

Portland Street Plazas

Portland Design Commission Briefing
November 30, 2023



PBOT
PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

Design Commission Briefing

Overview:

- Street Plaza Program Introduction
- Existing PBOT Plaza Elements
- Interim Plaza Precedents
- Design Principles
- Partnerships

Design Commission weighed in on PBOT's Outdoor Dining Program in April 2023. Today we want to brief you on the work to date on the development of **Portland Street Plaza Program**.

Outdoor Dining Program



Smith Tea Company, NW 23rd

Street Plaza Program



Dream Street, NE Sumner & MLK Jr Blvd

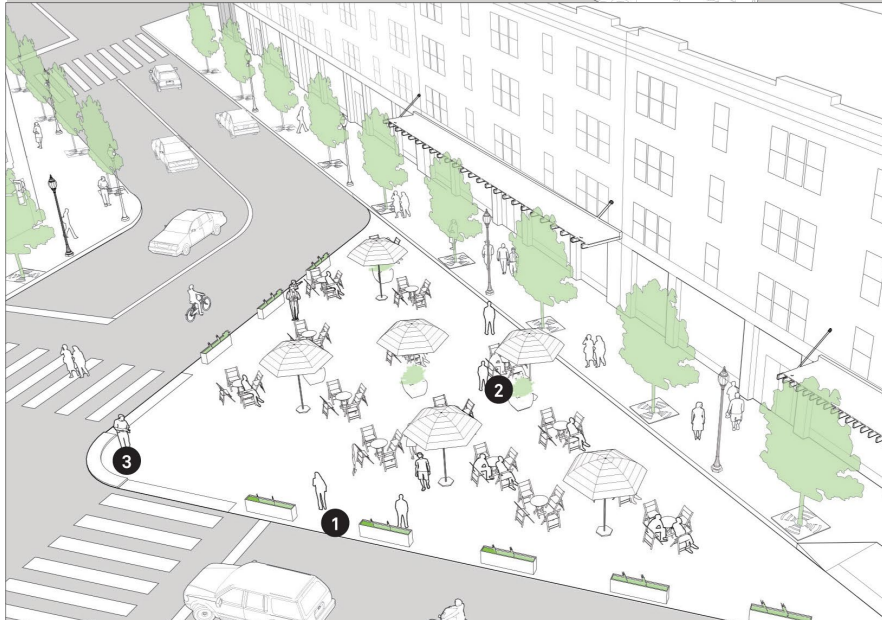
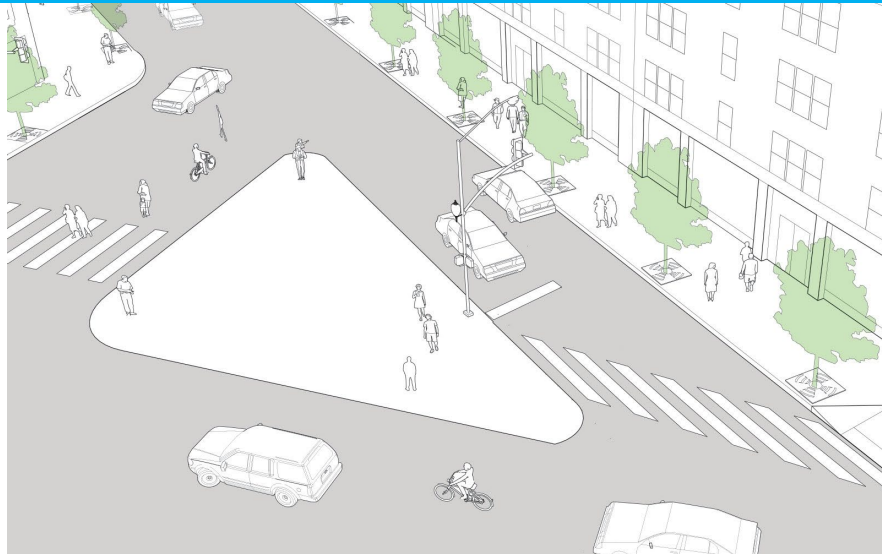


Streets are our city's **largest public space.**

Typically, they make up 40% of our land.

Public Space Is a Key Attribute of Complete Communities

Transportation
Asset



Graphic: NACTO Global Street Design Guide

Portland Needs
Many "Living Rooms"



Policies for PBOT Placemaking

A city designed for people: Portland's built environment is designed to serve the needs and aspirations of all Portlanders... **public investments reduce disparities and encourage social interaction to create a healthy connected city.** (Comp Plan Goal 3.A)

Connected public realm and open spaces: A network of parks, streets, City Greenways, and **other public spaces supports community interaction; connects neighborhoods, districts, and destinations....** (Comp Plan Goal 3.E)

Repurposing street space: Encourage repurposing street segments that are not critical for transportation connectivity to other community purposes. (Comp Plan Policy 9.15)

Development and public spaces: Guide development to help create **high-quality public places and street environments** while considering the role of adjacent development in framing, shaping, and **activating the public space of streets** and urban parks. (Comp Plan Policy 4.7)

Street environment: Encourage development in **centers and corridors to include amenities that create a pedestrian-oriented environment and provide places for people to sit, spend time, and gather.** (Comp Plan Policy 4.21)

All ages and abilities: Strive for a built environment that provides a safe, healthful, and attractive environment for people of all ages and abilities. (Comp Plan Policy 3.4)

