

# Downtown Fort Wayne Public Realm Action Plan

Gehl



January 2019

Gehl, in collaboration with Fort Wayne City Planning and Policy, conducted a Public Space + Public Life Study of downtown in Spring 2018. This study sets a baseline understanding of life and space in the city. It helps us to know how public spaces are supporting public life in Downtown Fort Wayne. This baseline allows the City to identify challenges and opportunities for growing public life. It also allows the City to set target public life outcomes and measure progress during interim activation events and future phases of physical improvements. This report details our findings of the Public Space + Public Life study and proposes a Public Realm Strategy and a concept design for a pilot project to kick start this strategy.

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At the Heart of Fort Wayne

A city rich with historic character

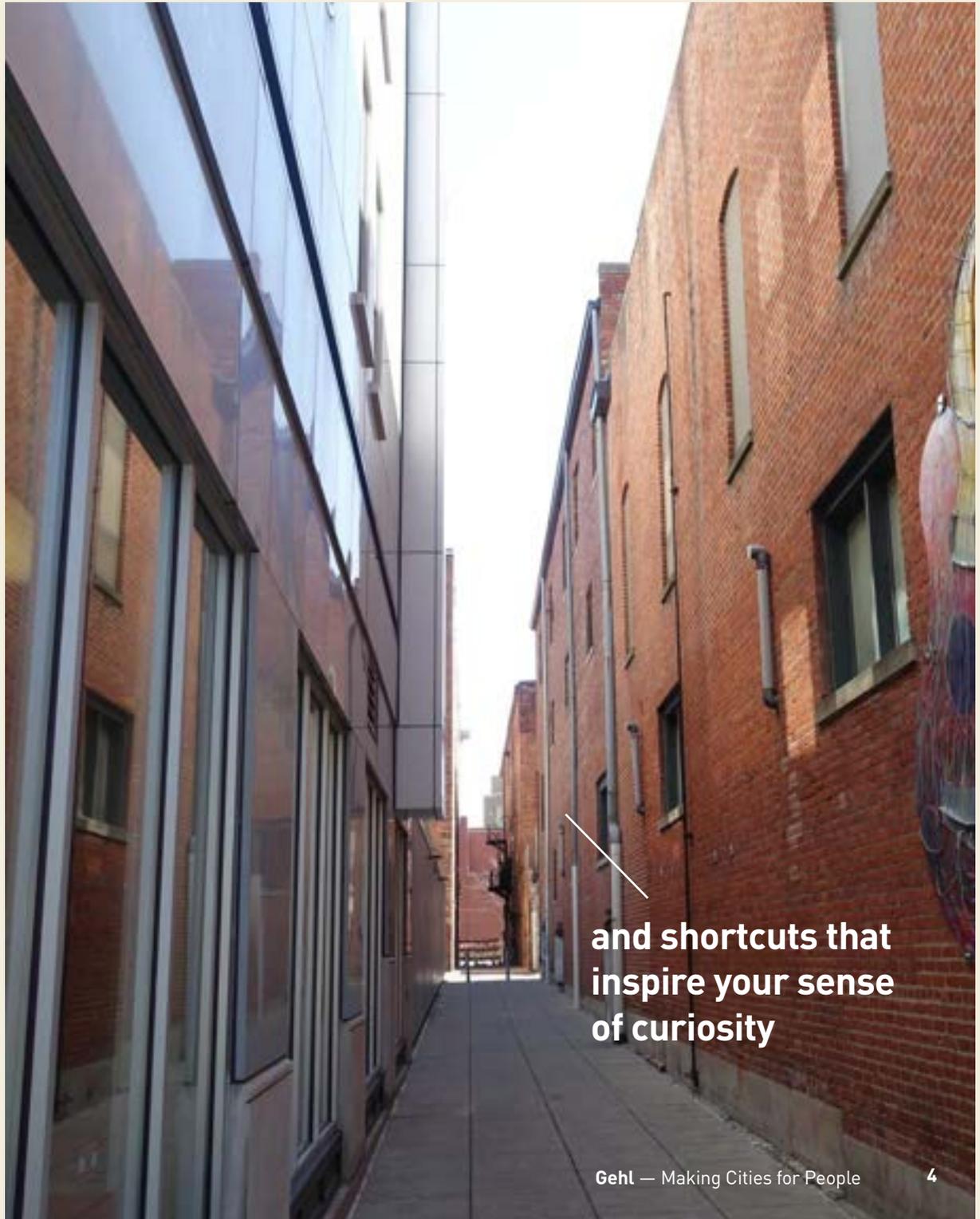
# Welcome to Fort Wayne

At the Heart of Fort Wayne

of hidden gems



Fort Wayne Public Realm Action Plan



and shortcuts that  
inspire your sense  
of curiosity

Gehl — Making Cities for People

At the Heart of Fort Wayne

Engaging  
main streets

At the heart of Fort Wayne



And riverfront parks...



..but, also  
CAR parks

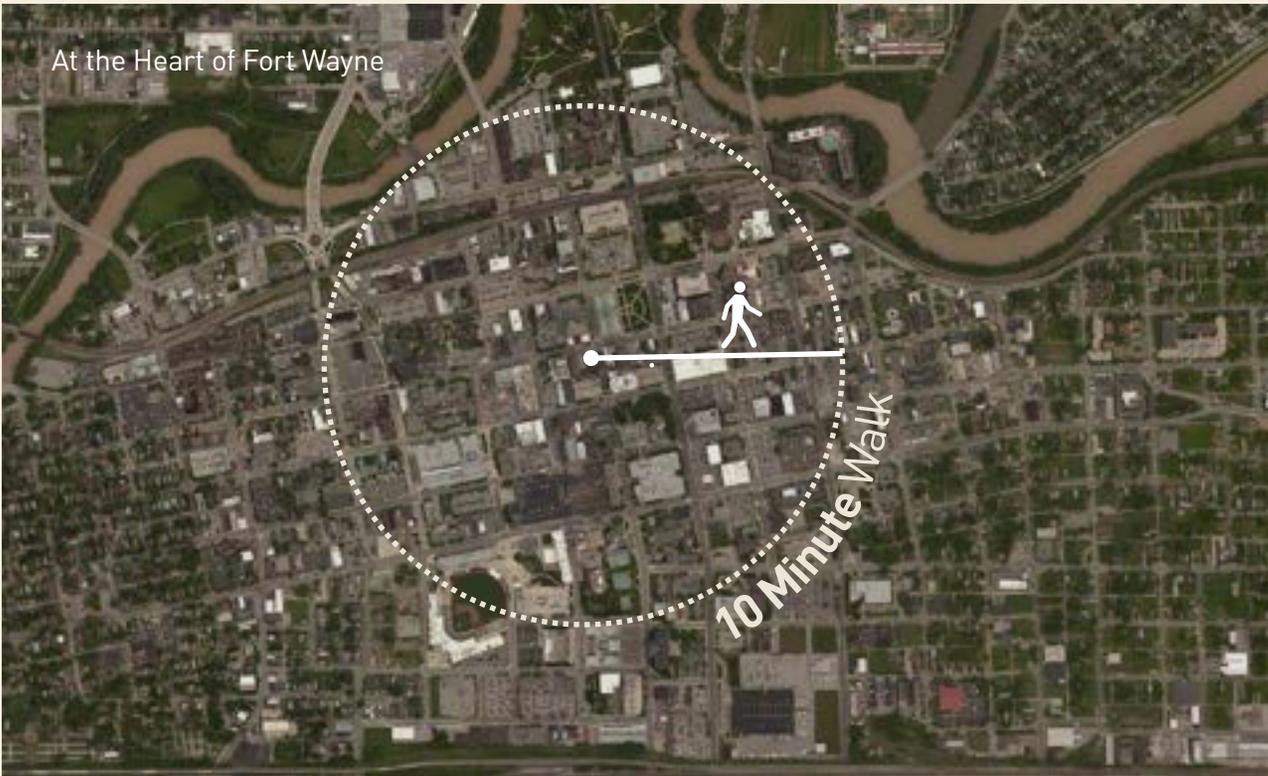
At the heart of Fort Wayne



Popular events

Showcasing local talent





# A Walkable City and Regional Node

Fort Wayne’s downtown is primed to become a city-wide and regional destination.



The lively restaurants on Calhoun and Wayne Streets are a 10-minute walk from the rest of downtown—including access to the riverfront. Surrounded by desirable neighborhoods, downtown activity attracts people from all over the area for events and markets. Fort Wayne’s downtown also has a regional reach, centered between major Midwestern destinations such as Detroit, Chicago, and Cleveland.

# A City Growing... *Fast*

This district is on the move with vital opportunities for employment and education. Strong investments in talent, hospitality, and innovation will lay the foundation for a bright future.

Fort Wayne is undergoing a serious development renaissance including a wide variety of projects that provide amenities for people to live, work, and play downtown. It is important to leverage the momentum these efforts bring through a high-quality, well-connected public realm that prioritizes the human experience.



## More Residents

The Landing—a mixed-use residential, retail, food, and beverage spot on historic Columbia Street will provide more opportunities to live downtown.

## More Creatives

An expanded Arts Campus will connect Fort Wayne’s cultural institutions.

## More Entrepreneurs

The proposed Electric Works will be a development with anchoring institutions, creative office space, cutting edge retail, affordable residential and a food market.

## New Retail!

## More Visitors

Fort Wayne is inviting people to visit by offering a comfortable place to stay in new hotels like the Hampton Inn and a new boutique hotel.

**+250,000**

Square feet of retail space is coming in with new developments like The Landing, the proposed Electric Works and more.



**1.2 M**

Square feet of new multi-use office, retail residential, and hotel space brought in by the proposed Electric Works.

**+250**

New hotel rooms—a boutique hotel on Main Street and Hampton Inn will give the city a 112% increase in places for visitors to stay.



**+140,000**

New residential units in Northeast Indiana by 2031. Multiple mixed-use developments will increase opportunities for living downtown.

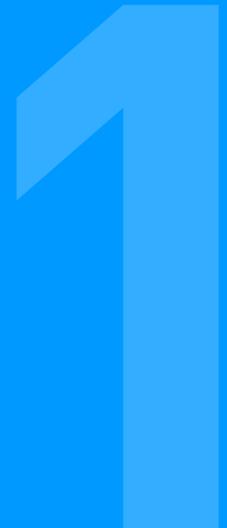
**Change  
is coming  
to Fort  
Wayne.**

**How will the  
Public Realm support  
this development,  
spark more growth,  
and be the connective  
tissue linking all of  
its assets?**

# Setting the Stage for Tomorrow.

In the face of this urban change, it's important to know where Fort Wayne wants to go and who it wants to be.

In order to shape strategies to guide growth that fits, reflect and supports the city's overarching goals moving forward, We begin with an honest look at how people experience the city today





**PARKS**



**SQUARES & PLAZAS**



**URBAN TRAILS**



**ALLEYWAYS**



**PUBLIC BUILDINGS**



**SEATING & LEDGES**



**UNDERPASS PATHWAYS**



**LIVELY SIDEWALKS**



**STREETS**

# Leverage *all* of your public realm.

A city's public realm is more than its formal parks and plazas. It is all spaces between buildings.

A vibrant and active downtown considers the public life of its destinations as well as its connections.

From its sidewalks and streets, to alleyways and underpasses, to public buildings and informal cut-throughs, Fort Wayne has a rich, connected network of public spaces to foster the life and culture of its residents well beyond its plazas and parks.

## The 21st Century Street is a Place

Streets are a city's largest public canvas — its largest public space. They make up more than 80% of all public space in cities and present the greatest untapped resource to bolster a city's public realm for people — to foster a sense of community, connect residents to their city, and make their culture visible and accessible.

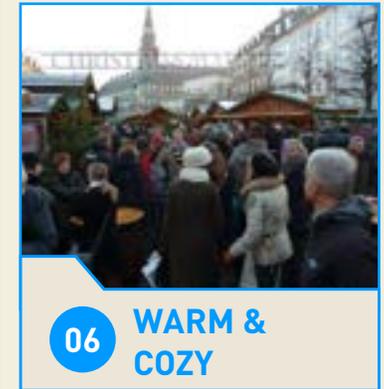
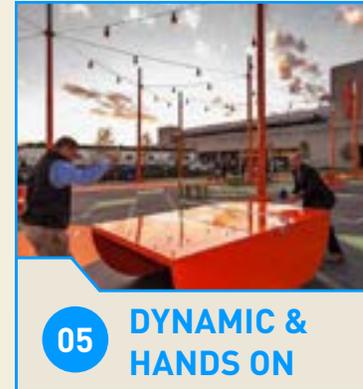
Fright Night, for example, gives citizens the opportunity to show off their creativity, connects people to each other who wouldn't otherwise meet, and it gives them a chance to get all their steps in for the day.



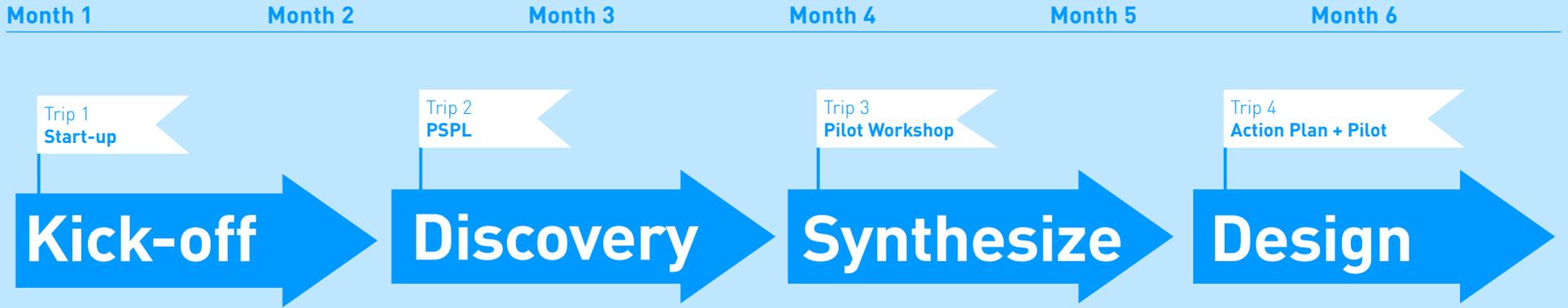
# The Spatial Qualities You Value

Before heading out and observing the city, we wanted to understand what urban qualities Fort Wayne locals cherish and aspire for their public realm.

Responding to the “My Favorite Places” survey (see process details p.17), over 600 people shared what qualities draw them to their favorite Fort Wayne destinations. Important shared values became apparent. Here are what emerged as the top spatial qualities that attract people. These qualities paint a picture of Fort Wayne and should act as reference for how developments and improvements are shaped moving forward.



# Our Process



**Kick off! Research and Understanding**  
 Diving into background materials, scoping the site for survey locations, understanding initial goals for the study

**Discovery! Collecting our baseline data**  
 Public Space Public Life Survey; Framing Opportunities and Challenges  
 Online Favorite Places Engagement; Initial Data Finding

**Pilot Workshop**  
 Emerging Public Life Insights; Stakeholder Committee Pilot Project Workshop; Design Sprints

**Pilot Workshop**  
 Draft Public Realm Strategies, Conceptual Pilot Project Design/ Program(s)

**Next Steps!**  
**Evaluate**  
 Implementation support, evaluation and refinement

## Our Process Favorite Places Survey

The My Favorite Places survey is a tool to understand where people like to spend time in their city. We've used this around the world to understand what qualities people value and start to understand how we can apply those tools to our design recommendations

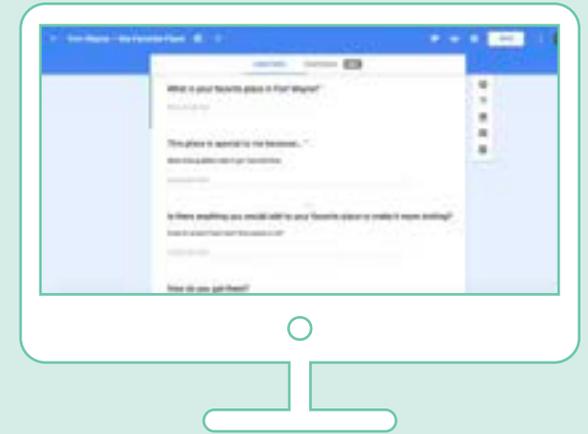
### What do locals love?

We heard from locals what makes their favorite places special to them...

It's relaxing, rejuvenating and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

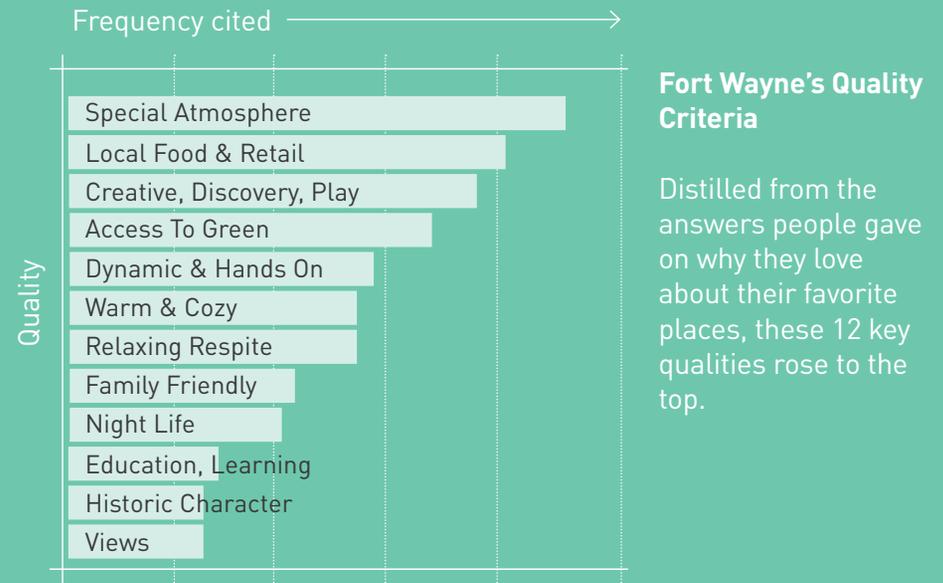
I wish there was a better connection to the riverfront.

It feels like a great place to have conversation.



### Online Engagement

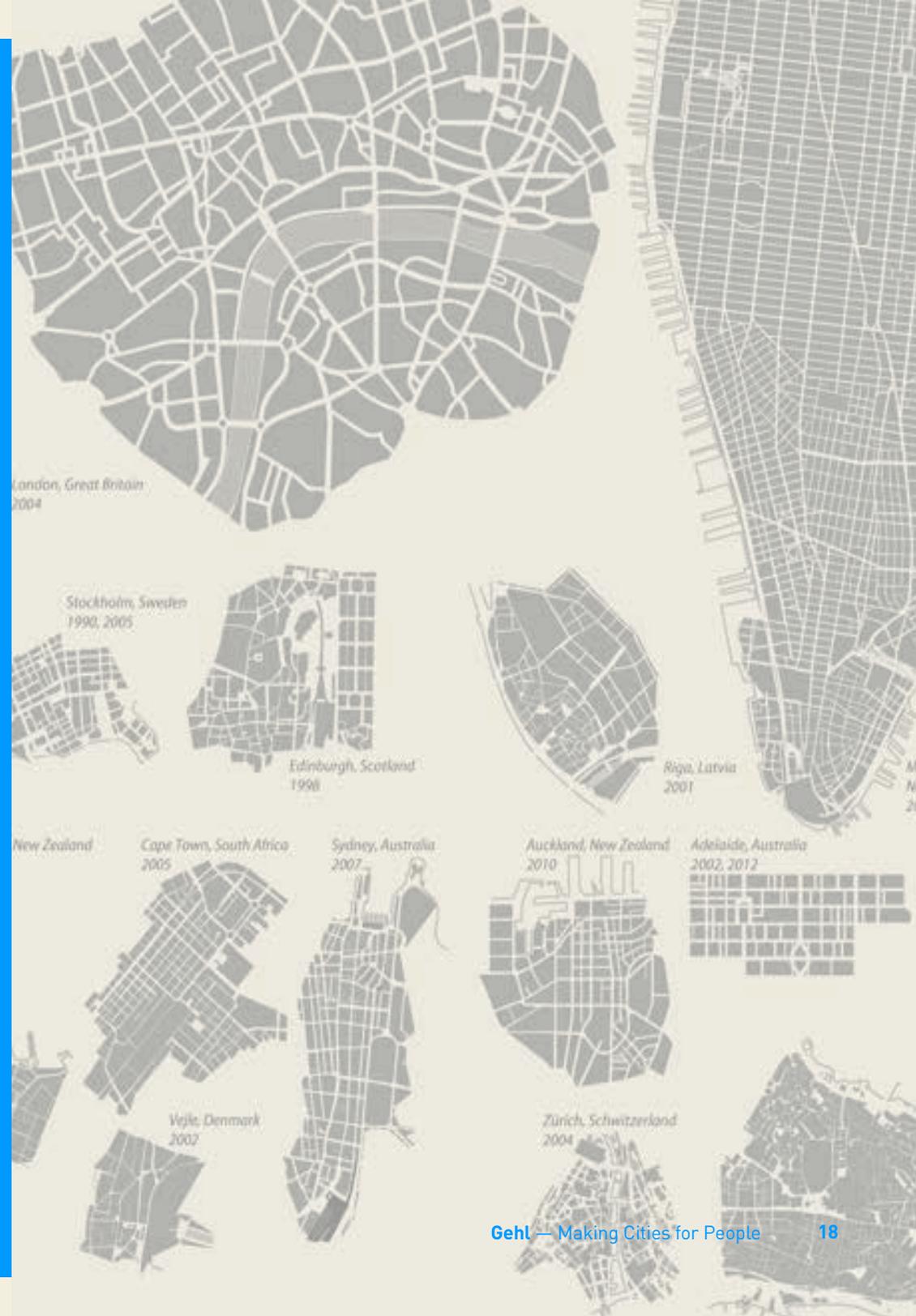
This survey was distributed online, broadcasted on the local news, and posted on the city's social media pages. It collected over 600 responses from people around Fort Wayne.



# The Public Space + Public Life Survey

Public Space + Public Life surveys have been performed around the globe by Gehl and partner cities. In some places, like Sydney and Copenhagen, Public Life data is an integrated part of the city planning process and is used to gauge success according to public life benchmarks. It is no coincidence that these cities are ranked as some of the world's most livable places. When cities use public life data to guide their design and policies, the outcome is better for people.

