



DOWNTOWN DECK  
PLAZA FOUNDATION

# Downtown Deck Plaza Community Advisory Committee

February 6, 2023



# Thank you for joining us!

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- 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

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## 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

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- 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



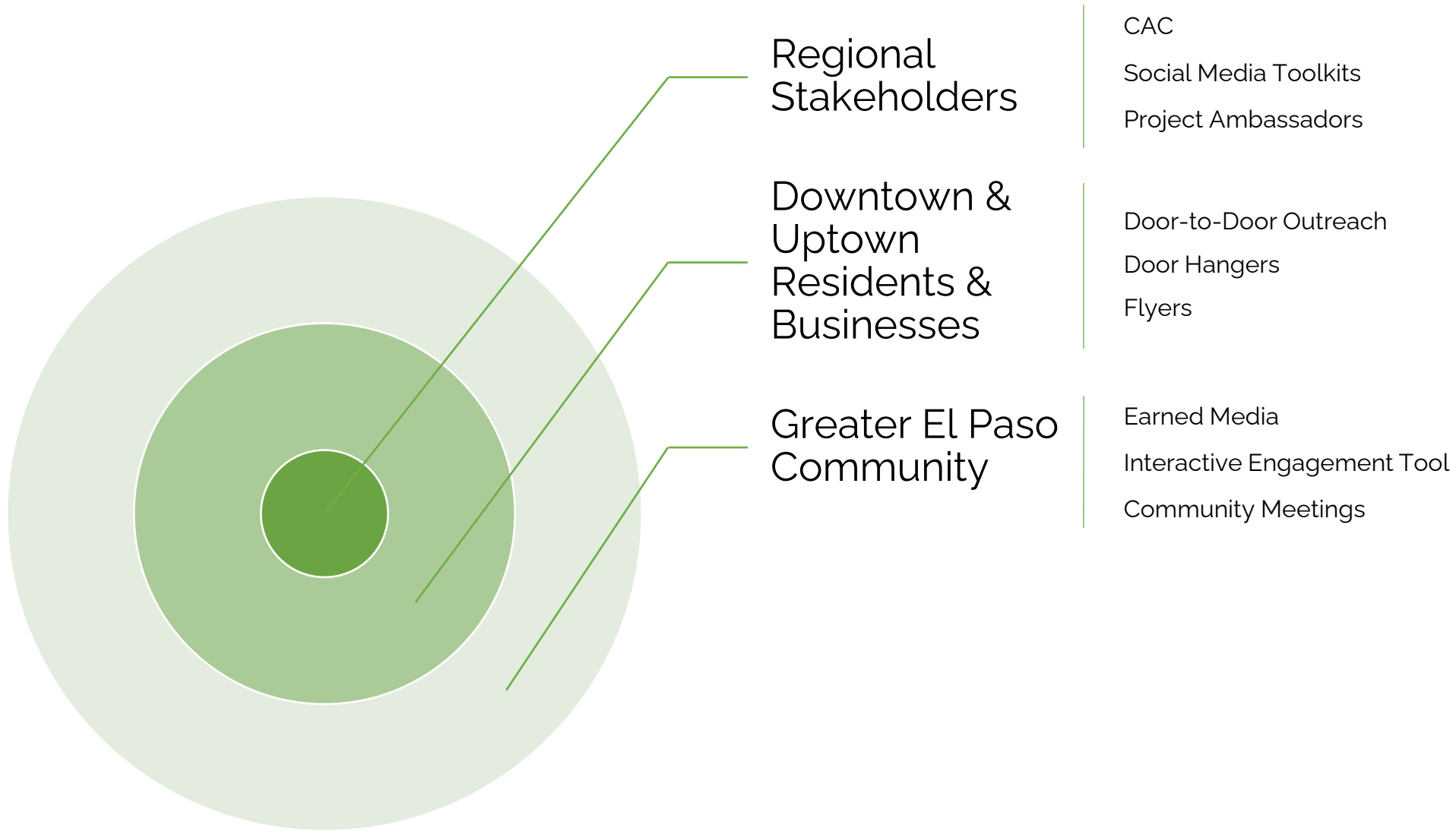
# Questions we hope to answer.

