

EAST RIVERFRONT

ASSETS STUDY

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: CIVIC CENTER

This presentation was delivered virtually via zoom. Please see meeting recording for additional details and community conversation

Part of the
PARKS & REC
STRATEGIC PLAN



Welcome!
Please sign in



Click the link in the chat to sign in
(or add your contact info to the chat)

Why are we here tonight?

- This is a part of the ongoing engagement process. Tonight is important, it's another milestone on a long path of engagement.
- Tonight's draft recommendations were built based on earlier public feedback, now we want your feedback so we can continue to refine the recommendations.
- No final decisions have been made.

How can I participate?

Here are the guidelines for tonight's discussion:

- If you would like to ask questions by microphone, you may use the **“raise hand” button** at the bottom of your screen. The moderator will unmute participants in the order that they are raised at the end of the presentation.
- **For call-ins, press *9** to raise your hand and we'll read the last 4 digits of your phone number when it's time for you to speak.
- We want to give **as many people as possible the opportunity to be heard**. If you've already had a chance to speak, or if someone else has voiced your comment, please let people with new ideas be heard.
- If we're unable to hear from all raised hands by 7:45pm, you can **send your comments/questions directly to Maria Galarza** by phone: 313-241-4080 or by email: galarzam@detroitmi.gov.
- Each person has **two minutes** to speak.
- All comments and questions **in the chat** will become part of the meeting record and will be incorporated into future recommendations by the project team.

REC 

Note: We will be recording this meeting to share online with any interested stakeholders who were not able to attend.

What is the purpose of the study?

- To create **vibrant, sustainable destinations** by understanding and unlocking the potential of underused parklands/sites along the riverfront.
- To build upon past riverfront studies
- To develop a **holistic, connective vision** and an **actionable strategic plan** for Detroit's riverfront.
- To learn **how you use and enjoy your favorite spaces along the riverfront now** and how you wish to do so in the future.

> This is a study, it is not a detailed design for each asset.



THE EAST RIVERFRONT

Our Process

we are here 

2021

2022



Civic Center

25

191

TOTAL TOUCHPOINTS (so far): **519**

Let us know
how WE can make
THIS PLAZA
better for YOU!

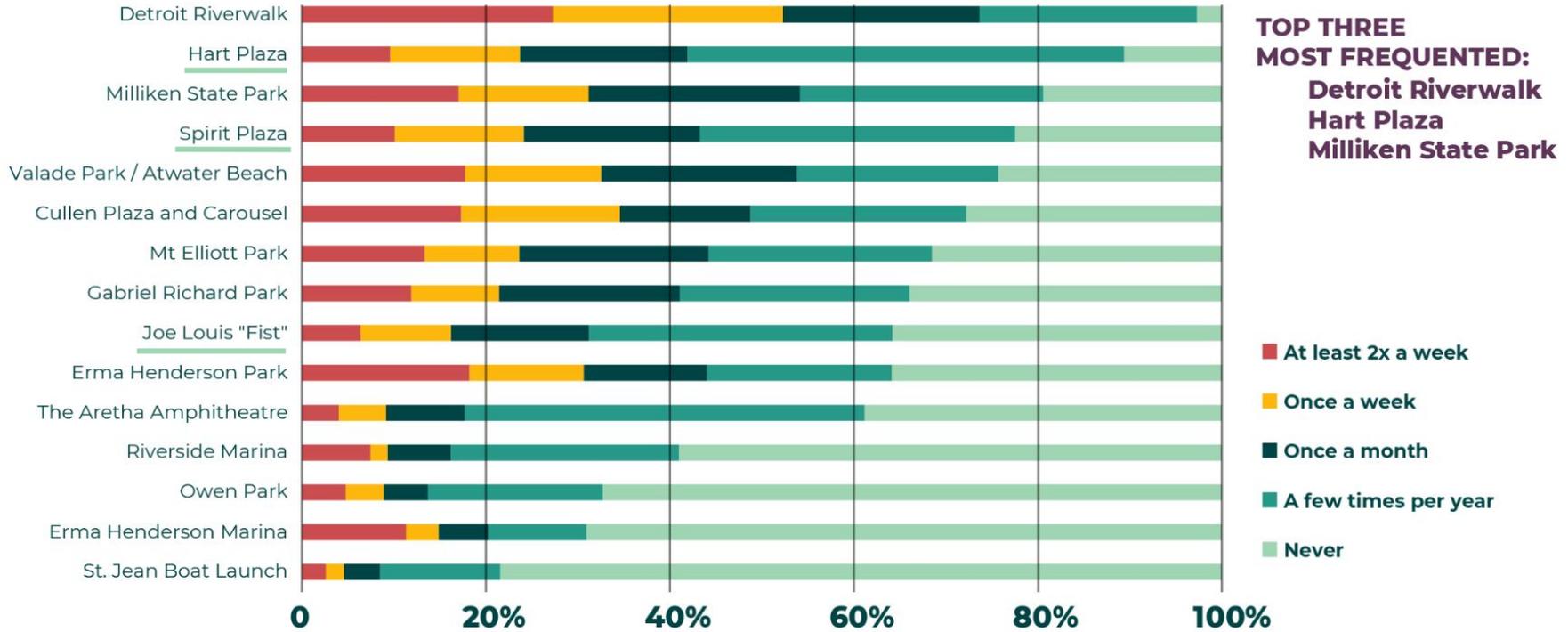
 visit detroitmi.gov/eras or
 call **313-241-4080**



PARKS & REC
STRATEGIC PLAN 

To maximize participation and practice safety measures during Covid-19, signage about the survey was posted at each asset.

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR INTERACTIONS ON THE DETROIT'S EAST RIVERFRONT: HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO?



An aerial, high-angle photograph of a dense urban skyline, likely New York City, featuring prominent skyscrapers like the Empire State Building and the Freedom Tower. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The text 'CIVIC CENTER' is prominently displayed in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

CIVIC CENTER

CIVIC CENTER OVERVIEW

- Combined the sites make up approx. 15 acres.
- Hart Plaza provides direct access to the Riverwalk for downtown.
- Spaces hold great potential to be activated with events and daily activity.
- Primarily hardscape

ASSETS:

- Hart Plaza (14 acres)
- Spirit Plaza (.5 acres)
- Monument to Joe Louis ("The Fist") (.5 acres)



DETROIT'S CIVIC MEMORY

Civic Center



DETROIT'S CIVIC MEMORY

Civic Center



CIVIC CENTER GOALS

BE THE CIVIC HEART OF THE CITY —

welcoming, easy-to-navigate, and accessible public spaces.



REINVIGORATE THE PLAZA —

improve infrastructure, programming, and accessibility.



IMPROVE EVENT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE EVENT EXPERIENCE —

visitor enjoyment, production staff efficiencies, and revenue-generating opportunities.



CELEBRATE DETROIT CULTURE AND HISTORICAL RELEVANCE —

preserve and steward the cultural monuments that memorialize Detroit's history.



CIVIC CENTER

EXISTING CONDITIONS



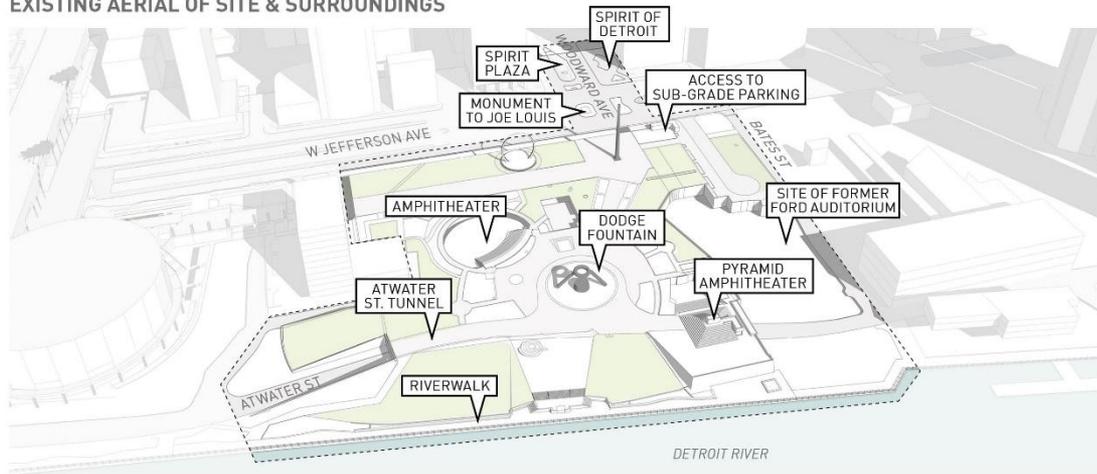
HART PLAZA DURING THE JAZZ FESTIVAL - 2012