Download the Public Life Data Protocol:  
[www.gehlinstitute.com](http://www.gehlinstitute.com)

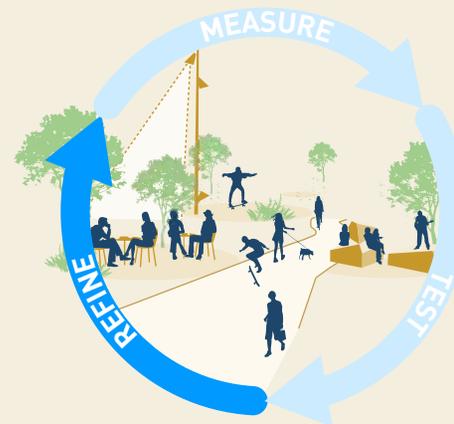
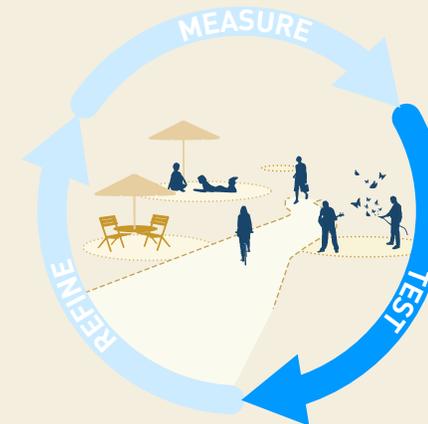
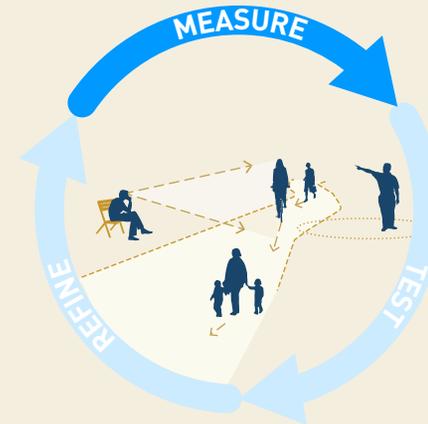


# Decode the *Everyday* to set Benchmarks for Tomorrow

Why a Public Space + Public Life (PSPL) study?

- To provide **evidence** on which to base **objective choices**
- To find **human stories**
- To inform **strategy and design**
- To benchmark **progress**
- To discover **new opportunities**
- To create **urgency for change**

In order to get to where you want to go, you need to know where you're starting. A Measure, Test, Refine approach helps us understand what kind of design and programming certain spaces need, how successful pilot projects are, and what should be refined moving forward.



# Getting a Picture of it all in Fort Wayne.

A city observes itself.

With the help of a generous crew of 50 volunteers, we went out and surveyed 33 locations around the city to get a pulse of how people move through and stay in the city.

The city of Fort Wayne came together to survey their streets and public spaces. We had 50 volunteers come out to take part in capturing the city's baseline data.



50 volunteers helped survey the city.

# Survey Locations and Methods.

Our Public Space + Public Life survey was conducted with 50 volunteers to collect data on pedestrian movement and stationary activity of people in the public realm of Fort Wayne's downtown core. 10 key zones, each including 2-3 count locations and one stationary mapping location, were surveyed over a 12 hour period from 8am to 8pm on the following:

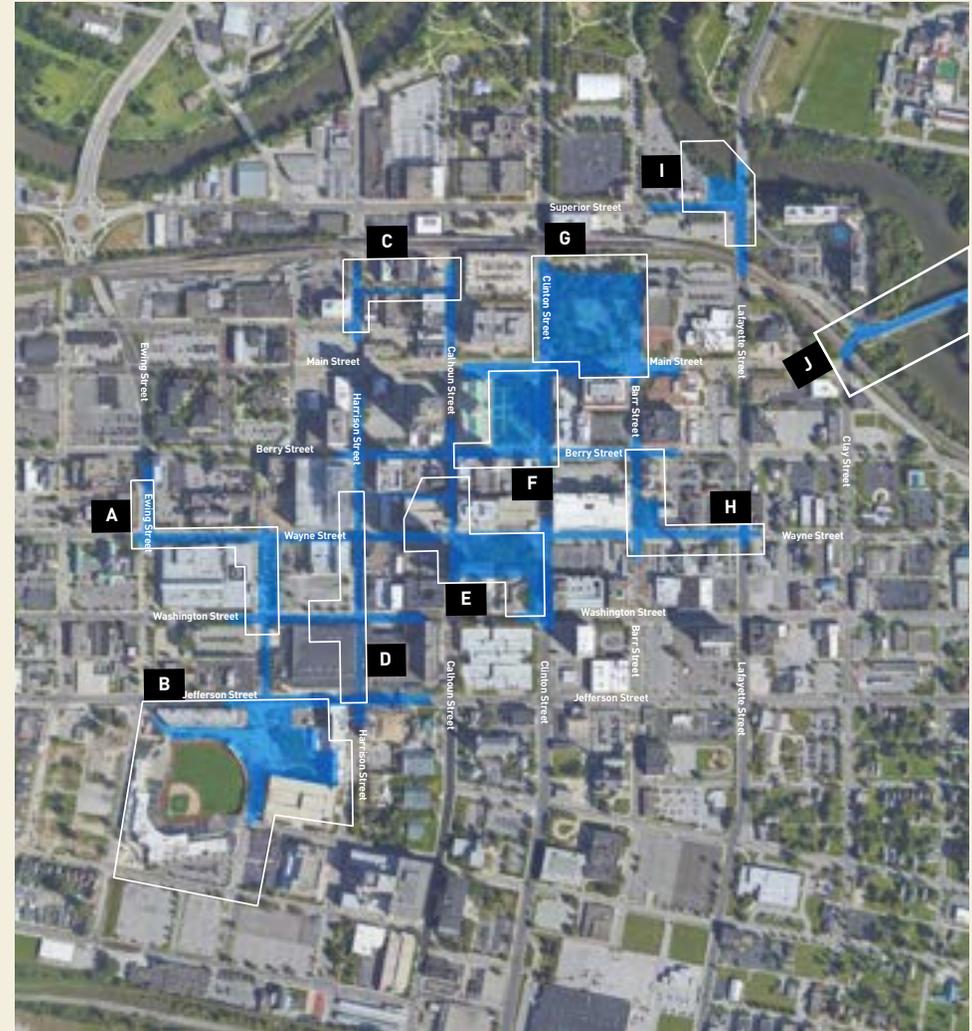
Thursday, April 26

63° | Sunny; partly cloudy in the morning

Saturday, April 28

50° | Mostly cloudy until the evening

This is what we studied...

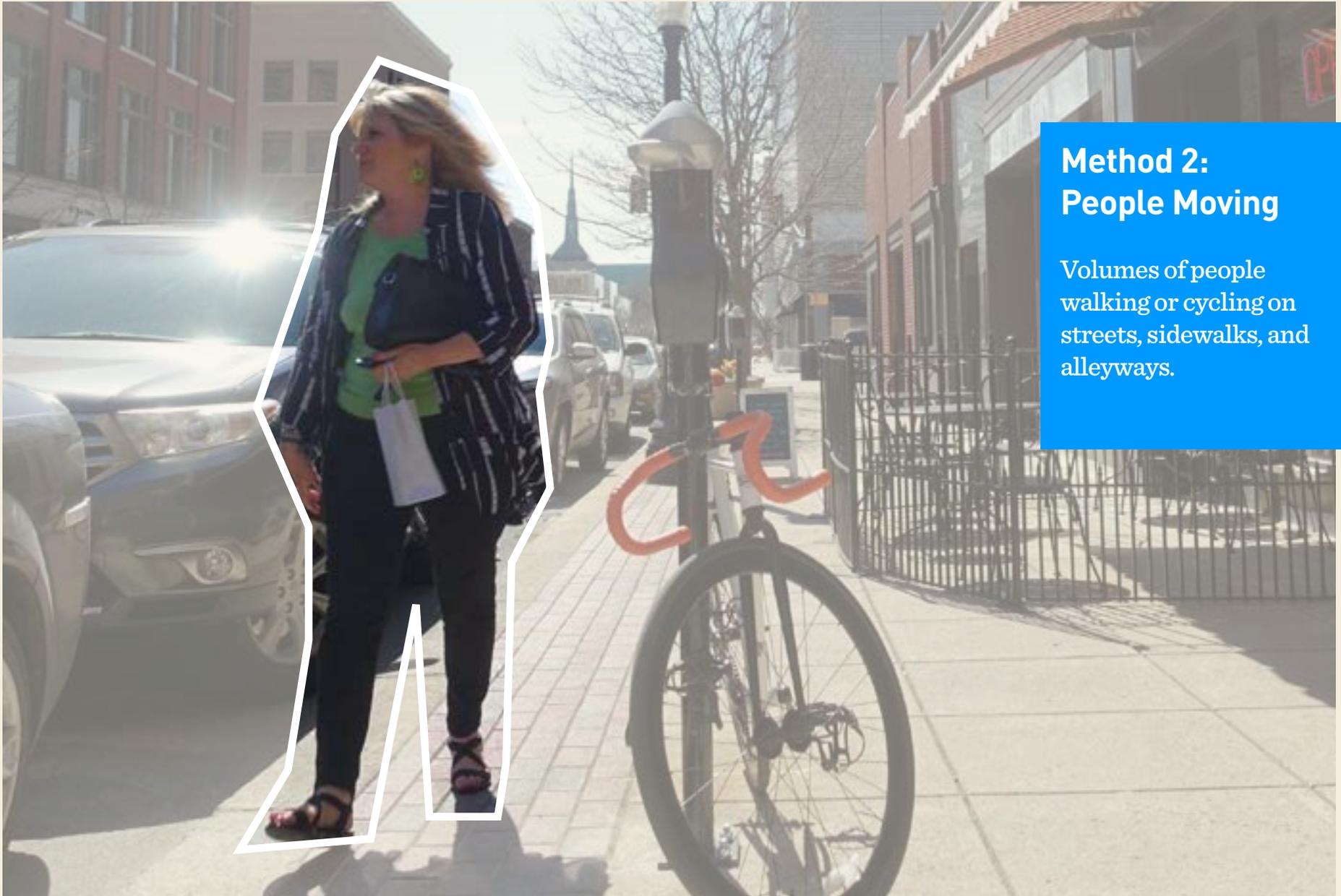


- A. Wayne Street, Ewing Street, Allen County Public Library
- B. Jefferson Street, Parkview Field
- C. Columbia Street, Harrison Street, Calhoun Street
- D. Harrison Street, Washington Street
- E. Calhoun Street, Clinton Street, AEP Plaza
- F. Berry Street, Clinton Street, Courthouse Green
- G. Main Street, Clinton Street, Freimann Square
- H. Barr Street, Wayne Street
- I. Superior Street, Lafayette Street
- J. Clay Street, St. Joseph Blvd, Conjure Coffee



**Method 1:  
Age & Gender**

Who is moving through  
and spending time  
downtown?



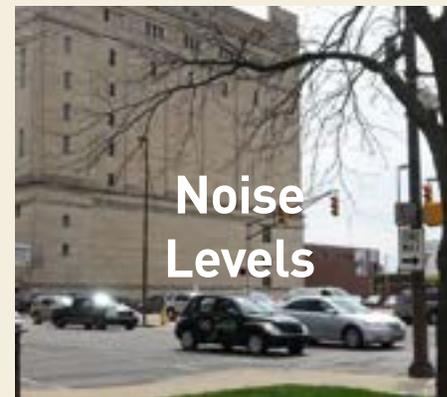
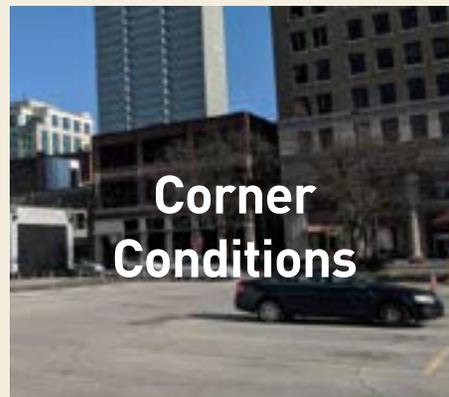
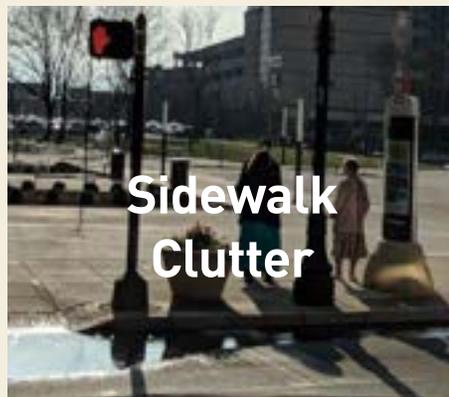
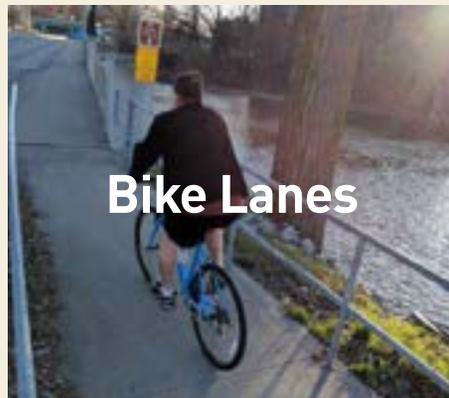
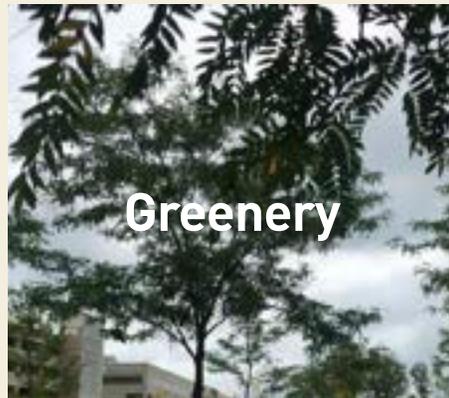
**Method 2:  
People Moving**

Volumes of people walking or cycling on streets, sidewalks, and alleyways.

### Method 3: Stationary Activity

*What activities are inviting *who* to spend time? Body posture, activity, age, gender of people staying.*





**Method 4:  
Public Space  
Analysis**

To understand the relationship between public life and public space, we documented facade quality, land use, neighborhood amenities, public space amenities, and performed test walks to feel the current pedestrian experience.

# Emerging Trends & Key Takeaways

How well do the streets in downtown Fort Wayne invite people to walk and bike—especially outside of commuting hours?

What is the quality of experience moving through the city—by foot, bike, transit, and private car?

How does the space support or hinder public life?



01 **Special occasions  
(and lunch) drive  
public life.**



**Fort Wayne locals come  
out enthusiastically when  
invited.**

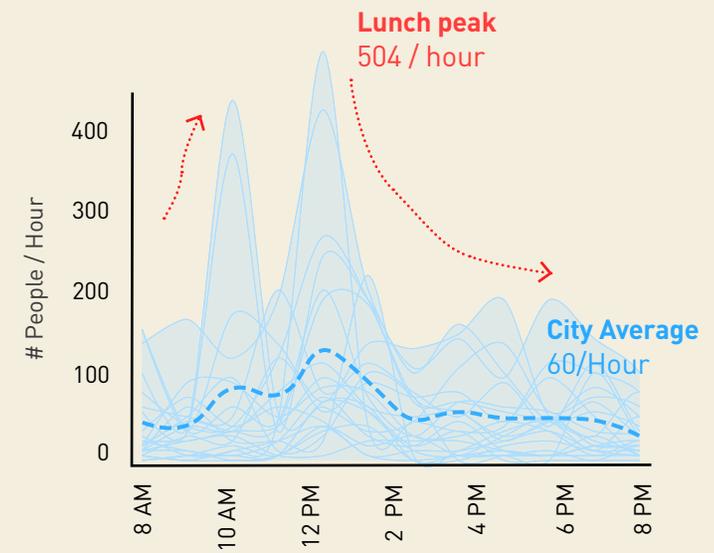
**Bursts of activity followed by quiet stretches is characteristic of the city's public life throughout the week.**

The demand to spend time downtown is there—it's just focused around a few key times.

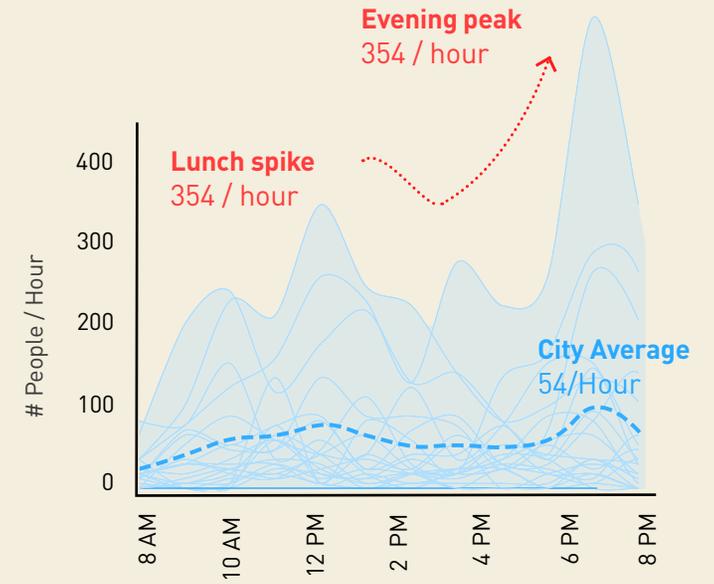
During the week, the city sees sharp up ticks during lunch while on the weekend it sees spikes in the evening.



**Weekday Pedestrian Volumes**



**Weekend Pedestrian Volumes**



Key Takeaways

## Fort Wayne locals show up.

Events are magnetic draws, attracting vast numbers of people on par with cities three and four times larger. When events leave, however, these spaces empty out dramatically.

Barr Street Market is an example, which welcomes a broad range of ages and visitors to the space Saturday morning for the market. Over 1,000 Fort Wayne locals visit each hour, similar to San Francisco's Embarcadero. And of those walking through, another 71 are staying, similar to Denver's 16th Street Mall. But, when the market packs up, the space averages just 1 visitor an hour. Spaces need to provide more everyday invitations, supporting a latent demand to spend time downtown.

Note: Market runs Saturdays from May to October.

**1,020/  
HOUR**

Walking along  
Barr Street  
during market

**71/HOUR  
Are staying**

Equal to San  
Francisco's  
Embarcadero

Equal to  
Denver's 16th  
Street Mall

**13/  
HOUR**

Walking along  
Barr Street  
off events

**1/HOUR  
Are staying**

02 **Dense Pockets of  
Activity but little  
Ripple effect**



**It's not always clear  
there's something just  
around the corner.**

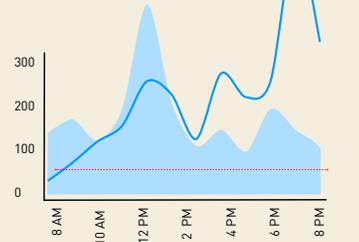
## Throughout the week, people concentrate along a few key nodes.

Attracting people during their free time, these streets—Calhoun, Wayne, and Columbia— see the highest number of people (and fewest fluctuations) throughout the week.

But the activity is tightly concentrated in these areas, with significant drop-offs in pedestrian activity on the streets linking these high performing nodes.

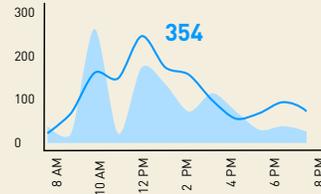
### Calhoun Street

Weekday: 211/Hour  
Weekend: 162/Hour



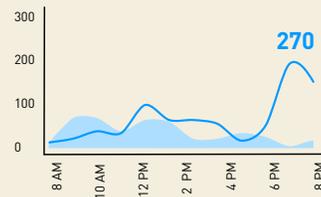
### Berry Street

Weekday: 162/Hour  
Weekend: 158/Hour



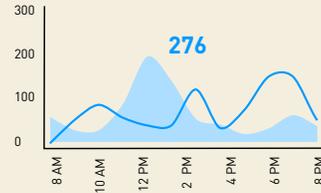
### Columbia Street

Weekday: 86/Hour  
Weekend: 47/Hour



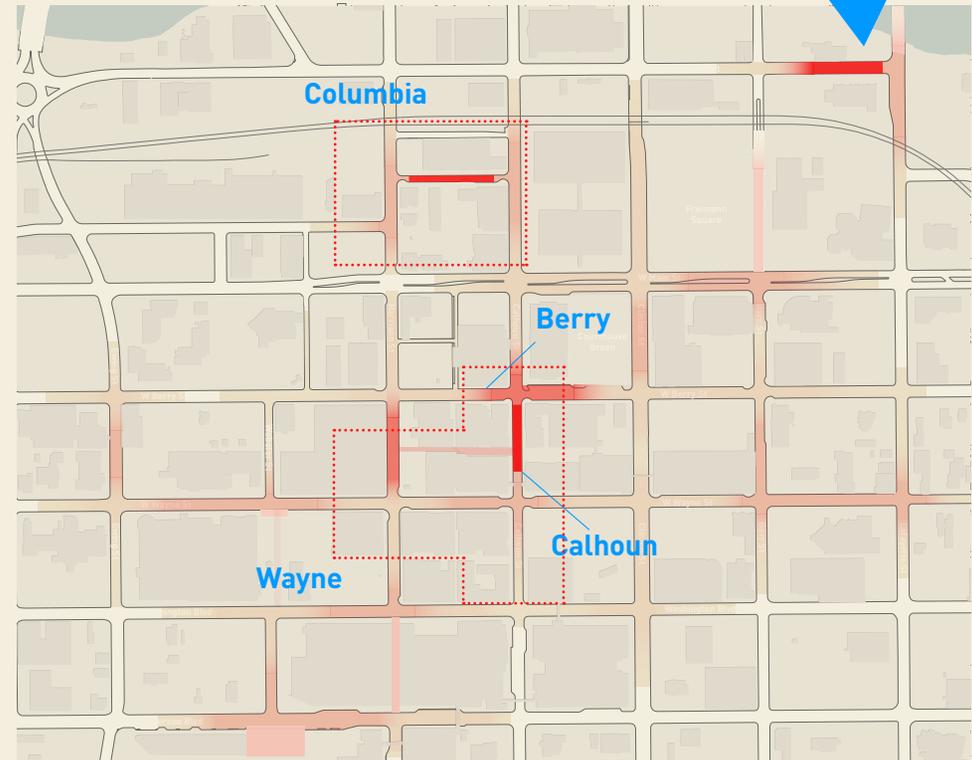
### Wayne Street

Weekday: 69/Hour  
Weekend: 87/Hour

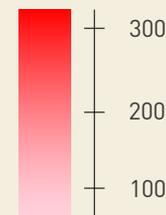


### Superior Street

A wine festival at Headwaters Park East spiked activity along Superior Street.



### Pedestrians / Hour



This illustrative heat map highlights the daily average of pedestrian movement in the downtown core.

## Activity directly relates to the city's highest quality and most engaging facades.

People are drawn to streets and spaces that engage their senses. Conversely, those spaces that are inactive and dull can make people feel unwelcome, unsafe, and uninvited.

The facade articulation was mapped of the downtown core. Overlaid with public life data, pockets of rich, articulate urban fabric correlate directly with the city's densest nodes of pedestrian activity. To encourage public life to spill from one node to the other, start by targeting these missing links by activating street frontages.



