

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1 | NOVEMBER 7, 2017

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

- 1. Welcoming Remarks
- 2. Presentation

Project Background

Nick Perry, SF Planning

Civic Center Today

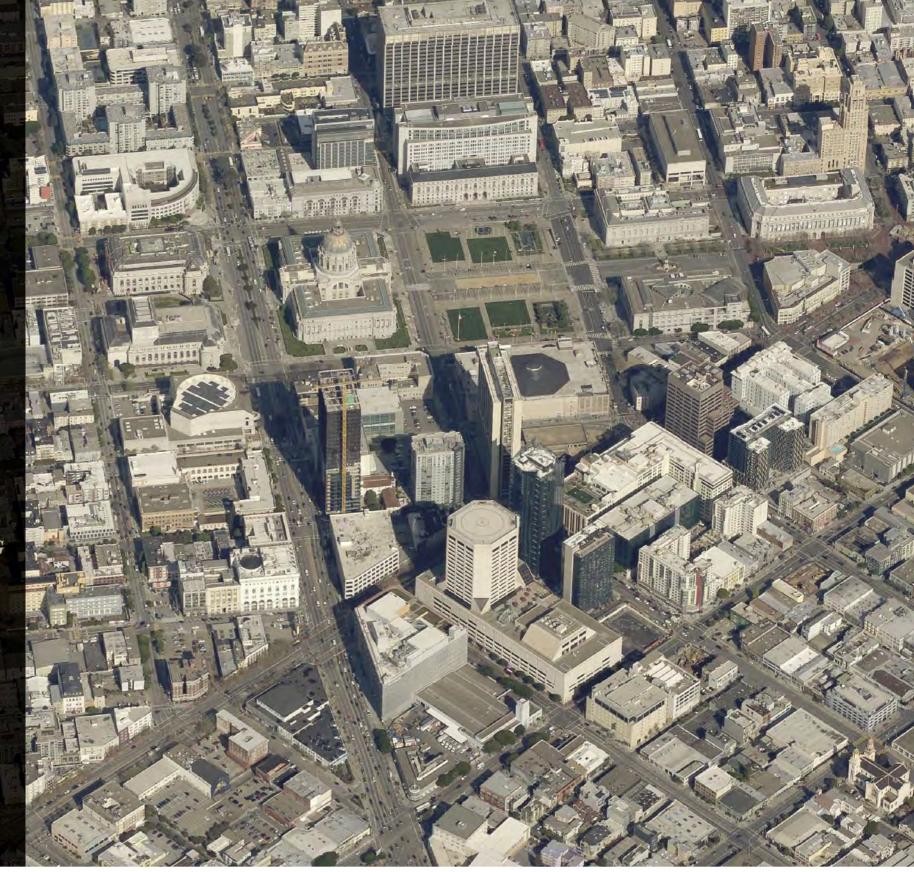
Anna Muessig, Gehl

Civic Center Tomorrow

Willett Moss & Lauren Hackney, CMG

- 3. Small Group Discussion
- 4. Open House Discussions







PROJECT BACKGROUND

PLANNING HISTORY





The c. 1912 plan for Civic Center guided the location and design of buildings and public spaces in the area into the 1950s.

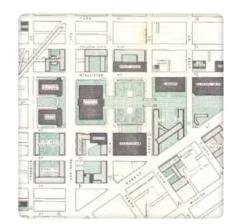
1906 Earthquake

1912 Plan

After World War II new plans to expand and modernize Civic Center were developed.



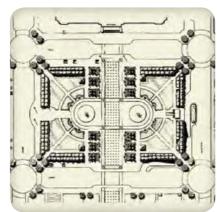


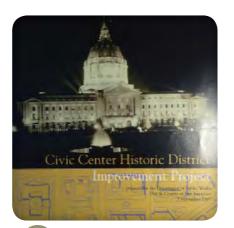


1961 Plaza Rebuild 1958 Plan

1953 Plan







In the 1980s a growing interest in historic preservation led to new plans focused on adaptive reuse and restoration.

PLANNING HISTORY

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



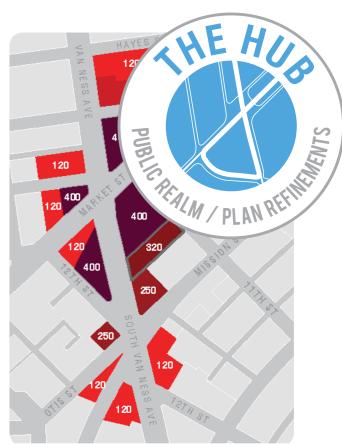
Photo Credit: flickr Ed & Eddie



Photo Credit: SPUR



Photo Credit: TNDC



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.

Up to 9,000 new housing units are projected in the Market Street Hub Area, near the Market/Van Ness intersection.



2015 CITY HALL + CIVIC CENTER CENTENNIAL NEW PLANS & STUDIES FOR CIVIC CENTER AREA



San Francisco Civic Center Historic District Cultural Landscape Inventory

Inventory of Civic Center's landscape features completed in 2015.



Central Market/Tenderloin Strategy

Near-term improvement strategy for area, released in 2015.



Civic Center Playground Renovation

Concept design finalized in 2015, construction began in Winter 2017.



Civic Center Sustainable Utilities District Plan

SFPUC plan for Civic Center utilities district released in 2015.



Better Market Street

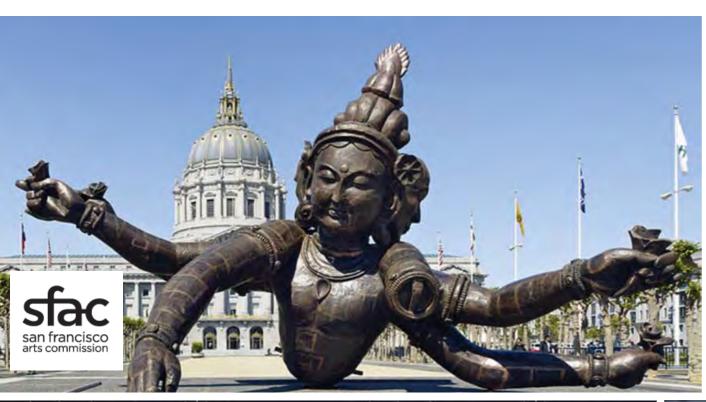
Environmental review began in 2015.



Van Ness Transit Improvement Project

Design finalized in 2015, construction set to began in 2016.

ENLIVENING CIVIC CENTER'S PUBLIC SPACES











A new City initiative led by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, focused on near-term improvements, activation, stewardship, and management of the public spaces linking Market Street to City Hall.

























Photo by Downtown Streets Team

QUALITY OF LIFE & SOCIAL SERVICE INTERVENTIONS



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:

KENNERLY ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING



Historic Resources:

Outreach & Public Participation:



Structural **Engineering** Mechanical, electrical, & plumbing

Lighting Design:

Civil Engineering & Green Infrastructure:

Cost Estimation:







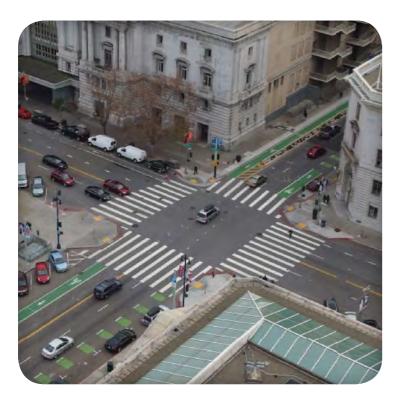


M LEE CORPORATION

Construction Management & Consulting Estimating & Scheduling

WHAT CONSTITUTES THE CIVIC CENTER'S PUBLIC REALM?

Streets



Polk & Grove Intersection

Plazas & Parks



War Memorial Courtyard

Other Public Spaces



Brooks Hall

PLAN AREA

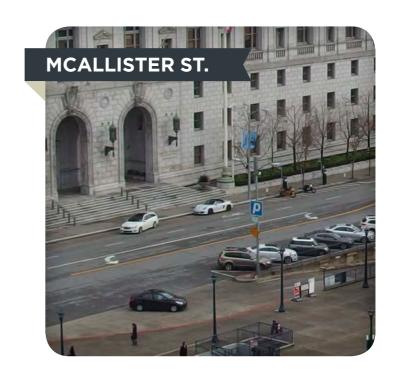


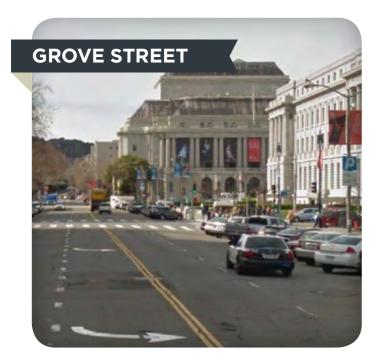


DESIGN FOCUS AREAS: STREETS























DESIGN FOCUS AREAS: PLAZAS & PARKS







Prime Consultant:



Architecture



DESIGN FOCUS AREAS: OTHER PUBLIC SPACES



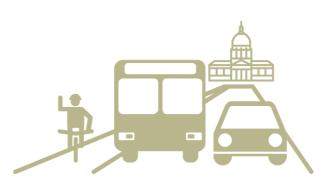




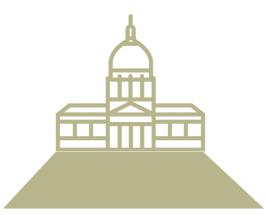
PLAN COMPONENTS



Public Life Study & Existing Conditions Analysis



Transportation Infrastructure Plan



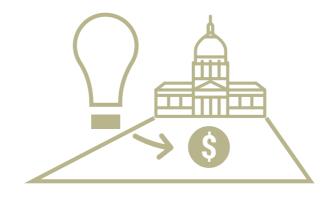
Focus Area Conceptual Designs



Use & Activation Strategy



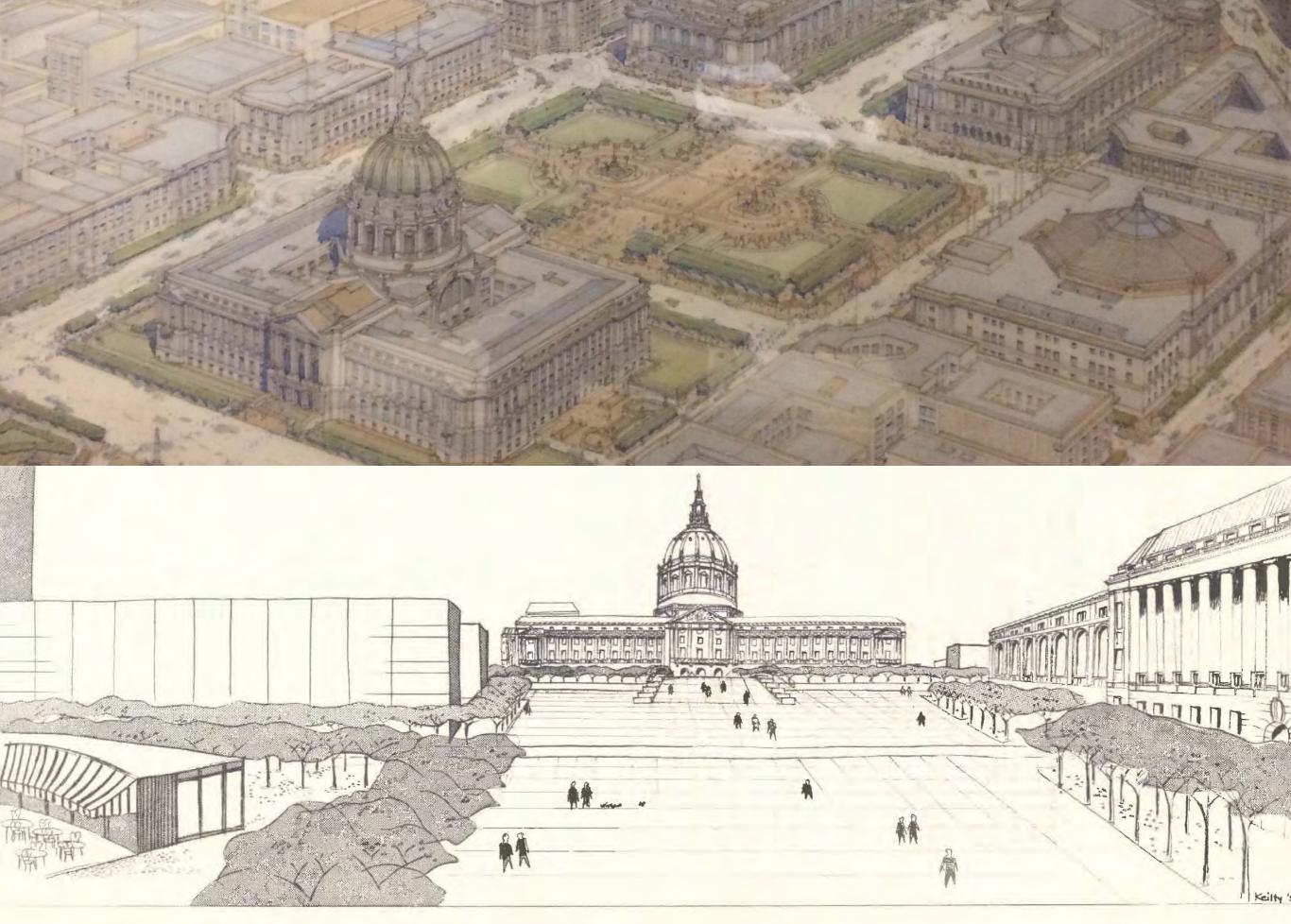
Streetscape Design Standards



Implementation & Management Strategy



Environmental Review



"a pedestrian mall... would occupy all of fulton street between market and larkin streets"

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

PLAN COMPONENTS



Public Space & Public Life Study

An on-the-ground, people focused approach to understanding the opportunities and challenges of public space.







COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout the plan's development the project team will build partnerships and work closely with Civic Center's many stakeholders.































Portraits of people in Civic Center from SF Planning's "Civic Center Stories" Project

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC REALM PLAN

RECENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

July 2017

- -Public Space & Public Life Study Focus Group Discussions
 - Neighborhood/Community Leaders
 - Public Health & Safety Officials
 - Arts & Cultural Organization Representatives
 - Planning & Design Policy Advocates
 - Public Space Management & Operations Experts
- -War Memorial Trust Board Presentation

August 2017

- -Civic Center Stories Second Edition Interviews
- -Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp. Presentation/Discussion
- -Civic Center Arts Organizations Presentation/Discussion
- -SPUR Presentation on Public Space & Public Life Study

October 2017

- -Central City SRO Collaborative Presentation/Discussion
- -Hospitality House Presentation/Discussion
- -Civic Center Commons Third Thursday
- -Vietnamese-language Focus Group Discussion
- -Spanish-language Focus Group Discussion
- -Chinese-language Focus Group Discussion
- -Youth Focus Group Discussion
- -Intercept Surveys (300 respondents in six languages)
- -In-person workshop invites to 50 neighborhood organizations

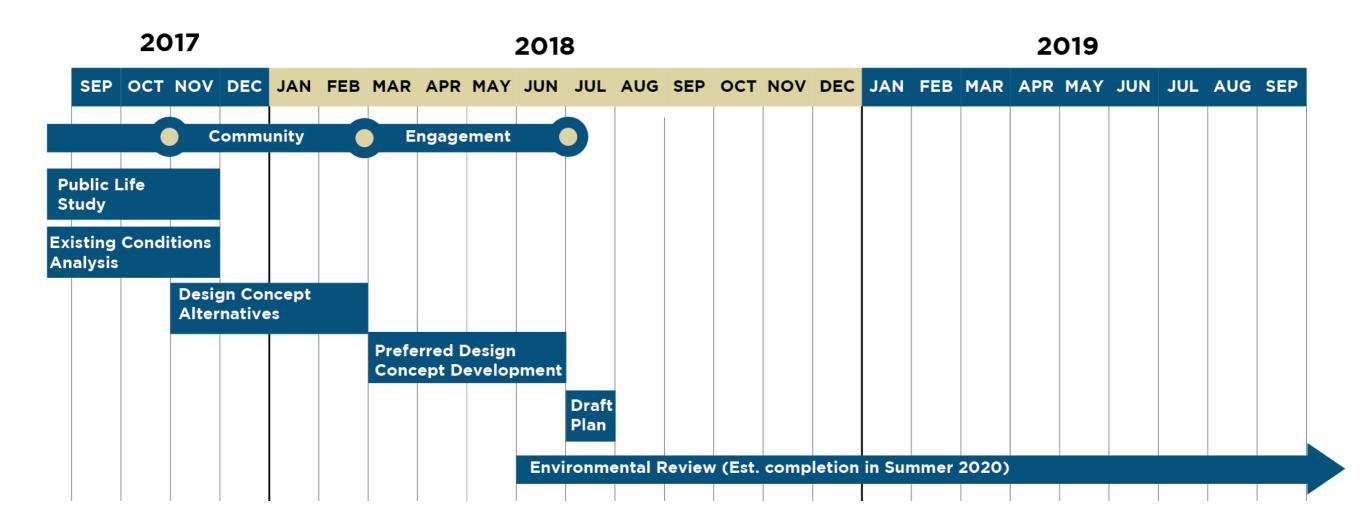


Mobile Outreach Station at Civic Center Commons Third Thursday

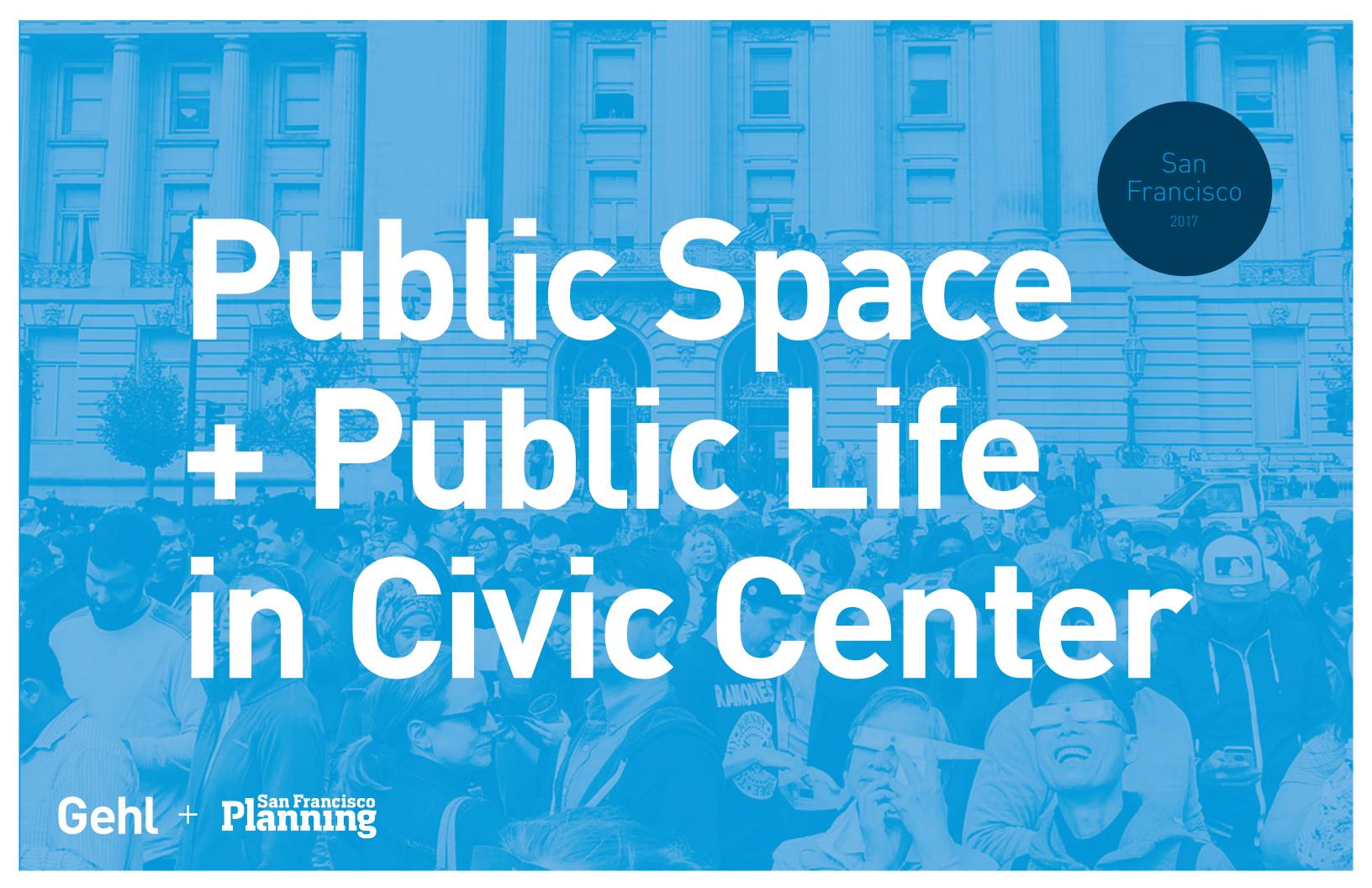
Our team welcomes suggestions for additional community outreach opportunities!

