



# **DOWNTOWN SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN AND DOWNTOWN PUBLIC REALM FRAMEWORK PLAN**

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
Meeting #3**

**January 6, 2015  
9-10:30am**

# MEETING AGENDA

- » Welcome/Introduction
- » Review Take-Home and Small-Group Exercise
- » Community Engagement Plan Update
- » Steering Committee Meeting Summary
- » Park Assessment Update
- » Street Element Matrix Review
- » Small Group Workshop- Mapping Themes

# TAKE HOME EXERCISE OVERVIEW

- » Describe an urban space or program that you love, and think would be a great addition to our City's downtown.
- » Why is it right for Minneapolis?
- » What, if anything, needs to change in order to make it happen here?



# URBAN SPACE OR PROGRAM



Rice Park, St. Paul



The Forks, Winnipeg, Canada



Freeway Park, Seattle



Granville Island, Vancouver, Canada



North End Parks, Boston



Movable furniture



Millennium Park, Chicago



Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland

# URBAN SPACE OR PROGRAM



Food Trucks, Austin, TX



Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston



Tuileries Gardens, Paris



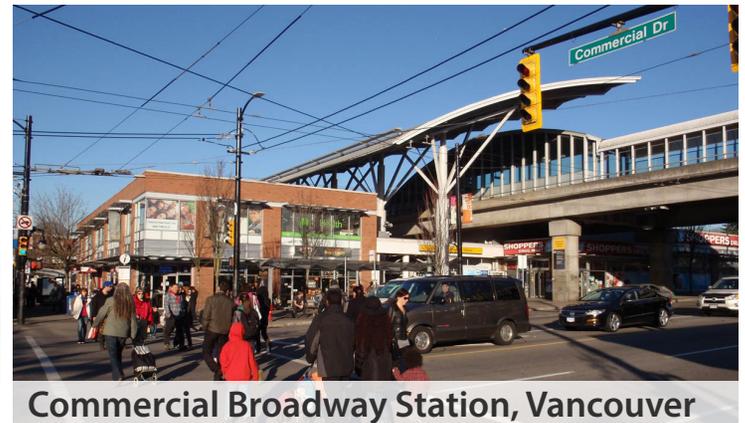
Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Indianapolis



Green space, Minneapolis



Concert on the Square, Madison



Commercial Broadway Station, Vancouver

# WHY IS IT RIGHT FOR MPLS?

- Vibrant, centrally located, and accessible green spaces and plazas can be **places of positive activity**
- Fun, energetic, and whimsical elements in parks/plazas, including movable furniture and public art, **engage people in a playful manner**
- Vegetation and water features **bring nature into the city and mask city noise**



# WHY IS IT RIGHT FOR MPLS?

- Bike/pedestrian trails that incorporate arts and recreation **reflect the City's culture**
- Public gardens, seasonal activities, concerts, public markets and shops **attract people year-round**
- Food trucks **encourage entrepreneurial spirit and provide place for people to eat and share ideas**
- Urban parks **create backyard for downtown residents**



# WHY IS IT RIGHT FOR MPLS?

- Public gathering spaces and river recreation opportunities (including canoe/kayak rentals and water taxis) **connect people to the riverfront**
- Vibrant transit hubs with food, stores, and coffee shops **encourage use of transit**
- Small scale parks located near vibrant, populated landmarks **ensure foot traffic and year-round activity**



# WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

- An organization that programs space in downtown Minneapolis
- Park Board or City may need to acquire prime downtown real estate
- Strategy for maintenance of public amenities, such as movable furniture
- Balance of hardscape and vegetation to support programming
- Look to precedents for successful examples
- Leverage existing projects to incorporate new ideas
- Creativity and risk taking on all levels of planning

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE



# STEERING COMMITTEE SUMMARY

- » Data practices summary
- » Project overview, development and approval processes of plans, and project schedules
- » Role of the Steering Committee
- » Relationship between committees and reporting
- » Engagement discussion
- » Public comment

