

DOWNTOWN DECK
PLAZA FOUNDATION

Downtown Deck Plaza Community Advisory Committee

February 6, 2023

Thank you for joining us!

- There will be group sharing opportunities and we have a few rules for empathic sharing and listening.
- Please be present, patient, and allow others to share equally.
- Be open to other opinions and be respectful as you engage.
- Feel free to raise your hand, take yourself off mute and speak, or use the chat to engage.
- Please enter your name and organization in the chat.



Agenda

Part 1

Welcome/Introductions
Project Overview (City of El Paso/Deck Plaza Foundation)
Public Involvement Process (Conсор)

Part 2

What We've Heard So Far (Mend Collaborative)
Visioning Process (Stantec)

Part 3

Wrap Up & Next CAC Meetings



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• Project Overview

Project Overview

- A partnership between The City of El Paso and The Paso del Norte Community Foundation
- 2022 RAISE Grant Funds
 - \$900,000 in Federal Funding for a Feasibility and Planning Study
- Mend Collaborative + Consor
- Stantec

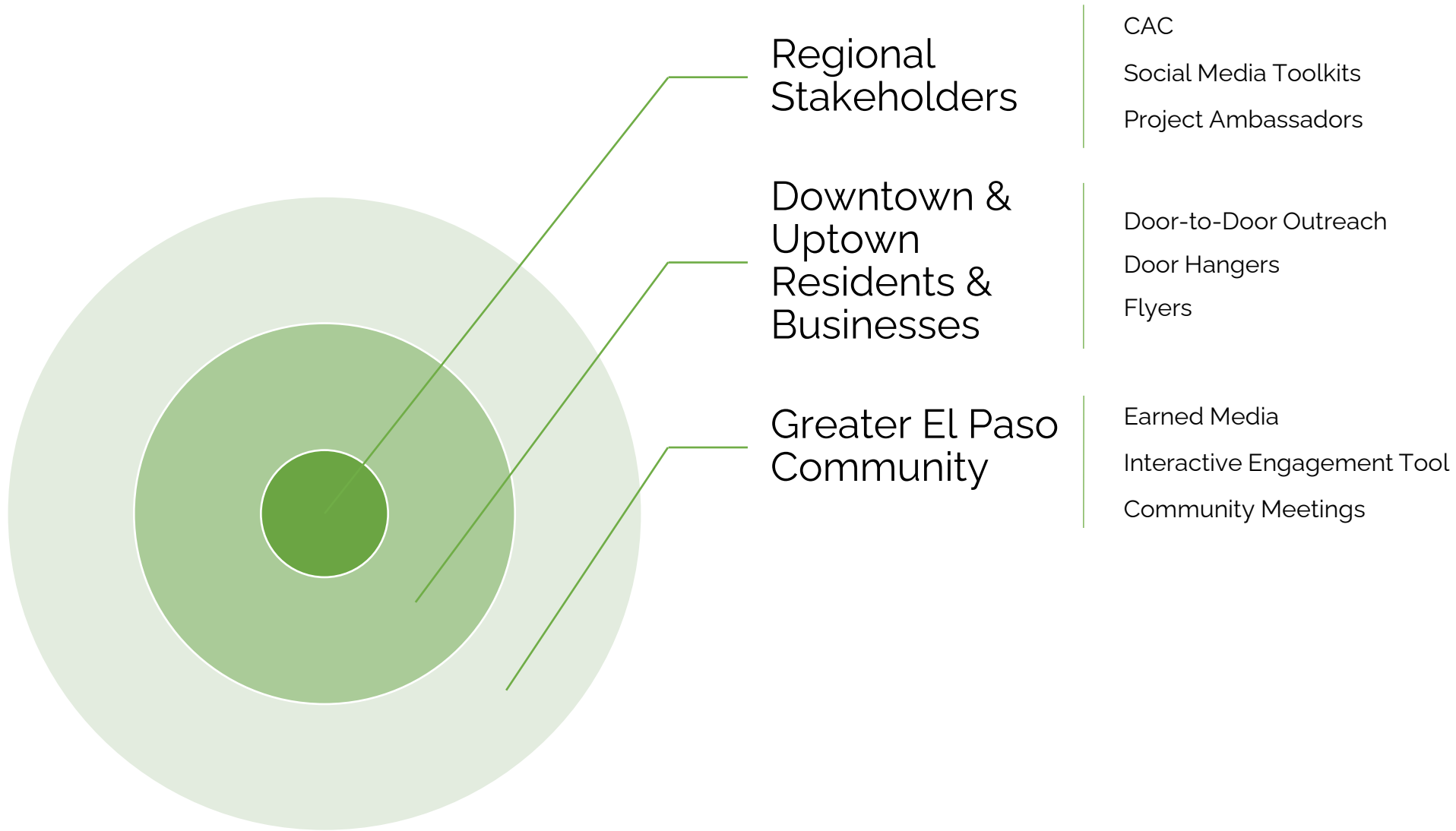


Questions we hope to answer.

