Received at HPC Hearing 6/6/18

Testimony of Karen Kai re:
Ordinance Amending the Administrative Code re Cultural Districts
Presented to the Historic Preservation Commission
June 6, 2018

Good afternoon, Commission members and staff.

Thank you for giving the public an opportunity to speak to the Board of Supervisors Ordinance regarding Cultural Heritage Districts. I think the HPC Staff report does an excellent job of noting some of the particular problems with the Cultural District Ordinance that need to be addressed and amended.

I have 3 major issues with the Cultural District Ordinance that I would like to emphasize today:

- The legislation does not include participation of the HPC as mandated under the City & County Charter Sec. 4.135 requiring the HPC to "advise the City on historic preservation matters (and) participate in processes that involve historic or cultural resources." The HPC has the experience, expertise and resources needed to create meaningful Cultural Districts.
- 2. By placing creation and management f Cultural Heritage under the Mayor's office of Housing and Community Development and deliberately omitting mandatory involvement of the HPC weakens the inclusion of the comprehensive, multidisciplinary examination of means to sustain community cultural heritage and interaction with increasing pressures of development, displacement and gentrification.
- 3. The establishment of a five-member body selected by the district Supervisor with power to distribute funds and "advise the Board, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development" works against community empowerment and self-determination by substituting the voices of a few hand-picked, politically-connected individuals for a robust and transparent process of community engagement that builds an informed and democratic decision making process.

With these points in mind, I would respectfully suggest that the HPC's proposed amendment of this ordinance include returning jurisdiction over the process to create and follow up with Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (renamed in the ordinance as Cultural, History, Housing and Economic Sustainability) programs be returned to the HPC and that the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development be included as an agency that will be consulted as part of such a process. If this is too large a change, then the very least that should be recommended is that participation by Planning/HPC be a mandatory element of the creation of a CHESS district.

I further suggest that the creation of the 5-person bodies be deleted or that they should exist for a limited time and for the purpose of creating a fully-accessible, open and transparent community body to analyze, discuss, and formulate recommendations for policies affecting the CHESS district.

These suggestions are based on my work with planning in Japantown. I was part of the core group that did the final drafting of the JCHESS document. Our efforts were always designed to bring resources to Japantown that would allow it to thrive into the future as a community with a distinctive cultural heritage that contributes to the vibrant cultural fabric of San Francisco, the Bay Area and beyond. The knowledge we have gained and the relationship that we have built in the last decade working with Planning and its Historic Preservation staff has been essential to our ability to create a plan that has the potential to fulfill our goals. A process that does not include, and indeed require, the participation of HPC and Planning is not a good or wise path.

Finally, I also suggest that the first sentence in Paragraph 3 of the Findings on page 3 of the HPC Draft resolution be changed as follows (strike outs indicating deletions and italics, additions):

There is wholehearted support for the concept behind the Ordinance and the effort to establish a formalized and codified process for establishing well-documented and thoughtfully planned, community empowering cultural districts throughout the City. ...

I am personally very wary of this ordinance considered in that it was rushed and insufficient community input was properly obtained or considered. For example, at the Supervisor's Rules Committee on May 9, 2018 the Chair of the Japantown Task Force testified that "we're very much in support of this legislation". In my opinion, this was an uninformed and unauthorized statement that violated the rules of the JTF as this matter had never been considered by the JTF Board or recommended by the JTF Cultural Heritage Committee. In fact, the Cultural Heritage Committee had been in contact with Supervisor Ronen's office starting in late 2017 and had a standing request to receive information about the ordinance in order to analyze its provisions and make a recommendation to the JTF Board. For many months we were told there were amendments in the works and that a new draft would be forthcoming. Committee members never received a full draft and on May 8 members of the Committee were informed that "Due to JTF capacity issues, a recommendation will be made to the JTF Board to disband the CH Committee." Thus, no recommendation on the Ordinance was ever made or presented to the JTF Board, nor was the issue considered by the full board in public session. The statement by the JTF Chair was thus unauthorized and misleading. I believe that a full discussion in the Japantown community would have revealed the same concerns and issues raised in the HPC staff memo and a few more.

When the Japantown community protested that the predecessor of JCHESS, the Better Neighborhood Plan, did not fit the needs of our community, Planning gave us a second chance and we built upon the cultural surveys and the Japantown Context Statement created under the BNP. But it was the vision, expertise, hard work and desire of the HPC/Planning staff that allowed us to create the new and groundbreaking vision for community preservation of its cultural heritage and historic resources and to begin to plan and implement steps for the long term viability of Japantown that would come to be JCHESS. Thank you all for being true partners in the creation of JCHESS. I hope that the Board of Supervisors will open their eyes a little wider and see how essential the participation of the HPC and its staff is to the success of future Cultural Districts.

Thank you.

FIREBOAT STATION 35 AT PIER 22 ½

Historic Preservation Commission – Architectural Review Committee Meeting June 6, 2018











WATERFRONT SITE PLAN













2014 ESER BOND PROGRAM BACKGROUND

\$400M General Obligation Bond authorized in June 2014 with approval by 79% of voters

 Neighborhood Fire Stations 	\$85M
--	-------

- Emergency Firefighting Water \$55M
 System
- District Police Stations and Infrastructure
- Motorcycle Police and Crime Lab \$165M
- Medical Examiner Facility \$65M

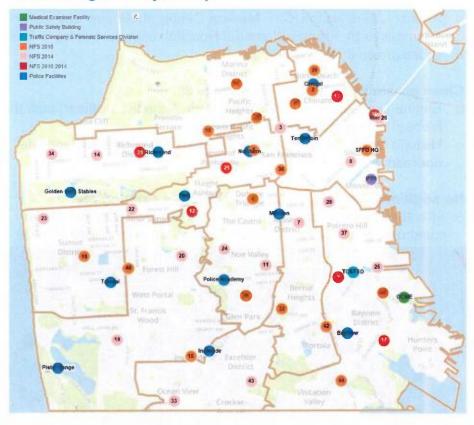








ESER Program Project Map









PROJECT SITE OVERVIEW - PIER 22 1/2

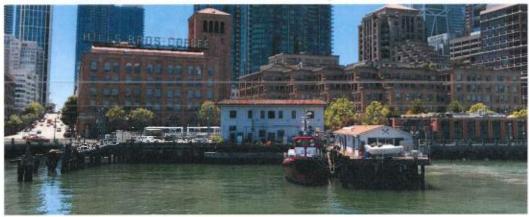
- Central location along the San Francisco Waterfront with direct access to the San Francisco Bay
 - Newly developed Mission Bay and Hunter's Point / Shipyard neighborhoods
 - Approx. 2.3 miles to UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay; approx.
 1.9 miles to St. Francis Memorial Hospital; approx. 4 miles to ZSFGH
 - o Close proximity to Bay Bridge

Close proximity to Historic Firehouse 35

- Engine Company No. 35 (2 firefighters, 1 medic, 1 officer) staff the fireboat during marine calls for service
- Historic firehouse will continue to deploy the engine for landside operations

No additional seismic upgrade work to the existing pier

 Structural repair, stabilization, and maintenance work to the pier substructure below the bulkhead building was completed in 2009



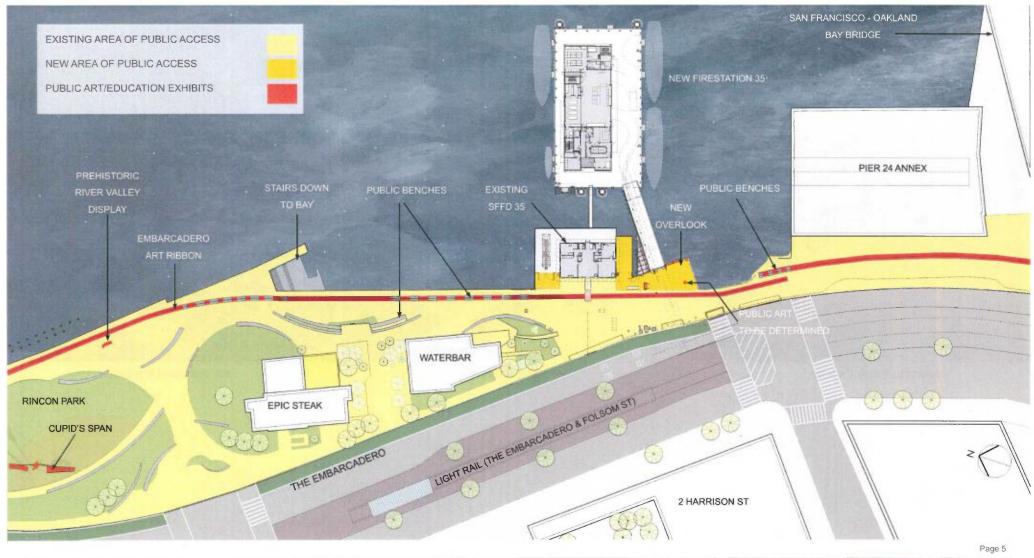








CONTEXT SITE PLAN



FIREBOAT STATION 35 AT PIER 22 ½
SAN FRANCISCO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING – JUNE 6, 2018

SWINERTON-POWER

SHAH KAWASAKI • ARCHITECTS



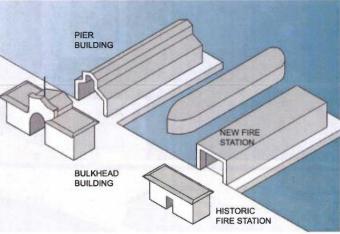






CONTEXT







HISTORIC EMBARCADERO

PARTI DIAGRAM

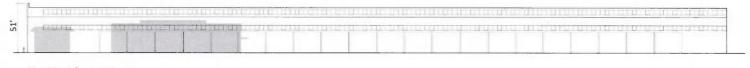
EXPLORATORIUM (AERIAL)



