



# LIBRARY COMMISSION

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# ABOUT THE INITIATIVE



The Civic Center Commons Initiative is the strategic effort led by the City of San Francisco and community partners that aims to transform daily experiences in the public spaces linking Market Street to City Hall and create a unified, inclusive civic commons.



*Friday Night Market, UN Plaza, 2015*

# OVERVIEW



**The Civic Center Commons (the Commons)** is a new collective name for UN Plaza, Civic Center Plaza, and Fulton Street between the Asian Art Museum and the San Francisco Main Public Library. These spaces play a critical role in our civic life and provide a commons where San Franciscans come together to connect - and unite - around our shared values.



*Women's March, Fulton Street, 2017*

# OVERVIEW



Neighbors, community and cultural organizations, and City agencies are now working together alongside people who frequent these plazas to foster a unified gathering place on a daily basis.

**The Civic Center Commons Initiative (the Initiative)** is our effort to bring more positive and inclusive activity to the area through interactive art installations and play structures, public space stewardship, new workforce development partnerships, and more frequent activities and events.

# AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH



**Key to the Initiative is a deliberately inclusive approach**, both in how the Initiative is planned and who the Commons ultimately serves. We work closely with community stakeholders on how to bring new activation to the area that is respectful and successful in engaging those who rely on the Commons as their neighborhood open space.



*Downtown Streets Team, Fulton Street, 2016*

# THE FOUR PILLARS



The Initiative has four pillars that aim to bring an immediate shift in how the Commons looks and feels on a day-to-day basis while building new partnerships to create a strong foundation for future capital investments.

## **1. DAILY DESTINATIONS**

## **2. INCLUSIVE STEWARDSHIP**

## **3. IDENTITY**

## **4. MANAGEMENT**



# DAILY DESTINATIONS



Establish human-scale hubs of activity in each of the three spaces that feature:

Interactive art installations and play structures

Tables and seating, decorative lighting

Increased daily presence of food and drink

Regular daily programming and special events



*Sound Commons, UN Plaza, 2016*

# INCLUSIVE STEWARDSHIP



Dedicate new staff to the destinations who ensure a welcoming space and act as docents for the art installations and play structures on a daily basis through a workforce partnership with the **Hunters Point Family organization and San Francisco Public Works**



*Hunters Point Family Stewards, Civic Center Plaza, 2017*



# INCLUSIVE STEWARDSHIP



Partner with innovative social services, such as **Downtown Streets Team**, who engages unhoused individuals in work experience through public space beautification while providing case management to help participants find jobs and housing



*Downtown Streets Team, Civic Center Plaza, 2016*

# IDENTITY



Create a **website** where people can find information about what's happening in the Commons

Bring **new visual elements** (e.g. area-wide art installations, signage) to **link and unify the three spaces**, such as the upcoming community-driven yarn tree wrapping installation called Knitting the Commons, which will span all three destinations



*Yarn Tree Wrapping Demo, 2017*

# MANAGEMENT



Streamline the existing public space management for immediate day-to-day improvements

Establish a formal public/private management partnership for upcoming capital investments



*Future Helen Diller Civic Center Playgrounds*

# LOOKING FORWARD



There is a long-range effort underway to redesign the open space that comprises the Commons: **The Civic Center Public Realm Plan (the Public Realm Plan)**.

The Public Realm Plan team, led by San Francisco Planning, is working closely with the Initiative team to ensure that lessons learned in the Commons are incorporated into the Public Realm Plan and a new public/private management partnership is in place in order to leverage the Public Realm Plan's investment. Learn more at [civiccentersf.org](http://civiccentersf.org).



[civiccentercommons.org](http://civiccentercommons.org)