- What kind of project works for our community?
- How do we ensure every El Pasoan benefits?
- How do we ensure the project works in the context of its surroundings?
- What will it cost and how do we pay for it?
- How might it help pay for itself?



Public Involvement Strategy



Public Involvement Strategy

Community Advisory Committee Meetings

To help guide the public engagement and feasibility study process. CAC members are encouraged to provide input during the CAC meetings, community open house meetings, on the project website, and to the public engagement and planning teams throughout the process.

- Monday, February 6th, 5:30-7 pm, via Zoom
- Thursday, March 2nd, 5:30-7 pm, 17th Floor Blue Flame Building
- Monday, April 17th, 5:30-7 pm, 17th Floor Blue Flame Building
- Monday, May 15th, 5:30-7 pm, 17th Floor Blue Flame Building



Public Involvement Strategy

Open House Community Meetings

(Round 1 – Visioning)

East El Paso

Monday, February 27, 4:30-6:30pm
EPPD Pebble Hills Regional Command
10780 Pebble Hills Boulevard

West El Paso

Tuesday, February 28, 4:30-6:30pm
EPPD Westside Regional Command
4801 Osborne Drive

Downtown El Paso

Wednesday, March 1, 4:30-6:30pm
City of El Paso Center for Civic Empowerment
Blue Flame Building
17th Floor



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Public Involvement Strategy

Open House Community Meetings

(Round 2 – Alternatives)

West El Paso

Tuesday, April 18, 4:30-6:30pm
EPPD Westside Regional Command
4801 Osborne Drive

East El Paso

Wednesday, April 19, 4:30pm-6:30pm
EPPD Pebble Hills Regional Command
10780 Pebble Hills Boulevard

Downtown El Paso

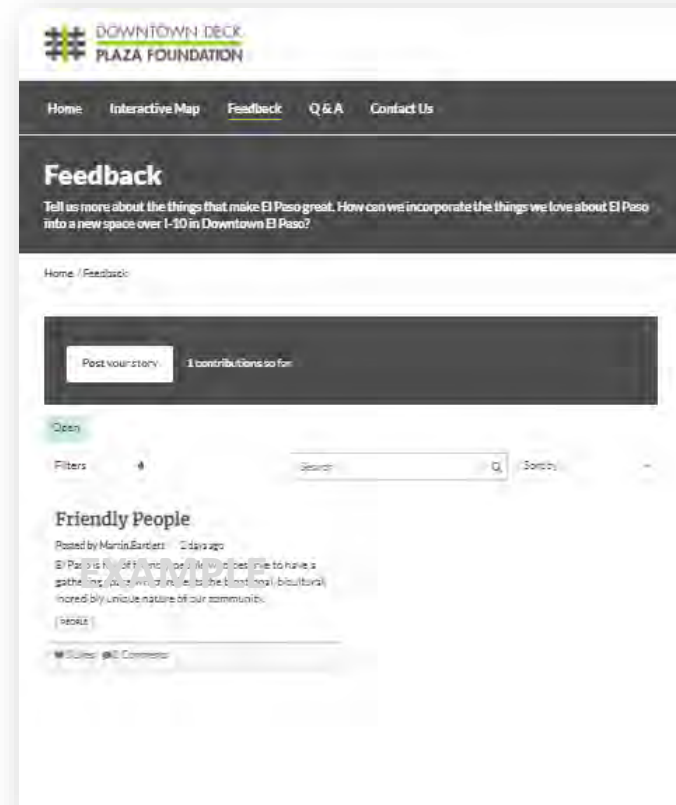
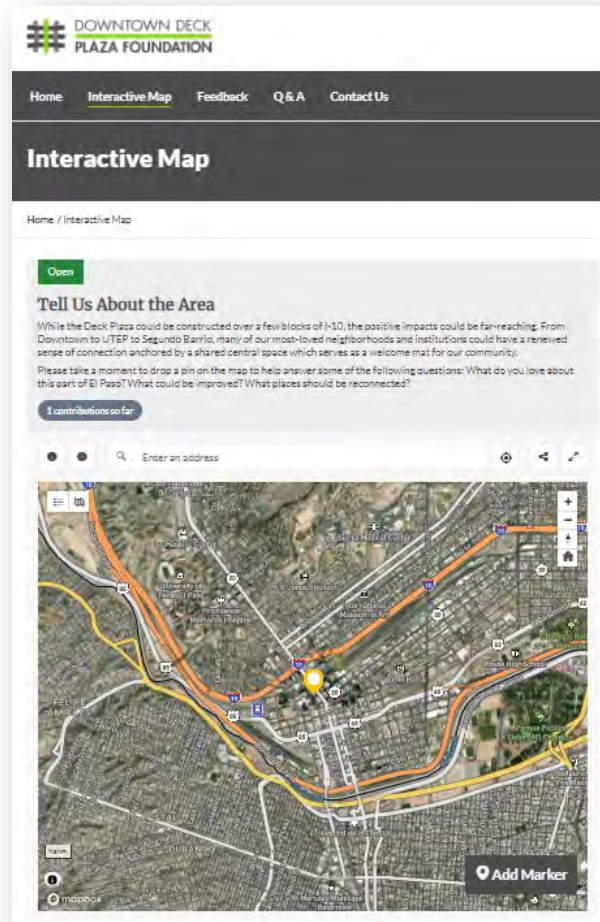
Thursday, April 20, 4:30-6:30pm
City of El Paso Center for Civic Empowerment
Blue Flame Building
17th Floor