Encourage more programs, events, and projects that create a car-free environment. (PedPDX Action 10.4)

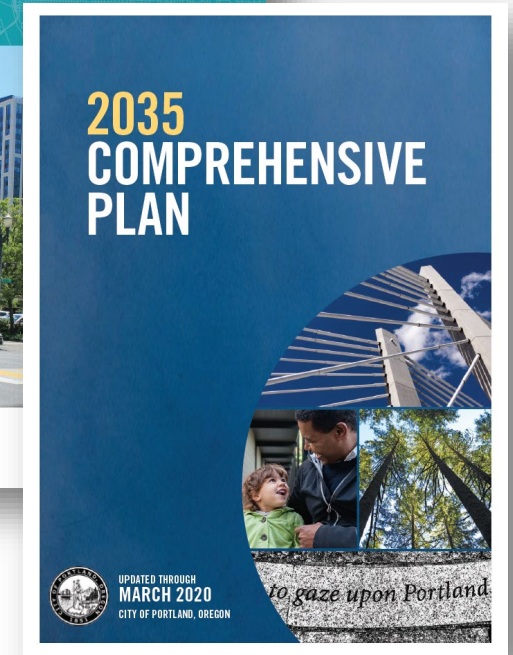


PBOT Livable Streets Strategy 2017

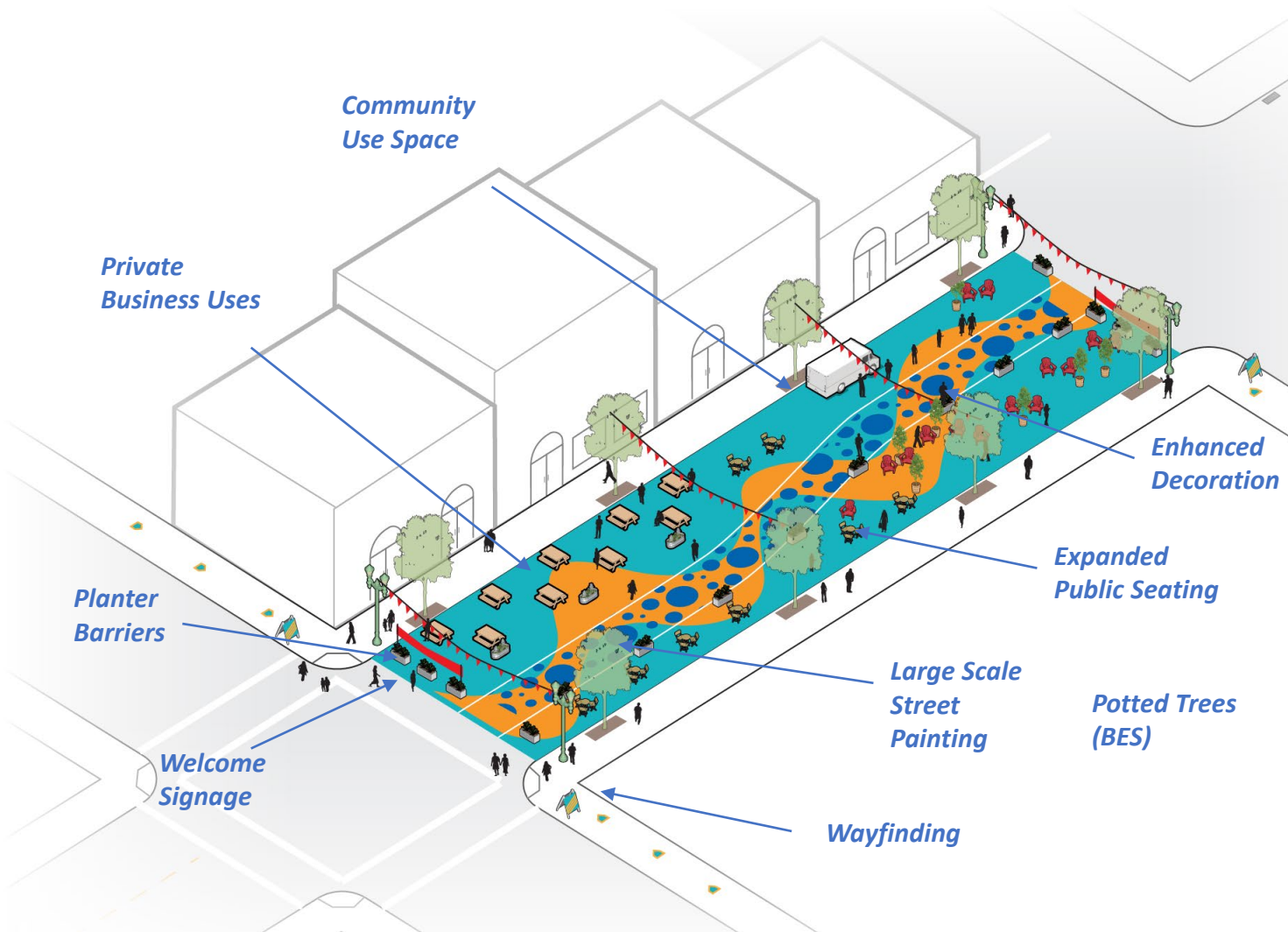


PBOT PedPDX 2019

Portland Comprehensive Plan



Public Street Plaza Program Development



Street plazas create the foundation for a public program focused on community gathering and use.

