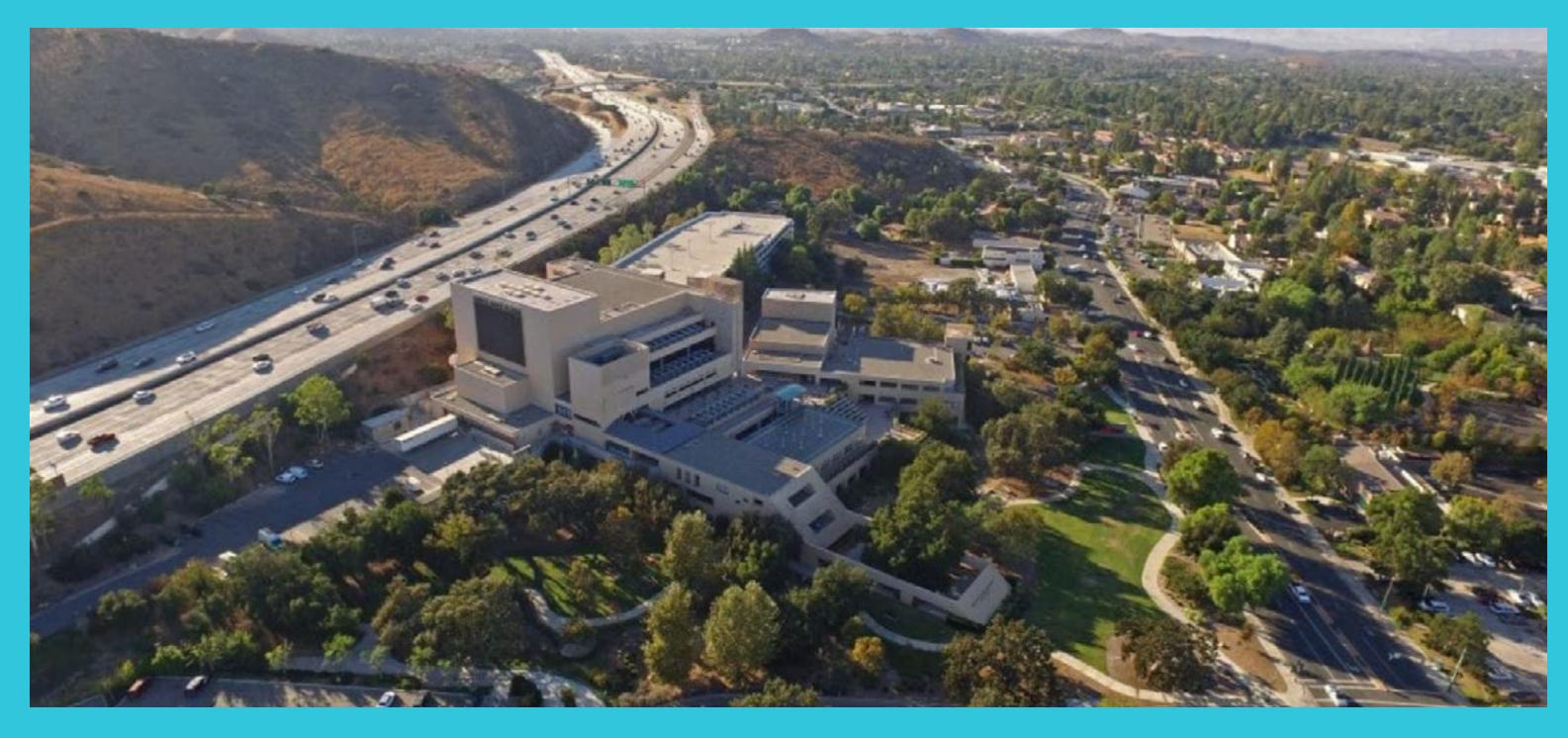
### THOUSAND OAKS CIVIC ARTS PLAZA: REDESIGN



LANDSCAPE DESIGN 3 W/ FRANCISCO BEHR
SUMMER 2024
TATE TILLES-PERRINE

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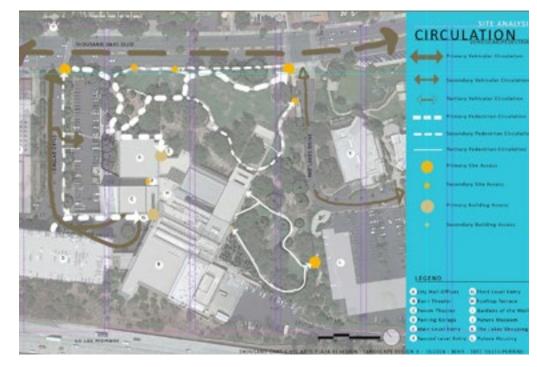
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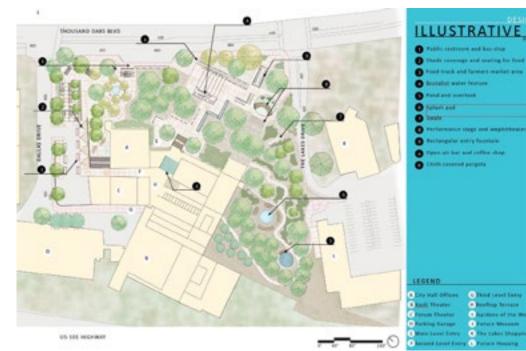
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## SITE LOCATION

A SHORT HISTORY ON THOUSAND OAKS CIVIC ARTS
PLAZA

### **BACKGROUND**

The Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza sits on land that was once completely occupied by the Chumash Native Peoples prior to its discovery by the Spanish in the 16th century. It's understood that the site was once a place for summer camp for the Chumash, there is also evidence that two

The land was largely undisturbed from the 16th to 19th century until the migration of early pioneers out west. It was in the 1800s that soldiers were granted land access in the region, and more settlements were built.

There were multiple families that entrusted the land for many years prior to the development of the Civics Arts Plaza. Those families used the land for farming, and even raising exotic animals for the movie industry. The land was ultimately purchased by the City of Thousand Oaks to develop a town center in the latter half of the 20th century.

After many years of discussion, planning and construction, the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza was finally finished in October 1994. While the needs of the community were considered in the final development, the site has constraints that largely impact its function and desirability of use in its totality.

The task of re-imaging the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza has been taken with careful consideration. The community's desire for a downtown core that is safe, walkable, community oriented, and easily accessible is revered in my design intent.



#### SITE LOCATION

### LOCATION MAP

The Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza is located in Ventury County, CA. It resides within the Conejo Valley, and is specifically centered amongst Thousand Oaks Blvd, the 101-Freeway, Dallas Drive and The Lakes Drive. According to the Downtown Core Master Plan, the boundaries of the site up for re-imagination additionally includes the area within Erbes Road and Conejo Valley Road. The Civic Arts Plaza has the potential to be a city hub for the residents of Thousand Oaks and all visitors.

Address: 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd, CA

91362

**Building Climate Zone:** 9

Architect/Landscape Architect: Antoine

Predock

**Project Completion Year: 1994** 

**Site Area:** 210,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

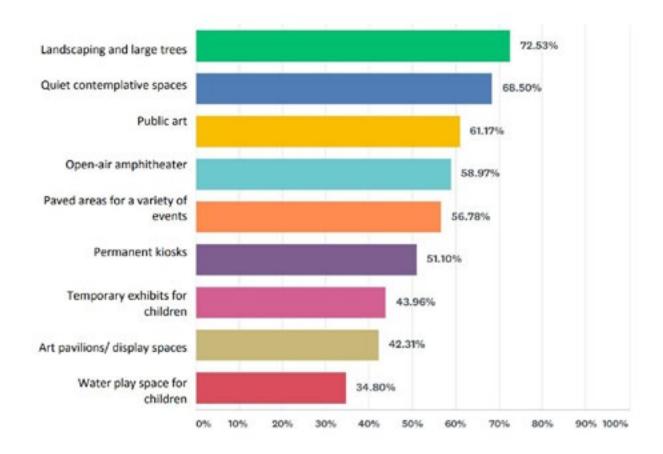
Mixed Use District: City Hall, Fred Kavli Theatre for Performing Arts (1800 seats) Janet and Ray Scherr Forum Theatre (394 seats), parking garage, three acre park, directly adjacent to Gardens of The World and The Lakes Shopping Center

Primary Outdoor Features: extensive Oak grove, large swaths of native plantings, lengthy swales to aid in rainwater movement, multiple art installations, digital marquee, picnic benches and tables, outdoor stage, and terraced planters