DODGE FOUNTAIN



EXISTING AERIAL OF SITE & SURROUNDINGS



EXISTING SITE FEATURES



Team Findings



Public Input



Draft Recommendations

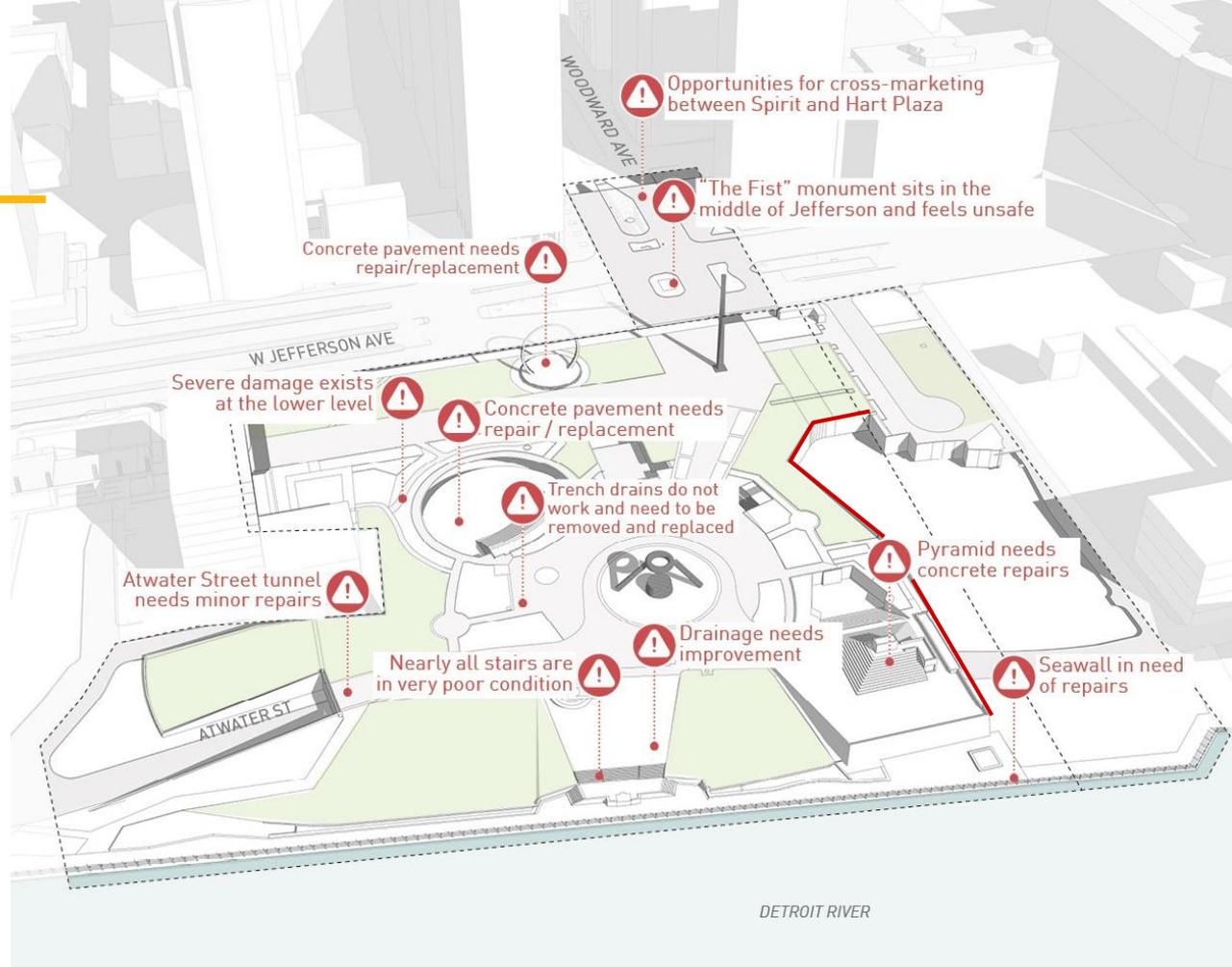
CIVIC CENTER PROJECT TEAM FINDINGS



DAMAGE IN THE SUBTERRANEAN LEVEL



MASS CONCRETE STRUCTURE (PYRAMID)



CIVIC CENTER

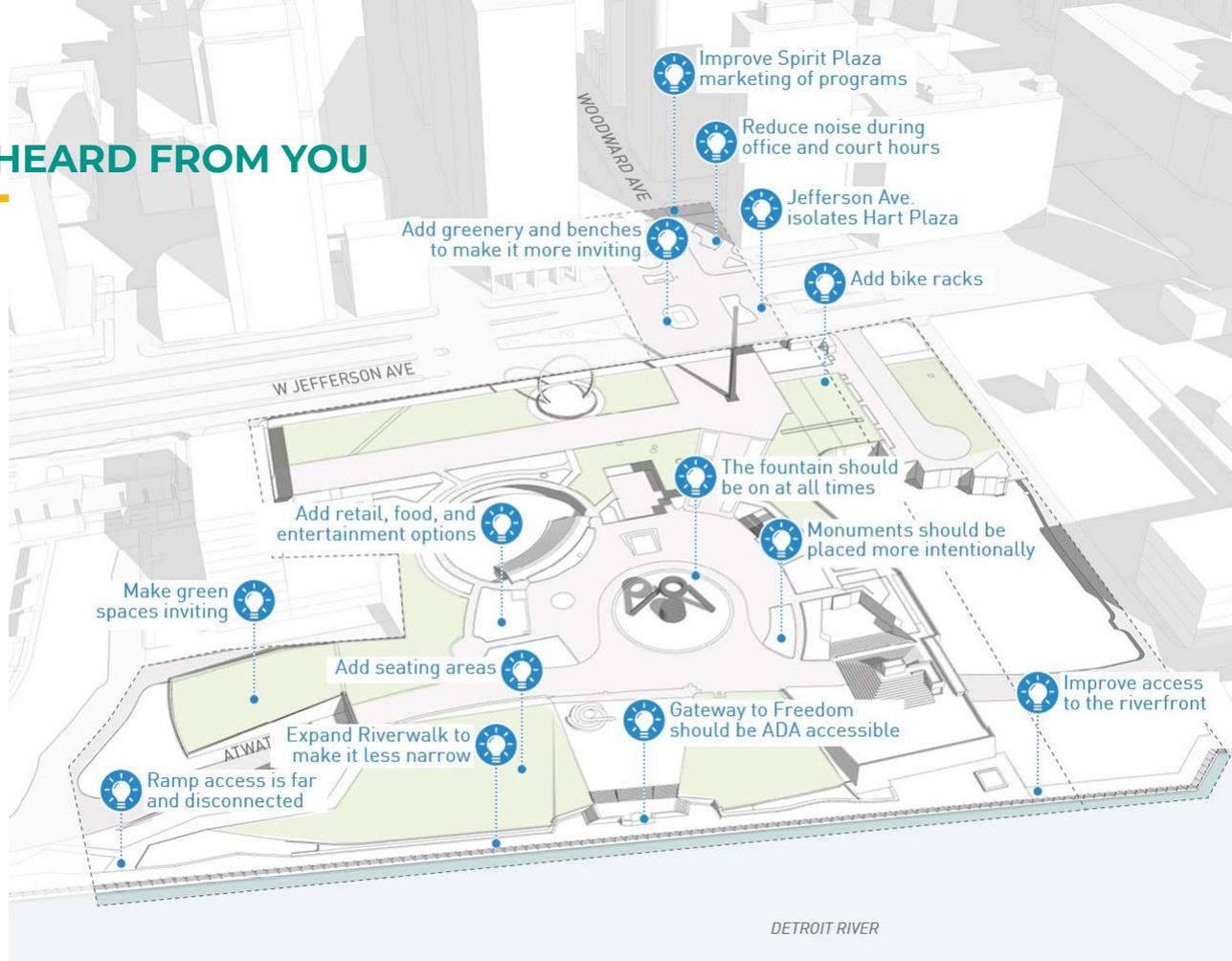
PUBLIC INPUT: WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU

♥ What do you love about this place?