PLAN TIMELINE

Subject to change



= Community Workshop/Open House



Why a Public Space Public Life Survey?

To find **human stories**

To inform strategy and design

To provide evidence on which

to base objective choices

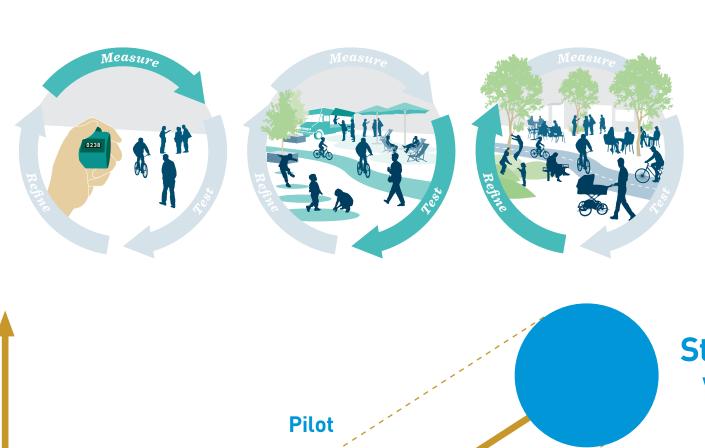
To **benchmark** progress

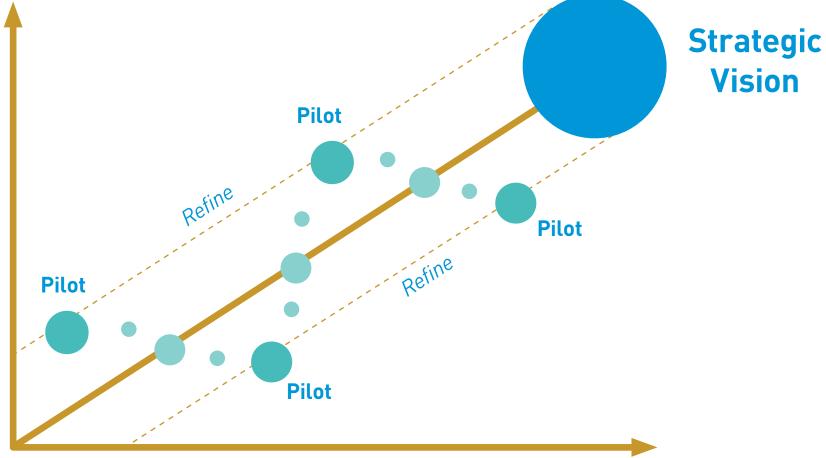
To discover **new opportunities**

To create urgency for change



A data-driven approach to amplifying public life in Civic Center





Public Life Survey Locations







Nearly 100 volunteers collected public life data





Counts

Pedestrian Age + Gender Counts

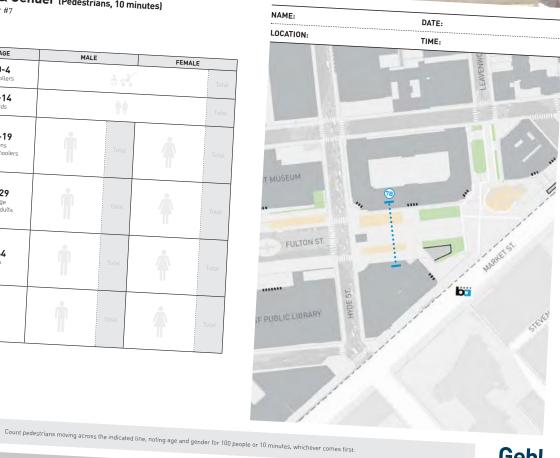


Plan Area

Age + Gender



AGE	MAL	.E	FEMA	FEMALE		
0-4 strollers			C	Total		
4-14 kids		Total				
15-19 teens high schoolers	İ	Total	*	Total		
20–29 college young adults	İ	Total	†	Total		
30-64 adults	Ť	Total	Å	Total		
65+ seniors	İ	Total	Ť	Total		

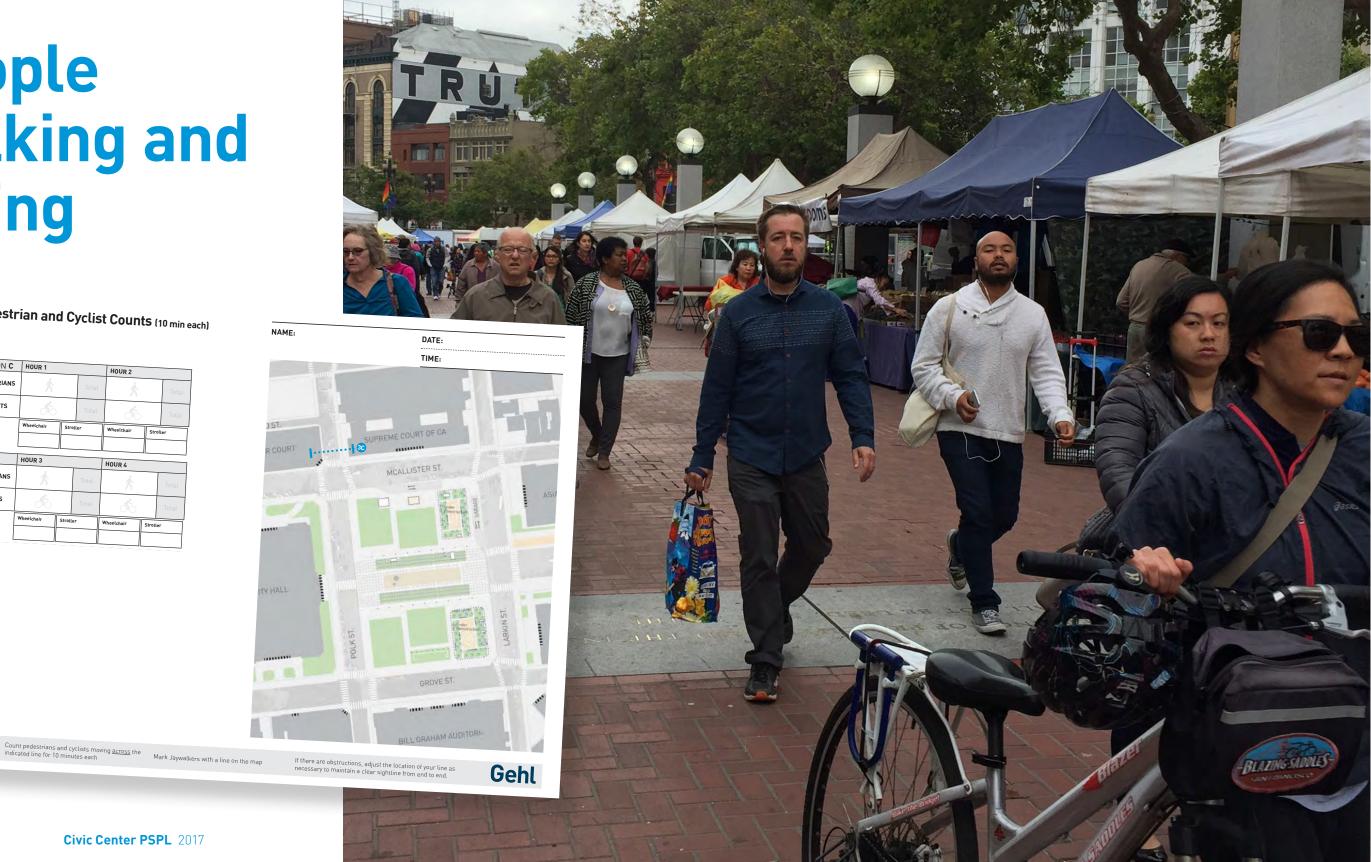


Gehl

People walking and biking

Pedestrian and Cyclist Counts (10 min each)

LOCATION C	HOUR 1	HOUR 1			HOUR 2		
PEDESTRIANS	六	六		大	Ż To		
CYCLISTS	6		Total	Sic	ीं		
	Wheelchair	Wheelchair Strol		Wheelchair	Strol	Stroller	
	HOUR 3			HOUR 4			
PEDESTRIANS	六		Total	六	∱ Tota		
CYCLISTS	o		Total	of o	O TO		
	Wheelchair	Strolle	er	Wheelchair	Strolle	r 7	

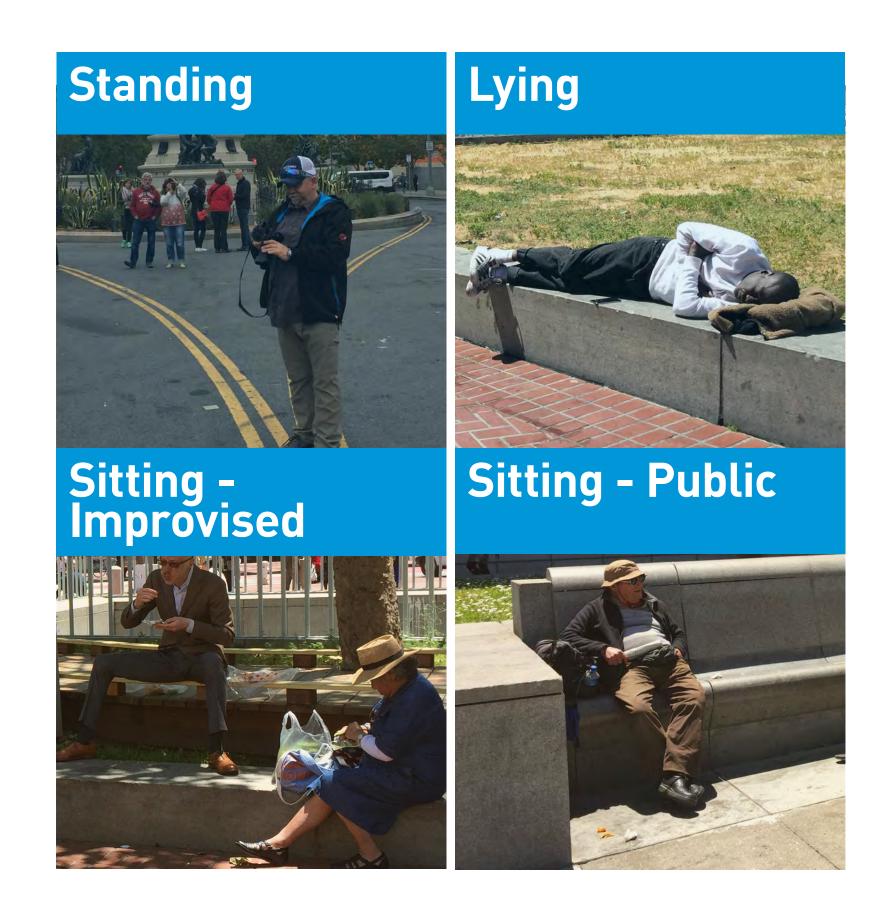


People spending time



People spending time

Body Posture



People spending time

Activities

Eating / Drinking



Waiting for Transit



Accompanied by Pets



Exercise / Play / Recreation



Commerce



Political / Religious



Cultural / Performance



Civic Work



Smoking

People spending time

Activities - including sleeping, drug use, and encampments



Intercept survey

Taken by 419 people



Public Space Analysis



Women's / March Survey **Days PSPL Survey** Captured everyday and weekly activities, as well There is no as some monthly events typical day in The Opera Civic Center Small protest or vigil Wedding Farmers'

Market

Survey Days

Playgrounds

pre-construction

Saturday, February 11 Tuesday, February 13



Night-time Counts 7pm-11pm

Friday, September 22



"Quiet" Weekday

Thursday, May 25

Cloudy until around noon
Min 54°F Max 61°F Wind 2m/s



"Busy" Weekday

Thursday, June 7

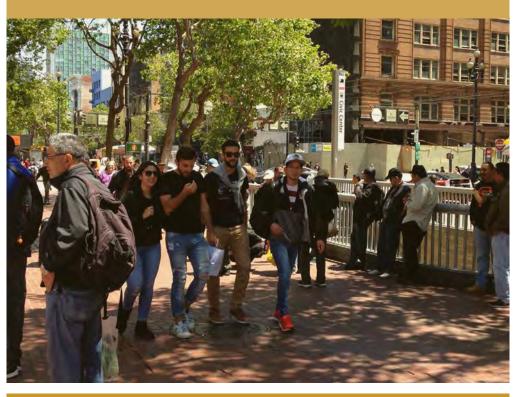
Farmers' Market @ UN Plaza, Warriors game @ Civic Center Min 52°F Max 59°F Wind 4m/s



"Quiet" Weekend

Saturday, June 10

Min 54°F Max 63°F Wind 4m/s



"Busy" Weekend

Saturday, May 27

Concert @ Bill Graham + Prom Min 54°F Max 61°F Wind 2m/s





Civic Center is a powerful symbol of San Francisco



Striking architecture makes **Civic Center** a San Francisco Icon

Among the great squares of the world and central to San Francisco democracy







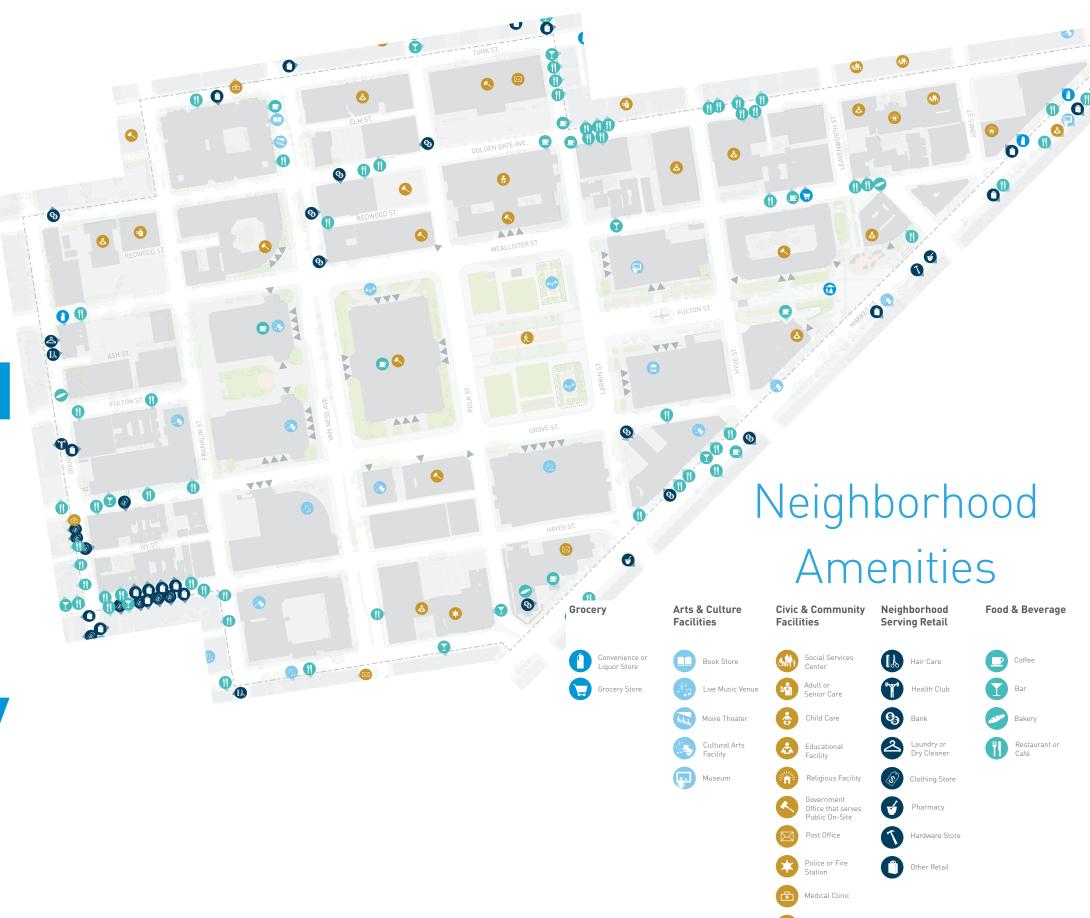


There's no center in Civic Center



Civic Center has many of the elements of a complete neighborhood

but they are clustered on the periphery



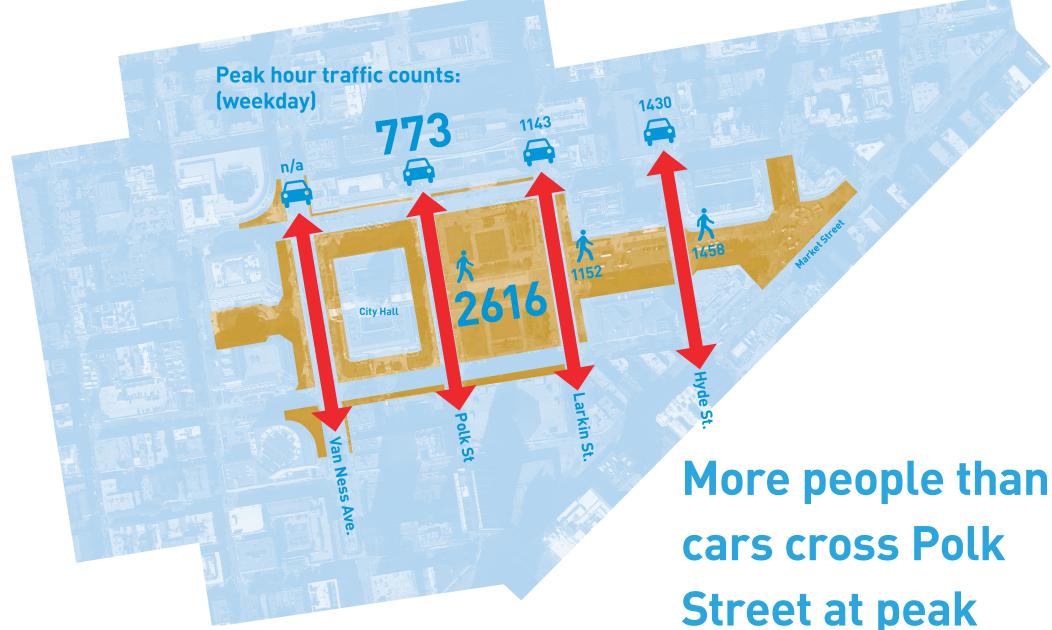
The civic axis is broken



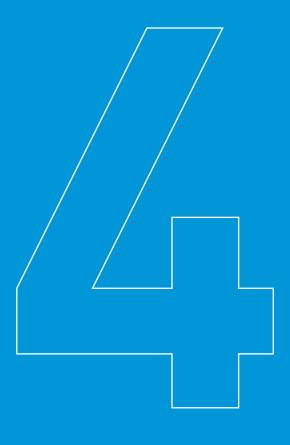
Strong visual Axis is interrupted by hightraffic streets and a dull public realm



