



San Francisco Arts Commission Meeting

October 6, 2025

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgement

- Call to order
- Roll call / Confirmation of quorum
- Agenda changes
- Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement

The San Francisco Arts Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples. As a department dedicated to promoting a diverse and equitable Arts and Culture environment in San Francisco, we are committed to supporting the traditional and contemporary evolution of the American Indian community.



Antone Family (Tohono O'odham), 2019, Photo by Hulleah Tsinhnahjinnie
Left to right: Christine [seated], Melanie, Michelle and Arianna

Item 4: Director's Report

Discussion

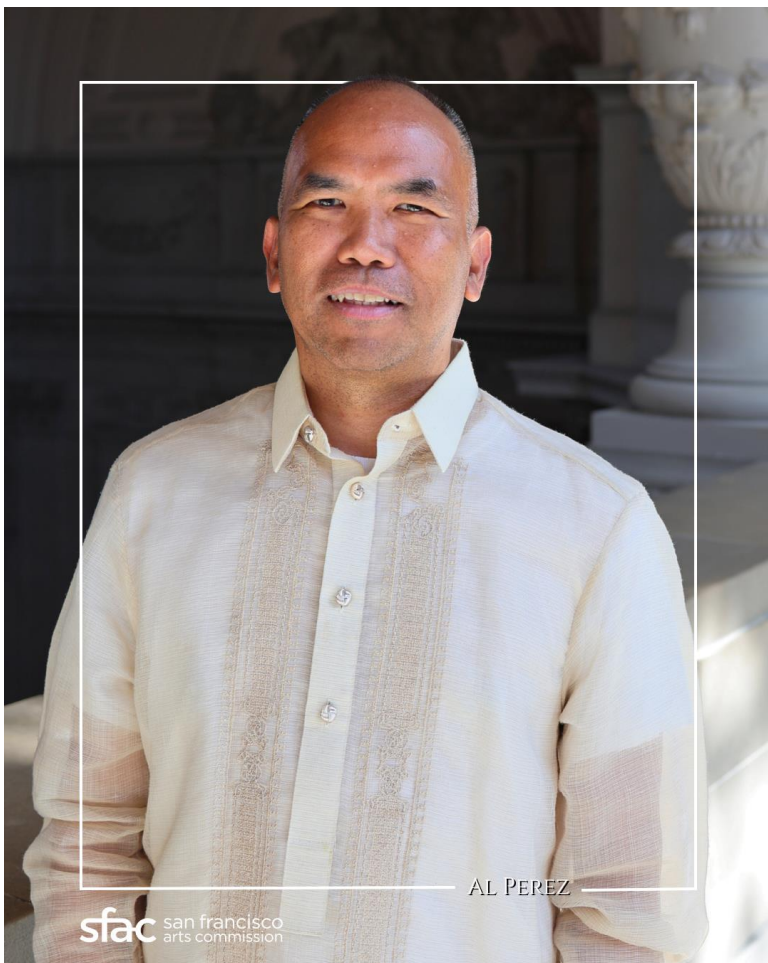
Staff Presenter: Director of Cultural Affairs Ralph Remington

Presentation Time: Approximately 10 minutes

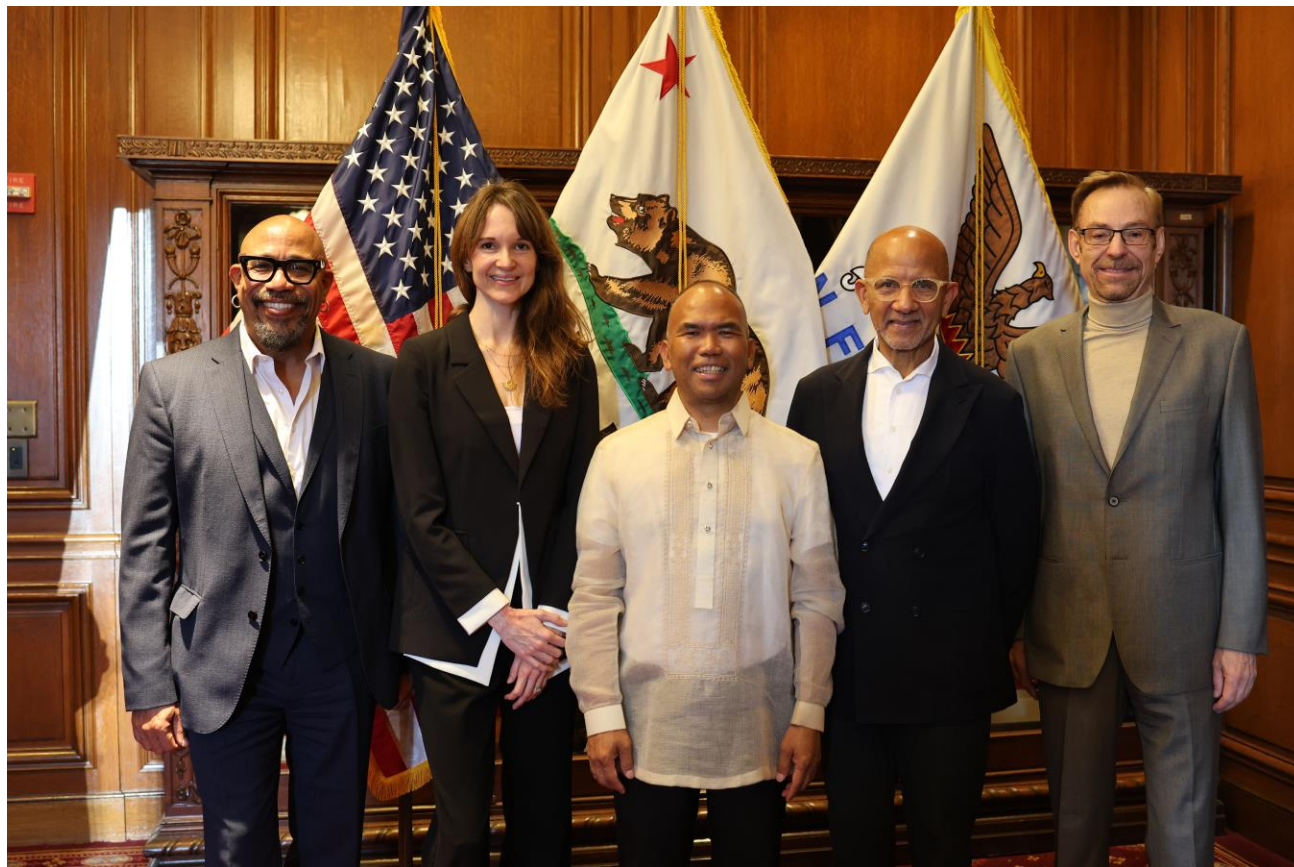
CELEBRATES
LATINO HERITAGE MONTH



***NEW ARTWORK & LEGACY ARTIST
PROFILES COMING SOON***



Commissioner Al Perez & Commissioner McKenna Quint



**Swearing in of Commissioners Al Perez & McKenna Quint
City Hall - September 17, 2025**

Item 4: Director's Report

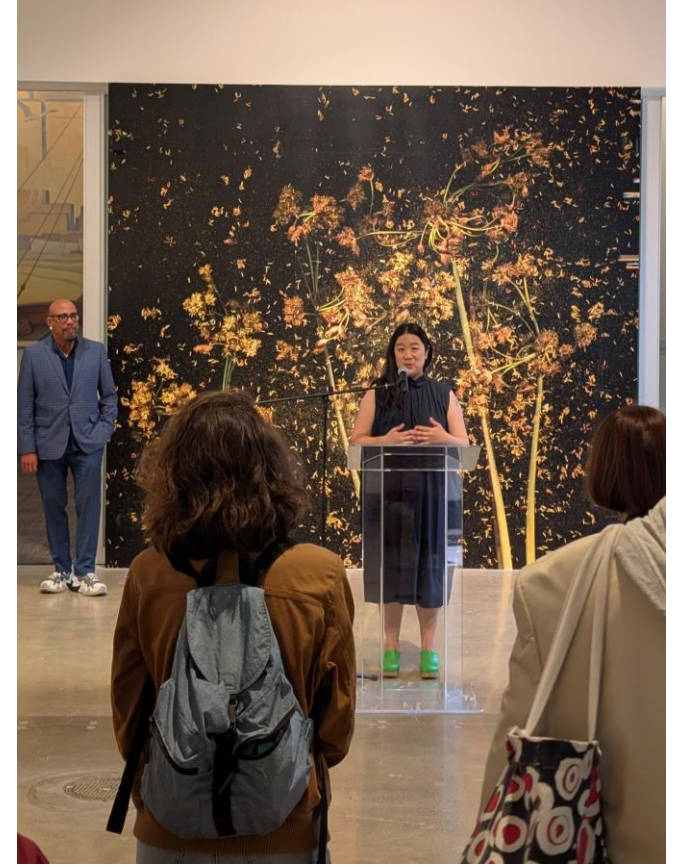
Recent Highlights



**Cityside Park Ribbon Cutting
& Unveiling of *Canopy of Sky* by Ned Kahn
Treasure Island - September 13, 2025**

Item 4: Director's Report

Recent Highlights



**Opening Reception for To Bright Disturbances
SFAC Main Gallery - September 26, 2025**

Item 4: Director's Report

Recent Highlights



Launch of Big Art Loop

Pier 1/2, Embarcadero - September 30, 2025



**SFPUC Headworks Facility Ribbon Cutting
& Unveiling of *Whorl Whirl: Our Circular Nature* by Norie Sato
Southeast Treatment Plant - September 30, 2025**

Item 4: Director's Report

Commission Streamlining Task Force Update



Commission Streamlining Task Force Hearing City Hall - October 1, 2025

Item 4: Director's Report

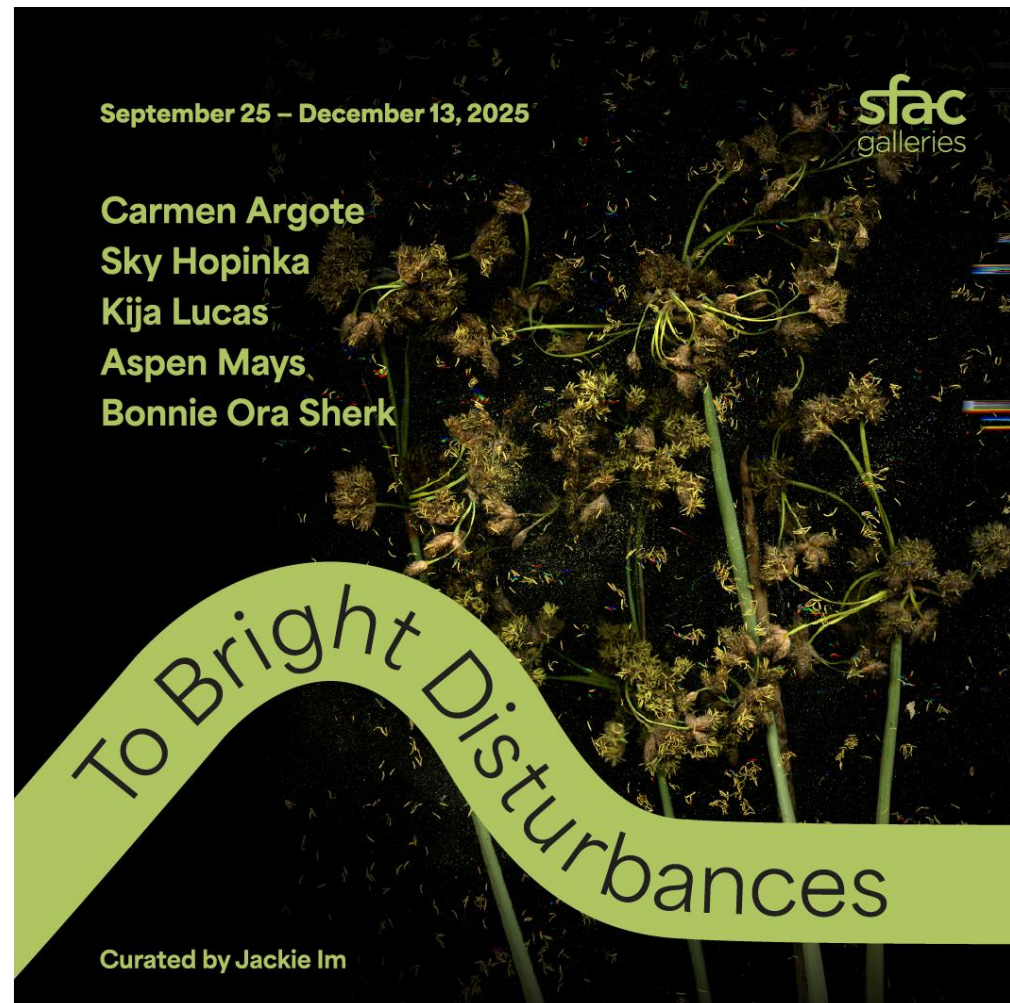
Community Investments Updates



2026-2027 Grant Opportunities

Item 4: Director's Report

Gallery Updates



To Bright Disturbances

On view now through December 13, 2025, at the SFAC Main Gallery

Item 4: Director's Report

Questions & Public Comments

Item 5: Committee Reports and Committee Matters

Discussion

Item 5.1

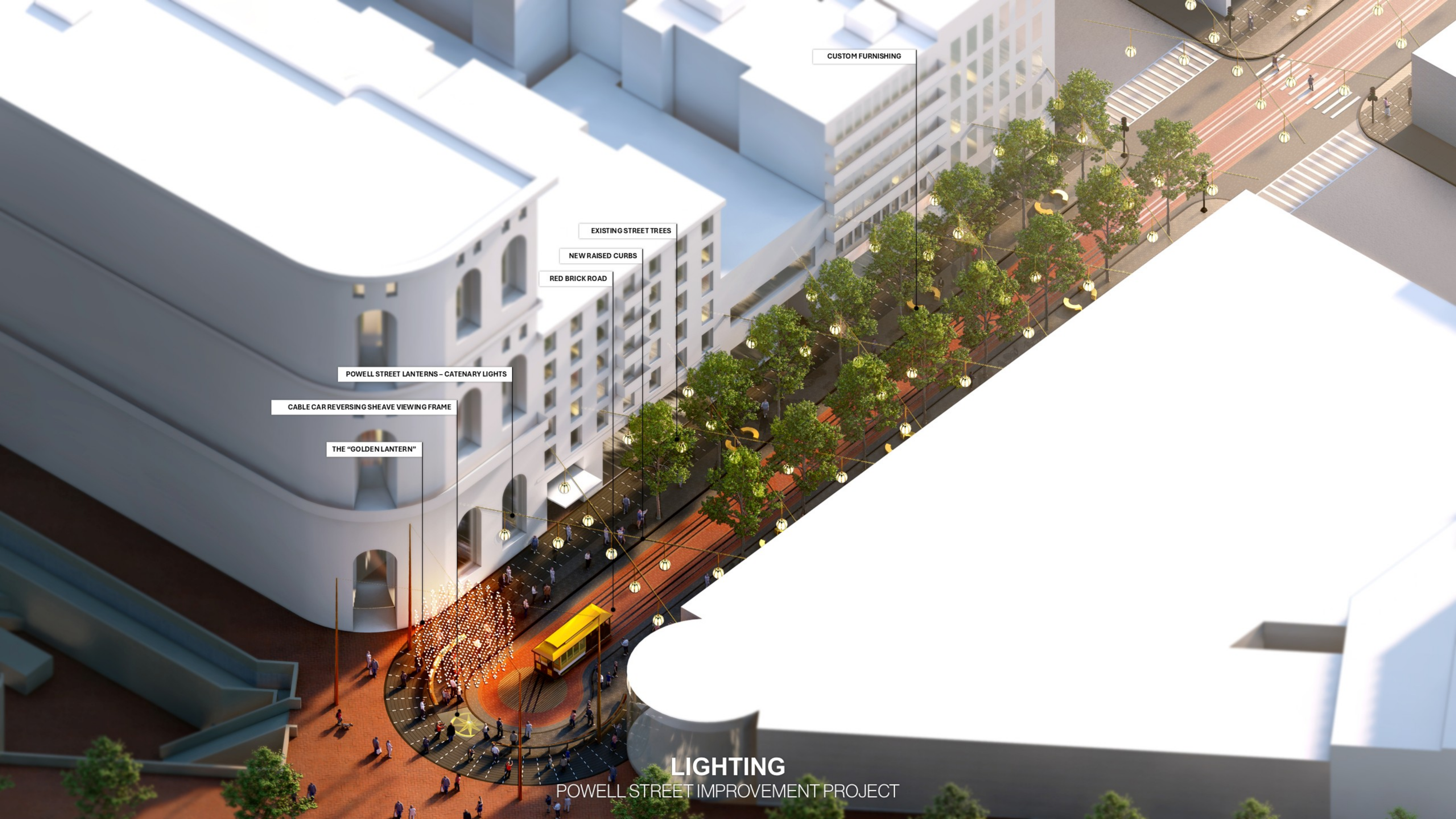
Civic Design Review Committee Report

Discussion

Presenter: Commissioner Walker

Presentation Time: Approximately 10 minutes

Report from the Civic Design Review Committee regarding activities of the Committee and the Program.



CUSTOM FURNISHING

EXISTING STREET TREES

NEW RAISED CURBS

RED BRICK ROAD

POWELL STREET LANTERNS - CATENARY LIGHTS

CABLE CAR REVERSING SHEAVE VIEWING FRAME

THE "GOLDEN LANTERN"

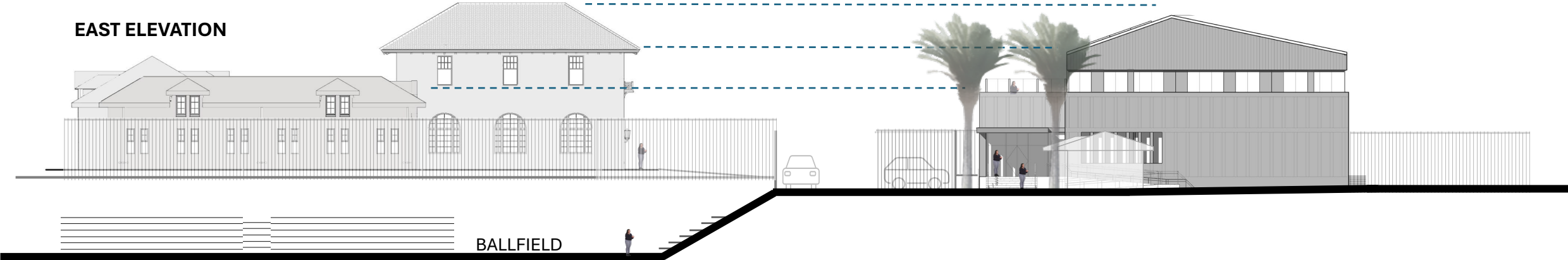
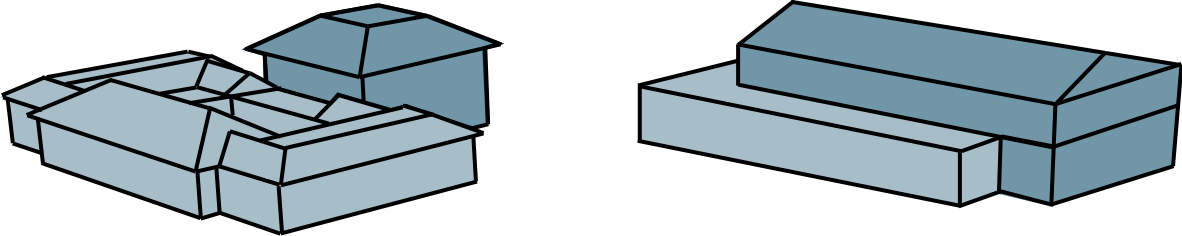
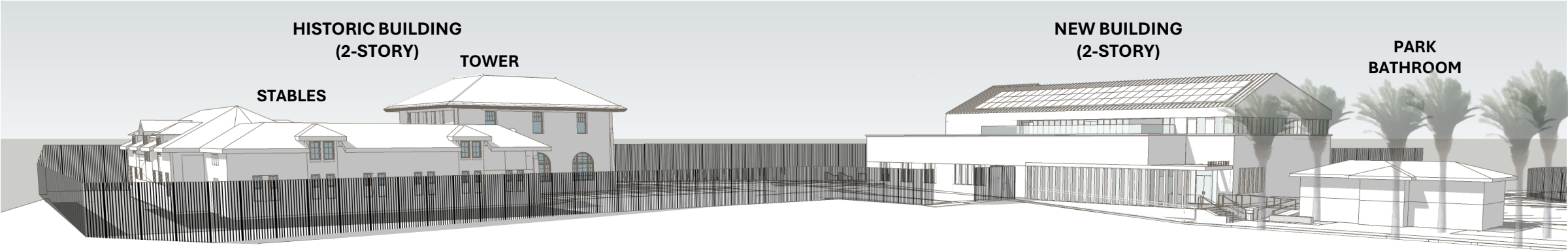
LIGHTING

POWELL STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



THE GOLDEN LANTERN
POWELL STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

UNIFIED CAMPUS DESIGN: MASSING

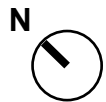
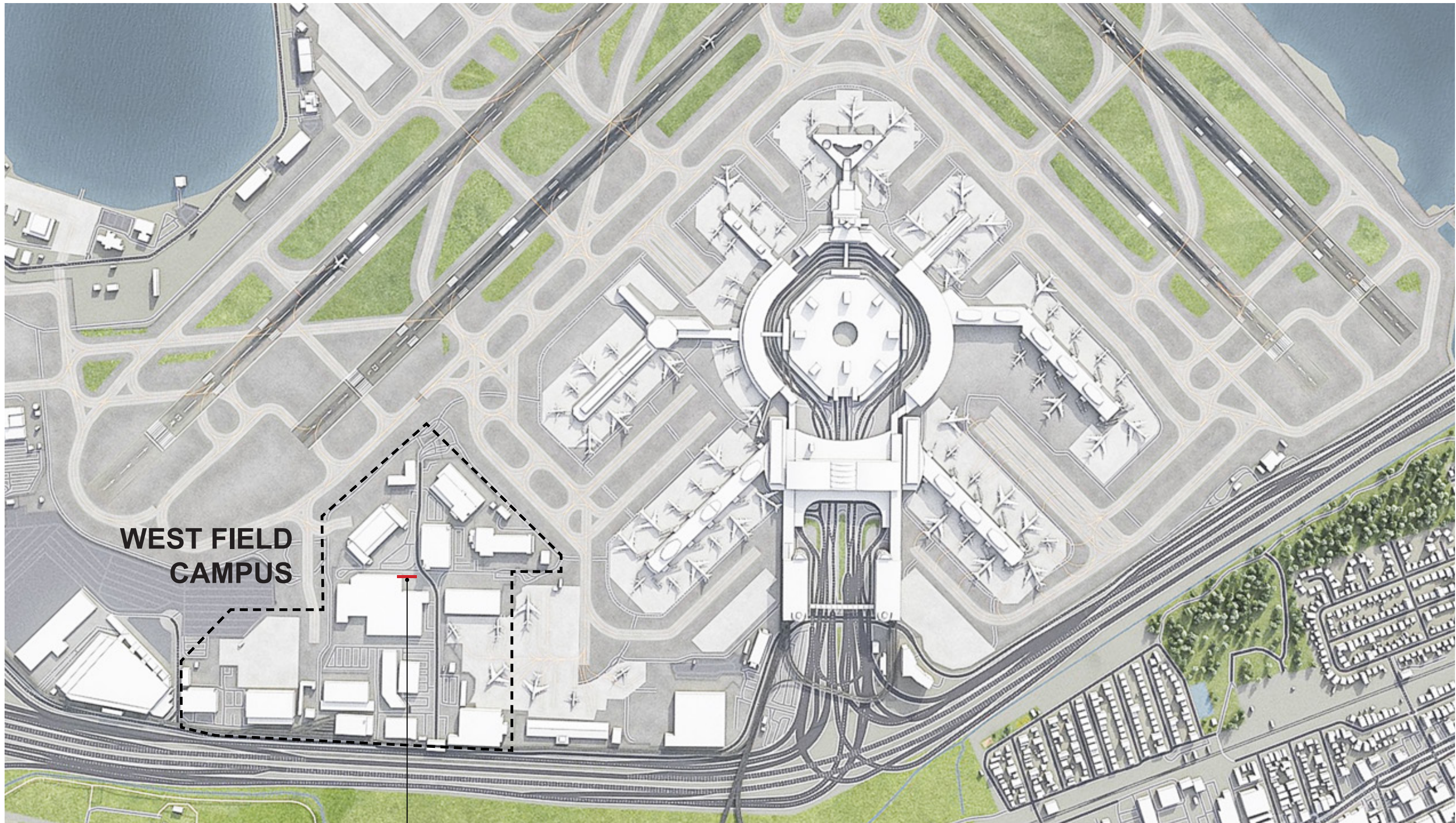


COMMUNITY-FRIENDLY DESIGN





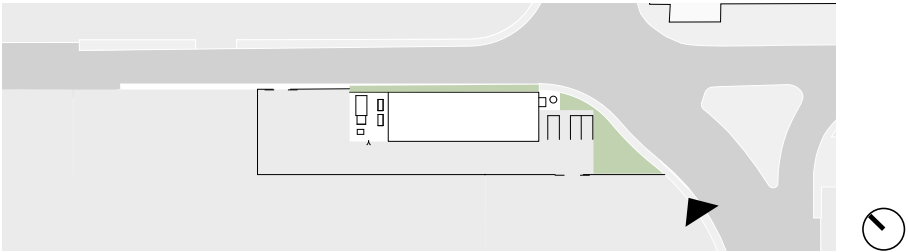
West Field Campus (2025)



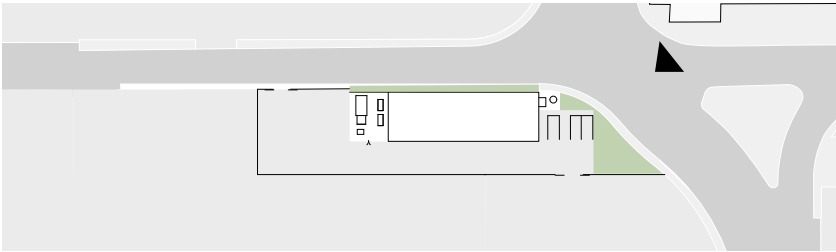
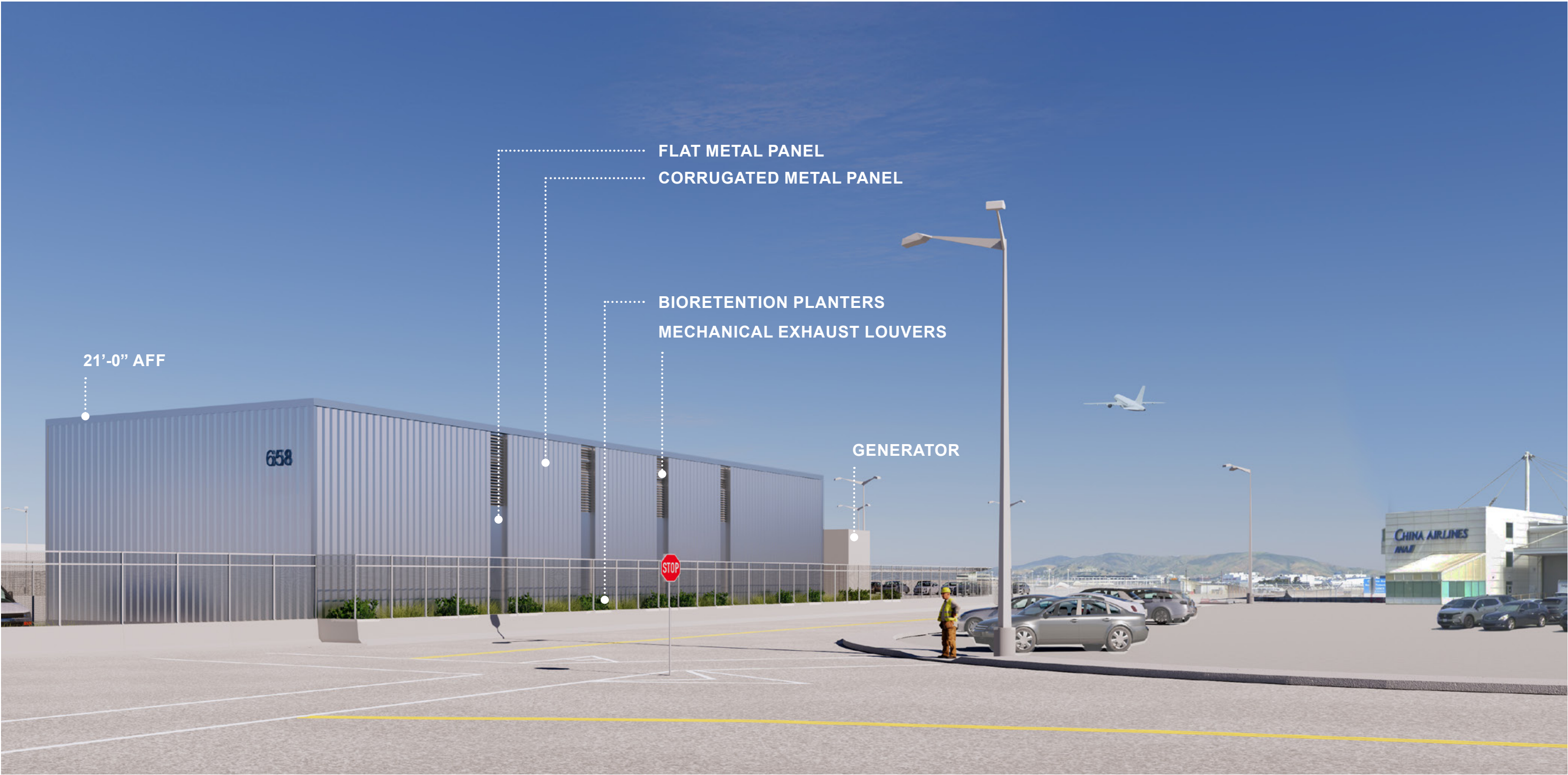
STATION BP SITE



Station BP Completion (2026): View from West Field Road



Station BP Completion (2026): View from Southeast



Item 5.2

Visual Arts Committee Report

Discussion

Presenter: Commissioner Ferras

Presentation Time: Approximately 10 minutes

Report from the Visual Arts Committee regarding activities of the Committee and the Program.

