



EMBARCADERO PARK

Embarcadero Plaza & Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

CIVIC DESIGN REVIEW | CONCEPTUAL + PHASE I | OCTOBER 19, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO
RECREATION
& PARKS



SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SFDDC

bxp

DOWNTOWN SF
PARTNERSHIP



CHAPTER 1

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

SITE LOCATION



PROJECT PRINCIPLES & GOALS

- 1 Create a **world-class, iconic park** representing San Francisco's vibrant culture for both local and international visitors.
- 2 Create a **welcoming public space** with access for all.
- 3 Ignite the **downtown recovery** and **revitalize** the heart of the San Francisco waterfront.
- 4 Honor the **rich history** of the San Francisco waterfront.
- 5 Activate the park with a **wide range of programming** catered towards diverse communities.



THE CHALLENGES

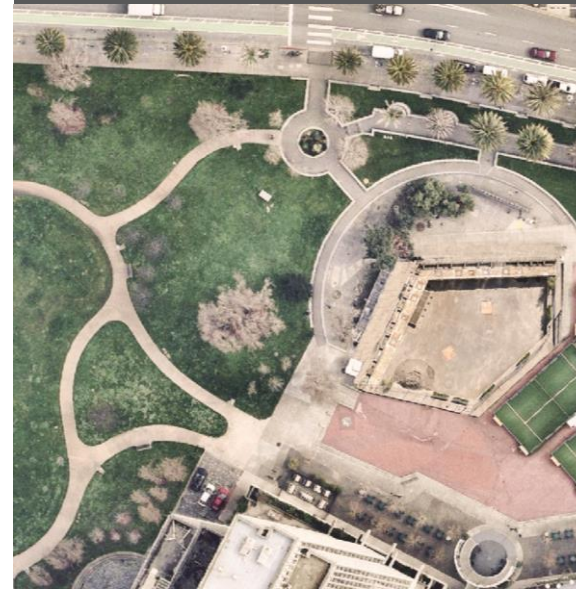
SUNKEN PLAZA



ACCESS ISSUES



DISCONNECTED SITES



BARRIERS

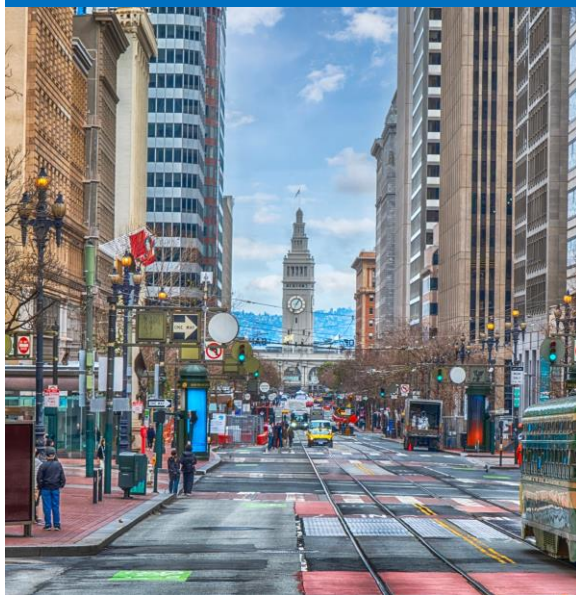


THE OPPORTUNITIES

MASS TRANSIT HUB



GATEWAY TO THE CITY



CONNECTION TO THE WATER



BUILDING UPON FERRY
BUILDING SUCCESS



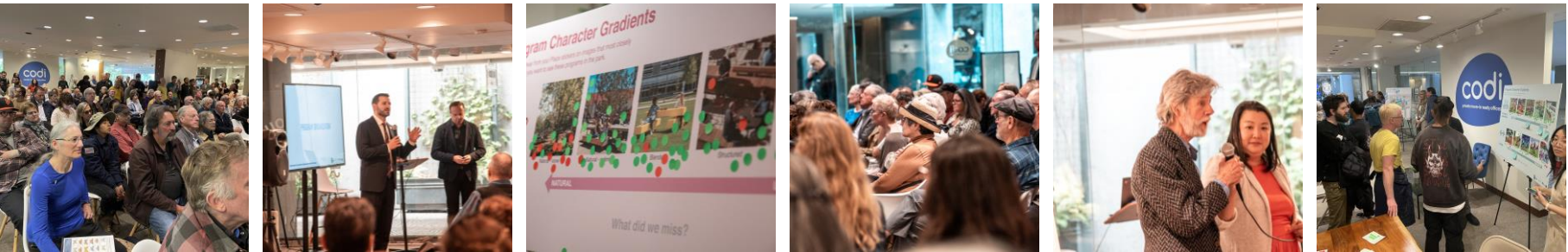
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MARCH 2025
Community Meeting #1
 1,054 Survey Responses



JULY 2025
Community Meeting #2
 738 Survey Responses

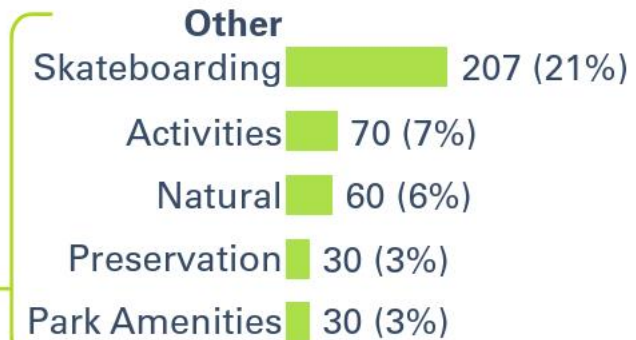
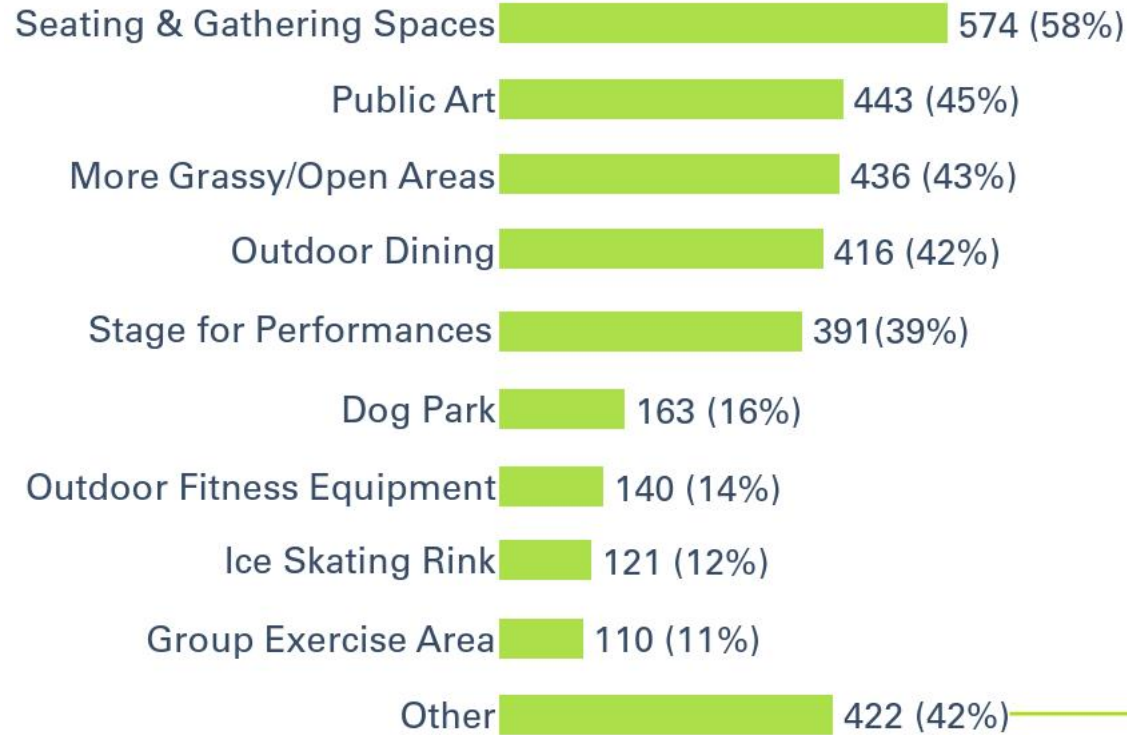


JUNE 2026
Community Meeting #3
 728 Survey Responses



SURVEY FINDINGS

What new features or improvements would you like to see? (Select all that apply)



WHAT WE HEARD



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COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SUMMARY



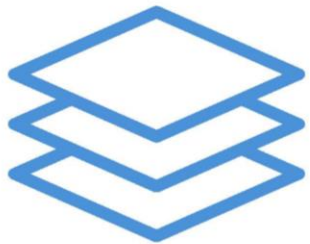
LOCATION

Placement of programs and features that respond to site context, accessibility, and user flow.



LEVEL

A smooth, continuous ground plane that supports inclusive, multi-modal access. Meandering pathways encourage exploration and leisure.



LAYERS

Celebrate the site's layered history by acknowledging its unique character and spirit.



LEDGES

A variety of seating options constructed with high-quality, durable materials. Invites both relaxation and informal activities, such as skateboarding.



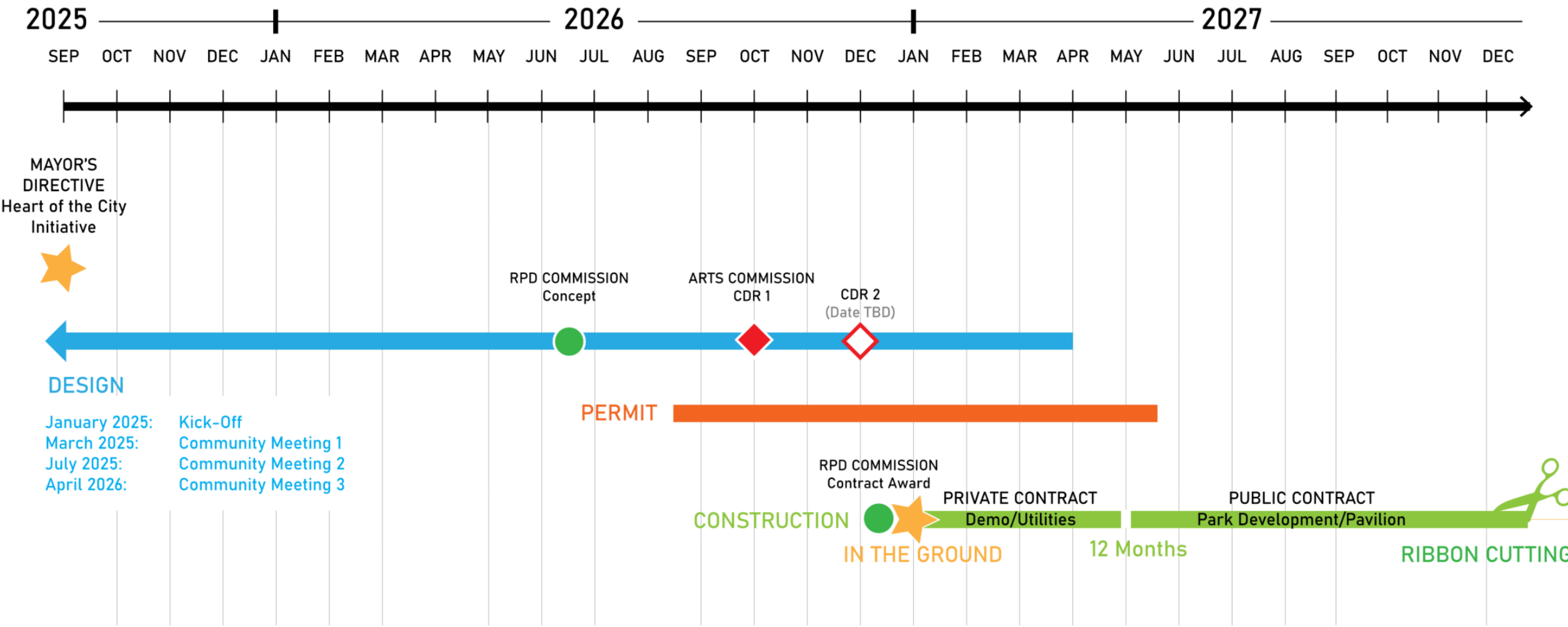
LIGHTING

Well-integrated lighting system that enhances safety, visibility, and ambiance for nighttime use—extending the plaza's vibrancy into the evening hours.

