

WELCOME!

THE CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN



The Civic Center Public Realm Plan is creating a unified vision for long-term improvements to Civic Center's plazas, streets, and other public spaces. The Public Realm Plan is part of the City's larger efforts to improve the area as both a neighborhood gathering space and a public commons for all San Franciscans. The plan is an interagency City effort and is being developed in close collaboration with the community and the many diverse stakeholders in the Civic Center area.

Thank you for joining us this evening for our community open house!

PLAN COMPONENTS



PUBLIC SPACE & PUBLIC LIFE STUDY

An exploration of how people use and access Civic Center's sidewalks and public spaces.



STREET DESIGN CONCEPTS

Design concepts for upgrades to streets in Civic Center including parking, streetscape materials, lane configurations, transit improvements, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.



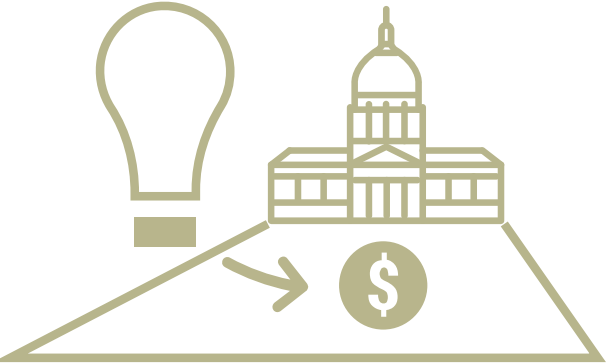
PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN CONCEPTS

Conceptual designs for key public spaces within Civic Center, including Civic Center Plaza, Fulton Street, United Nations Plaza, and Grove Street.



USE & ACTIVATION PLAN

Plan for using and activating under-used public spaces, focused on both programming and long-term changes that will increase public use and enjoyment.



IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

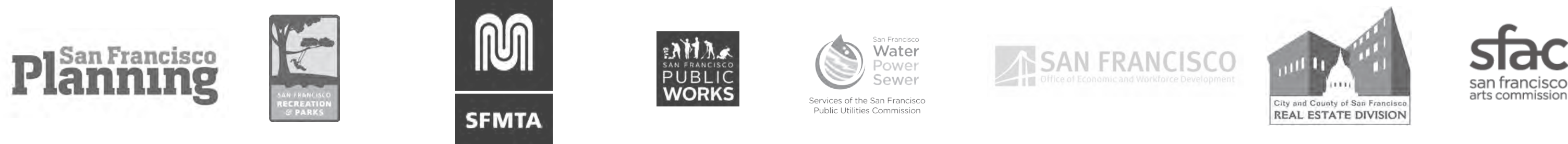
Public space management, operations, and implementation/funding strategies for Civic Center's public spaces will be developed as part of the plan.

PLAN AREA

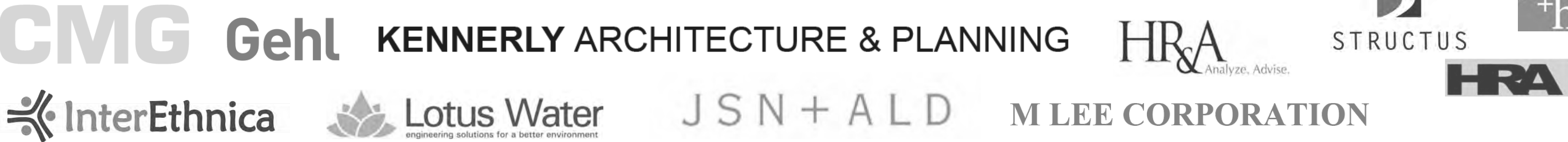


PLAN TEAM

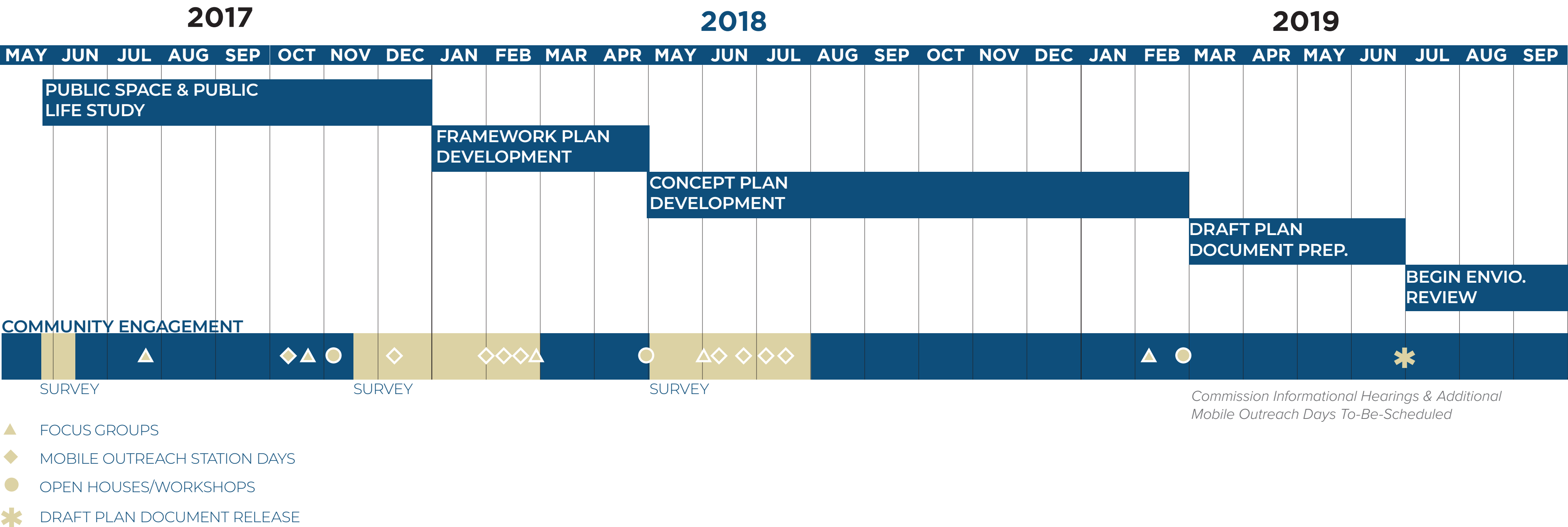
Interagency Team:



Consultant Team:



PROJECT SCHEDULE



WHAT'S NEXT?

After today's open house, the project team will continue to seek community input on the draft concept plan. Informational presentations at city commissions will also take place in the Spring.

Feedback received will be reflected in a draft plan document. From there, the plan will enter environmental review which is expected to take up to two years. Plan adoption hearings would then take place, likely in Summer 2021.

Civic Center Area Today



Over the past twenty years the Civic Center area has grown as both an arts and culture district and as a residential neighborhood.

Through the Civic Center Commons initiative and related efforts, the City has been working to improve Civic Center's public spaces to better serve the area's population of residents, workers, and visitors.



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 have been built or are under construction in the Market Street Hub Plan Area, a portion of which lies near the Market/Van Ness intersection. Additional housing units are expected as part of the rezoning underway as part of the Market Street Hub project.



Opened in February of 2018, the Helen Diller Civic Center Playgrounds represent a major capital investment into the future of Civic Center.



Just steps away from the new playgrounds, the Bi-Rite Café offers nourishing food options and a welcoming gathering space.



The City has partnered with Hunters Point Family to bring increased stewardship to Civic Center's public spaces, while providing jobs to those with barriers to employment.



Free events, interactive art installations, and other amenities are helping make Civic Center a more welcoming and fun environment.



Want to learn more? Visit the Civic Center Commons boards at the Open House Partner Projects Station.

ACTIVE PLANS AND PROJECTS IN THE CIVIC CENTER AREA

VAN NESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Van Ness Improvement project will create dedicated bus lanes along two miles of Van Ness and South Van Ness Avenues, from Lombard to Mission streets. The lanes will be used by Muni 49 and 47 routes and Golden Gate Transit.

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

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. Today's Open House is about this Plan.

SAN FRANCISCO REC AND PARK INVESTMENTS

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department is continuing to invest in the area's parks and open space. This includes the Bi-Rite kiosk in Civic Center Plaza, remodeled park facilities for several of the area's parks, and a new SoMa park at 11th and Natoma.