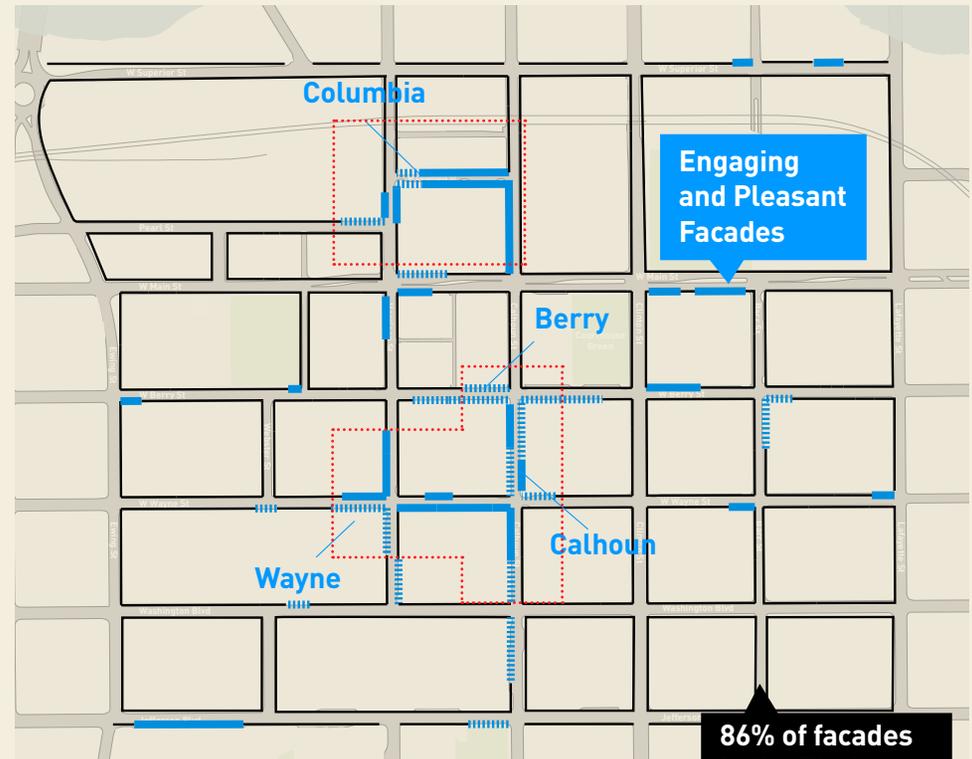
**86% INACTIVE**  
 Facades with little transparency: including parking garages, blank buildings and lots



**7% PLEASANT**  
 Facades with some transparency: historic buildings and glassy ground floors



**7% VIBRANT**  
 Facades with high transparency: fine grain articulation windows, cafe seating, and signage



**Facade Quality Criteria**

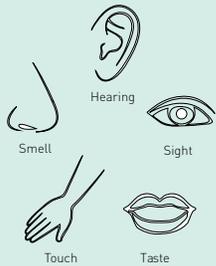
41 city blocks mapped

- Active / Vibrant
- ... Pleasant
- Inactive / Blank

**86% of facades in the Study Area are inactive**

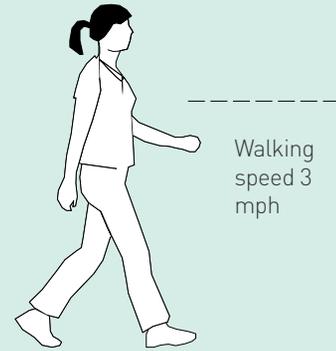
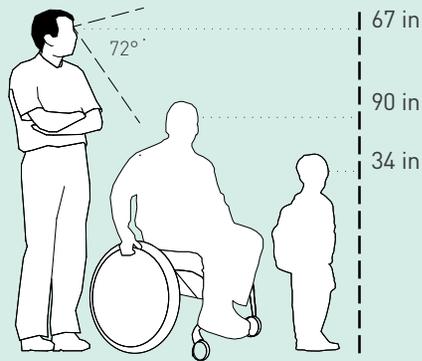
## IN FOCUS Designing for the Human Scale

We experience space through our senses. Good, engaging urban spaces designs for this.

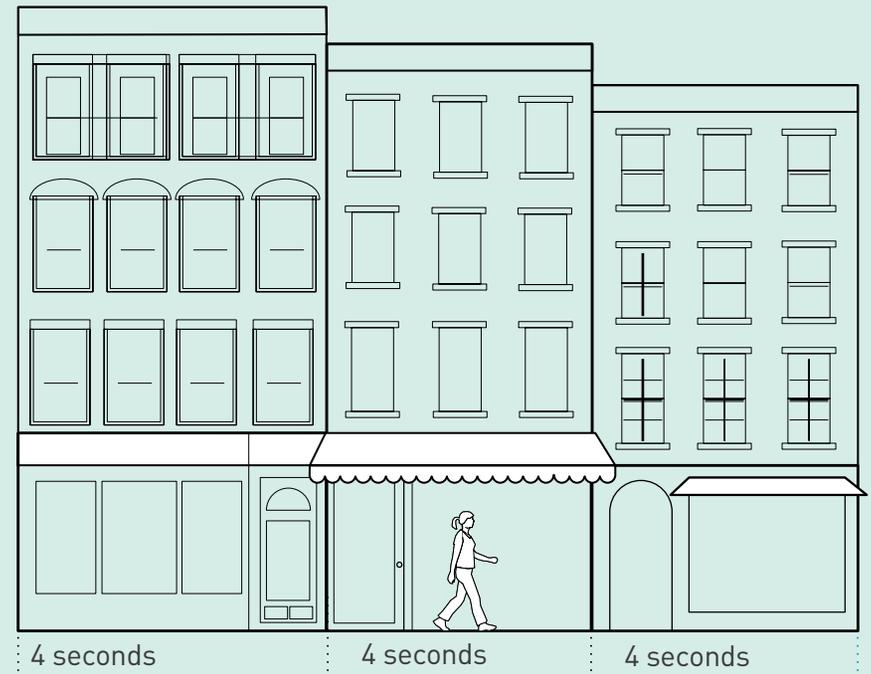


**01 Need for Stimuli**  
A happy human brain is stimulated about 1000 times an hour, or 1 stimuli every four seconds.

**02 Eye Level**  
Humans take in their surroundings at eye level. Articulation and detail on the ground floor are essential to a positive pedestrian experience. What a street does to activate *above* the ground floor is far less important.



**03 The Walking Animal**  
Humans, even from a very early age, walk about 3 miles per hour.



**04 Active Streets**  
Walking at 3mph and needing stimuli every 4 seconds to feel engaged, humans need stimulation at about every 24 feet. This math confirms why a great Main Street feels the way it does — the width and rhythm of an articulate storefront is about every 24 feet. This measurement quantifies why active streets make us feel happy, encouraging us to stay and spend time and blank facades do the opposite.



Engaging signage

Narrow Units —  
Pedestrians are  
constantly stimulated

Leafy Street  
Trees

Outdoor  
seating

Large blank facade

No visual cues to continue



Beautiful historic architecture

Long impenetrable facade

Vast blank sidewalk

Pleasant facades are in-between. Often beautiful architecturally, they nevertheless do little to engage the pedestrian experience of street.

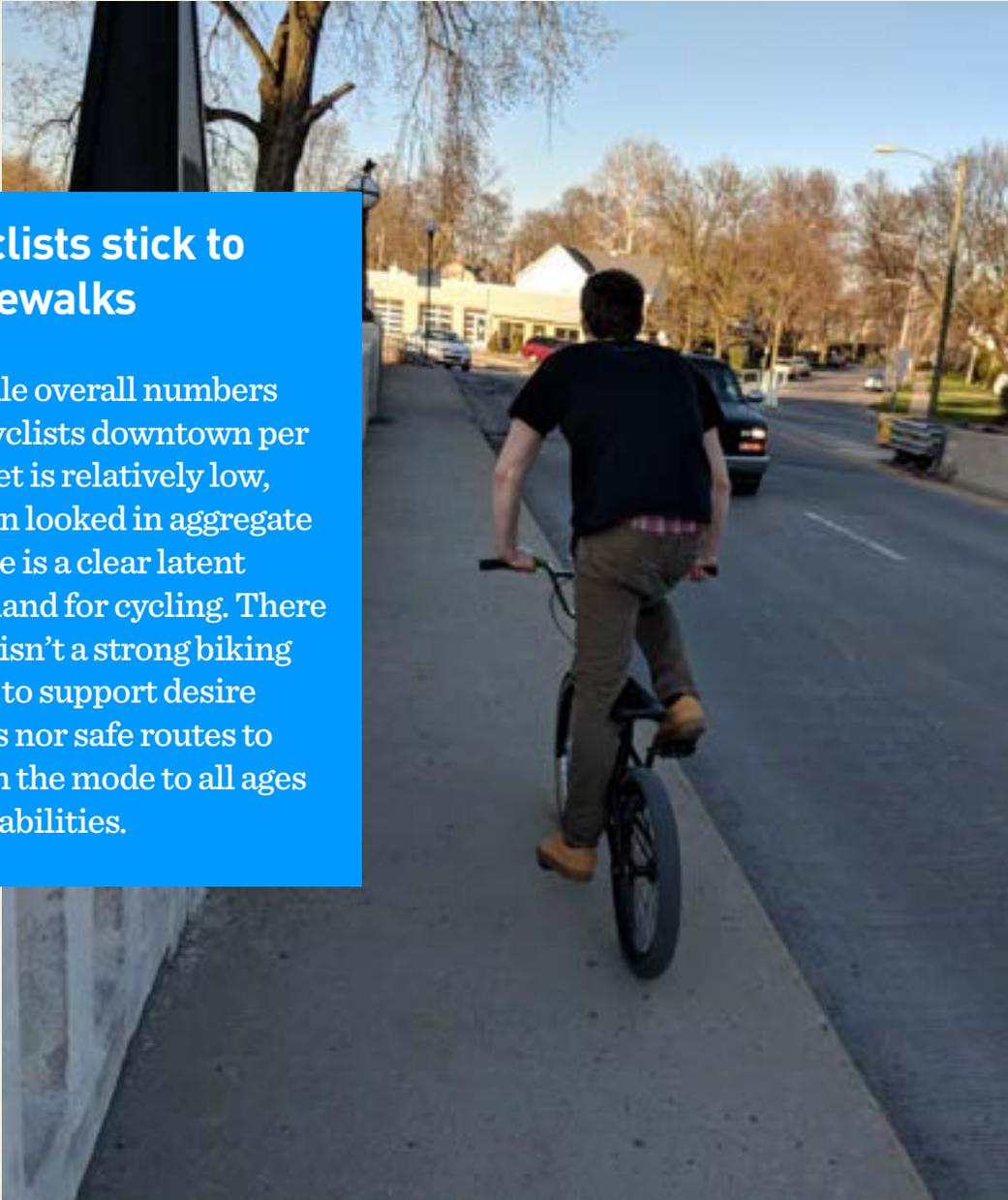
03 **Not a Cycling City —  
*yet.* But there are brave  
explorers leading the  
way.**



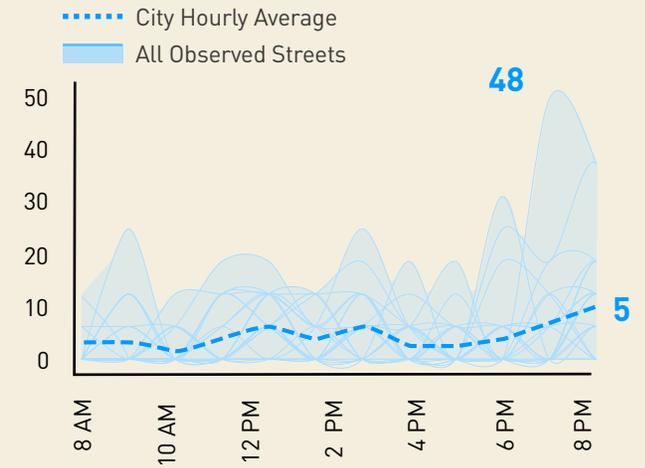
**Lack of safety and legibility  
work against unlocking a  
latent cycling culture**

## Cyclists stick to sidewalks

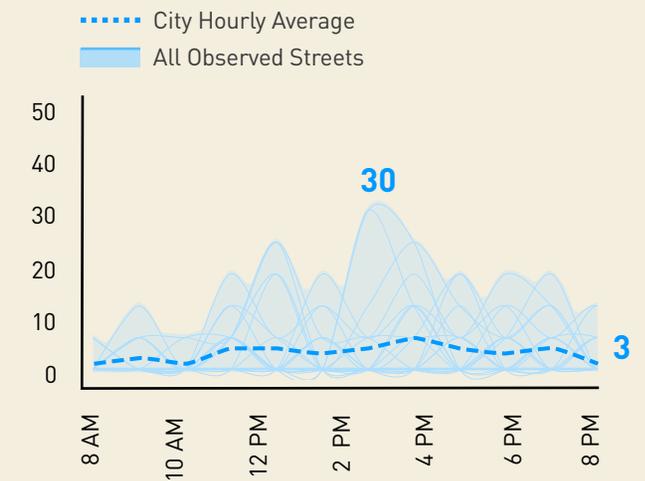
While overall numbers of cyclists downtown per street is relatively low, when looked in aggregate there is a clear latent demand for cycling. There just isn't a strong biking grid to support desire lines nor safe routes to open the mode to all ages and abilities.



## Weekday Cycling Volumes



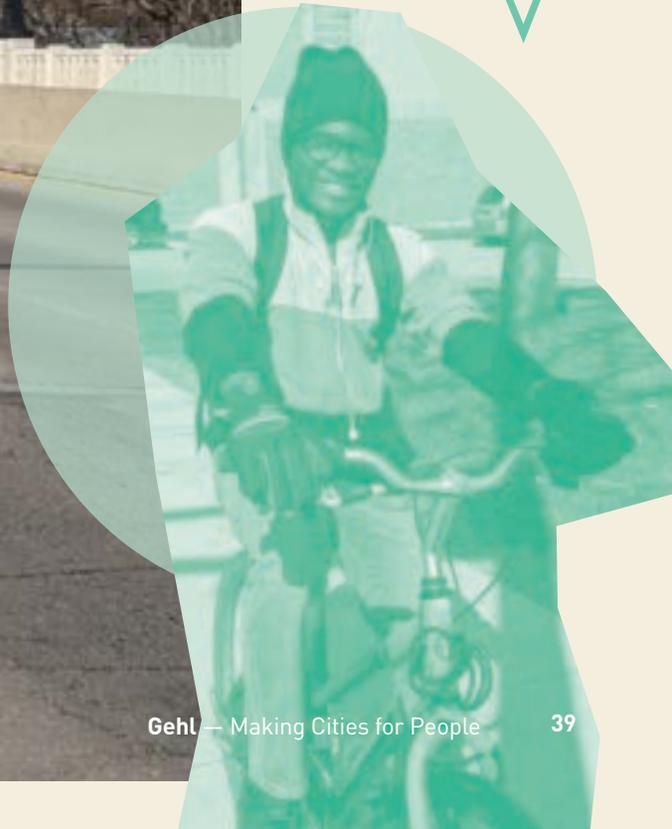
## Weekend Cycling Volumes



# Tight squeeze!

I bike along Washington everyday to get to work. But I stick to sidewalks because it feels safer.

Two cyclists perform a common dance on the Columbia Avenue bridge. Despite the challenging path, people are still biking into and around downtown, demonstrating a need for better biking infrastructure.



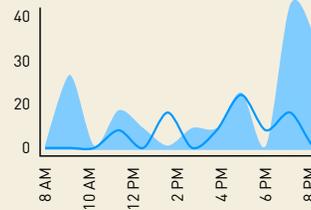
## Existing bike lanes are disconnected through the core.

Nevertheless, the top performing cycling streets are these missing links. The latent demand to bike downtown could be unlocked by prioritizing connecting bike lanes.

Together, Calhoun, Superior, and Barr Streets see the majority of the city's cycling traffic—despite not being designated bike routes. The core lacks a clear, safe way through by bike, especially its north-south links. Prioritize a minimum grid of safe, protected bike lanes within the core to support existing cyclists navigating the city but also as a gate-opener to encourage more everyday cyclists, of all ages and abilities.

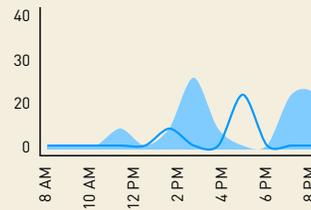
### Calhoun Street

Peak: **48/Hour**  
Daily: **160**



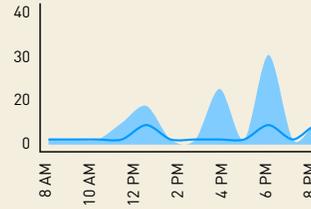
### Superior Street

Peak: **24/Hour**  
Daily: **70**



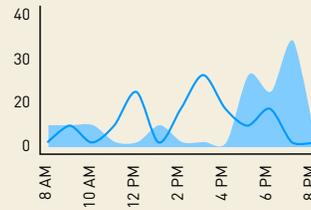
### Barr Street

Peak: **30/Hour**  
Daily: **80**

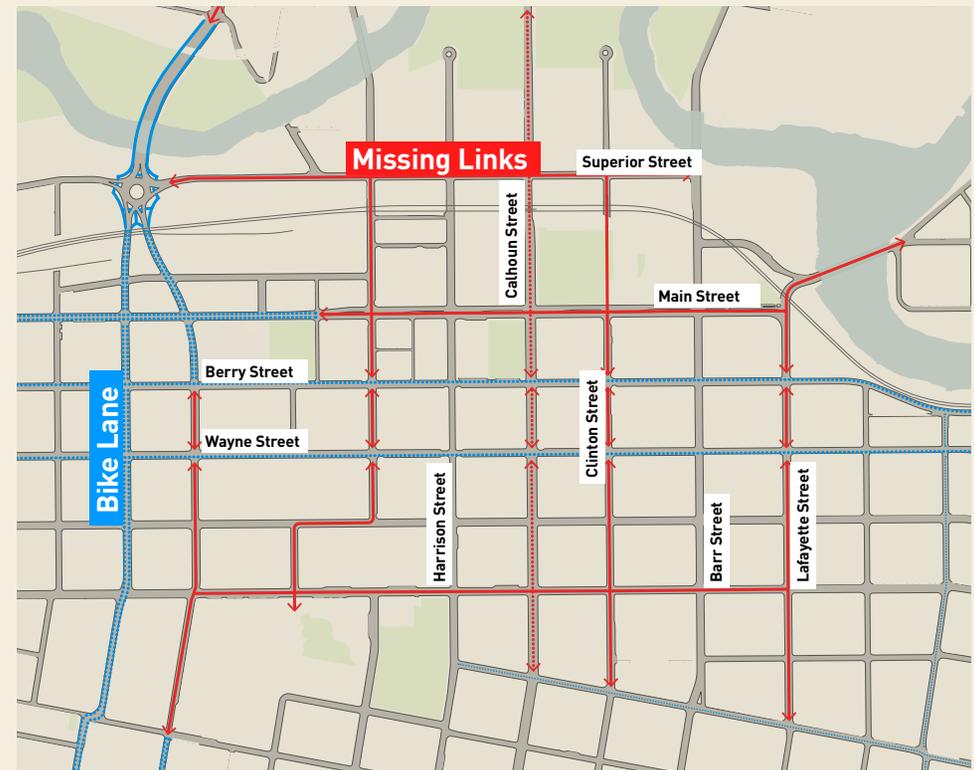


### Berry Street

Peak: **36/Hour**  
Daily: **102**



**Next steps:** Bike master plan. Connect key streets downtown with safe and protected bike infrastructure.



Not all "bike lanes" are bike lanes. Depending on the comfort of cyclists and the awareness of local motorists, a simple painted stripe is often not enough to make it a viable, safe option.



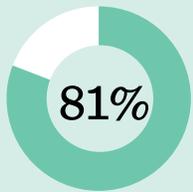
IN FOCUS

# Cycling: Quality Matters

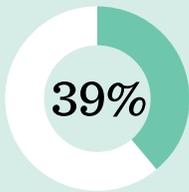
Invitations for cycling mean inviting for all people, ages, and abilities. Making people feel comfortable and safe is essential to for encouraging commuting by bike in cities where the cycling culture is new and emerging.

**01 Interested but Concerned Bikers**

Cyclists that are interested in cycling but concerned about safety are more ten times more likely to travel by bike with a protected lane than no lane. Source: NACTO



Separated Bike Lane



Bike lane

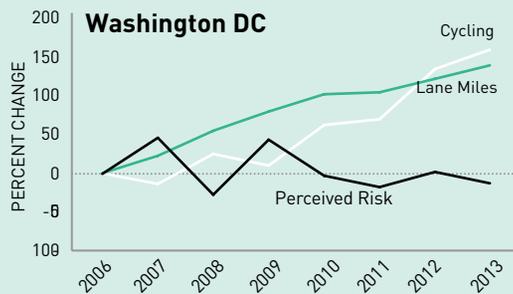


No Bike Facility

**02 People RSVP to Real Invitations**

When cities implement safe bike lanes, people respond.

Source: NACTO



**03 Invitations for all Users**

Make bike lanes inviting to all users, not just confident riders



**04 Ahead of the curb**

Keep an eye out for how cities are adapting infrastructure to new types of mobility like dockless scooters and bikes



**05 Not all Bike Lanes are created Equal**

Protected lanes can be achieved in many different ways. By adding protected infrastructure, cities have seen an increase in bicycle use.

04 **Events are bringing families downtown, but everyday it's an office-worker crowd**

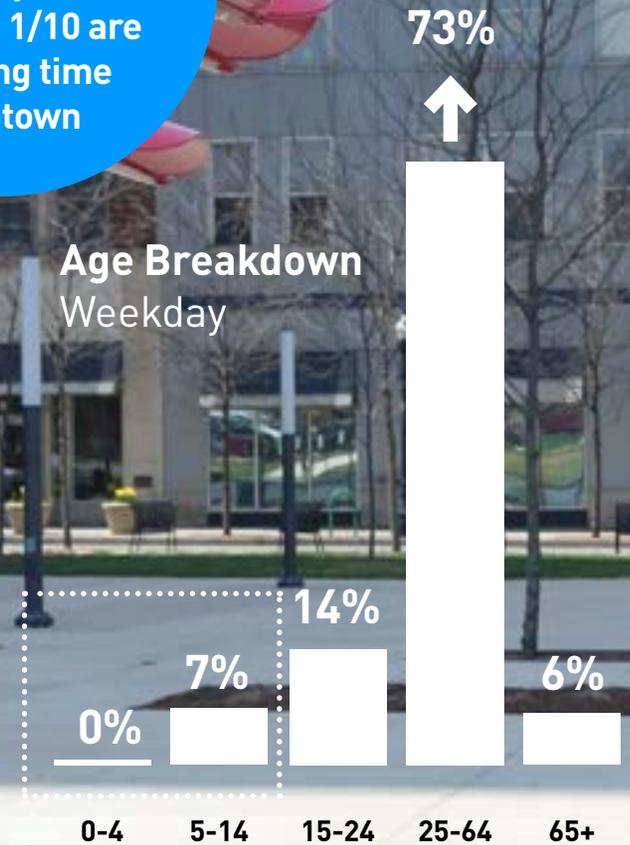
**There is a millennial uptick on weekends**

**Events bring families downtown, but everyday is an adults-only crowd.**

With few invitations for families downtown, we see few children or elderly downtown.

