Reconnecting Fairview Symposium hosted by ANC Design Week

Friday, February 23, 2024 · 12 - 4pm AKST

Location: Seed Lab at Anchorage Museum, 109 West 6th Ave First Floor Anchorage, AK 99501

### Agenda

- 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Sign In + Welcome, Anchorage Museum Seed Lab Team
- 12:10 PM - 12:25 PM: Seward to Glenn Connection Alternatives Overview (includes Lunch), Edith McKee, HDR
- 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM: The Reconnecting Fairview Project, Lindsey Hajduk (NeighborWorks) & Jonny Hayes (Anchorage Museum)

- 1:00 PM - 1:15 PM: Networking + Bio Break
- 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM: Main Street Research + Design with Lego, Peter Briggs (Corvus Design)
- 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM: Reconnect + Bio Break
- 2:45 PM - 3:30 PM: Fairview Greenway Research + Design Illustration Session, Lee Post (Post Marks)
- 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Group Discussion | Next Steps

## About this event

Anchorage Design Week and its community partners are excited to invite neighborhood residents and small business owners, planners and designers, active transportation advocates, and economic development partners to **cogenerate positive visions during a series of creative workshops highlighting the potential of Fairview**. Initial presentations by NeighborWorks Alaska and the Anchorage Museum



will set participants up for **creative exercises led by local design experts Peter Briggs (Corvus Design) and Lee Post (Postmarks Graphics)**, who will guide folks to sharing and articulating ideas for how open space and the built environment can support the residents of Fairview and greater Anchorage.

**In addition to learning about the potential development implications of the Seward to Glenn Connection project, this workshop will help participants learn how to share their perspectives and imaginations using visual storytelling methods with accessible tools like Lego and simple illustration techniques.**



The results of this creative symposium are intended to represent an assemblage of ideas describing greenway connections and economic development targets that help to advance the ambitions of residents and entrepreneurs in East Downtown and the Fairview neighborhood while **focusing on a core area of the proposed highway connection project - Gambell Main Street and Fairview Greenway** (Hyder and Ingra streets).

As the Fairview neighborhood responds to the potential impacts and opportunities presented by the most recent proposals for the [Seward Highway Connection by Alaska Department of Transportation \(AKDOT\)](#) this workshop seeks to consider historical contexts and support small businesses and residents alike with creative solutions to a community challenge.

This event is made possible with support by NeighborWorks Alaska in collaboration with the Anchorage Museum, the Fairview Community Council, and the Alaska Chapter ASLA. This event is hosted by the Anchorage Museum at Seed Lab.

**Participant Registration Cost: FREE. Registration includes 3.0 hours of content applicable for use as Professional Development Hours (PDH) for State of Alaska AELS License Professionals.** Certificate of attendance can be issued by request following the event.

Please join this research and design-oriented Symposium to learn about the *Reconnecting Fairview* project and neighborhood history while sharing your personal experiences and creative ideas during engagement exercises. Help Anchorage Design Week connect local neighborhood advocacy with creative expertise and collaborative explorations.

Symposium work products and ideations will be considered for responses as part of the ***Seward to Glenn Connection Planning Environmental Linkages (PEL) project currently in-process***. The PEL is the official AK DOT process that helps to build a public vision and revise proposed alternatives to best reconnect the neighborhood while serving as functional infrastructure.

## Summary: Main Street Research + Design with Lego

This activity, facilitated by Peter Briggs, led participants through a process to reimagine Gambell Street as a main street, as described in the activity description. First, participants broke into small groups to discuss the current cross-section of Gambell Street, and then to create new ideas to improve the roadway based on goals to Reconnect Fairview.

