Playhouse District Strategic Economic Development and Vision Implementation Plan



Adopted by PDA Board - December 19, 2018

Process History: Vision Framework

Undertaken in 2017; Vision Plan Adopted in January 2018

Playhouse District Vision and Strategic Development Plan

- Emphasized Playhouse District's role as center for unique retail, dining, arts and culture.
- Goals included: Foster a Visible and Vibrant Arts Scene and Expand Creative and Entrepreneurial Opportunities
- Goals included: Strengthen the Playhouse District Identity and Ensure and Active and Vibrant Public Realm, including the creation of a Network of Open Spaces, Alleyways and Pedestrian Connections
- Described Strategy Framework for Implementation: Land Use Mix, Catalytic Ideas, Projects and Programs, Quick Wins, Technical Studies, Plans and Reports.





Consultant Team

Economics and Retail

- Economic & Planning Systems (economic overview and catalytic sites)
- York Consulting Group (retail and market positioning)

Parking and Access

Nelson\Nygaard

Public Realm Planning, Catalytic Site Design, Workshop Facilitation

• MIG



Major Themes

Great Potential:

The Playhouse District is well located, with some beautiful buildings and impressive cultural and art assets, strong residential growth, a walkable environment, some very good restaurants, cafes and retail, providing great potential to be a vibrant urban village,

but...

Must Create an Energized and Attractive Pedestrian Oriented Playhouse District

The Playhouse District needs to create a more visible identity, substantially improve its public space and streetscape, activate Colorado Boulevard, have more evening and weekend events, increase availability of public parking at a reasonable cost, define a stronger message for tenant recruitment (retail and office), strengthen marketing, and focus on arts, culture, entertainment and dining



Recognition of Subdistricts

Opportunity to differentiate needs and focus improvements

- 1. Colorado/ El Molino
- 2. Mentor/Colorado
- 3. North Lake Avenue
- 4. Fuller Seminary
- 5. Walnut Corridor

Focus of Initial Implementation:

Colorado/ El Molino Area: three "catalytic" sites



Priority Recommendations

Economic Development

- Focus on entertainment, dining and arts and unique retail to create a vibrant street level experience
- **2. Create updated brand** and district identity; review name; broader regional appeal
- **3. Activate spaces**, including streets, alleyways and paseos, with lights, art, landscaping and increased events
- 4. Emphasize evening and weekend activity to take advantage of parking
- **5. Streamline city permits** for outdoor dining, alcohol, music, parking credits
- **6. Pursue tenant recruitment** for retail and office with refined attraction/brand story











Parking Management

1. Maximize Use of District Office Building Garages

- District valet program for restaurants to lower parking requirements
- Employee parking program for large employers in heart of district
- Shared parking for public use: branded, marketed, priced as "public"
- All will require initial subsidy from PDA and/or City

2. Define Structure of Parking Management Entity

- Possibility to enlarge PDA role
- 3. Reduce Code Required Parking for Restaurants
- 4. Add Angled Parking: Colorado & Green
 - Possible gain of 69-104 spaces

5. Create Uber/Lyft Zones

6. Pursue Metered Parking

- After adoption of angled parking, employee parking program
- Low early rates; longer time limits
- Retain meter funds in District for programs, streetscape improvements, etc.

7. Enhance Gold Line Connection

- · Lake Ave. improvement planning
- Station area access enhancements
- 8. Explore Additional Public Parking Supply Opportunities