THE HUB PUBLIC REALM / PLAN REFINEMENTS

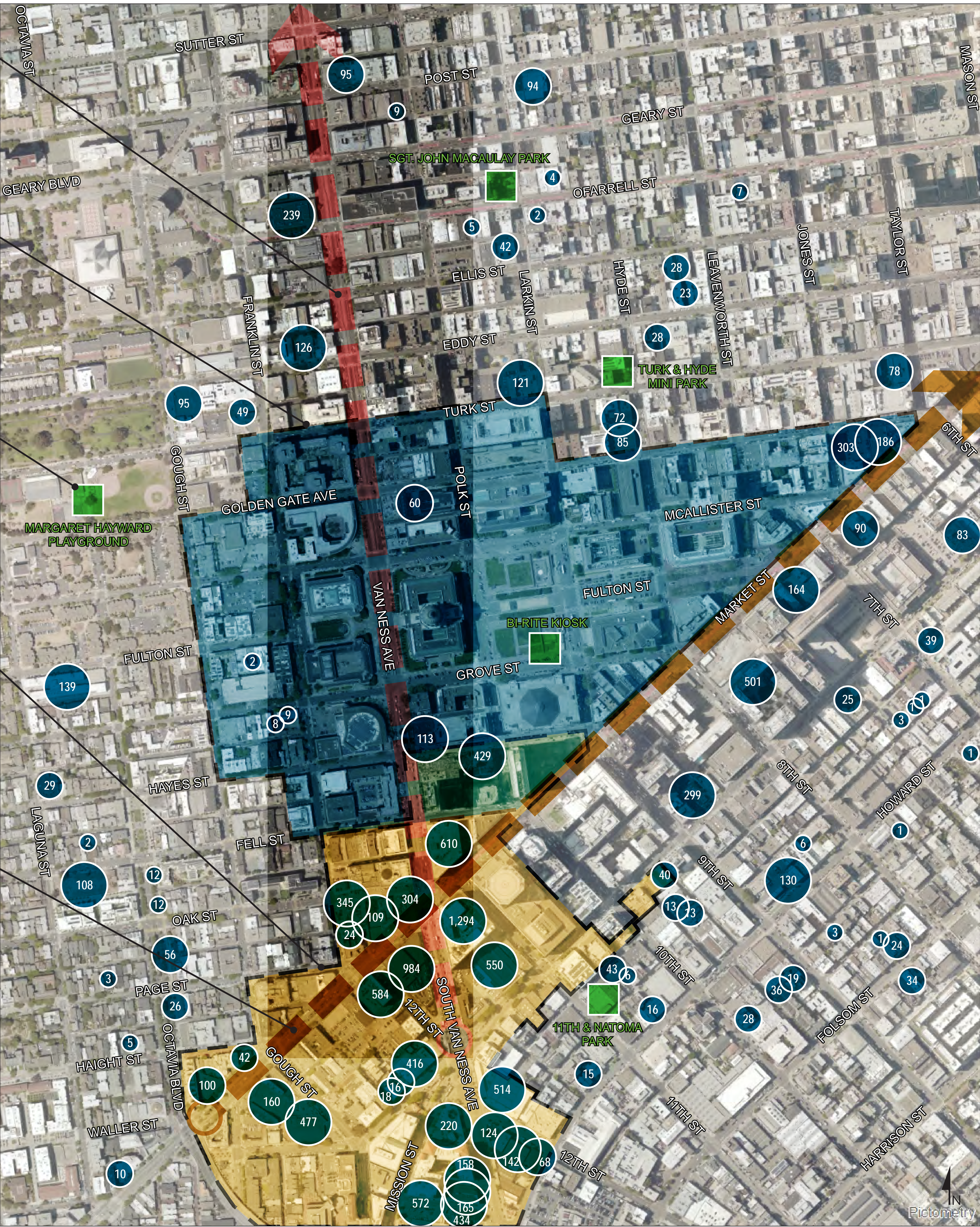
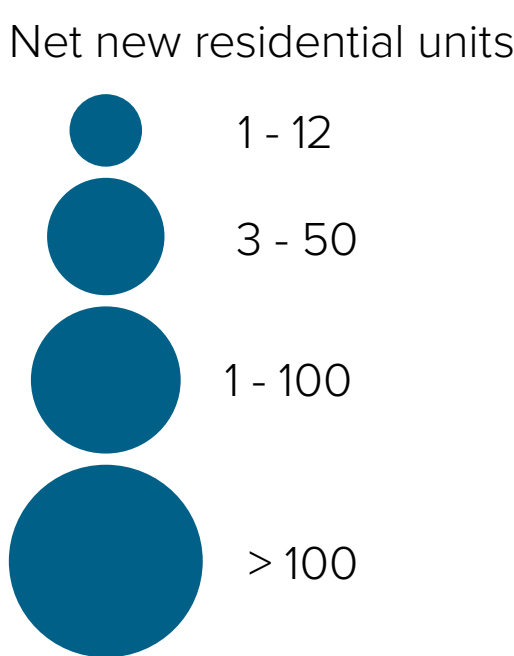
Over 4,900 new housing units are projected in the Market Street Hub Plan Area. The Plan evaluates opportunities to enhance implementation of the policy goals of the Market & Octavia Area Plan around affordable housing, coordinated transportation planning and place making.

BETTER MARKET STREET

Better Market Street is the City's multi-agency proposal to transform 2.2 miles of Market Street, from Octavia Boulevard to The Embarcadero - improving safety and accessibility, providing more reliable and efficient bus and streetcar service, and enhancing the streetscape and public realm.

NEW RESIDENTIAL UNITS

The round symbols represent the number of net new housing units within a half-mile of City Hall. This data includes active projects in the pipeline and expected new units resulting from the rezoning underway as part of the Market Street Hub project.



San Francisco Planning



SPUR



San Francisco Recreation and Park Department



San Francisco Department of Public Works



San Francisco Department of Transportation



San Francisco Department of Public Health



San Francisco Department of the Environment



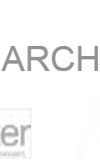
San Francisco Department of Public Utilities



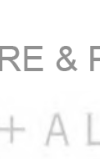
San Francisco Department of Public Works



San Francisco Department of Public Health



San Francisco Department of the Environment



San Francisco Department of Public Utilities



San Francisco Department of Public Works



San Francisco Department of Public Health



San Francisco Department of the Environment

Designed + managed through an inclusive process that fosters equity



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS

CIVIC CENTER STORIES

Summer 2016 & 2017

Civic Center Stories was an early engagement effort that took place at the start of the plan's development. In the summer of 2016 & 2017, the Planning Department reached out to individuals in Civic Center who were willing to share their stories and experiences in the area. The project aimed to bring a human face to the individuals who spend time in the "Heart of the City" and develop a better understanding of the public's sentiments, criticisms, and relation to Civic Center.



Portraits from SF Planning's "Civic Center Stories" Project

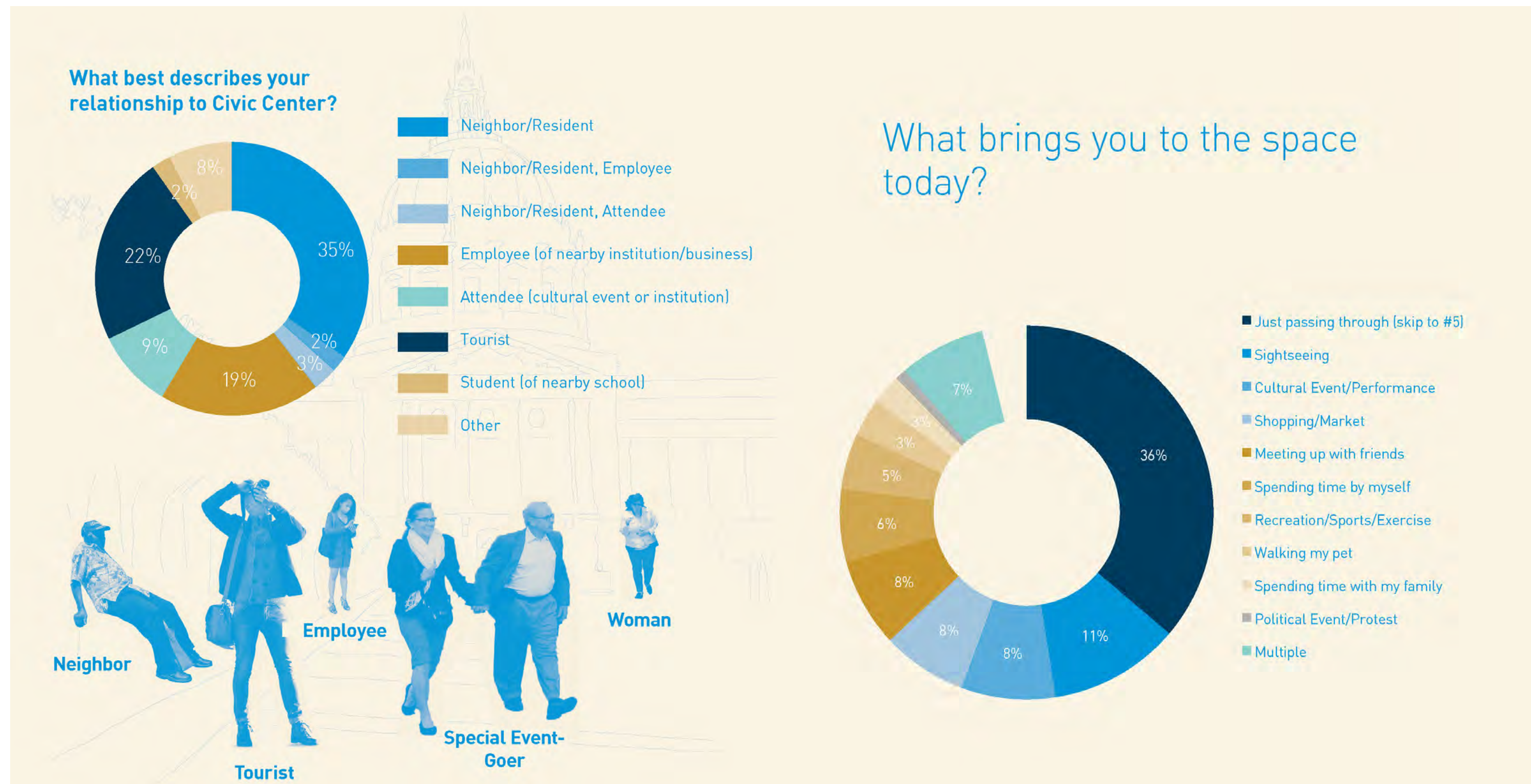


Civic Center Stories Website: civiccenstersf.org/civic-center-stories

PUBLIC SPACE & PUBLIC LIFE STUDY

Spring 2017

In Spring of 2017 the Planning Department worked with Gehl to conduct a Public Space & Public Life Study of Civic Center. Part of the study included focus groups and an on-site survey of people passing through or spending time in Civic Center's public spaces. Over 400 people filled out the survey. Survey results and focus group discussions informed the plan's analysis of existing conditions in the area.



