

Boston Design Vision

Designing for a Diverse Boston

Virtual Open House

November 2, 2023

Zoom Meeting Info + Tips

The BPDA will be recording this meeting and posting it on the BPDA's project webpage. If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.

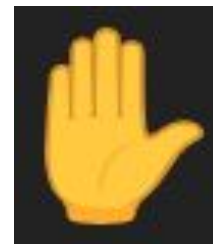
Zoom controls are available at the bottom of your screen.

Clicking on these symbols activates different features.

Use raise hand function (dial 9 followed by 6 if joining by phone) **and wait to be called upon** before asking your question or providing comment.



Mute/unmute



Raise hand to get in line to ask a question or provide comment



Turn video on/off



Scan this QR Code to access the online survey

Or

1. Visit slido.com and
2. Use **# bostondesignvision** to join as a participant

Joining as a participant?

bostondesignvision



By using Slido you accept the [Acceptable Use Policy](#).

*The QR Code is the same for all questions.
The questions will automatically be updated as
we go through the virtual open house.*

slido

Hello & Welcome!

Tell Us About Yourself!



Tell us your name and which neighborhood you are from!

Tonight's Agenda

(15 min)

Welcome

What is a Design Vision for the City of Boston?

(60 min)

Draft Innovations

Public Space The Street and Park

SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

Domestic Realm The Home and The Porch

SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

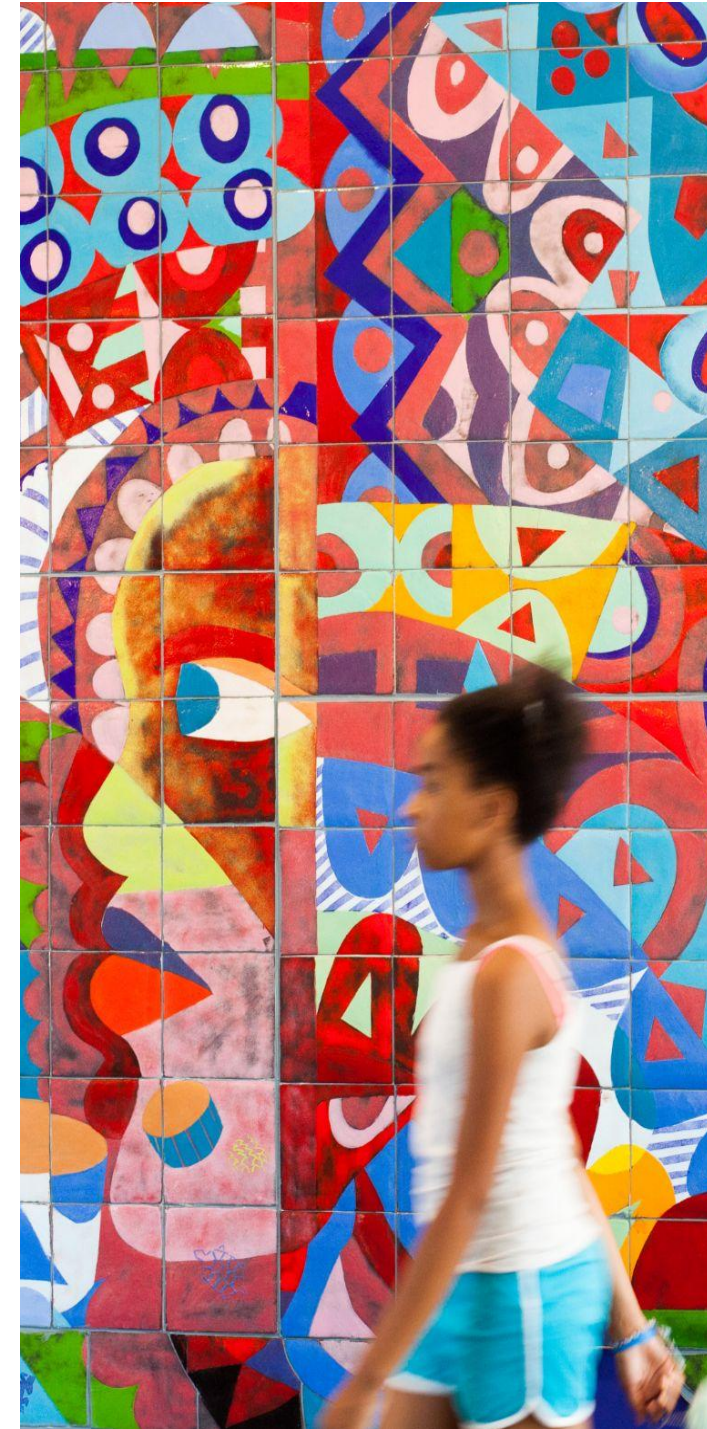
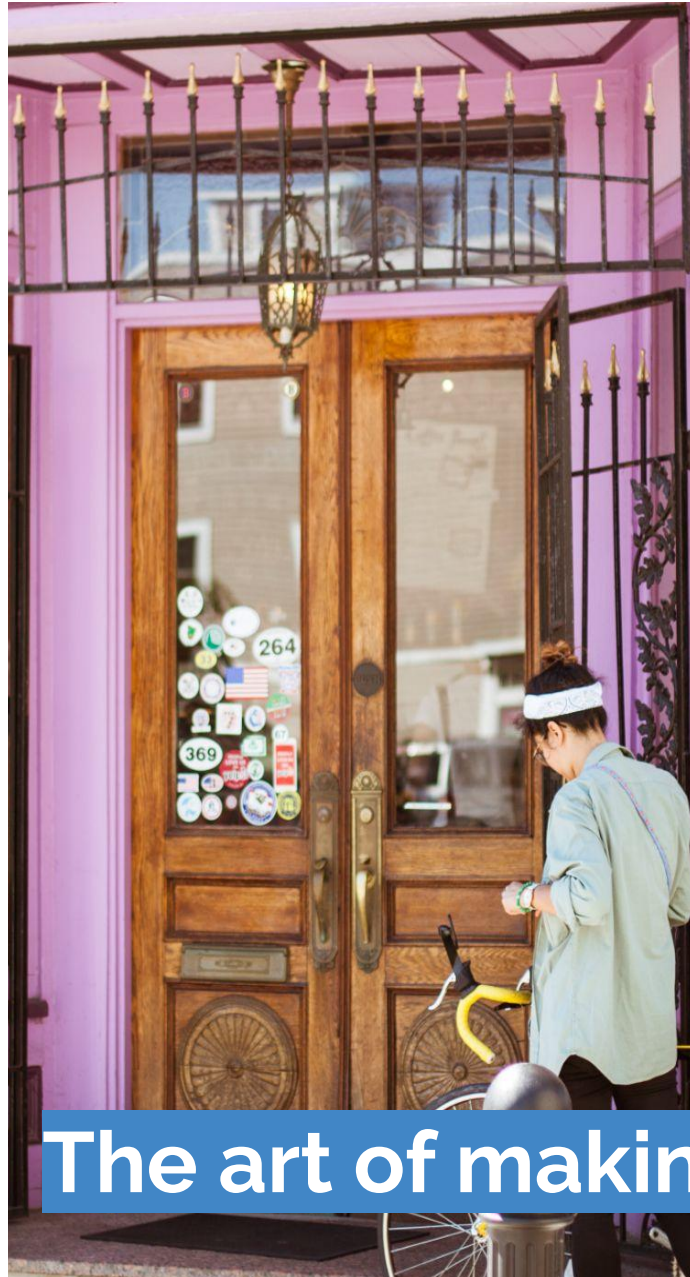
Places of Commerce The Square and The Shops

SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

(10 min)

What's Next?

Urban Design is...



The art of making places for people.

It is at the intersection of buildings, open spaces, art, transit, businesses, storefront activation, and more that influences how people experience the city everyday.



Boston is anchored by history, culture, identity, and people.

There are narratives and lived experiences that are not reflected in the identity of Boston.

These narratives and lived experiences should be uplifted and centered to expand what defines Boston.

Unaffordable Housing & Displacement



Image Credit: WBUR News

About 65 percent are renters, and more than half put upwards of 30 percent of their income toward rent



Image Credit: Boston Herald, Boston Globe

Image Credit: Boston Globe

Many people of color to head out of the city and settle in more affordable locations.

Erasure of Cultural Infrastructure

Growth does not have to be about loss and erasure. It is an opportunity to think about ways to grow and value social and cultural infrastructure to create/preserve a sense of belonging and identity in neighborhoods.



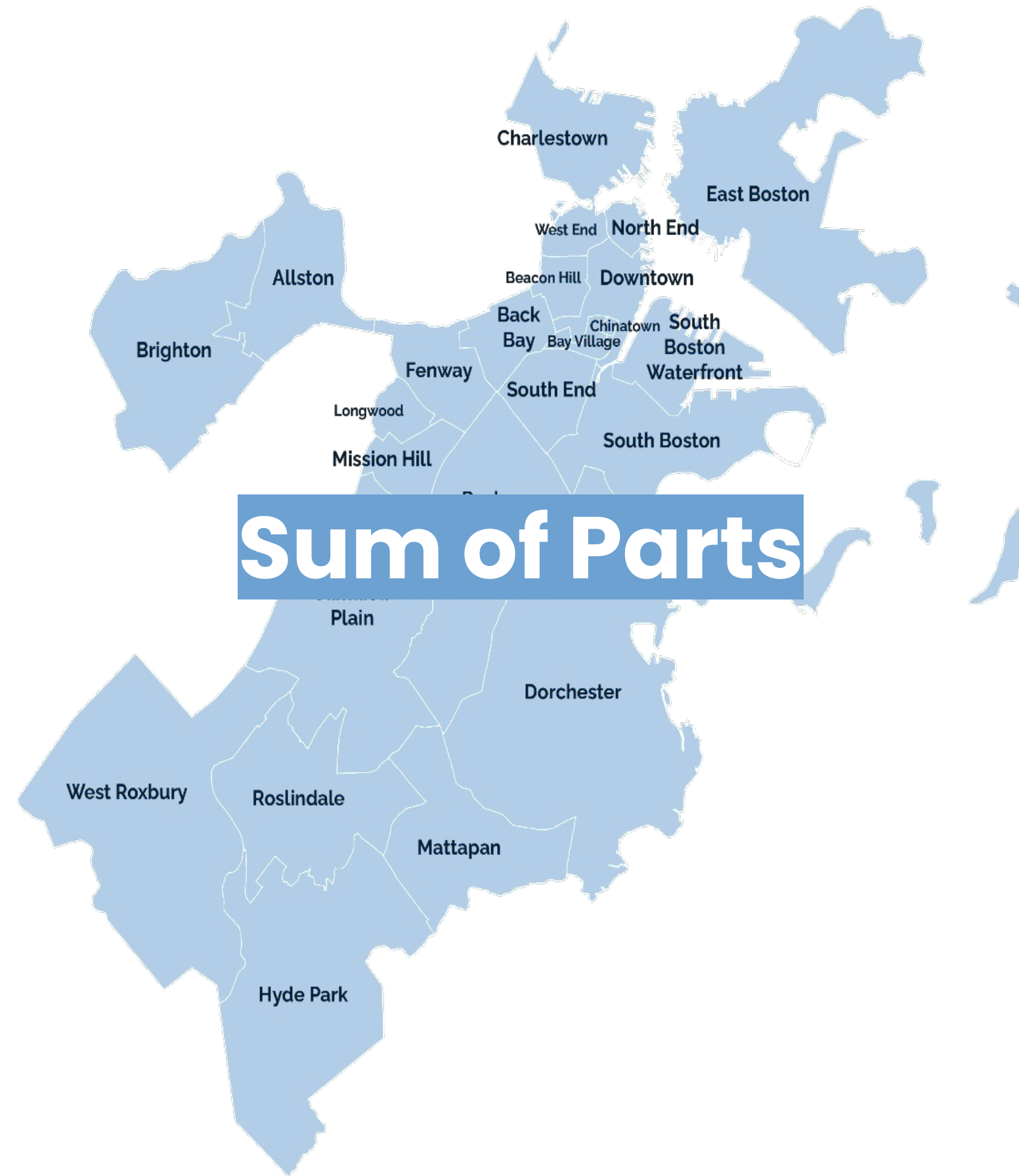
Iconic Roxbury Love Mural was demolished little warning to the community that had cherished it for years.

Key Finding #1

Boston is inherently diverse, but more as a whole.



Whole



Sum of Parts

Key Finding #2

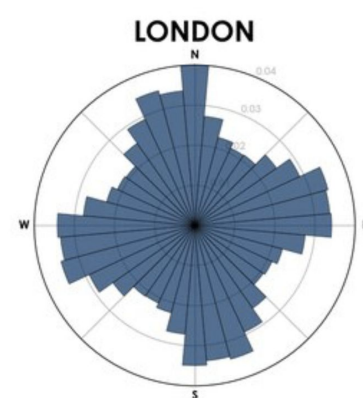
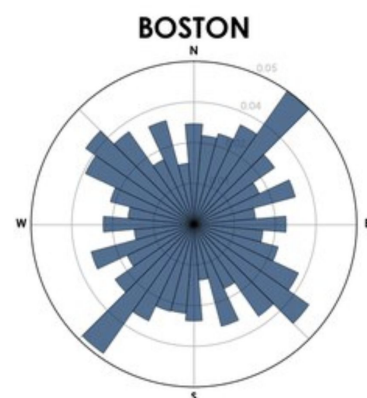
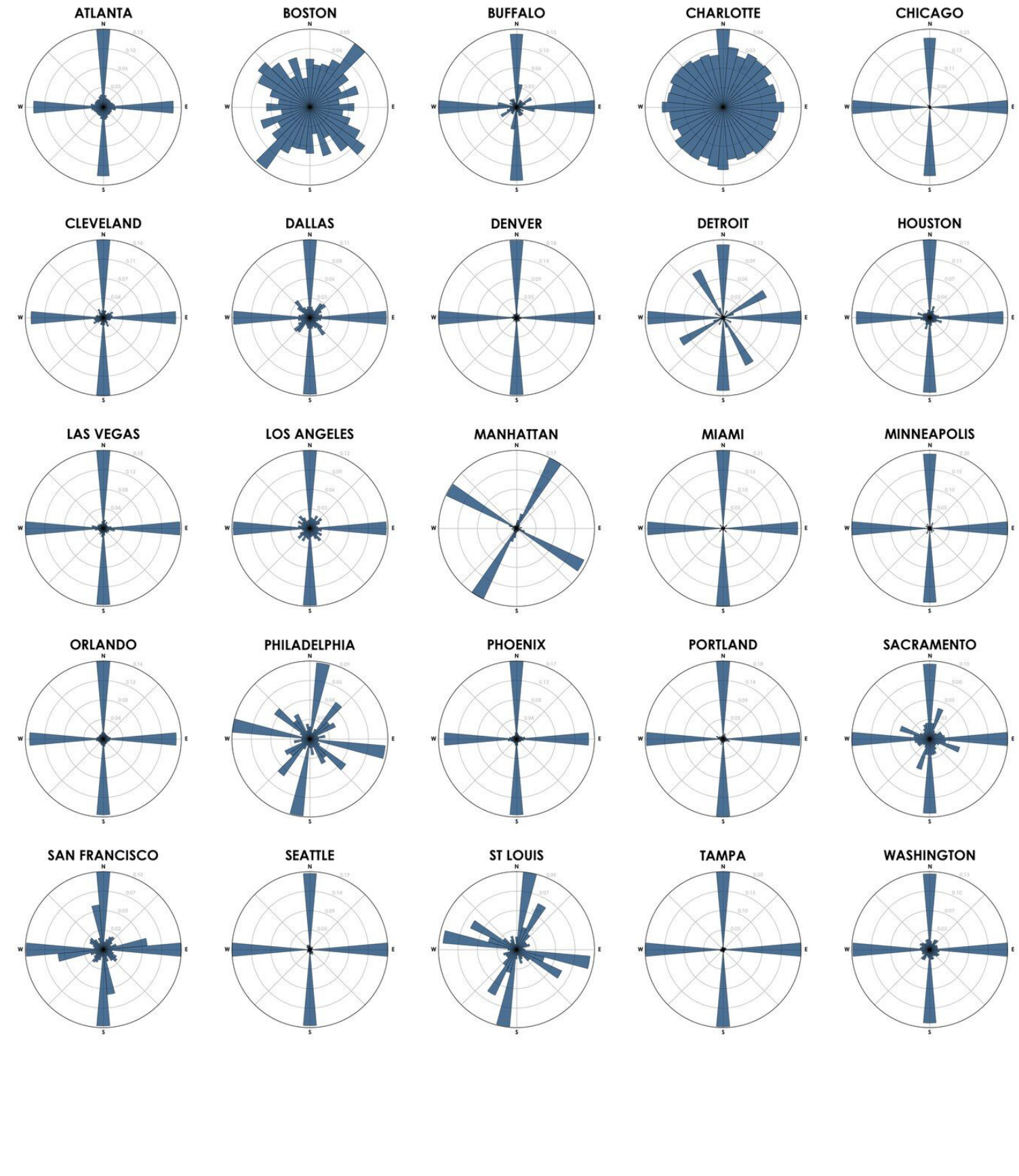
Boston's unique urban history and form means squares and corridors are a key focus.

Boston's street grid is unlike any other city in the USA

- Boston's streets do not follow a consistent set of directions, which creates a unique sense of (dis)orientation and variation
- The city has pockets of different grids that don't align with each other
- Boston's village-like structure is more conducive to non-auto forms of transportation
- Most closely related city is London

Source: [Boston Globe \(2018\)](#)

City Street Network Orientation



Visualizing Boston's Squares

“Unlike many places where a square is most often defined by a public open space or civic structure, here a square is typically defined by an intersection of two or more thoroughfares and/or other streets. The square’s name further applies to a business district around that intersection, and sometimes to an entire neighborhood.”

BOSTON²

ANDREW • CENTRAL (CAMBRIDGE) • CENTRAL (EAST BOSTON)
• CITY • CODMAN • COPLEY • DAVIS • DAY • DUDLEY •
EDWARD EVERETT • EGLESTON • HARVARD • HYDE • INMAN •
KENDALL • KENMORE • LIBERTY • LOUISBURG • MATTAPAN •
MAVERICK • MONUMENT • NORTH • OAK • PIERCE • PORTER
• POST OFFICE • SCOLLAY • SULLIVAN • UNION (ALLSTON) •
UNION (SOMERVILLE) • WASHINGTON • WINTHROP



A city of *unsquare* squares

Source: [Andy Woodruff \(2010\)](#)

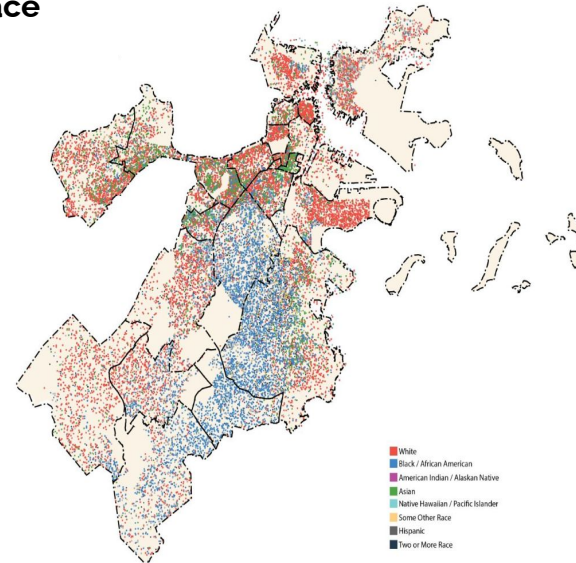
Key Finding #3

There is fear that unchecked growth could produce more homogeneous patterns.

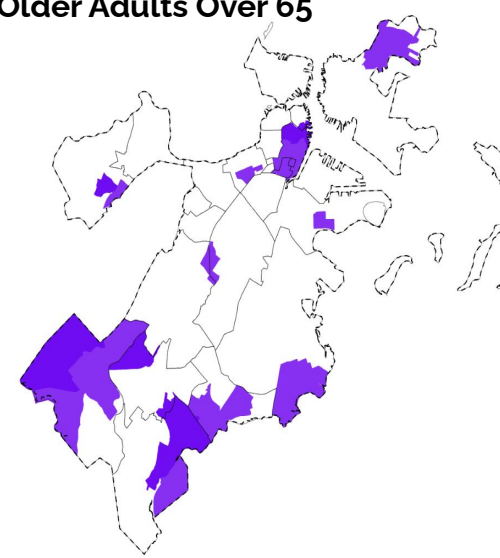
A Design Vision
Must Consider...