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- 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

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





# Public Involvement Strategy

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## 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  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor



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# Public Involvement Strategy

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## 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  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor



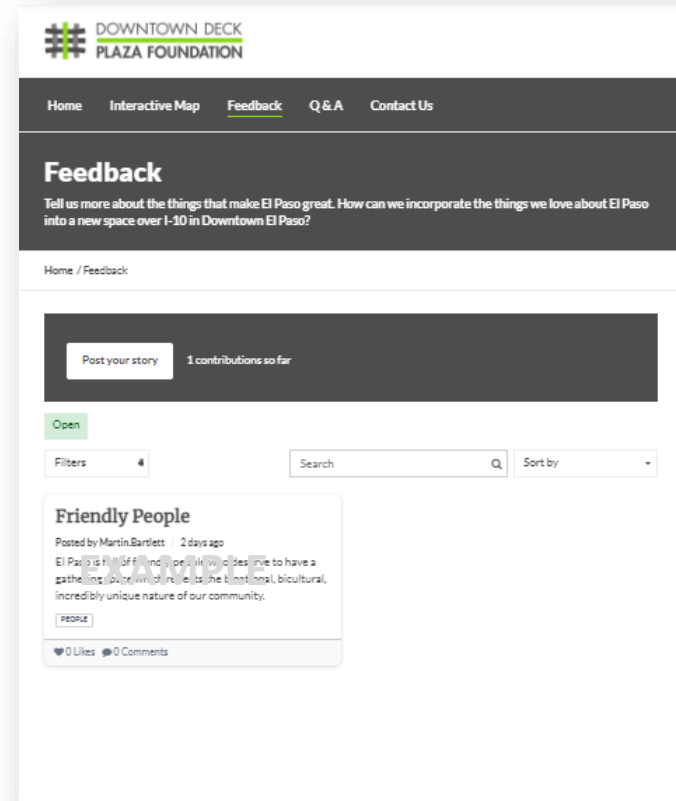
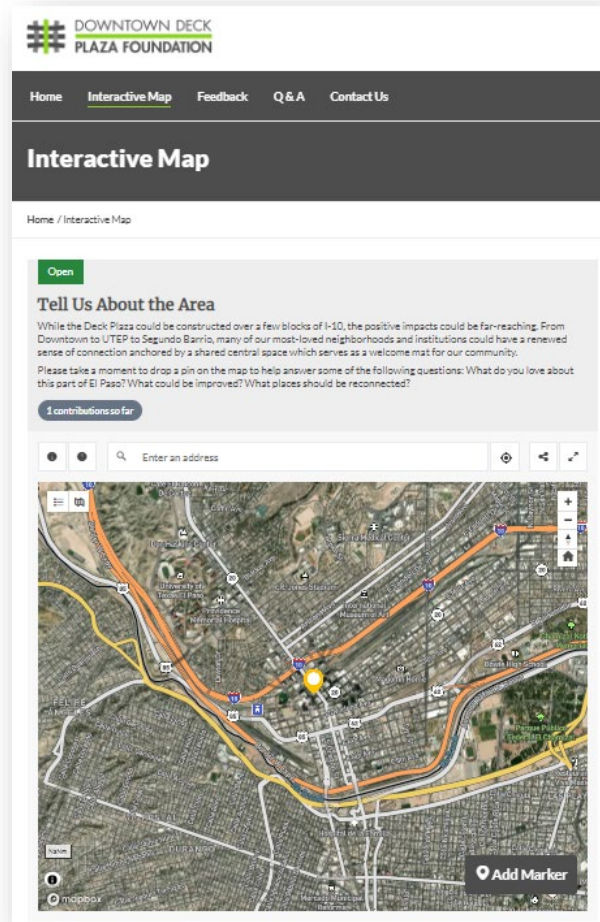
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# Public Involvement Strategy



# Feedback

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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.