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Public Involvement Strategy



Feedback

Are there any tools you or your organization are willing to make available to help spread the word about the project and the upcoming series of community meetings?

Please enter your response in the chat and/or raise your hand to join the conversation.





Hello from **mend**

Our process.

Who we talked to and what we heard.

Q: What Do You Value About El Paso



THE ENVIRONMENT

LOCATION. CLIMATE. ECOLOGY

THE CONTEXT

PAST. PRESENT. FUTURE

THE LIFESTYLE

SOCIAL. CULTURAL. INSTITUTIONS

Q: What Do You Value About El Paso



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Q: What Do You Value About El Paso

El Paso is “The Welcoming Mat” for the community

El Paso is “not saturated with [business/opportunity], so [it’s] great place to dream”

El Pasoans “story is of strong people - with great determination and resilience”

El Paso is unique and authentic; the people are close-knit, family oriented, care about their neighbor(s), and have a lot of love to give

Q: Biggest Challenges About El Paso

EL PASO'S EXPRESSED THOSE CHALLENGES

THE POLITICS
POLICIES. LEADERSHIP. KEY TOPICS

THE ECONOMY
JOBS. FUNDING. OPPORTUNITY

EXTERNAL & INTERNAL THINKING



A word cloud visualization on a light pink background. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'small-thinking' and 'misperception' being the largest and most prominent. Other words include 'misinformation', 'neglect', 'self-interest', 'poor-communications', 'status-quo', 'naysayers', 'lacking-vision', 'limitation', 'unchanging', 'citizens', 'cynicism', 'representation', 'community-division', 'attitude', 'integration', 'social-media', 'fear', 'reliance', and 'fractured-trust'.

small-thinking
misperception
misinformation
neglect
self-interest
poor-communications
status-quo
naysayers
lacking-vision
limitation
unchanging
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Q: Biggest Challenges About El Paso

THE POLITICS

POLICIES. LEADERSHIP. KEY TOPICS



THE ECONOMY
JOBS. FUNDING. OPPORTUNITY

EXTERNAL & INTERNAL THINKING



Q: Biggest Challenges About El Paso



THE POLITICS POLICIES. LEADERSHIP. KEY TOPICS



THE ECONOMY JOBS. FUNDING. OPPORTUNITY



EXTERNAL & INTERNAL THINKING



Q: Biggest Challenges About El Paso

“Acknowledge the history of displacement, overall neglect, and pollution” in El Paso communities

Can we “give El Paso permission to have nice things”

Different community members and groups using “class and racial warfare” to create division

Whether truthful or misinformed most El Pasoans think that a small group controls decision making in the city

It's a difficult community out there in terms of the city and projects put forth by the city, people have a tendency not to trust what is going on

Feedback

Do the values expressed in the stakeholder interviews align with your understanding of El Paso?

What about the challenges?

Please enter your response in the chat and/or raise your hand to join the conversation.