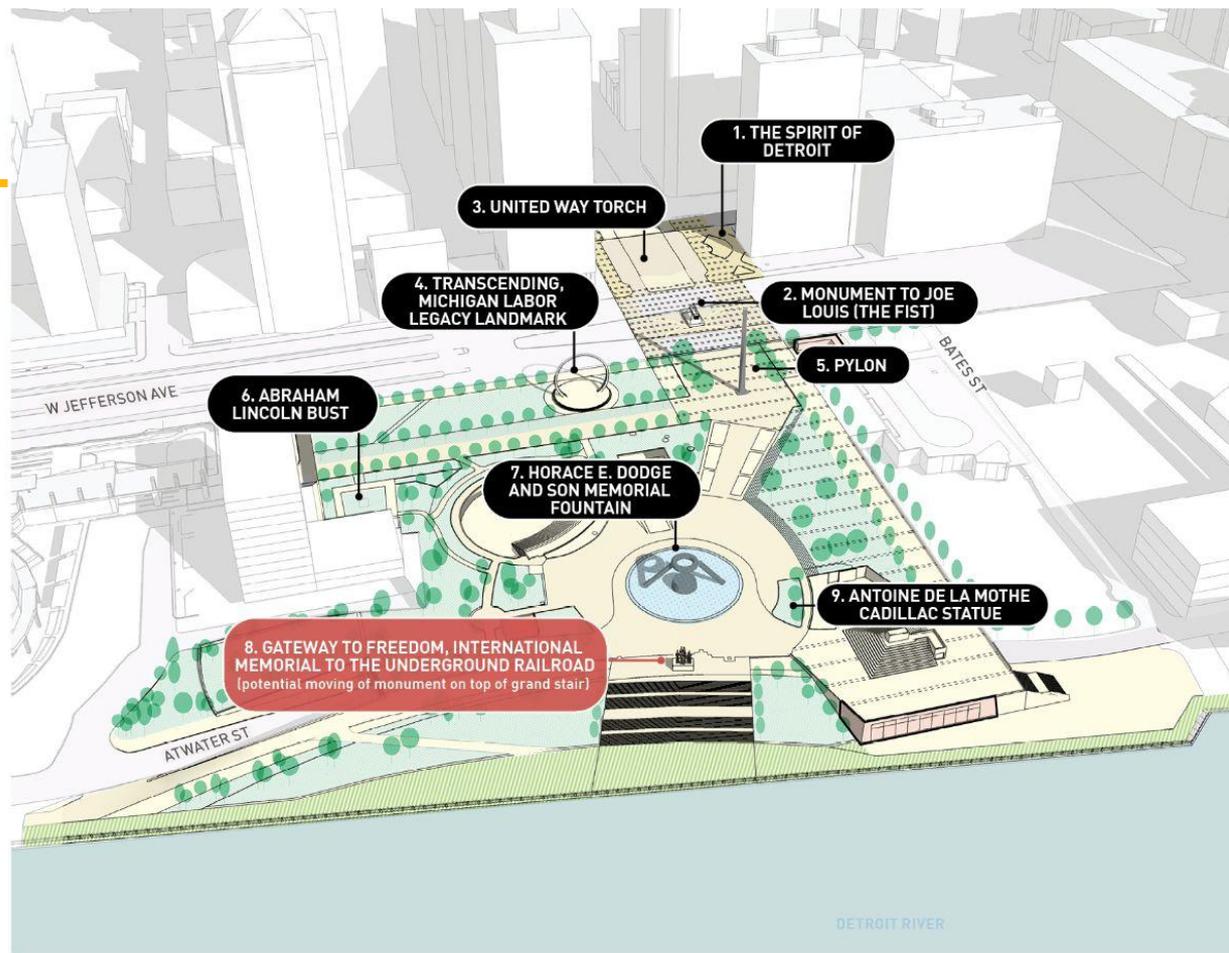
- The fountain (but turn it back on!)
- The view and location
- Quality/types of festivals and events

☹ What could be better?

- The **walking surface**, pavers are degraded and unsafe.
- **Create more green spaces**, and maintain the existing ones better.
- Position the monuments in a “more intentional” way.
- Love the festivals, but **activate/beautify for everyday use**.
- Better **bathroom facilities**.
- Safer **crossing from Spirit Plaza**.
- Boaters listen from the water but have **no docking access**.
- **More parking** is needed for people working the events.

