



# SPOKANE

## INNOVATION ALLEYS

Process and Public Engagement Overview  
October 2019



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Activated alleyways are public spaces which add a unique character and value to the city and downtown alleys. Well-designed and maintained alleyways create spaces where all people feel welcome, comfortable, and safe.

*-Innovation Alleyways Toolkit*



*Credit: City of Monroe, Georgia*



# GOALS



Safety and Security



Placemaking



Connectivity



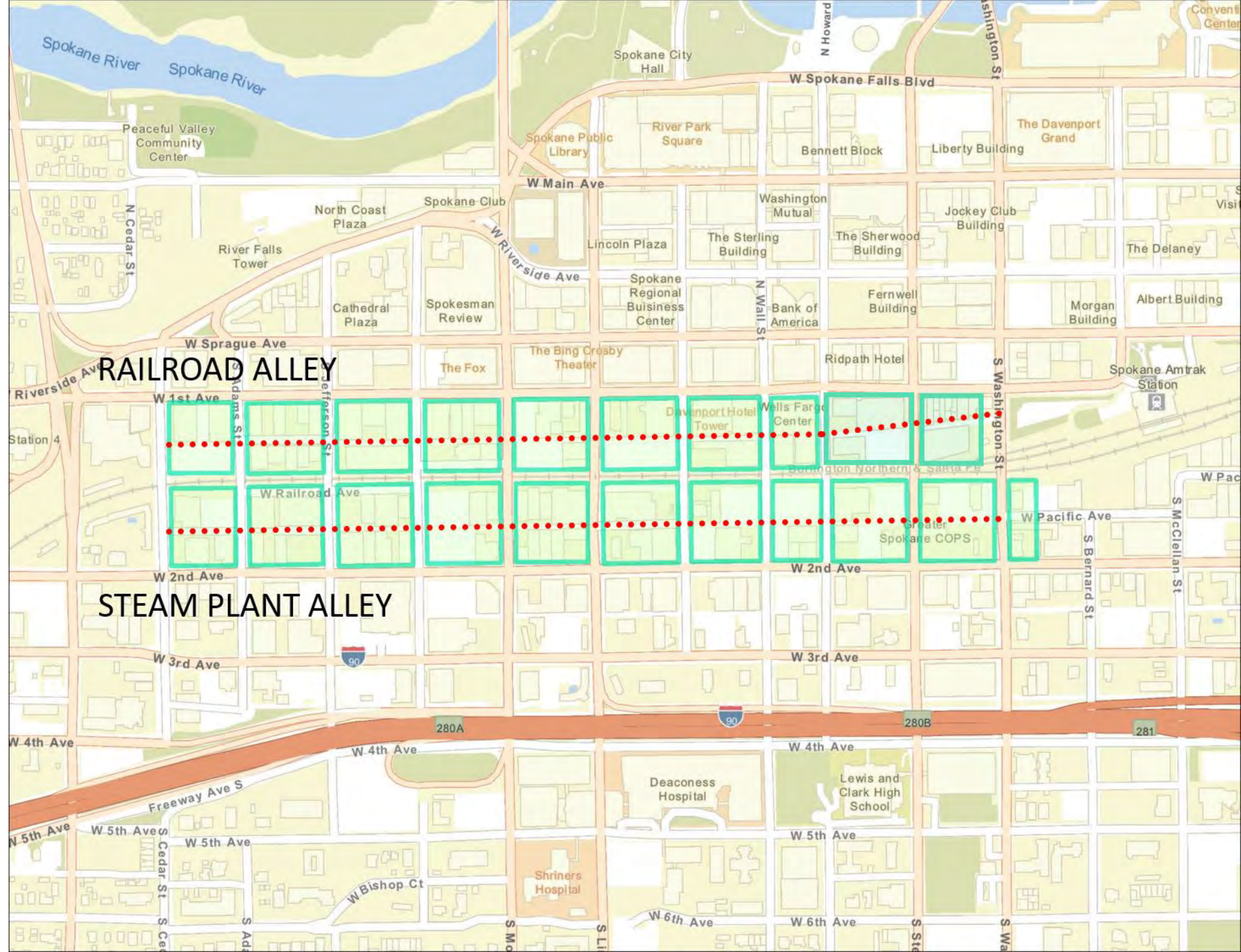
Wayfinding



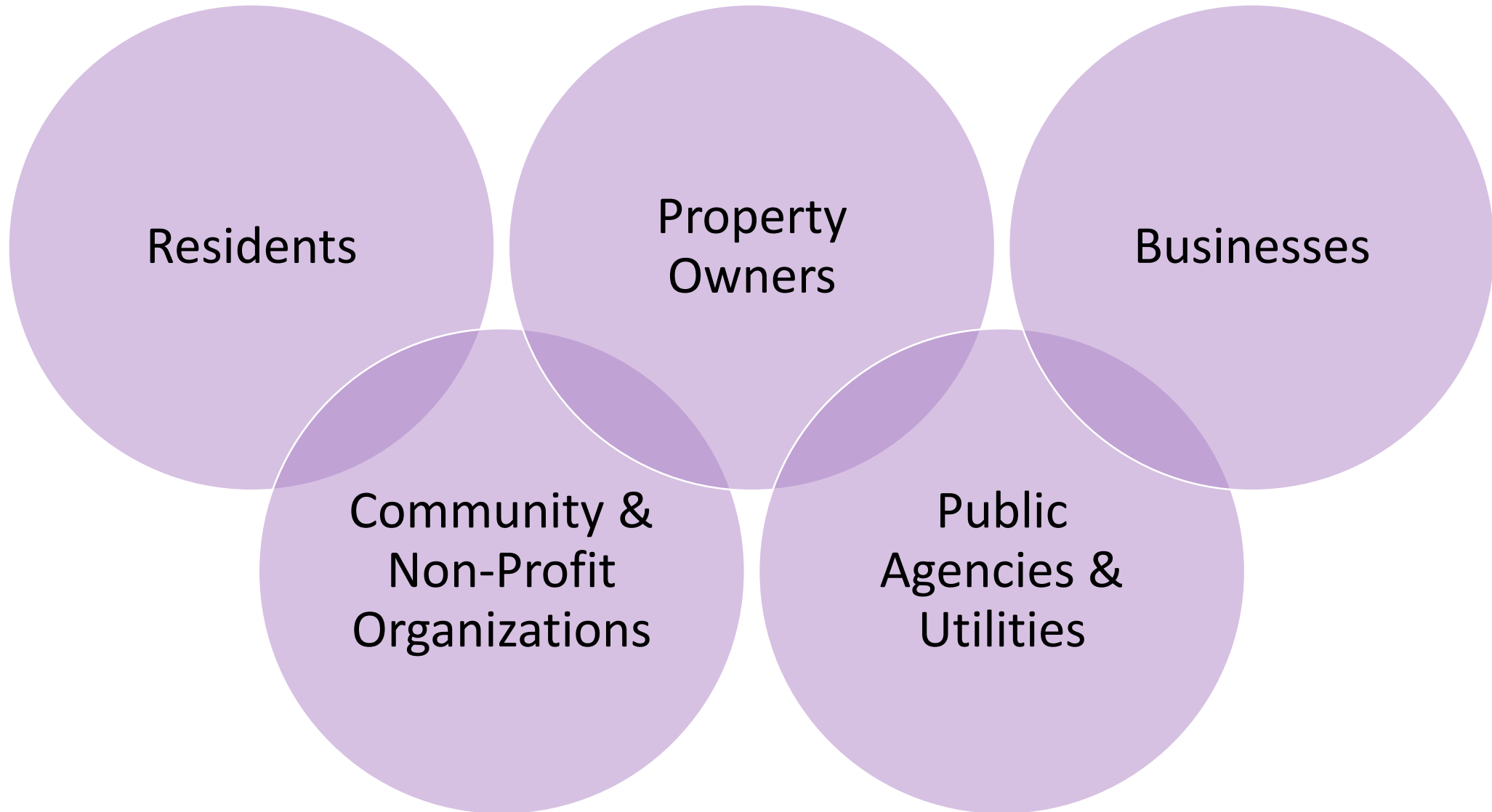
Community

# Project Study Area

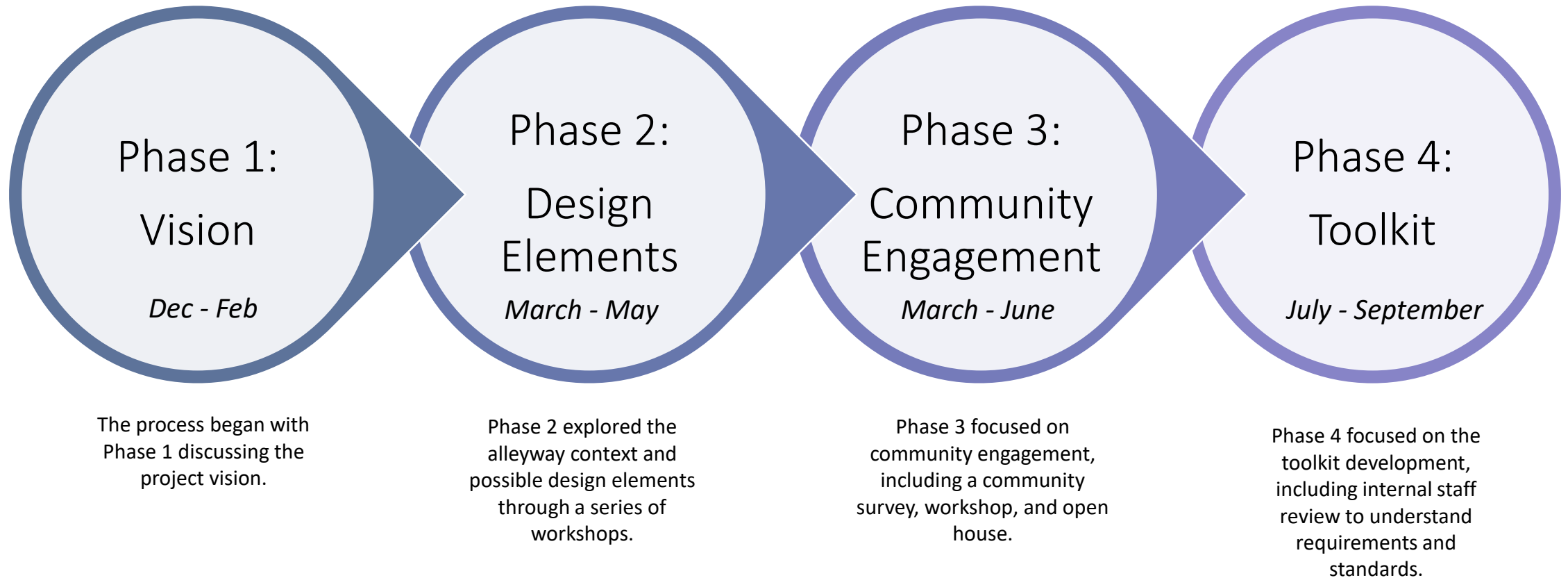
The project study area primarily focused on the downtown alleyways, Railroad Alley and Steam Plant Alley. These alleys are currently underutilized but have good connection already for getting to and from places. The toolkit can easily be applied to other alleys as well.



# Who was involved in the process?



# Timeline



# Project Milestones

The City hosted a number of stakeholder meetings and engagement opportunities for the public to learn about the project and provide input on how they use the alleys and what improvements they would like to see made.