Demographics
vary across
communities

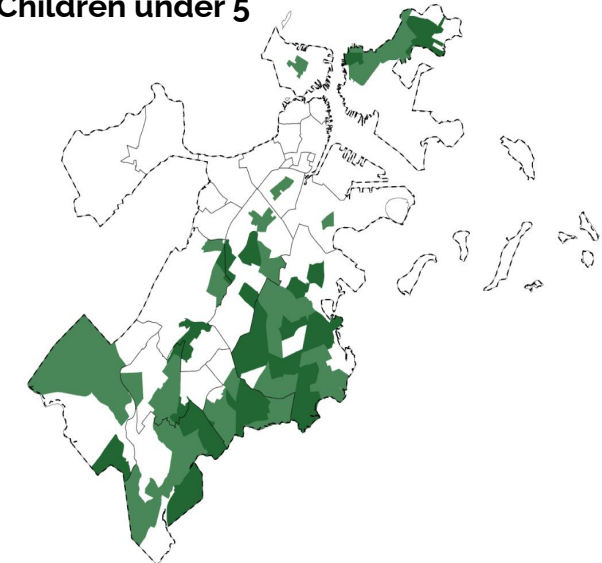
Population Distribution by
Race



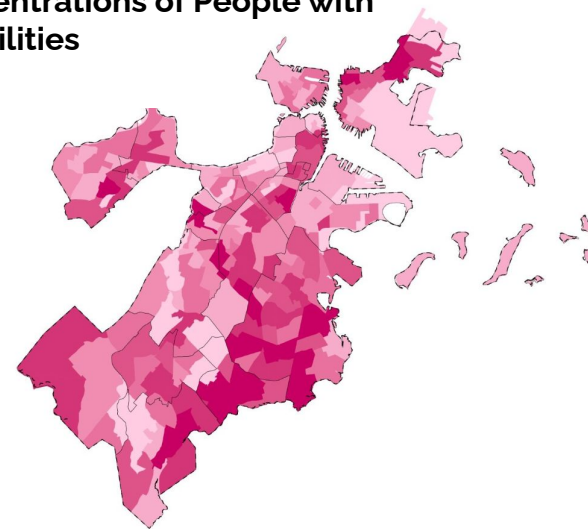
Highest Concentrations
of Older Adults Over 65



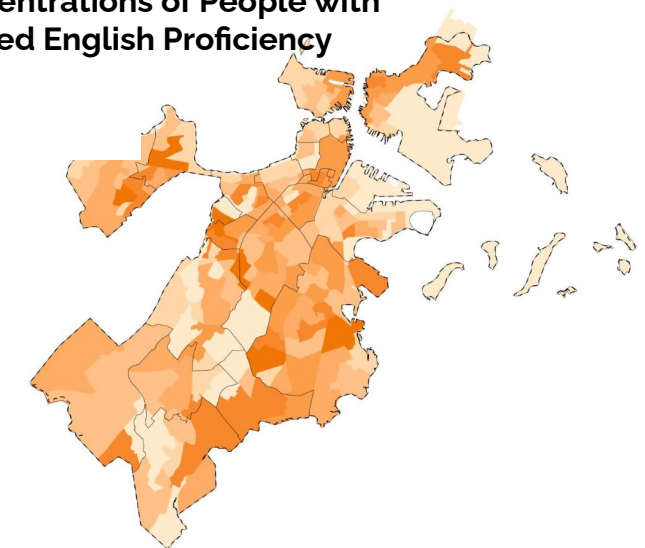
Highest Concentrations
of Children under 5



Concentrations of People with
Disabilities



Concentrations of People with
Limited English Proficiency

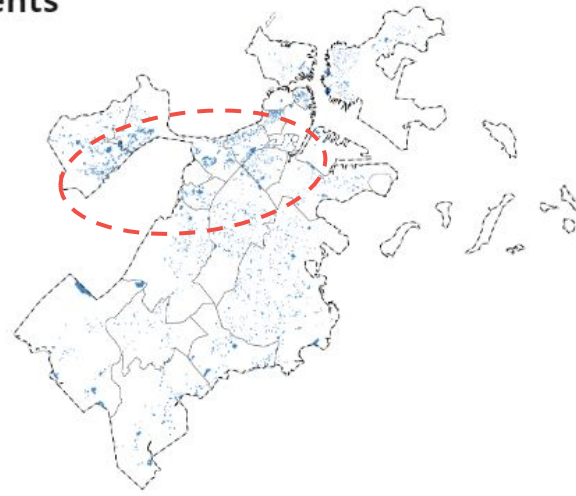


Source: [Analyze Boston](#) (from 2020 US
Census & Climate Ready Boston (2016))

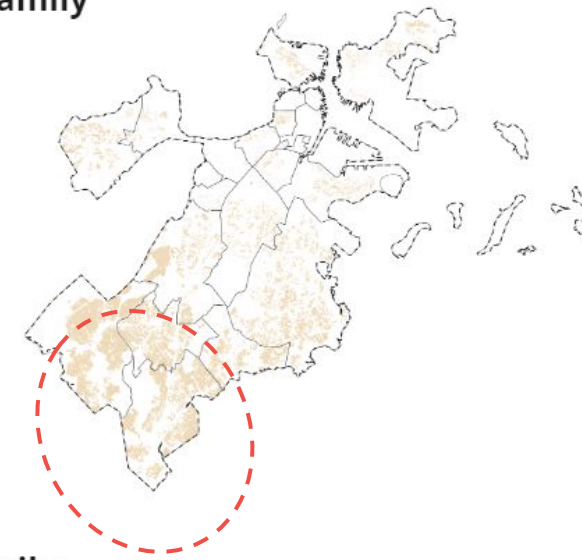
A Design Vision
Must Consider...

**Varied
communities
require
different
housing needs**

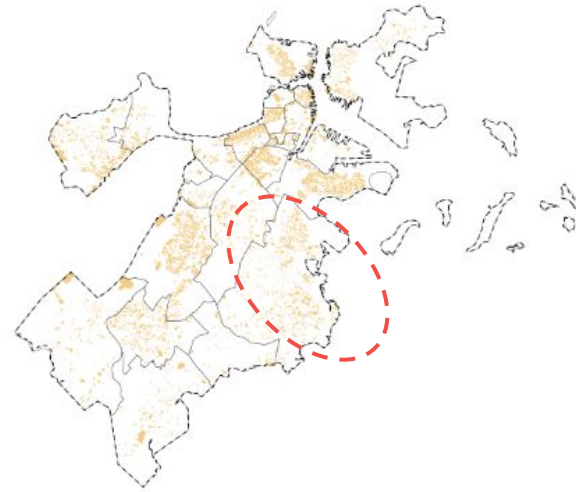
Apartments



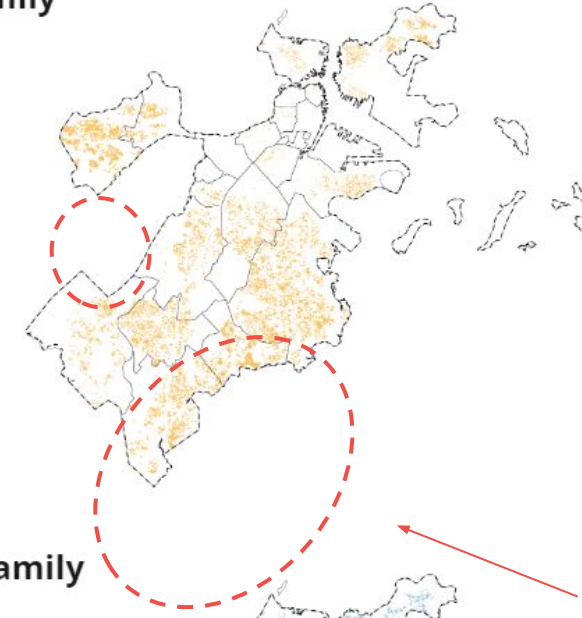
Single Family



Condos



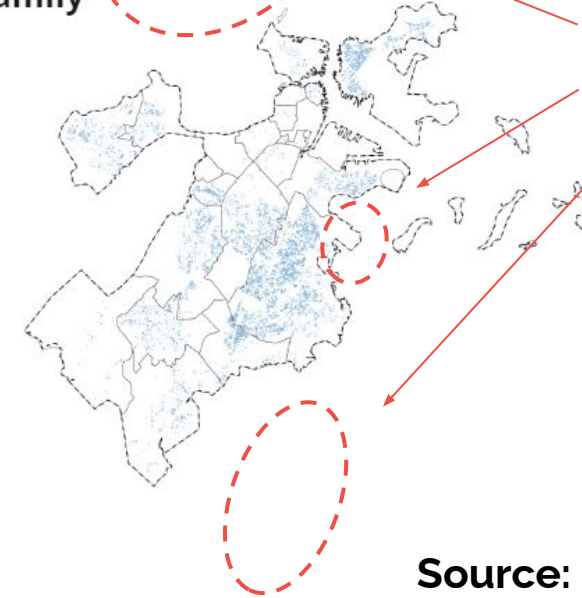
Two Family



Subsidized Housing



Three Family



More children
and families
live in these
neighborhoods

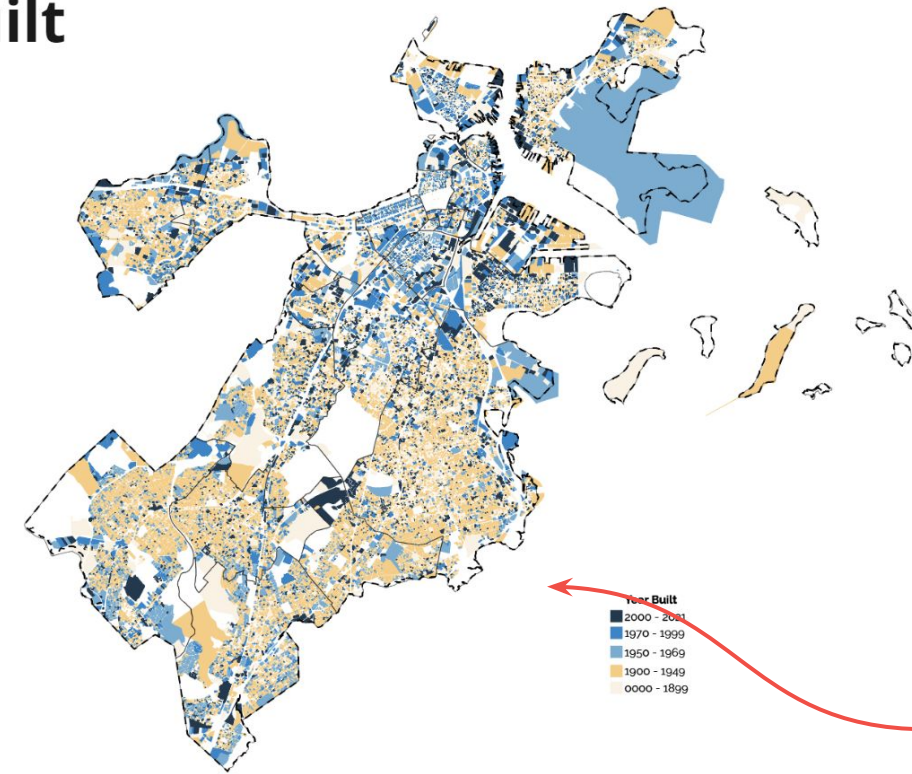
 **Largest Concentrations**

Source: [Analyze Boston](#)
(Property Assessment
2023)

A Design Vision
Must Consider...

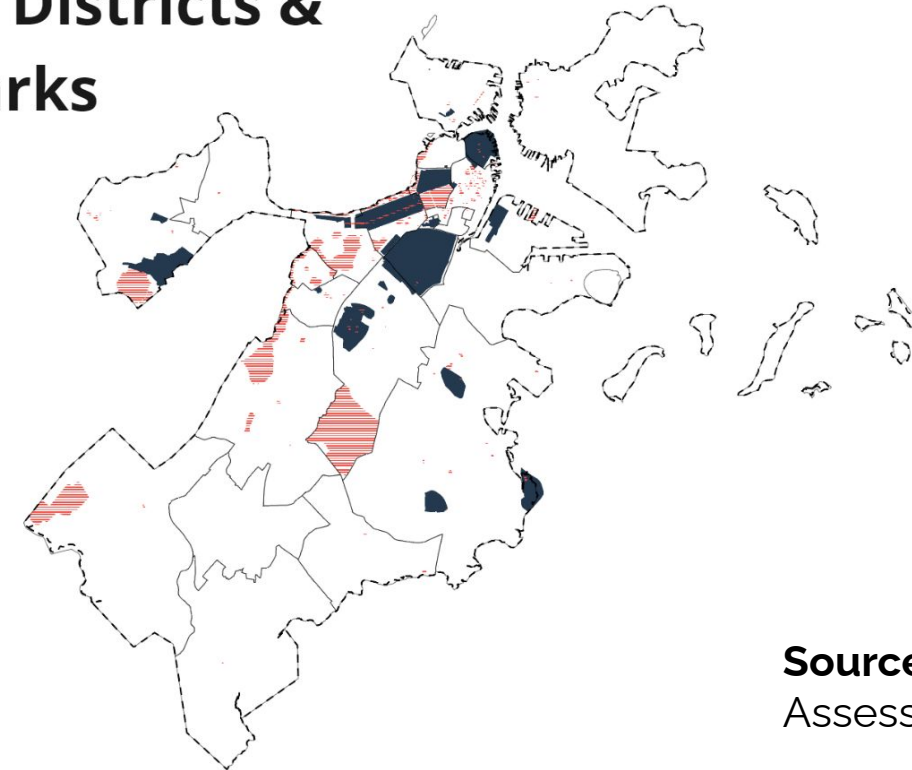
**Historic
preservation
needs to
accommodate
the city's aging
buildings**

Year Built



**In the next 25
years, nearly all
of the buildings
in yellow will be
100+ years old**

**Historic Districts &
Landmarks**



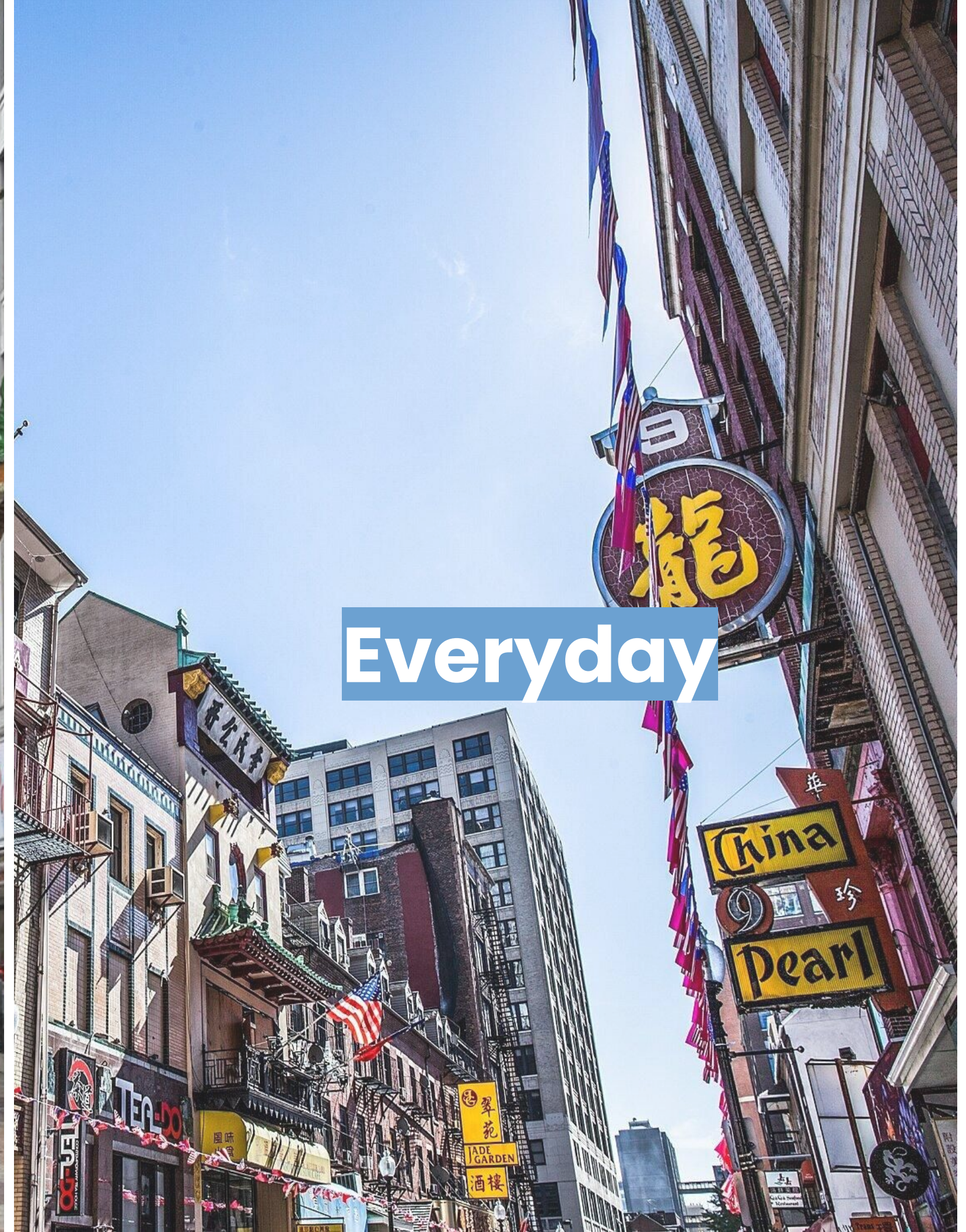
Source: [Analyze Boston](#) (Property Assessment 2023)

Key Finding #4

We can learn from
diversity that is already
shaping the city.




Symbolic



Everyday

Design Can Anchor Identities & Belonging





Every Bostonian should see themselves represented in the buildings and outdoor spaces that define the city.

Tonight

Thank you for contributing your voice and sharing your ideas for how we can build a Boston for everyone!

We'll visit 3 virtual stations together and ask for your feedback on life and design in the future of Boston.

Open House at the Civic Pavilion

October 20 & 23



PART 1 – Public Space

The Street

The Park

The Street

La calle

街道

街道

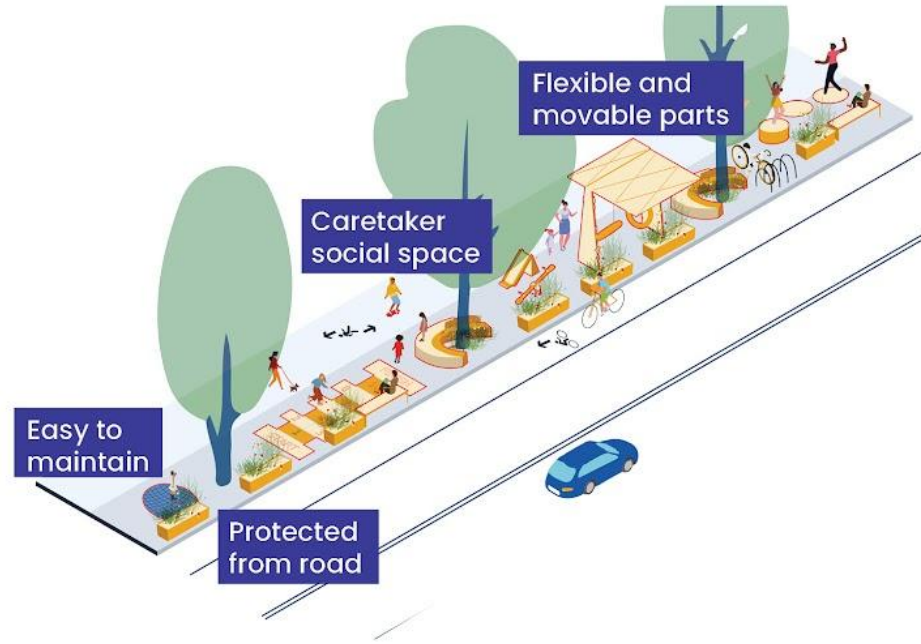


The Boston Design Vision recommends building on today's patterns of use with design, care, and craft.



