



# BART 16<sup>th</sup> St. Plaza Concepts

September 4, 2025



## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Opportunity to Reset, Rethink and Refresh the BART plazas.
- What is currently working (or not) on the plazas?
- What would you like to see on the plazas and how do we get to a unified vision?
- The plazas must first serve as a transit facility, but also recognize there are many users of this space.
- Include discussion of compatible activation activities.
- How can design play a role in keeping the plazas safer?
- Understand priorities and trade-offs.
- How do you see yourselves as part of the solution?

# BACKGROUND

# 16TH STREET BART PLAZA

## WHAT WE KNOW...

The plazas have been an ongoing challenge for over 2 decades, including:

- Surge in Homelessness
- Rampant Drug use
- Frequent Vandalism
- Frequent Human waste
- Emergence of illegal vending

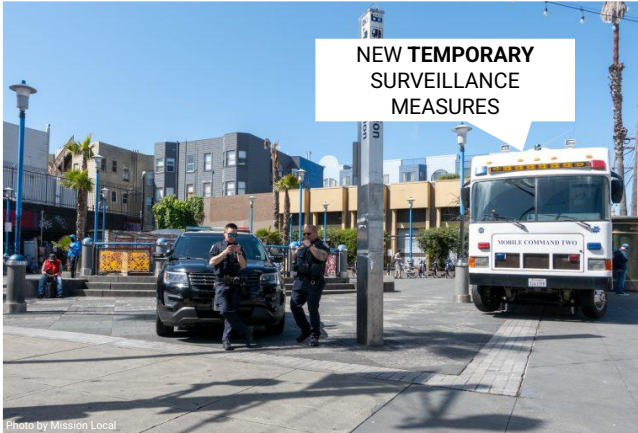


Photo by Mission Local



