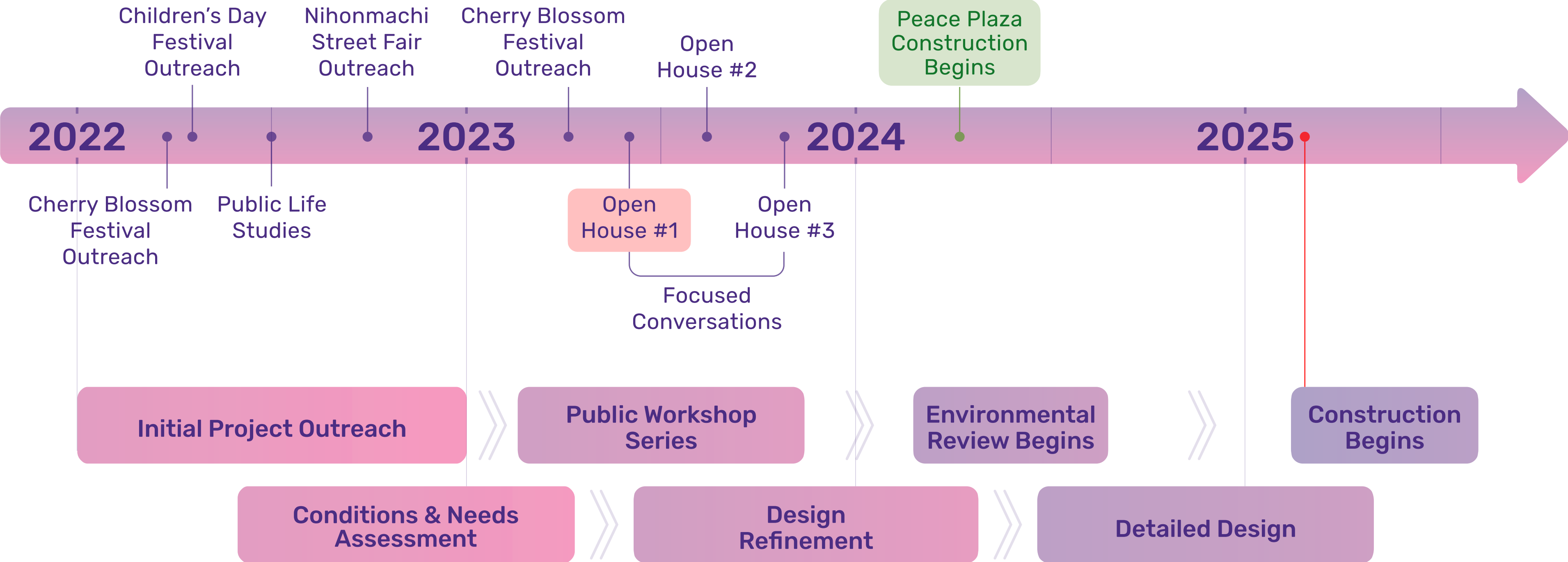


# INTRODUCTION | 序章 | INTRODUCCIÓN

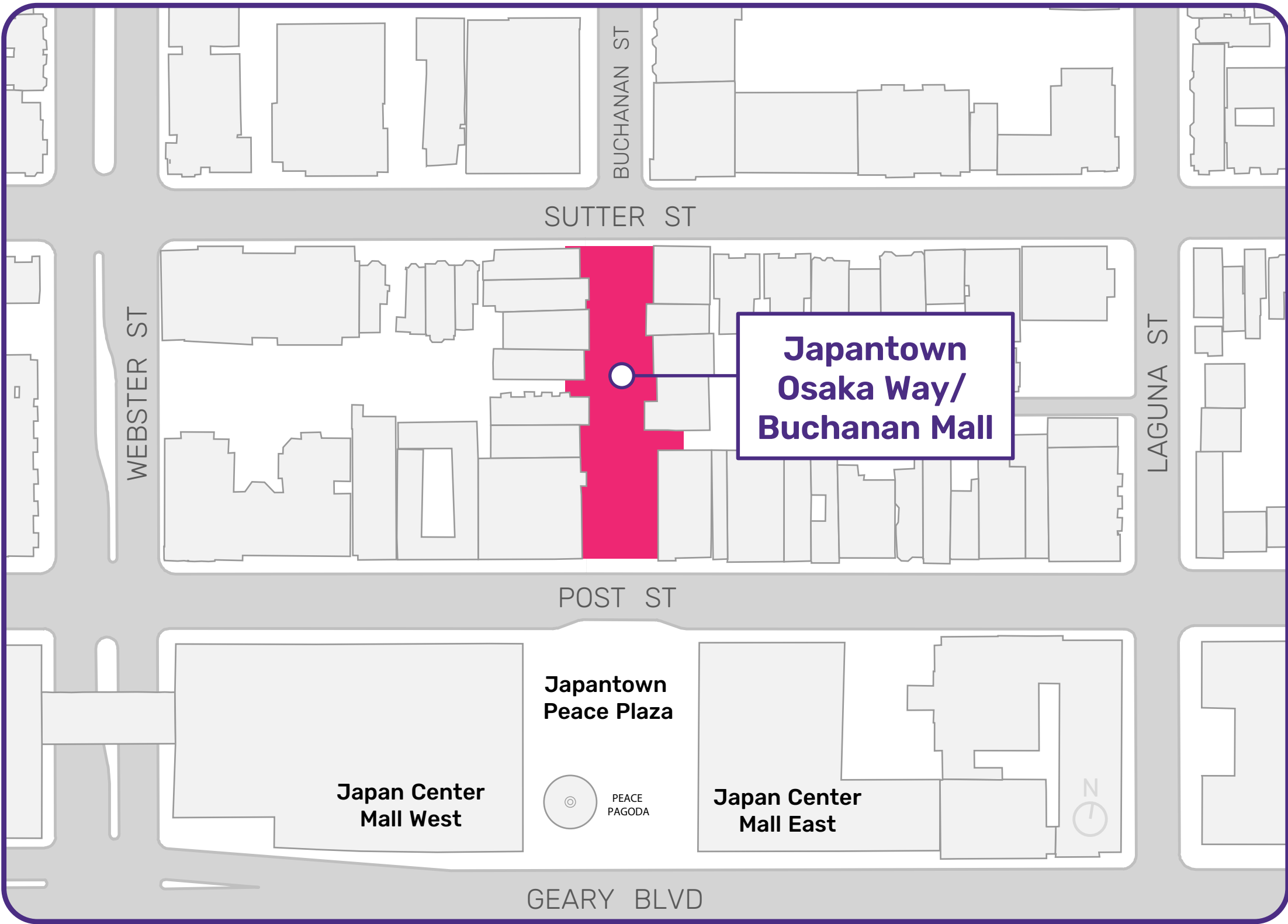
## PROJECT OVERVIEW | プロジェクト概要 | DESCRIPCIÓN DEL PROYECTO

**Japantown's Osaka Way (Buchanan Mall)** is the pedestrian portion of Buchanan Street that runs for one block between Post and Sutter streets. Along with Peace Plaza, it's the geographic and cultural heart of the neighborhood. This walkway is lined by restaurants, stores, and cultural institutions on both sides, allowing residents and visitors to experience Japantown's culture in a pedestrian environment. Designed in the 1960s, Osaka Way is paved with a river of cobblestones, connecting two fountain installations, consisting of origami flower forms designed by renowned artist Ruth Asawa, and surrounded by low, circular stone walls. In 2022, the project received a General Fund Grant of \$5,000,000 from the California Natural Resources Agency. The City has submitted applications for additional funding to implement the project. The community has identified some areas where Osaka Way needs upgrades. What are your ideas for this space?

## PROJECT TIMELINE | プロジェクトタイムライン | CRONOGRAMA



## SITE MAP | サイトマップ | MAPA DE SITIO



## PROJECT GOALS | プロジェクトの目標 | OBJETIVOS

### 1 ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY

Enhance accessibility of Osaka Way for seniors and people with disabilities and limited mobility.

### 2 RESTORE THE RUTH ASAWA FOUNTAINS

Rehabilitate the Ruth Asawa fountains that are iconic to Osaka Way.

### 3 SUPPORT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Support the business community by embellishing the sense of cultural authenticity and enhancing the commercial edges of Osaka Way.



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MAY 31, 2023

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**OSAKA WAY (BUCHANAN MALL)**  
UPGRADES PROJECT

**ジャパントウン**  
**大阪道 (ブキャナン・モール)**  
アップグレードプロジェクト



PUBLIC REALM | 公共部門 | ÁMBITO PÚBLICO

BRIEF HISTORY | 略歴 | BREVE HISTORIA

1945

**San Francisco’s General Plan:**  
SF Planning’s first General Plan identified neighborhoods that were predominately people of color as “blighted” – including the Western Addition, South of Market, Chinatown, the Mission, and Bayview/Hunter’s Point.  
The Redevelopment Agency used this designation to justify the wholesale removal of Black, Japanese and Japanese American, and other communities of color through eminent domain.