The Street

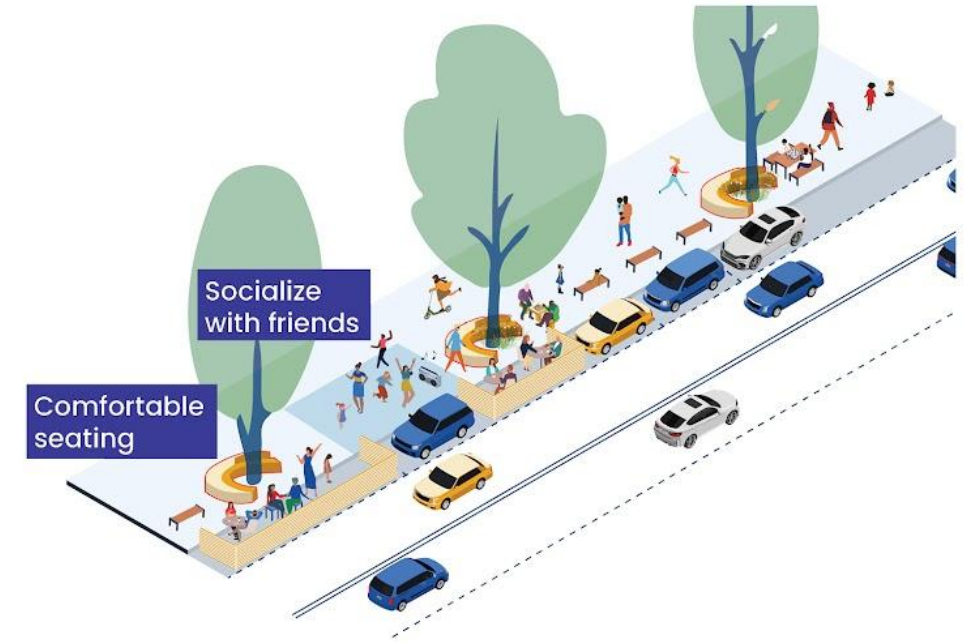
Play Street



Green Street



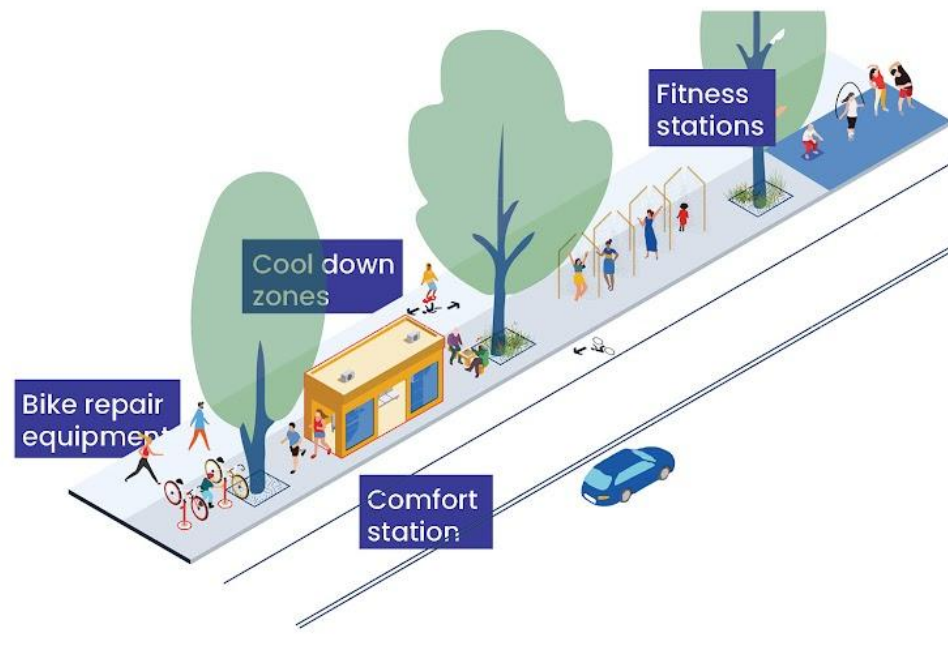
Chill Street



Commerce Street



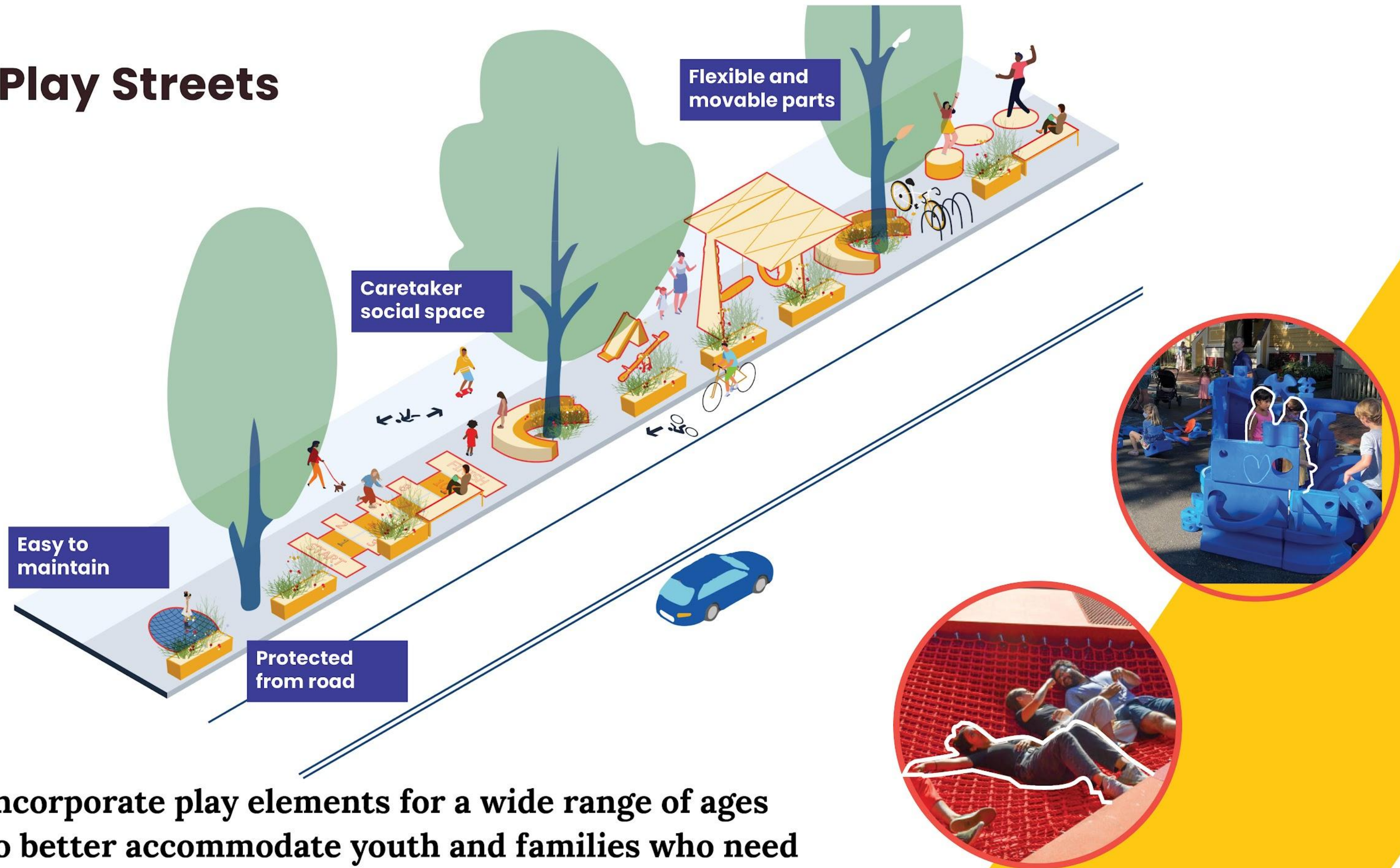
Healthy Street



Open Street

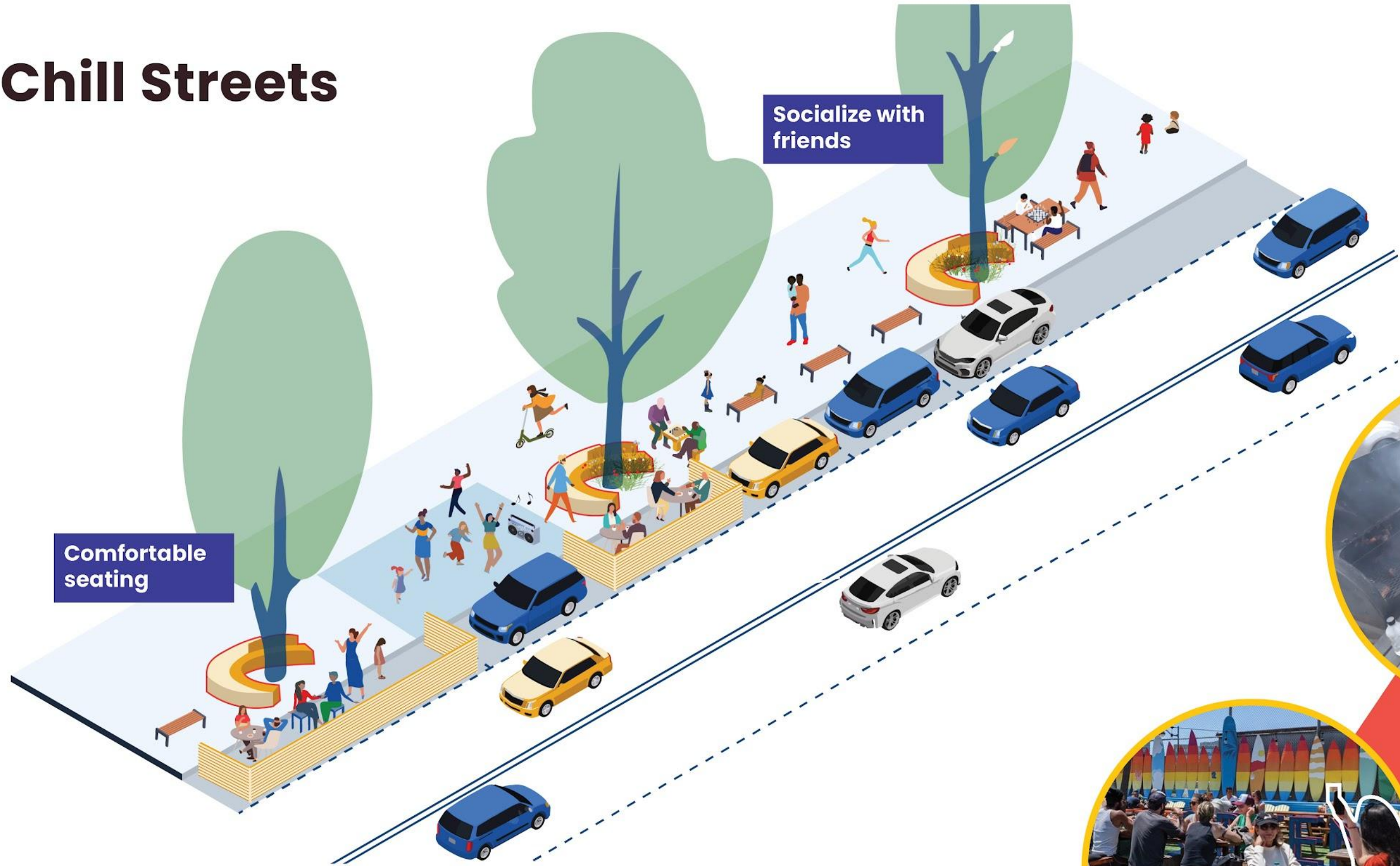


Play Streets



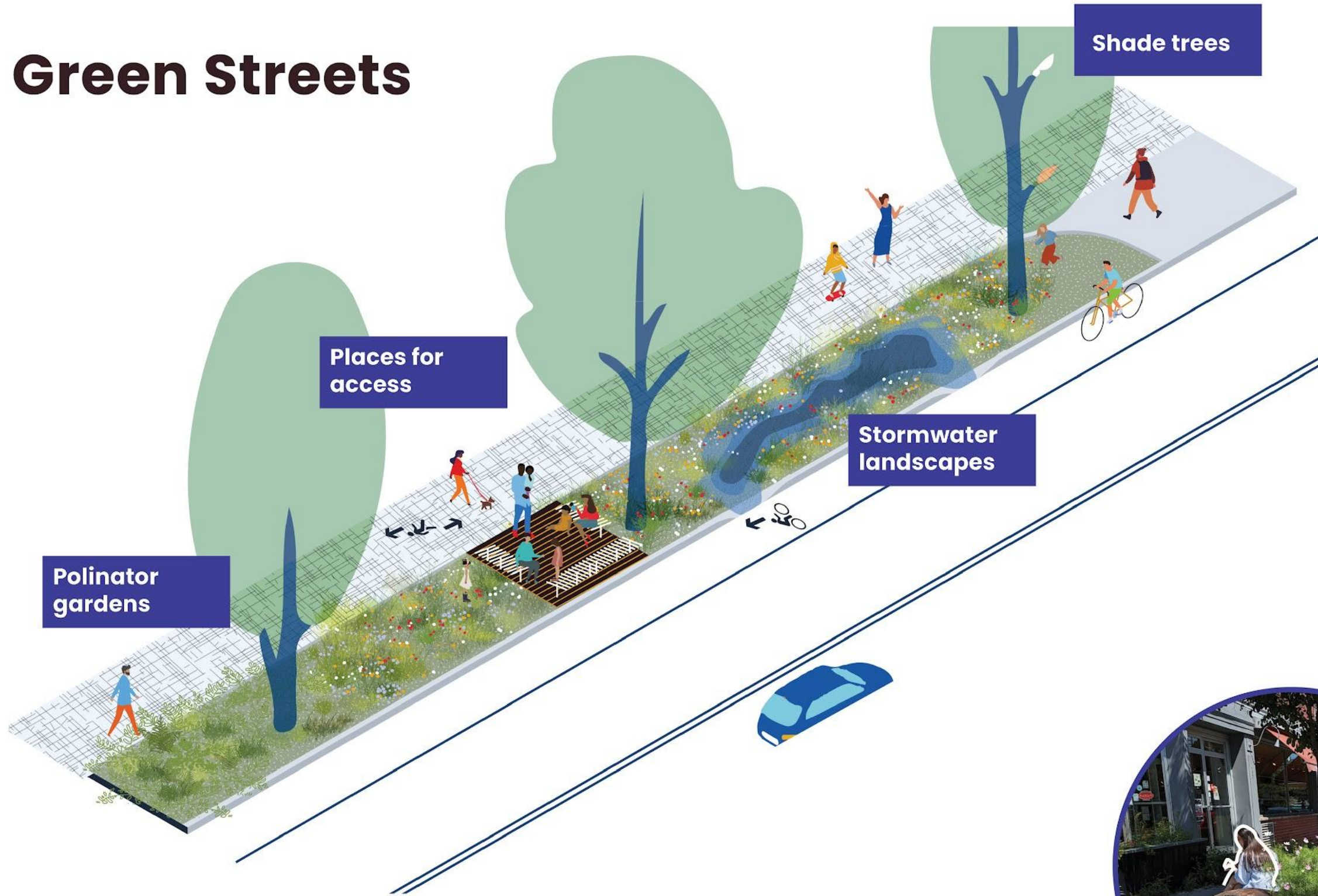
Incorporate play elements for a wide range of ages to better accommodate youth and families who need to move along and linger on city streets.

Chill Streets



Embrace the reality of “down time” by creating spaces where lingering, gathering, and loitering are welcome, comfortable, and social.

Green Streets



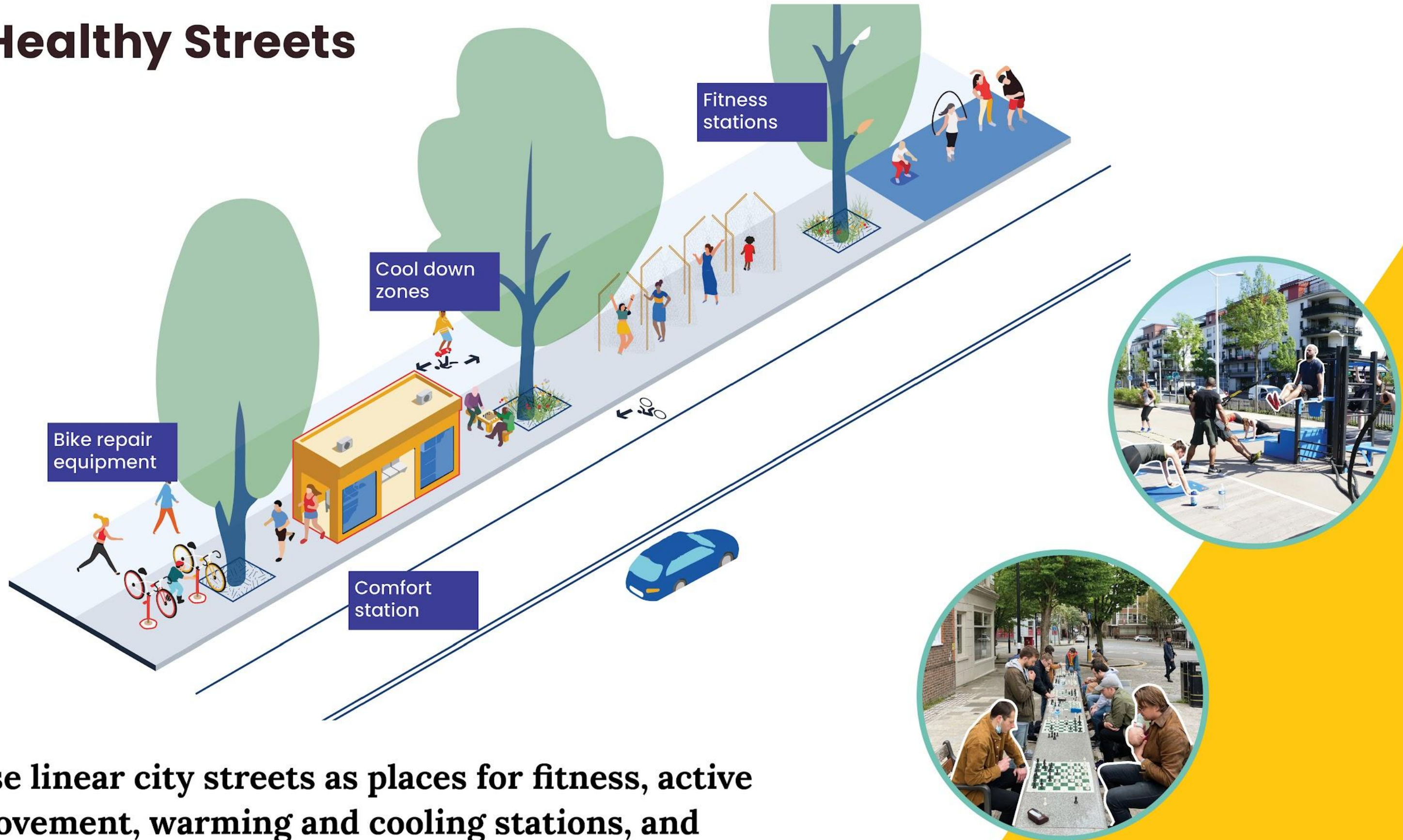
Plant trees and landscapes that mitigate the heat island effect via shade trees, pollinator and stormwater gardens, and other sustainable features.

Commerce Streets



Design streets with spaces for street markets, vendors, and spill out from groundfloor uses to create great shopping and dining streets.

Healthy Streets



Use linear city streets as places for fitness, active movement, warming and cooling stations, and adventure features.

Open Streets



Expand the Open Streets pilot for temporary street closures, block parties and alleys to provide more open space on a short- or long-term basis.

The Park

El parque

公园

公園

The Boston Design Vision is exploring ways to diversify the accessibility, programming, and community benefits of Boston's parks and open spaces.