A *summary of themes* is included below based on the activities of the group captured from a birds-eye view. To watch the 20 second summary video, visit Fairness for Fairview's Anchorage Design Week website here: [fairviewak.org/anchorage-design-week](http://fairviewak.org/anchorage-design-week)

**You can watch the 2:47 video here**, with the timestamps referenced below. Generally, there were three-lane and two-lane cross sections the groups explored, with emphasis on separated active transportation infrastructure, activating the sidewalks, and including storefronts for adjacent land use.

- Teams explored ways to reduce the driving lanes from four lanes to three or two, including potentially including a parking lane.
- Teams were excited to explore dedicating a bus lane, which could also include freight in the lane, to include more transportation options along Gambell.
- Teams added buildings and storefronts to the edge of the right-of-way to help create a “main street” feel (1:25).
- Teams discussed activating the greenspaces, including with landscaping and gardening (1:39). These greenspaces act as buffers between vehicle and active transportation, as well as a location for snow storage in the winter.
- Teams included ways to separate active transportation from driving lanes, including through curbs, bollards, greenspaces, or parking. They also included strategies at crosswalks to draw vehicle drivers' attention, including raised and colorful crosswalks.

### Three Driving Lane Options for Gambell Street

- Remove one driving lane and replace it with a curb, then green buffer and wide multi-use pathway on one side of the roadway. (Reference minute, 0:04)
- Remove one driving lane and replace it with a curb, then wide multi-use pathway (0:06).

- Three-lane option with a bus lane, possibly shared with freight (1:42). Include curb and bollards and sidewalks on both sides, including one side with a wide greenspace for landscaping and gardening.
- Active transportation bridge added to consider additional levels for safe crossing (2:01).



### Two Driving Lane Options for Gambell Street

- Two-lane traffic with opposite directions northbound and southbound. (0:25)
  - Design to include curb, greenspace, and multi-use pathways on both sides of roadway. (0:25)
  - On one side of roadway, replace the greenspace with a raised barrier to protect multi-use pathway (0:38).
  - The curb can also include bollards to further protect the active transportation corridors (0:48).
- Two-lane traffic with a parking lane on one side of the roadway (0:59).
  - Design to include one side of roadway could include curb and bollards, greenspace, then multi-use pathway. The other side of roadway could include curb and bollards, raised cycle track, and sidewalk (1:01).
  - Include raised crosswalks (1:22) and/or colorful crosswalks (1:29).
  - Design to include sidewalk on one side with adjacent buildings, and the other side has curb and bollards, greenspace, and wide multi-use pathway (1:25).
- Two-lane traffic with opposite directions northbound and southbound. (1:31)
  - Design to include curb and bollards, green buffer, and wide multi-use pathways on both sides of roadway (1:33)
- Two-lane same direction traffic (2:27).
  - Design to include curb and bollard, green buffer, multi-use pathway with adjacent buildings on one side; and a separate bicycle lane, green buffer, then multi-use pathway with adjacent buildings on the other side (2:29).
  - Include outdoor gathering spaces and benches, curb bulbs, colorful and raised crosswalks (2:35).

## Summary: Fairview Greenway Research + Design Illustration Session, Lee Post

This activity, facilitated by Lee Post, led participants through a process to create a map or design of a Fairview Greenway between the Chester Creek and Ship Creek trails. This has been referred to in many ways, including: a Greenway, a Woonerf, a pedestrian boulevard, a regional trail connection, and more.

First, Lee shared a presentation about how maps tell stories, and then offered the group three options to engage in, which included these instructions:

1. **Tourist Map or Poster:** Design a helpful map or snazzy travel poster for an out-of-town tourist of the many features and sights in and around the Seward/Glenn Highway connection.
2. **Isometric Map:** Use your new skills to draft a portion of the Seward-Glenn connection in isometric perspective. Make your own mini Sim City!
3. **Map Cards:** Draw a set of interlocking cards to imagine the layout and features of the Seward/Glenn connection.