1956

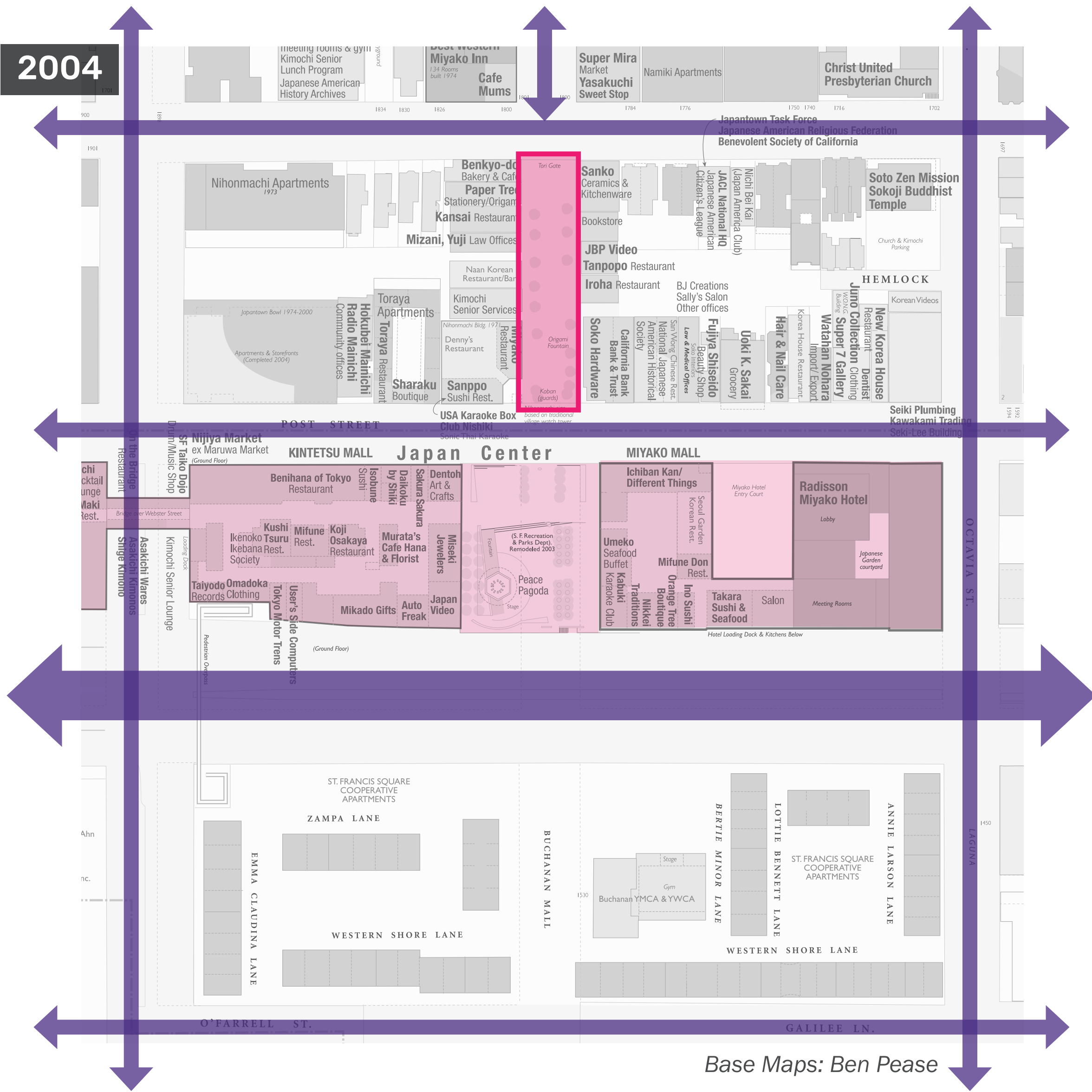
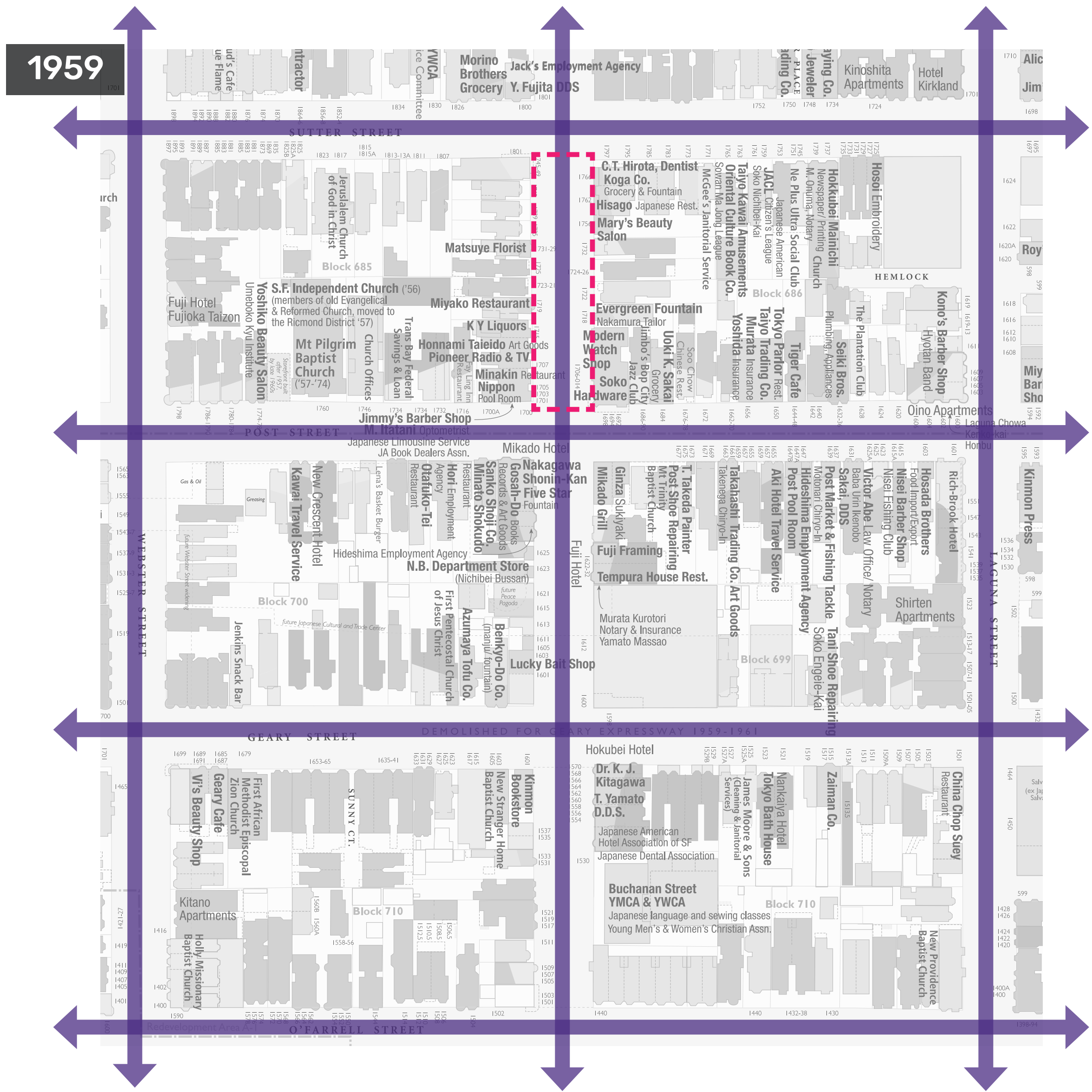
**Redevelopment Phase A-1:**  
The wholesale eviction of residents and businesses and the flattening of entire blocks of buildings on and south of Post Street began.  
Communities across Japantown and Western Addition began organizing against redevelopment efforts. This empowerment led to the birth of new community-serving organizations, an organized effort to protect their physical community base and a willingness to resist the forces pushing people of color out of the Western Addition.

1966

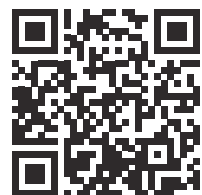
**Redevelopment Phase A-2:**  
The A-1 protests had a marked effect on the Redevelopment Phase A-2, which sought community input, invested in the rehabilitation of existing structures, and concentrated on constructing residential and community buildings with a smaller, neighborhood scale.

1970s & 1980s

Redevelopment buildings of the 1970s–1980s, such as Buchanan Mall, the JCCNC, Nichi Bei Kai, JACL, Konkō Church and Soto Zen Sokoji Temple, all proudly expressing traditional Japanese architectural influences.



Base Maps: Ben Pease



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# SITE HISTORY | サイトの歴史 | HISTORIA DEL SITIO

BRIEF HISTORY | 略歴 | BREVE HISTORIA

“...urban hallway, linking the various elements of Nihonmachi and designed to be used by walkers only.”  
“...lively and active,” but with “contrast to the larger scale, highly stylized development across Post Street to the south [to] be sharp.”

(excerpts from Van Bourg-Nakamura Architects & Rai Okamoto’s 1963 urban design study)

1963 Urban design study

1970s Ruth Asawa commission

1970s Construction

1976 Project completion

1999 Fountains recast in bronze

2007 Renamed Osaka Way



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# RUTH ASAWA | ルース・アサワ

## ORIGAMI FOUNTAINS | 折り紙噴水 | FUENTES ORIGAMI

Ruth Asawa (1926 – 2013), a second-generation Japanese American artist was best known for her looped- and tied-wire sculptures and many public artworks throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area.

In 1975-1976, artist Ruth Asawa designed the Origami Fountains in the plaza at the Buchanan Street Mall. The plaza and entrance gate were completed in 1976. At their initial installation, the fountains experienced pump problems and did not function as designed. The fountains corroded due to disuse and were removed as a safety hazard in 1995.

However, at the urging of the community and Ruth Asawa herself, Buchanan Mall was revitalized and the refabricated bronze fountains, created by Asawa, were installed in 1999. At that time they were designated as City Art Pieces by the San Francisco Arts Commission.

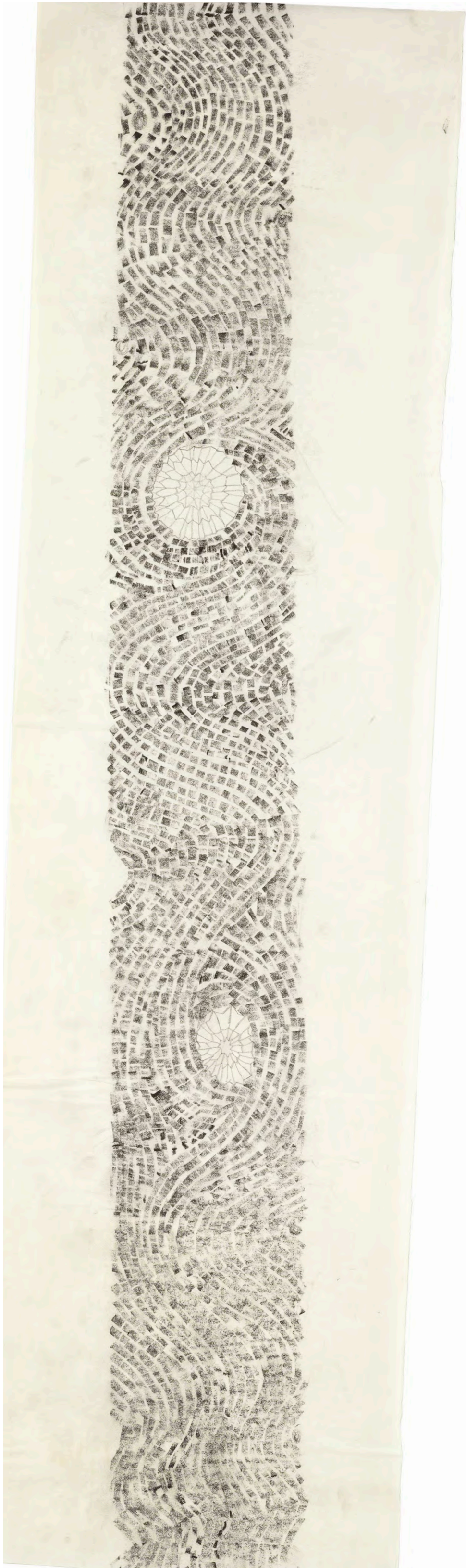
The Origami Fontains were designed with a “river” of cobblestones referencing early San Francisco streets. The “river” flows toward Peace Plaza. Currently, the fountains are not operational. The main objective of this project is to restore the fountain’s operation and provide the necessary masonry and concrete work needed to do so.



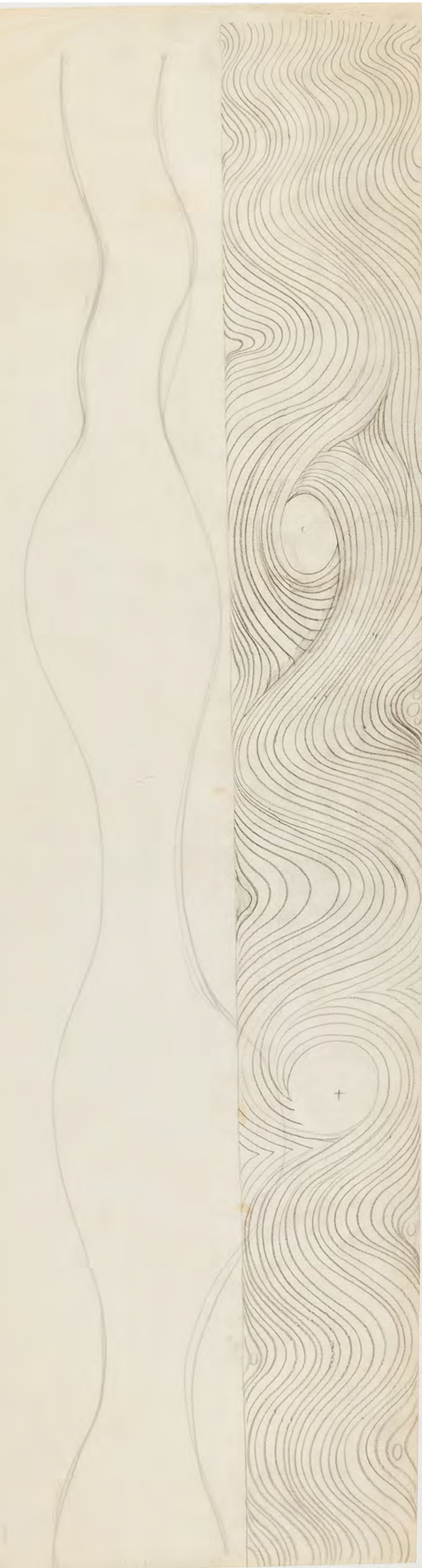
Asawa with Origami Fountains, Japantown, 1982. Photo by Kelly Mooney.



One of the original Origami Fountains in corten steel. Courtesy Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc.



Untitled (SD.166, Sculpture Drawing of Cobblestone River Plan), c. 1976



Untitled (AB.019, Swirl Pattern Drawing), n.d.

All Artwork © 2023 Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc./Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Courtesy David Zwirner.