The Park

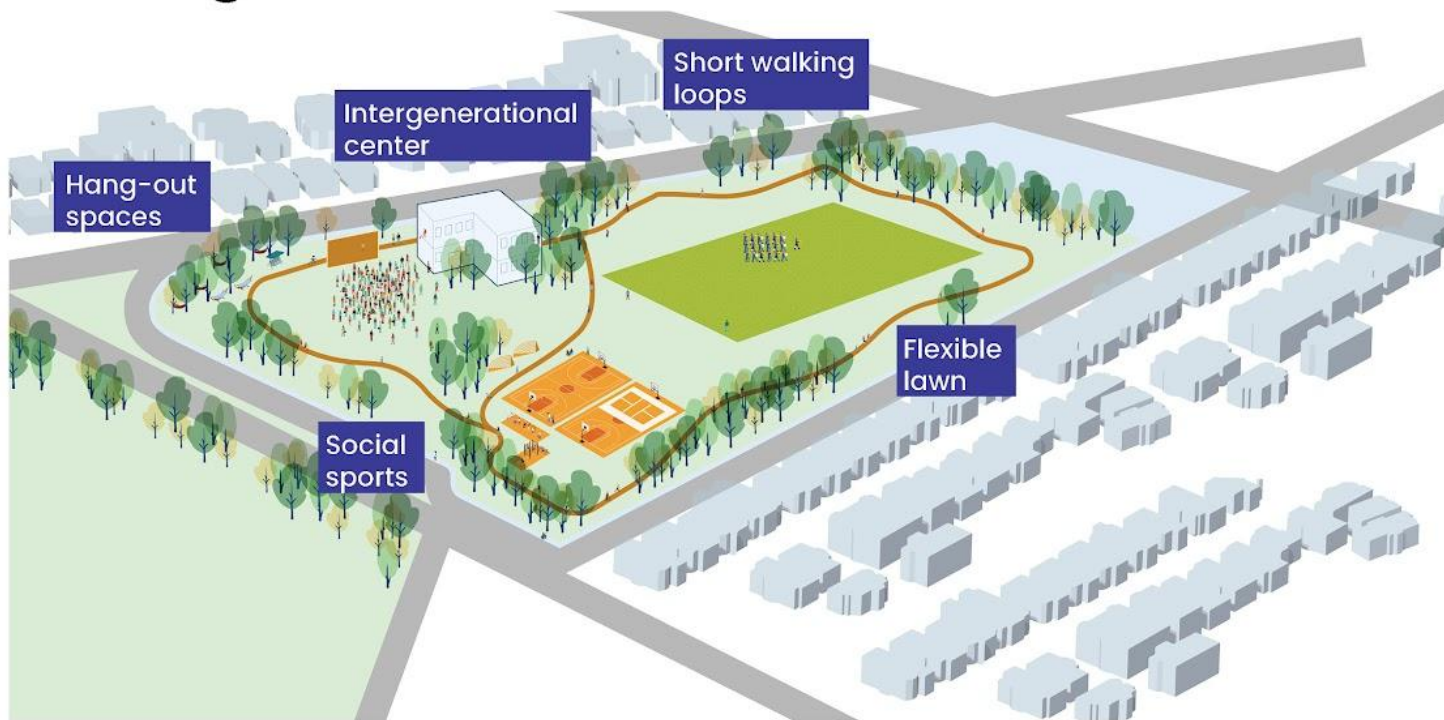
Welcoming, Safe and Inclusive



Health and Wellness



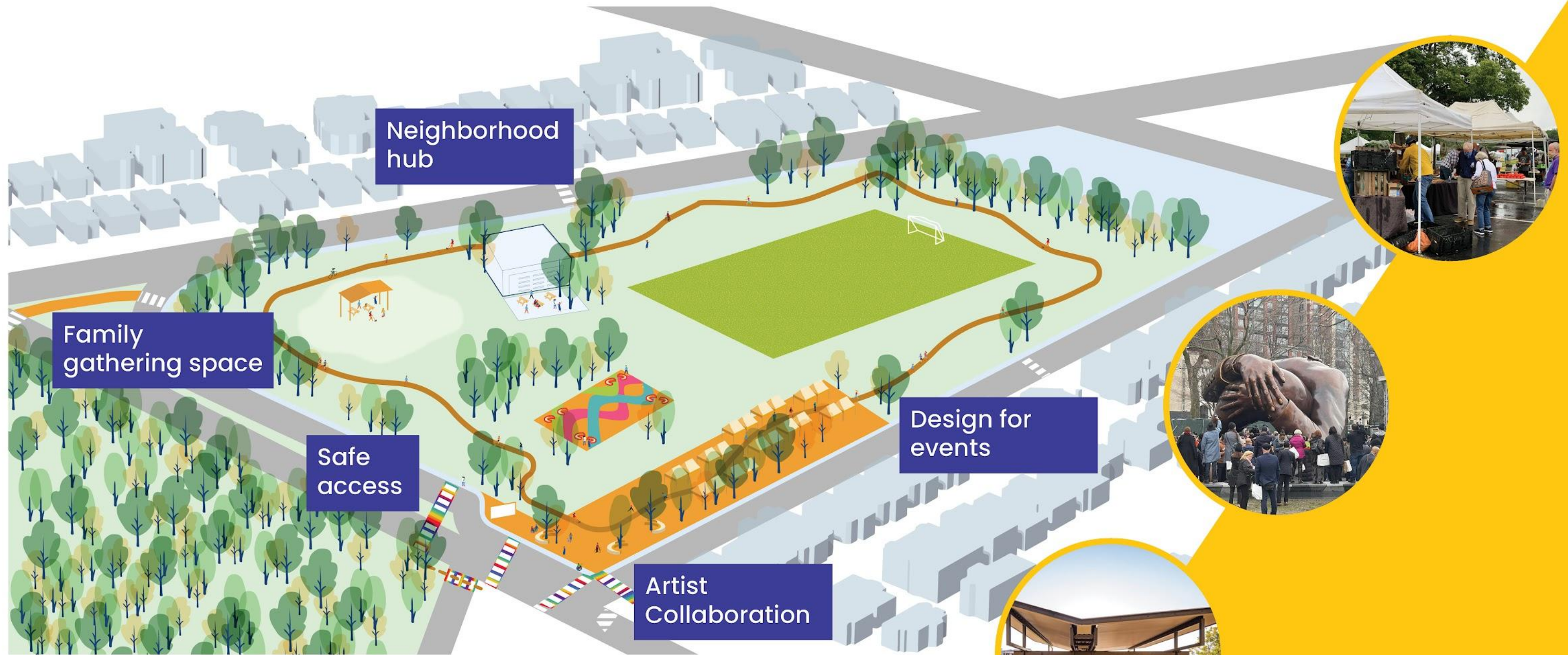
Young to Old



Climate Adaptation



Welcoming, Safe and Inclusive



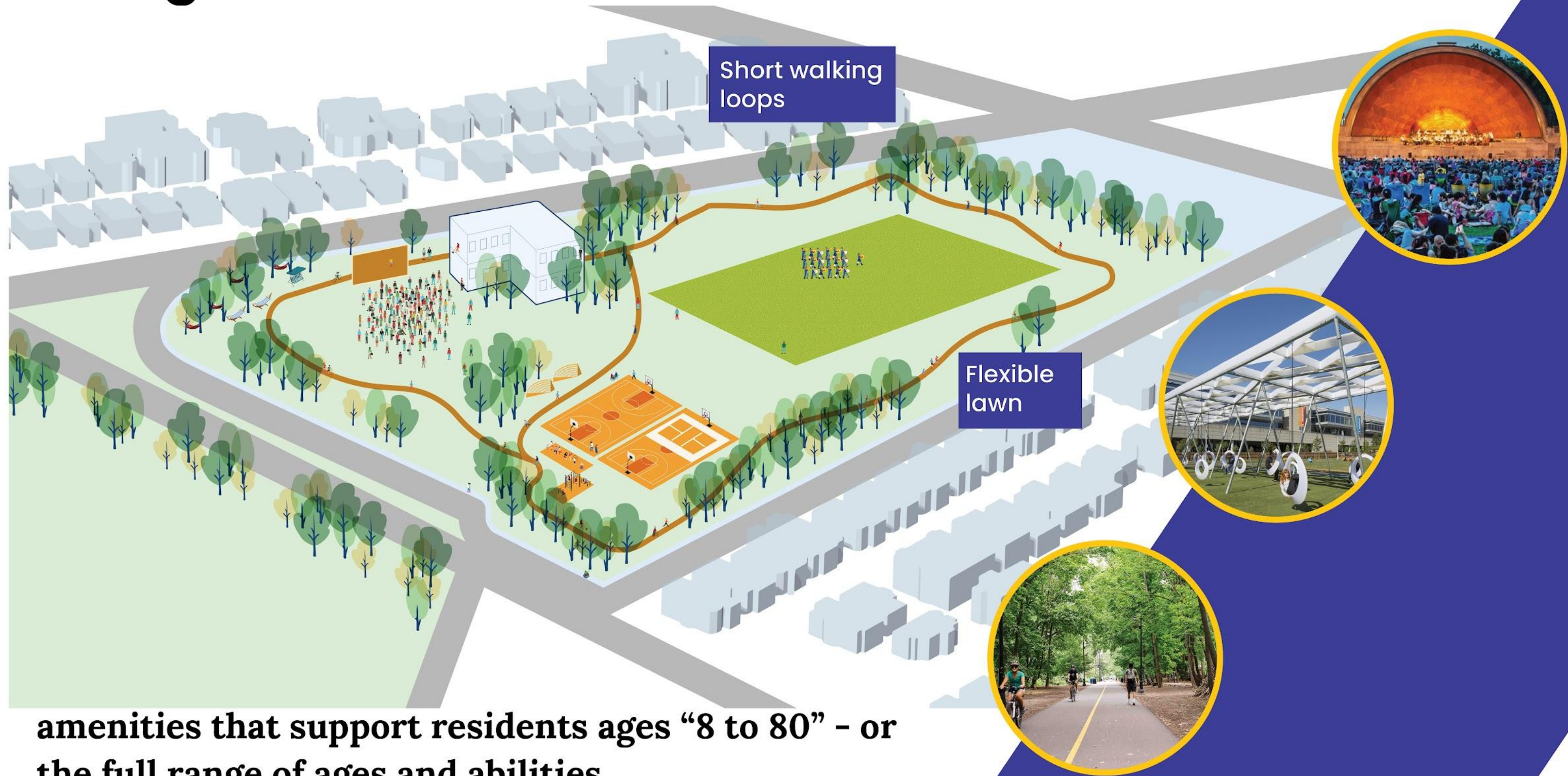
Make parks and open spaces more accessible and welcoming to everyone through design.

Health and Wellness



Grow the health and wellness benefits of parks and open spaces with a particular emphasis on mental health.

Young to Old



Climate Adaptation



Diversify and adapt Boston's parks and open spaces to the city's changing climate including flood and heat resilience strategies.

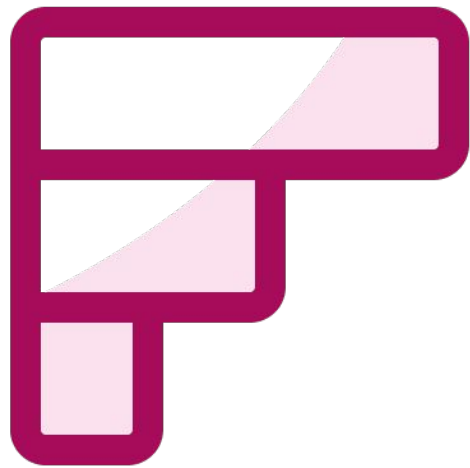
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What do you think of these ideas for Boston's streets?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

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How do you use... Boston's streets to hang out and gather with others?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

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How do you use Boston's Parks?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

slido



What ideas do you have for how parks and open space can better contribute to the health and wellbeing of Bostonians?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

PART 2 - Domestic Realm

The Home

The Porch

The Home

La casa

家
家

What is a Boston Home?

¿Qué es una casa de Boston?

Shénme shì bōshìdùn zhī jiā





Domestic Culture

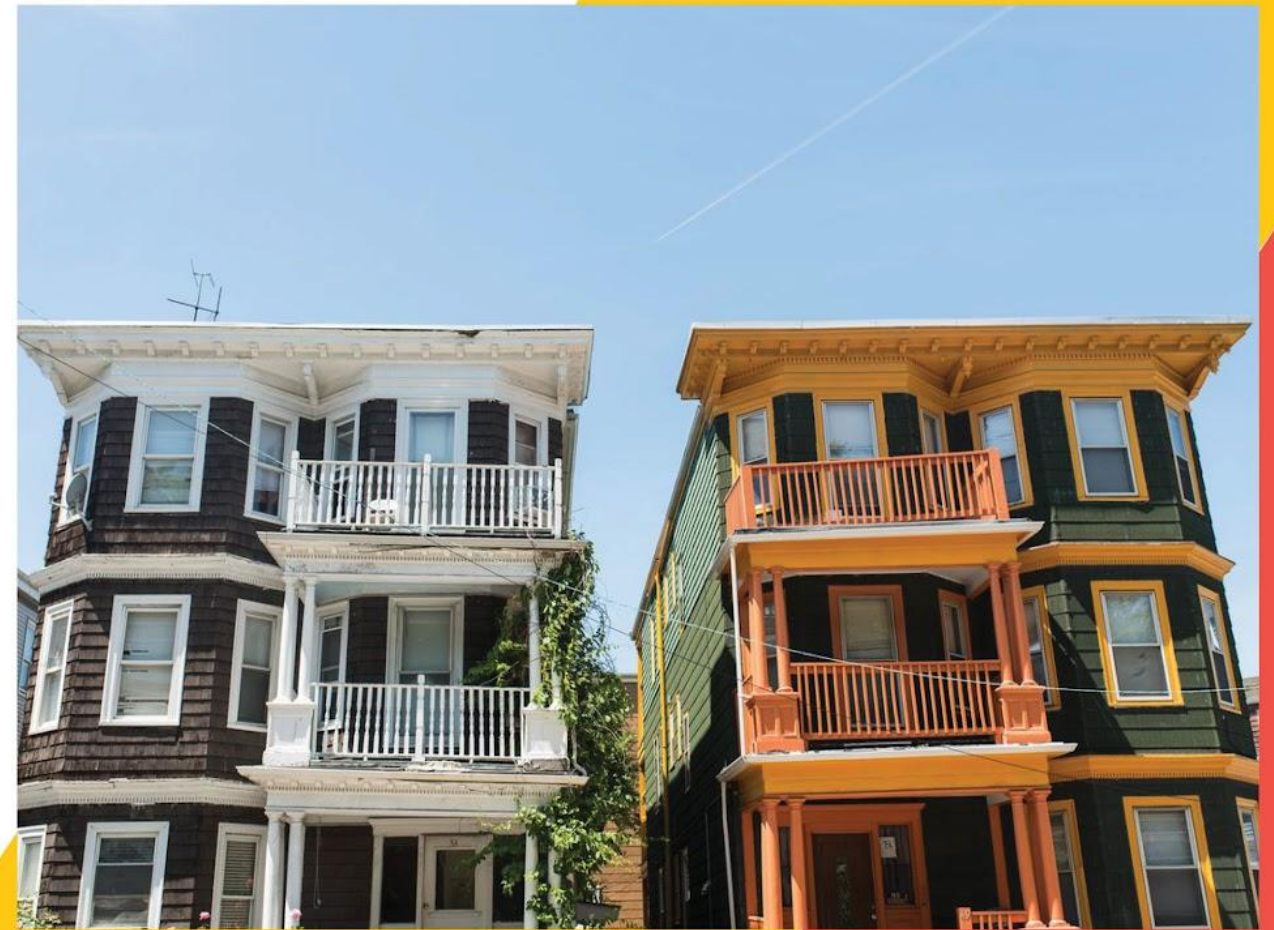
Cultura Doméstica

Guónèi wénhuà




Glass in a cityscape lacks personality and warmth... History has to be taken into consideration. Materials make places accessible to certain people or not.

- Imari Paris Jeffries



Origins

Local Interpolation



We are very much connected and hence
telling a story of one person is not
reflective of the whole community.
We are a diverse community on the
east coast. People have to push and the
inclusive story has to be told.

- Amira Madison

Bostonian Households

Bostonians shared their diverse family and household arrangements through MadLibs.



Large families with many children

Extended families and/or temporary relative stays

I live with my *mom, dad, sister, brother, grandmother, dog*

In *a 3 bedroom apartment*

I live with my *brother, sisters, mom, & step-dad*

In *a very clean house*

I live with my *self*

In *a loft*

I live with my *dog and plants*

In *a condo in Norwood because I couldn't afford Boston*



Single working professionals

I live with my *Brothers & Grand-dad*

In *an apartment*



Seniors who wish to age in place

Households with supportive needs

I live with my *roommates (senior citizens)*

In *a senior citizen home*



Intergenerational household with grandparents who help with childcare

I live with my *4 roommates*

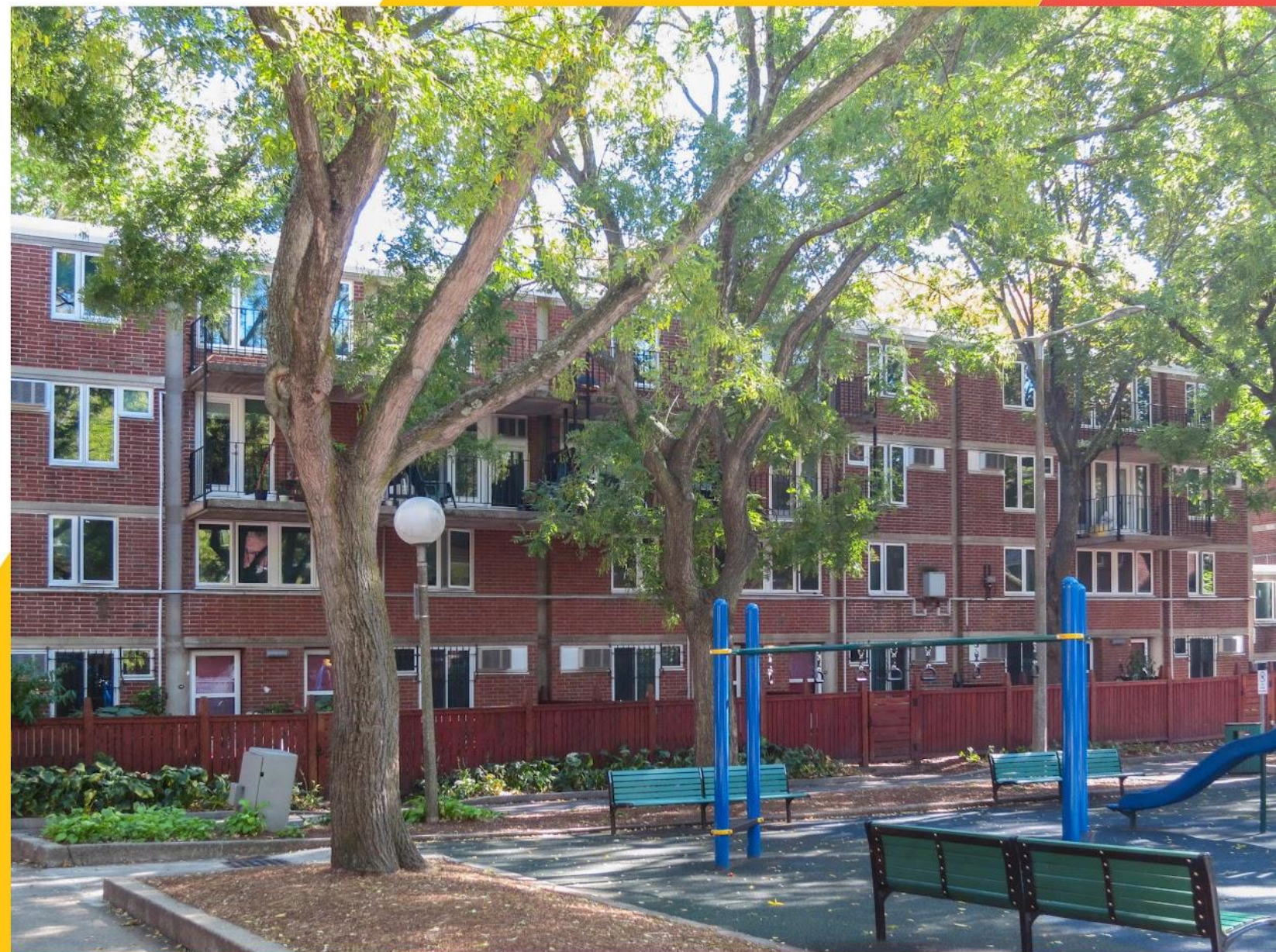
In *2 family home*



Students and roommates shares



Origins



Courtyards

Local Interpolation



Today I am constructing the 2nd one.

25 years ago I built the 1st floor.

My father built the ground floor 43 years ago.