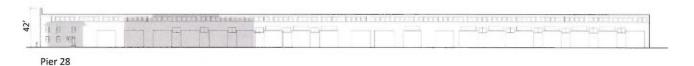




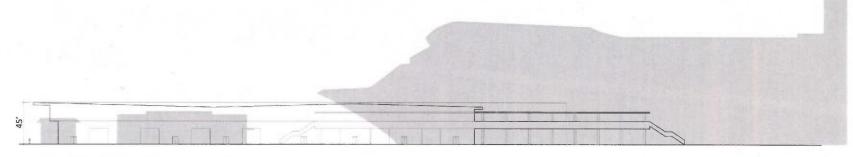
RELATIVE SCALE



Pier 26 - Adjacent Pier



Pier 15 - Exploratorium



Pier 27 - Cruise Ship Terminal



Pier 22.5 - Fire Station 35









EMBARCADERO PERSPECTIVE









BUILDING MATERIALS/OPERATIONS

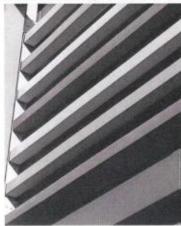








1 INSULATED METAL PANEL CORRUGATED DS60 SILVER/MARINE FINISH



2 BAGUETTE SCREEN DARK GREY









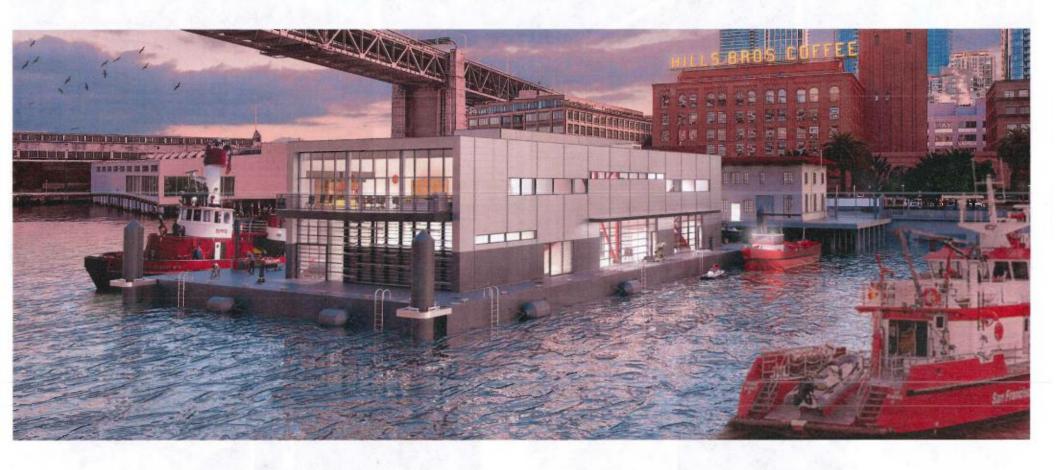








WATER PERSPECTIVE











FLOOR PLANS



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LEVEL 1 PLAN







FLOOR PLANS

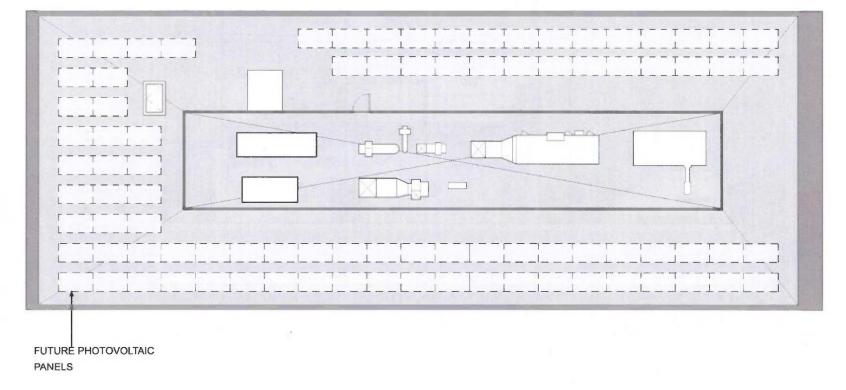




LEVEL 2 PLAN







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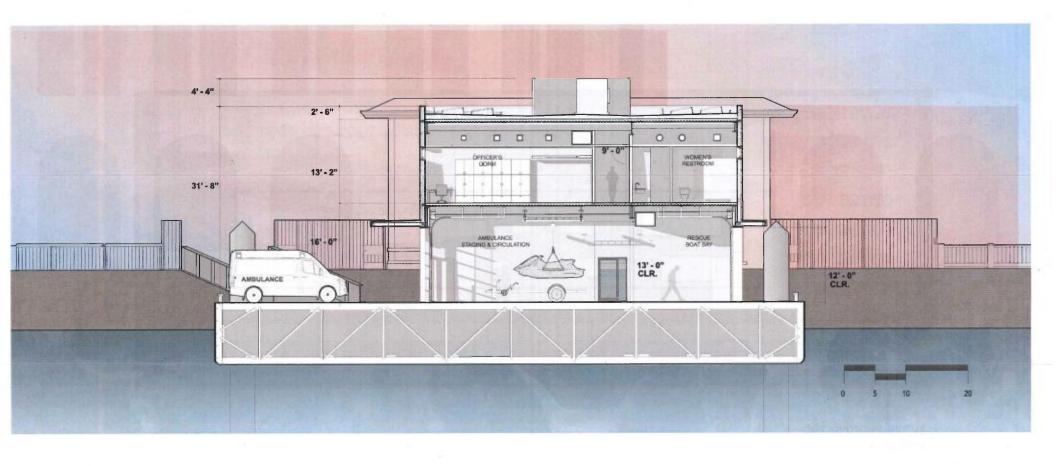
ROOF PLAN







BUILDING CROSS-SECTION

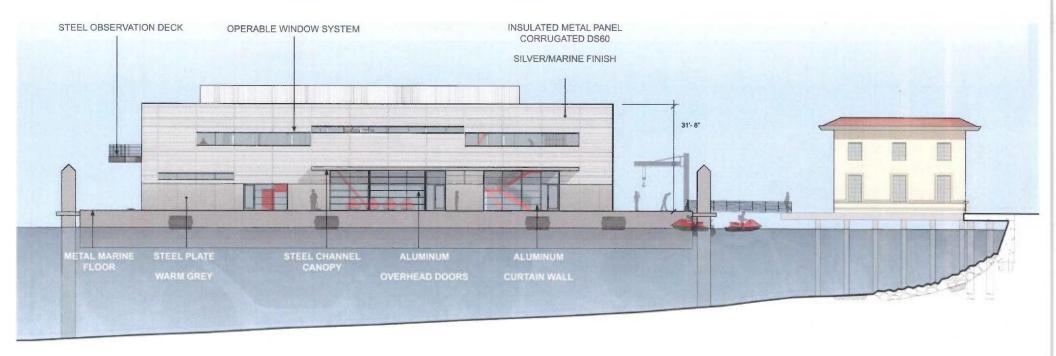








ELEVATIONS



NORTH ELEVATION

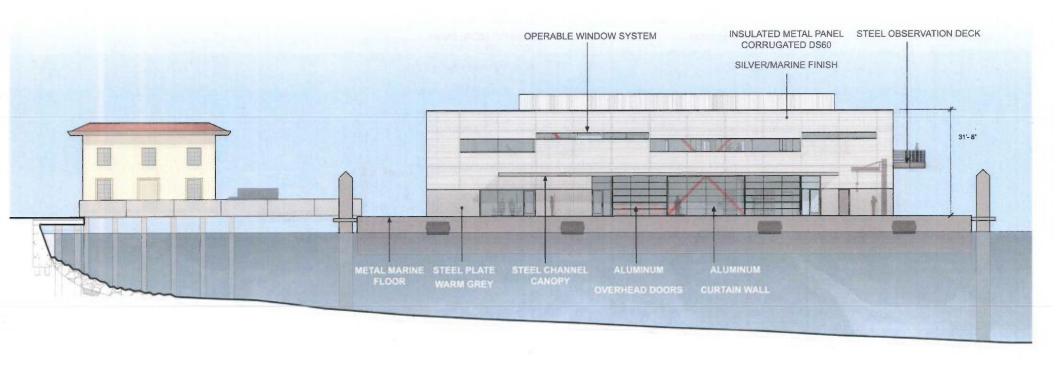








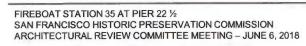
ELEVATIONS



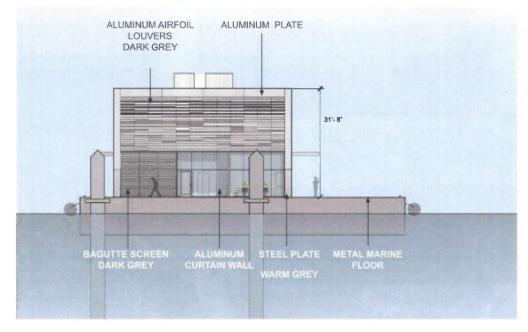
SOUTH ELEVATION

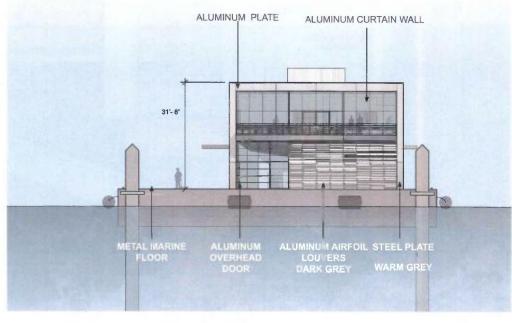






ELEVATIONS





WEST ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION



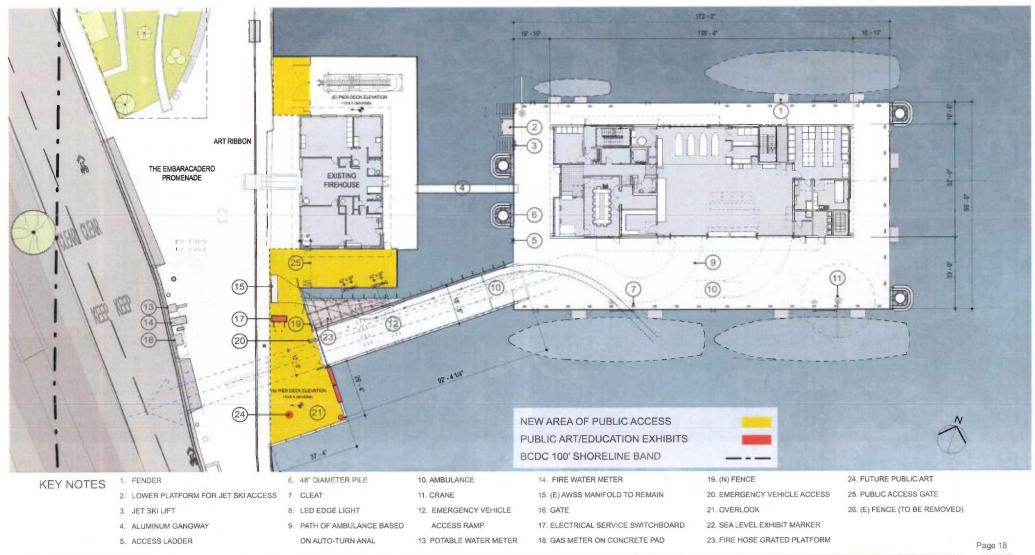








SITE PLAN



FIREBOAT STATION 35 AT PIER 22 1/2 SAN FRANCISCO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING - JUNE 6, 2018

a joint venture

SHAH KAWASAKI - ARCHITECTS









EMBARCADERO (SOUTH) PERSPECTIVE













SOUTH PLATFORM PERSPECTIVE

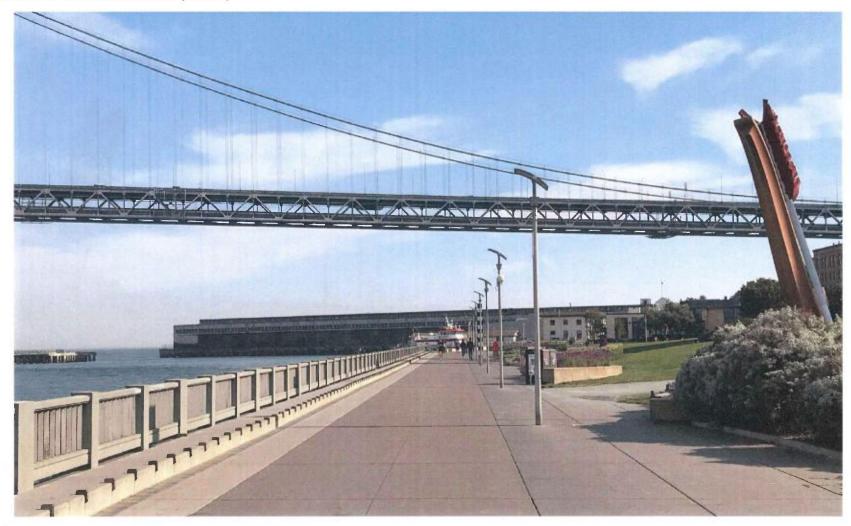








EMBARCADERO PROMENADE LOOKING SOUTH (BEFORE)