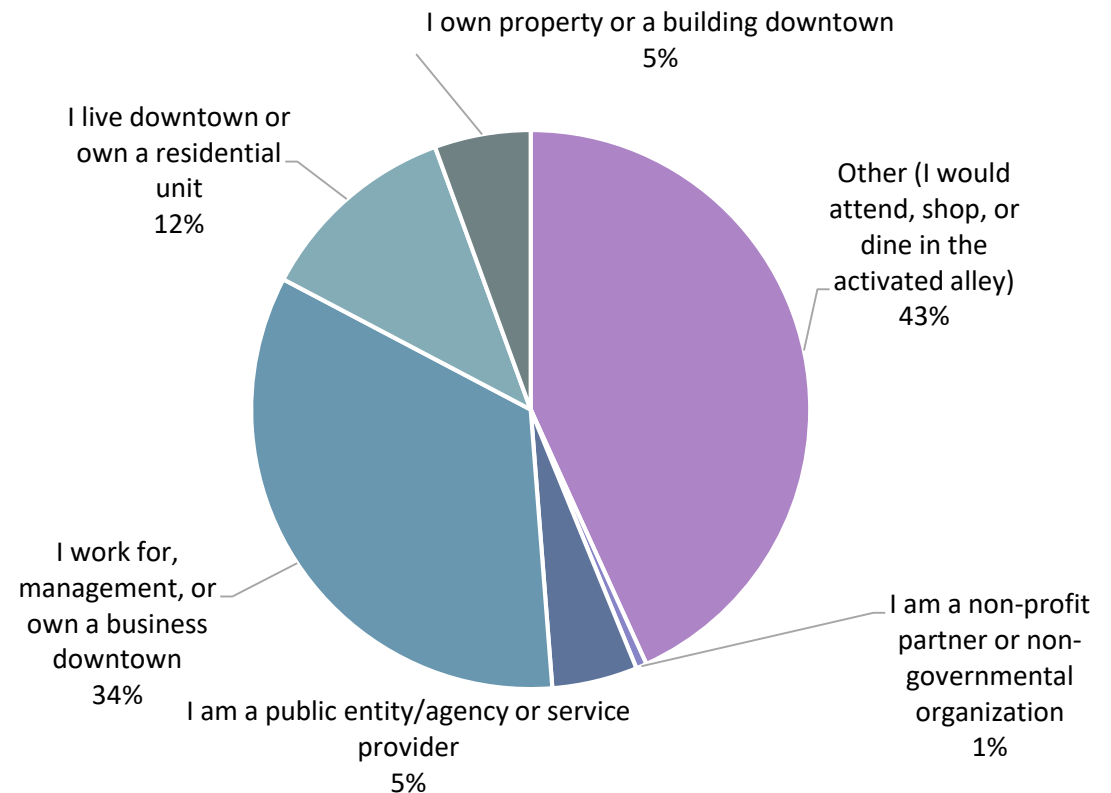
- Meeting 1: December 11, 2018
  - Mayor introduction
  - Project overview and discussion
- Meeting 2: January 24, 2019
  - Discuss project area in more detail
- Community Survey: March – June 2019
  - Understand context, challenges, ideas for enhancement
  - 229 responses
- Focus Interviews: March 2019
  - Meet with individual businesses, property owners, residents, and organizations
- Meeting 3: March 21, 2019
  - Discuss community and stakeholder input
  - Next steps in process
- Design Workshop: March 29-30, 2019
- First Friday Open House: May 3, 2019
- Toolkit Launch: September 26, 2019