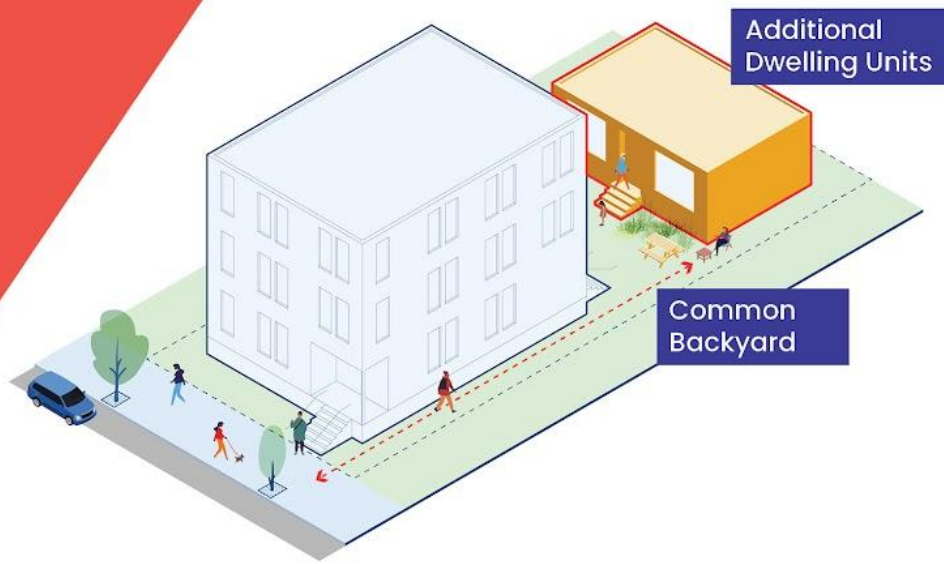
Origins

Flexibility and Expandability

Local Interpolation

The Home

Accessory Dwelling Units



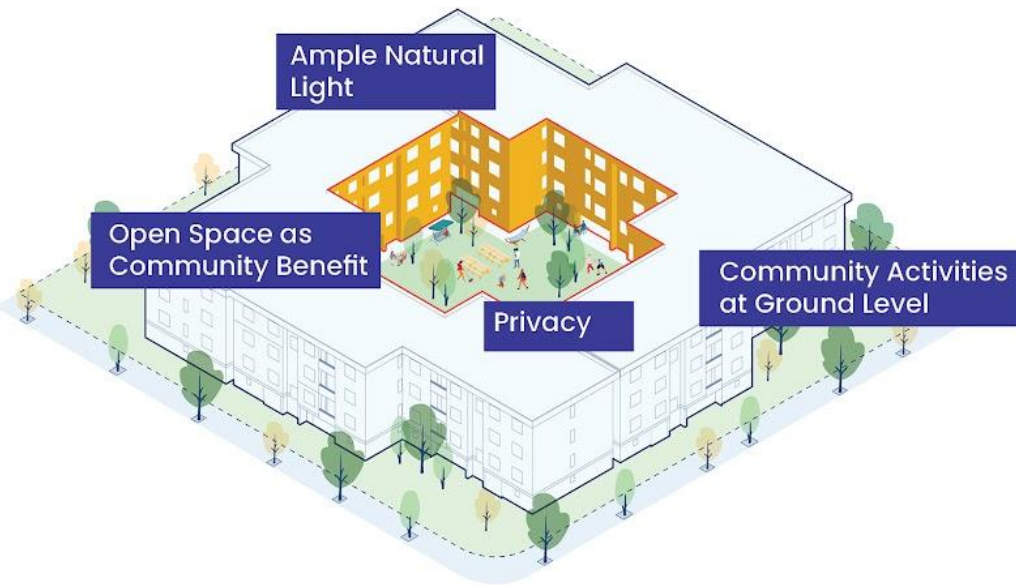
Plex Housing



High Density Blocks



Courtyard Block



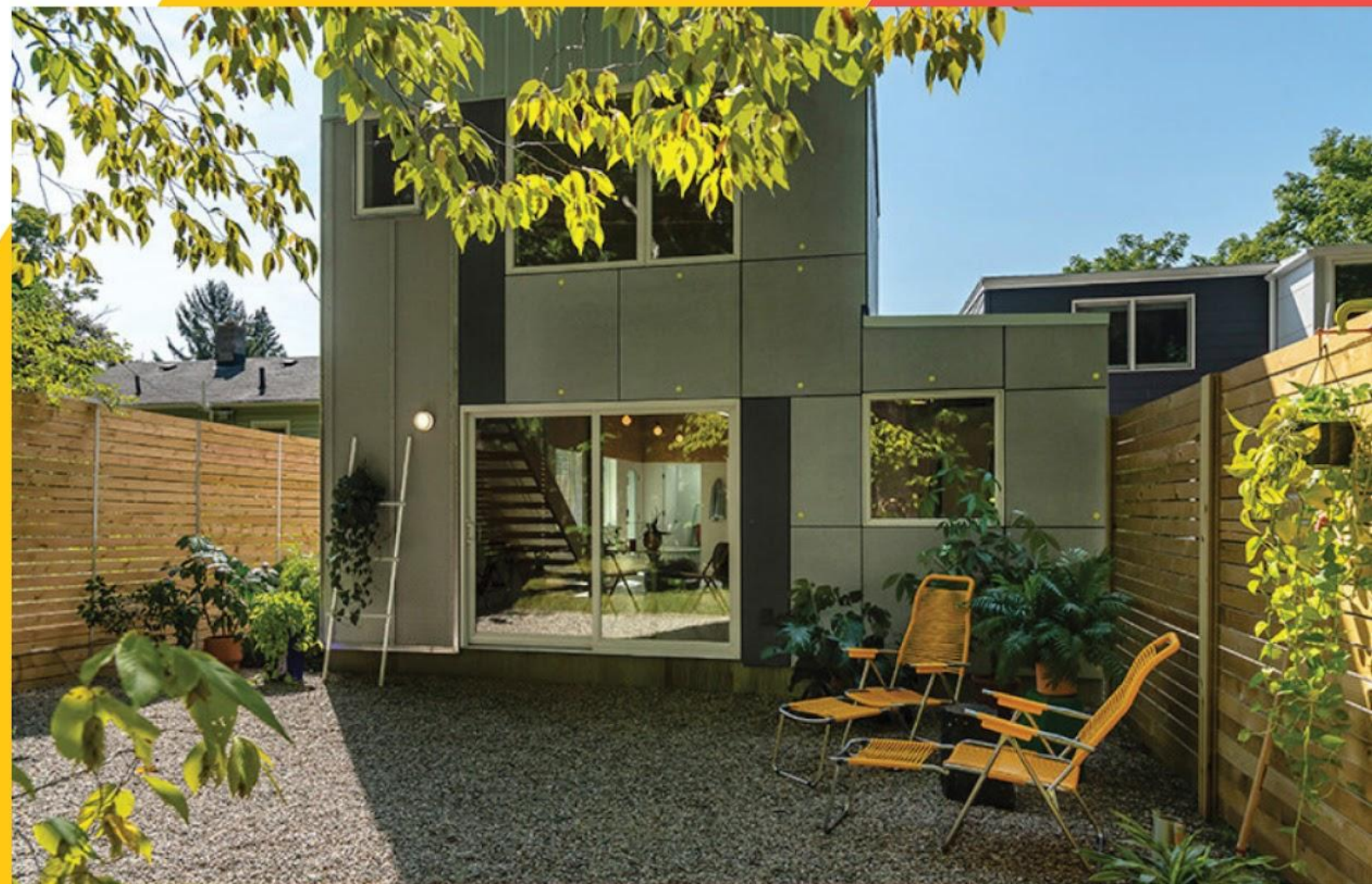
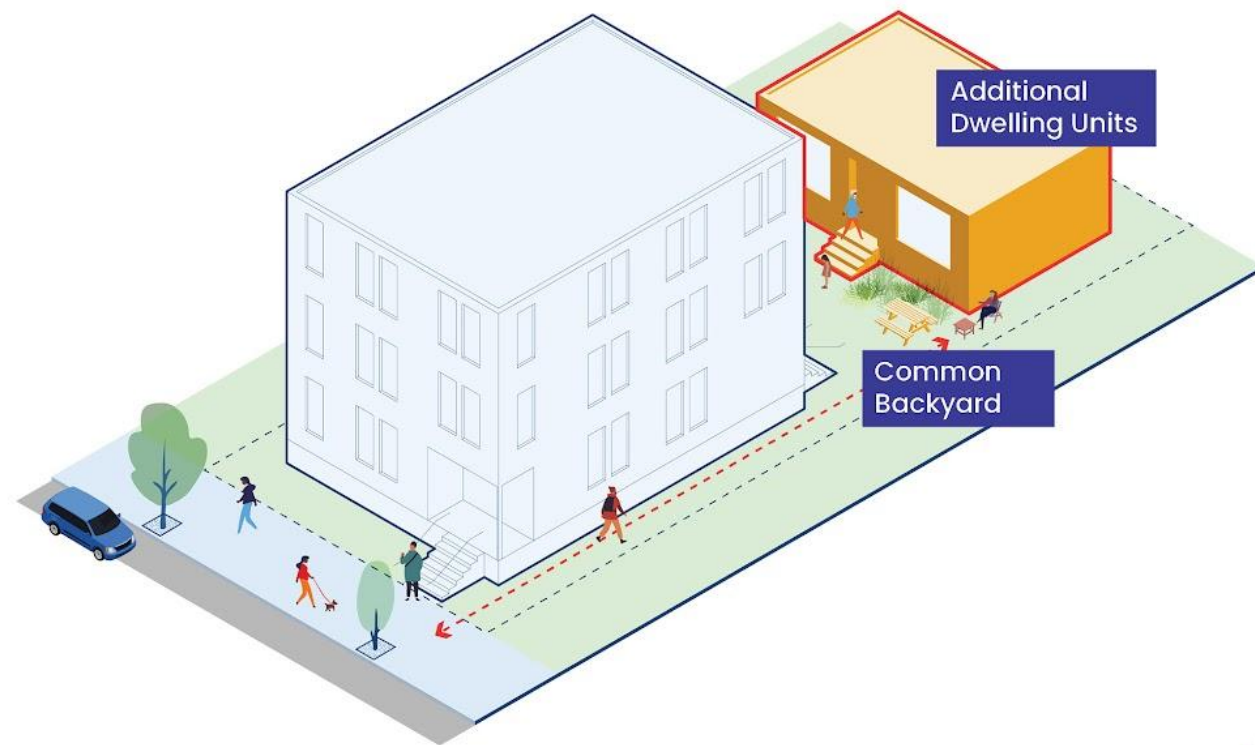
Garden Court



Row House Mews

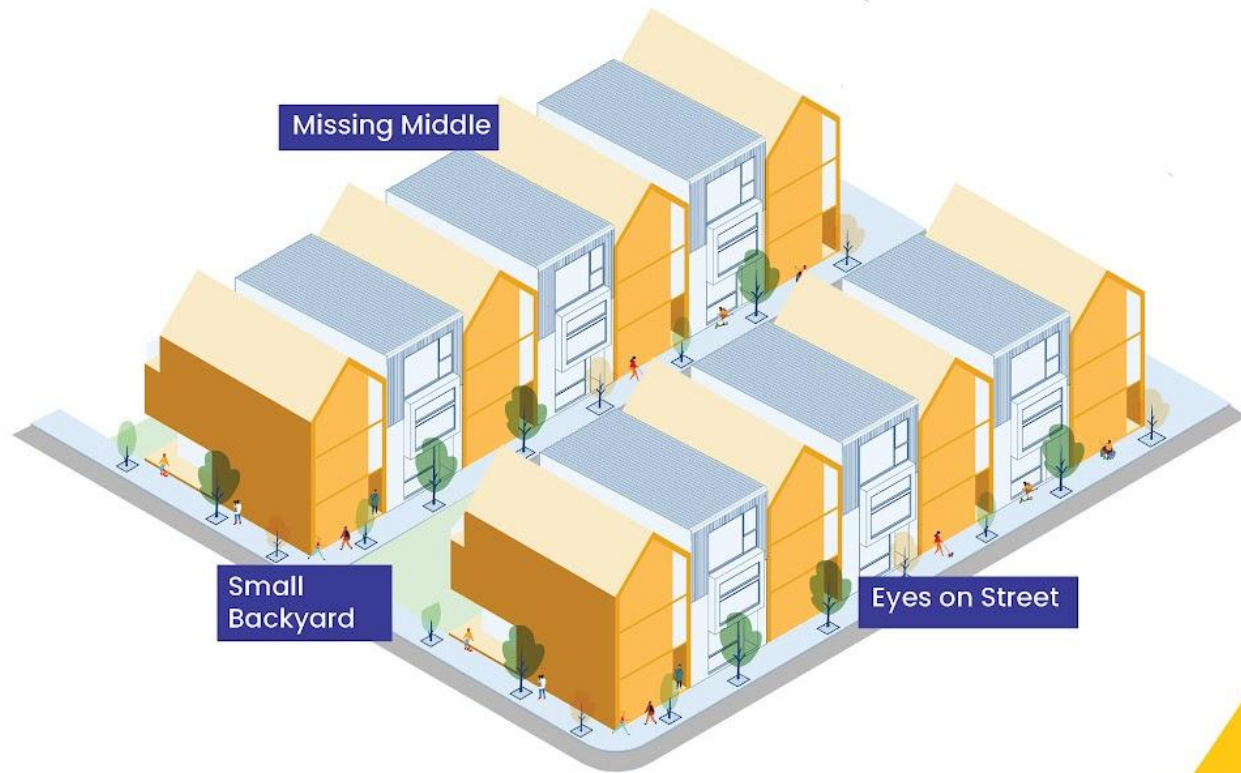


Accessory Dwelling Units



Northwood ADU, Ann Arbor MI

Row House Mews



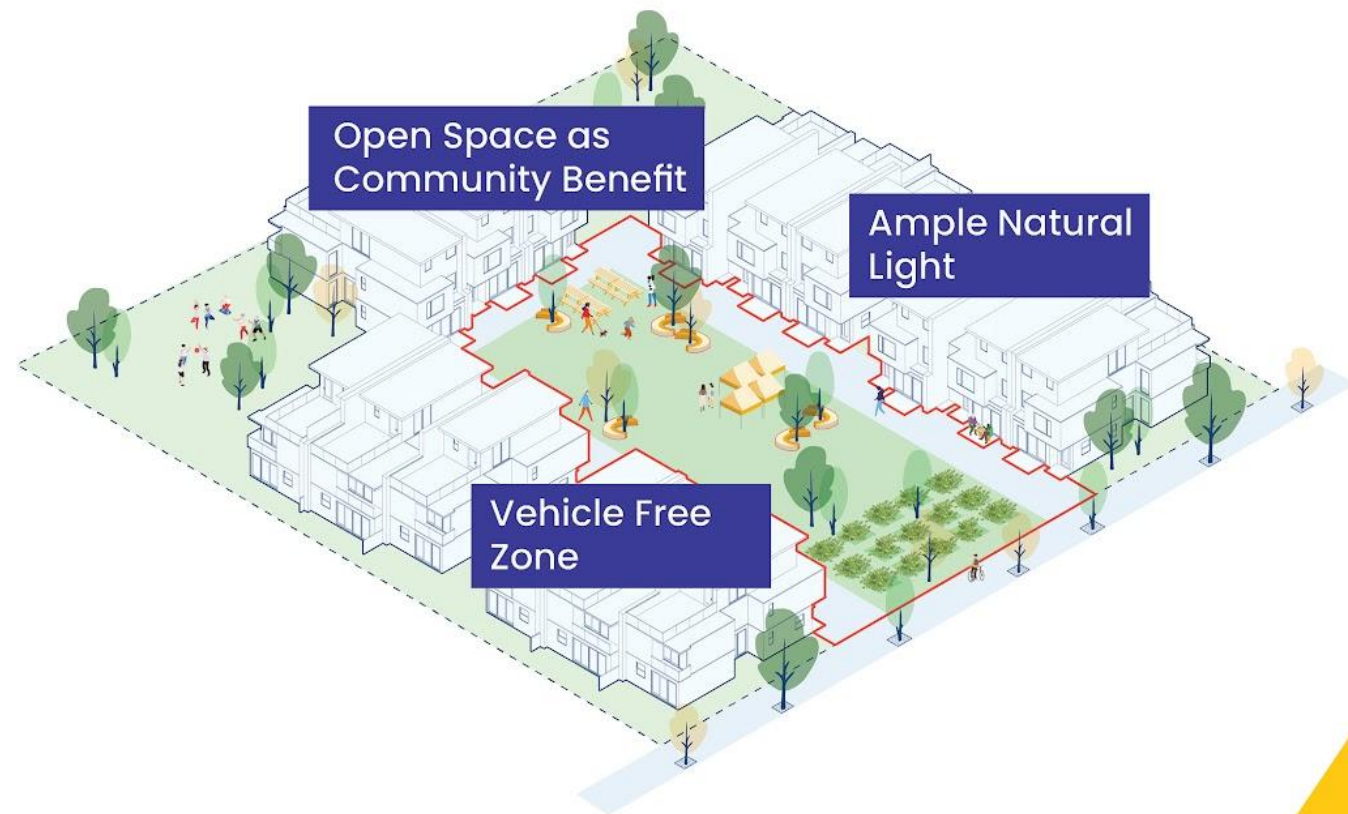
Brush Park Carriage Homes, Detroit MI

Plex Housing



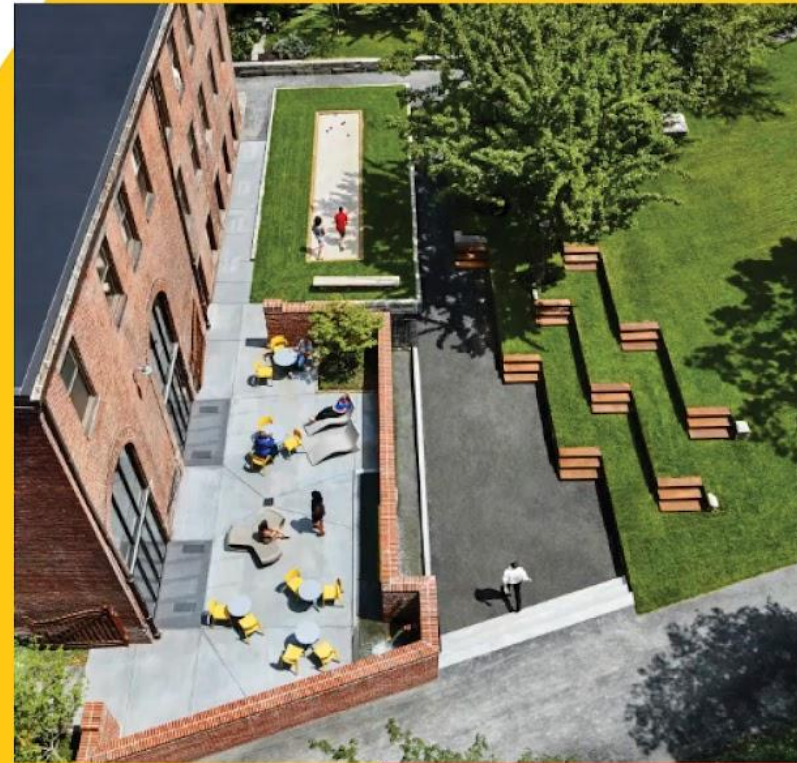
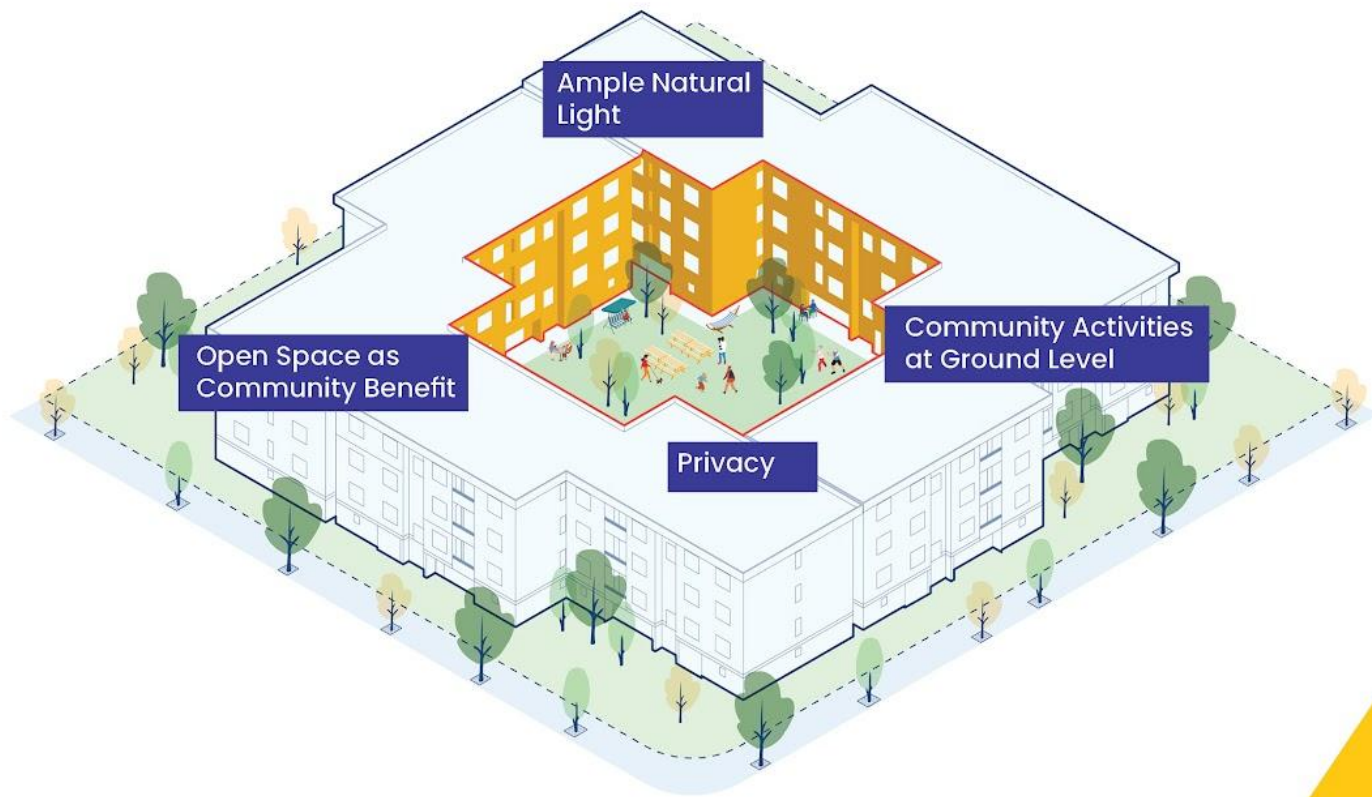
Marginal Street 7-Plex, East Boston MA

Garden Court



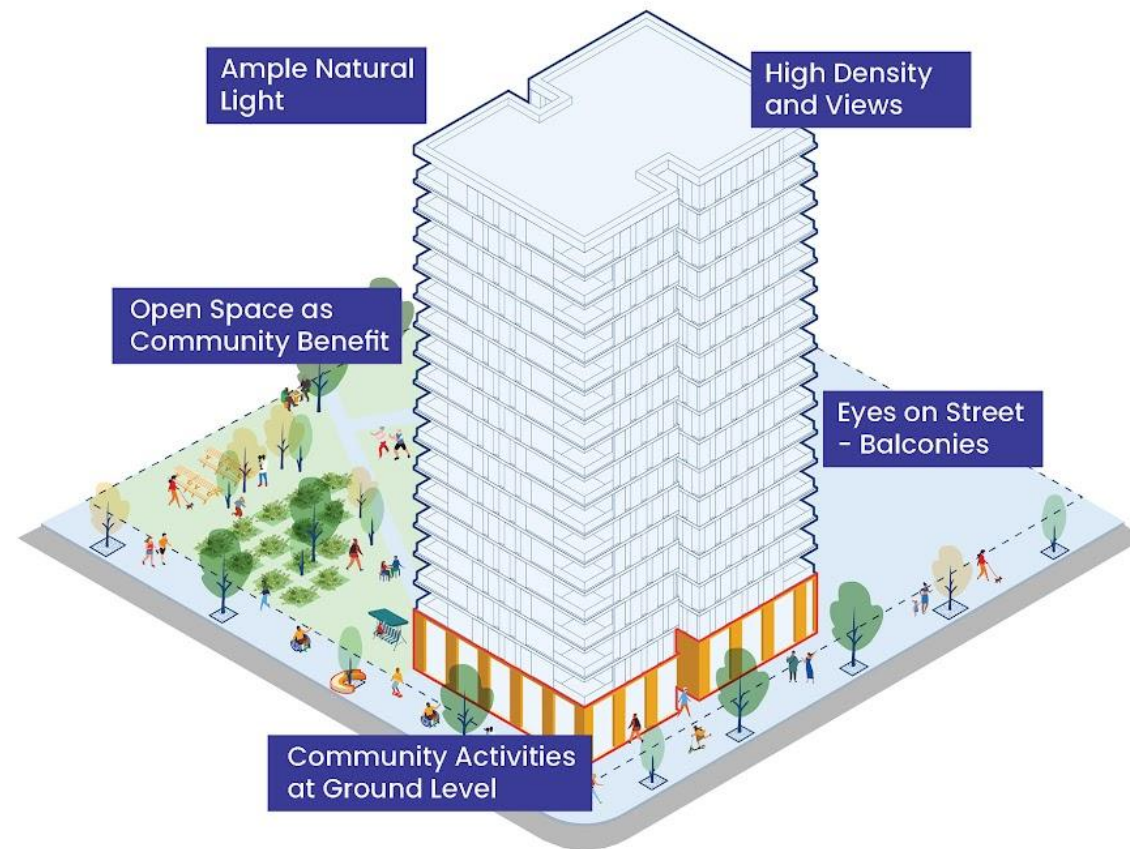
Tillamook Row, Portland OR

Courtyard Block



Piano Craft Building, Lower Roxbury MA

High Density Block



Peabody Terrace, Cambridge

The Porch

El porche
門廊
門廊

The Boston Design Vision is testing a variety of ways to encourage design that fosters community and enables individuality, particularly in the transition between public and private spaces.





Each building has a uniqueness that is born out of place. Moving into the future, people need to reflect *into* their built environment.