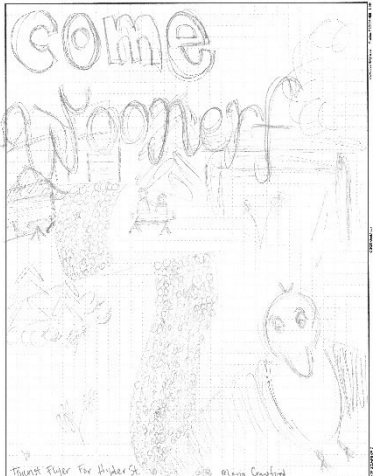
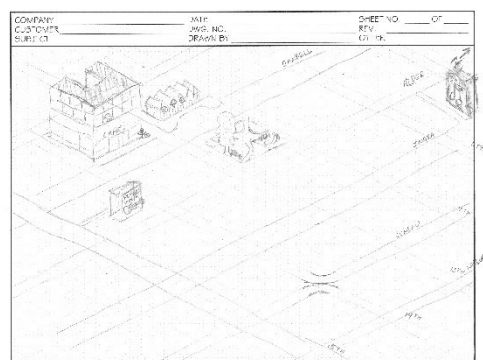
A *summary of themes* is included below based on the activities of the group captured in their drawings. These are detailed individually in the following table. Generally, there were shared themes around:

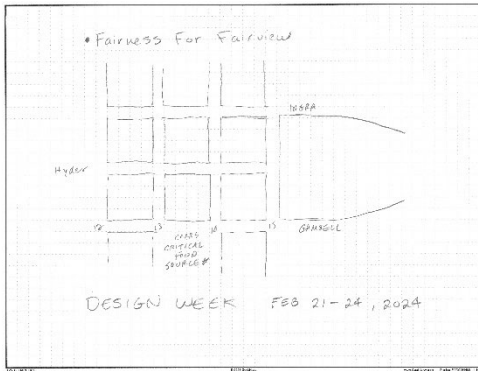
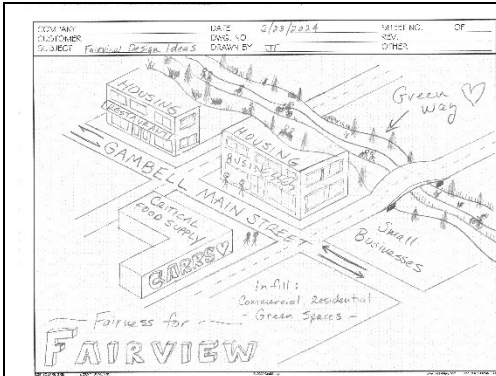
- A greenway along Hyder Street, while also demonstrating a Gambell main street with businesses and complementary uses or designs.
- A greenway that favors active transportation and transit, and opportunities to slow vehicle speeds down like reducing the driving lane numbers and width or adding chicanes.
- Woonerfs, or “living streets,” were included as well: narrow driving lane for shared use by bicyclists, pedestrians, and more.
- New infill development for residential and mixed-use multi-story properties, favoring housing and restaurants, while also protecting existing businesses like Carr’s and others. There were other creative approaches for an innovation area, including a Fairview Fun Hall.
- Activating shared public space for outdoor gatherings year round. The greenspace is often also used for snow storage and buffers with vehicle traffic.
- Small storefronts for local entrepreneurs and vendors to establish businesses.



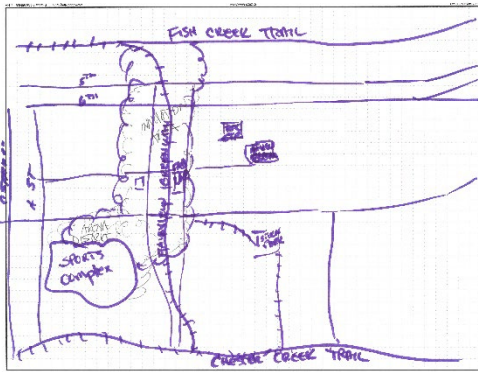
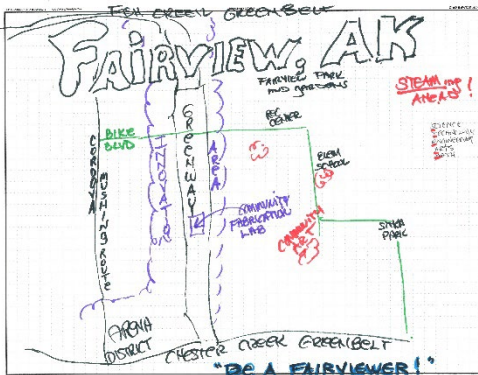
## Map Drawings and Brief Descriptions