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# RUTH ASAWA | ルース・アサワ

## CONCRETE BENCHES | コンクリートベンチ | BANCAS DE CONCRETO

Asawa also created the wood and concrete benches located at intervals along the Mall. She enlisted the help of the Buchanan Mall merchants' children in making the relief panels that adorn the benches. Depicting scenes from Japanese fairy tales and festivals, the panels were sculpted in Baker's Clay dough (one of Asawa's favored mediums when working with children) before being cast in concrete.



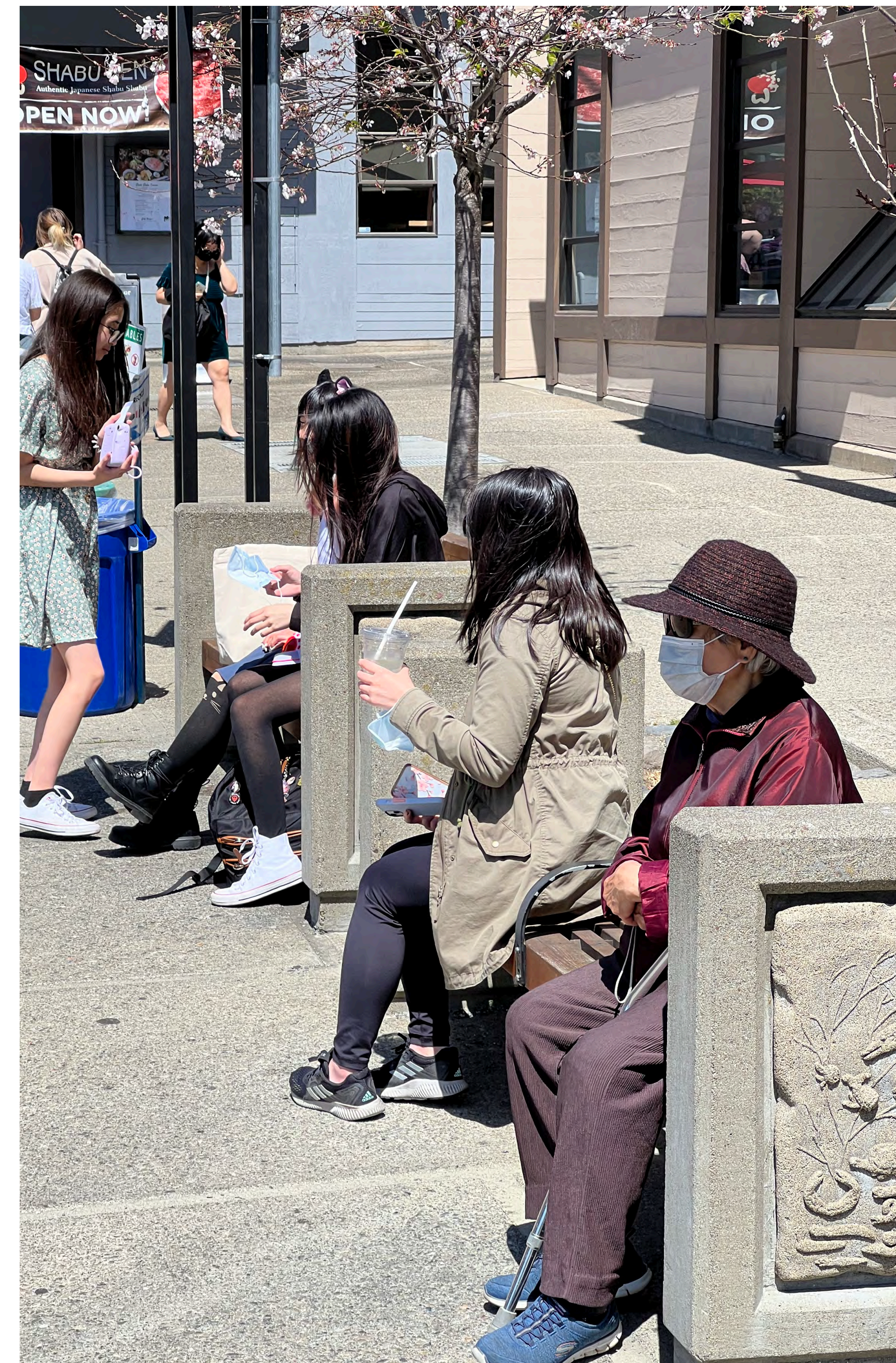
Cast concrete sculpted with children of the neighboring shopkeepers. Photo by James Jue.



Image in the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy, 2013.

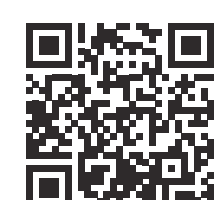


Detailed views of two concrete bench end panels, 2023.



Benches in use. Image by SF Planning, 2022

All Artwork © 2023 Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc./Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Courtesy David Zwirner.



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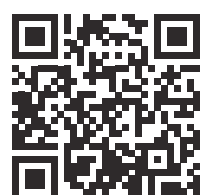
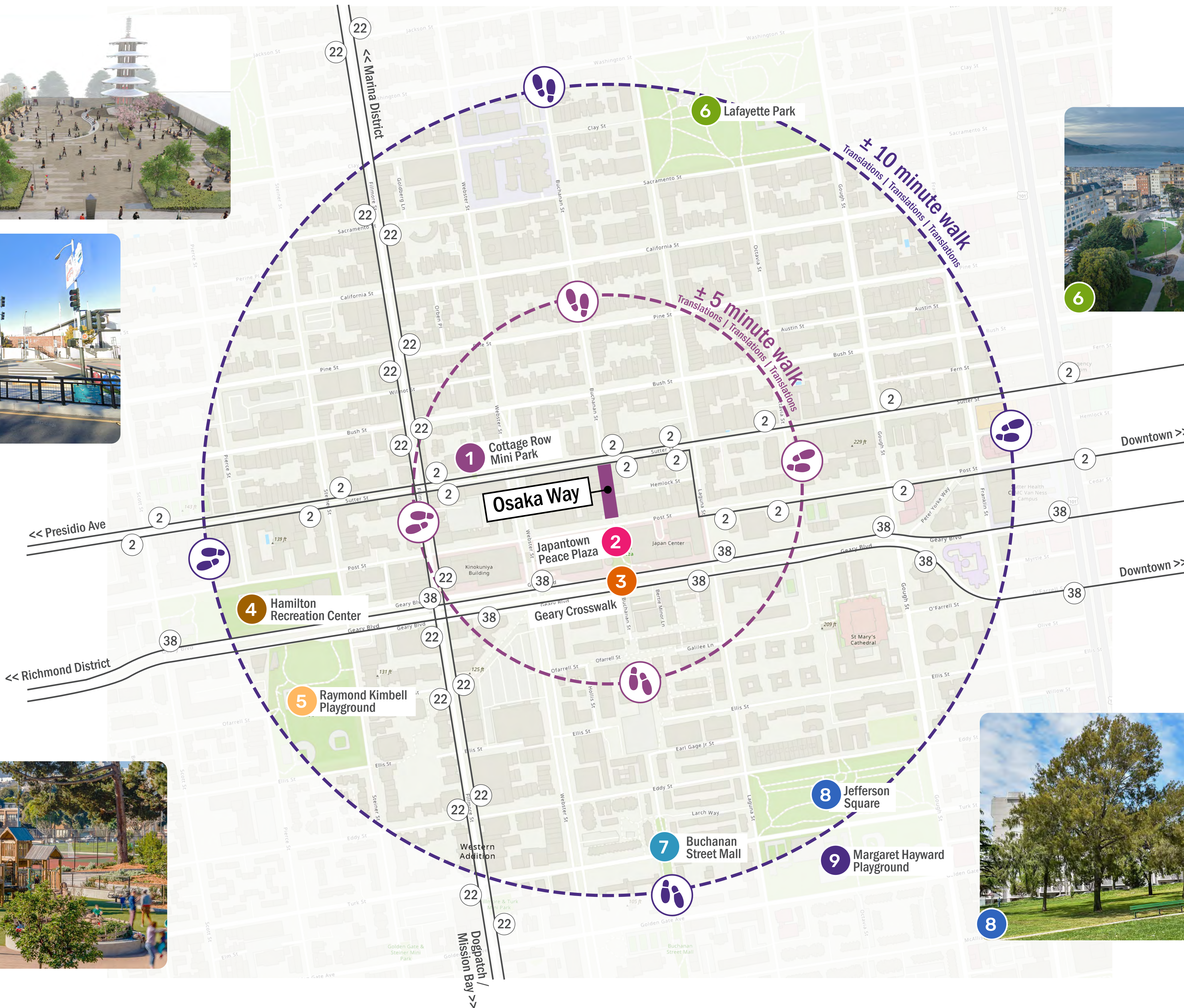
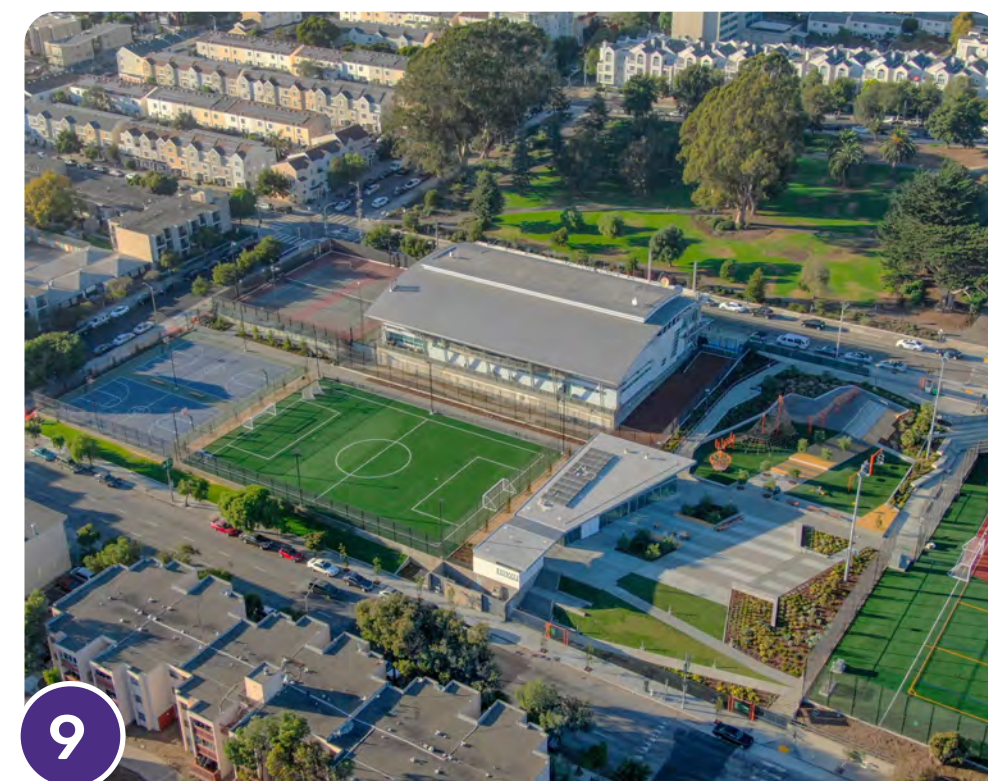
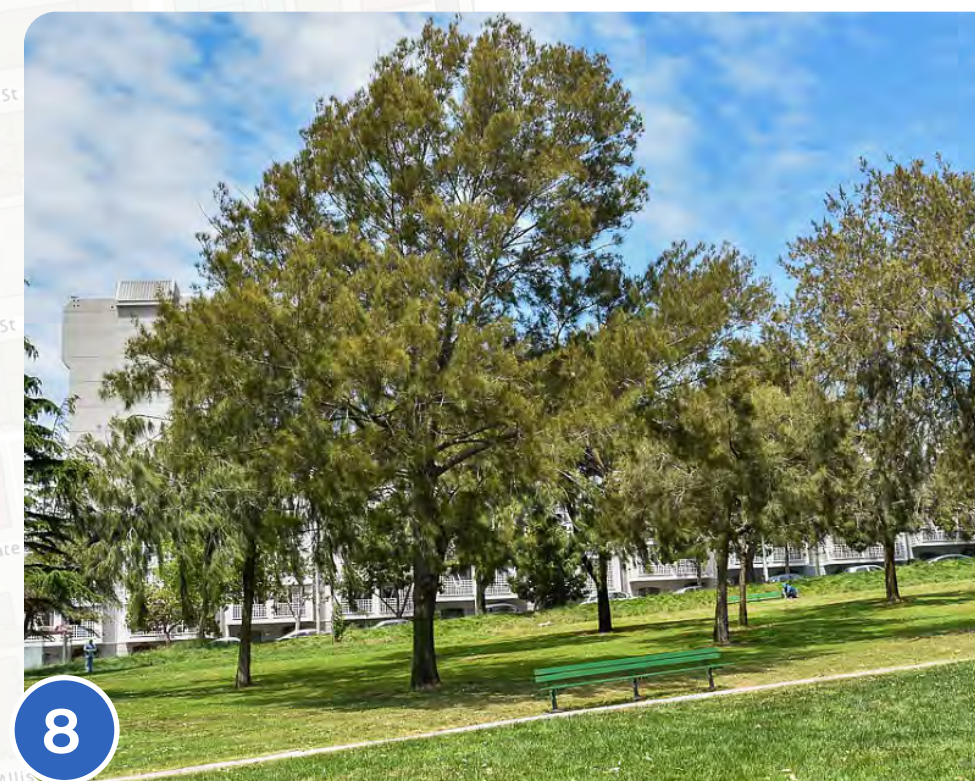
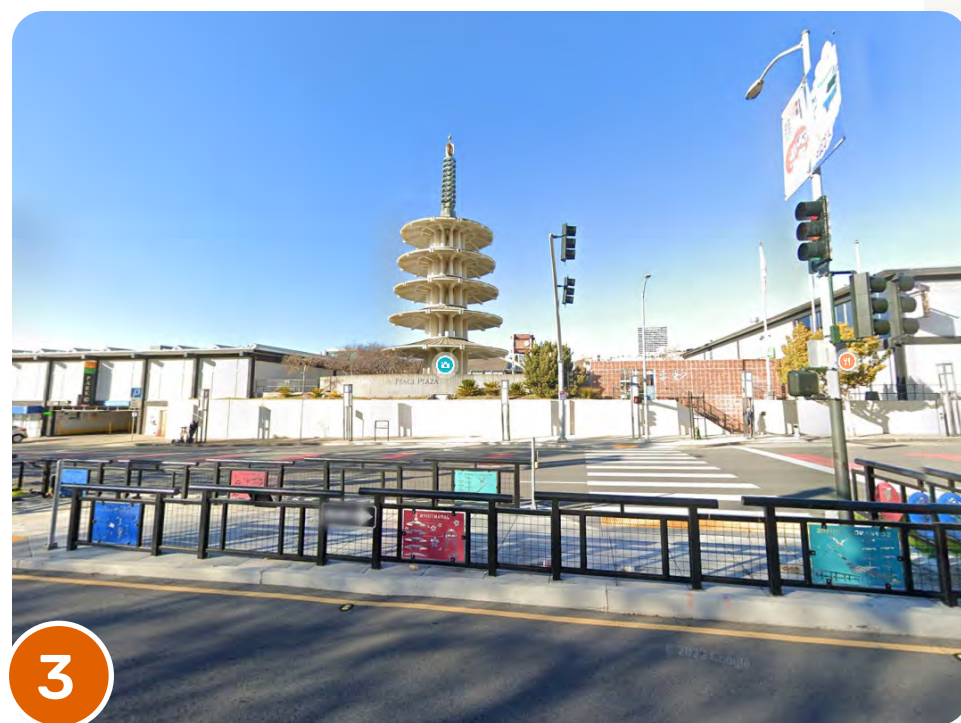
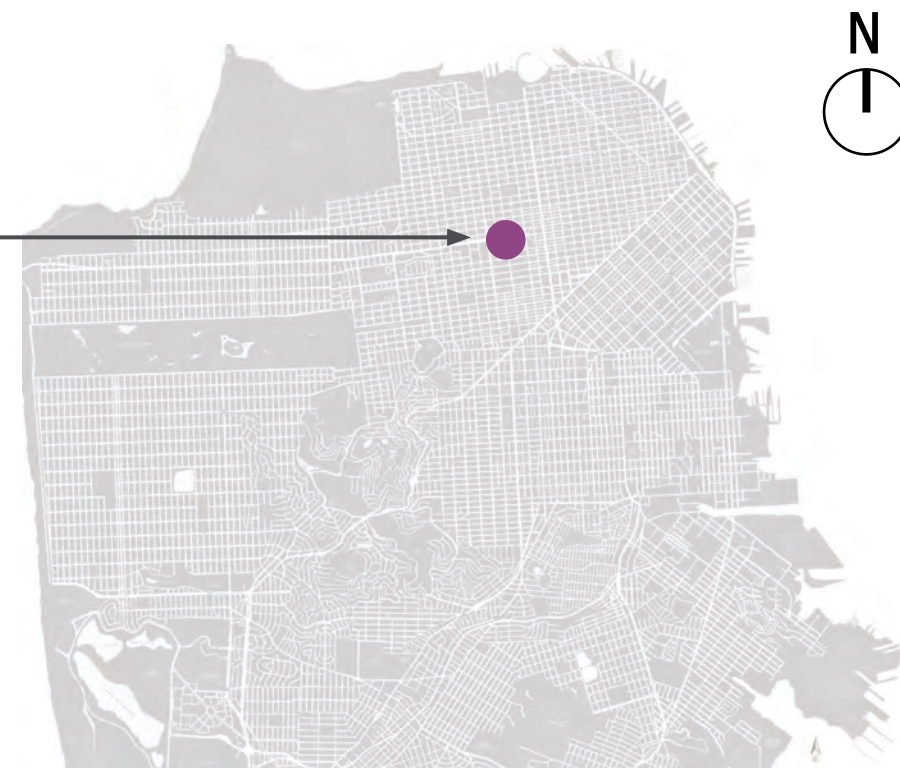
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# CONNECTIVITY | 接続性 | CONECTIVIDAD