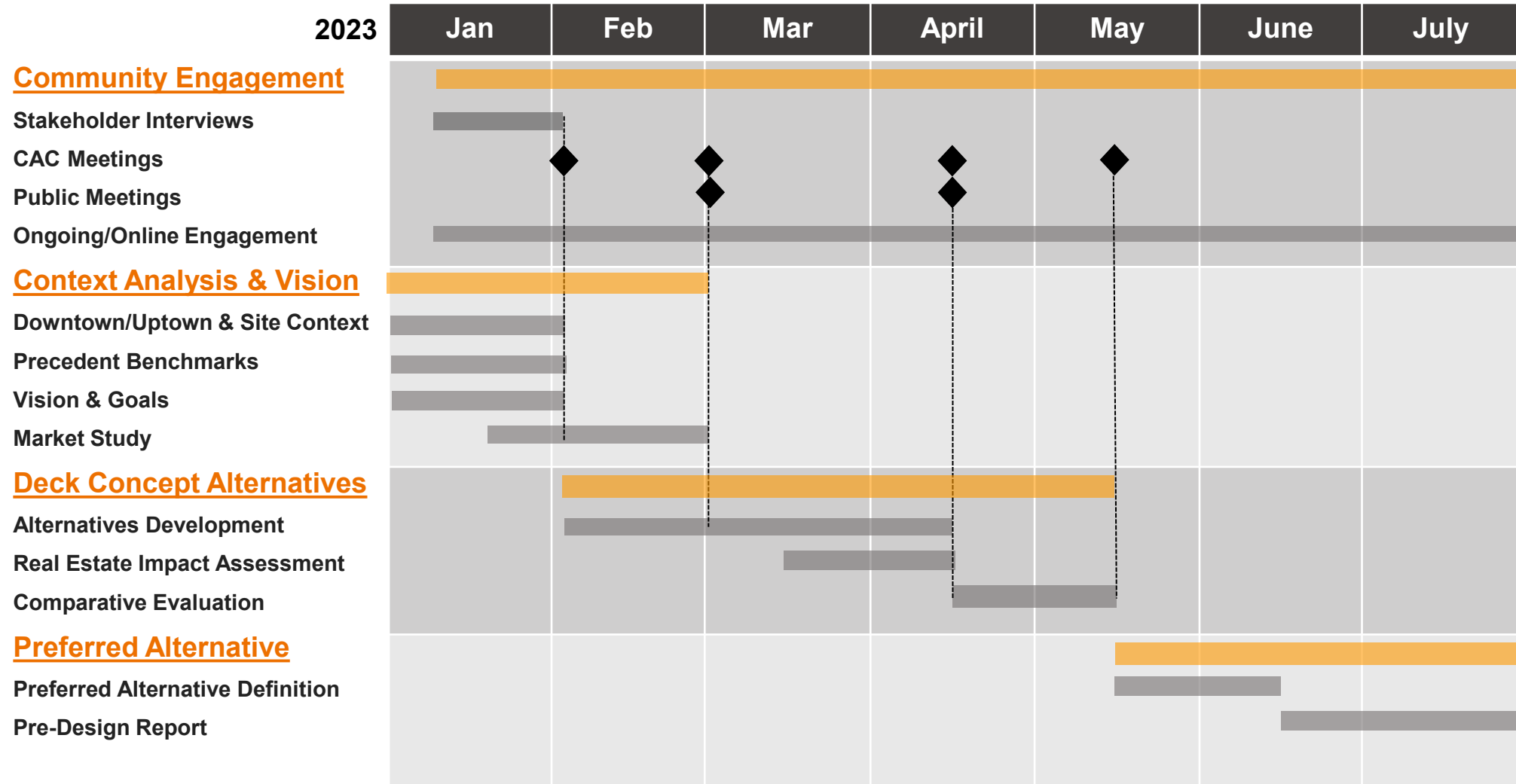


Stantec Team

Team Leadership	
• Peer Chacko, AICP – Principal In Charge • Jamshed Jahangiri, PE – Project Manager • Bradley Cowan, ASLA – Deputy PM	• David Dixon, FAIA – Planning & Urban Design Lead
Team Disciplines	
• Planning & Urban Design • Market & Economic Analysis – HR&A • Landscape Architecture • Environmental	• Engineering • Transportation • Structural • Lighting • Geotechnical • Tunnel Ventilation & Fire Safety - ILF • Utilities/Survey - FXSA