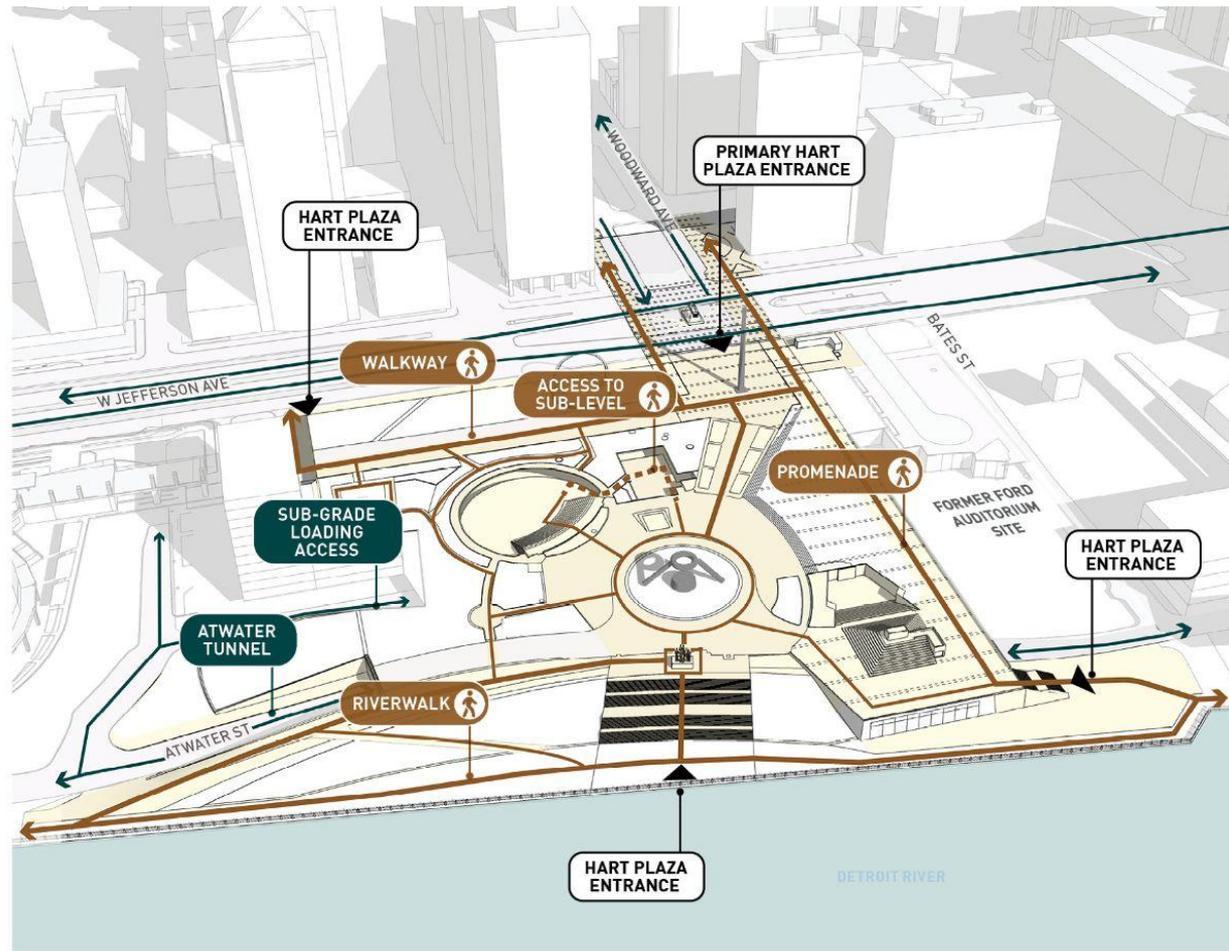


CIVIC CENTER MONUMENTS

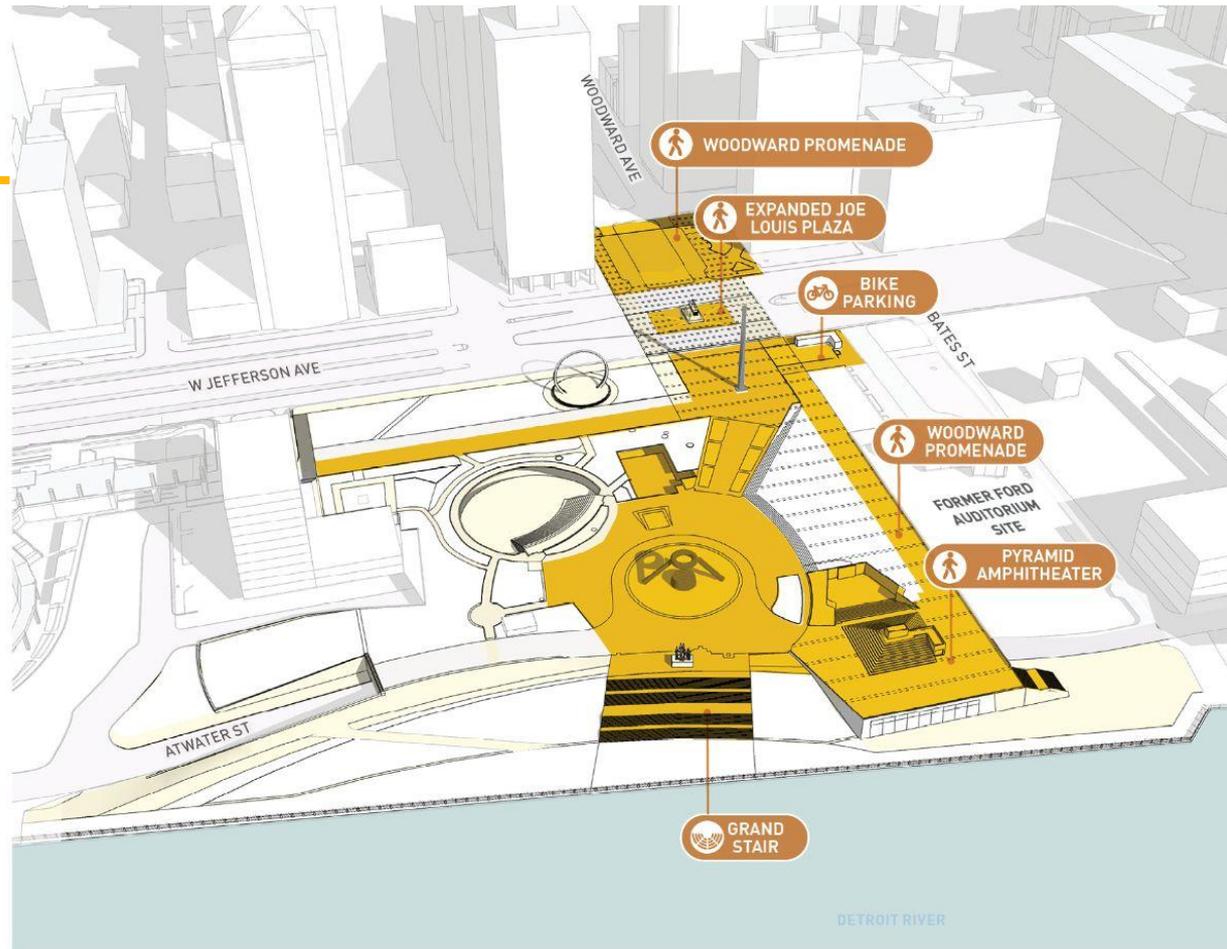


EXISTING GATEWAY TO FREEDOM, INTERNATIONAL
MEMORIAL TO THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