How can PBOT leverage the pedestrian activity that comes with business use to provide well managed and attractive public space?

More Durable, More Inclusive

Street Plaza Program Development

- Governance framework
- Street Plaza Design Standards + Cost Estimates

Street Plaza Capital Projects

- Funded by Economic Development Administration
- Pride Plaza (SW Harvey Milk), Darcelle IV Plaza area (SW 9th Ave), Pod Plaza (SW 10th Slip lane)



PORTLAND, OR STREET PLAZAS

17 Public
Street Plazas



Pop-up Street Plaza

- 0-2 year material duration
- Temporary and movable amenities
- Informal spaces largely defined by adjacent business partners
- Open programming



Example: Ankeny Rainbow Road Plaza (Portland, OR)
Photo by Mayer/Reed

Current Project

Interim Street Plaza Design Toolkit & Standards

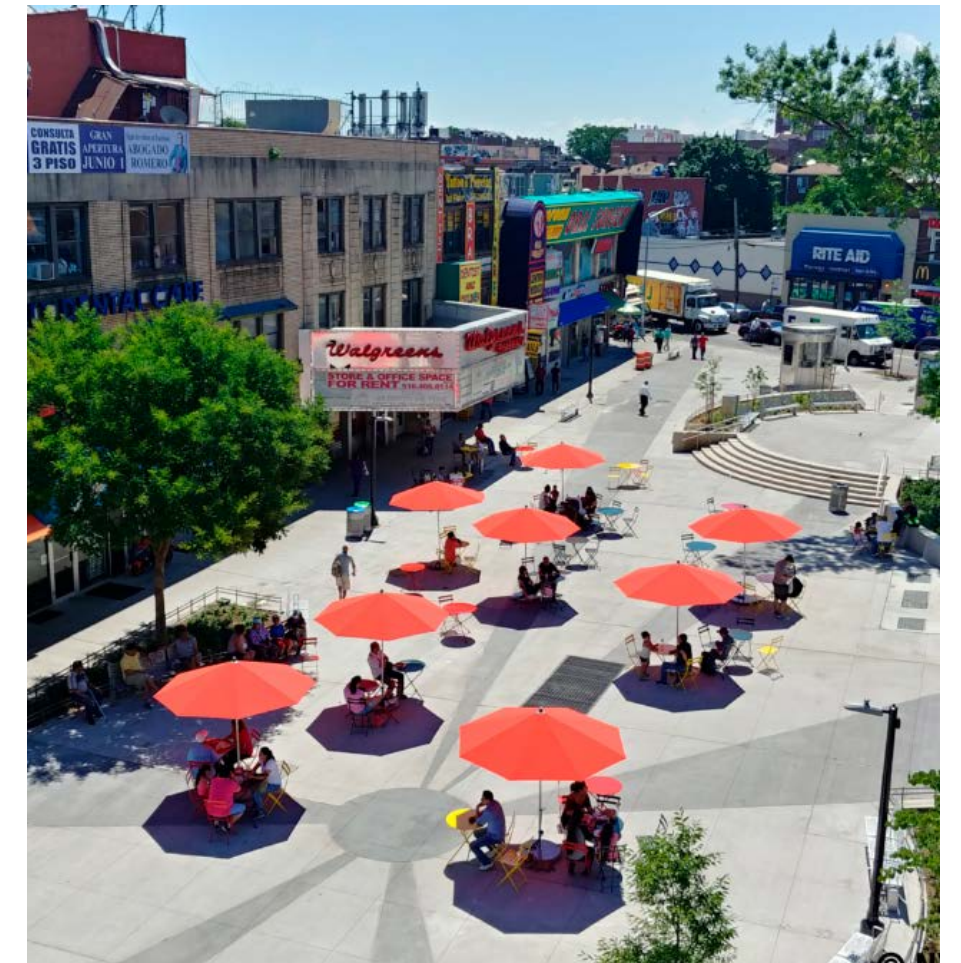
- 5-10 year material duration
- Semi-permanent amenities
- Formalized program with identifiable PBOT branding
- Includes an array of programming types



