

**Civic Center
Playground Replacement
Community Meeting
07.15.2014**

**AC
LA**
ANDREA COCHRAN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
2325 Third Street #210
San Francisco CA 94107
415.503.0060

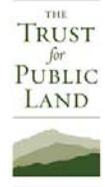
Civic Center Plaza Playgrounds

imagining a new place to play

July 15, 2014
SF Main Library

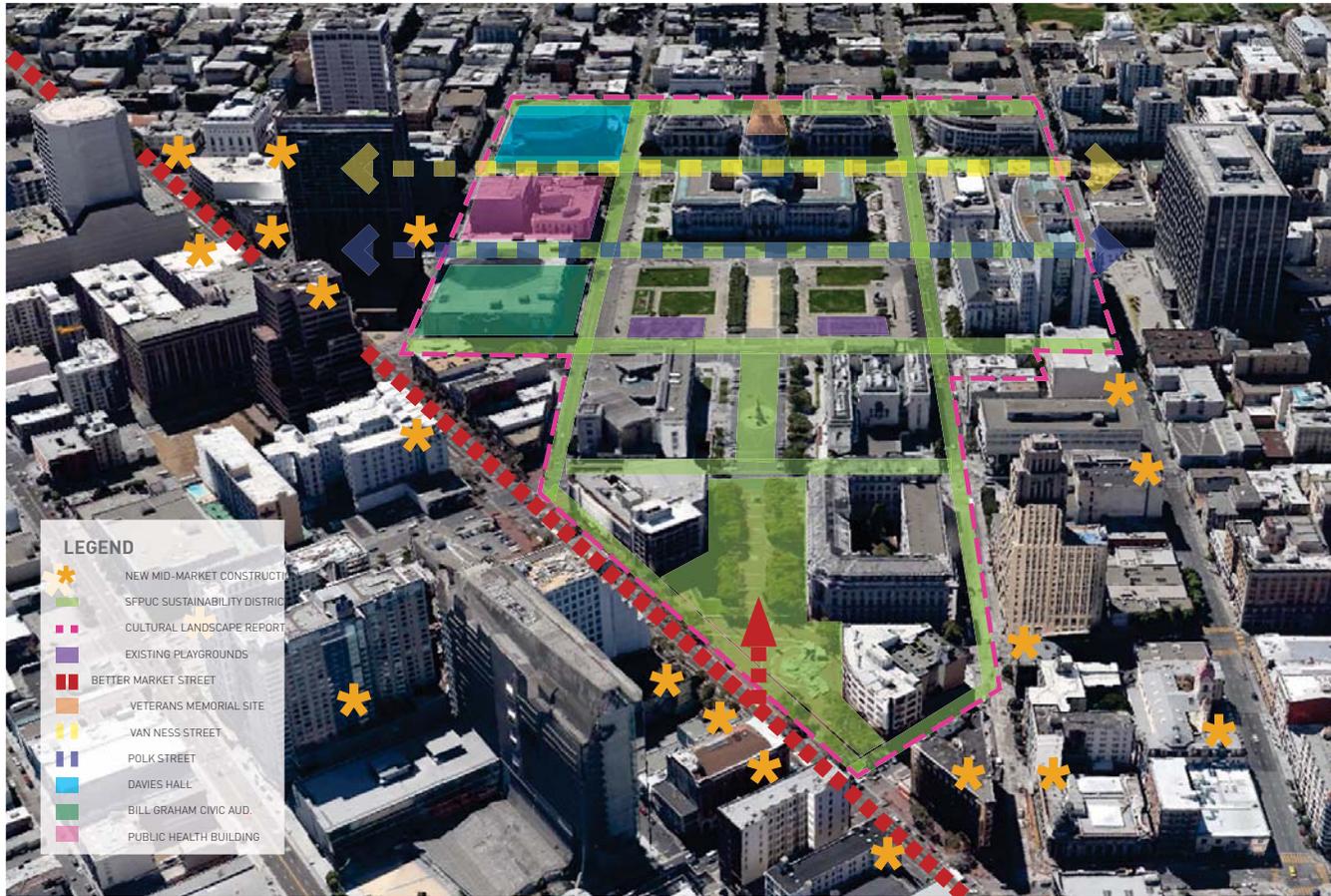
CIVIC CENTER DISTRICT

CURRENT AND FUTURE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

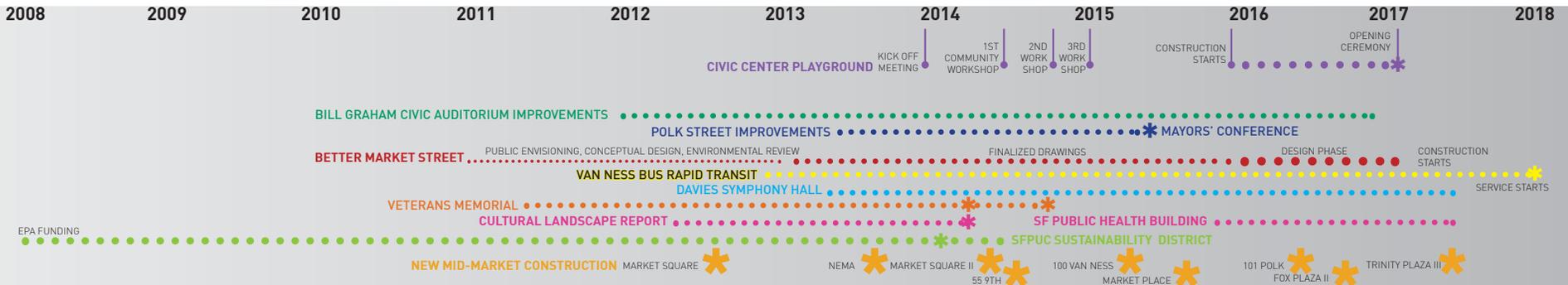


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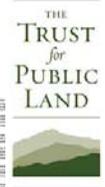


CIVIC CENTER TIMELINE



CIVIC CENTER PLAZA HISTORY

REALIZED AND PROPOSED DESIGNS, 1912-2012



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1945

9 pre-fabricated army barracks are located in the plaza between 1943 and 1946 to provide lodging for WWII soldiers.



