



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: March 3, 2022

PROJECT

Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts

Pennsylvania Avenue
between 3rd and 15th Streets, NW
Washington, DC

NCPC FILE NUMBER

7509

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER

1.25(00.00)45460

SUBMITTED BY

National Capital Planning Commission

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Authorization to release the
Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and
Concepts for a 120-day public
comment period

REVIEW AUTHORITY

Preparation of General Plans and Studies
per 40 U.S.C. § 8711(e)(2)

PROPOSED ACTION

Authorize release of Pennsylvania
Avenue Vision and Concepts for
120-day public comment period

ACTION ITEM TYPE

Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

Pennsylvania Avenue, NW between the U.S. Capitol and the White House is the nation's most iconic ceremonial boulevard. It is an important city asset, one-of-a-kind national destination, and instantly recognized world-wide. Yet the Avenue is currently guided by an outdated congressionally mandated 48-year-old plan. Overtime, changing economic, physical, and land use conditions have significantly impacted the Avenue's function and character, reducing its utility as a street. No longer a primary thoroughfare, it is now a largely empty and lackluster space that struggles to support retail and sustain activity which has been compounded by the pandemic.

However, the Avenue's location and character make it a highly desirable venue for local and regional events. As public spaces play a critical role in post-pandemic recovery, we now have a unique opportunity to elevate its role as a place for civic activity. As a key component of the city's civic infrastructure, it can become an extraordinary national special event destination that supports downtown's economic revitalization efforts. After completing technical studies and obtaining input from subject matter experts, federal and local agency stakeholders agree it is time for a new vision that address the Avenue's declining physical condition and outdated infrastructure, and how the Avenue can contribute to the downtown's economy.

The agencies propose the *Avenue as a Venue*, a new vision that embraces the Avenue's one-of-a-kind attributes – its location, symbolism, vista, scale, and public spaces – to reclaim the street for people by elevating it as a venue for extraordinary, nationally-significant events; right sizing the street to reduce space devoted to cars and provide more space for people, bikes, and transit; and improving public spaces to attract people back downtown.

Four primary goals drive this work and aspire to create a more inclusive venue, an equitable economic generator for the city, and an inviting and resilient public space for the nation:

- *Celebrate the Avenue's civic role and spirit of democracy.*
- *Create an awe-inspiring public realm to complement the Avenue's role and character.*
- *Modernize the Avenue's security, event, transportation, and public infrastructure for 21st Century needs.*
- *Elevate the identity of the Avenue as a great destination.*

To support this vision, they developed three *Concepts* that reconfigure the street and public space in different ways to enhance its iconic setting and increase its usability and flexibility to reach its potential to be a world-class event venue and a more enjoyable place for everyday use. The three *Concepts* uniquely prioritize pedestrians, bicycles, transit, and cars; enhance daily use; achieve sustainability goals; and support a range of programming opportunities:

- **Urban Capital Street:** Establishes a 'complete street' with comfort amenities and service that create a go-to place and respite for locals and tourists.
- **Linear Green:** Prioritizes transit, people, and bikes and creates a unique destination for outdoor gatherings and connection to nature.
- **Civic Stage:** Centers pedestrians within a large median promenade with flexible spaces for a range of special events.

On February 16, 2022, the Commission received an Information Presentation that introduced the *Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts*. Today's request to release the vision and concepts for a 120-day public comment period will give the public and stakeholders opportunity to provide input on how to strike the right balance between events and daily use while maintaining the symbolic and historic character of the street. Public input will inform refinements to the vision and concepts and help develop a blueprint to modernize the Avenue's infrastructure and improve its physical condition, as well as identify near-term pilot projects to test ideas and how to improve the Avenue's event-supporting infrastructure.

An annotated summary of the February 16, 2022 Information Presentation is provided as an attachment to this report as a graphic reference.

KEY INFORMATION

The Vision and Concepts

- Federal and local agencies propose a *Vision* for the *Avenue as a Venue* that celebrates its civic role and spirit of democracy; creates an inspiring public realm; and modernizes infrastructure to make the Avenue a great street and an iconic destination.
- To support the *Vision*, three *Concepts* explore different ways to right size the street to reduce space devoted to cars and provide more space for people, bikes, and transit; and to

improve public space to enhance its iconic setting and increase its usability and flexibility to reach its potential to be a world-class event venue and attract people back downtown.

Opportunities: location, character, and land use

- The Avenue spans 1.2 miles between the White House and U.S. Capitol and features 40 acres of public space and a cohesive streetscape that links its parks and plazas and unifies its varied sidewalk and building conditions.
- The Avenue's urban form and character is unsurpassed; it offers an iconic vista, monumental scale, generous paved areas, and a sequence of public spaces that offer multiple stage settings for events.
- The location and surrounding land use mix is conducive for events, it has low traffic volumes and great access to transit. The concentration of office use means the Avenue is least populated during typical event times.
- The Avenue has a history of ceremony, it's the nation's place to celebrate, commemorate, and recognize America's rich social, cultural, and political moments and events. Pre-pandemic, the Avenue hosted an average of 150 mostly local and regional permitted events per year.
- Pennsylvania Avenue's is a viable alternative to the National Mall for hosting large scale events and has the potential to capture broad audiences including local, regional, national, and international crowds.
- Federal and local agency stakeholders invited a panel of subject matter experts to share their thoughts on transforming the Avenue. Their key findings:
 - The Avenue is well connected to transit but designed for cars and doesn't have the characteristics to be a successful retail street.
 - The Avenue's best role is as a unifying destination designed to put people first.
 - Improvements should capitalize on the Avenues strengths: elevate the experience of the Capitol vista and enhance the public realm and programming with flexible infrastructure to be become a dedicated Venue, a location for preeminent activities.
- Physical, land use, and economic changes have altered the use of the street and is a detriment to the Avenue's and downtown's vitality. It is no longer a thoroughfare; the eight vehicular travel lanes carry few cars and there is minimal street level activity which has been accelerated by the pandemic.
- The pandemic is rapidly reshaping the office and retail sectors, and transportation. This is causing challenges for downtown Washington and underscoring the demand for civic infrastructure and high-quality outdoor public space.
- With the support of the District and DCOP's Streets for People Initiative, Business Improvement Districts are undertaking catalytic placemaking projects to improve streets and public spaces to energize and activate space for the public to aid economic recovery.
- The *Vision of the Avenue as a Venue* aligns with the District's efforts to bring people back downtown and revive its economy—downtown businesses and nearby cultural uses can benefit from visitor traffic these events can bring.

February 16, 2022, Information Presentation

- At the February 16, 2022, Commission meeting, the Commission commented favorably on the *Vision and Concepts*. They noted that:
 - The *Vision* of the **Avenue as a Venue** will build public enthusiasm and can position the Avenue as a place to celebrate together and provide an opportunity for *communal joy* and shared experience.
 - Federal and local agencies are facing the challenge of how to get people back to the city and that the *Vision* for the Avenue provides a reason for people to come back to downtown.
 - Design should be balanced with practical considerations, including new technologies, infrastructure, and transit needs.
 - And advised that future governance is equally important and should not be tied to any one agency or budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Commends the federal and local agencies' collaboration to explore visionary ideas to revive Pennsylvania Avenue, NW between the White House and U.S. Capitol.

Authorizes the release of the Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts for a 120-day public review and comment period pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8711(e)(2).