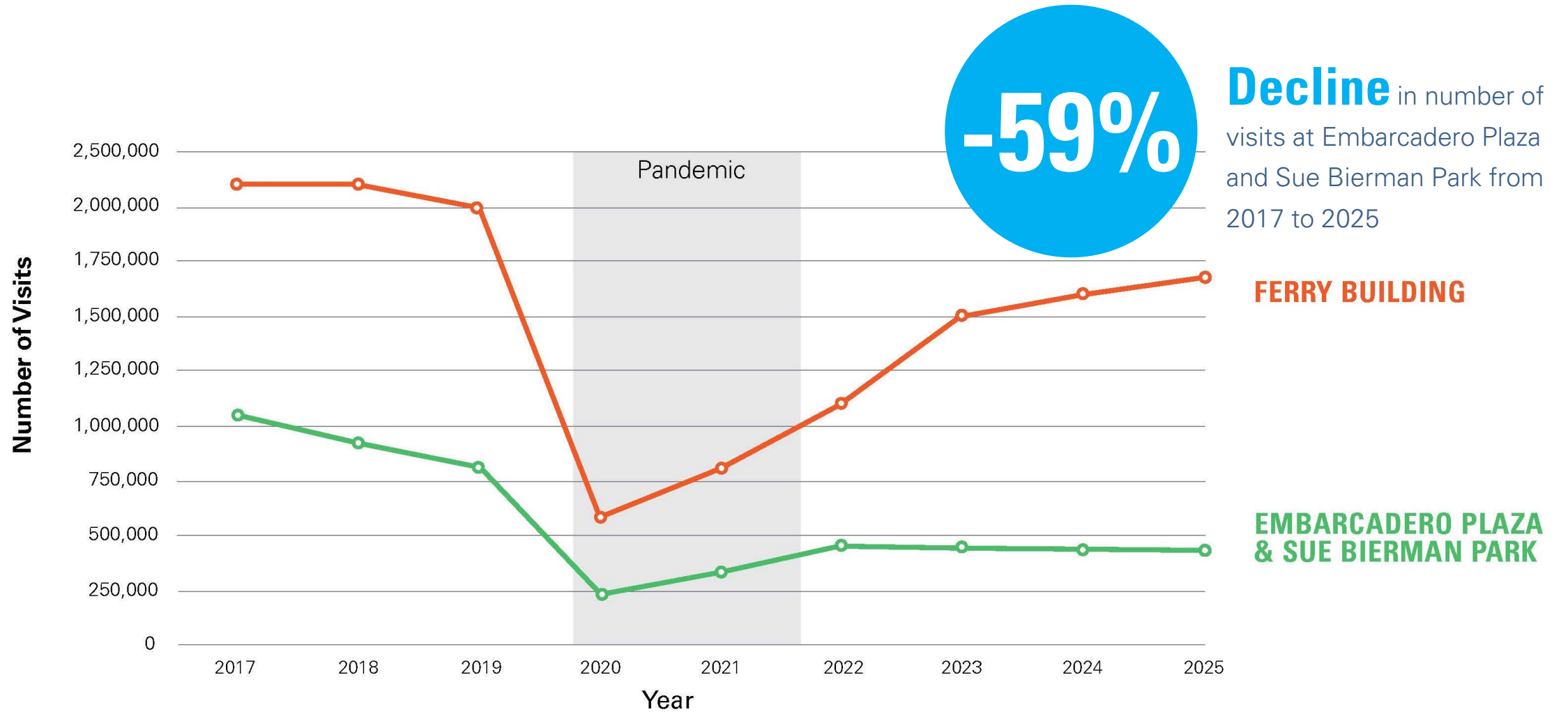


PROJECT SCHEDULE & MILESTONES

DRAFT



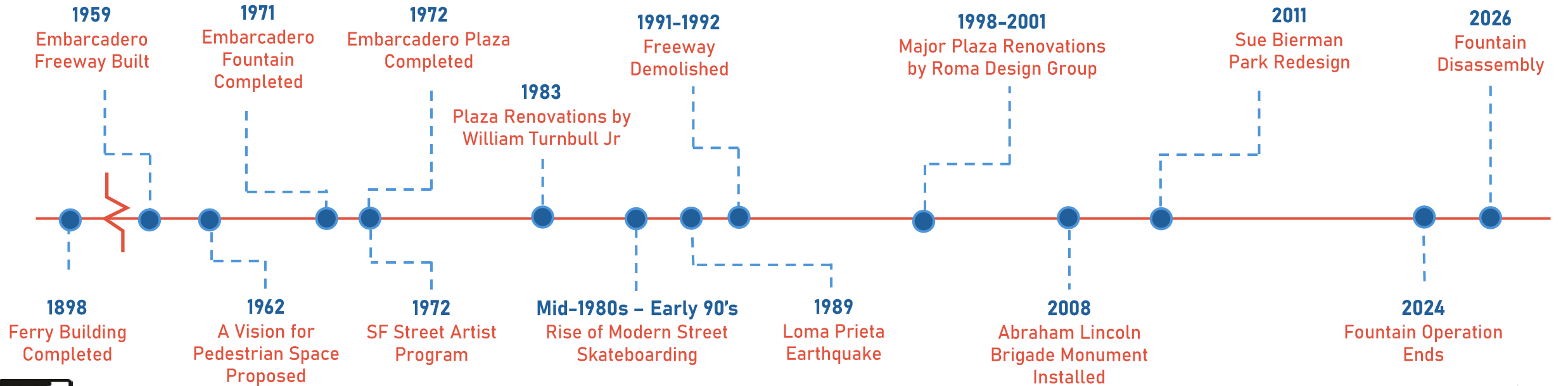
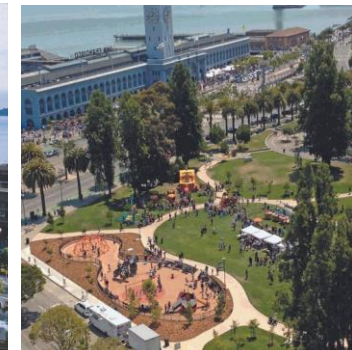
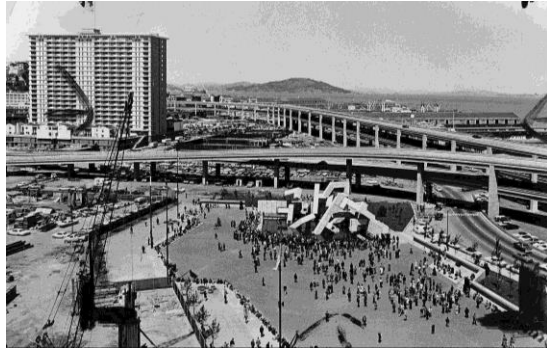
VISITATION TRENDS BY YEAR



CHAPTER 2

PARK DESIGN

SITE HISTORY



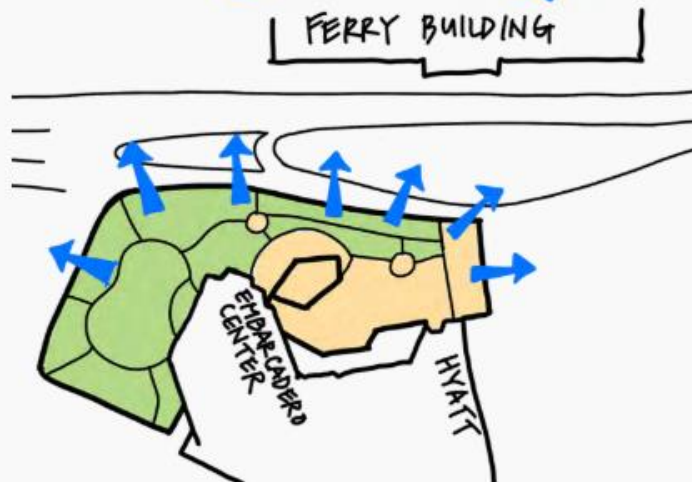
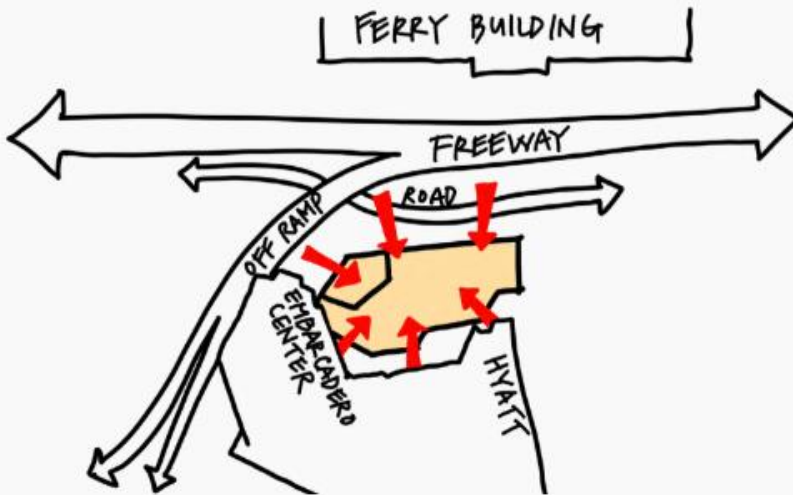
SITE HISTORY



Significant change in context altered the way the park and plaza interacts with its surroundings

Pre-freeway removal:

Plaza designed to be INWARD facing, bound by freeways, off ramps, and buildings.