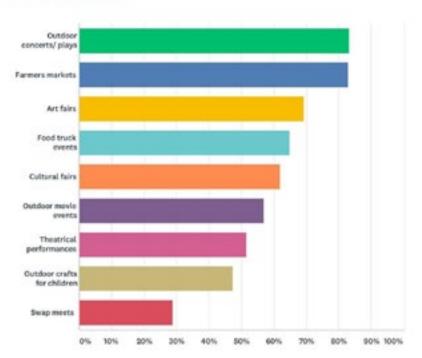
### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A LOOK AT COMMUNITY DESIRES, NEEDS AND CONSIDERATIONS

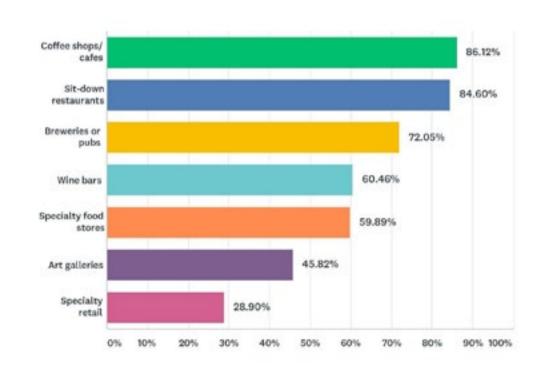
What type of features would you like to see in the Town Square at the Civic Arts Plaza? Please check all that apply:



What types of cultural activities and events should take place in Downtown Thousand Oaks? Pick all that apply:



What types of shops or eateries should go here? Pick all that apply:



#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### COMMUNITY

When developing the goals and objectives for this site's design, I had to consider community feedback. The City of Thousand Oaks Downtown Core Master Plan proved to be a very effective resource throughout this project, and specifically when considering the needs and desires of the community.

The plan offers a lot of detail into what types of features, cultural activities, and even eateries the people of Thousand Oaks would like to see in a bustling downtown core. It is evident that a walkable, safe and attractive city center would also lead people to come together with greater frequency.

These three specific graphs were very helpful when considering how to meet the goals and objectives of the community's vision. It's apparent that people want more than just theaters and performance spaces, as the current space is able to offer. They want to see a changed landscape, frequent events like art fairs and farmers markets. They even want places they can gather such as breweries and coffee shops. Despite The Lakes Shopping Center being so close, in order for the Thousand Oaks Civic Plaza to really become a downtown hub, much of this community's desires need to be further considered.

With the support of an enhanced landscape design, I think it is possible to meet the goals and objectives of this community.



GENERATE A COMMUNITY HUB



CULTIVATE A NATIVE LANDSCAPE



SECURE A WALKABLE DOWNTOWN



ATTRACT VISITORS

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### VISION

#### VISION:

To create a bustling pedestrian-centric Downtown Core that provides an entertaining environment, opportunities for connection, and access to green spaces.

#### GOALS/Objectives:

#### **GENERATE A COMMUNITY HUB**

- Install art that celebrates the cultures represented in the community
- Establish a recognizable entry to and a gathering space in the park/plaza

#### **CULTIVATE A NATIVE LANDSCAPE**

- Plant native plants to the region
- Create a water source for wildlife
- Coordinate community plantings and plant maintenance to help people feel responsible for the plants

#### **SECURE A WALKABLE DOWNTOWN**

- Build wide sidewalks >10' wide
- Establish a wide parkway of plants that further protects pedestrians from the street

#### ATTRACT VISITORS

- Make clear entry and exit points to buildings so people know how to navigate between spaces
- Use the landscaping to direct people to the different buildings/uses
- Host farmers markets, music events, and community gatherings that attract residents and visitors to the area

# THOUSAND OAKS BLVD 2 DRIVE THE LAKES DR E 8 Α 1 0 C D Parking Garage **US-101 HIGHWAY**

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### CONSTRAINTS

- 1 Noise: the sound of traffic from the US-101 Highway and Thousand Oaks Blvd can be heard throughout the site.
- 2 Heavily trafficked: Thousand Oaks Blvd is a major thoroughfare. It spans four lanes, which often leads cars to travel at high speeds.
- 3 Narrow sidewalks along Thousand Oaks Blvd: span 10' in width; a squeeze for the amount of foot traffic around the site.
- **Poor visibility of parking structures:** it is difficult to view parking options beyond the limited street parking on Thousand Oaks Blvd.
- 5 Grass: requires frequent watering. With current city water restrictions, browns in the summer making it less hospitable.
- 6 Oak palette: while there are positives about planting oaks on this site, they are protected. They can be costly to remove.
- **Building distance from street**: the Civic Arts Plaza is quite a distance from Thousand Oaks Blvd.
- Onclear building entrances: on all three floors, the entrances to the buildings aren't easily identifiable.
- 9 Few paved areas to host events/markets
- **110** Disconnected to The Lakes Shopping Center
- **11** Swale: large and expansive; divides landscape more than it effectively directs water flow.

#### LEGEND

- A City Hall Offices
- G Third Level Entry
- B Kavli Theater
- H Rooftop Terrace
- C Forum Theater

I Gardens of the World

- E Main Level Entry
- J Future Museum K The Lakes Shopping
- F Second Level Entry L Future Housing

THOUSAND OAKS CIVIC ARTS PLAZA REDESIGN - LANDSCAPE DESIGN 3 - SU2024 - BEHR - TATE TILLES-PERRINE-9

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OPPORTUNITIES** THOUSAND OAKS BLVD Proximity to US-101: easily accessible site via major highway. 2 Adjacent to Gardens of The World: across the street from this popular botanical destination. 3 Oak grove: oaks are a keystone species. They provide habitat for many, as well as ample shade throughout the site. Wider sidewalks: will allow for more people to move safely alongside Thousand Oaks Blvd. **5) Bike lane:** including a bike lane along Thousand Oaks Blvd would encourage DALLAS DRIVE alternative modes of transit to the site. THE LAKES DR 6 Shade structures: would greatly improve the intensity of the heat, especially in places that aren't beneath tree canopies. Mater features: drown out the sound of the freeway and main street traffic. Used for play and cooling down in warmer months. **Orand staircase:** a more visible and accessible entry point to the building C would help direct people to the site. Enhanced seating areas: more picnic tables, benches, and amphitheater seating for more comfortable performance viewing. **Melocate outdoor stage:** make the stage viewable from the large grass expanse. Remove surface lot parking: use this as a staging area for performers, a place to gather and be safe from car access. LEGEND A City Hall Offices G Third Level Entry B Kavli Theater H Rooftop Terrace C Forum Theater I Gardens of the World D Parking Garage J Future Museum E Main Level Entry K The Lakes Shopping F Second Level Entry L Future Housing **US-101 HIGHWAY** THOUSAND OAKS CIVIC ARTS PLAZA REDESIGN - LANDSCAPE DESIGN 3 - SU2024 - BEHR - TATE TILLES-PERRINE-10

## CASE STUDIES

A LOOK AT THREE CIVIC CENTERS THAT GENERATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

### LONG BEACH CIVIC CENTER





City Hall and the Port Headquarters make up a large footprint of building space on the site.



This aerial view shows Lincoln Park in the foreground and its connection to Billie Jean King Main Library in the background.



This is the north facing side of the Billie Jean King Main Library with access via secondary vehicular circulation on W Broadway.

#### FIRST CASE STUDY

Location: Long Beach, CA

**Building Climate Zone:** 6

Architect/Landscape Architect:
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill/Gustafson
Guthrie Nichol

**Project Completion Year: 2021** 

**Site Area:** 958,320 ft<sup>2</sup>

Mixed Use District: City Hall (270,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), Billie Jean King Main Library (93,500 ft<sup>2</sup>), Port Headquarters (232,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), and Lincoln Park

Primary Outdoor Features: universally accessible playground, skate park, half basketball court, grass for seating and play, access to public library, walkable paths and fitness equipment, dog park with small and large dog areas, discovery zones for learning and playing, swing sets and climbing areas, new tree plantings, and planters that double as seating

Firsts: this project is the first hybrid DBFOM deal in North America that combines public and private development components

Sustainability Certifications: LEED BD+C NC (New Construction) Gold

### NEWPORT BEACH CIVIC CENTER PARK





This image displays City Hall's unique building structure, and the Desert Specimen Garden that faces northeast.



The Civic Center Park has a rich sense of community use. It serves as a concert space, dance floor, and general gathering space for visitors annually.



12 Dog Park

13 Meadows

14 Desert Specimen Garden

15 Constructed Wetland

16 Bird Blind Bridge

Preserved Existing Wetland

Giant Bunny

Bunny Ring

From this view point, the observer can see how the designers thoughtfully directed the site to connect with the ocean.