Example: Phillips Square 'Tactical Plaza' (Boston, MA)
Photo and design by KZLA

Permanent Street Plazas

Permanent roadway to pedestrian plaza conversions



Example: Permanent street plaza (New York City, NY)
Photo by NYC DOT

Existing Plaza Elements

Road Barriers



Pride Plaza
Standard Traffic Signage for Road Closures



Ankeny Alley
Combination of Planters & Bicycle Parking

Existing Plaza Elements

Planters



NW 13th Avenue Plaza
Self-watering PBOT Standard Planters - Publicly Maintained



Ankeny Alley
Self-watering PBOT Standard Planters - Publicly Maintained

Existing Plaza Elements

Signage



Arleta Triangle Square & The Cart Blocks
Sidewalk Sticker Signage



Pride Plaza
Movable Informational Signage

Existing Plaza Elements

Art / Decor



The Cart Blocks
Festival Decorations



Ankeny Alley
Street Painting

Existing Plaza Elements

Furniture



Pod Plaza
Movable Picnic Tables



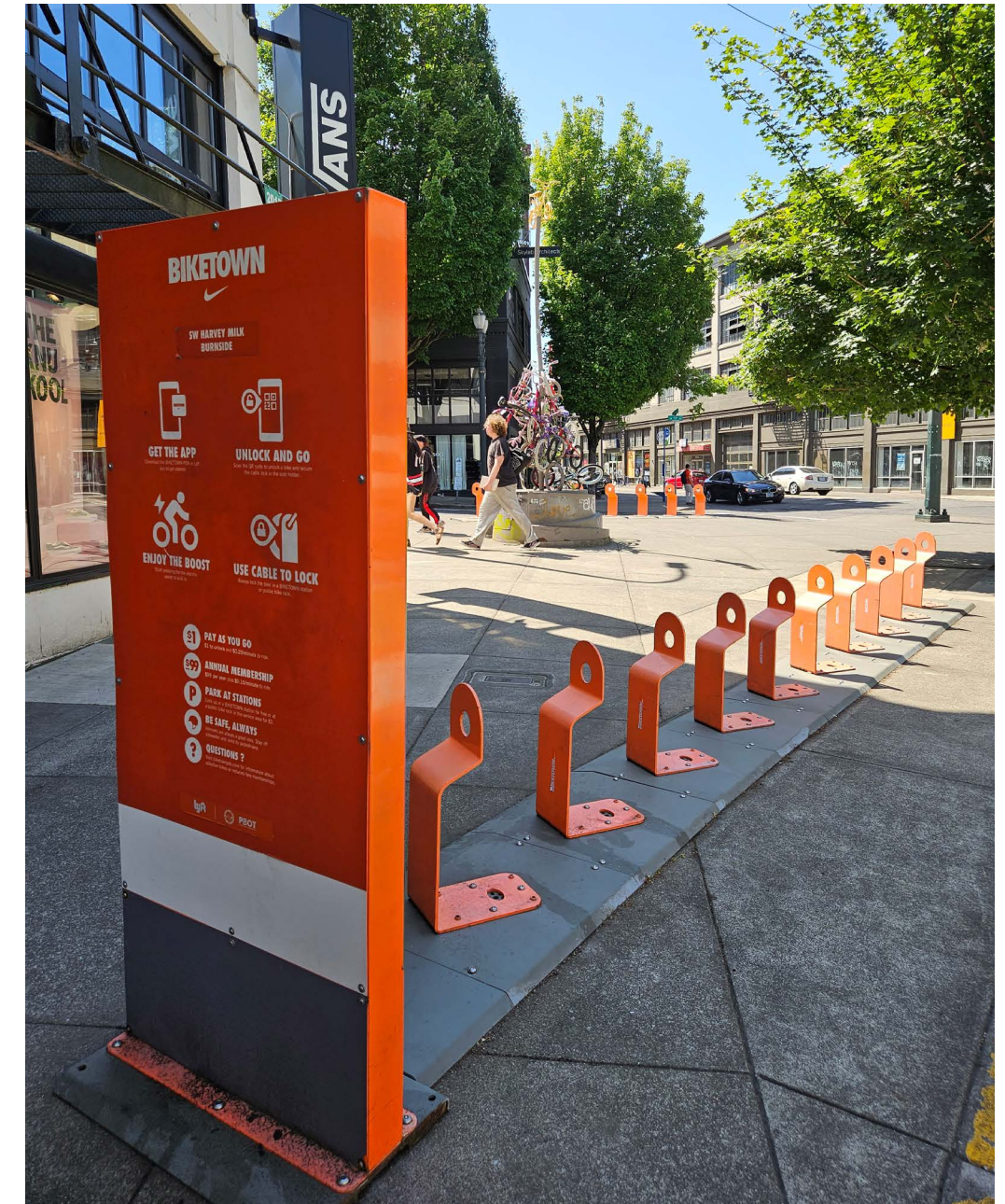
SE 28th Ave and Ankeny St
Expanded Metal Portable Outdoor Picnic Table