**January 2023 - Mend listened to stakeholders, neighborhood associations, business owners, residents, non-profits, and leaders in El Paso to learn what are the key values held by the community. Here are the key values and themes 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



## THE ENVIRONMENT

LOCATION. CLIMATE. ECOLOGY



## THE CONTEXT

### PAST. PRESENT. FUTURE

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### Q: What Do You Value About El Paso



## THE ENVIRONMENT

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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**





## THE POLITICS

### POLICIES. LEADERSHIP. KEY TOPICS



## THE ECONOMY

### JOBS. FUNDING. OPPORTUNITY

### Q: Biggest Challenges About El Paso

## THE POLITICS

### POLICIES. LEADERSHIP. KEY TOPICS

## THE ECONOMY



## EXTERNAL & INTERNAL THINKING





## Q: Biggest Challenges About El Paso



### THE POLITICS POLICIES. LEADERSHIP. KEY TOPICS



### EXTERNAL & INTERNAL THINKING



### THE ECONOMY JOBS. FUNDING. OPPORTUNITY



## A word cloud visualization of the text, with the words 'economy' and 'poverty' being the most prominent. Other visible words include 'good-jobs', 'commercial-enterprise', 'tax', 'economics', 'money', 'retaining-youngadults', 'tourism', 'industry', 'generational-advancement', 'money-leaving', 'jobs', 'few-opportunities', 'under-investment', 'growth-potential', 'funding', 'taxes', 'lacking-funds', 'lacking-opportunities', and 'quality-products'. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'economy' and 'poverty' at the top and 'quality-products' at the bottom.

neglect self-interest poor-communications status-quo naysayers lacking-vision misinformation limitation unchanging citizens cynicism representation community-division attitude

**small-thinking**

**misperception**

integration social-media fear reliance fractured-trust



### 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

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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.