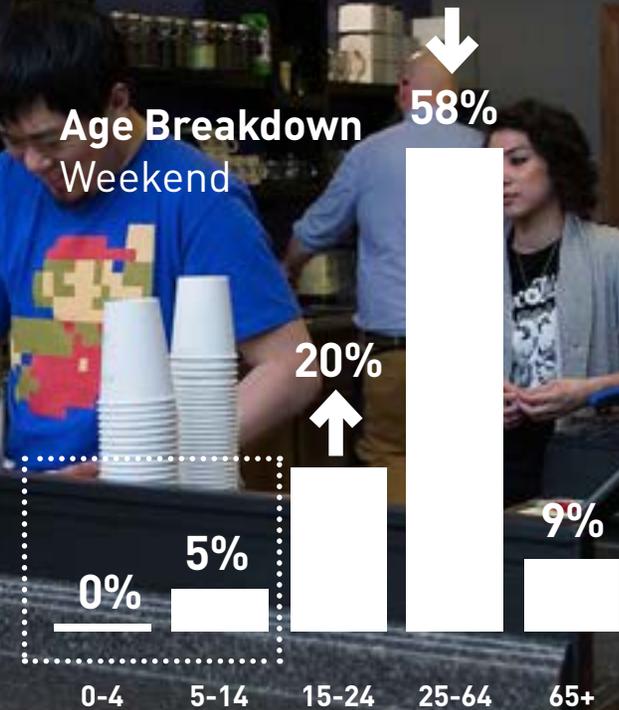
More than 1/4 of Fort Wayne's population is under 18 y/o — but less than 1/10 are spending time downtown

Age Breakdown Weekday

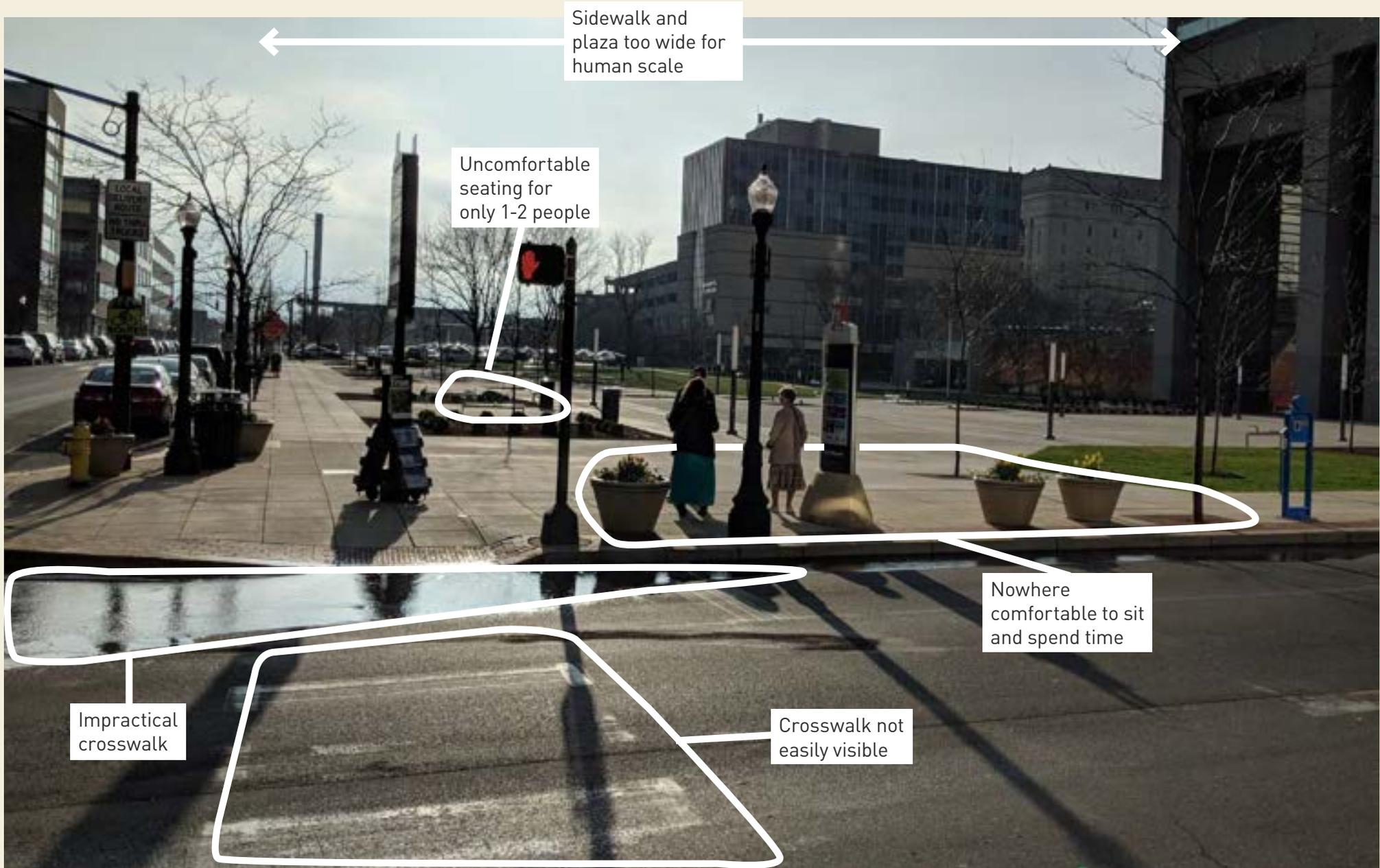


On the weekend there's an up-tick in young people, but still few families.

Coffee and burgeoning restaurants bring young people downtown on the weekend.







05 **Look but don't touch:  
public spaces don't invite  
spending time.**



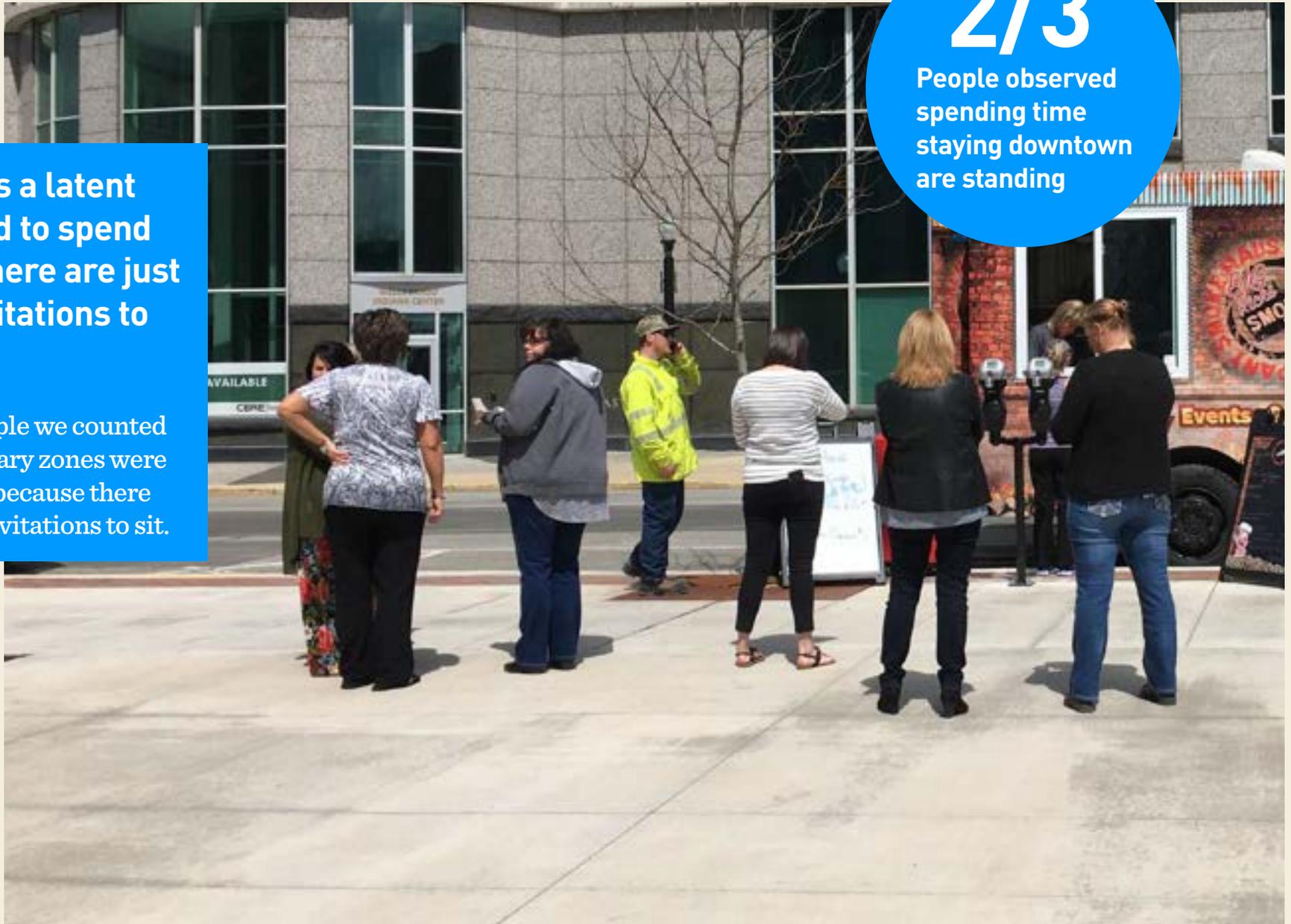
**Great public spaces  
lack active edges and  
invitations to spend time.**

**There is a latent demand to spend time, there are just few invitations to do so.**

Most people we counted in stationary zones were standing because there are few invitations to sit.

**2/3**

People observed spending time staying downtown are standing





Wish there was a place to sit.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

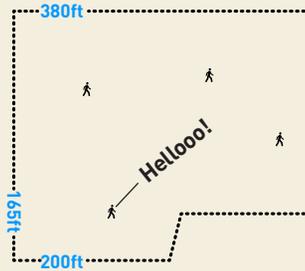
## Scale and exposure challenge Fort Wayne's formal public spaces.

People like to be around other people. Break down large public spaces to make them feel human scale and comfortable.

Spaces like AEP plaza and the Arts United plaza would need to invite an unrealistic amount of people to feel full and active on a typical day. Large scale events can help draw the crowds and make these spaces feel engaging. For everyday use these spaces should consider a re-design that breaks the space down into smaller quadrants.

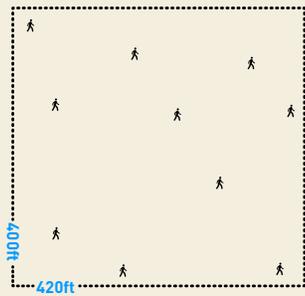
**Healthy public spaces feel full!**  
1 person every 250 sqft

### Arts United Plaza



1 person per 8,250 sqft

### AEP Plaza



1 person per 16,000 sqft

### Best Practice Union Square

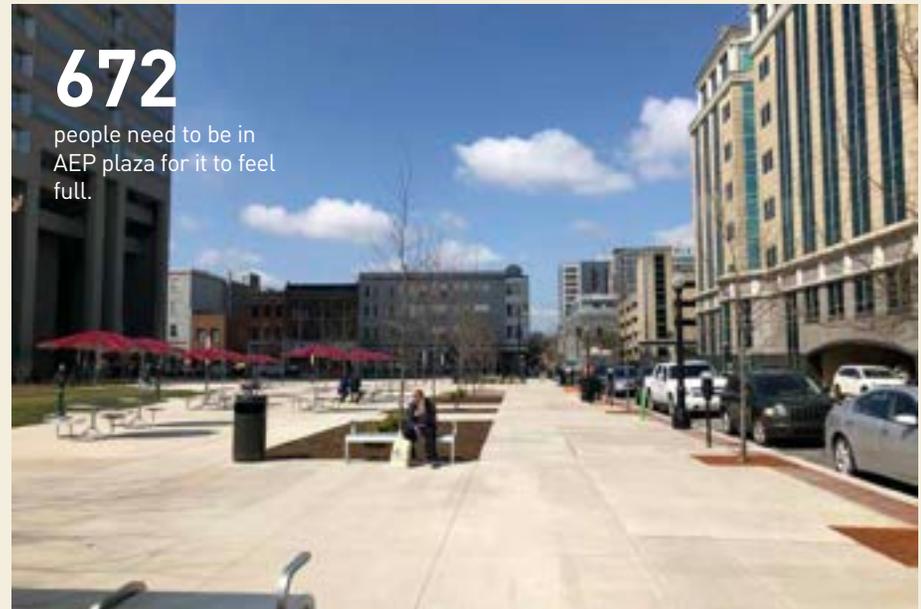


1 person per 250 sqft

Union Square is in New York, New York



**250**  
people need to be in Arts United plaza for it to feel full.

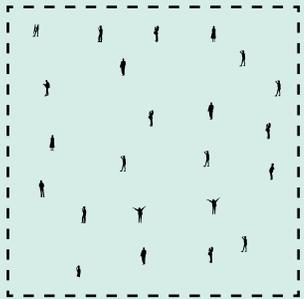


**672**  
people need to be in AEP plaza for it to feel full.

IN FOCUS

# Rittenhouse Square: Philadelphia

A rich mix of invitations draws a wide range of everyday users. Rittenhouse square in Philadelphia is an example of how variety and adjacent activations can make a public space more than just platform for events, but part of the everyday fabric of the city's public life.



1 person per 503 square feet

01

### Seating Variety

Different types of seating for different types of social interaction



02

### Various scales of open space

Wide open fields for the extrovert, small nooks for the couple on a date or a family moment



04

### Invitations for all ages

Water features, play elements, ample seating and creative programming make spaces fun for all.

03

### Active Edges

Café seating and clearly delineated entrances



05

### Strong neighborhood ownership

Consistent neighborhood-driven programming is key. "Friends of Rittenhouse" organizes events to keep the calendar full.

06 **People make space  
their own.**



**Fort Wayne locals  
spending time downtown  
are creating their own  
ways to do so.**

## Improved seating is part of the delight of city life

Ledges, steps, stoops and “BYO” seating: Fort Wayne locals are adept and creating their own social environments.

With few formal public seating options, Fort Wayne locals make their own. This creative appropriation of space can provide clues to where the city ought supply some more formal seating options to meet this demand. Importantly, while secondary seating might seem “good enough”, when informal seating is the *only* available option many people — especially older people — may not choose to come to this space.



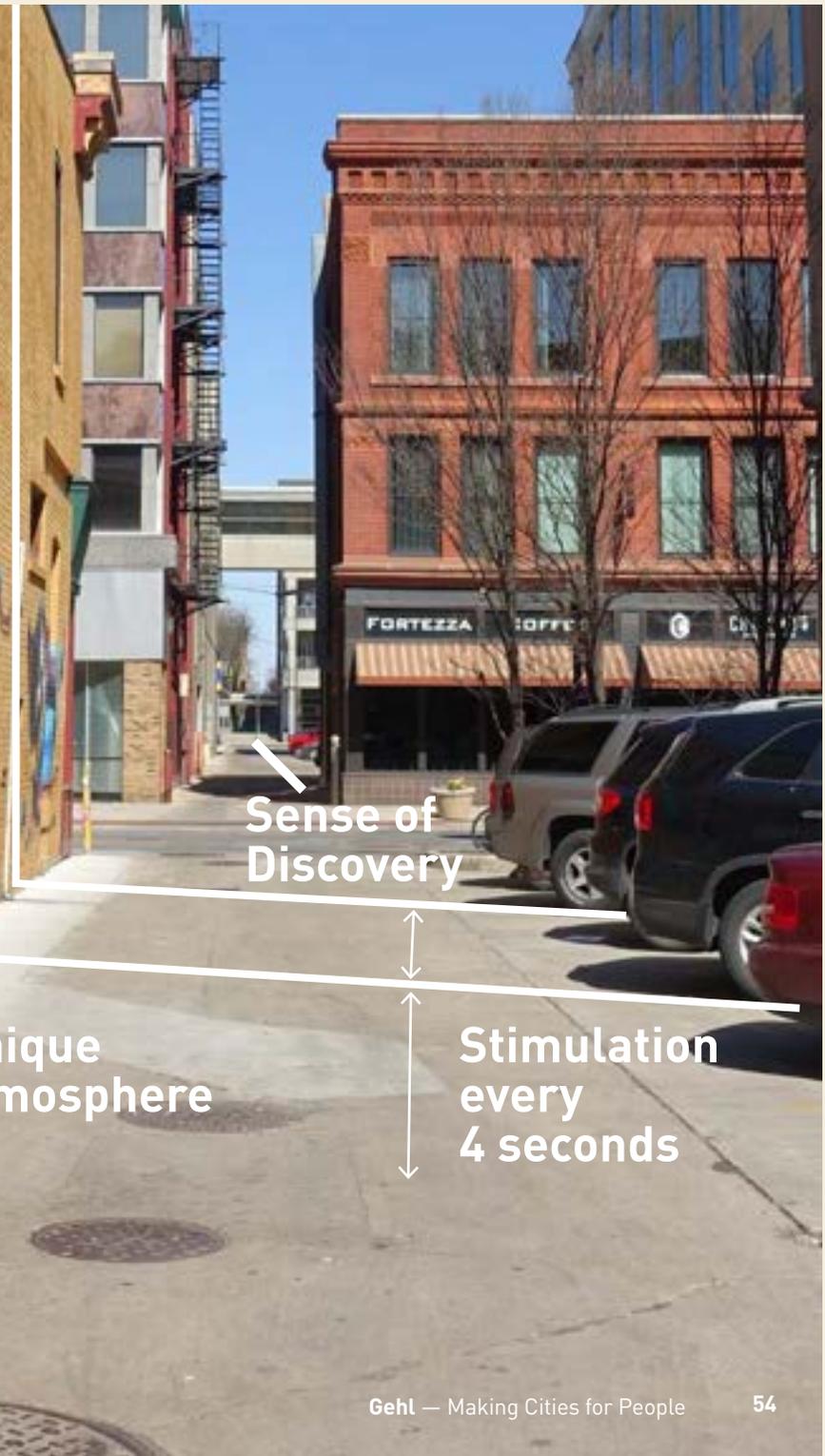


Public Space Experts

Creative

Quiet, Relaxing

Seating ideal social distance



Sense of Discovery

Unique atmosphere

Stimulation every 4 seconds

IN FOCUS

# Presidio Chair San Francisco

These custom love seats activated a vast Presidio Park in San Francisco. Wide enough to fit multiple people but light enough to be moved around, Gehl created these chairs to support the creative ways people enjoy making space their own.



01

### Playful Proximity

Because the furniture was light-weight and dynamic, people had the opportunity to create seating arrangements for their desired group size.



02

### Invitations for all ages

From a lounge to a sea-saw, kids (and adults) could interpret the Presidio chair as a playground module just as readily as a piece of furniture.



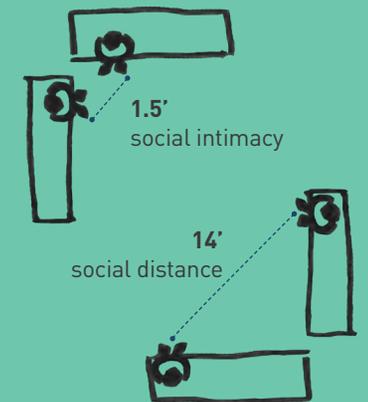
03

### User-Generated Variety

The weight of the chairs allowed the park to be self-made and required people to work together to re-arrange the space

## UNIVERSAL PROXIMITY OF SOCIAL SEATING

People are social beings, they want to sit close together. This is universal, in many contexts...



07 **Hidden Gems are the  
connective tissue of  
the city**



**Exploration and discovery  
drive downtown's fine  
grain network**

## IN FOCUS Coney Island

Fort Wayne has so many local gems. One of the city's most coveted assets is Coney Island, a popular downtown hangout for locals and a place where visitors can get a taste of what it's like to be local in Fort Wayne.



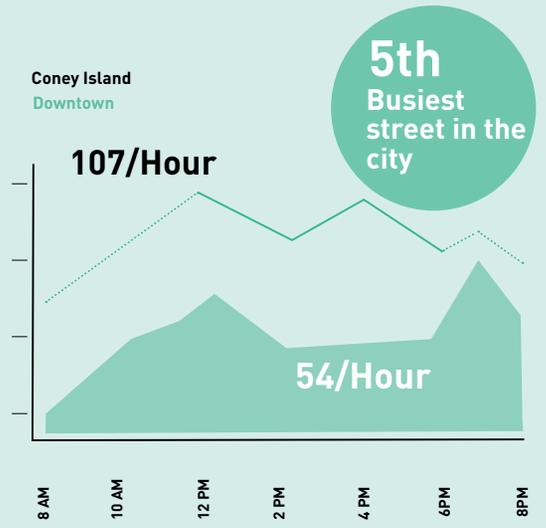
“My sister had no idea there was a back door to Coney Island downtown. Only the cool kids know about it apparently.”

**01**  
**Locals Only**  
Locals use the back door and walk through the kitchen to get into Coney Island.

**02**  
**A Downtown Landmark**  
Coney Island has been around since 1914 and is a strong landmark in Fort Wayne locals mental map of Downtown



**03**  
**A City Peak!**  
The back door of Coney Island sees 2X more pedestrian traffic than the downtown's average hourly pedestrian counts.



**The alleyways are a cherished urban asset all Fort Wayne locals delight in exploring.**

With programs such as *Art This Way*, downtown is bringing the alleyway network to life.

Still, even as the alleys are working well, they can and should aspire to do even more. The alleyway network can be the connective tissue and the beating heart of the city — they can convenient shortcuts and creative canvases for art, but they can also be places unto themselves, public spaces to spend time, shop, eat, and explore.



Key Takeaways

Blank Canvas!

Visual destination

Potential to open these windows!

Engaging light and shadows

Slow traffic

Cool in the shade

Public Art!

Already rich with human scale urban qualities, providing opportunities to stay and spend time is the next step.