EMBARCADERO PROMENADE LOOKING SOUTH (AFTER)











HARRISON STREET CORRIDOR LOOKING EAST (EXISTING)



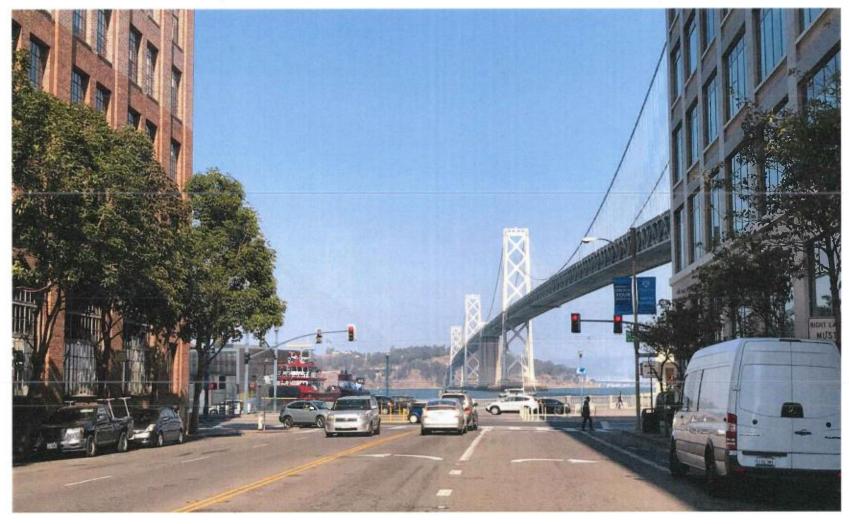








HARRISON STREET CORRIDOR LOOKING EAST (AS PROPOSED)











RINCON PARK LOOKING SOUTH (BEFORE)











RINCON PARK LOOKING SOUTH (AFTER)

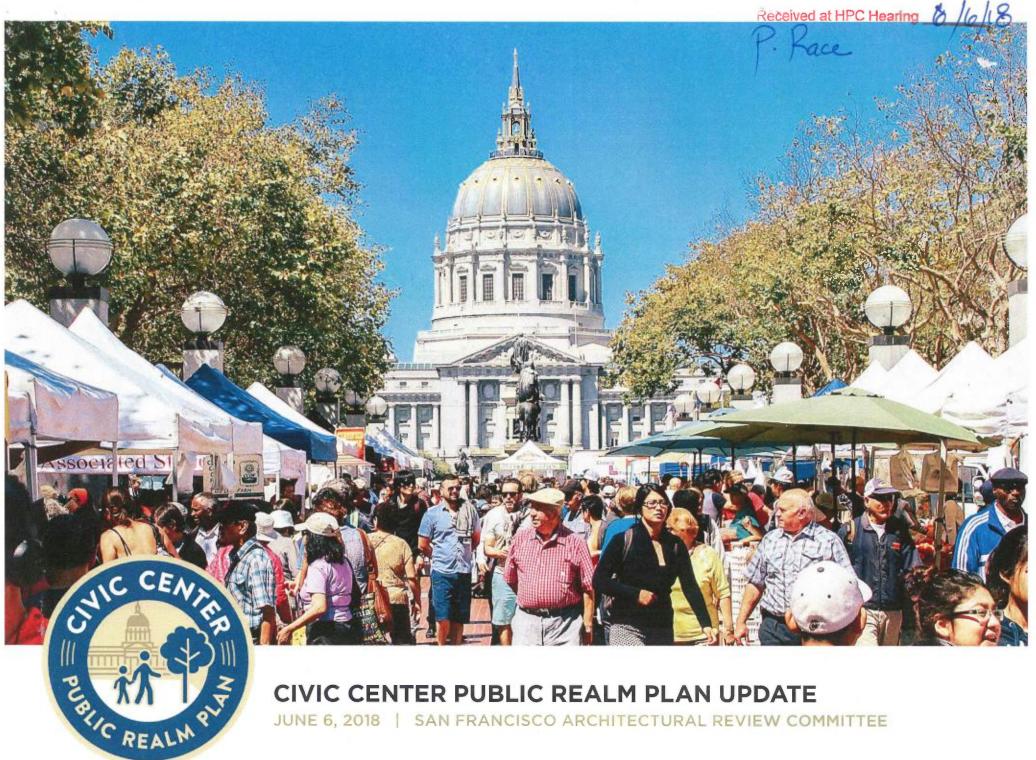












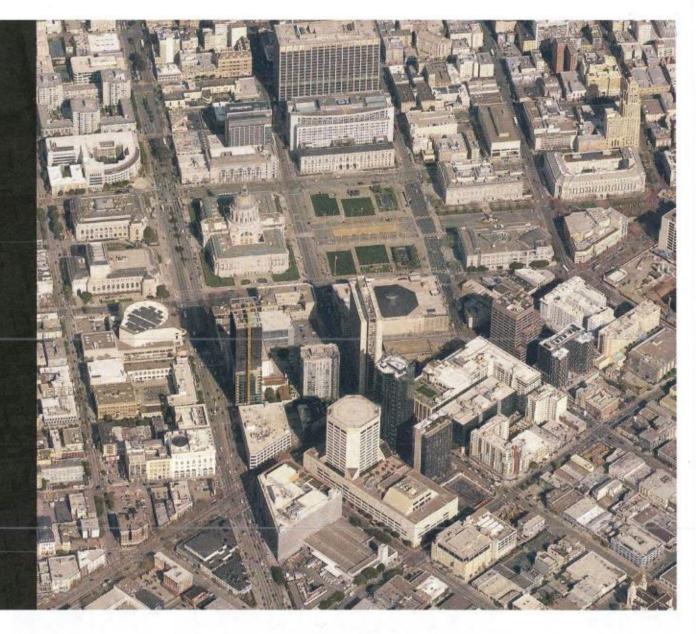
CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN UPDATE

JUNE 6, 2018 | SAN FRANCISCO ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- 1. Project Background
- 2. Community Outreach
- 3. Street Design Overview
- 4. Public Space Design Overview
- 5. Discussion/Questions



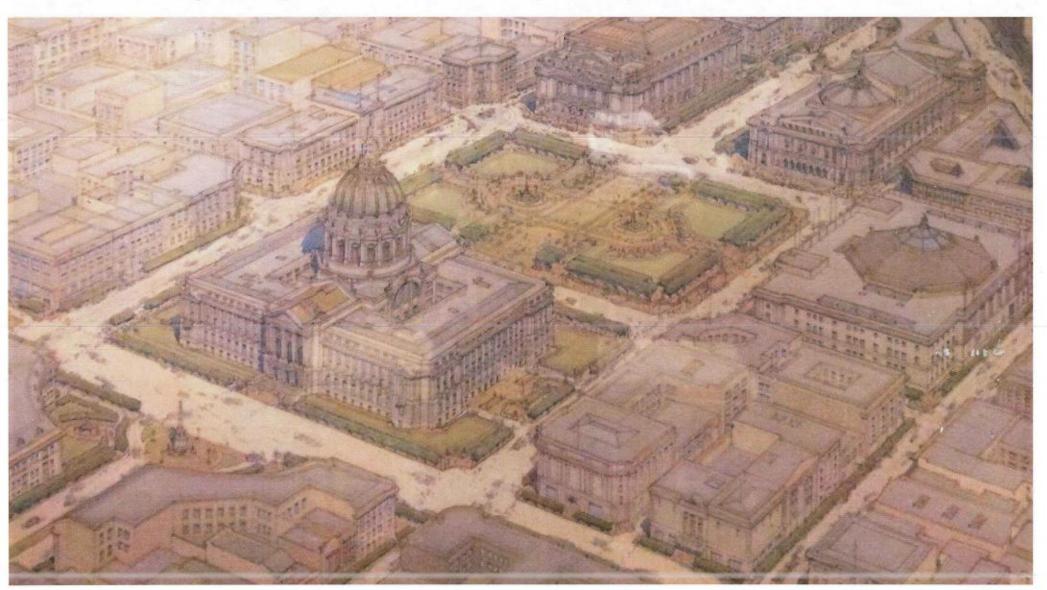




PROJECT BACKGROUND

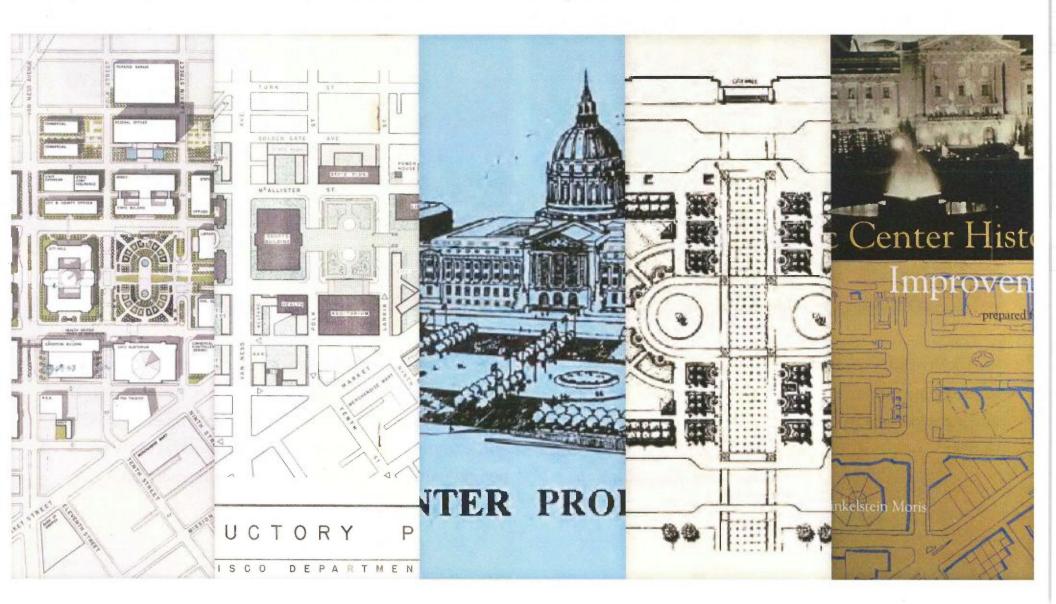
PLANNING HISTORY

Civic Center was originally designed c. 1912 as a unified "Beaux Arts" district of grand government buildings and public spaces



PLANNING HISTORY

There have been multiple plans for improving Civic Center's public spaces, but the most-recent is over 20 years old



PLANNING HISTORY

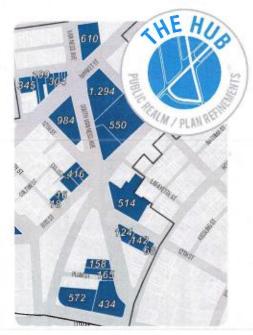
Since the 1990s, the Civic Center area has grown as both an arts and culture district and as a residential neighborhood.