Examples of survey results from the Public Space & Public Life Study

IN-LANGUAGE & YOUTH FOCUS GROUPS

Fall 2017

In an effort to get feedback and perspectives from communities sometimes under-represented 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)

Findings were summarized in a Focus Group Report which directly informed the development of the design frameworks for Civic Center's public spaces.



"We don't need another space for people to get together, we need a green space. In San Francisco there's a lack of trees, lack of greenery, lack of shade. This would attract more people and be better for the environment."

"I like to go to the park and exercise after I drop my kids off at school. I like to take my daughter to the surrounding parks, the ones close to where we live."

"I would like to have places where we can get food to eat, drink, and get refreshments and things; where you can grocery shop and get basic necessities."

Examples of feedback received via in-language and youth focus groups.

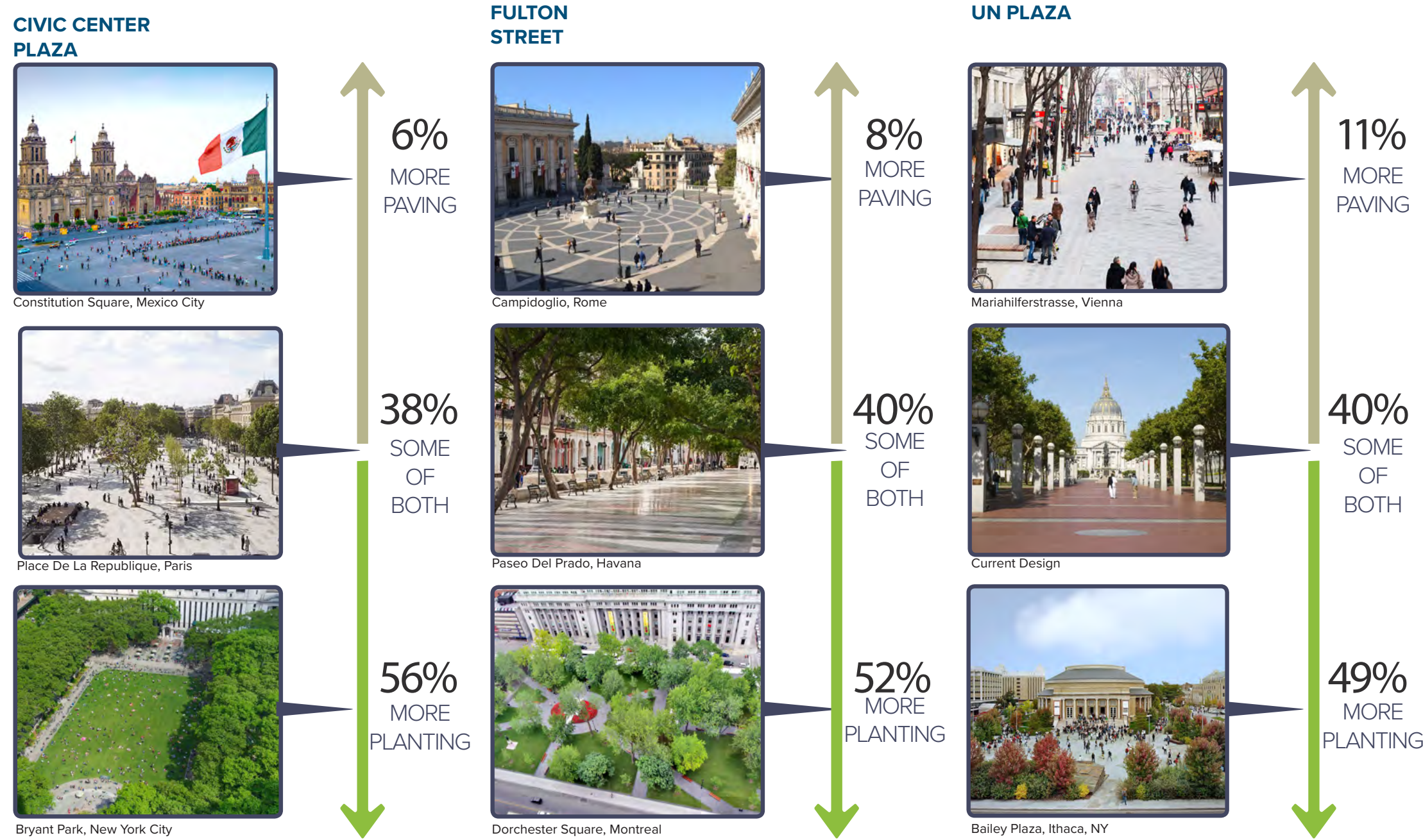
"Offer activities for the children and teens that would really grab their attention so they wouldn't go out onto the streets and do stuff they shouldn't do. They could have soccer, basketball."

PHASE 1 WORKSHOP & COMMUNITY SURVEY

Fall 2017 - Winter 2018

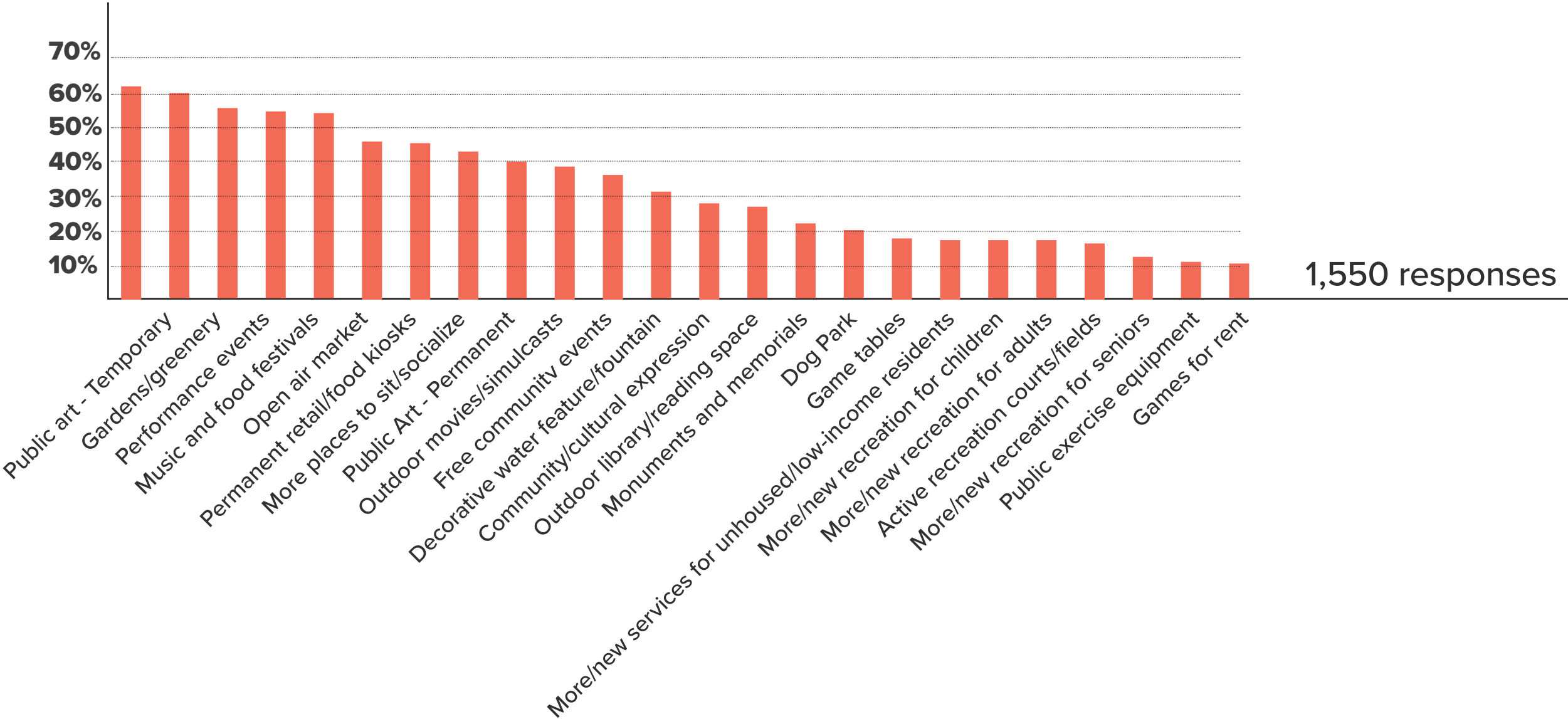
Over 70 people attended the plan's first workshop/open house and provided feedback via interactive boards and group discussion. Following the open house, a community survey was conducted. 280 surveys were conducted on-site in Civic Center, with two-thirds conducted in a language other than English. Over 2,000 online survey results were also collected via the project's website. Results from Phase 1 outreach helped shape the design frameworks for Civic Center's public spaces.