Mayor Ed Lee Bust



Plaque 24x65"
Trojan Font
1 1/2" x 1 3/4"

EDWIN M. LEE

李孟賢

"THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE
SUCCESS AND POTENTIAL OF
THIS EXTRAORDINARY CITY
IF WE KEEP THE DOOR OF
OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO
EVERY SAN FRANCISCAN."

只要我們
為每一位
三藩市居民
敞開機會之門
這座非凡響
的城市
潛力和成就
是無限的

MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO

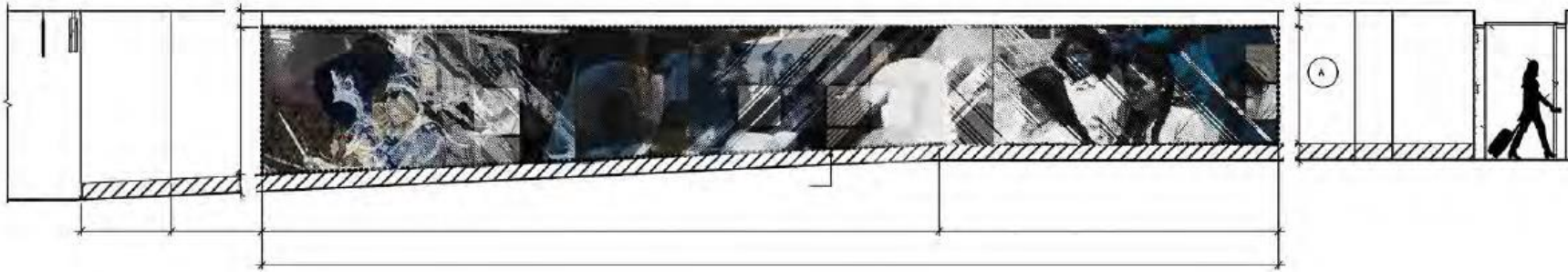
三藩市市長

2011 - 2017



Tomashi Jackson – FIS East Art Wall

East Art Wall – Elevation and Plan

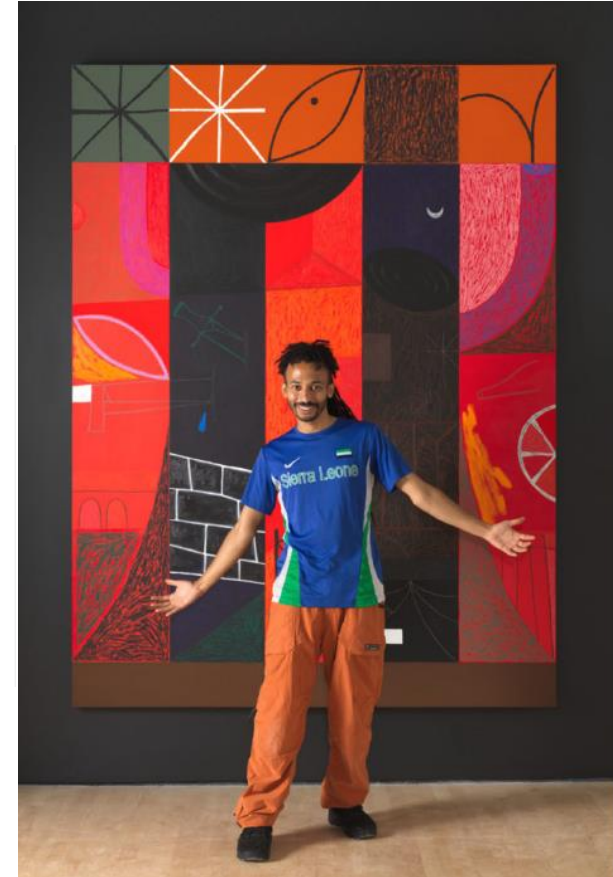


Example of full layering including fabric, materials and images converted to tile.
Final image will vary based on sourced images, composition, feedback and artistic choices.



Muzae Sesay – FIS West Art Wall

West Art Wall – Elevation and Plan



Item 5.3

Executive Committee Report

Discussion

Presenter: Commissioner Collins

Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

Report from the Executive Committee regarding activities of the Committee and the Program.

Item 7: Vaillancourt Fountain

Discussion

Presenter: Mary Chou, Director of Public Art Program and Civic Art Collection

Presentation Time: Approximately 15 minutes







Figure 34. Golden Gateway Plan Map, San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, 1986.
Source: "San Francisco Redevelopment Program: 1987 Fact Book," on file at Office of Community Investment & Infrastructure (OCII).

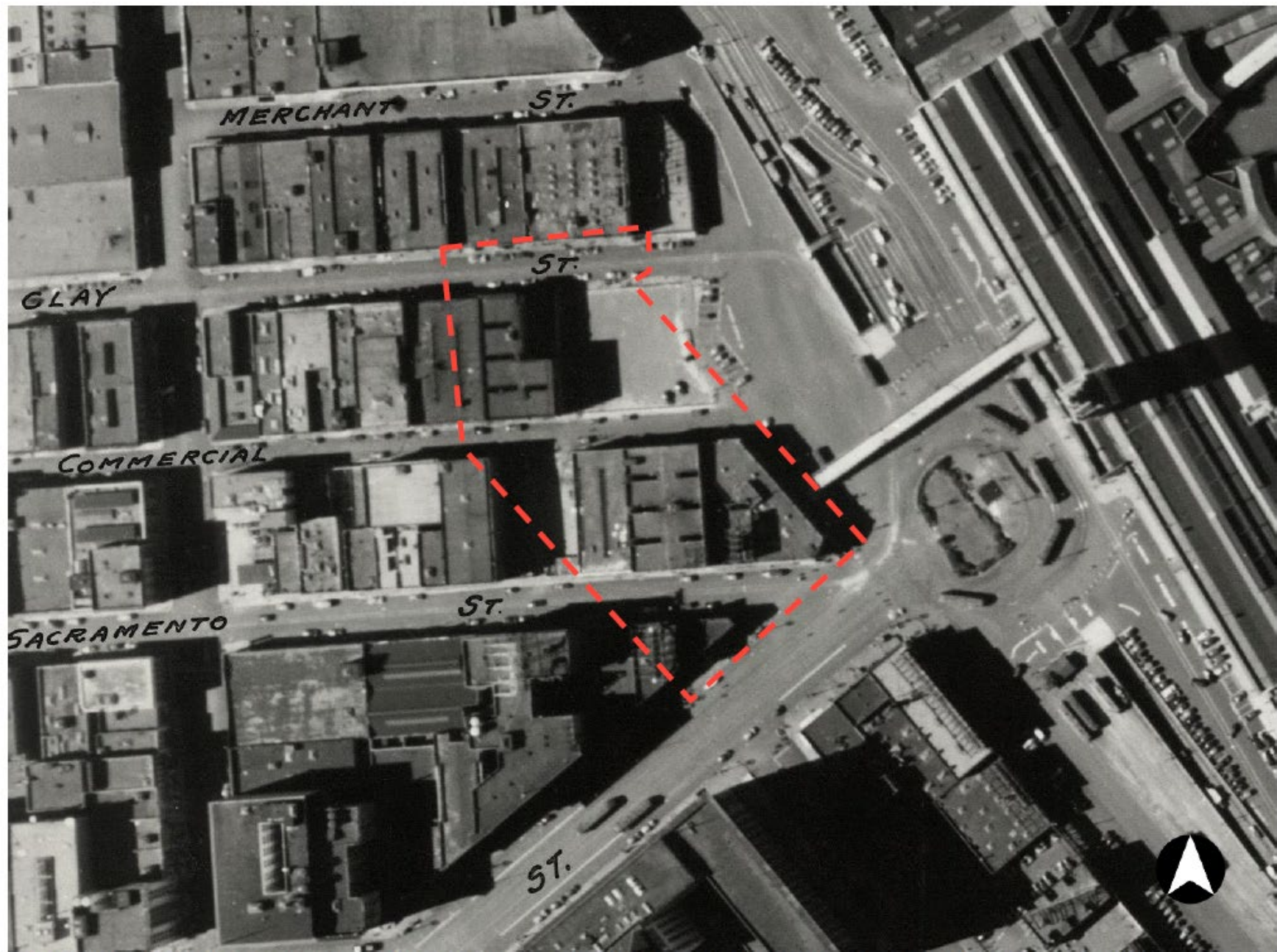


Figure 29. Aerial photograph, 1938. Future boundary of Embarcadero Plaza North indicated by red dashed outline. Source: David Rumsey Map Collection. Edited by Page & Turnbull.

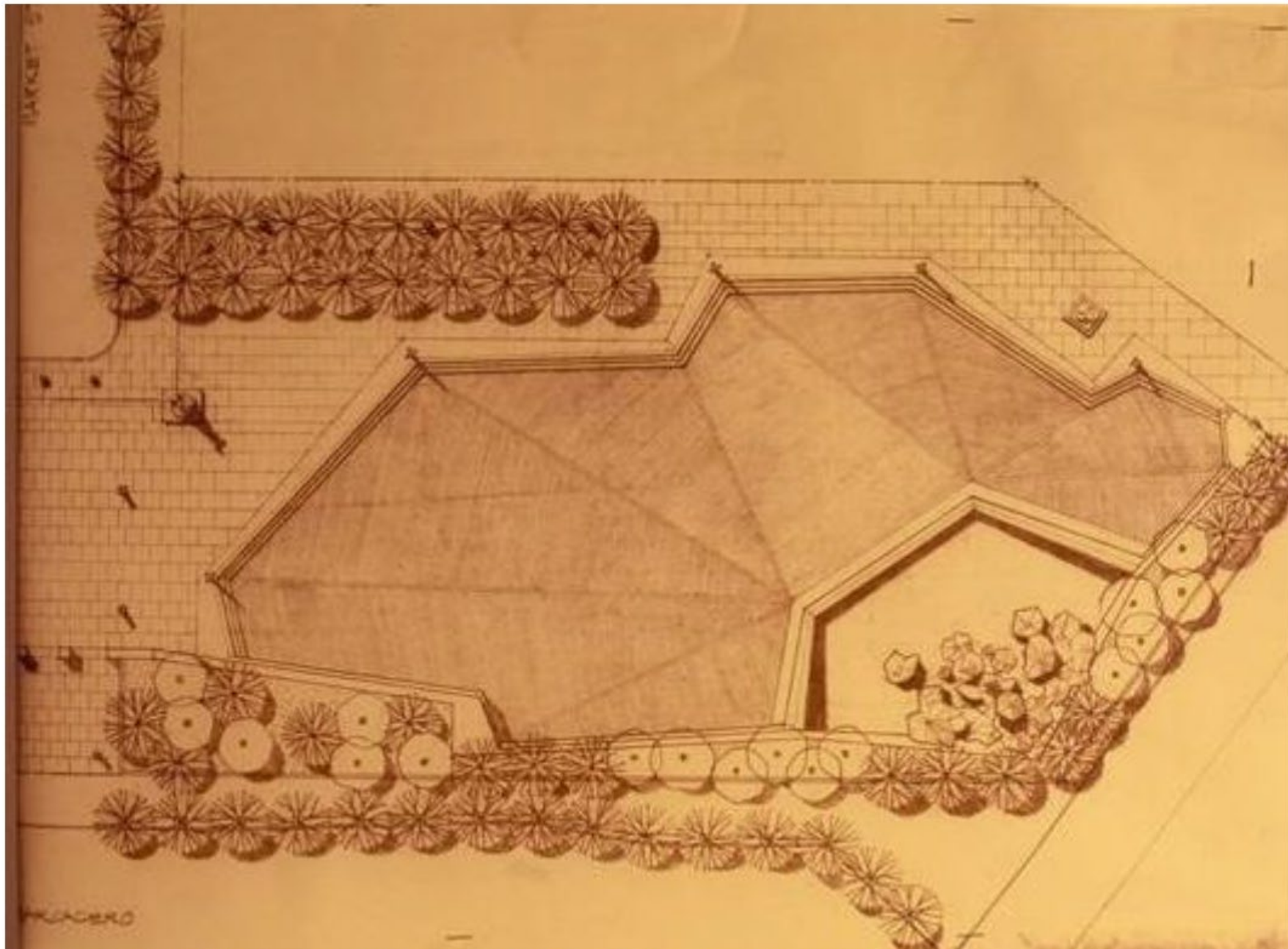


Figure 36. Drawing of the Embarcadero Plaza, showing a conceptual fountain design, c. 1966. The drawing reflects Halprin's irregular brick plaza design. Source: AAR-6551, San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Records (SFH 371), San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco History Center.

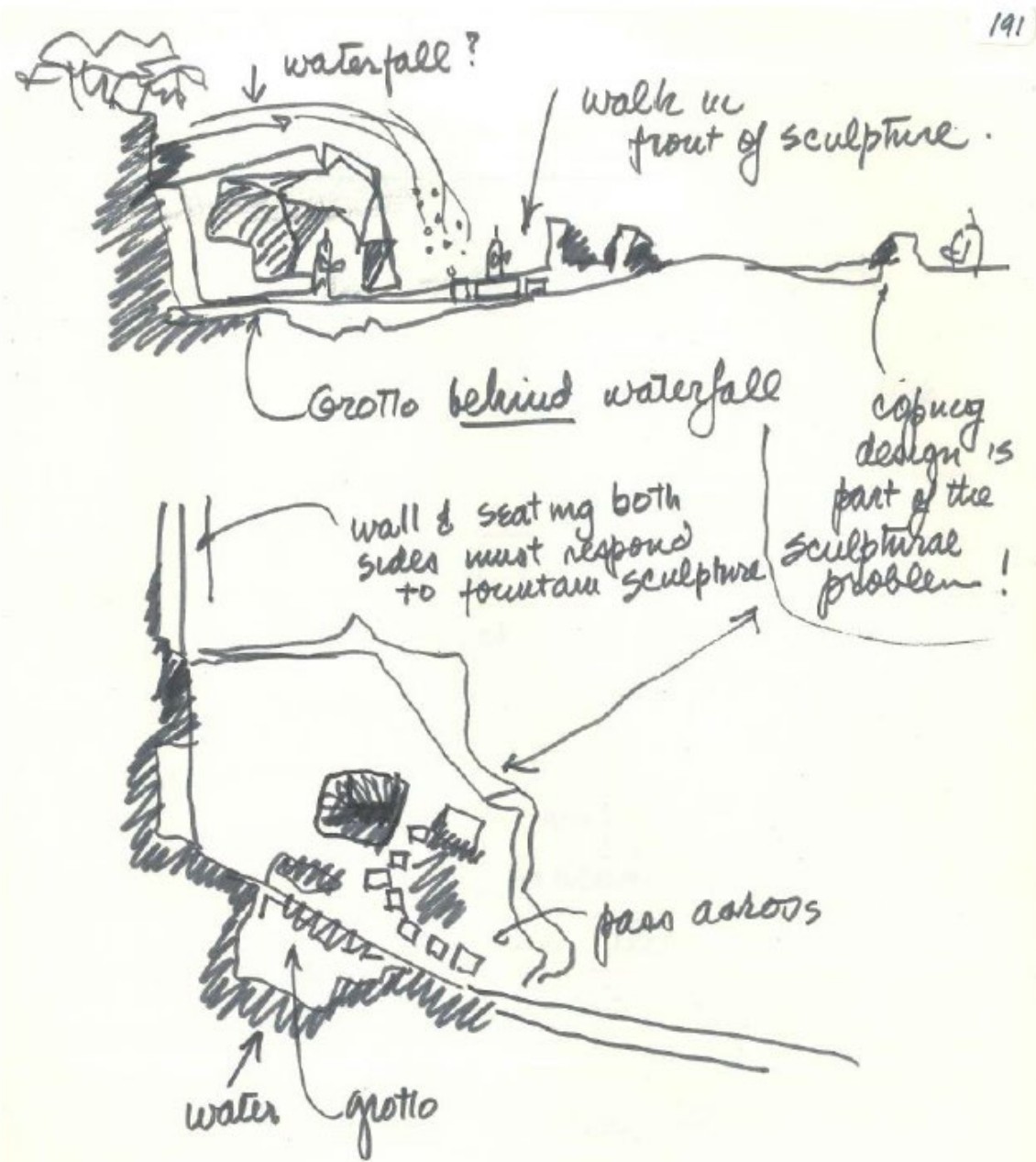


Figure 35. Sketch from Lawrence Halprin's notebooks in December 1966, which were considering the fountain location within Embarcadero Plaza and the participatory component of the fountain even before the design was selected. Source: Halprin Collection, Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania, Notebooks (1966), 014.III.B.17.16-20.



Figure 37. Model for the fountain design competition submitted by Armand Vaillancourt, c. 1967. The models for all five entries were on public display at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 1967. Source: San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Records (SFH 371), San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco History Center.



Figure 38. Jacques Overhoff's submission to the fountain design competition, c. 1967. Source: AAR-6699, San Francisco Public Library, History Center.

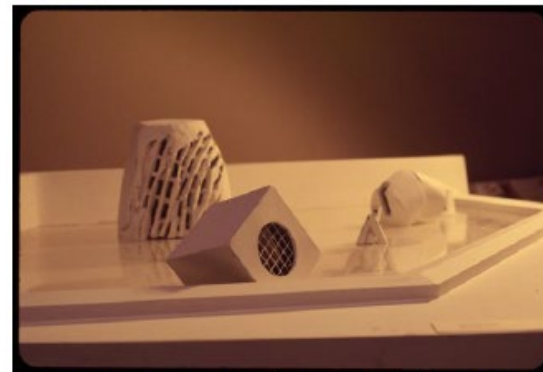


Figure 39. James Melchert's submission to the fountain design competition, c. 1967. Source: AAR-6557, San Francisco Public Library, History Center.



Figure 40. A later evolution of Vaillancourt's design for the fountain in a model that closely reflects what was built, c. 1968-70. Source: San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Records (SFH 371), San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco History Center.

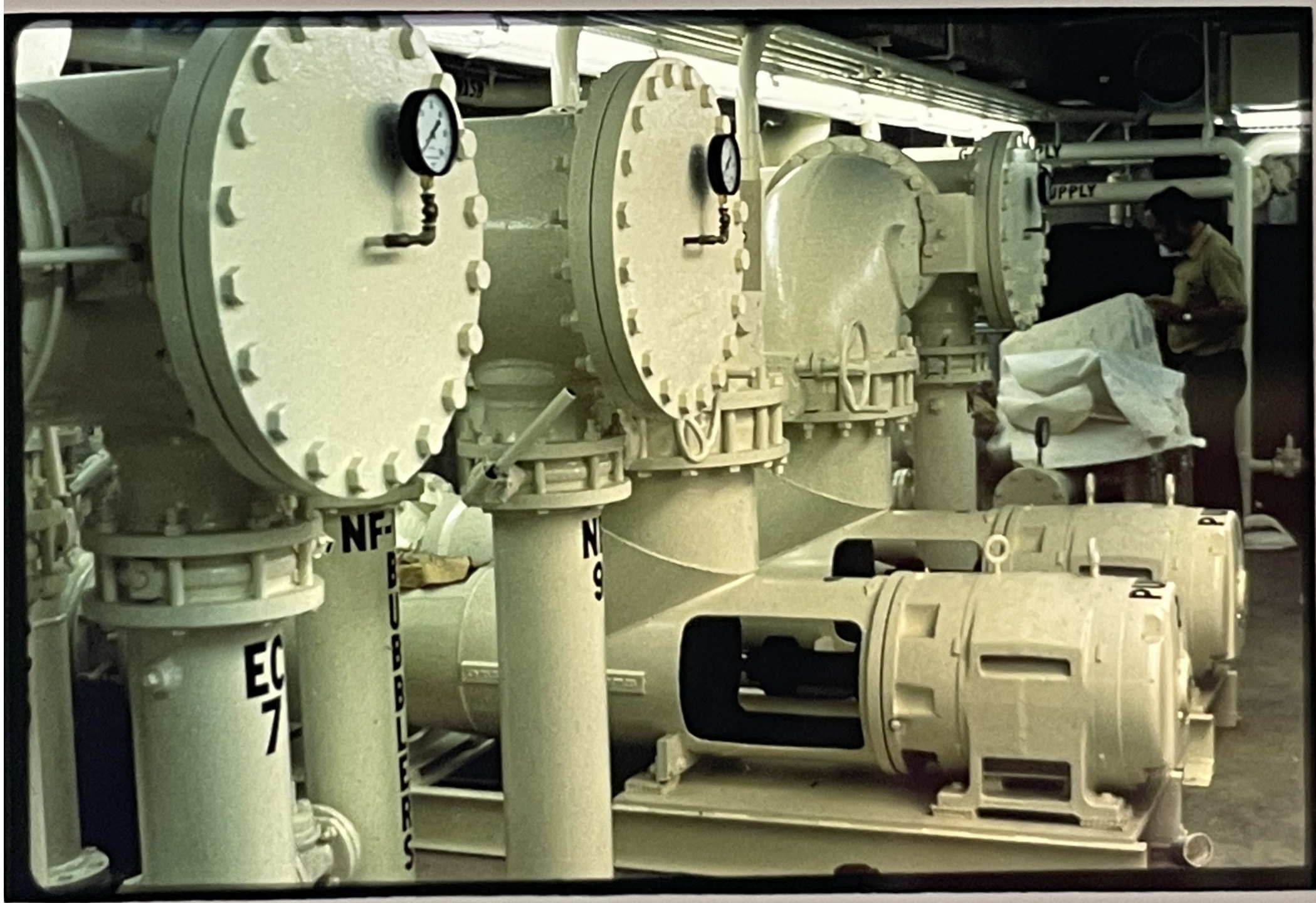


Figure 44. Vaillancourt Fountain under construction, 1970. Source: San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Records (SFH 371), San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco History Center.