ACT's Strand Theater is one of a number of new arts venues in Civic Center.

The conversion of 100 Van Ness from office to residential is one example of Civic Center's growing residential population.

New affordable housing, such as the TNDC's Eddy & Taylor Family Housing, will expand the number of people using Civic Center's open space.

Over 4,900 new housing units are projected in the Market Street Hub Area, near the Market/Van Ness intersection.

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

MAJOR MILESTONE: NEW CIVIC CENTER PLAYGROUNDS





The Civic Center Public Realm Plan will build off recent plans and studies and create one coordinated, interdepartmental plan for long-term improvements to the area's streets, plazas, and other public spaces.

INTERAGENCY PROJECT TEAM:

















CONSULTANT TEAM:

Prime Consultant:



Landscape

Architecture

Sub-Consultant Team:

Public Life, Tactical Projects & Urban Design:

Economic Modeling & Management:

Architecture:

Historic Resources:

Outreach & Public Participation:

Gehl



KENNERLY ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING





Structural Engineering Mechanical, electrical, & plumbing

Lighting Design:

Civil Engineering & Green

Infrastructure:

Cost Estimation:







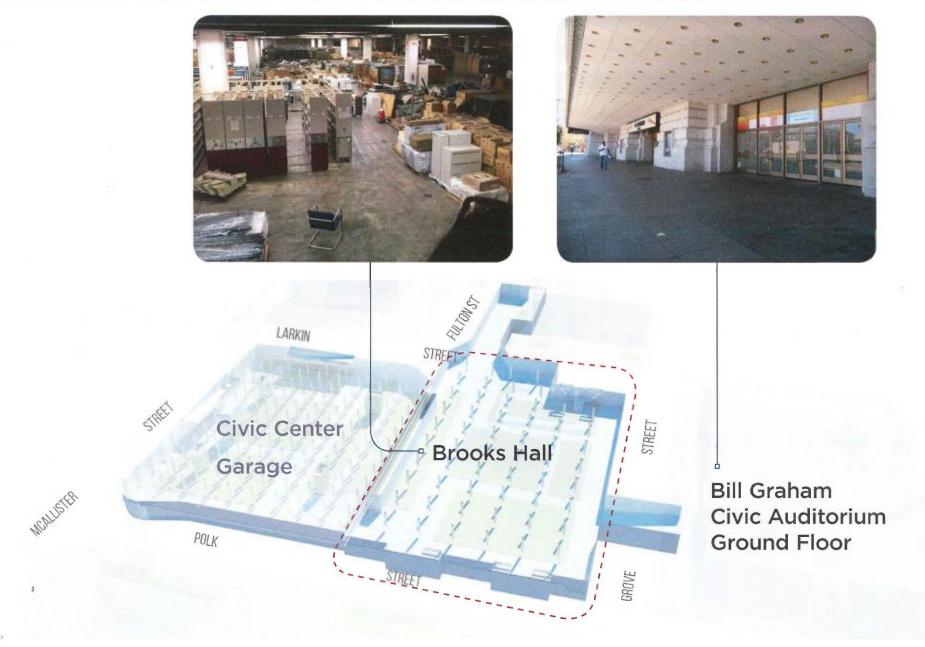


M LEE CORPORATION

Construction Management & Consulting Estimating & Scheduling

BROOKS HALL &

BILL GRAHAM CIVIC AUDITORIUM GROUND FLOOR



PLAN TIMELINE

Subject to change







The Civic Center Commons Initiative is a collaborative effort to breathe new life into the City's central civic spaces.











COMMONS + PUBLIC REALM PLAN COORDINATION

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

Shares lessons learned by testing design and activation ideas



civic center commons



Public Space Programming

Short-term installations

Stewardship

Branding

Public Space Management Planning

Community
Outreach &
Engagement



LONG-TERM
IMPROVEMENTS

Public Space Concept Plans Street Design Concept Plans Brooks Hall Reuse Options

Provides long-term design and activation ideas to test



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



OVER 50 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ENGAGED TO-DATE

826 Valencia (Tenderloin Center)

Arab American Grocer Association

Bay Area Women's and Children Center

Bayanihan Community Center

Boys and Girl Clubs Tenderloin - Teen Clubhouse

& After School Program

Canon Kip Senior Center

Charity Cultural Services Center

Chinese Newcomers Service Center

Community Youth Center

Curry Senior Center

Glide Memorial Church

Hayes Valley Merchants/Neighborhood

Association

Heart of the Farmer Market

Hospitality House

Independent Living Resource Center

Independent Living Skills Program

Instituto Familiar De La Raza, Inc.

La Voz Latina

Library for the Blind

LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Mid Market CAP Community Ambassador Program

Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA)

Mission Hiring Hall

Mission Neighborhood Centers - Precita Center

Mission YMCA

Mujeres Unidas v Activas (MUA)

Project Homeless Connect

Safe House Arts

Safe Routes to School

Salvation Army Kroc Center

San Francisco Aids Foundation

San Francisco Public Library

Self Help for the Elderly

Senior & Disability Action

SF Bike Coalition

SF Day Labor Program and Women's Collective

SFLBGT Center

Shih Yu Lang Central YMCA (Boedekker Park)

South of Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN)

Southeast Asian Community Center

St. Anthony Foundation & Dining Room

St. Francis Living Room Foundation

St. Jude's Free Clothing Program

Sword for Plowshares

Tenderloin CBD Safe Passage

Tenderloin Community Benefit District

Tenderloin Housing Clinic

Tenderloin Neighborhood Development (TNDC)

The Central City SRO Collaborative

Tool Works

Vietnamese Youth Development Center

Walk SF

Woman Inc.

Year Up

YMCA Chinatown

IN-LANGUAGE & YOUTH FOCUS GROUPS



CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN



Submitted by: InterEthnica, Inc. 60 Rausch Street, Suite 307 San Francisco, CA 94103 In an effort to get feedback and perspectives from communities sometimes underrepresented at City outreach events, four focus group discussions were held with the local residents from the following communities in Fall 2017:

- Vietnamese (Conducted in Vietnamese)
- Chinese (Conducted in Chinese)
- Latino (Conducted in Spanish)
- Youth, Ages 13-17 (Conducted in English)

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP, MEETING #1, FEB. 22, 2018

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN



- Diverse group of community members from neighborhoods surrounding Civic Center
- In-depth conversations on materials shared at Workshop #1
- Two additional meetings planned

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES

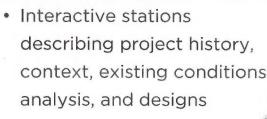
#1 NOVEMBER 7, 2017

#2 APRIL 24, 2018

#3 TBD - FALL 2018



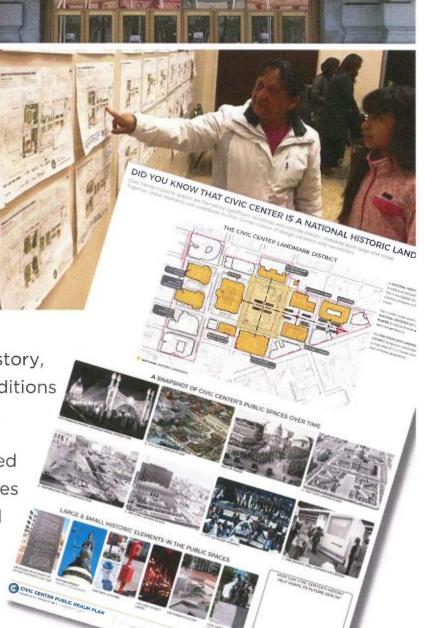




 Attendees participated in small-group activites and created "mix and match" collage of their favorite public space design



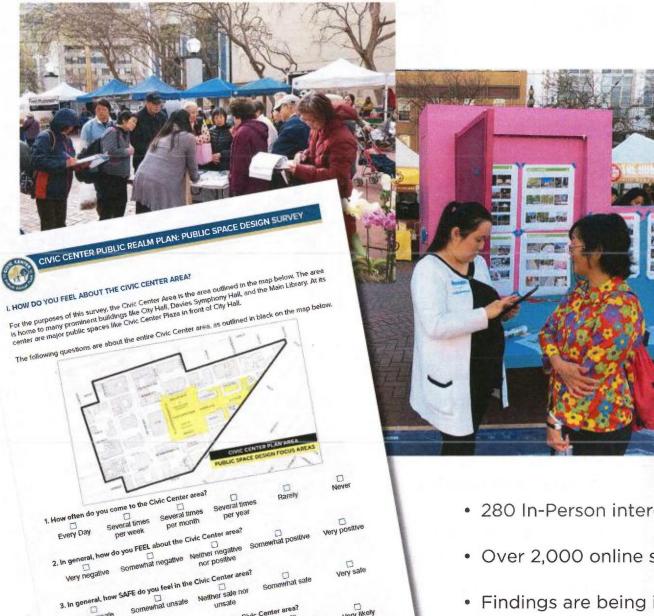




ONLINE & IN-PERSON SURVEY #1

4. How likely is it that you would bring someone to the Civic Center area?

Somewhat unlikely Neither unlikely nor Somewhat likely



Survey designed to give people from throughout San Francisco a chance to share their thoughts on content originally shared at Workshop #1

- 280 In-Person intercept surveys (66% In-Language)
- Over 2,000 online survey responses
- Findings are being incorporated into design concepts

MOBILE OUTREACH STATION

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN



Mobile Outreach Station with largescale aerial map of Civic Center designed to engage community members in the spaces and events where they already gather Mobile Outreach Station Events To-Date:

- CCC Third Thursdays 10/19/2017
- Civic Center Tree Lighting 12/5/2017
- Heart of the City Farmer's Market 2/7/2018
- CCC First Sundays 2/4/2018
- Helen Diller Civic Center Playground Opening 2/14/2018