#### **SECOND CASE STUDY**

Location: Newport Beach, CA

**Building Climate Zone:** 6

Architect/Landscape Architect: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, PWP Landscape

Architecture

**Project Completion Year: 2014** 

**Site Area:** 857,520 ft<sup>2</sup>

Mixed Use District: City Hall (100,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), Newport Beach Central Library (54,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), and Park (740,520ft<sup>2</sup>)

Primary Outdoor Features: expansive lawn, movable seating, concert space, dog park for small and large dogs, acres of Southern California native plant habitat, multiple sculptures, connecting bridges, and hidden parking structure

Firsts: Newport Beach's first dog park

Sustainability Certifications: LEED BD+C

NC (New Construction) Gold

### GLORIA MOLINA GRAND PARK





Gloria Molina Grand Park stretches out front of Los Angeles City Hall.



The mounded tot lot/playground invites children and their families to the park.



The Arthur J. Will Memorial Fountain is a large water feature in the park with an interactive splash pad for everyone to enjoy.

#### THIRD CASE STUDY

Location: Los Angeles, CA

**Building Climate Zone:** 9

Landscape Architect: RIOS

**Project Completion Year: 2012** 

Site Area: 522,720 ft<sup>2</sup>

Mixed Use District: City Hall,
Department of Water and Power, The
Music Center, Ahmanson's Theater,
Grand Park

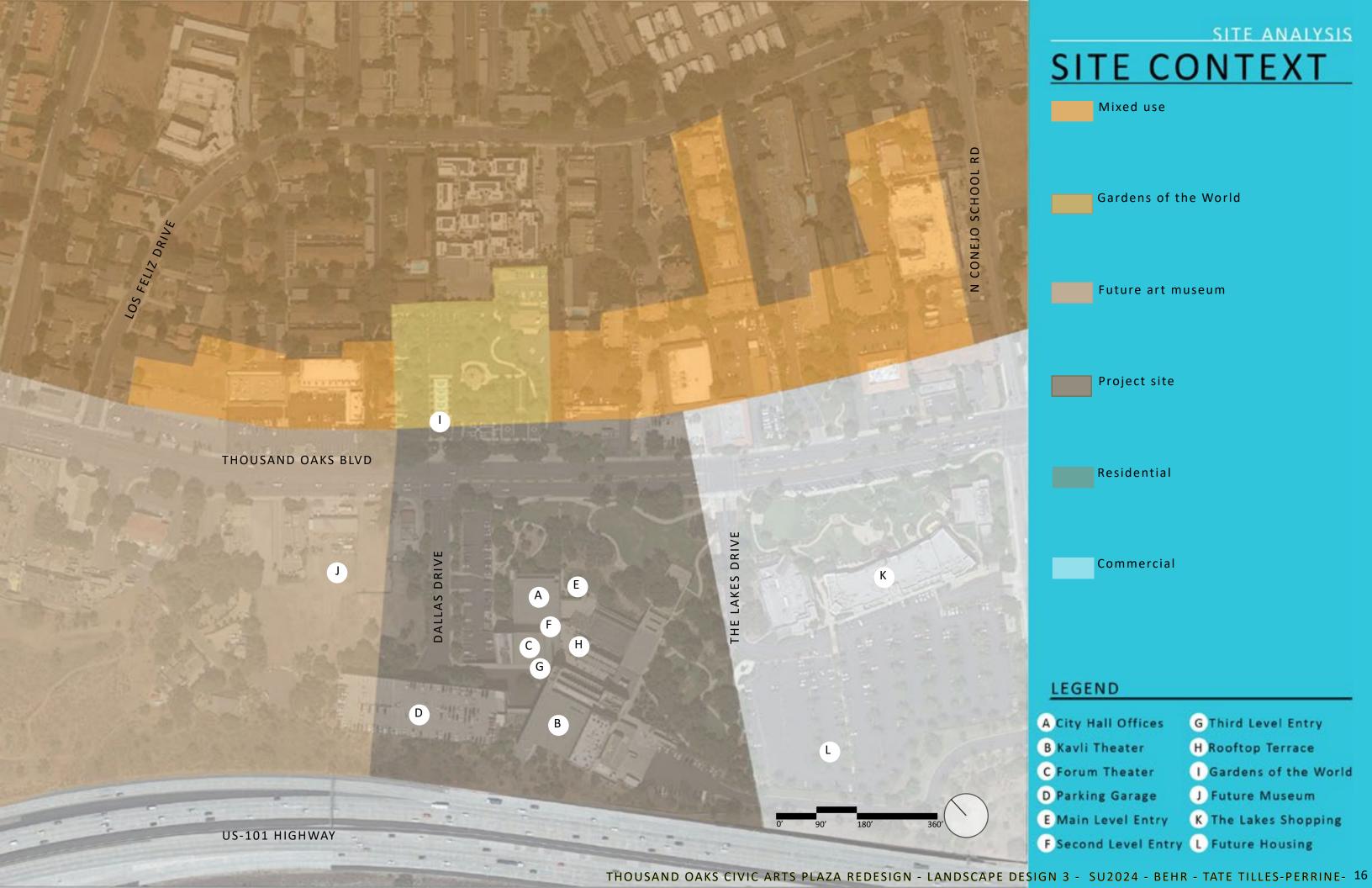
primary Outdoor Features: extensive grass for sitting and play, interactive fountain, movable seating, native and drought tolerant plantings, cafe, tot lot/playground, performance stage, and grass for general activity

Firsts: named after the first Latina to be elected to LA City Council Office

Sustainability Certifications: N/A

### SITE ANALYSIS

A THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS OF WHAT MAKES THE SITE UNIQUE AND UP FOR REINTERPRETATION



### **AREAS**

IN C- CR

#### ZONE 1:

- -West facing
- -Surface parking
- -Loading dock
- -Entrance to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors

#### ZONE 2:

- -North facing
- -Expansive grassy area
- -Oak grove/large swale
- -Planted terraces

#### ZONE 3:

- -East facing
- -Adjacent to The Lakes
- -Oak grove/large swale
- -Bridge between 1st and 3rd floors

#### ZONE 4:

- -Northernmost zone
- -Thousand Oaks Blvd
- -Parkways
- -Adjacent to Gardens of the World

#### LEGEND

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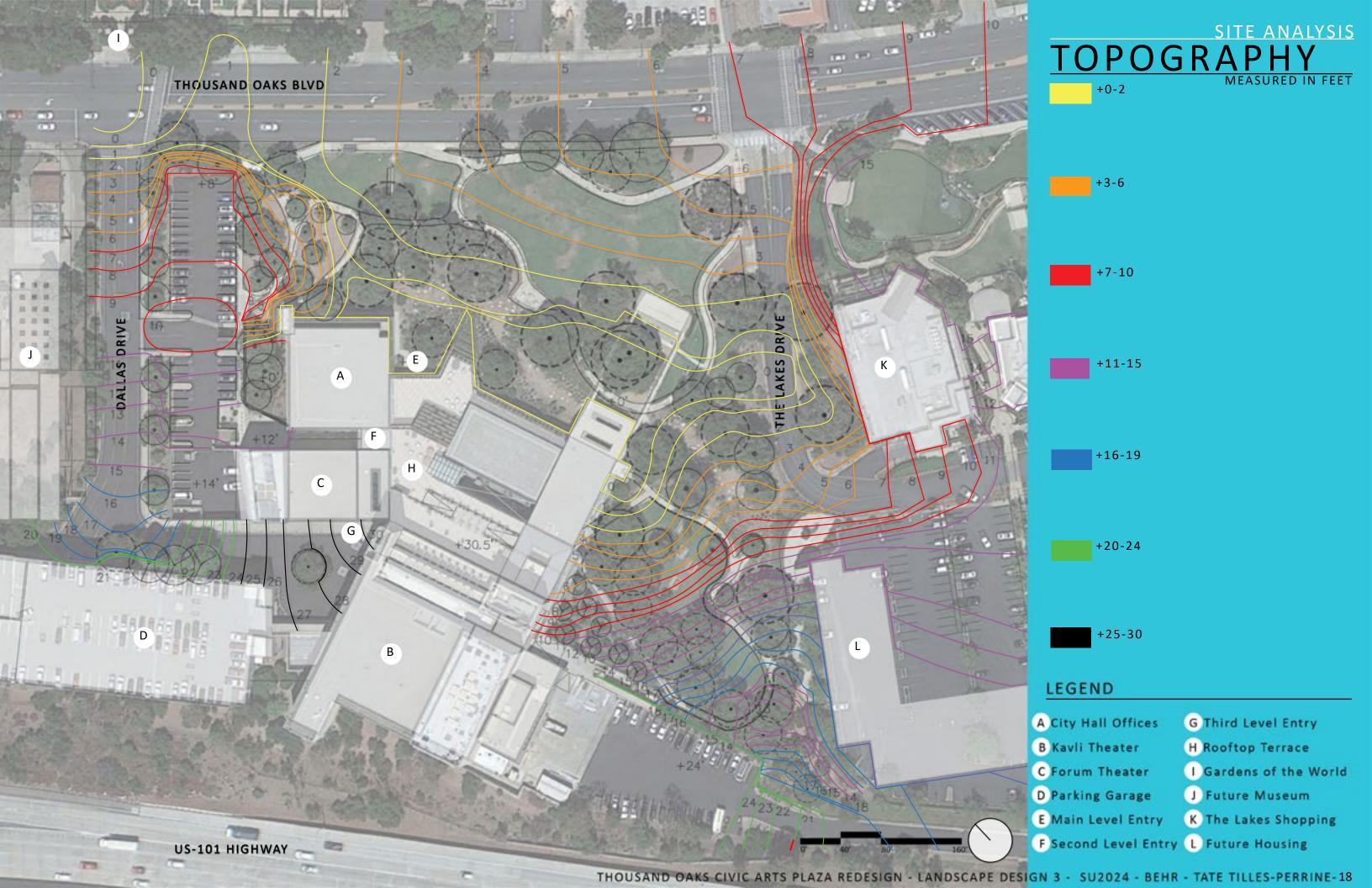
THOUSAND OAKS CIVIC ARTS PLAZA REDESIGN - LANDSCAPE DESIGN 3 - SU2024 - BEHR - TATE TILLES-PERRINE- 17

