

CIVIC CENTER DISTRICT



The Civic Center District includes lush lawns, public art, large cultural, special, and sporting events, and Scottsdale civic campus, including City Hall, Civic Center Library, City Court, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Stadium, and the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art.

Civic Center was originally contemplated in the 1964 Scottsdale Town Enrichment Program as one of the City's seven original self-improvement projects - a central location of the City's primary government, cultural, community, and recreational facilities. Most of the civic buildings (City Hall, Civic Center Library, and Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts) were designed by architect Bennie Gonzales and include distinctive design elements such as Southwestern Native American themes, light desert colors, mortar washed slump block, and obtuse angles. Other buildings within the district often imitate this design - including Mid-Century architectural interpretation of classical Southwestern Native American structures.

The Civic Center primary open space area is the heart of the district, providing active and passive public recreation opportunities, including exercise, areas for reflection, public art, water features, outdoor performance, and small and large special events. Large special events, in particular, occur regularly in the fall, winter, and spring months - contributing to Old Town's vibrant urban environment. As part of the City's open space system, it is connected to adjacent development and the larger downtown via sidewalks, bicycle paths, and the street network.

CIVIC CENTER MUNICIPAL USE MASTER SITE PLAN (MUMSP)

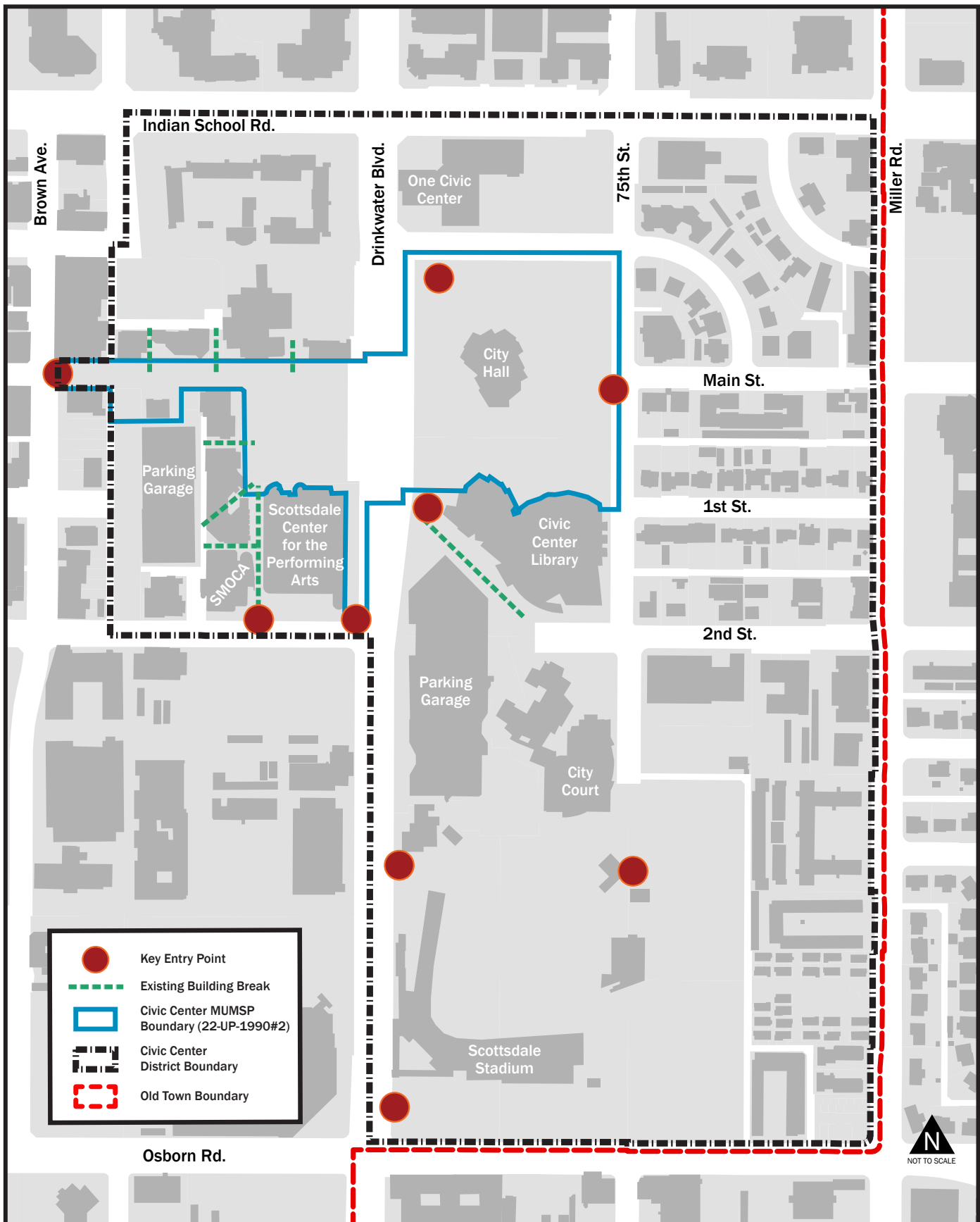
The Civic Center Municipal Use Master Site Plan (MUMSP) was originally adopted in 1990 to guide future civic campus growth. The master plan acknowledged the importance of the pedestrian-oriented character within the Civic Center and addressed how development and parking should orient to the primary open space area. The master plan also identified visibility into and out of this public open space as a key development component, so as to ensure that a “window on the campus” was created. Finally, recognizing that public use would likely increase as a result of future improvements, the master plan stated that the ability to control noise and lighting was important to ensure compatibility with nearby uses.