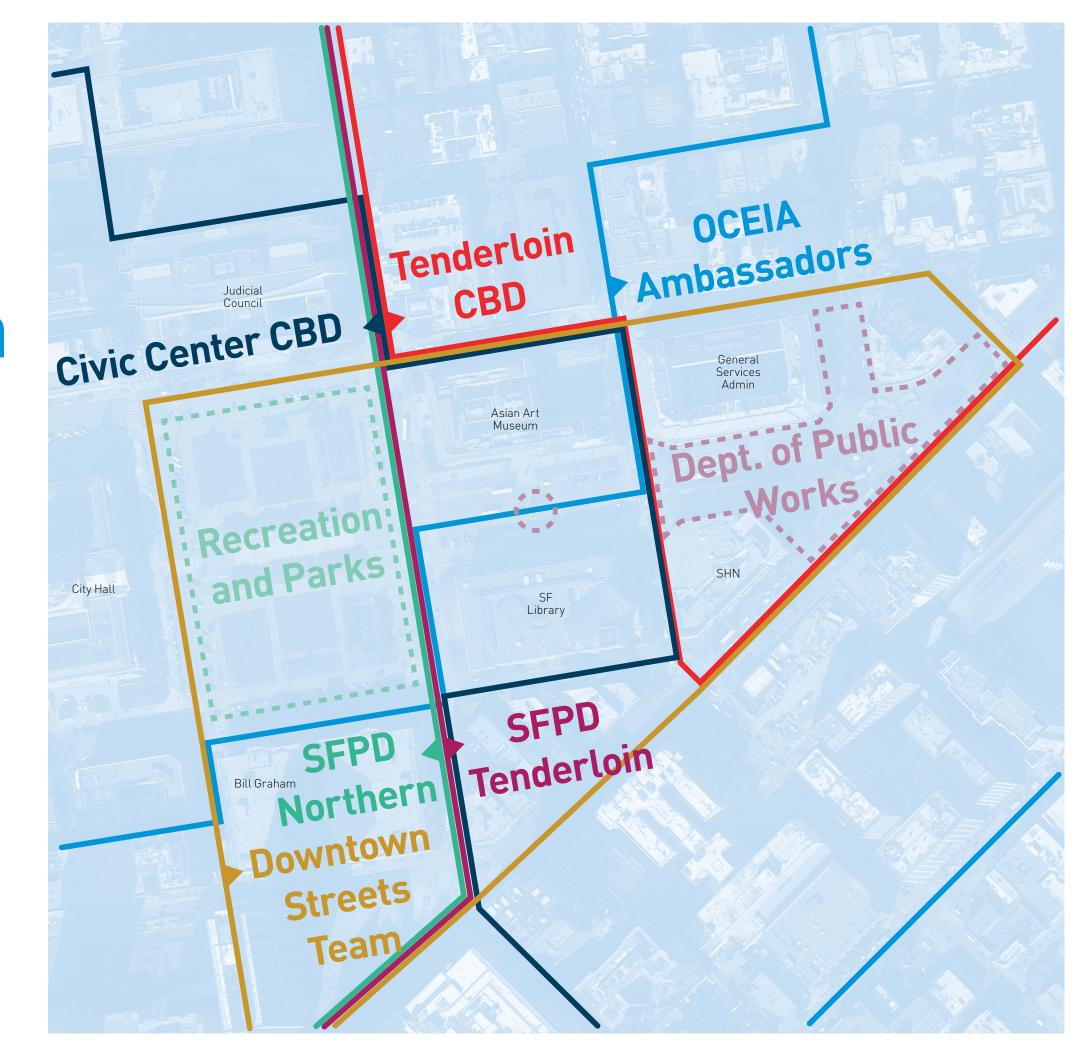




Fragmented stewardship and governance



Disconnected public realm is mirrored in jurisdictional boundaries



Look but don't touch: Civic Centeris unfriendly to the human scale



Missing the basics of urban quality

Protection

Protection against traffic & crashes — feeling safe Protection
against
crime & violence
— feeling secure

Protection against unpleasant sensory experiences

Comfort

Opportunities to walk/cycle

Opportunities to stop & stay

Opportunities to sit

Opportunities to see

Opportunities to talk & listen

Opportunities for play & exercise

Scale







Poor Fair Good

Enjoyment

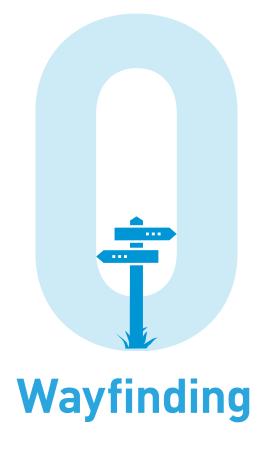
Dimensioned at human scale

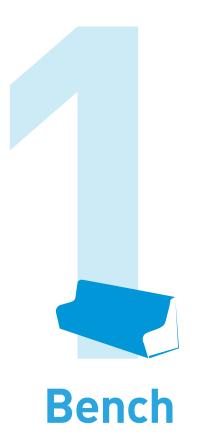
Opportunities
to enjoy the
positive aspects
of climate

Aesthetic qualities + positive sensory experience

Missing the Basics

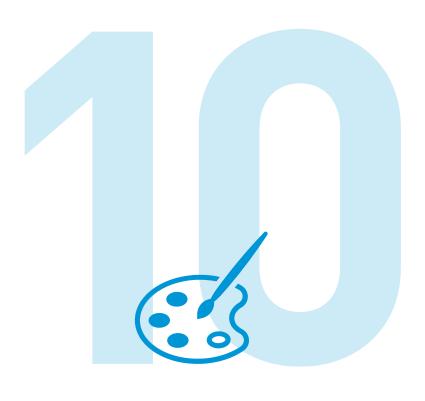












Public Art

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

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

The few human-scale elements in public space have been removed over time





Public Space Highlights

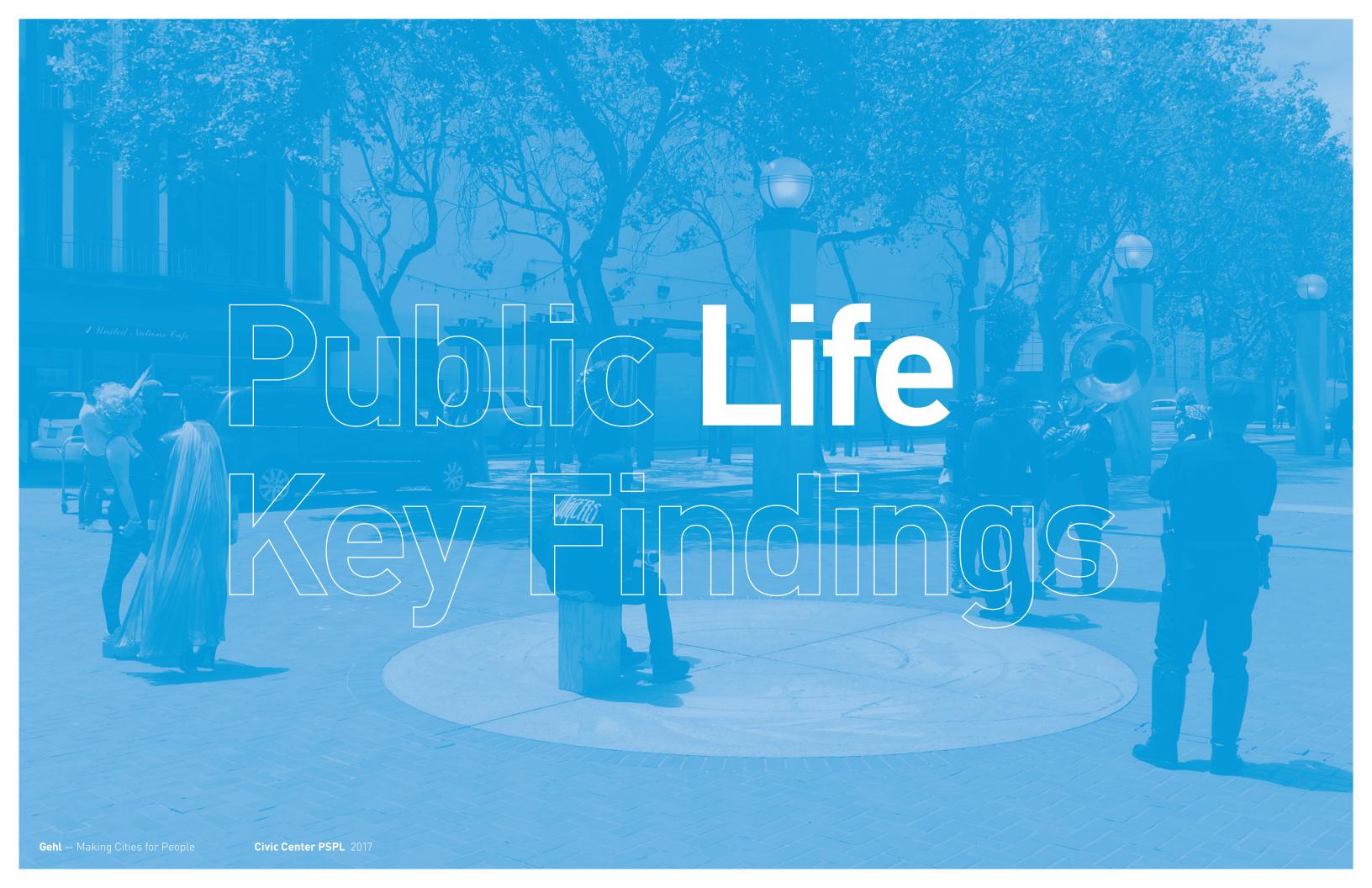
Civic Center is a powerful symbol of **San Francisco** There's no center in **Civic Center**

The civic axis Fragmented is broken

stewardship and governance

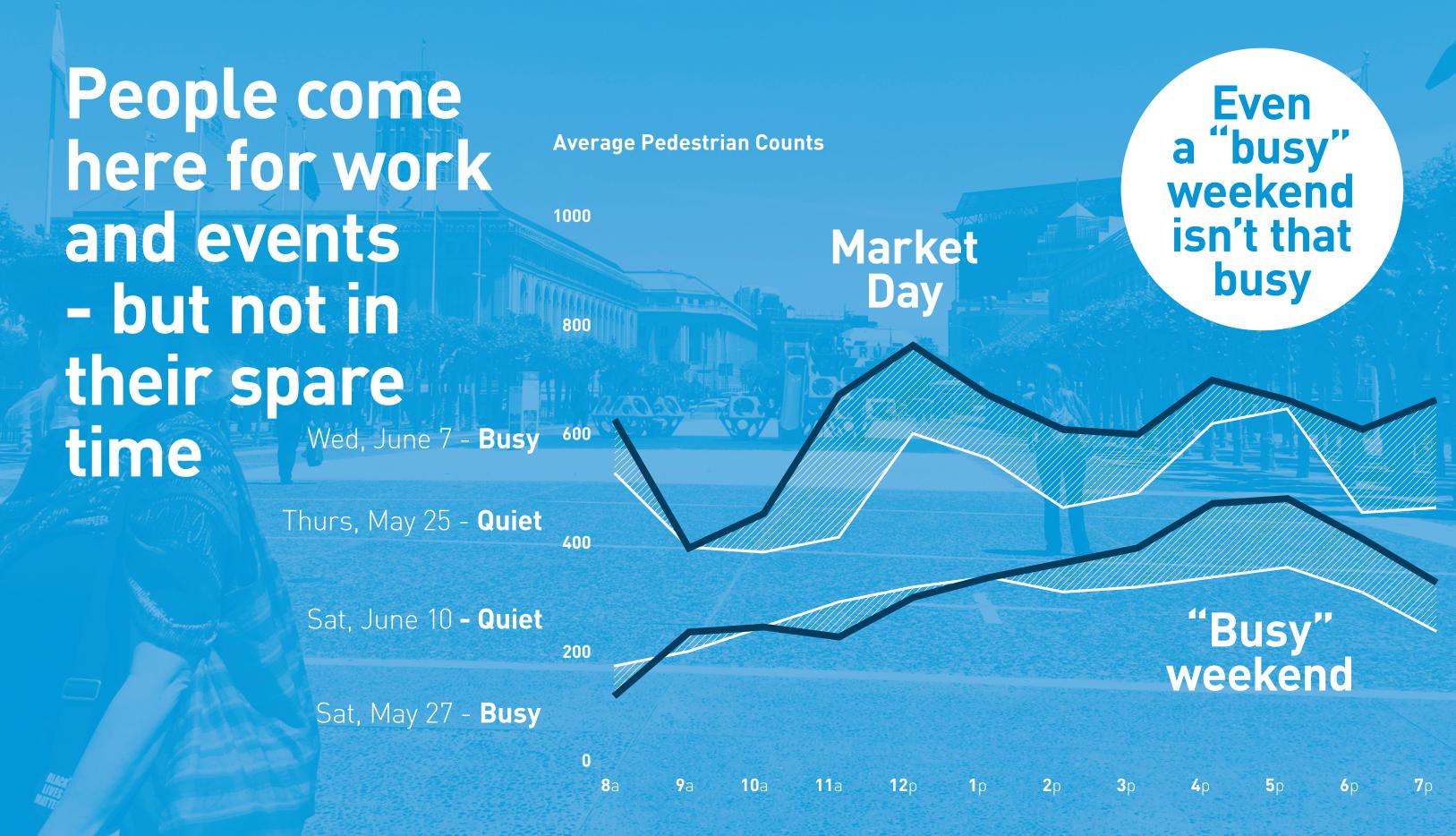
Look but don't touch: the space is unfriendly to the human scale

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



Lots of people are moving through Civic Center





Peaksin activity do not generate spillover impacts



Spaces to not function as one



Activities

One dot = One person

- Civic Work
- Eating/Drinking
- Cultural/Performance
- Passive Recreation
- Hard Drugs/Intoxicated

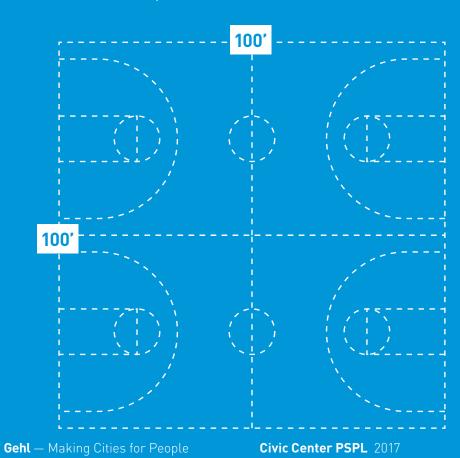
- Exercise/Play/ Recreation
- Commerce Sleeping
- Waiting for Transport Political/Religious Advocacy
- Accompanied by Pets Smoking
- Encamped

Few people choose to spend time in Civic Center



The number of people spending time is relatively

Scale comparison: two basketball courts



Civic Center ~ 4 per 10ksf



Trafalgar Square

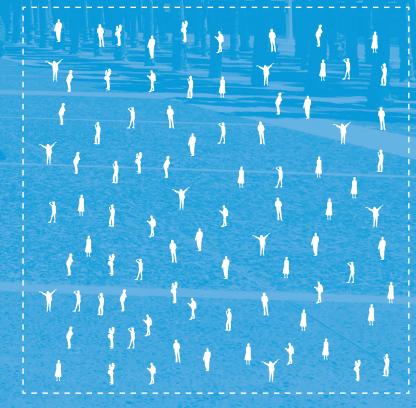
~ 39 per 10ksf



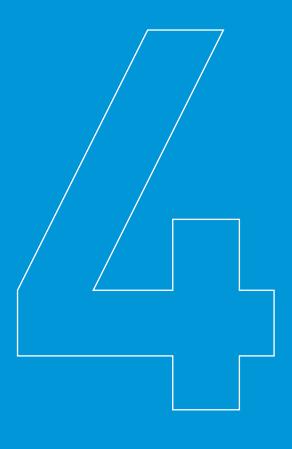
Patricia's Green ~ 18 per 10ksf



Pier 39 ~ 88 per 10ksf

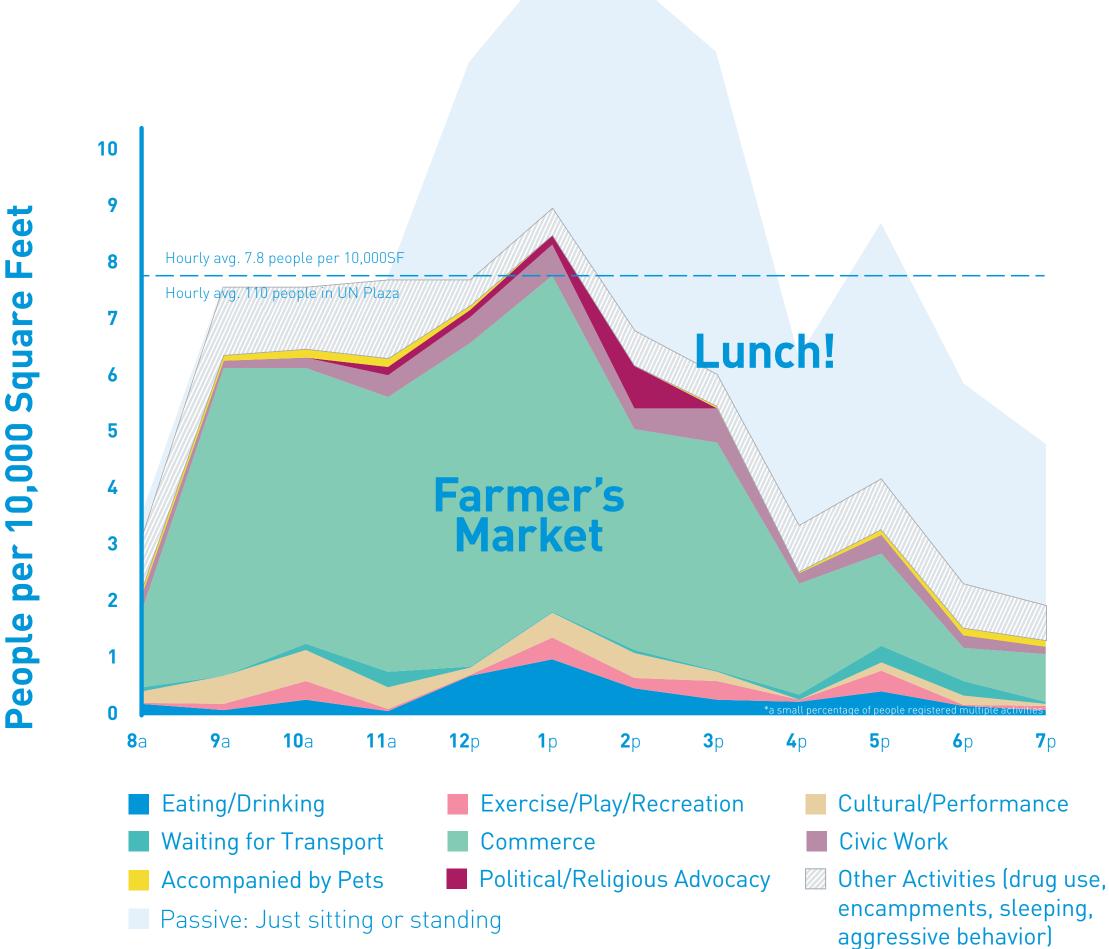


Each space in Civic Center has a unique public life neartbeat



UN Plaza

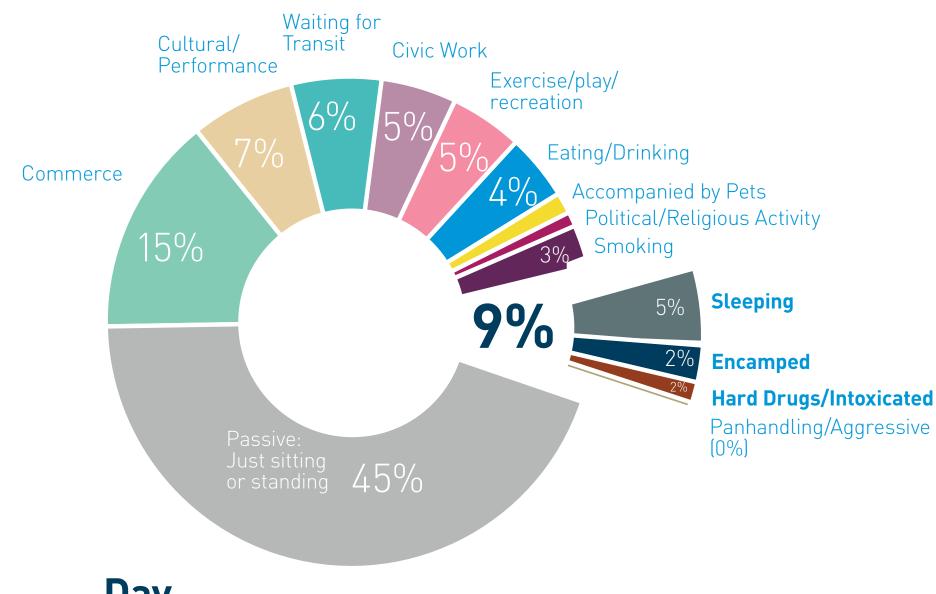
During Farmer's Market



Activities like sleeping and encampments can be overwhelming, and even when they are not, have a ripple effect