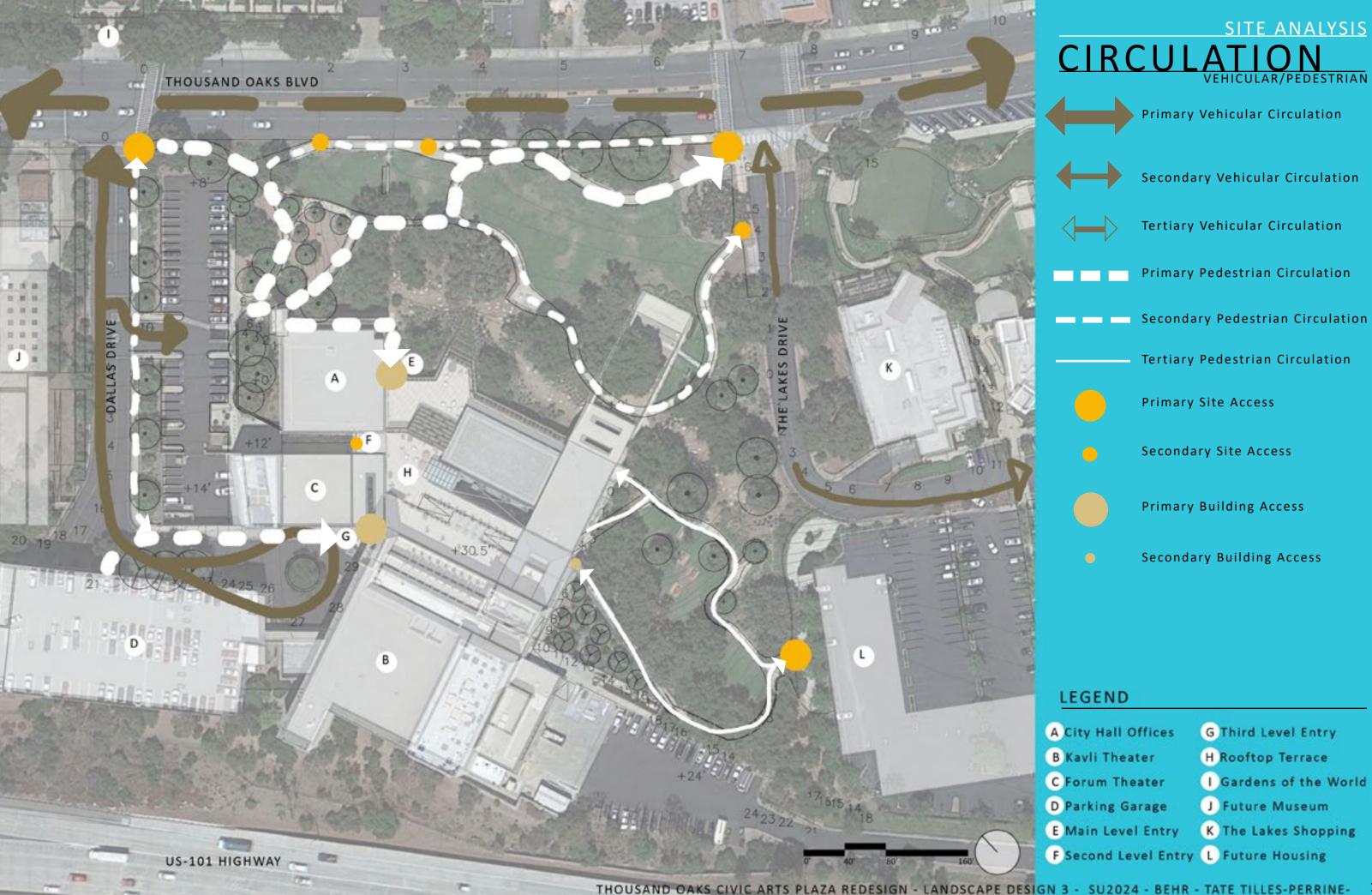


ZONE 4

THOUSAND OAKS BLVD

US-101 HIGHWAY

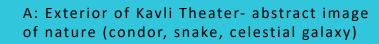






### **PHOTOS**





B: Tower of Kavli Theater

C: Cul-de-sac outside Kavli Theater

D: Loading dock

E: Shady hidden planted space behind retaining wall in surface parking lot















### **PHOTOS**





B: Sculpture

C: East facing performance stage

D: Rock and wall seating

E: Expansive grassy area







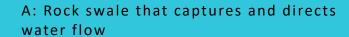






### **PHOTOS**



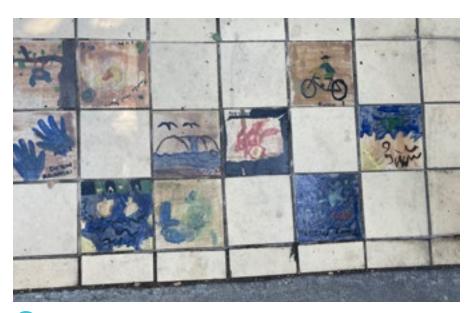


B: Pathway through Oak grove

C: Colorful tiling spliced between concrete slabs

D: Opening in Oak grove

E: Balcony from east-side of building that juts out towards Oak grove















### SITE ANALYSIS

### **PHOTOS**





B: Street light and canopy cover from Oak onto sidewalk

C: View of intersection of Thousand Oaks
Blvd and Dallas Drive

D: Dallas Drive with tree lined parkways

E: Marquee along Thousand Oaks Blvd



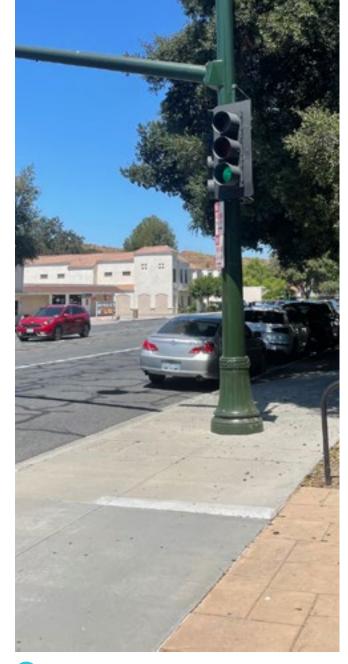




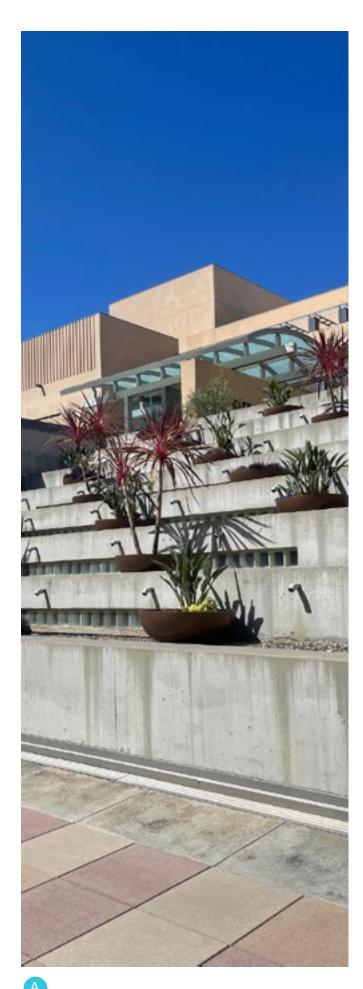


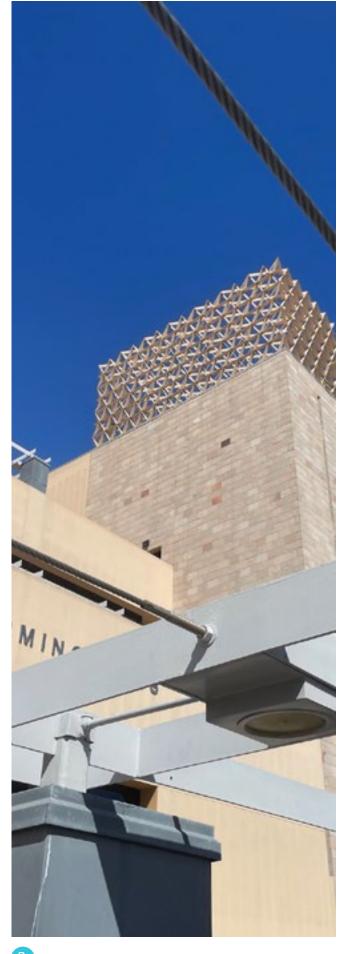


















## PHOTOS BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES



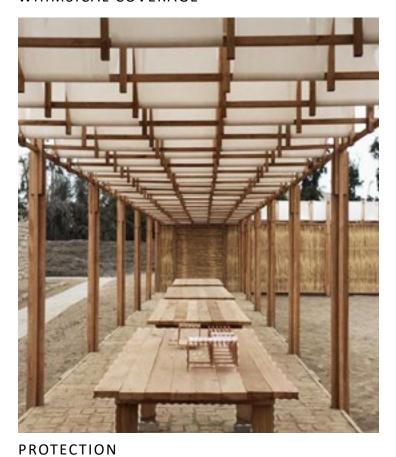
- A: Planted terraces on second floor
- B: Trellis on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for climbing plants
- $C: View overlooking 2^{nd} floor courtyard$
- D: North facing view outside Kavli Theater
- E: Second floor walkway leading to balcony