Existing Plaza Elements

Other Amenities



The Cart Blocks
Food Carts



Pride Plaza
Bike Racks

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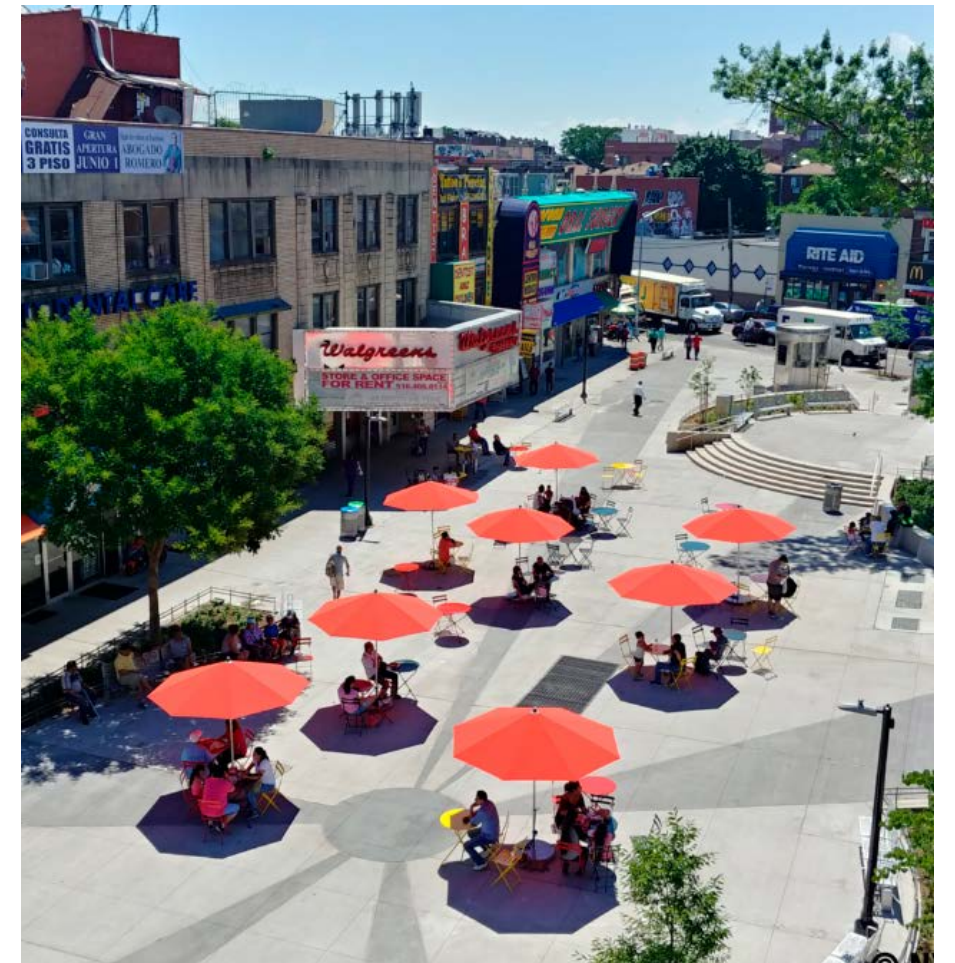
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Permanent Street Plazas

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Example: Permanent street plaza (New York City, NY)
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Interim Street Plaza Precedents

New York City



Interim Street Plaza Precedents

New York City



Interim Street Plaza Precedents

Boston



Interim Street Plaza Precedents

Barcelona




Interim Street Plaza Precedents


Los Angeles




Draft Plaza Program Goals


 **Equitable process:** Create processes related to siting, design, permitting, and use of plazas that actively reduce disparities and encourage social interaction to create a healthy connected city.

 **Equitable places:** Design and implement street plazas that are culturally relevant to the surrounding community and welcoming all, including accessibility for people with disabilities.

 **Clear and collaborative agreements:** define roles and responsibilities that clarify how public and private groups and funding sources are expected to contribute to the creation, activation, and ongoing management of the plaza.

 **Design for success:** Establish siting and design guidance that create conditions for success of the plaza for participants and the surrounding community.

 **Fiscal and environmental sustainability:** Create design standards and tools that minimize maintenance and lifecycle costs, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and that support the natural environment.

 **Elements of continuity and distinction:** Through use of color, shape, materials, and repetition, establish a common design approach that carries throughout all of the plazas while allowing for unique identity and flavor.

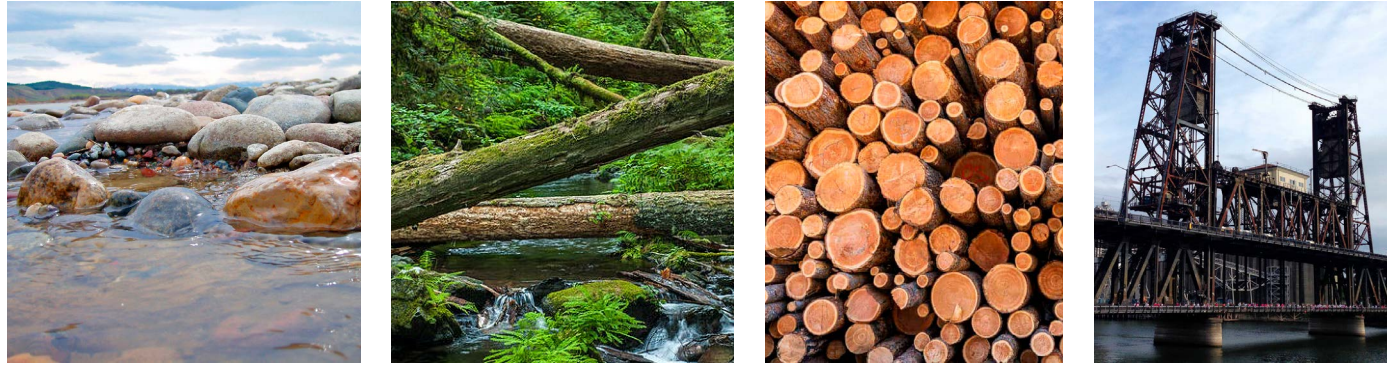
 **Effective and transparent governance:** Plan for ongoing evaluation of the Public Street Plaza program, including needed staff time.

 **Design Guidelines**

 **Implementation Strategy**

CONTEXTUAL PALETTE

RIVER CITY



PDX CASUAL



GREEN CITY



ADDITIONAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MAKE IT PORTLAND.

Reference our regional, urban, and street identity.
Be specific to Portland and work universally in Portland.

FUN, NOT OVERWHELMING.