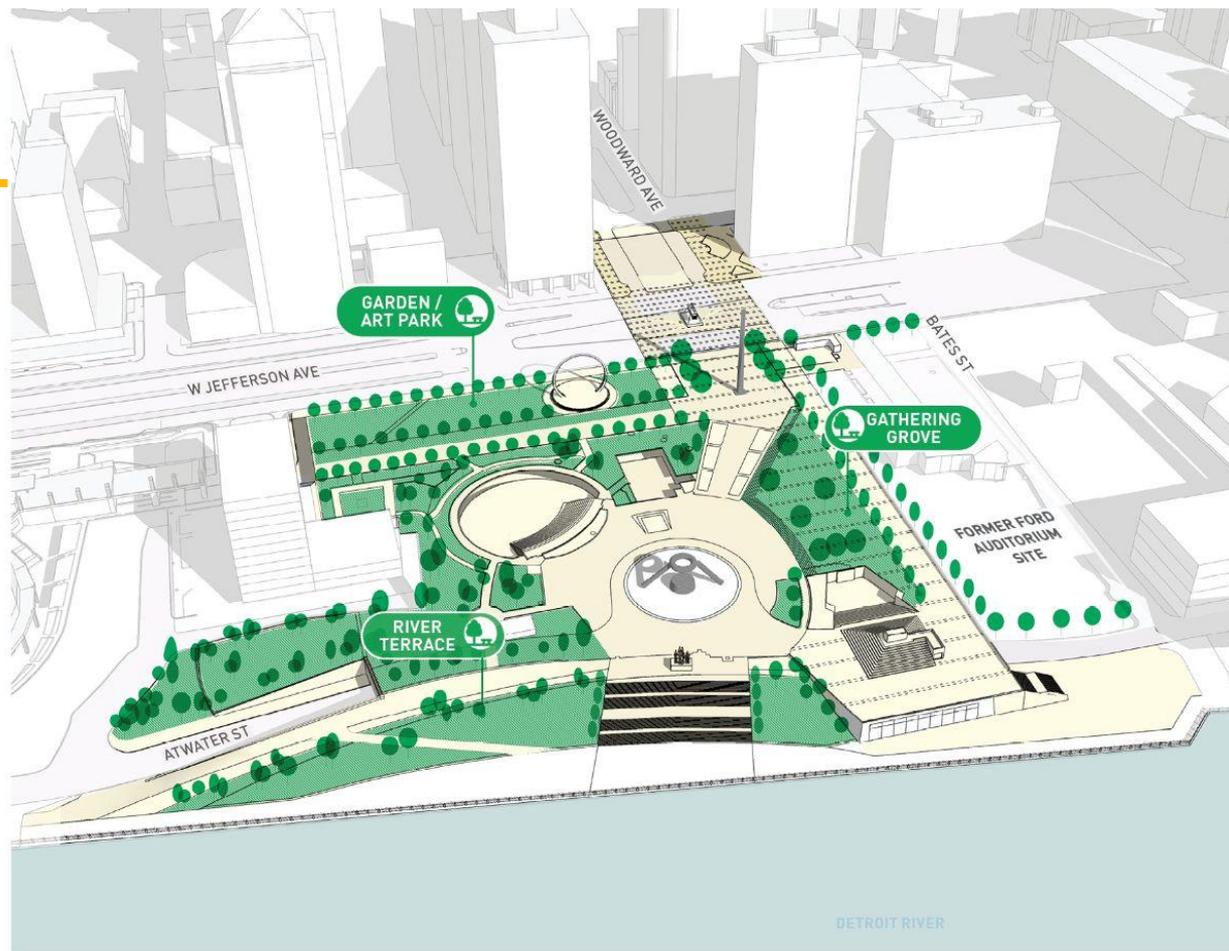
CIVIC CENTER CIRCULATION + ACCESS



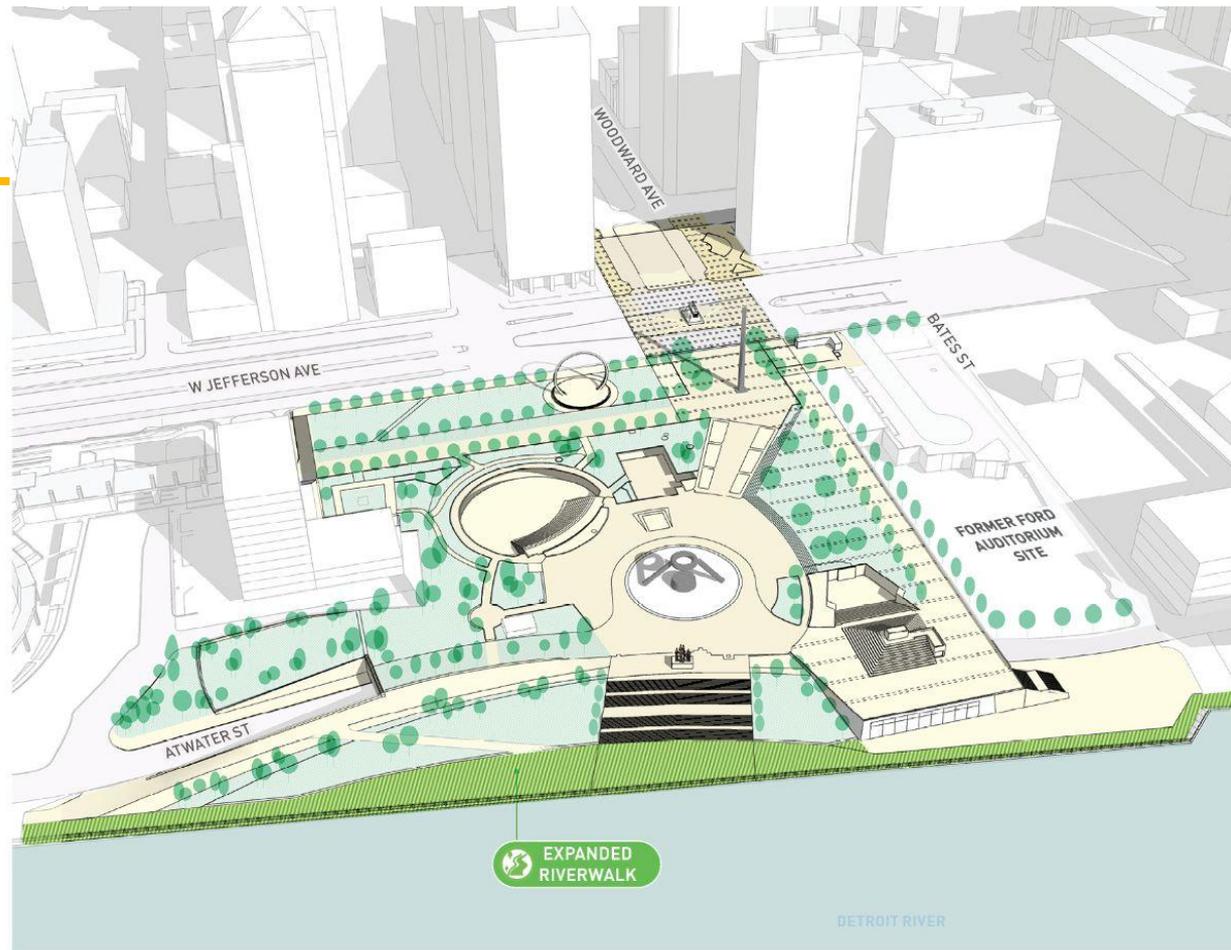
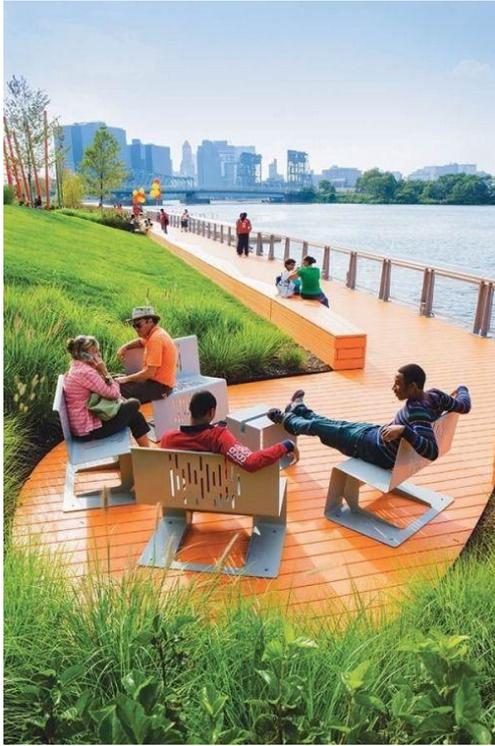
CIVIC CENTER PASSIVE PLAZA