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	<p>October 5, 2017 – Information Presentation on the Executive Committee research, analysis, and findings.</p> <p>May 3, 2018 – Information Presentation on the <i>Executive Committee Findings and Strategies Summary</i>.</p> <p>June 3, 2021 – Information Presentation on the status of the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative and public invitation to join an expert panel discussion.</p> <p>February 16, 2022 - Information Presentation on the <i>Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts</i>.</p>
Remaining actions (anticipated)	<p>– Information Presentation on the status of the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative (2022 – 2023)</p>

– Review and approve revised 1974 Pennsylvania Avenue Plan (*long-term*)

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

The *Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts* achieve the Initiative's goals and provide opportunities for elevate the Avenue as an extraordinary urban outdoor nationally significant venue within a premier setting and location. The vision and concepts provide an alternative venue to the National Mall, helping to relieve pressure to overuse the landscape. The concepts also achieve ways to improve public spaces and right size the street to devote less area to cars and prioritize use by people, bicyclist, and transit. The vision and concepts align with the District's efforts to revive downtown and improve civic infrastructure and high quality public space.

NCPC is requesting authorization to release the *Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts* to collect public and stakeholder input. Public and stakeholder input will inform refinements to the *Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts*. Input will help identify near-term pilot projects to test ideas to improve public space and event programming viability, as well as strategic improvements to the Avenue's event-supporting infrastructure in the mid-term. Input on the vision and concepts and the outcome of the pilot projects will ultimately help develop a blueprint to modernize the Avenue's infrastructure, improve its physical condition, improve its governance structure, and simplify its regulatory framework.

Concept proposals

The *Vision* for the Avenue is to become America's Stage – an inclusive, welcoming, and dignified space designed to put people first – more than just a beautiful street, an inspirational venue for civic expression. Federal and local agencies developed three *Concepts* that support the *Vision*. Each *Concept* uniquely improves public space to be more usable and flexible, and prioritizes pedestrians, bikes, transit, and cars to enhance daily use; achieve sustainability goals; and support a range of programming opportunities:

- **Urban Capital Street:** Celebrates local Washington, creating a third place and social hub that links all Eight Wards through strong connections, mobility, and daily programming, featuring a highly adaptable public space network activated by flexible commerce.
- **Linear Green:** Prioritizes transit over cars and transforms the Avenue into an urban linear park, celebrating environmental health and wellness for all Americans, showcasing the ecological history of the avenue and sustainability best practices.

- **Civic Stage:** Imagines the Avenue as an inspirational destination with a constantly rotating program of things to see and do, within a beautiful setting with comfort amenities and the special event infrastructure that supports nationally significant events.

The following summarizes each *Concept's* proposal to reconfigure the roadway corridor and the three urban rooms including (from west to east) Western End, Market Square, and Eastern End, and address the Avenue's transition to the U.S. Capitol Grounds.

Roadway Corridor Configurations

See presentation attachment slide 6

The Pennsylvania Avenue Transportation Study found that 20 feet of the Avenue's 100-foot-wide roadway is available for other uses while maintaining acceptable levels of service. Additionally, use of other travel modes including bicycles, scooters, and other micromobility modes (including shared or dockless travel modes) are increasing. The three *Concepts* reallocate 20 feet of surplus roadway space in different ways:

- **Urban Capital Street:** Expands sidewalks with pedestrian amenities activated with small retail kiosks. Four travel lanes for cars are located in the center of the Avenue and flanked by a one-way dedicated transit lane with a two-way dedicated cycle track located on the southern edge of the roadway. The roadway measures 80 feet between curbs.
- **Linear Green:** Creates parks and open space and a curbsless pedestrian environment. A dedicated central transit way is flanked on each side by a one-way dedicated cycle track. This curbsless, carless, configuration leaves 124 feet of clear space within the Avenue.
- **Civic Stage:** Creates a central pedestrian promenade. The center promenade is flanked on each side with a dedicated one-way cycle track and two travel lanes for cars and transit. The roadway between the outermost curbs is 124 feet; the center promenade, within this area and the two cycle tracks measures 80'.

Overall, each *Concept* reallocates surplus roadway space to prioritize pedestrians, and accommodate bikes, transit, and cars, and maintains the minimum 80-foot clear zone and viewing areas required for the Inaugural Parade.

Urban Rooms: Importance of Urban Outdoor Venues

The demand for public outdoor venues is increasing with recent changes in the downtown Washington's economy and real estate market. This is causing new ways to use streets and outdoor public spaces and changing how we work, live, and play. Pennsylvania Avenue is well poised as a premier setting and along a nationally significant location for hosting local, regional, national, and international events that could reduce strain on the National Mall, attract residents and visitors, and revive Washington, DC's economy.

Each of the following Urban Rooms reconfigure parks and open space in different ways to increase flexible and usable area for a range of daily and special event activity.

Urban Rooms: Western End

See presentation attachment slide 11

Generally, the area between 13th and 15th Streets NW, the Western End starts off a series of urban parks that create a gateway to the Avenue. The wide cartway and spacious Freedom Plaza can support special events and large groups. However, the elevated plaza is surrounded by streets and lacks the human scale and comfort elements that sustain consistent daily activity.

Each *Concept* addresses the Avenue's alignment and circulation, reroutes vehicular circulation, and modifies key open spaces to enhance the iconic vista, improve the public spaces, and integrate elements that support a range of uses and increase programming and event space:

- **Urban Capital Street:** Reestablishes the Avenue's historic alignment and creates two bow-tie plazas connected to the adjacent blocks. The curbless configuration provides an occupiable view corridor and expands public space as needed for different uses.
- **Linear Green:** Establishes a transit only street that reroutes the Avenue south of Freedom Plaza and Pershing Park, connecting the public spaces with the blocks to the north, creating a park and a service drive in front of the National Theater that begins the landscape sequence that extends to the US Capitol Grounds.
- **Civic Stage:** Reroutes traffic north of Freedom Plaza and Pershing Park, connecting the public spaces with the blocks to the south, expanding the public realm and creating a gracious plaza and assembly space in front of the Wilson Building, and more a prominent entry for the White House Visitor Center.

Overall, the Western End reconfigurations propose to bring Freedom Plaza down to street level to create a large usable and flexible area from building fact to building face. For special events, this can be expanded to adjacent plazas and streets.

Urban Rooms: Market Square

See presentation attachment slide 14

Generally, the area between 7th and 9th Streets NW, Market Square is center and the heart of the Avenue. The metro and multiple bus connections combine with a diverse land use mix to make this one of the Avenue's most vibrant locations. It's a great entry to the Avenue, however, it lacks amenities that make it a neighborhood and visitor destination.

Each *Concept* addresses connections between plazas flanking the Avenue to enhance walkability, increase programming and event space, and draw activity across the street and support a range of users:

- **Urban Capital Street:** Introduces a mid-block pedestrian crossing to connect the U.S. Navy Memorial with the National Archives, improving pedestrian quality and activity.
- **Linear Green:** Closes the Avenue to all traffic between 7th and 9th Streets, NW to create an active urban park and provides an expansive space for recreation.

- **Civic Stage:** Introduces a generous mid-block pedestrian crossing that joins with the center promenade to create a central square.

Overall, the Market Square proposals unify this central area by linking adjoining uses and improving mid-block pedestrian circulation. For special events, this can be accompanied with street closures to create large event space.

Urban Rooms: Eastern End

See presentation attachment slide 17

Generally, the area between 3rd and 6th Streets NW, the Eastern End benefits from proximity to educational, institutional, and cultural destinations, and the National Mall, and offers some of the best views of the Capitol. However, the enormous scale and large setbacks can be overwhelming, and a lack of street level programming makes it hard to sustain activity.

Each *Concept* considers road alignments to make the Avenue more cohesive and enhances the open space network with amenities and infrastructure that to increase the ability to host multiple scales of programming and event space:

- **Urban Capital Street:** Retains the current road alignment and enhances walkability by adding a generous pedestrian crossing at 4th Street and programmable spaces in John Marshall Park and between the National Gallery of Art to improve connectivity between the National Mall and downtown.
- **Linear Green:** Straightens the intersection with Constitution Avenue and permanently closes 4th Street to create a more intuitive pedestrian connection between John Marshall Park, and an active park space between the National Gallery of Art buildings and the National Mall.
- **Civic Stage:** Tunnels Constitution Avenue under the Avenue and closes 4th Street to create a cohesive sequence of programmable public spaces adjacent to the galleries and allows a seamless walk from the Avenue to the Mall, with large areas for outdoor programming and exhibits.

