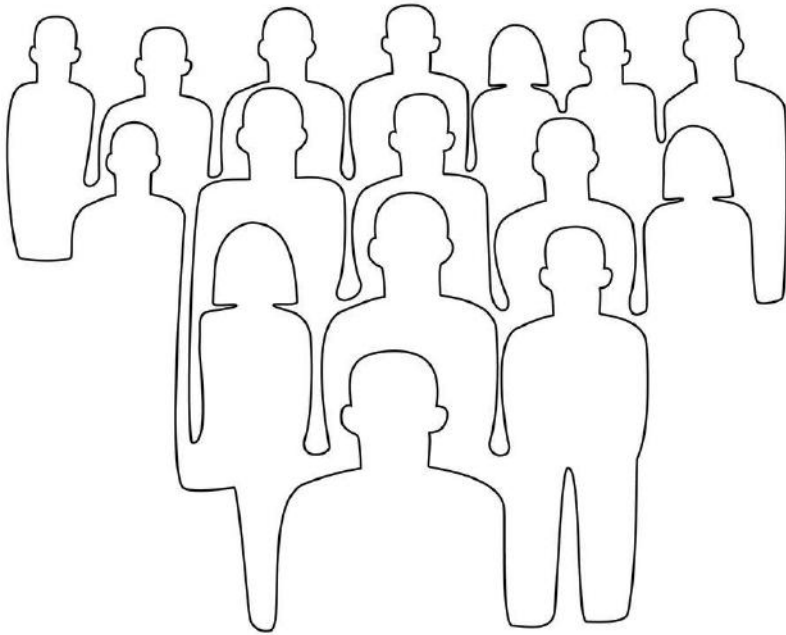


# Calder Plaza Redesign - Phase 1 - Today's Agenda

Part A   Frame	Break	Part B   Aspire	Summary
<div><u>Introductions</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GR Parks Department</li><li>DGRI</li><li>Progressive AE</li><li>Stakeholder Participants</li></ul></div> <div><u>Today's Work Session</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Process</li><li>Outcomes</li></ul></div> <div><u>Frame   Current State</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2017 Calder Plaza Master Plan</li><li>Phase 1 (this project)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scope</li><li>Programming</li><li>Observations</li><li>Insights from Master Plan</li></ul></li></ul></div>	<div>A moment to prepare</div>	<div><u>Tell Us a Story</u> - small groups</div> <div>Chapter 1: Develop a Story<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pavilion</li><li>Café</li><li>Green space</li></ul></div> <div>Share Your Stories</div> <div>Chapter 2: The Life of the Story - Your Stories in Context<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pavilion</li><li>Café</li><li>Green space</li></ul></div> <div>Share Your Stories</div>	<div>Final Comments</div> <div>Next Steps</div>

# Calder Plaza Redesign - Introductions



# Calder Plaza Redesign - Today's Worksession

## Process

### FRAME

A thorough understanding of strategy, objectives, and current conditions.

### ASPIRE

We engage with stakeholders to imagine unique project-specific principles that will determine requirements of success for the project.

## Outcomes

### FRAME

- Project Requirements
- Detailed project expectations.
- Program requirements (quantitative)

### ASPIRE

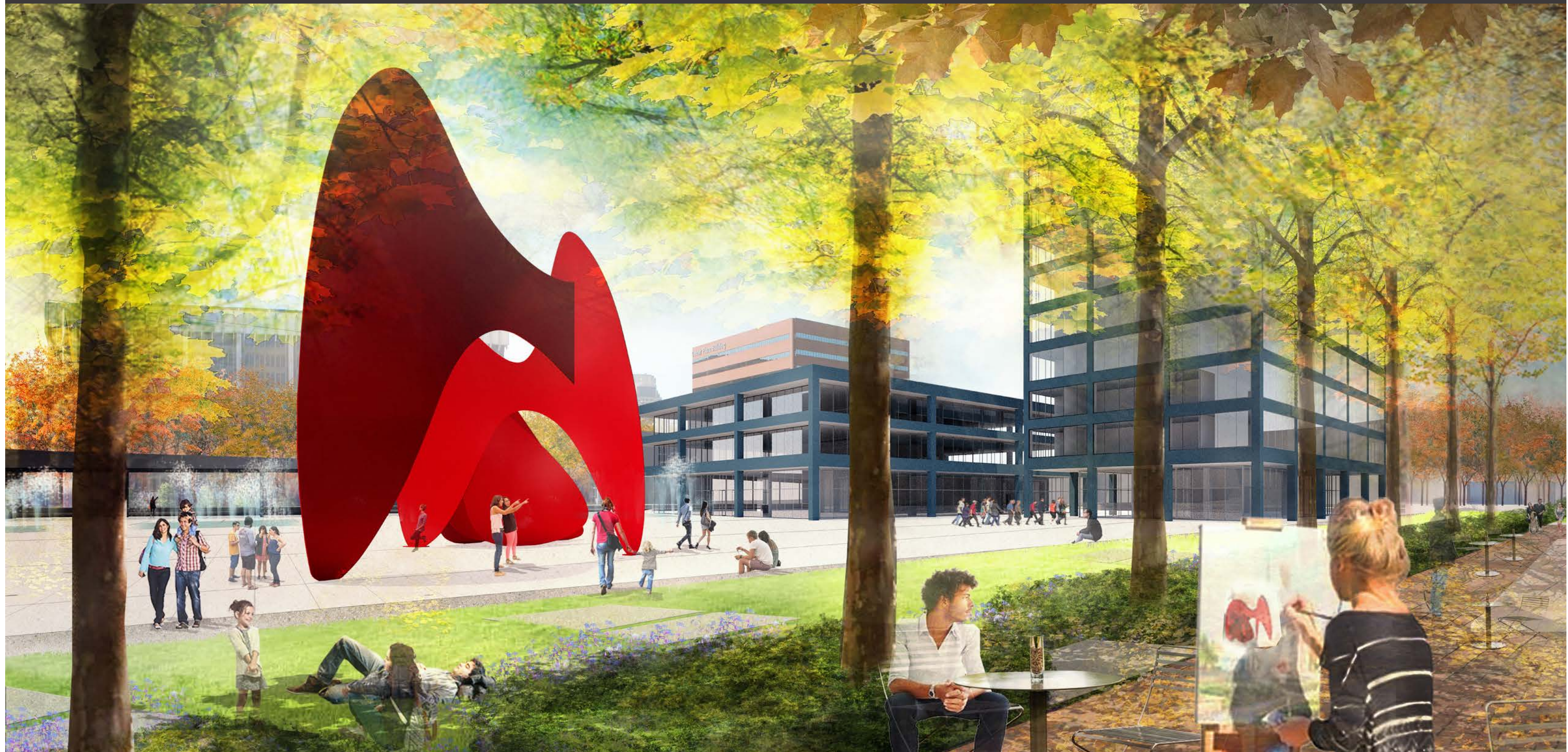
- Project aspirations and principles
- Project priorities and goals
- Program requirements (qualitative)
- Measures of success