"First Prize" awarded in 1965 Civic Center Re-design Design Competition, but not implemented.

Lawrence Halprin's 1966 plan was based on the 1912 plan and approved by the Arts Commission, but never implemented.

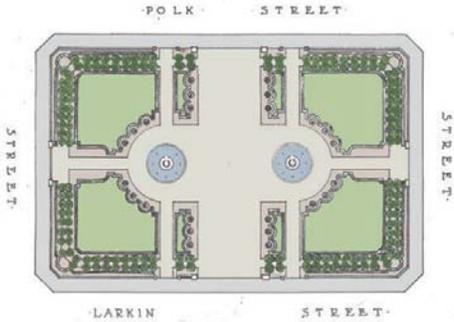
1965



"San Francisco Civic Center Plaza", January 1998, Bureau of Architecture DPW, Rec&Park

"San Francisco Civic Center Historic District Improvement Project", October 1998, Simon Martin Vegue Winkelstein Moris and Olin Partnership, October 1999

1998



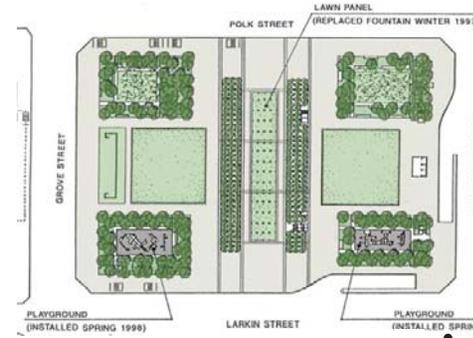
Design by A. Lacy Waswick
Installed for the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915
Circular fountains flank each side of the ceremonial axis along Fulton Street and define a minor cross-axis

1912



Design by Douglas Baylis, after the 1958 plan was deemed "too cluttered and without enough lawn" Mayor Christopher approves design, as construction for parking garage is ahead of schedule
Olive groves at the 4 corners, lawn squares and a rectangular fountain along the axis
Funds appropriated for fountains, sculpture, embellishments were not used.

1961



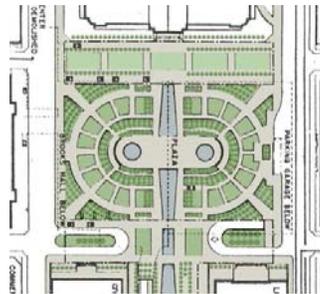
Civic Center Plaza Existing Conditions Plan, DPW, Nov. 1997
Central fountain removed
Playgrounds installed (1993 and 1998)
138 olive trees removed from plaza in 1998

1997

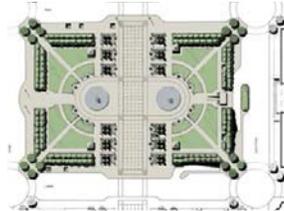


View of Civic Center Plaza

1930



1958



1987

The San Francisco Civic Center: a Study in Urban Form, Oct. 1987 and "Civic Center Proposal" Dianne Feinstein

Possible restoration plan based on original Waswick Design Concept.

- The original design concept created a central focal area suitable for major civic events
- Seating was concentrated around the periphery and along major pathways which unified the space and provided users with greater security
- Tree plantings reinforced the design and maintained a degree of transparency for the viewer
- Surrounding buildings were joined with the Plaza through a complex of formal axes and sightlines