Should the public spaces have more planting or paving?



Example of survey results showing preferences for the balance between paving and flexible space versus planting in each of Civic Center's public spaces

What new events and attractions would you like to see in Civic Center's public spaces?



Example of survey results showing events and attractions people would most like to see added to Civic Center's public spaces.

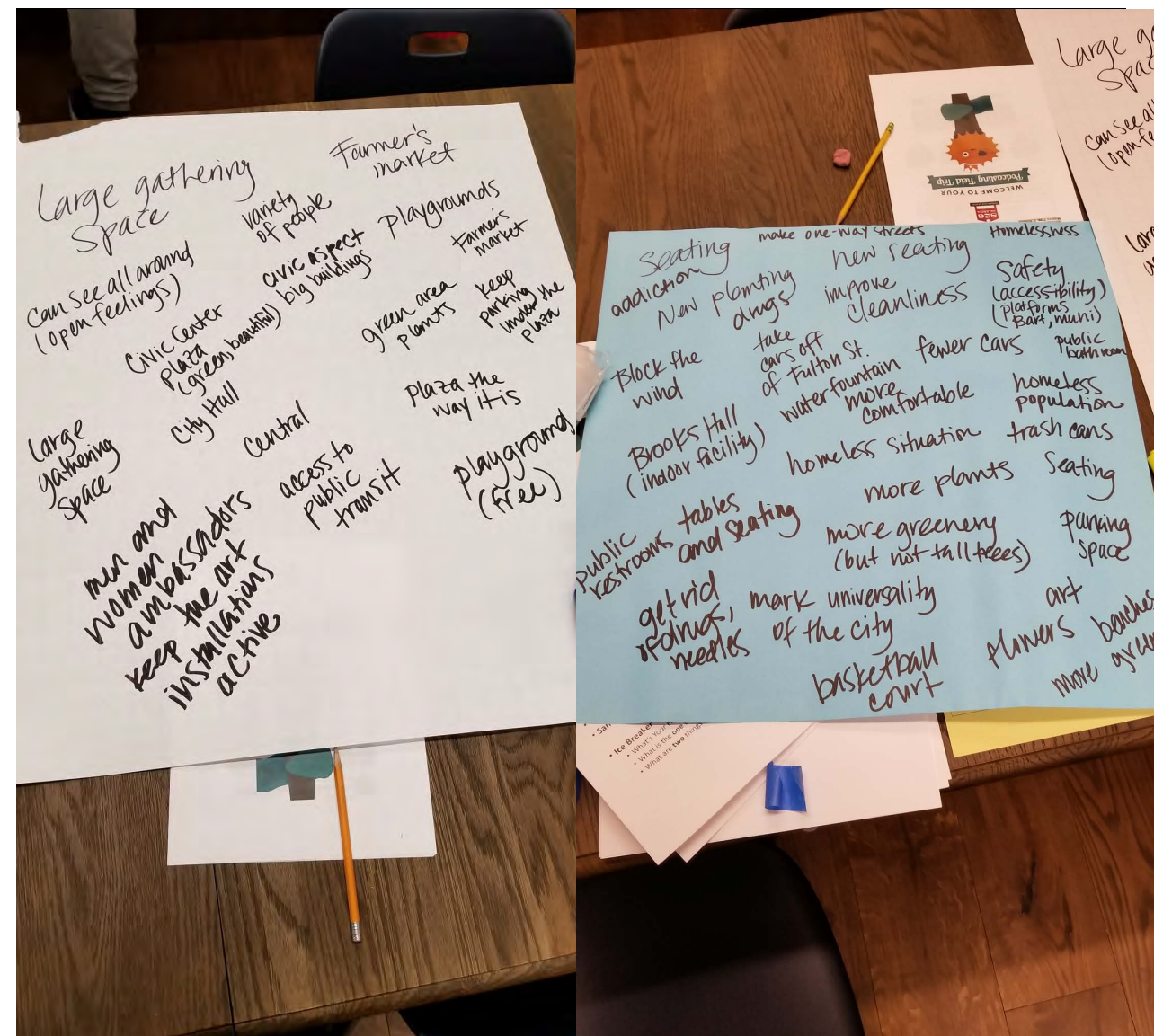
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

On-Going



A group of local residents reflecting the diverse populations that surround Civic Center has been convened by InterEthnica to help the design team better understand community sentiments as the plan has been developed. Working Group members have also helped share news of the plan within their communities. Some examples of the working group’s feedback are summarized below.



What is one thing you like about Civic Center and would want to keep?

- Farmers’ Market at UN Plaza
- Civic Center Playgrounds
- Architecture
- Community Ambassadors
- Access to public transit
- SF Public Library programming
- Entertainment

What are two improvements you would like to see implemented?

- Generally more comfortable and cleaner
- Public restrooms
- Water fountains
- Trash cans
- International food court
- Active recreation (basketball court)
- More greenery / place of respite
- Tables and chairs

PHASE 2 WORKSHOP, SURVEY, & FOCUS GROUPS

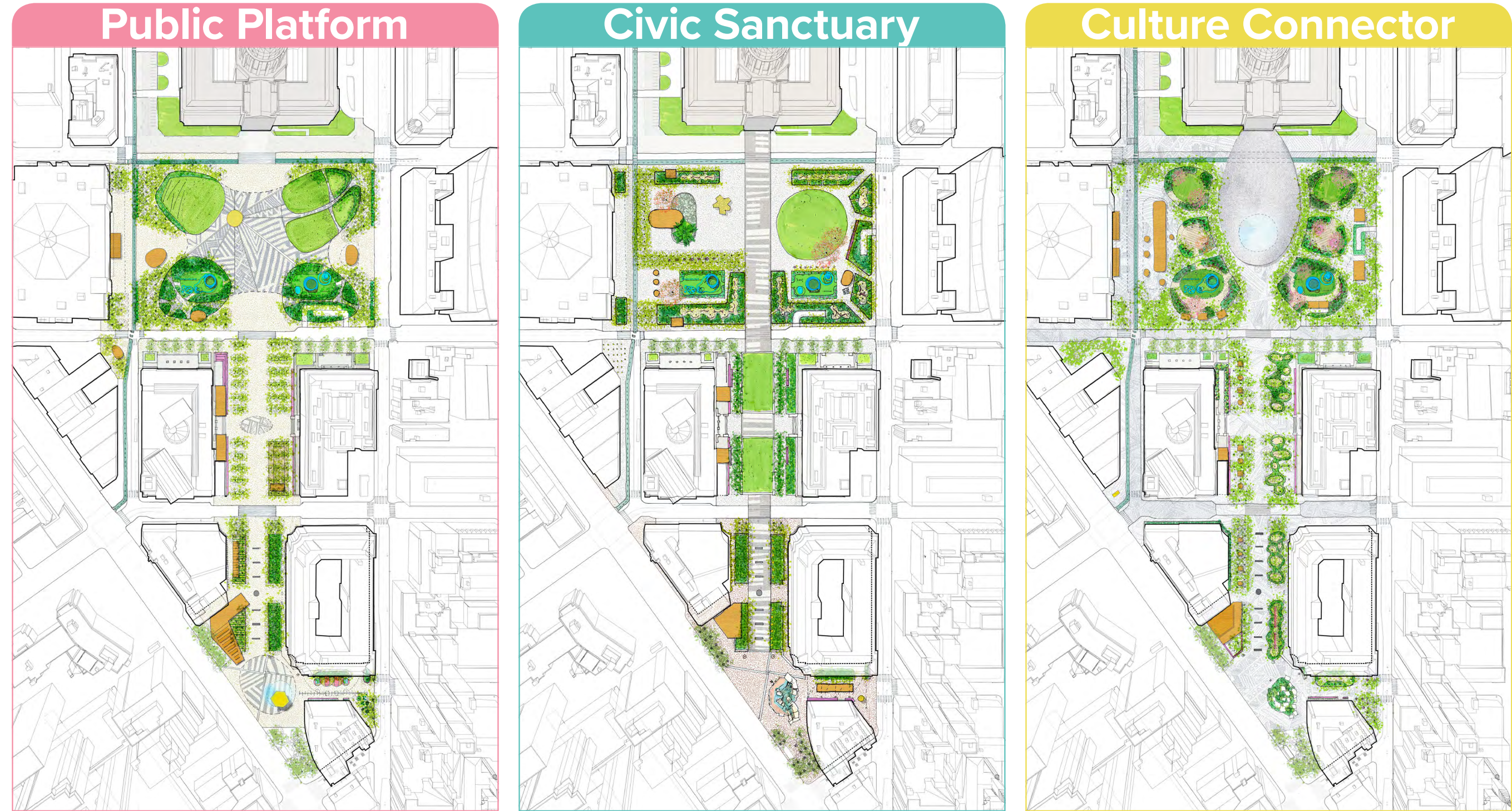
Spring 2018

Over 140 people attended the plan’s second workshop/open house where “framework plans” were shared illustrating three different approaches to Civic Center’s public spaces: “Culture Connector” , “Civic Sanctuary” and “Public Platform.” Two options for improving Grove and Polk streets were also shared at the workshop. Attendees were given an opportunity create their own framework plan by piecing together favorite pieces of each framework.