During the day, 9% of all people spending time in the space were sleeping, encamped, doing drugs, intoxicated, panhandling or exhibiting aggressive behavior

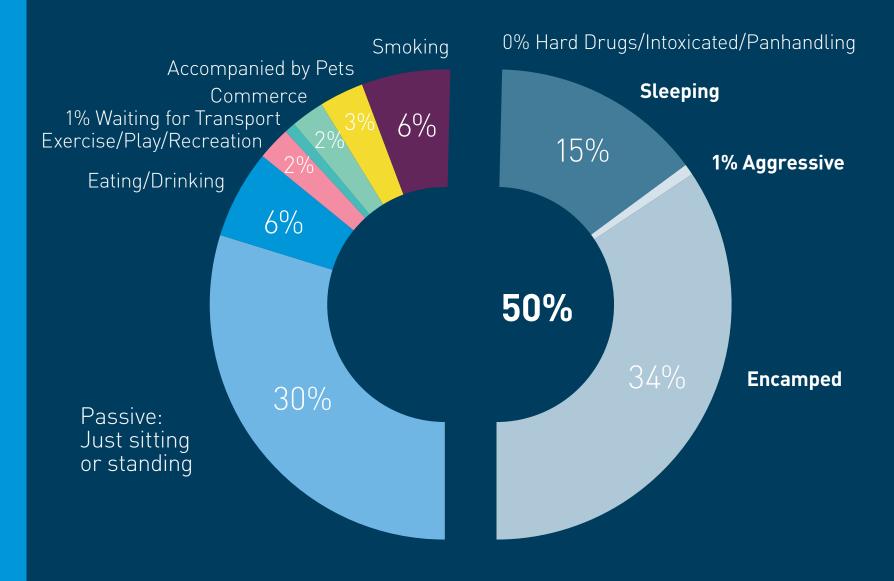


Day

Number of people doing each activity during daytime counts, all spaces, all days

At certain times and places **50%** of all people spending time in the space were sleeping, encamped, doing drugs, intoxicated, panhandling or exhibiting aggressive behavior

Night Fulton St Activities



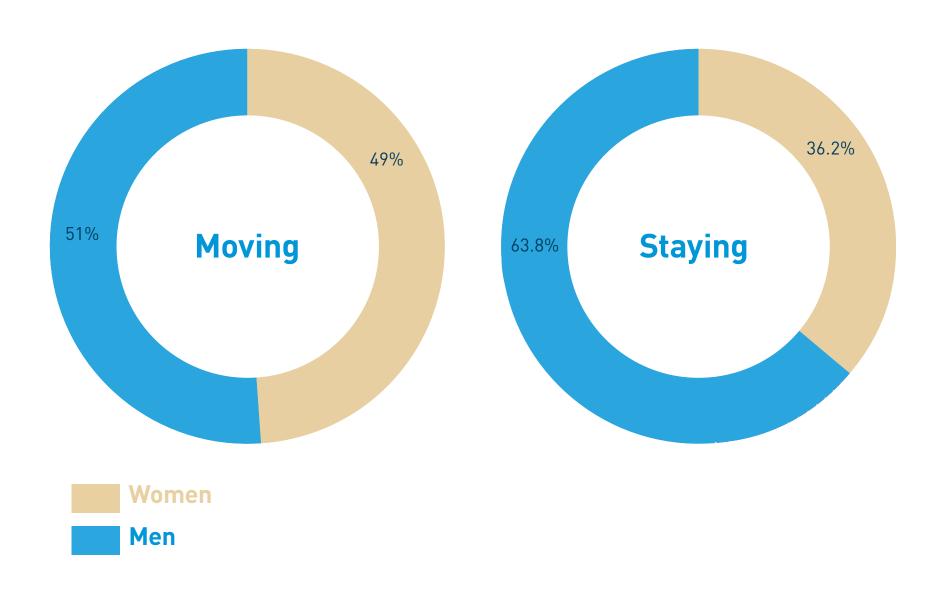
Different users of Civic Center experience the same spaces differently



Different users experience the same spaces differently - and want different things from the space



Women tend not to spend time in Civic Center's public spaces



Public Life Highlights

Lots of people are moving through **Civic Center** Peaks in activity do not generate 'spillover' impacts

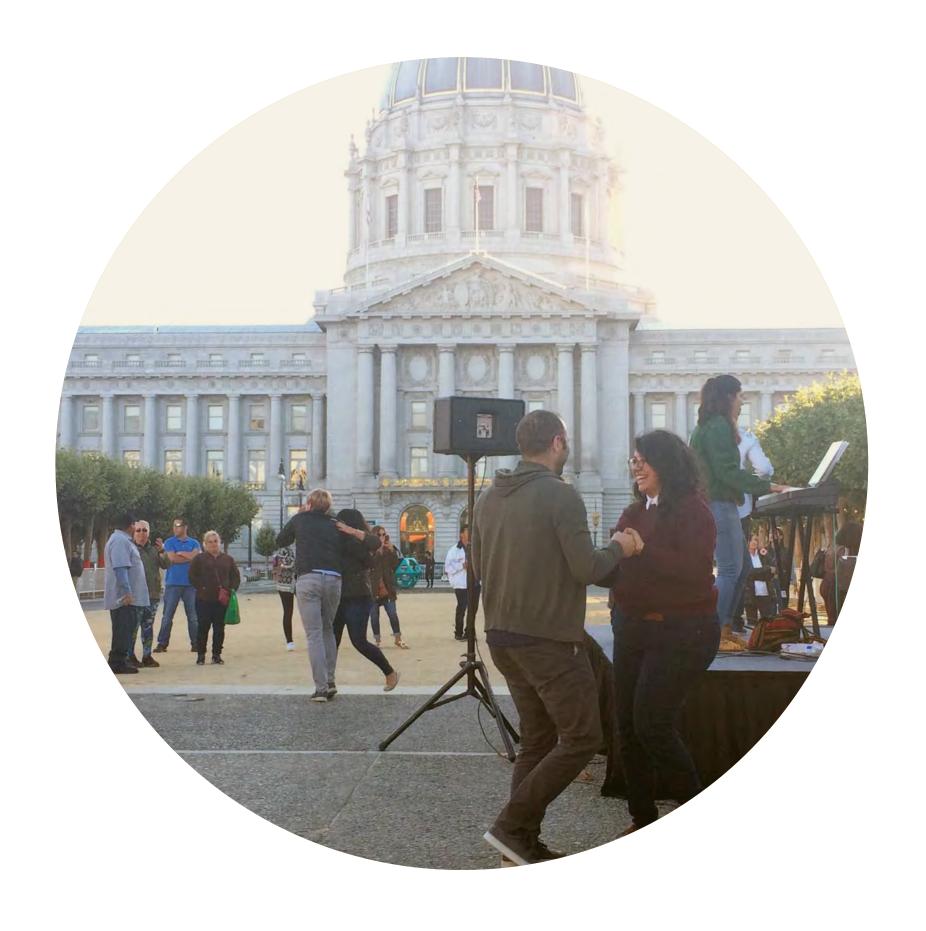
Few people choosing to spend time in **Civic Center**

Civic Center has a unique public life heartbeat

Each space in Activities like sleeping and encampments can be overwhelming, and even when they are not, have a ripple effect

Different users of Civic Center experience the same spaces differently

What kind of life do we want to invite in Civic Center?



Civic Identity



Inclusive Public Space











Who Does Civic Center Serve?

How do Civic Center's three public spaces compare to beloved neighborhood and destination parks around San Francisco?





PATRICIA'S GREEN



PORTSMOUTH SQUARE



UNION SQUARE



GOLDEN GATE PARK



DOLORES PARK

"Civic Center is a park that doesn't know it's a park, and a plaza that doesn't know it's a plaza"



Who Does Civic Center Serve?

Communities within a 1/2-Mile Radius

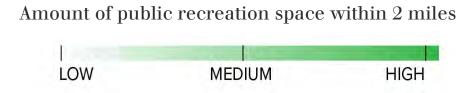


Population per square mile

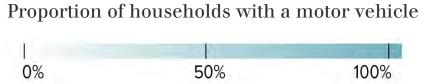
80,000

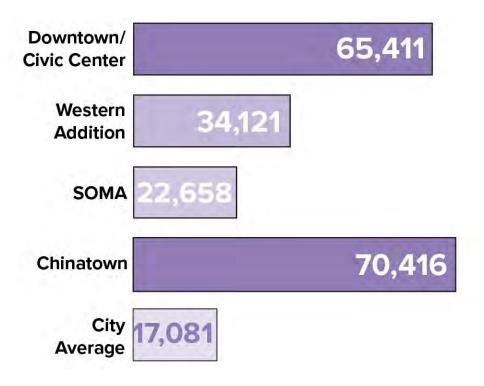
40,000

Proximity to open space & recreation:

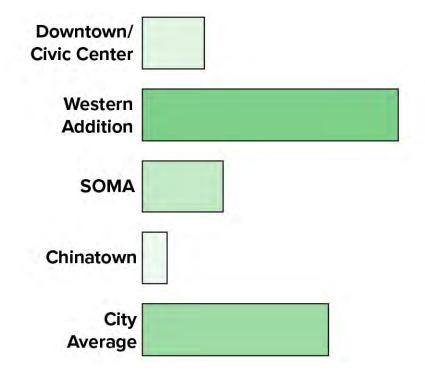


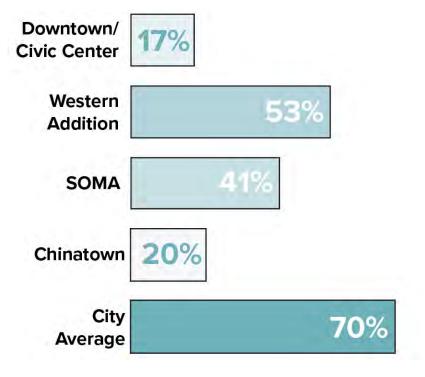
Equitable access to services & amenities:





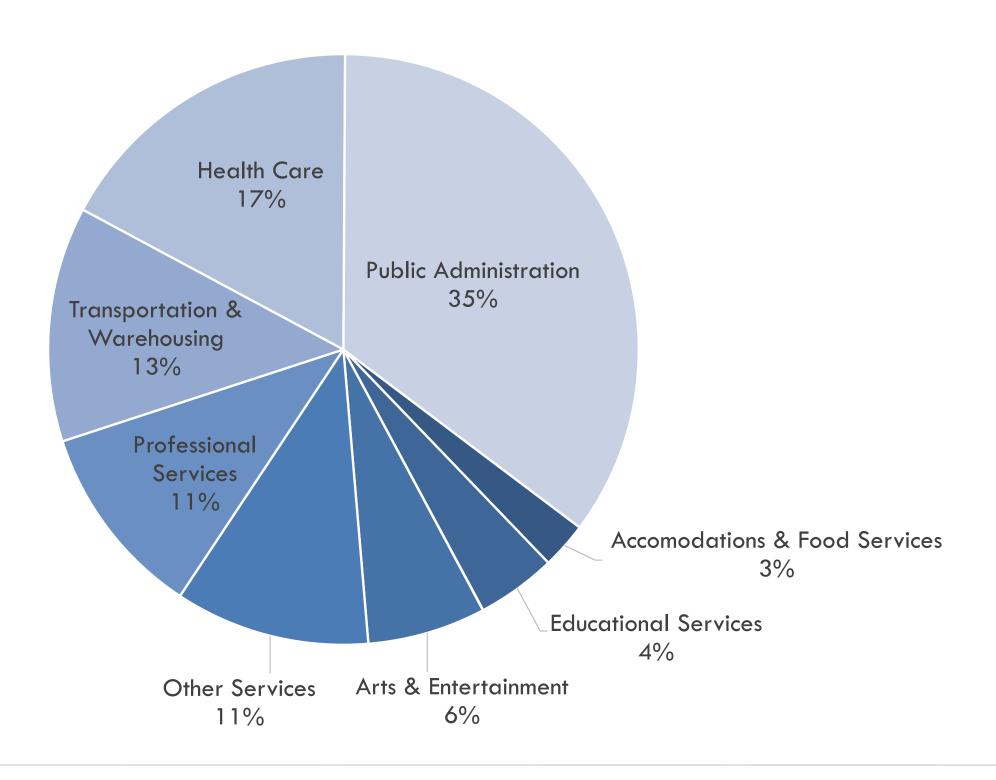
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Who Does Civic Center Serve?

Employment Snapshot within a 6-Block Radius

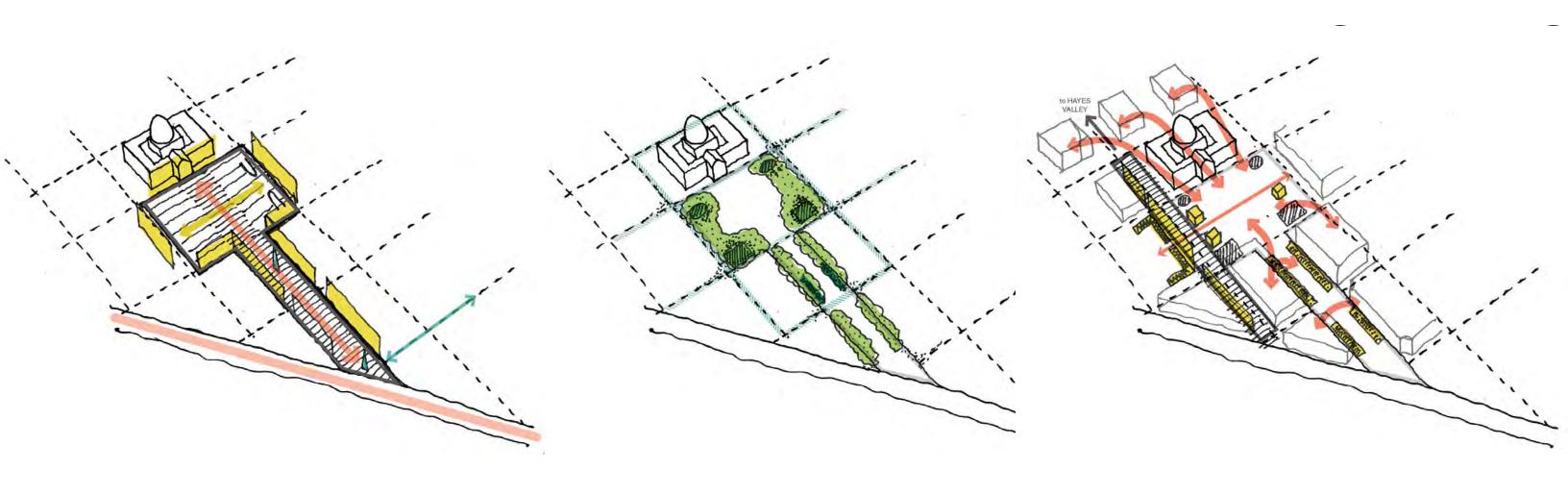




Public Space Principles

- 1. Civic Center will be a **diverse & inclusive** place that is **authentic to San Francisco and to the surrounding neighborhoods.**
- 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**.
- Civic Center will include varied amenities for daily use and flexible spaces for large events.
- 5. Civic Center will be a healthy, safe **space of respite** and a place to **meet your neighbors**.
- 6. Civic Center will demonstrate best practices for **sustainable**, **resilient** urban infrastructure.