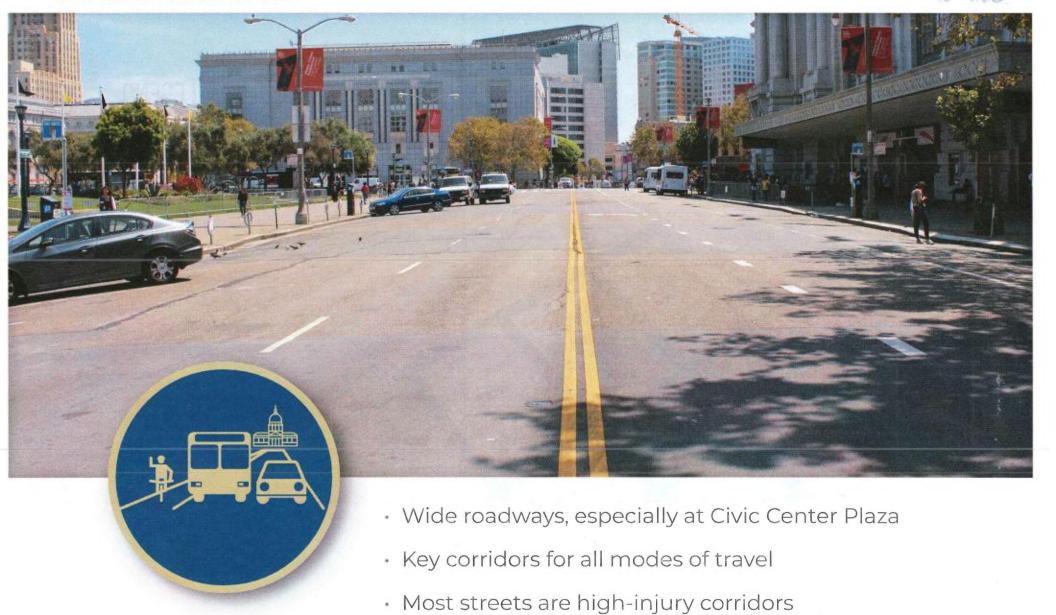
STREET DESIGN OVERVIEW

STREET DESIGN FOCUS AREAS



STREETS TODAY

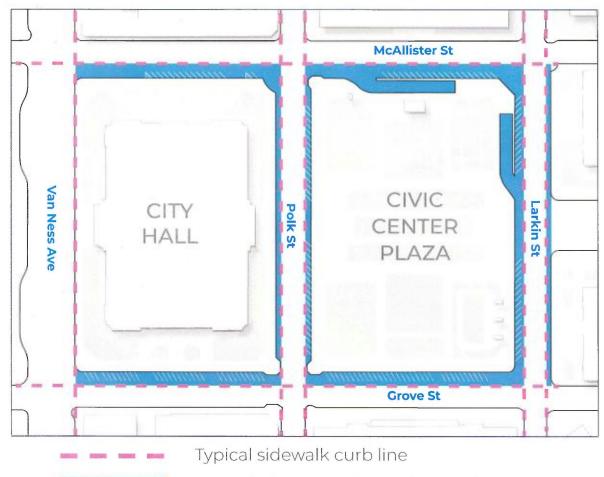
CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN



· Loading and drop-off needs are high

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA EDGES

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN



City Hall and Civic Center Plaza's roadways were originally designed to be extra wide, ceremonial spaces.

The blocks were shrunk to accommodate the extra wide roadways.

Today, this extra roadway space is mostly used for parking.

Area of block used for parking today

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA EDGES

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

Typical Civic Center Plaza Block Edge Condition

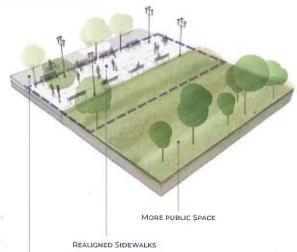
MULTIPLE TRAVEL LANES, sometimes more than are needed PARKING, often angled, and of varying occupancy SIDEWALKS, wide but empty, devoid of amenities **OPEN SPACE** Area of right-of-way that could be repurposed

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA EDGES

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

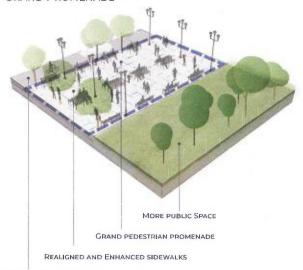
Potential New Block Edge Conditions

PARK EXPANSION



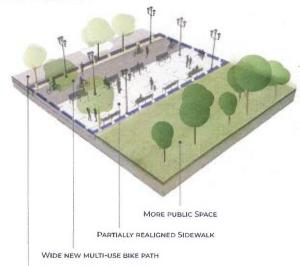
NARROWED AND REDESIGNED ROADWAY

GRAND PROMENADE



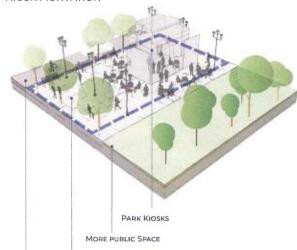
NARROWED AND REDESIGNED ROADWAY

MULTI-USE PATH



NARROWED AND REDESIGNED ROADWAY

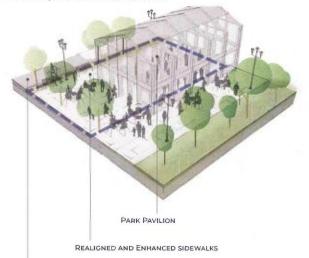
KIOSK ACTIVATION



REALIGNED AND ENHANCED SIDEWALKS

NARROWED AND REDESIGNED ROADWAY

MARKET/PAVILION ACTIVATION



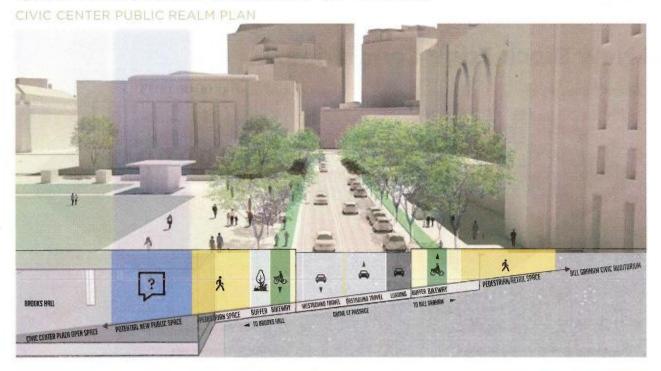
NARROWED AND REDESIGNED ROADWAY

FLEXIBLE ACTIVATION ZONE



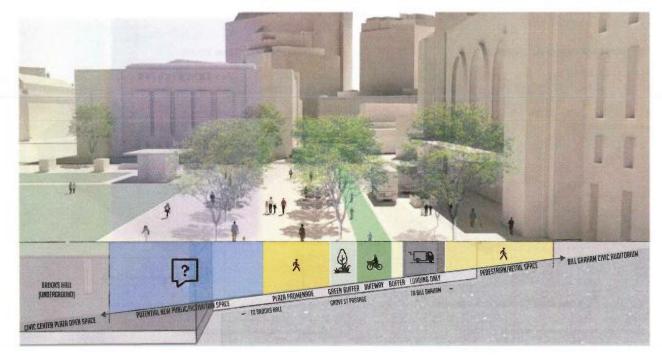
NARROWED AND REDESIGNED ROADWAY

GROVE STREET DESIGN OPTIONS



COMPLETE STREET

The "Complete Street" option maintains one vehicle lane in each direction and reduces the amount of onstreet parking. This allows for sidewalk widening and/ or plaza expansion, protected bike lanes, and loading zones.

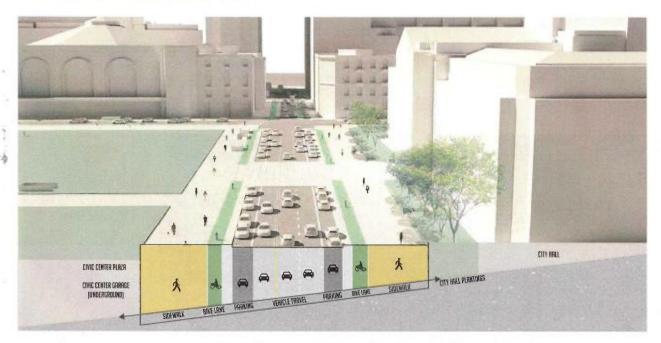


PLAZA PROMENADE

The "Plaza Promenade" option replaces parking with loading zones, a two-way bike path, and major sidewalk widening. Along the edge of Civic Center Plaza, vehicle access is limited to a loading-only lane. The rest of the roadway in front of Civic Auditorium becomes public space.

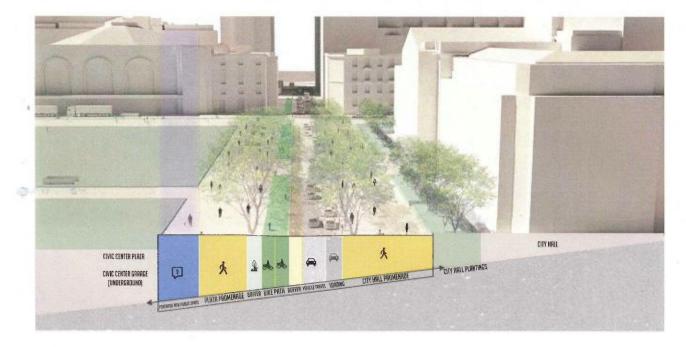
POLK STREET (DR. C.B. GOODLETT PLACE) DESIGN OPTIONS

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN



COMPLETE STREET

The "Complete Street" option would calm Polk St by reconfiguring parking to free up space for widened sidewalks and parking-protected bike lanes.



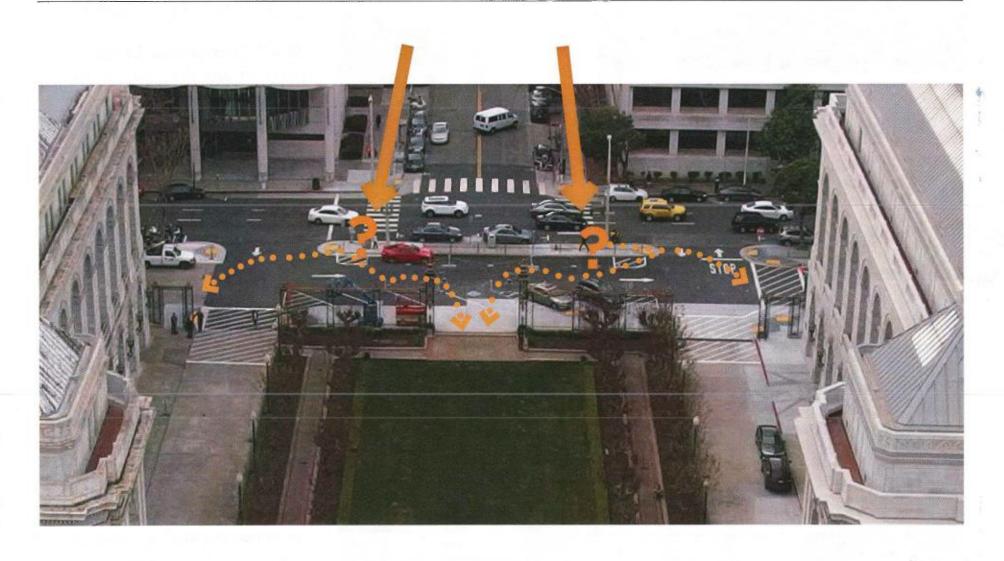
PLAZA PROMENADE

The "Plaza Promenade" option would transform Polk Street by expanding the plaza, widening sidewalks, adding a two-way bike path, and maintaining one south-bound travel lane.