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Photo by Xueer Lu

# KEY ISSUES

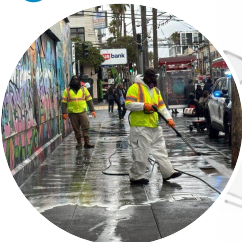
## 1 BART RIDER ACCESS & CIRCULATION



## 2 EMERGENCY EGRESS



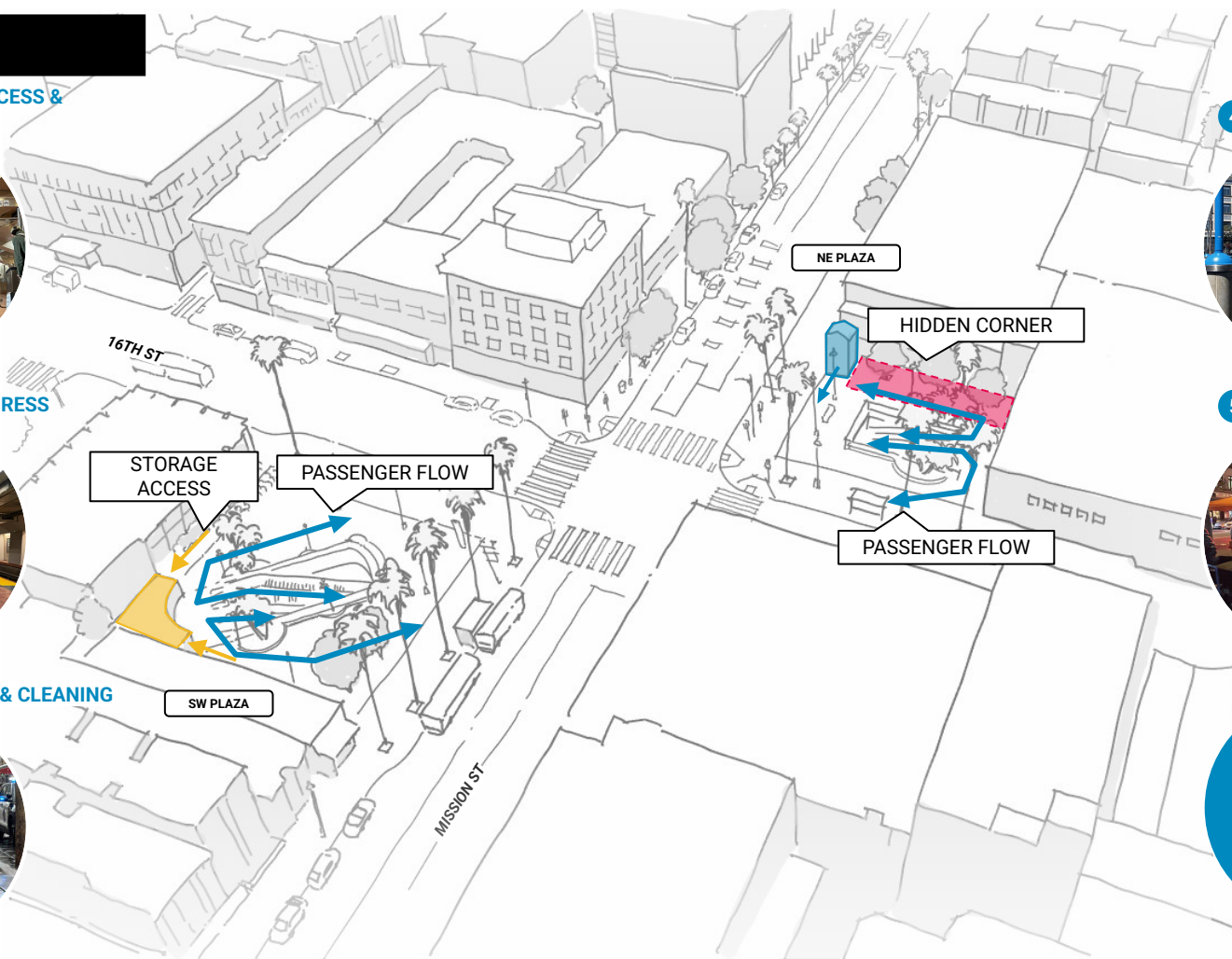
## 3 MAINTENANCE & CLEANING



## 4 HIDDEN SPOTS DIFFICULT TO SURVEIL



## 5 AFTER HOURS ACTIVITY



# RIDERS USING THE STATION DAILY  
5,948  
JUNE WEEKDAY AVERAGE

# 16TH STREET BART PLAZA

## THE OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD...

- Re-imagining the plaza spaces is an **opportunity to strengthen collaboration**, with city agencies and community organizations
- Understand this is a **3-prong approach with design, programming/activation and presence.**
- The plazas are a canvas, ready to be **activated and better utilized throughout the day.**
- How can design make this space **more welcoming and secured?**
- BART has invested money to **start this work, but we need to find more funding for design and delivery.**

