Thank you for joining us this evening for our first community workshop!

The Civic Center Public Realm Plan is managed by the San Francisco Planning Department in close partnership with multiple City departments and agencies, including the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department, San Francisco Public Works, San Francisco Real Estate Division, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and Office of Economic and Workforce Development. The plan is being coordinated with—and will build off of—the on-going work of the Civic Center Commons Initiative, a collaboration between the City and community stakeholders to bring near-term improvements, activation, stewardship, and management to the public spaces linking Market Street to City Hall.

The project’s consultant team—led by CMG Landscape Architecture—is tasked with creating conceptual designs for Civic Center’s key public spaces: Civic Center Plaza, Fulton Street, and United Nations Plaza. The team is also studying opportunities to bring new uses and activation to Brooks Hall beneath Civic Center Plaza and to the ground floor of Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. The team includes Gehl Studio, InterEthnica, Kennerly Architecture & Planning, Lotus Water, JSN+ALD, HR&A, M Lee Corp, Structus, A+H, and HRA.

**PROJECT TEAM**

**THE CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN**

**PLAN COMPONENTS**

**PUBLIC LIFE STUDY**

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

**STREETSCAPE DESIGN STANDARDS**

Guidelines for contextually-appropriate locations and design palettes for streetscape amenities such as lighting, trees, and paving.

**TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN**

Upgrades to the transportation infrastructure including parking, streetscape paving, street design, transit improvements, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

**CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS FOR FOCUS AREAS**

Conceptual designs for key public spaces and streets 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.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The project scope includes environmental review and the Planning Department anticipates preparing a full environmental impact report for the Plan.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

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| OPERATIONS | OPERATIONS | Civic Center Plaza, Parking Garag
WHERE AM I COMING FROM AND HOW DID I GET HERE?
Public Life Key Findings

1. Lots of people are moving through Civic Center
   A normal weekday is busier than a ‘busy’ weekend (people don’t choose to come here in their free time)

2. Peaks in activity do not generate ‘spillover’ impacts
   Stationary activity mapping

3. Few people choosing to spend time in Civic Center
   Out of 44 people moving through Civic Center, only 1 stays.

4. Each space in Civic Center has a unique public life heartbeat

5. Activities like sleeping and encampments can be overwhelming, and even when they are not, have a ripple effect
   Number of people along with activity during daytime hours, all spaces, all day

6. Different uses of Civic Center experience the same spaces differently

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GUIDING QUESTION:
How can Civic Center continue to serve its role as one of the City’s primary civic and ceremonial gathering places while providing a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment for everyday users?

PUBLIC LIFE IN CIVIC CENTER

Survey Area

Methods

Surveyors observed people in Civic Center and counted the following:

- Age x Gender
- People Walking & Biking
- Stationary Activities

New Stationary Findings -
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0

Surveyed in Public Life Survey, per hour

Trafalgar Square: ~39 per 10k sf
Patricia’s Green: ~18 per 10k sf
Civic Center: ~4 per 10k sf

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Civic Center Plaza: $35,000 - $50,000
Fulton Street: $15,000 - $25,000
UN Plaza: $0 - $10,000

Surveyed in Public Life Survey, per hour

The design works well a few times per year

The design works well a few times per year

The design works well a few times per year

The design works well a few times per year

The design works well a few times per year
Civic Center is a powerful symbol of San Francisco

Local Context: Distinctive buildings and Beaux-Arts plan make Civic Center a San Francisco icon

Global Context: Our Civic Center is among the iconic Civic Centers and major squares of the world

Jurisdictional Boundaries

Civic Center active, safe and clean

Numerous entities have responsibility for keeping Civic Center active, safe, and clean

Civic Center has many elements of a complete neighborhood...

...But they are clustered on the periphery

Neighborhood Amenities

Food & Beverage

SF Recreation and Parks

OCEIA Ambassadors

SF Police or Fire

Social Services

General Admin

SF Medical Clinic

City Hall

Cultural Arts

Van Ness Ave.