# PARKS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

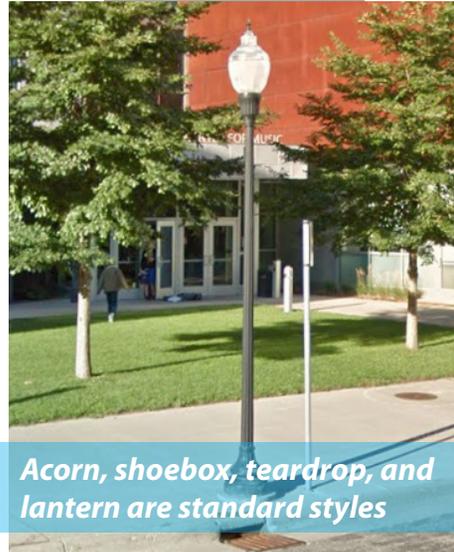
## *Information gathered:*

- **Athletic fields and courts** (baseball, basketball, handball, horseshoe, shuffleboard, soccer, tennis, volleyball)
- **Furniture** (benches, bike racks, charcoal grills, game tables, trash bins, drinking fountains, picnic tables)
- **Signage and lighting**
- **Playgrounds and workout equipment**
- **Building structures**
- **Dog parks**
- **Skate-parks**

# STANDARD VS. ENHANCED STREET

STREET  
ELEMENTS

LIGHTING



*Acorn, shoebox, teardrop, and lantern are standard styles*

WAYFINDING/  
SIGNAGE



*Signage on Nicollet Mall*

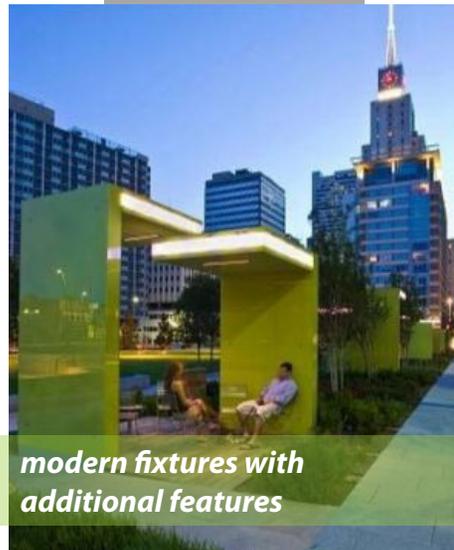
SEATING



*U.S. Benchcorp standard bench*

EXISTING

ENHANCED



*modern fixtures with additional features*



*custom, lighted wayfinding signage*



*flexible seating (custom/modern styles) with wood, metal*

# STANDARD VS. ENHANCED STREET

STREET  
ELEMENTS

BIKE RACKS

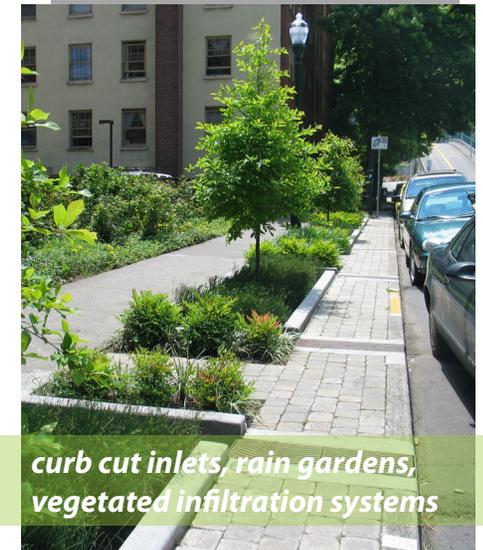
SURFACES

GREEN  
INFRASTRUCTURE

EXISTING



ENHANCED



# STANDARD VS. ENHANCED STREET

## STREET ELEMENTS

### STREET TREES /PLANTINGS



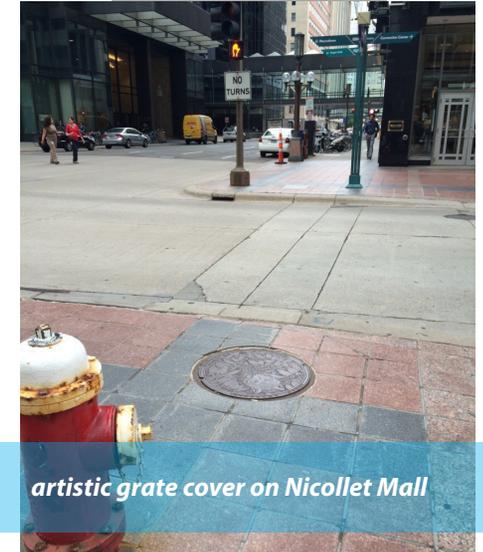
*Tree pits or trenches, with mulch and ground-cover plants; 7' min boulevard*

