Civic Center is San Francisco’s preeminent public place – the civic and cultural heart of the City.
Civic Center’s public realm – its streets, plazas, and other public spaces – is the fabric which holds the area together.
A well-designed public realm is an important component of any neighborhood, but in Civic Center these spaces take on even greater importance.
Civic Center faces difficult challenges, but also offers great opportunities to serve the diverse populations that come to its public realm.
There have been multiple plans for improving Civic Center’s public spaces, but the most-recent is over 20 years old.
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.
The City is taking a coordinated, interagency approach to making Civic Center more inviting today and for future generations.
City agencies and community partners are working together to make Civic Center's public spaces more inviting in the near term, while capital designs are advanced.
The Civic Center Public Realm Plan is building off recent plans and efforts to create a unified vision for long-term improvements to the area’s plazas, streets, and other public spaces.
Interagency Team

San Francisco Planning
San Francisco Water Power Sewer
San Francisco Public Works
San Francisco Recreation & Parks

SFMTA
S.F. Arts Commission

Consultant Team

CMG
Landscape Architecture

Gehl
KENNERLY ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

HR&A
Structus

InterEthnica
Lotus Water

M. Lee Corporation
JSN+ALD
HRA
PLAN AREA

Civic Center Plaza

Fulton Mall

United Nations Plaza

LEGEND
- PUBLIC REALM PLAN BOUNDARY
- KEY OPEN SPACE FOCUS AREAS (CMS TEAM SCOPE)
- KEY PUBLIC REALM FOCUS AREAS (CITY TEAM SCOPE)
- FOCUS AREA OVERLAP
PLANNING PROCESS TO-DATE

2017

- Public Space & Public Life Study
- Community Engagement
- Survey

2018

- Framework Plan Development
- Conceptual Design Development
- Survey

2019

- Refinement and Draft Plan Document Prep.
- Additional Mobile Outreach Days To-Be Scheduled

Focus Groups
Mobile Outreach Station Days
Open Houses/Workshops
Commission Hearings
WHAT'S NEXT?

Fall 2019
- Info. hearings at commissions
- Community outreach

Fall/Winter 2019
- Street design refinement
- Plan document drafting/review

Winter 2020 - 2022
- Environmental review
  (est. two year review process)
- Continuing conversations
  re: phasing, funding, and implementation
Car-centric, fragmented public spaces.

Uninviting microclimate and bleak environment.

Few reasons to visit or stay in the public realm.
A LANDMARK DISTRICT
A FLEXIBLE, ACCESSIBLE, CEREMONIAL GATHERING SPACE

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL, PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
AN INVITING PLACE THAT WELCOMES EVERYDAY USE
ARRIVING AT A CONCEPT PLAN

Spring 2018:
• Three “Framework Plans” for public spaces
• Two concepts for Grove & Polk streets
ARRIVING AT A CONCEPT PLAN

Framework Plan Feedback:

- Spring 2018 Community Open House
- Farmers Market + Online surveys
- Multi-lingual focus groups
- Stakeholder Briefings
- Community Working Group
- Interagency review/meetings

Survey Question Result Examples:

Which draft design best represents the ideal amount of trees and planted areas?

1. Culture Connector (most) 46%
2. Civic Sanctuary (median) 35%
3. Public Platform (fewest) 19%
934 responses

The fountain is a key feature of UN Plaza, but has long-standing maintenance, use, and design issues. Select your preferred approach to its design:

1. Turn into a new planted garden 40%
2. Replace with new interactive fountain 36%
3. Restore to its original condition 26%
877 responses
The Landmark District has varied historic resources.
Landmark District Resources + Relationships
Make Places that Invite People & Public Life
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

EARLY 1900’S

MID-20TH CENTURY
Civic Center Plaza
Drawing for 1912 Plan

Beaux-Arts Language

Double row of perimeter trees
Defined gateways
Whimsical edges + fountains
Lawns + gardens
Flexible Lawns Framed by Terraces

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL: PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
Gardens of Delight

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL: PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
New Pavilions & Underground Access

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL; PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
Grove St Plaza Promenade at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL; PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
Lawn Respite + Flexible Plaza

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL; PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
Civic Porches at Main Library + Asian Art Museum

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL: PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
Lawn Respite + Flexible Plaza

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL: PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
Market Plaza

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL: PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
BART Station Building + Pavilion

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL; PENDING FURTHER REFINEMENT
A District Water Reuse System can provide 100% of Civic Center’s future water needs, save 7.6 million gallons per year of potable water, and reduce the load on the City’s combined sewer system by millions of gallons each year.
THE HEART OF SAN FRANCISCO

ALL DESIGNS CONCEPTUAL, TO BE SUBMITTED FOR FURTHER REFINEMENT.
QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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THANK YOU!