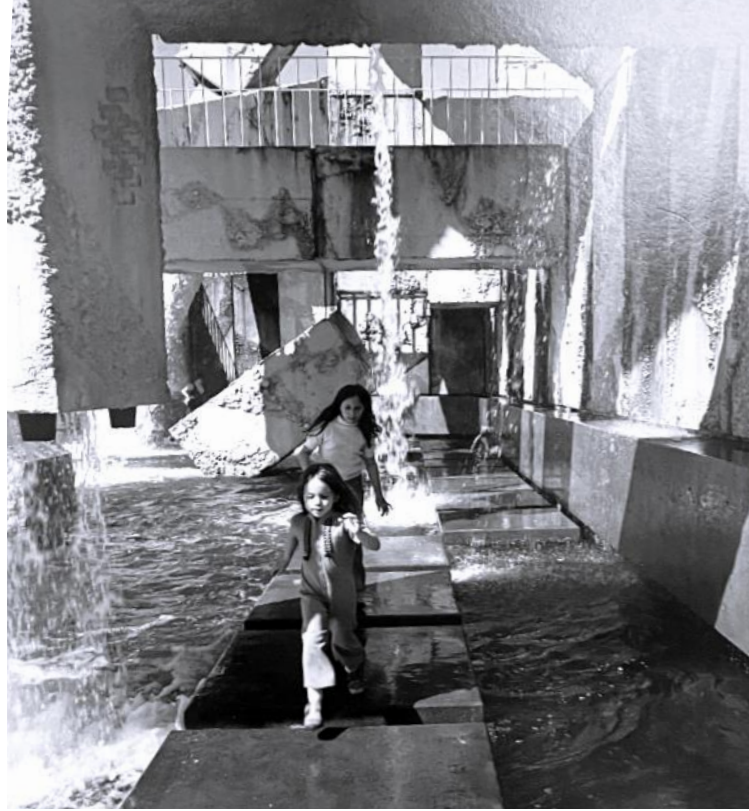
Post-freeway removal:

Park and Plaza want to look OUTWARD and connect to the waterfront and surroundings.