Overall, the Eastern End proposals improve walkability and/or simplify the existing complex roadway intersection. Temporary Avenue closures can further expand the plaza space to support additional assembly and staging area for a range of event sizes.

Transition to the U.S. Capitol Grounds

See presentation attachment slide 19

This area is outside the formal Study Area but included in the *Concepts* to consider potential improvements to the Avenue's transition to the U.S. Capitol Grounds east of 3rd Street, NW. Here, the Avenue's distinctive pavement changes, and the roadway terminates into a parking lot, disrupting the unified streetscape and pedestrian continuity that is the Avenue's signature feature.

Each *Concept* considers parking needs and the pedestrian experience to improve the transition to the U.S. Capitol:

- **Urban Capital Street:** Replaces the angled parking in the center of the street with a landscaped median, retaining angled parking along the curbs, and creating a welcoming entry to the U.S. Capitol Grounds.
- **Linear Green:** Removes all parking from this section of the Avenue transforming the street into a garden gateway with a high-performing landscape.
- **Civic Stage:** Replaces all the angled parking with parallel parking along the curbs and extends the center promenade to the Peace Monument, creating a more dignified and ceremonial entrance to the U.S. Capitol Grounds.

Overall, the Transition to the U.S. Capitol Grounds reduces or removes surface parking from this section of the Avenue to unify this iconic street and create a more pedestrian-friendly and inviting entry to the U.S. Capitol Grounds.

In summary, the *Avenue as a Venue* offers a guiding *Vision* and three unique *Concepts* that re-allocate unused roadway space and shape parks and open spaces to be more than just a beautiful street, an inspirational venue for civic expression.

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Guiding Plans

The *Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts* advance policies in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* and recommendations in the *1997 Legacy Plan* and *2009 Monumental Core Framework Plan* that generally call for federal and local agency collaboration to beautify public spaces, and accommodate civic activity, including enlivening the Avenue.

National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act

NCPC has an obligation to satisfy the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when approving projects. The *Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts* do not sustain characteristics as a federal undertaking; therefore, the proposed action does not require review pursuant to NHPA or NEPA. However, future concept and design development work will be evaluated in accordance with NHPA and NEPA.

CONSULTATION

Federal and Local Agencies

Congress established the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) to properly develop, use, program, and maintain the Avenue. In 1974, the PADC completed a plan to carry out Congress' charge. In 1996 Congress terminated the PADC and delegated its responsibility to the General Services Administration (GSA), the National Park Service (NPS), District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC).

These agencies, in partnership with key federal and district regulatory and stakeholder agencies have been collaborating to address the Avenue's declining physical condition, its aging infrastructure, its complex regulatory and operational structure, and loss of economic competitiveness. The agencies agree this 48-year old plan is out of date; it is time for a new vision and forward looking new plan to address the Avenue's 21st century needs.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts will receive an Information Presentation on the *Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts* during their March 17, 2022 meeting.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at www.ncpc.gov:

- Annotated summary of the February 16, 2022 Information Presentation as a graphic reference.
- Initiative Page available online at www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/pennave/

Prepared by Karin Schierhold
02/25/2022

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)



Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts

Information Presentation

The Vision



The Avenue as a *Venue*

We can aspire to revive the Avenue to become a more **Inclusive Venue** and an **Economic Generator** for the city, and an **Iconic, Inviting** and **Resilient Public Space** for the nation.

- *Celebrate the Avenue's civic role and spirit of democracy.*
- *Create an awe-inspiring public realm to complement the Avenue's role and character.*
- *Modernize the Avenue's Infrastructure for 21st Century needs.*
- *Elevate the identity of the Avenue as a great destination.*

The Vision



A Place for Communal Joy

- *A signature venue for spectacular, ephemeral, and celebratory events where all are welcome, uplifted and inspired.*
- *A place to tell our stories and have fun; elevating the Avenue's visibility and relieving pressure to overuse the Mall*
- *A comfortable and engaging public space to attract people back downtown to meet up with others and connect.*
- *A Street for People, offering better transportation options for pedestrians, bicycles, transit, and cars.*

The Avenue

Daily Use



A Street for People

Prioritize space among pedestrians, bikes, transit and cars by:

- *Right-sizing the street and reallocating space*
- *Realigning the roadway*
- *Reconfiguring public space*

The Avenue *as a Venue*

Three Conceptual Approaches

Urban Capital Street

A complete street with comfort amenities and service that create a go-to place and respite for locals and tourists.



Linear Green

Prioritizes transit, people, and bikes and creates a unique destination for outdoor gatherings and connection to nature.



Civic Stage

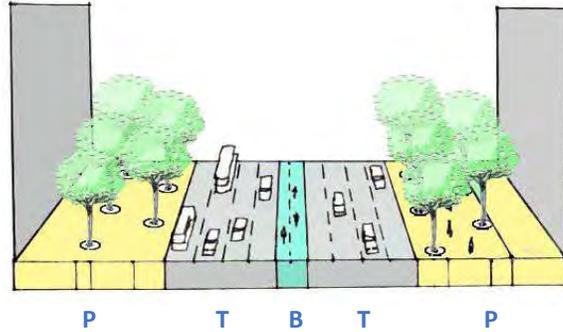
Centers pedestrians within a large median promenade with flexible public spaces that create iconic venues for a range of national and international events.



Conceptual Approaches

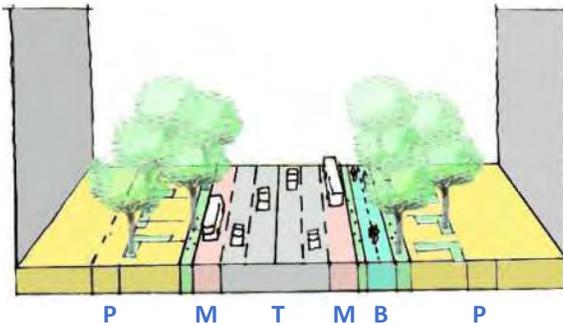
Right-of-Way Allocation

The Avenue Today



Key
 P Pedestrians
 B Bike
 T Travel
 M Transit

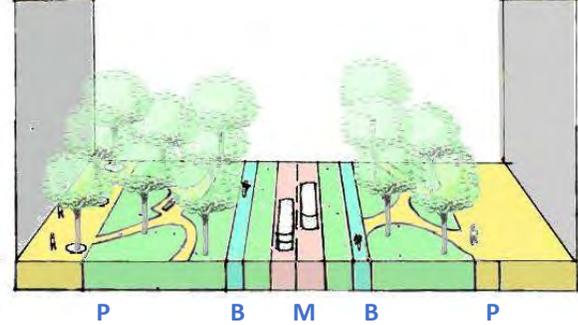
Urban Capital – 80' ROW



Expands sidewalks with amenities activated w/small retail kiosks

- Four travel lanes for cars in the center flanked by one-way dedicated transit lanes
- Two-way dedicated cycle track on southern roadway edge.
- Roadway – 80'

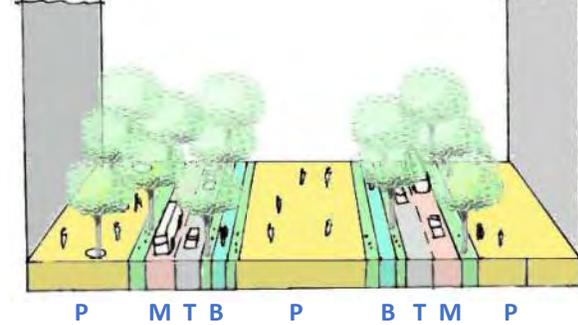
Linear Green



Creates a linear park

- Dedicated central transit way flanked by one-way dedicated cycle tracks.
- Curbless and carless
- Avenue clear space – 124'