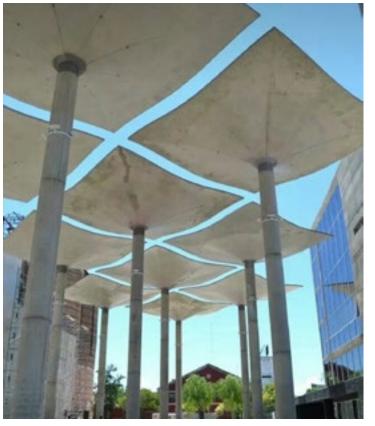
## INSPIRATION

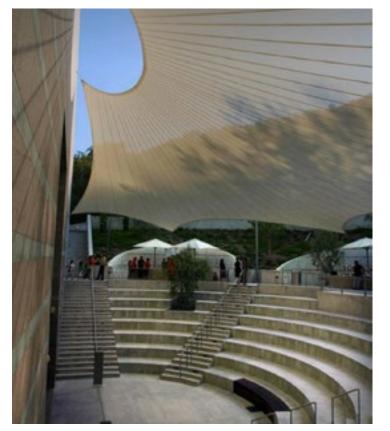
WHAT'S POSSIBLE IN THIS DESIGN?



WHIMSICAL COVERAGE







STRUCTURAL CASCADE

#### <u>INSPIRATION</u>

### COVERAGE

SHADE

#### SKETCH

Large shade coverings are inspirational. This image depicts a possible bus stop overhang, or seating paired with a shade canopy that can be used in place of tree coverage.



SHADOWS

### <u>INSPIRATION</u>

### **SEATING**

#### SKETCH

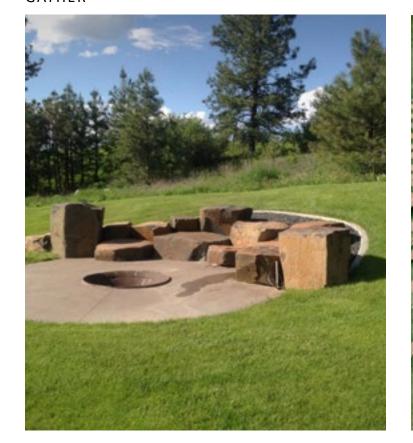
Comfortable seating that supports many perspectives is valuable. This image is inspired by the wave-like seating at the Newport Beach Civic Center. Two back rests allows for people to sit back to back, and to view opposite directions.



DUALITY



GATHER







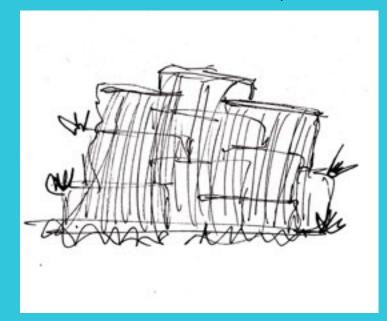
VIEWPOINTS COMMUNITY CENTRAL

### **WATER**

FEATURES

#### SKETCHES

Water features, such as the two images depicted below, are essential for this site. They can both mask sound, and create a sense of coolness in the landscape.



#### CONCEAL



FREEDOM



GUIDANCE

NOISE REDUCTION







COOLING PLAY

## HARDSCAPE INSPIRATION

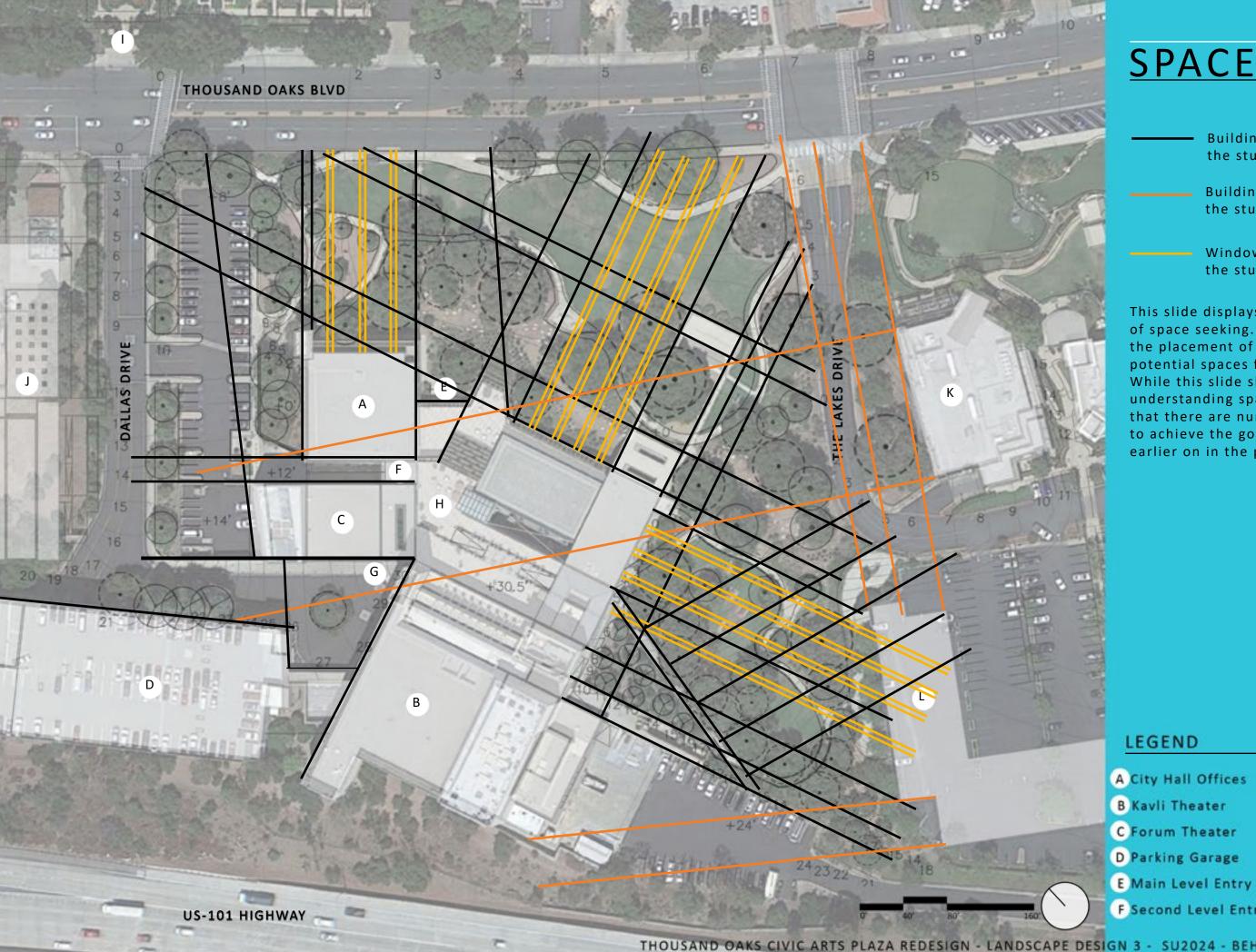
- 1 Boardwalk along pond
- 2 Concrete for retaining walls
- Concrete with stone underneath pergolas
- Concrete with stone beneath pergolas option 2
- 5 Small aggregate for ramps
- 6 Small aggregate for market stall area
- 7 Colorful tiling at base of entrance stairs
- 8 Stylized paving in interactive art area