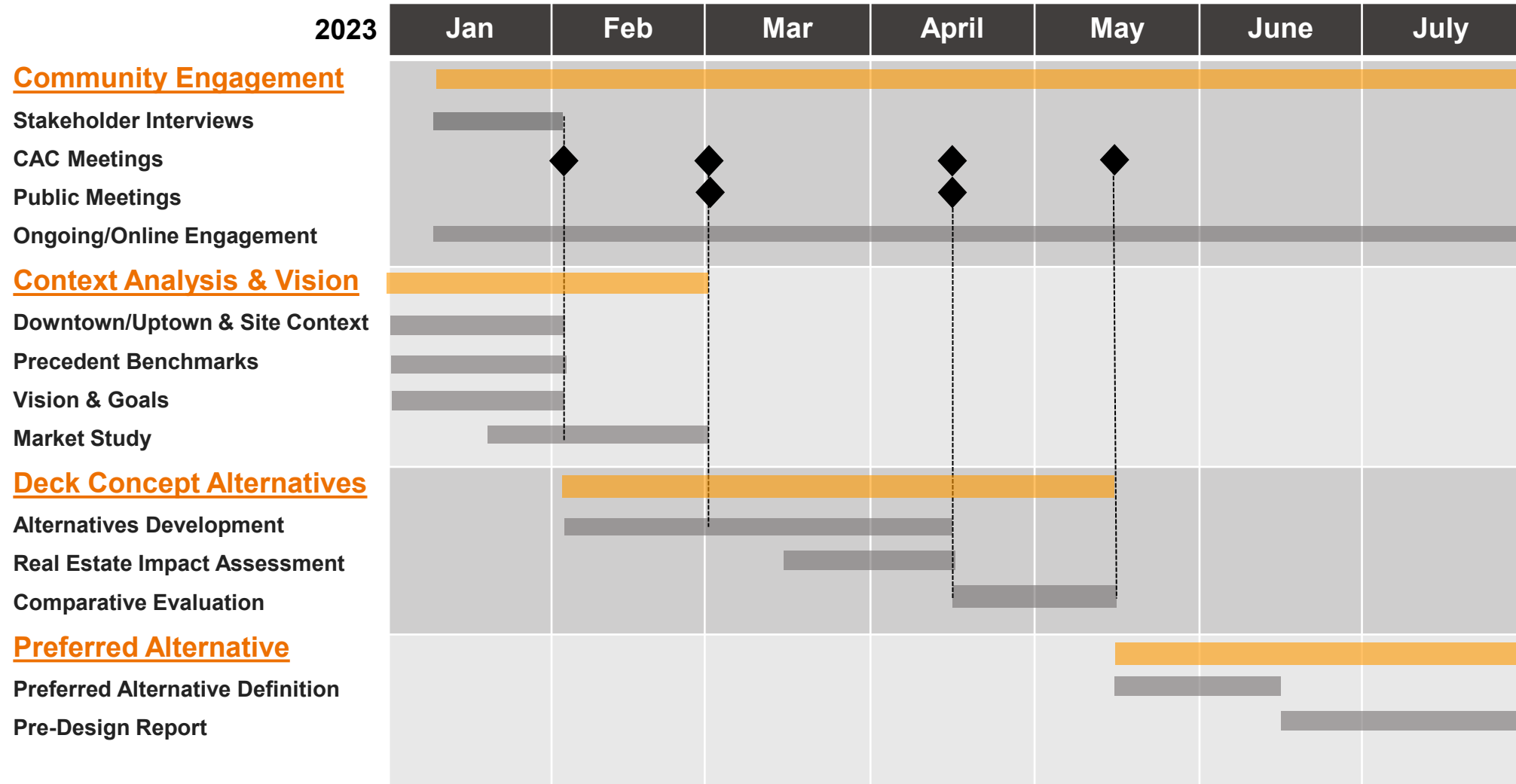
# Stantec Team

Team Leadership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Peer Chacko, AICP – Principal In Charge</b></li><li>• Jamshed Jahangiri, PE – Project Manager</li><li>• Bradley Cowan, ASLA – Deputy PM</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David Dixon, FAIA – Planning &amp; Urban Design Lead</li></ul>
Team Disciplines	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Planning &amp; Urban Design</b></li><li>• <b>Market &amp; Economic Analysis – HR&amp;A</b></li><li>• <b>Landscape Architecture</b></li><li>• <b>Environmental</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Engineering</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Transportation</b></li><li>• <b>Structural</b></li><li>• <b>Lighting</b></li><li>• <b>Geotechnical</b></li><li>• <b>Tunnel Ventilation &amp; Fire Safety - ILF</b></li><li>• <b>Utilities/Survey - FXSA</b></li></ul></li></ul>