Civic Stage



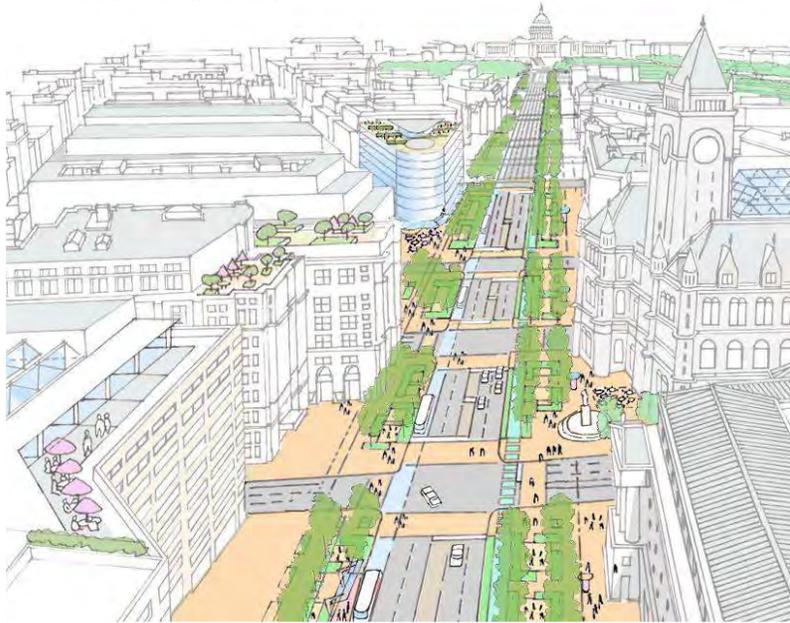
Creates a central pedestrian promenade flanked by:

- dedicated one-way cycle tracks
- two travel lanes for cars and transit.
- Roadway between outermost curbs 124'; center promenade and cycle tracks 80'

Urban Capital



Expanded sidewalks provide room for unique and varied pedestrian “pockets” and places for activity and mobile commerce.

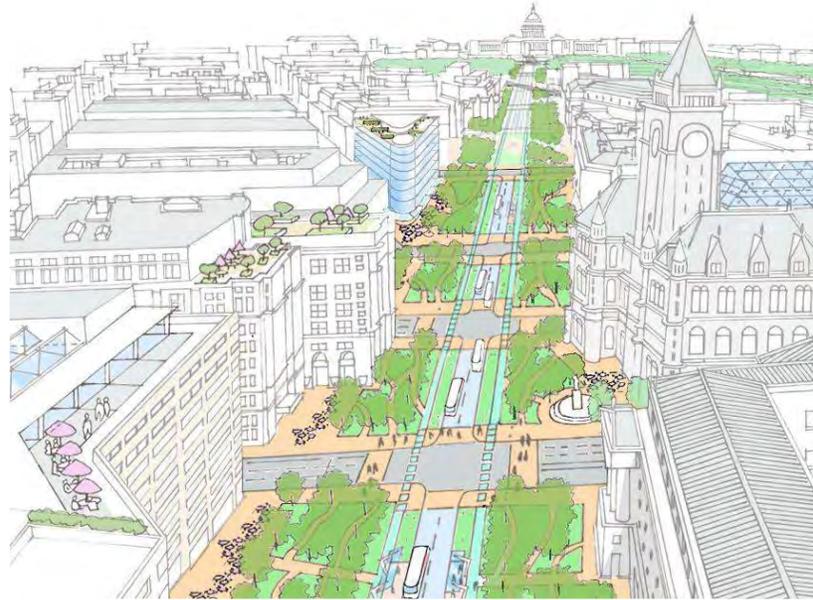


A Complete Street

Linear Green



Pedestrian paths weave through the linear park landscape, creating informal areas for seating and recreation.

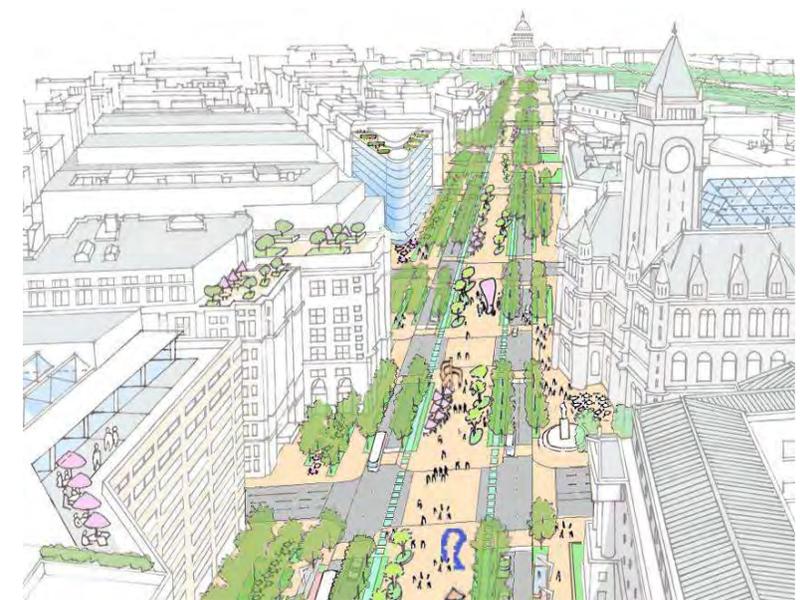


A Transit-Only Urban Park

Civic Stage



A grand promenade provides pedestrian space with Capitol views extending the length of the Avenue.



A Central Promenade

The Avenue as a *Venue*

The Urban Rooms



The Rooms and their immediate environs should support programming for events of various scales, activities and audiences



