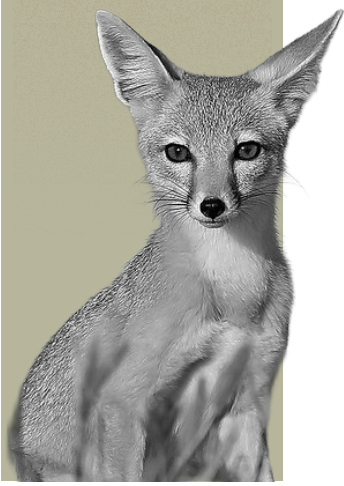


DNA OF SAN MIGUEL



CULTURAL HERITAGE



ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS



AGRICULTURAL TRADITIONS



INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY

THE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTITY

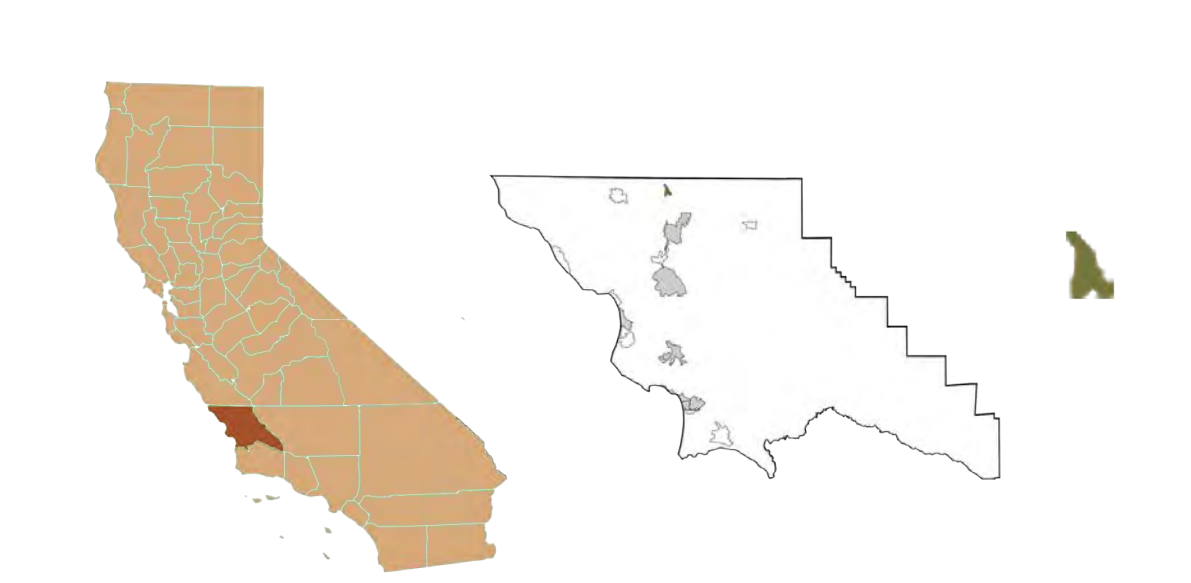
As a smaller agricultural town in San Luis Obispo County, San Miguel will likely experience growth and change in the coming years. But before considering where San Miguel is heading, it is vital to understand its history and its current unique character. This project celebrates the irreplaceable strands that make up San Miguel's DNA, things that should not be lost to potential development, but instead be the cornerstone of the town's future.

WHAT (AND WHO) MAKES UP SAN MIGUEL'S IDENTITY?