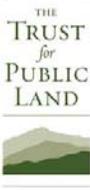
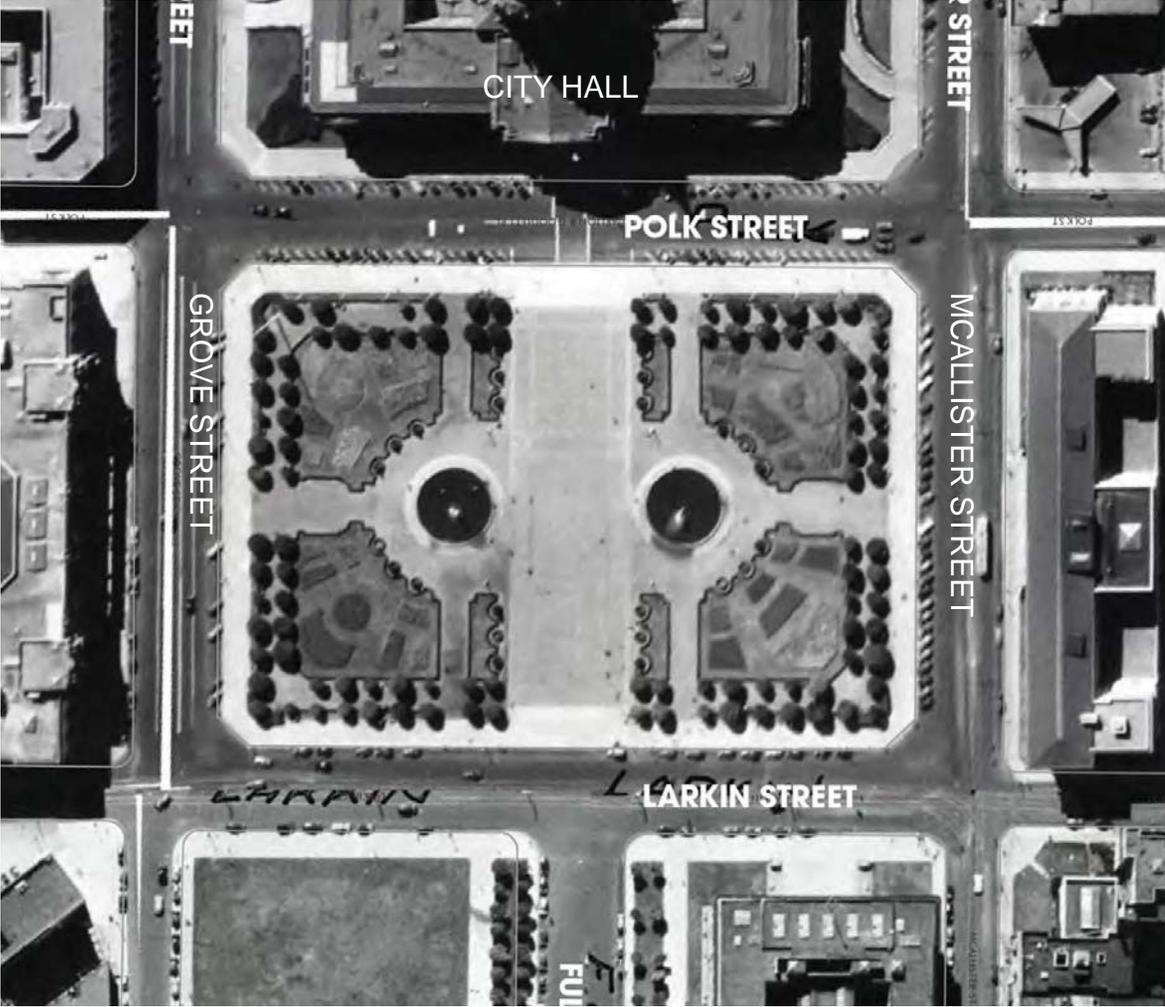


2009

"Solutions for San Francisco's Civic Center", KMD Architecture

"Civic Center Development Plan" by SOM and WBE (Wurster Bernardi and Emmons) with Douglas Baylis
Proposed closing Polk and Larkin Streets to cars and Fulton Street between Larkin and Market
Garage ramps would be on Larkin Street

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA: 1930

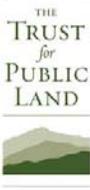
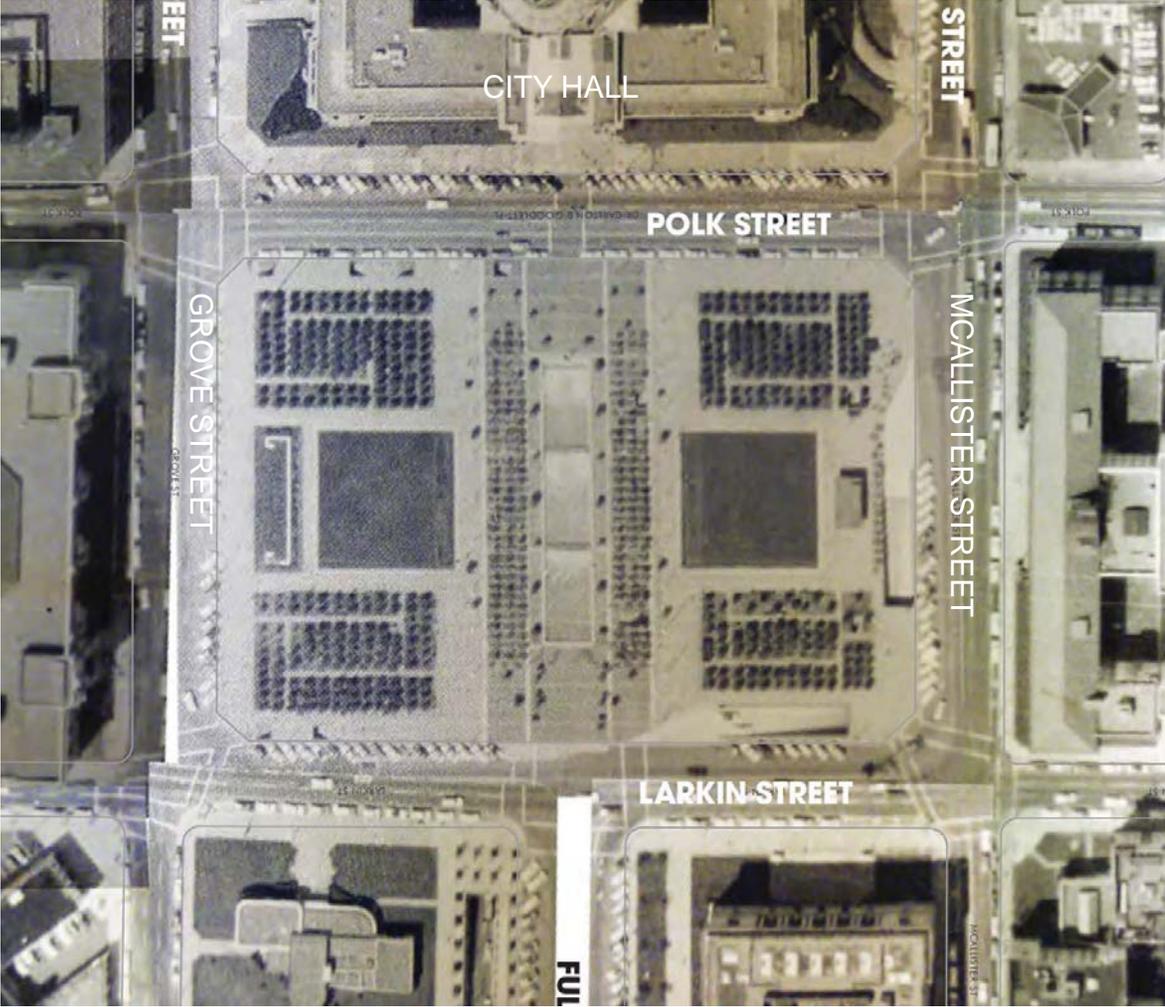