Fort Wayne takes their alleyways seriously — local muralists are transforming these spaces into cultural destinations



Public Space / Public Life

# Emerging Trends

01

**SPECIAL OCCASIONS (AND LUNCH) DRIVE PUBLIC LIFE**

02

**DENSE POCKETS OF ACTIVITY, BUT LITTLE RIPPLE EFFECT**

03

**NOT A CYCLING CITY — YET. BUT THERE ARE BRAVE EXPLORERS LEADING THE WAY**

04

**EVENTS ARE BRINGING FAMILIES DOWNTOWN, BUT EVERYDAY IT'S A OFFICE WORKER CROWD.**

05

**LOOK BUT DON'T TOUCH: PUBLIC SPACES NEED MORE INVITATIONS SPENDING TIME**

06

**PEOPLE MAKE THEIR OWN SPACE**

07

**HIDDEN GEMS ARE THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE OF THE CITY**

How we get there.

# Public Realm Framework

The outcome of a well-executed Public Realm Framework is a population that changes its paradigm from “let’s go to point A” to “let’s go downtown”. Currently, Fort Wayne locals go downtown for specific reasons or destinations. We want “Downtown” itself to be the destination. The Public Realm is a key driver in connecting places and giving identity to the center of Fort Wayne.



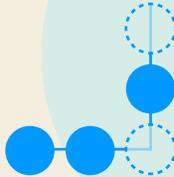
# 5 Strategies to Shape a Thriving Public Realm

Making Fort Wayne's Downtown public realm people first requires comprehensive, action oriented planning.

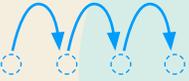
Through our in-depth analysis of downtown's public spaces and public life, we've identified six key strategies that are essential to connecting downtown's core and making it people first.



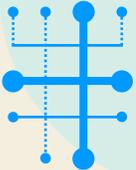
**1 Define people first core**  
Make it easy for people to walk, cycle and spend time in the public realm.



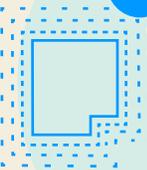
**2 Mend your gaps**  
Complete corners and activate blank facades downtown



**5 Extend your chain of activity**  
Mend the gaps to lengthen your chain of activity



**3 Nurture your Fine Grain Network**  
Enhance the connective tissue as the center of the downtown core.



**4 Make your public spaces feel smaller**  
Break down the space to feel human scale.

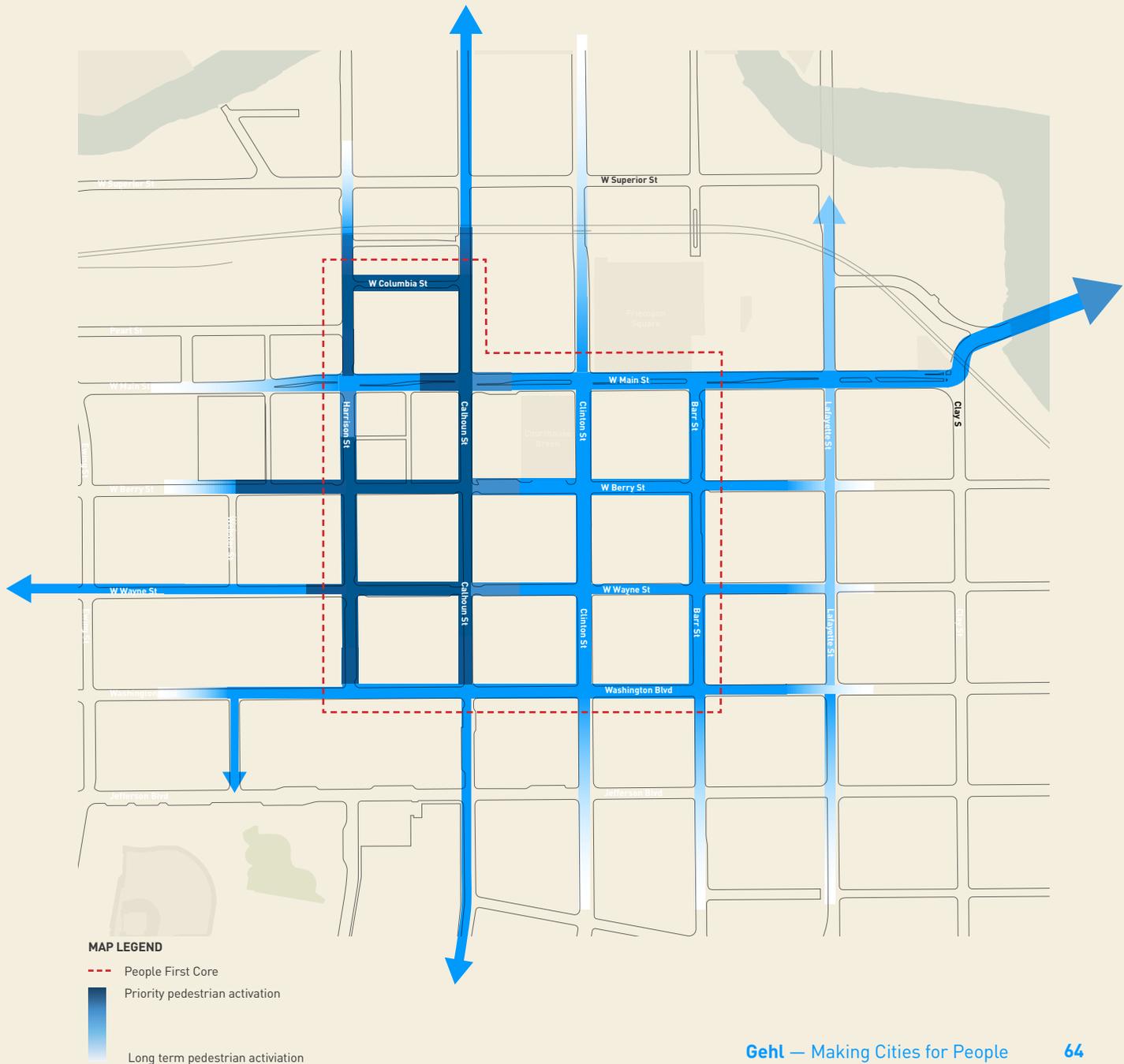
1

**Define and commit to your people-first core.**

Prioritize comfort, safety, convenience to encourage people spending time downtown to park once.

A few key moves to prioritize people in the downtown core include:

- 25 mph speed limit on streets within the core
- Complete crosswalks that are visible
- Complete sidewalks to provide comfort and walkability
- Optimize traffic signal timing for pedestrians
- Human scale wayfinding & signage that makes destinations clear

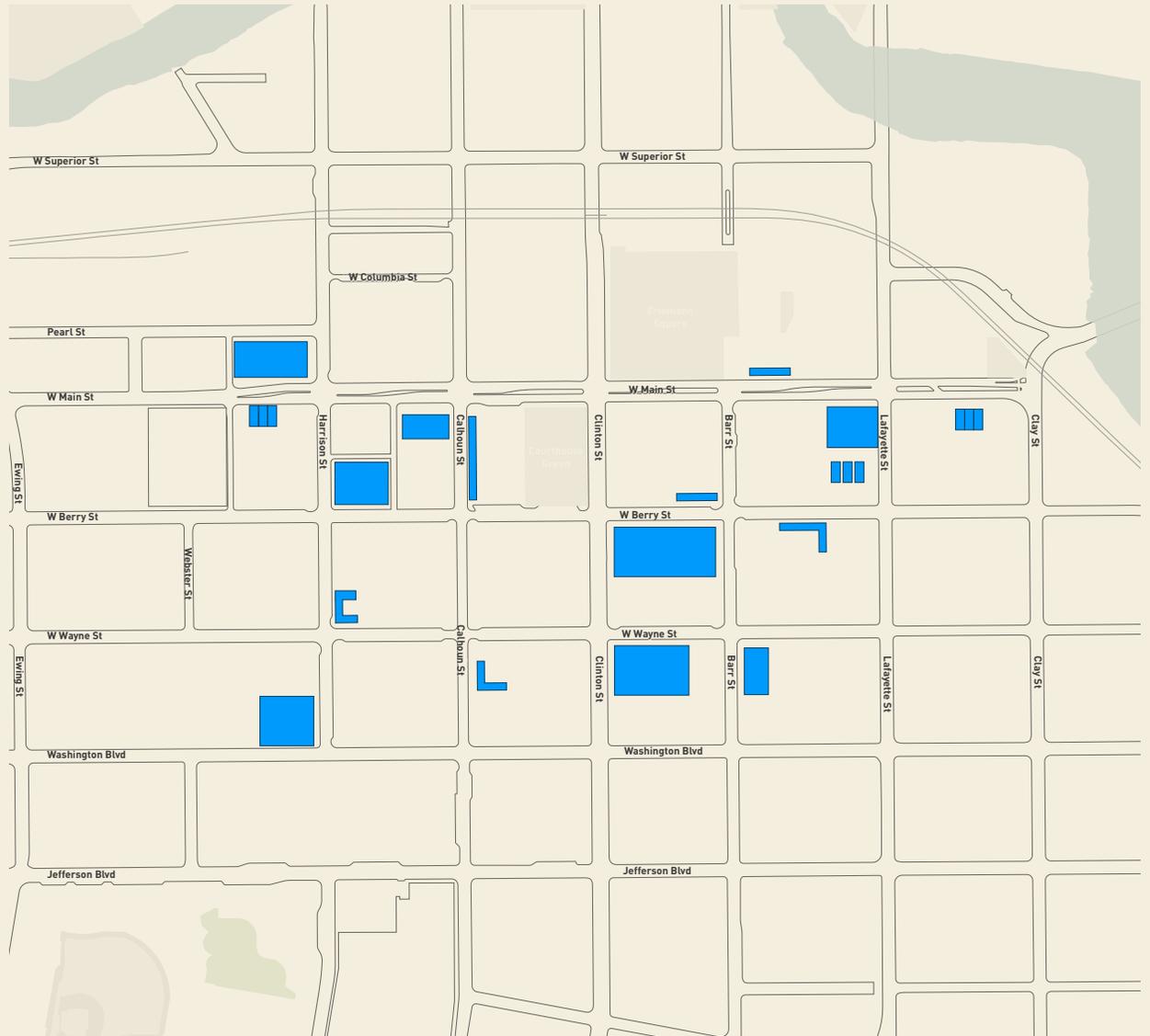


2

## Mend your gaps

Active ground floors make spaces feel more walkable and knit a more complete urban fabric.

Large gaps in the downtown core like parking lots, vacant lots, or large set backs can make the walking experience feel uninviting. These spaces should be filled with more ground floor activity - active storefronts, vendors, or public amenities. These new additions would act like “bread crumbs”, leading downtown visitors from one activity to the next.



Graphic representation of possible sites for activating underutilized parcels

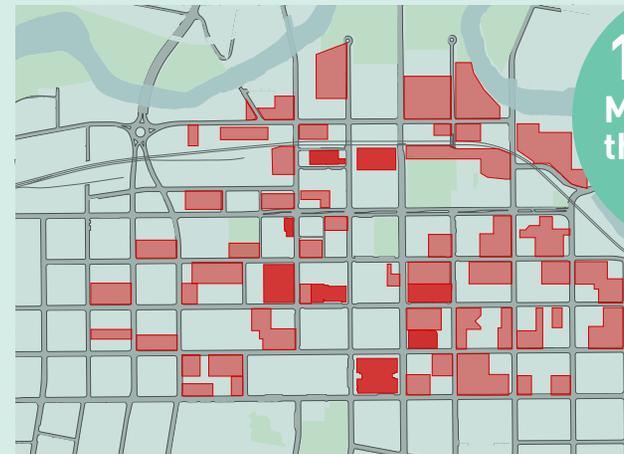
**IN FOCUS**

## **Parking: Opportunity Space**

The downtown core of Fort Wayne is incomplete. The urban fabric is interrupted by parking lots, vacant storefronts, or inactive buildings. Complete corners are key visual cues to continue onward and make for safer crossings.



**01**  
**348,000 square feet of parks**  
A limited amount of designated public space.



**12X**  
**More parking than parks**

**02** **4 Million square feet of parking!**  
This is an incredible opportunity to reclaim more space for people

3

## Extend your chain of activity

Today, people visit downtown for one or two activities then head home. Large gaps in the downtown core are an opportunity to develop more activity and link together reasons to stay.



↳ GO HOME



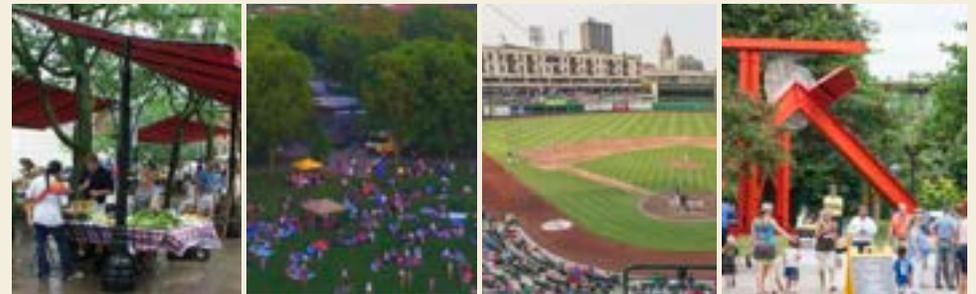
↳ GO HOME

## Millennial



Coffee > Market > Shopping > Happy hour > Dinner > Music

## Family



Market > Riverfront > Ballpark > Lunch > Arts Campus > Movies

## Empty Nester



Lunch > Library > Shopping > Theatre > Dinner > Evening Stroll

4

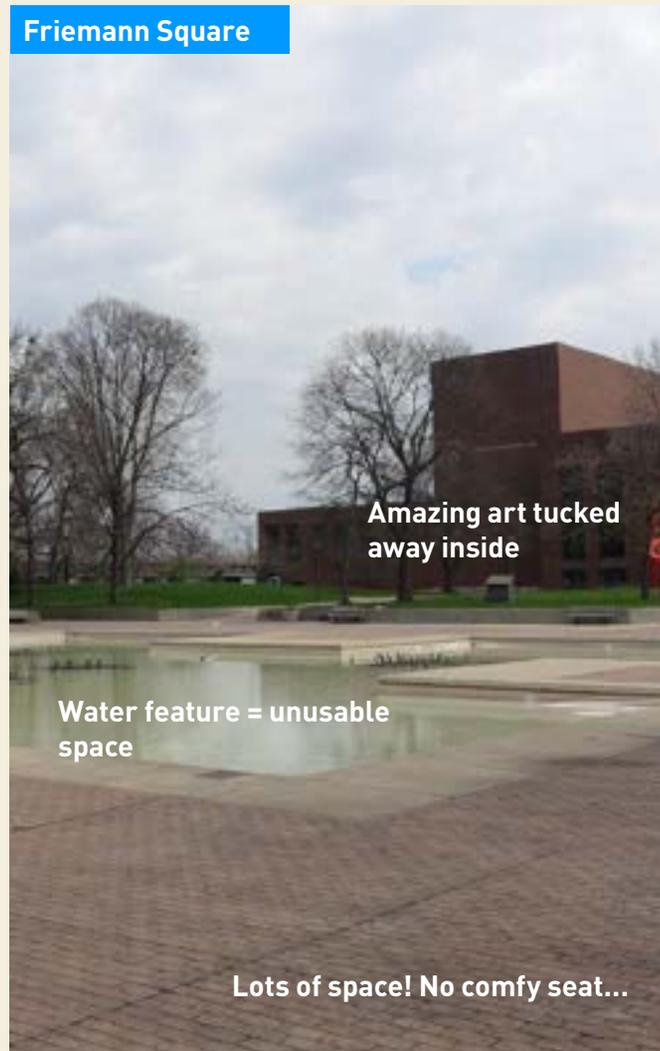
## Make your open spaces feel smaller

Outdoor spaces currently feel vast, windswept and offer little for everyday recreation.

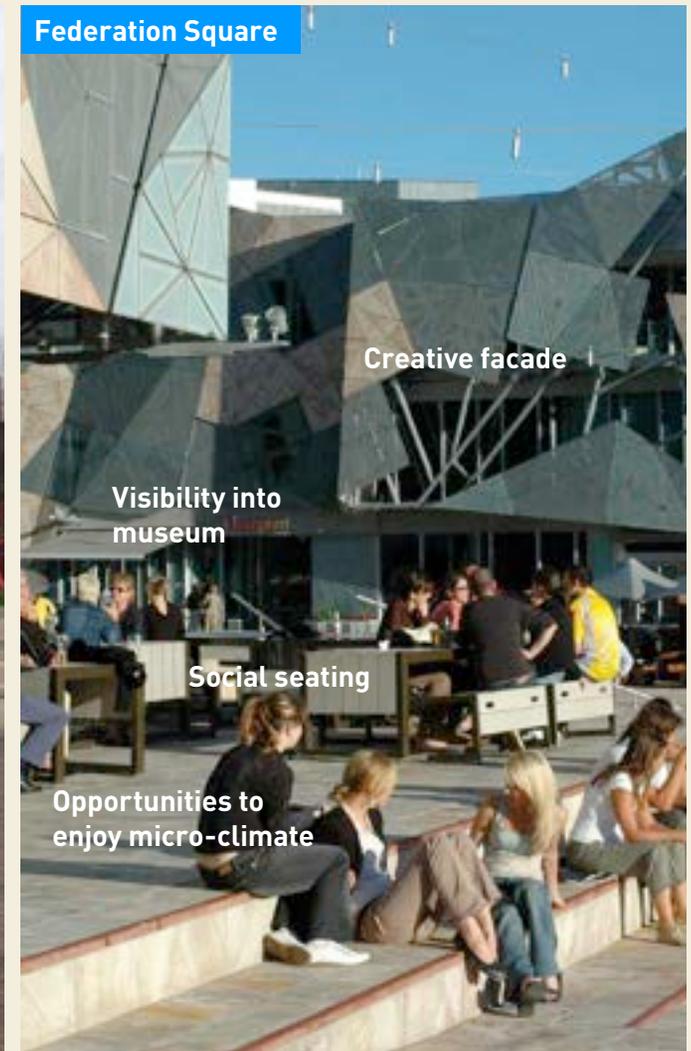
Break down open spaces in the core with more human scale elements that extend the spaces beyond event capacity to everyday use. Focus on adding comfort with:

- Social seating
- Protection from micro-climates and shade
- Small scale kiosks or store fronts for commercial activity
- Programming that sparks social activity

Friemann Square



Federation Square



**IN FOCUS**  
**Spatial Quality**  
**Criteria**

Gehl has developed 12 quality criteria for documenting spatial conditions, to understand how physical elements impact use and activity. These criteria fall into three categories: protection, comfort and delight. These categories build on one another—if a space is lacking protection, people won't be comfortable enough to stay and enjoy the space.



**01**

**Freimann Square**  
 Freimann square has a lot of nice aesthetic qualities but is lacking the essential elements of protection that make people feel safe in a space.

**First protection, next comfort, then delight**

**Protection**

Without basic protection from cars, noise, rain, and wind, people will avoid spending time in a space. Protection from these things is mandatory for a place to be used.

**Comfort**

A space with elements that make walking, standing, sitting, seeing, and conversing comfortable, invite people to spend time there.

**Delight**

A good place becomes great by including elements that delight - they invite people to be active and make use of the positive aspects of micro-climates and the human scale.

**Protection against traffic**

**Protection against crime**

**Protection against sensory experiences**

**Opportunities to walk/cycle**

**Opportunities to stop & stay**

**Opportunities to sit**

**Opportunities to see**

**Opportunities to talk & listen**

**Opportunities for play & exercise**

**Dimensioned at human scale**

**Opportunities to enjoy climate**

**Aesthetic qualities**

**Define and activate edges, provide variety of seating to accommodate a range of group sizes**





Create a bold focal point, parse vast spaces into smaller “rooms”



**Support the users you want to invite, rather than defending against users you don't.**

It's a subtle difference, but defensive public space design can have the opposite effect.



## IN FOCUS Care in Public Space

City agencies and non-profit organizations devoted to care and services for at-risk people in Fort Wayne should be empowered to boost efforts downtown. The goal should not be to banish vulnerable people from downtown's public spaces but to provide services and dignified care.



01

### Hygiene on Wheels

Lava Mae is a non-profit in San Francisco that provides showers and general hygienic essentials to homeless neighbors in need 6 days a week on a bus, often parking near the city's key public spaces.



02

### Special Programming

Invite community organizations in to host food drives, serving holiday dinners, and family friendly events that include all.



03

### Public Amenities

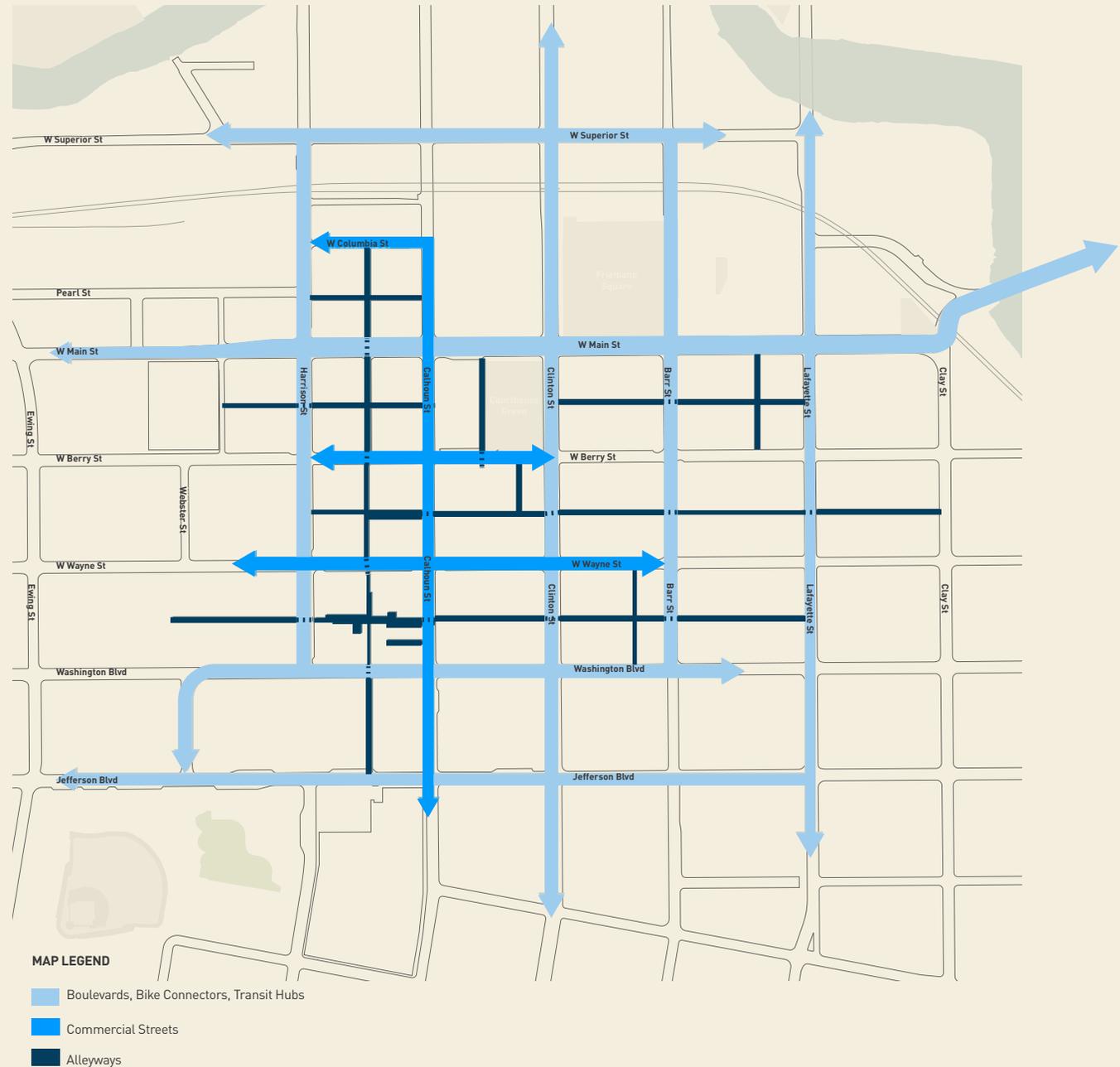
Providing restrooms for public use is a great way to support all users.