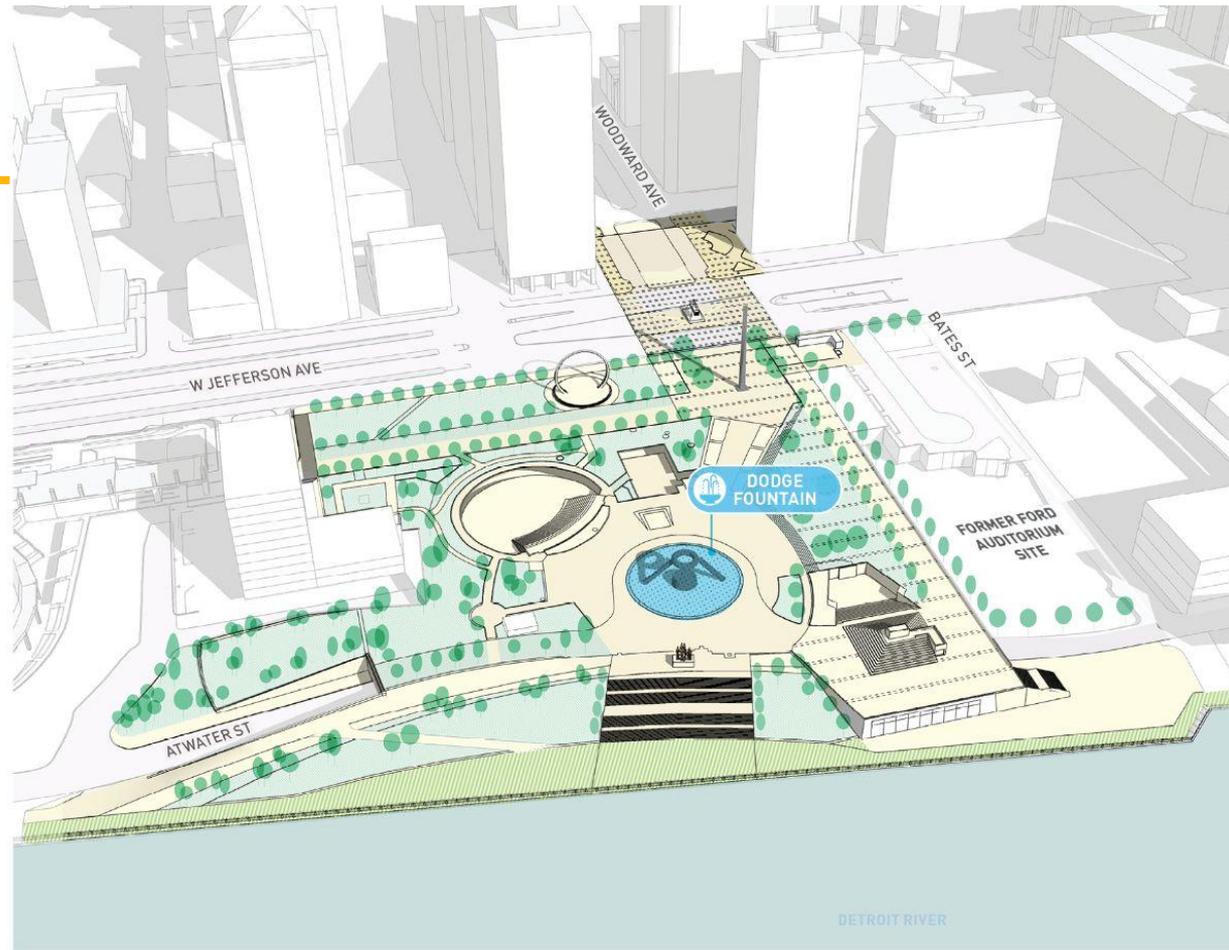
CIVIC CENTER PASSIVE LANDSCAPE



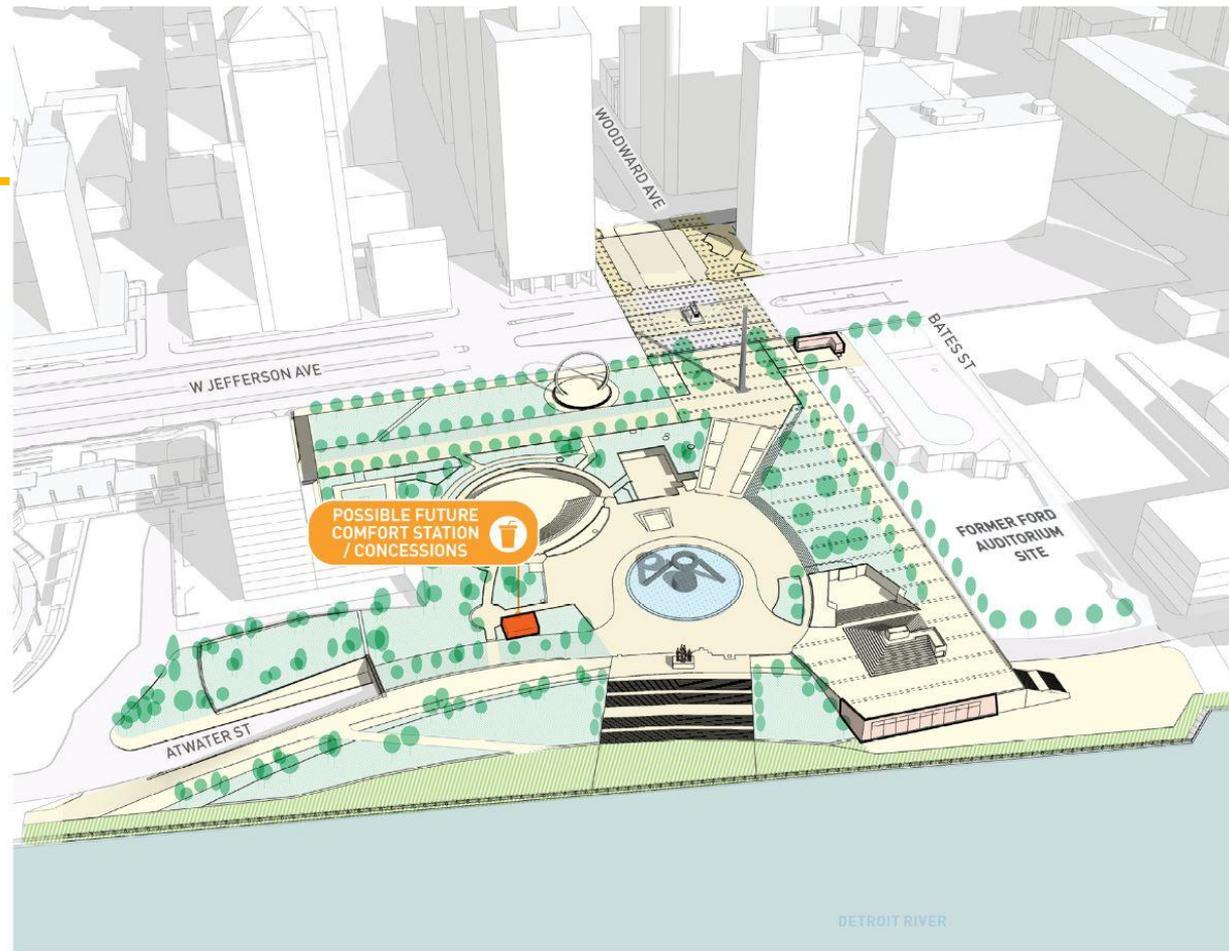
CIVIC CENTER EXPANDED RIVERWALK



CIVIC CENTER WATER ACTIVITY



CIVIC CENTER BUILDINGS + STRUCTURES



HART PLAZA

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Restore many of the historic features of the plaza such as the amphitheater, pyramid stage, and Dodge Fountain
- Limit public access to the underground infrastructure and simplify the layout
- Create a utility corridor that allows for safe and efficient truck access and new power and water at both levels
- Revise stair access to the Riverwalk
- Introduce more green landscaping
- Plan for a new comfort station/concession building that can be accessed by all park users



SPIRIT PLAZA + THE FIST

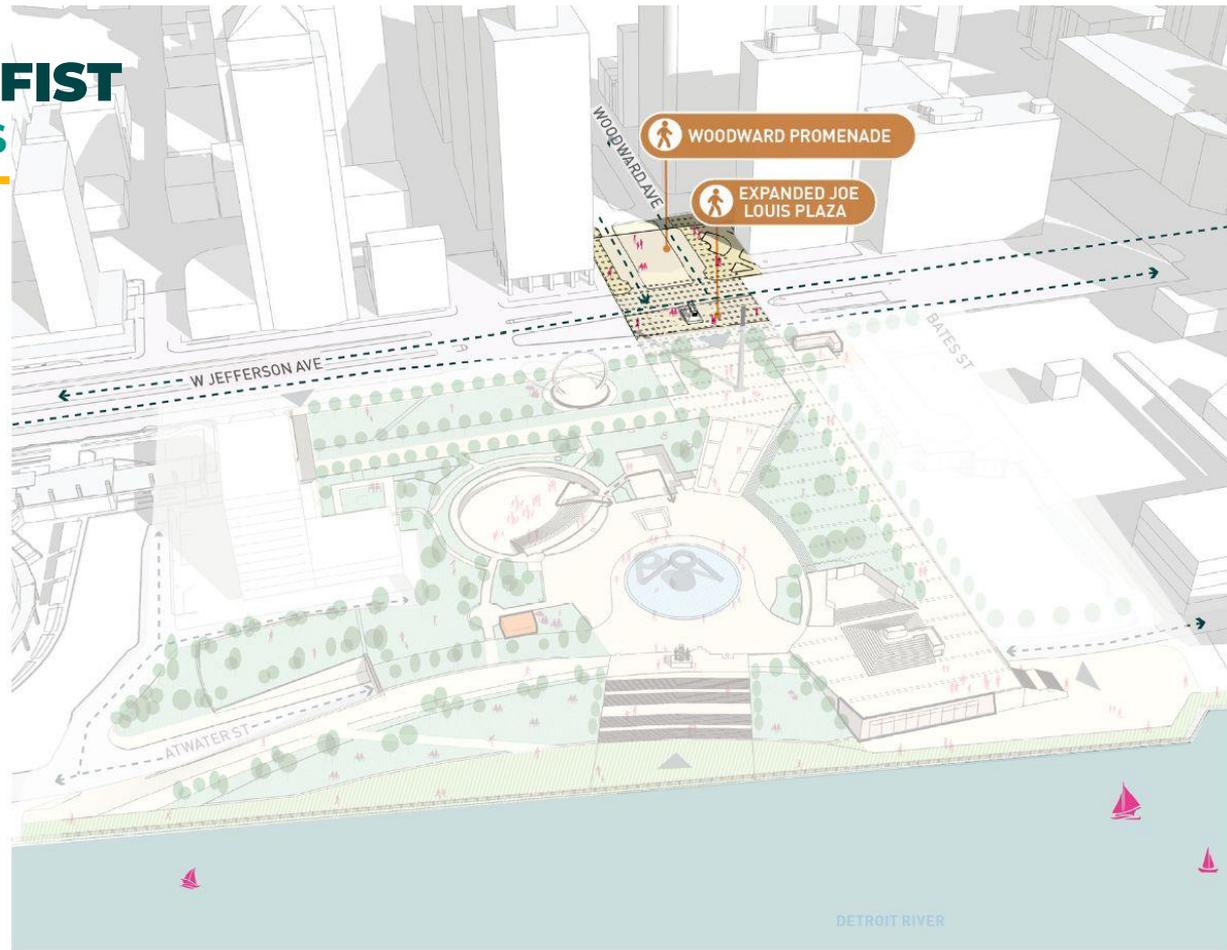
DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