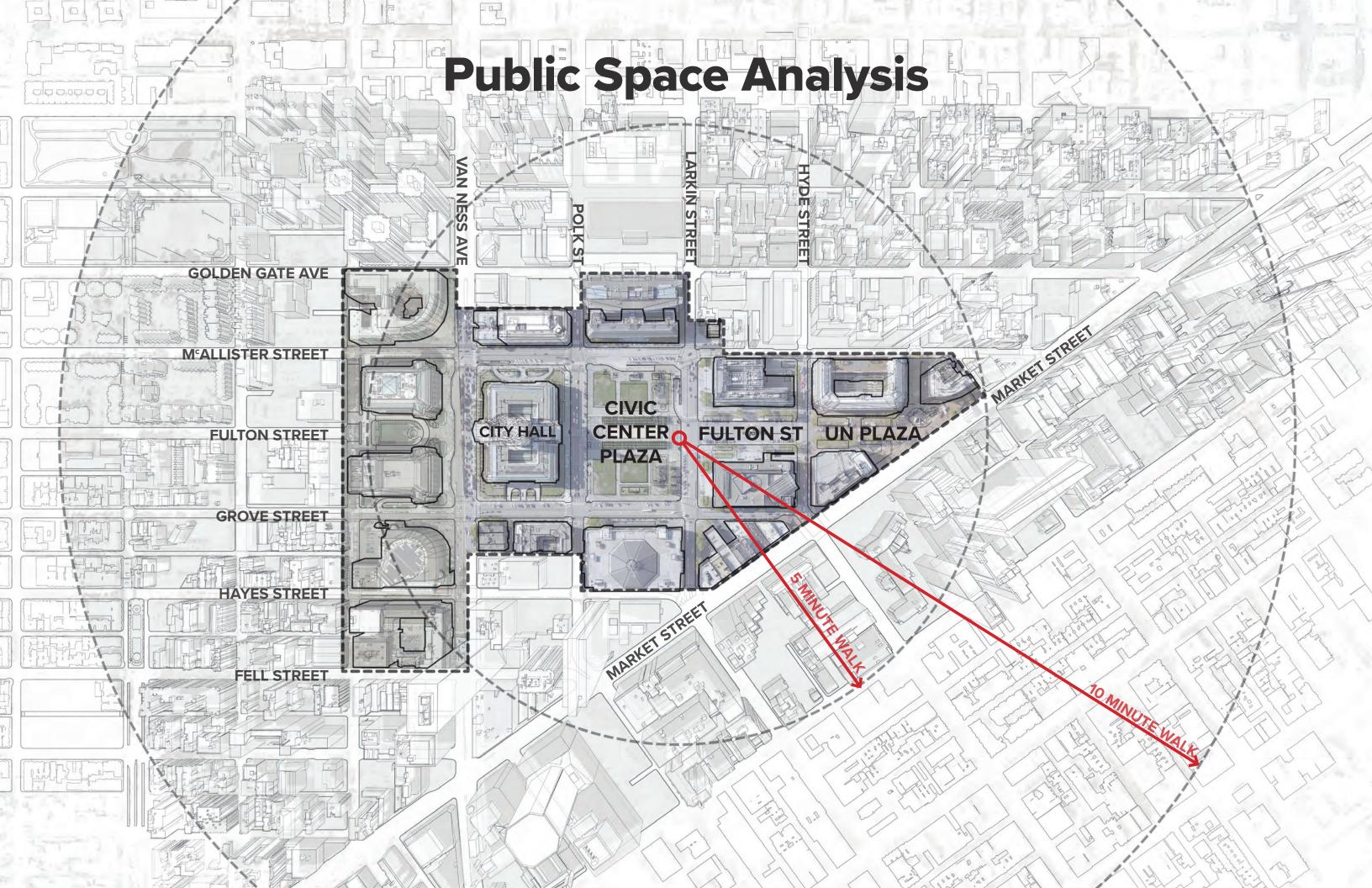
Three Design Goals



Connection & Cohesion

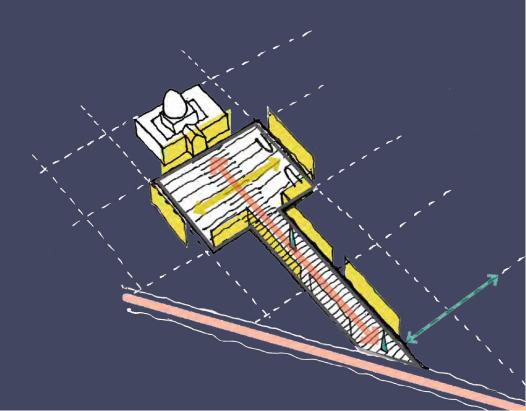
Quality & Comfort

Invitations & Vitality



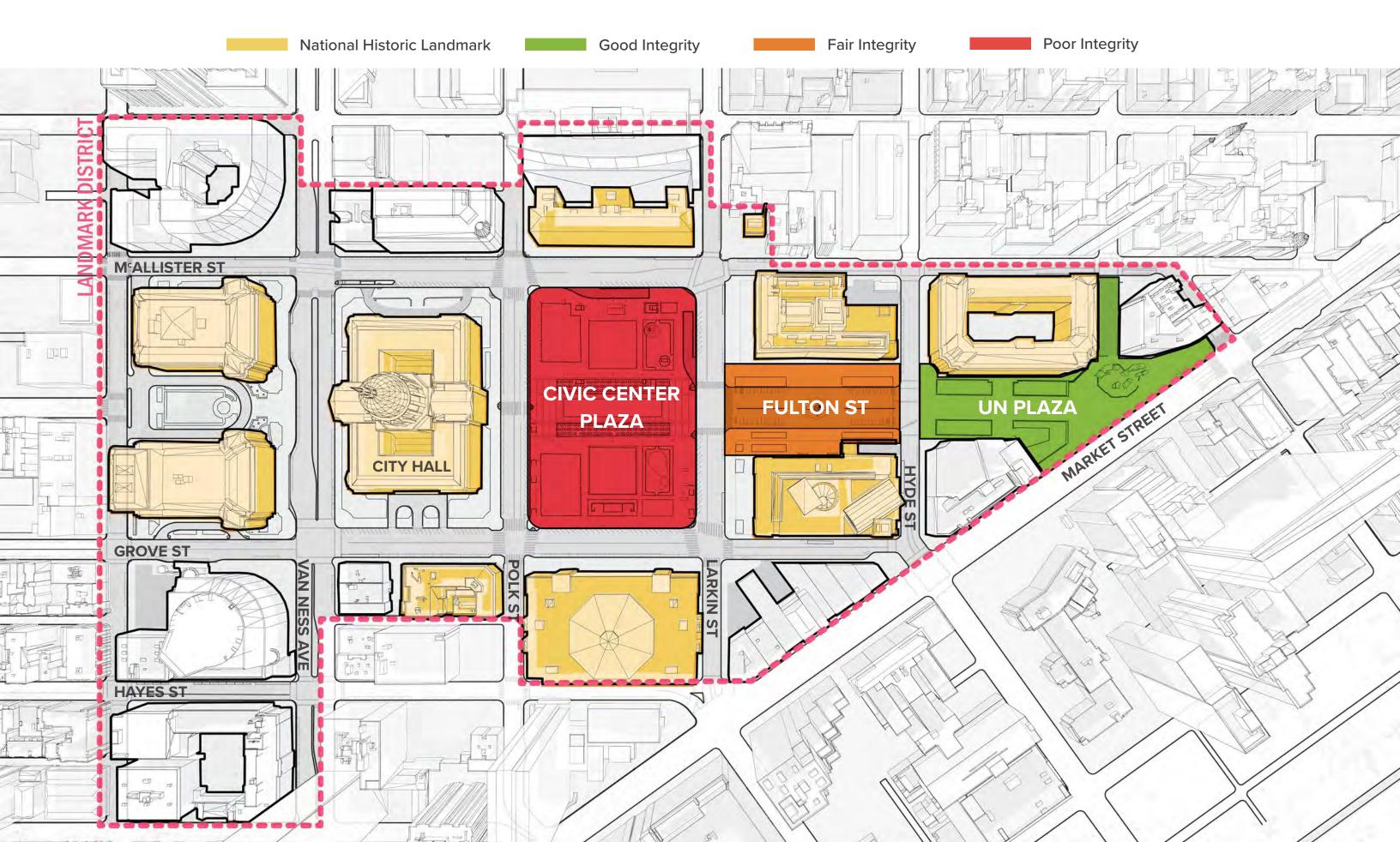
CONNECTION + COHESION

Reinforce key connections, unify the public realm as a place for pedestrians, and create a vivid district identity.

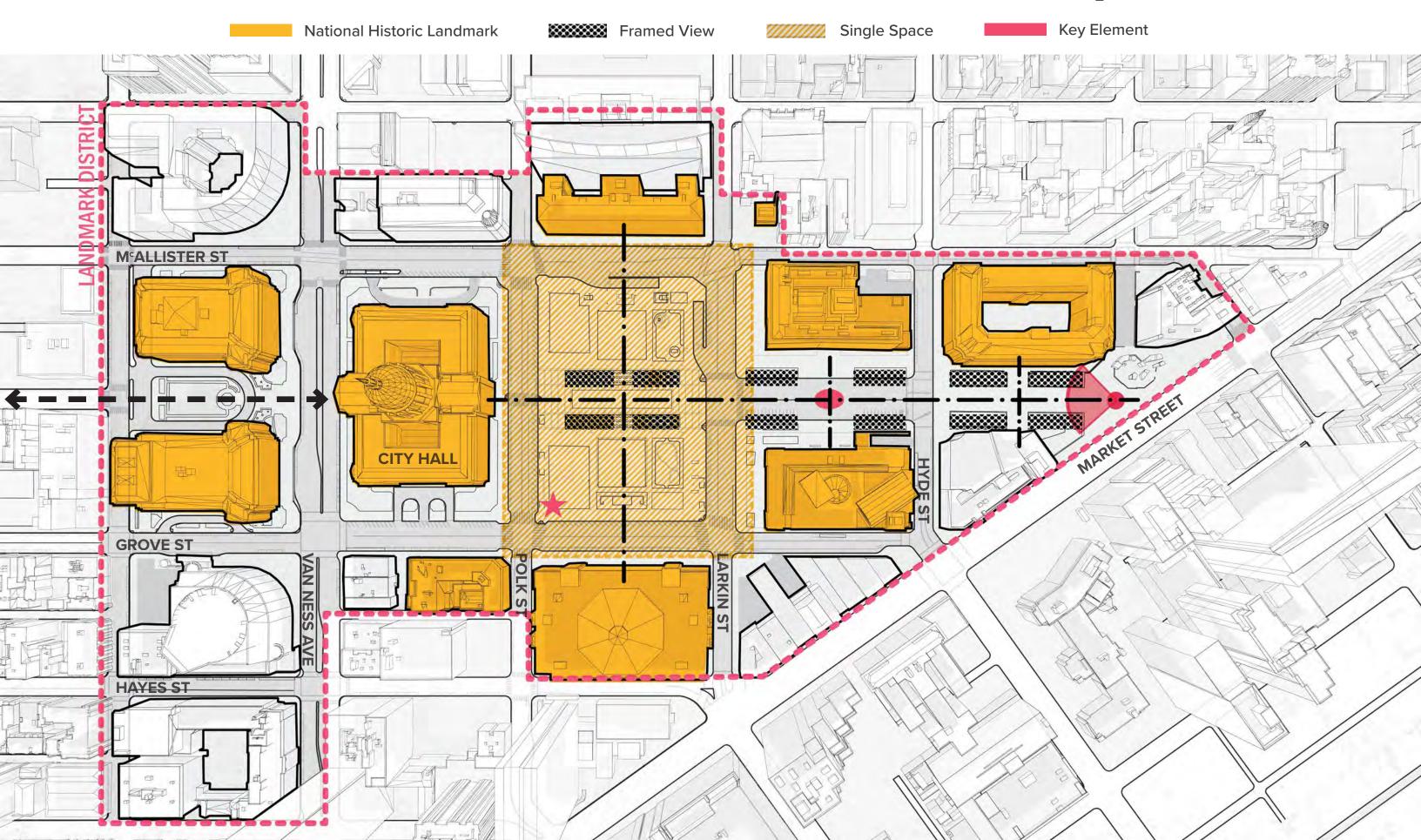




The Civic Center Landmark District has varied historic resources.



Preserve historic resources + relationships.



Vehicles dominate key views.

Vehicular Area (Travel, Parking, + Loading)

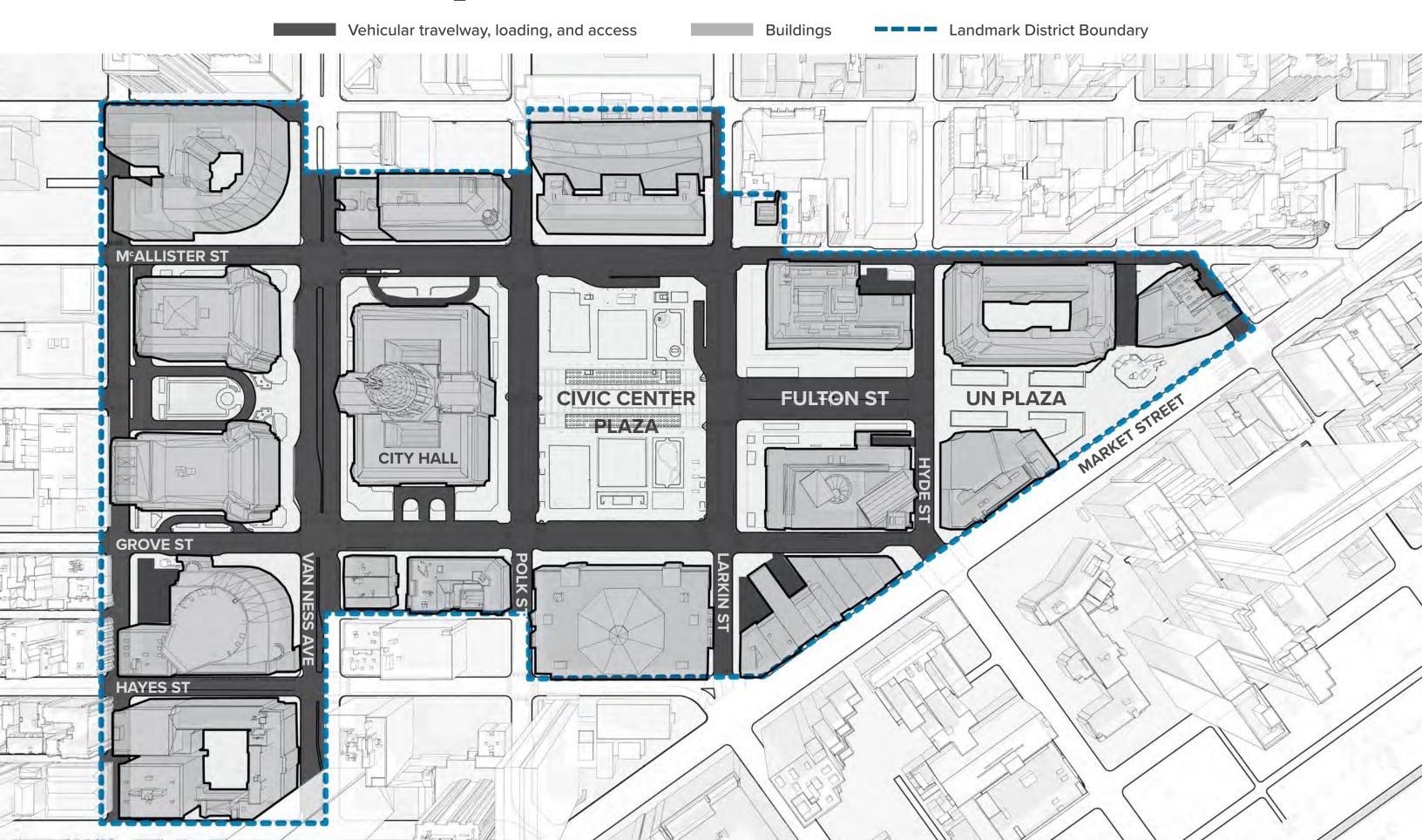
View to Market Street from Fulton St



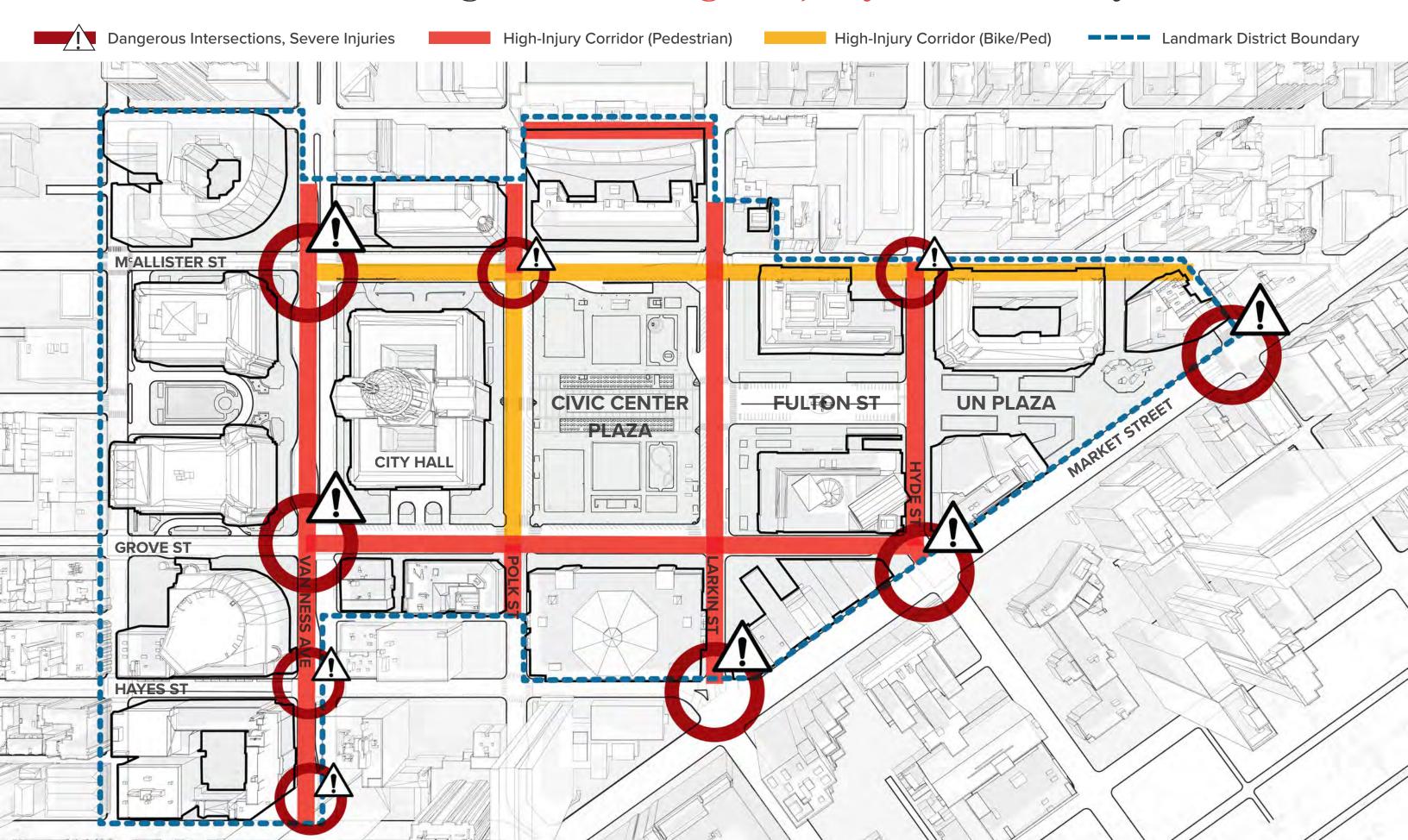
View Across Civic Center Plaza from Bill Graham Civic Auditorium



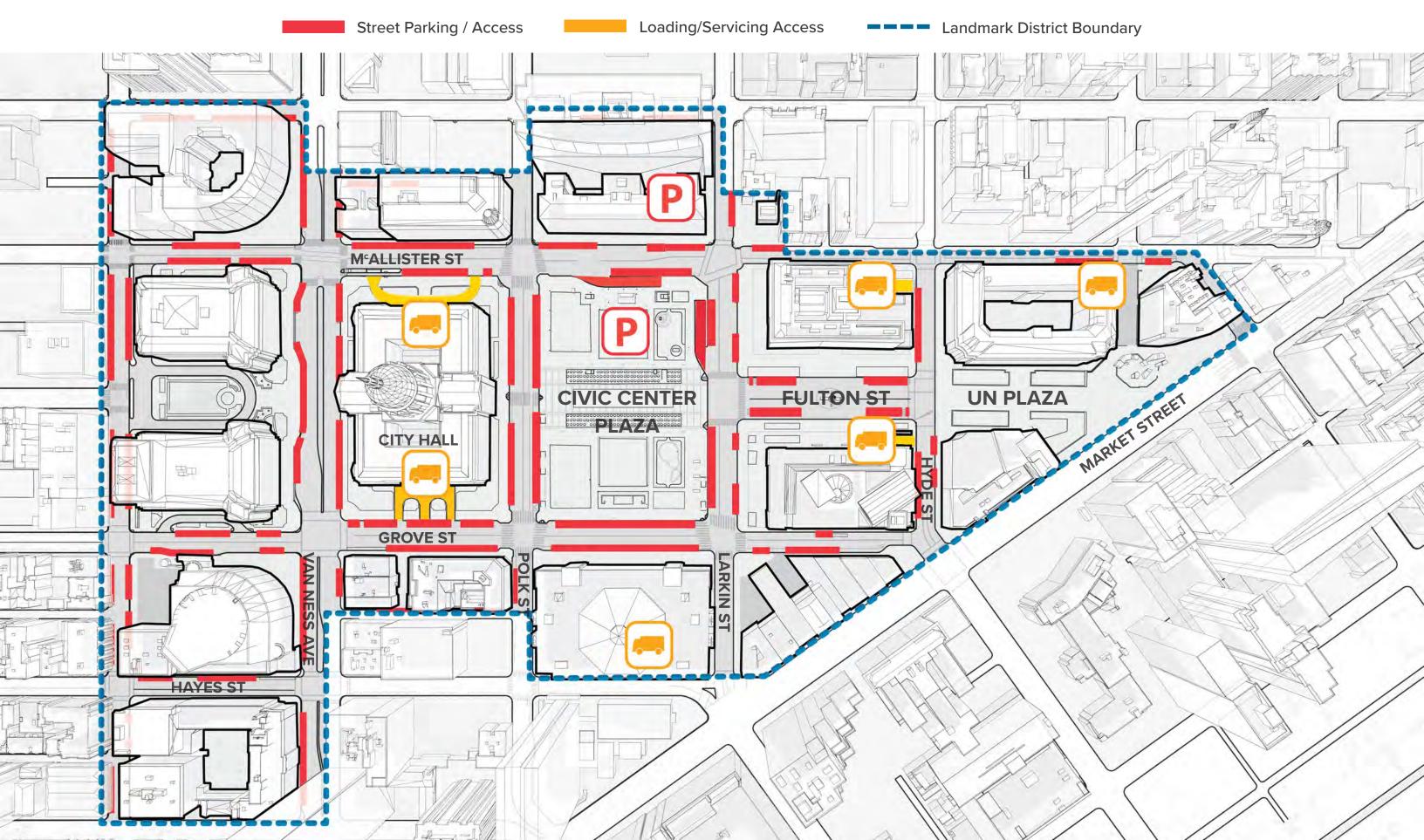
46% of the public realm is dedicated to vehicles.