# CALDER PLAZA: A PLAZA FULL OF POTENTIAL

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

MASTER PLAN REPORT | FEBRUARY 2017





# 2017 Calder Master Plan

## PREFERRED CONCEPT

### Concept Description

Building upon the GR Forward plan, the existing street is converted to a two-way configuration and a center turn-lane is added, with parallel parking on both sides. Food truck parking runs along the western edge of the street. Parallel parking has been removed along the central pedestrian crossing, allowing ease of pedestrian movement across the street and unobstructed views to the sculpture. During special events, the street is designed to become an extension of the Plaza, performing as a festival street. The existing sidewalk is widened to better accommodate pedestrian traffic. A new café/ dining pavilion has been integrated at the southeast corner of the Plaza. Casual seating for the café as well as food trucks is added along the street edge and under the pavilion, activating both areas. The central area of the Plaza remains free of improvements, allowing it to function openly for various events and to visually honor the critical viewsheds of the sculpture.

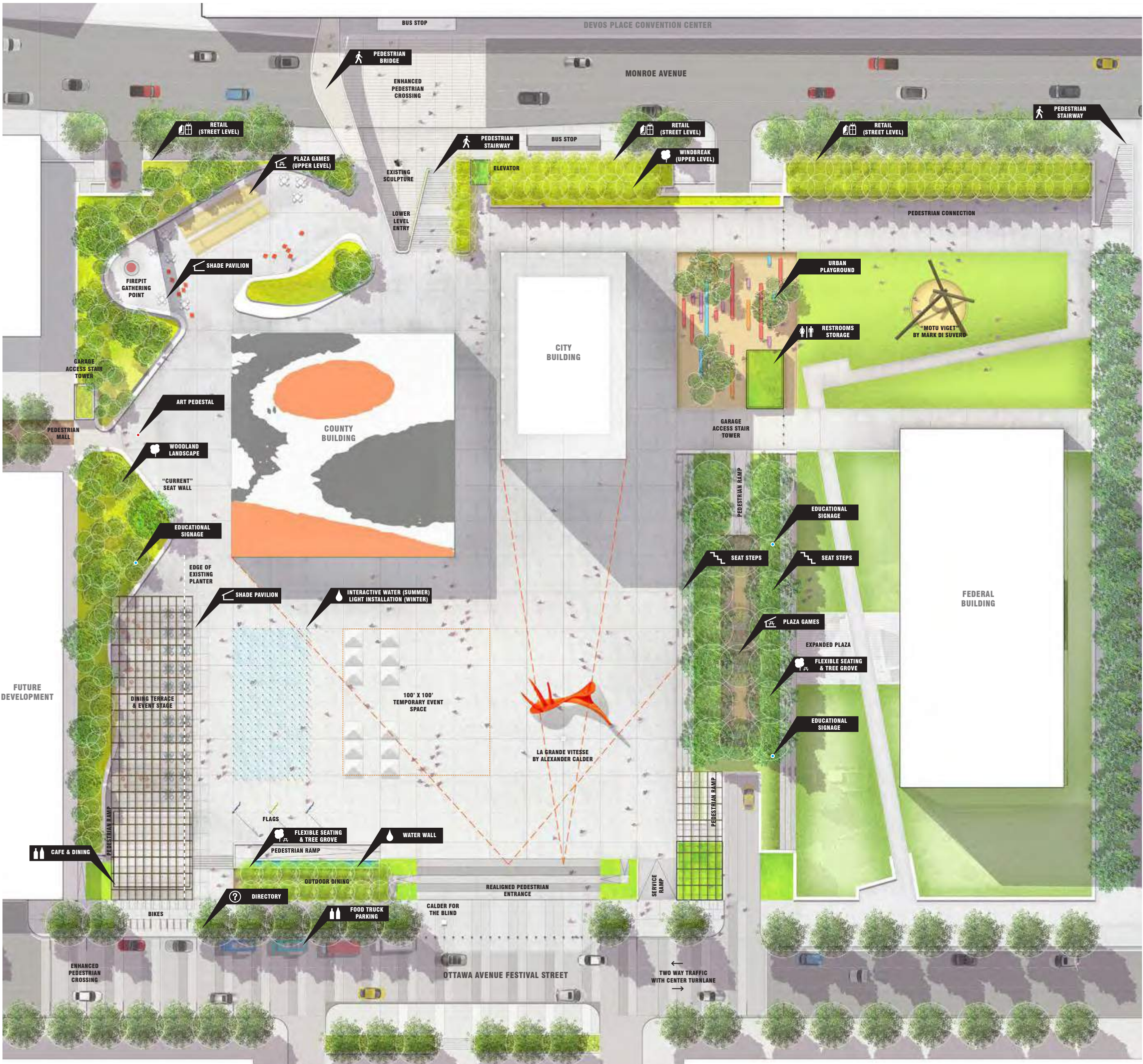
Along the western edge, the design builds upon the recommendation of GR Forward by providing a gracious pedestrian staircase connection between the Plaza and street levels. A pedestrian bridge connects the Mezzanine Level of Devos Place and the larger Grand Rapids skywalk network with the Plaza. At the

Plaza level, a vegetative edge buffers prevailing winter winds and softens the hardscape appearance of the Plaza. The plan restores vitality to Monroe Avenue through a shallow 25' retail wrap while maintaining the revenue-generating function of the parking garage. The addition would provide visitors to Devos Place convenient access to retail and rovides the missing link between the Downtown business district and a burgeoning development area to the north. The plan recommends that the parking lot which exists to the south, when developed, include ground-floor retail and a pedestrian mall.