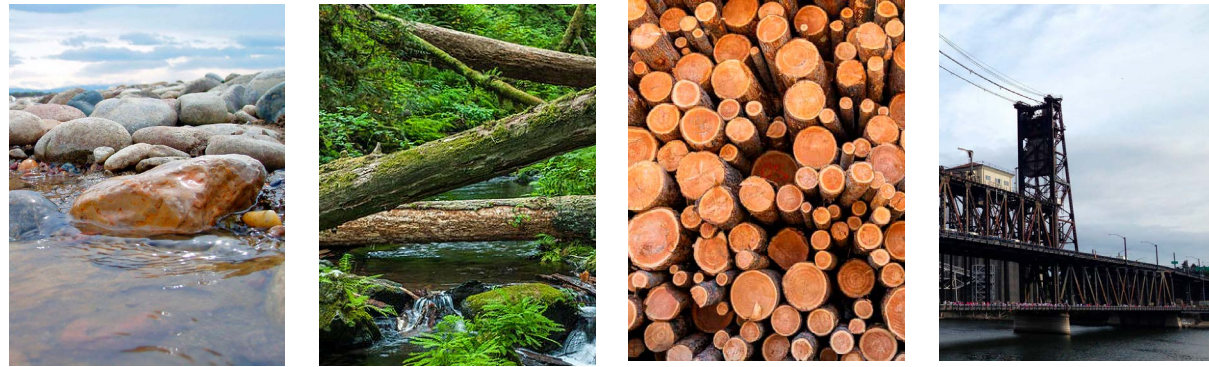
Streets are unique, festive spaces when occupied by pedestrians.
Balance the elements visually.

GREEN THE STREET AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

Build on our city's identity & pedestrian expectations.
Improve quality and quantity of green in plazas.

CONTEXTUAL PALETTE

RIVER CITY



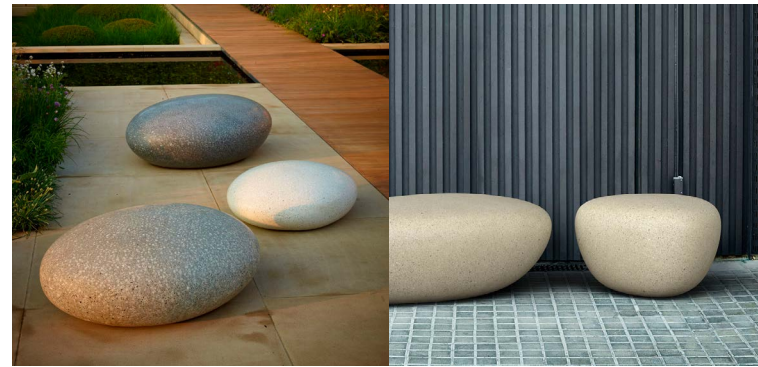
PDX CASUAL



GREEN CITY



MATERIAL PALETTE EXAMPLES



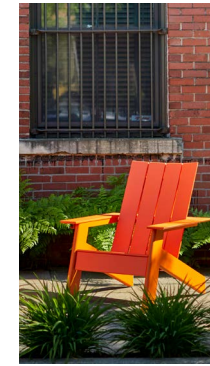
PEBBLE SEATING



TIMBER BENCHES



PICNIC TABLE



LOUNGE CHAIR



UMBRELLA



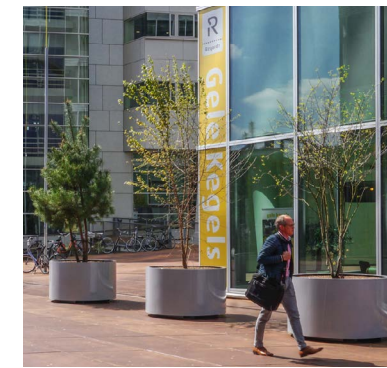
TABLE & MOVABLE CHAIRS



SHADE SAIL



SQUARE PLANTER



CYLINDRICAL PLANTER



PLANTER WITH SEAT



PLANTER WITH SEAT

Draft Design Criteria

CATEGORY

CRITERIA

Permanence

Bolt connections for some elements
Removable by special equipment
Road surfacing covered / enhanced with new materials