These streets are designated as high-injury corridors by Vision Zero.



Street parking & loading dominate the street experience.



Civic Center has poor-quality gateways at important connections.

Blank or Uninviting Facade



Dedicated Vehicular Space



Permanent Barriers

LEAVENWORTH ST





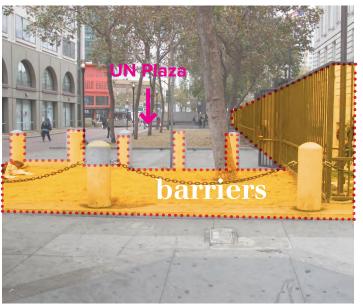


GROVE ST



M^cALLISTER ST



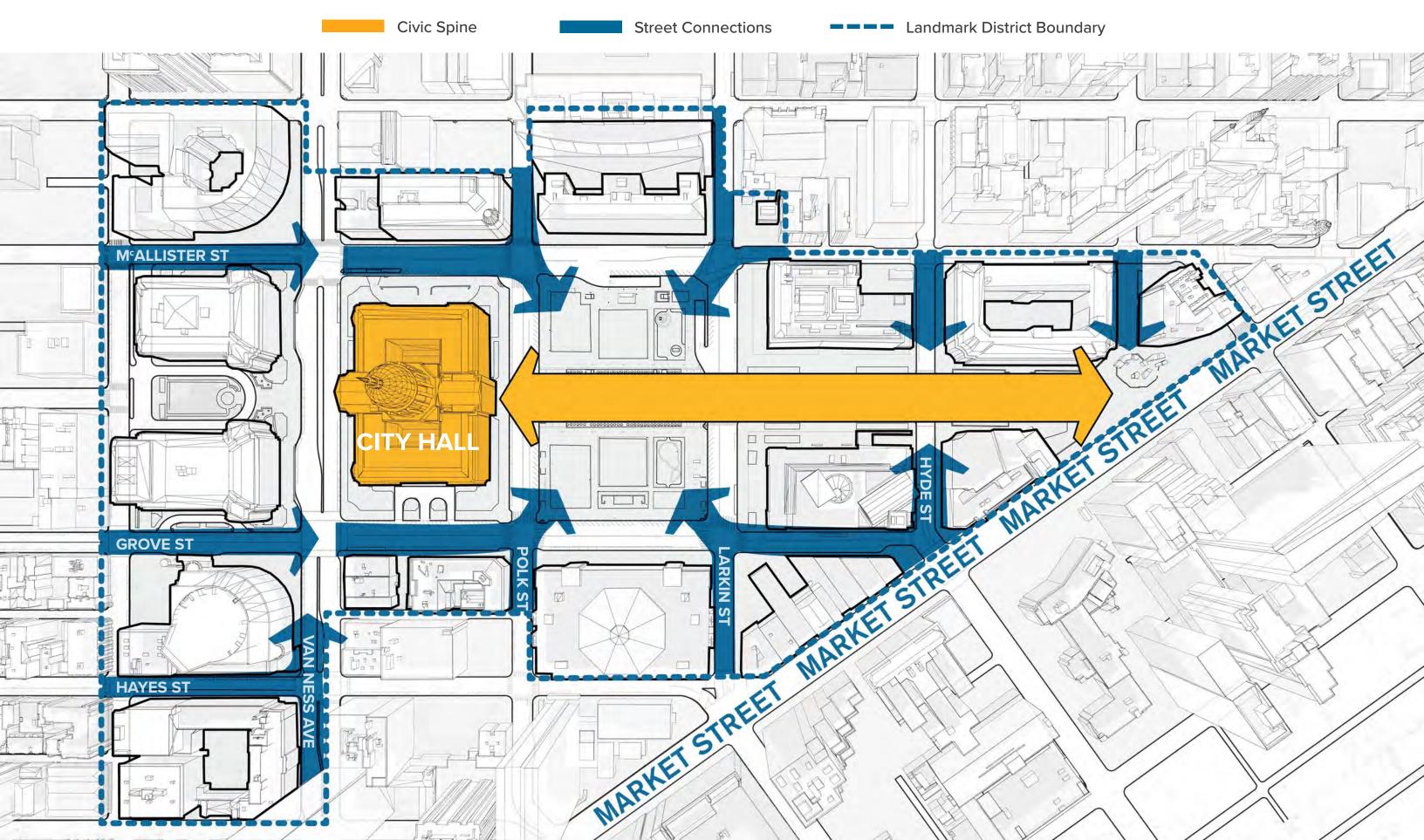








Enhance the civic spine + pedestrian connections.



Support the public spaces with great streets that prioritize pedestrians, bicyclists, & transit.



MULTI-MODAL STREETS

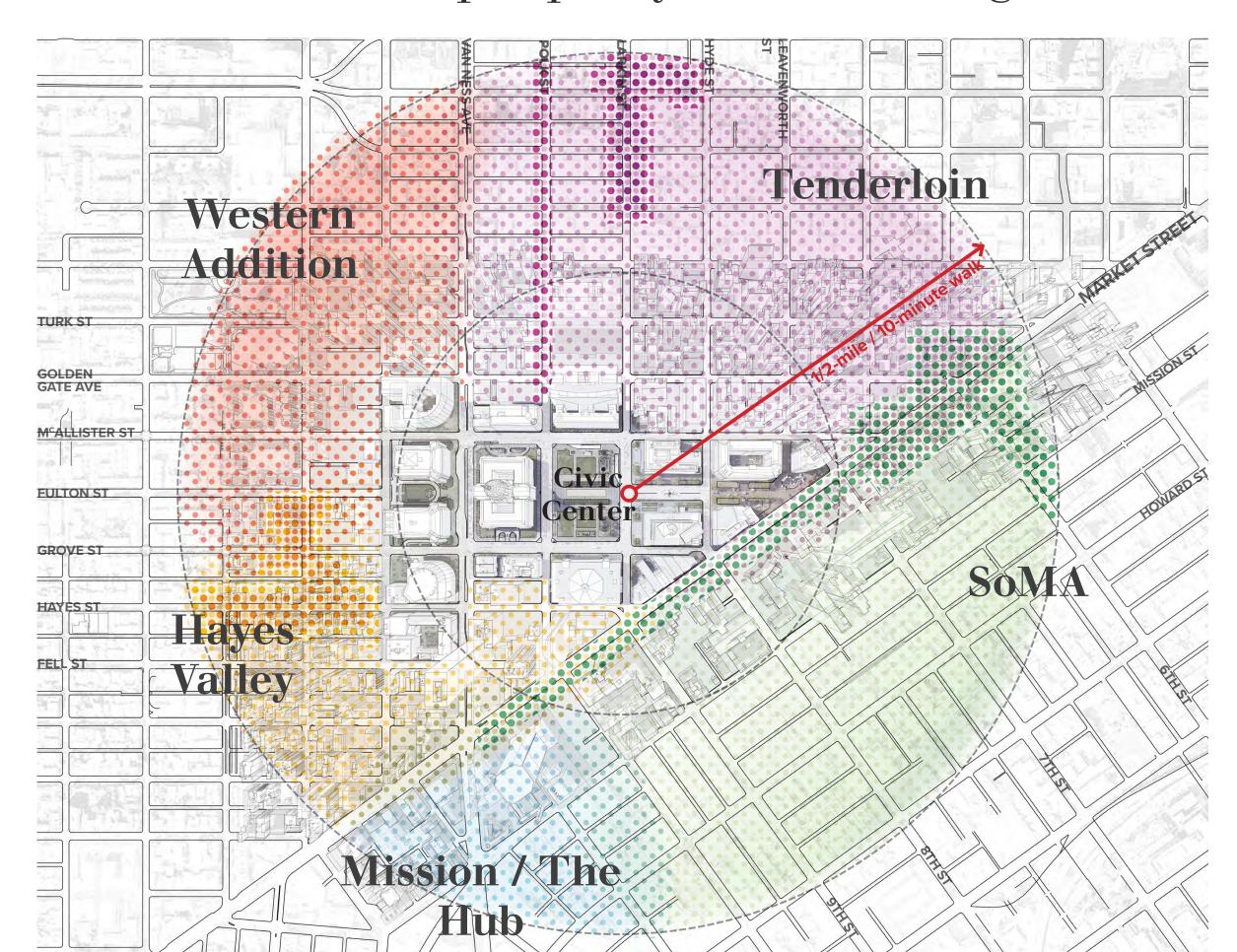


SHARED STREETS / STREET CLOSURE



SAFER CROSSINGS

Civic Center is on the periphery of several neighborhoods.

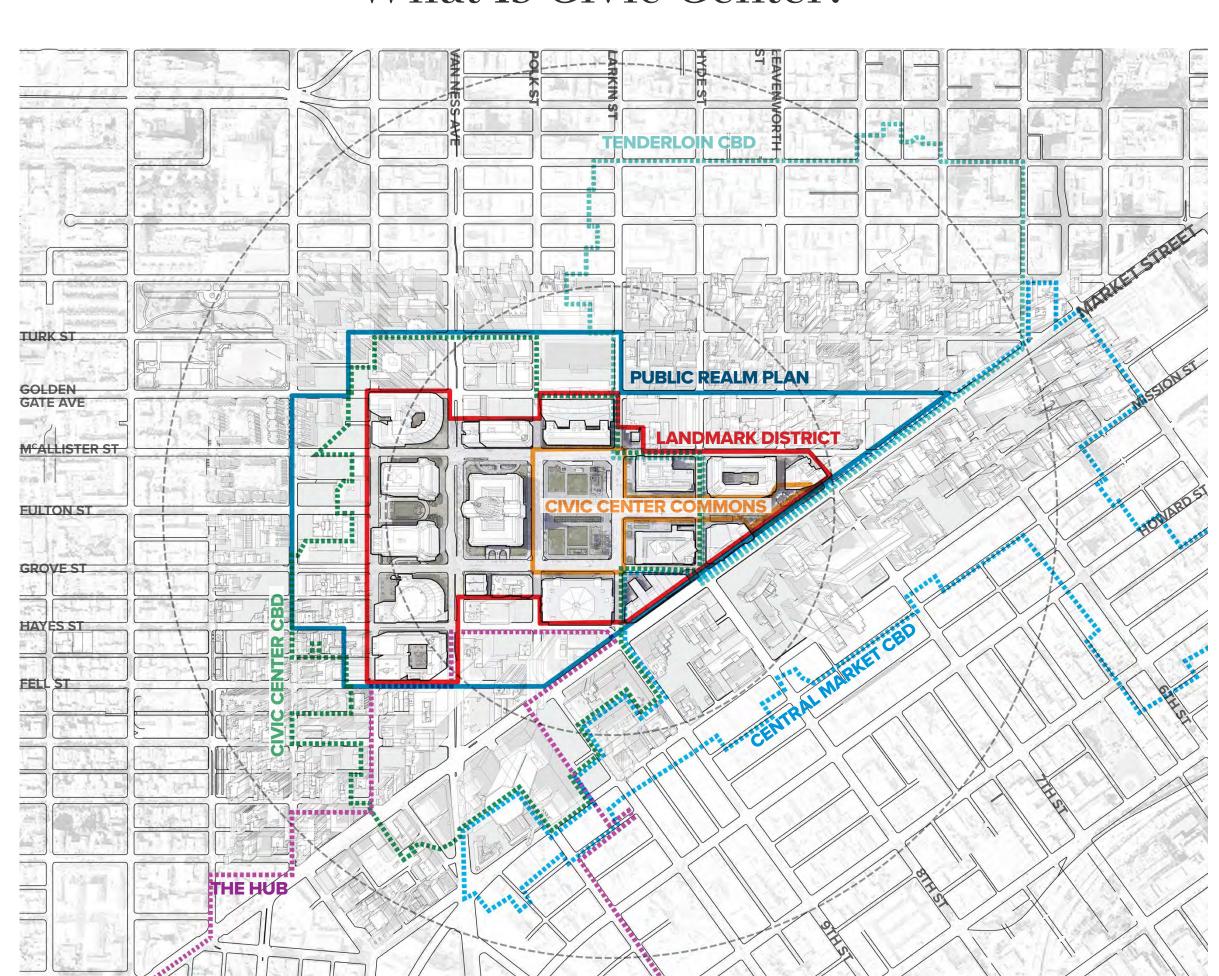


What is Civic Center?

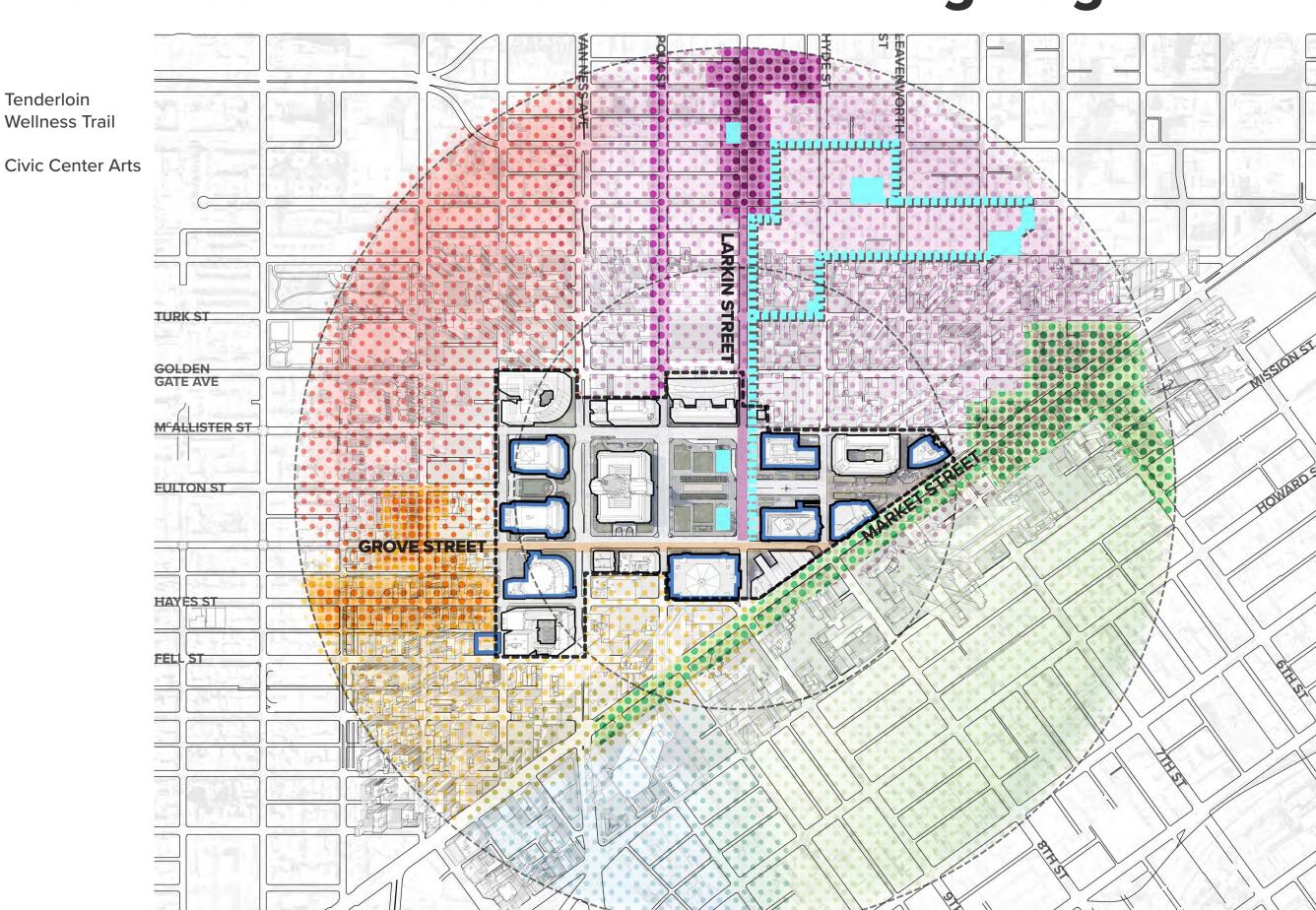
Public Realm Plan Area

> Landmark District Boundary

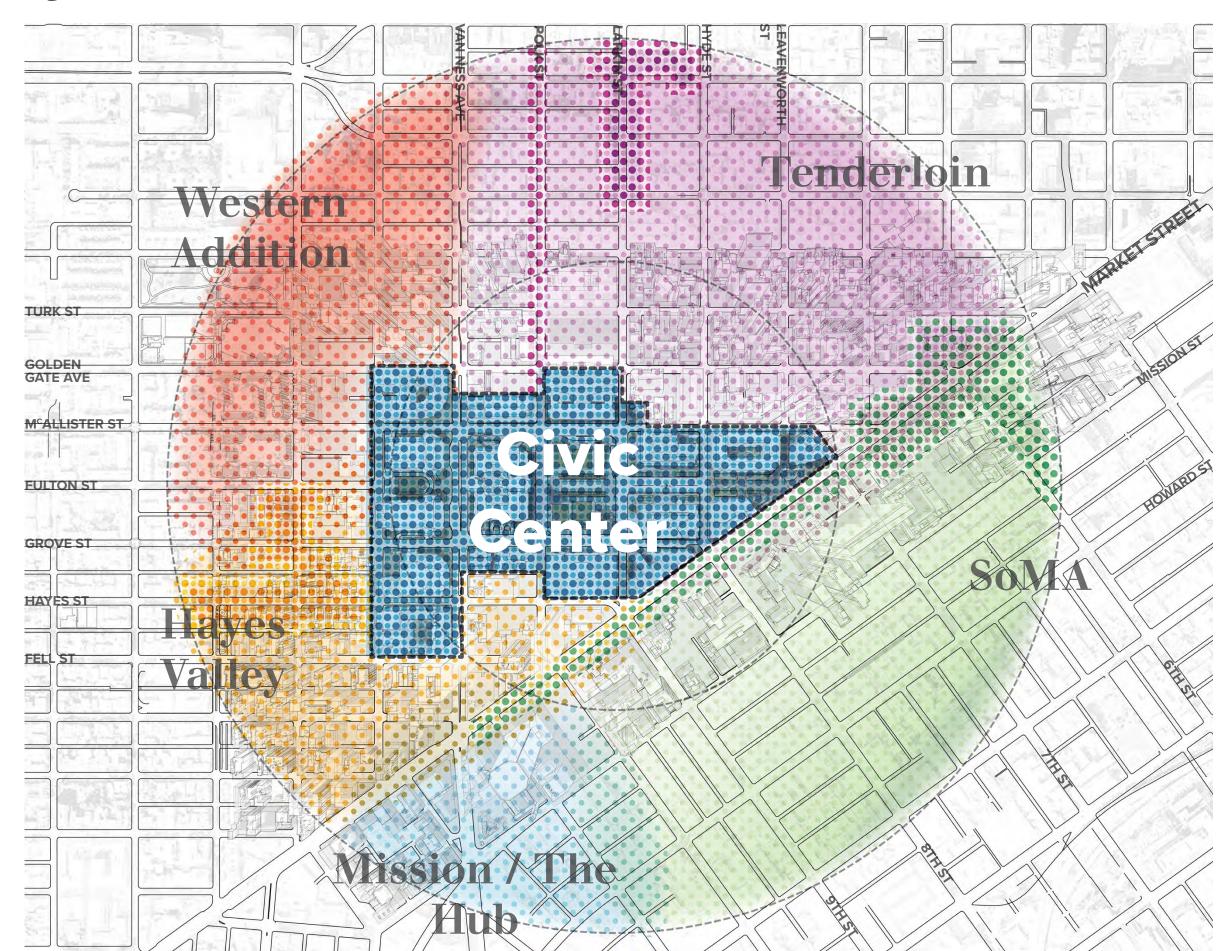
Civic Center Commons



Connect the district to surrounding neighborhoods.

