

How St Georgians Have Fun

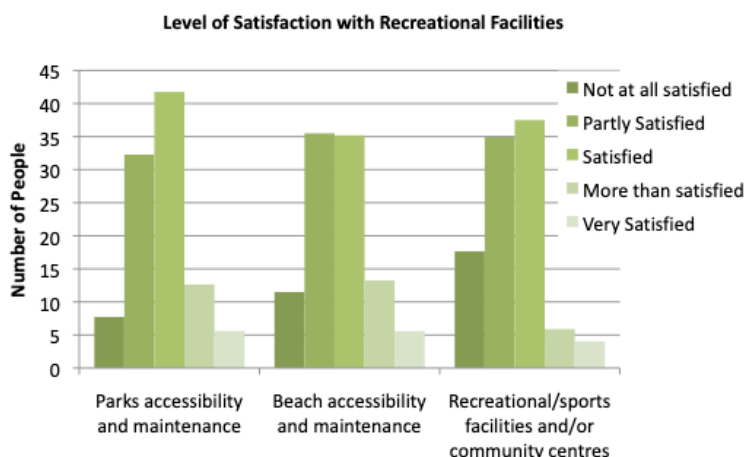
Recreation, Entertainment & Culture

Having safe and inspiring venues in which to relax, socialise, and exercise is key to the value people place on their community. Responding to the survey many residents indicated an interest in having more entertainment options. As may be expected from canvassing a diverse community, the identified desires range from the provision of day-time activities for young people or the elderly, to night-life associated offerings. The data collected indicate a real appetite for increase offerings but are clearly inadequate to identify those with the greatest promise. Despite that limitation there are some clear take-away messages that may be instructive.

Several commentators suggested focusing on serving the local market. It was argued that if the entertainment offerings meet with a positive demand from locals then they are likely to be well received by visitors. Although not stated, this approach targets year-round clientele, which is clearly more sustainable than focusing on seasonal visitors.

One of the treasured features in St George are the parks – often small and walled. And St Georgians are clearly proud of their beaches. Most feel these are well maintained and the level of satisfaction was over 50% of those polled for both the parks and beaches. However, one respondent suggested that: *"Somers garden is lovely but with a few stricter rules is not necessarily welcoming for our students. I understand students need to learn to respect the area but should be allowed to sit in grassy area and have a picnic. This is a go to picnic spot for lots of students from various parishes/schools coming down for field trips to learn about our history."*

A lower level of satisfaction was evident for the recreational facilities within the Town. Many of the suggestions for improved recreational options for the town revolve around sport, exercise, outdoor activity, and active socialising. Better promotion of the current offerings in the town was suggested and the lack of access and programming for physically challenged residents was identified as a short-coming.



Eating Out

A common theme expressed was a desire for more restaurants. This despite the fact that the existing restaurant facilities received a vote of 65% satisfied to very satisfied respondents. In particular, the suggestion of using King’s Square as a venue for al fresco dining was repeatedly mentioned. This demand for increased dining opportunities appears to have been recognised by local restaurateurs as evidenced by the well-received reopening of the White Horse Tavern, the announcement of a planned restaurant in the old Pub-on-the-Square, and a new local-food focussed restaurant on the waterside site of the now-closed Chick’s Bar.

The opportunity for al fresco dining has not yet been pursued, but active use of the square in such a fashion might effectively displace the locals who regularly use the



square as a venue to socialise and who are commonly perceived as “anti-social elements, or vagrants” that are intimidating and thus detrimental to visitor experiences. The provision of an alternate location for the use of these people may meet their need whilst reducing the negative perception of their activities.

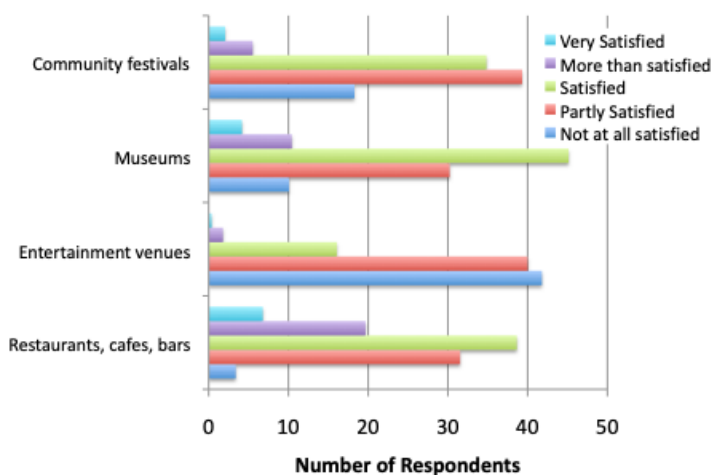
Festivals

The provision of festivals or similar activities centred on the square during business hours has been demonstrated to drive transactions in the town whilst providing entertainment for residents and visitors to the town. The current state of the square and its use appears to be a source of frustration to many of the town’s residents and businesses. Increased/improved use of the square as a venue for entertaining activity is desired by the community and presents a clear opportunity to bring life into the heart of the town.

Several respondents indicated a desire for a dedicated movie theatre, outside showings of films, or for a multi-use venue for films and live entertainment. Several locations were suggested including the recently close World Heritage Centre. Whilst the loss of its former use is unfortunate, this fine building might serve well as an entertainment centre for the community whilst providing a revenue stream for the Corporation.

This survey was undertaken prior to the announcement of this closure, but there was clear indication that the community appeared to be quite satisfied with the museum offerings.

Level of Satisfaction with Cultural & Entertainment Venues



What people said

“Playgrounds need more shaded space. Small scale food service should be allowed in parks.” “Clear parks from overgrowth.” “Public workout spaces.” “Using Somers Gardens for yoga.”

“The infrastructure at Achilles Bay (east side) - the stairs, platform and slip is badly dilapidated and in need of repair. We need handicapped access to beaches for seniors and the disabled.”

“A community garden / allotments would be nice.”

“Access to swimming pool for seniors.” “Sailing for seniors.”

“It would be wonderful to have a successful version of Sandys 360 here in St. George’s.” “Need a small sports centre.” “Fitness gym, boxing or yoga or BJJ.” “Netball, girls cricket program.” “Futsal court.” “Squash court.” “Indoor pool.” “Tennis court.” “Gym”.

“Should be walking or biking trails.”

“Hire of water sports equipment/ tours in St. George’s Harbour (kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing).”

Community sports teams similar to the East End Soccer league of years ago.”

“Skatepark/Trampoline park - indoor would bring kids/parents: use Gunpowder Cavern or the old Cinema.”

“The St George’s Community Center has fantastic awesome programmes. The facility needs to be maintained properly. They need to allow more children in the midterm camps. The summer camps need to go on longer than one month.”

“Entertainment centre.” “A games arcade for the kids.” “Youth Centre.” “Water fun park.”

“Library and community hall.” “Virtual library.”

“The old fort above the old gunpowder tavern is begging to be rebuilt into something for cultural public viewing, either dance, outdoor movies etc. How about a skate park?”

An outdoor theatre to host all verities of live entertainment A cinema. Suggest using the small conference room at the World Heritage Center - much the same as the BUEI model.

“Live entertainment” “Night club.” “Dinner cruises.”

“Redesign and refresh The Deliverance for night shows and re-enactments.” water.”

<p>82%</p> <p>Are only partly satisfied to not at all satisfied with local entertainment venues</p>	<p>58%</p> <p>Are only partly satisfied to not at all satisfied with community festivals & special events</p>	<p>60%</p> <p>Are satisfied to very satisfied with the Town’s museums</p>
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