### TRASH/ RECYCLING



*Standard DID garbage and recycling bins*

### PUBLIC ART



*artistic grate cover on Nicollet Mall*

## EXISTING

## ENHANCED



*Width varies, native plantings, infiltration basins/gardens*



*'smart' bins with more options for composting, etc...*



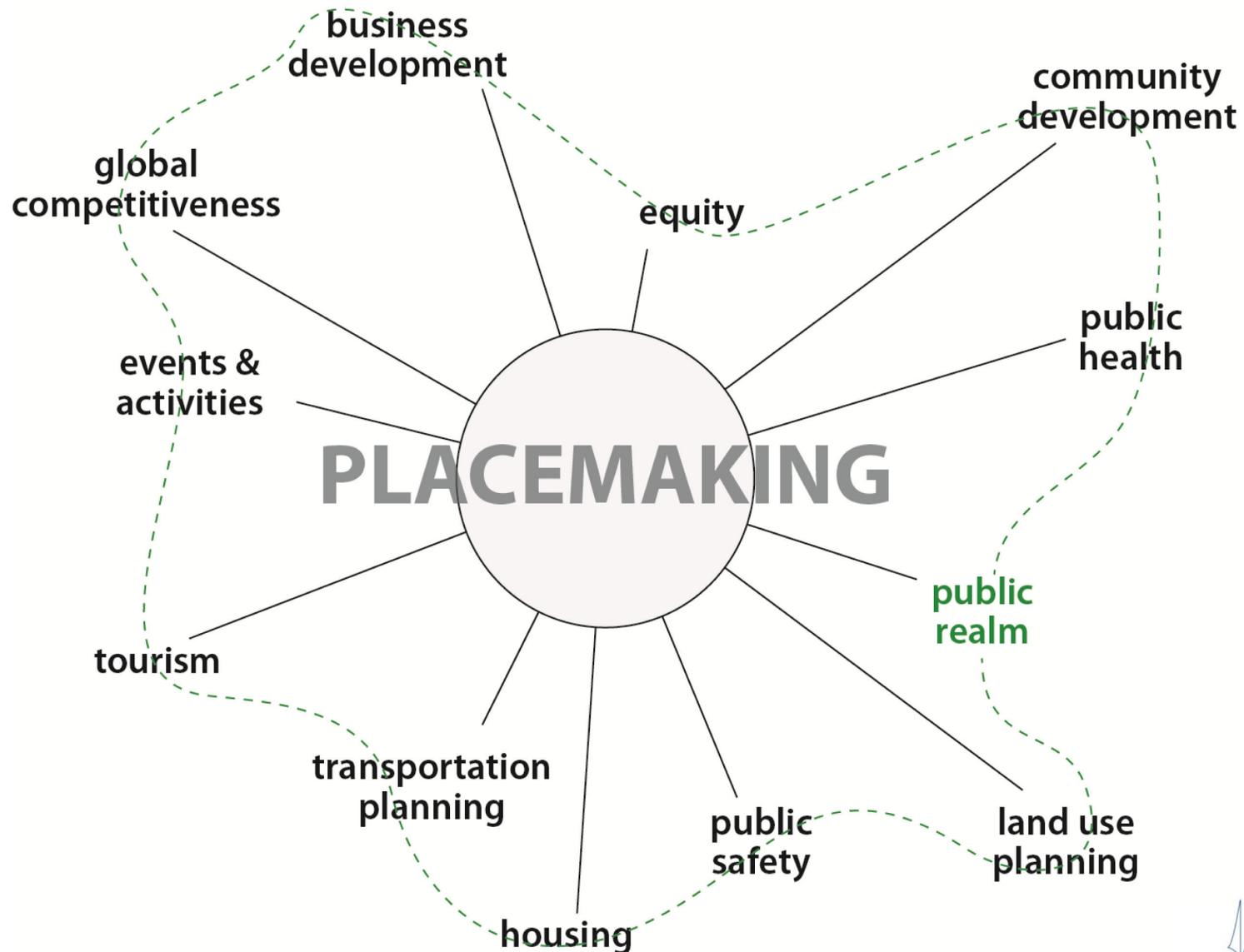
*Interactive, multi-sensory art*

# THEMES+PROGRAMMING

- » Mobility and access
- » Wayfinding
- » Commerce
- » Social gathering
- » Events and programming
- » Play and recreation
- » Urban agriculture
- » Green infrastructure
- » Image and identity



# DEFINING "PATHS & PLACES"



# DEFINING "PATHS & PLACES"

The downtown public realm should be a navigable network of PLACES with a clear hierarchy and legible identity.