SITE CONTEXT | サイトの歴史的背景 | CONTEXTO DE SITIO

Osaka Way -  
Buchanan St, Post St to Sutter St



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# BUCHANAN STREET CORRIDOR | ブキャナン ストリート コリドー | CORREDOR CALLE BUCHANAN

SITE CONTEXT | サイトの歴史的背景 | CONTEXTO DE SITIO



Osaka Way  
大阪ウェイ

Japantown Peace Plaza  
ピースプラザ

Geary Crosswalk

Buchanan Street Mall



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# SCALE COMPARISON | スケール比較 | COMPARACIÓN DE ESCALAS

SITE CONTEXT | サイトの歴史的背景 | CONTEXTO DE SITIO

1. Bird's eye view

2. Osaka Way  
大阪ウェイ

3. Japantown Peace Plaza  
ピースプラザ

Rai Okamoto and Van Bourg/  
Nakamura's concept plans for  
a "village-scale" community  
center reflects "the wishes  
of the local citizens" for an  
environment characterized by  
an "intimate scale of buildings  
and spaces".

-Japantown Historic Context Statement,  
Donna Graves and Page & Turnbull, Inc.  
(2011)



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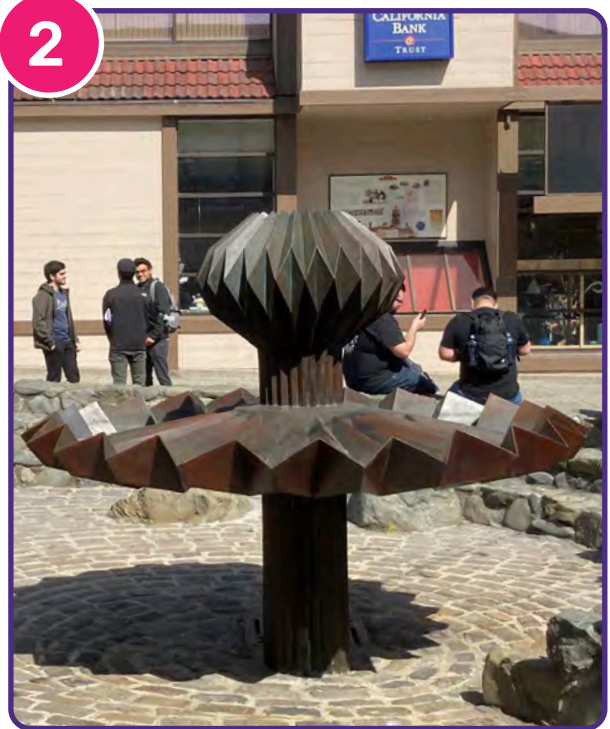


# EXISTING FORMS | 既存のフォーム | FORMAS EXISTENTES

BOULDER



RUTH ASAWA FOUNTAINS TO BE RESTORED



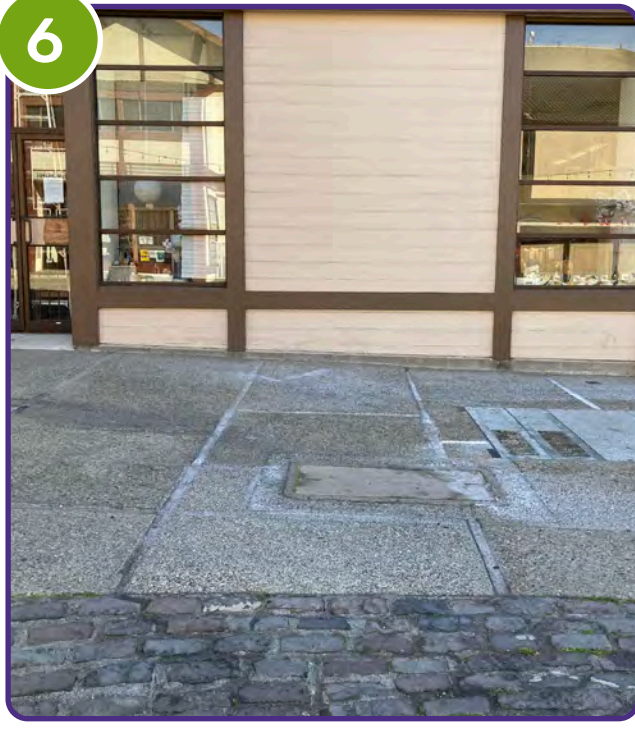
FOUNTAIN WALLS



COBBLE PAVING



CONCRETE PAVING

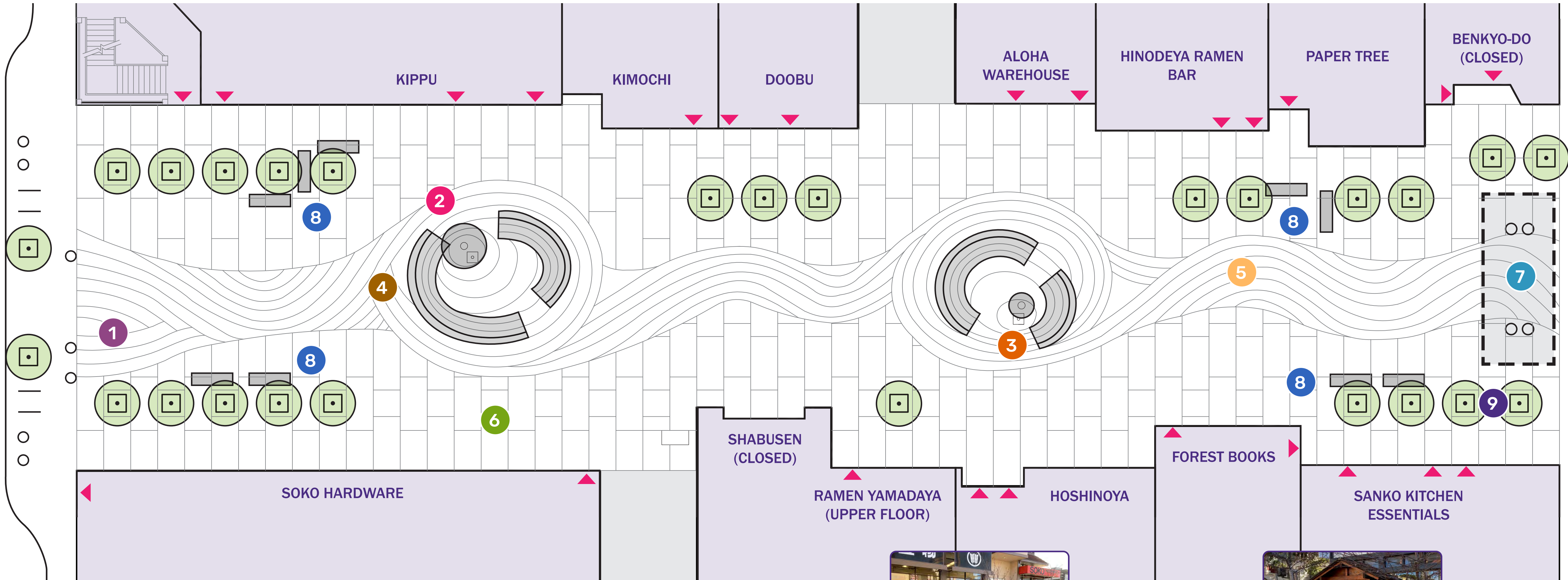


TORII GATE



POST STREET

SUTTER STREET



RUTH ASAWA BENCHES



UTILITY CABINET



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# EXISTING LIGHTING | 既存の照明 | ILUMINACIÓN EXISTENTE