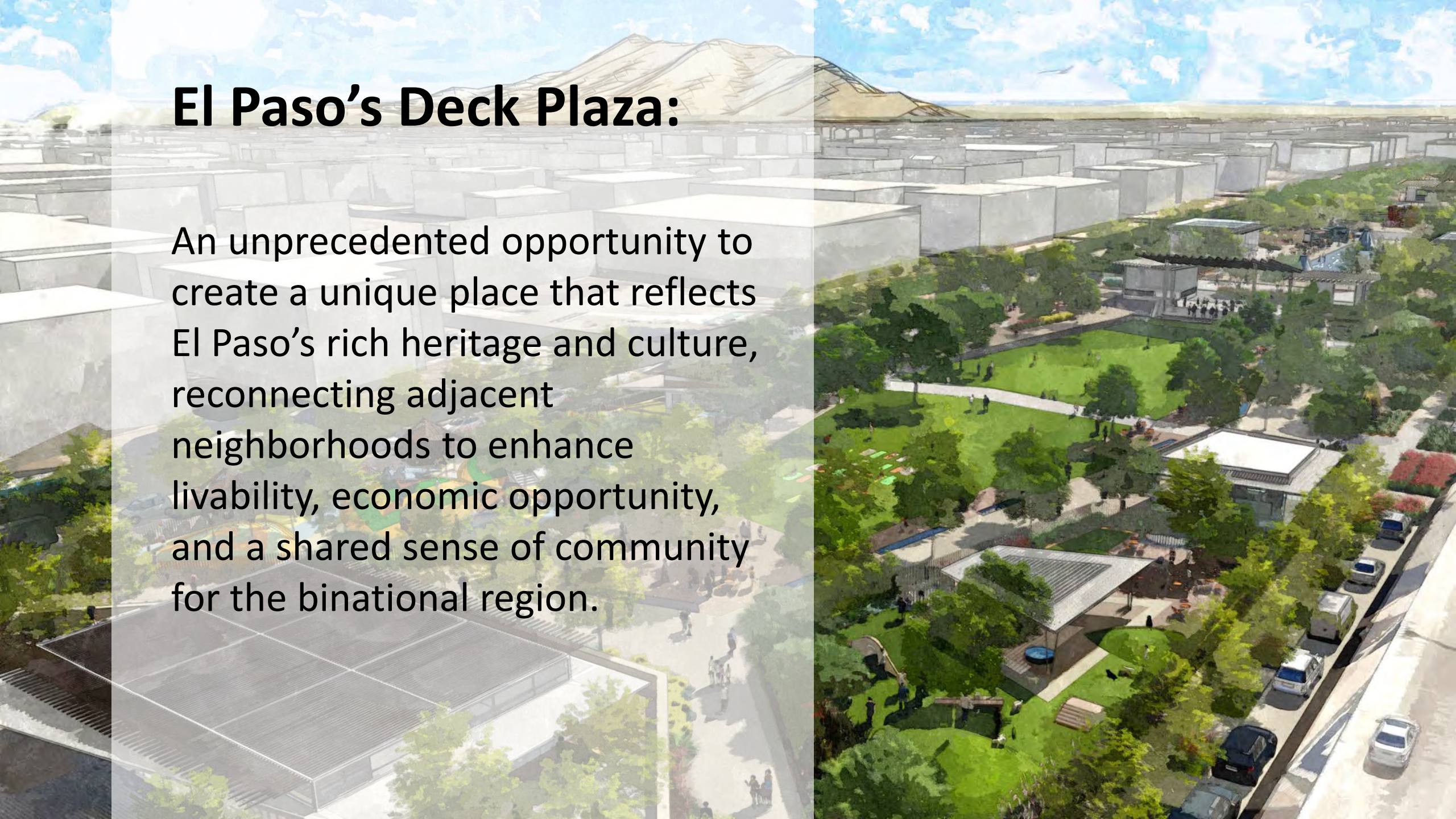


Planning Process – Phase I



El Paso's Deck Plaza:

An unprecedented opportunity to create a unique place that reflects El Paso's rich heritage and culture, reconnecting adjacent neighborhoods to enhance livability, economic opportunity, and a shared sense of community for the binational region.