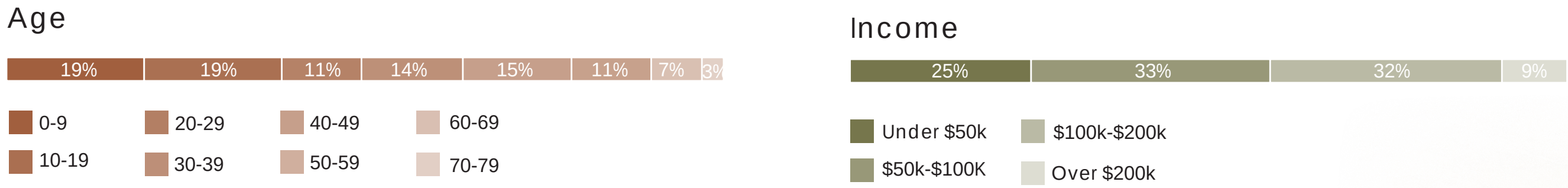
STAKEHOLDER GROUPS



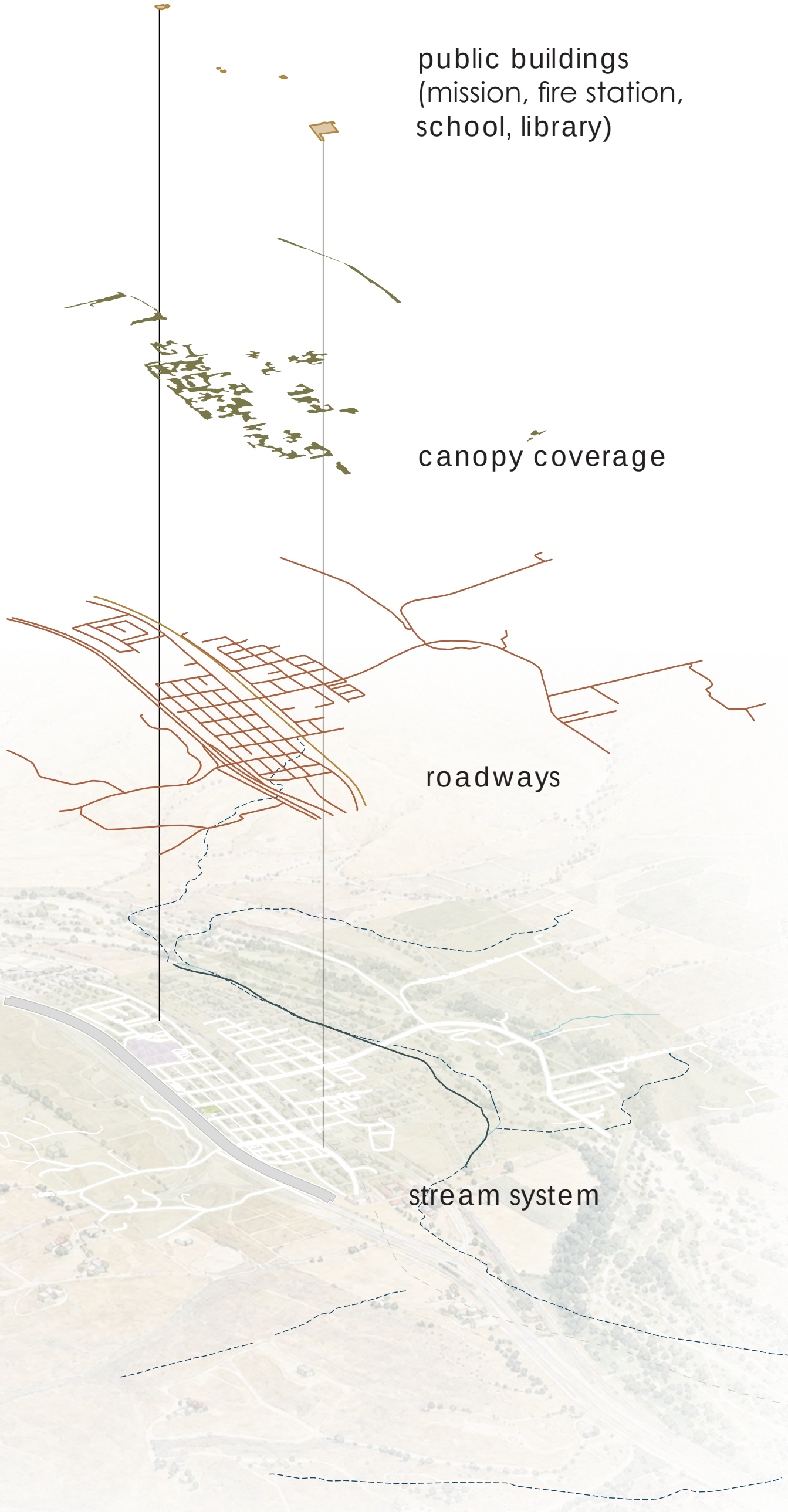
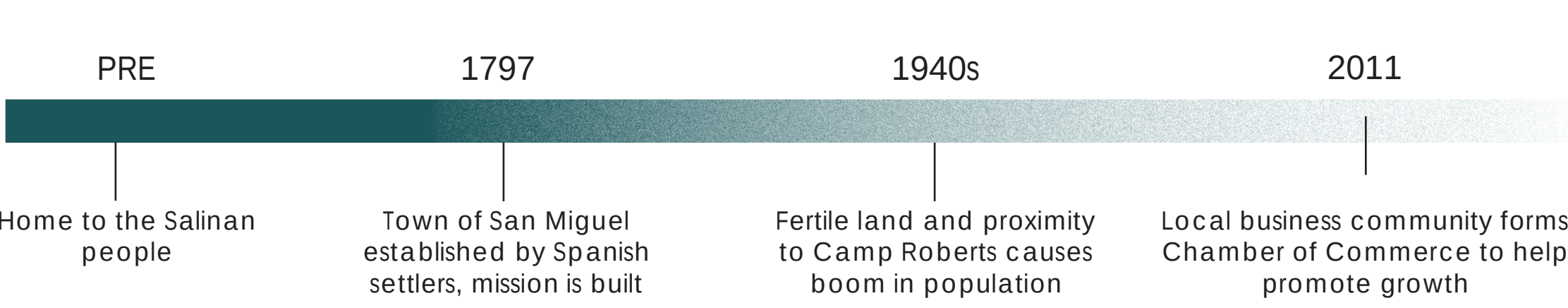
LOCATION