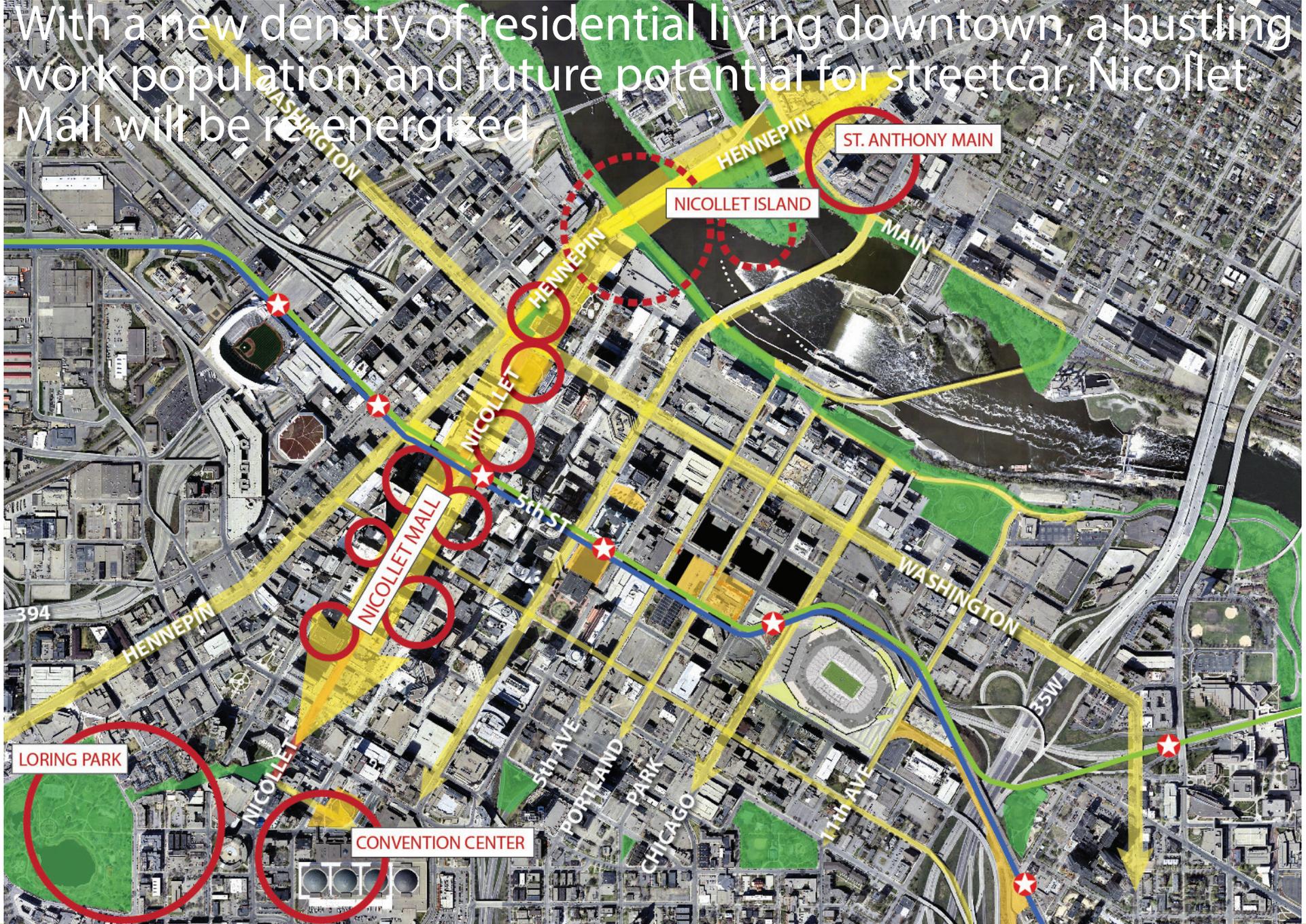
# DEFINING "PATHS & PLACES"

The Mississippi riverfront and the park system is a key to our civic identity.