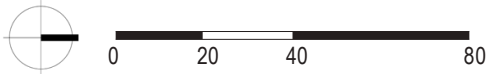
On November 11, the design team met with the Steering Committee to review the preferred concept. Also on November 11, the design team unveiled the preferred master plan to the Downtown Resident Network at the Grand Rapids Public Library.

*"This latest plan for the redevelopment of the Plaza surrounding Calder's iconic sculpture La Grande Vitesse, 1969, addresses the public's need to enjoy a more hospitable space as well as Calder's and SOM's modernist visions surrounding their respective masterpieces. The sight lines from the street onto the building and Calder's sculpture have been considered in the design, which I hope will reanimate this important public space for generations to come."*

Alexander S.C. Rower  
President  
Calder Foundation, 11/4/2016



Illustrative Plan

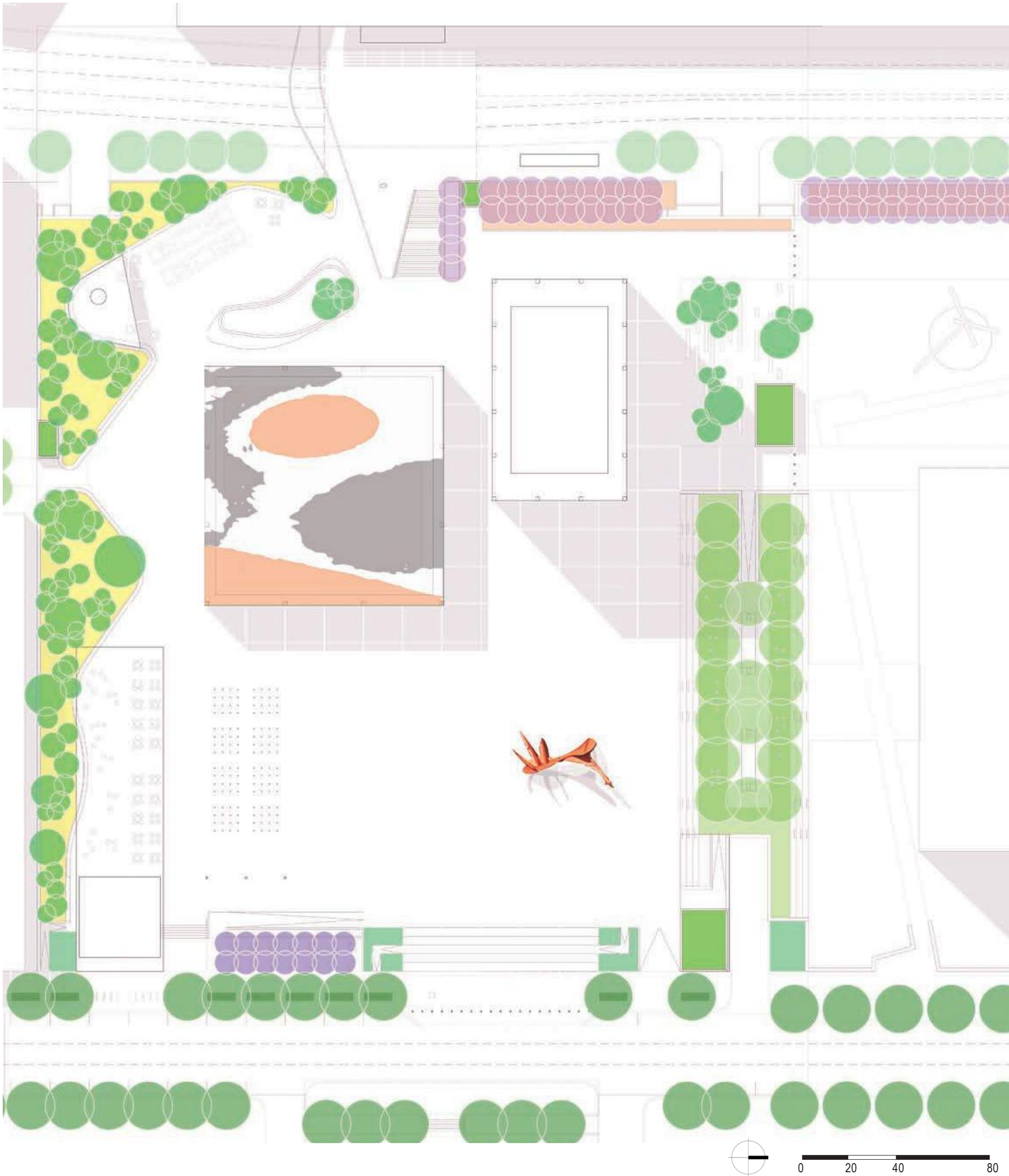




# 2017 Calder Master Plan

LEGEND

- Grasses/Prairie
- Woodland/Prairie
- Lawn
- Ornamental
- Greenroof
- Street Groundcover
- Ornamental Tree Type 1
- Ornamental Tree Type 2
- Shade Tree Type 1
- Shade Tree Type 2
- Street Tree Type 1
- Street Tree Type 2



## Vegetation

The Planting Concept celebrates the region's natural landscapes and strengthens visitors' individual connection to their environment. Supporting the City's Urban Forest Project, the concept also increases the amount of vegetation around and throughout the Plaza, providing additional areas of shade and interest. Strategies include:

- Along the northern edge, the plan introduces a "green" edge of deciduous trees, which restores a vertical backdrop to La Grande Vitesse.
- Because of its proximity to the sculpture, the planting design and spacing is purposely rigid and formal. The trees are envisioned as large shade trees with a golden fall color, which will provide contrast to the sculpture.
- Along the southern edge, the plan introduces a more organic and informal counterbalance to the formal design along the northern edge. Naturalized groves of trees, shrubs and groundcover create a soft, informal backdrop to the activities of the Plaza. The design uses native plants of the region.
- Along the western edge of the Plaza, supplemental tree plantings serve as a windbreak, slowing down the prevailing strong winds that enter the Plaza.
- Along Ottawa Avenue and Monroe Avenue, a more traditional approach to the streetscape provides shade along the sidewalk. Ornamental tree plantings are concentrated in areas of outdoor seating.