# 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?

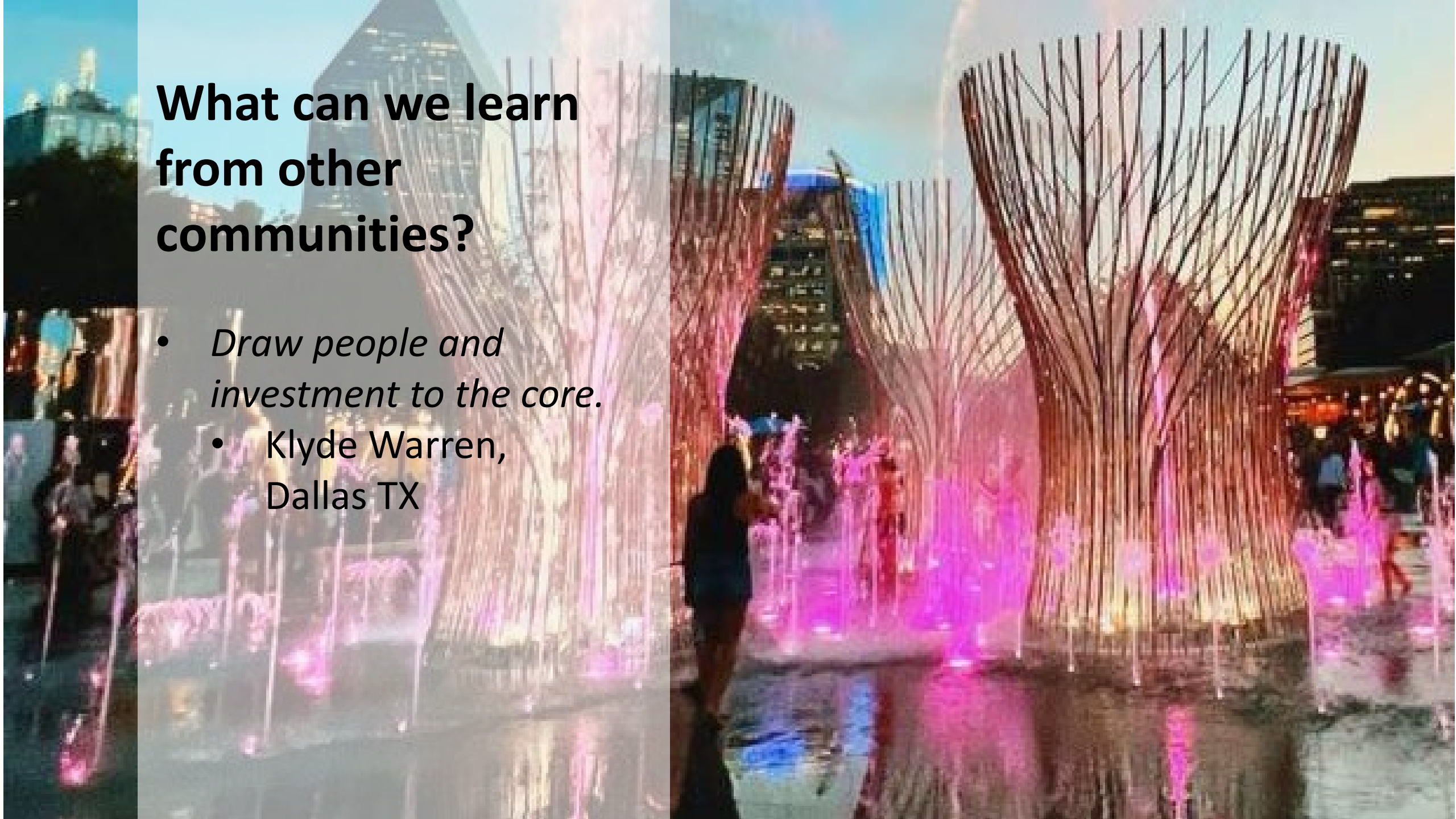
- *Bring neighborhoods together.*
  - Washington Park, Cincinnati Ohio