SPIRIT PLAZA

- Continue to monitor and adjust programming based on user needs
- Consider re-designing the plaza after Hart Plaza is fully renovated and activated

JOE LOUIS FIST

- Introduce landscaping surrounding the monument while allowing limited pedestrian access
- Provide special paving in the Jefferson ROW that connects Woodward Ave. to Hart Plaza



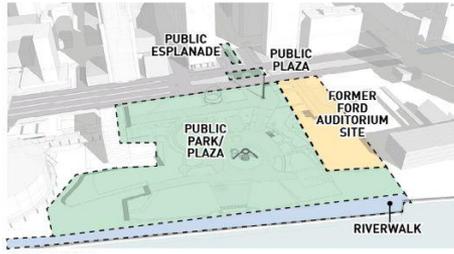
CIVIC CENTER VISION

PROGRAM ZONES

- PASSIVE LANDSCAPE
- ACTIVE LANDSCAPE
- WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES
- EXISTING BUILDINGS
- NEW COMFORT STATIONS/AMENITY BUILDINGS
- PARKING

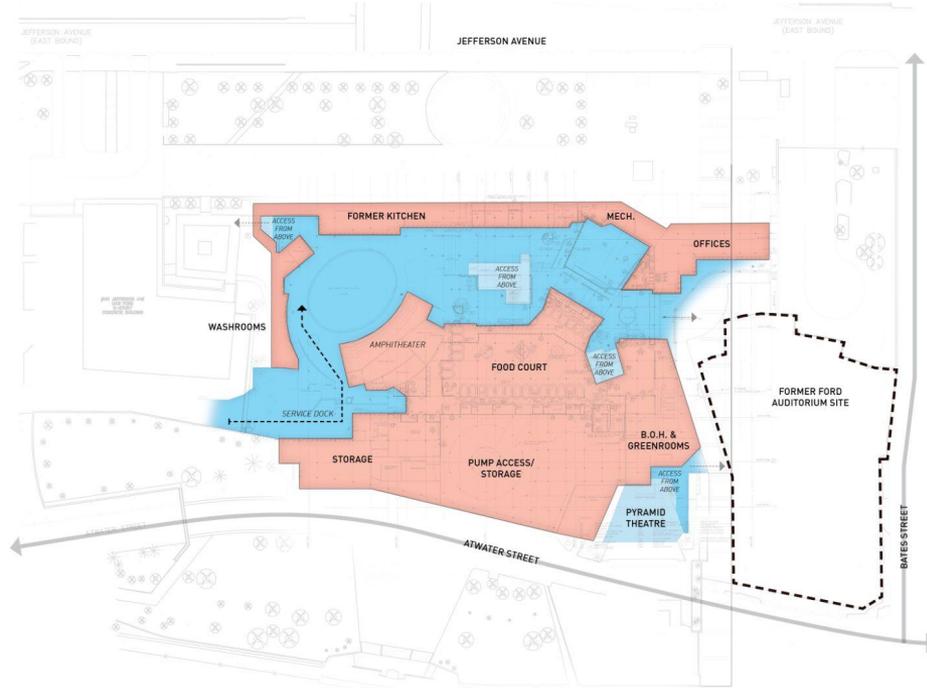
CIRCULATION

- VEHICULAR/MULTI-MODAL STREET
- SUB-GRADE PUBLIC ACCESS
- PEDESTRIAN PATH
- MAIN ENTRANCES



HART PLAZA: UNDERGROUND

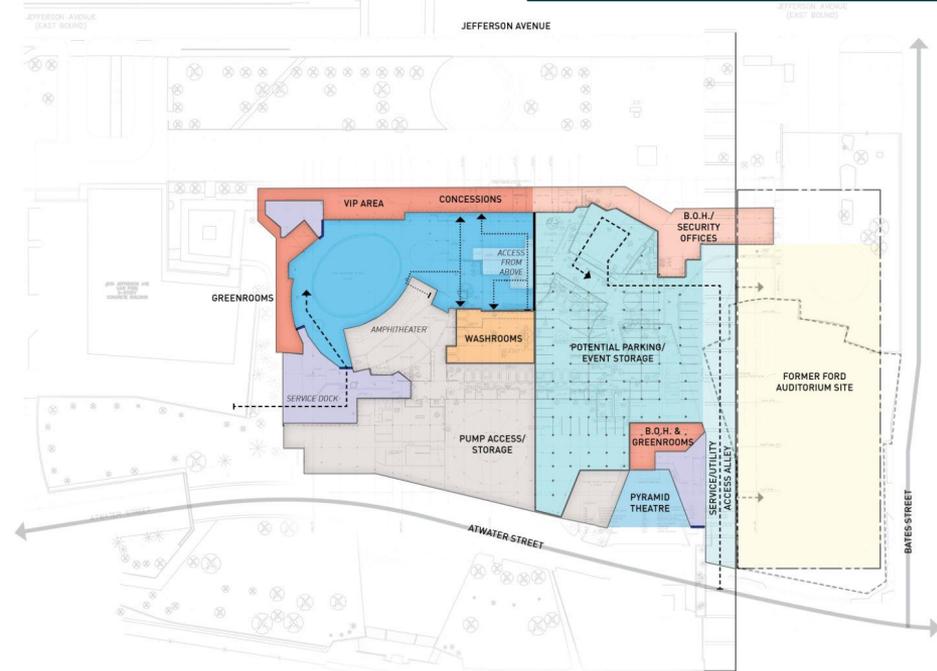
EXISTING



PROPOSED

LEGEND

- ENCLOSED BOH SPACE (STORAGE)
- OPEN AIR SPACE
- CIRCULATION TO PLAZA LEVEL
- RENOVATED INTERIOR SPACE (EVENT ONLY)
- NEW RESTROOMS (EVENT ONLY)
- PARKING/EVENT STORAGE (REMOVE EX. DEMISING WALLS)
- GATED BOH SPACE