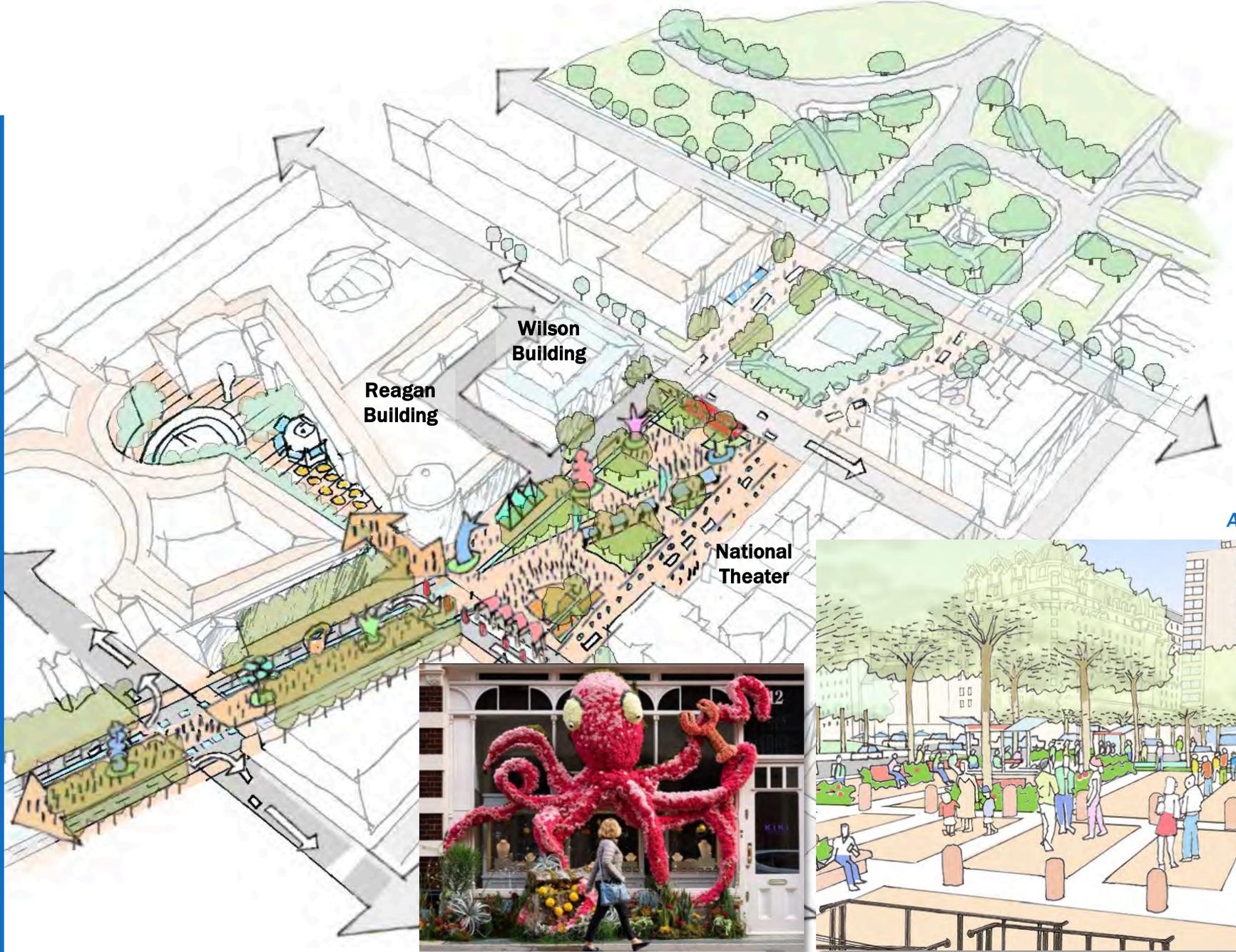
The Avenue as *a Venue*: The Western End

The Avenue as a Venue

The Western End

There are multiple opportunities to configure the Western End for large events. This shows an example of a multi-day linear event like an international flower festival.

The plaza configuration can be flexible to expand the event space to the adjacent buildings. Temporarily rerouting traffic can extend event activity down the Avenue and into Wilson Plaza.



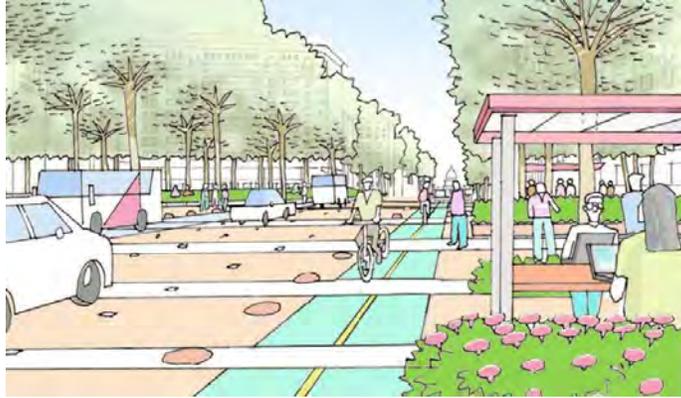
A New City Hall Plaza



International Flower Festival



Urban Capital



Restores historic alignment with a curbsless street with bow-tie open spaces (a new City Hall Plaza and National Theater Park) that together can easily expand for events.



New Bow-Tie Plazas

Linear Green

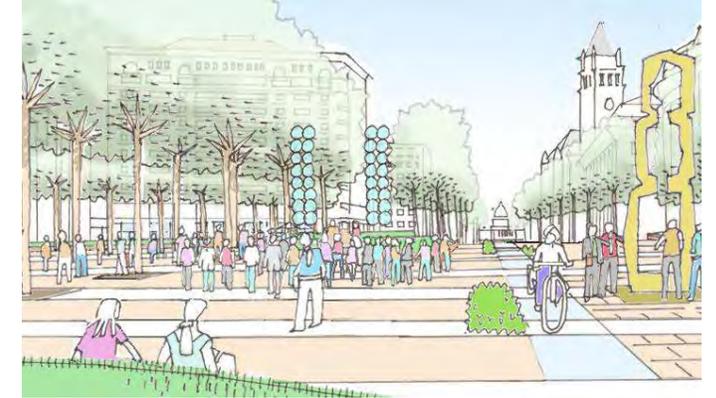


Routes transit south of a new park that creates usable and flexible open space and service drive in front of the National Theater. Starts the landscape sequence to the Capitol Grounds.



A New Urban Park

Civic Stage



Routes traffic north of a new plaza that creates City Hall plaza and a prominent entry for the White House Visitor Center.



A New Public Plaza



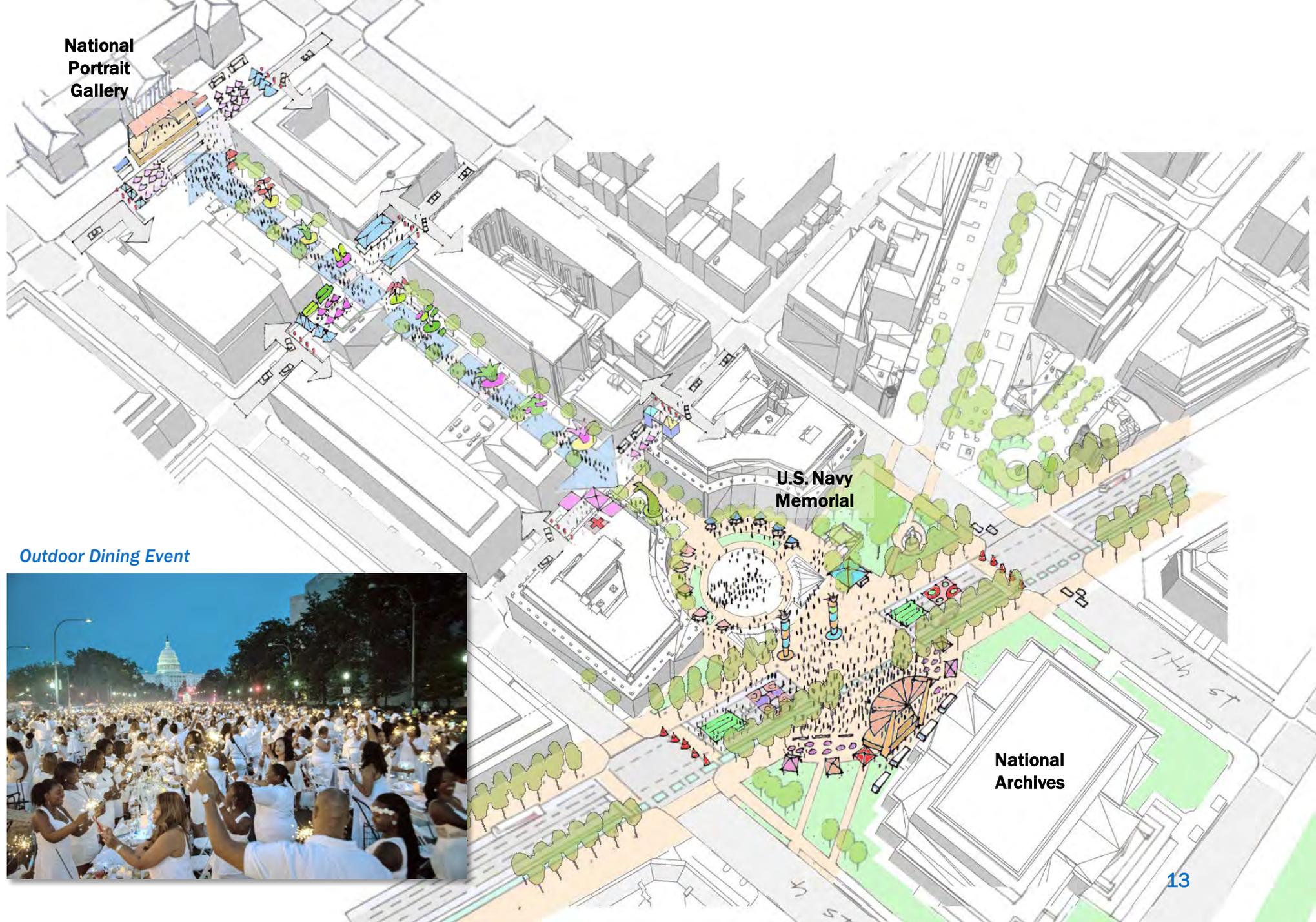
The Avenue as *a Venue*: Market Square

The Avenue as a Venue

Market Square

There are multiple opportunities to configure Market Square for small and large events. This shows an example of a community celebration.