5

## Nurture your fine grain network to establish a dynamic hierarchy of streets

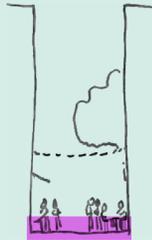
Different street types work together to make a vibrant downtown.

Navigating a downtown through a variety of street scales yields easy and flexible movement, whether on foot, bike, transit or car. Focusing on boosting and linking the city’s fine grain networks will encourage people to *park once*, and walk from commercial corridors, to active alleyways and urban boulevards without relying on a driving. Furthermore, a variety of street characters helps people orient themselves and enjoy of a variety of urban experiences.

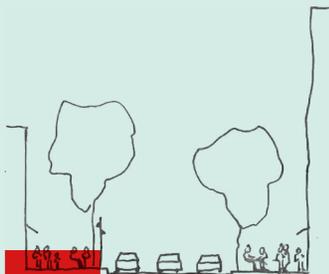


# Street Variety

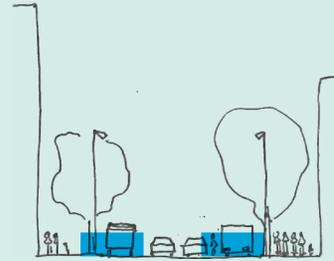
Streets should emphasize and prioritize different commuting and staying experiences. Below are examples of typologies Fort Wayne should leverage



**Alleyways**  
Capitalize on your fine grain streetscapes by creating atmospheres that are comfortable for social interaction



**Commercial Corridor**  
Encourage café seating to spill out onto the sidewalks to capitalize on existing food and beverage activity and high pedestrian activity on Calhoun street.



**Transit Hub**  
Make transit stops comfortable and accessible by improving sidewalk quality and adding in street trees. Bus hubs like Clinton street are great places to start on this.



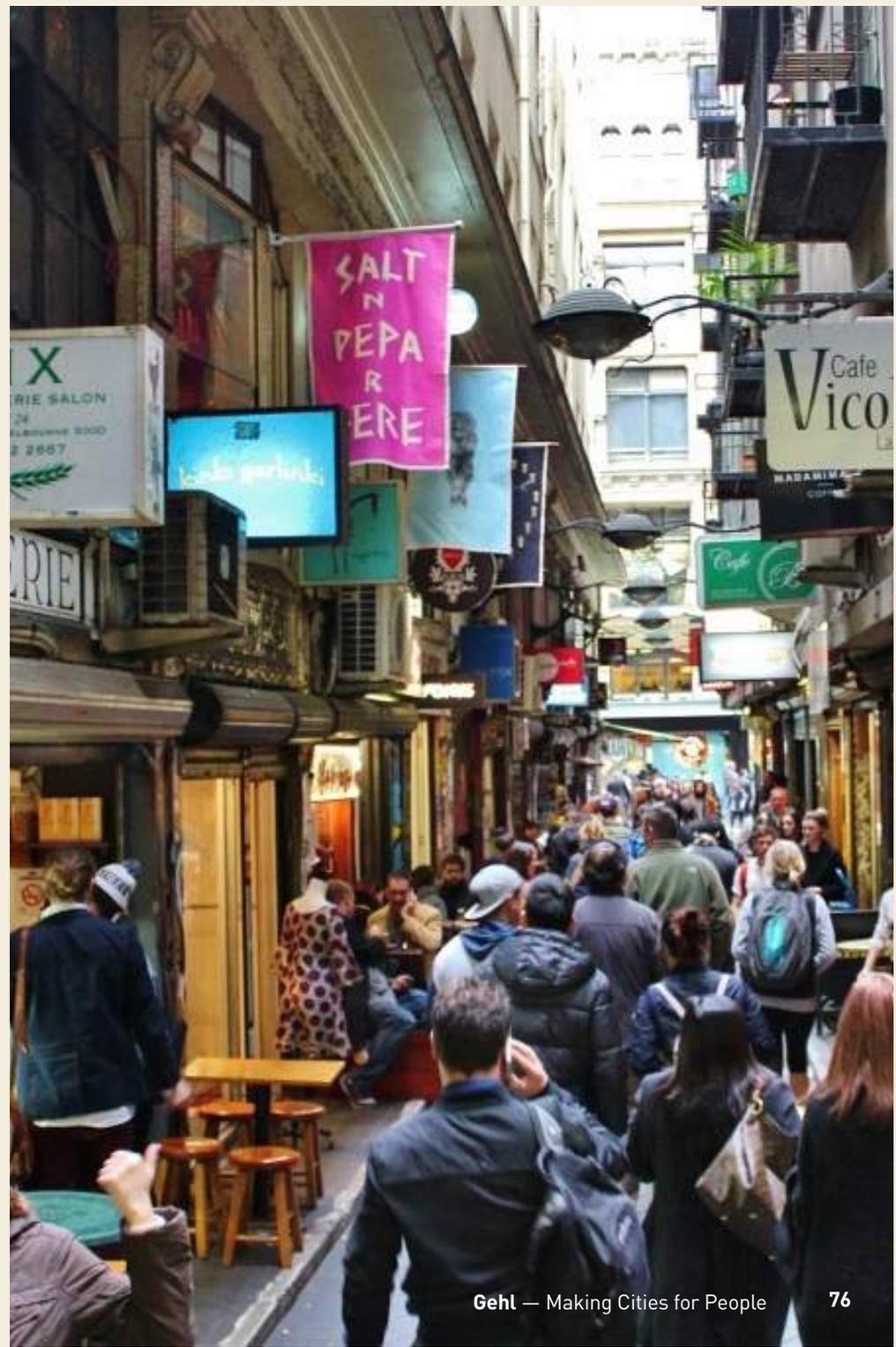
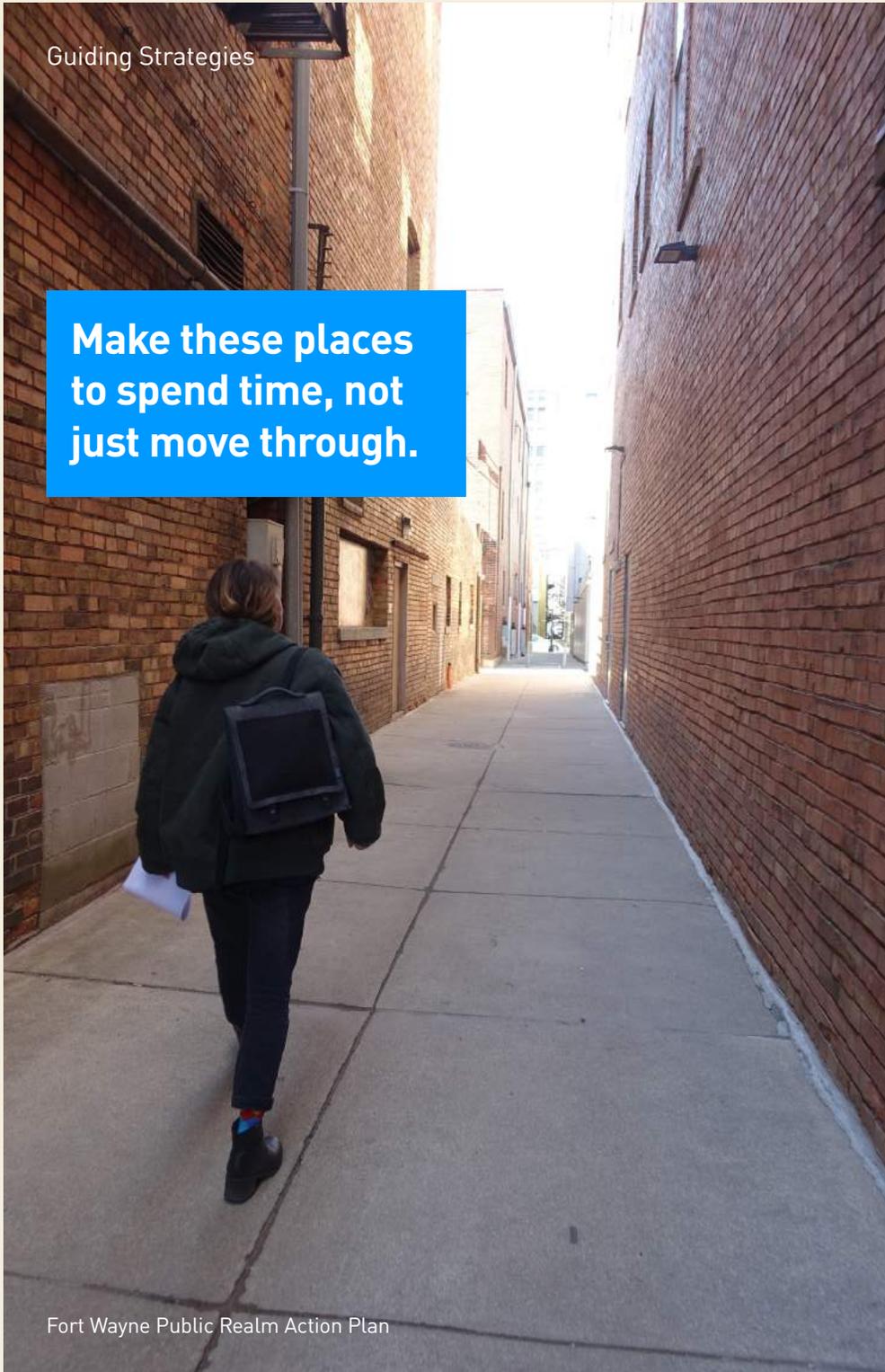
**Bike Connection**  
Re-balance the streets that have parking on both sides by adding in bike lanes running in both directions. Street trees should buffer sidewalk and parking.

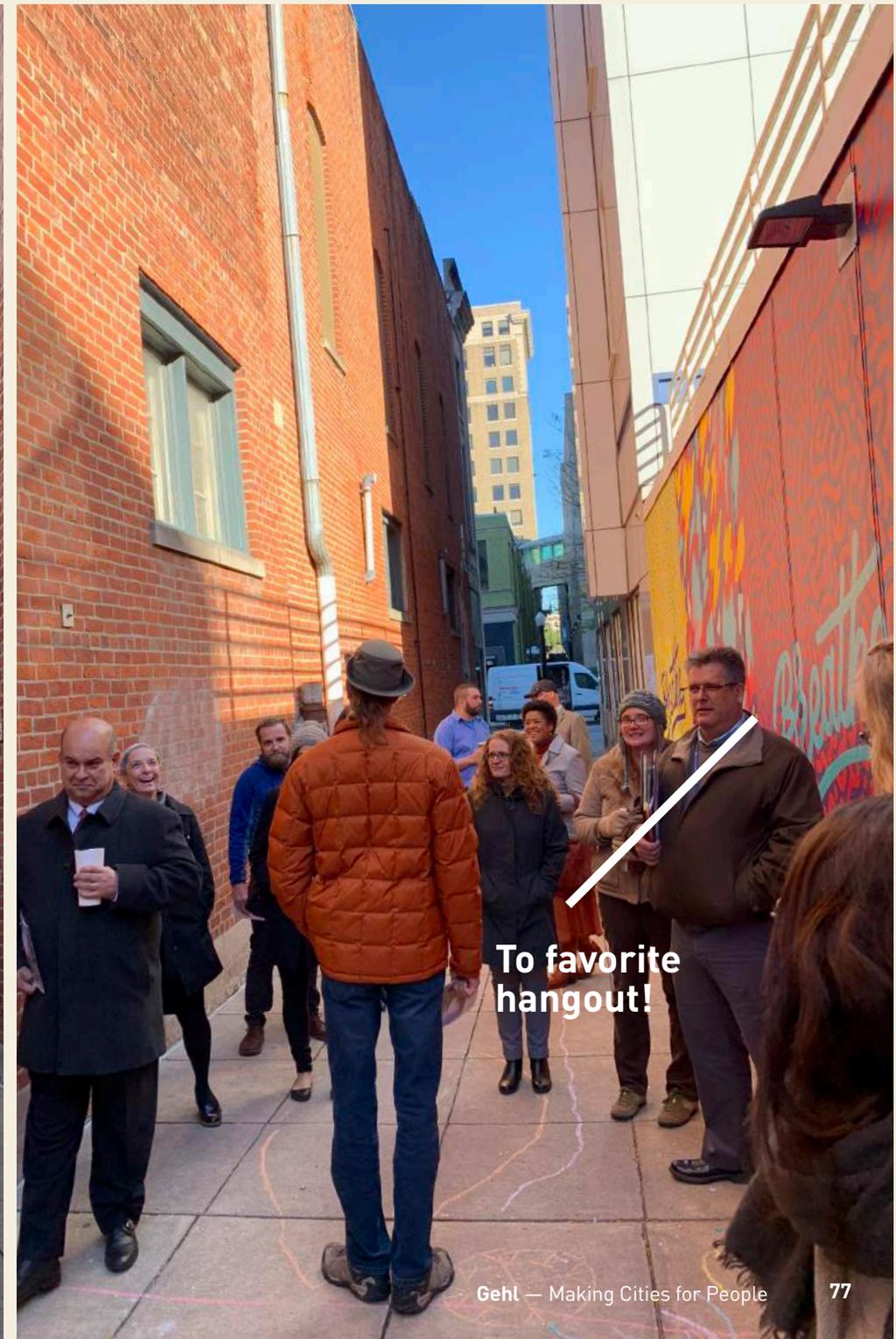


**Urban Boulevard**  
On busy traffic streets, like Main Street, add street trees to calm noise, extend sidewalks to give people space to move and consider being bold by adding a center median with bike lanes and transit stops



Make these places to spend time, not just move through.





# Starting Now— Piloting Change

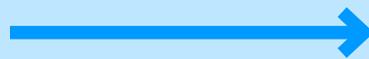
A series of temporary pilot projects, carried out in an iterative process, can generate buzz and begin to set the groundwork for changing mindsets about the character of a place. Early activation can be low-budget but high impact. Places don't have to be finished or polished to be fun and engaging. People attract people. When there is a reason to stay and something to do, people will keep coming back for more.



Pilot Project  
Public Life

# Objective:

**Come in with  
(or without) a plan.**



**Discover a  
reason to stay.**

## Pilot Projects

There are many opportunity areas in Fort Wayne. We took time to workshop 6 potential pilot projects with key stakeholders.

The group helped co-create, refine, and finally prioritize which projects had the greatest potential.

A brief explanations of the early activation projects follow. Ultimately, this core team elevated the Alleyways as priority for early activation.



The key stakeholder group went out in the field to investigate opportunities and challenges of the different proposed pilot project sites.

## The Front Porch

Fort Wayne's historic courthouse is already the architectural crown jewel of downtown. Leverage this asset and make the lawn an appealing place for families to relax and play in front of the city's most iconic structure.

EXISTING EXPERIENCE



POTENTIAL MOVES

Create a relaxing lounge space with seating variety, create creative and flexible play spaces, install lighting features, install sun shades, program events like movie nights

FUTURE



## The Landing 1.0

Create a seasonal pedestrian-only way on Columbia Street, letting the street's people-first qualities shine and infusing it with public activity and family fun. Test programming that could inform The Landing redevelopment.

EXISTING EXPERIENCE



POTENTIAL MOVES

Encourage entrepreneurs pop-ups, Use colorful ground paint on pedestrian thoroughfare, use string lights for ambiance, encourage event programming, provide good wayfinding signage, engage the community

FUTURE



## Calhoun Market

Activate the courthouse block to fill the public life gap on Calhoun and bridge the gap to Columbia street with a continuous people-first street. Test new ways to engage the sidewalks between Berry and Main, with a vibrant street market as the centerpiece.

EXISTING EXPERIENCE



POTENTIAL MOVES

Add colorful kiosks, provide creative canopy, lighting, shade, and signage, install a temporary ice rink, create drop-off/pick-up zones for the holidays, add vibrant pedestrian crossings

FUTURE



## The Canvas at Freimann Sq.

Re-invent Freimann Square. Let the museum spill out into the public realm and create an interactive outdoor art park, inspiring a sense of curiosity and play for kids and families.

EXISTING EXPERIENCE



POTENTIAL MOVES

Activate the edges, partner with the museum and local makers, install playful art installations, provide comfortable places to sit, Install a café kiosk, improve street crossings creatively

FUTURE



## Alleyway Activation

PRIORITIZE

Build on existing art activation by enhancing the laneways with people-first design, visual interest, and event programming to create a uniquely Fort Wayne pedestrian district.

EXISTING EXPERIENCE



POTENTIAL MOVES

Transform alleyway nooks into micro hangout spots, each with a unique character, including comfortable seating areas, pocket concert venues, or other delightful and surprising destinations.

FUTURE



## Food Court

Transform the AEP plaza into an outdoor food court for downtown employees and visitors. Create an essential destination with eye-catching lighting and comfortable seating and shade while showcasing local business and celebrating Fort Wayne's best flavors.

EXISTING EXPERIENCE



POTENTIAL MOVES

Activate edges with food kiosks, create a food truck and food court zone, create inviting places to sit, add shade elements, add human-scale lighting, consolidate back of house operations

FUTURE



# Alleyway Activation

Fort Wayne's alleyways represent one of the greatest untapped resources in the city.

Thanks to the success of programs like Art this Way, the latent potential of the alleyway network has gained momentum, with increasing recognition and support from city leaders and local champions.

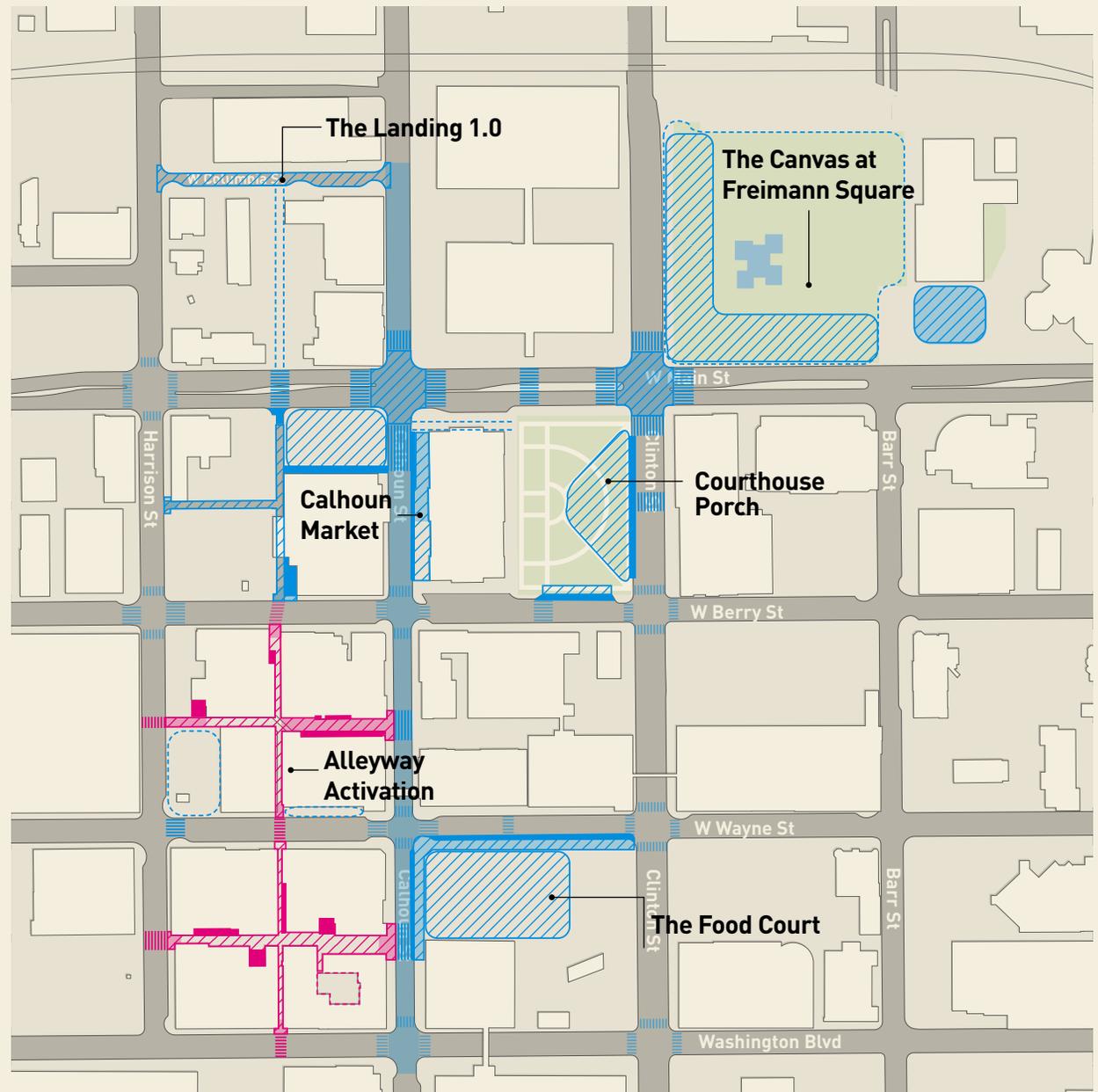
But the alleys can and should be more. The next step is to unlock their potential as places to spend time just as much as places to walk through.

How?

There are three primary opportunities that should be tested:

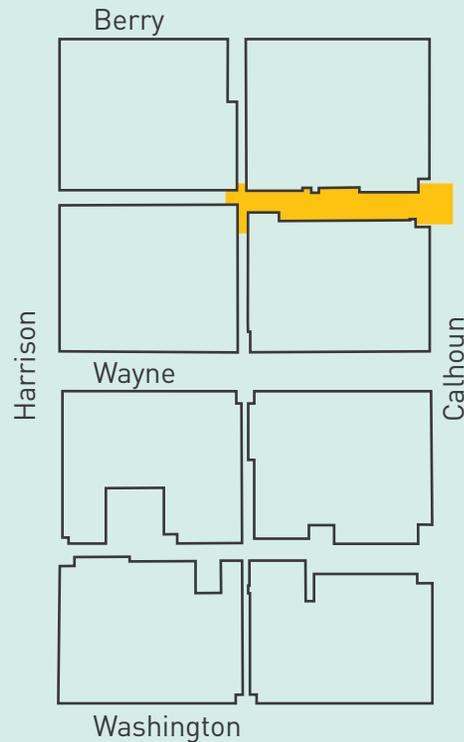
- (1) Alleys as micro-retail corridors
- (2) Alleys as interactive canvases
- (3) Alleys as event spaces

Detailing key moves for each, follow.