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CIVIC CENTER PLAZA: 1965

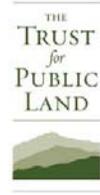


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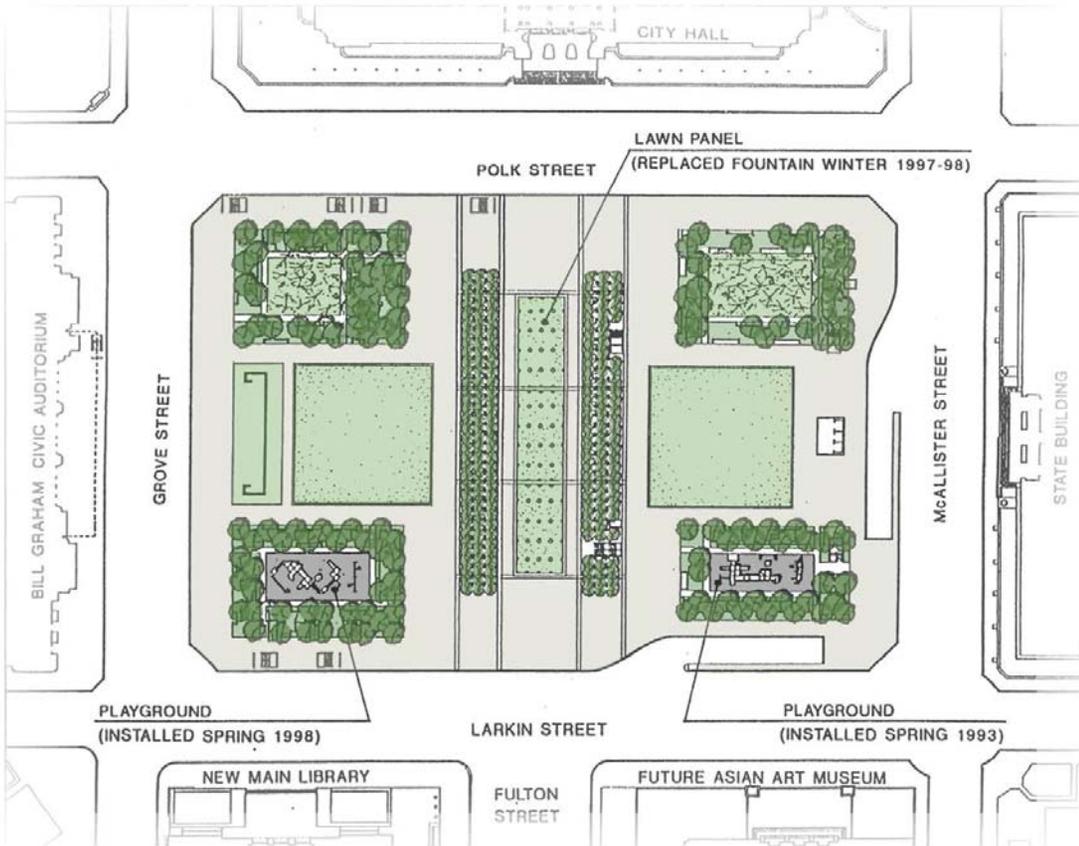


CIVIC CENTER PLAZA: existing conditions 1998



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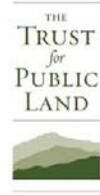


Civic Center Tiny Tot Playground, opened 1994



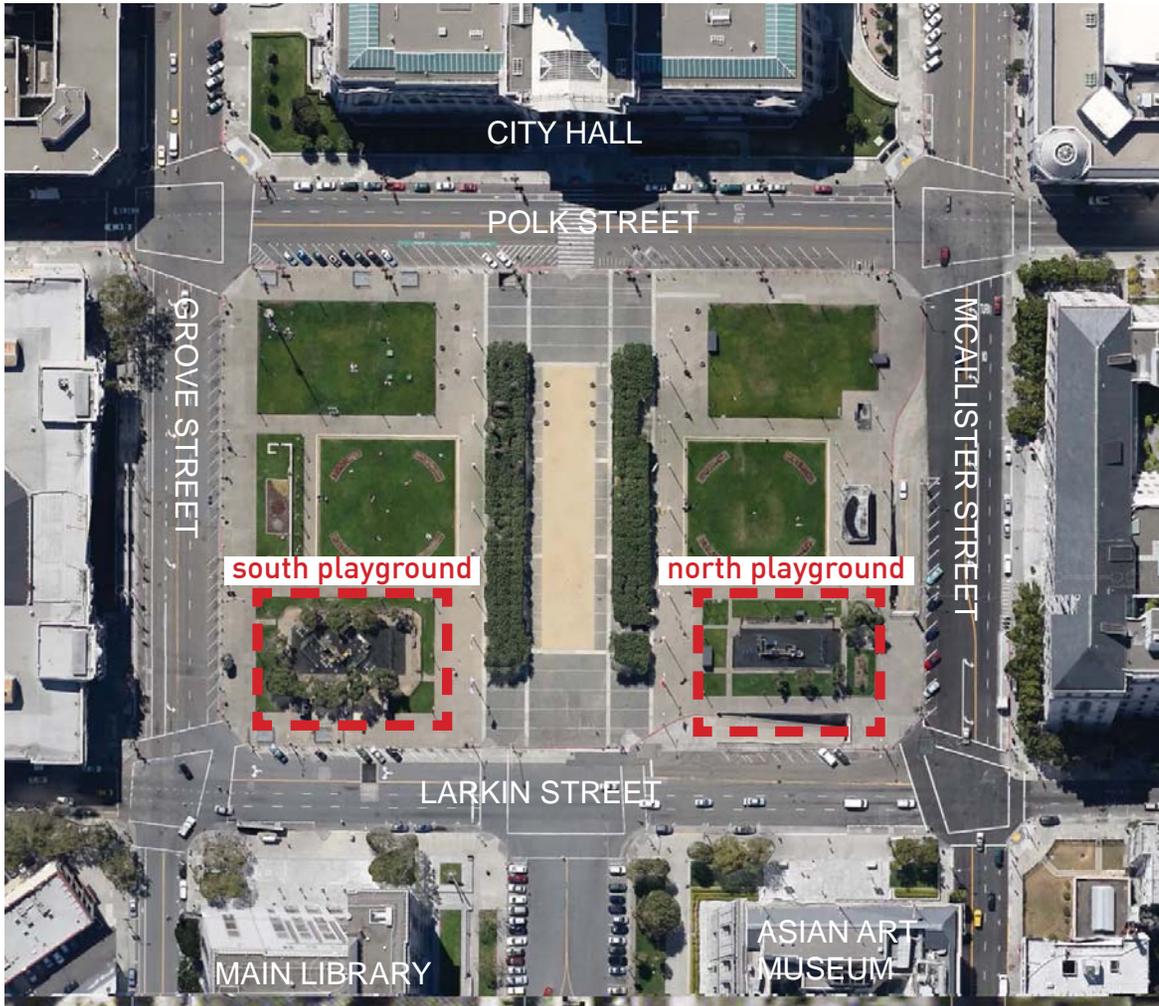
Civic Center School Age Playground, opened 1998