DEMOGRAPHICS



SAN MIGUEL HISTORY



LAYERED NETWORKS LAYERED IDENTITY

CLIENT NEEDS & CONCERNS

- 1 Cultural art displays + local identity
- 2 Speeding on L St. + highway ramp
- 2 Useful sidewalks on L St. + 13th
- 2 Dark / unlit routes to park + school
- 2 Unsafe crossings at L St. + 13th
- 2 Emergency call boxes + direct response
- 3 Youth recreation spaces
- 3 Flexible outdoor gathering space
- 3 Park-to-market + school connection
- 4 Extreme heat + need for cooling shade
- 4 Stormwater retention + drainage
- 5 Tree canopy + shaded walking
- 5 Litter, tagging + park stewardship

PROJECT GOALS + OBJECTIVES

- 1 INDIGENOUS CULTURE
 - Cultural art displays
 - Local identity + storytelling
- 2 SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY
 - Painted crossings + traffic calming
 - Lighting, sidewalks + emergency access
- 3 DOWNTOWN VITALITY
 - Active outdoor recreation
 - Flexible gathering + daily connections
- 4 CLIMATE RESILIENCE
 - Cooling shade + heat relief
 - Stormwater retention
- 5 ECOLOGICAL HEALTH
 - Canopy coverage
 - Cleaner, greener park edges



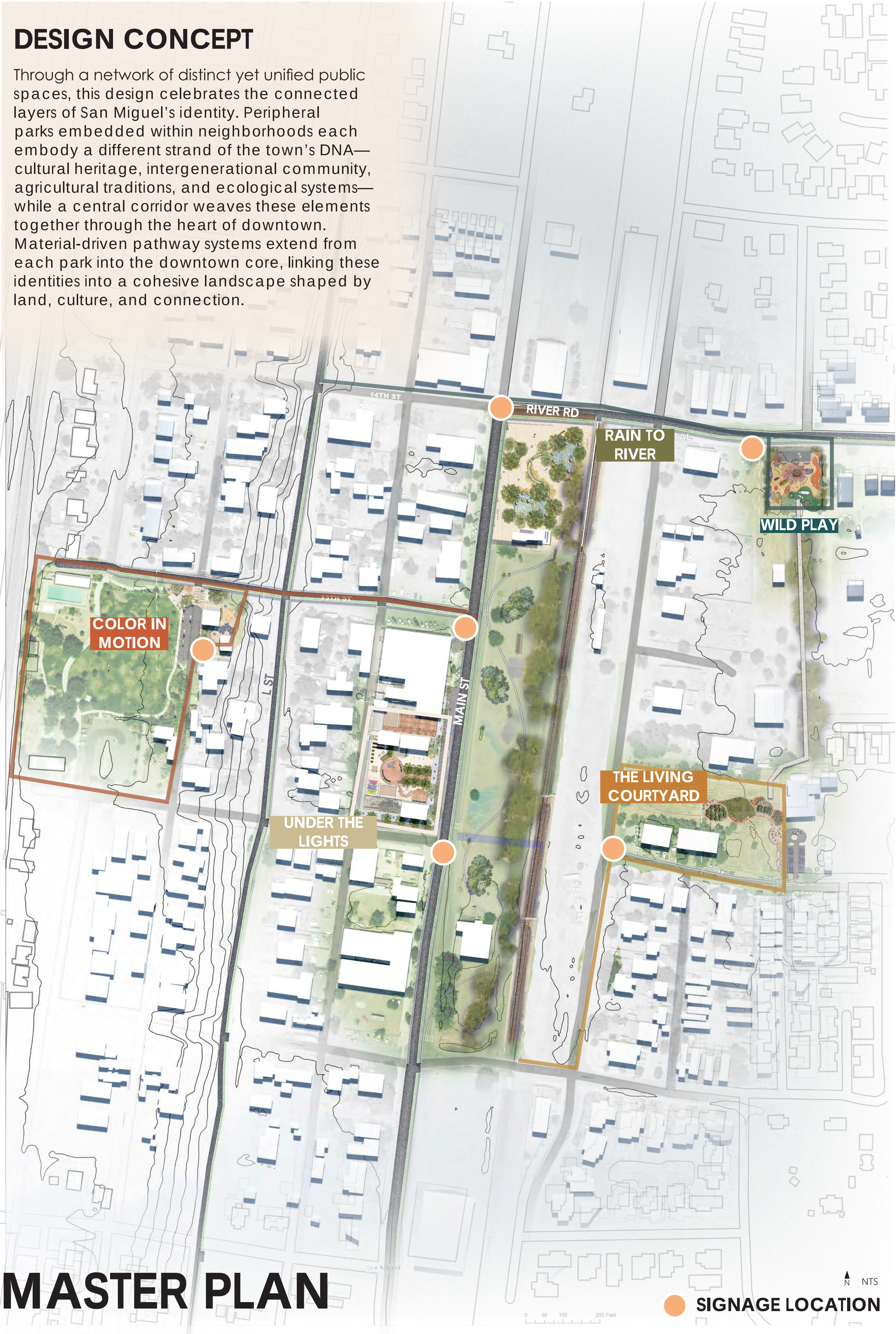
RESEARCH & NEGOTIATIONS

In the research stage of the project, designers represented distinct stakeholder groups (residents, special interest, environment, business, and government) and analyzed the community through their specialized lens. Following research, early proposals were developed.