HART PLAZA

PROPOSED CHARACTER AREA: GATHERING GROVE

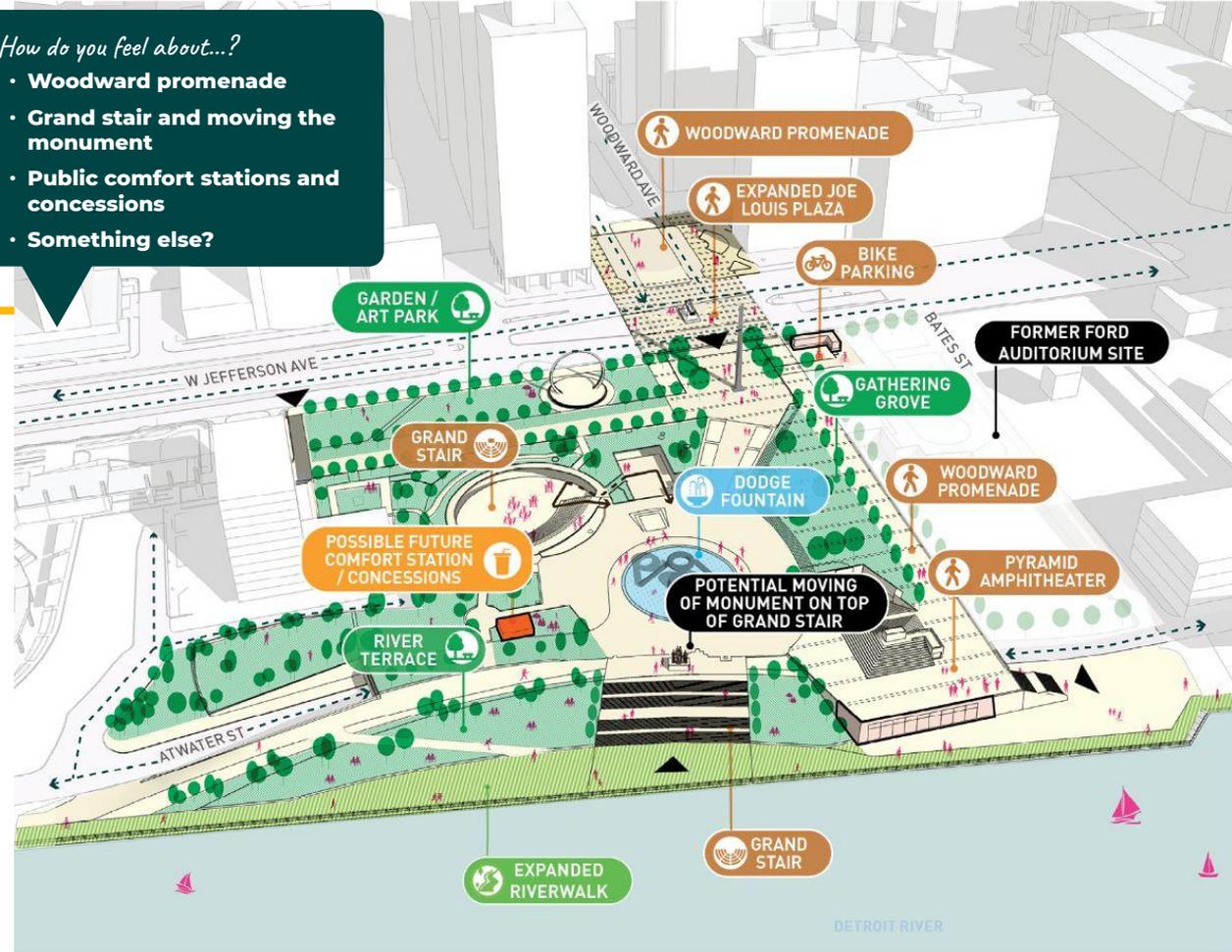


Your feedback is important

Here are the guidelines for tonight's discussion:

How do you feel about...?

- Woodward promenade
- Grand stair and moving the monument
- Public comfort stations and concessions
- Something else?



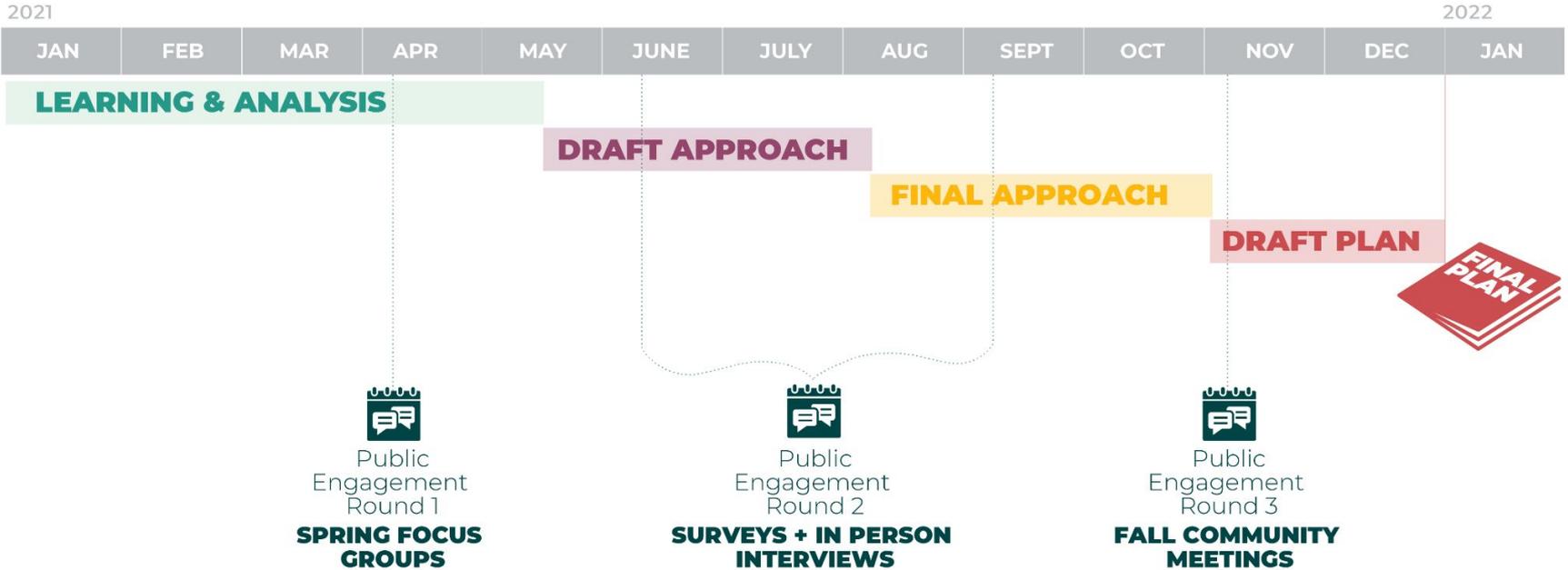
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Next Steps

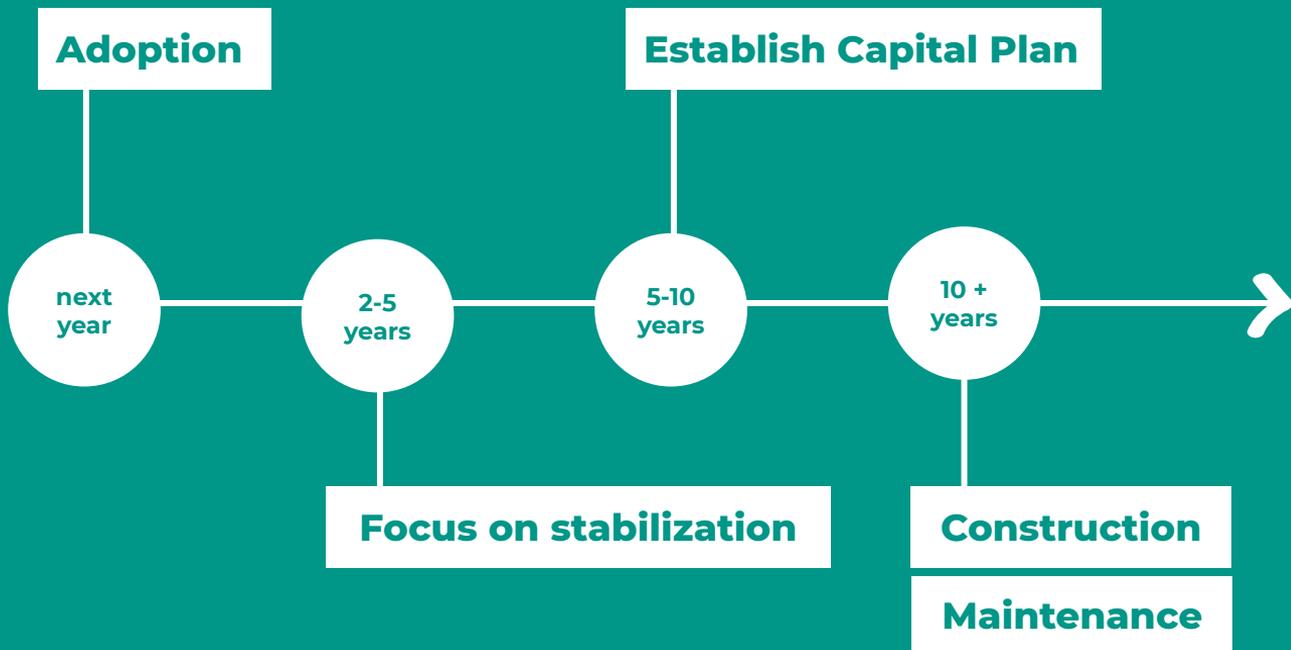


Review the draft plan early 2022



Once the plan is done,

what happens next?





Want to get involved in early action projects?

Contact Maria to volunteer!

How to Contact Us

By phone: 313-241-4080

By email: Maria Galarza- galarzam@detroitmi.gov

Where to find more information

www.detroitmi.gov/eras

Thank you!