In 2017, the MUMSP was updated to align with recent public policy and community input. The master plan now places importance on visually and physically connecting the primary open space area to adjacent development and other downtown districts. The master plan acknowledges that pedestrian corridors and orientation are important facets of Civic Center. Furthermore, the master plan notes that pedestrian improvements within and adjacent to the primary open space area should reflect consistent urban design, including features such as pedestrian shade, seating walls, site furniture, site lighting, water features, and paving materials. Finally, the master plan recognizes the importance of future Civic Center development and design adhering to the Old Town Urban Design and Architectural Guidelines concerning pedestrian and open space orientation.

CIVIC CENTER DISTRICT URBAN DESIGN OBJECTIVES

The design objectives for the Civic Center District include:

- *Strengthen the Civic Center District as a Valley-wide cultural, sporting, and special event destination and as a major activity area within Old Town Scottsdale.*
- *Reinforce Civic Center as a pedestrian-oriented district.*
- *Reinforce permanent public art as an integral part of the Civic Center District and incorporate temporary public art as part of the cultural and special events offered.*
- *Development should activate public open spaces throughout the district. Development adjacent to the Civic Center primary open space area should frame and engage this public space, while minimizing the impacts of larger building structures on it.*
- *Feature views into and out of the Civic Center primary open space area.*
- *Design the Civic Center District public spaces to support both day-to-day activities and programmed special events. Implement design techniques to reduce the impacts of noise on sensitive uses.*



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Map 6 - Civic Center District

DISTRICT IDENTITY

CC 1. Promote the character and identity of the Civic Center District through open space, landscape, and urban design.

The Civic Center District is defined by large open space areas and prominent public buildings. The Civic Center primary open space area is the public centerpiece of the district.

- CC 1.1 **Promote** district visibility and identity by incorporating gateway features, such as enhanced landscape and urban design elements, at key entry points.
- CC 1.2 **Design** landscape, hardscape, pathways, and other urban design elements to promote a unified district aesthetic.
- CC 1.3 **Views** into and out of the Civic Center primary open space area are to be maintained by limiting visual conflict between signage, lighting, and landscape placement. Maximum mounting height for pedestrian level lighting is 15' while maximum height for mounting of pedestrian signage is 6' - 8'.
- CC 1.4 **Design** canopies or shade structures to maintain views and sight lines into the Civic Center primary open space area.



Landscape and open space provide both an amphitheater space for special events and a lawn for pedestrian activities.



Interaction between open space, pedestrian paths, hardscape, landscape, public art, and seating all contribute to a unified district.



This key entry point into the Civic Center primary open space at Brown Avenue and Main Street incorporates gateway features such as enhanced landscaping, public art, and urban design elements - all of which contribute to district identity and visibility.



Bennie Gonzales was the architect for Scottsdale City Hall, Civic Center Library, and Scottsdale Center for the Arts - providing the framework for the Civic Center District's identity.

Architectural elements indicative of Bennie Gonzales' design style include Southwestern Native American design themes, light desert colors, mortar washed slump block, and obtuse angles.



Scottsdale City Hall.



Civic Center Library.

BUILDING DESIGN

CC 2. **Activate the Civic Center primary open space area through building and site design.**

Recognize the importance of the Civic Center primary open space area through building architecture and orientation, and site and landscape design.

CC 2.1 **Relate** private architectural design for buildings within and adjacent to the Civic Center primary open space area to design influences indicative of Bennie Gonzales' architectural style.