## PLANT PALETTE

- California Sagebrush
  Artemisia californica
- 2 Hollyleaf Cherry Prunis ilicifolia
- Chamise

  Adenostoma fasciculatum
- Common Manzanita
  Arctostaphylos manzanita
- 5 California Buckwheat Eriogonum fasciculatum
- 6 Coyote Brush
  Baccharis pilularis
- Common Yarrow
  Achillea millefolium
- 8 Sticky Monkey Flower Diplacus aurantiacus





#### DESIGN SPACE SEEKING

Building regulating lines within the study boundaries

Building regulating lines beyond the study boundaries

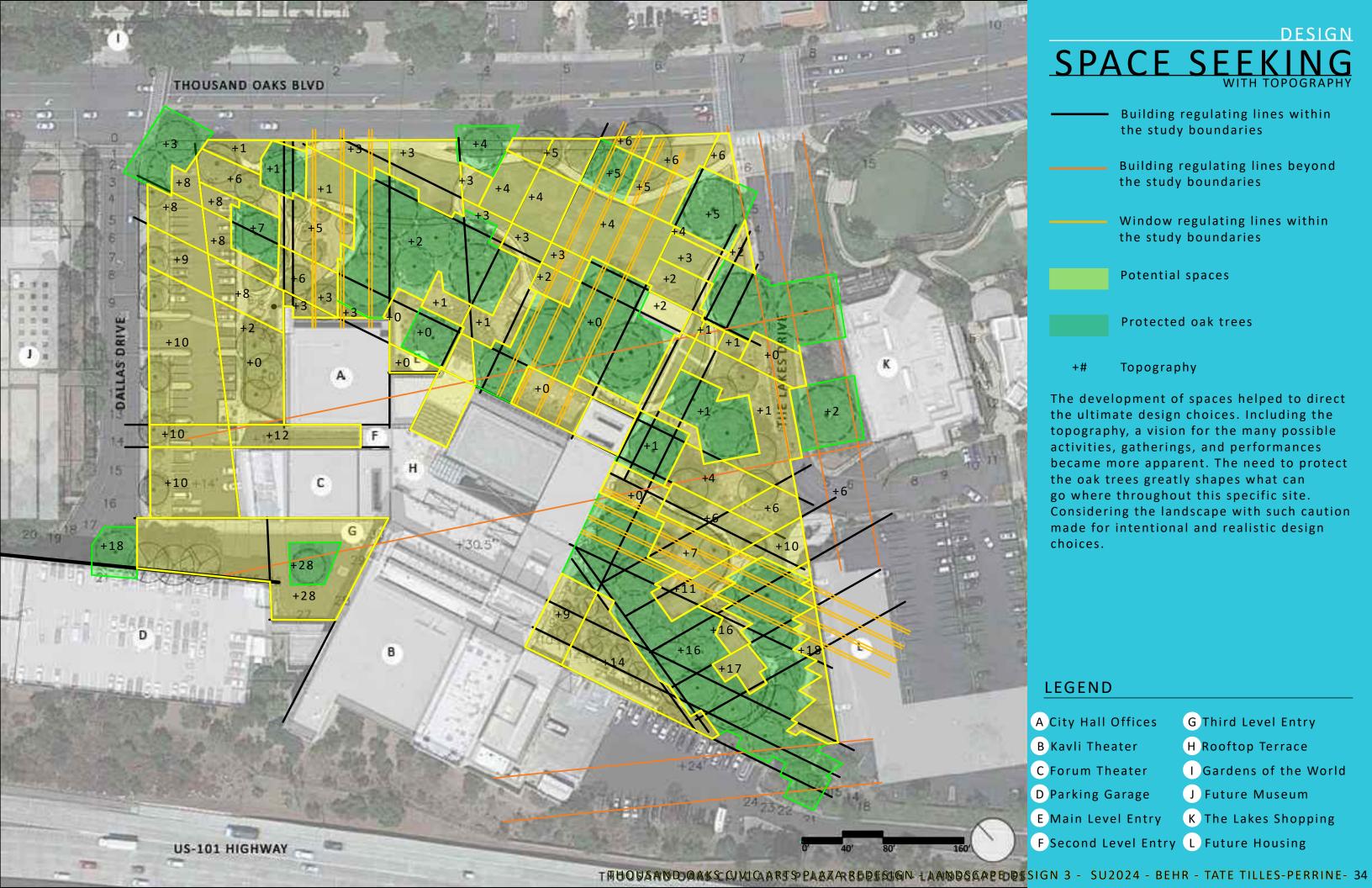
Window regulating lines within the study boundaries

This slide displays the beginning stages of space seeking. Learning to understand the placement of lines helped to generate potential spaces for visitors to enjoy. While this slide shows early progress in understanding space seeking, it is evident that there are numerous spaces to be used to achieve the goals and objectives stated earlier on in the project.

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# BUBBLE DIAGRAM

Loosely mapping what would define the spaces sought after was the next step in the design process. Relative to the community's desires and the shape of the landscape, the potential to meet design goals became more apparent. At this stage, the loose placement of the bubbles allowed for some flexibility of how each space would turn out.

The design remained true to this vision, although details came later.



At this stage, the choice to use a parti of a ripple on a lake presented itself. Wanting to connect the space to the neighboring Lakes Shopping Center, Lake Sherwood and Lake Eleanor Sentinel (south of the 101-Freeway), and to the idea of what a splash a new downtown core would make in the Thousand Oaks community felt important.

#### **LEGEND**

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141 641 68

THOUSAND OAKS BLVD

OUTDOOR

MEETING

CONNECT

COVERED

MARKET HUB

LOADING

TRUCKS

LOADING

**US-101 HIGHWAY** 

FOOD

MARKET

STALLS

OAK GROVE

SATHER

A

C

INTERACTIVE

PLANTINGS

ERFORMANCE

NATURE WALK

POND

DISCOVERY

NATURE PLAY

ART ZONE

OBSERVE

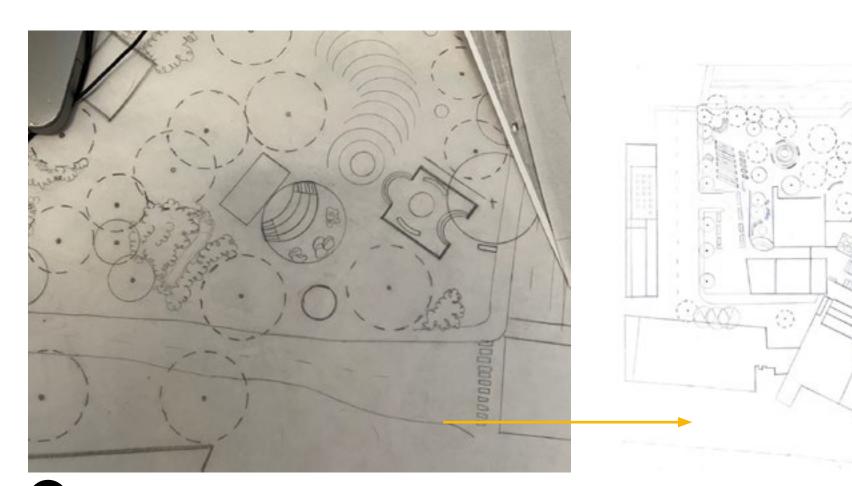
FOUNTAIN

### **IDEATION**

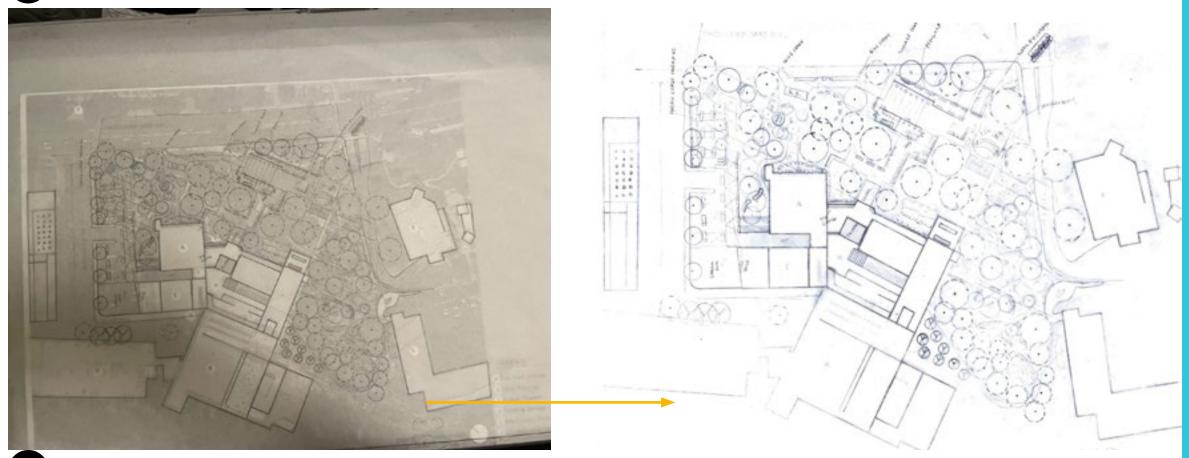
PROCESS WORK



Furthered design. Reconsidering the design layout with the space seeking in mind. I considered more ways to direct visitors to the main entrance, realistic places to gather, and scalable sun protection. I thought about where families would want to gather while children were playing and where people would sit to enjoy a meal.