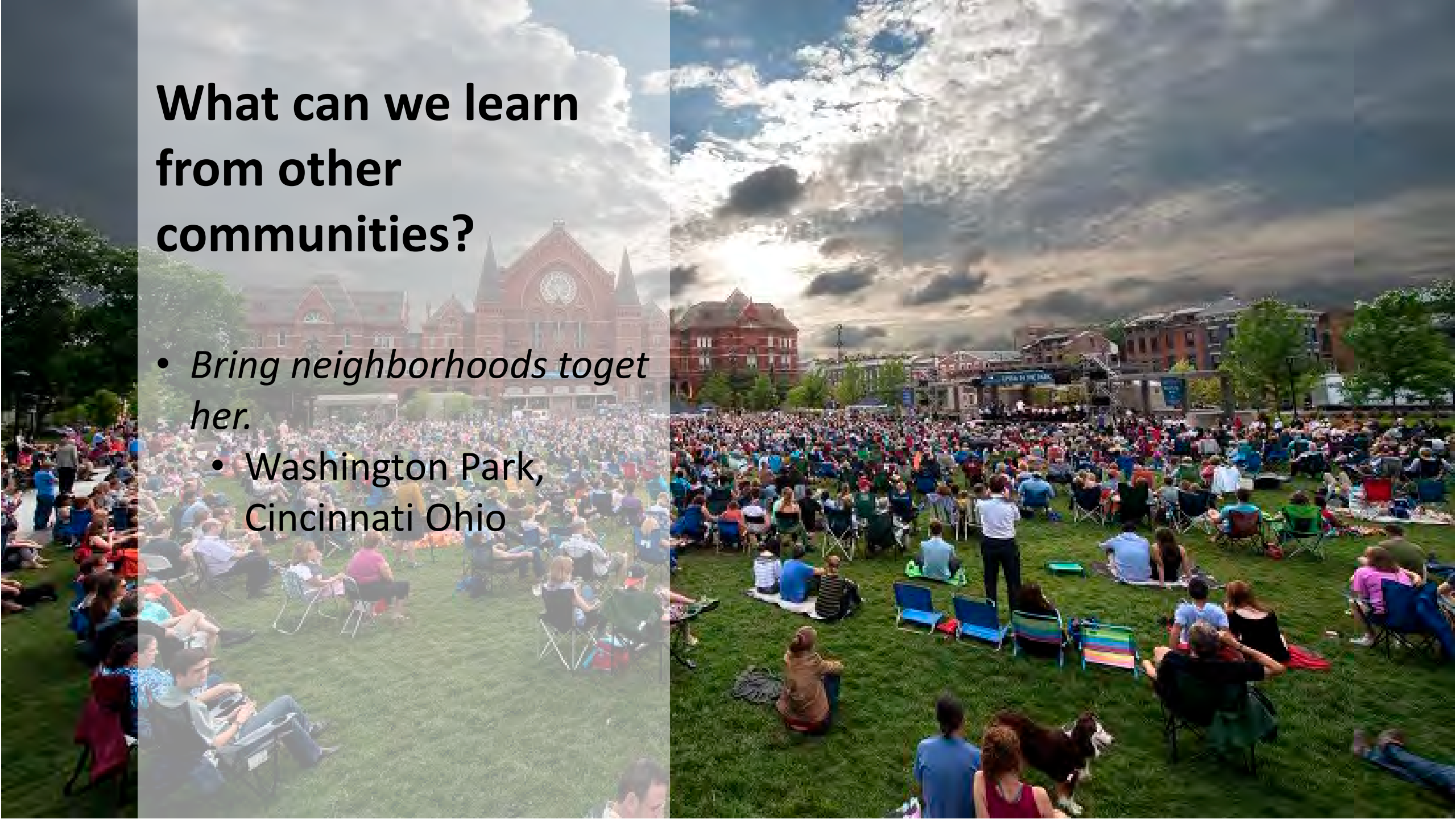
What makes a great public space?

- People
- Programming
- Design
- Placemaking



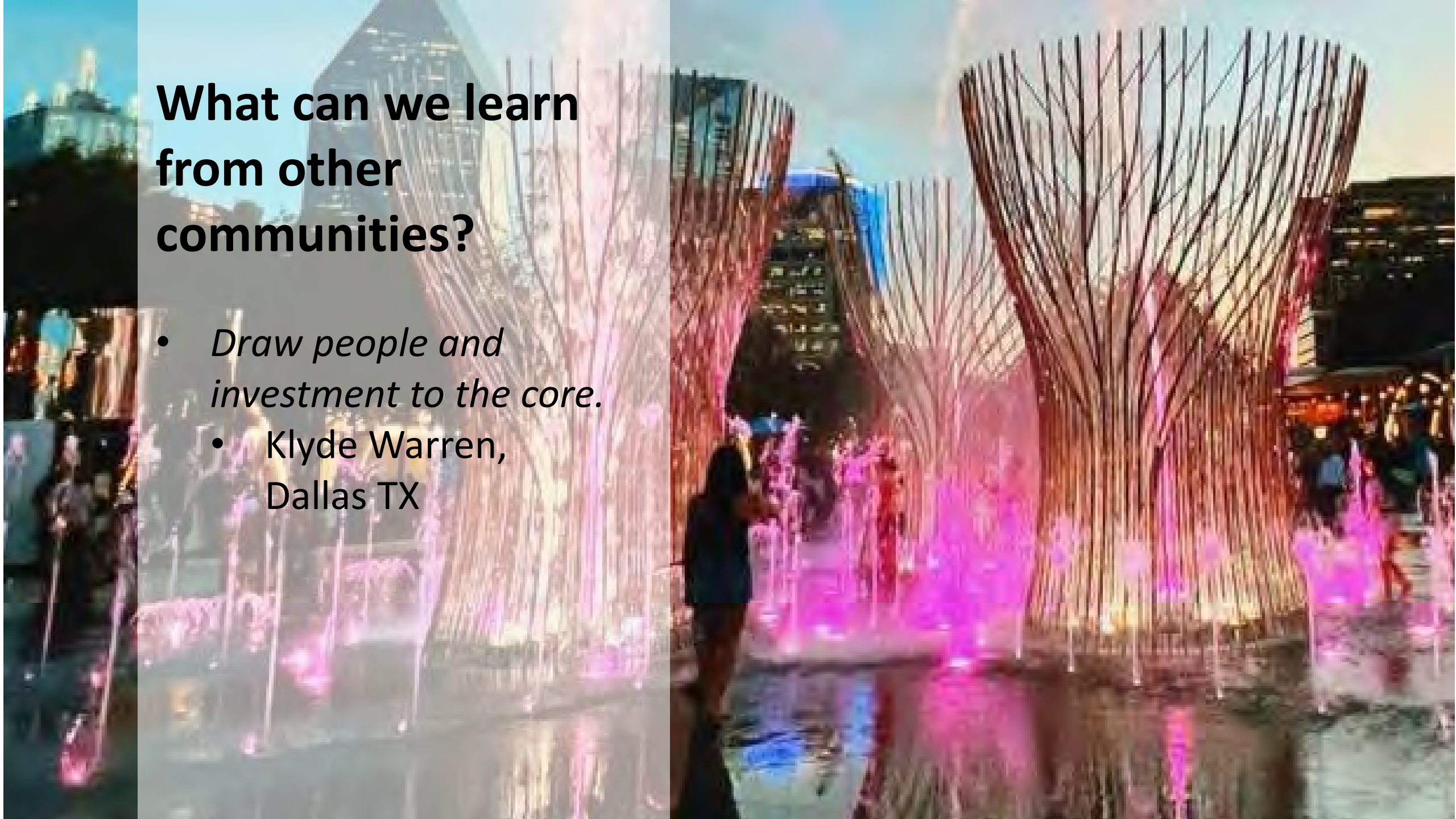
What can we learn from other communities?

