Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity

Note-taking guide for session rapporteurs

METADATA

Session title: An Integrated Approach to Strategic Planning for Cultural Facilities

Presenter: Andrew Brown, Architect and Facilities Planner, The Resource Planning Group, Vancouver

Day: Thurs. May 1st **Time:** 3:00 p.m.

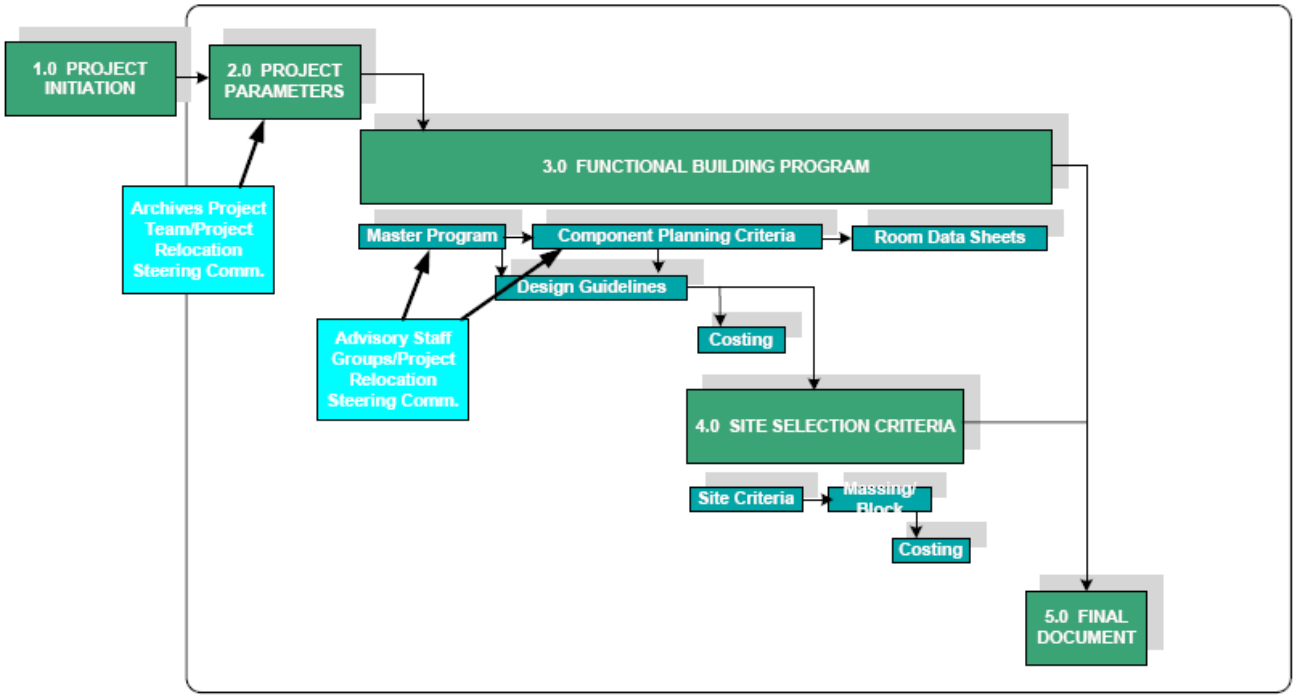
NOTES

1. Short overview/summary of presentation

Establishing the strategic context of projects and moving them into functional definition and architectural reality is a challenge for any organization. Andrew Brown connects the process from conceptual and strategic planning (a management function) to physical planning (the architectural design process). His experience suggests that ambitious and comprehensive approaches to planning public facilities have the best chance of success.

2. Key points and significant themes of presentation

1. Explained the difference between what Resource Planning Group (RPG) and architect firms do. RPG focus is on pre-design consulting services including master planning, functional space programming, feasibility studies design consultation and strategic planning. Architects design buildings and advise in their construction.
2. Described the process for pre-design projects using the City of Ottawa Archives Relocation project as example.
    a. Pre-design does not deal only with technical aspects of the project. It explores concepts of how the building will evolve its financial sustainability, human physical/psychosocial health, environmental sustainability, etc. It talks about the real purpose of the building.
    b. Functional building program is a document that explains the complexity of the building to the architect. It identifies the building functionality, the character of the building, its esthetic, strength and utility, etc.
    c. Process involves the following:
        i. A description of what the project will be like?
        ii. Determination of who should be involved?
        iii. A demystification of each phase (project parameters, functional building program and site selection)
        iv. Involvement of the residents, stakeholders and partners
        v. Design of the building will not happen before the end of the pre-design exercise
        vi. Thinking about problems first
        vii. Changes can be made anytime
        viii. Empowering people
        ix. Ensuring architect do not misinterpret the project
    d. What kind of client? Clients that have high standards. They do not avoid controversy.
    e. What kind of consultants? People that are able to listen and challenge the client. They have the technical expertise to express client needs in the way that talks to the architects. They need to be familiar with the process, willing to release the final project to the architect (let it go).



3. Notable examples and links to websites

- Resource Planning Group, Vancouver: www.rpg.ca

4. Interesting questions and/or comments from the audience

a. What is the difference between design and functional building program?

b. Is the person who is doing the pre-design the same as the one who is doing the design?

c. Does functional program include any visual? It includes schematic plans, which shows how the different components of the project are linked.

d. Pre-design is a communication process. It sets the vision of the project.

e. How long is needed for the pre-design? Minimum 10 months.

Note taker: Suzy Lanteigne