# 2017 Calder Master Plan

## Furniture

Furnishings in Calder Plaza should support daily Plaza activity while diversifying the pedestrian environment and enhancing the visitor’s experience. The proposed plan specifies a mixture of fixed and movable elements.

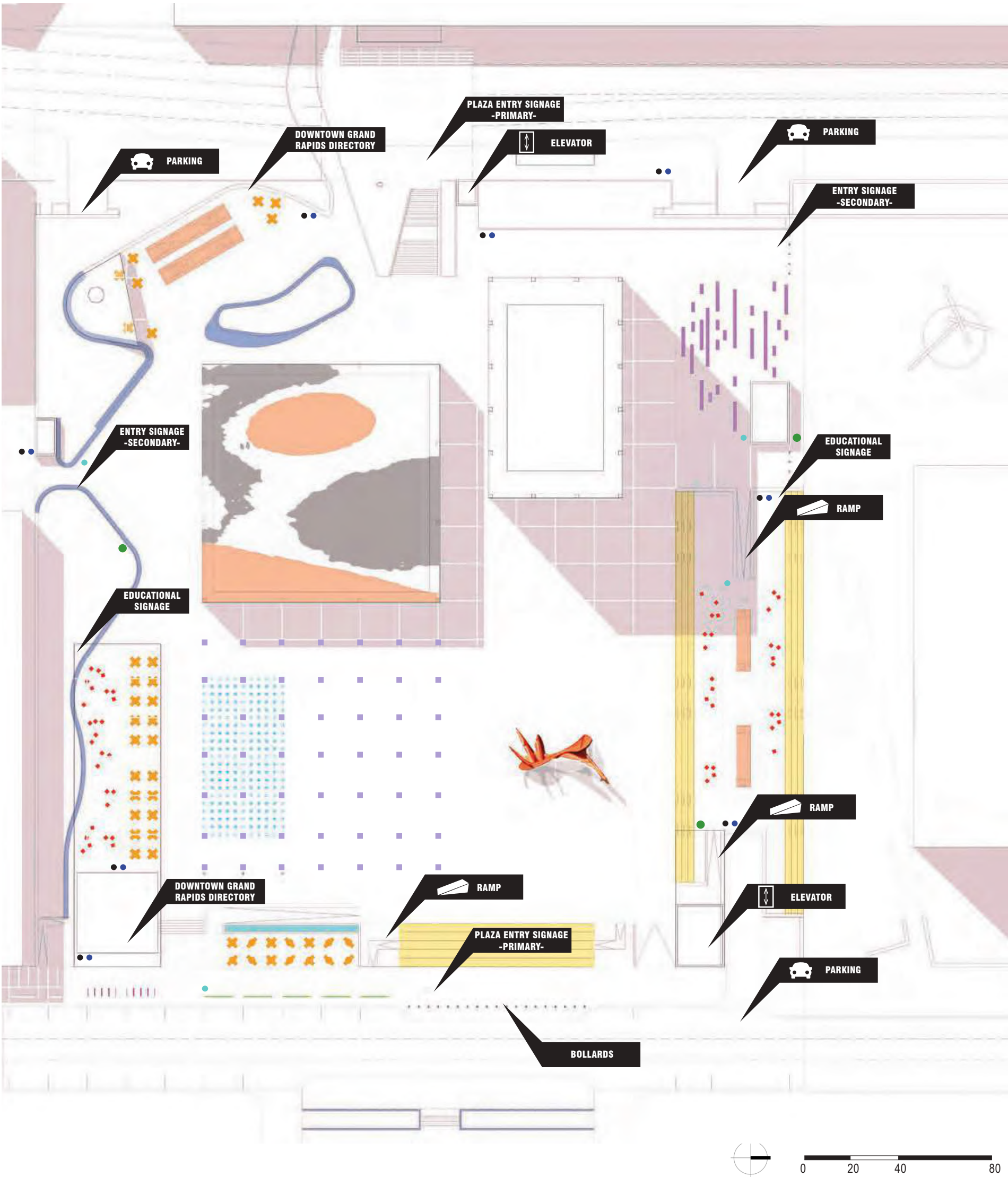
Addressing many of the concerns expressed by stakeholders, a comprehensive signage and wayfinding plan aims to provide clear and informed direction to the visitors of the Plaza. This includes a hierarchy of vehicular and pedestrian signage, as well as, educational signage.

Art serves as a critical element in the original design of Calder Plaza. This can be witnessed not only through the presence of Alexander Calder’s monumental stabile, but through the many sculptures that once and still remain in the Plaza. As such, the plan not only respects this distinct quality, but builds upon it with additional locations of potential area.