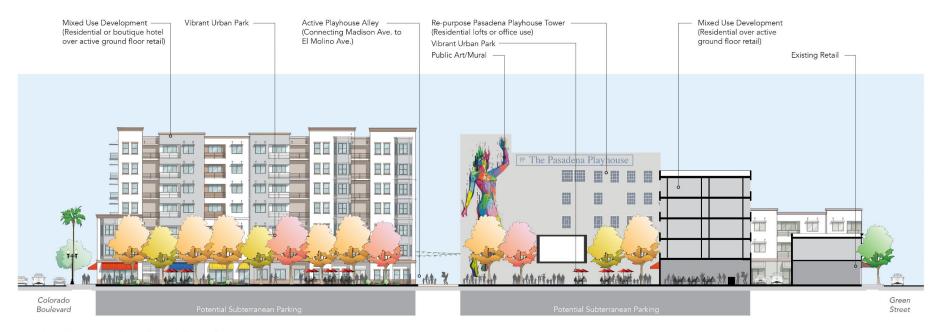


Preferred Concept: Madison/Playhouse Catalytic Site

- 1. Seek development of larger site to catalyze change, open up Playhouse
- 2. Explore opportunities for net land value from City parking lot
- 3. Create public plaza on current City parking lot
- 4. Encourage consolidation/ integration of Colorado Blvd properties for larger mixed-use
- 5. Utilize excess City land value for:
 - Public parking
 - Additional plaza
 - Playhouse Tower adaptive re-use
 - Other opportunities



Preferred Concept: Madison/Playhouse Catalytic Site



Section View - Colorado Boulevard to Green Street



Streets and Open Space

- 1. Create a network of urban parks, plazas and paseos; emphasize pedestrian experience
- **2.** Designate special entertainment areas: Mentor, El Molino
- 3. Explore converting one-way streets to two-way: initially Mentor and Hudson
- **4. Enliven and beautify sidewalk experiences:** seating, public art, lighting, dining, shade
- 5. Explore new wayfinding signage and illustrations
- **6. Activate Colorado Boulevard** as the heart of the Playhouse District





Preferred Concepts: Union/El Molino/Banner Bank

- 1. Create public park on combined site
- 2. Retain some surface parking (minimum ~48 spaces in well landscaped, integrated/flexible design, suitable for events)
- 3. Locate parking to possibly accommodate future parking deck if other parking not created in District
- 4. Replace lost parking nearby prior to construction





Potential Components

















Preferred Concept: Colorado Boulevard

- 1. Transform street in heart of the district:
 - Additional pedestrian spaces/pocket plazas; streetscape
 - Angled parking
 - Pedestrian furnishings
 - Mid-block and/or enhanced intersection crossings
 - Public art and interactive experiences
- 2. Begin with "pilot" improvements
 - Refine and adjust based on regular evaluation
- 3. Explore later phase(s) including permanent curb extensions, flush street design; extending from Los Robles to Mentor



2019 Implementation Priorities

- Finalize design and costs for Colorado Blvd preferred concept with streetscape and parking enhancements and install one or more components
- Engage community to design park & parking configuration for Union/El Molino/Banner Bank site; plan for construction
- Begin operation of shared parking solution: secure spaces in private garages or lots; establish pilot District valet parking service; develop, fund and launch employee parking program; install Uber/Lyft drop off locations; develop plan for expanded shared parking for visitors and customers
- Expand PDA events and activities to enliven public realm and spaces; focus on El Molino and Mentor
- Engage city support and developer interest in pursuing Playhouse/Madison catalytic site
- Undergo branding effort with advisory committee and consultant
- Develop design concepts for North Lake and Mentor including conversion to twoway
- Engage in Specific Plan process to support Playhouse District Plan, including Madison catalytic site, North Lake, Fuller campus, Union/Walnut character
- Identify & seek political support and funding from Residential Impact Fees, Transportation Impact Fees, and Parking lot and meter fees to remain/be returned to district for implementation and program support

2020-21 Implementation Priorities

- Install any remaining components of Colorado enhancements; monitor impacts and feedback; expand activation of Colorado Boulevard to support installed enhancements
- Plan for construction and district-led maintenance of Union/El Molino park+parking site
- Develop alley and paseo streetscape improvements
- Evaluate shared parking solution and consider expansion
- Initiate process and install parking meters with advisory body, costs and programs
- Implement branding and wayfinding recommendations throughout organization/district
- Retain retail/tenant recruitment services
- Incorporate recommendations for Lake and Mentor into Specific Plan; explore costs and funding opportunities
- Activate and program Union/El Molino park site with PDA events and activities

Questions, Discussion & Adoption