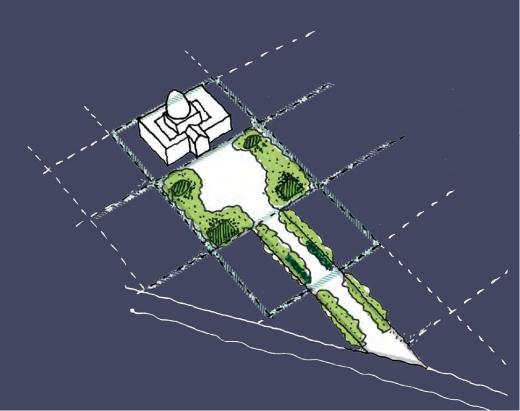


Unify our civic heart: create a vivid district identity.



QUALITY + COMFORT

Create a high-quality, sustainable neighborhood open space that connects people to their environment.





San Francisco has a small tree canopy that is shrinking.

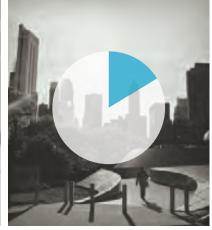
San Francisco has one of the smallest tree canopies of any major U.S. city.

URBAN TREE CANOPY COMPARISON Sources: SF Planning Department (2012), City of Seattle (2007), City of Portland (2012), Million Trees NYC (2012), City of Chicago (2012) and Million Trees LA (2006).

Using aerial photos, the size of an urban forest can be monitored and its growth or decline tracked over time. The benefits and services provided by trees are directly related to the extent of a city's canopy cover. Larger leaf surface areas indicate the increased capacity of trees to clean air, absorb stormwater and beautify streets and neighborhoods.







CHICAGO



21% LOS ANGELES



23% SEATTLE

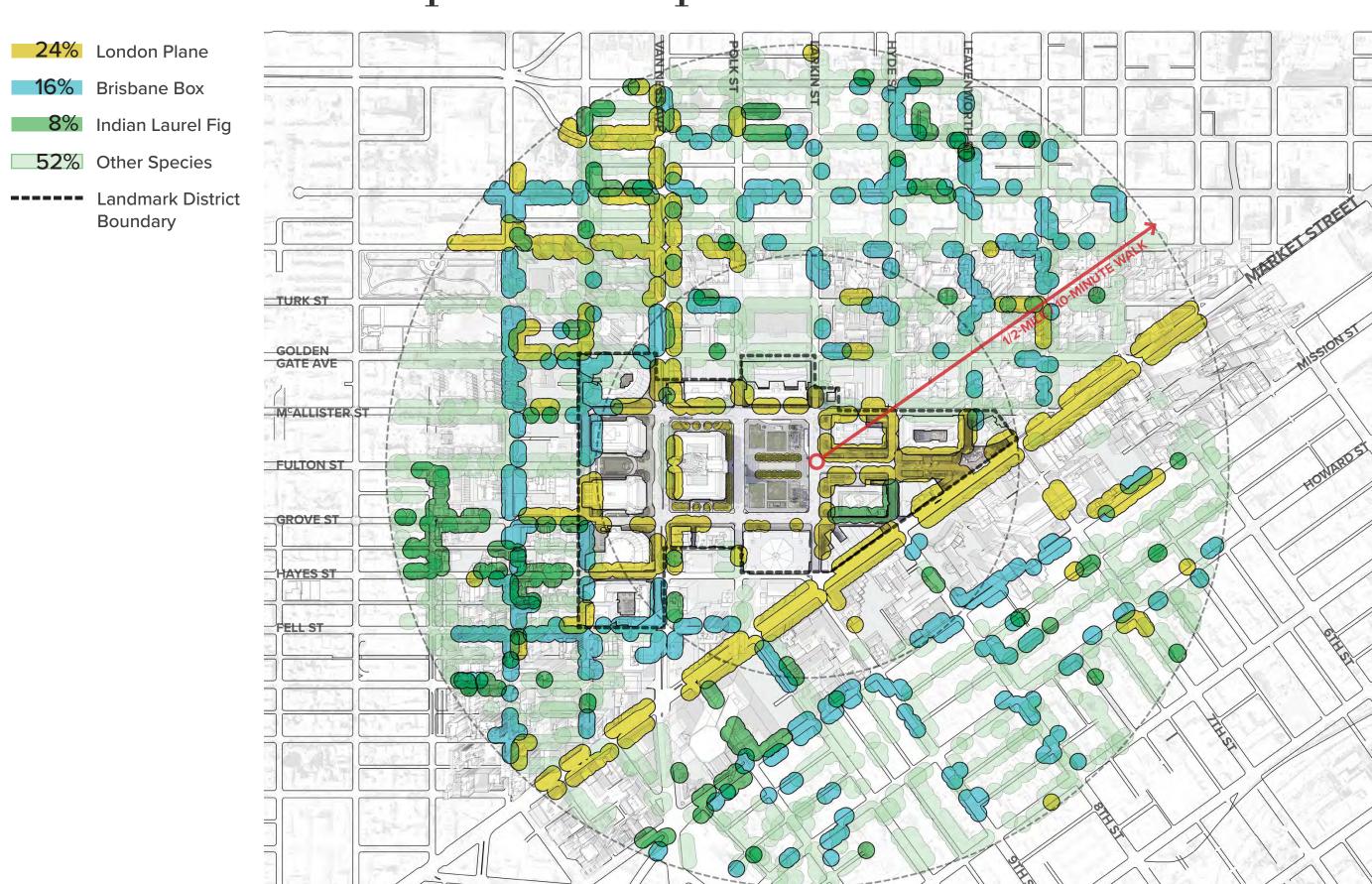


24% **NEW YORK CITY**



30% **PORTLAND**

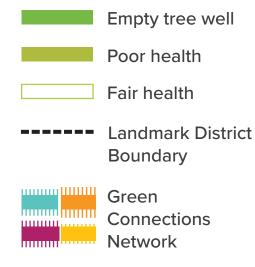
Civic Center's urban forest lacks diversity: 3 species comprise ~50% of all trees.

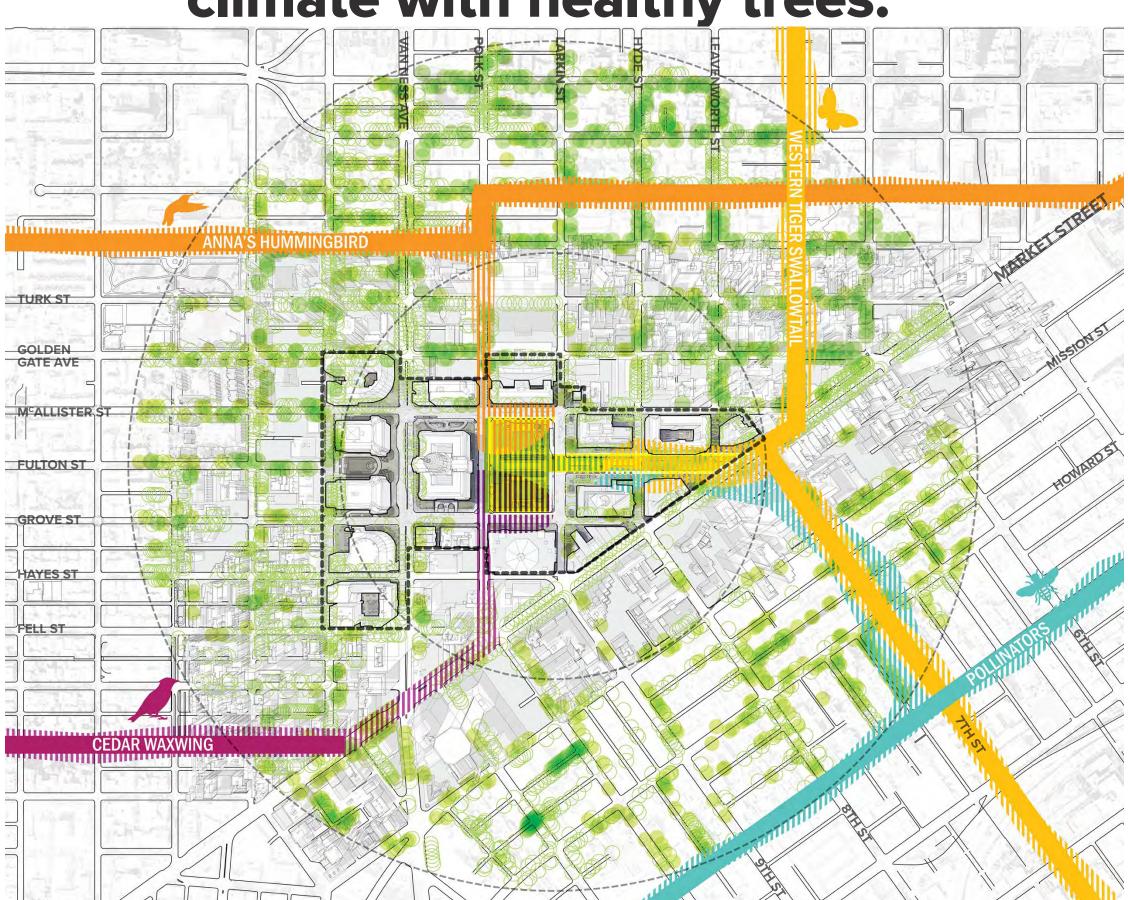


81% of trees within a 1/2-mile radius are in fair, poor, or critical health.



Transform Civic Center's character + climate with healthy trees.





Trees can contribute to district identity and a sense of wonder.

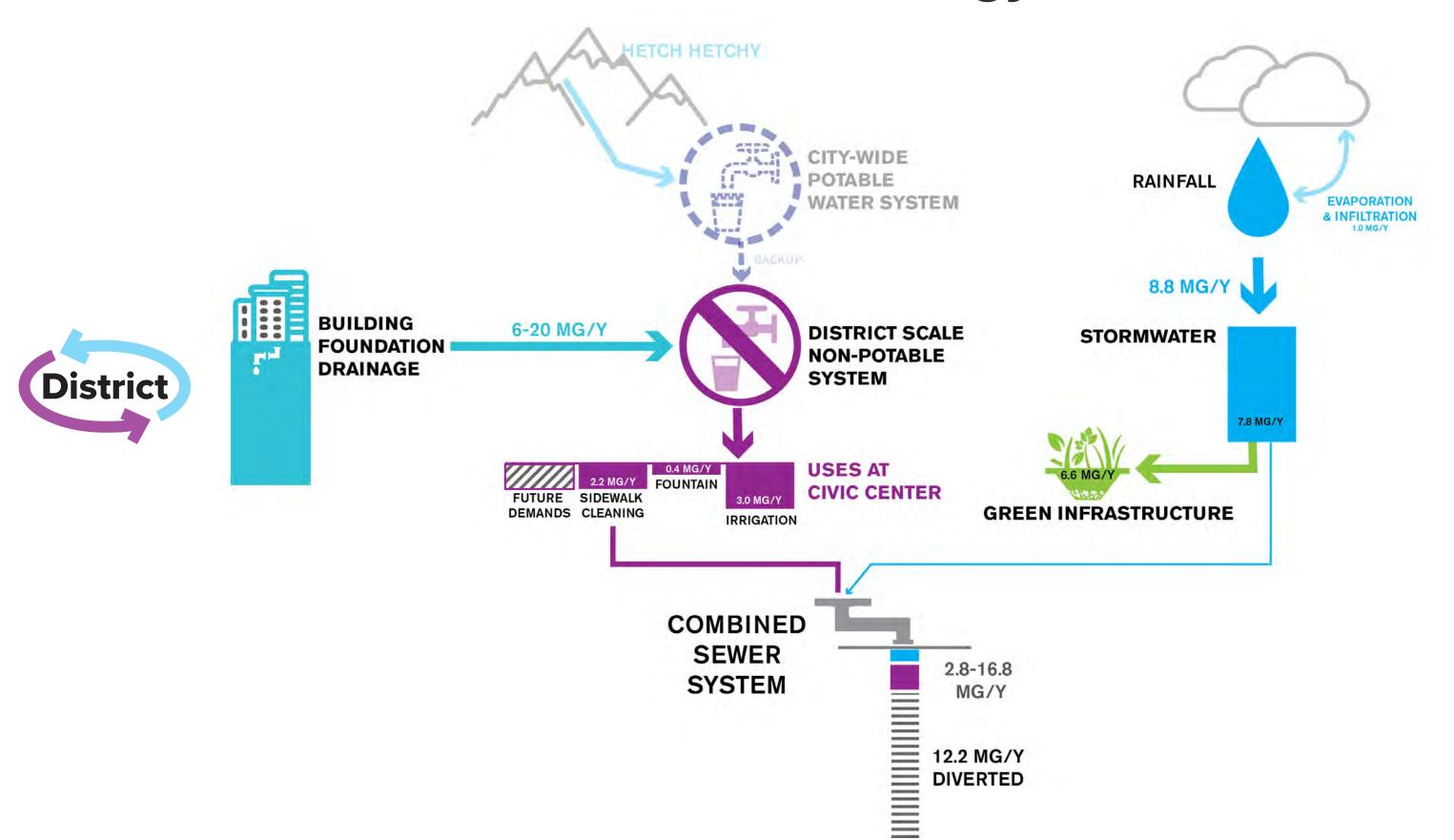




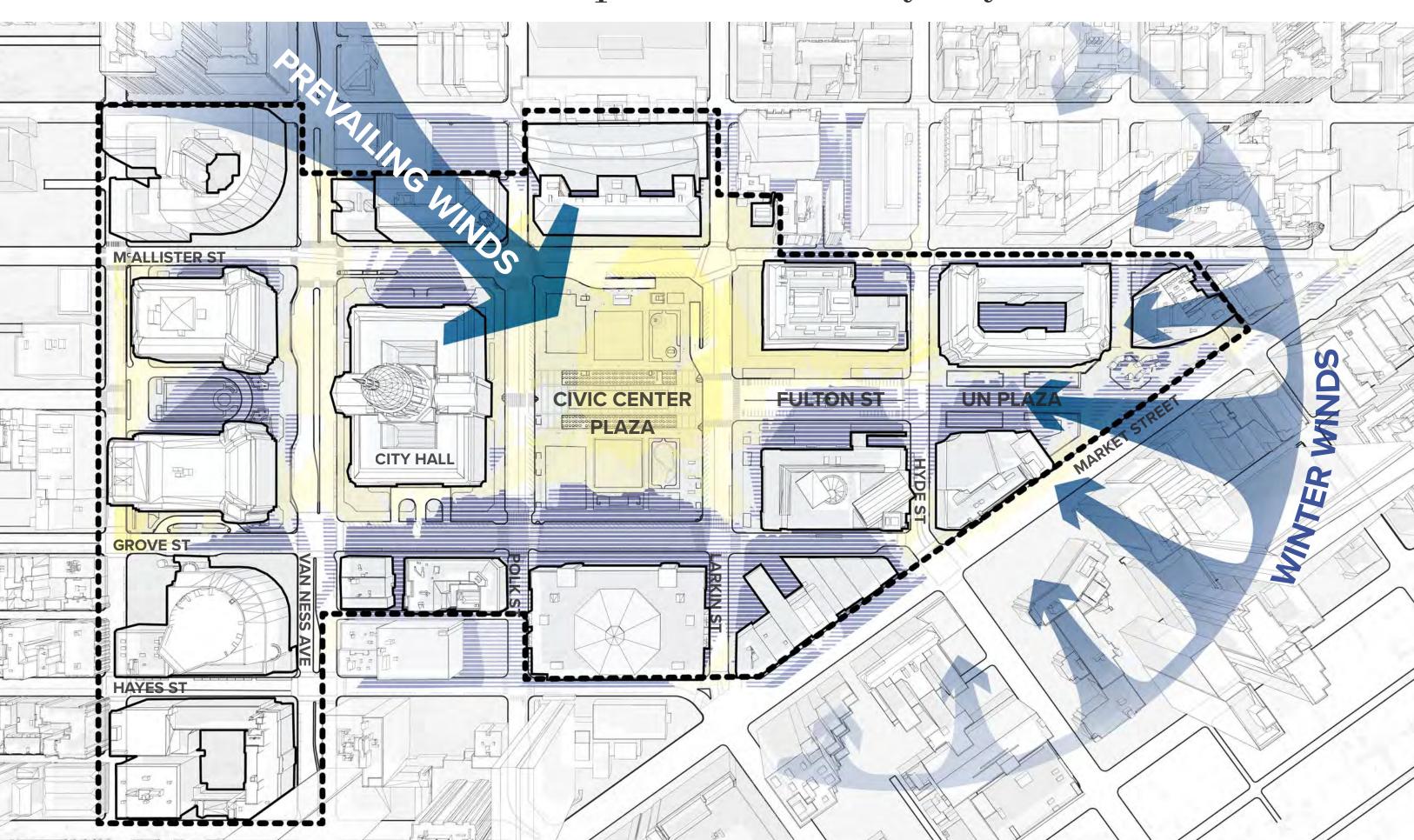


"To see delight in Civic Center is an unusual experience"

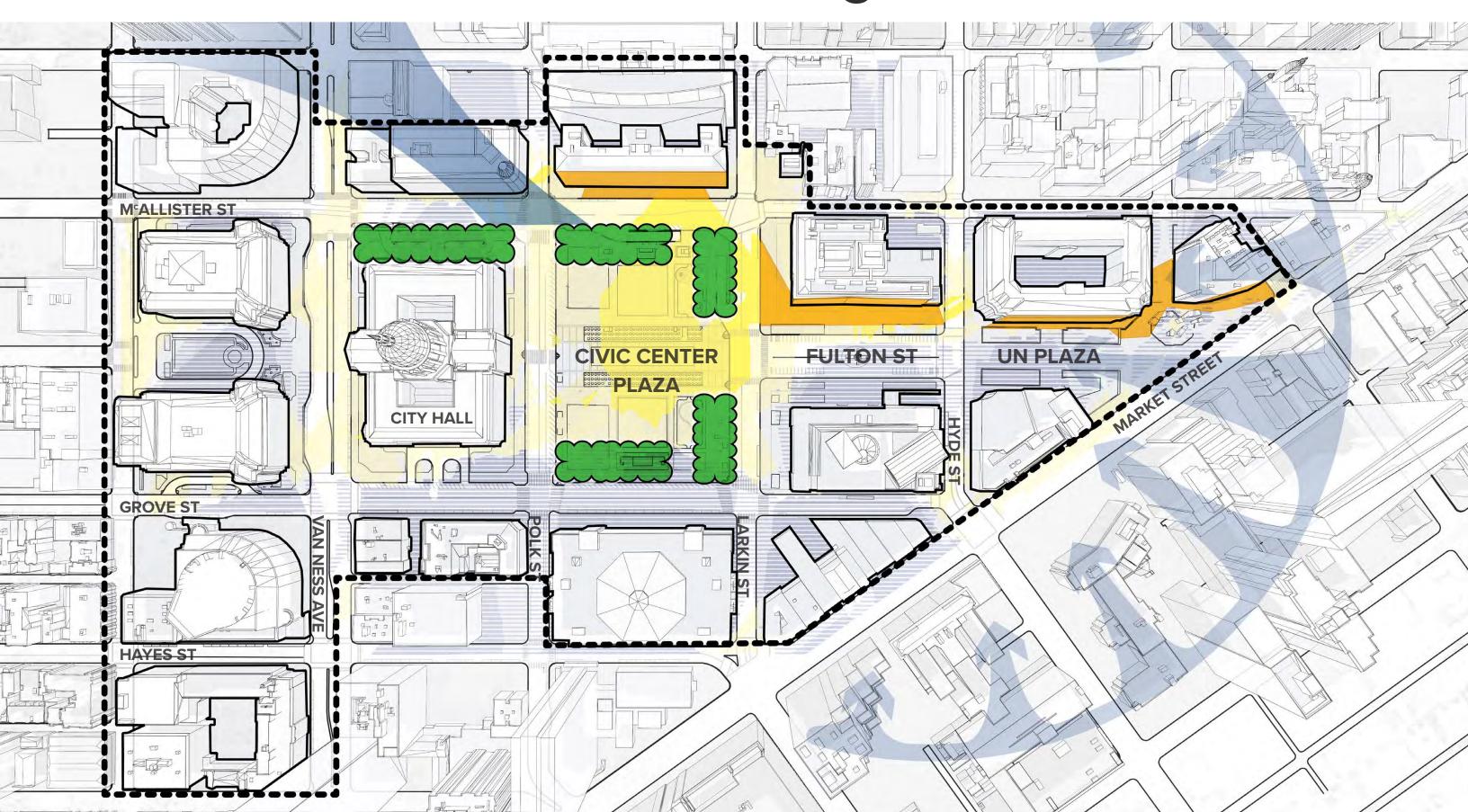
Rethink the district as a model for sustainable urban ecology.