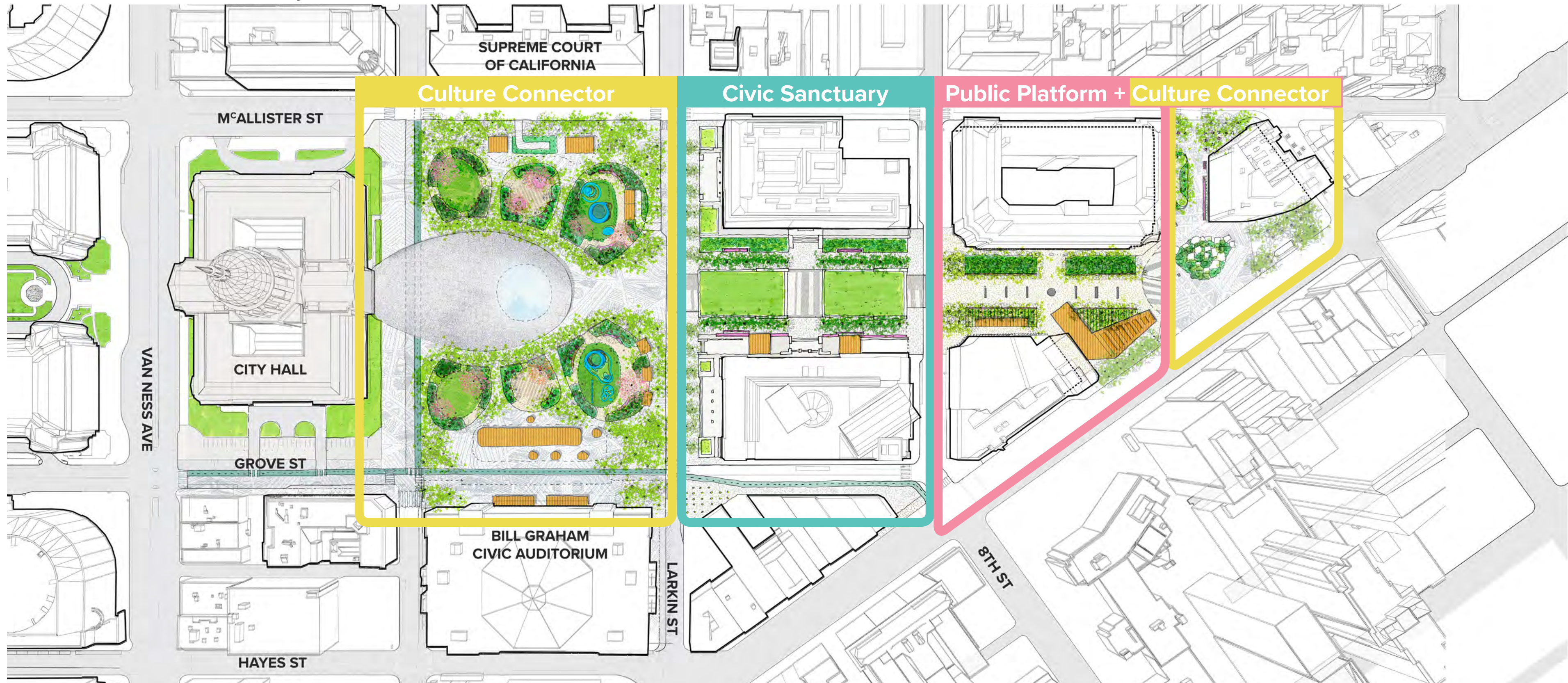
Following the open house, approximately 200 surveys were collected on-site in Civic Center (over 50% non-English) and over 800 individuals responded to an online survey that invited feedback on the three frameworks. In addition, six multi-lingual focus groups were conducted where participants also completed the “favorite plan” activity.



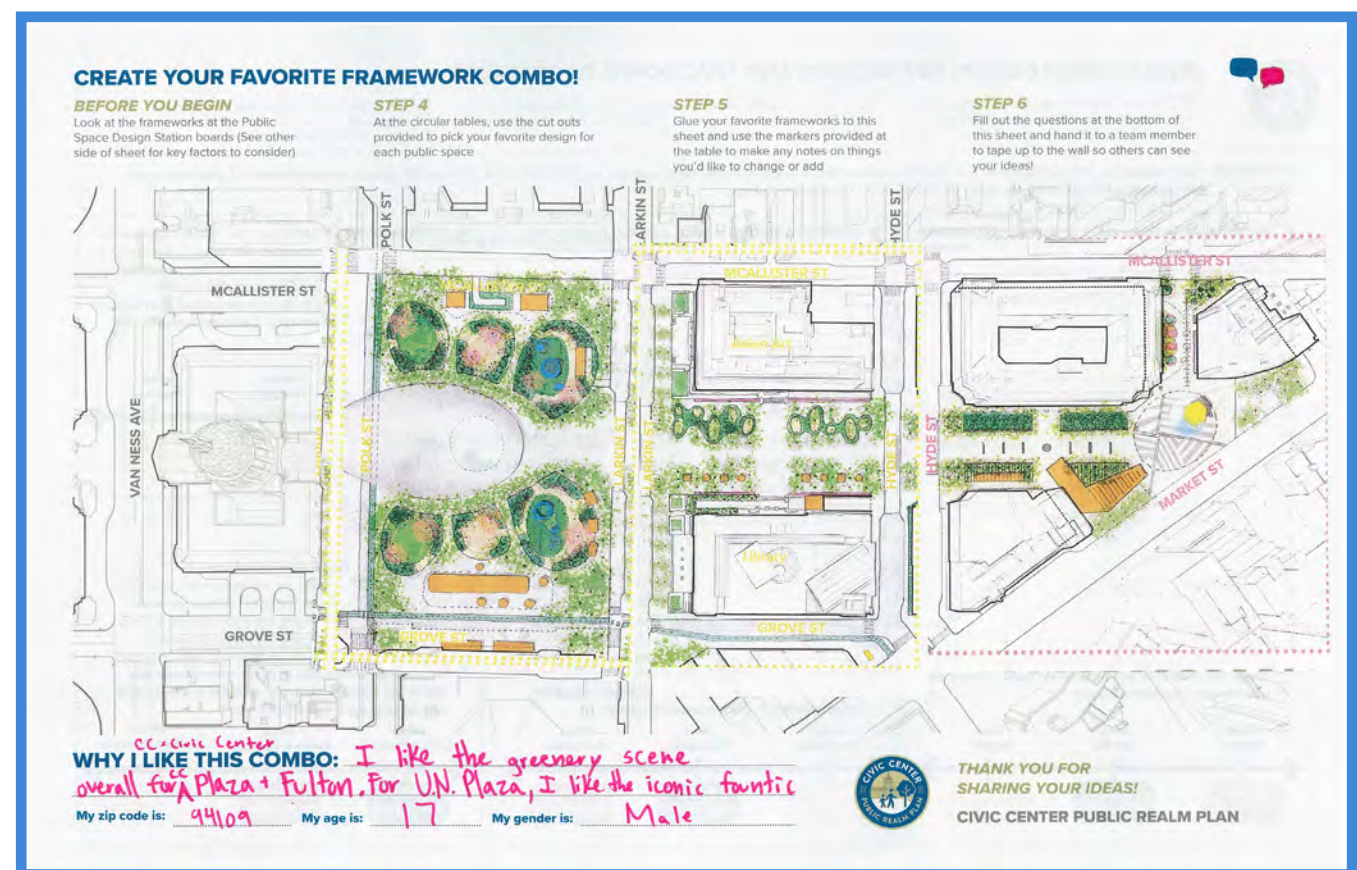
The community was invited to provide feedback on three framework plans for Civic Center’s public spaces (illustrated to the right) and street design options during Phase 2 of the plan’s concept design development.



Create Your Favorite Plan Activity



The “Create Your Favorite Plan” activity helped the design team weigh general preferences for the design of each of Civic Center’s public spaces. The preferred framework for each public space is shown in the diagram above.