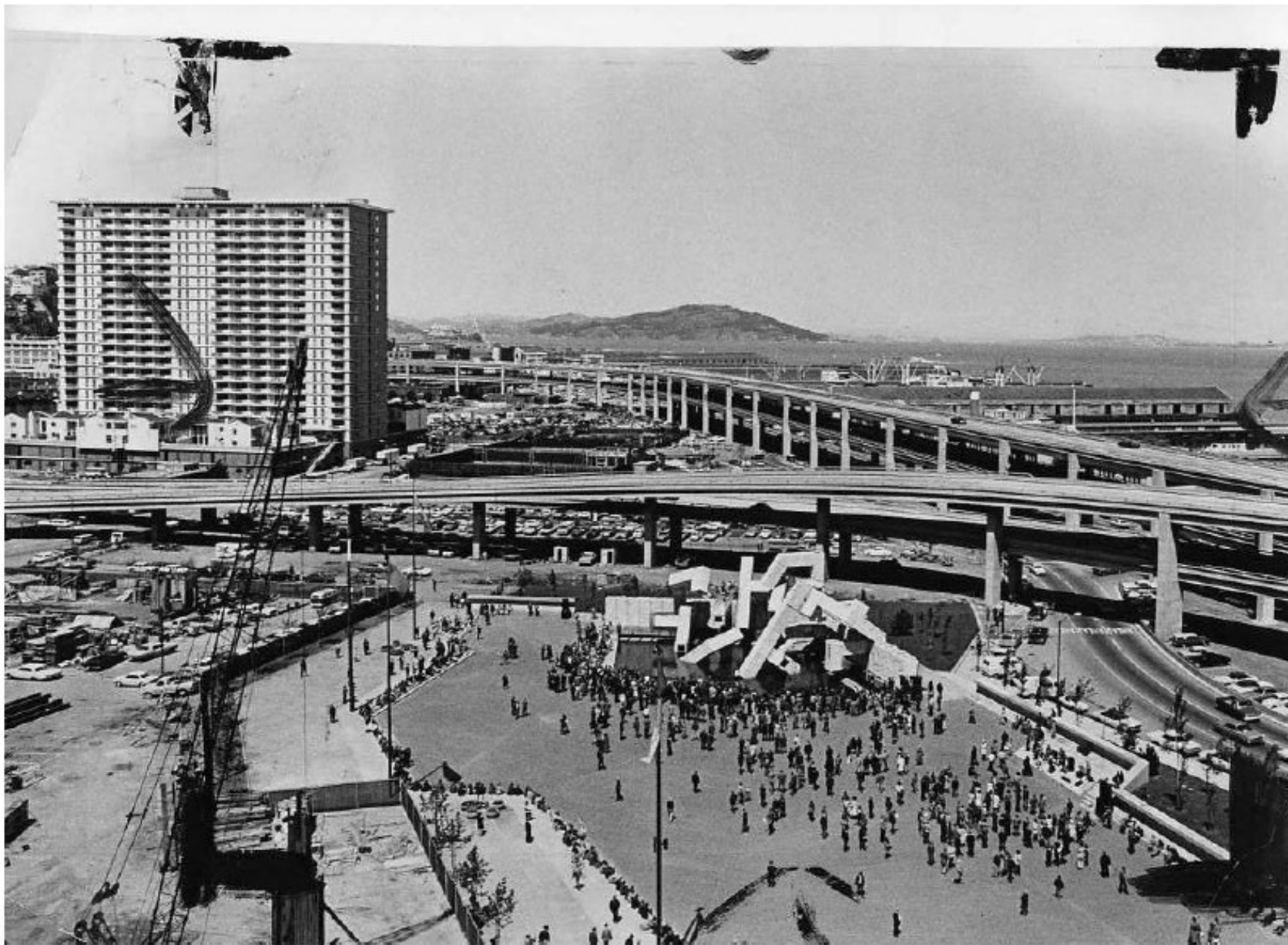


Figure 49. Crowds at the Vaillancourt Fountain dedication ceremony on April 22, 1971. The Embarcadero Freeway wrapped around the plaza in the background. Construction of the Hyatt Regency had begun (lower left), but Embarcadero Center had not yet been completed. Source: *San Francisco Chronicle* vault.



Figure 48. Speakers during the dedication ceremony, April 22, 1971, addressing the crowd from on top of Vaillancourt Fountain. Source: AAR-6514, San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Records (SFH 371), San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco History Center.



Figure 50. Children and adults experience the participatory aspects of Vaillancourt Fountain, c. 1971. Source: AAR-6541, San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Records (SFH 371), San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco History Center.







Figure 52. Rear (north and east) wall of Vaillancourt Fountain, c. 1970s. Source: San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Records (SFH 371), San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco History Center.

'Art Is Like Vitamin to the Soul...'

Sculptor Defends Huge Fountain For Ferry Park

By DONALD CANTER
Urban Affairs Writer

His words, like his luxurious beard, shoulder-length hair and soft yet penetrating eyes have a biblical quality.

"Whatever comes from me comes from a strong root," says Armand Vaillancourt, his English laced with a pleasing French Canadian accent.

Coming from an average mortal, those words might be interpreted as sheer arrogance.

MODEL BEGUN

But in the world of art in which he lives, nobody would term Vaillancourt average — and he knows it.

A world-renowned sculptor and considered somewhat of a national asset in his native Canada, Vaillancourt has been commissioned to design the grandest Grand Fountain the West has ever seen.

It is to stand in the Embarcadero Plaza to complement the great buildings of the Rockefeller's Embarcadero Center, just a stone's throw from that heralded work of art known as the Embarcadero Freeway.

So far, not everybody who's had a glimpse of what Vaillancourt has wrought (his creation is still in the model stage) is thrown by it.

'WHAT THEY NEED'

Some have suggested that the huge, stacked concrete blocks that make up the main body of Vaillancourt's fountain-to-be, look like a preview of what the



SCULPTOR ARMAND VAILLANCOURT
He holds a model of his controversial Grand Fountain.
—Examiner photo by Fran Ortiz

Embarcadero Freeway may look like after a stiff quake.

The unflattering comparison doesn't irk Vaillancourt.

There's an understanding smile on his face as he says:

"I'm not producing what people are looking for but what they need."

What do people want?

"A quick meal in a cafeteria . . . it's so easy to digest."

What do they need?

"Something of substance, food. Artistry is like vitamin to the soul."

The model of his fountain stands in a South of Market warehouse. Somewhere amidst what are supposed to be the concrete blocks stands a little plastic man to show his fountain is a living fountain through which people can walk, from block to block.

Vaillancourt picks up the plas-

tic figure and there's a pitying look in his eyes:

"A human form, that's what people understand or rather think they understand though some have been married for years and still don't understand each other."

"When I make rectangular blocks, that doesn't mean I can't make a human form, my dear man."

Abruptly, he puts the plastic figure back in the model.

TO BARE ESSENTIAL

Now there's an abstract glance in his eyes and his words are equally abstract:

"When I make something, I purify my mind from the many attachments of everyday life. I strip things to the bare essential until they say 'yes,' that is the way it could be."

What does his fountain, as he created it, say to him?

"It says to me it's a product of maturity, an image of the world as I hoped it would be."

He turns poetic as his hands move over the fountain's spouts through which the water will shoot up or down, depending on the angle of the concrete blocks.

'LIKE AN ORCHESTRA'

"Maybe I'll put a little bit more water here. Or a little less there and there or there. You see, it's like an orchestra and I'm the conductor. The instruments must be beautiful. But they must obey me . . ."

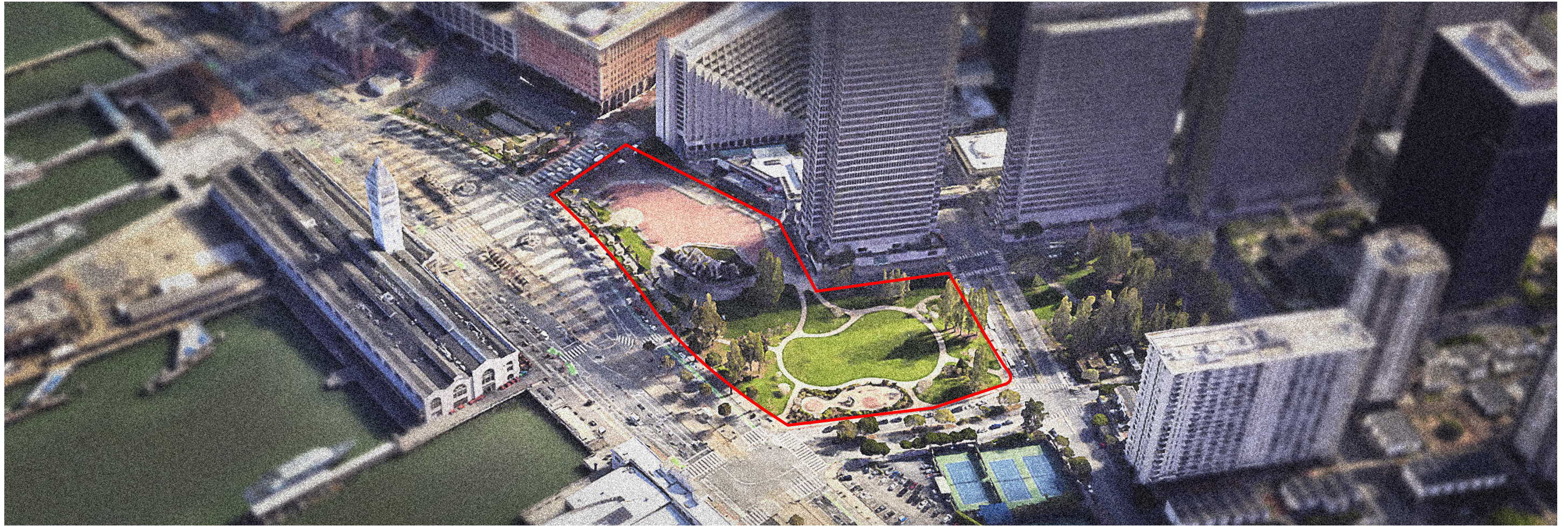
Vaillancourt's fountain is big. Some of his stacked concrete blocks rise as high as 40 feet.

"My kid brother and I used to cut 15 big trees a day. After that you can't expect me to produce something little," he laughs.

Then, turning serious again, he says:

"Not everybody will understand my work. But nobody will walk through my fountain and come out indifferent. They will be shaken."





EMBARCADERO PLAZA & SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

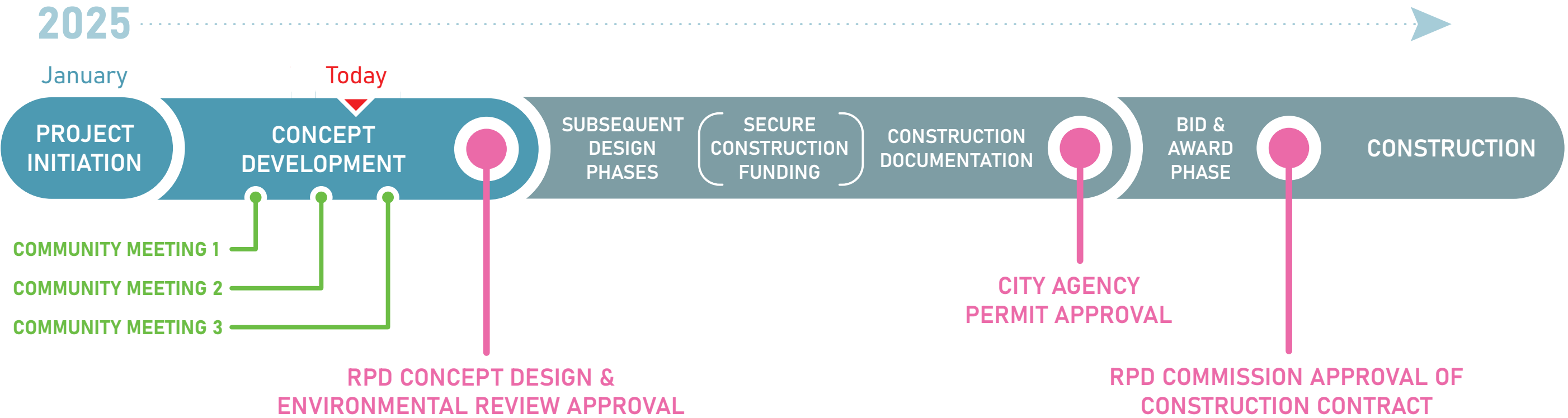
FULL ARTS COMMISSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025



DOWNTOWN SF
PARTNERSHIP



PROJECT SCHEDULE



SURVEY FINDINGS

What are your top priorities for this renovation?
(Select up to three)

Create a **world-class, iconic park** representing San Francisco's vibrant culture for both local and international visitors.

570

Create a **welcoming public space** with access for all.

526

Ignite the **downtown recovery** and **revitalize** the heart of the San Francisco waterfront.

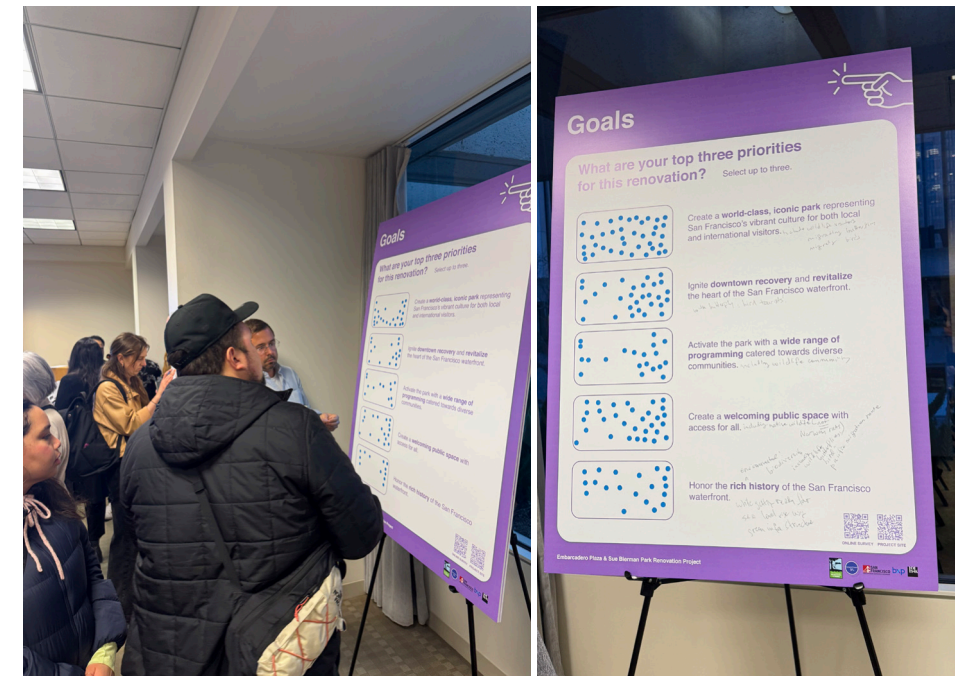
465

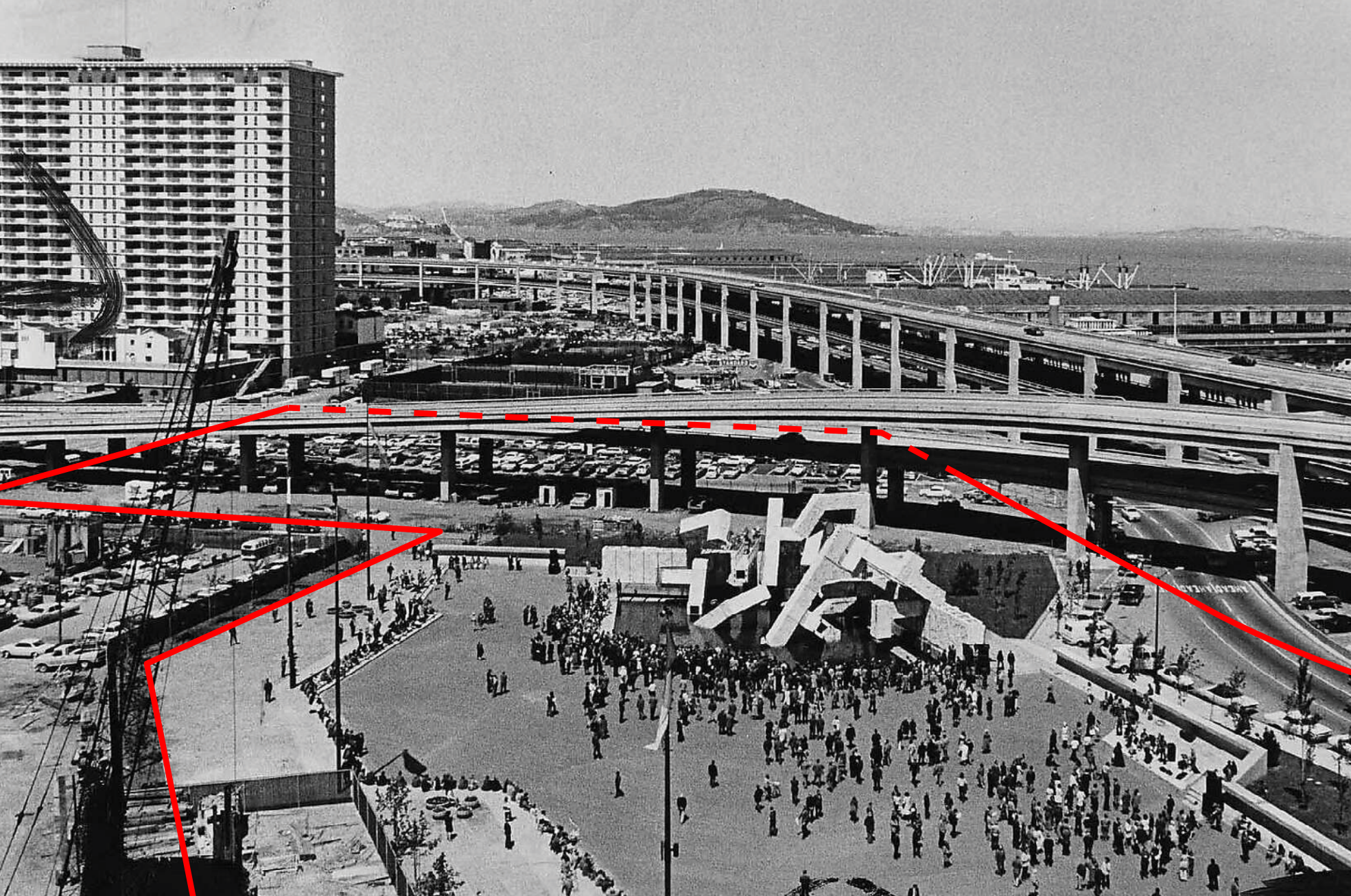
Honor the **rich history** of the San Francisco waterfront.

465

Activate the park with a **wide range of programming** catered towards diverse communities.

311





1971: Vaillancourt fountain is installed.

1972: Justin Herman Plaza opened, named after M. Justin Herman, director of the SF Redevelopment Agency.

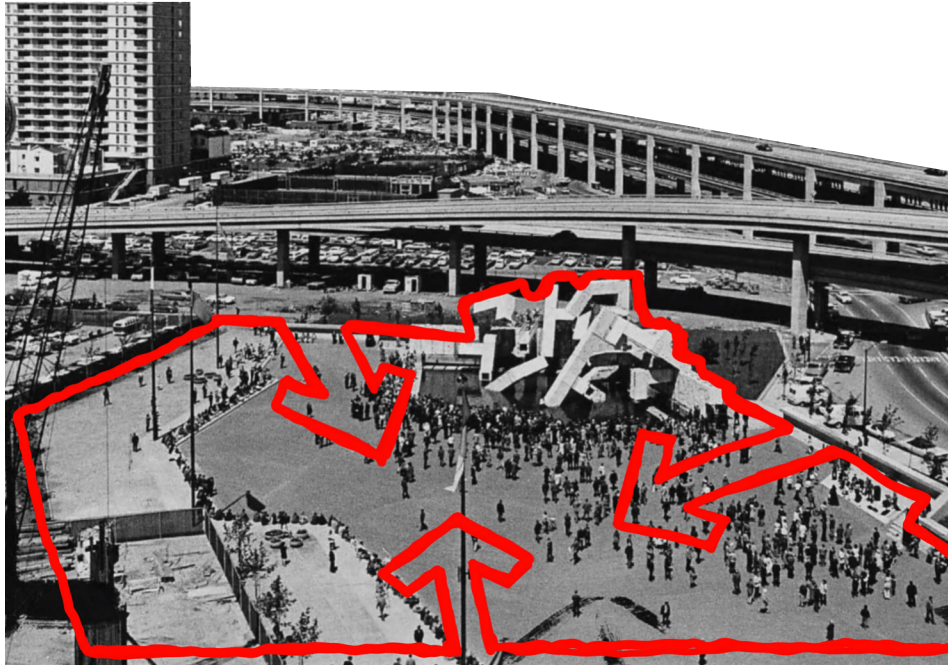


Vaillancourt fountain in the plaza was designed and installed in the context of its surroundings: to integrate the freeway and ramp into the context of the city and to counter the freeway noise.

EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT



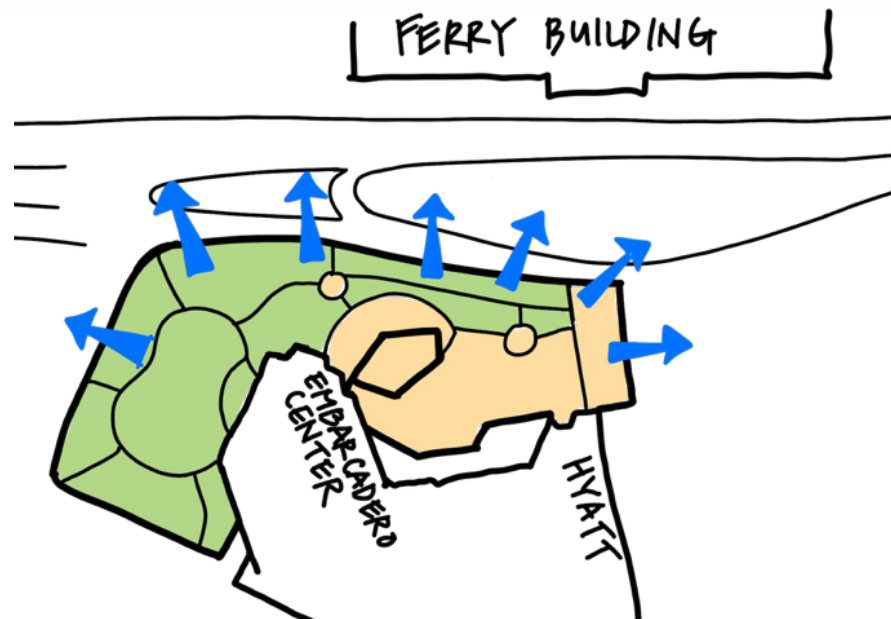
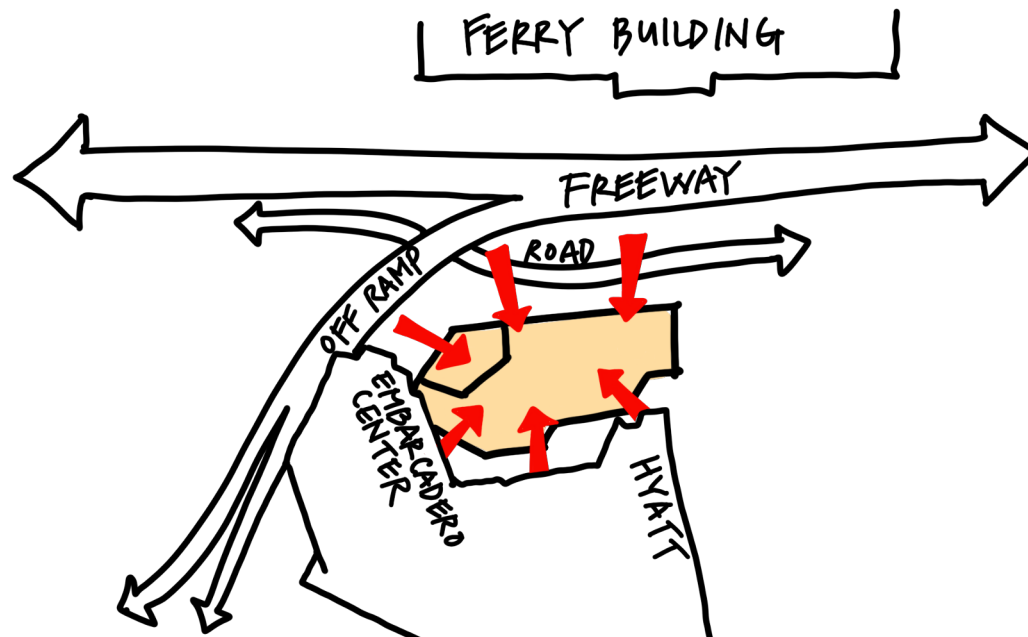
SITE HISTORY RECAP



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.



EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT



DOWNTOWN SF
PARTNERSHIP



VAILLANCOURT FOUNTAIN ASSESSMENT - KEY FINDINGS

END OF LIFE
INFRASTRUCTURE
SYSTEMS



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



MAINTENANCE COSTS
ARE ~\$100K A YEAR



NOT
ACCESSIBLE



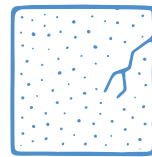
UNSUITABLE SOIL
CONDITIONS



FAILED WATERPROOFING
MEMBRANE



CRACKS AND SPALLED
CONCRETE



CORROSION OF
STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS



DOES NOT MEET CURRENT
SEISMIC AND SAFETY
STANDARDS



FOUNTAIN RESTORATION
COST EXCEEDS
PROJECT BUDGET



ESTIMATED \$29 MILLION IN CONSTRUCTION COST



EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT



DOWNTOWN SF
PARTNERSHIP

SAN FRANCISCO
Office of Economic and Workforce Development





EMBARCADERO PLAZA & SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

COMMUNITY MEETING #1
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025



AGENDA

5:00pm

WELCOME

5:15pm

PRESENTATION:

SITE HISTORY

EXISTING CONDITIONS

SITE ANALYSIS

5:40pm

COMMUNITY INPUT

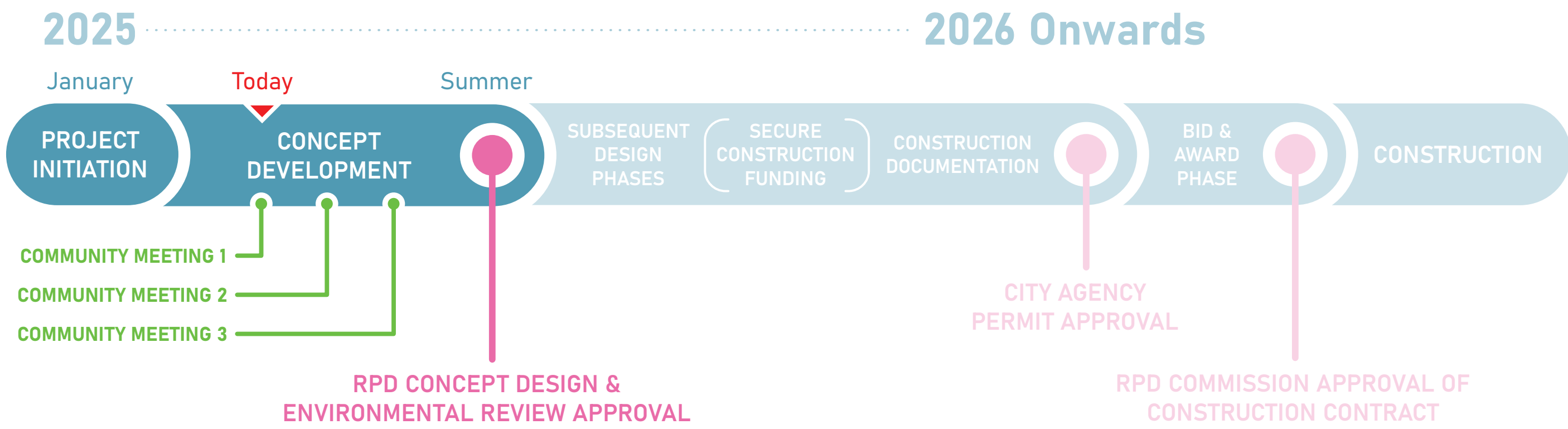
6:50pm

NEXT STEPS

PROJECT TEAM



PROJECT SCHEDULE



SITE HISTORY





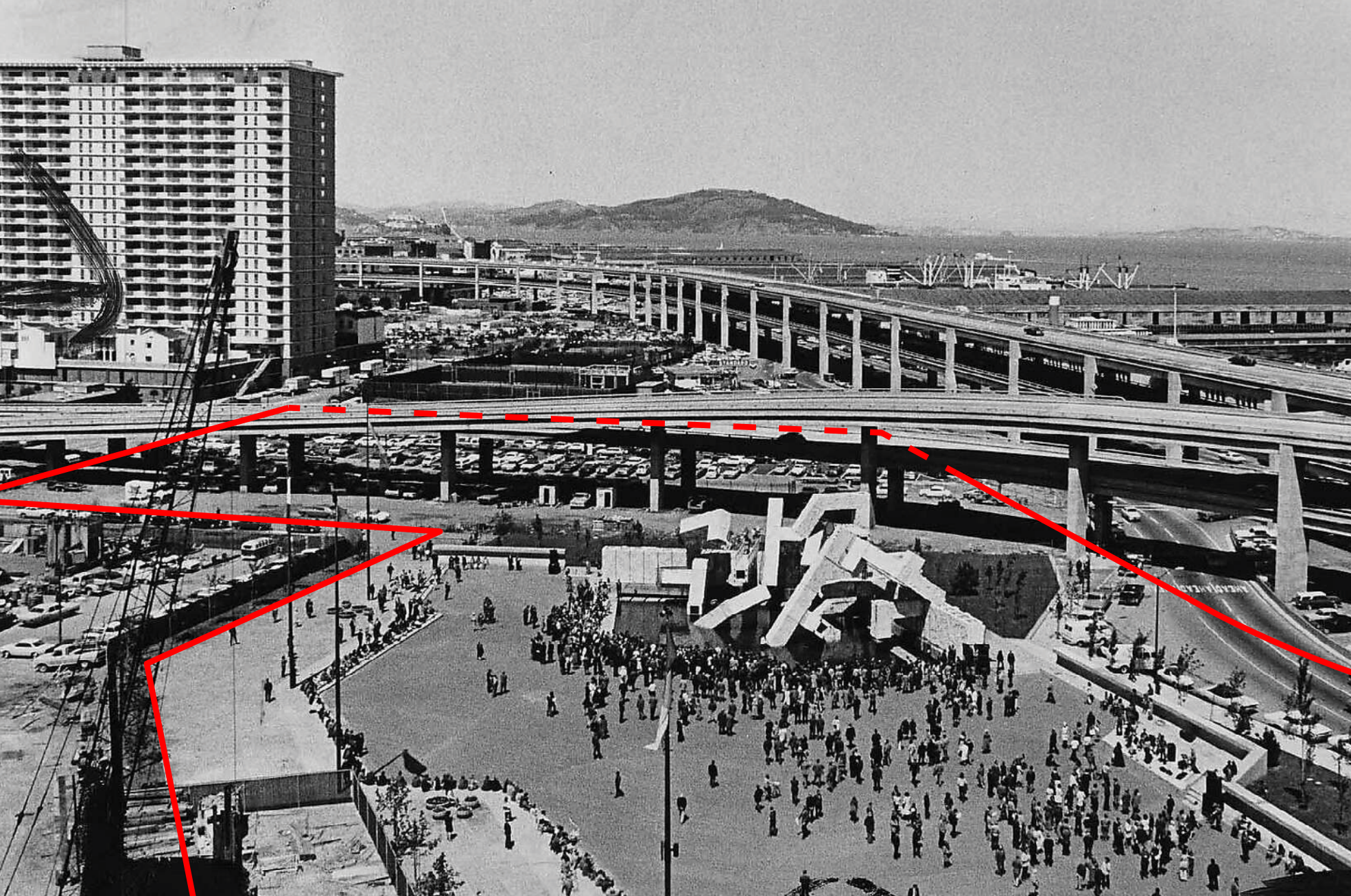
1898: Ferry Building originally completed as a terminal for ferries and a key transit hub. The San Francisco waterfront was primarily used for industrial and maritime purposes.



1959: Embarcadero freeway constructed.

EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT





1971: Vaillancourt fountain is installed.

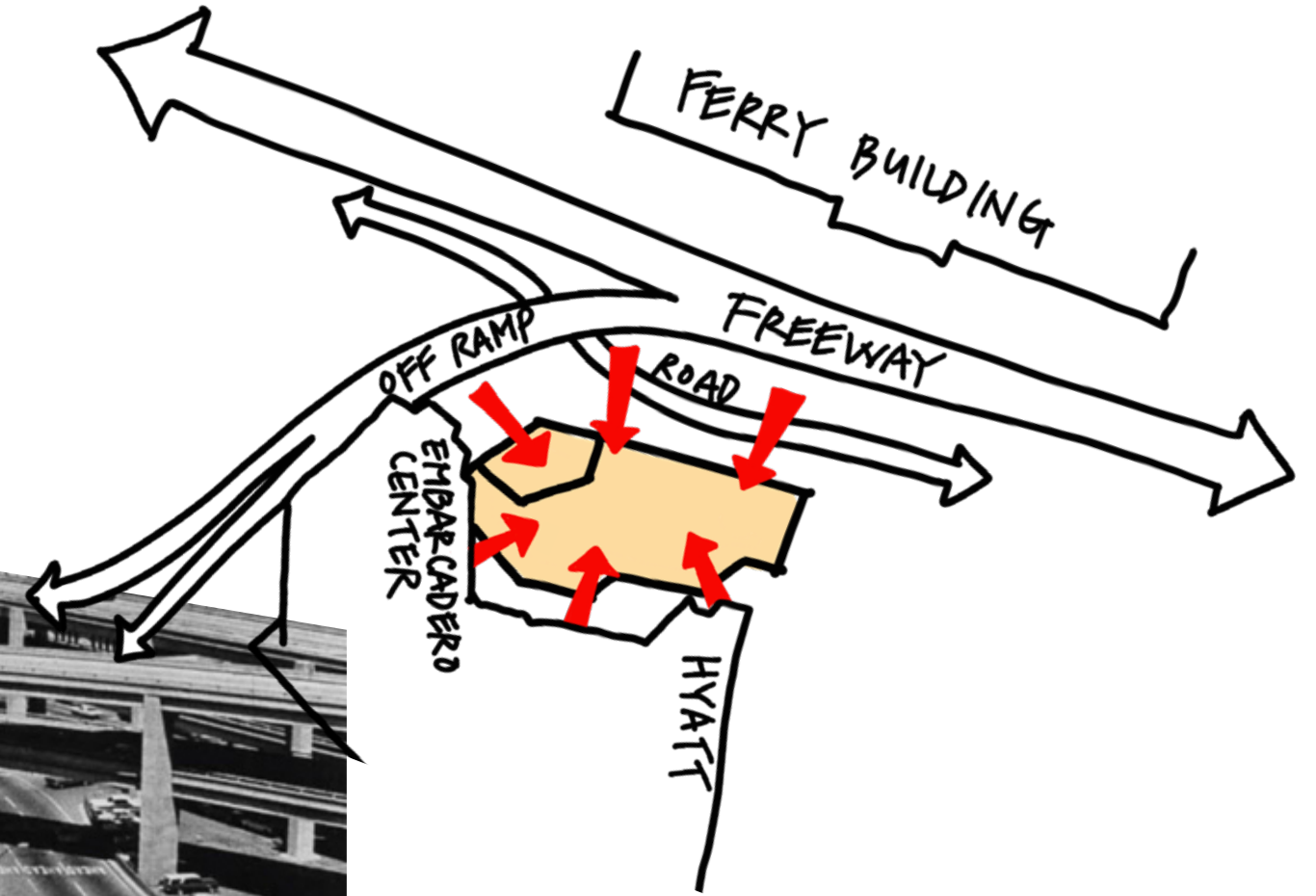
1972: Justin Herman Plaza opened, named after M. Justin Herman, director of the SF Redevelopment Agency.



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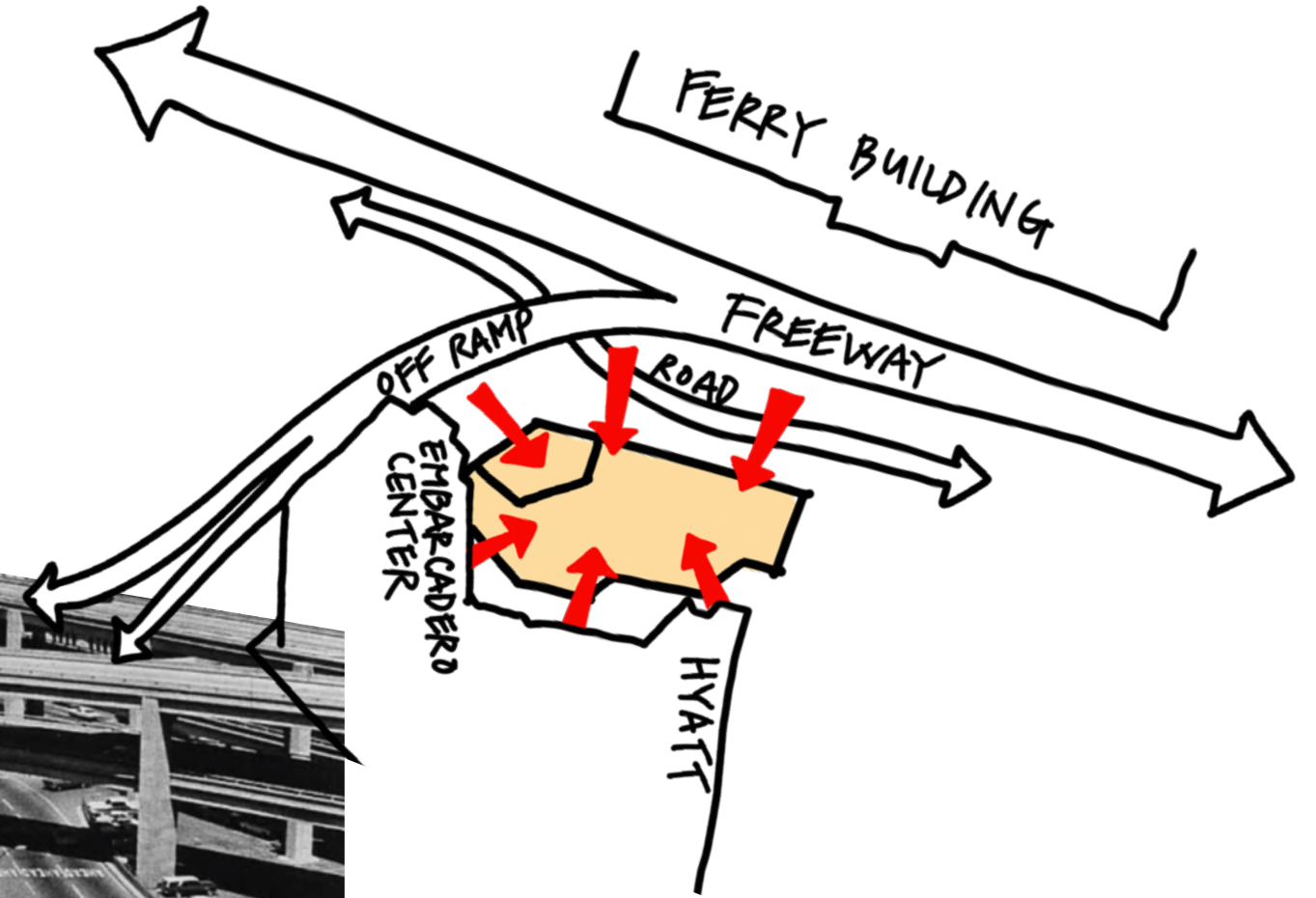
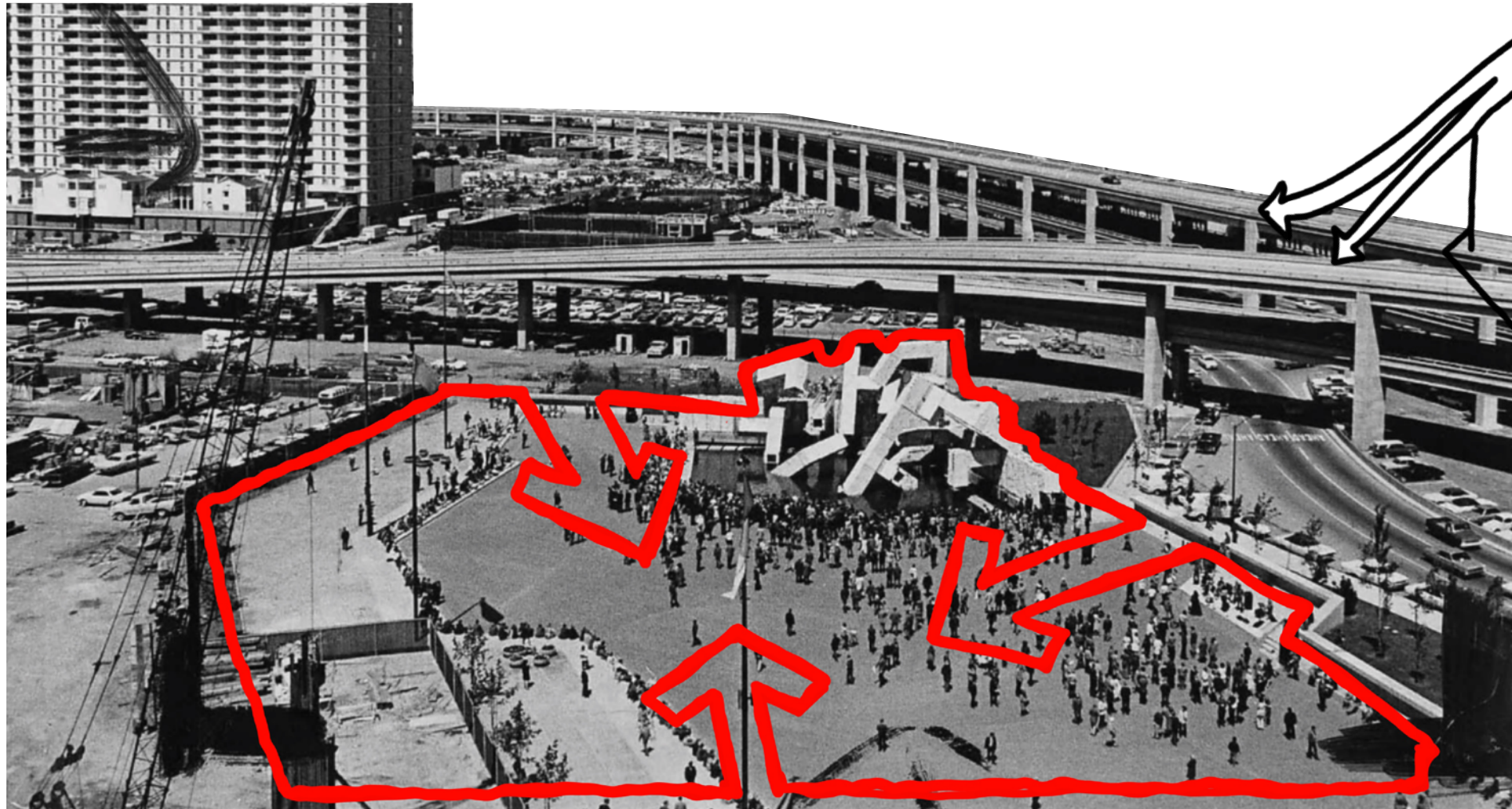
EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT





EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT





EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT





Before



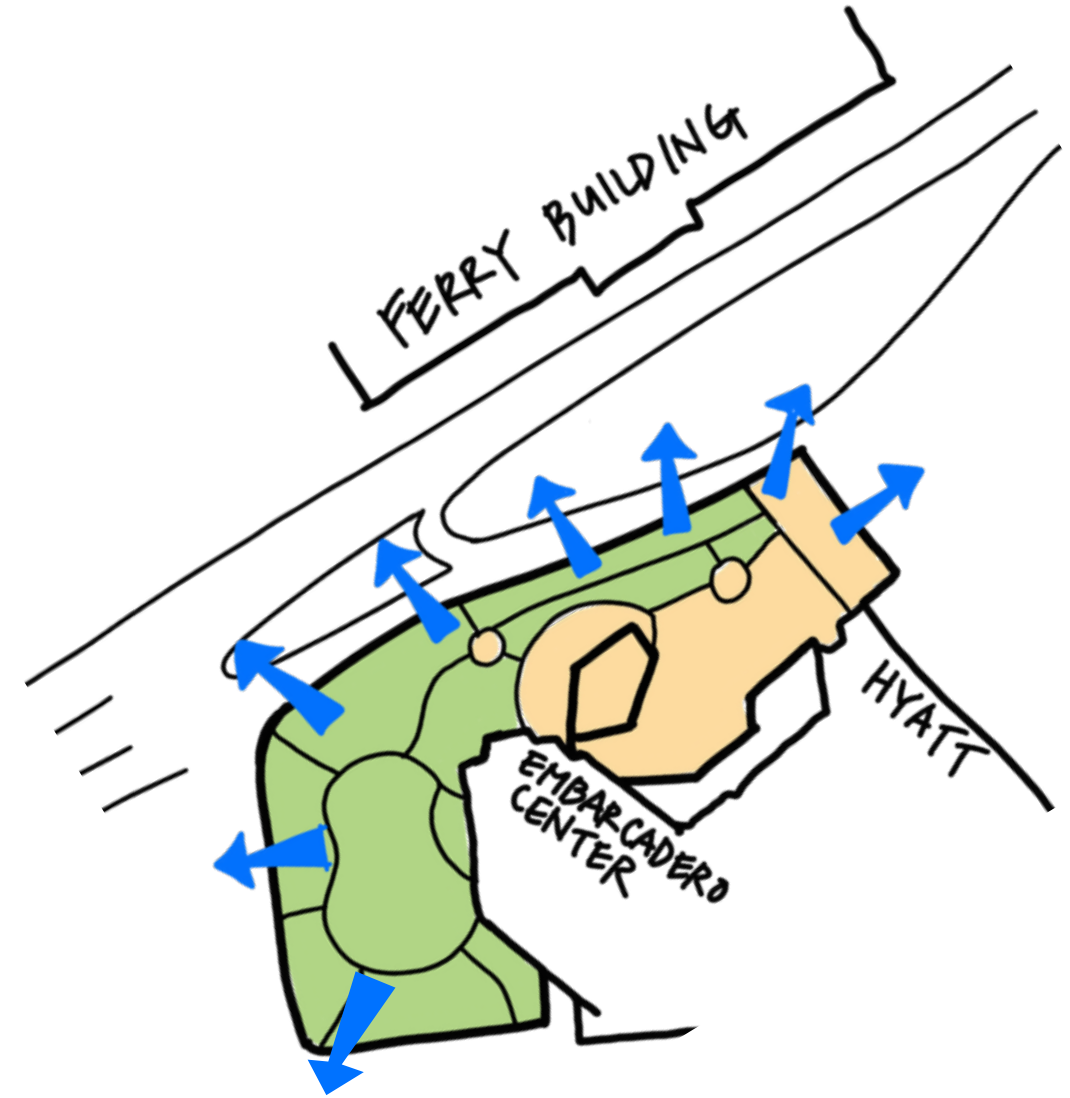
After

After the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the Embarcadero Freeway sustains damage and becomes demolished.

1992: Demolition of the Embarcadero Freeway opened the waterfront and led to extensive rethinking of the area’s urban design.

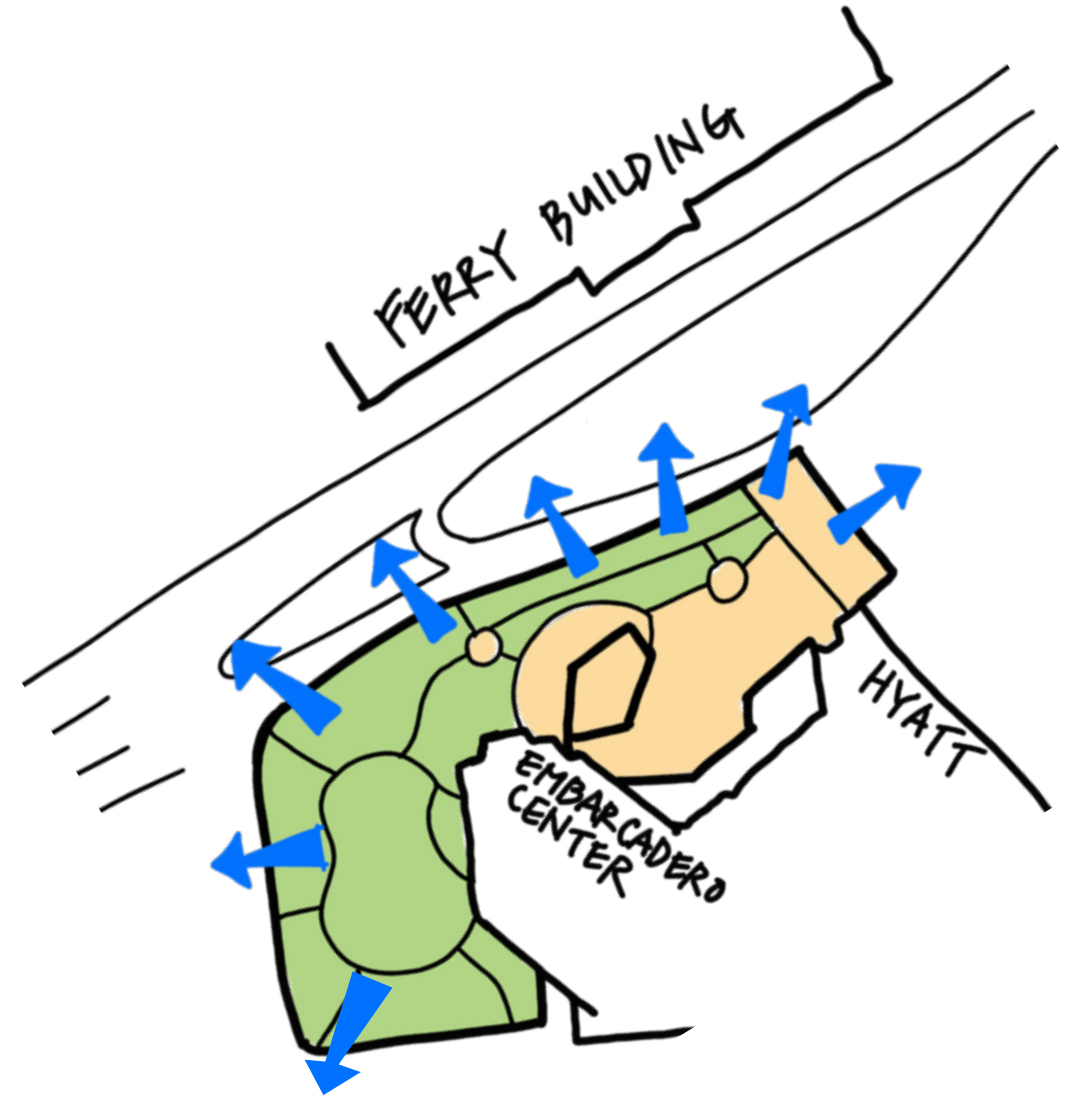
From 1990-2003, Ferry Building undergoes a major seismic retrofit and restoration. The building was transformed into a public marketplace while preserving its historic architecture.

EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT



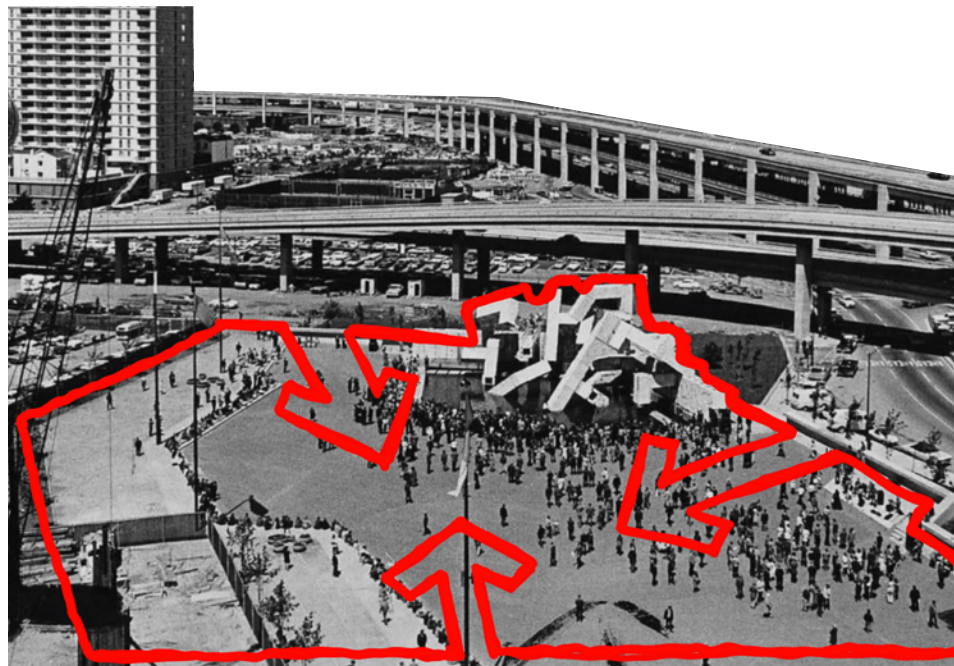
EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT





EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

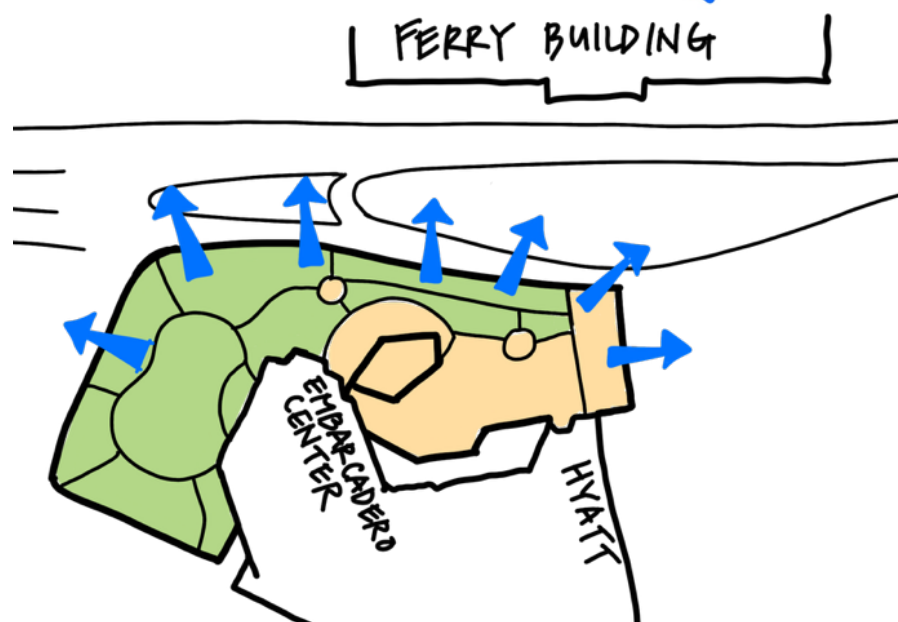
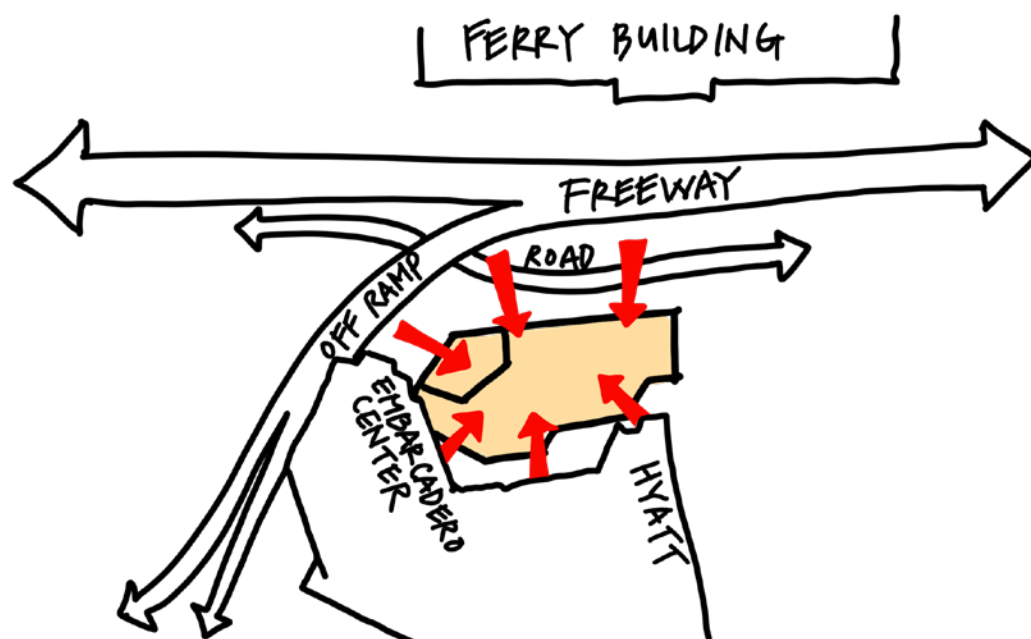




Significant change in context altered the way the park and plaza interacts with its surroundings

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.

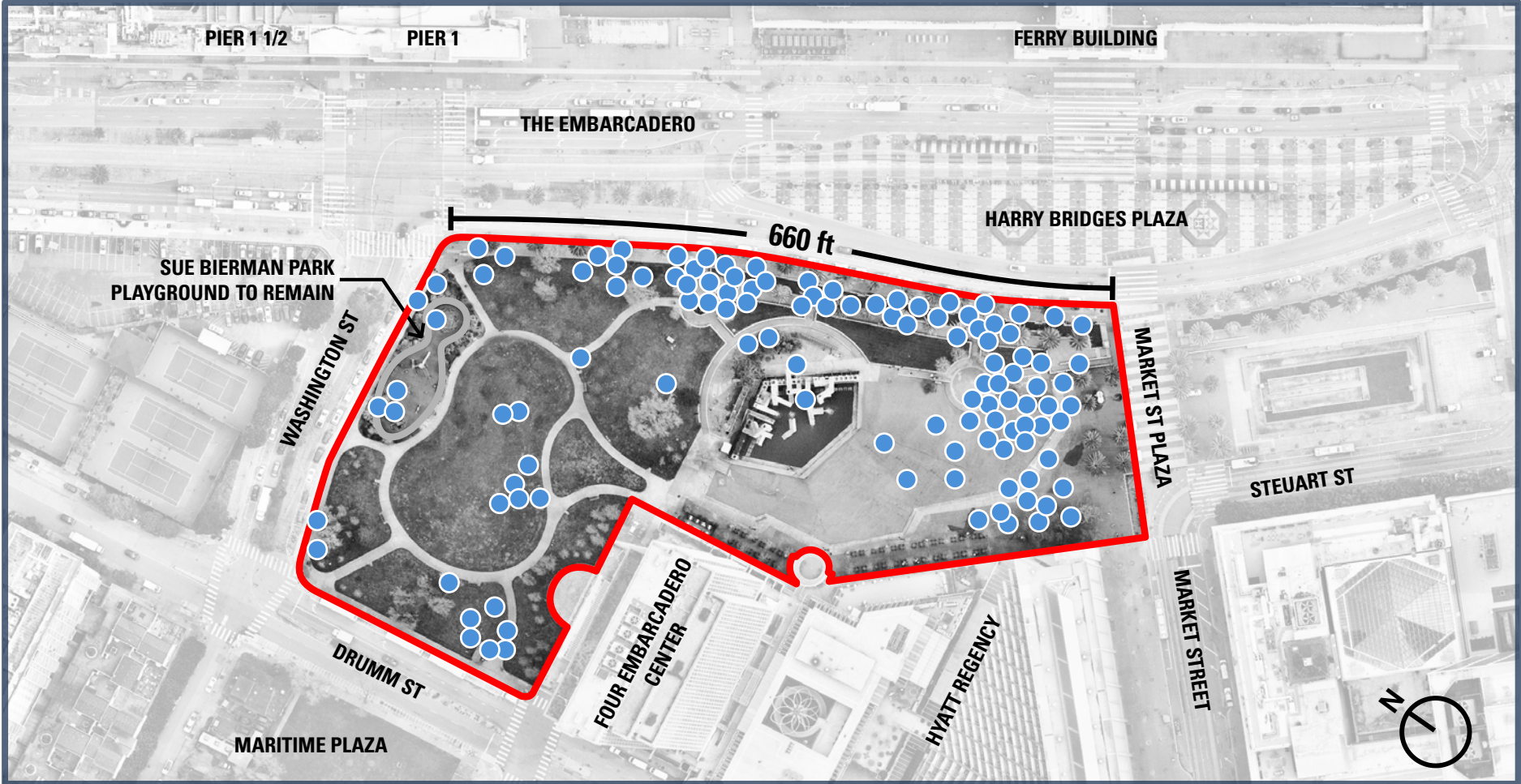
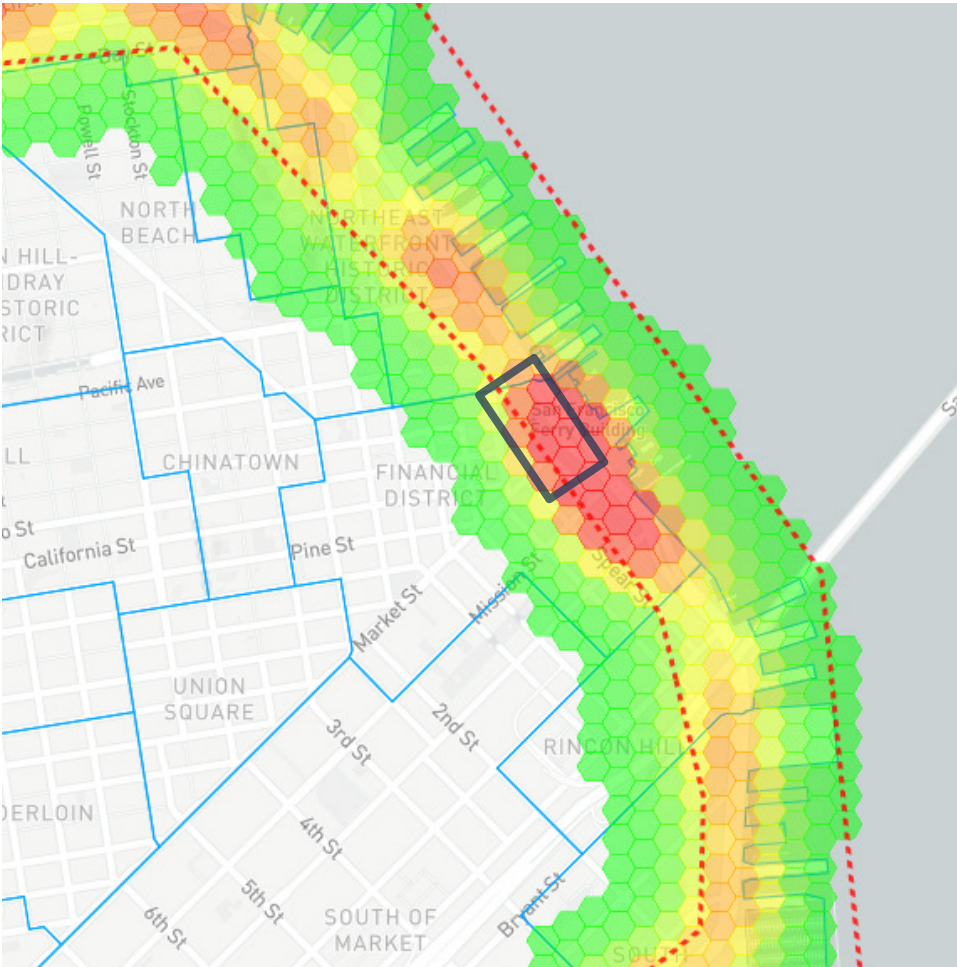
EXISTING CONDITIONS



EXISTING CONDITIONS

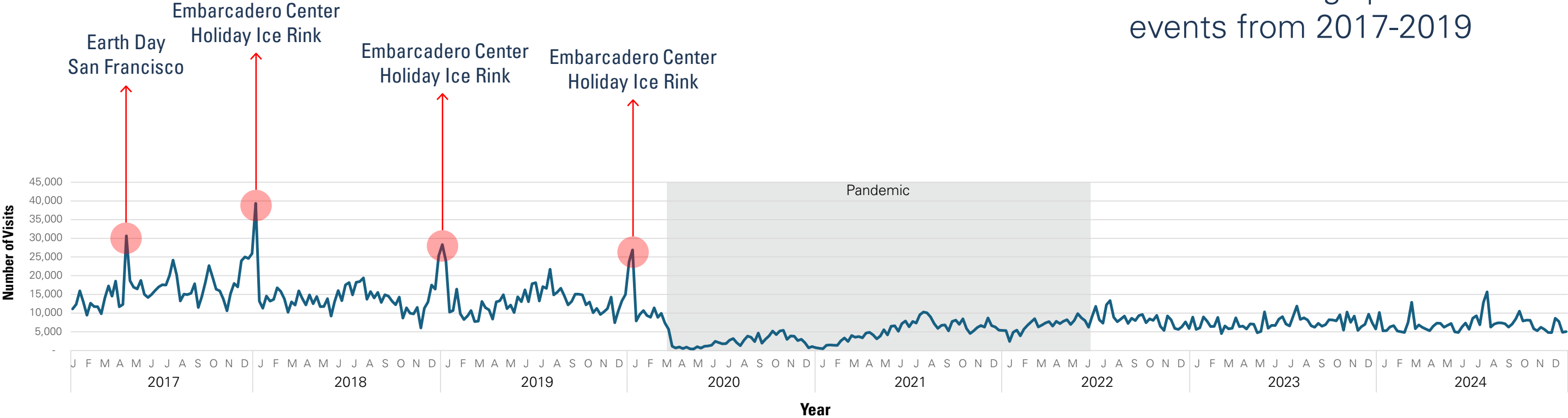


2024 HEATMAP OF 311 CALLS



VISITATION TRENDS BY WEEK

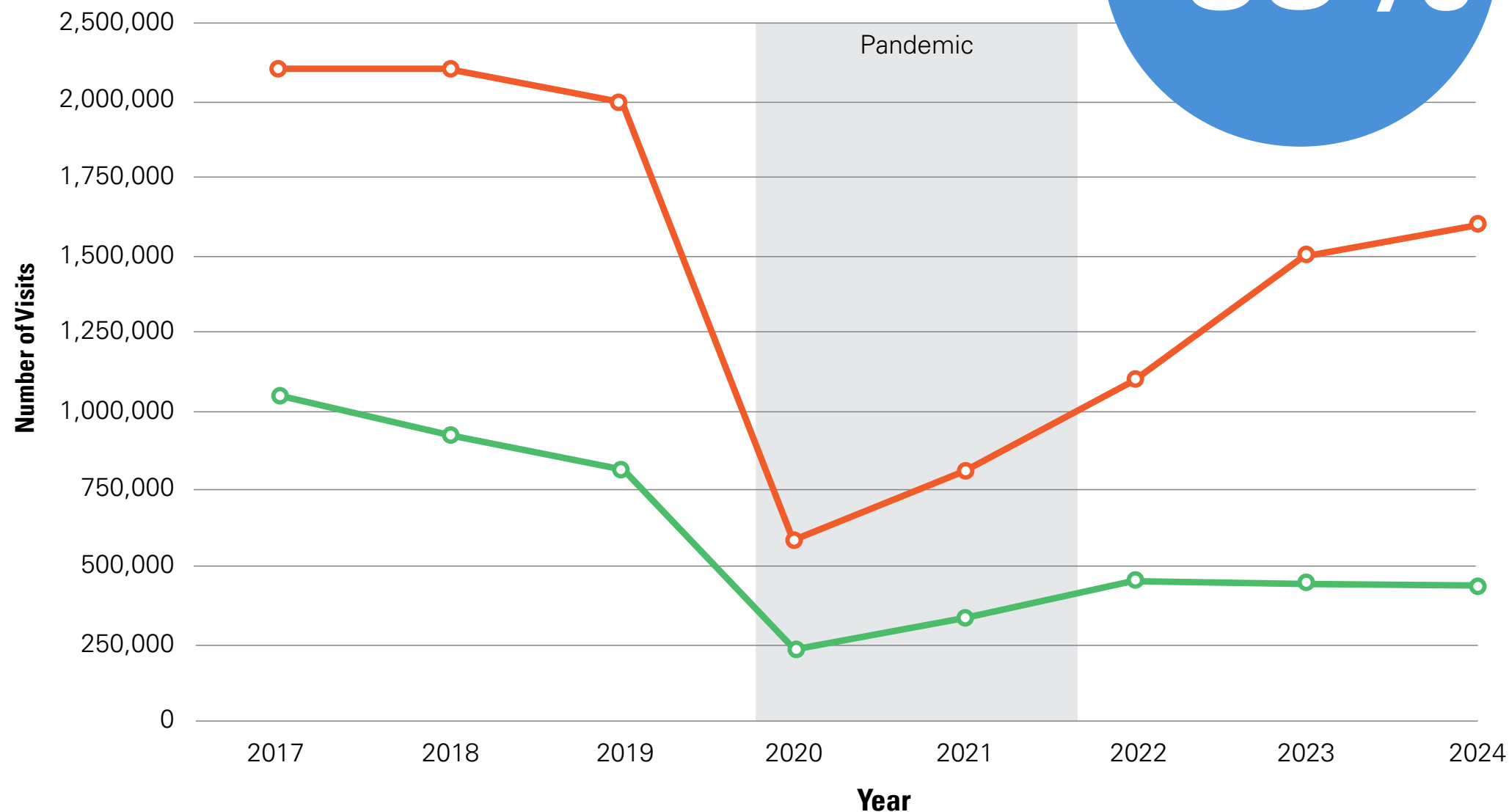
Spikes in number of visits during special events from 2017-2019



VISITATION TRENDS BY YEAR

-58%

Decline in number of visits at Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park from 2017 to 2024



FERRY BUILDING

EMBARCADERO PLAZA & SUE BIERMAN PARK

SITE ANALYSIS



SITE ANALYSIS

OPEN SPACE

NETWORK



EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

SITE ANALYSIS OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Potential to become a key destination in the extensive chain of existing and emerging open spaces along and in proximity to the waterfront.

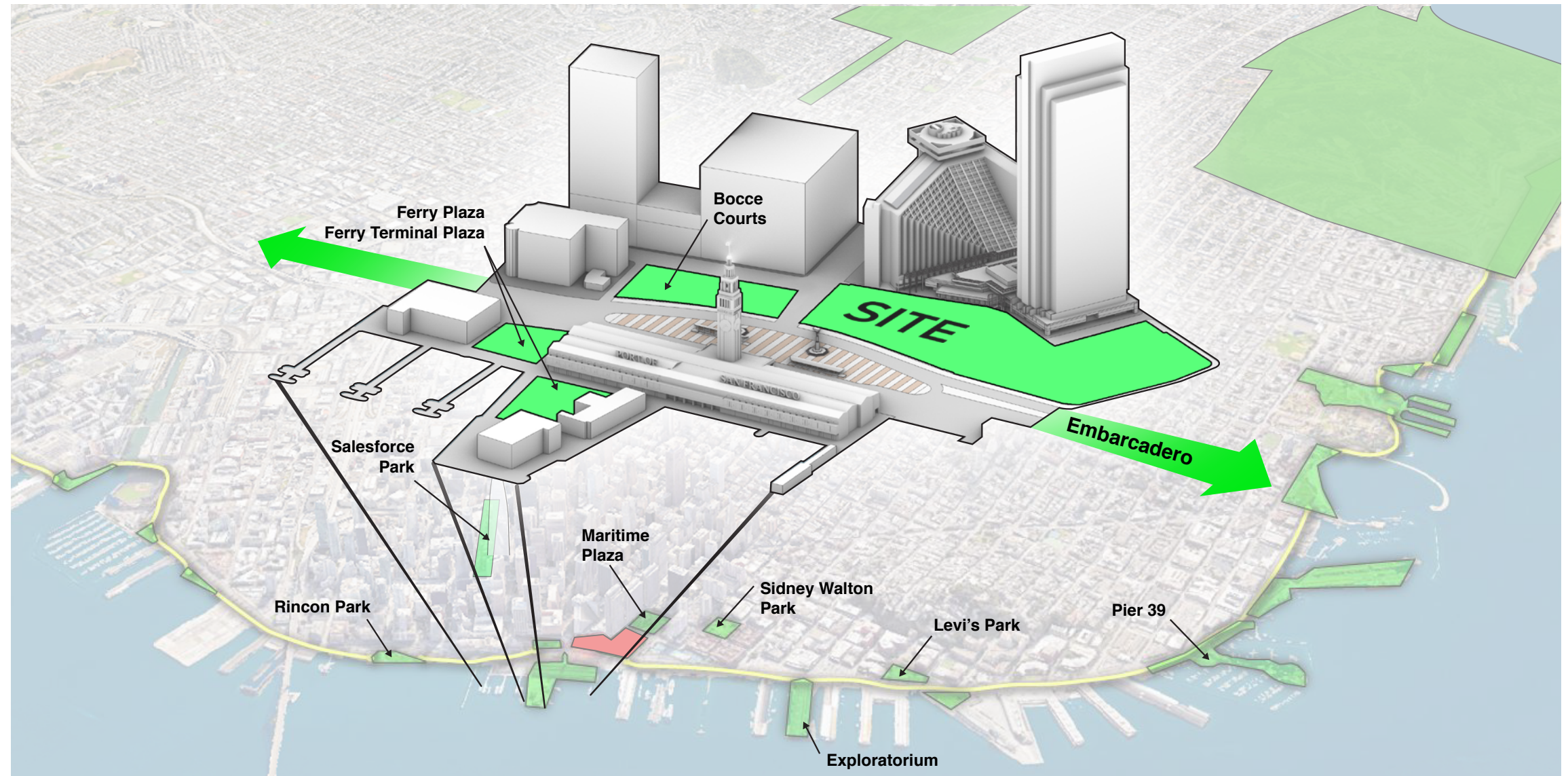


Photo credits clockwise from top:

Christina Dikas, Alison Taggart-Barone,
Gillian Ewing, Presidio.gov, Charles
Villeyard, Carlos Avila Gonzales, Levis
Plaza, WalkSF, Olin Studio, Surface Design

EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT



SITE ANALYSIS OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Potential to become a key destination in the extensive chain of existing and emerging open spaces along and in proximity to the waterfront.



Photo credits clockwise from top:

Christina Dikas, Alison Taggart-Barone,
Gillian Ewing, Presidio.gov, Charles
Villeyard, Carlos Avila Gonzales, Levis
Plaza, WalkSF, Olin Studio, Surface Design

EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

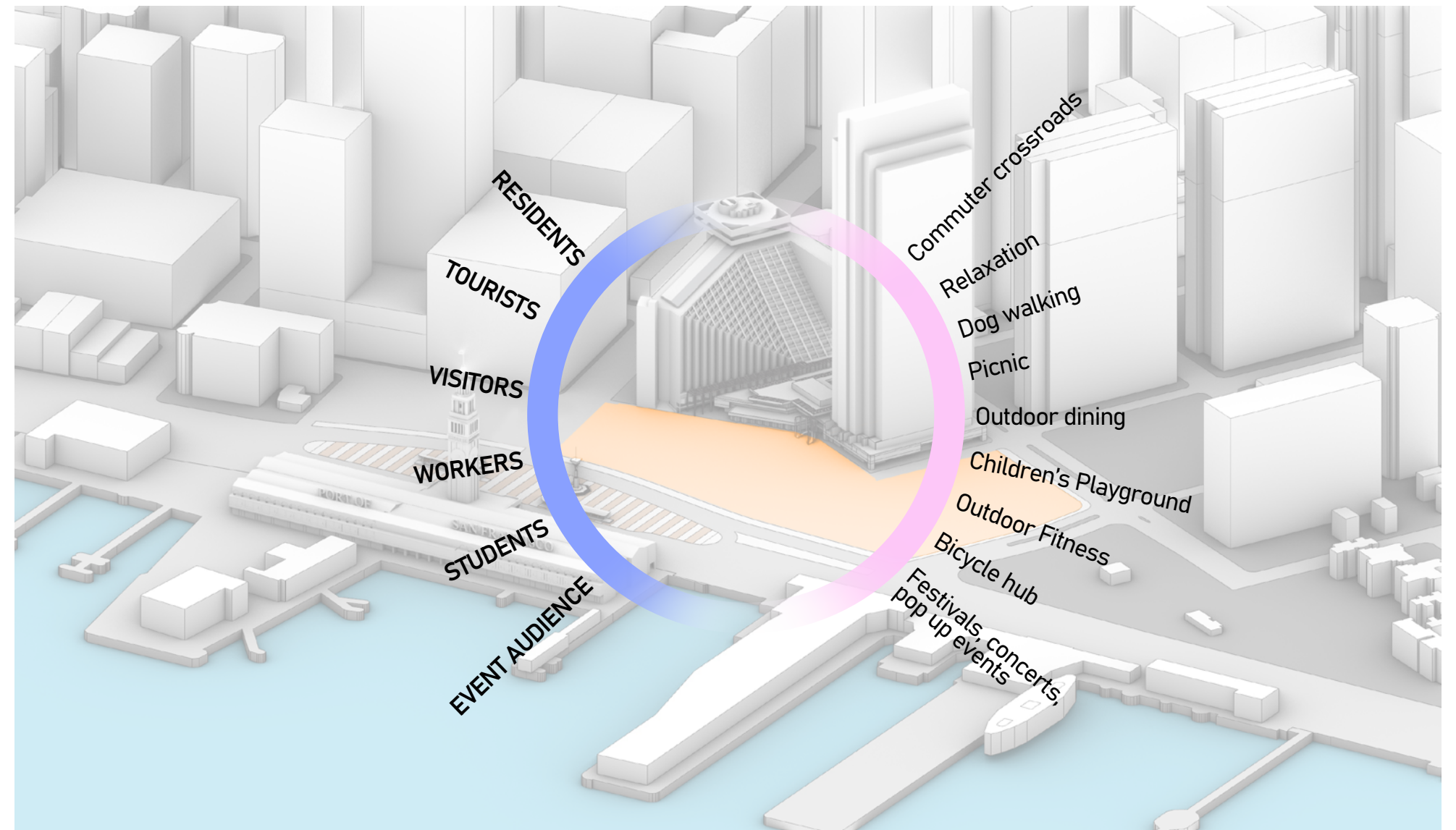


SITE ANALYSIS

USER GROUPS

Wide range of users utilize the space:

- **Residents / Families:** Neighborhood inhabitants
- **Tourists:** Travelers to the Bay Area
- **Visitors (Regional):** Residents of the greater Bay Area visiting the City
- **Workers:** Employees living in /commuting to the Financial District and Waterfront
- **Students:** Members of nearby academic institutions
- **Event Audience:** Attendees of occasional events held in the plaza