HISTORIC INTERPRETATION THEMES



URBAN TRANSFORMATION

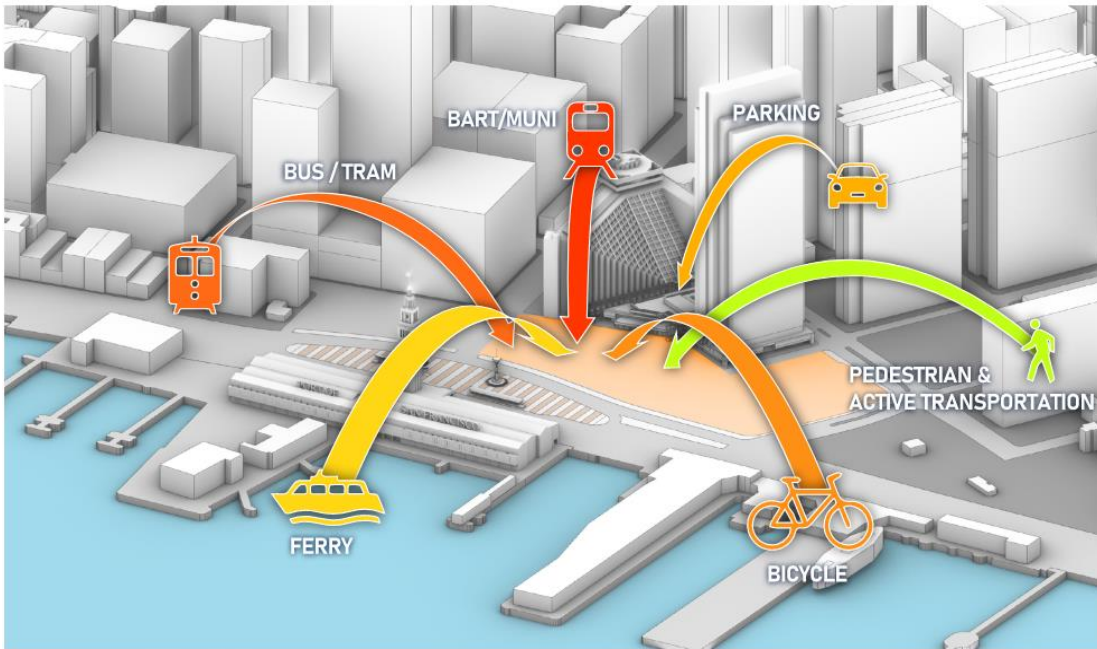


MONUMENTALITY

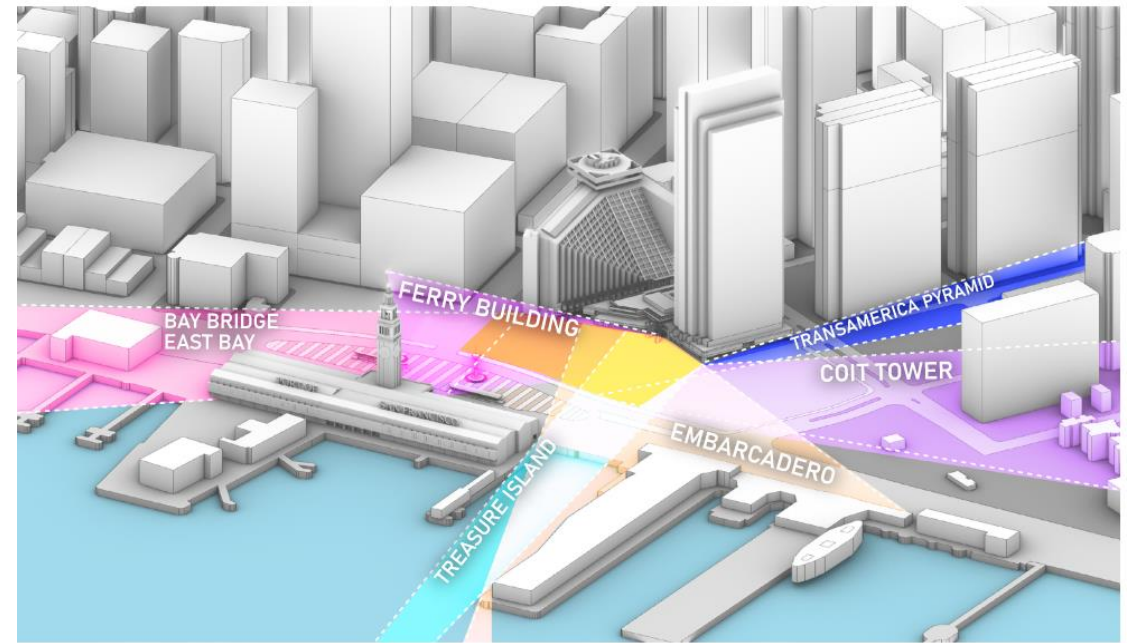


IMPROVISATION

POSITIONED FOR SUCCESS

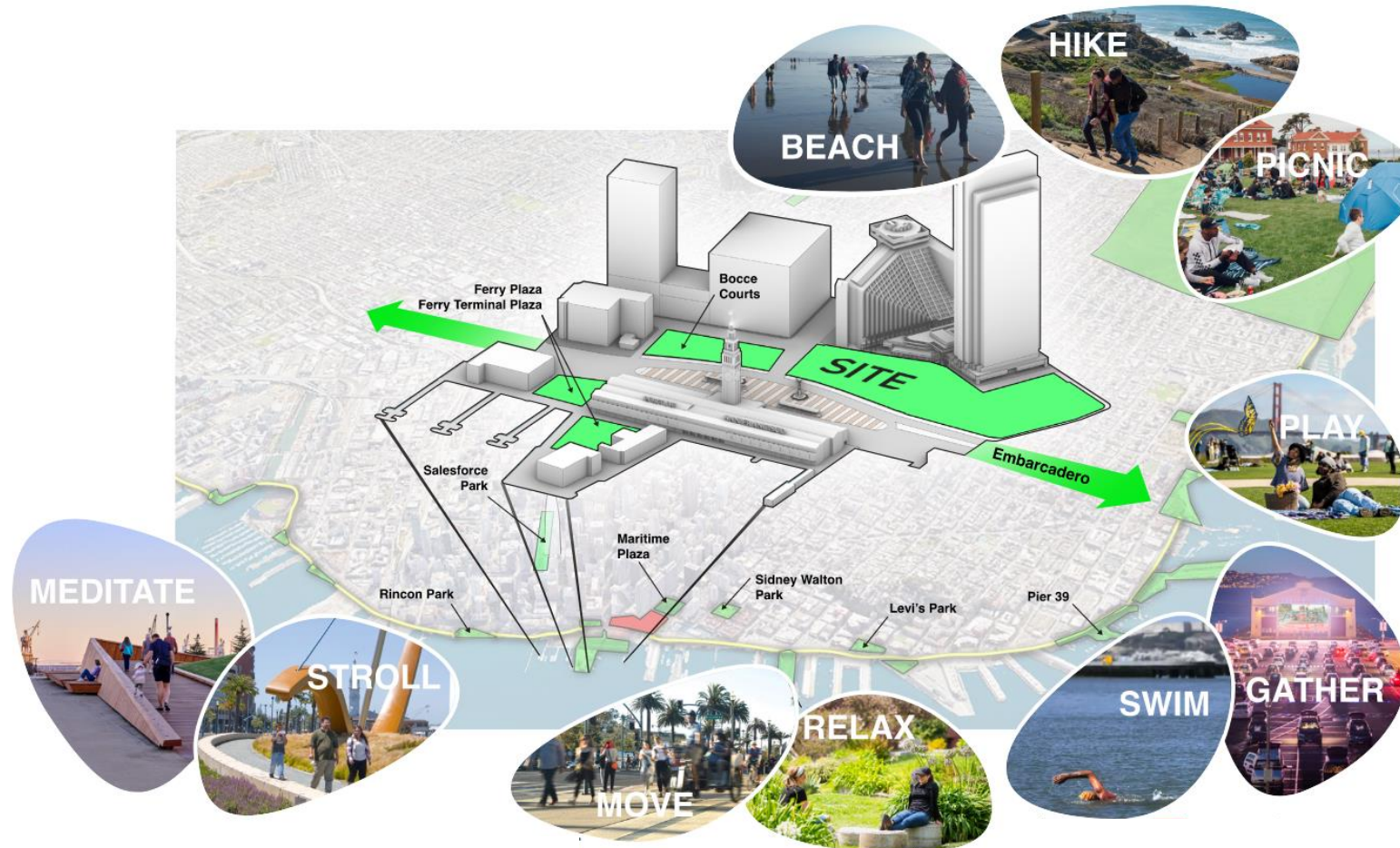


PORTS OF ARRIVAL



SIGHTLINES AND LANDMARKS

POSITIONED FOR SUCCESS



OPEN SPACE NETWORK



PRECEDENTS



MULTI-USE EVENT LAWNS
BRYANT PARK, NEW YORK CITY, NY



ICONIC PLAZAS & PUBLIC ART
MILLENNIUM PARK, CHICAGO, IL



PERFORMATIVE GARDENS
TUNNEL TOPS PARK, SAN FRANCISCO, CA



MULTI-PURPOSE PERFORMANCES
DISCOVERY GREEN, HOUSTON, TX



SITE UNDERSTANDING

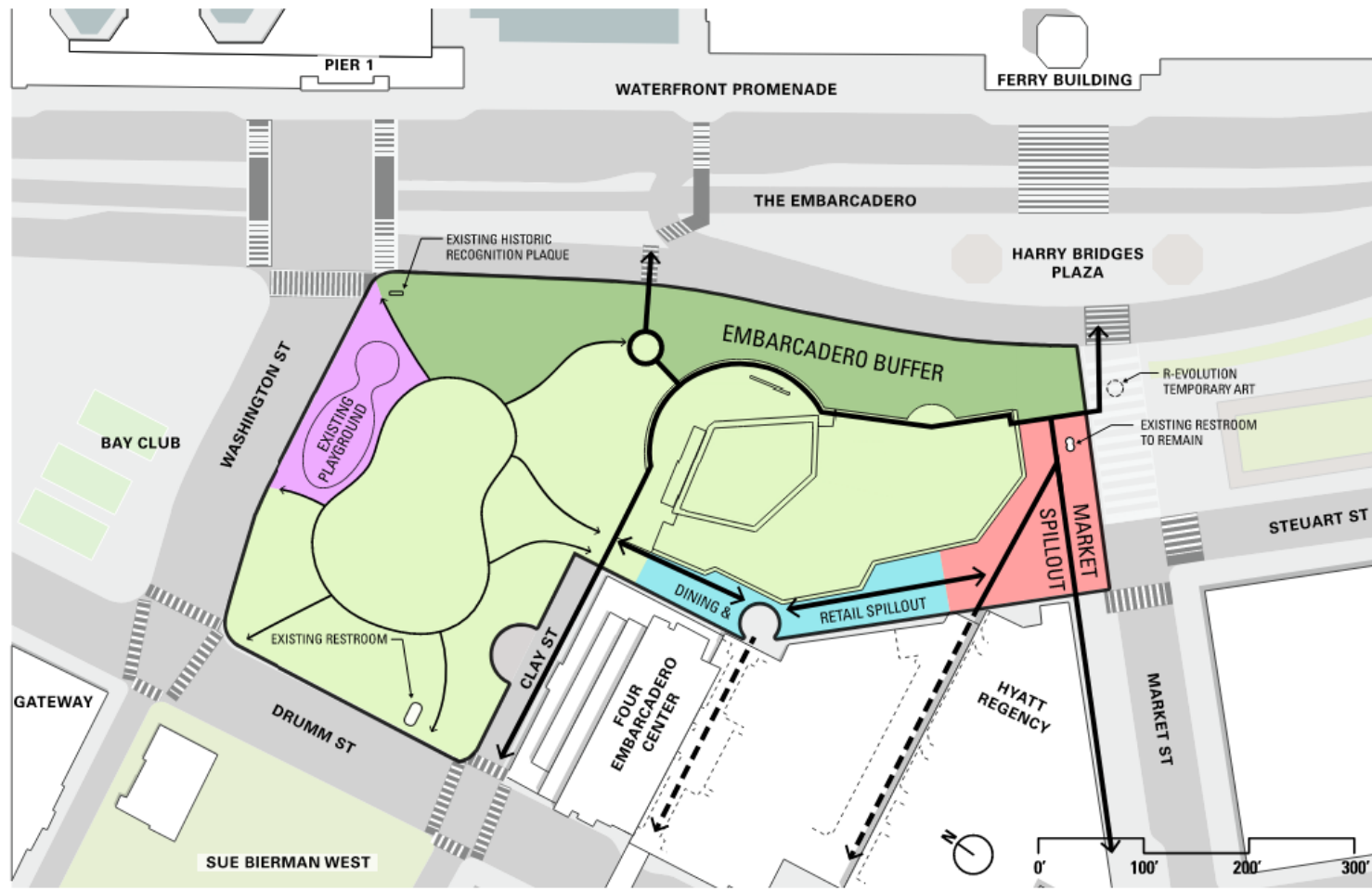
Understanding the Site Envelope

Site perimeter zones

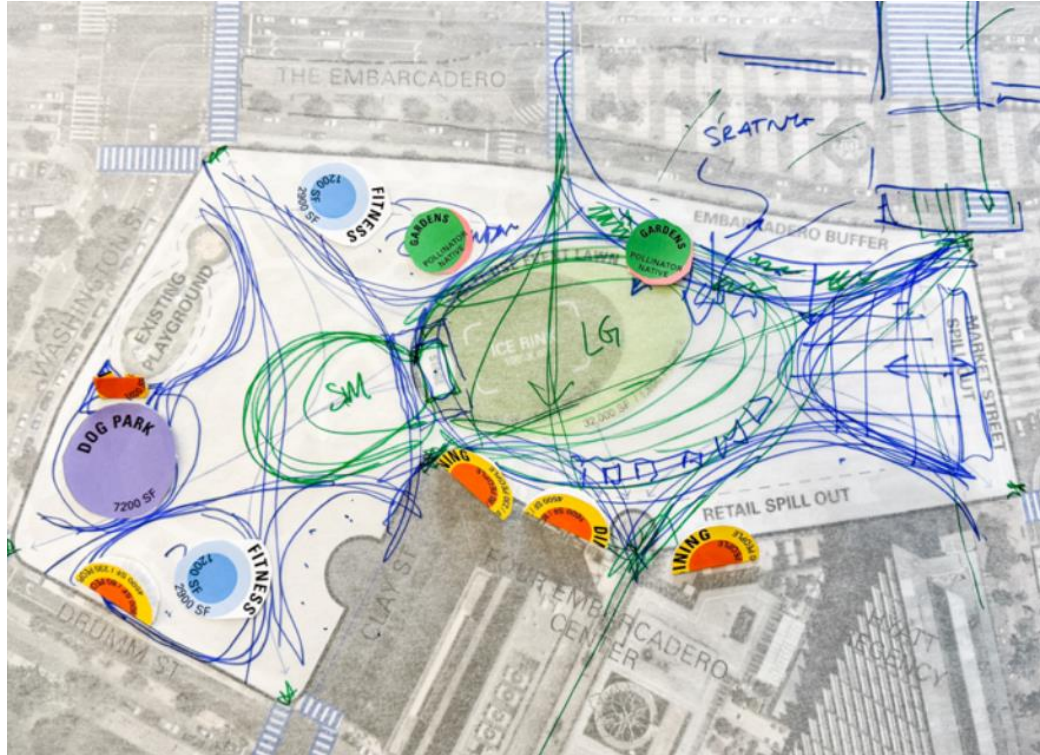
Pedestrian circulation routes

Proposed Embarcadero crossing improvements

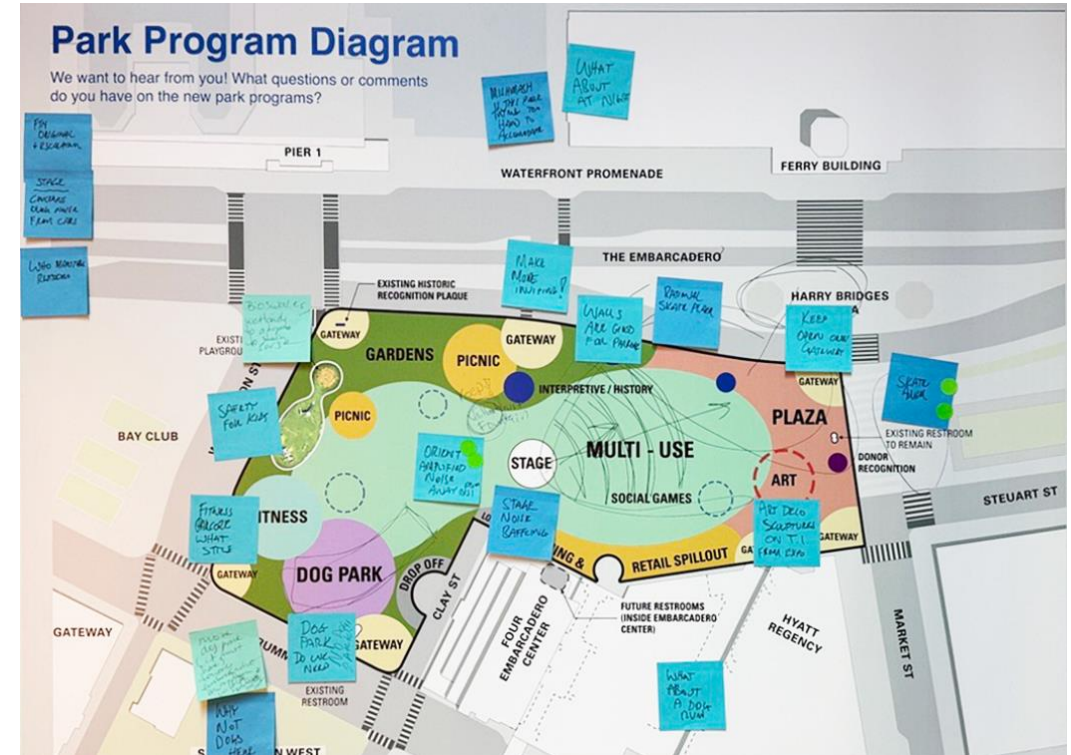
Existing elements to remain



PARK PROGRAMMING



PROGRAMMING WORKSHOP



COMMUNITY INPUT



PROGRAM ZONES

Community & Family

Focus community / family serving program along Washington and Drumm, in proximity to the residential buildings. Encompasses existing playground to remain. Programs include outdoor dining, dog play area, and social games.

Ecology

Embarcadero buffer gardens softens the park edge at the Embarcadero and treat the majority of stormwater runoff from the park.