# Alleyway Community Survey



**229 Responses**

**Which of the following best describes you?**





# Alleyway Community Survey

**What issues and challenges do  
you currently face in the alleys?**

Safety and Security

Maintenance, Cleanliness, Waste Management

Lack of Lighting

Road Conditions and Vehicles

Vandalism, Loitering, Drug Use

**What enhancements would you like to see to  
improve the current conditions in the alleys?**

Beautification and Greenery

Lighting

Art, Music, Events, Games

People and Pedestrian/Bicycle Enhancements

Active Frontages, Façade Improvements

# Survey Word Cloud





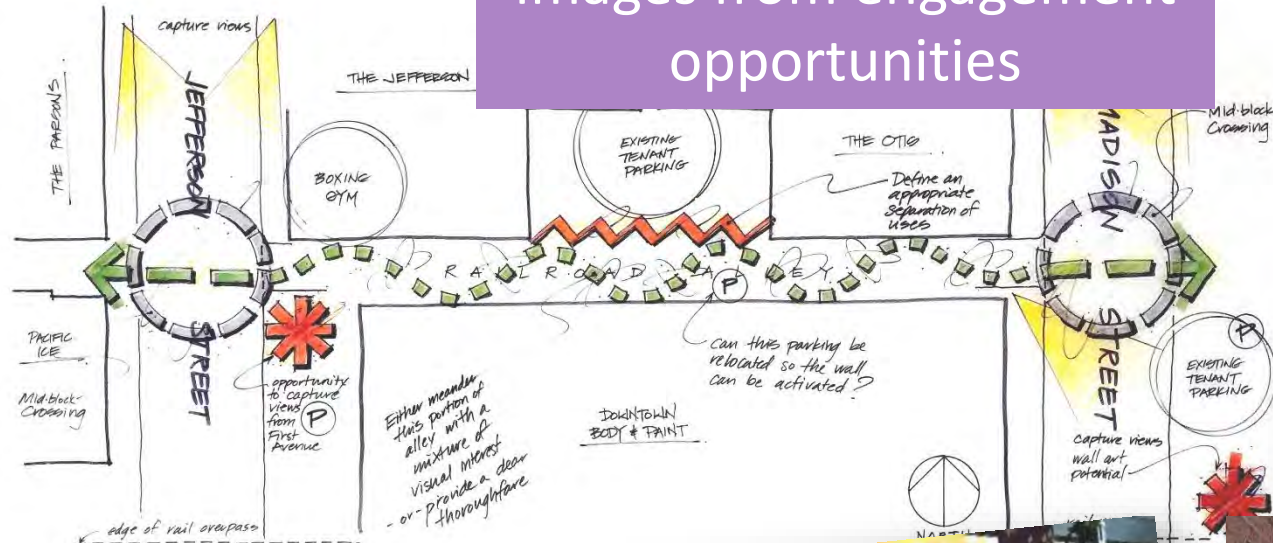
# HACK THE ALLEY

Neighbors! Join local Urban Designers, Landscape Architects, Architects, and Artists as they explore ways to enliven your alleyways.

When: Friday & Saturday  
March 29th & 30th  
9 AM - 5 PM each day  
3 PM - 5 PM Saturday July

Where: 4-Degrees Real Estate  
1209 W 1st Avenue  
Lower Level Conference

Why: To re-en  
an urban  
innovati



CITY OF SPOKANE AND DOWNTOWN  
SPOKANE PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS

## INNOVATION ALLEYWAYS: FIRST FRIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Join us and provide your input on how we re-think  
and re-vision alleyways in downtown Spokane!

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019  
LOCATION TBD  
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL!

Innovation Alleyways is a project by the Mayor's Office and  
City of Spokane to activate select alleyways in downtown  
Spokane with pedestrian-friendly improvements and fun  
programming to revision these spaces for all to enjoy.



# Internal Staff Workgroup

Planning  
Neighborhood Services  
Streets  
Integrated Capital  
Engineering  
Permitting  
Solid Waste  
Police  
Fire

- January 15, 2019
  - Discuss project with City departments
- March 20, 2019
  - Meeting with Permitting
- April 23, 2019
  - City workgroup discussion on community engagement
- May 14, 2019
  - City workgroup discussion on permitting and standards
- June 25, 2019
  - City workgroup discussion and review of design tools

# How to use the Innovation Alleyways Toolkit

The toolkit provides an easy-to-use resource guide for alleyway improvements, including design ideas, permitting requirements and tips for success.

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Example pages from the toolkit

## ALLEY COMPONENTS

**ATTRactions**  
*Whether programming the space with events or utilizing the space for outdoor dining, activity breathes life into alleys.*

**LIGHTING**  
*Lighting makes the alley usable at night, contributes to safety, and can add delight.*

















**FURNISHINGS**  
*Seats, bike racks, benches, and tables. Whatever it is, furniture creates a comfortable public space.*

**GREENERY**  
*Alleys can play host to creative green spaces that add a touch of nature to the concrete jungle.*

**PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE**  
*Paint or pedestrian-scale paving visually signals that the alley is a place for people, not just vehicles.*

Figure 3.1

The toolkit provides an overview of alleyway components through a friendly diagram

PROJECT GOALS	ALLEYWAY IMPROVEMENTS				
	Lighting	Furnishings	Greenery	Pedestrian Infrastructure	Attractions
					
					
					
					
Community					

# Featured Alleyway Improvements

## Lighting

- String Lights
- Uplighting & Overhead Lights

## Furnishings

- Seating
- Micro-Mobility

## Greenery

- Planters, Baskets, and Vines
- Living Walls

## Pedestrian Infrastructure

- Entryways
- Mid-Block Crossings
- Pavement Treatment
- Signage & Wayfinding

## Attractions

- Temporary Closures & Events
  - Active Frontages
  - Art

How to read the toolkit:

## SECTION ICON

Quick reference tool for reader to know what category the design tool falls under.

## DESCRIPTION

Definition of the design tool and common locations and uses.

## EXAMPLE IMAGES

## GOALS MET

List of project goals the design tool will accomplish.