Civic Center CBD

Tenderloin CBD

Asian Art Museum

Rådhuspladsen, CPH

Ferry Building

Trafalgar Square, London

Market Street

Polk Street

Mission Street

Fourth Street

Broadway

Oakland

Golden Gate Bridge

Footprint Plan

1938 aerial

1960 plan

Civic Center Public Realm Plan

Community Workshop 1 • November 7, 2017

Peak hour traffic counts:

(weekday)

Peak pedestrian counts:

(weekday)

The civic axis is broken

Strong visual axis from Market Street to City Hall...

...But it is disconnected by high-traffic streets and a dull public realm

Look but don’t touch: the space is unfriendly to the human scale

In Gehl’s 12 Quality Criteria Index, Civic Center scores poorly in all categories

12 Quality Criteria:

Little to delight the 5 Senses

Successful public spaces appeal to all the senses - not only the delight of beautiful architecture, but also touch, smell, and taste.

Although the City is already working to improve these conditions through the Civic Center Commons Initiative, at the time of the survey, there were few positive invitations to delight the senses in Civic Center’s 730,000 square feet of public open space.

The limited ability of the Beaux-Arts plan to support public life has been eroded over time

The Beaux-Arts plan, focused around grand architecture, large public spaces, and clustering institutional uses, squeezes out the life of the city by limiting active edges, everyday retail and commerce, and informal cultural uses

Over time, even human-scale elements of this design such as planting, seating, water features, and monuments have been removed

Fragmented stewardship and governance

Numerous entities have responsibility for keeping Civic Center active, safe, and clean
1. Civic Center will be a **diverse & inclusive** place that is **authentic** to San Francisco and to the surrounding neighborhoods.

2. Civic Center will have a **vivid, bold identity** that **inspires civic pride**.

3. Civic Center will be a **beautiful, durable** place to enjoy **everyday and in all seasons**.

**ARE THERE OTHER DESIGN PRINCIPLES THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?**
4. Civic Center will include **varied amenities** for daily use and **flexible spaces** for large events.

4. El Centro Cívico incluirá instalaciones variadas para el uso diario y espacios flexibles para eventos grandes.

5. Civic Center will be a healthy, safe **space of respite** and a place to **meet your neighbors**.

5. El Centro Cívico será un lugar de respiro saludable y seguro y un lugar donde encontrarse con sus vecinos.

6. Civic Center will demonstrate best practices for **sustainable, resilient urban infrastructure**.

6. El Centro Cívico demostrará las mejores prácticas para la infraestructura urbana sostenible y resistente.

¿HAY OTROS PRINCIPIOS DE DISEÑO QUE DEBERÍAMOS CONSIDERAR?

MAYROON PA BANG IBANG PRINSIPYO SA PAGDIDESENYO NA DAPAT NAMING ISALANG-ALANG? ¿HAY OTROS PRINCIPIOS DE DISEÑO QUE DEBERÍAMOS CONSIDERAR?
Civic Center’s public spaces are framed by significant structures and include historic elements both large and small. Together, these elements can contribute to Civic Center’s sense of design cohesion and connection.

### Did You Know That Civic Center Is a National Historic Landmark?

Civic Center’s public spaces are framed by significant structures and include historic elements both large and small. Together, these elements can contribute to Civic Center’s sense of design cohesion and connection.

#### The Civic Center Landmark District

[Map showing Civic Center Landmark District with significant buildings and landmarks highlighted.]

A **National Historic Landmark** is a place of national significance. This is the highest designation for a historic property in the United States. Civic Center is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places for places of state and national significance.

The San Francisco Landmark District designation encompasses a larger area of Civic Center than both of these designations.