Multi-Use

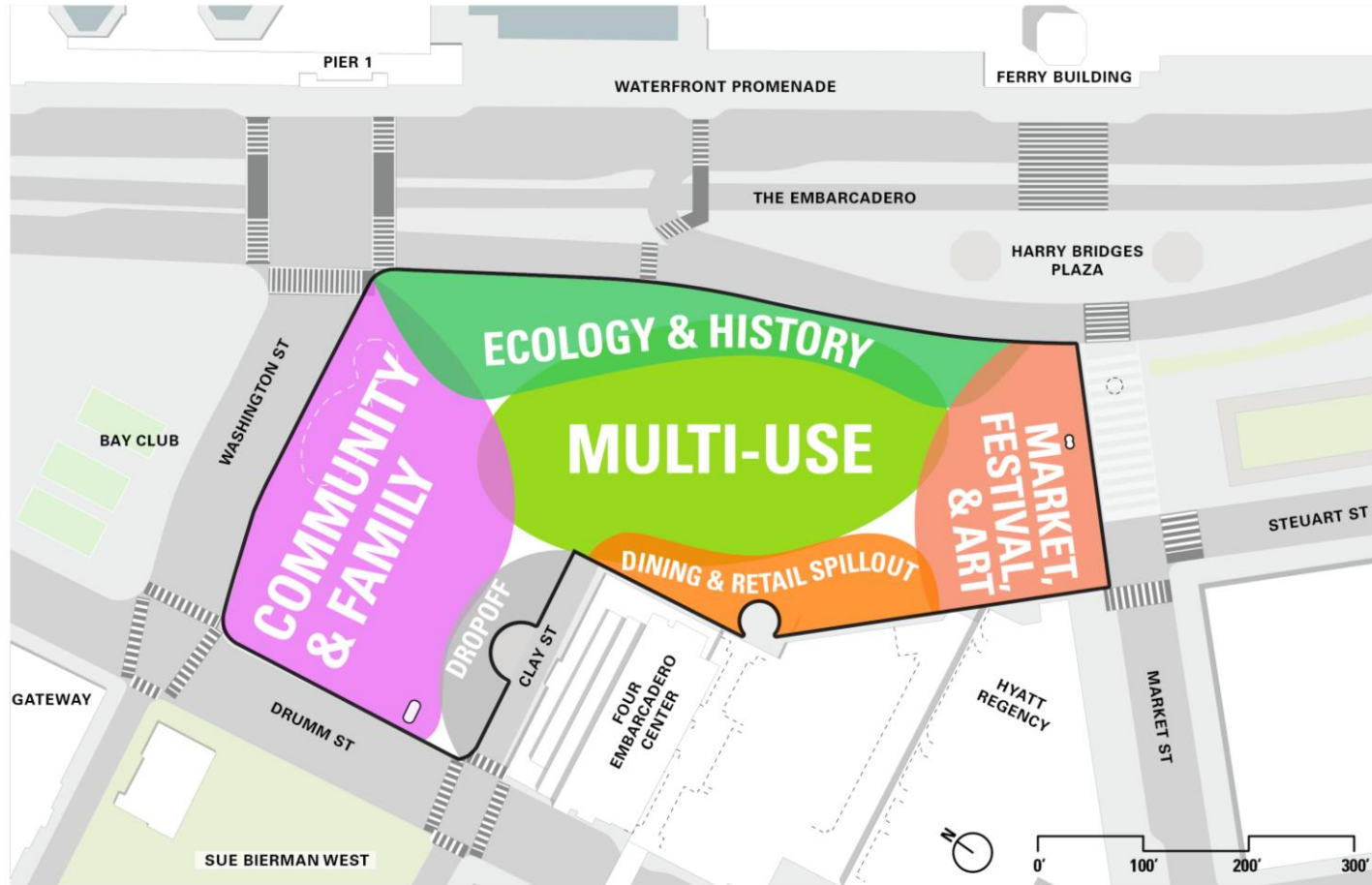
Designate the heart of the park as a spacious multi-use lawn. Serves as flexible open space for daily use for picnics, respite, and social games. Can host the occasional large-scale events with a stage set up and seasonal activities.

Dining & Retail Spill out

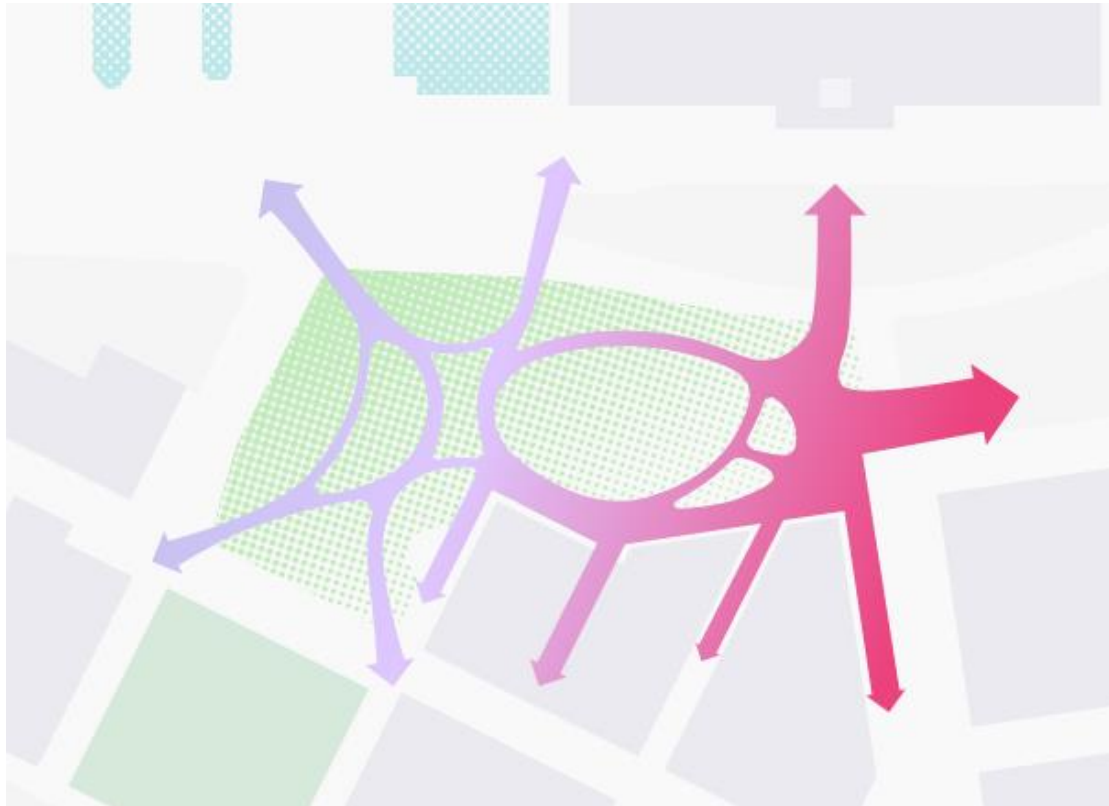
Cater to the vibrant dining and retail spill out activity from Embarcadero Center with a variety of flexible seating options.

Market, Festival, & Art

Activate Market street gateway plaza with art, festival use, and street artists.



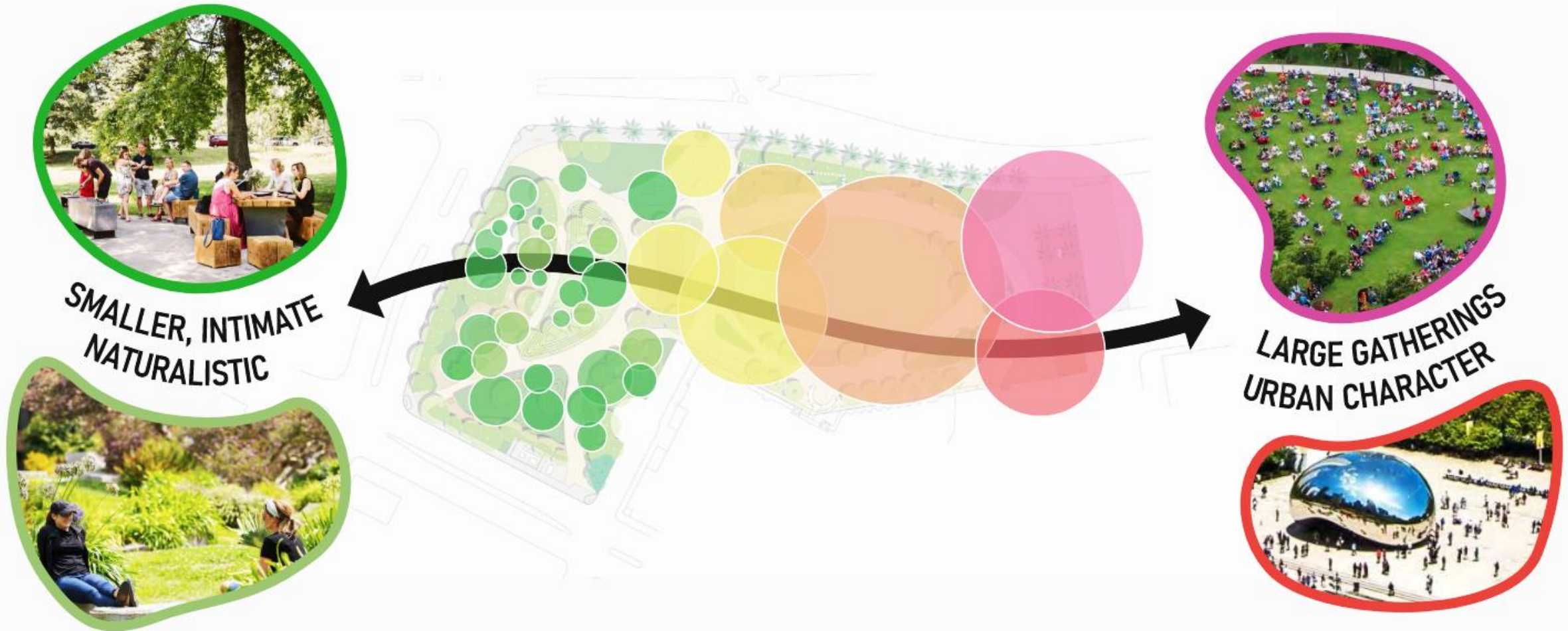
A HIGHLY CONNECTIVE PARK



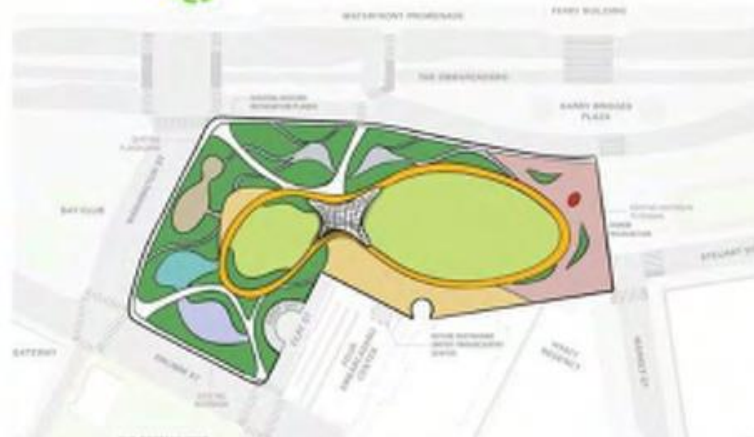
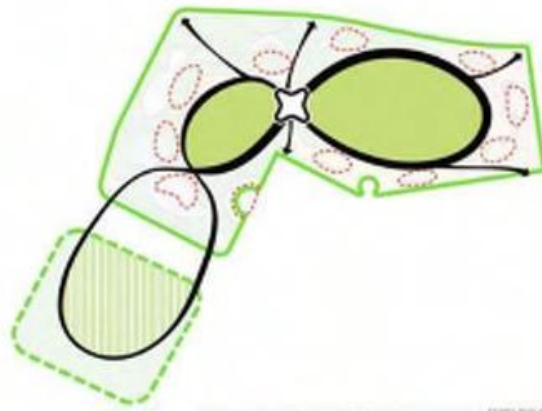
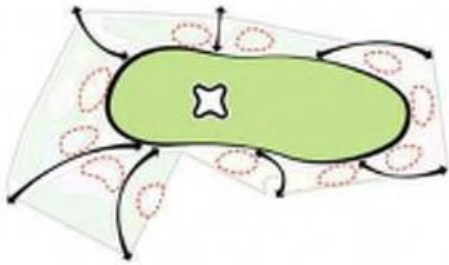
There is a gradient of social, high energy, hardscape space from the south graduating to a more family oriented, quiet, green north.