# What can we learn from other communities?

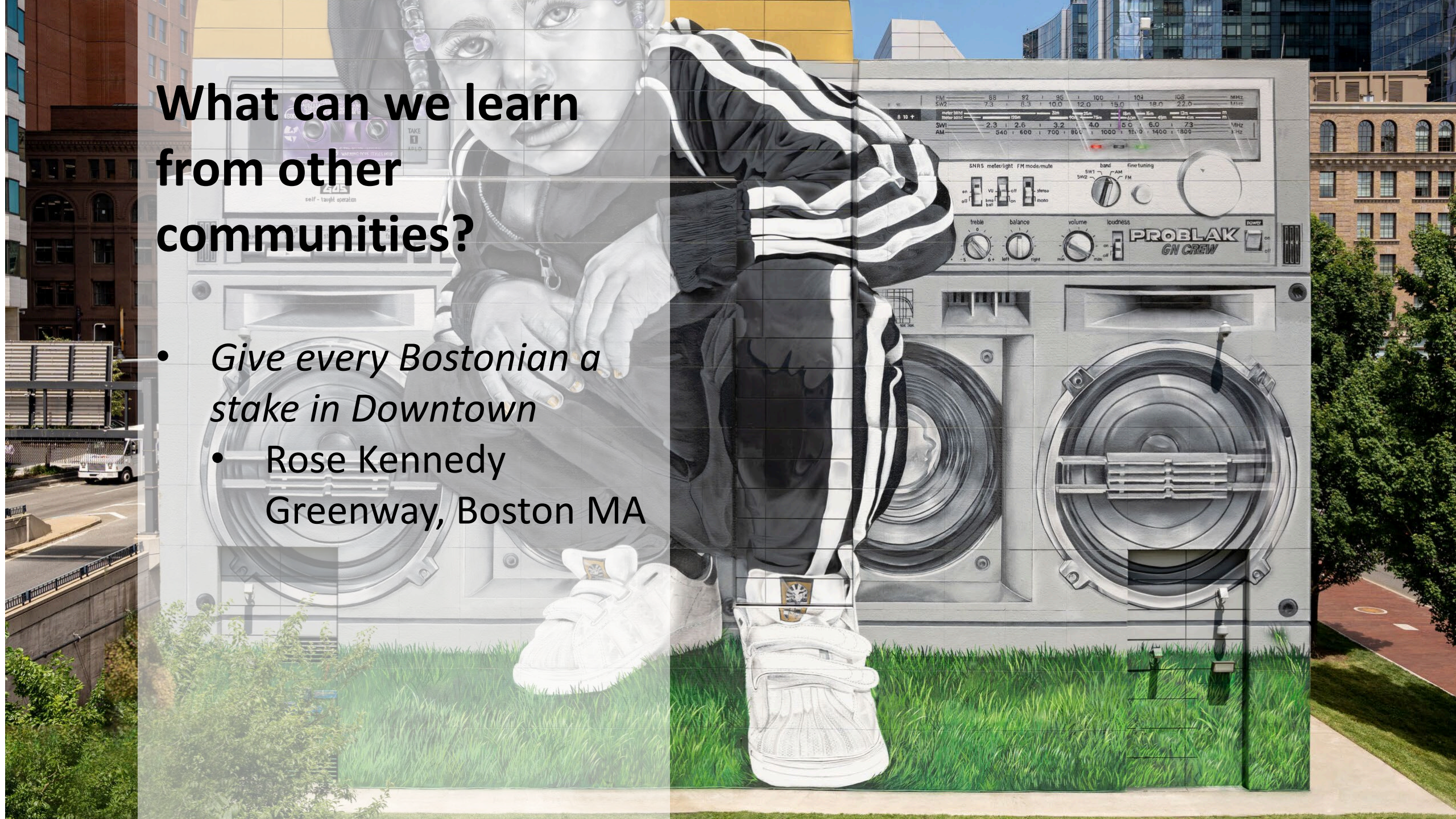
- *Draw people and investment to the core.*
  - Klyde Warren, Dallas TX