In the negotiation process, representatives from each group advocated for the specific design elements that upheld their vision of community health. After reaching compromises and agreements, one representative from each group came together to form the DNA team.

DESIGN CONCEPT

Through a network of distinct yet unified public spaces, this design celebrates the connected layers of San Miguel's identity. Peripheral parks embedded within neighborhoods each embody a different strand of the town's DNA—cultural heritage, intergenerational community, agricultural traditions, and ecological systems—while a central corridor weaves these elements together through the heart of downtown. Material-driven pathway systems extend from each park into the downtown core, linking these identities into a cohesive landscape shaped by land, culture, and connection.



MASTER PLAN

RAIN TO RIVER



WILD PLAY



COLOR IN MOTION



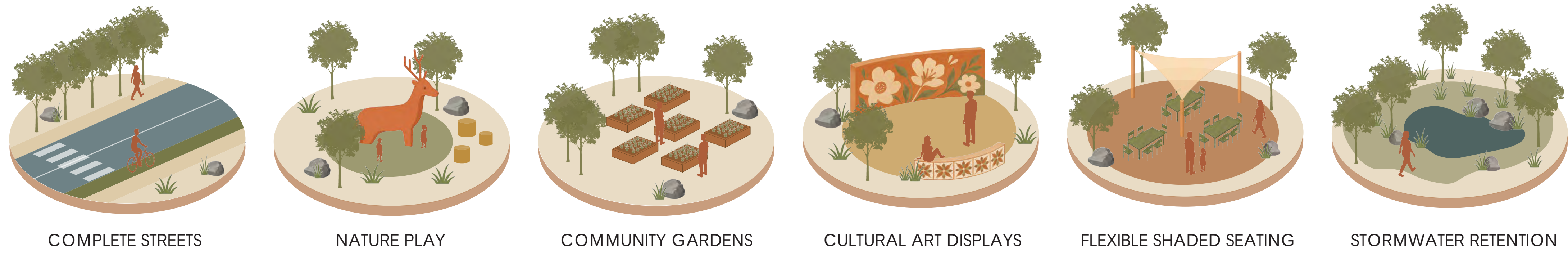
THE LIVING COURTYARD



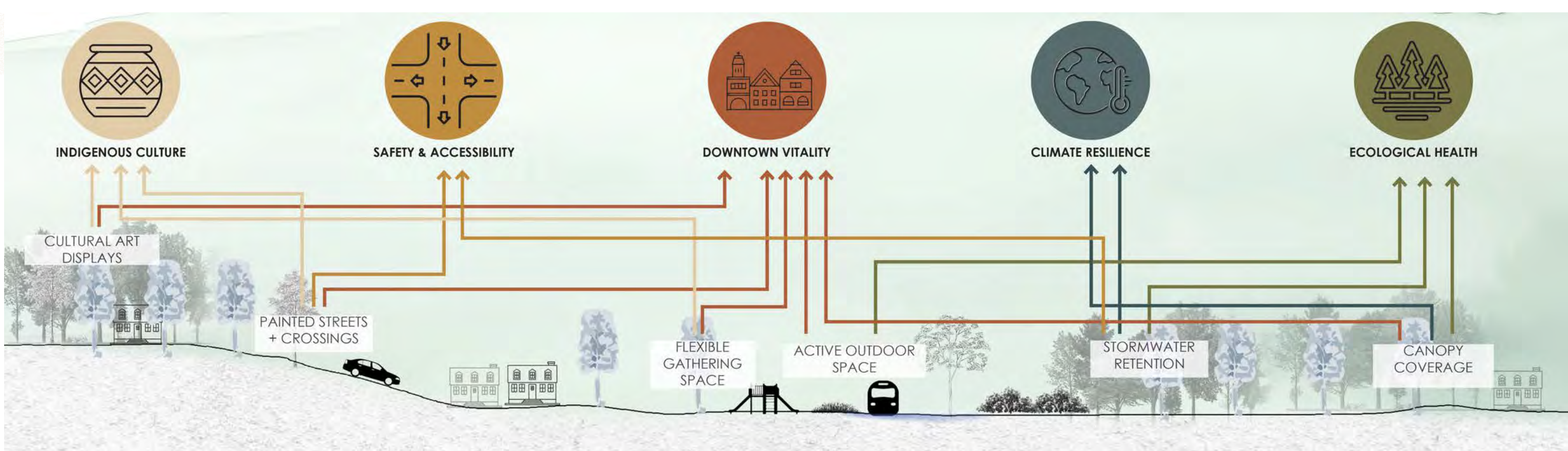
UNDER THE LIGHTS



DESIGN INTERVENTIONS



INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS



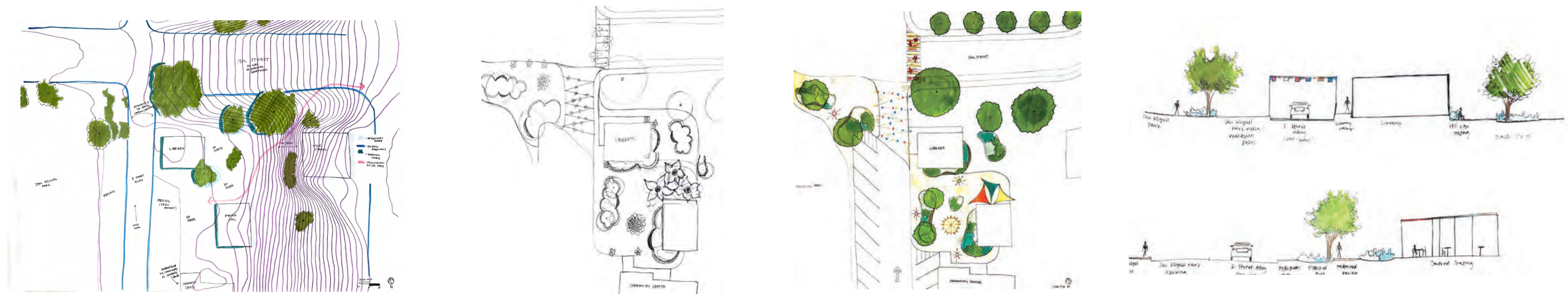
SIGNAGE + WAYFINDING



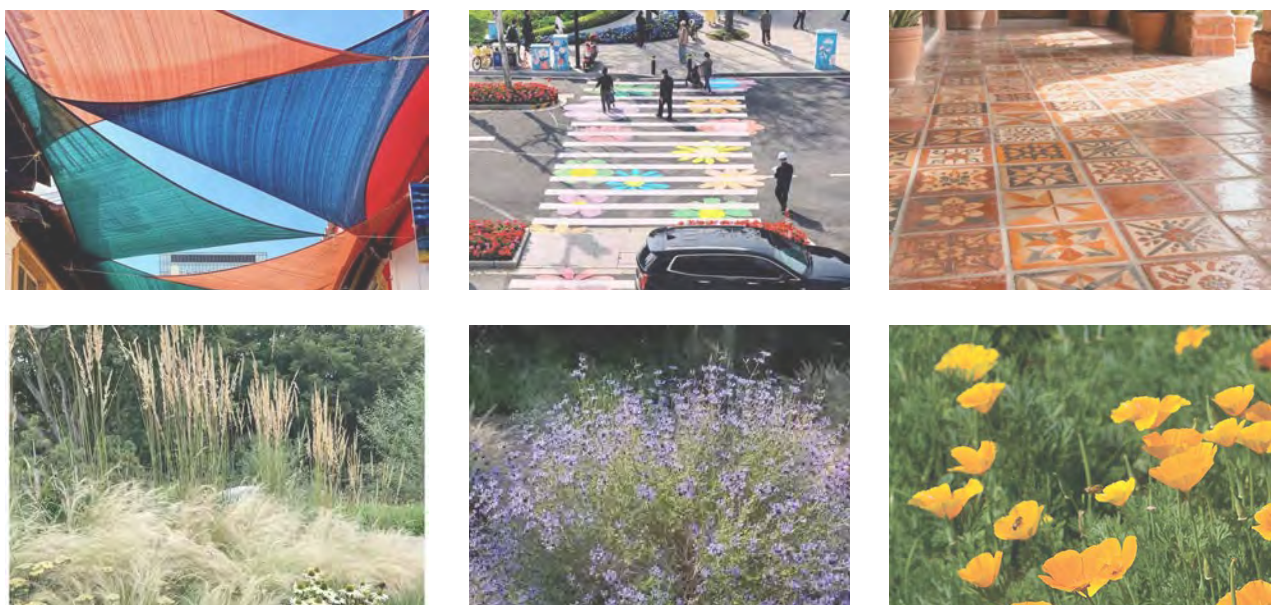


COLOR IN MOTION

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



MATERIALS



DESIGN STATEMENT: CELEBRATION

Color in Motion is a community gathering space that celebrates the town's Mexican heritage. Inspired by marigolds and other culturally significant flowers, the design features flower murals, Mexican tile accents, educational elements, and decorative lighting that create a strong sense of place next to San Miguel Park.