Temporary closures on the Avenue and along 8th street create a cohesive event space with a stunning backdrop of views of National Archives, National Portrait Gallery, and the U.S. Capitol.



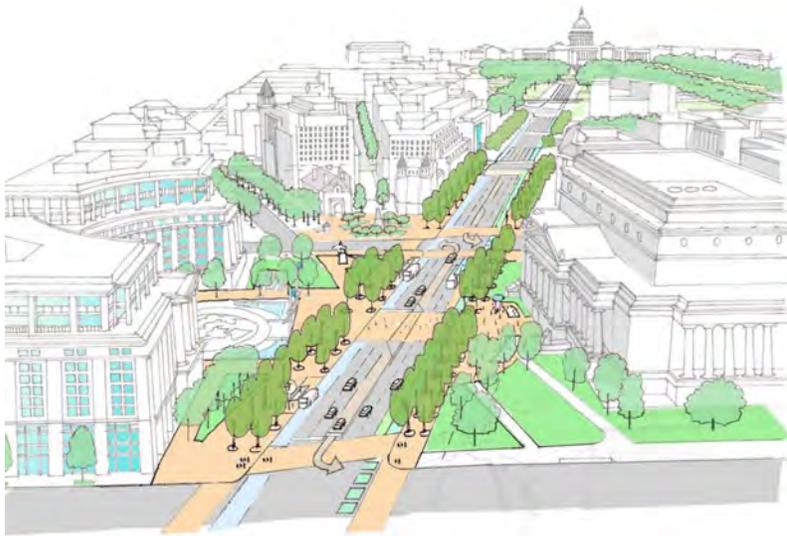
Outdoor Dining Event



Urban Capital



A new mid-block pedestrian crossing to improve pedestrian quality and activity.

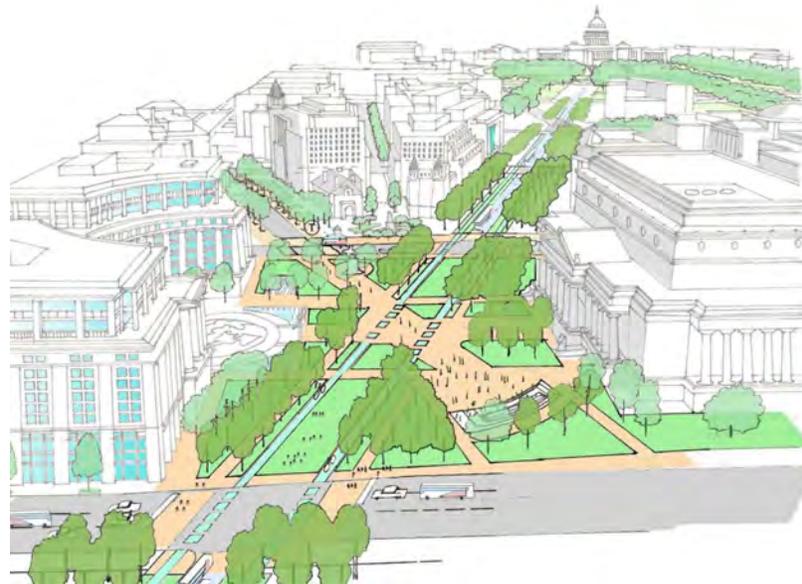


A New Pedestrian Crossing

Linear Green



Closes blocks between 7th and 9th Streets to create a new urban park for pedestrian activity.

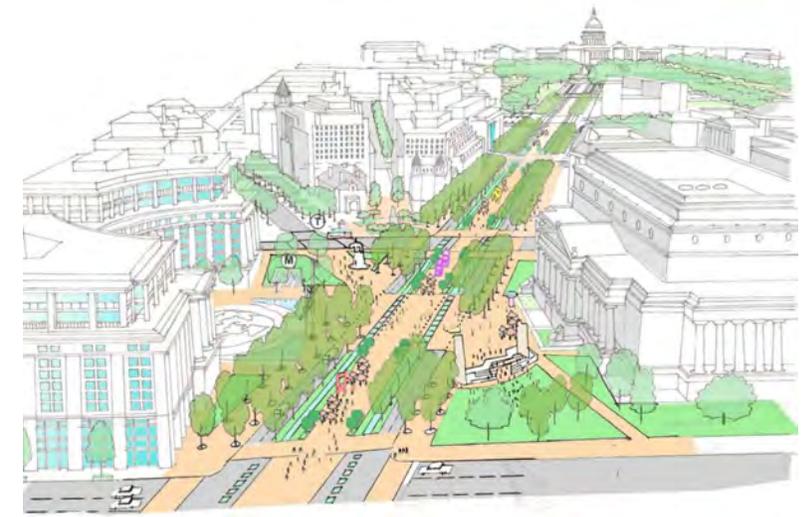


A New Urban Park

Civic Stage



A new generous mid-block pedestrian crossing joins with the center promenade to create a central square.



A New Central Square



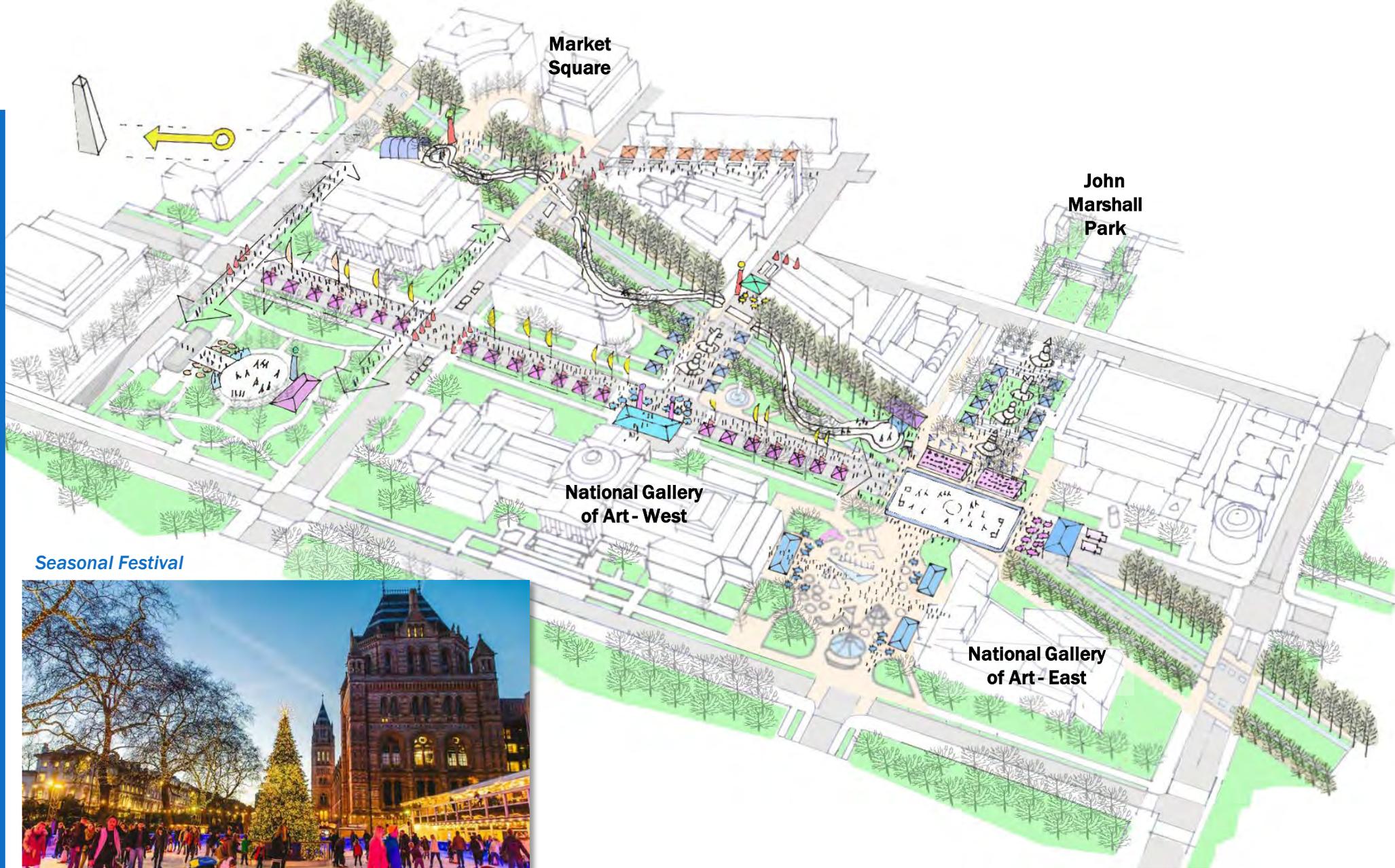
The Avenue as *a Venue*: The Eastern End