Circulation throughout the park is a result of both desire lines and the overarching idea of the park that serves as an urban downtown destination park as well as a daily neighborhood serving park.

PROGRESSION OF SPACES



PRELIMINARY CONCEPT OPTIONS



THE COMMONS

PARKLANDS

RIBBON



PARK PROGRAM CHARACTER

Exploration
Grounds



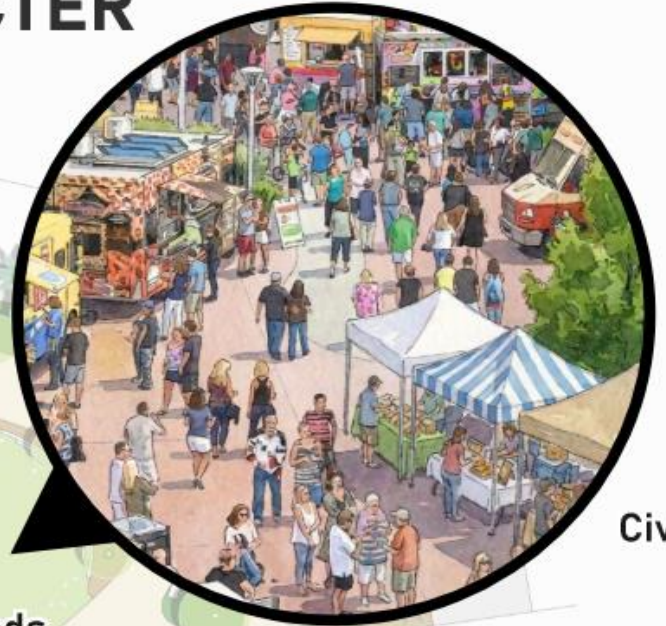
Community
Meadow



Interpretive Grounds



Woodland
Understory



Civic Clearing



Urban Terrace

Movement
Canopy



Rolling Hills

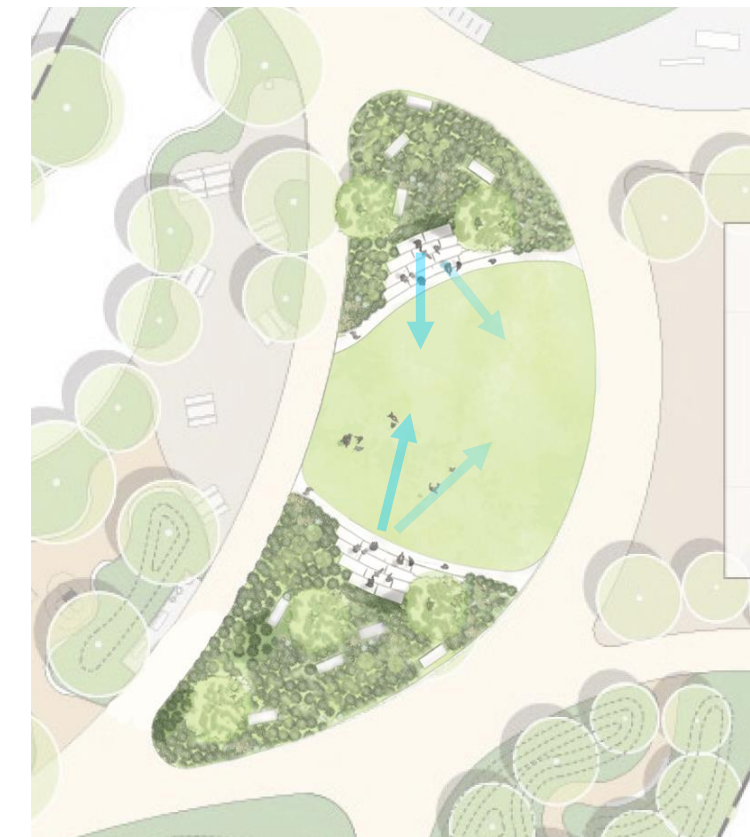


DRAFT

SITE PLAN



PLATFORM STUDIES



PLATFORM MATERIALS



VAILLANCOURT FOUNTAIN



SIERRA WHITE GRANITE



FLAMED TOP + QUARRY DRILL FINISH

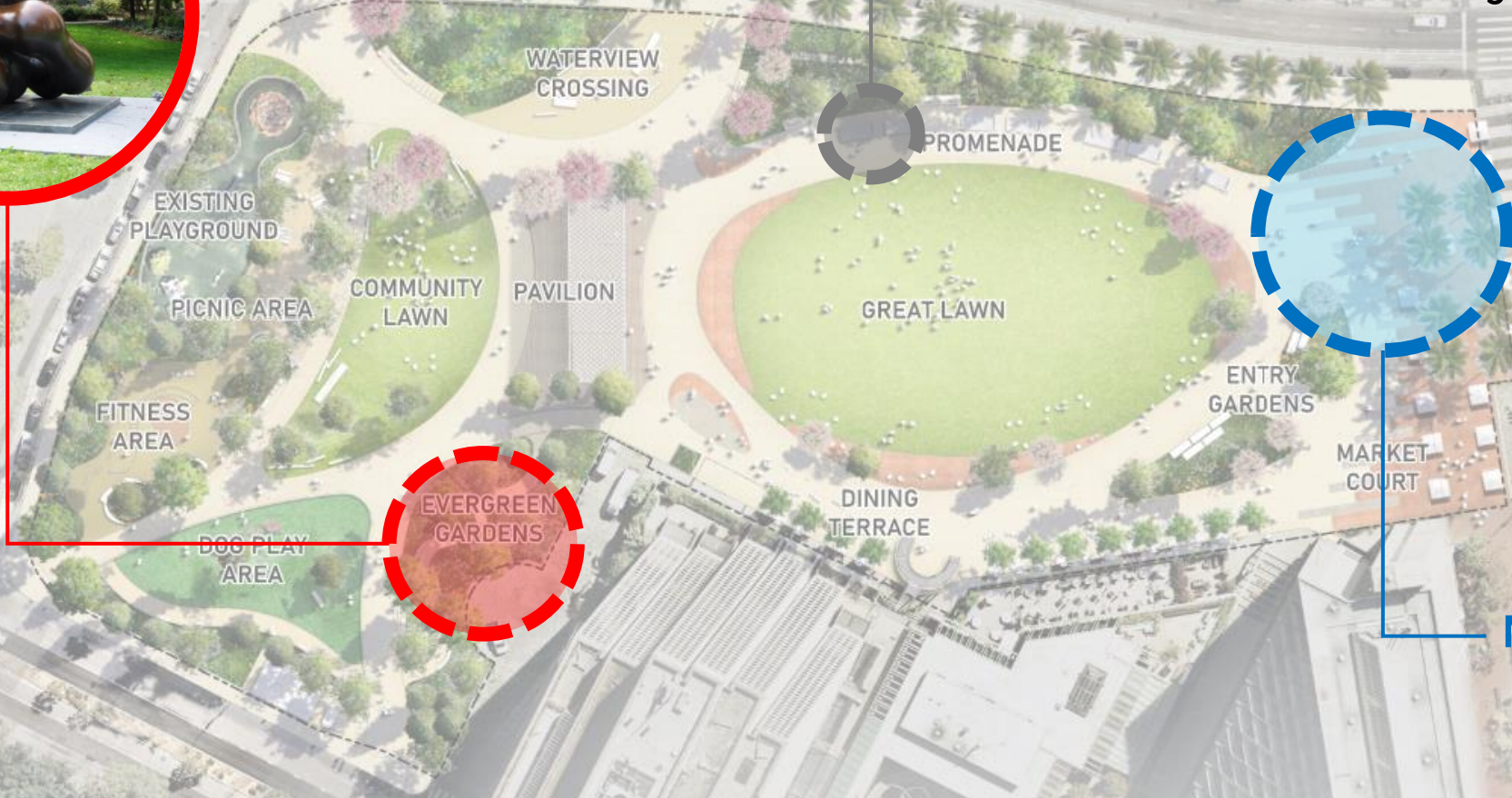
EXISTING ART RELOCATION

Movement: The First 100 Years
(Korean Monument) by Man Lin Cho

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SITE PLAN

EXISTING ART LOCATION
Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument



NEW ART LOCATION

MATERIALITY



CONCRETE PAVING + CUSTOM COLOR AND FINISH



BRICK PAVING



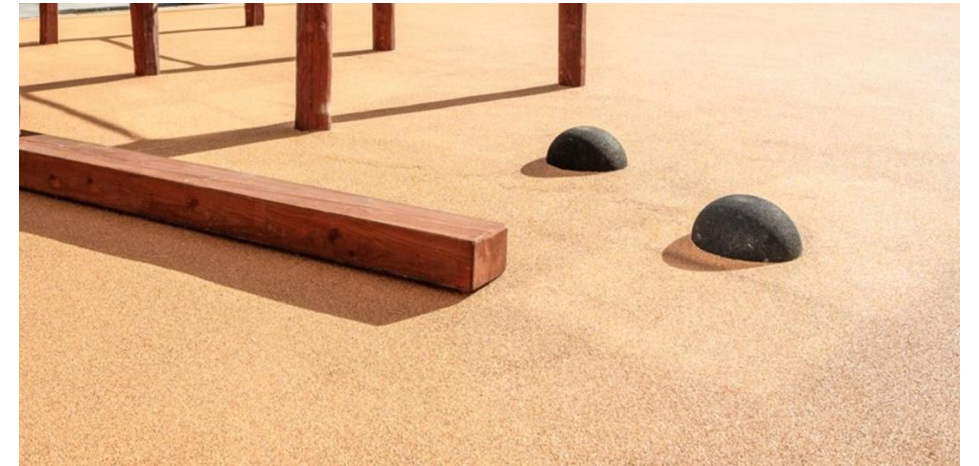
ARTIFICIAL TURF



PERMEABLE CONCRETE



GRANITE BLOCKS



SOFT AGGREGATE SURFACING



TREE PLANTING PALETTE



QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA



CERIS OCCIDENTALIS



LYONOTHAMNUS FLORIBUNDUS



PINUS RADIATA



MELALEUCA LINARIFOLIA



QUERCUS SUBER



HESPEROCYPARIS MACROCARPA



PLATANUS RACEMOSA



QUERCUS LOBATA



ACER CIRCINATUM



AESCULUS CALIFORNICA



PRUNUS CERASIFERA



METROSIDEROS EXCELSA



PISTACIA CHINENSIS



GINKGO BILOBA 'AUTUMN GOLD'



OLEA EUROPEA 'SWAN HILL'



LOPHOSTEMON CONFERTUS



LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA X FAURIEI 'NATCHEZ'