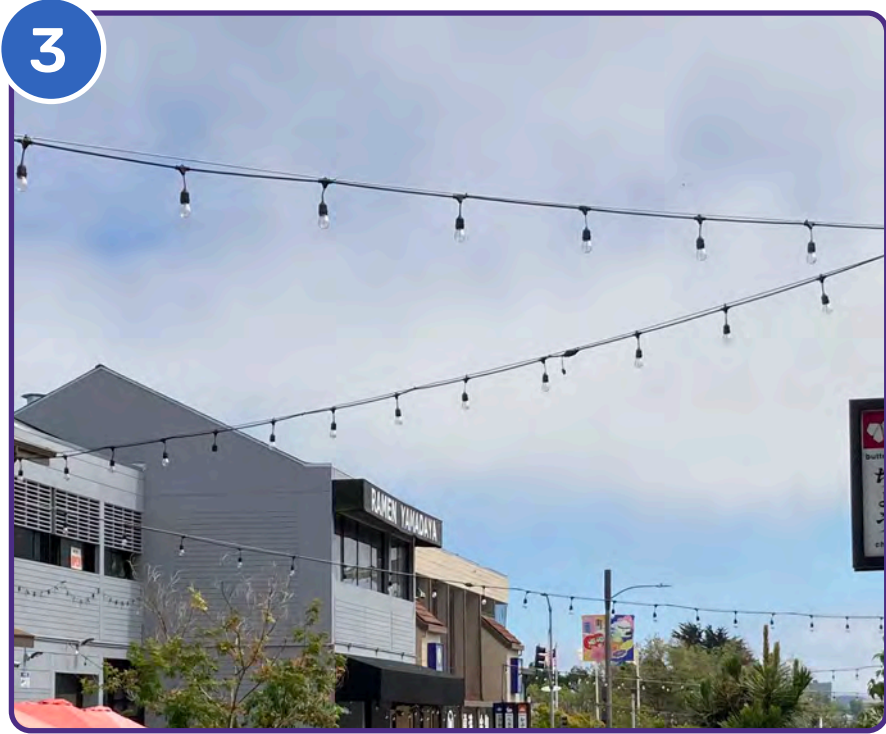
**STREET LIGHTS**  
街路灯  
Alumbrado público



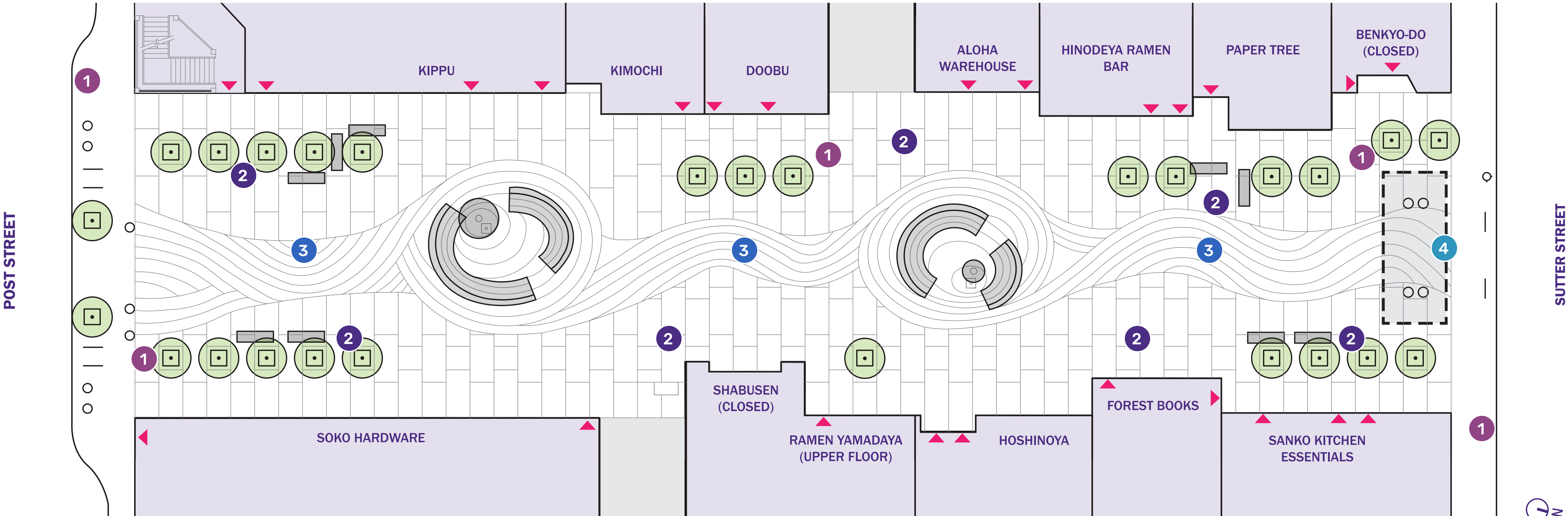
**PAPER LAMPS**  
ペーパーライト  
Lámparas de papel



**STRING LIGHTS**  
ストリングライト  
Luces colgantes



**TORII GATE LIGHTING**  
鳥居照明  
Luces de la puerta Torii



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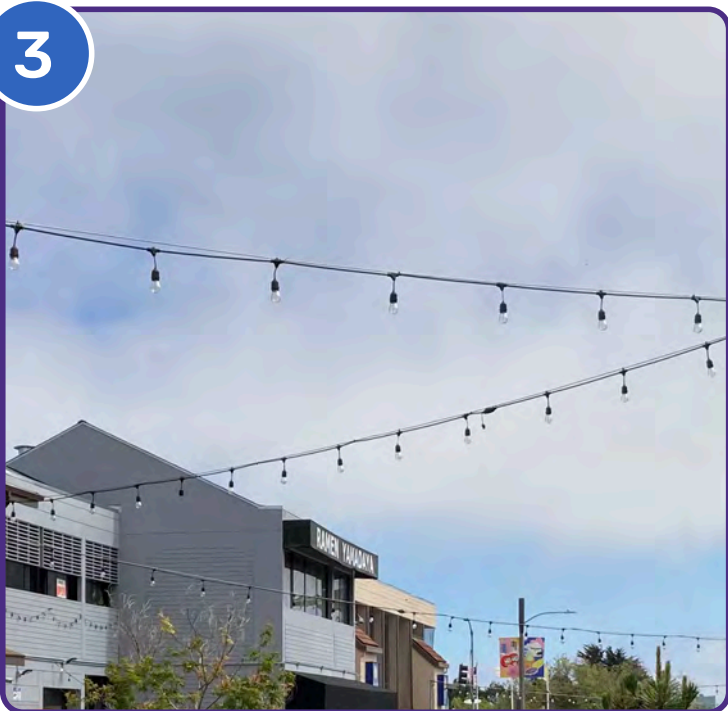
**STREET LIGHTS**  
街路灯  
Alumbrado público



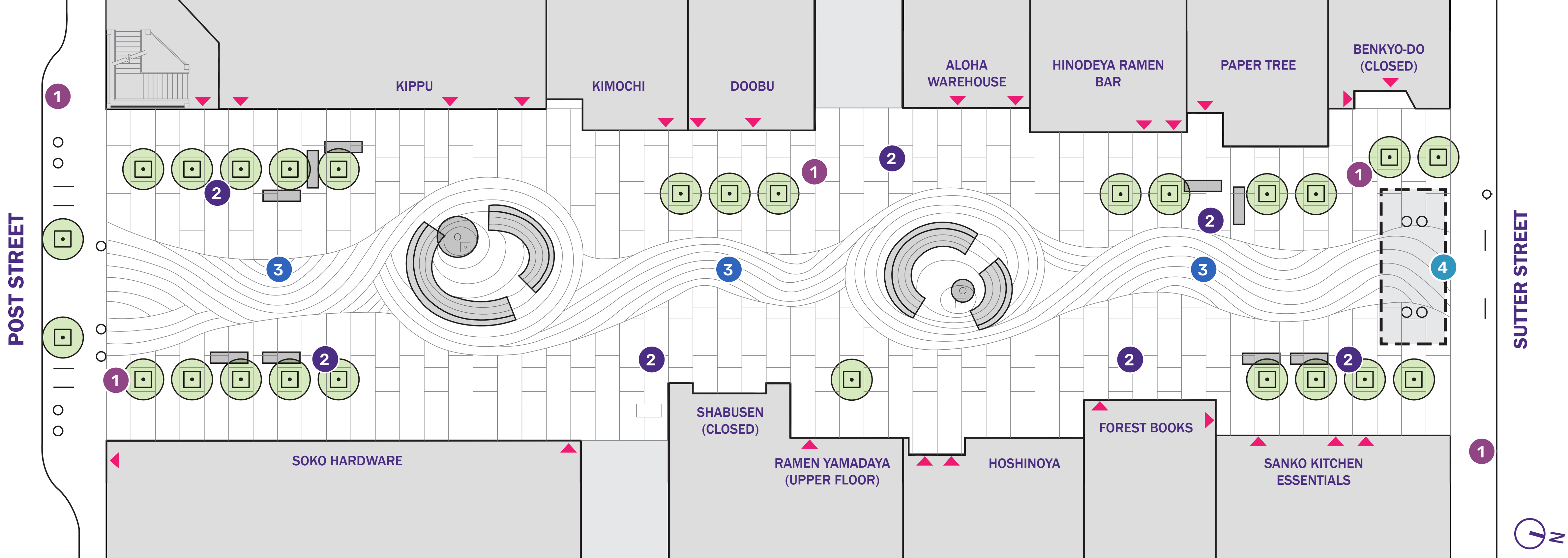
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ペーパーライト  
Lámparas de papel



**STRING LIGHTS**  
ストリングライト  
Luces colgantes



**Torii Gate Lighting**  
鳥居照明  
Luces de la puerta Torii



What lighting do you like and what would improve your experience in this space? | 好きな照明、または採用してみたい照明は？ | ¿Cuál iluminación le gusta y cuál mejoraría su experiencia en este espacio?