The Avenue as a Venue

The Eastern End

There are multiple opportunities to configure the Eastern End for large events. This shows an example of a winter festival.

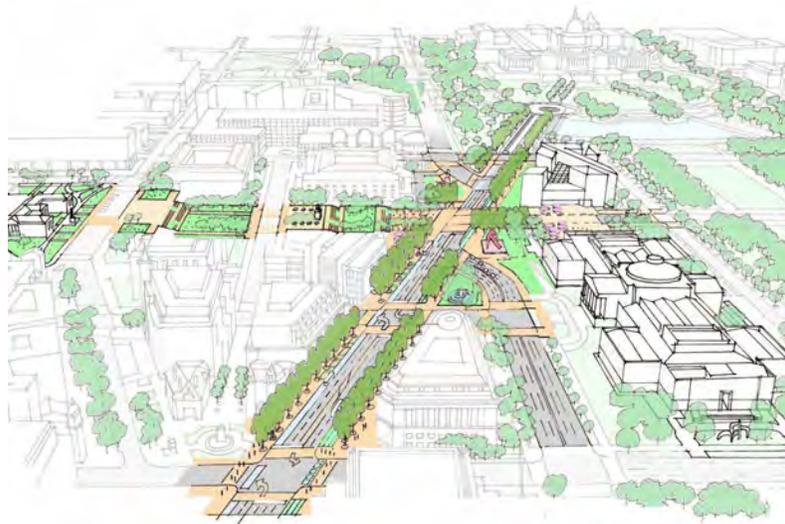
Straightening Constitution Avenue's alignment and adding a permanent closure at 4th street creates a spacious main area and starting point for larger events to extend west along the Avenue and along Constitution.



Urban Capital

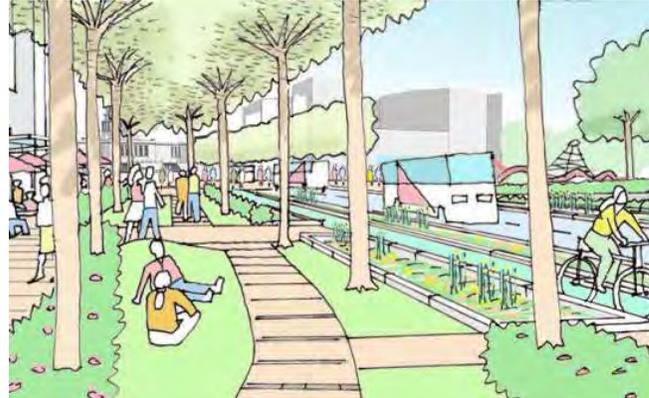


Retains current intersection alignment and adds a generous crosswalk at 4th St. to improve connectivity between the National Mall and downtown.

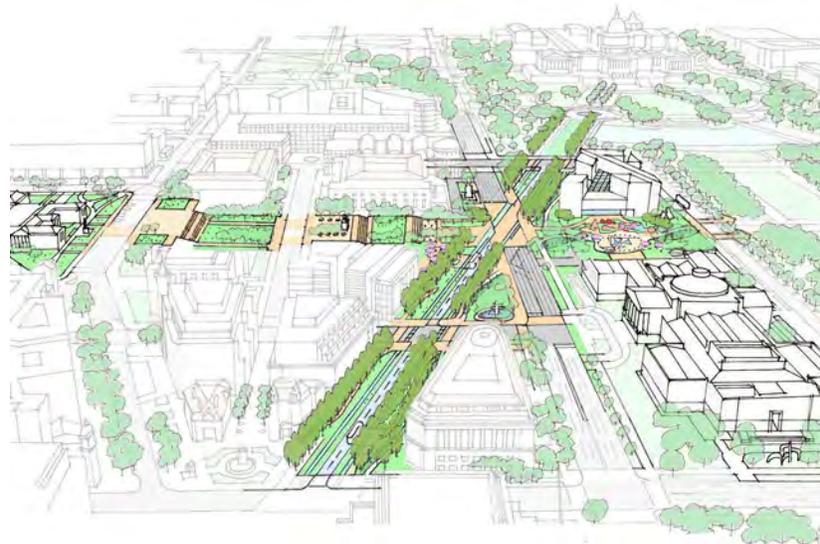


Connect to the City

Linear Green



Realigns Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues and permanently closes 4th St. to improve connections; create a more usable and flexible space; and active space between the Galleries.



Connect to the National Mall

Civic Stage



Tunnels Constitution Avenue under the Avenue and closes 4th St. to improve connections and create a sequence of public spaces for outdoor programming and exhibits adjacent to the Galleries



A Series of Plazas



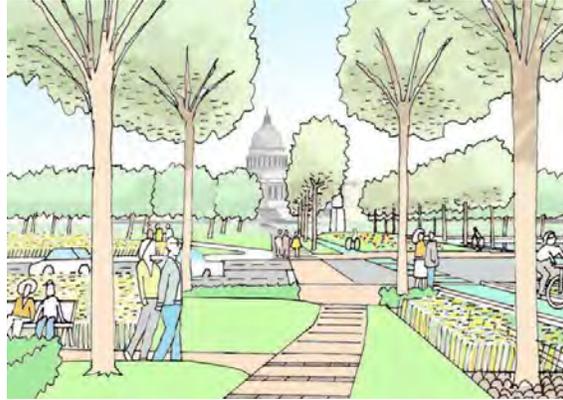
Pennsylvania Avenue at the U.S. Capitol Grounds

Urban Capital



Replaces the center row of angled parking with a landscaped median to create a welcoming entry to the U.S. Capitol Grounds

Linear Green



Removes all parking east of 3rd St. transforming the street into a garden gateway with a high-performing landscape.

Civic Stage



Replaces angled parking with parallel parking along the curbs and extends the center promenade to create a dignified and ceremonial entrance to the U.S. Capitol Grounds.