## Signage and Interpretative Elements

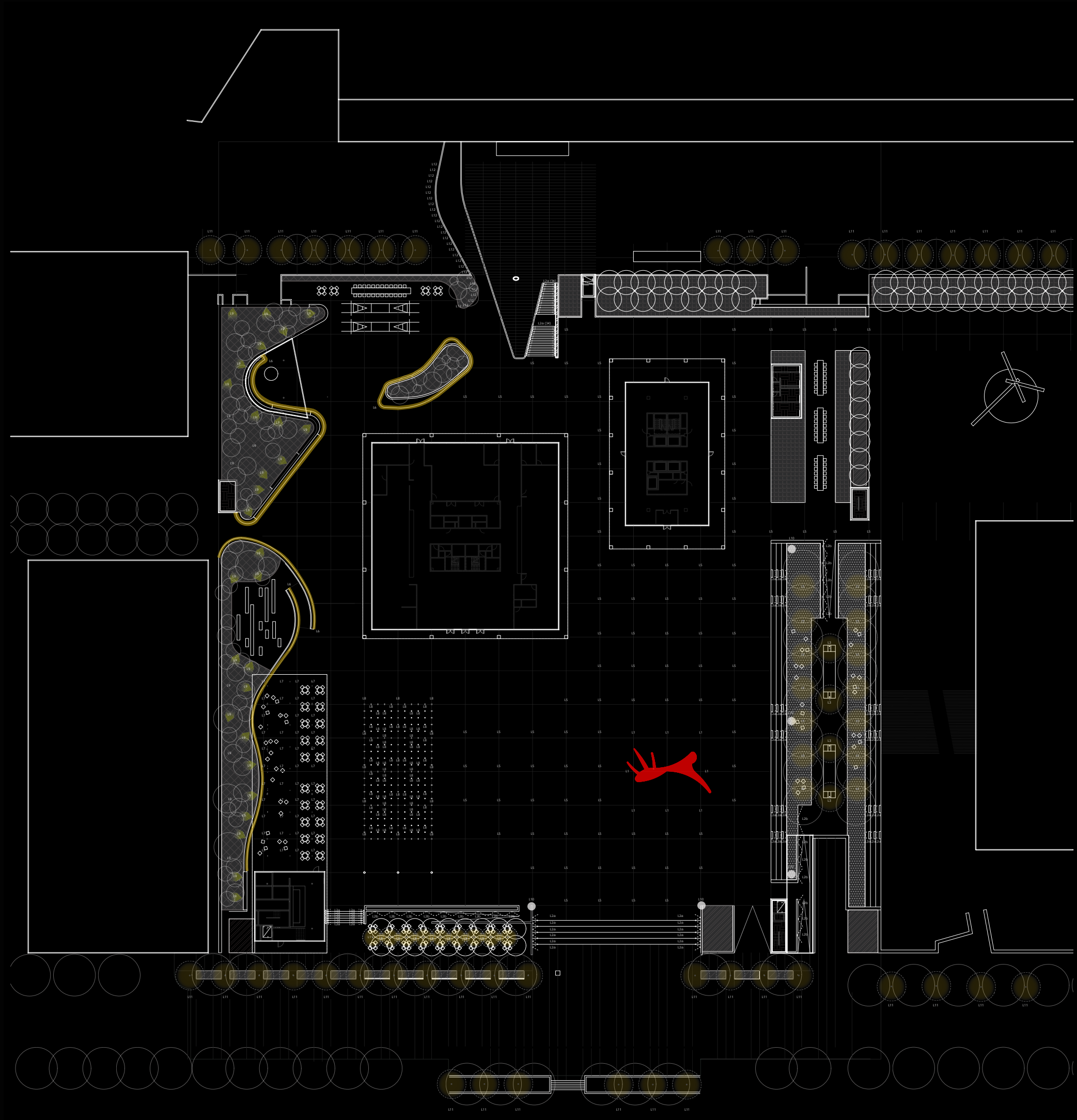
As a civic space, Calder Plaza possesses the opportunity to provide social, recreational and economic opportunities to its ends users. It can also serve as a place to learn and expand one’s knowledge about important aspects of the Grand Rapids’ history, people and environs. Signage and interpretative elements can enhance these educational opportunities and will be integrated throughout the public space as a means of storytelling. They may touch on the past, for instance highlighting the story of the Plaza’s creation. Other elements may focus on key events held in the Plaza, such as key festivals. Finally, elements may describe how the Plaza is innovative in its design, engaging and educating visitors about water conservation efforts, regional materials and the use of native plantings.

Pedestrian wayfinding signage should be designed in a holistic manner and possess a distinctly permanent and timeless feel. A hierarchy of signage will provide primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Primary signage includes Monumental Signage along Ottawa and Monroe Avenues, as well as Parking Directional Signage for the Government Parking Garage. Secondary signage includes Pedestrian Level Signage, guiding pedestrians to key features of the Plaza and downtown Grand Rapids. Tertiary signage may include interpretive and regulatory signage. Where possible, signage should appear integrated into site elements (e.g. walls, steps) to minimize visual clutter. When this is not possible, sign locations should be clustered and sited in a way that does not impede walking comfortably through the space. Regulatory graphics within the Plaza should be clean, consistent, durable and graffiti resistant.