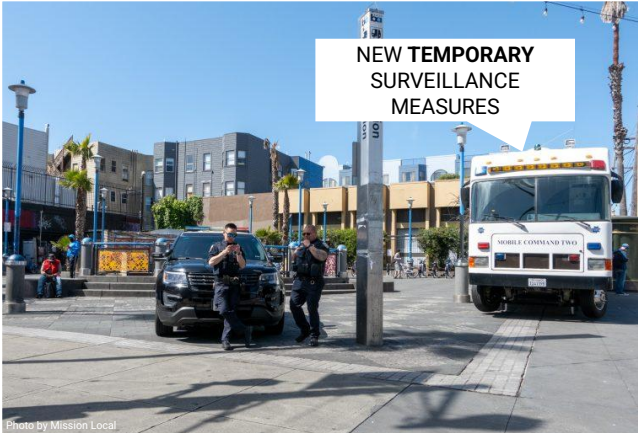


Photo by Mission Local



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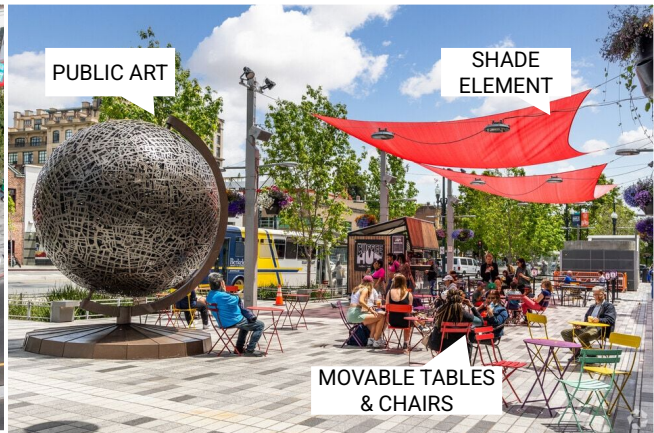
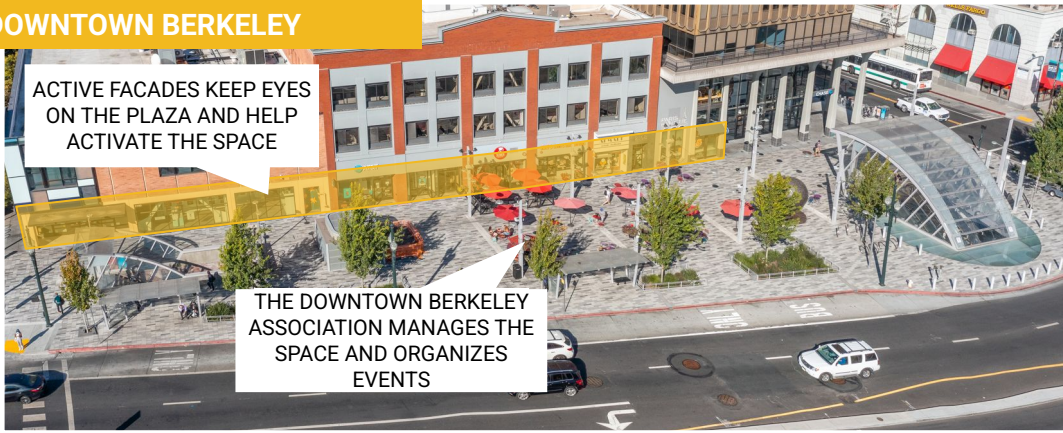
Photo by SF Chronicle



Photo by Xueer Lu

# OTHER BART PLAZAS - WHAT'S WORKING?

## DOWNTOWN BERKELEY



## CIVIC CENTER



# GOALS AND VALUES

# PREVIOUS STUDY: 16th ST. BART PLAZAS COMMUNITY DESIGN PLAN (2003)

## ABOUT THE STUDY

**Year Completed:** 2003

**Led by:** Mission Housing, Urban Ecology, BART, SFCTA, and MTC

**Scope:** 16th Street BART Plazas

## MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- The plaza has **visual and physical barriers** that clutter the space
- There is a **desire for a colorful, safe, and welcoming atmosphere** in the plaza
- The plazas **need a unifying identity**
- Capital improvements on 2006 had mixed results. The decorative elevator and railing have performed well, but **landscape and seating improvements have been vandalized** and have been challenging to maintain



Photo by SF Chronicle



Photo by Mission Local



Photo by SF Chronicle



# DESIGN GOALS

## 1 PLACEKEEPING

Celebrate the site as a gateway to the unique and vibrant culture of the Mission



## 2 ACTIVE EDGES

Leverage new housing project to increase eyes on the plaza and create an active building front



## 3 ACTIVATION

Work with community partners to activate and program plazas



## 4 SECURITY

Redesign plazas so that they are more easily observed by community, SFPD and BART PD, and are inviting and safe for all