## COST RANGE

\$- Up to \$1,000  
\$\$- Up to \$5,000  
\$\$\$- Up to \$15,000  
\$\$\$\$+ Greater than \$15,000

## REQUIREMENTS

List of items that may be required or specific restrictions that are not permissible.


## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

These items are not required, but are useful tips or ideas to help guide the project.

## RESOURCES

Documents, web pages, and local partners that can help the applicant successfully implement the chosen tools.

### ALLEY IMPROVEMENT

**GOALS MET:** IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY, SAFETY

**COST:** S-\$\$

#### DESCRIPTION

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#### REQUIREMENTS



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#### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

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#### RESOURCES

Et scate quem loc, vil conatit? Opianumak, quidess ignatitit conatit amouit videntitia fel non- eriticea fluid conatitit erthim am conatitice conatit mousa, haratitit conatit? Erreac la mps am mousititit qui proutitit conatititit amouit: mousitit effectitit conatitit



35 Innovation Alleyways



## LIGHTING

Alleys without proper lighting can feel dark and neglected or unsafe, particularly at night. Community survey respondents indicated that one of the primary concerns in using the alleys in downtown Spokane is the lack of lighting. Lighting can define space and contribute to the perception of safety and security. Additionally, lighting allows the alley to be used beyond daylight hours for all type of activity and uses. Soft light lends to quiet areas more suited to date nights or discussions. Brighter light can imply more activity, suited to night markets, concerts, and dances. Consider the intended use for the space when choosing lighting options for the space.



## STRING LIGHTS



**GOALS MET:** *Safety & Security, Placemaking, Wayfinding*

**COST:** \$\$ TO \$\$\$

### DESCRIPTION

Most streets have standard overhead lighting, but this does little to create an ambiance that offers different moods and is inviting to pedestrians. String lights are an inexpensive way to bring soft overhead light to the alley and provide the feeling of a canopy by lowering the perceived “ceiling” height of the alley and making it more comfortable. This allows a relaxed and warm atmosphere appropriate for community gatherings and events.

### REQUIREMENTS

Lights must be installed at a minimum of 14 feet above the pavement

Exterior sub-panel connected to City or Avista power must be installed with shut-off switch for emergencies

Memo of Understanding (MOU) for responsibility of lights



Figure 3.3



Figure 3.5




Figure 3.4

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

*Pair string lights with one or two other light options to enhance safety and security.*

Example pages from the toolkit for design improvements

The toolkit provides alleyway examples, resources for best practices including other alleyway toolkits across the country, and templates. The following survey provides a guide for documenting the alley context, alley conditions and the alley experience. This is helpful to have completed prior to approaching the City about any permits for improvements.



## Activated Alley D.I.Y Survey

Your Name

E-mail

Alley Name

Block(s)

Date & Time

Weekday

Weekend

Neighborhood Context

Key Destinations on Alley

Transit Stop

Housing

Office

Shop

Restaurant/Cafe

Open Space

Other:

Parking in Alley

Yes

No

Other

Vacant Lot

Construction

Notes

### Alley Condition

Width/Clearance	Total R.O.W. Width		ft
	Roadbed Width		ft
	Sidewalk Width		ft
	Clear Path on Sidewalk		ft
Length Lot/Frontage	Average Length		ft
Entries	Total Number		
	Average Width		ft
	<div>Recessed</div> <div> <div>Above Ground</div> <div>Below Ground</div> </div>		ft
Curb Cuts	Total Number		
	Average Width		ft
Ground Floor	Setback	Number	Avg Depth
	Planting		ft
	Parking		ft
	Blank Wall		
Street Elements	Street Tree	Number	Avg Dimension
	Planter		
	Lighting (type)		
	Electric Pole		
	Bike Rack		
	Other		
Street Parking	Total Number		

### Alley Experience

Grade based on personal impressions and explain why

Bad	Good	Notes
Connectivity		
Accessibility		
Safety		
Aesthetic		
Sustainability		


### Alley Diagram

Draw and write your findings freely

Wall

Alley

Wall



Innovation Alleyways

# SPOKANERISING



**YOU MAY NOT IMMEDIATELY** think of alleyways when considering walkable, inviting, pedestrian-oriented spaces in downtown Spokane. Historically, these narrow spaces have had a reputation for being dark, dirty, and even dangerous. Most are used more for trash or deliveries versus public space.