Traffic Standards & Safety

Street closure requirements - MUTCD
Offsets from vehicular lanes

Aesthetics

Comfortable, welcoming, pedestrian-scale

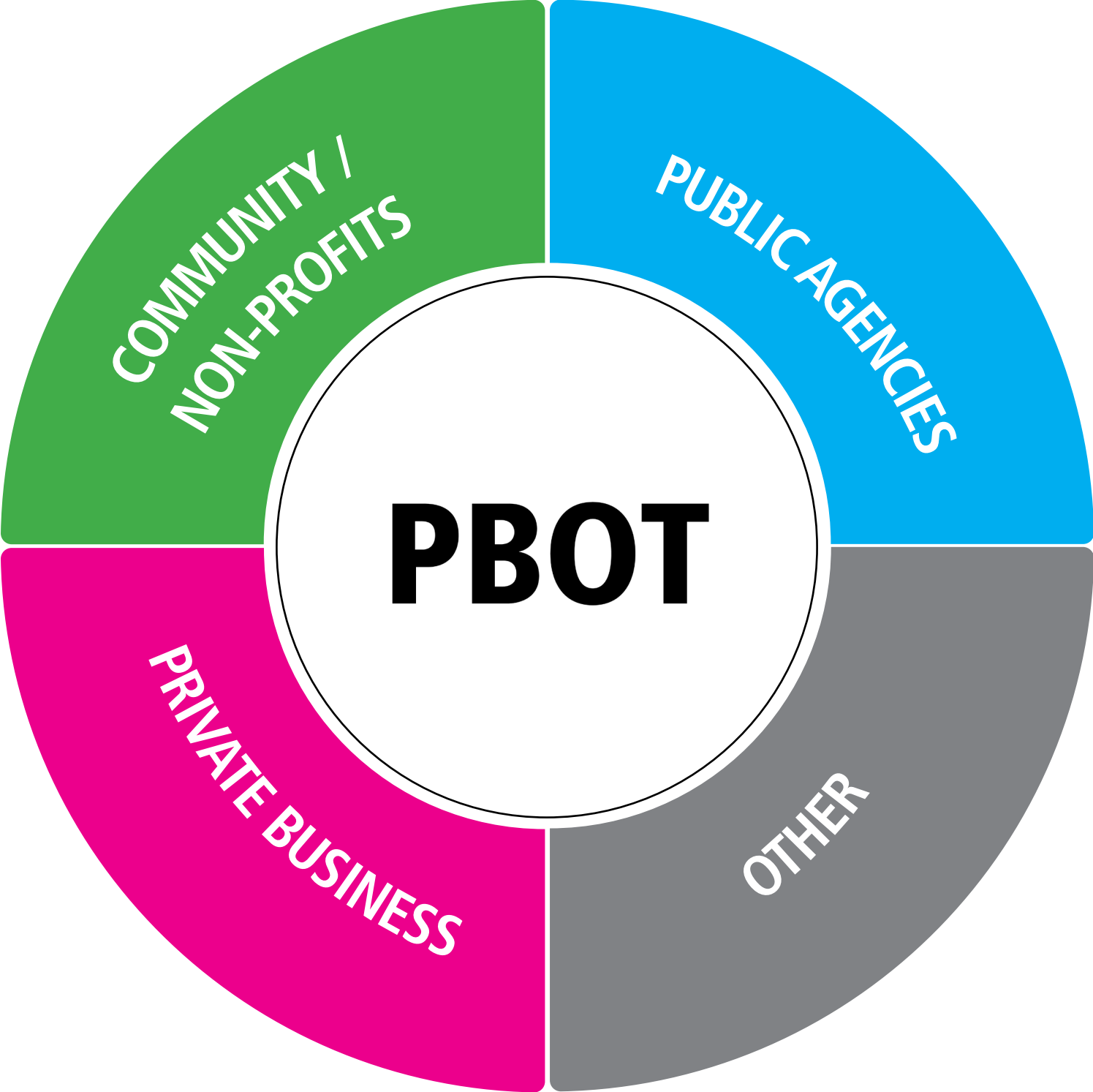
Maintenance

Graffiti removal
Durable

Accessibility

Emergency vehicle access
ADA surfaces and furnishings

Street Plaza Partnerships



PBOT TOOLKIT

PARTNER PROVIDED

PLAZA BASICS

Table seating, dining
Social & lounge seating
Movable chairs
(If managed by partner)
Umbrellas, shade shelter
Roadway barriers
Lighting (with partner power supply)
Identity Signage
Regulatory Signage
Storage

- Portland Loo
- Drinking Fountains
- Trash Cans

MOBILITY HUB & TECHNOLOGY

Passenger Drop-off & Loading Zones
Bike Parking
Device Charging Stations
(solar powered)

- Power & Wi-Fi, Remote Work
- Bike Share Stations
- Scooter Parking

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Pavement Surface Games
Playful Furnishings & Graphics

- ● Children's Play Equipment or Play with Movable Parts
- Exercise Equipment
- Skate Ramps, Pump Tracks

BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

- Private Dining
- Markets, Street Vending
- Food Carts, Food Trucks

PBOT TOOLKIT

PARTNER PROVIDED

NATURE / GREENING

Container Gardens
Shade Trees

- ● Community Gardens
- Misters, Cooling

ART / CULTURE / EDUCATION

Street Painting / Graphics
Community Info. Boards

- ● Interpretive Exhibits
- ● Art Installations, Murals
- Street Pianos
- Free Library