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS: existing conditions 2014



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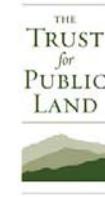


North Playground, 2014



South Playground, 2014

Data Collection, November 2013: Park Observation

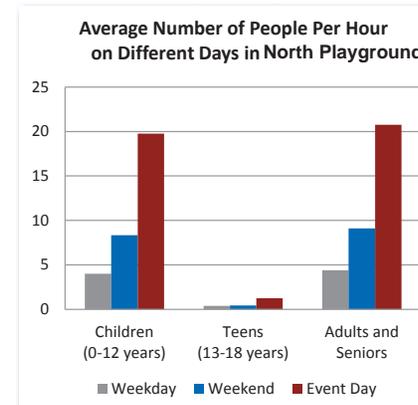
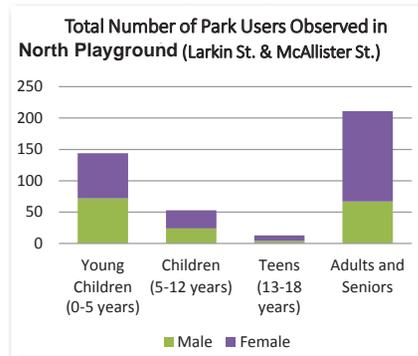


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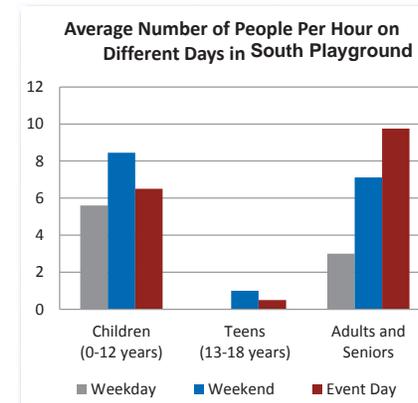
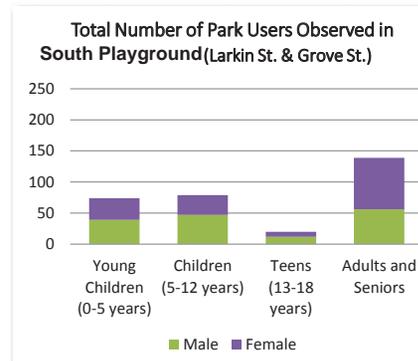
North Playground



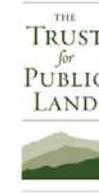
- More younger children at North Playground
- Fewer teens
- Many caregivers
- More users on the weekends
- Surge of playground users on event days



South Playground



Data Collection, November 2013: User Survey: Frequency of use



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Playground Survey November 2013

The Trust for Public Land
Parks for People – Bay Area

The Trust for Public Land is conducting a survey about parks and playgrounds to gather information about park use, playground preferences, and travel to parks. Your time and input is appreciated.

Date of survey: _____

Age of respondent: _____

Gender: Male Female

Language: _____

1. How do you describe yourself in terms of race or ethnicity?

2. What city & neighborhood do you live in?

3. Are you visiting this playground with a specific group or organization?
 No
 Yes; which one: _____

4. How often do you visit this playground?

- Daily
- A few times a week
- Once per week
- A couple times per month
- Monthly
- A few times a year
- Never

5. How do you typically travel to this playground?

- Walk
- Bike
- Public Transportation
- Drive

6. Are there specific things you like about this playground?

7. Are there specific things you do not like about this playground?

8. Do you have any comments about safety and/or maintenance?

9. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions about this playground?

