



## Puzzle pieces

In the immortal words of Mandy Patinkin playing Indigo Montoya in *The Princess Bride* "Let me explain. No, there is no time. Let me sum up."

The Farmers' Market seeks expansion and a permanent home. DIVA wants a home too, albeit sometime before the passing of the next decade. Ten viable architectural plans for a site have already been drawn by students of one of our city's premiere architects, incorporating both the farmers and DIVA. The parking displaced by said plans can certainly be recouped in a more convenient location, across from the courthouse. The entire idea has the support of Commissioner Sorenson.

Now I'm not going to say that's a slam dunk, but how about a jump shot with just the slightest touch of rim?

I went back to Market Director Noa O'Hare. To my surprise, he seemed non-plussed. "I've not seen Otto's plans. As revered as Otto is, I think market design, understanding the accessibility needs, is something different. Even *that* development might not be the optimal situation for us. Can you get two million people downtown like those who already come to the fairgrounds each year? Can you get the parking for those people?"

Well, some people just gotta find their own way, I thought. You can lead a Farmers' Market director to a permanent structure, but you can't make him sell his jellies and arugula there.

## Got change for change?

In closing I'd like to mention money. Whatever the farmers do, change is gonna take at least some cold, hard cash. Maybe a moderate amount, maybe a whole bunch. At the moment, the market board has mentioned a feasibility study (the last study the market considered would have cost \$40,000), to investigate, according to O'Hare, "how we're working now, what would work better, what our options are, how much it would cost, and how much manpower and development we would need to venture forth."

But O'Hare's also the first to admit that "No one's really jumping out of the woodwork, saying there's money for this."

"Do you have a timeline for the feasibility study?" I asked him.

"Four years ago," he laughed. "I'd like to see the study done in two years, just to get information out there and answer questions."

So it seems there is no hurry. But if anyone wanted to get the ball rolling, perhaps the city or the county or both could be involved. Like Sorenson says, how about the public investing in a beautiful, profitable, organic, vitamin-filled future?

How about a Farmers' Market reminiscent of Seattle's Pike Place Market, perhaps on the site of the current butterfly lot? Could it be accomplished with a portion of the taxpayers' \$29 million, with which the city intends to wrap a new police station in a bow for our recently embarrassed police force?

Maybe it could, maybe it couldn't. Councilwoman Betty Taylor says, regarding the public use of those funds, "It's the taxpayers money in my opinion. If the police station fails, I think the council will vote to build it anyway."

Say what?

*Our great financiers have taxed their brains for the last 25 years to increase the wealth of those already made rich, while they have placed the burdens upon the producers of the country.*

— H.E. HAYES

"I think it's wrong," continued Taylor. A really big thing like that, that will obviously prevent us from doing other things; the public should say this is what we want most to do with the money."

EW

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