### SITE PLAN

- 1 Public restroom and bus stop
- Shade coverage and seating for food trucks
- Food truck and farmers market area
- Brutalist water feature
- Pond and overlook
- 6 Splash pad
- Swale
- Performance stage and amphitheater
- Rectangular entry fountain
- Open air bar and coffee shop
- Cloth covered pergola

### **LEGEND**

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- C G

THOUSAND OAKS BLVD

**US-101 HIGHWAY** 

## **ILLUSTRATIVE**

- 1 Public restroom and bus stop
- Shade coverage and seating for food trucks
- Food truck and farmers market area
- Brutalist water feature
- Pond and overlook
- 6 Splash pad
- Swale
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- Open air bar and coffee shop
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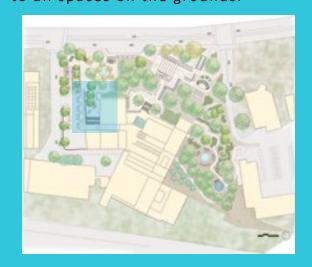
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## **ENLARGEMENT**

- This area fulfills the goals of generating a community hub and attracting visitors. It does so by bringing people together. The attraction of food trucks or a farmers market, gives people something to look forward to with whatever frequency they occurred. The multitude of sitting places allows for people to gather and enjoy food, to connect and to rest. The shade sails also provide coverage and protection from the sun, which makes the space safe in which to linger for long periods.
- This area fulfills the goal of securing a walkable downtown. This space is accessible via stairs and ramp. It's shaded nicely by the large retaining wall to the west of the stairs. It also has two large sycamore trees that create coverage in the space. Securing a walkable downtown grants people access to all spaces on the grounds.



### **LEGEND**

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## **ENLARGEMENT**

- This area is meant to be easily accessed from the north and southwest entry points of the site. It has multiple sitting spaces that allow for people to enjoy food and company whenever food trucks or farmers markets will be happening. There are also native plantings and a fair amount of tree coverage that help to create shade and beauty. There are string lights that also allow for this space to be used in the evening time.
- This area is also easily accessible. It's a nice place to sit if people are waiting for buses to arrive, or even for someone in the restroom. It has a central fountain that is meant to create a sense of coolness, as well as to pay homage to the parti, a ripple in the design's impact. Having many different types of gathering spaces make this design special.
- In addition to a covered space in the public restroom, this is a bus stop that has a covered pergola and ample seating. It is also a place where someone could lock their bike or pick up a rideshare bike to move through the space. The sidewalks are wide enough for people to be protected from the street while they wait.





## ENLARGEMENT

the space.

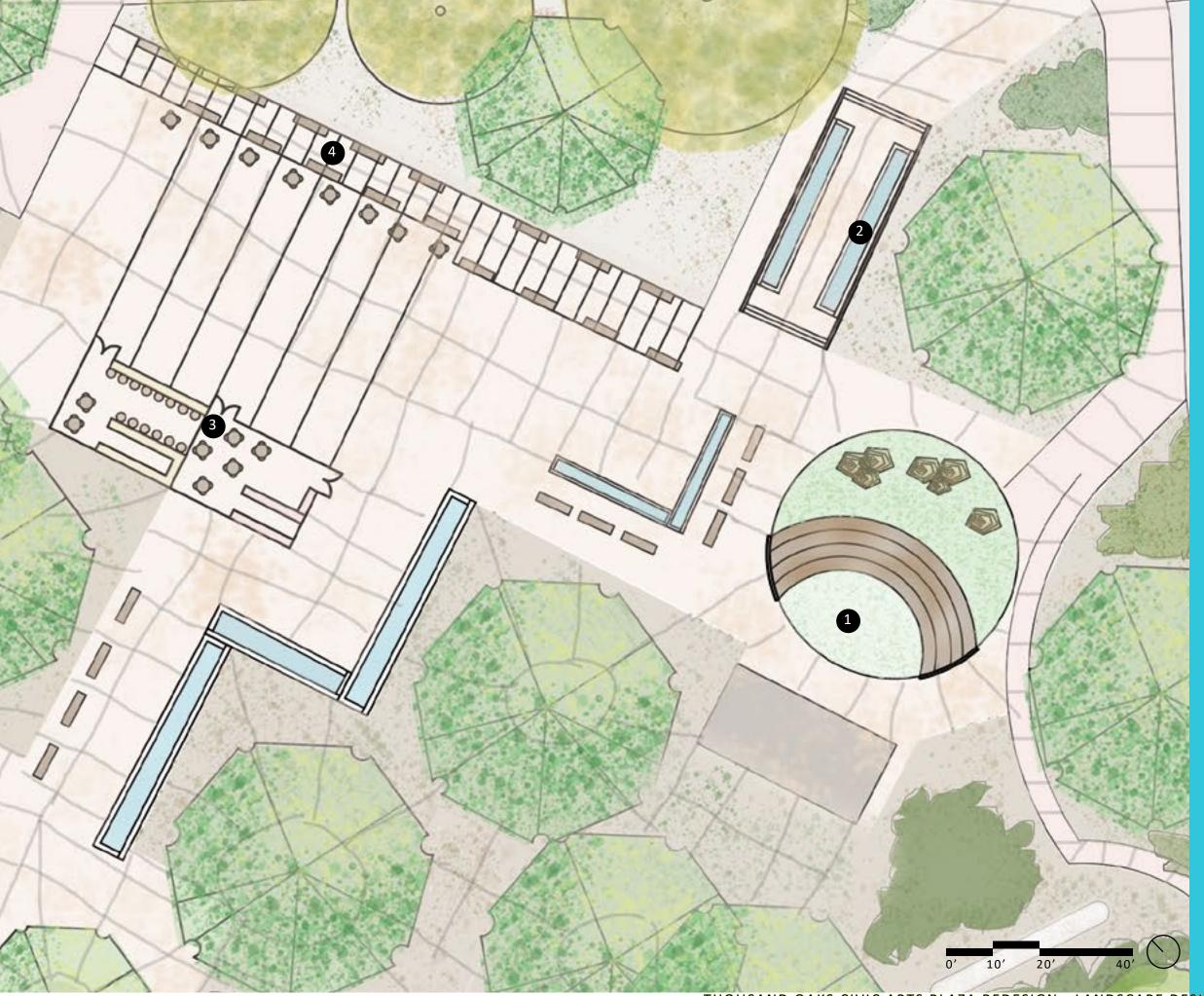
This amphitheater and performance stage attracts visitors. Plays, musical performances, and the like can happen outside in this space. I also included a turfed area at the top of the amphitheater with some boulders that people can sit on. Diversifying seating allows for more people to have access to

These rectangular fountains were designed with the intent to welcome people, as well as guide them towards the main access stairway. They help to drown out the sounds of nearby traffic, and to create a sense of coolness on a warm summer day.

There is a bar and coffee shop available to attract visitors to this portion of the design. Community members expressed the desire to have these types of gathering spaces. They will encourage people to pause as they move through the space, and to connect with one another.

This covered pergola offers shade and places to sit. It being directly across from the bar and coffee shop allows for people to sit and enjoy connecting with one another. There are tables just outside of it that can be used by bar and shop goers.