# EXISTING PLANTING | 既存の植栽 | VEGETACIÓN EXISTENTE

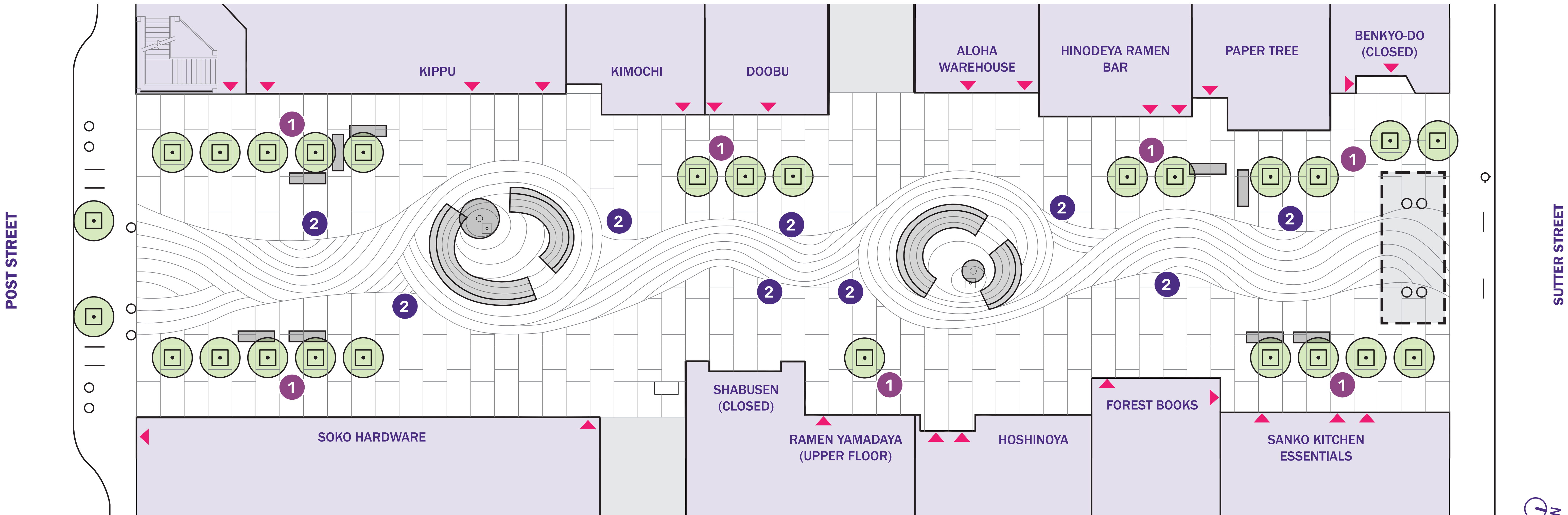
CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES  
桜の木  
Cerezos



TREE WELLS  
ツリーウェル  
Pozos para árboles



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# EXISTING PLANTING | 既存の植栽 | VEGETACIÓN EXISTENTE

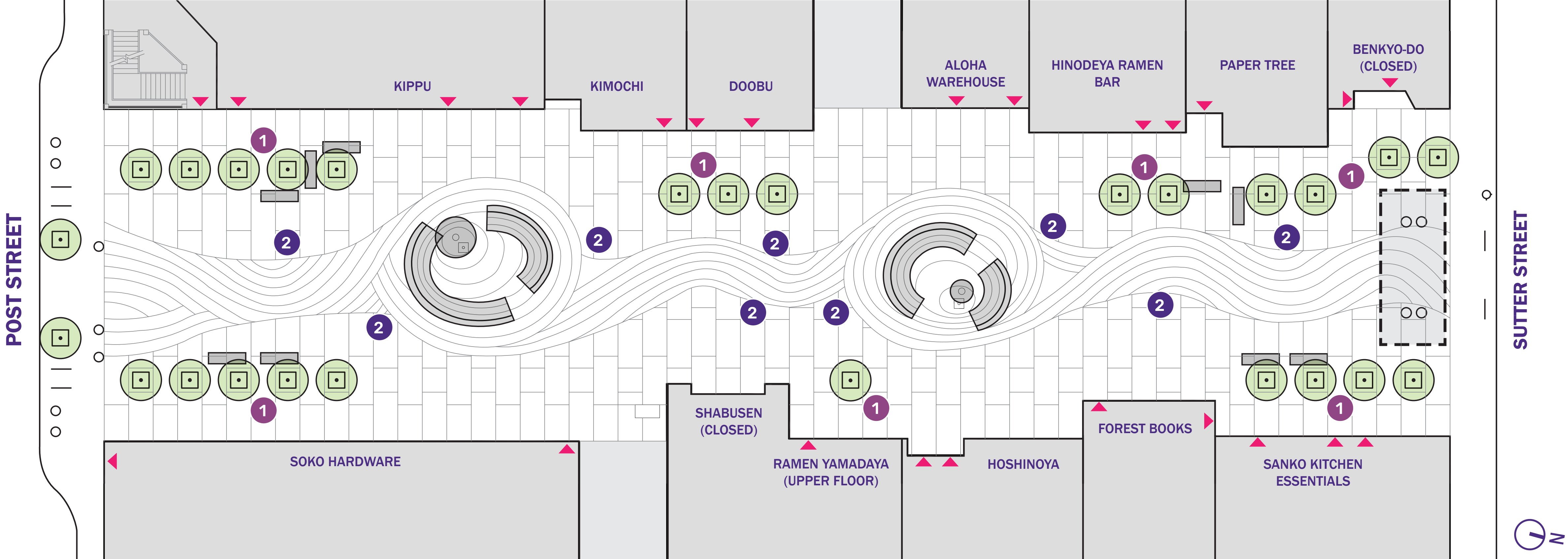
CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES  
桜の木  
Cerezos



PLANTERS  
プランター  
Macetas



TREE WELLS  
ツリーウェル  
Pozos para árboles



What planting do you like and what would improve your experience in this space? | 好きな植栽、または採用してみたい植栽は? | ¿Qué tipo de plantas o árboles le gusta? ¿Cuáles mejorarían su experiencia?



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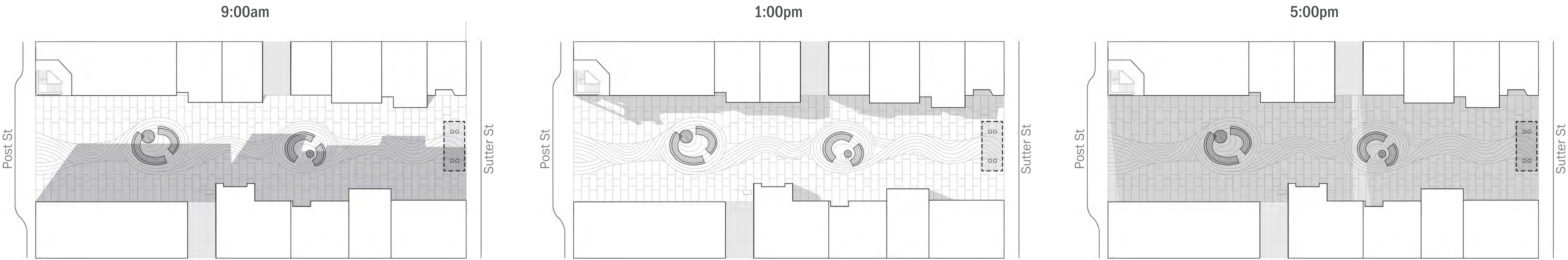
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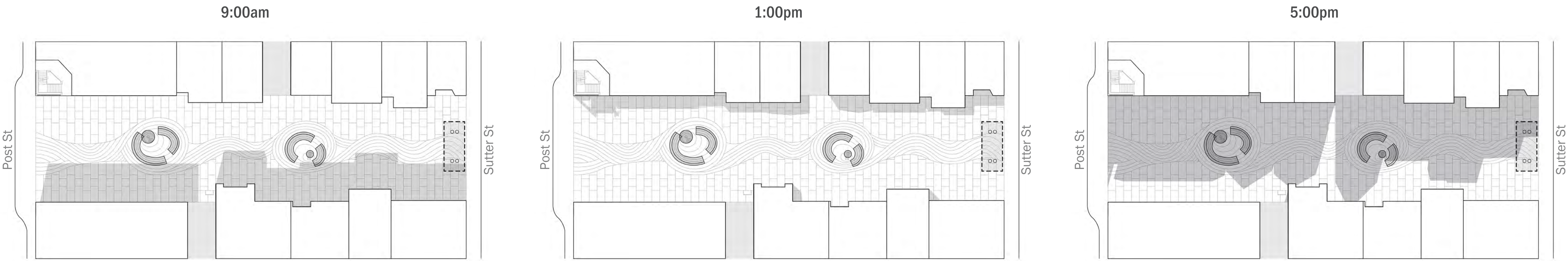
# SHADOW STUDY | 影の研究 | ESTUDIOS DE SOMBRA

Oriented north/south, Osaka Way is oriented to allow for mid-day sun exposure, staying shaded in early morning and evening hours. The central area containing the fountains are the sunniest spots throughout the year.

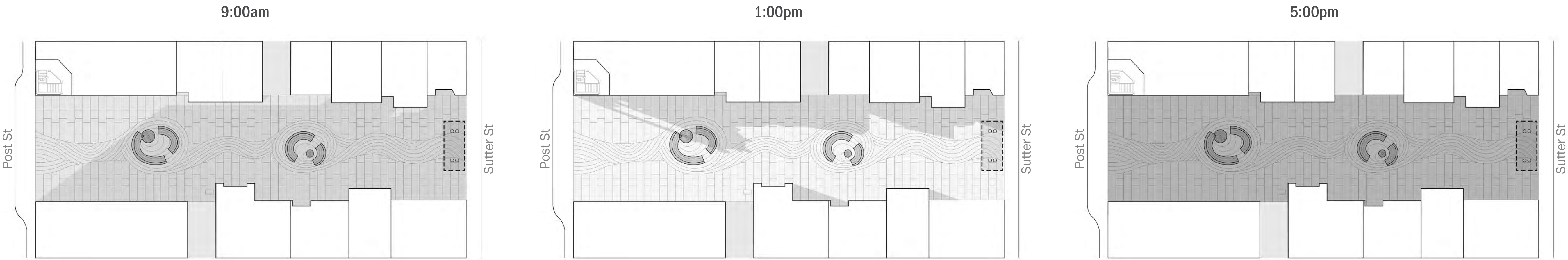
Spring/Fall Equinox  
春分・秋分の日  
Equinoccio de Primavera/Verano



Summer Solstice  
夏至  
Solsticio de Verano



Winter Solstice  
冬至  
Solsticio de Invierno



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OSAKA WAY (BUCHANAN MALL)  
UPGRADES PROJECT