WAR MEMORIAL GATEWAY

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

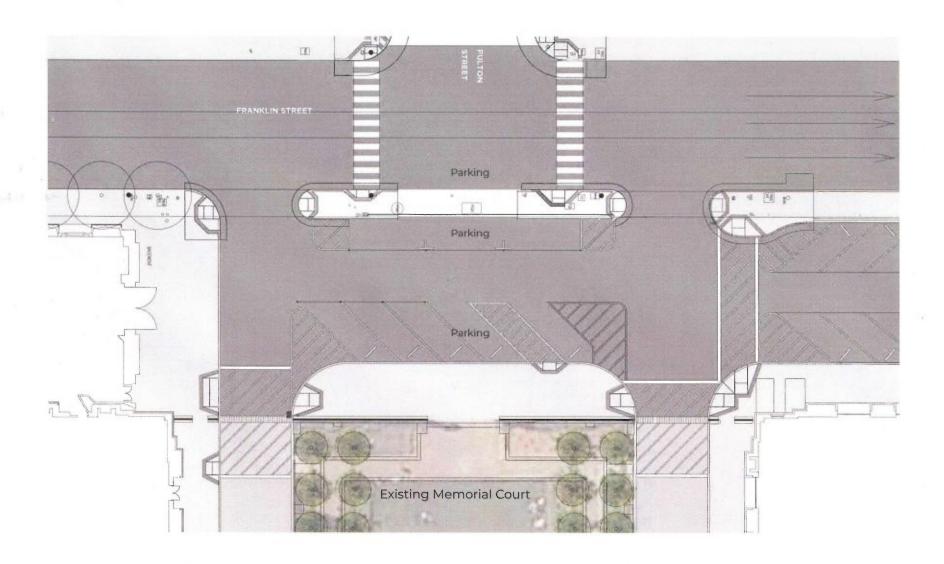
TODAY



WAR MEMORIAL GATEWAY

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

EXISTING DESIGN



WAR MEMORIAL GATEWAY

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

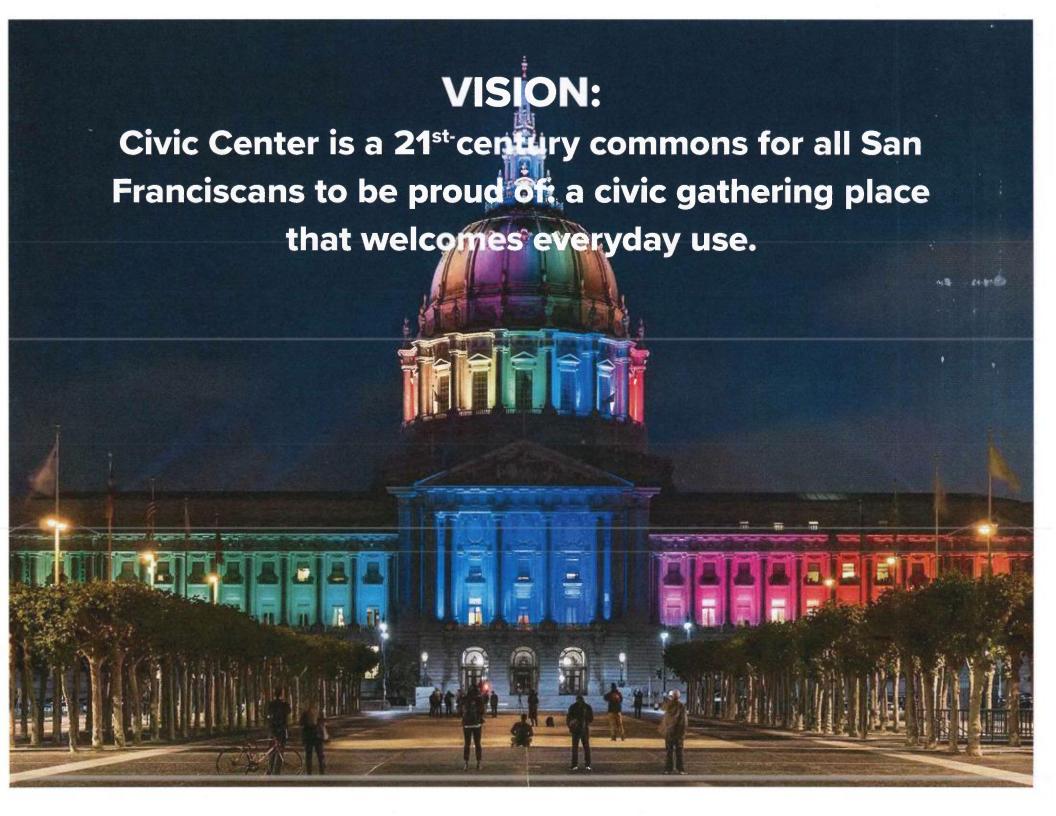
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Improvements under-study for the Franklin/ Fulton intersection and western entrance to the War Memorial Courtyard





PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN OVERVIEW



civ·ic cen·ter

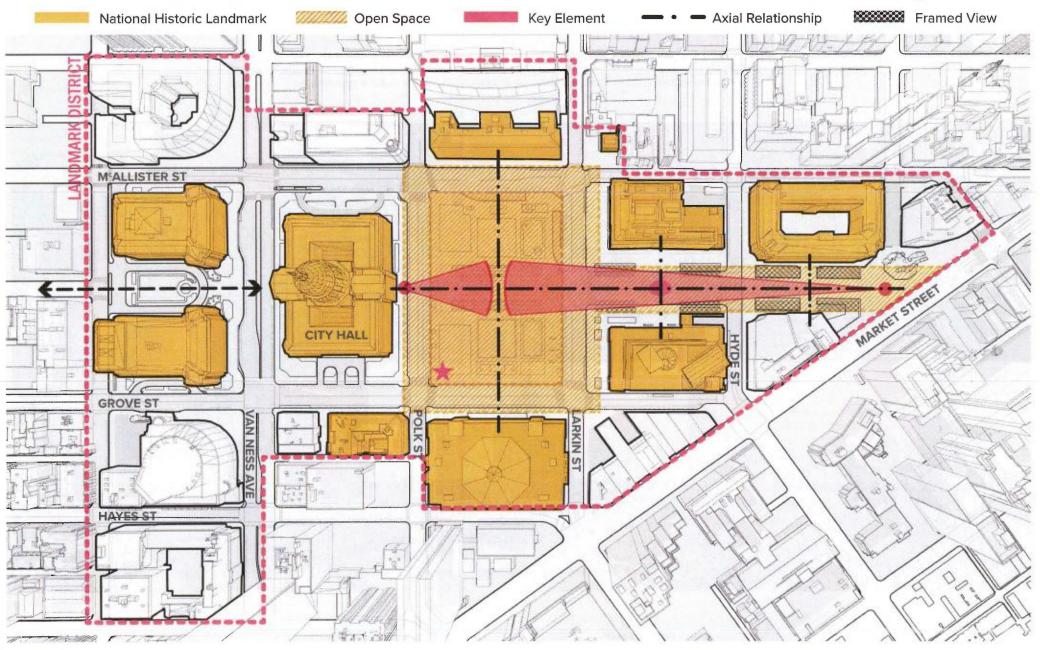
'sivik' 'sen(t)ər'

adjective noun

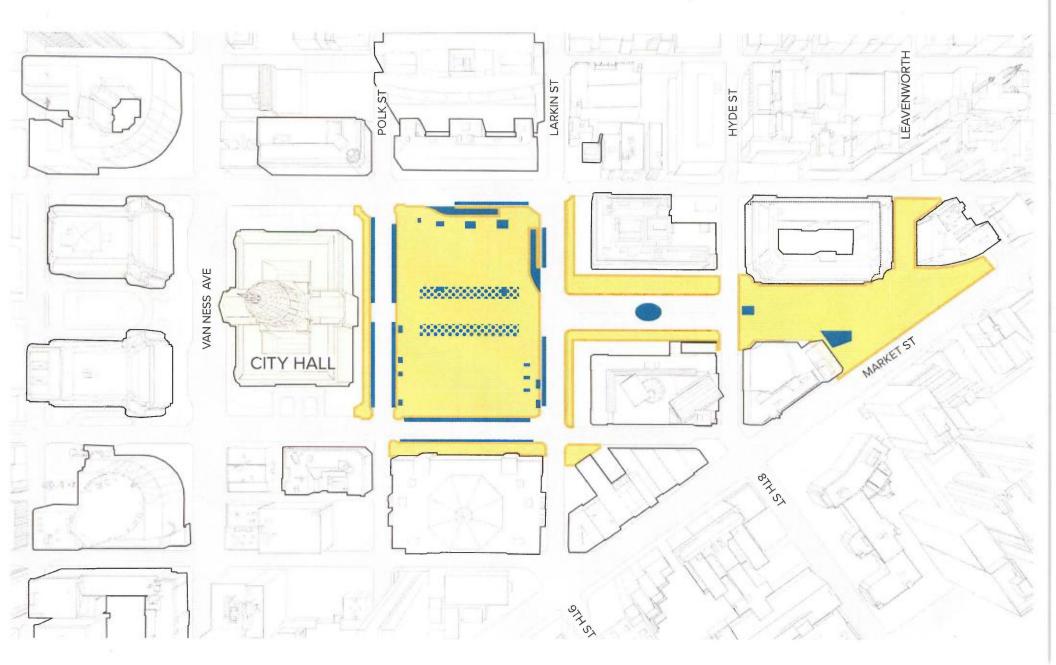
Synonyms: city, town, urban, metropolitan Synonyms: middle, nucleus, heart, core, hub Relating to the duties or activities of people in The point from which an activity or process is directed, relation to their town, city, or local area—civic or on which it is focused; a region of concentrated pride; civic duty. population—an urban center.