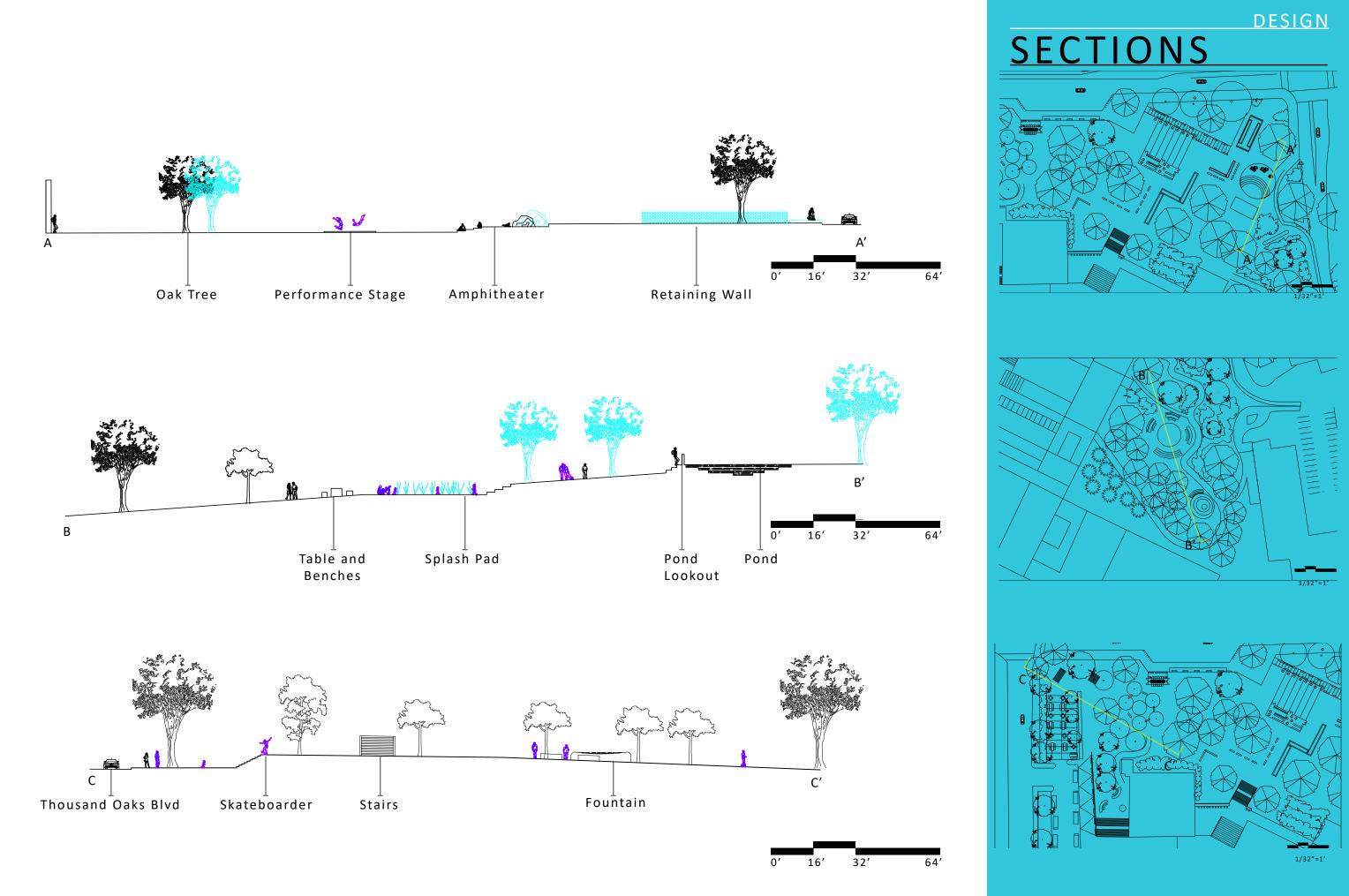
# ENLARGEMENT SOUTHEAST

#### **DESIGN INTENT:**

This enlargement helps the viewer to see some of the ways in which the design attempts to cultivate a native landscape and generate a community hub.

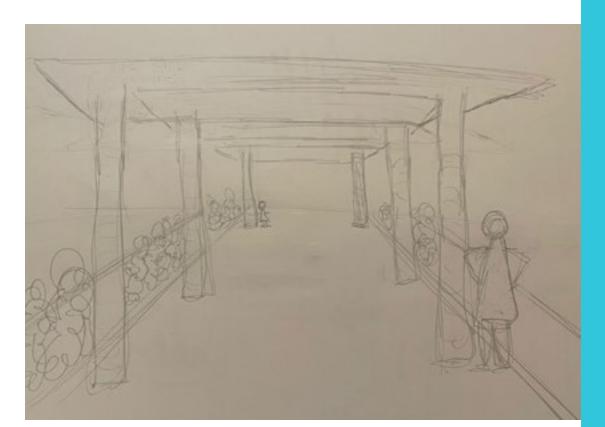
- This splash pad and surrounding seating is the perfect spot for families to meet and enjoy a playful water feature. Especially in the summer, I can see this being used to cool down kids and give people a chance to enjoy picnics and play.
- This pond will attract wildlife and give people an opportunity to connect with native species of plants and animals. I imagine there being native plants in and around the pond. There is also a little viewing deck north of the pond, that creates a safe place from which people can observe what's happening in and around it.
- The squares next to the shrubs indicate interpretive signage that would help people learn as they moved through the space. The landscape would include many chaparral species for people to observe and enjoy. An opportunity to for education while people walk towards the pond feels important as a means of celebrating cultural knowledge.



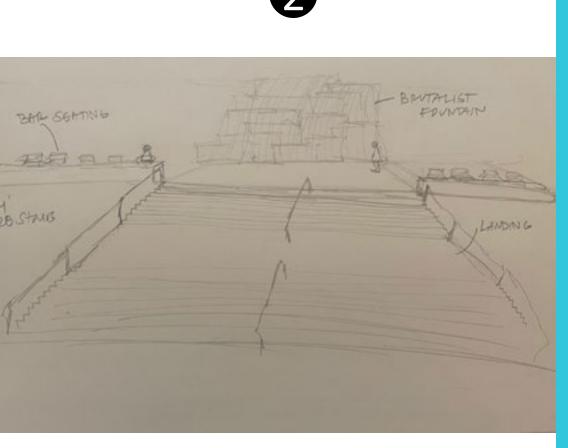


## PERSPECTIVES INITIAL IDEAS

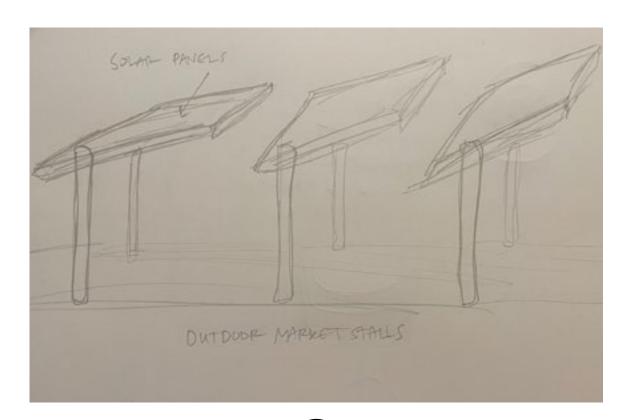
- Outdoor market stalls that offer coverage and a place for gathering
- Looking down the market stalls facing northwest
- Solar panels on top of the covered market stalls. Coverage isn't continuous, there are breaks between parallel columns
- Stairs leading to water feature and theaters













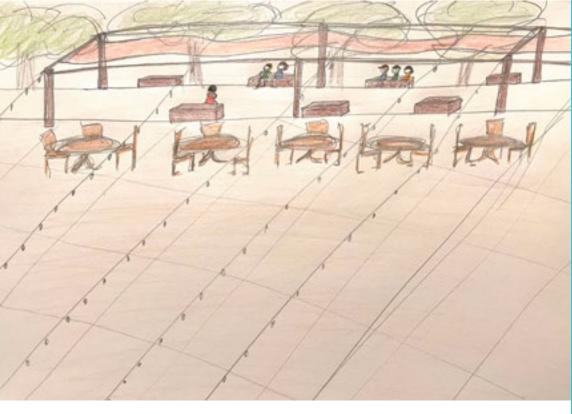




1



2



3

4

## PERSPECTIVES FINAL VISION

- The image depicts people sitting on benches waiting for their food to be ready. A safe space where people could sit and enjoy quickly ordered meals felt important to include in the design. The shade sails enhance the sense of safety, as people can wait while protected from the sun and summer heat.
- The image shows three people looking out over a pond. There is a screen through which the people are looking that acts as a barrier to keep people from going into the pond. It also acts as a looking glass of sorts, that assists in careful observation of wildlife that visits the pond. Safety was key to keep in mind for each design feature of the project.
- This is an image of a couple of families who are entering the northeast corner of the property limit. They are traveling down small staircase or ramp that leads them towards a larger entry stairway at the heart of the space. Long fountains on either side of them guide their movement. The sound of the water helps to remove traffic sounds behind them. Its presence at a main access point helps to cool the space on a warm summer day.
- The image is a long view towards a cloth-covered pergola that stretches along the northeastern side of the property. It serves as a space for people to sit and to have sun protection. It is also opposite a bar and a cafe. People can come here and enjoy food and drink outside.

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**CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE** 

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