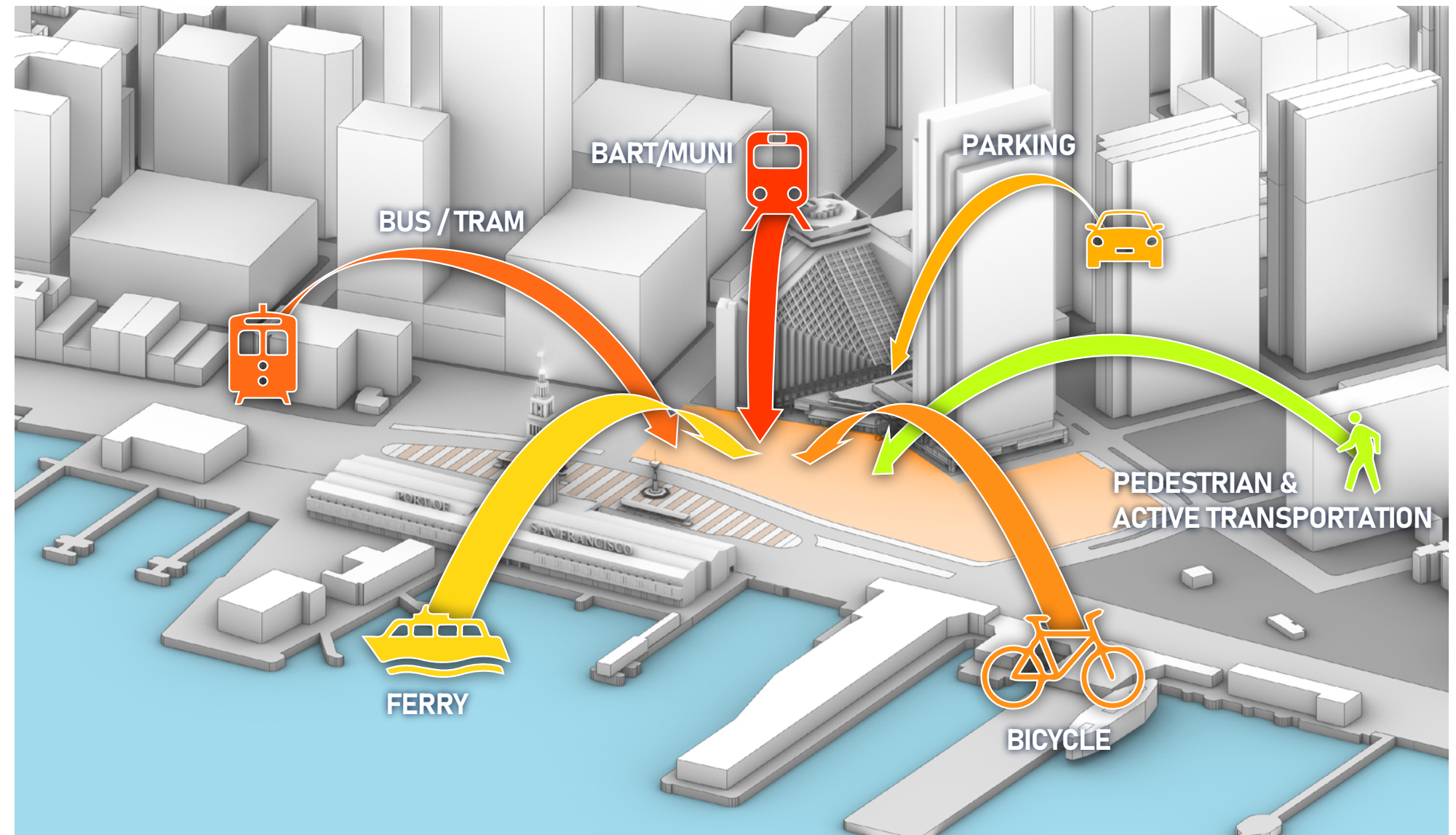


SITE ANALYSIS

PORTS OF ARRIVAL

All available existing modes of transportation bring people directly to the park:

- **Ferry:** Ferry building
- **Water Taxi:** Pier 1.5
- **Bart / Muni / Bus / Tram:** Embarcadero Station
- **Bicycle:** Bikeshare and bike lane network
- **Vehicle:** Rideshare; Surface parking and underground parking at Embarcadero Center
- **Active Transportation:** Scooters, rollerbladers/skaters, skateboarders



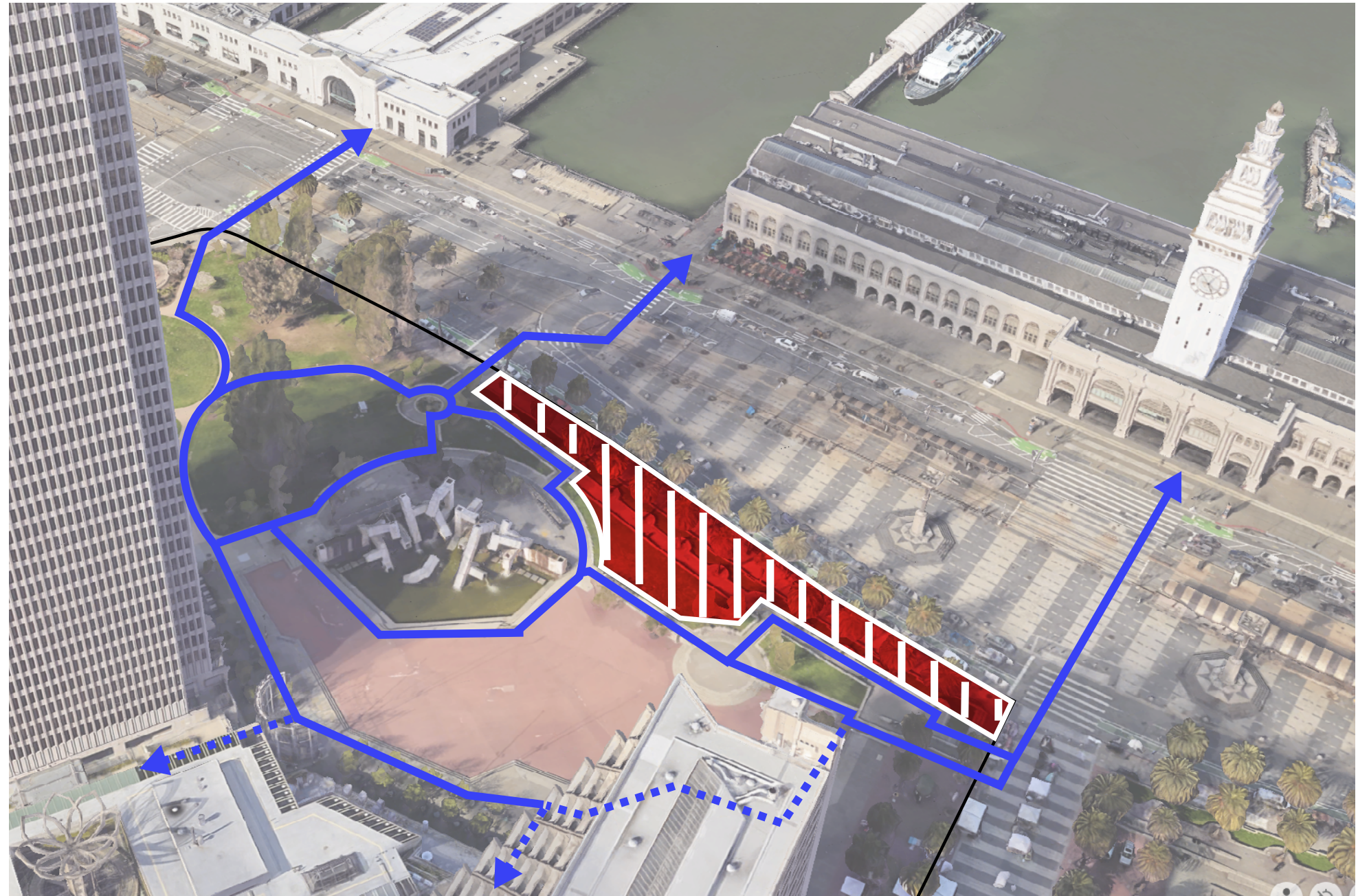
SITE ANALYSIS

PORTS OF ARRIVAL

Pedestrian circulation:

Walls and level changes sever connectivity to Ferry Building and the waterfront.

Pedestrians tend to circulate around the plaza than through.

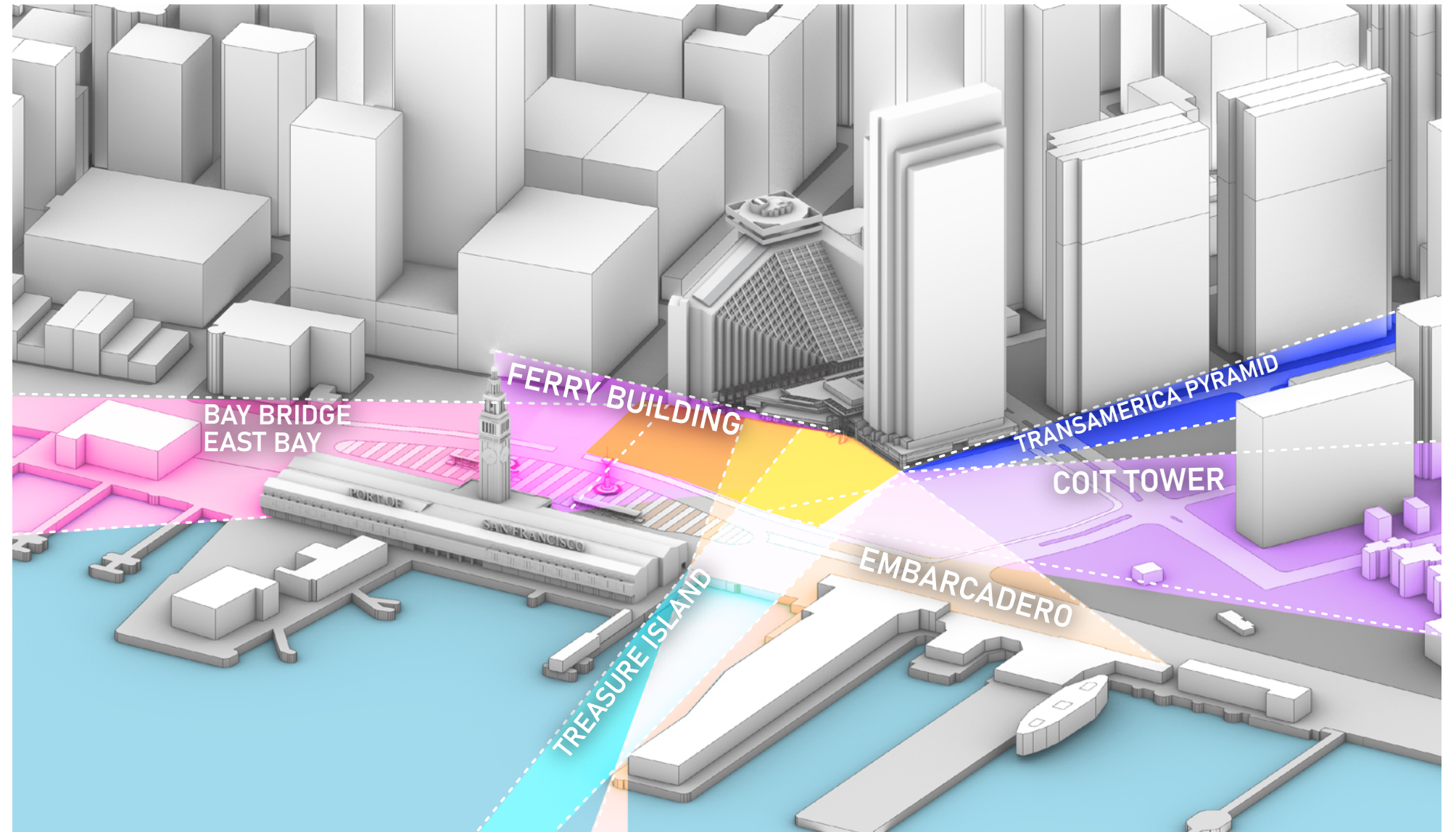


SITE ANALYSIS

SIGHTLINES & LANDMARKS

Positioned to have prime views towards significant landmarks in the vicinity:

- Ferry Building
- Bay Bridge
- East Bay
- Treasure Island
- Coit Tower
- Transamerica Pyramid



GOALS

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

STATION 1

Goals



What are your top three priorities for this renovation? Select up to three.

Create a **world-class, iconic park** representing San Francisco's vibrant culture for both local and international visitors.

Ignite **downtown recovery** and **revitalize** the heart of the San Francisco waterfront.

Activate the park with a **wide range of programming** catered towards diverse communities.

Create a **welcoming public space** with access for all.

Honor the **rich history** of the San Francisco waterfront.



ONLINE SURVEYPROJECT SITE

Embarcadero Plaza & Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project



STATION 2

Current Uses & Conditions



What current features of the park do you think are working well? Write down your thoughts!



ONLINE SURVEYPROJECT SITE

Embarcadero Plaza & Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project



STATION 3

Future Uses



What new features or improvements would you like to see? Place stickers on all that apply.



MORE GRASSY / OPEN AREAS



SEATING & GATHERING SPACES



OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT



DOG PARK



GROUP EXERCISE AREA



STAGE FOR PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS



PUBLIC ART



OUTDOOR DINING OPTIONS



ICE SKATING RINK

WHAT DID WE MISS?



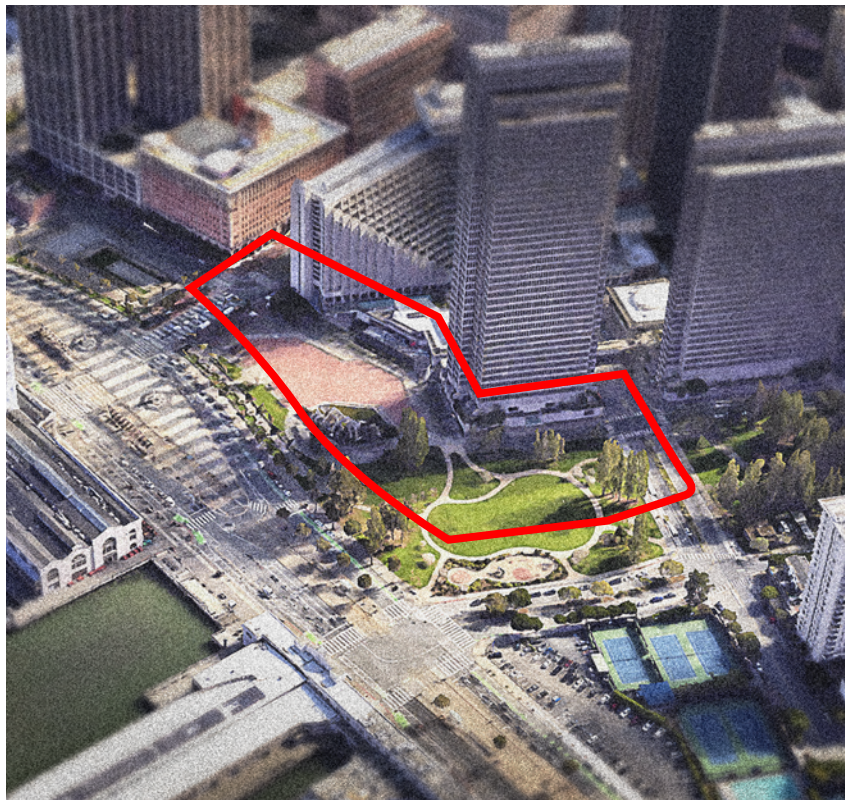
ONLINE SURVEYPROJECT SITE

Embarcadero Plaza & Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project



Thank you!

Next community meeting will be in approximately 4 weeks.



LINK TO SURVEY

<https://tinyurl.com/embarcaderoplazasurvey1>



ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

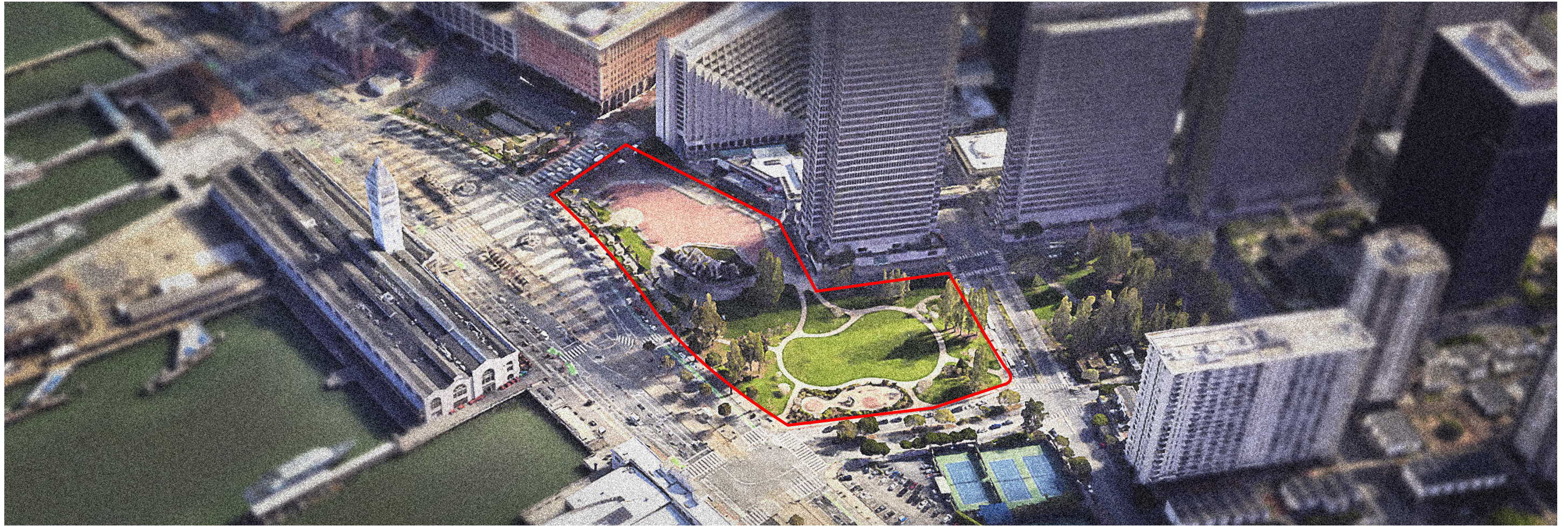
Eoanna Goodwin, Project Manager

eoanna.goodwin@sfgov.org

<https://tinyurl.com/embarcaderoplazaproject>

SUBSCRIBE TO PROJECT UPDATES

<https://sfrecpark.org/List.aspx>



EMBARCADERO PLAZA & SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

COMMUNITY MEETING #2
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025



DOWNTOWN SF
PARTNERSHIP



AGENDA

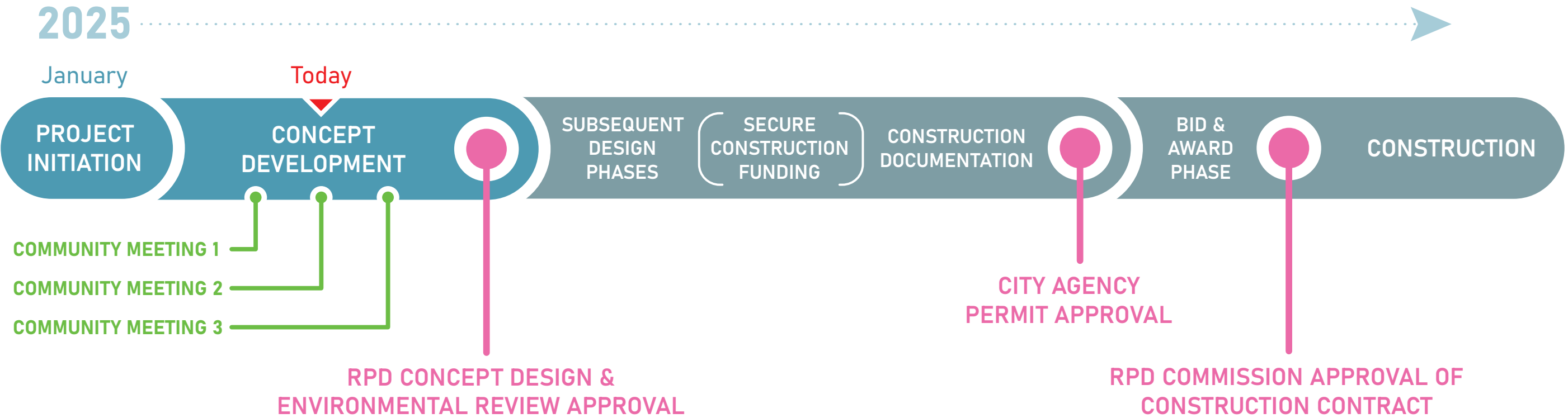
5:30pm **WELCOME**

5:40pm **PRESENTATION:**
Survey Findings & Community Meeting 1 Recap
Site Assessment
Park Program

6:15pm **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY**

6:45pm **Q & A**

PROJECT SCHEDULE



SURVEY FINDINGS & COMMUNITY MEETING 1 RECAP

SURVEY FINDINGS

1054 TOTAL RESPONSES
9% IN PERSON
91% ONLINE RESPONSES

Survey results reflect input from digital responses and community meeting participants.
They're not a representative sample, but one piece of a broader engagement process.

SURVEY FINDINGS

What are your top priorities for this renovation?
(Select up to three)

Create a **world-class, iconic park** representing San Francisco's vibrant culture for both local and international visitors.

570

Create a **welcoming public space** with access for all.

526

Ignite the **downtown recovery** and **revitalize** the heart of the San Francisco waterfront.

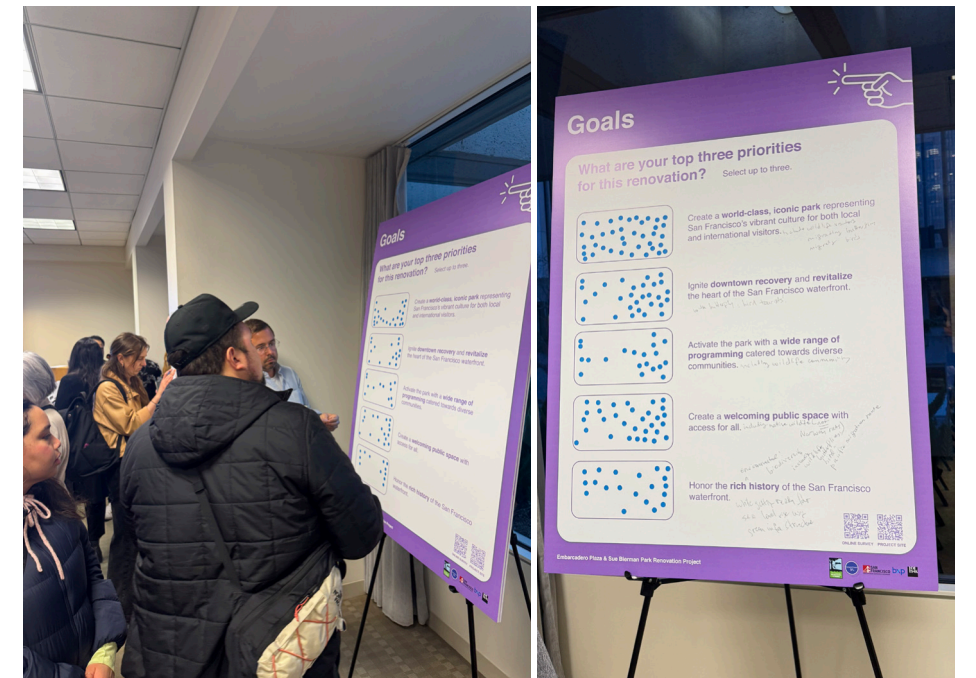
465

Honor the **rich history** of the San Francisco waterfront.

465

Activate the park with a **wide range of programming** catered towards diverse communities.

311



SURVEY FINDINGS

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

Seating & Gathering Spaces 574 (58%)

Public Art 443 (45%)

More Grassy/Open Areas 436 (43%)

Outdoor Dining 416 (42%)

Stage for Performances 391 (39%)

Dog Park 163 (16%)

Outdoor Fitness Equipment 140 (14%)

Ice Skating Rink 121 (12%)

Group Exercise Area 110 (11%)

Other 422 (42%)

Other

Skateboarding 207 (21%)

Activities 70 (7%)

Natural 60 (6%)

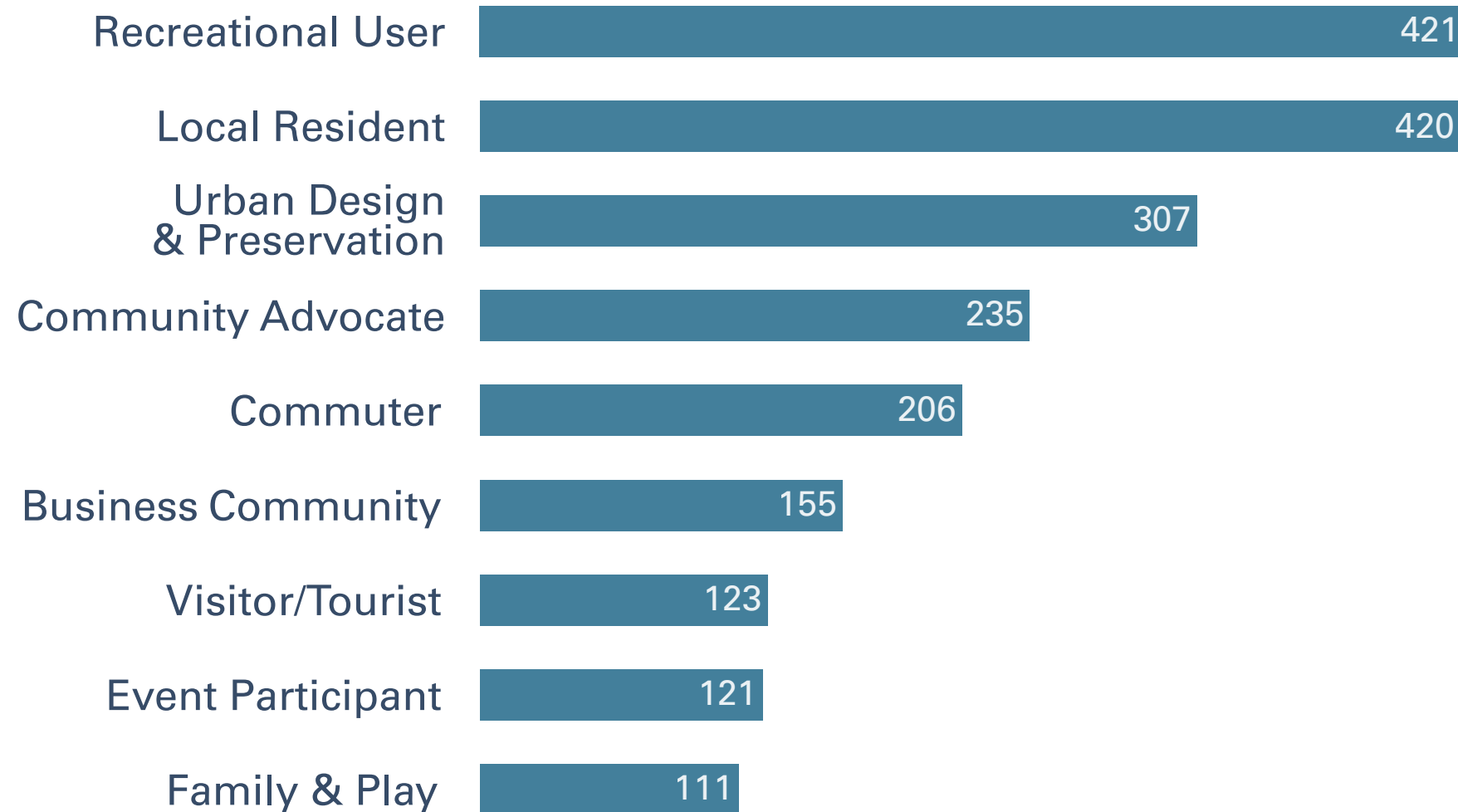
Preservation 30 (3%)

Park Amenities 30 (3%)



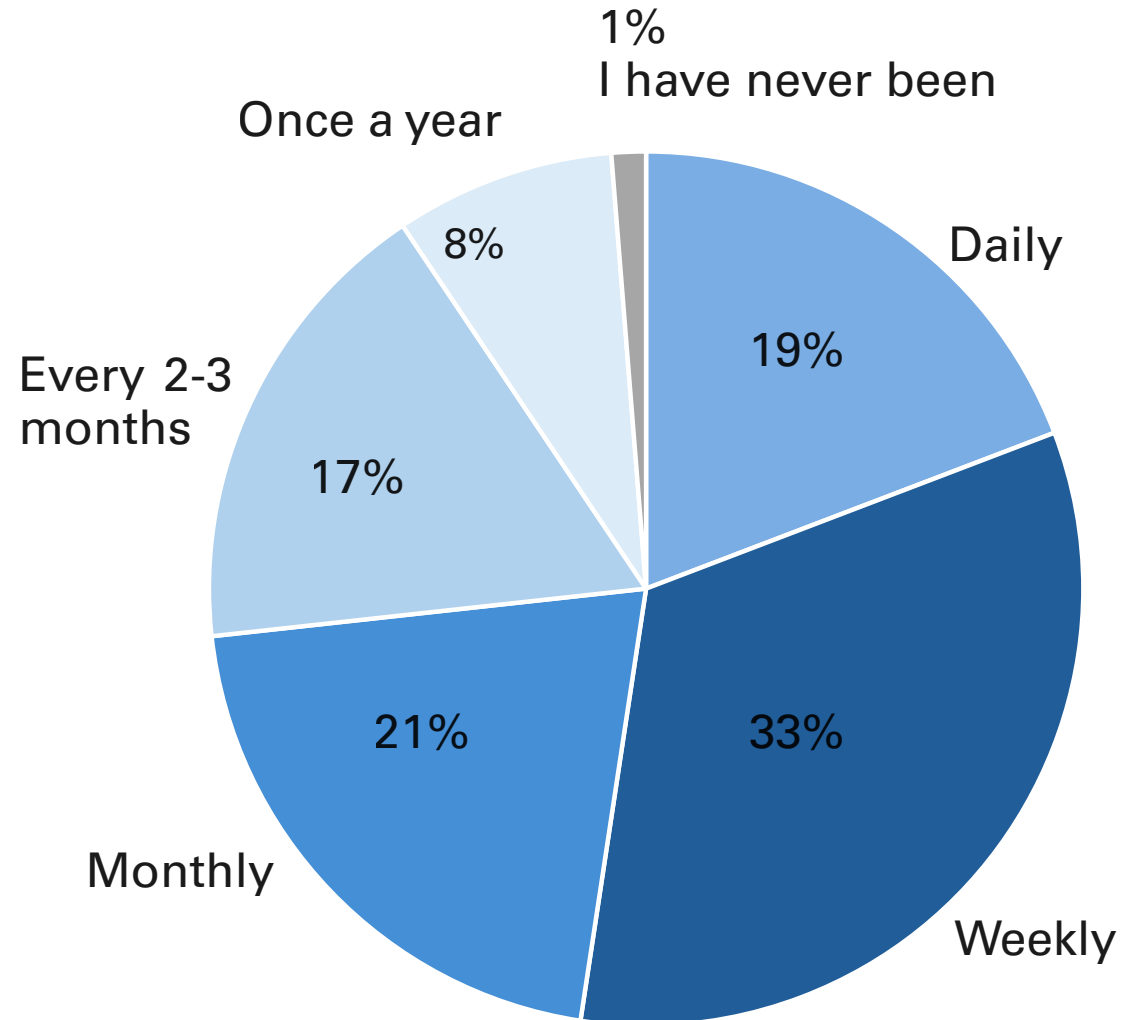
SURVEY FINDINGS

What best describes on your connection to Embarcadero Plaza?
(Select all that apply)



SURVEY FINDINGS

How often do you visit Embarcadero Plaza or Sue Bierman Park?