- *Bring neighborhoods together.*
 - Washington Park, Cincinnati Ohio



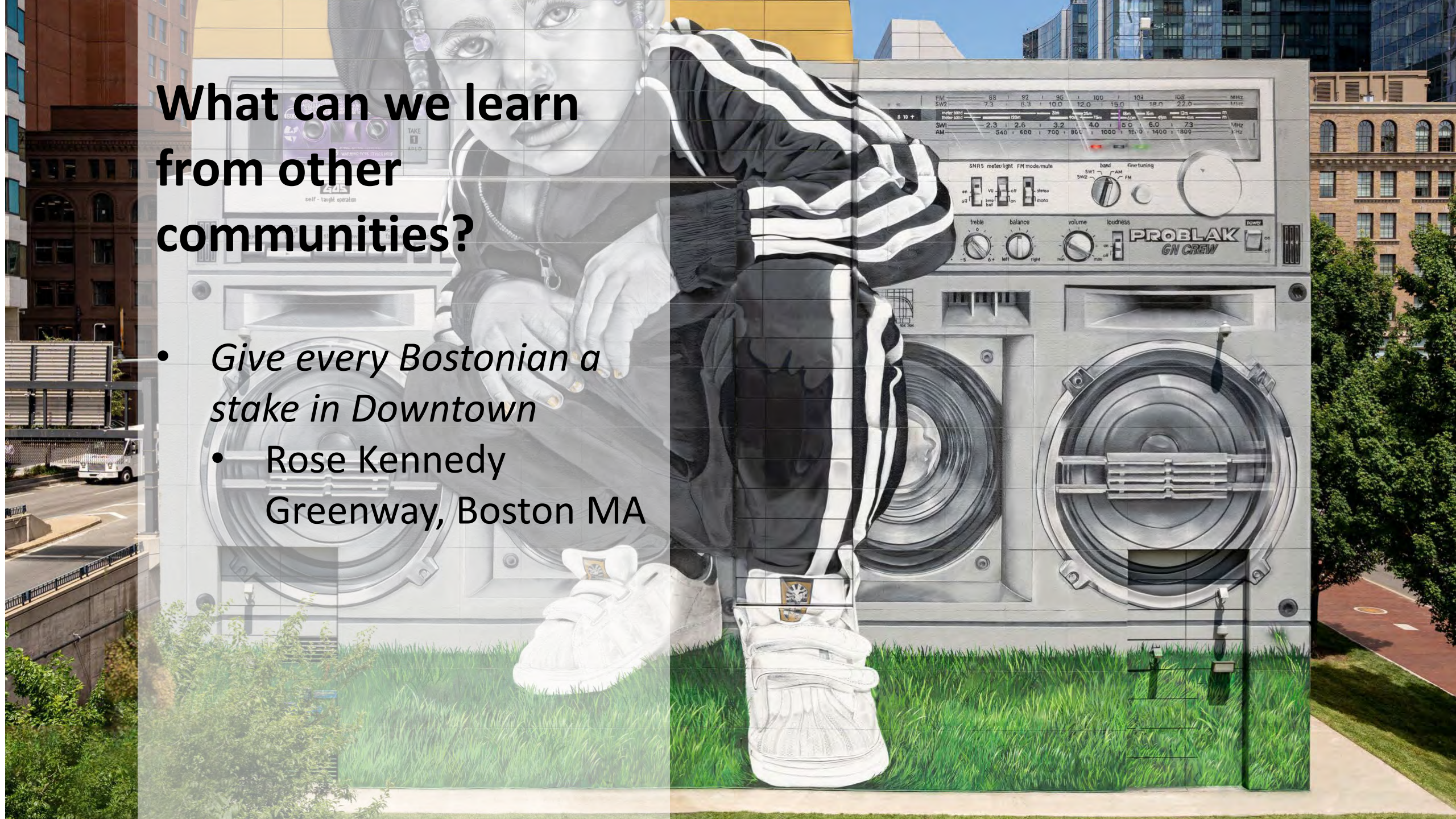
What can we learn from other communities?