But look between the typical streets and buildings, and in our alleyways you may find something special. The one between Atticus and Mizuna on North Howard—with hanging lights, an outdoor patio, and assorted greenery—is a great example. The intimacy of the space, the lack of vehicular noise or distraction, and the unique, human-centered features (like the hanging lights) make it a space for people first. These types of “active alleyways” have entered the vogue in recent years in urban planning circles for their creative reuse of public space.

Other cities have employed a host of strategies to activate their narrowest public rights-of-way. In Seattle, Post Alley's gum wall is a must-see. Detroit has deployed sustainable infrastructure in its Green Alley, like permeable pavement, planter beds, and native flower gardens. And in Denver, an alley on the Dairy Block features expansive murals, cafe seating, and a liquor license that allows visitors to roam the length of the block, drink in hand.

Sample media coverage  
on Innovation Alleyways  
project



The Inlander  
May 16 Issue

## NEWS

### DEVELOPMENT THE AXIS OF ALLEYS

Could improving Spokane's alleyways lead to a prettier downtown — and maybe even a safer one?

BY DANIEL WATERS

For now, Railroad Alley — at least the part that lies between the downtown core from Europa on Wall Street to the Spokane Falls Studio on Adams Street — is one of the most overlooked of the city's overlooked downtowns.

Like its neighboring streets, the cracked and potholed asphalt. The lack of pedestrian and bike lanes means using the alley during rush hour gets a taste of road rage, crumbling brick and paper lining the sidewalks.

But when the city's community programs coordinator, Mary Murphy, looks at Railroad Alley, she sees opportunity.

"I think it's a great starting point," she says.

Railroad Alley is about 4 feet wider than your typical alley, she notes, providing more space to make changes. It's one of the only alleys to include sections of brick, stone, like Heritage and Whiskey Peak. However, it's not without its challenges. After all, in downtown Spokane, every square foot of land is precious.

And so right now, there are two separate efforts from the city to "revitalize" alleyways, creating them from ignored or disused corridors into vibrant pathways — or even destinations.

One of these efforts is the city's new program, called **UNEXPLORED PATHS**. On this Friday the month of River Park Square, Murphy and a few other city planners met a booth outlining

a vision for what downtown's alleyways could be. One potential outcome is a variety of other possibilities. The walls could be painted murals for the vibrant pedestrian scene. Local artists. You could string up lights like the kind they use for outdoor weddings, across the building. You could repurpose empty space on the building into a garden or a place for people to sit. You could put out seating for people to sit, or even a small structure to hold coats or umbrellas.

Local residents. Use the alley to hold events. There are many long-term plans. Murphy notes that the importance of keeping the alley clean. One

continued on next page  
MAY 16, 2019 INLANDER 15



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Thursday, April 4, 2019 Spokane, Washington 80-82°F (High 81)

Washington Idaho WA Government

Open House Event  
Join us for an Open House Event on Thursday, April 4th, 2019, 10am-12pm. Location: 1000 W. Main, Spokane, WA 99201.

The Spokesman Review  
April 1, 2019

### Getting There: City joins broader effort to reclaim downtown alleys as cultural, artistic pathways

Updated on: Apr. 1, 2019 11:34 AM



Up train along Railroad Avenue in 2017. Last week, the city launched its **Unexplored Paths** program to reclaim downtown alleys as cultural, artistic pathways. (Tom Bickel / The Spokesman-Review)



Top stories in Spokane



North suspension bridge in Riverfront Park closes  
Updated: 3:38 PM

Event: 100th anniversary of the Spokane River

Spokane River Club celebrates the fall in both fall

Spokane explores ways to increase the city's green space by 2030



### Spokane launches project to revitalize downtown alleyways

Local designers, landscape architects, have been meeting to come up with ideas for downtown Spokane.

KREM2  
April 1, 2019

The Innovation Alleyways Toolkit  
is available on the City website:  
<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/innovation-alleyways/>

*We are continuously improving the toolkit and the process.  
If you have questions, feedback, suggestions, please contact Maren Murphy at  
[mmurphy@spokanecity.org](mailto:mmurphy@spokanecity.org)*