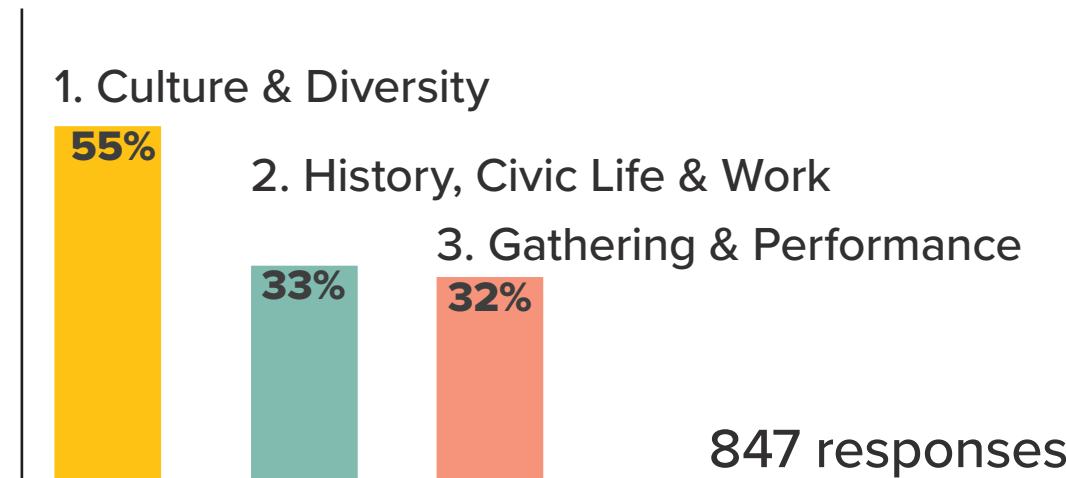


Community members used three framework designs for Civic Center to help create their ideal plan for its three major public spaces.

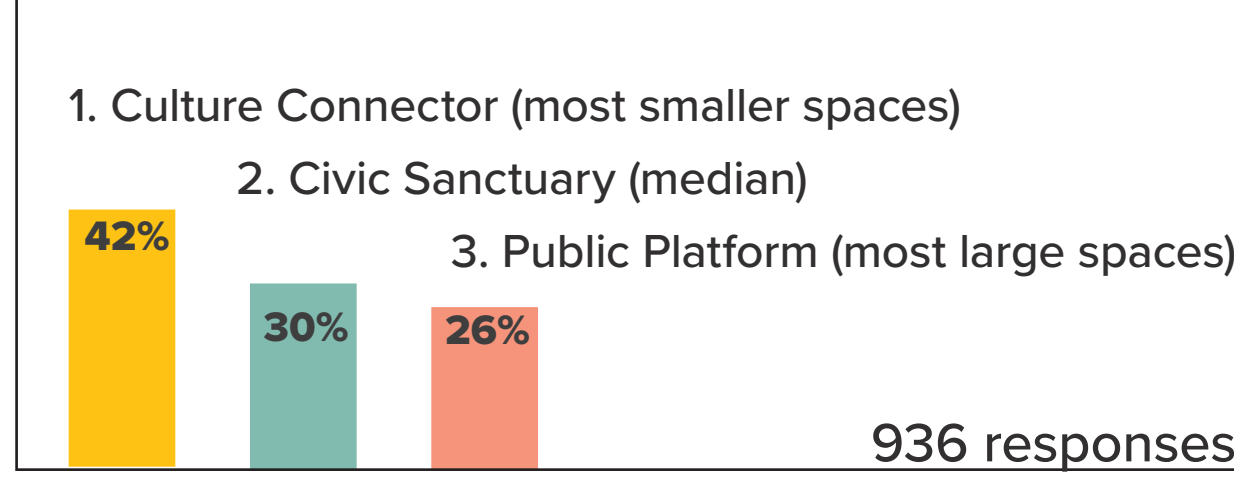
Framework Activity Preferences Summary						
Space:	Civic Center Plaza		Fulton Mall		UN Plaza	
Public Platform	48.5	36%	28	22%	61.5	46%
Civic Sanctuary	24	18%	50	40%	29.5	22%
Culture Connector	61.5	46%	47.5	38%	42	32%
	134	100%	125.5	100%	133	100%

Results of the framework activity.

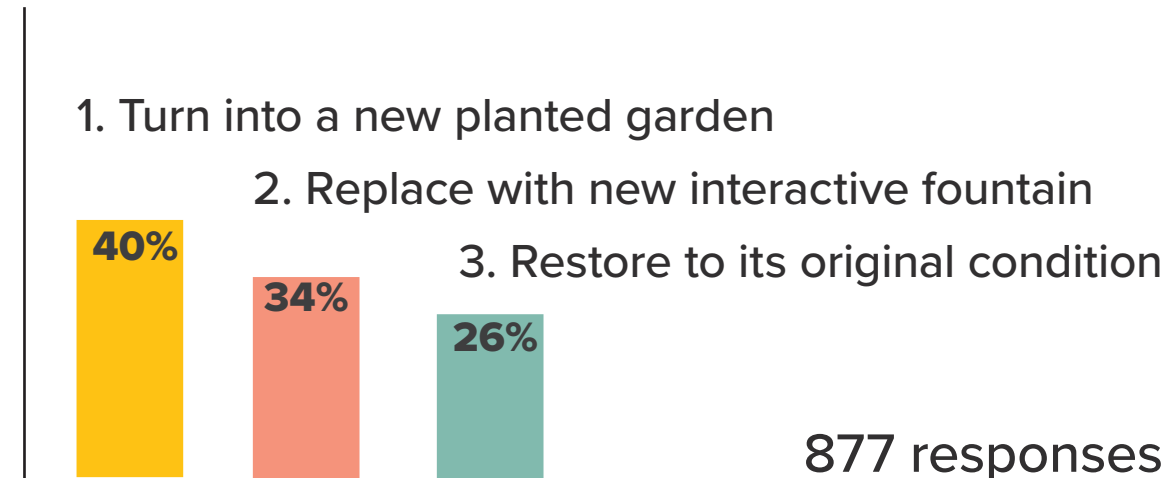
Which set of themes do you think should be emphasized the most in the design of Civic Center Commons?



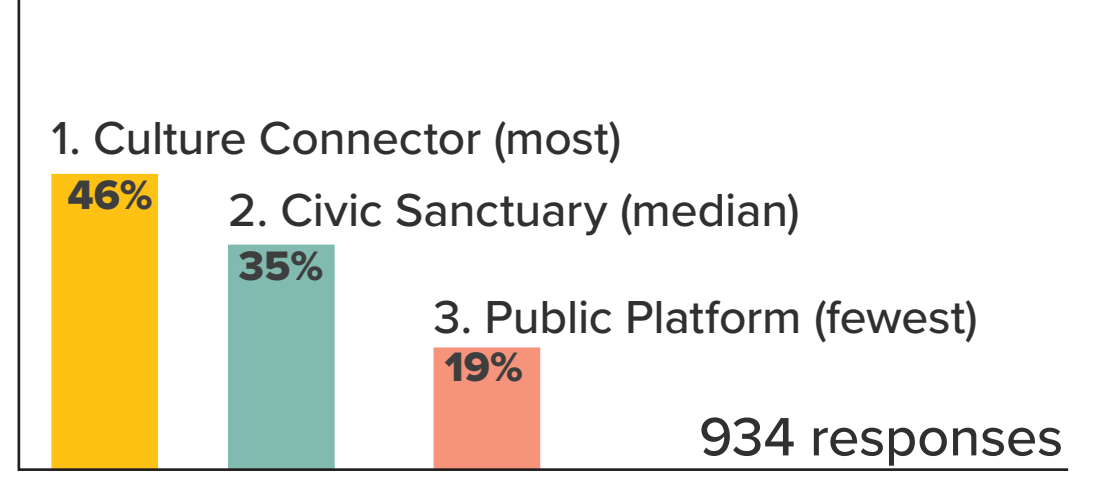
The design for Civic Center Plaza must balance the amount of large spaces for major events (lawns, paving) with smaller spaces for everyday use (playgrounds, planted areas). Which design strikes the right balance between large spaces for events and smaller spaces for everyday use?



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:



Trees and planting are important features of nature in the city that can also buffer from wind and provide shade. However, trees and planting can limit flexible space for other uses. Which draft design best represents the ideal amount of trees and planted areas?



Examples of survey questions and results conducted after Workshop #2. These results informed the creation of the draft concept plan for Civic Center.