## 5 EASE OF MAINTENANCE & CLEANING

Upgrade to durable materials that withstand harsh urban conditions



## 6 UNIFYING DESIGN

Unify the design language of both plazas



# ACTIVATED SPACES + CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

# BEST PRACTICES OF PUBLIC SPACE ACTIVATION

## COLLABORATION & OWNERSHIP

- Prioritize community **engagement and partnerships to ensure programming reflects local needs** and priorities
- Foster a **sense of community ownership and stewardship** through ongoing involvement and communication
- Develop **sustainable funding models** that leverage diverse sources and generate earned revenue
- Celebrate and showcase **local culture, talent, and creativity** through inclusive and diverse programming

## ACCESSIBILITY & ADAPTABILITY

- Ensure **equitable access and participation** through targeted outreach, affordable options, and accessible design
- Continuously **evaluate and adapt programming** based on community feedback and changing needs
- Design **flexible and adaptable spaces** that can accommodate a range of activities and evolve over time



# ELEMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL ACTIVATED SPACE

## ACCOUNTABILITY



Activation lead individual/agency

*Paid (by whom?). On-site regularly.  
Accountable to program space.  
Manage activators.  
Knowledgeable of community.*

## SECURITY



Security and posted code of conduct

## MAINTENANCE



Regular maintenance and requirements of activators

## REGULATION



Permitted activities only

## ACTIVATION



Regular and announced activities

## INVESTMENT



Capital improvements for long-term success

# HOW DO WE WANT TO THINK ABOUT THE PLAZAS?

## ACTIVATION

CONTAINERS ??



MOVABLE SEATING ??



GAME TABLES ??

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING ??



VENDING ??



# CAPITAL INVESTMENTS: ART, UNIFYING DESIGN & PLACEKEEPING

## PLACEKEEPING

OVERHEAD ELEMENTS ??



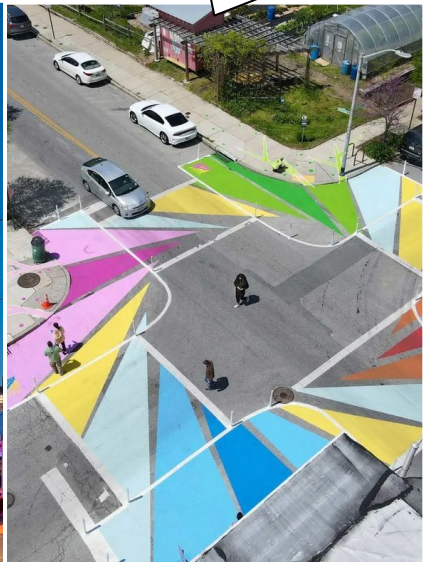
SHADE ??



LIGHTING ??



MURALS ??



# CAPITAL INVESTMENTS: SECURITY

## SECURITY

"NO DWELLING AREAS" WITH INCORPORATED SEATING ??



SMART POLES WITH BETTER LIGHTING AND CAMERAS ??



POSTED CODE OF CONDUCT SIGNS

## Public Notice

### Code of Conduct

No Smoking No Vaping	No Eating No Drinking	Proof of Payment	24-hour Surveillance
No Littering	Headphones Only	No Bike Riding	No Riding Scooters

**Prohibited Behavior:**

- Bikes on first car of train
- Possessing hazardous or explosive materials
- Animals unless service animals or enclosed in carrying case
- Public urination or defecation
- Restroom access without ticket
- Sexual Harassment
- Sitting on stairs or exit path
- Skateboarding
- Spitting
- Tampering with equipment
- Carrying unlawful weapons
- Vending without a permit
- Aggressive panhandling

Violation to any rules mentioned above while on BART property is subject to one or more of the following: CA Public Utilities Code 199770; CA Penal Code Section 19.8, 171.7, 374.4, 369; 594, 640 and 647; CA Vehicle Code Section 21113. Violations may result in up to one year imprisonment, fines of up to \$50,000, and/or community service, or the maximum penalty allowed by law.