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GROUND PLANTING PALETTE



ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM



AGAPANTHUS AFRICANUS



ARCTOSTAPHYLOS 'EMERALD CARPET'



ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI 'POINT REYES'



AMERIA MARITIMA



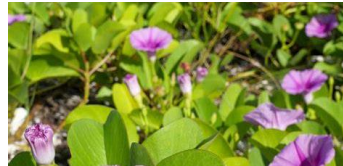
ARTEMISIA CALIFORNICA 'CANYON GRAY'



BACCHARIS PILULARIS 'PIGEON POINT'



BACCHARIS PILULARIS 'TWIN PEAKS'



CALYSTEGIA SOLDANELLA



CAREX TUMULICOLA



CEANOTHUS GRISEUS HORIZONTALIS 'YANKEE POINT'



CEANOTHUS MARITIMUS 'VALLEY VIOLET'



CISTUS X HYBRIDUS



CISTUS X PURPUREUS



ERIGERON GLAUCUS



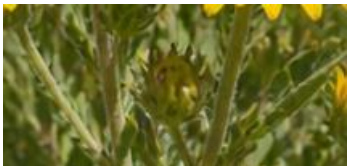
ERIOGONUM LATIFOLIUM



FRAGARIA CHILOENSIS



FRANGULA CALIFORNICA



GRINDELIA STRICTA



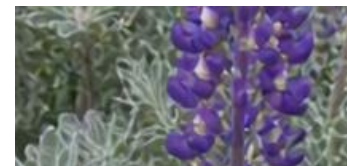
HETEROMELES ARBUTIFOLIA



RHAPHIOLEPIS INDICA 'CLARA'



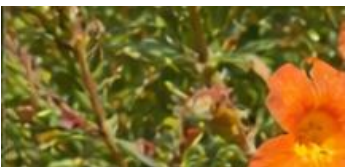
LIMONIUM CALIFORNICUM



LUPINUS ALBIFRONS



MAHONIA AQUIFOLIUM



MIMULUS AURANTIACUS



RHAMNUS CALIFORNICA 'EVE CASE'



RIBES SANGUINEUM VAR. GLUTINOSUM



SALVIA CLEVELANDII



SALVIA LEUCANTHA



SALVIA LEUCOPHYLLA 'POINT SAL'



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CHAPTER 2

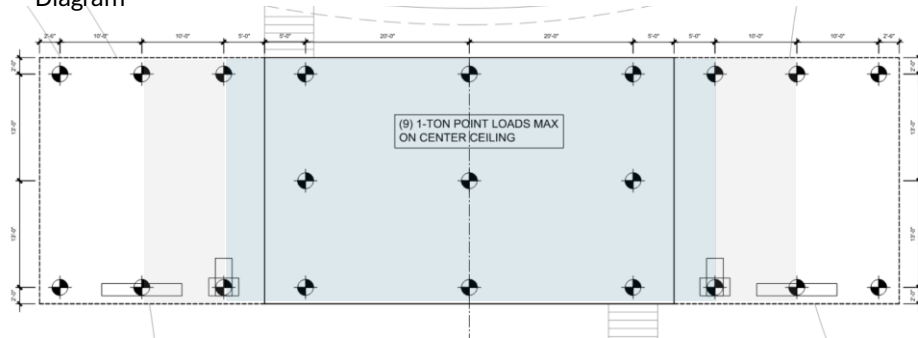
PAVILION

PROJECT PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

- 1** Create a **world-class, iconic park** representing San Francisco's vibrant culture for both local and international visitors.
- 2** Create a **welcoming public space** with access for all.
- 3** Ignite the **downtown recovery** and **revitalize** the heart of the San Francisco waterfront.
- 4** Honor the **rich history** of the San Francisco waterfront.
- 5** Activate the park with a **wide range of programming** catered towards diverse communities.

Stage Criteria:

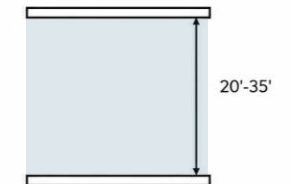
-
- Current Canopy Size: 102' x 30'
- Minimal Performance Requirement: 50' x 30'
- 50'-0"
- 30'-0"
- 10'-0"
- 10'-0"
- 20'-0"
- 35'