GATHERING

Event Stage
Water / Electrical Access

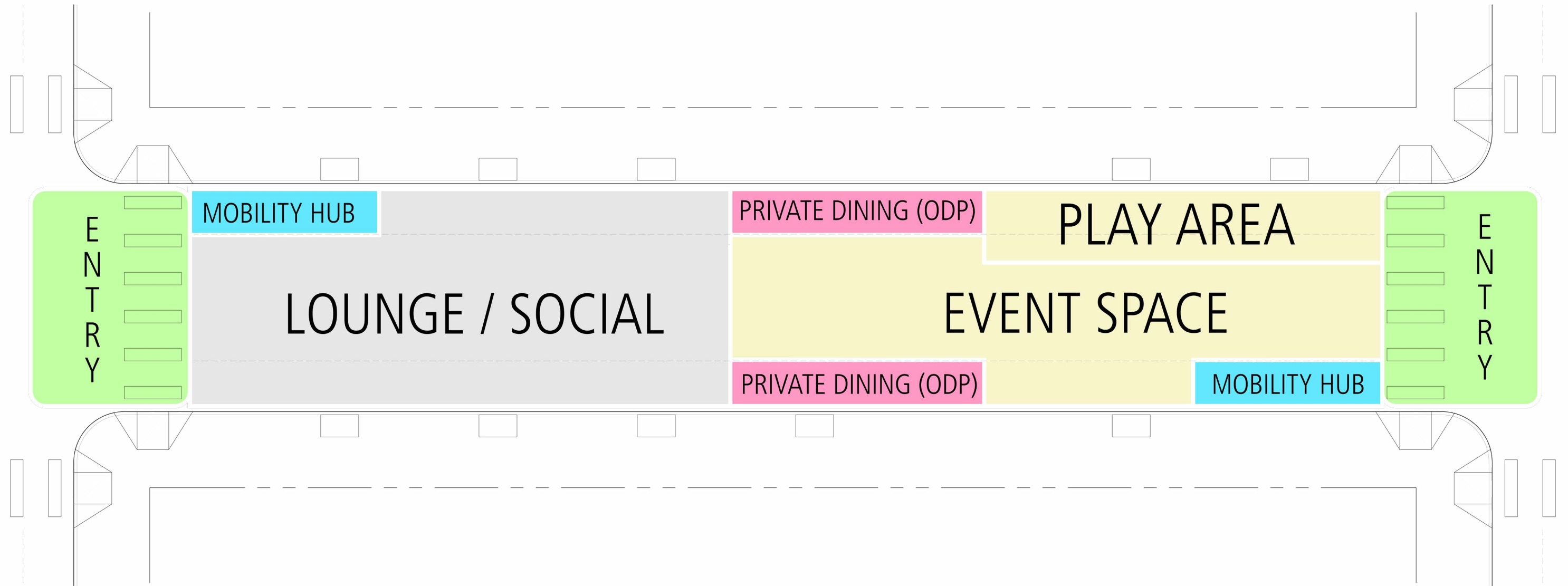
- ● Performances
- ● Pop-up Events
- Community Classes, Meetings
- ● Film Screenings

Potential Partners

- Public Agency
- Community or Non-profit Group
- Private Business
- Other/Unknown

Pedestrian Plaza

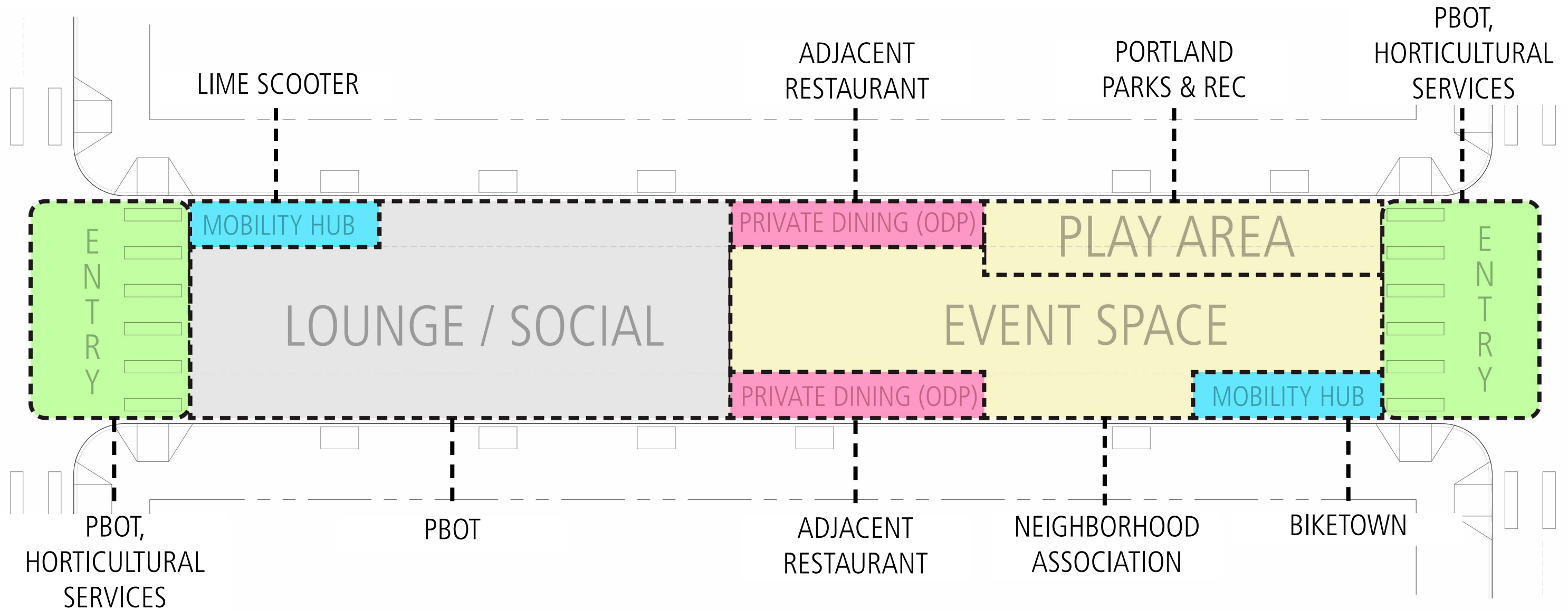
Programming & Partnerships



* ONE EXAMPLE OF A PLAZA CONFIGURATION

Pedestrian Plaza

Programming & Partnerships



* ONE EXAMPLE OF A PLAZA CONFIGURATION

Questions

What feedback do you have on the Street Plaza design goals, principles and contextual palette?

What partnership opportunities would make Street Plazas successful?

Next Steps

- Design Workshop, Early 2024
- Design Commission Briefing #2, Spring 2024
- Draft Street Plaza Standards