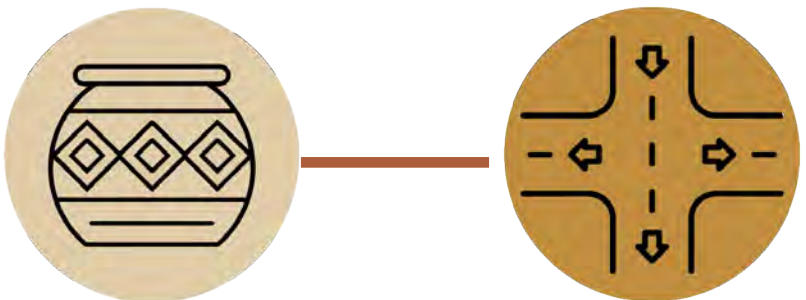


INTERVENTION

CULTURAL ART DISPLAYS

KEY GOALS ADDRESSED

CULTURAL REPRESENTATION
SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY



SITE SECTIONS

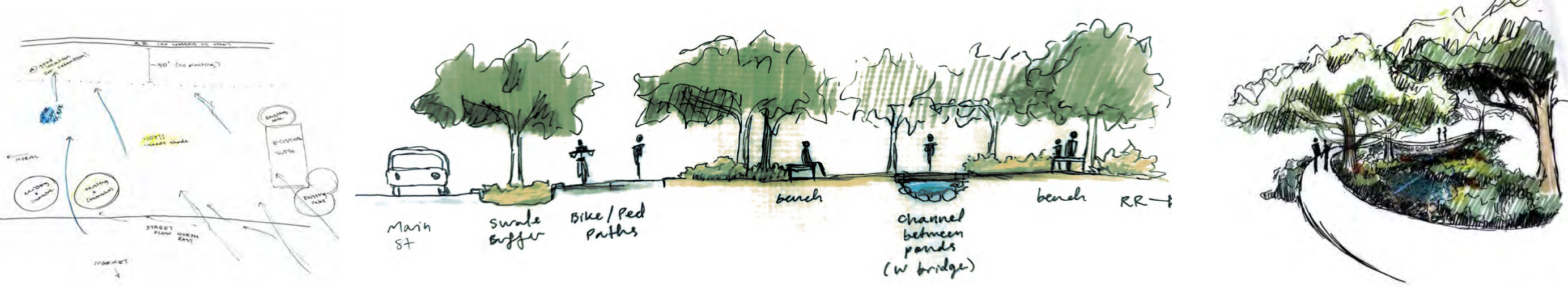
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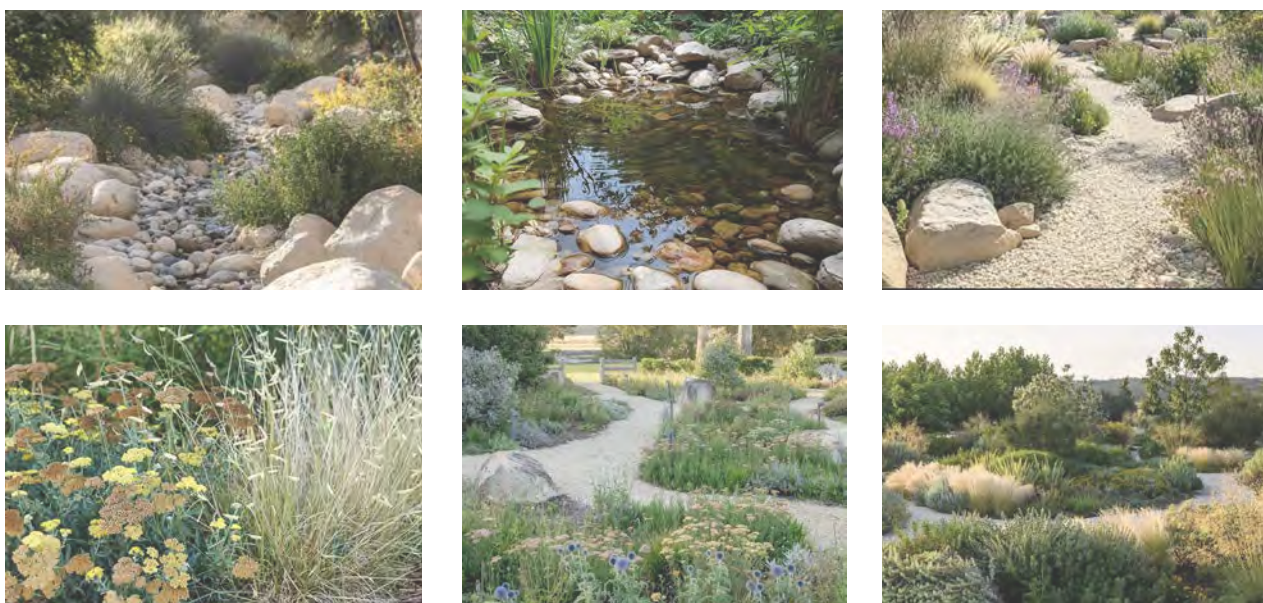