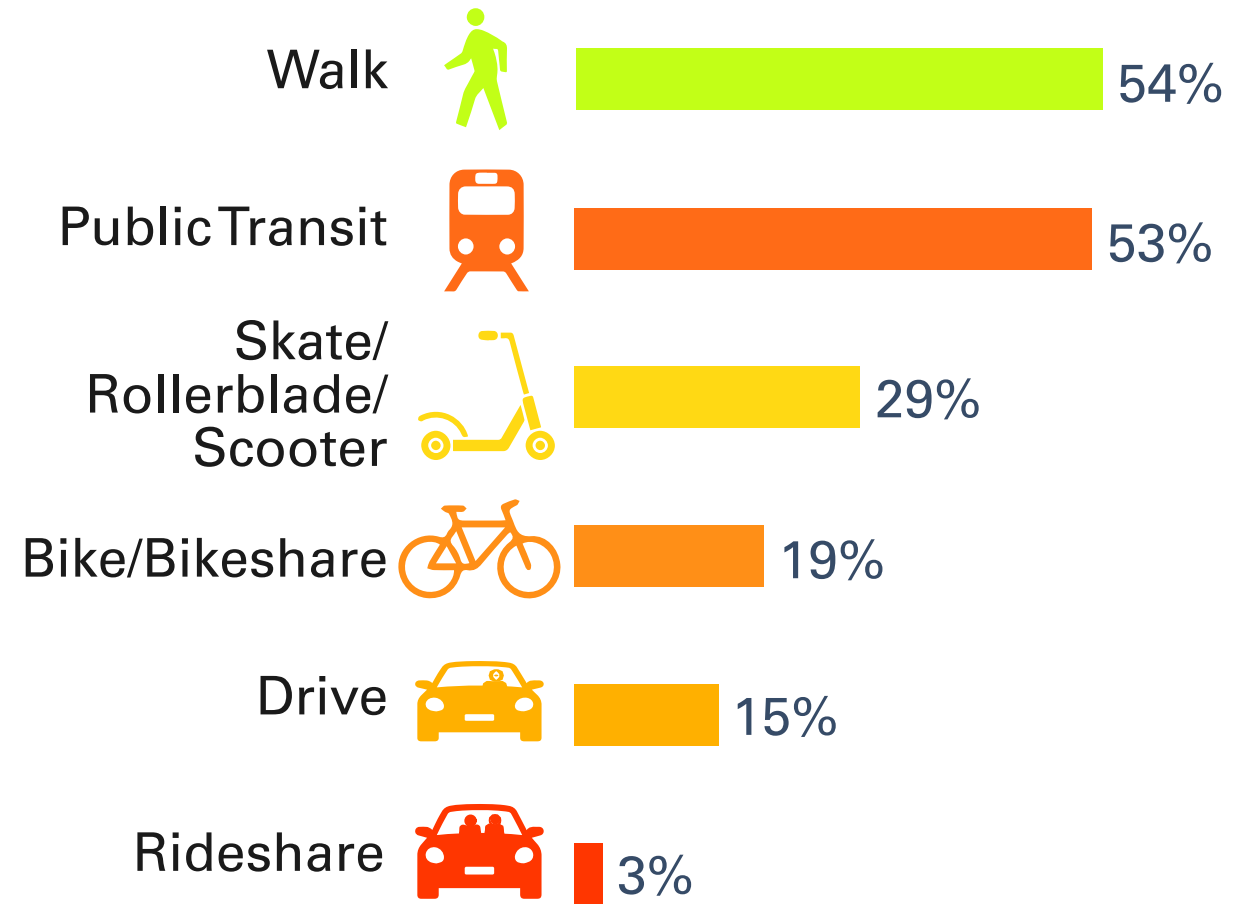
When do you usually visit?
(Select all that apply)

Weekdays 782

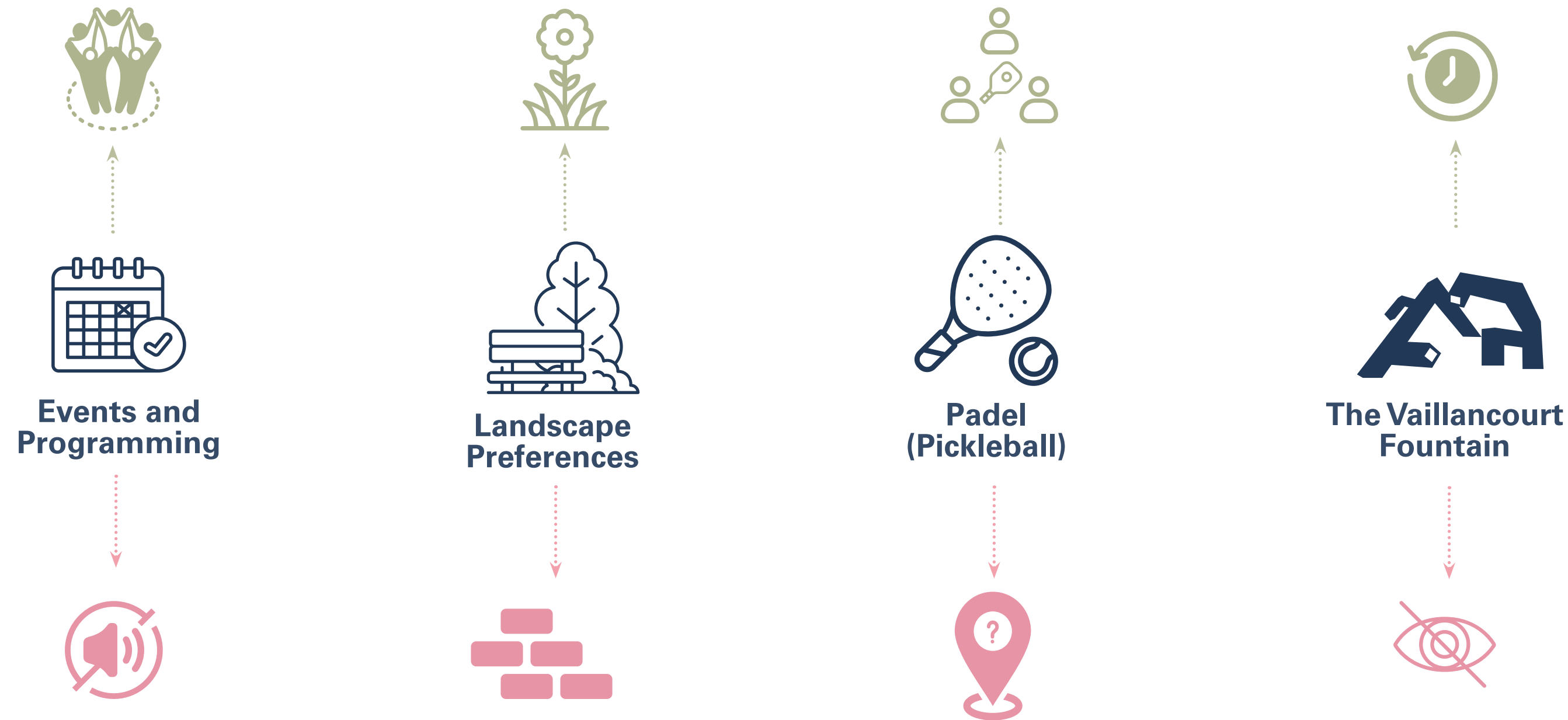
Weekends 702

SURVEY FINDINGS

How do you typically travel to the site? (Select all that apply)



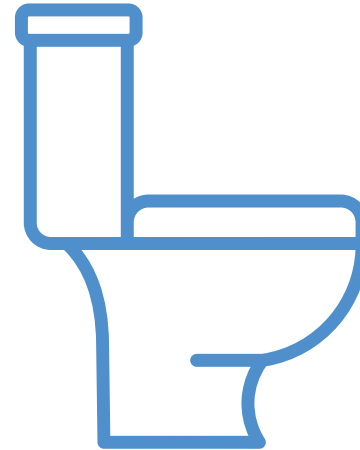
DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES



SHARED PRIORITIES



**SAFETY AND
ACCESS**



RESTROOMS



MAINTENANCE

FIVE L'S FOR DESIGNING EMBARCADERO PLAZA



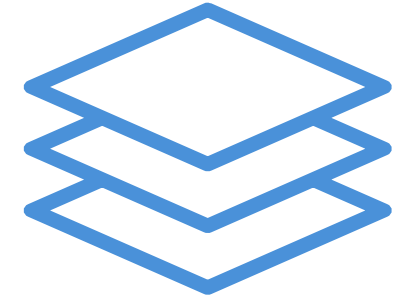
LOCATION

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

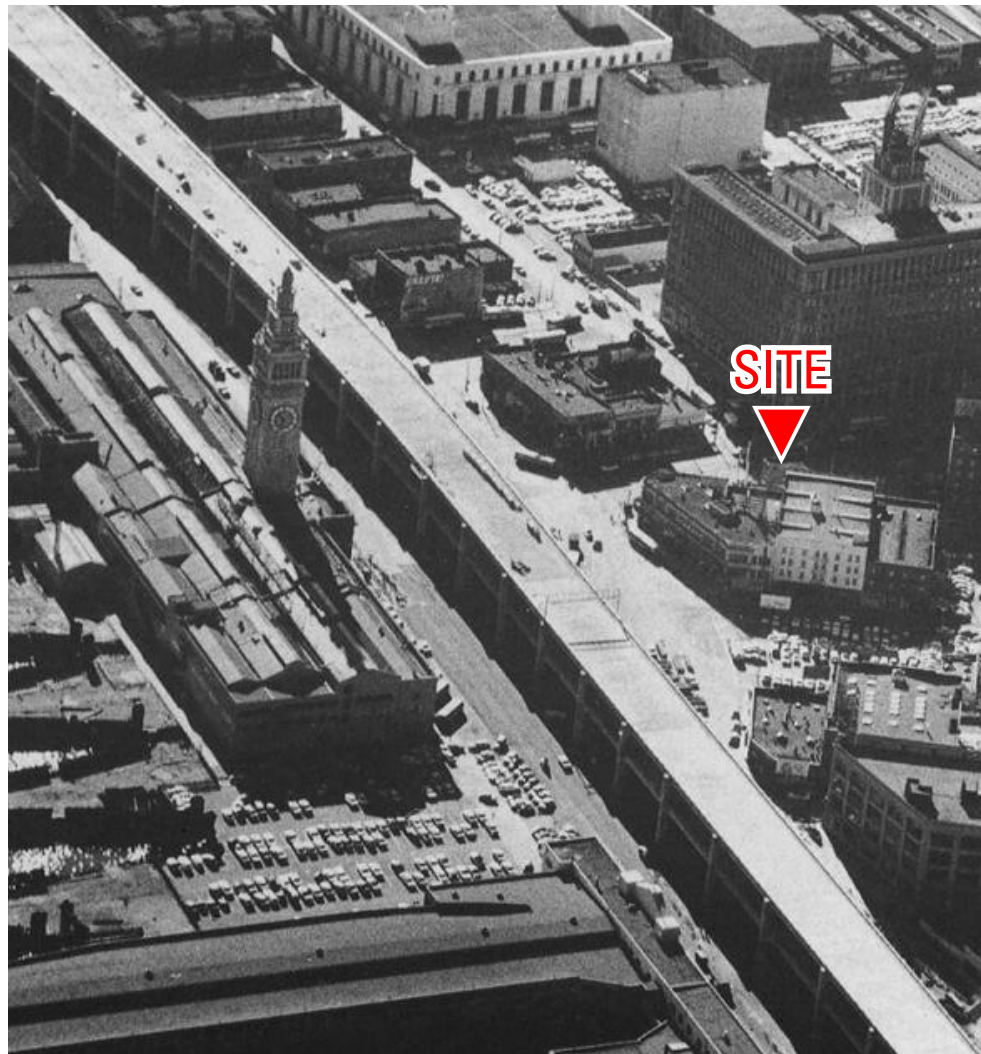
A **variety of seating options** constructed with high-quality, durable materials. Invites both **relaxation** and **informal activities**, such as **skateboarding.**



LIGHTING

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

SITE HISTORY RECAP



1898: Ferry Building originally completed as a terminal for ferries and a key transit hub. The San Francisco waterfront was primarily used for industrial and maritime purposes.



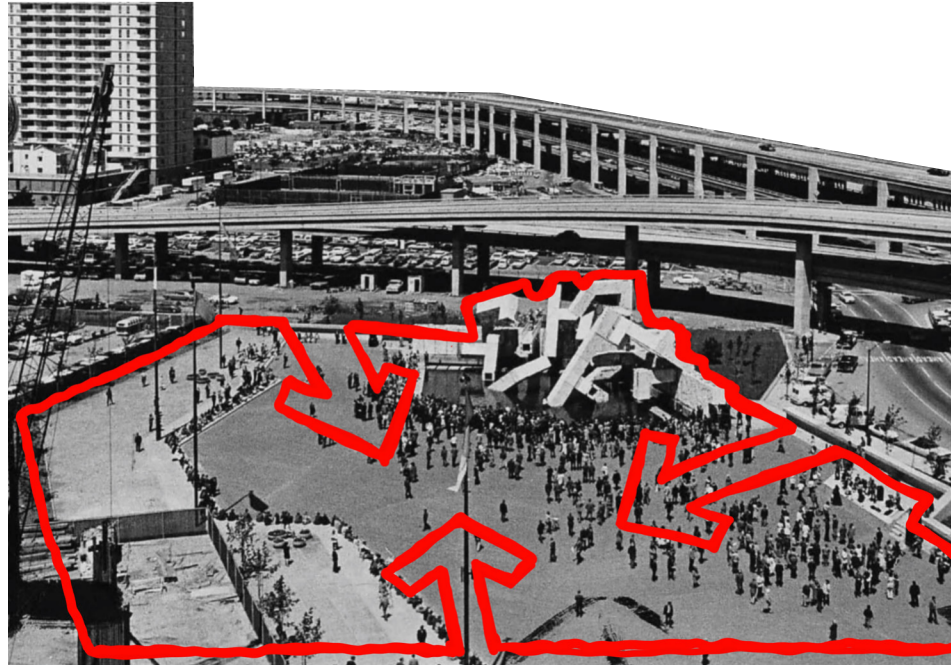
1959: Embarcadero freeway constructed.



1971-1972: Vaillancourt fountain is installed and Justin Herman Plaza opened to integrate the freeway and ramp into the context of the city and to counter the freeway noise.

1980's-1990's: William Turnbull Jr. intervention and the rise of skateboarding.

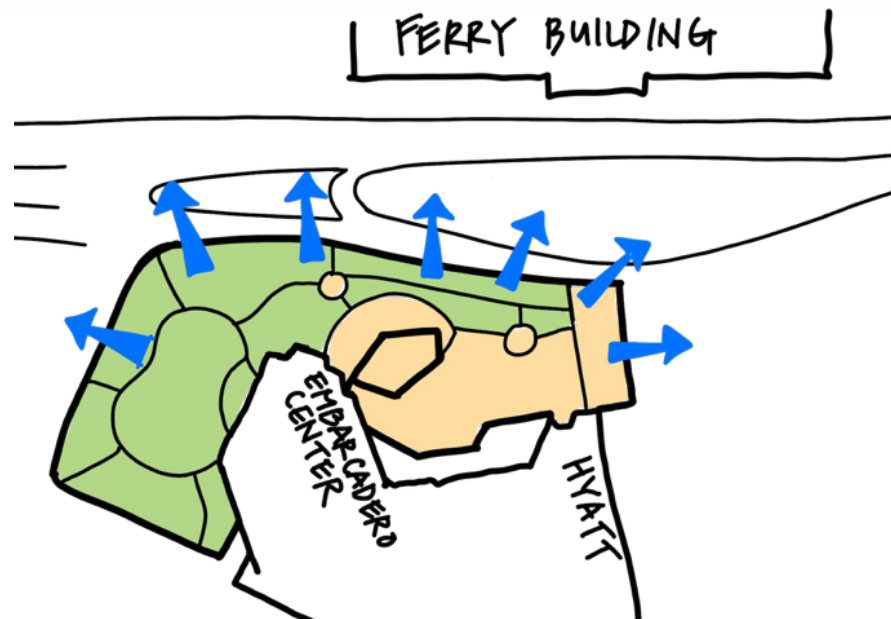
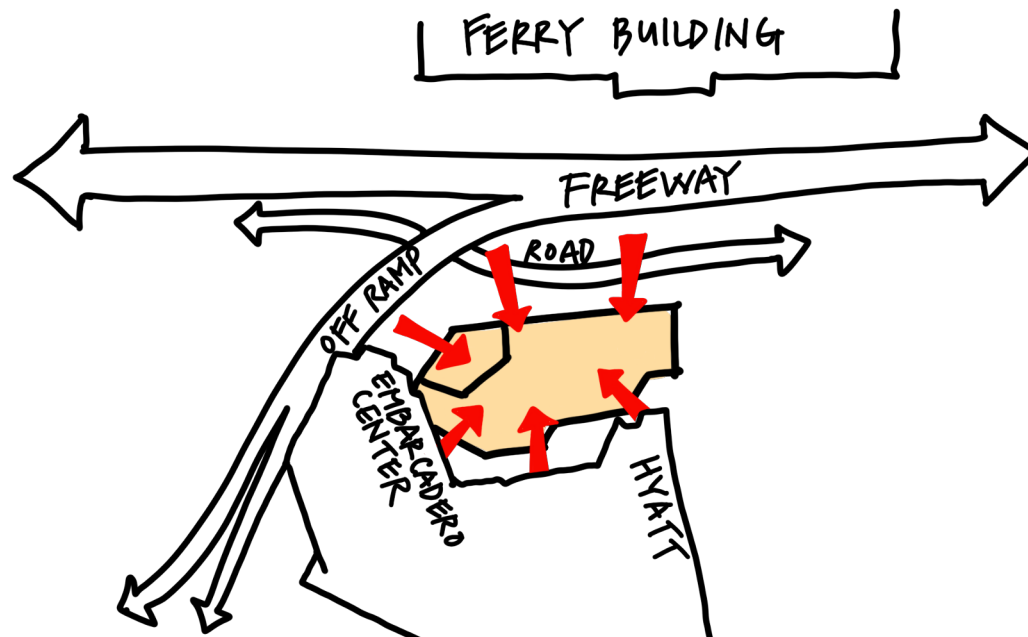
SITE HISTORY RECAP



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.

EXISTING CONDITIONS



VAILLANCOURT FOUNTAIN CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

VAILLANCOURT FOUNTAIN ASSESSMENT - KEY FINDINGS

END OF LIFE
INFRASTRUCTURE
SYSTEMS



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



MAINTENANCE COSTS
ARE ~\$100K A YEAR



NOT
ACCESSIBLE



UNSUITABLE SOIL
CONDITIONS



FAILED WATERPROOFING
MEMBRANE



CRACKS AND SPALLED
CONCRETE



CORROSION OF
STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS



DOES NOT MEET CURRENT
SEISMIC AND SAFETY
STANDARDS



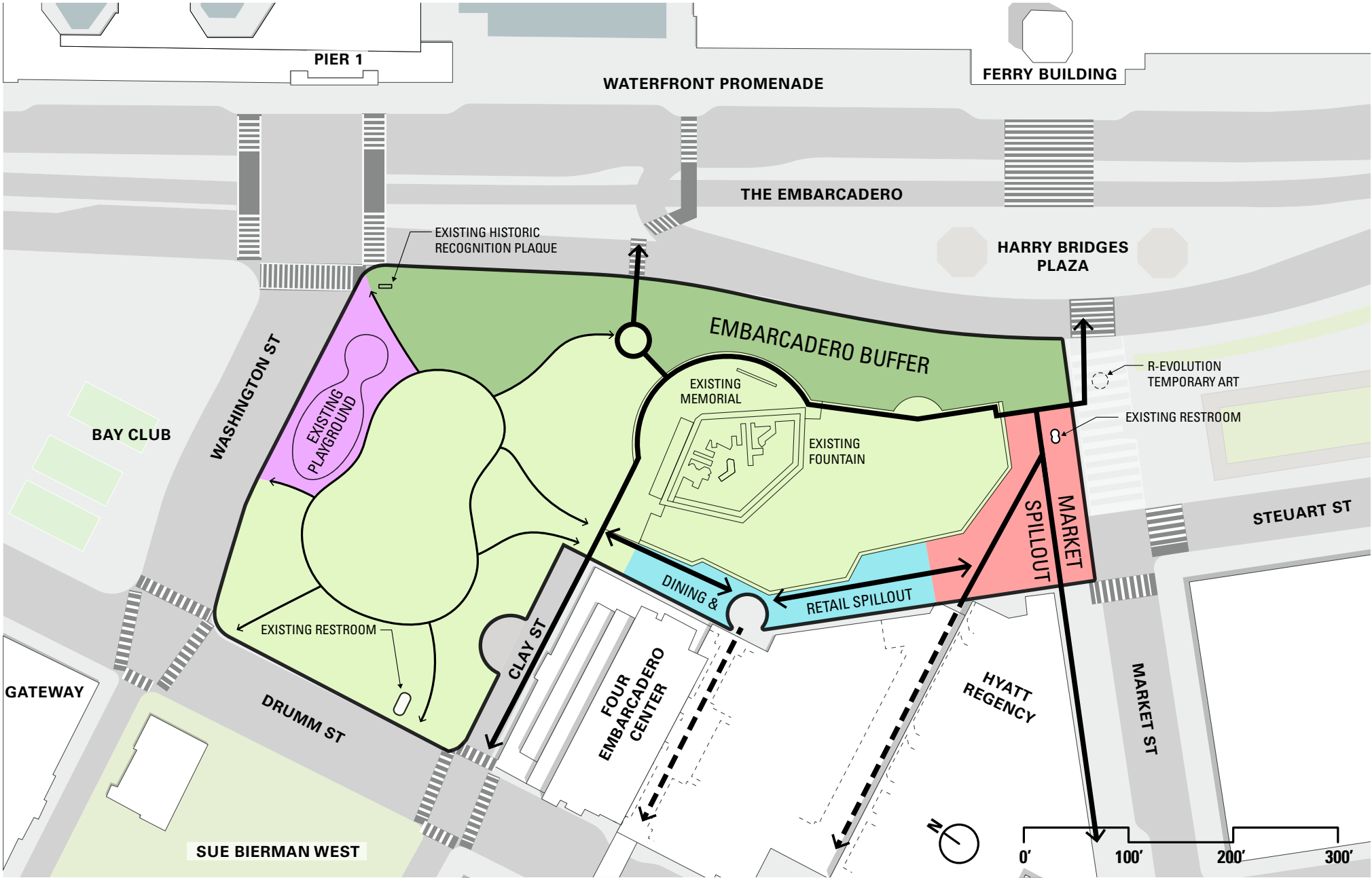
FOUNTAIN RESTORATION
COST EXCEEDS
PROJECT BUDGET



ESTIMATED \$29 MILLION IN CONSTRUCTION COST

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

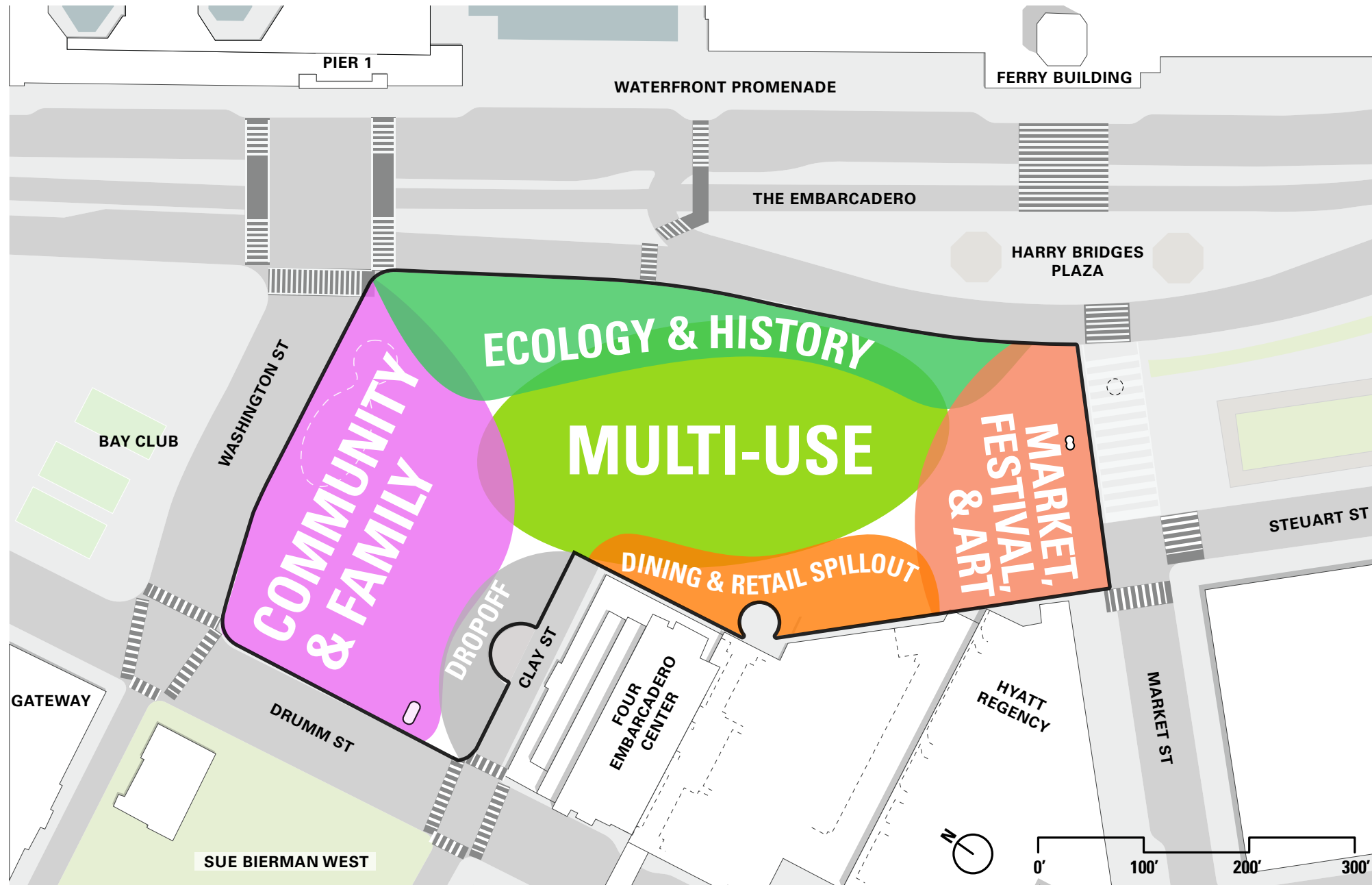
SITE UNDERSTANDING



Understanding the Site Envelope

- Site perimeter zones
- Pedestrian circulation routes
- Proposed Embarcadero crossing improvements

PROGRAM ZONES



EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

Community & Family

Focus community / family serving program along Washington and Drumm, in proximity to the residential buildings. Encompasses existing Children's Playground to remain. Programs include: outdoor dining, dog park, and social games.