# DEFINING "PATHS & PLACES"

With a new density of residential living downtown, a bustling work population, and future potential for streetcar, Nicollet Mall will be reenergized



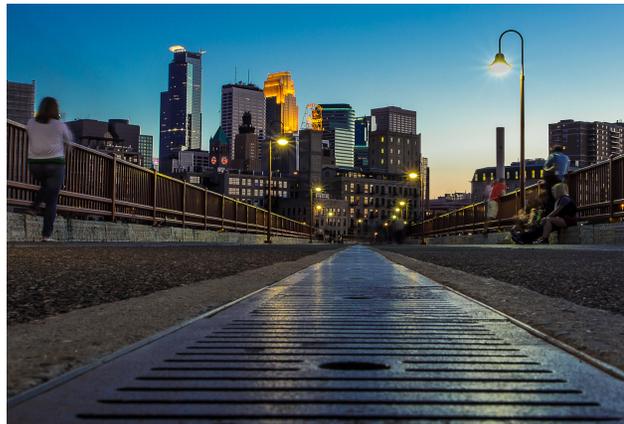
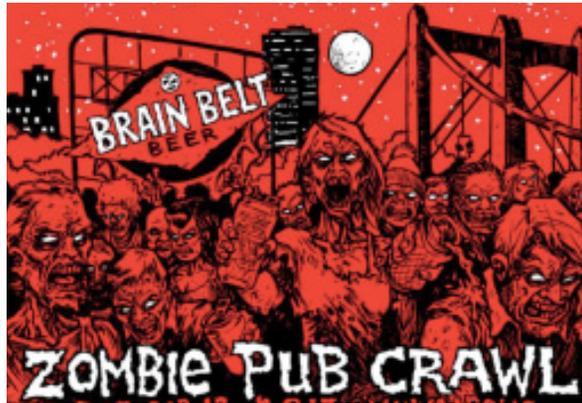
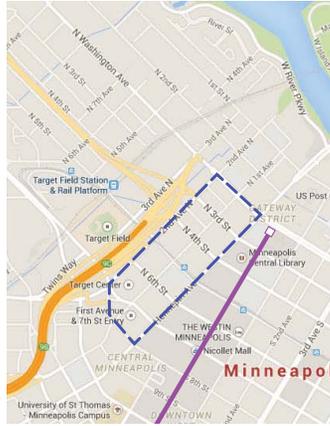
# DEFINING "PATHS & PLACES"

The 5th Ave LRT corridor could be considered an "event corridor"; as one of the primary arrival points for visitors, this corridor should be active and welcoming.



# DEFINING "PATHS & PLACES"

- » Corridors
- » Districts
- » Events & Happenings
- » Landmarks



# DEFINING “PATHS & PLACES”



## » Corridors

- » *Event/Activity Corridor*
- » *Arts & Cultural Corridor*
- » *Corridor of Arrival*



## » Districts

- » *[Venue] District*
- » *Shopping/Dining District*
- » *Character District*
- » *[Amenity] District*



## » Happenings

- » *Farmers Markets*
- » *Civic Gathering*
- » *Street or District Events*
- » *Big Venue Events*



## » Parks and Landmarks

- » *Important Buildings*
- » *Parks*
- » *Iconic Features*
- » *Views*

# DEFINING “PATHS & PLACES”

- » Each small group will create a map with at least corridors, districts, happenings, and landmarks.
- » Each group should add more categories and symbols as needed, and create a legend to define the features you are representing.



# GROUP EXERCISE

- Where are the gaps in the parks assessment - both in information gathering and opportunities for change
- What would a seamless connection between parks in Downtown Minneapolis look like? Linkages...
- Corridors/destinations and meaningful themes/activities
- .....

# NEXT STEPS

- » TAC will meet first Tuesday of every month through May 2015:
  - 2/3, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5
  
- » Upcoming Steering Committee meetings:
  - 1/15, 3/19, 5/21, 7/16