#### A Snapshot of Civic Center’s Public Spaces Over Time

1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition

C. 1915 Civic Center Plaza

A. 1915 UN Plaza

C. 1915 Civic Center Plaza

C. 1916 Brooks Hall Construction

C. 1956 Civic Center Plaza

C. 1975 UN Plaza Opening

C. 1985 Brooks Hall Convention Center

#### Large & Small Historic Elements in the Public Spaces

- UN Plaza Monument to United Nations Charter
- Fulton Street Pioneer Monument
- Historic Utilities
- Historic Street Lamps
- UN Plaza Fountain
- Civic Center Plaza Lincoln Statue

### How Can Civic Center’s History Help Shape Its Future Design?

[Image showing a timeline of civic center events and landmarks with questions and prompts for discussion.]
STREET DESIGN: CORE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Your feedback will be incorporated into street design principles and street concepts by the City team.

1. **SAFETY**
   Prioritize pedestrian safety and comfort

2. **CONNECTION**
   Where feasible, reclaim roadway space as public space and create shorter crossing distances between existing public spaces

3. **IDENTITY**
   Design streets with materials and amenities that enhance the beauty and character of Civic Center

4. **ACTIVATION**
   Design sidewalks that compliment and enhance active ground floor uses in adjacent buildings

5. **ACCESS**
   Design streets to accommodate essential loading and delivery needs while also maximizing their ability to serve as public space, especially around Civic Center Plaza

6. **SUSTAINABILITY**
   Create a network of streets and public spaces that are efficient, multi-modal, and environmentally responsible

Are there any opportunities or challenges with Civic Center’s streets or intersections that you’d like the City’s design team to investigate? Please mark them on the map.
SHOULD THE PUBLIC SPACES HAVE MORE PAVING OR PLANTING?

Your feedback on overall character will be incorporated into future designs for each public space.

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

BEETLE PLAZA

CONNECTION + COHESION

FULTON STREET

SOME OF BOTH

MORE PAVING

MORE PLANTING

SOME OF BOTH

MORE PAVING

UN PLAZA

SOME OF BOTH

MORE PAVING

MORE PLANTING

MORE PLANTING

MORE PAVING

MORE PAVING

MORE PLANTING

MORE PAVING
WHAT KINDS OF PLANTING WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

Your feedback on planting strategies will be incorporated into future designs. Please choose your top option in each row of images.
WHAT KIND OF PAVING FEELS CIVIC AND INVITING?
Your feedback on paving strategies for Civic Center Plaza, UN Plaza, & Fulton Street will be incorporated into future designs. Please choose your top option in each row.
WHAT SPECIAL LIGHTING WOULD CREATE A BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT?
Your feedback on special lighting features will be incorporated into lighting concepts, in addition to lighting for safety. Please choose your top three options.

LIGHT-BASED PUBLIC ART

URBAN LIGHT (RESTORED STREET LAMPS)  SUSPENDED CHANDELIER  OVERHEAD LIGHT

WHIMSICAL FIXTURES

PROJECTED PATTERNS  AIMABLE SPOTLIGHTS  PLAYFUL FIXTURES  HISTORIC FIXTURES WITH ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION

LOW-LEVEL LIGHT

BENCH LIGHTS  SMALL LIGHTS IN PAVING  SKYLIGHTS IN PAVING

FACADE LIGHTING

FACADE UPLIGHTING  GROUND FLOOR AND FACADE UPLIGHTING  GROUND-FLOOR LIGHTING
WHAT AMENITIES WOULD MAKE CIVIC CENTER COMFORTABLE?

Your feedback on amenities will inform what kinds of seating and facilities are included in future designs. Please choose your top three options.

SOCIAL SEATING
- Two-tiered seat and perch
- Long modern bench
- Community picnic table

PLAYFUL SEATING
- Porch swings
- Modular lounges
- Modern sculptural feature

MOVABLE SEATING
- Move-able armchairs
- CAFE tables/chairs at Civic Center Commons
- LEDGE for leaning

PUBLIC FACILITIES
- Drinking fountains
- Public toilets

WHAT OTHER AMENITIES SHOULD WE CONSIDER?