Ecology & History

Create an interpretive history and culture walk along the Embarcadero buffer gardens. Locate historic recognition elements along walkways in this zone that celebrate the rich history of the park and plaza.

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 such as an ice rink.

Dining & Retail Spillover

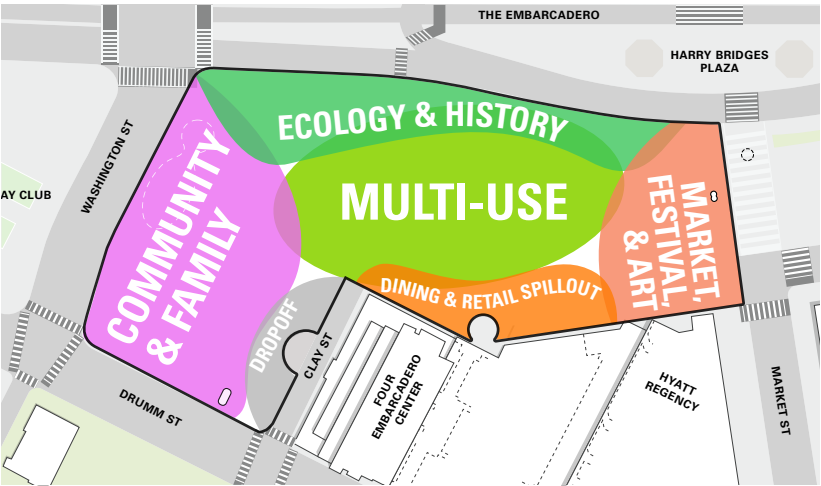
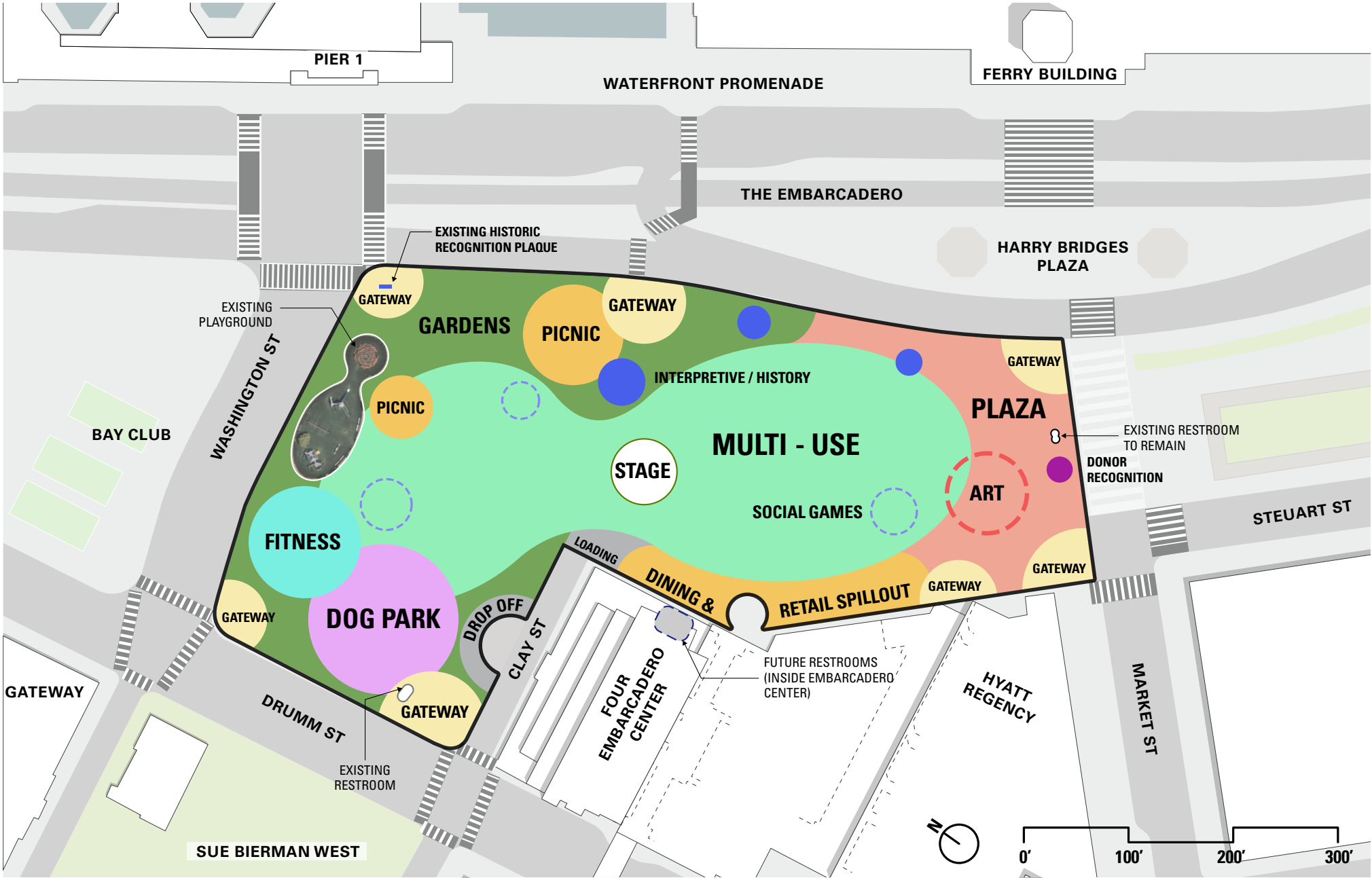
Cater to the vibrant dining and retail spill out activity from Embarcadero Center with a variety of flexible seating options.

Market, Festival, & Art

Activate Market street gateway plaza with art, festival use, artist vendors, and donor recognition.



PARK PROGRAM DIAGRAM



EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

A TRULY MULTI-USE PARK

What We Heard

Need More programming

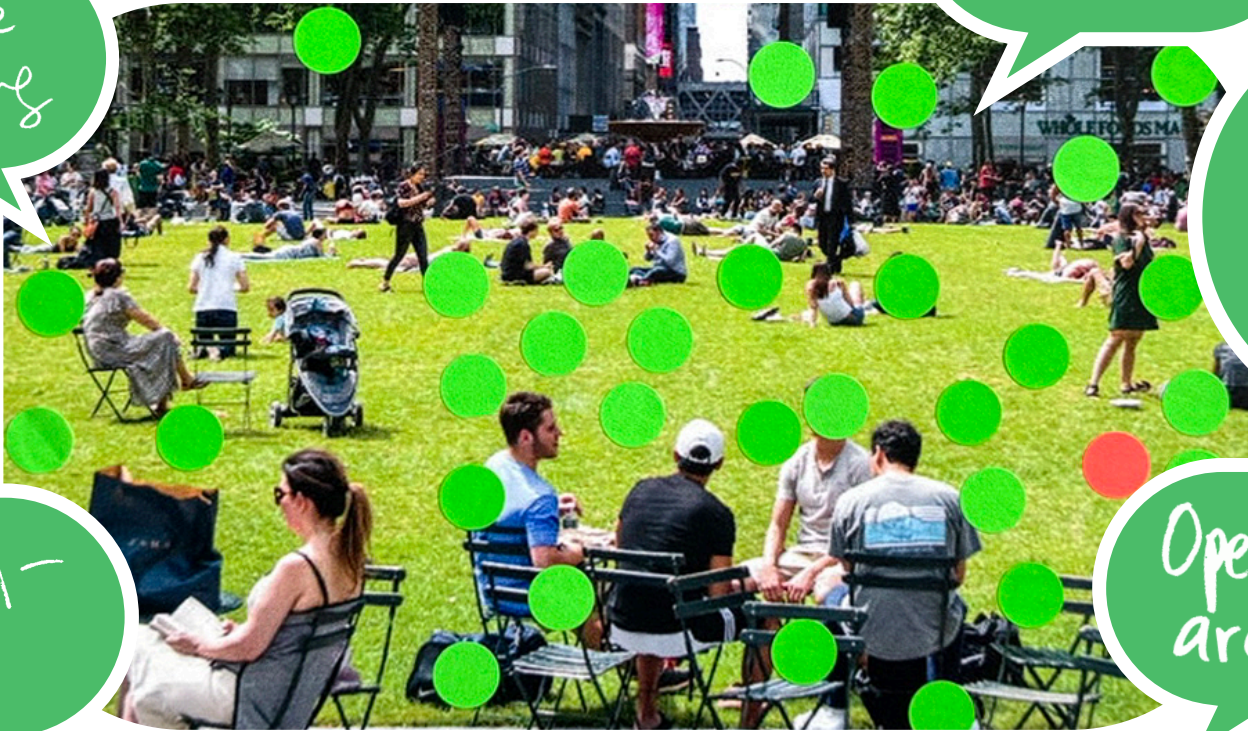
Need green spaces
Benches

MULTI-USE

Green Space

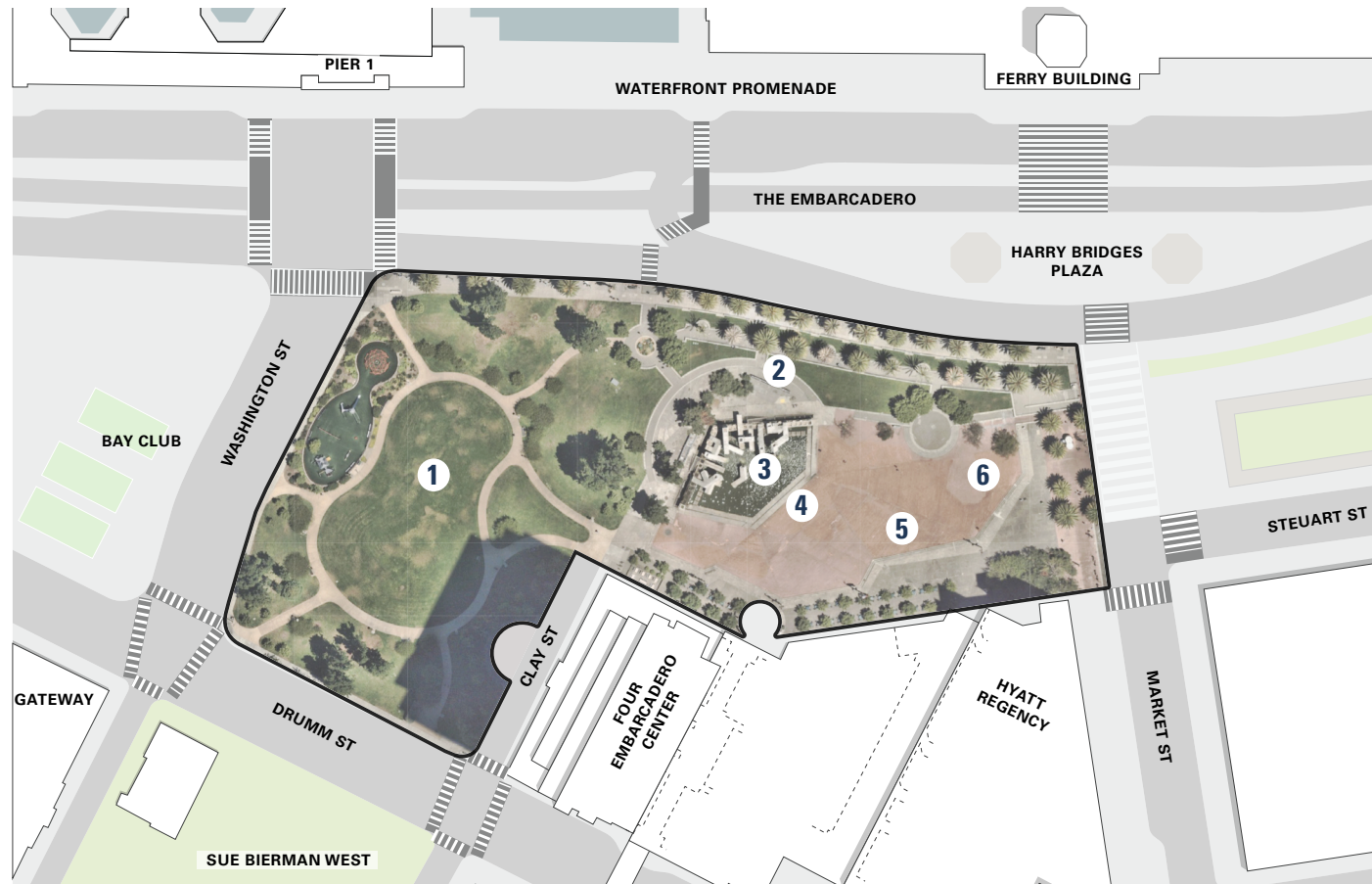
Move trees and places to walk, amble

Open seating areas



HONORING HISTORIC LEGACY

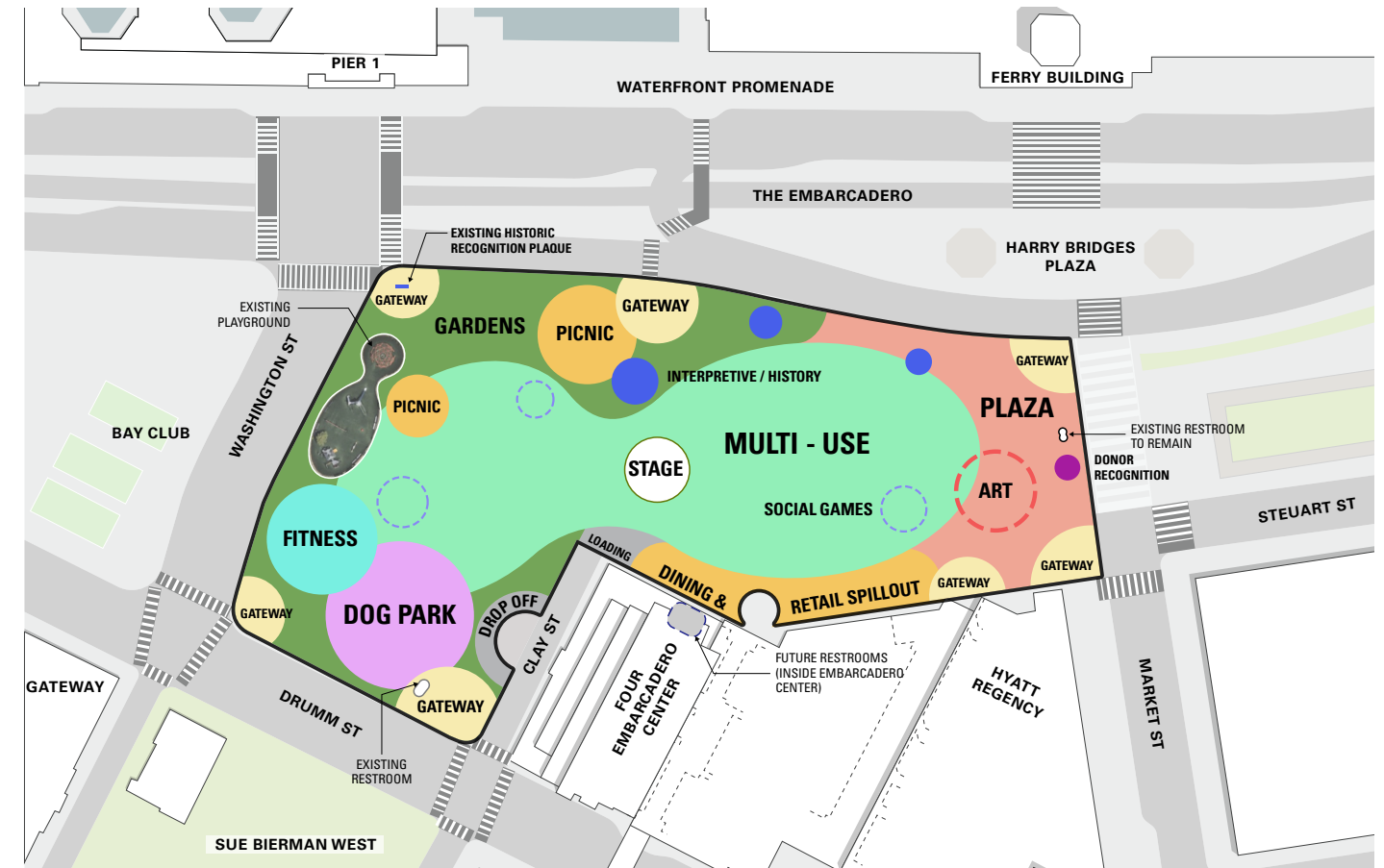
NOTABLE CULTURAL ELEMENTS



- 1 FORMER FREEWAY LOCATION
- 2 ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE MEMORIAL
- 3 VAILLANCOURT FOUNTAIN
- 4 CONCRETE LEDGES
- 5 BRICK PAVING WITH DIVOT MARKINGS
- 6 REMNANTS OF TIERED CONCRETE SEATING ISLAND

EMBARCADERO PLAZA AND SUE BIERMAN PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

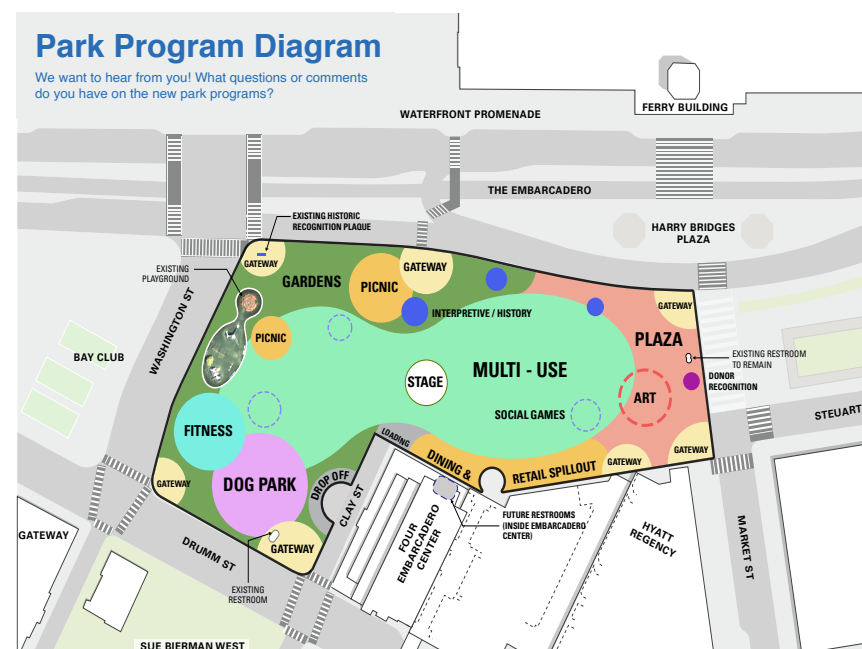
PARK RENOVATION



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

STATION 1



STATION 3

Program Character Gradients

We want to hear from you! Place stickers on images that most closely matches how you want to see these programs in the park.

DINING & PICNIC

NATURAL - loose, Natural - ordered, Blended, Structured, Civic

← NATURAL → URBAN →

What did we miss?

GARDEN

Natural, "wild", Naturalistic, Layered, Ordered, Highly structured

← INFORMAL → FORMAL →

What did we miss?

Embarcadero Plaza & Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

STATION 2

Program Character Gradients

We want to hear from you! Place stickers on images that most closely matches how you want to see these programs in the park.

SEATING & GATHERING

Interactive, Movable, Multi-seater, Sculptural, Continuous ledge

← DISCRETE → CONTINUOUS →

What did we miss?

FITNESS

Environmental, Naturalistic, Blended / interpretive, Dynamic, Standardized

← IMAGINATIVE → PRESCRIPTIVE →

What did we miss?

Embarcadero Plaza & Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

STATION 4

Program Character Gradients

We want to hear from you! Place stickers on images that most closely matches how you want to see these programs in the park.

HISTORIC RECOGNITION

Integrated features, Gateway / monument, Re-use, Site-specific, History

← INTUITIVE → INFORMATIVE →

What did we miss?

PLAZA

Expansive, Structured, Integrated, Layered, Immersive

← URBAN → LANDSCAPED →

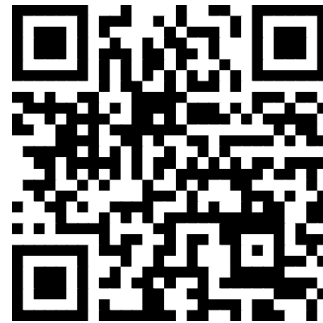
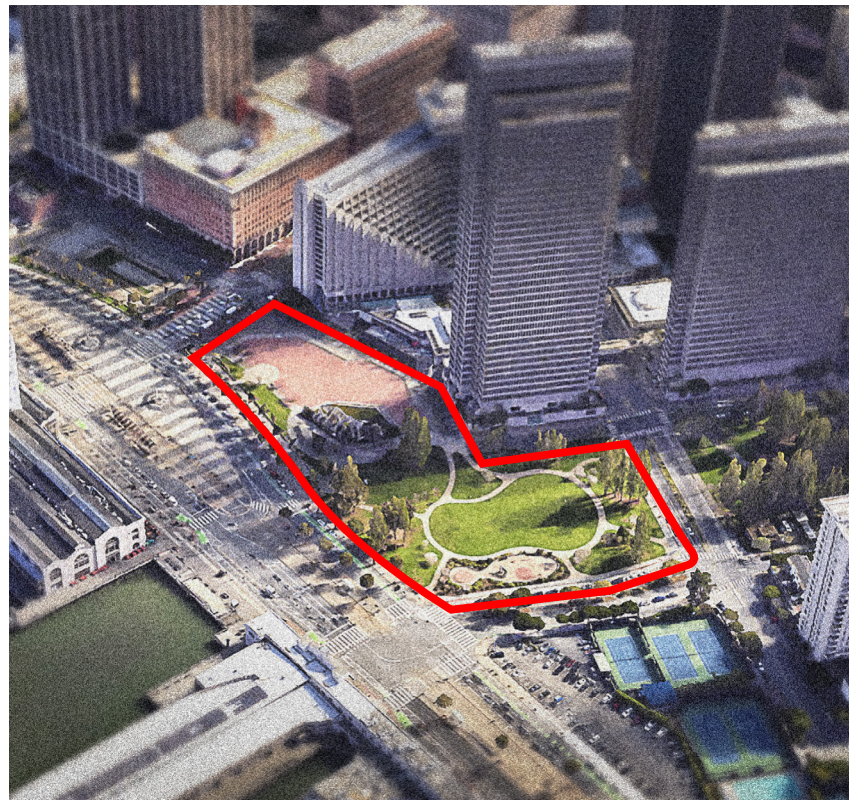
What did we miss?

Embarcadero Plaza & Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

Q & A

Thank you!

Be a part of the conversation — scan code to complete survey.



ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Eoanna Goodwin, Project Manager

eoanna.goodwin@sfgov.org

<https://tinyurl.com/embarcaderoplazaproject>

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