[Click here to see larger renderings of the maps.](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This drawing includes an interpretation of “My Woonerf” for Fairview.</li> <li>• This includes a narrow roadway for vehicles (potentially just a bus) with bicyclists, and sidewalks.</li> <li>• The outdoor public space includes shared activities for games or tables.</li> <li>• The design includes landscaping and trees.</li> <li>• The adjacent land use includes multi-story buildings, potentially for residential or mixed-use developments.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a tourist flyer for Hyder Street.</li> <li>• This envisions a Woonerf.</li> <li>• This design includes a meandering, narrow roadway, trees and landscaping, and benches and areas to convene outdoors.</li> <li>• The flyer overall has a fun whimsical feel, including with a Raven, or Delgaa, theme, which is part of the Fairview Block Party outreach and theme at Fairview Park.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This map includes a few key establishments along the corridor, including Carr's on Gambell, Peter's Violin shop, and the Horn Doctor.</li> <li>• The design includes new development or stories added to Carr's, potentially for residential use, as well as small pop-up businesses next to it for new entrepreneurs.</li> <li>• This also includes a park design for the block between Gambell-Hyder, which could repeat along the corridor.</li> </ul>



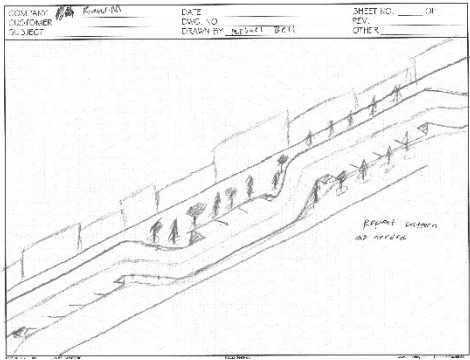
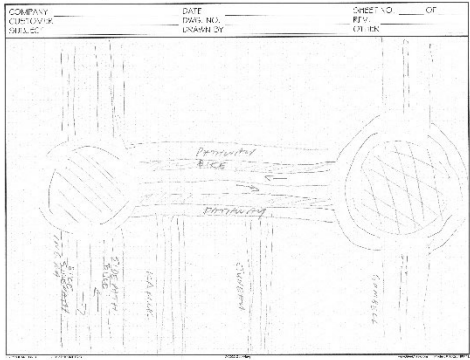

- This map explores a Gambell main street and parallel Greenway.
- The Gambell main street would include multi-story, mixed-use development with housing and businesses, including small businesses.
- The Greenway includes a curvy multi-use pathway, landscaping, shared outdoor spaces, and bridges for major roads to cross over the Greenway.
- This includes infill development for commercial, residential, and green spaces, and notes Carr's is a critical food supply.
- (This second map is a sketch for the one above).