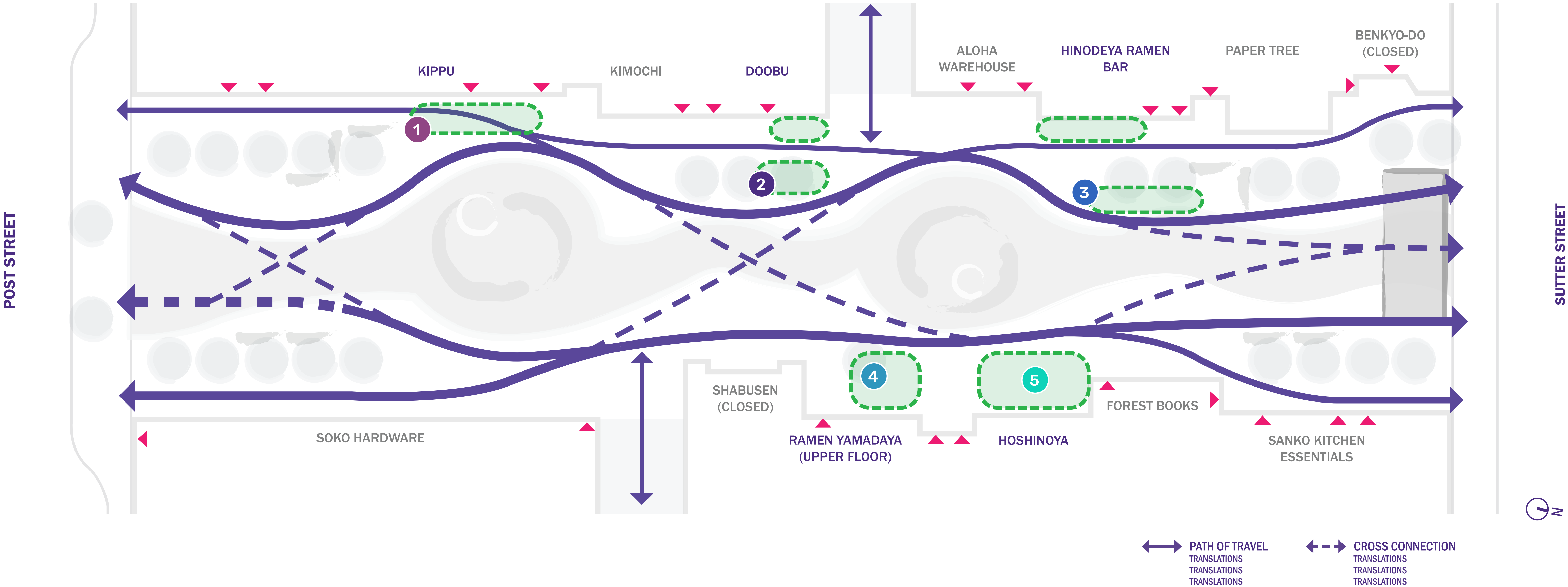
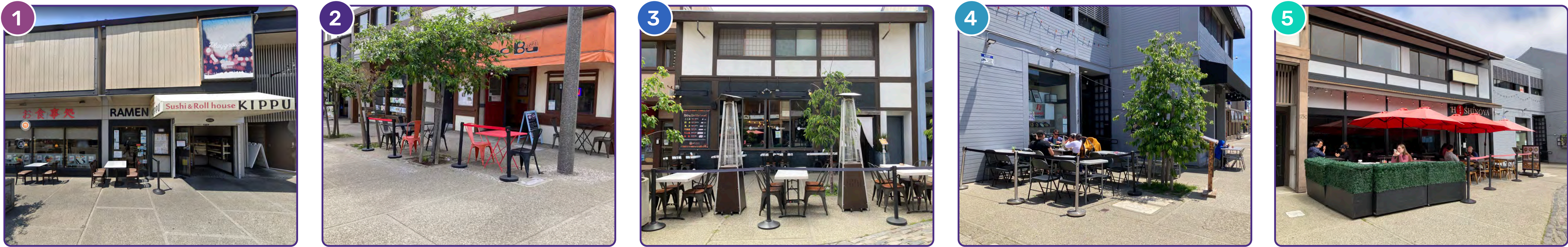
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# OUTDOOR DINING, RETAIL & CIRCULATION

屋外ダイニング、リテール、流通 | RESTAURANTES Y TIENDAS AL AIRE LIBRE, CIRCULACIÓN

Site circulation and elements channel pedestrians around certain areas which allows for the outdoor dining opportunities seen here.



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# PRELIMINARY OUTREACH | 初期アウトリーチ | DIFUSIÓN PRELIMINAR

City staff attended several community events through 2022 and 2023 to inform people about the project and gather initial feedback.

## WHAT PEOPLE ENJOY

人気点 | LO QUE LA GENTE DISFRUTA

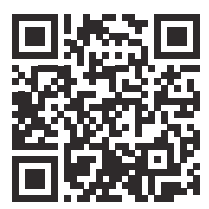
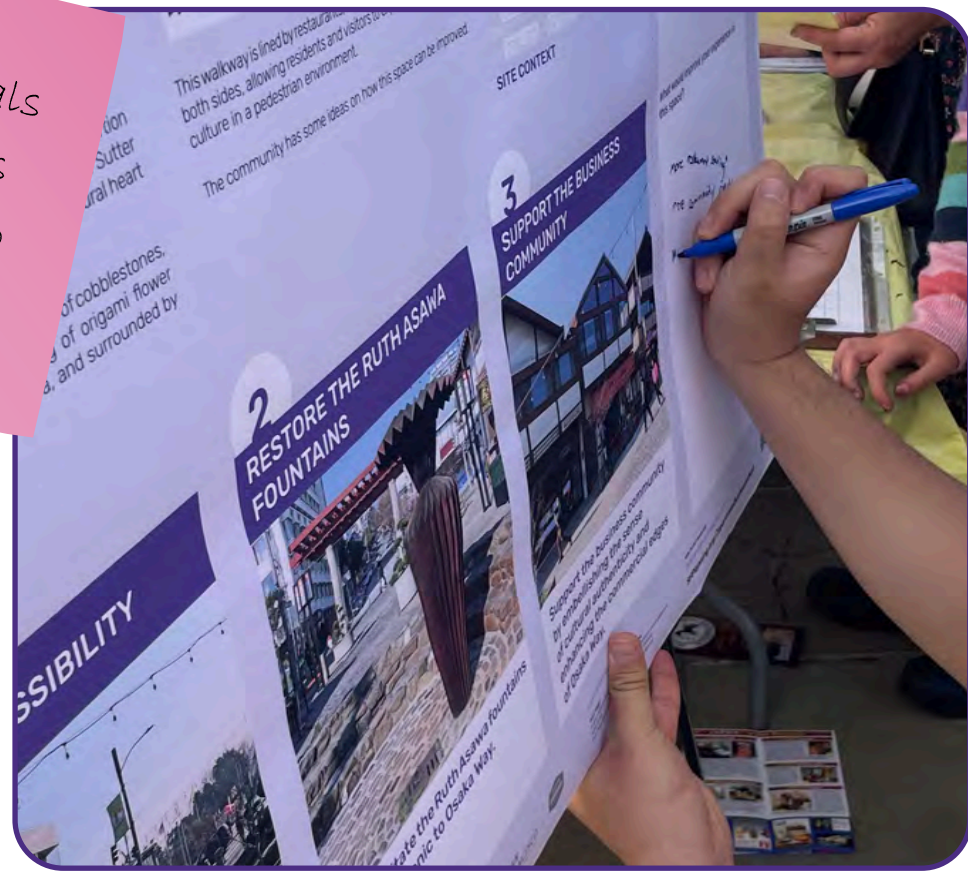
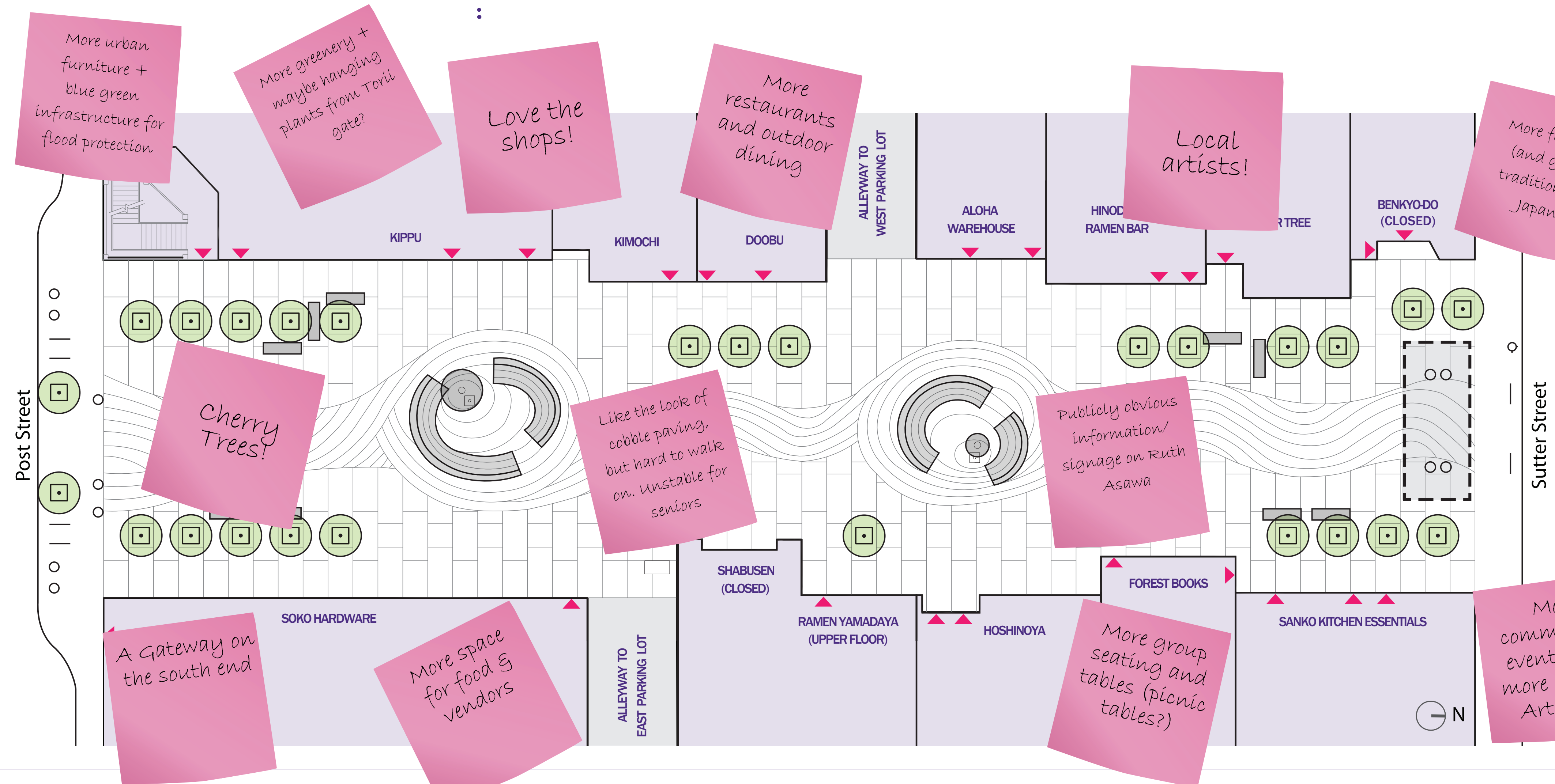


## WHAT COULD IMPROVE PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCE

改善すべき点は? | LO QUE MEJORARÍA LA EXPERIENCIA



- Greenery
- Furniture
- Accessibility
- Arts & Culture
- Programming
- Commercial



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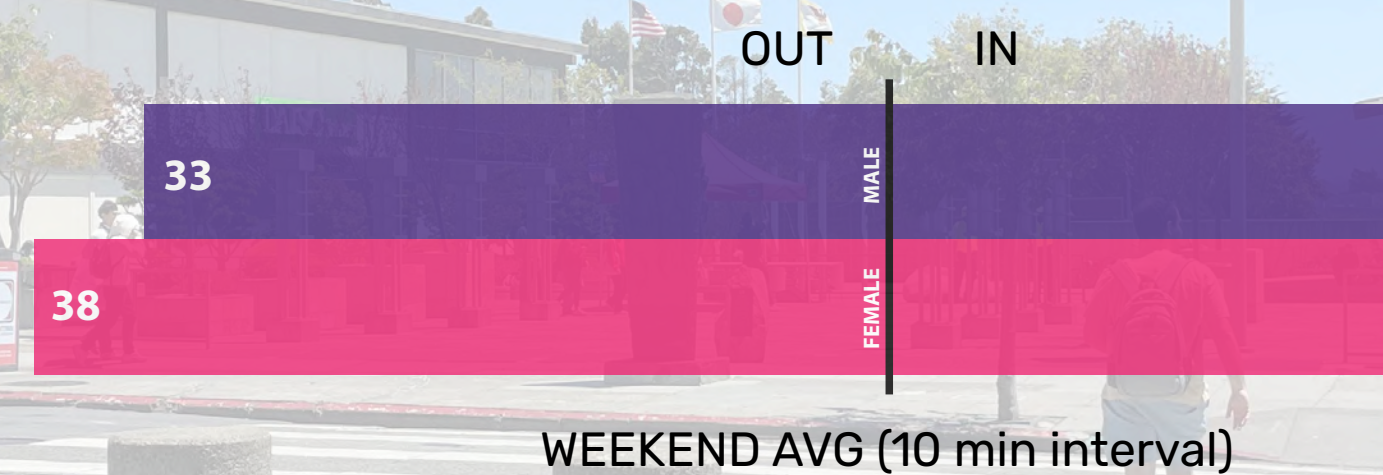
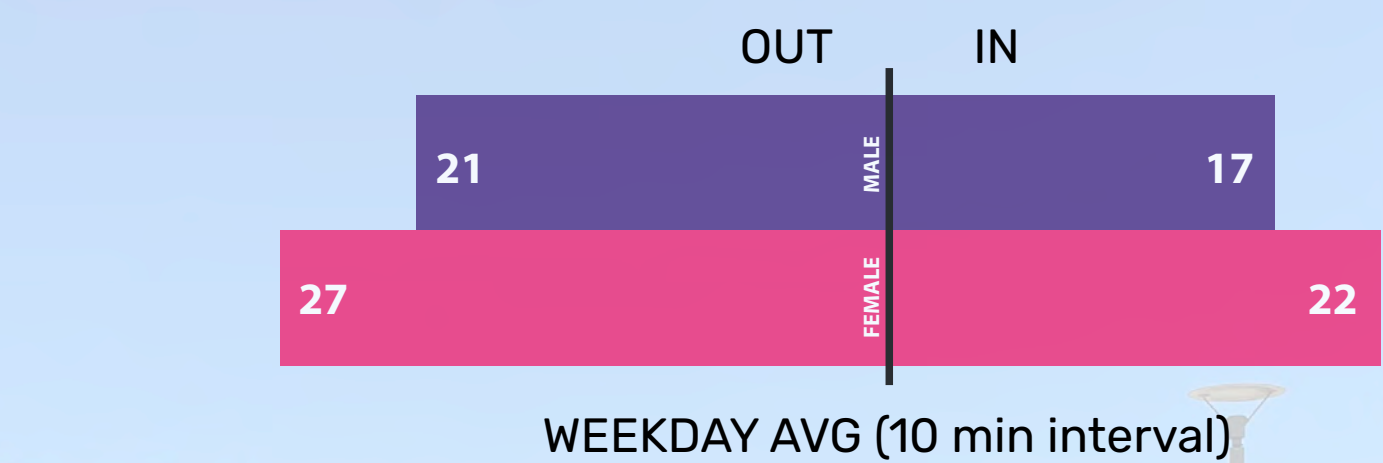
# EXISTING CONDITIONS | 現状状況 | CONDICIONES EXISTENTES