CC 2.2 **Incorporate** stepbacks, recesses, and projections into the horizontal wall plane of buildings adjacent to the Civic Center primary open space area, to open views onto the open space area while creating an enhanced frame and edge.

CC 2.3 **Enhance** views into and out of the Civic Center primary open space area by breaking up building massing at regular intervals and stepping height away from the Civic Center.

CC 2.4 **When** a Type 2 Development adjacent to the Civic Center primary open space area exceeds 30-feet in total height, it is recommended that the building mass step back at a ratio of 1:1, until reaching a building height of 45-feet. Stepback additional building height above 45 feet at a ratio of 2:1 until the maximum building height is reached.

CC 2.5 **When** a Type 3 Development adjacent to the Civic Center primary open space area exceeds 45-feet in total height, it is recommended that the building mass step back at a ratio of 2:1. Observe a ratio of 2:1 until the maximum building height is reached.

- CC 2.6 **Provide** pedestrian access along the Civic Center primary open space area at 100 to 300-foot intervals. Align access points with existing paths and planned pedestrian connections.
- CC 2.7 **Locate** outdoor dining areas along buildings that front the Civic Center primary open space area. Dining areas may extend 25' from the building façade, while maintaining a pedestrian clear width.
- CC 2.8 **Canopies** or shade structures for outdoor dining patios may extend 25' from the building façade. Design canopies or shade structures to maintain views and sight lines outward onto the Civic Center primary open space area - maintaining the ability to "see, and be seen" from the patio space.
- CC 2.9 **Enclose** outdoor dining patios with a low wall, transparent fence, and/or shrub plantings with a maximum height of 36", to maintain views and sight lines into the Civic Center primary open space area. Provide access to outdoor dining patios through the restaurant, with no direct access at the wall or fence enclosure (except for emergency or service/maintenance access).
- CC 2.10 **Building** design that incorporates terraces to create a defined edge along the Civic Center primary open space area, are encouraged.
- CC 2.11 **Incorporate** architectural cover, deeply recessed windows, raised planters, base planting and other treatments to strengthen the base of buildings that front the Civic Center primary open space area.
- CC 2.12 **All** refuse containers are to be located away from, and screened so as not to be visible from the Civic Center primary open space area.



Provide visual connections between outdoor dining patios and the Civic Center primary open space area, by utilizing low, transparent fencing and shade structures that do not obstruct views.



This dining establishment on the left portion of the photo utilizes a combination of terraced and at-grade outdoor patio space to support the defined edge of the Civic Center primary open space - creating various means for patrons to view and interact with this public area.



This outdoor dining patio incorporates base plantings and shade structures to both maintain views into and enhance the defined edge of the Civic Center primary open space area.

CC 3. Reduce the impacts of noise at the source, in spaces where sound travels, and at locations with noise-sensitive land uses.

The Civic Center primary open space area as well as Scottsdale Stadium regularly host large special events. As noise generators, it is paramount that adjacent development projects design accordingly to ensure noise compatibility.

- CC 3.1 **Analyze** the noise compatibility of proposed development projects during the design phase to minimize the impacts of noise generated and received by the development, once developed.
- CC 3.2 **In** open areas where sound may travel, utilize walls, sound absorbing materials, landscaping, and other exterior site improvements to block, deflect, and attenuate noise.
- CC 3.3 **Incorporate** sound attenuation and proofing in buildings with noise-sensitive uses through the combination of materials and building design. Design techniques might include, but are not limited to, orientation of building openings, ventilation system planning, and siting of uses within the planned building envelope.
- CC 3.4 **Design** outdoor dining patios and their audio/sound systems so as not to create an undesirable noise level for other open space area visitors, adjacent residents, or functions/events.
(Refer to Chapter 19, Article II of the Scottsdale Revised Code)

PUBLIC ART

CC 4. Strengthen the Civic Center District identity through integrated public art.

- CC 4.1 Incorporate permanent public art in public and private development projects throughout the Civic Center District to contribute to district identity and “sense of place”.
- CC 4.2 Accommodate temporary public art to enhance the Civic Center open space area as one of the primary special event and public gathering places in Old Town.



Permanent public art activates open space areas, contributes to downtown wayfinding, and enhances the overall “sense of place” in Old Town.



Plaza spaces within Civic Center allow for the installation of interactive temporary public art that complements permanent public art offerings.



Scottsdale’s City Court building includes integrated, permanent public art “gavels” on the front façade.