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
GOALS

- Safety and Security
- Placemaking
- Connectivity
- Wayfinding
- Community

Credit: Michael Knox, City of Austin, Texas
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?

- Residents
- Property Owners
- Businesses
- Community & Non-Profit Organizations
- Public Agencies & Utilities
The process began with Phase 1 discussing the project vision.

Phase 2 explored the alleyway context and possible design elements through a series of workshops.

Phase 3 focused on community engagement, including a community survey, workshop, and open house.

Phase 4 focused on the toolkit development, including internal staff review to understand requirements and standards.
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
Which of the following best describes you?

- Other (I would attend, shop, or dine in the activated alley): 43%
- I live downtown or own a residential unit: 12%
- I own property or a building downtown: 5%
- I work for, manage, or own a business downtown: 34%
- I am a public entity/agency or service provider: 5%
- I am a non-profit partner or non-governmental organization: 1%

229 Responses
### 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

lighting, greenery, areas, people, nice, businesses, block, benches, dining, safe, way, go, planter, little, safety, murals, lighting, outdoor, art, use, make, walls, clean, plants, traffic, little, safety, plaza, walls, walk, cars, small, music, coffee, places, string, friendly, corridors, signs, small, walls, clean, plants, traffic, little, safety, planter, little, safety, plaza, walls, walk, cars, small, music, coffee, places, string, friendly, corridors, signs, small, walls, clean, plants, traffic, little, safety, planter, little, safety, plaza, walls, walk, cars, small, music, coffee, places, string, friendly, corridors, signs, small, walls, clean, plants, traffic, little, safety, planter, little, safety, plaza, walls, walk, cars, small, music, coffee, places, string, friendly, corridors, signs, small, walls, clean, plants, traffic, little, safety, planter, little, safety, plaza, walls, walk, cars, small, music, coffee, places, string, friendly, corridors, signs, small, walls, clean, plants, traffic, little, safety, planter, little, safety, plaza, walls, walk, cars, small, music, coffee, places, string, friendly, corridors, signs, small, walls, clean, plants, traffic, little, safety, planter, little, safety, plaza, walls, walk, cars, small, music, coffee, places, string, friendly, corridors, signs, small, walls, clean, plants, traffic, little, safety, planter, little, safety, plaza, walls,
Images from engagement opportunities

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 - 8 PM Saturday

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

Why: To spark an urban innovation
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.
The toolkit provides an overview of alleyway components through a friendly diagram.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT GOALS</th>
<th>Lighting</th>
<th>Furnishings</th>
<th>Greenery</th>
<th>Pedestrian Infrastructure</th>
<th>Attractions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety and Security</td>
<td>![Lighting Icon]</td>
<td>![Furnishings Icon]</td>
<td>![Greenery Icon]</td>
<td>![Pedestrian Icon]</td>
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<td>Placemaking</td>
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<td>Connectivity</td>
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<td>![Attractions Icon]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**
Images of the design tool.

**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**
This 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.
STRING LIGHTS

GOALS MET: Safety & Security, Placemaking, Wayfinding

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

TIPS FOR SUCCESS
Pair string lights with one or two other light options to enhance safety and security.
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.
You may not immediately think of alleyways when considering walkable, meeting pedestrian-oriented space in downtown Spokane. Historically, these narrow spaces have had a reputation for being dark, dirty, and even dangerous. Most are used only 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 Atlantic and Mission on North Howard—with hanging lights, an outdoor patio, and assorted-galley—has a great example. The intimacy of the space, the lack of vehicle noise, 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 region in recent years on urban planning charts for their creative reuse of public space.

Others have employed a host of strategies to activate their narrow, public rights-of-way. In Seattle, Post Alley’s “green wall” is a masterpiece. Detroit has deployed sustainable infrastructure in its Green Alley, like permeable pavement, plants, boulders, and native flower gardens. And in Denver, an alley on the Dairy Block features expansive murals, café seating, and a big screen that allows visitors to scan the lengths of the block, shop in hand.

Sample media coverage on Innovation Alleyways project
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