

# What if....? Workshop Cards

## **Purpose**

These cards are intended for use with the Creative Spaces activity of the Facilities Planning workshop. The purpose is to stimulate forward thinking about uses and design of various physical spaces. The 'What if...?' cards help to challenge current assumptions and explore new mental models in preparation for planning new or re-imagining existing facilities.

## **Preparation**

Print the cards on one side of sturdy white paper stock. For maximum effectiveness, the cards should be printed in color for visual association of color and concepts. Cut around the outside dotted lines, fold in half, and staple or tape them together so there are two sides to every card.



## Whose vision should dominate?

- ▶ What if the design reflects ideas from diverse groups, all generations, and even external sympathizers?
- ▶ What values are represented in the design of the building?



## What if...

...the vision for this building is developed through a collaborative effort involving a broad range of participants?

**Vision**

## What if community experts were consulted during the design phase?

- ▶ Consider inviting community leaders to a meeting or providing some opportunity for civic input.
- ▶ What relationships might be built that will create future opportunities?
- ▶ How can the capabilities of local residents and local associations contribute?



## What if...

...the building incorporated features that met a community need or supplied a known civic deficiency?

**Community**

How can the new facilities meet short-term needs *and* anticipate long-term changes?

- ▶ Will we be doing the same things in the same ways 10-20 years out?



## What if...

...the building was designed for adaptability to different future needs, programs, and activities that cannot be imagined today?

**Flexibility**

Different generations have different interests, habits, and communication styles.

- ▶ What design features should be considered to simultaneously engage all generations?
- ▶ What if large gathering spaces were designed for weekday and/or evening use?



## What if...

...the mingling of generations is a driving factor in designing the large gathering space?

**Large gatherings**

### Consider...

- ▶ ease of movement
- ▶ displays
- ▶ queuing
- ▶ showcasing people and programs



## What if...

...transition spaces were used for more than movement?

**Transition spaces**

## What if the facilities supported a whole life experience?

- ▶ What new social patterns drive the future and how might they affect personal lifestyles?
- ▶ Can facilities be designed to integrate social and lifestyle activities rather than compartmentalize spiritual from secular?



## What if...

...some spaces were designed to intentionally integrate social, physical, and spiritual activities?

**Connection spaces**

Can new technologies support authentic and relevant experiences such as allowing off-site real-time participation in ...

- ▶ weddings
- ▶ funerals
- ▶ baptisms
- ▶ baby dedications



# What if...

...new technologies support social networking, collaboration, and communication both on-site and off-site?

## Technology



What if a collaborative approach with a non-church entity could maximize value for both?

- ▶ What if there was no long-term debt?
- ▶ Could the building be designed to serve other constituencies that would pay to use it?



# What if...

...the facilities generated more dollars than they cost?

**Value**

Typically, church buildings sit idle much of the week.

- ▶ What new approaches might maximize utilization of the various building spaces?
- ▶ What new problems might this create?
- ▶ What new opportunities might it offer?



# What if...

...all areas of the building were fully utilized weekdays, evenings, and weekends?

**Utilization**

People increasingly want control over their experiences.

- ▶ Who is involved and have they been given an opportunity to contribute ideas?
- ▶ Consideration should be given to customizable options, comfort, availability of resources, and specialized purposes.



**What if...**

...small gathering spaces are designed with the consumer in mind?

**Small gathering spaces**