RAIN TO RIVER

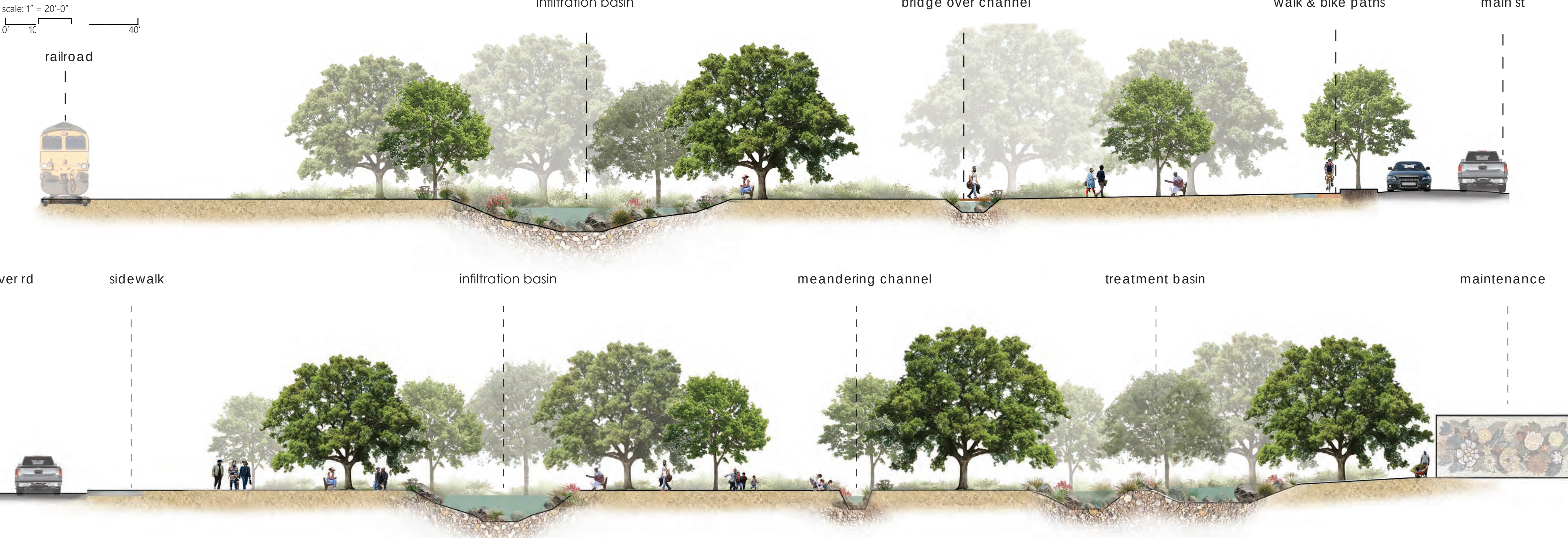
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



MATERIALS



SITE SECTIONS



DESIGN STATEMENT: RECLAMATION

Rain to River stormwater park connects residents to natural processes while addressing seasonal street flooding and water runoff pollution. A dry creek providing shade and native planting for most of the year, the wet season transforms the park into an interactive system of pools and channels that encourage both the water and the residents to slow down, meander around, and settle in.