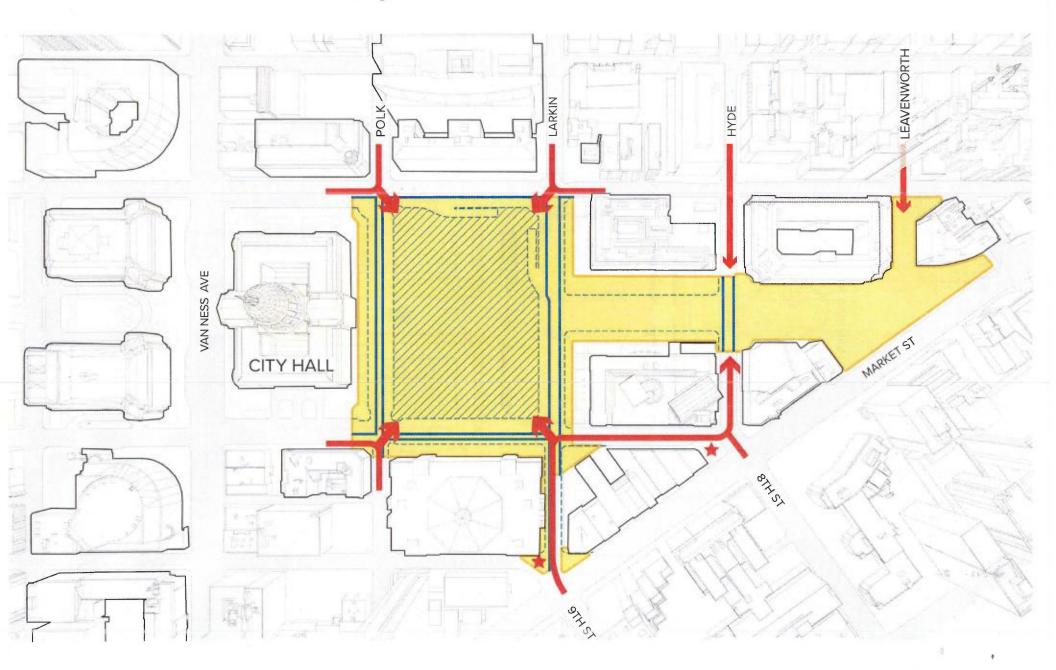
Landmark District Resources + Relationships