Proposed Phasing and Implementation



Recent and Interim Improvements at Civic Center



FULTON STREET: Art / Lit LIZ (Living Innovation Zone) at Asian Art Museum; Main Library Book Drive



UN PLAZA: Off the Grid; Sound Commons Installation



CIVIC CENTER PLAZA AND GROVE STREET: Bi-Rite Kiosk



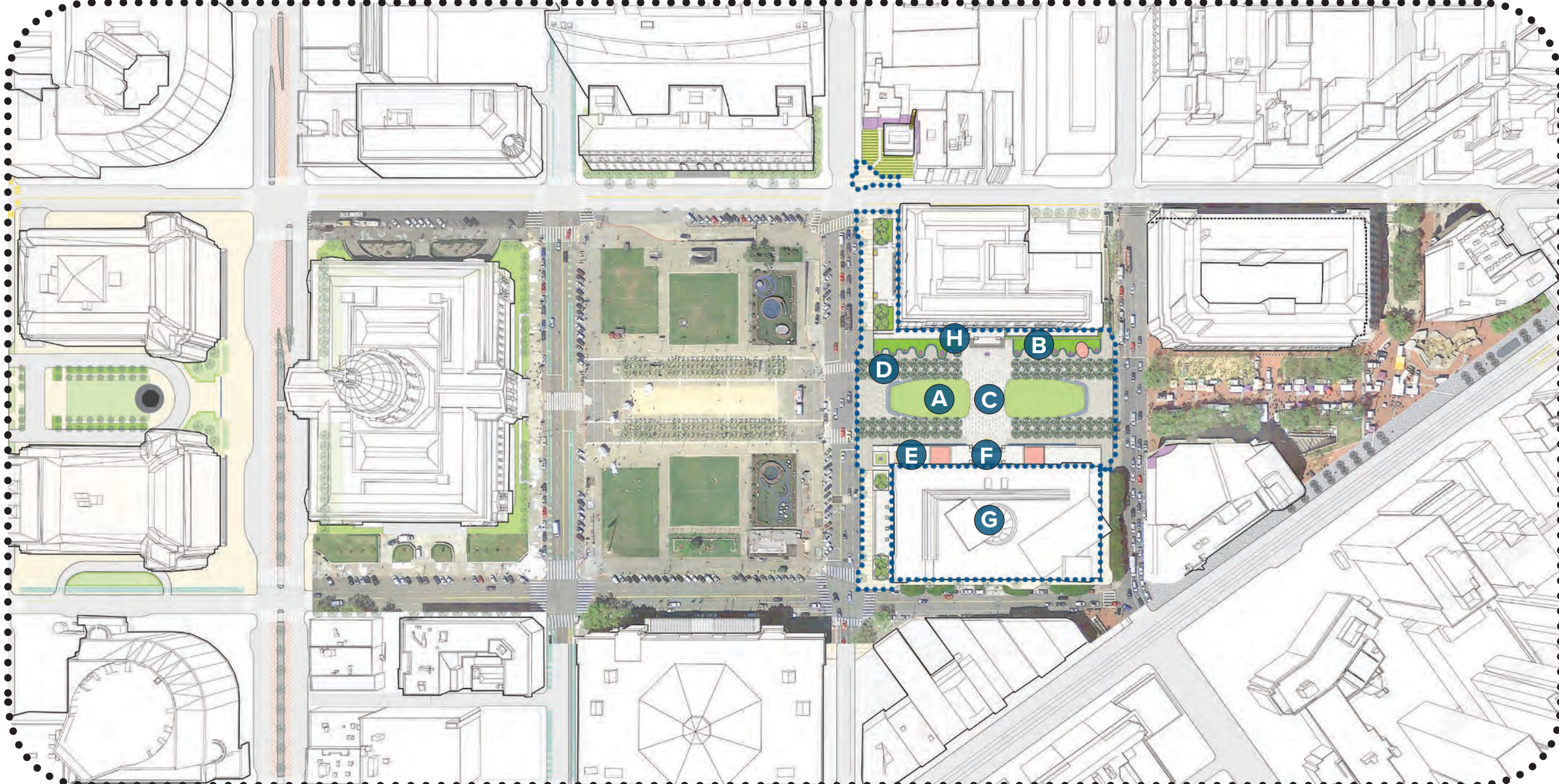
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA: Helen Diller Civic Center Playgrounds; Knitting the Commons

Advancing the Vision

The long-term vision for the Civic Center Public Realm Plan will be phased over time. The phasing plan depicted below is currently being considered by the City. In addition to these long term improvements, the City will continue to pursue immediate opportunities like those shown above, to bring new activities and amenities to Civic Center's public spaces that build towards the overall vision. For more information on these efforts visit: www.civiccentercommons.org

PHASE 1A : Fulton Mall

PUBLIC REALM STREET NETWORK PENDING ADJACENT PROJECT



Key Improvements

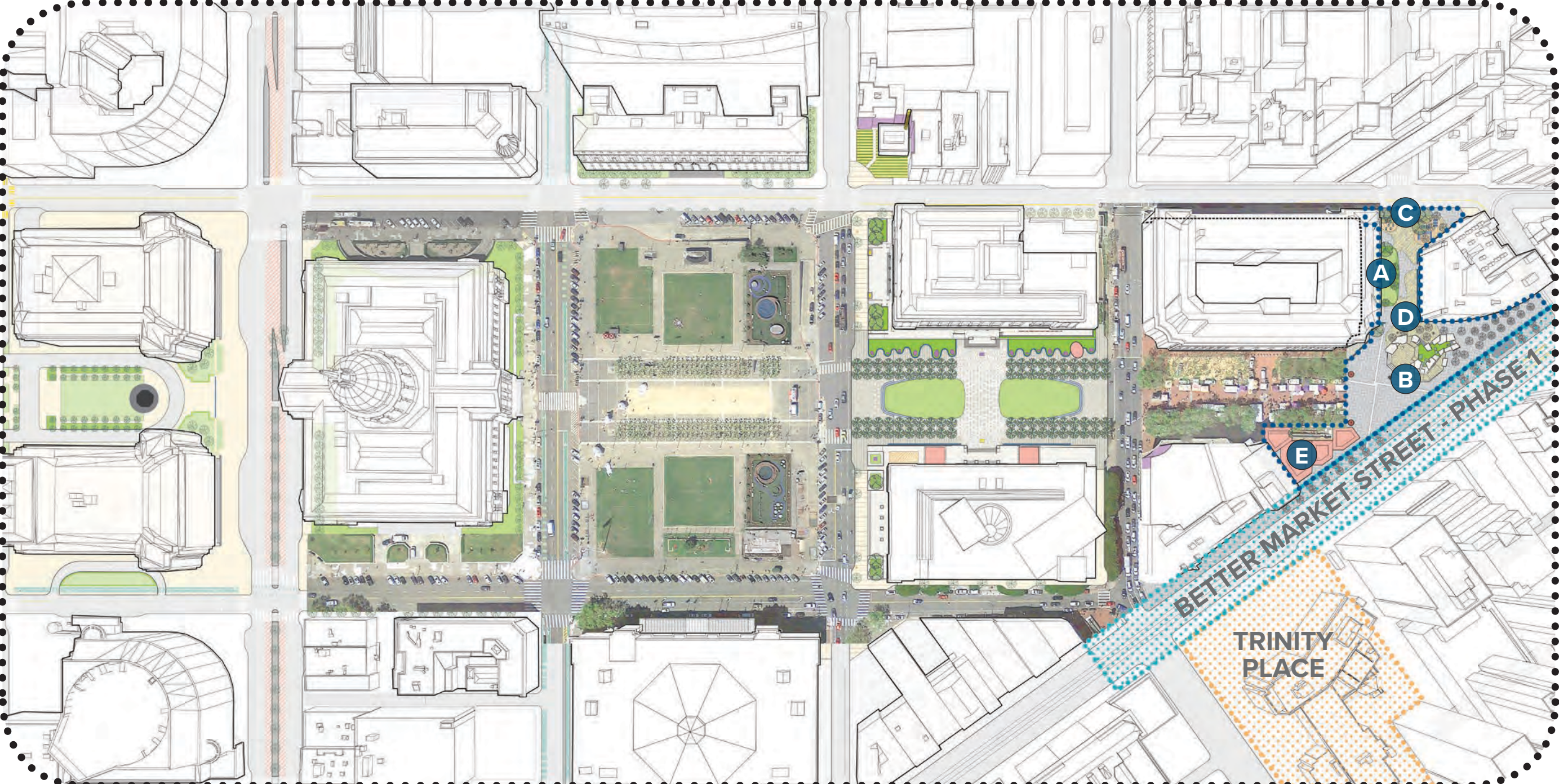
PUBLIC REALM

- A Lawn Terraces and Flexible Plaza
- B Sculpture Garden
- C Pioneer Monument
- D Trees Framing Civic Promenade
- E Outdoor Reading Room at SFPL
- F Library Terrace Pavilions + Food Kiosk
- G Potential SFPL Interior Renovations
- H Accessible Entrance to Asian Art Museum - Fulton Mall



PHASE 1B : Leavenworth Gateway

PUBLIC REALM STREET NETWORK PENDING ADJACENT PROJECT



Key Improvements

PUBLIC REALM

- A Dog Park
- B Fountain Retrofit + Adaptation
- C Fit Park and Community Message Board
- D New Trees, Paving, + Lighting