- Ifeoma Ebo



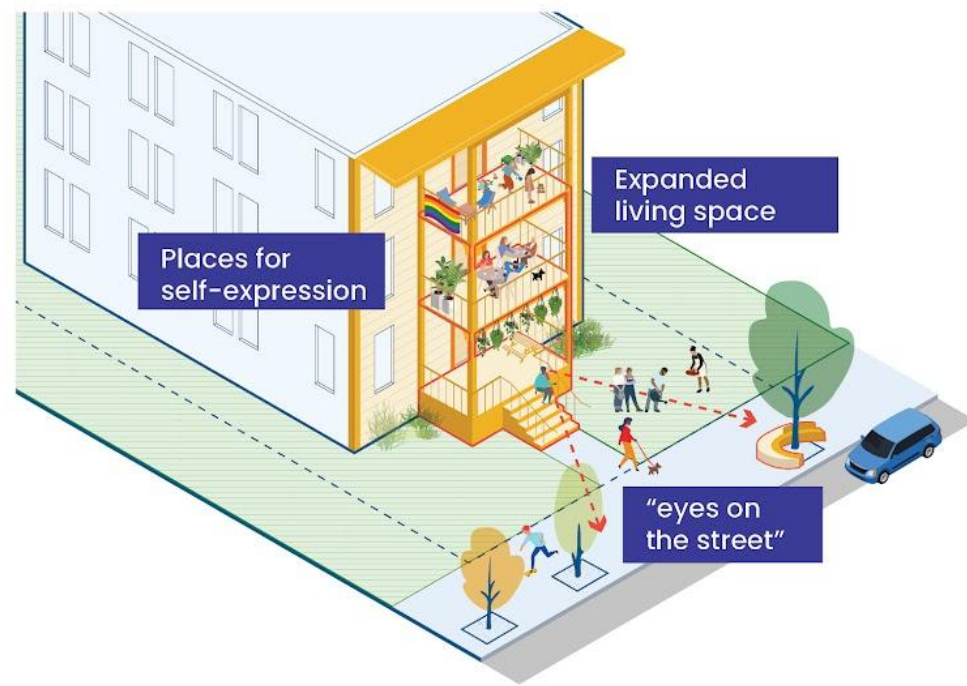
Origins

Porches, Stoops, and Balconies

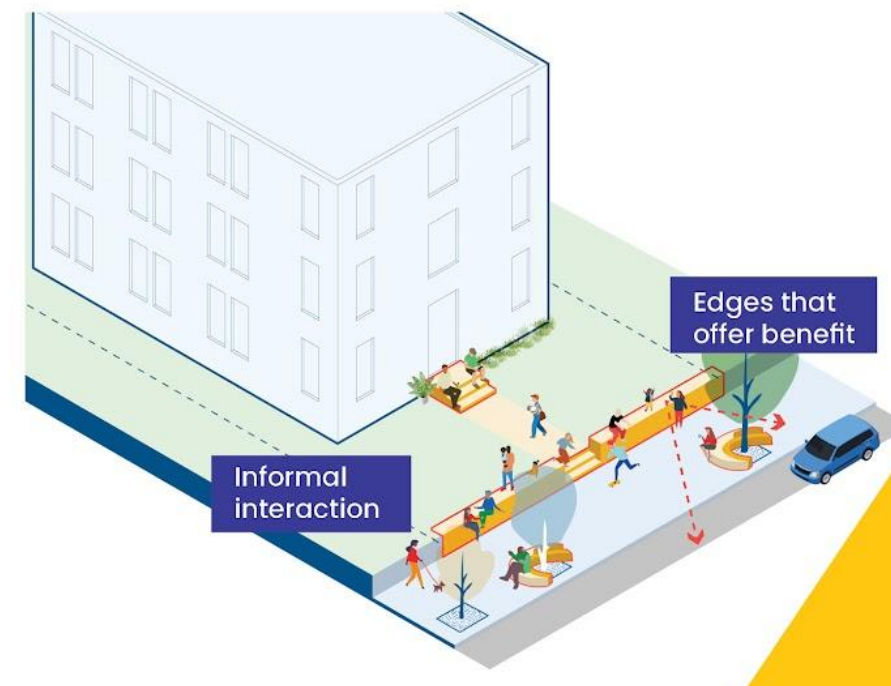
Local Interpolation

The Porch

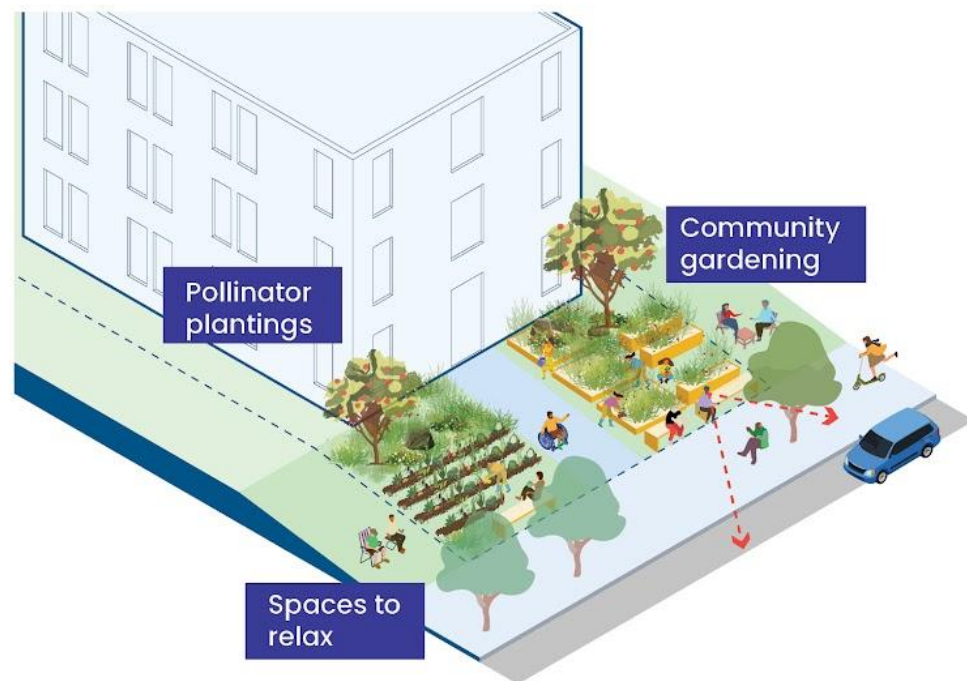
Porches



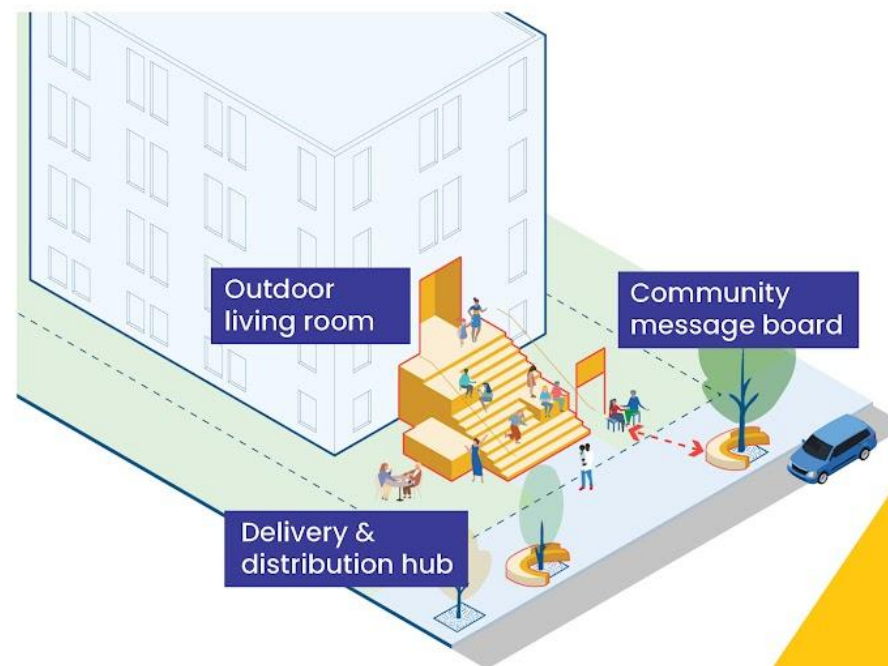
Ledges



Gardens



Stoops

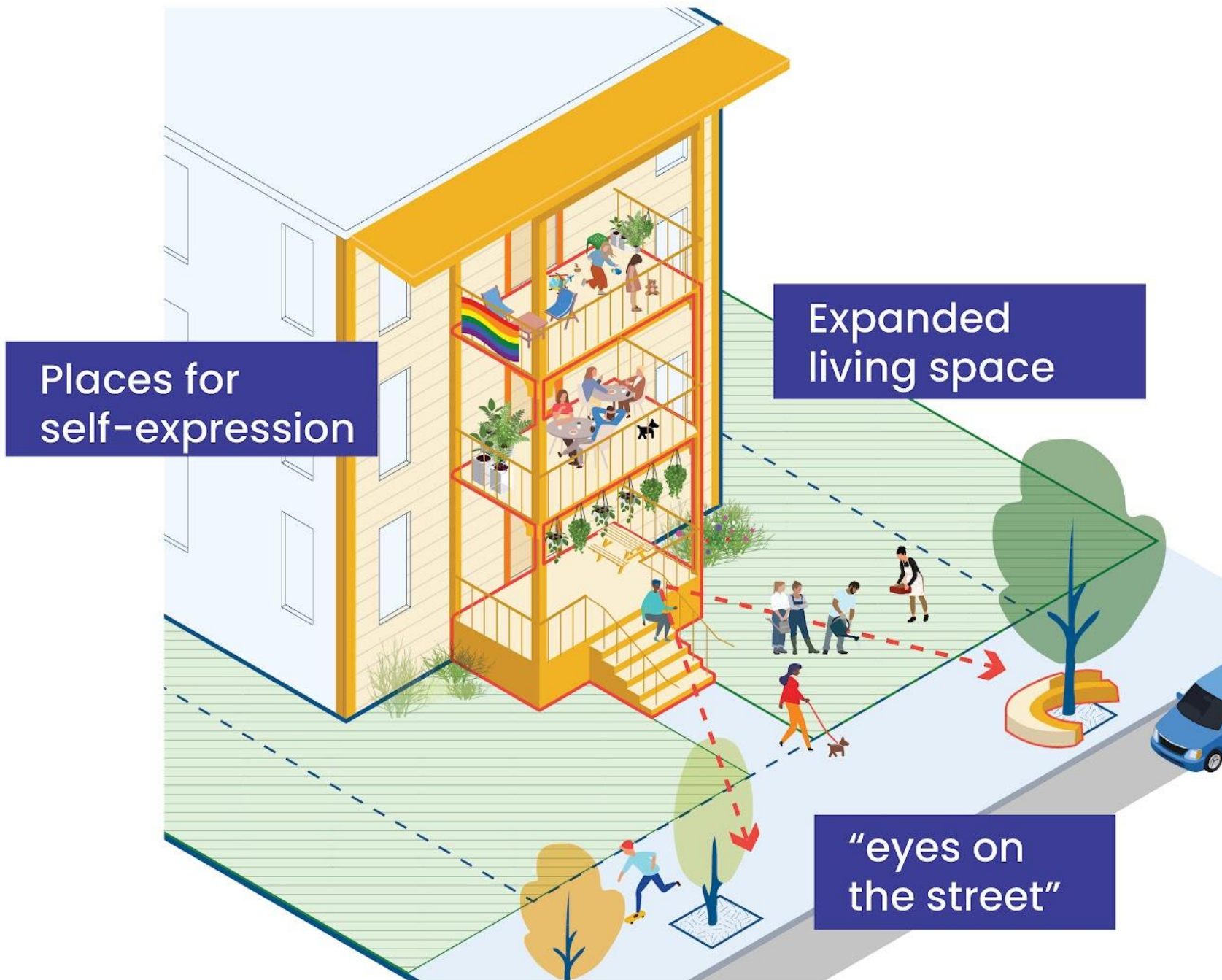


Side Yard

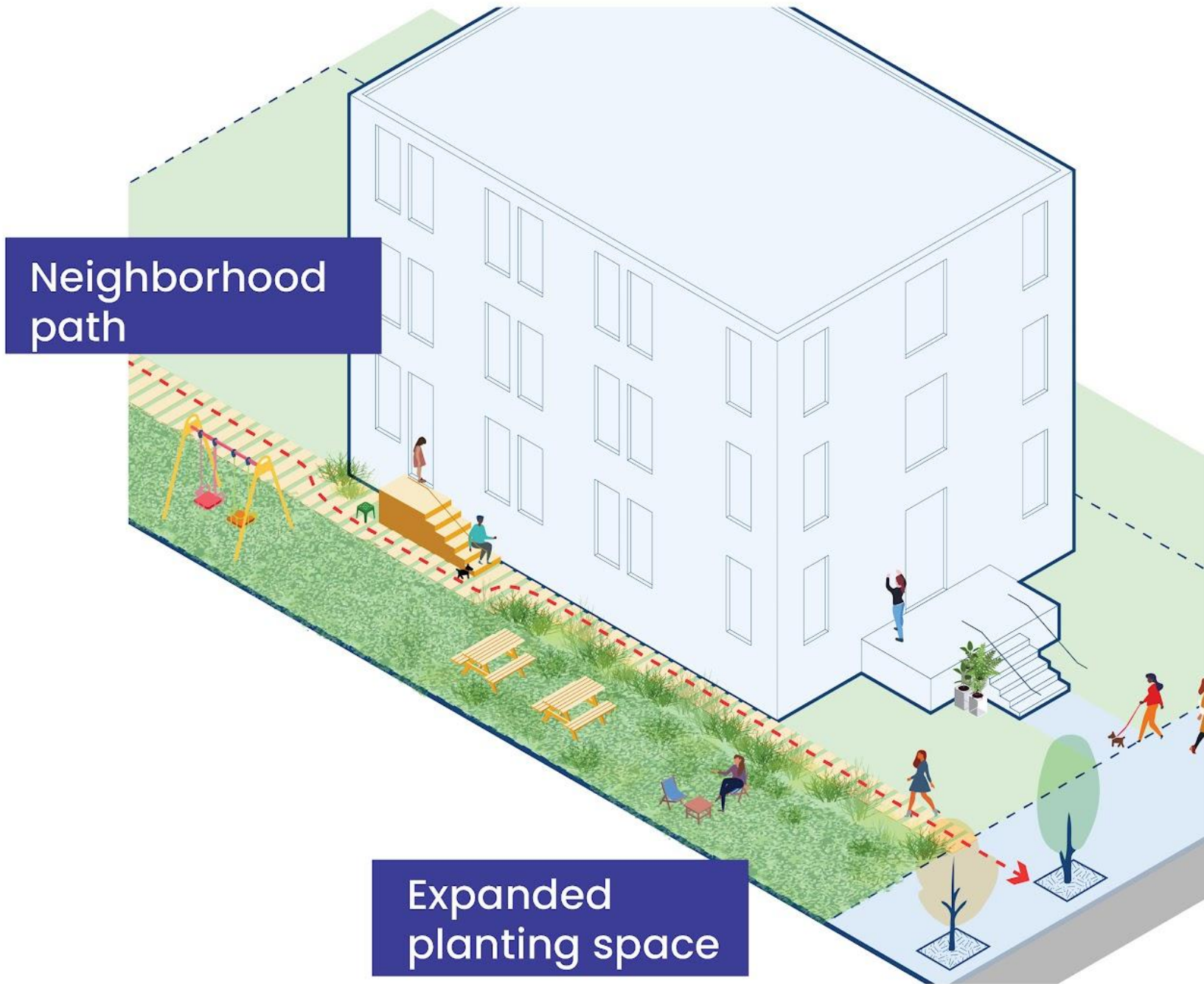


Porches

Common to Boston's existing housing, porches allow for flexible outdoor space, "eyes on the street," personalization and provide for swing season use.



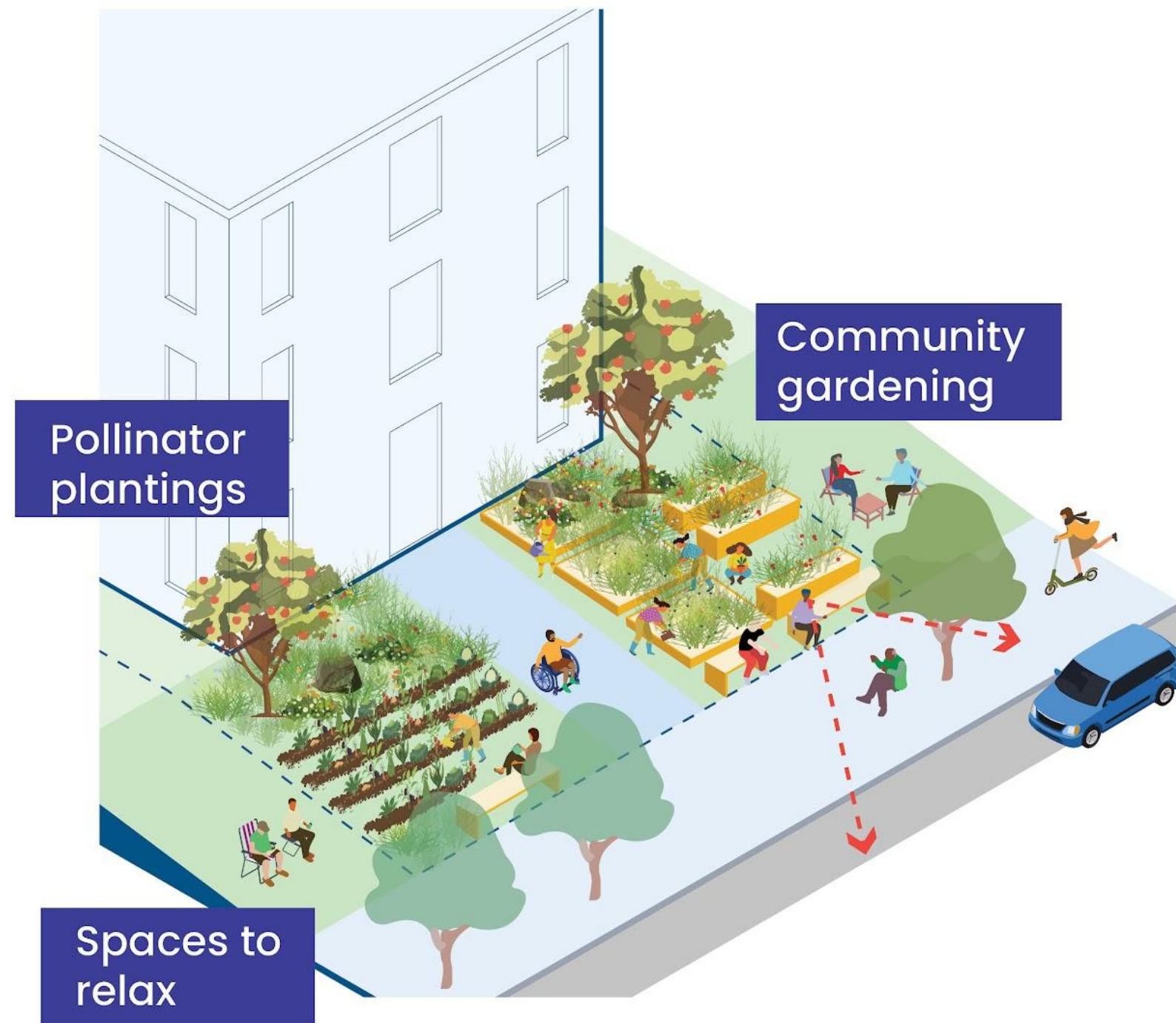
Side Yard



Wider sideyards or thru-block lots offer space for semi-private or shared open space, neighborhood cut-throughs, and private gardens.



Gardens



From neighborhood planting programs to food production, garden spaces are a great way to maximize beauty, productivity and community.



