

# The Post and Courier

## Business Review

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Monday, November 2, 2009

### **Hear me out**

About 75 downtown residents came out to a "public listening session" Wednesday night at the **State Ports Authority's Union Pier Cruise Terminal**.

The SPA invited about 4,000 people who live near the passenger terminal and its surrounding waterfront acreage to share their thoughts as the agency moves forward with developing a master plan for the area. SPA chief executive **Jim Newsome** kicked off the event, which divided the room into four break-out groups with white boards and markers.

The SPA agreed to pay New York-based urban design firm **Cooper Robertson & Partners** about \$700,000 for the planning project, which should produce a preliminary report in mid-December and a final plan in late January. The process calls for extensive public input.