- *Draw people and investment to the core.*
 - Klyde Warren, Dallas TX



What can we learn from other communities?

- *Give every Bostonian a stake in Downtown*
 - Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston MA



What can we learn from other communities?

- *Create a common ground that brings a divided community together*
 - Railroad Park, Birmingham AL



How can we make an even **greater** El Paso public space?



What makes an even greater El Paso public space?

Some initial thoughts...

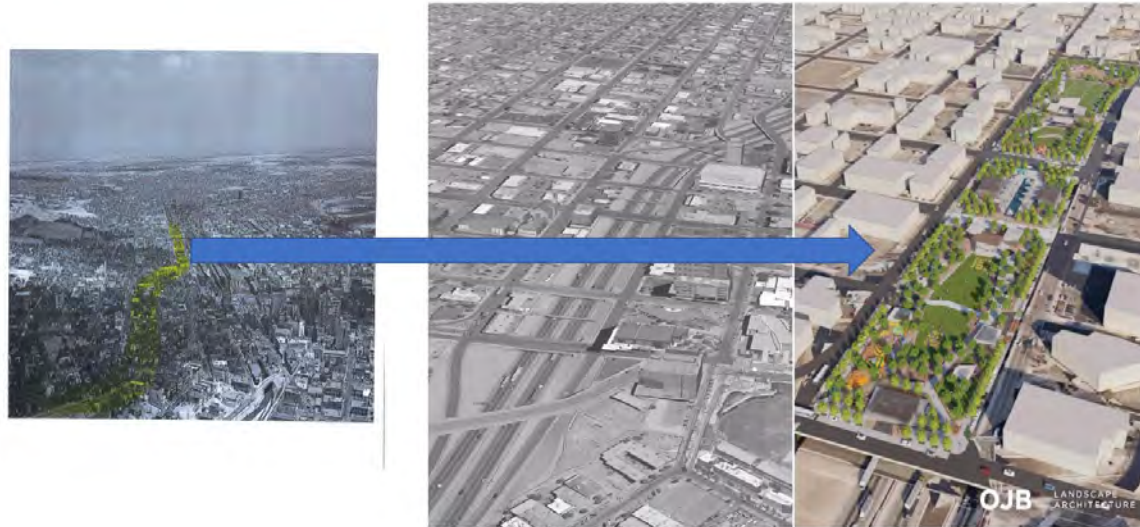
A **great** downtown + uptown amenity?



What makes an even greater El Paso public space?

Some initial thoughts...

A **great** neighborhood reconnection?



What makes an even greater El Paso public space?

Some initial thoughts...

A **great** regional destination?

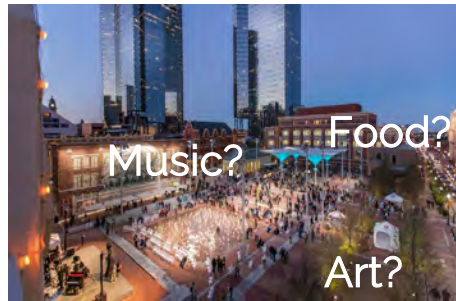


Let's start creating our goals...and putting them to work!

What can this place be? What can it offer?

A connector

A place that invites walking and offers animated music, food, art...and more



A cultural crossroads?

A stage on which to celebrate El Paso's rich diversity



A mixing bowl?

Activities that bring children of all ages and backgrounds together?



What else?

We need
your help!