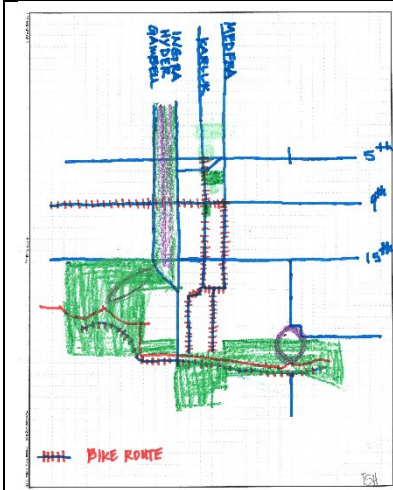


- This map shows the Greenway connecting the creek greenbelts includes a taglines to “Be a Fairviewer!” and “STEAMing Ahead!” (meaning Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math).
- The map highlights key destinations including: the Cordova mushing route, Arena District, Innovation Area and community fabrication lab, Rec Center, elementary school, and parks and trails.
- Note, the Greenway would connect the Chester Creek and Ship Creek trails, though this map says “Fish” Creek instead of “Ship.”
- The purple map is an earlier version of the final map.

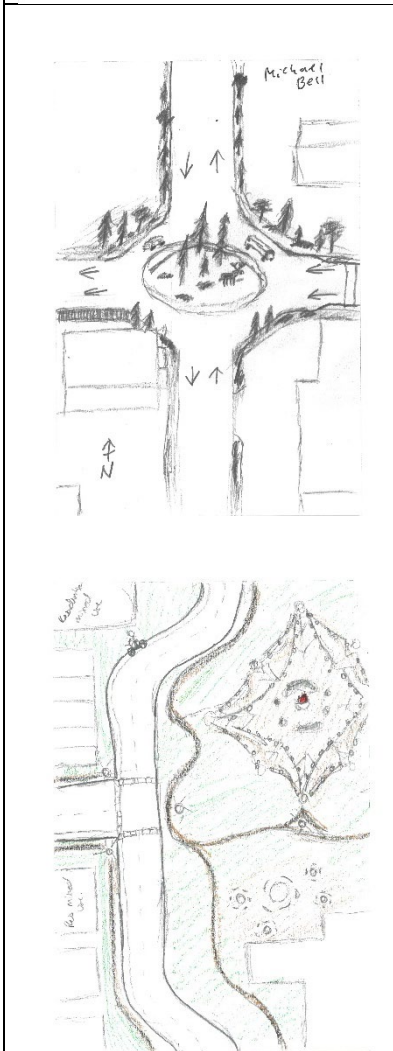
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This map explores the preliminary alternative D in the Seward to Glenn PEL study. This includes a Viaduct Bypass through the Chester Creek greenbelt. It shows the Port of Alaska and Whitney Road, the Glenn and Seward highways, Merrill Field, and West/East/South Fairview.</li> <li>• The Viaduct could include colored concrete (green) and sound deflectors (fireweed color).</li> <li>• This would also include a restored North Fork of the Chester Creek.</li> <li>• This design would “restore economic vitality of Fairview with construction of greenway along Hyder St alignment,” “coordinate with Reconnecting Fairview land use changes,” “incorporate natural color into viaduct material (blend in with greenspaces),” and “enhance the natural environment with restoration of Chester Creek North Fork.”</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This map highlights land use and development changes along the corridor between Gambell (with 2-way traffic) and Hyder (a pedestrian street). There would also be distinct intersections for pedestrian crossing.</li> <li>• New uses include an outdoor market in Carr’s back parking lot, art galleries, restaurants, food truck / tasting room (tacos &amp; margaritas), a park and amphitheater, and small storefronts for vendors. There would also be multi-use housing and infill home development.</li> <li>• There would be a trail connection south of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, which then meanders between Hyder, an ally, and Gambell Streets.</li> <li>• There would also be additional landscaping and trees along all streets, including Gambell.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This map showcases a street corner of Fairview, where a pedestrian street and Ingra Street have wide sidewalks and bicycle lanes.</li> <li>• The sidewalks would include landscaping and be activated with outdoor seating and chalk art.</li> <li>• There would be multi-use buildings with housing and providing businesses, especially restaurants serving tacos, margaritas, ice cream, wine, and more.</li> </ul>



