

**Recommendation on how to proceed with short-term activation for the
Center of the City (COC) Space**
Derived from the Ann Arbor Council of the Commons meeting on 7/7/21

- Recommend to Ann Arbor City Council that City Council direct city staff to create a plan to activate the surface parking lot of the library parking structure for regular and recurring use by food trucks/carts and other like commercial vendors such as artisan pop-ups, etc. In making this recommendation, the COC Council of the Commons urges City Council and staff to:
 - Make use of any and all existing city 'use' processes from like spaces and activities (eg. A2 Farmer's Market, street fairs, et al) to aid activation of library surface parking lot, including but not limited to: application processes for vendors, cleaning, health and safety management, marketing and external engagement. The Council of the Commons urges the city to not reinvent the wheel, to the extent possible, and use best practices associated with similar activities.
 - Work with the COC block partners - including the AADL and private businesses - to collectively ensure this activation is successful, noting that some planned and recurring activities might not be in the core competencies of individual block partners. Engage block partners to bring vendors to the space that help supplement and complement their core competencies and serve the community.
 - Create an activation strategy that deliberately creates planned recurring activities and markets them in the community. In doing so, the Council of the Commons urges the city to put particular emphasis on the attraction of minority and women-owned vendors, as well as the creation of activities that attract a diversity of participants as reflected in Ann Arbor's values.
- If necessary and/or helpful, the Council of the Commons can designate a subset of members to work with city staff to develop this activation plan knowing the vision behind the recommendation of the Council of the Commons.
- If City Council determines that short-term activation of the COC space in this manner would be best performed by the city partnering with a non-profit organization, direct city staff to initiate a fair, transparent and prompt method to gather organizational proposals and sign a memorandum of understanding for this use.