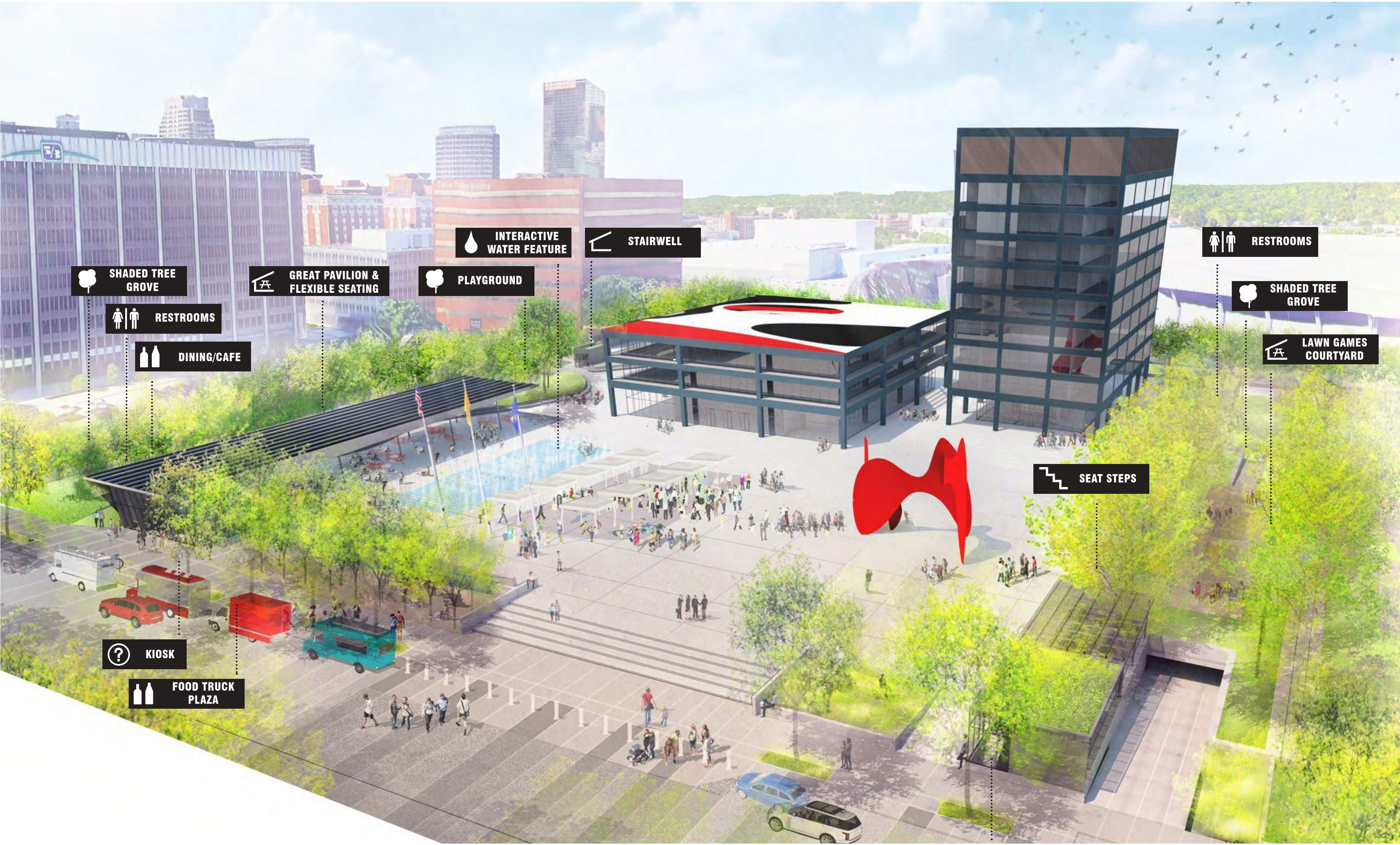
# 2017 Calder Master Plan

Lighting





# 2017 Calder Master Plan



SHADED TREE GROVE

RESTROOMS

DINING/CAFE

KIOSK

FOOD TRUCK PLAZA

GREAT PAVILION & FLEXIBLE SEATING

PLAYGROUND

INTERACTIVE WATER FEATURE

STAIRWELL

RESTROOMS

SHADED TREE GROVE

LAWN GAMES COURTYARD

SEAT STEPS



# 2017 Calder Master Plan

## Perspective: Before & After

The pavilion provides important shade in an area of the Plaza which receives a great deal of sunlight. It enables a variety of activities to occur and amenities to be provided beneath its canopy, including movable tables/chairs. Along the left edge of the image, a seat wall provides additional seating and serves as a retaining wall for the planted edge. The interactive water feature provides a cooling element in the Plaza, without obstructing the pavilion's function.



Before

View of Cafe/Pavilion view to Calder's La Grand Vitesse in Preferred Concept during the day: After



# 2017 Calder Master Plan



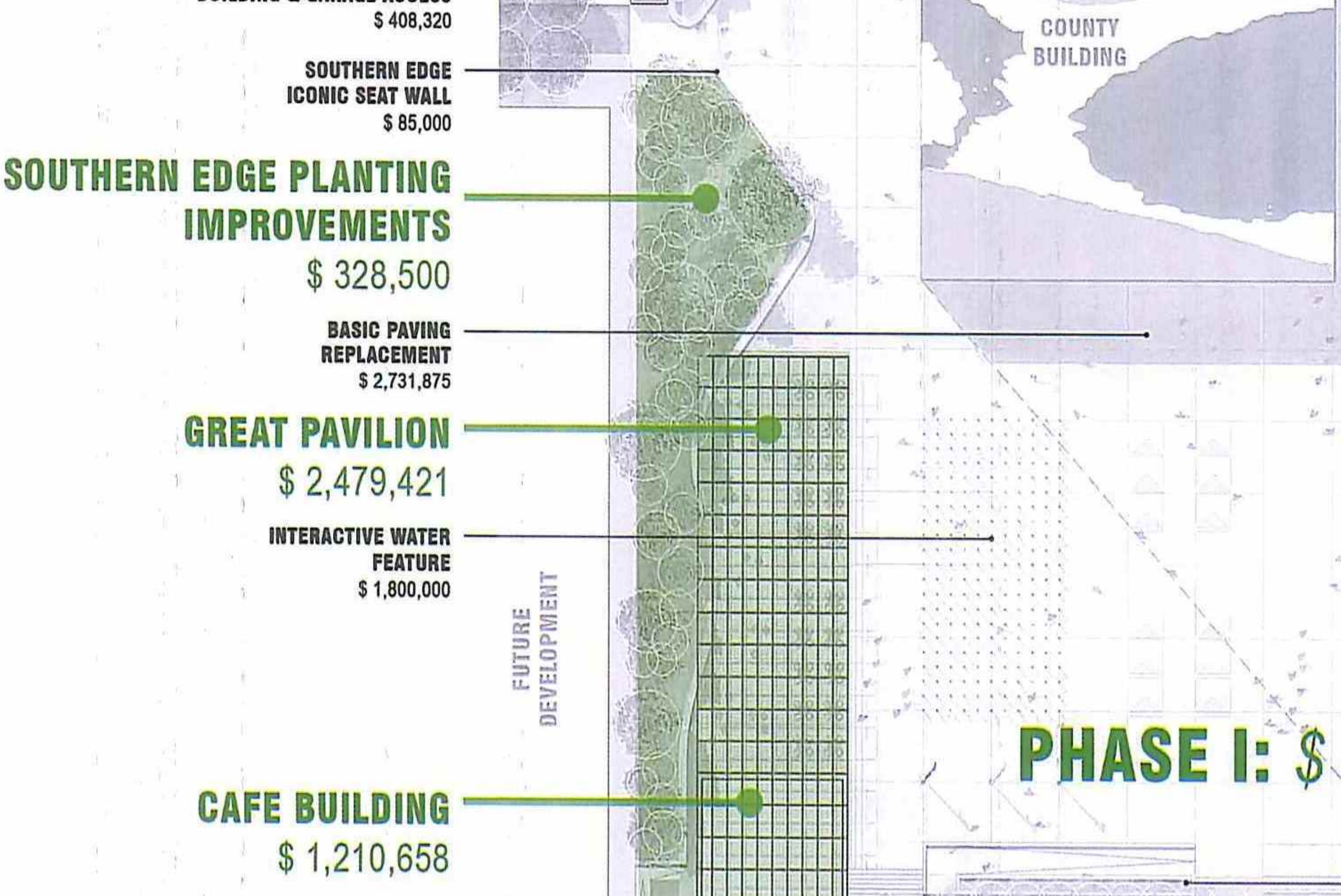
## Perspective: Before & After

During the evening or special event times, the pavilion can be utilized as an area for a stage. Understanding that event planners may want to bring in their own stages, these can either be accommodated under or in front of the pavilion – both options maintaining current levels of capacity.