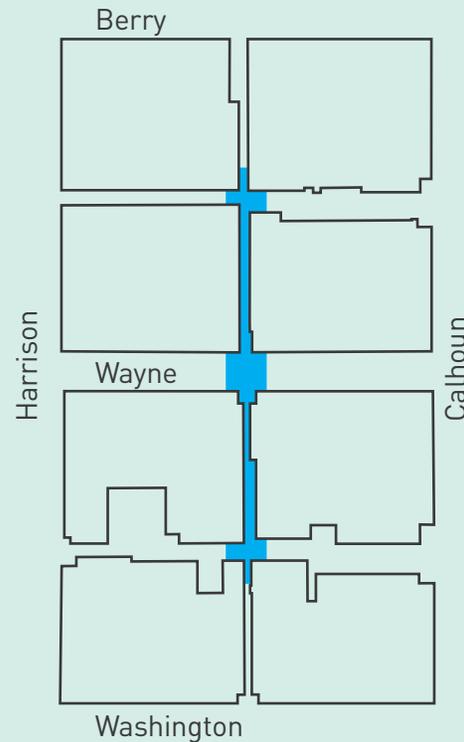
## Where to start

Make exploring downtown on foot a true pleasure by leveraging Fort Wayne’s most human-scale asset: its alleyway network. Enhance the alleyways with people-first design, visual interest, and event programming, and create a uniquely Fort Wayne pedestrian district. Start with these three locations to build momentum.



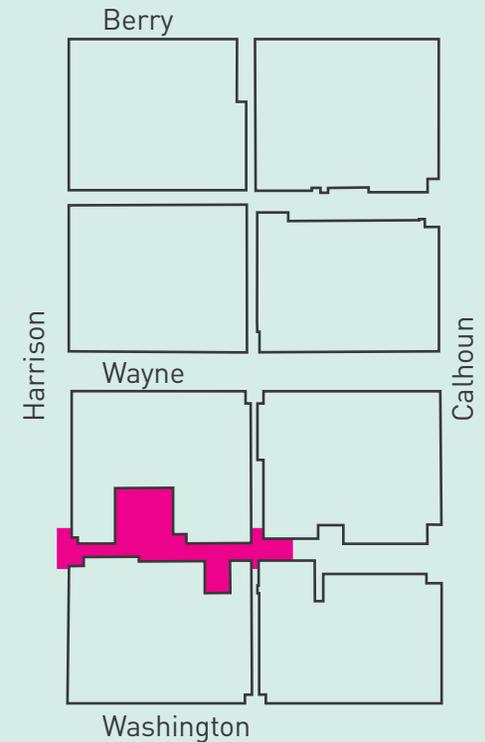
### Alleyways as Micro-retail Corridors

**Corridor Kitchen.** As a key gateway to the alleyway network that connect to downtown’s most active street—Calhoun—Corridor Kitchen will pilot how the alleyways can be food and retail hubs



### Alleyways as Interactive Canvases

**Off-the-Wall Lane.** Leaning into the narrow experience of this main corridor, Off-the-Wall lane will be a place to mix art installations that invite interaction and participation, with an emphasis on play.



### Alleyways as Large-scale Event Spaces

**The Patio.** Leveraging the unique nooks and special spaces within the alleyway network should start with a temporary re-imagining of this space into a beer garden and outdoor movie patio.

## Key Moves

To maximize the potential of the alleyway network, their experience needs to be multidimensional. This kit of parts will help shift the alleys from engaging pathways to inviting places to spend time.



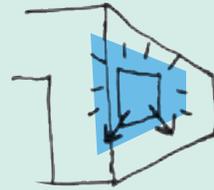
### Light the way

Make alleys open for business throughout the day and night. Light the network so they feel safe at all times



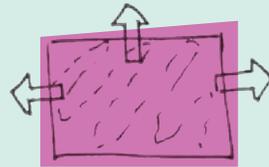
### Flexible Seating

Introduce low profile and adaptable seating throughout the networked, concentrated around active focal points (including art, food and retail areas).



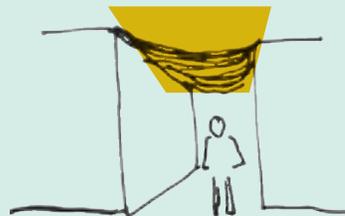
### Active Edges

Retail, food, and interactive installations should activate the interior facades. Long term: punch out windows to create an active street condition.



### More than Art

Make murals interact with the user and space, including digital landscapes, or wall-mounted installations.



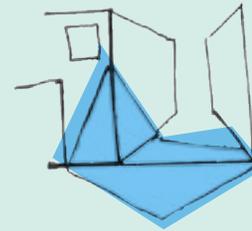
### Creative canopies

Overhead canopies create a human scale and can be a creative opportunity for artists



### Cohesive Back-of-House

Contain and consolidate trash location. Coordinate pick up times and maintenance



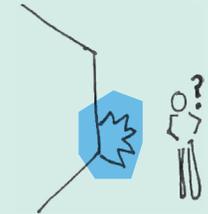
### Highlight Gateways

Let people know there is something there. Create gateway art that spills into the adjacent street to catch people's attention and draw people in.



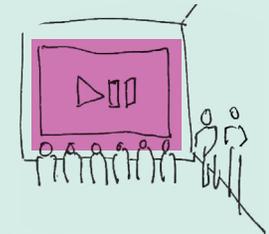
### Green Edges

Introduce planting pots throughout, especially in areas with seating to soften space.



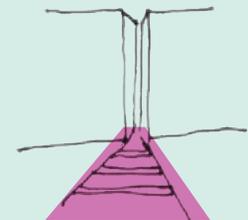
### Inspire Discovery (don't direct it).

Lead people around the corner with wayfinding that is more than a directory or a sign that tells you something is over there.



### Anchor Events

Create a consistent programming anchor/event in the alleys to build local identity get the alleys on Fort Wayne's mental map



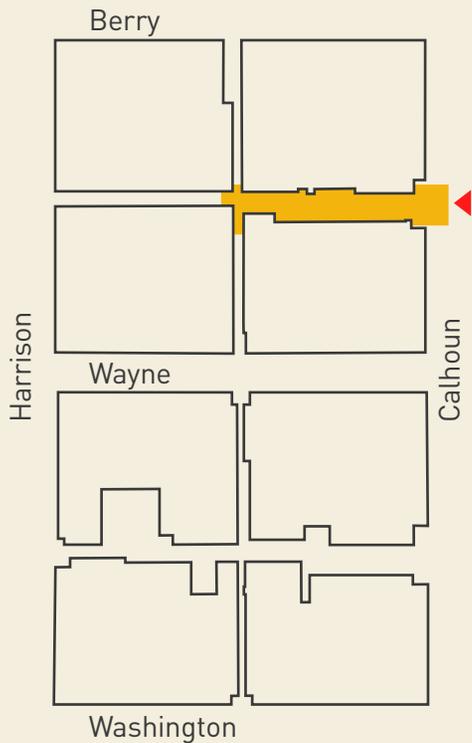
### Complete Journeys

In order to connect and formalize the network, mid-block crossings should be studied and implemented.

## Corridor Kitchen

Alleyways as micro-retail corridors.

Creating a bold and engaging gateway to the alleyway network, complete with small vendors focused on attracting and incubating local food merchants.



Activation Zone 1

## Corridor Kitchen

### Alleyways as micro-retail corridors.

The outdoor dining experience capitalizes on the high pedestrian volumes in this area, the generous space allotted and Fort Wayne's existing foodie culture. This activation is about creating a place for locals to meet and start spending time. This alley is already a popular thoroughfare, with this activation we can create a place that invites Fort Wayne locals to stay and inspire them to discover the alleyway network and what it has to offer the city.



Getting it Done

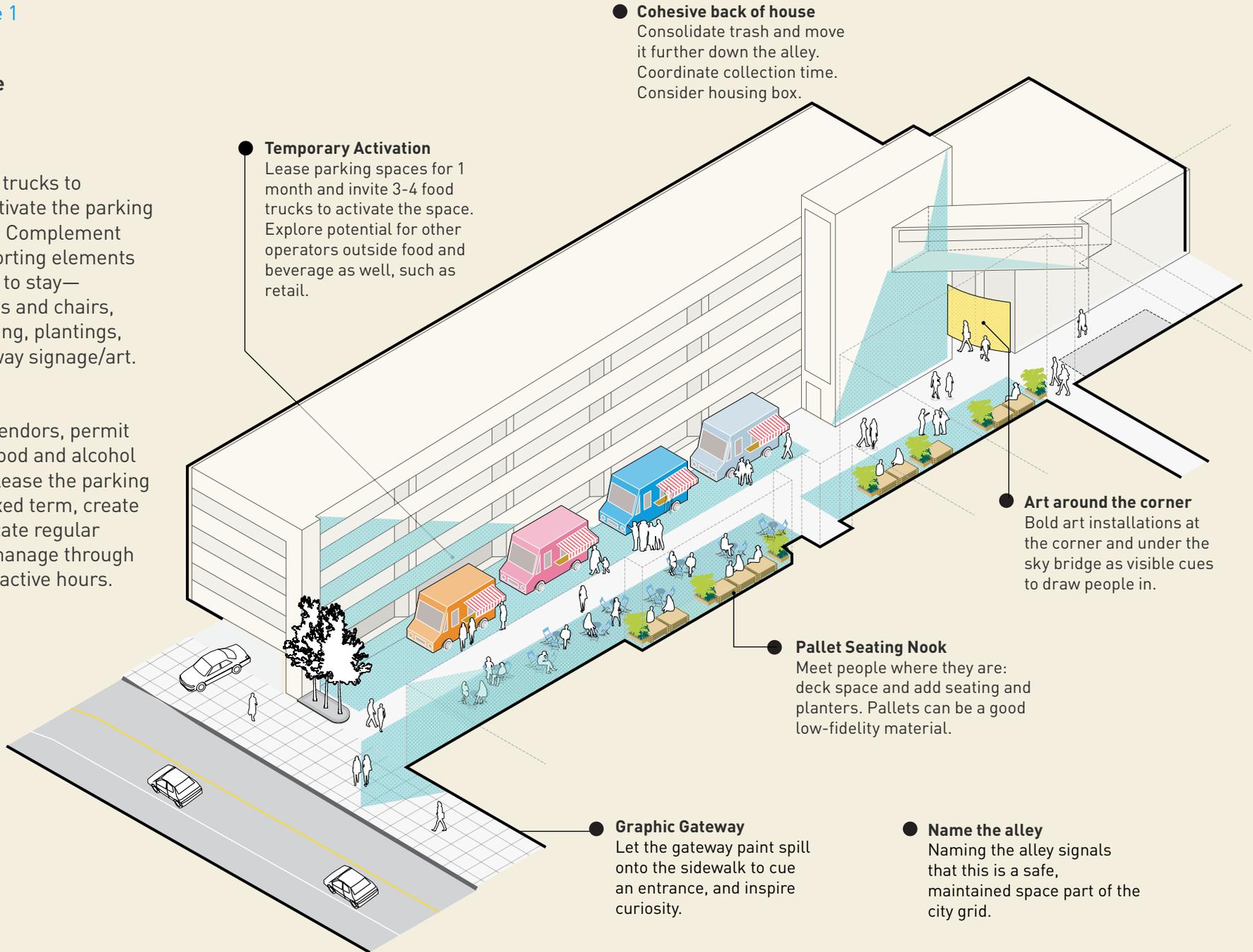
PHASE 1

Hardware

Introduce food trucks to temporarily activate the parking garage facade. Complement this with supporting elements and invitations to stay—including tables and chairs, overhead lighting, plantings, and bold gateway signage/art.

Software

Engage local vendors, permit the space for food and alcohol consumption, lease the parking spaces for a fixed term, create and communicate regular events. Also, manage through traffic for non-active hours.



● **Temporary Activation**  
Lease parking spaces for 1 month and invite 3-4 food trucks to activate the space. Explore potential for other operators outside food and beverage as well, such as retail.

● **Cohesive back of house**  
Consolidate trash and move it further down the alley. Coordinate collection time. Consider housing box.

● **Art around the corner**  
Bold art installations at the corner and under the sky bridge as visible cues to draw people in.

● **Pallet Seating Nook**  
Meet people where they are: deck space and add seating and planters. Pallets can be a good low-fidelity material.

● **Graphic Gateway**  
Let the gateway paint spill onto the sidewalk to cue an entrance, and inspire curiosity.

● **Name the alley**  
Naming the alley signals that this is a safe, maintained space part of the city grid.

**Getting it Done**

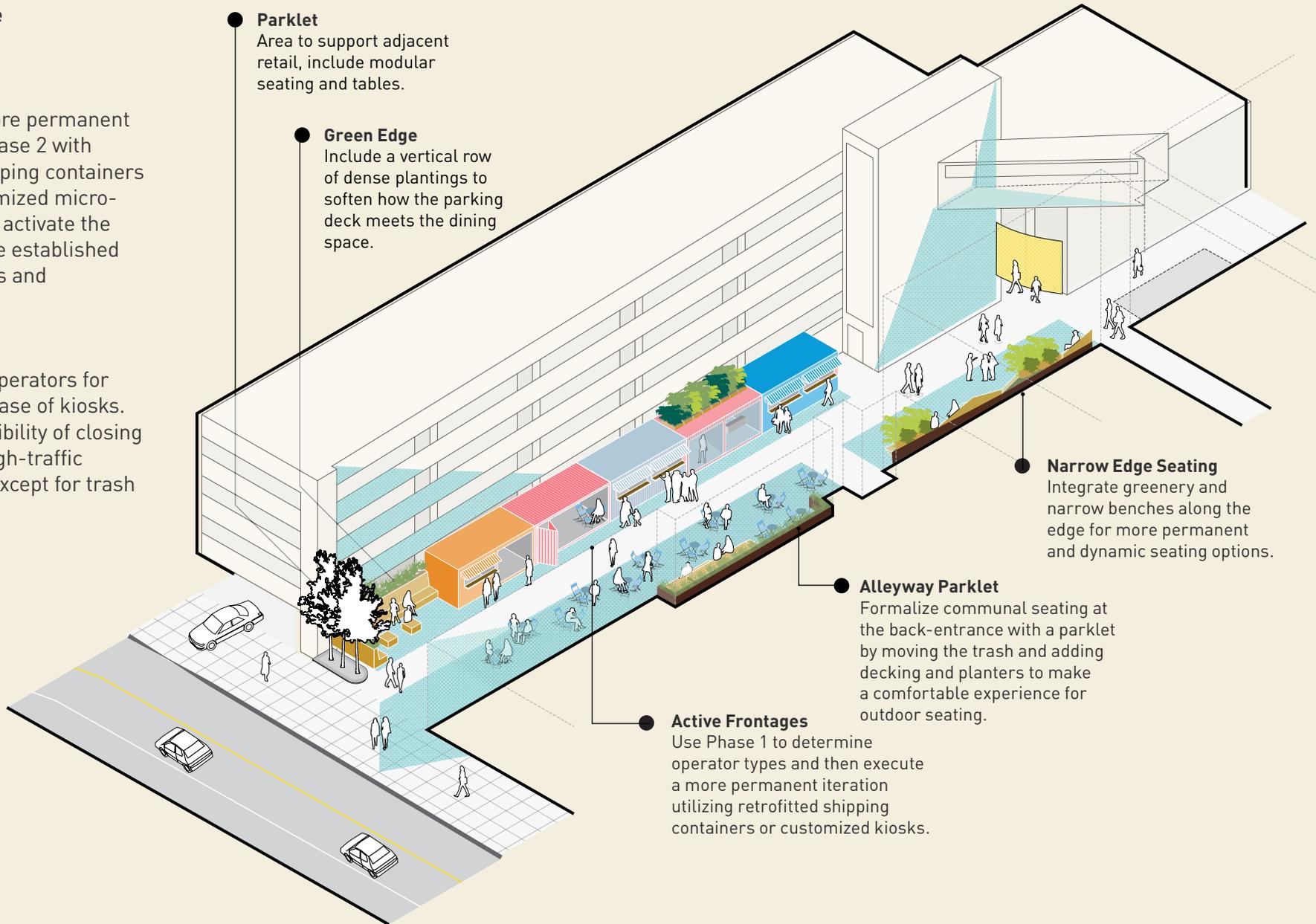
**PHASE 2**

*Hardware*

Introduce a more permanent presence in phase 2 with retrofitted shipping containers or other customized micro-retail kiosks to activate the edge. Introduce established seating pockets and landscaping.

*Software*

Engage local operators for longer-term lease of kiosks. Study the possibility of closing street to through-traffic permanently, except for trash collection.



● **Parklet**  
Area to support adjacent retail, include modular seating and tables.

● **Green Edge**  
Include a vertical row of dense plantings to soften how the parking deck meets the dining space.

● **Narrow Edge Seating**  
Integrate greenery and narrow benches along the edge for more permanent and dynamic seating options.

● **Alleyway Parklet**  
Formalize communal seating at the back-entrance with a parklet by moving the trash and adding decking and planters to make a comfortable experience for outdoor seating.

● **Active Frontages**  
Use Phase 1 to determine operator types and then execute a more permanent iteration utilizing retrofitted shipping containers or customized kiosks.

IN FOCUS  
Market 707  
Toronto, Ontario



## IN FOCUS Market 707 Toronto, Ontario

Focused in retrofitted shipping containers, Market 707 in Toronto is a low-impact, low cost impromptu pedestrian mall offering a variety of food and services. The market has been immensely successful, offering business opportunities to low income residents and bringing a formerly nondescript neighborhood to life.



01

### Something for everyone

The containers offer a variety of services and amenities from coffee and crepes to ethnic food and bicycle repair.



02

### Gives start-ups a leg up

Low rent and small spaces give local vendors an opportunity to take risks that were otherwise unavailable. Some have gone on to open brick and mortar spaces.



03

### Fills a gap in the urban fabric

Shoppers can now walk from the established commercial area into the market. These extra eyes on the street make the neighborhood safer.



04

### A reason to stick around

Diverse program includes emergency childcare, a skateboard shop that teaches youth entrepreneurial skills, and a basketball program.



05

### Catalyzes cooperation between vendors

The businesses have started a mini business improvement group that collects a small amount of money each month to buy amenities such as lighting and advertising.



IN FOCUS

# Melbourne Alleyways, Australia



IN FOCUS

# Alleyways Melbourne, Australia

The Melbourne Alleyways transformed former alleys into lively hubs of activity for small scale businesses and social interaction. The initiative originally helped revive an otherwise dying downtown area.



01

**Kick-starting Downtown's Revitalization.** In 1984, Gehl worked with Melbourne City Council to analyze the challenges and potential of the city center—which had fallen into a deep recession and was facing bankruptcy. Emerging from this work was the activation of Melbourne's alleyways. A strategic plan for the alleyways was built on continuing to upgrade and maintain the physical form and condition of alleyways, aligned with an economic development strategy for the creative industries contained within them.



02

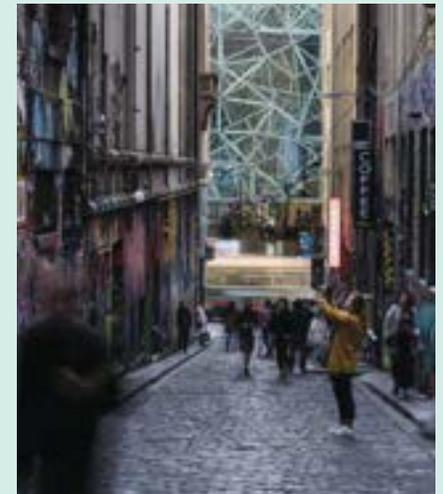
**Active Interior.** Alleyways open up the building facades to former alleys, creating a breeding ground for creative activities and small scale businesses.



03

**Partnerships.** The alleyways foster partnerships with, and between, businesses, residents and community groups.

Above: Hosier lane connecting to Federation Square arts and culture center



04

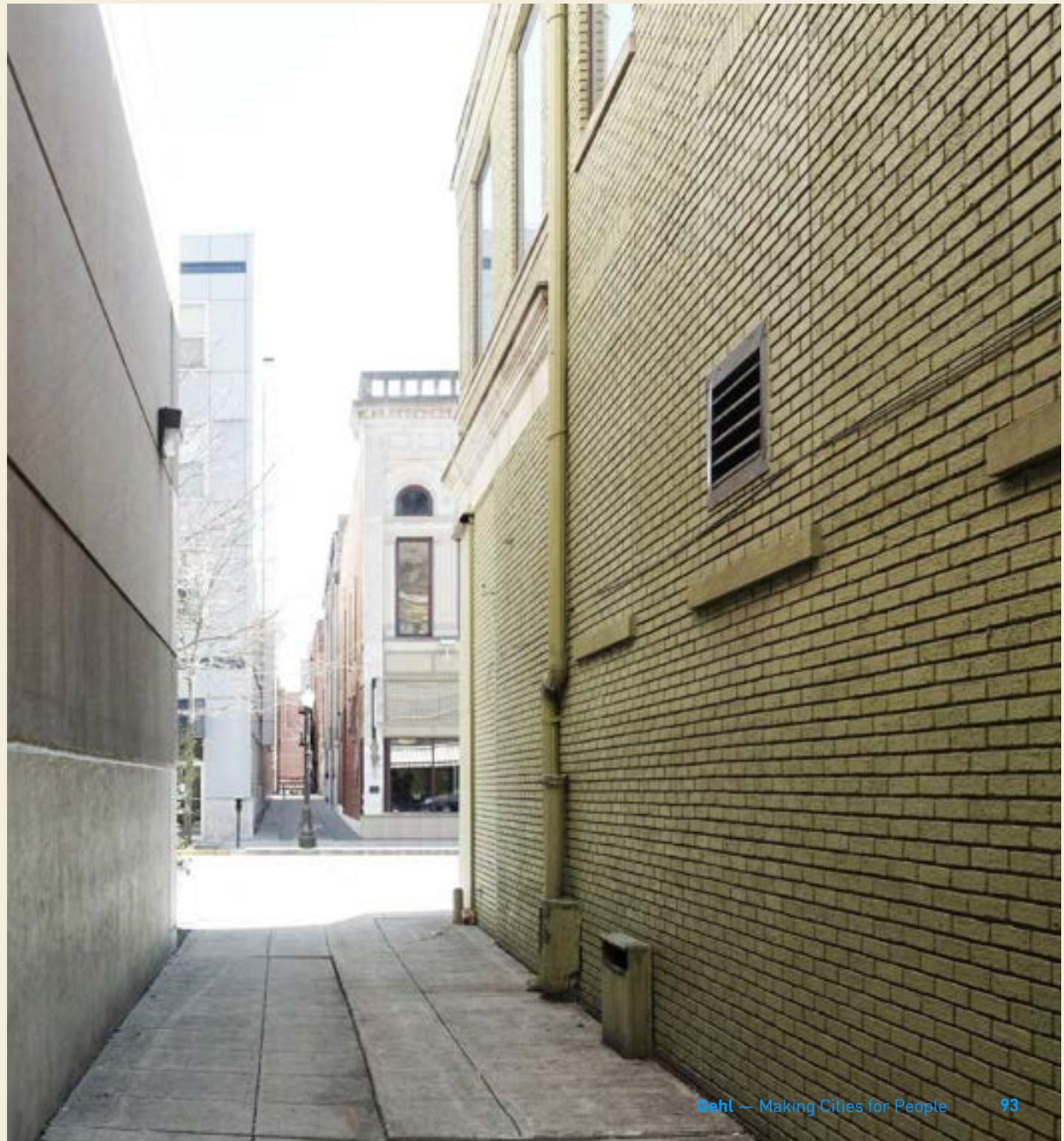
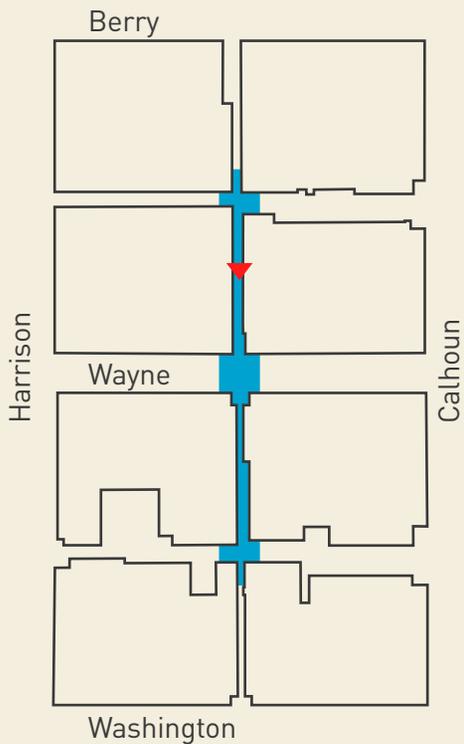
**A Shared Vision.** The "Love Your Alleyway" program assists in creating strategies that engages businesses and residents in alleyways to achieve a shared vision for new lanes.