Your feedback on amenities will inform what kinds of seating and facilities are included in future designs. Please choose your top three options.
WHICH ATTRACTIONS WOULD SUPPORT SOCIAL & CIVIC GATHERINGS?

Your feedback on these attractions will inform what kinds of unique features are included in future designs to support both large-scale civic and intimate neighborhood gatherings. Please choose your top three options.

PUBLIC ART
- ICONIC PUBLIC SCULPTURE
- INFORMAL STAGE
- PUBLIC SPEAKING PLATFORM
- AMPLIFIES DESIGN PLATFORM FOR SEATING AND PERFORMANCE
- PERMANENT ELEMENTS FOR FREE SPEECH

MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS
- CONTEMPORARY MONUMENT
- TRADITIONAL MONUMENT
- COMMUNITY CULTURAL EXPRESSION
- ELEMENTS FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES

SCULPTURE/PLAY
- INTERACTIVE SCULPTURAL FEATURES
- ICONIC STRUCTURES
- ARCHITECTURAL CANOPY STRUCTURE
- COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE

INTERACTIVE ART
- PLAYFUL ELEMENTS FOR ALL AGES

AMPHITHEATER
- TERRACES FOR SEATING

WHAT OTHER ATTRACTIONS SHOULD WE CONSIDER?
WHAT KINDS OF NEW USES WOULD INVITE YOU TO CIVIC CENTER?

Your feedback on these options will help us incorporate new permanent uses into future designs. Please choose the top three uses that would invite you to come to and linger in Civic Center.

**CAFE PAVILION**

- Contemporary Pavilion
- Traditional Pavilion

**RETAIL KIOSKS**

- Traditional Kiosk / Market
- Contemporary Kiosk / Newsstand

**PING PONG**

- Ping Pong

**GAME TABLES**

- Tables with Cultural Games

**MARKET CANOPY**

- Open-Air Market Canopy

**ACTIVE RECREATION**

- Children’s Bicycle and Skating Track
- Youth Soccer
- Fitness for All Ages

**DOG PARK**

- Dog Run or Dog Park

**FOUNTAIN**

- Interactive Fountain
- Traditional Fountain

WHAT OTHER NEW USES SHOULD WE CONSIDER?
WHAT EVENTS WOULD INVITE YOU TO CIVIC CENTER?

Your feedback on events will inform what types of events the team plans for in future designs. Please choose three types of events that would invite you to linger in Civic Center.

ONGOING USES + EVENTS

SPORT EVENTS

POP-UP GALLERY

READING ROOM

CULTURAL EVENTS SCREENING

PERFORMANCE

FESTIVALS

WHAT OTHER NEW USES SHOULD WE CONSIDER?
WHAT USES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN BROOKS HALL?

Brooks Hall is a 90,000 SF space under Civic Center Plaza. Your feedback on potential types of uses for this space will inform what kinds of uses the team will study in future designs. Please choose one option and add other ideas in the comment boxes below.

PUBLIC RETAIL

EXAMPLES:
- GROCERY STORE
- MARKET HALL
- FOOD HALL
- RESTAURANT
- BAR/BREWERY

WHAT OTHER EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC RETAIL USES SHOULD WE CONSIDER?

PUBLIC CULTURAL

EXAMPLES:
- MUSEUM
- ART GALLERY
- REHEARSAL SPACE
- MAKER SPACE

WHAT OTHER EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC CULTURAL USES SHOULD WE CONSIDER?

PUBLIC CIVIC

EXAMPLES:
- RECREATION CENTER
- CITIZENS HALL FOR PUBLIC FORUMS
- EMERGENCY SHELTER
- CHILD CARE

WHAT OTHER EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC CIVIC USES SHOULD WE CONSIDER?

NON-PUBLIC USES

EXAMPLES:
- PRIVATE EVENT RENTAL SPACE
- PARKING/STORAGE
- OFFICES
- DISTRICT UTILITIES CENTER

WHAT OTHER EXAMPLES OF NON-PUBLIC USES SHOULD WE CONSIDER?