View of Cafe/Pavilion view to Calder's La Grand Vitesse in Preferred Concept during the night: After

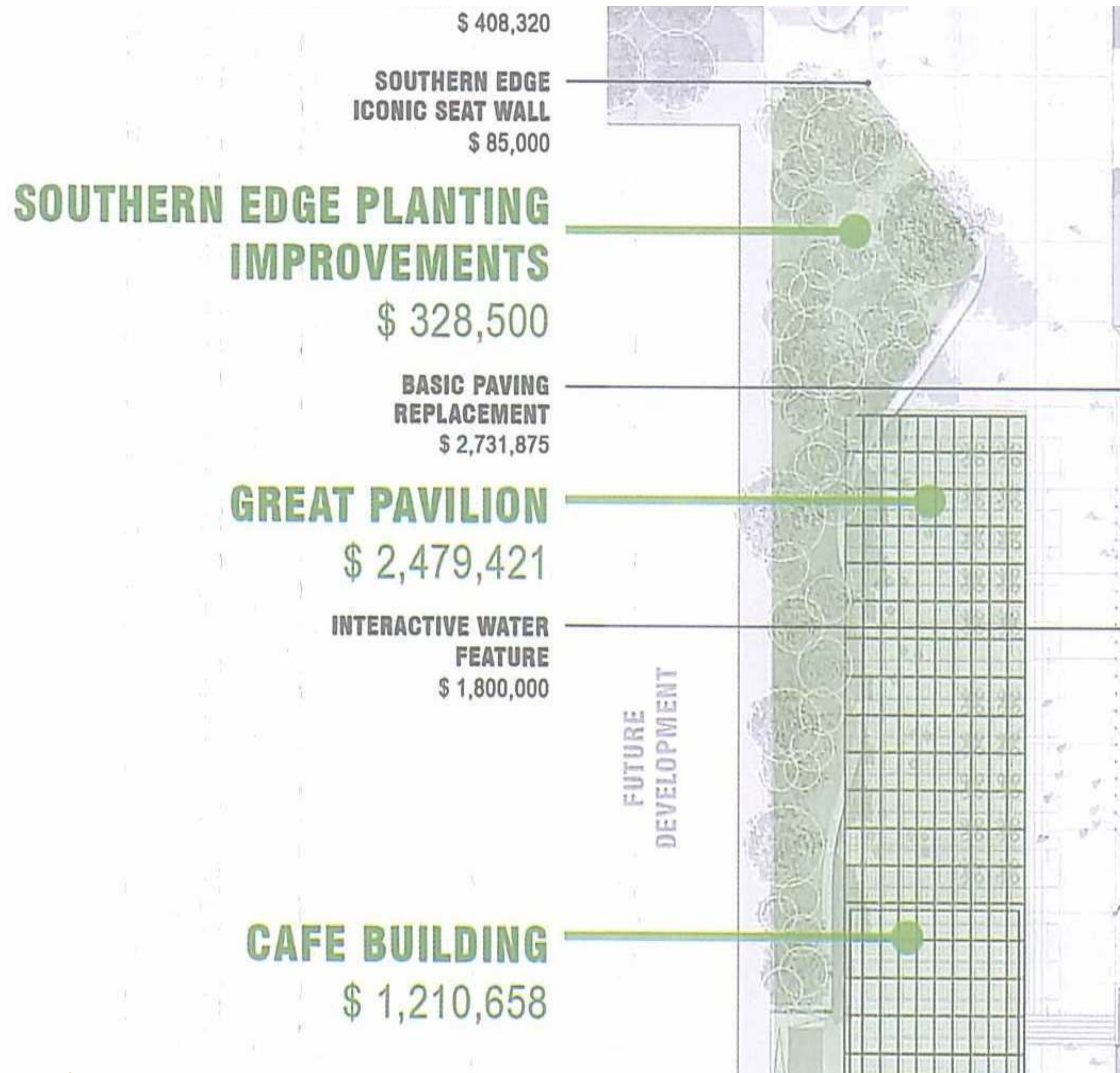


# 2017 Calder Master Plan - Phase 1





# 2017 Calder Master Plan - Phase 1



## PROGRAMMING

### THE GREEN

- 8,000 sq. ft.
- Raised planter with north edge defined by sinuous and sculptural bench wall
- Native trees, shrubs and ground cover landscaping
- Ramp access?
- Playground?

### THE PAVILION

- 6,450 sq. ft.
- Seating for café
- Outdoor stage area
- Movable furniture

### THE CAFE

- 2,150 sq. ft.
- Public/Private Ops?
- Restrooms?



# Calder Plaza Redesign - Phase 1 - Observations



Calder Plaza from SE along Ottawa Avenue



Calder Plaza from SE along Ottawa Avenue



Calder Plaza paving condition

- Visibility of south plaza from Ottawa Avenue is limited
- Access to Calder Plaza is limited at southeast
- Pavement in south plaza is showing wear and tear



# Calder Plaza Redesign - Phase 1 - Observations



Ramp access stair and areaway at SE corner of Calder Plaza



Calder Plaza from south entry near 250 Monroe



Calder Plaza southeast planting area

- Existing parking garage, mechanical venting and utilities beneath plaza pose limitations
- Existing south landscape area is worn with overly matured trees and landscape
- South landscape area is not accessible



# Calder Plaza Redesign - Phase 1 - Insights from Master Plan

## Buildings & Structures

New café and dining pavilion integrated at the southeast corner of the Plaza.

Plan recommends the parking lot which exists to the south, when developed, include ground-floor retail and a pedestrian mall.

Plan anticipates the need for trash, service, and emergency access.

Areaways for the parking structure below Calder Plaza present a challenge to resolve per the master plan. The proposed ramp for barrier-free access from Ottawa Avenue requires the re-routing of this critical function. Consideration to integrate this into any new buildings should be vetted in this phase of design.