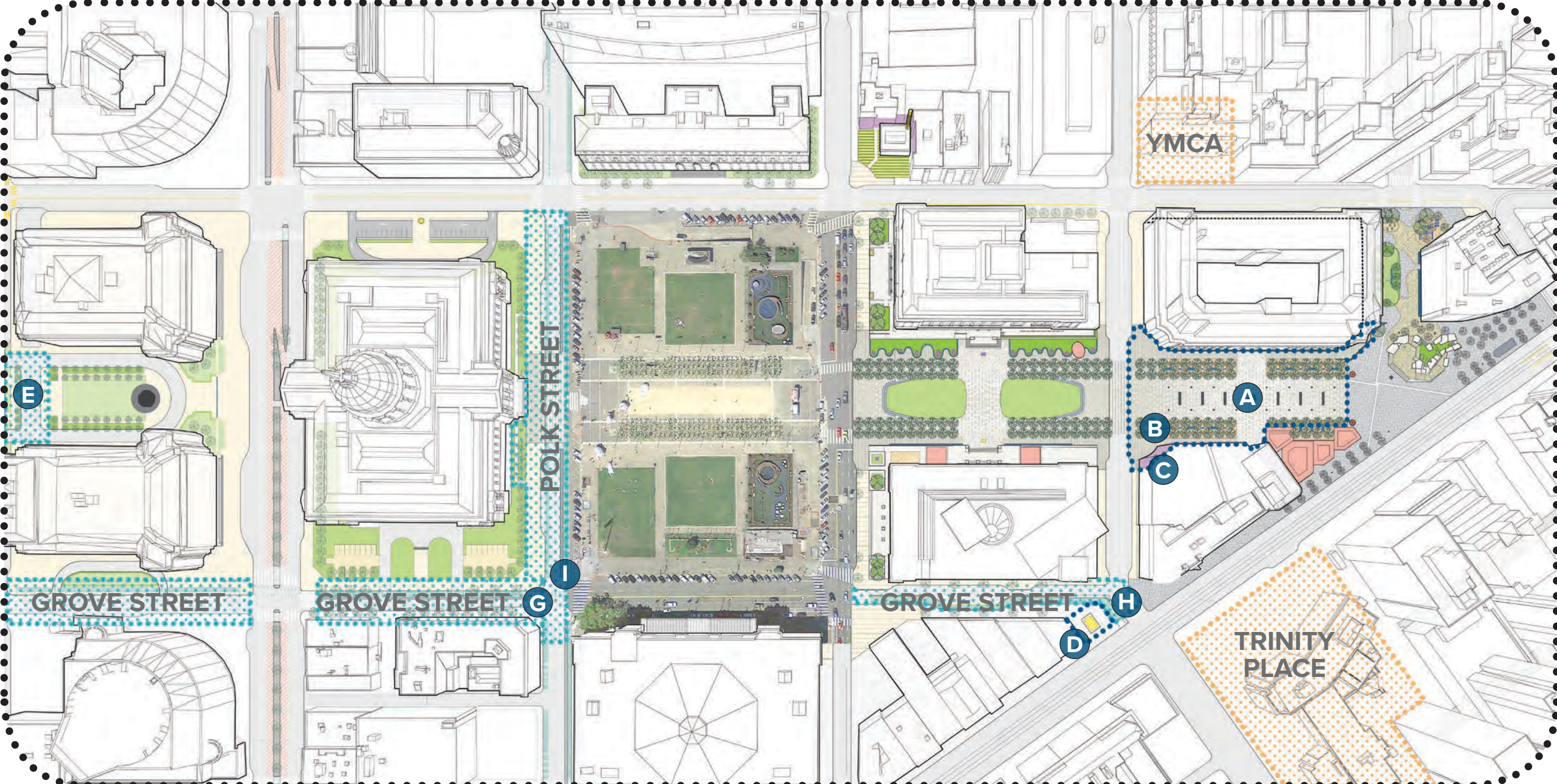
ARCHITECTURE

- E UN Plaza - BART Pavilion



PHASE 2 : Culture Corridor + UN Plaza

PUBLIC REALM STREET NETWORK PENDING ADJACENT PROJECT



Key Improvements

PUBLIC REALM

- A Flexible Market Plaza + New Paving, Lighting
- B Trees Framing Civic Promenade
- C Public Art Opportunity - Facade Installation at Orpheum
- D Relocate Simon Bolivar Monument
- E War Memorial Gateway

STREETS**

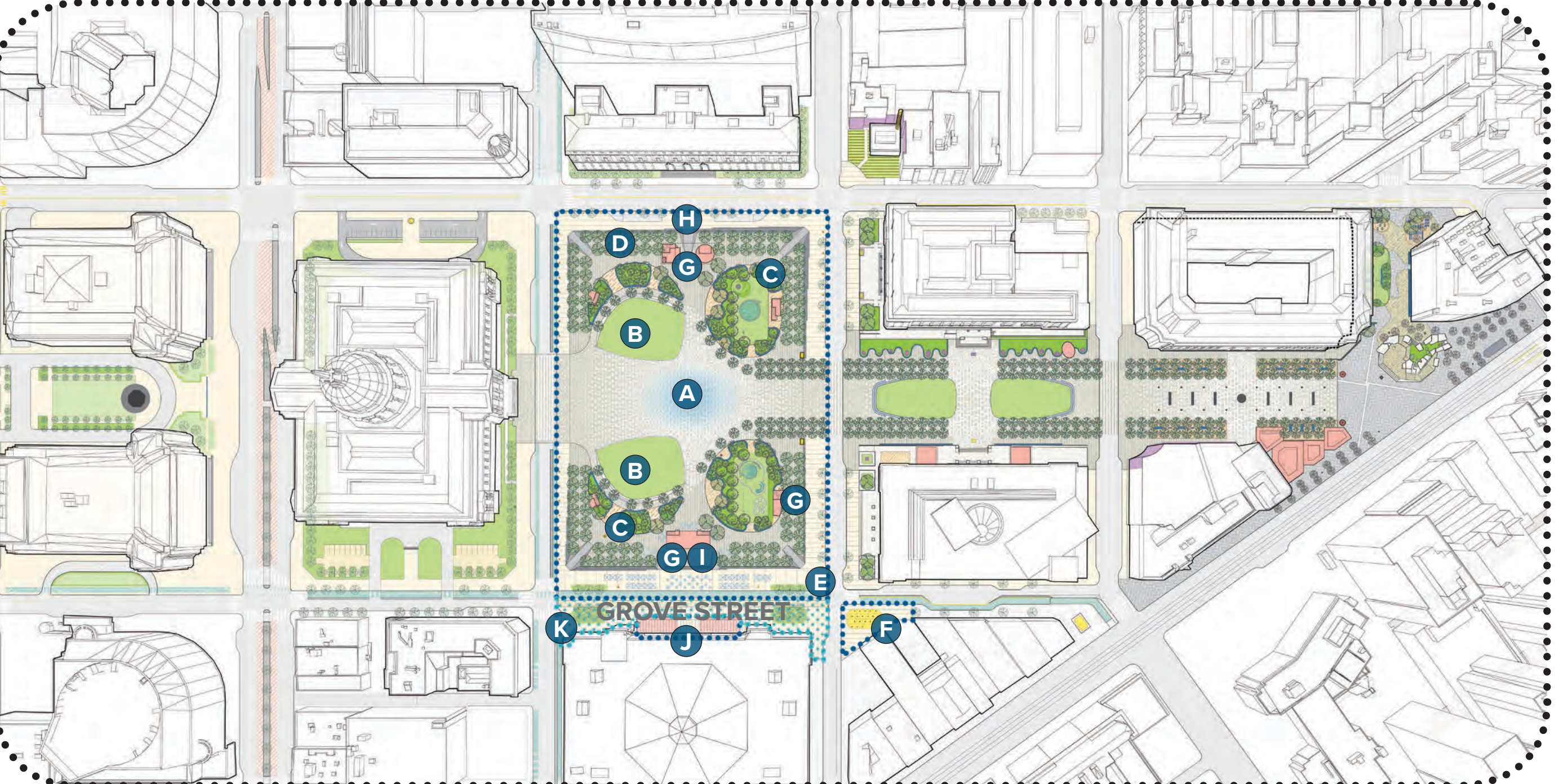
- F Grove Street: Franklin to Van Ness
- G Grove Street: Van Ness to Polk
- H Grove Street: Larkin to Market
- I Polk Street: Grove to McAllister

**Tentative pending further street analysis, design, and costing.



PHASE 3 : Civic Center Plaza

PUBLIC REALM STREET NETWORK PENDING ADJACENT PROJECT



Key Improvements

PUBLIC REALM

- A Flexible Plaza and Mirror Fountain
- B Flexible Lawns
- C Gardens of Delight + Memory
- D Evergreen Tree Frame + Garden Trees
- E Expanded Public Realm / Sidewalk (All Streets)
- F Public Art Opportunity - Flagpole Grove

ARCHITECTURE

- G New Bathrooms, Retail, and Access Structures
- H Civic Center Garage Ramp Relocation + Retrofit
- I Brooks Hall Structural Retrofit
- J Retail Pavilions at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium

STREETS**

- K Grove Street: Polk to Larkin

**Tentative pending further street analysis, design, and costing.