# What can we learn from other communities?

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



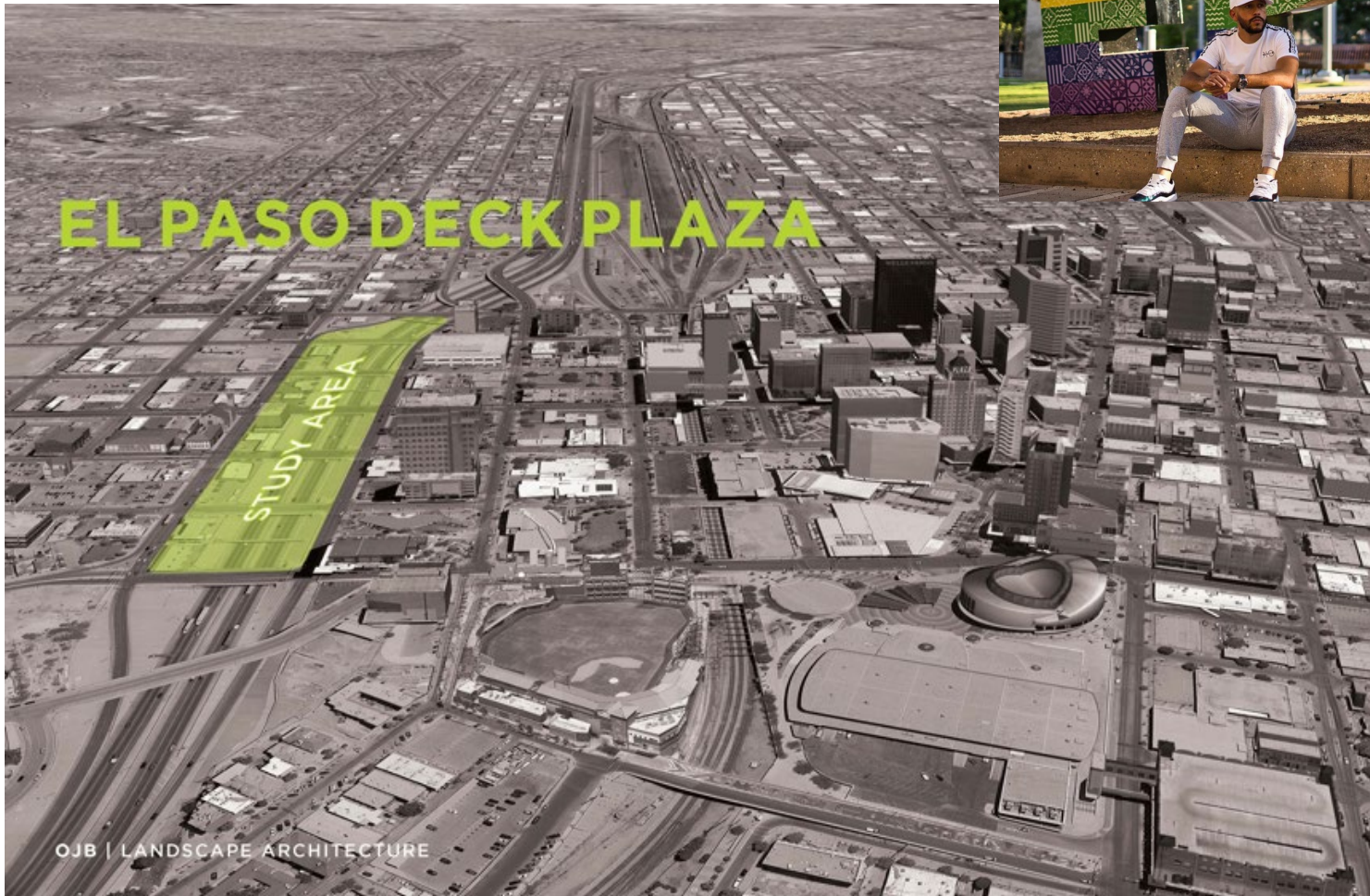


# What can we learn from other communities?

- *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?



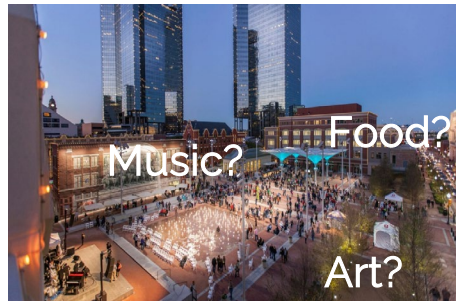


# Let's start creating our goals...and putting them to work!

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!