Civic Center feels inhospitable on windy days & after dark.



Block wind & enhance sunny locations to make Civic Center inviting in all seasons.



Transform Civic Center at night with iconic lighting.







"It's the only part of the city that shuts down this way"

"Civic Center doesn't end at 8pm"

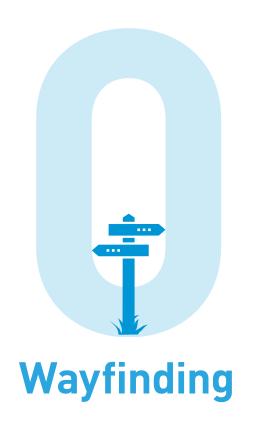
Civic Center lacks typical public space characteristics.

Little to delight the 5 senses

In **730,000** square feet of public open space...few invitations to touch, smell, taste Civic Center.

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











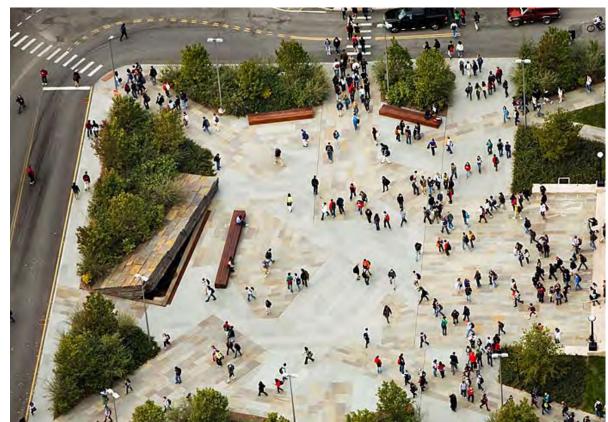


Define spaces and create rooms with paving.









Provide essential amenities...









And varied ways to sit and linger.







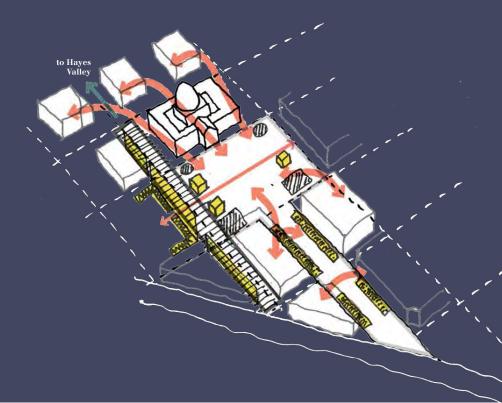






INVITATIONS + VITALITY

Provide necessary infrastructure to welcome diverse activities, visitors, and uses.





Civic Center's public spaces do not provide for basic needs.

"It's an ice cold place."

"We need to flood the market with things we need: it's just as easy to take care of 4 bathrooms as it is to take care of 1 bathroom - we need more of everything." "You can't even hijack a statue if you want to sit down"

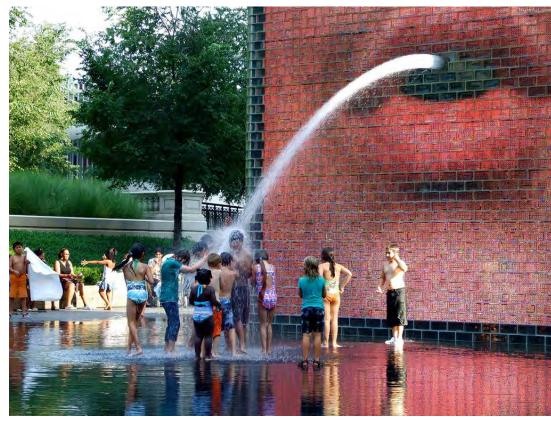
"Space is vast; needs to be subdivided & made human scale."

"No water fountains.
People are suffering from dehydration and rely on the library for restrooms"

Provide inclusive neighborhood programs and amenities for daily use.













Short-term events and installations have been very successful!













Provide new civic features that reflect San Francisco's diversity + culture.











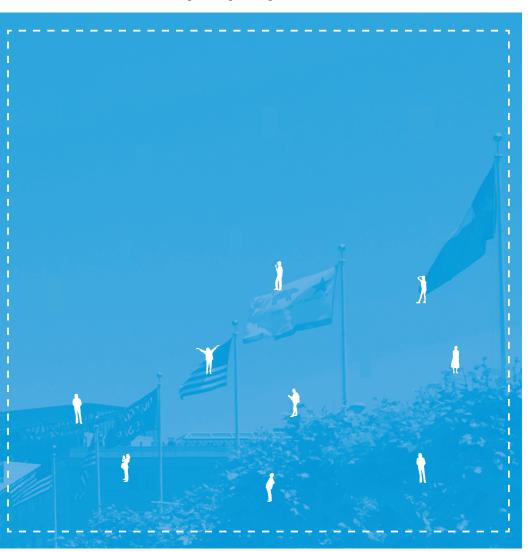


Build in flexibility to accommodate varied events.

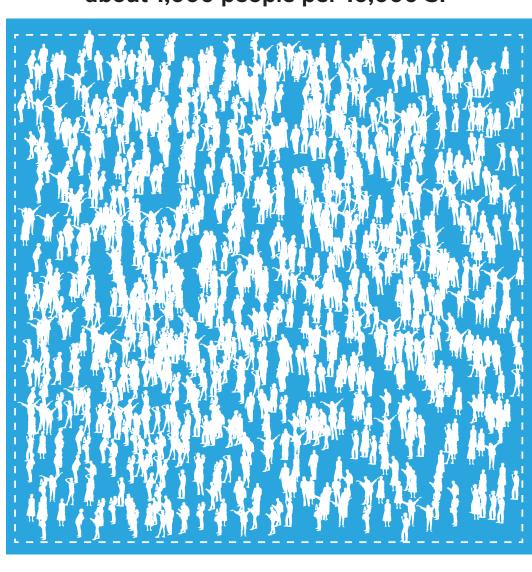
Civic Center Today about 3 people per 10,000 SF



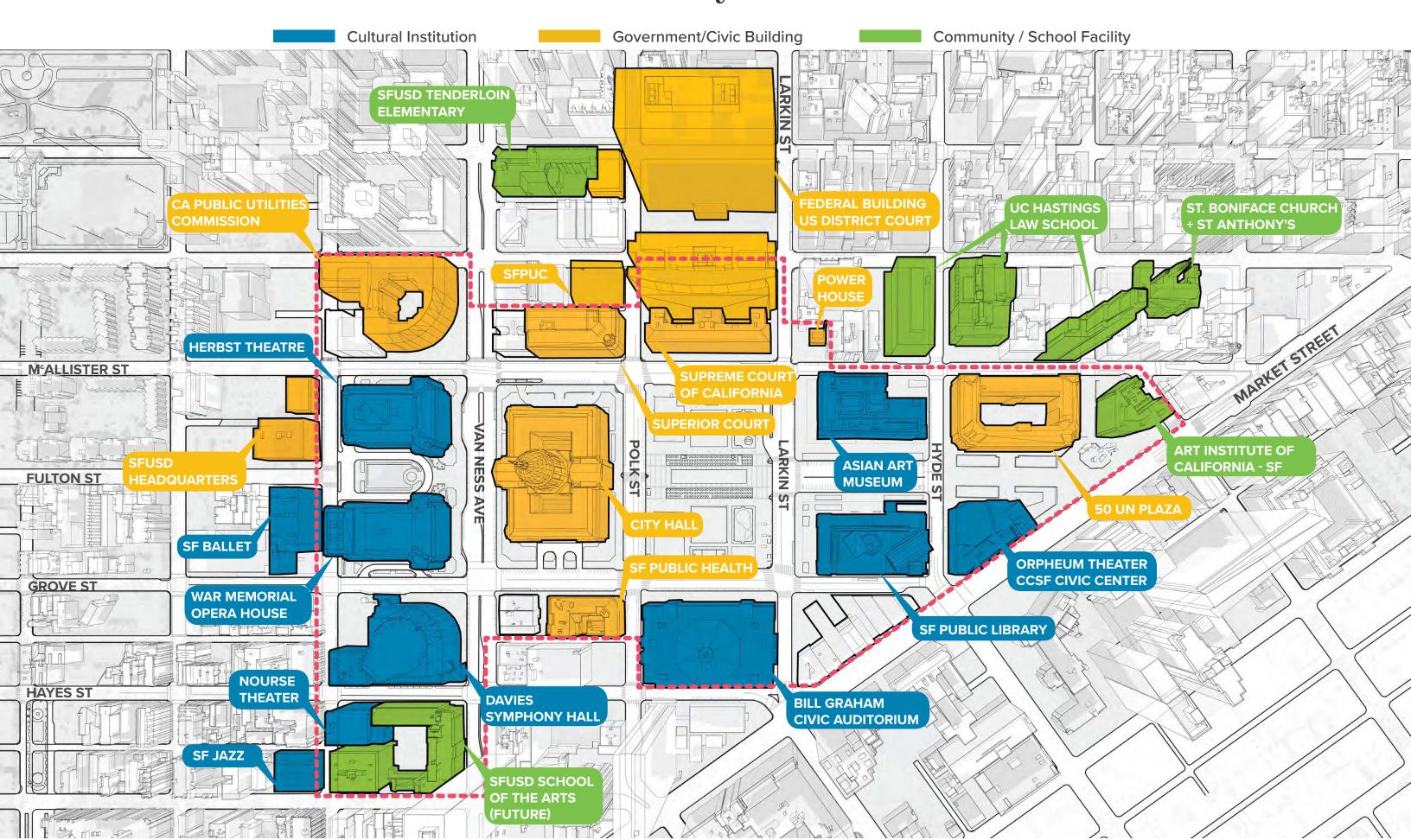
UN Plaza Farmer' Market about 9 people per 10,000 SF



Civic Center Protest about 1,000 people per 10,000 SF



Civic Center has an incredible array of cultural and civic institutions.



Open institutions to new audiences and make Civic Center a venue for cultural experience + expression.

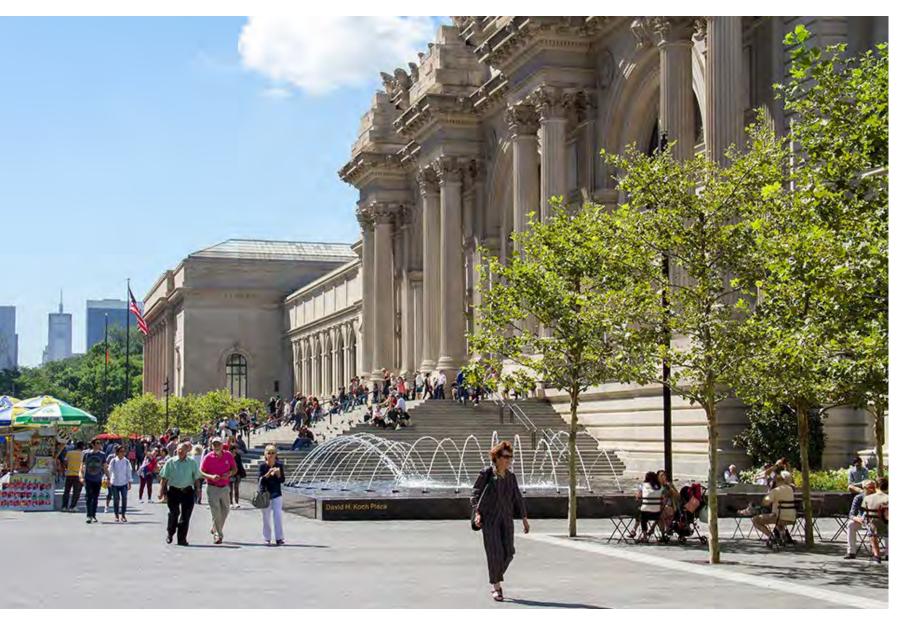






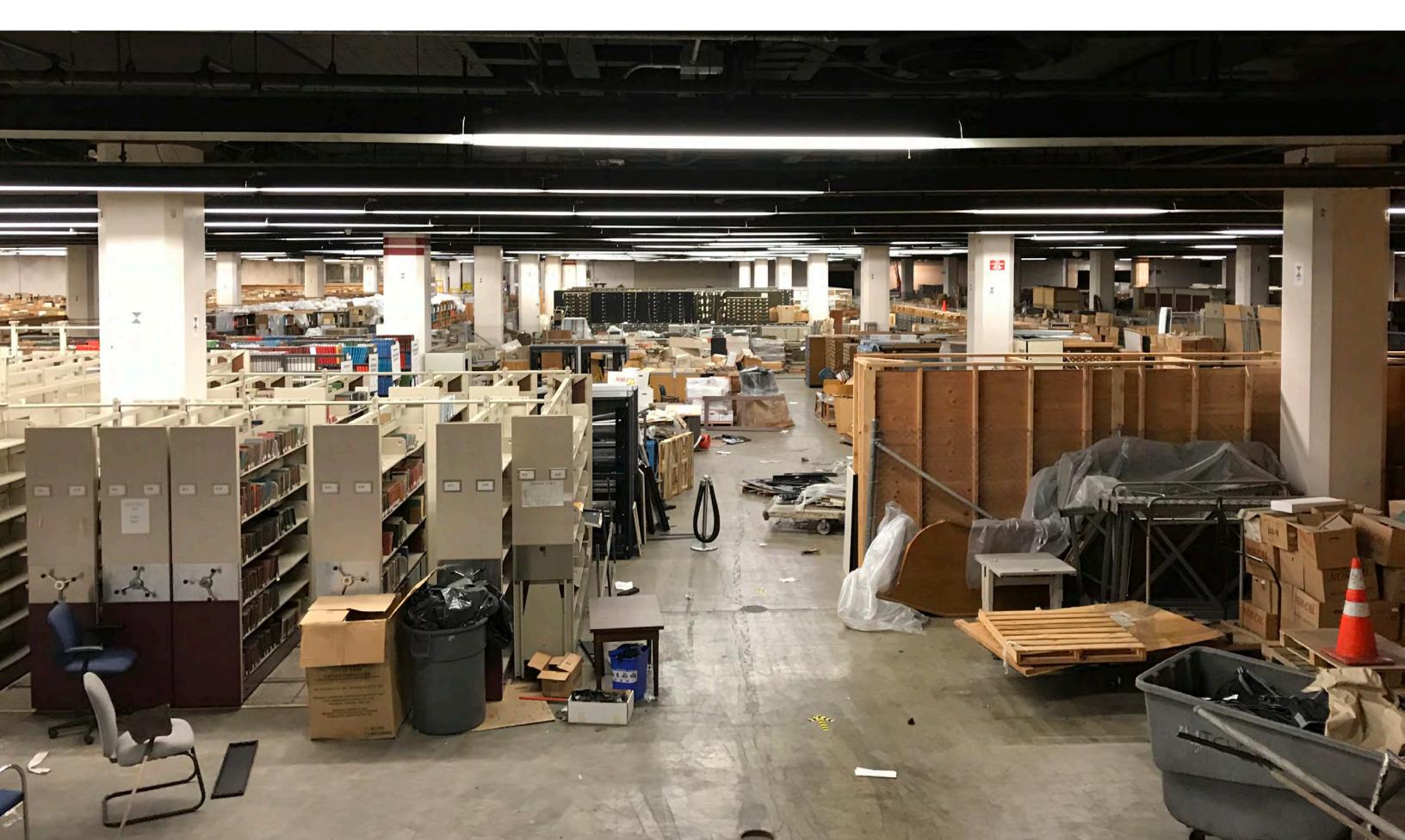


Activate sunny locations along Civic Center's edges.





Brooks Hall sits underutilized and inaccessible.



Ensure City assets serve highest + best use.

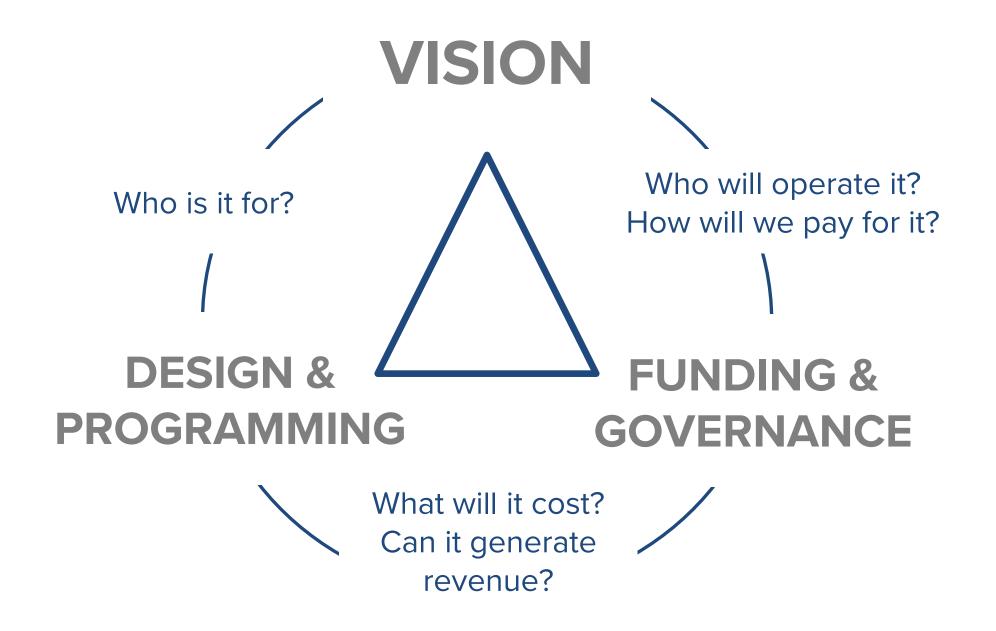








Identify a sustainable funding strategy for managing the public spaces.



VISION DRIVES DESIGN + IMPLEMENTATION

OPEN HOUSE STATIONS

CIVIC CENTER TODAY

PUBLIC SPACE + PUBLIC LIFE

PUBLIC SPACE
DESIGN
PRINCIPLES

CIVIC CENTER TOMORROW

CONNECTION & COHESION

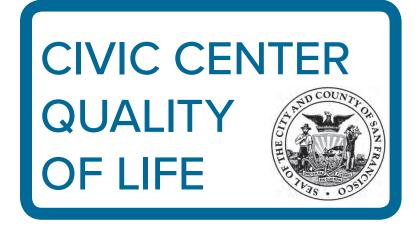
QUALITY & COMFORT

INVITATIONS & VITALITY

RELATED PROJECTS







Small Group Discussion