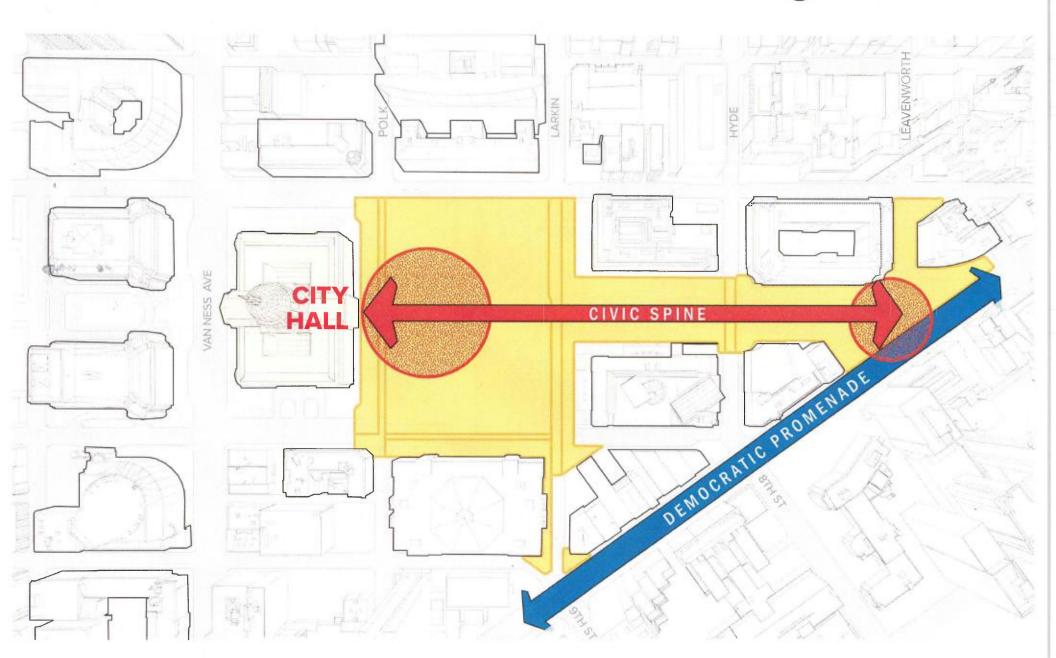
Civic Center Today



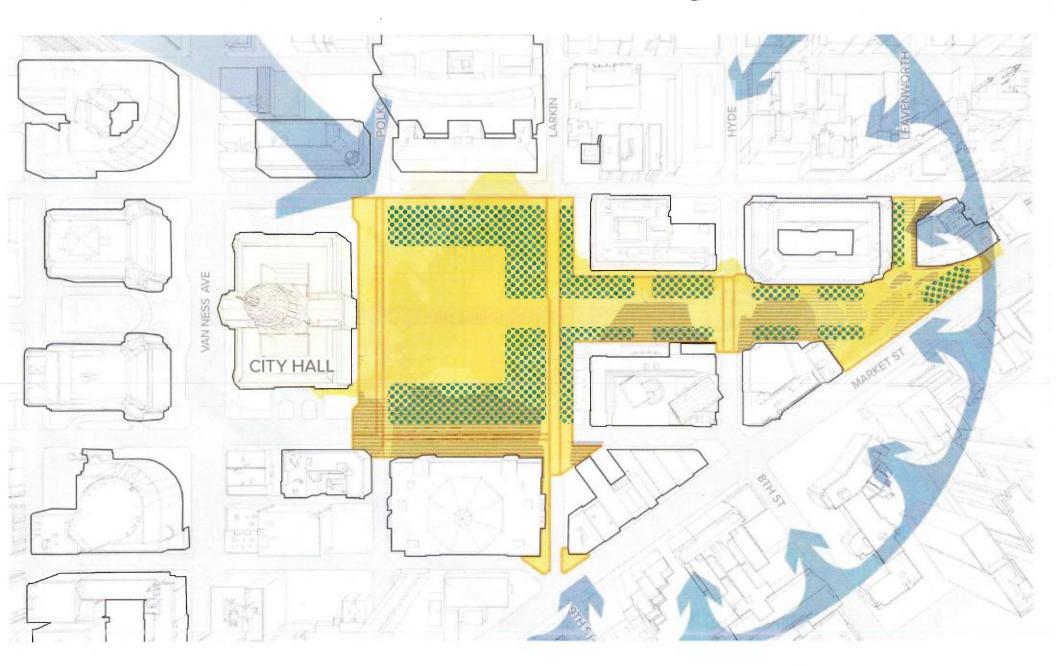
Unify the Public Realm



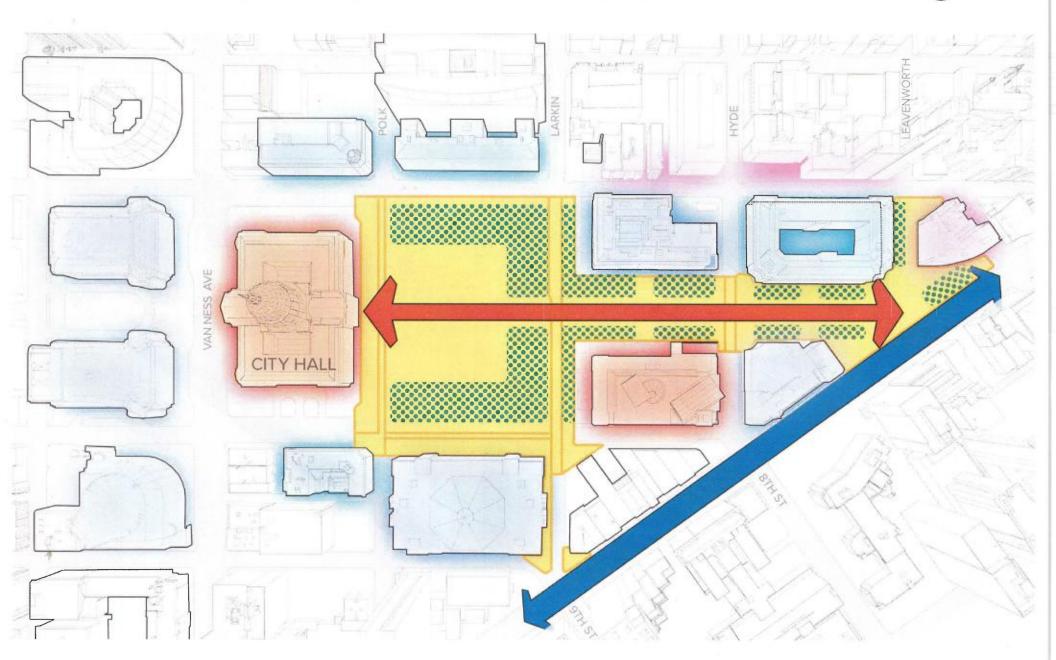
Accommodate Civic Gatherings



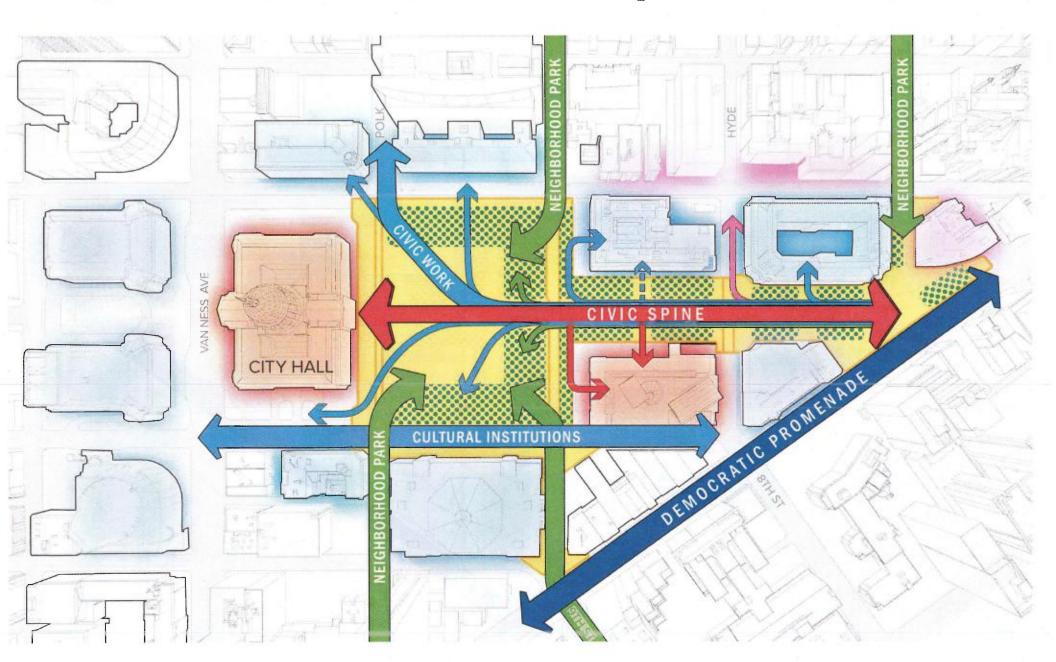
Block Wind & Enhance Sunny Locations



Enclose Spaces, Frame Views, & Enhance Edges



Make Places that Invite People & Public Life



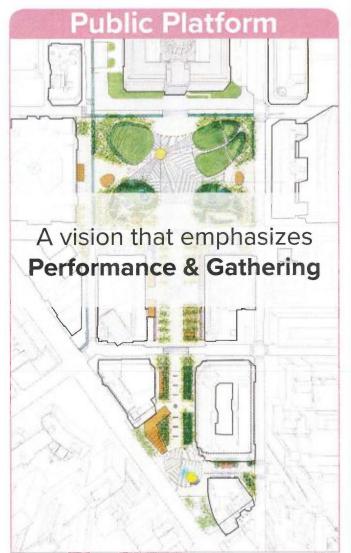
Three Framework Plans

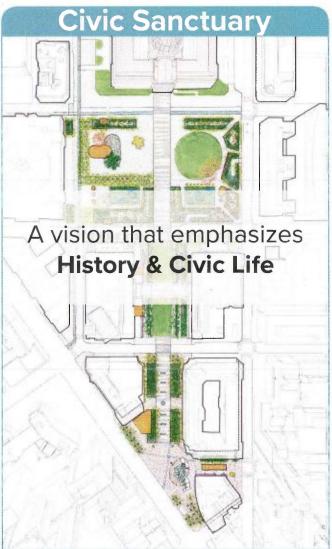


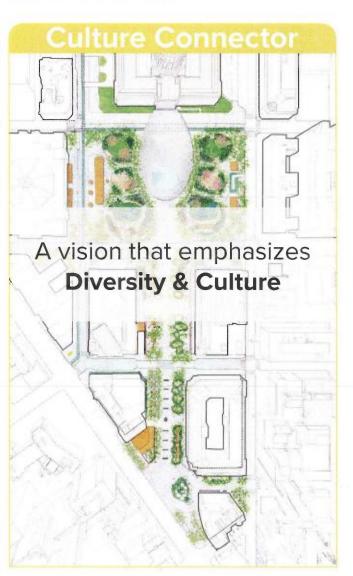




Three Visions for a New Commons

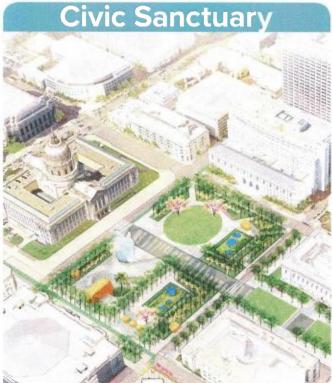


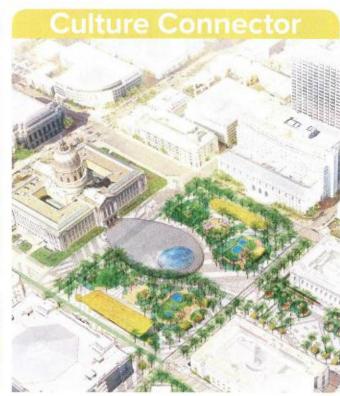




Civic Center Plaza

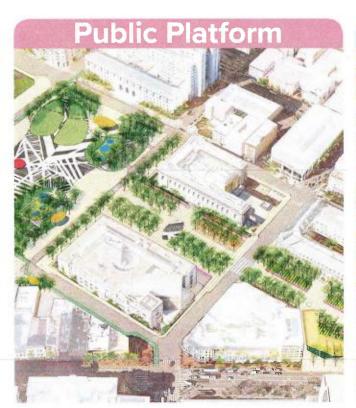




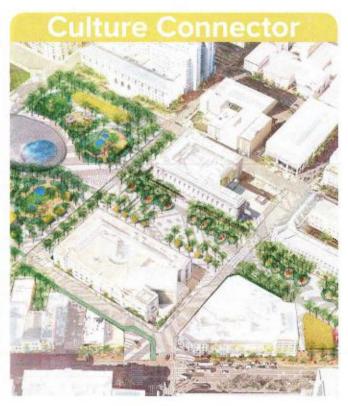


- Helen Diller Civic Center Playgrounds
- Large Flexible Spaces for Civic Gatherings
- Kiosks/Pavilion Buildings + Underground Access
- Basic Amenities (e.g., restrooms, seating)

Fulton Mall



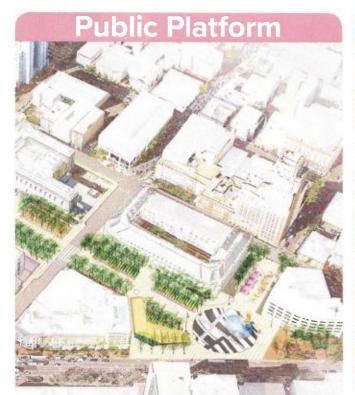


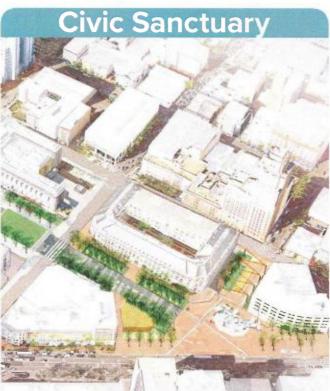


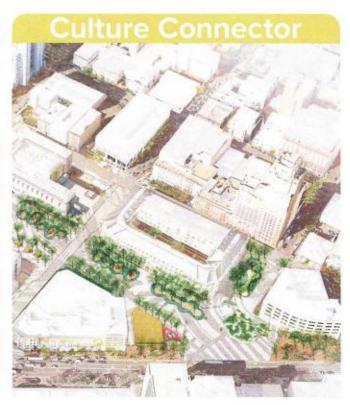
- Road Closure for New Public Space / Mall
- Civic Axis Monument Relocation

- Uses that Complement Adjacent Institutions
- · Basic Amenities (e.g., restrooms, seating)

UN Plaza



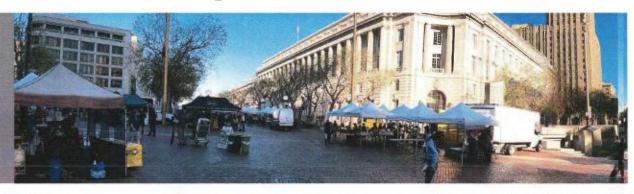




- · Civic Axis Monument Relocation
- Civic Center Station Building (with BART)
- New Gateway at Leavenworth St
- Basic Amenities (e.g., restrooms, seating)

UN Plaza View Comparisons

EXISTING



PUBLIC PLATFORM



CIVIC SANCTUARY



CULTURE CONNECTOR



Fulton Mall View Comparisons

EXISTING



PUBLIC PLATFORM



CIVIC SANCTUARY



CULTURE CONNECTOR



Civic Center Plaza View Comparisons

EXISTING





PUBLIC PLATFORM



CIVIC SANCTUARY

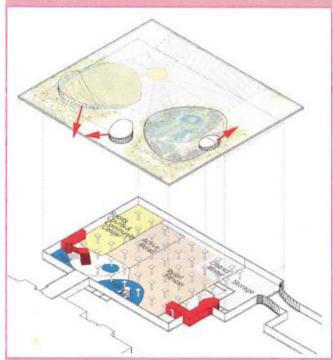


CULTURE CONNECTOR



Brooks Hall Reuse

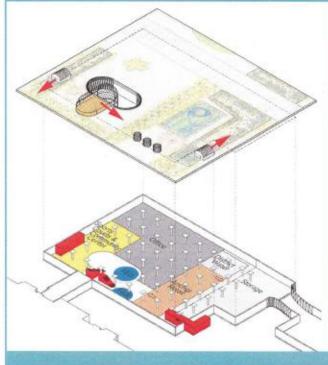
Public Platform



Recreation + Fitness Emphasis

- Sports Courts
- Fitness Center

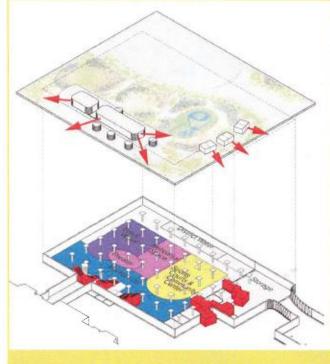
Civic Sanctuary



Neighborhood-Serving Emphasis

- Neighborhood-Serving Retail
- City Services/Offices

Culture Connector



Events + Entertainment Emphasis

- Event Venue + Rehearsal Space
- Market Hall

Shared Features

• Community Center • District Water Storage • Main Library Storage • Food & Beverage/Retail

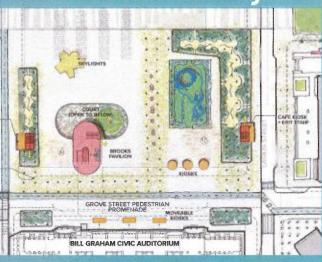
Bill Graham Civic Auditorium

BARIRESTAJRANT PROMENAGE GROVE STREET PEOESTRIAN PROMENAGE

Recreation + Fitness Emphasis

- Food + Beverage Grove/Larkin
- Community/Civic Uses

Civic Sanctuary



Neighborhood-Serving Emphasis

- Food + Beverage Grove/Larkin
- Movable Kiosks on Grove St

Culture Connector



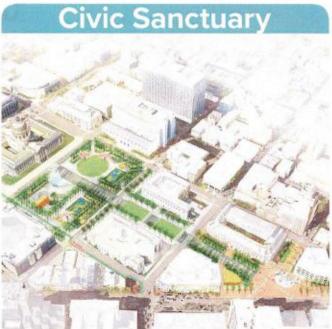
Events + Entertainment Emphasis

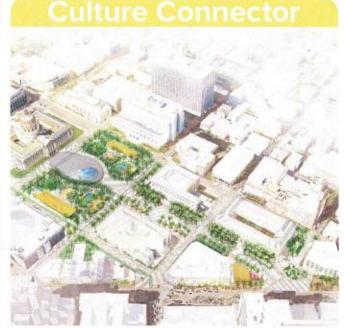
- Retail, Kiosks on Grove St
- Food + Beverage Larkin at Grove and Hayes

- Grove Street Activity / New Uses
- Increased Activation that Enhances Resource
- Canopy Restoration
- Food & Beverage or Retail

Next Steps







CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN



CIVIC SANCTUARY

All images on this page prepared by CMG Landscape Architecture with Kennerly Architecture + Planning and Gehl Studio.

A vision for a 21st-century Commons that celebrates **History**: strict rows of trees that frame the public spaces and a defined central spine from Market Street to City Hall recall the formality of the historic Beaux-Arts plan, while contemporary uses and amenities celebrate civic life, work and SF history.



UPDATED WEBSITE

WWW.CIVICCENTERSF.ORG

+ ONLINE SURVEYS:



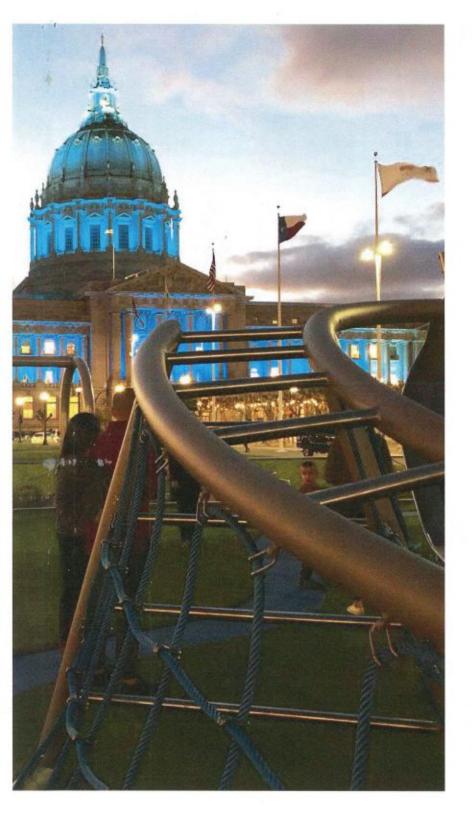
PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN



C BROOKS
E HALL
N REUSE



STREET DESIGN



COMING THIS FALL

- Preferred Conceptual Design Plans
- Conceptual Retrofit Plan for Brooks Hall
- Streetscape Materials Palette
- Cost Estimates for Preferred Designs
- Operations + Management Plan
- Initial Phasing & Funding Strategy

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



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THANK YOU!