PUBLIC LIFE STUDY | 公共性の研究の結果 | ESTUDIO DE LA VIDA PÚBLICA

## HOW MANY PEOPLE COME IN AND OUT OF THE SPACE?

スペースに出入りする人は何人いますか?  
¿Cuántas personas entran y salen del espacio?

### OSAKA WAY PEDESTRIAN FLOW AT POST ST



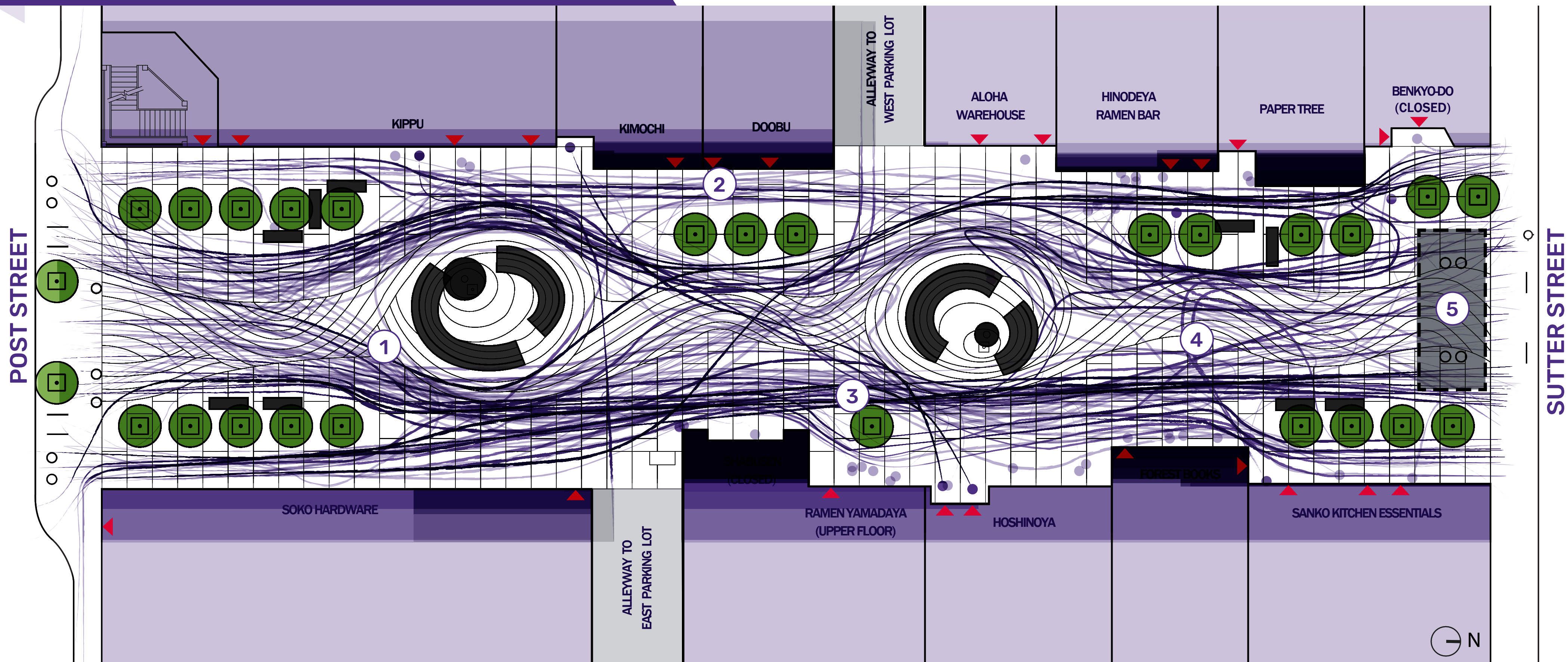
How many people enter and exit Osaka Way? More people visit the space on a weekend than on a weekday, and those entering and exiting the space are relatively equal.

People also ride their bike, run, scoot, and use wheelchairs in the space. Upgrades will take other mobility options into account to create a more accessible space.



## HOW DO PEOPLE MOVE THROUGH THE SPACE?

| どんな通行経路? | ¿Cómo se mueve la gente a través del espacio?



1 PEOPLE PRIMARILY WALK ALONG THE SIDES OF PLAZA



2 PEOPLE STOP TO READ MENUS AND DINE



3 OUTDOOR SEATING DIRECTS PEOPLE INTO CENTER



4 PEOPLE AVOID UNEVEN COBBLE PAVING



5 PEOPLE LIKE TO WALK THROUGH TORII GATE



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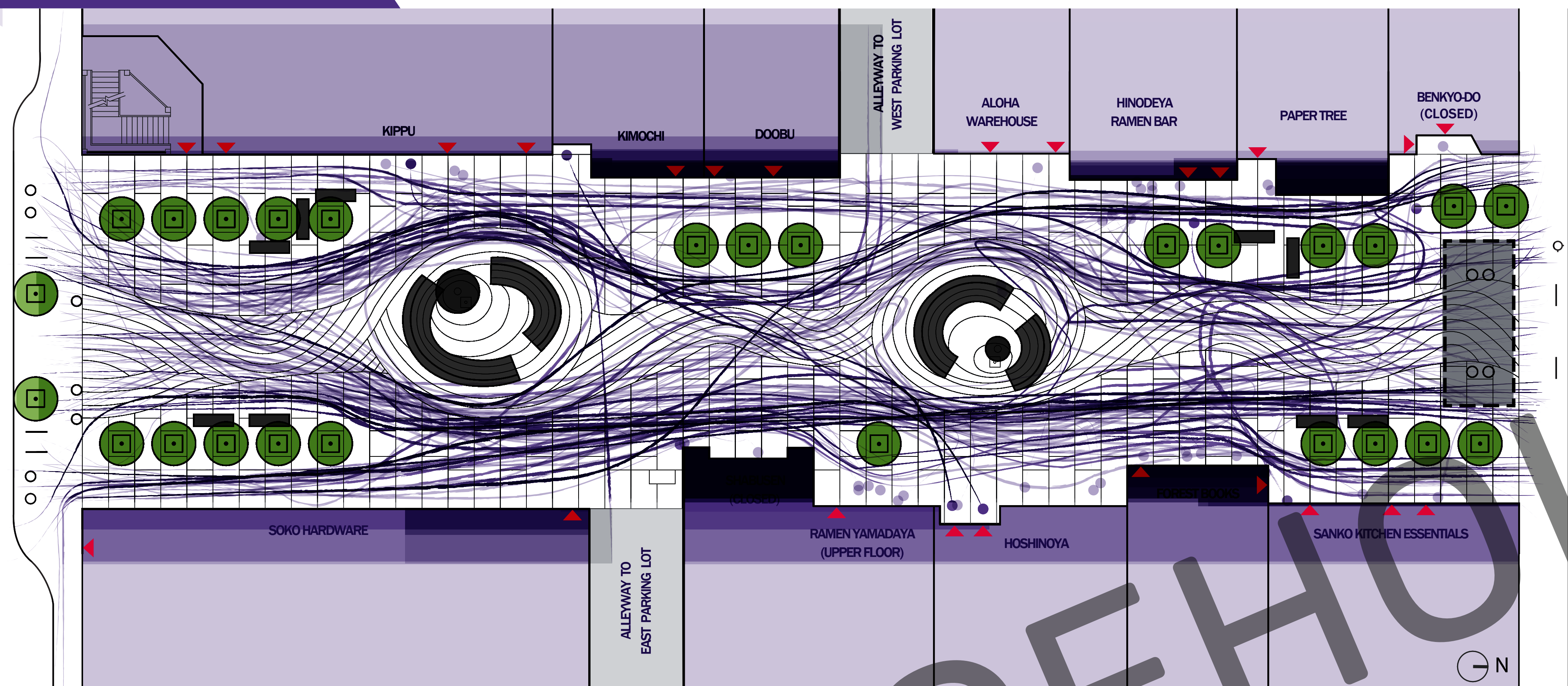
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## ACTIVITY MAPPING



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# COMMENT BOARD | コメントボード | COMENTARIOS

Let us know your thoughts!

| あなたの考えをお聞かせください | ¡Deje sus comentarios!

What's already working?

What should be preserved?

What could be improved?

## FOUNTAINS & WALLS

噴水と壁  
FUENTES Y PAREDES

## PAVING

舗装  
PAVIMENTADO

## OTHER

他の  
OTROS

## SEATING

座席  
ASIENTOS

## TORII GATE

鳥居  
ENTRADA TORII



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# COMMENT BOARD | コメントボード | COMENTARIOS

What else should we know? | 他に何を知るべきか | ¿Qué más deberíamos saber?

## STAY INVOLVED! | ぜひ参加してください! | ¡MANTÉNGASE INVOLUCRADO!

### TODAY!

#### PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1

FOCUS: Project overview, Goals and objectives, Site history, Existing conditions, Community feedback, Projected timeline

### SUMMER 2023

#### FOCUSED CONVERSATIONS & SURVEYS

Focused outreach with merchants, children and youth, seniors and people with disabilities

#### PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2

FOCUS: Initial conceptual design alternatives, gather feedback on preferred options

### FALL 2023

#### PUBLIC WORKSHOP #3

FOCUS: Present a revised conceptual design and address remaining concerns

### PROJECT TIMELINE ( subject to changes )

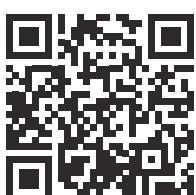
- **Spring 2022 - Winter 2023**  
Conditions & Needs Assessment, Initial Project Outreach
- **Spring 2023 - Summer 2023**  
Public Workshop Series and Conceptual Design Development
- **Fall 2023 - Spring 2024**  
Design Refinement, Environmental Review
- **Summer 2024**  
Detailed Design
- **Spring 2025**  
Construction begins

### YOUR INPUT WILL MOVE THE PROJECT FORWARD BY:

- Prioritizing the preservation of elements that are most significant and valuable to the Japantown community
- Flagging the community's main concerns that will inform the development of design alternatives
- Sourcing creative solutions to address the space's challenges
- Helping strategize the project's implementation to mitigate its impacts and continue supporting Osaka Way's local businesses

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES!

[SFPlanning.org/JapantownOsakaWay](https://SFPlanning.org/JapantownOsakaWay)



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