### Public Safety

No Strollers on Escalators	Watch the Gap	Do not Text and Walk
Hold onto Escalator Handrails	Wait behind Platform Edge Tiles	Report Unattended Items

### Assisted Evacuation

- Make yourself known to Station Agent or Operations Control Center (OCC) by using Elevator Intercom or White Courtesy Phone
- Ask for assistance from other BART Riders or call 911
- During Station evacuation, Station will be checked and swept by Station Agent, OCC, BART Police Officers, and/or First Responders

BART Police: (510) 464-7000 For Emergency call 911

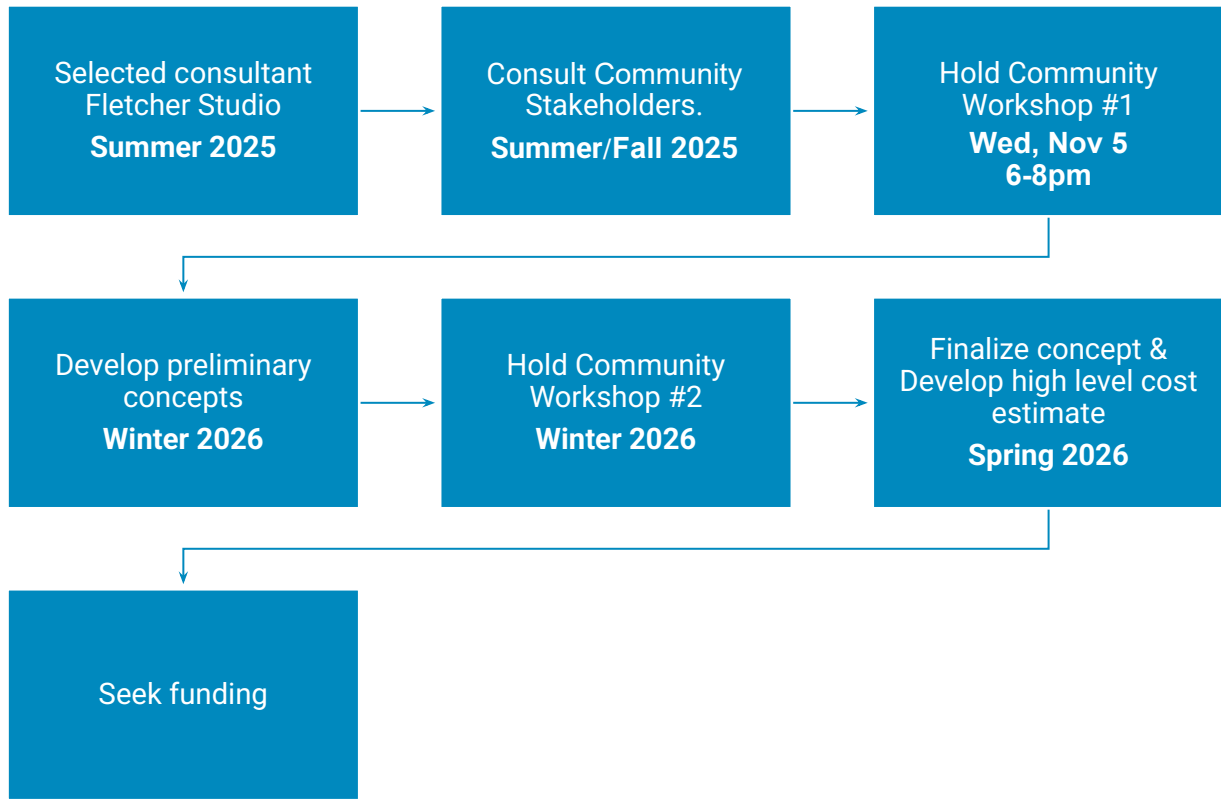
SAFETY OFFICER PRESENCE



COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS ??

# NEXT STEPS

# 9 MONTH PROCESS TO DEVELOP CONCEPT



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# Thank You!

Questions?  
Contact Tim Chan,  
[tchan1@bart.gov](mailto:tchan1@bart.gov)