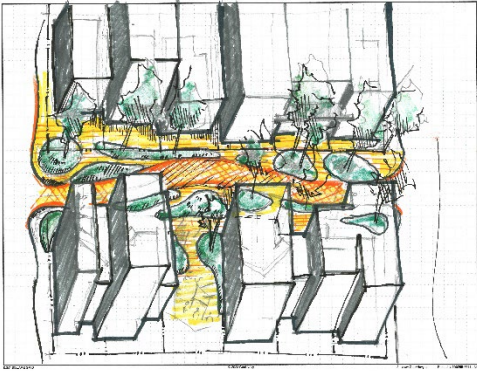
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Greenway map shows a chicane pattern for the roadway, alternating on-street parking for traffic calming and shared-use of the roadway.</li> <li>• There would also be trees and landscaping added along the roadway.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This map shows a roadway with two, opposite direction driving lanes with bicycle lanes and multi-use pathways on both sides. This cross section could also apply to Ingra Street.</li> <li>• There is some exploration of roundabouts at key intersections as well.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This flyer advertises the Fairview Fun Hall! It is like a food hall, but includes music and dancing.</li> <li>• The “Best dancing floor” is a suspended dance floor with live DJs and bands.</li> <li>• The “best food of the world” celebrates different cultures in the neighborhood, including: Somali, Korean, Samoan, Turkish, Russian, and Latin American foods.</li> <li>• It would also be “close to the Sullivan!”</li> </ul>



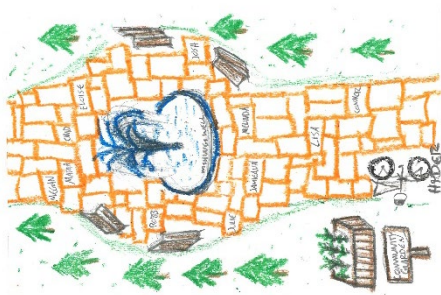
- This map feature a bike route through Fairview from the Chester Creek Trail, with the Greenway featured between Gambell and Ingra Streets.
- There are bike routes also along Karluk, Medfra, and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues (potentially referring to the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue bicycle boulevard?).
- The map also notes the missing north-south connection at Sitka Street and the Chester Creek Trail.



- This map card shows a roundabout with landscaping (and even moose!).
- It shows two cross streets, one with two lanes of opposite-direction traffic, and one with two lanes of same direction traffic.
- The second map card shows a section of the Greenway, with a chicane design. It includes two driving lanes with a bicycle lane.
- It includes landscaping and activated outdoor spaces, including a picnic table area and an outdoor fire pit or amphitheater section.
- The land use along the corridor would also be residential mixed-use development.



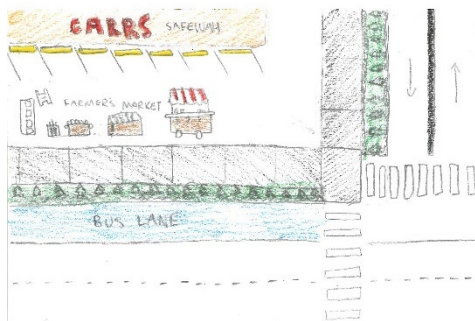
- This map showcases a meandering Greenway with landscaping and trees.
- The corridor includes multi-story buildings, including residential and commercial properties.
- There is also an outdoor space, potentially a pavilion, to gather outside.



- These map cards are like puzzle pieces to connect and construct the corridor.
- The Hyder Street section includes an active transportation corridor with commemorative bricks, benches, and a wishing well. It is also surrounded by a community garden, trees, and landscaping.



- The corridor would also include a two-way bike path with bike racks.
- There would also be a pedestrian walkway with wayfinding adjacent to a bus-only lane and bus stops.



- The Gambell Street section includes a bus lane adjacent to two driving lanes.
- There is a separation between the roadway and the wide sidewalk with a greenspace.
- Carr's parking lot would also host a Farmer's Market