Activation Zone 2

# Off the Wall

## Alleyways as interactive canvases

How might we make it new again? Creating a canvas for rotating interactive art and installations, anchored by a local merchant.



## Off the Wall

### Alleyways as interactive canvases

The intimate, linear space of these alleyways lends itself to fun play installations, seating, and overhead canopies that capitalize on the unique spatial qualities of the alleyways and make navigating narrow spaces fun.





IN FOCUS

# Alley-oop Vancouver, British Columbia



IN FOCUS

## Alley Oop Vancouver, British Columbia

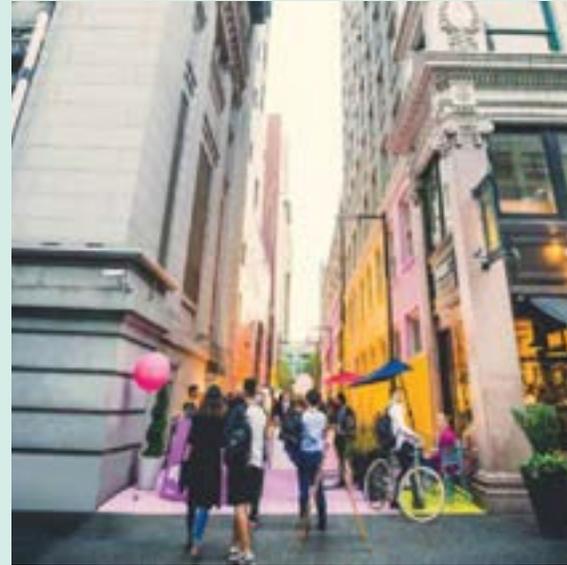
The local business improvement district, architects, and local neighbors came together to develop a pedestrian friendly place in Downtown Vancouver. Together, the team developed a bright space for people to take a break from work and play.



01

### A Bold Design

The team pressure-washed the alleyway, removed potholes, painted the street, walls and dumpsters with brightly colored street-grade paint



02

### Inviting from the street

Bright paint spilling onto the sidewalk, lighting, and a crowd of event goers pulls visitors in.



03

### Play

Ground paint and installed hoops created alleyway basketball courts.

IN FOCUS

# Passageways Chattanooga, Tennessee



IN FOCUS

## Passageways Chattanooga, Tennessee

Chattanooga's Passageways leverage all "four walls" of their alleyway network — with a special focus on creative canopies. These overhead installations create a dynamic sense of enclosure and boost the intimate characteristics of alleys. In addition to overhead art, wall-mounted play installations invited people to engage and interact with the space.



02

### Rotating Artists

An eclectic mix of visual, industrial, and performance artists used the space as both canvas and stage.



02

### Creative Enclosure

Give a human scale to the space and inspire a sense of discovery



03

### Art that Invites Interaction

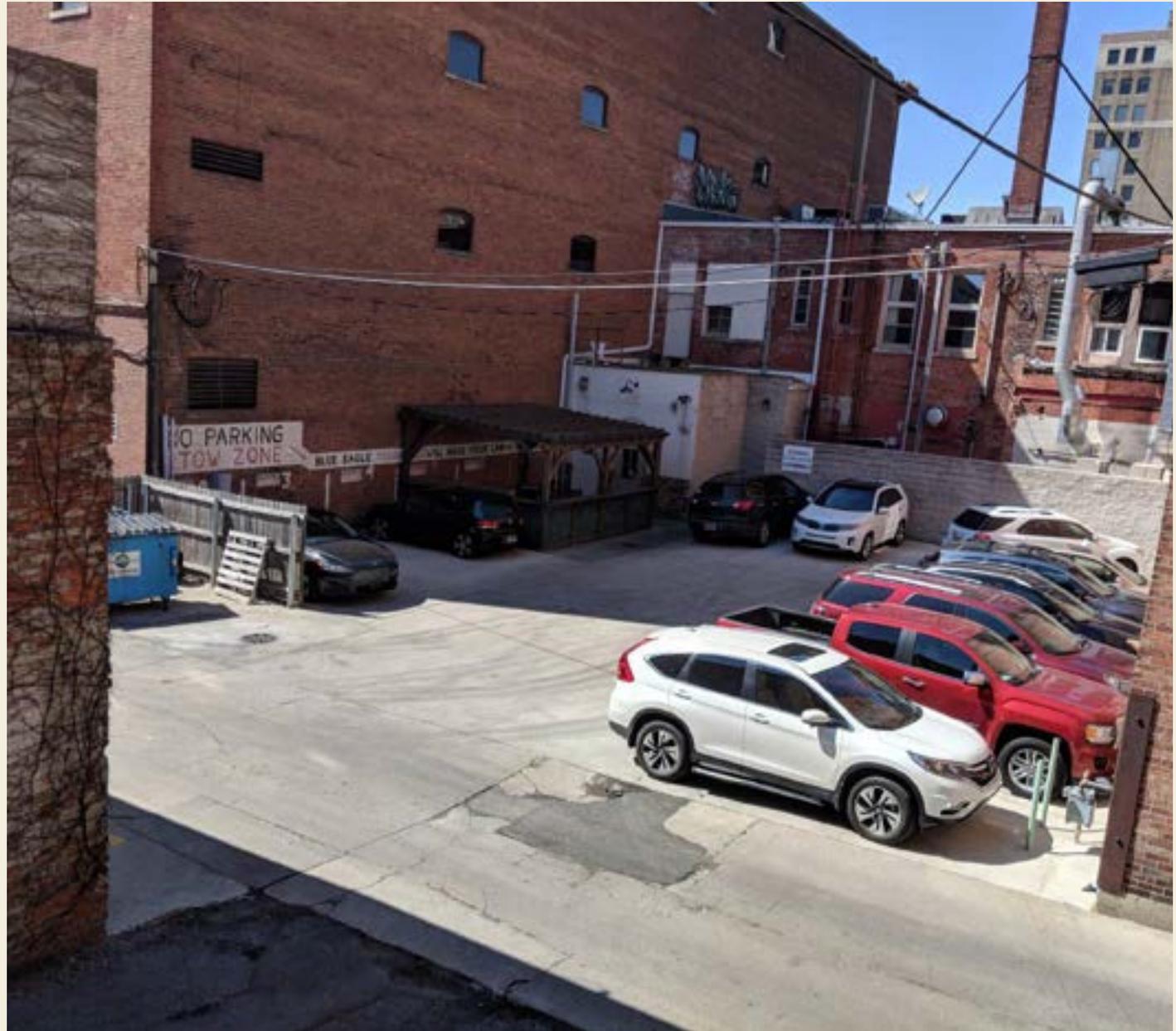
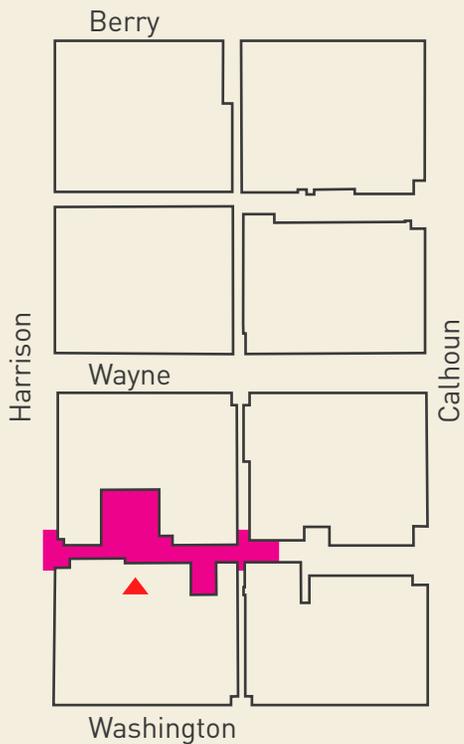
Use walls to install art that allows people to engage and reinterpret the space.



## The Patio

### Alleyways as event spaces.

Establishing a magnetic destination and place to spend time, together, with a flexible patio showcasing a range of events, including beer garden and movie night.



Activation Zone 3

## The Patio



## Activation Zone 3

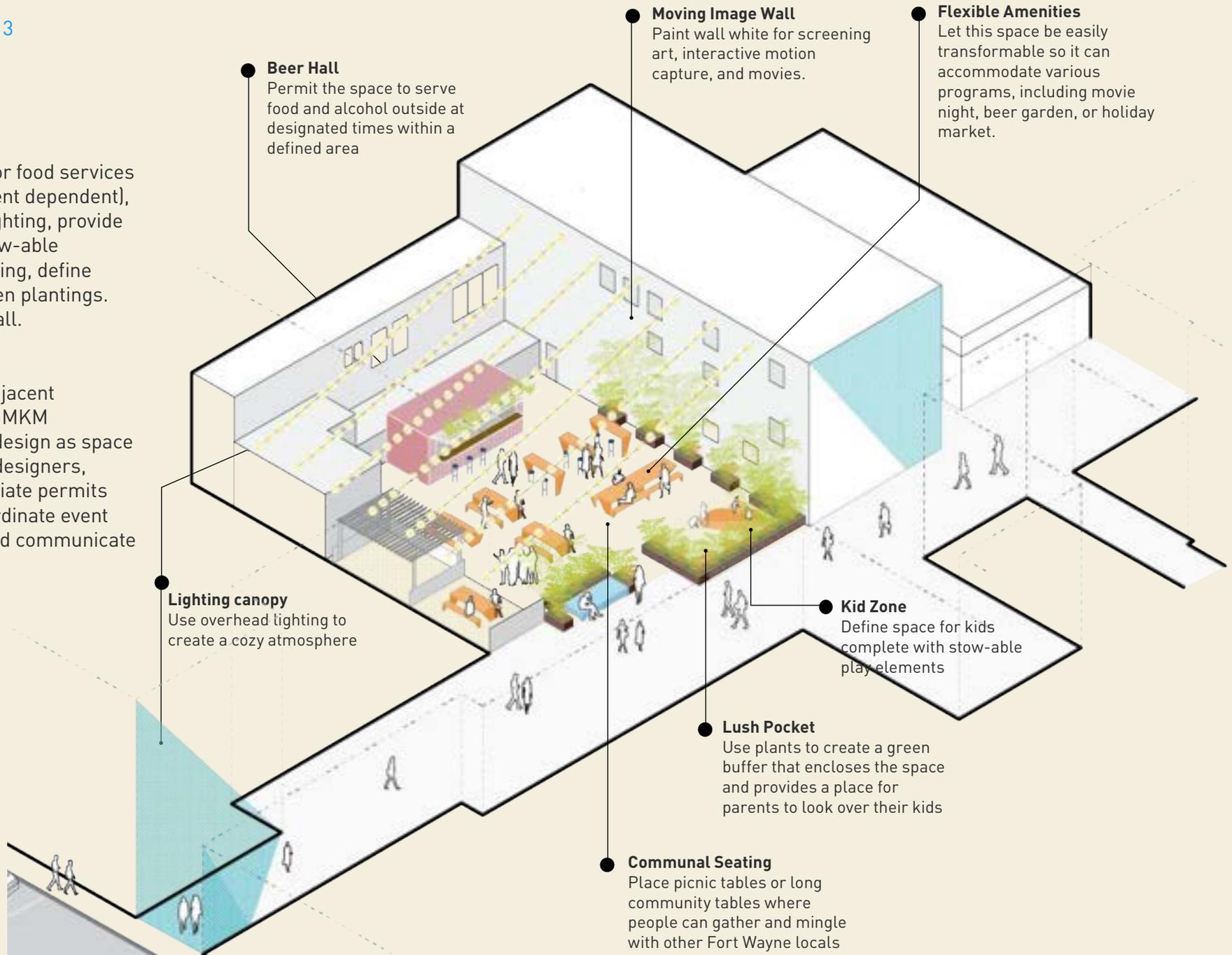
### Getting it Done

#### Hardware

Set up kiosks for food services or markets (event dependent), install string lighting, provide flexible and stow-able communal seating, define edges with green plantings, paint screen wall. Paint screen wall.

#### Software

Partner with adjacent merchants and MKM architecture + design as space operators and designers, secure appropriate permits for events, coordinate event permissions and communicate events.



Best Practice

IN FOCUS

# REsurfaced: Louisville Kentucky



IN FOCUS

## REsurfaced: Louisville, Kentucky

REsurfaced program works with local partners to improve surface parking lots and large vacant sites through a range of placemaking initiatives.



**01** **For events and non-event days**  
Transforming and activating underutilized surface lots and vacant spaces to bring back the walkable urbanism Louisville once enjoyed.



**02** **Amenities for a range of users**  
REsurfaced worked with a large variety of partners and sponsors to bring lots of different experiences to each new activation including food, music, games, and social programming. This variety of partnerships allowed the activation to extend to a wide user-group.



**03** **Rotating Programs**  
Each REsurfaced activation is meant to only last several days. This allows for the group to rotate sites, constantly experimenting with new programs and refine each new effort.

IN FOCUS

## Nuit Blanche Montreal, Quebec

Montreal's Nuit Blanche is an annual celebration of arts and culture. It takes place in the winter months and combines light and motion installations with special programming.



01

### Light Play

Installations that light the night and create intimate unique spatial experiences are a way to warm the space in colder months.



02

### Keep Moving

Installations that require people to move their bodies help keep people warm and engaged.



03

### Indoor Moments

Invite art museums to stay open late and offer free or discounted exhibits. This invites people to step indoors and take a break from the cold while experiencing something new in their city.



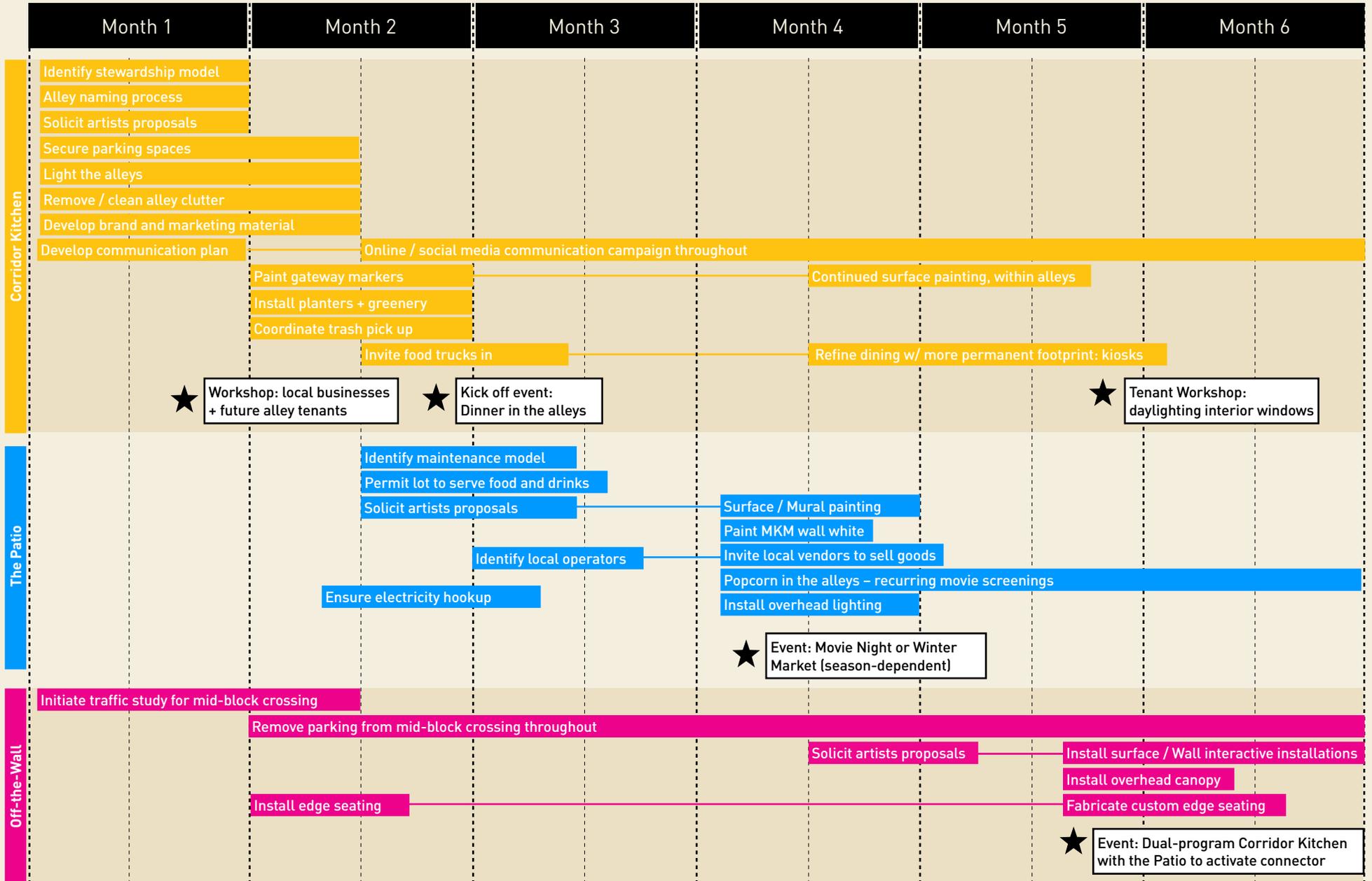
How to get it done

# Next Steps

With momentum building downtown and growth coming, the time is now to start. Following is an illustrative timeline to sequence the design and programming of the alleyway pilot project.



# Activation Timeline



## Making it Happen

With alignment and a cooperative relationship between key stakeholders, including the Downtown Improvement District, City Planning, local merchants, and Mayor Tom Henry, Fort Wayne is well positioned to move forward on number of projects within relatively short order.

The time is now to capitalize on this momentum to implement important public realm improvements. Some projects outlined in the action plan are near-term, pilot ready proposals. Others will require more funding over a longer timeline. In both instances, key to the process in an action



oriented approach is to learn and adapt by doing — to test, measure, and refine. This ongoing evaluation of progress is essential to measure, make a quantitative case for what's working, what's not, and build success moving forward.

### 1. Bring it together with your local champions, makers, and doers.

It takes a team of people with different perspectives, skills, and contributions to make a downtown feel complete.

Fort Wayne is bustling with activity like food trucks, new restaurants and bars, cultural events, and pop-up retail. People are ready and willing to contribute to their city. It requires mutual trust and delegated roles to have a functioning team of producers to feel like everyone is contributing to a larger purpose of making downtown Fort Wayne for people.

### 2. Leverage Partnerships and Define Roles

How partnerships function for each alley project is different. Strong trust and collaboration, however, is required for an effective alleyway activation. The city, private funders, designers, adjacent property owners, and downtown advocates must all know their roles and responsibilities. Not only is it necessary to have a collaborative group of partners and stakeholders, this group must designate a clear leader or organization that will be the main champion of the alleyway project. This leader will manage the funds, roles and responsibilities, and ensure day-to-day maintenance of the alleys runs smoothly.

The strong ongoing work led by the Downtown Improvement District is a natural fit to continue in this role, with on-going support from city planning.

### 3. Find the right funding balance

Finding the right mix of various funding sources is a great opportunity to involve different community members in the project. Leverage community interest in activating the public realm by joining private funds from BIDs, public investment, and grants that support local artists and makers. Pooling together resources helps distribute the investment load and gives a wider group interests to be involved and contribute their perspectives.

The long-term success of the alley activations will require an agreement between partners about long-term use and maintenance. In some cases, like Chattanooga, property owners pay an annual fee to the River City Company who will use that pot of money to maintain the City Thread alley. Some kind of agreement between partners

is necessary to upkeep the success of the alley and ensure the sustainability of the project.

### 4. Communicate Projects

Letting the public know about projects is just as important as informing key downtown stakeholders involved in the process.

Generating sustainable use of the alley requires a strong engagement platform. This includes ways to engage partners and stakeholders but also the public. Engagement should include strong graphic material establishing an identity for the project that excites and empowers partnerships. This material can then be expanded and carried forward to a public communication platform whether that be through social media, website, flyers, signage, etc.



### 5. Kick-off and strive for a Ripple Effect

A big factor of success for urban alleyway activations is a strong kick-off event or series of events that brings people together to see these spaces in a new way: as pathways as well as destinations. Kick-off events can include parties, “gallery” openings, screenings, music events and performances. These events build an identity of place in people’s minds and encourage them to come back.

Special thanks to our friends at the Community Foundation of Fort Wayne, Knight Foundation, Fort Wayne Redevelopment Commission

**Gehl**