10. Would you be interested in participating in the design of local parks and playgrounds?

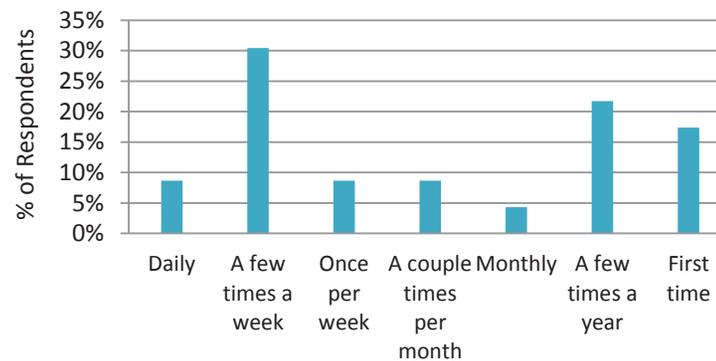
- No
- Maybe; please provide (below).
- Yes; please provide:

Name: _____

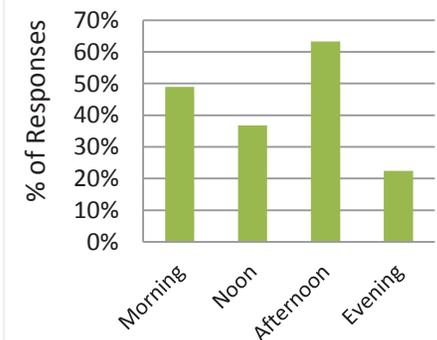
Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

How often park users visit the Civic Center Playgrounds



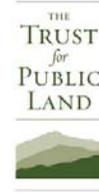
When park users usually visit



- Most respondents were caregivers
- Some large school groups at lunchtime on a field trip
- Most (50%) visit playgrounds 1x per week
- 30% visit several times per week
- 10% visit daily
- 20% were first time visitors

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS: today

What we heard



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Vent structures impact the playground



Aging equipment and fencing



Worn and tired surfaces



No clear entry

What is working

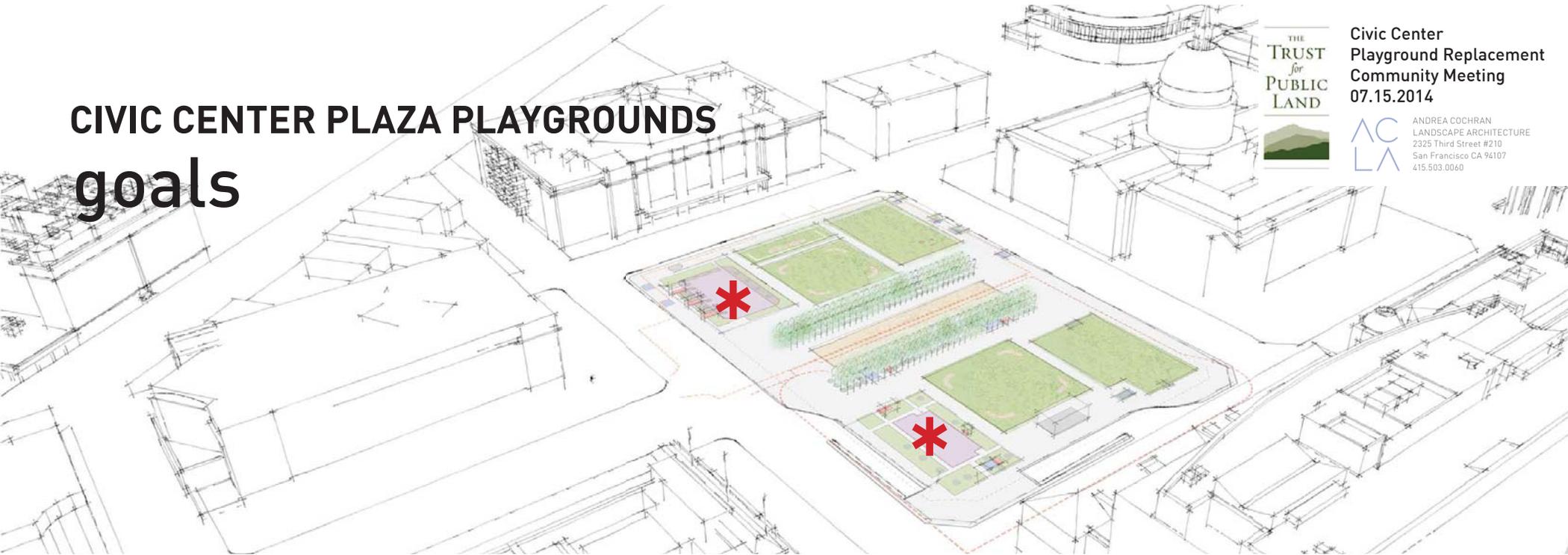
- Great location
- Near many youth + family destinations
- The fences creates an enclosed space

What is not working

- Current equipment is not challenging enough for older youth and teens
- Flooring is old + wood is splintering
- No group sitting areas
- Lack of trashcans
- Tall vent structures impact the playgrounds
- Views into the playground are blocked at the corners
- Unclear pedestrian access to playgrounds feels unwelcoming
- Low evening lighting makes the space feel unsafe

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS

goals



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- Create an inviting, inspiring, fun and safe place for families
- Create unique and artful play spaces that fit with the scale of Civic Center
- Increase programming opportunities with cultural institutions
- Engage and activate children's sense of play