## Hardscapes & Landscapes

At the Plaza level, a vegetative edge buffers prevailing winter winds and softens the hardscape appearance of the Plaza.

A sinuous and sculptural wall retains the southern raised planting area, provides an additional seating element, and will most likely be made of metal or wood.

Along the southern edge of Calder Plaza, the plan introduces a more organic and informal counterbalance to the formal design along the northern edge.

Tree selection and their seasonal color attributes have been thoughtful considered to provide a dynamic contrast throughout the year when set against La Grande Vitesse.

## Signage & Interpretive Elements

Art serves as a critical element in the original design of Calder Plaza. As such, additional locations for art can be considered.

Calder Plaza serves as a place to learn and expand one's knowledge about important aspects of Grand Rapids' history, people, and environs. Signage and interpretive elements enhance these educational opportunities and will be integrated throughout the public space as a means of storytelling

Comprehensive signage and wayfinding aim to provide clear and informed to visitors of the plaza, including vehicle, pedestrian, and educational signage.

Where possible, signage should appear integrated into site elements (e.g. walls, steps) to minimize visual clutter.



# Break

A moment to prepare

# 10 minutes!



# Part B | Aspire - Tell Us a Story

## Chapter 1:

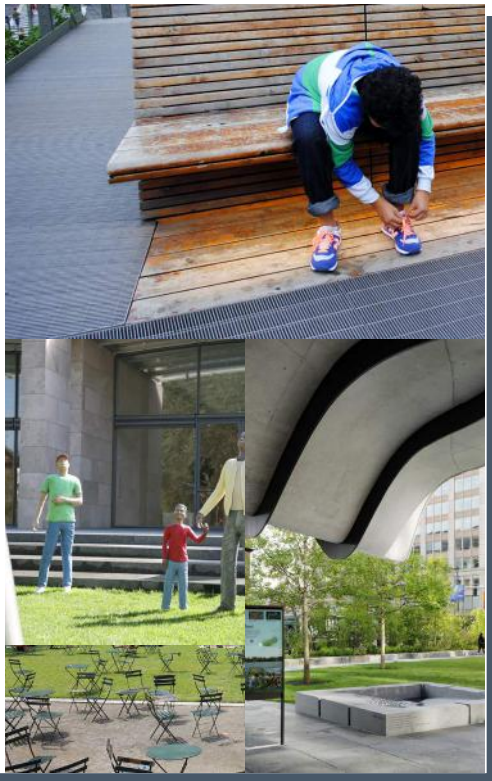
### Step 1: Develop a Story

- Pavilion
- Café
- Green space

### Step 2: Share Your Stories

#### The Pavilion

- entertaining
- cover
- respite
- celebrating
- shade
- performing
- eating
- rallying
- engaging
- displaying



#### WHAT IS THE STORY?

Questions you may chose to respond to...

Who would seek this space/place out?

What would they expect?

How might we surprise & delight them?

What stories can be told?

What stories will be written here?

## Chapter 2:

### Step 1: The Life of the Story - Your Stories in Context

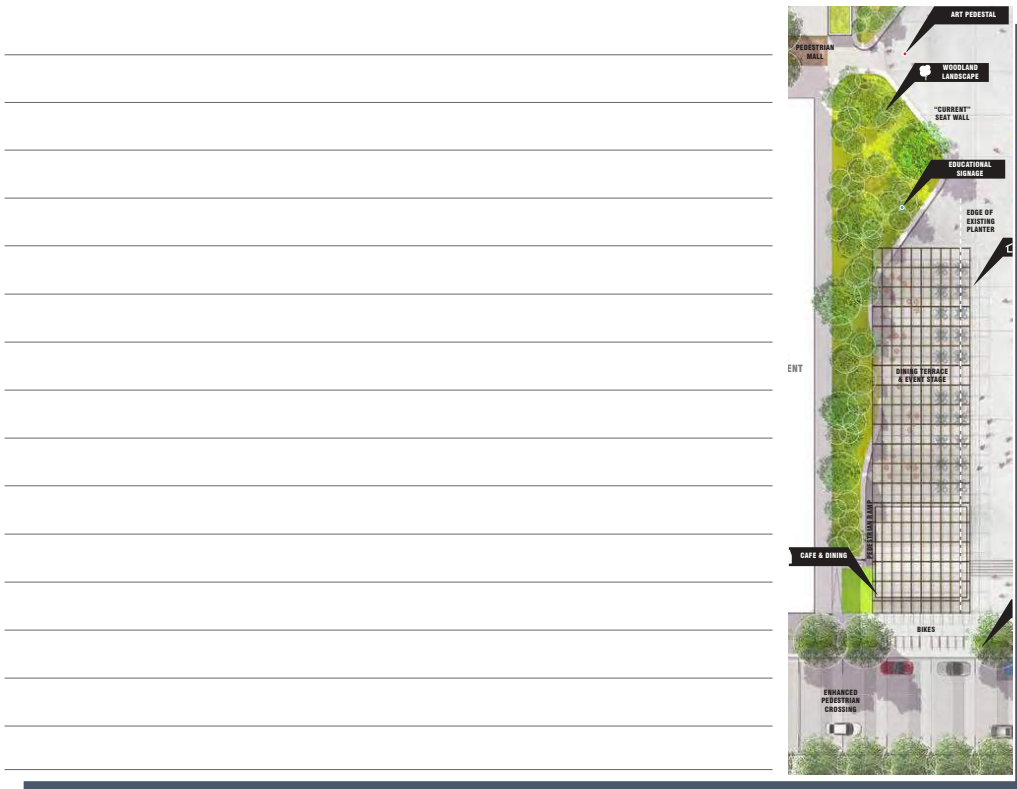
- Pavilion
- Café
- Green space

### Step 2: Share Your Stories

#### The Pavilion

What is the Life of the Pavilion when...

- only a few people are there
- it's winter
- it's a Tuesday at noon
- a rainstorm erupts
- nothing is happening there
- 5/10/25K runs by
- food trucks arrive
- an emergency takes place





# Summary

**Final Comments**

**Next Steps**

# Thank you!