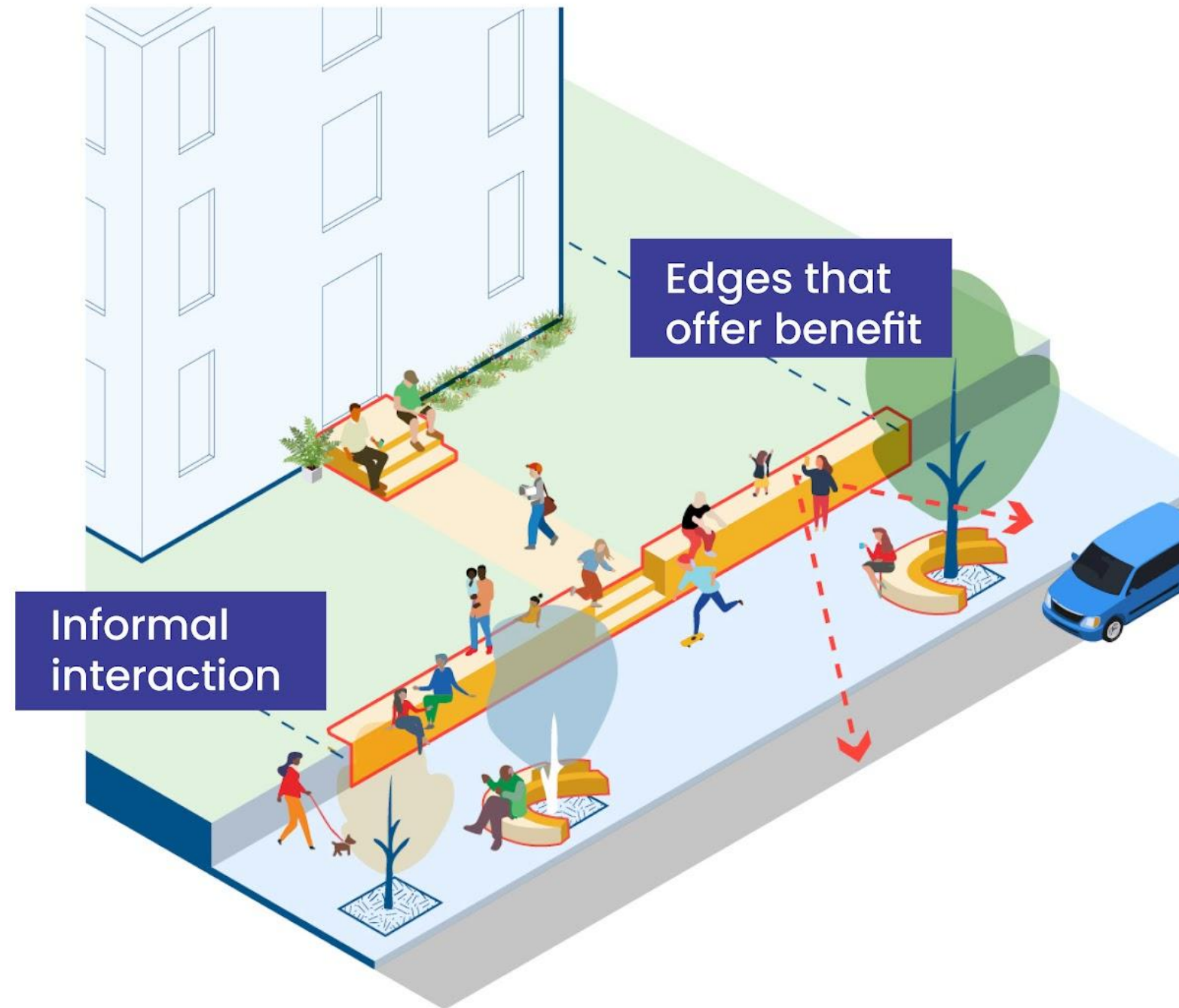
Stoop



Long a hallmark of great urban neighborhoods, stoops offers human-scaled spaces that directly address and foster life of the street.



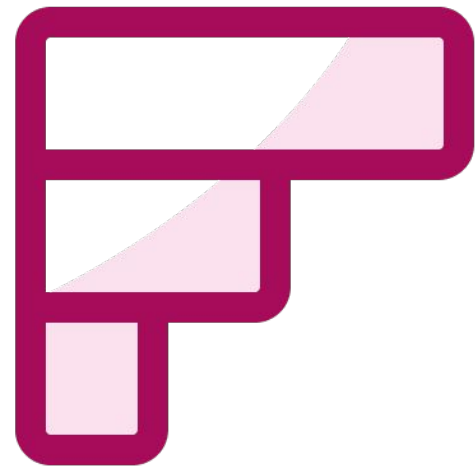
Ledges



Various changes in topography and site walls around the city can offer ledges and perches for sitting and resting.



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What type of home is your dream home?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

slido



What does your dream home look, feel, sound, smell, and taste like? Who lives there?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

slido



What memories do you have that took place on a porch, a stoop, a balcony, a side lot or in a front garden?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

PART 3 - Places of Commerce

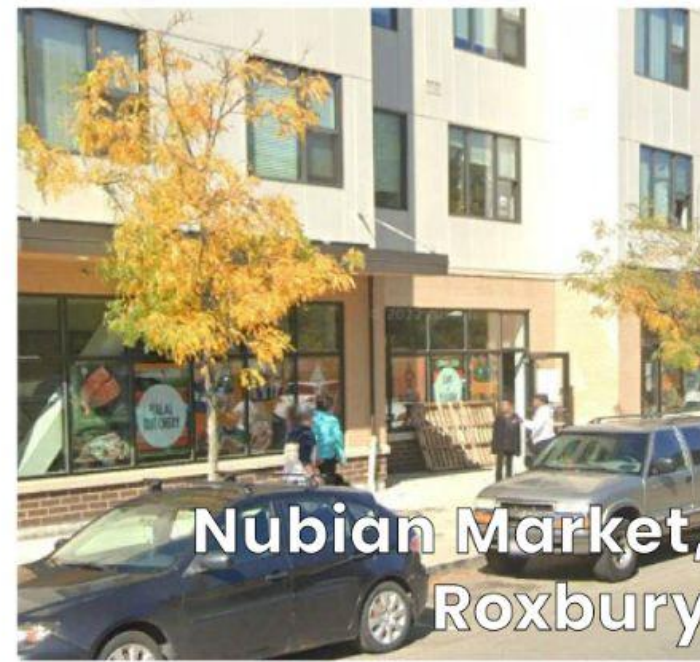
The Shops

The Square

The Shops

Las tiendas
商店
商店

The Boston Design Vision looks to build on a valued aspect of Boston neighborhoods noted in community feedback to date - the fine-grained texture of local, small and diverse ground floor businesses and uses.



Nubian Market,
Roxbury



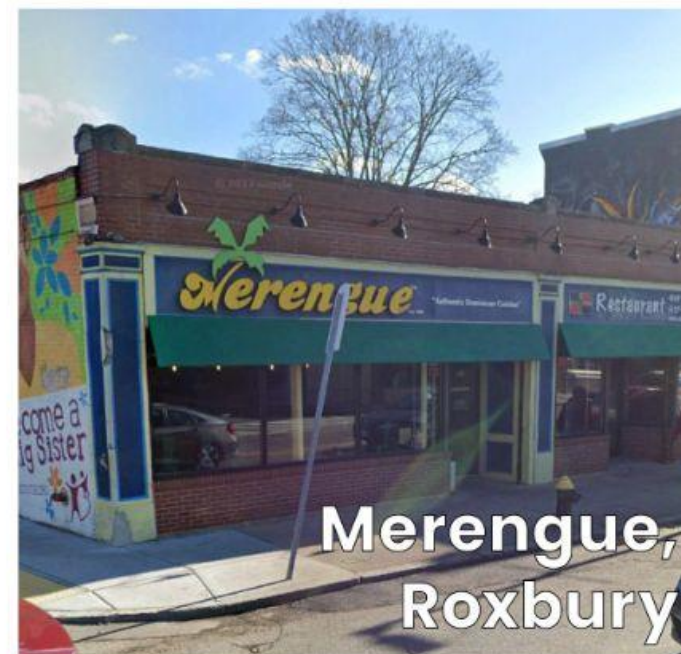
Park 54, Hyde Park



Comfort Kitchen,
Dorchester



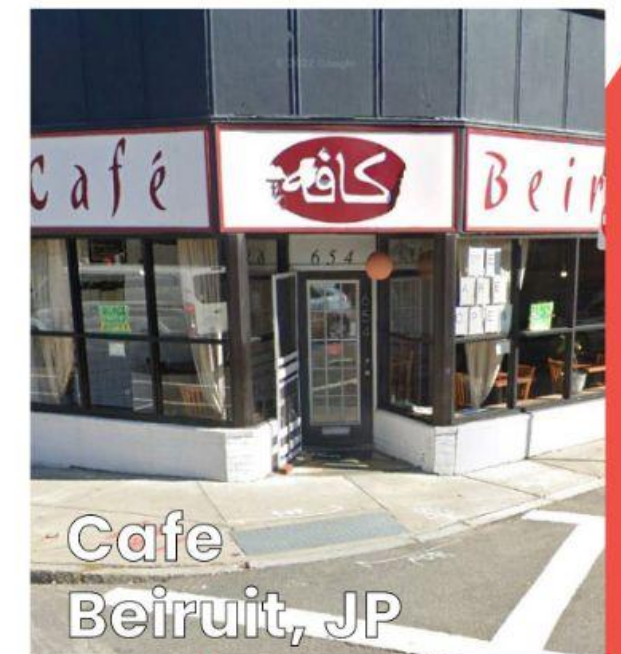
Angela's Cafe,
East Boston



Merengue,
Roxbury



Coreanos,
Allston



Cafe
Beiruit, JP



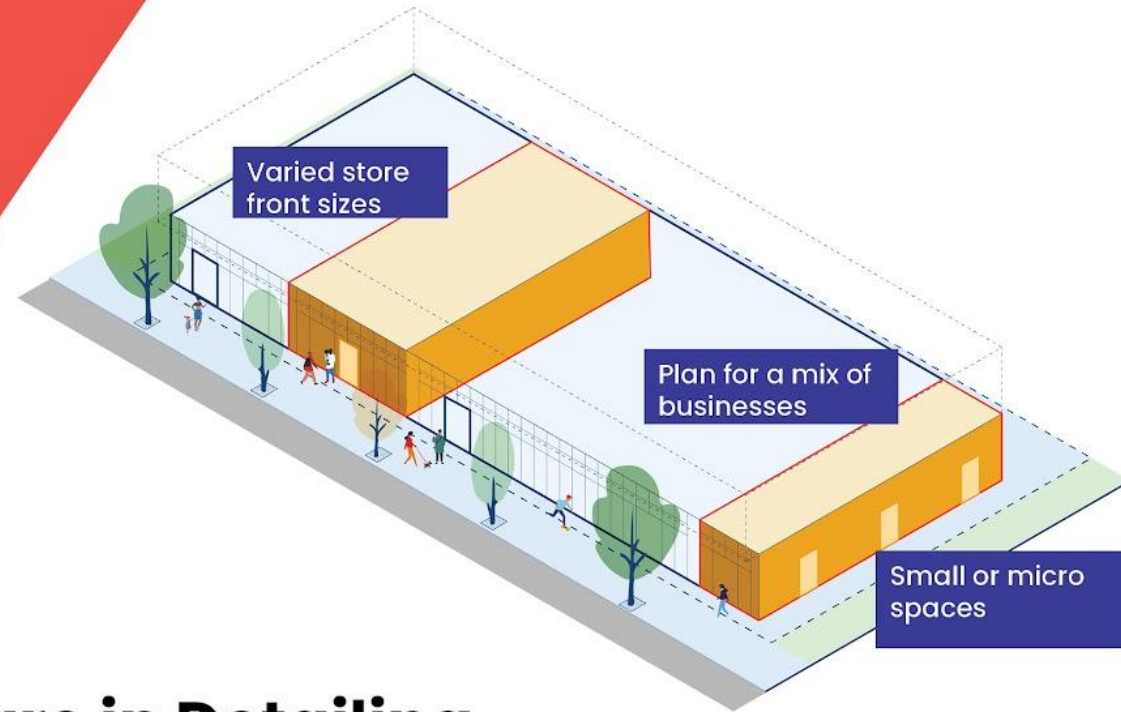
Origins

Retail Amenities (Healthcare, Daycare, etc.)