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS

imagine a new place to play



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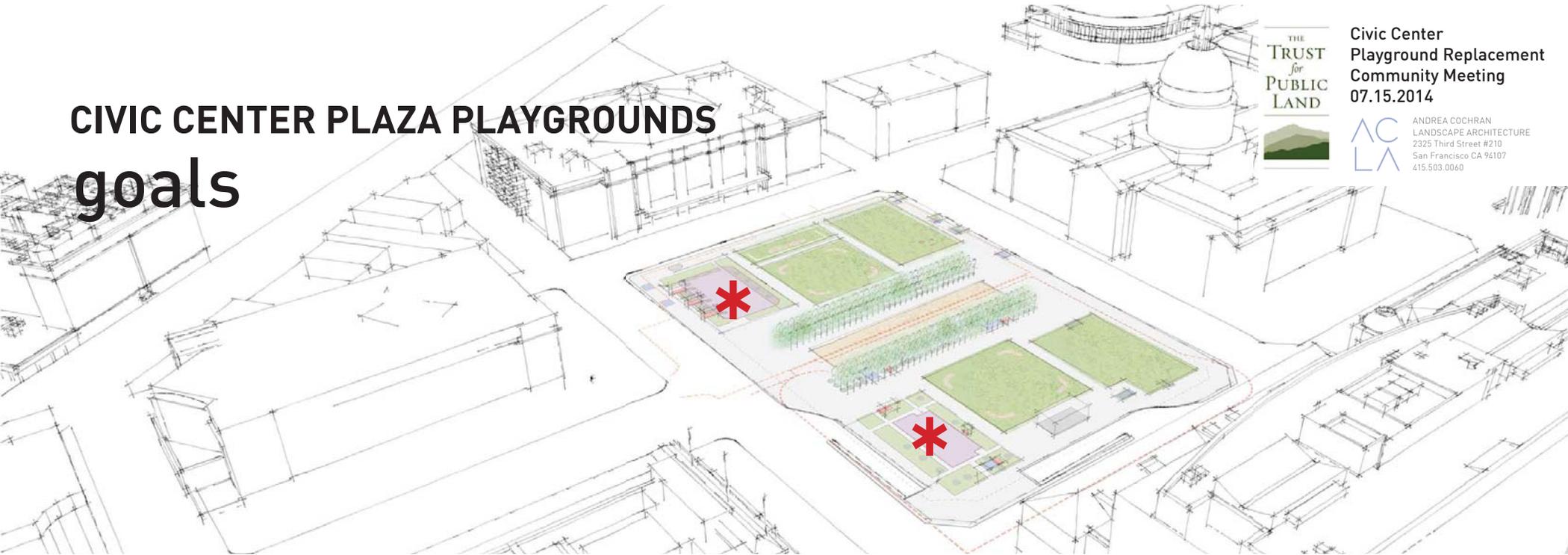
DISCUSSION / WORK SESSION

What do you like and dislike about the current playgrounds?

Please describe a favorite play experience you had as a child.

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS

goals



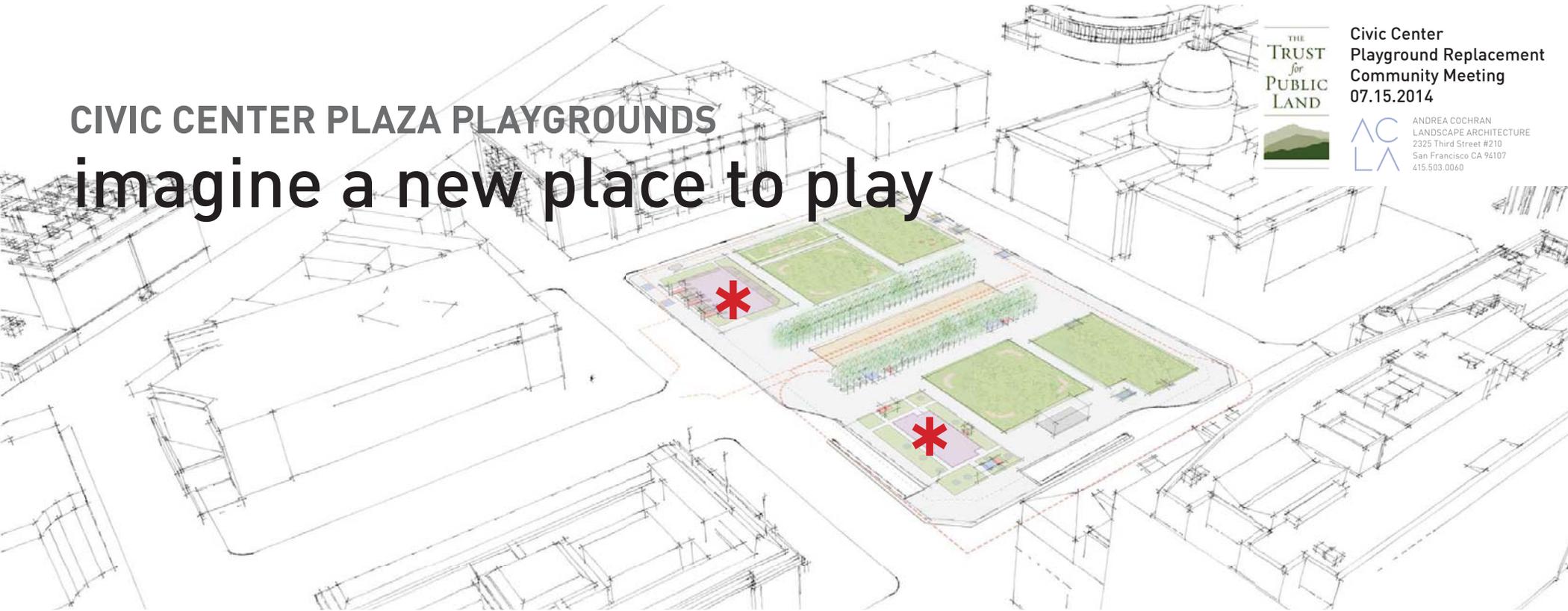
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imagine a new place to play



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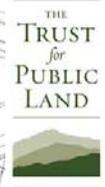
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- We have been talking about memorable play moments from our own childhoods and how we can help encourage similar types of experiences in children's lives today.
- What are the essential components of these common experiences and how can they inspire design?
- How can we translate these elemental experiences into a new landscape for play?



CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUNDS

imagine a new place to play



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surprise + delight

retreat + escape

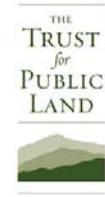
explore + roam

experiment + investigate

challenge + thrill

How does this feel? How might this look?

surprise + delight

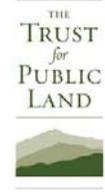


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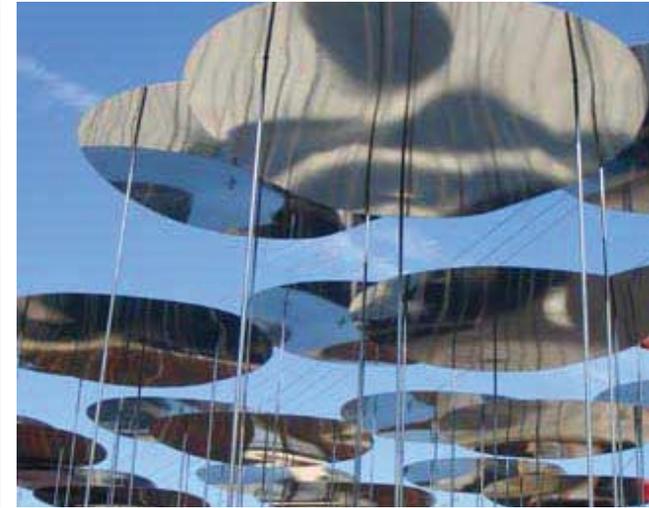


surprise + delight

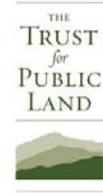


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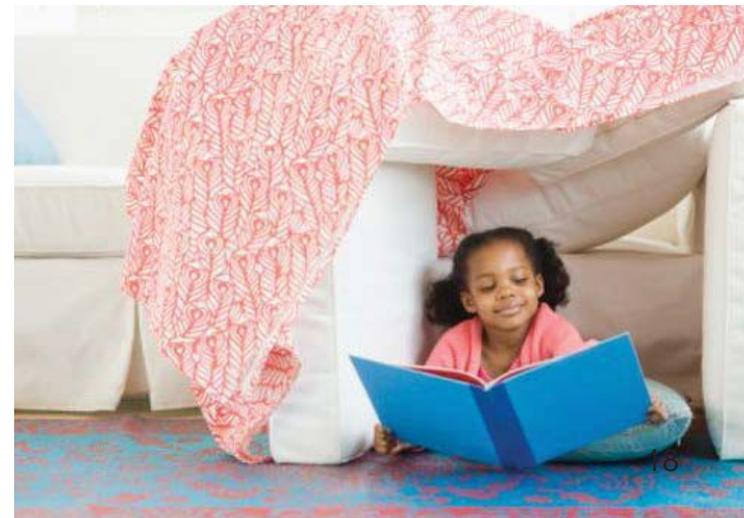
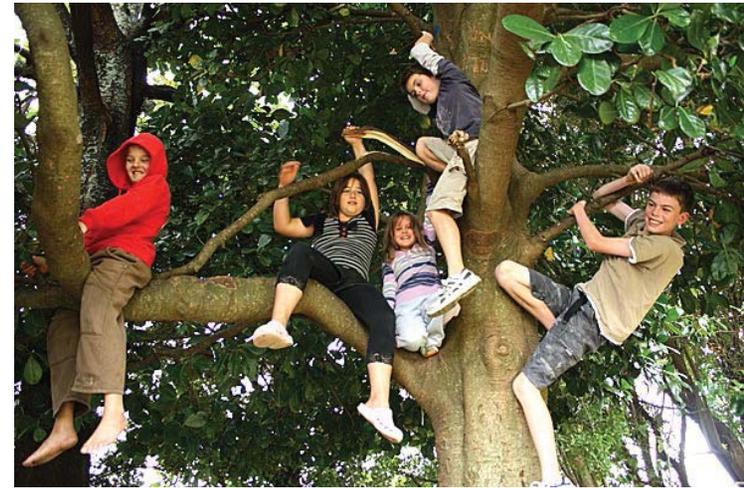


retreat + escape

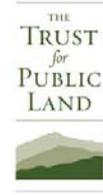


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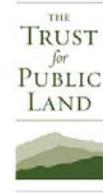


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explore + roam

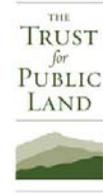


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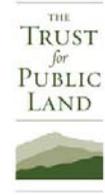


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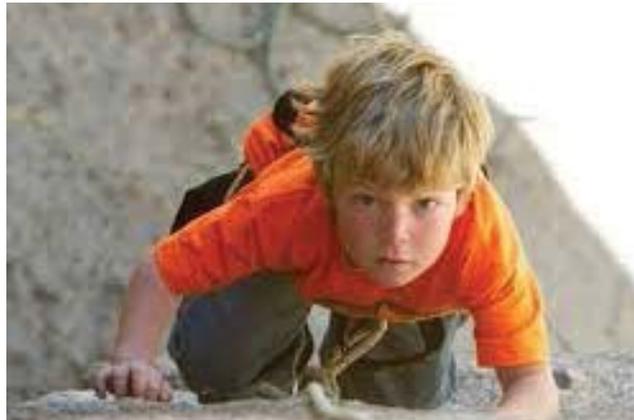


experiment + investigate

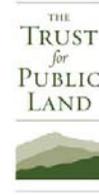


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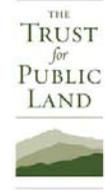


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challenge + thrill

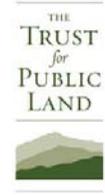


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