SD Phase 1-Ton Point Load
Diagram

Plan Diagram



Section Diagram

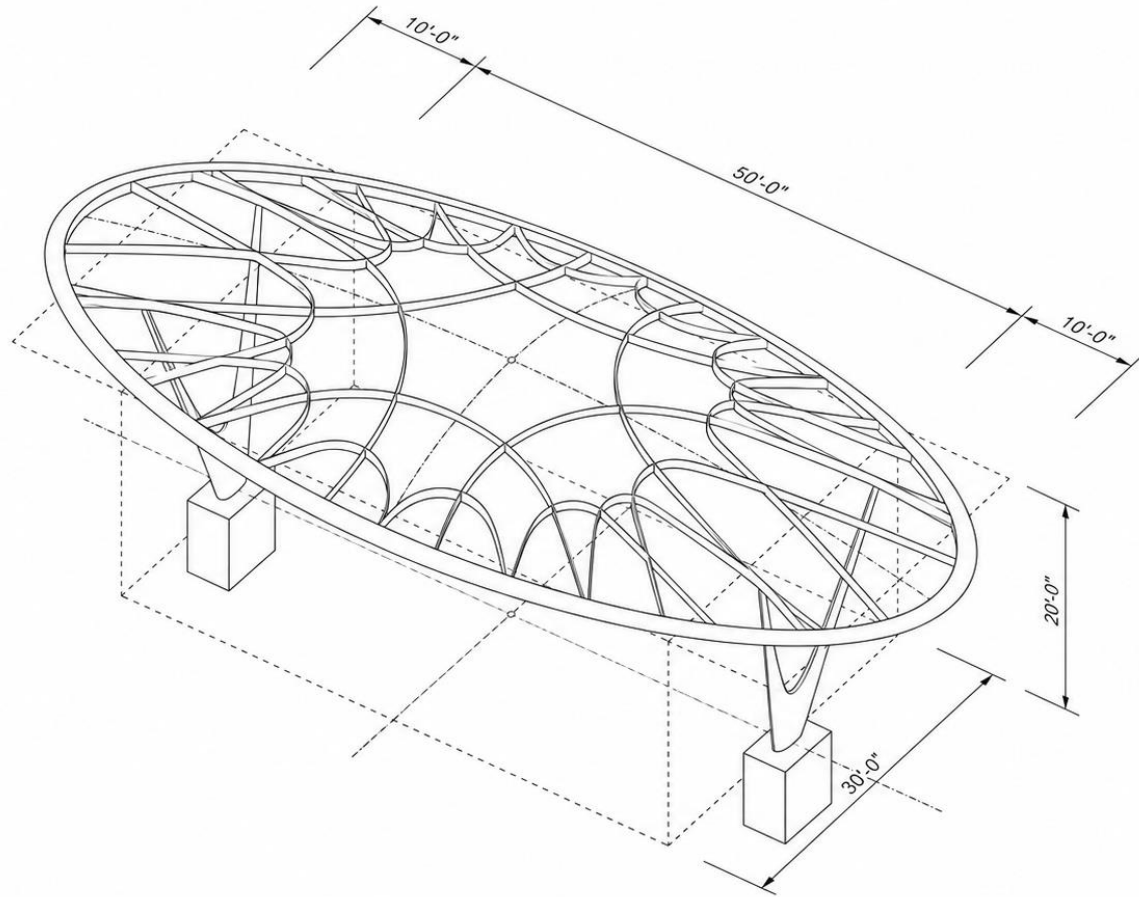




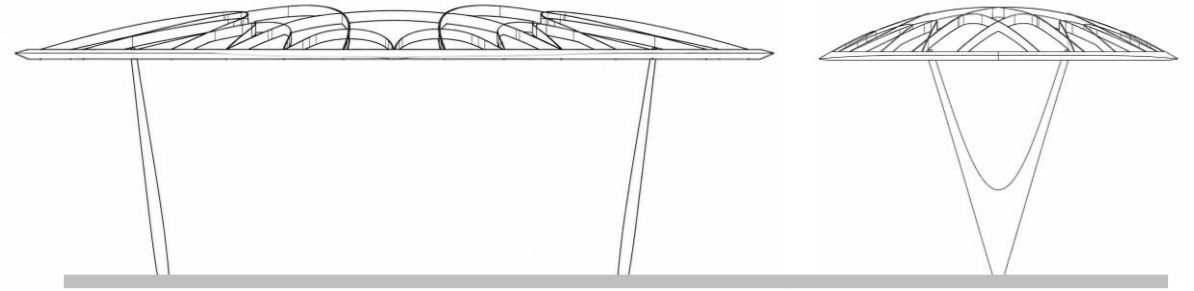
OPTION 1



OPTION 1 FORM EXPLORATION & STRUCTURAL OPTIMIZATION

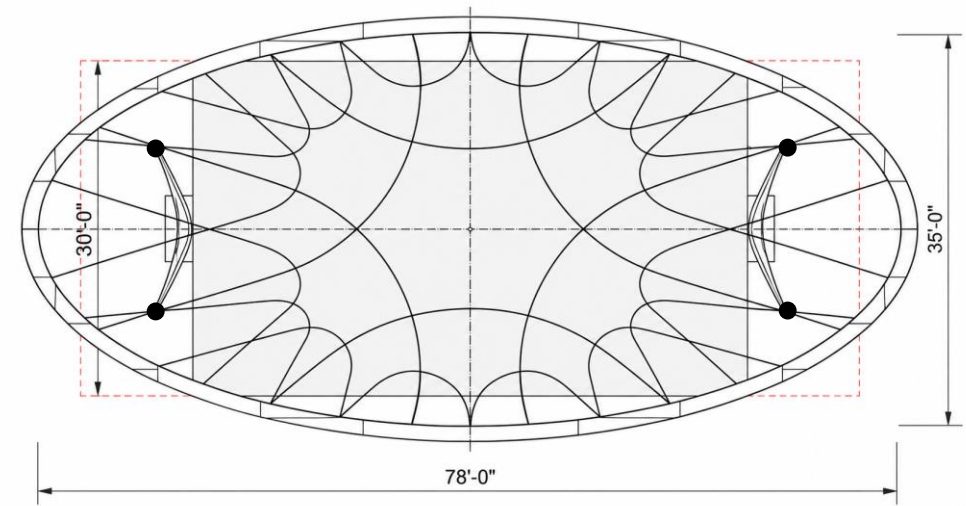


AXON DIAGRAM



ELEVATION - EAST

ELEVATION - NORTH



ROOF PLAN

DRAFT



OPTION 1 AERIAL VIEW



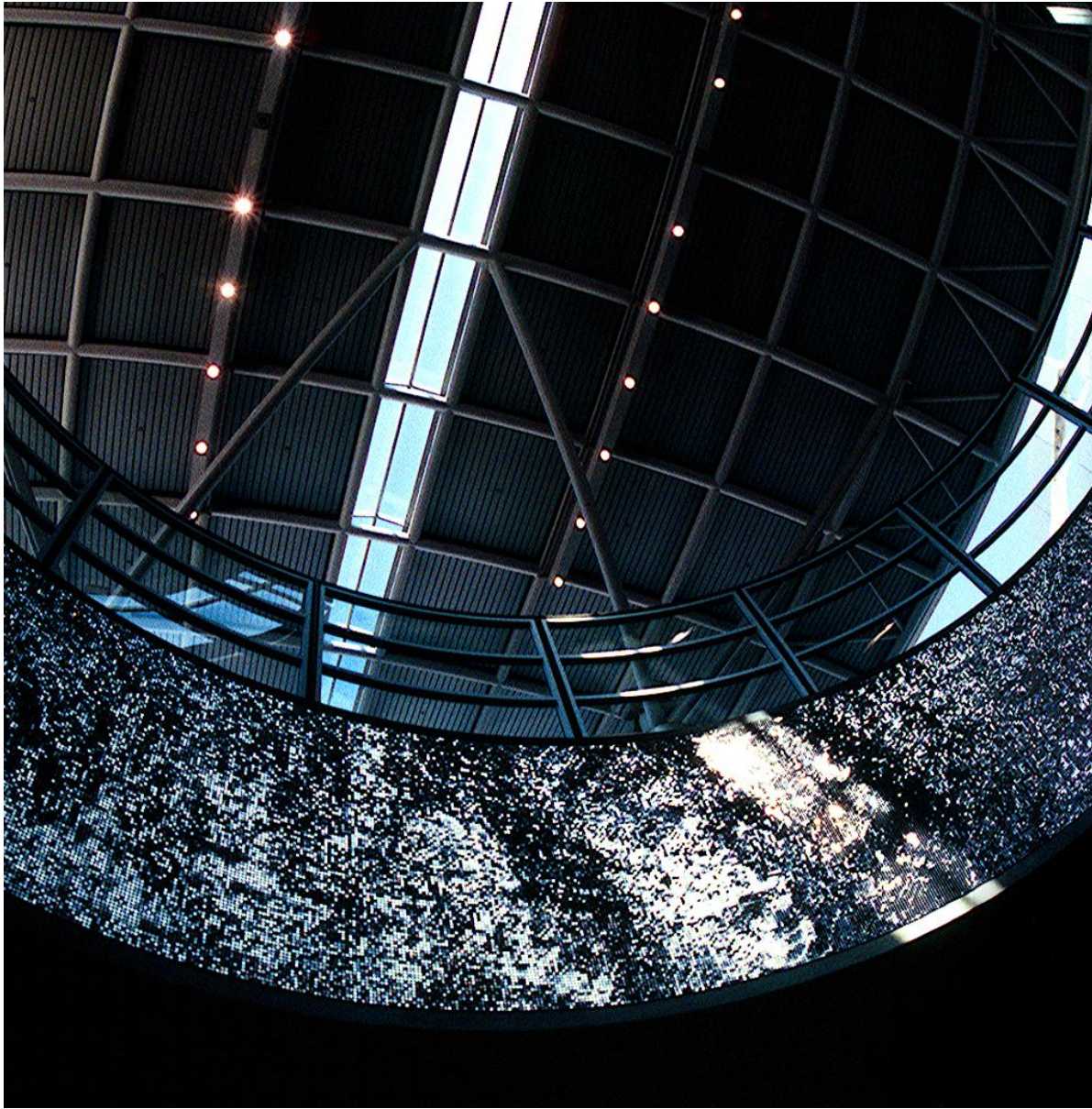






OPTION 2





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OPTION 2 PAVILION VARIANTS



OPTION 2A



OPTION 2B

OPTION 2A AERIAL VIEW



OPTION 2A FRONT VIEW



OPTION 2A BACK VIEW

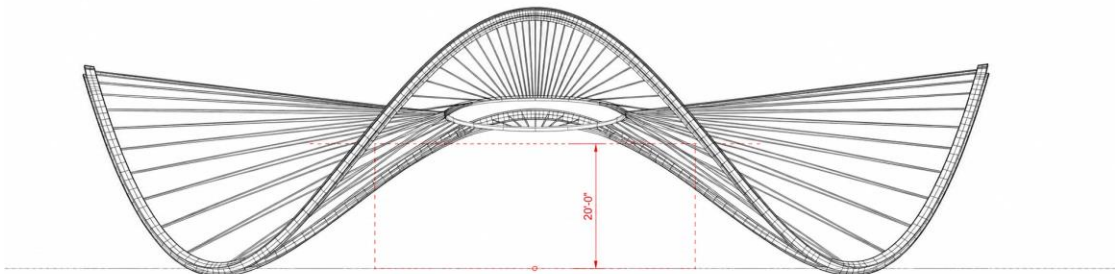


OPTION 2A NIGHT VIEW

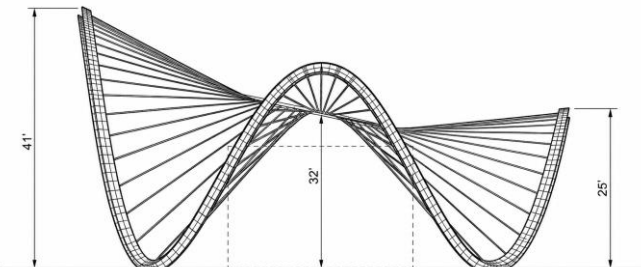


OPTION 2B FORM & CONCEPT EVOLUTION

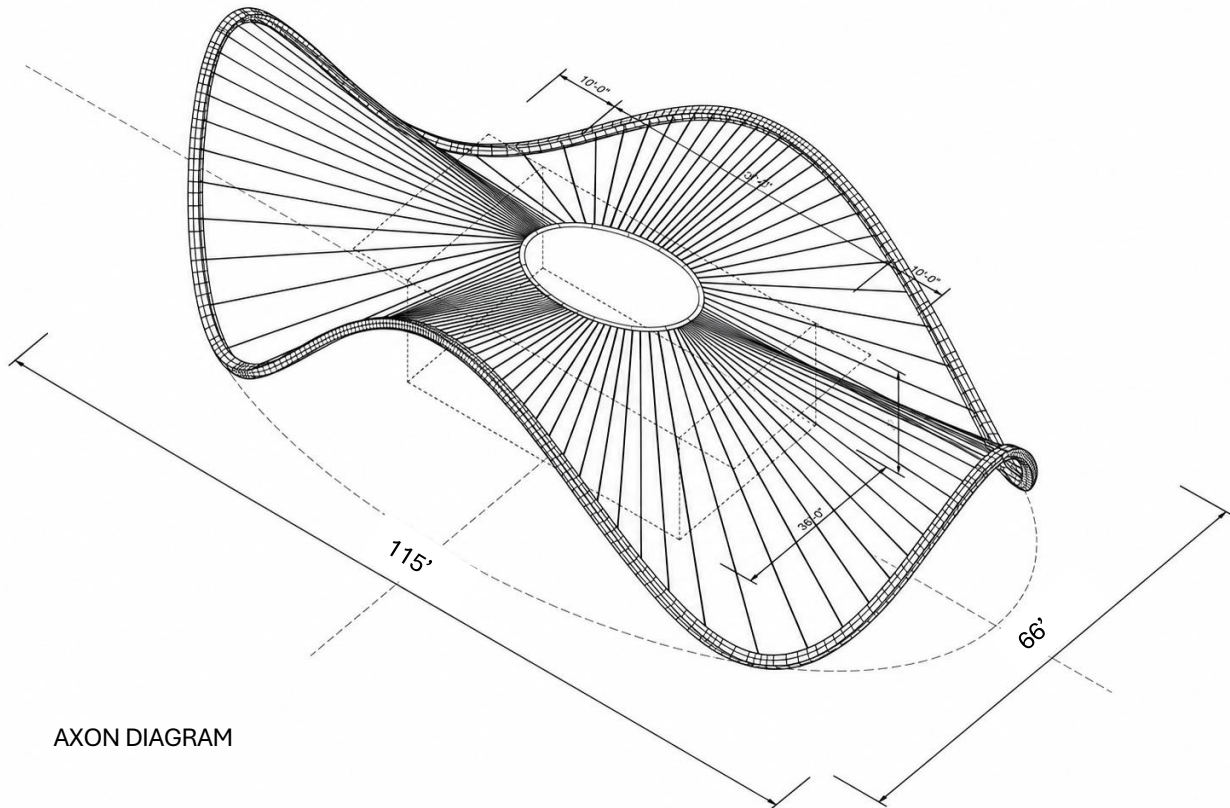
*diagram to be updated with 10' lift base



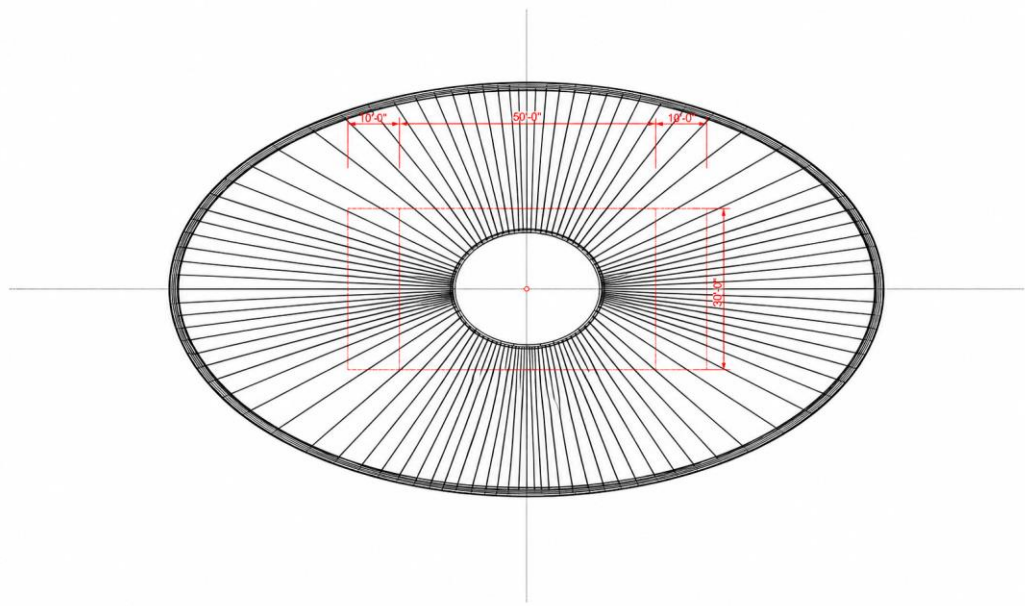
ELEVATION - EAST



ELEVATION - NORTH



AXON DIAGRAM



ROOF PLAN

OPTION 2B AERIAL VIEW



OPTION 2B FRONT VIEW



OPTION 2B BACK VIEW



OPTION 2B NIGHT VIEW



Pavilion Options Recap

Pavilion Options Recap



1



2A



2B





THANK YOU