A New Arrival Experience



A New Pedestrian Gateway



A New Ceremonial Entrance



The Avenue as *a Venue*: The Entire Avenue

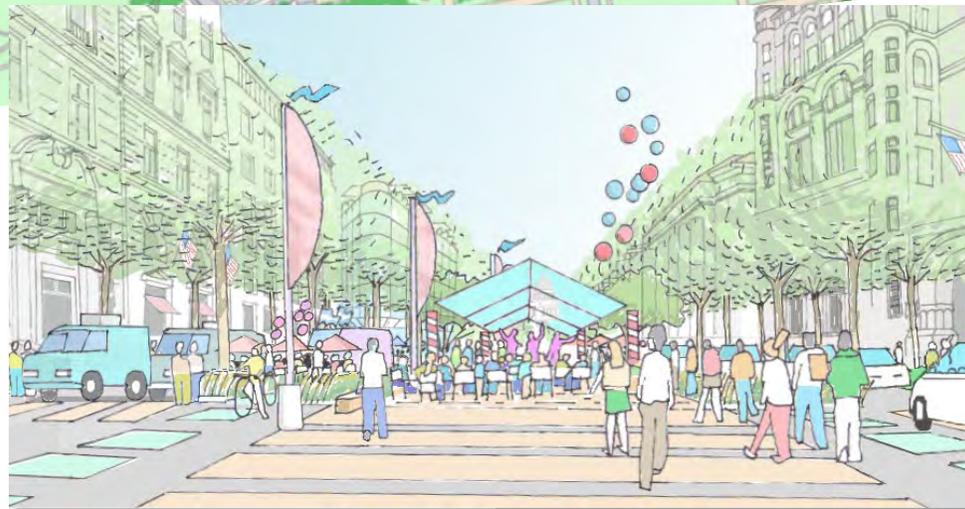
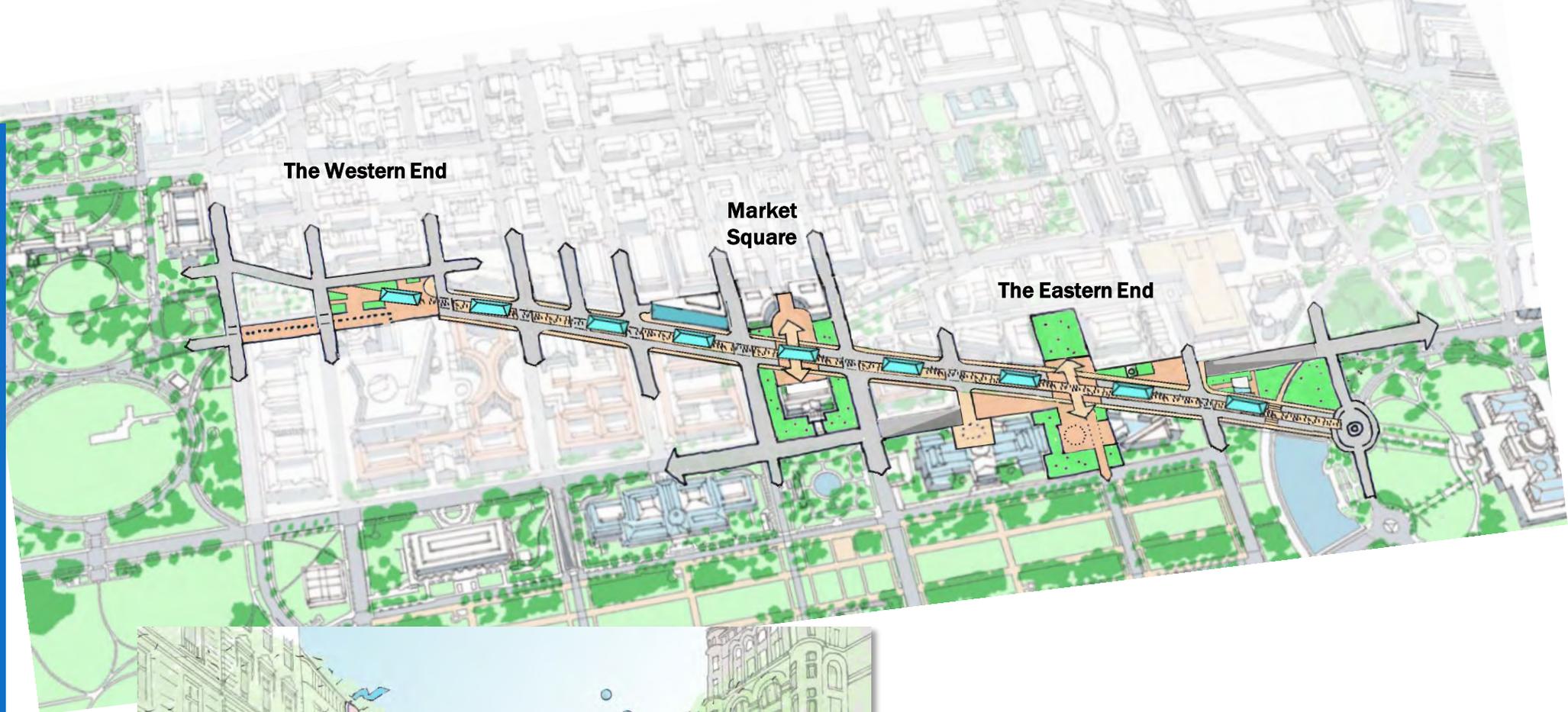
The Avenue as a Venue

The Entire Avenue

The Urban Rooms can combine with the corridor to transform the Avenue into a mile-long venue. This shows an example of a month-long cultural festival.

A center promenade could provide ample space for festival structures and visitors, potentially allowing some travel lanes to remain open or be used for additional programming support.

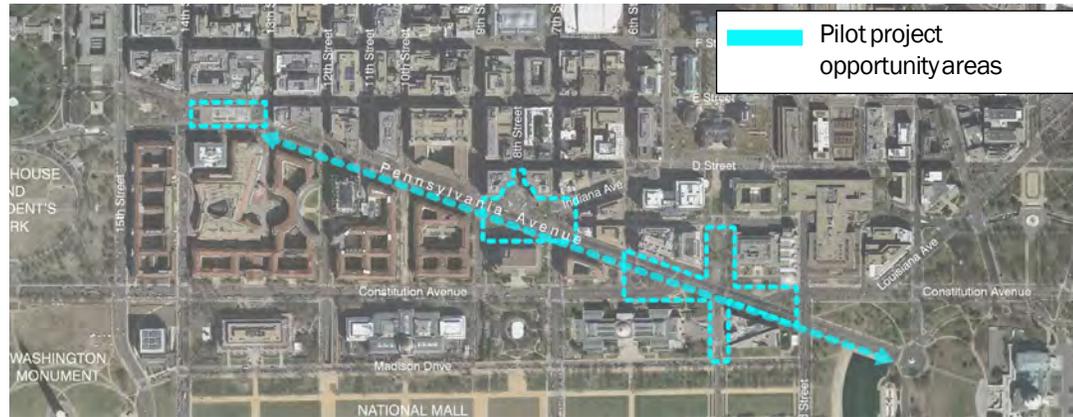
This could benefit events with a long duration or a heavy footprint and relieve pressure on the National Mall.



Cultural Festival

The Avenue as a Venue

Incremental Improvements



NEAR-TERM – Pilot Projects

Potential locations for pilot projects to test feasibility of future improvements.

MID-TERM – Event-related Infrastructure

Potential locations for infrastructure upgrades to ready the Avenue for national Independence anniversary events in 2026.

LONG-TERM – Improve Overtime

Improvements to the urban rooms and the corridor can be sequenced and phased based on future need/priority.

*What's most exciting about the vision:
The Avenue as a Venue?*

*How should we balance daily use and special
event programming?*

*What aspects of the concepts can
best help us meet the vision?*