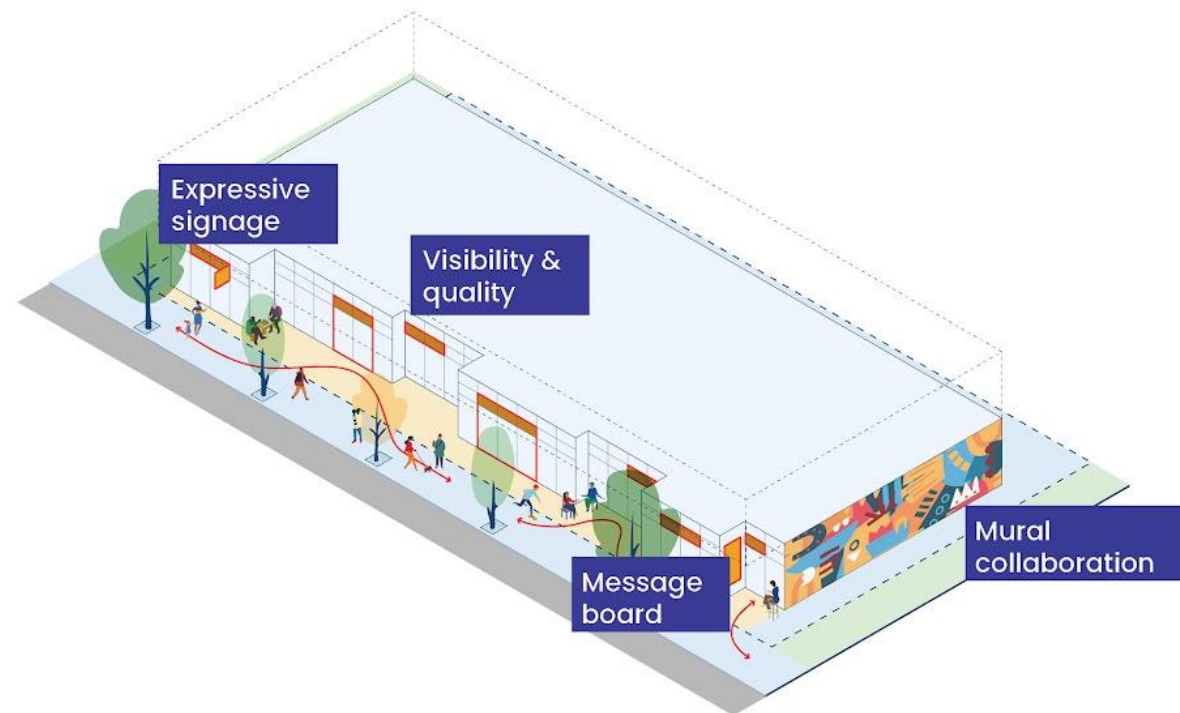
Local Interpolation

The Shops

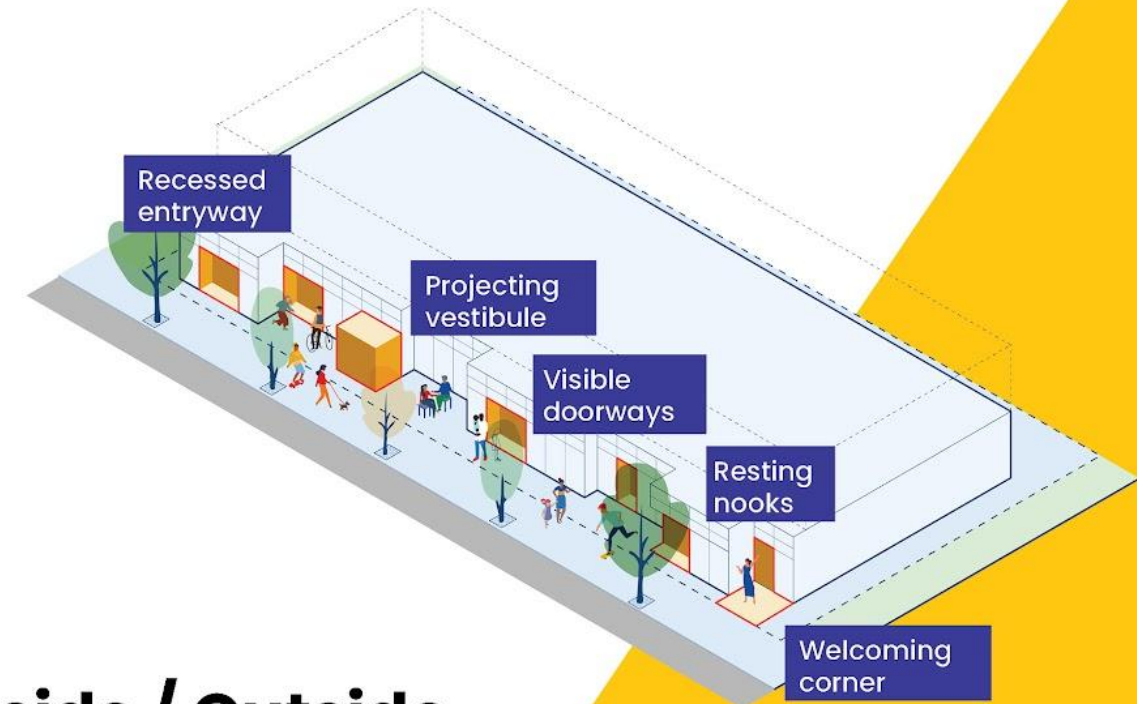
Retail Diversity



Care in Detailing



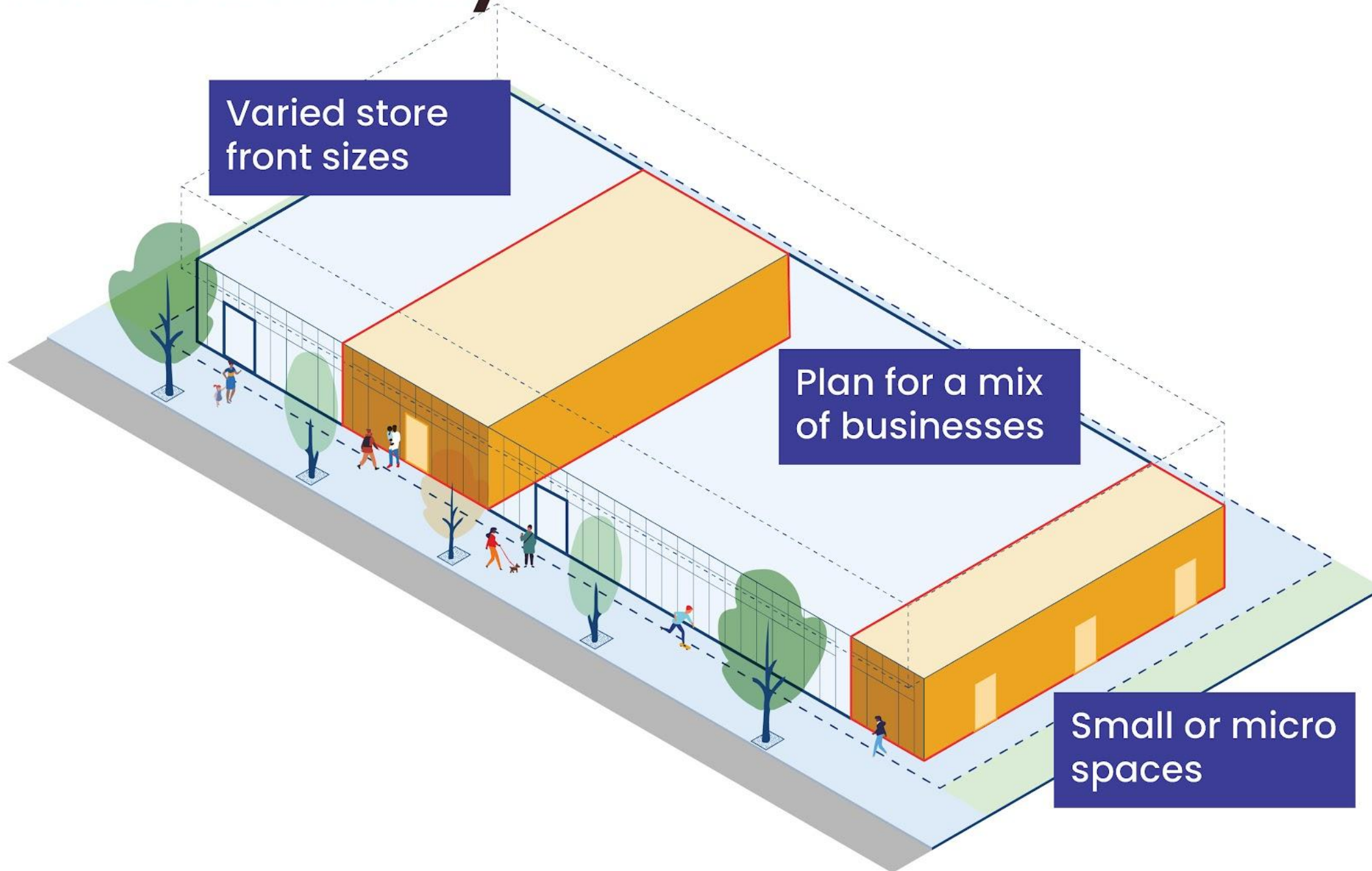
Fine-grained Storefronts



Inside / Outside

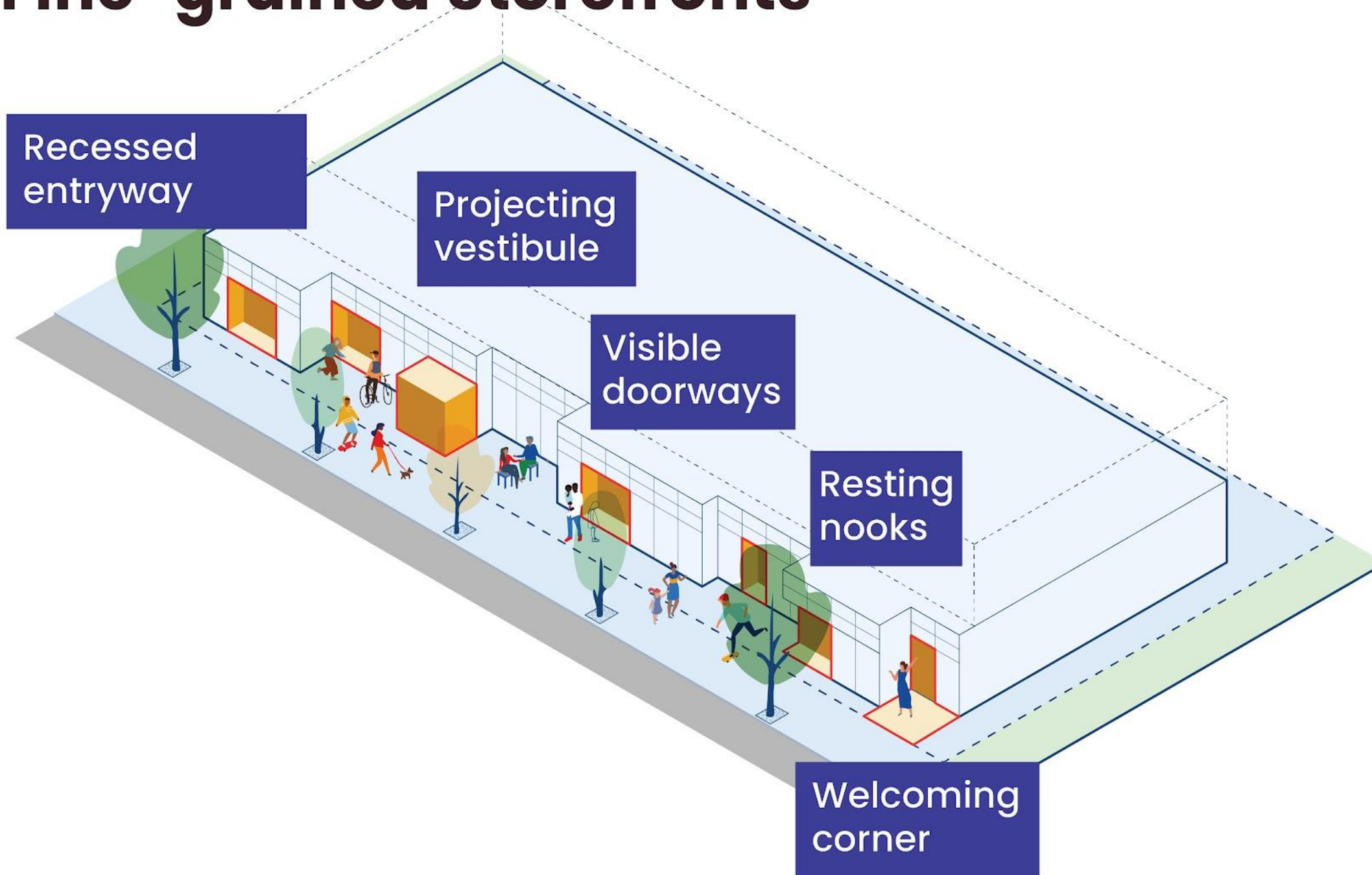


Retail Diversity



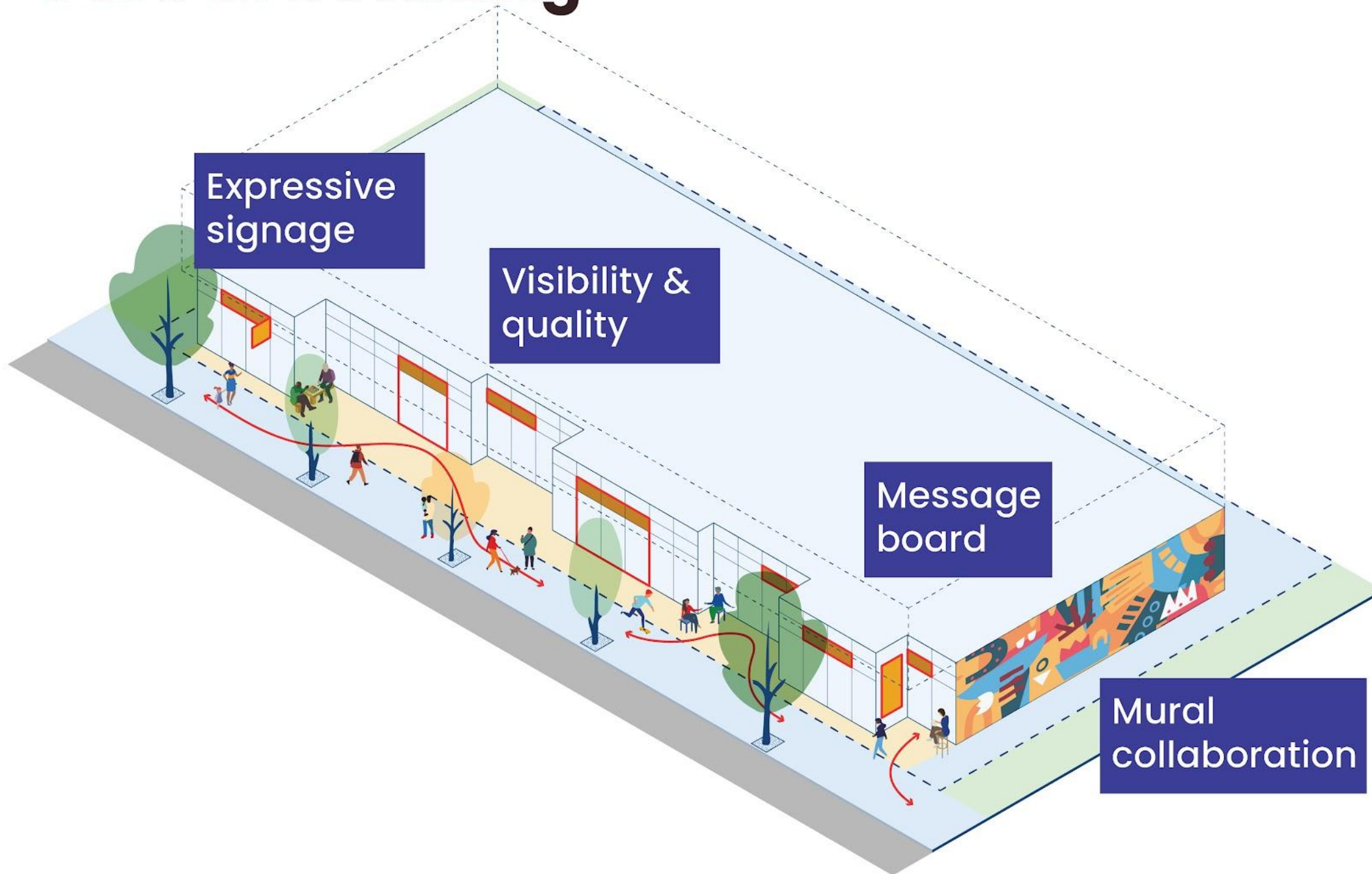
Work toward design that allows for a range of ground floor and retail uses and scales - from large footprint businesses to small businesses and incubators.

Fine-grained Storefronts



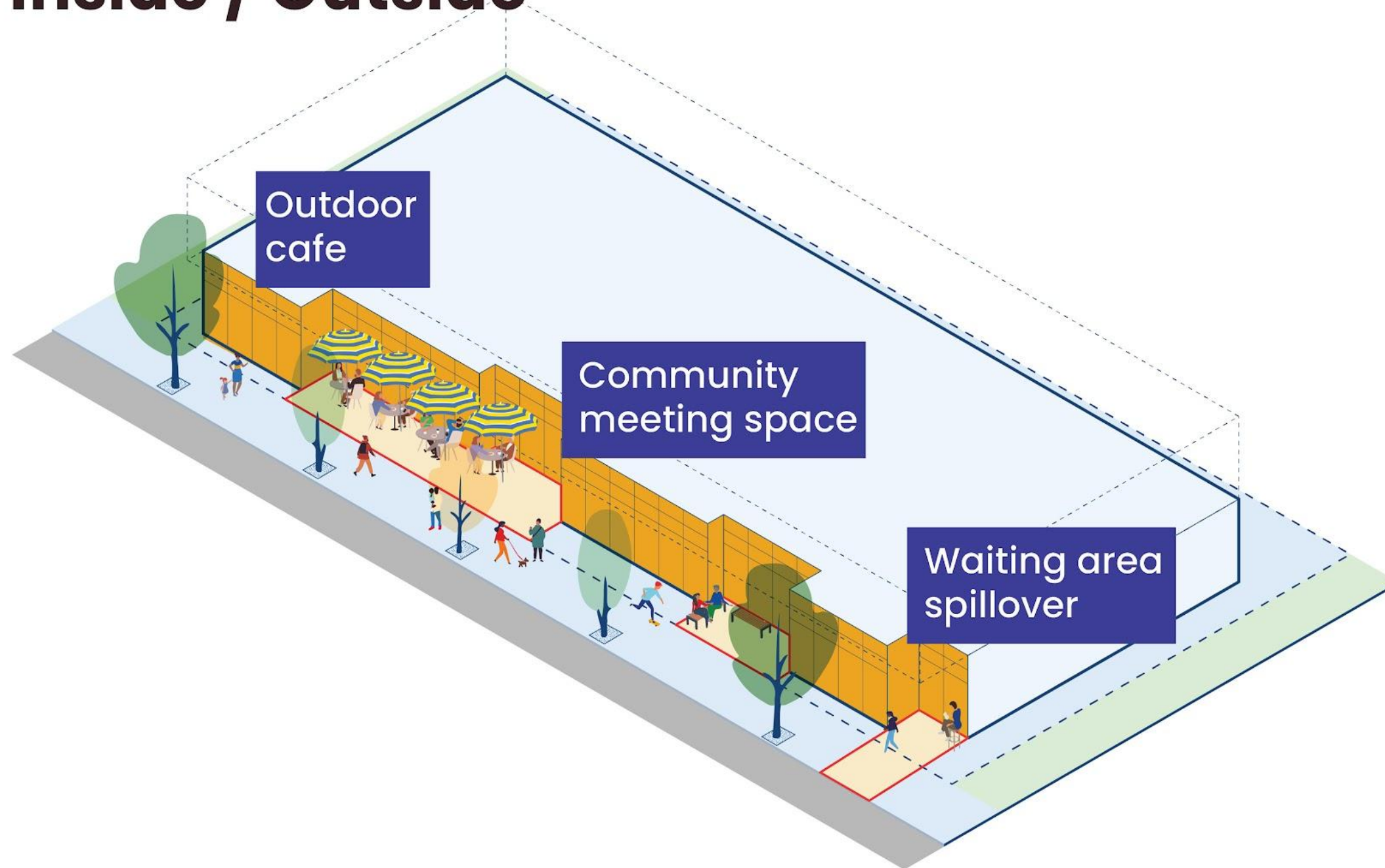
Identifying the design features that make for a great experience along a building - from elements that create visual interest to porous edges.

Care in Detailing



Describe the specific details that provide a quality visual and physical experience, from signage and window glazing to materials and spacing.

Inside / Outside



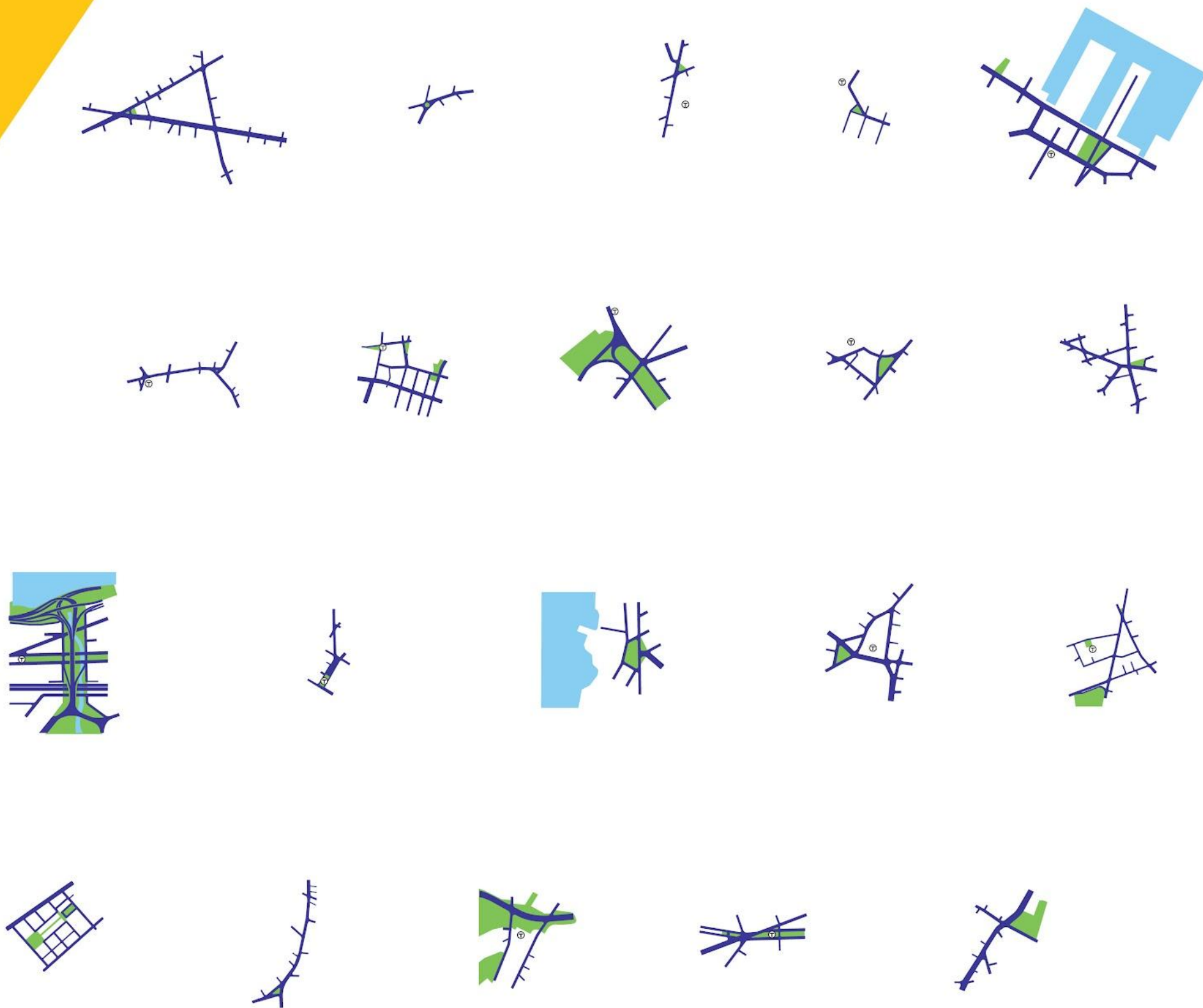
Exploring the barriers and opportunities to enlivening the sidewalk along storefronts, from spill-out cafes to sidewalk shopping.

Boston Squares

Plazas de Boston

波士顿广场

波士頓廣場



Boston Squares

Plazas de Boston

波士顿广场

波士頓廣場



Allston Triangle
Allston



Hyde Square
Jamaica Plain



Peabody Square
Dorchester



Readville



Seaport



Hyde Park



Chinatown



Fenway



Roslindale Square
Roslindale



Codman Square
Dorchester



Charlesgate



Maverick Square
East Boston



Central Square
East Boston



Nubian Square
Roxbury



Fields Corner
Dorchester



Villa Victoria
South End



Centre Street
Jamaica Plain



Forest Hills
Jamaica Plain

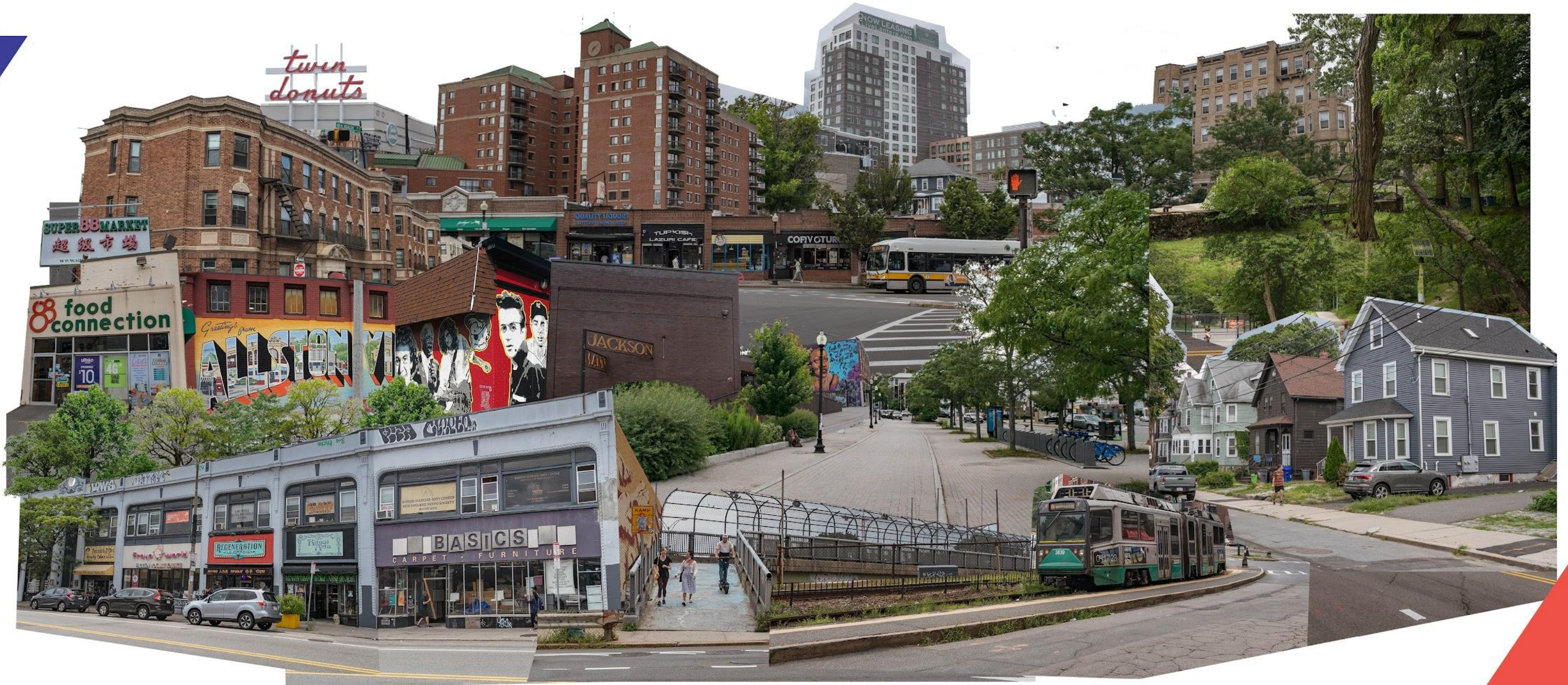


Kenmore Square
Fenway



Uphams Corner
Dorchester

Allston



Chinatown



East Boston



Upham's Corner



slido



What do you go to your neighborhood shops for most often?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

slido



What about these collages reflect Boston to you? What do you envision for the future of square in your neighborhood?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

The image features a white rectangular box centered on a background of colorful geometric shapes. The background is composed of several large, overlapping triangles in shades of red, blue, teal, and yellow. The text "What's Next?" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within the white box.

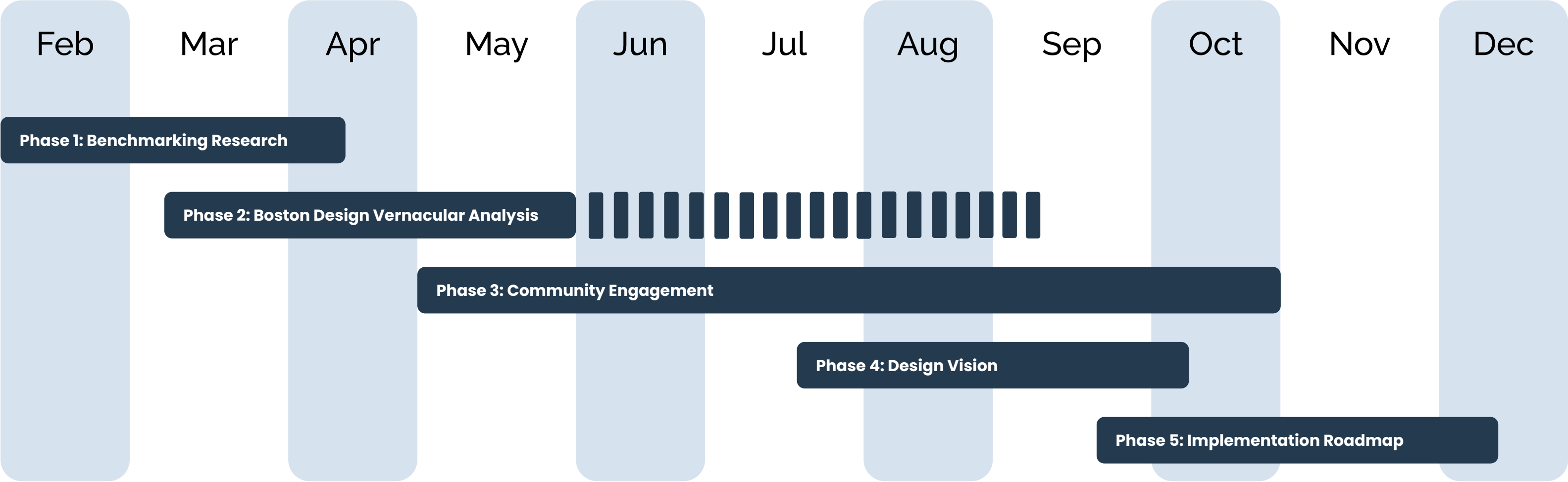
What's Next?

Where We're Headed

- Summarizing & digesting the input you shared tonight along with what we heard at the October Open Houses
- Refining the innovations, principles, and ideas based on your input
- Next phase: Implementation Roadmap

**Got Questions/Comments? Reach out to
Breeze Outlaw at breeze.outlaw@boston.gov**

Design Vision Timeline



Deliverables

- 1** Peer Cities Matrix Interview Findings Summary
- 2** Design Vernacular Report City Process/Policy Assessment
- 3** Community Engagement Strategy & Summary
- 4** Design Visioning Package
- 5** Implementation Roadmap + Design Strategies, Policy Recommendations