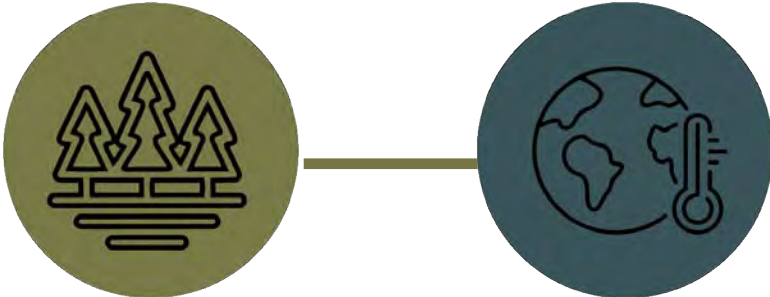


INTERVENTION

STORMWATER RETENTION

KEY GOALS ADDRESSED

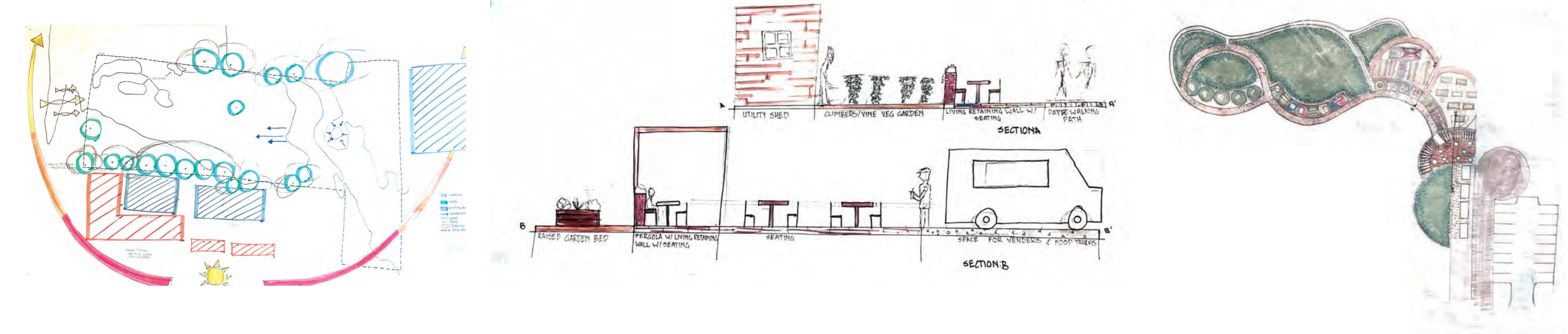
ECOLOGICAL HEALTH
CLIMATE RESILIENCE



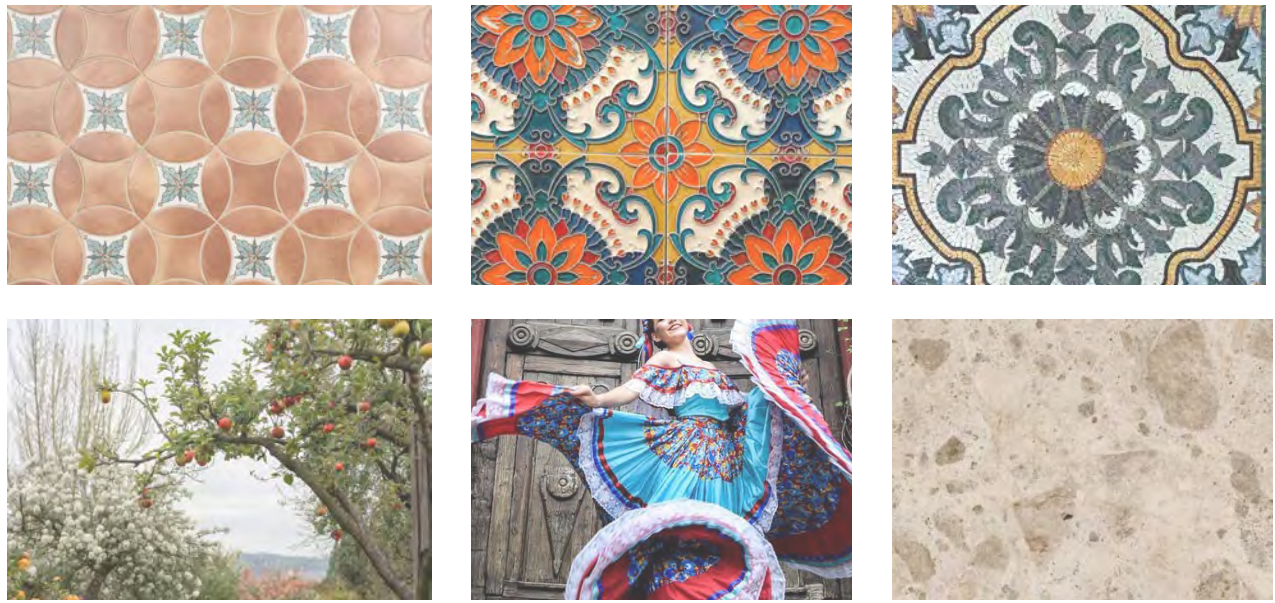


THE LIVING COURTYARD

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



MATERIALS

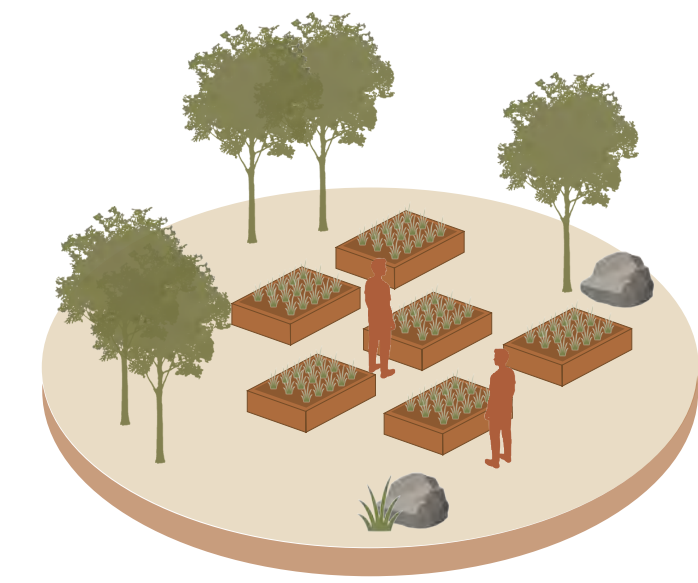


SITE SECTIONS



DESIGN STATEMENT: CONNECTION

The Living Courtyard serves as a vibrant community hub that brings together residents of all ages through a variety of active spaces. By incorporating areas for play, gathering, recreation, and relaxation, the design encourages multi-generational connections and strengthens the sense of community.



INTERVENTION

COMMUNITY GARDENS

KEY GOALS ADDRESSED

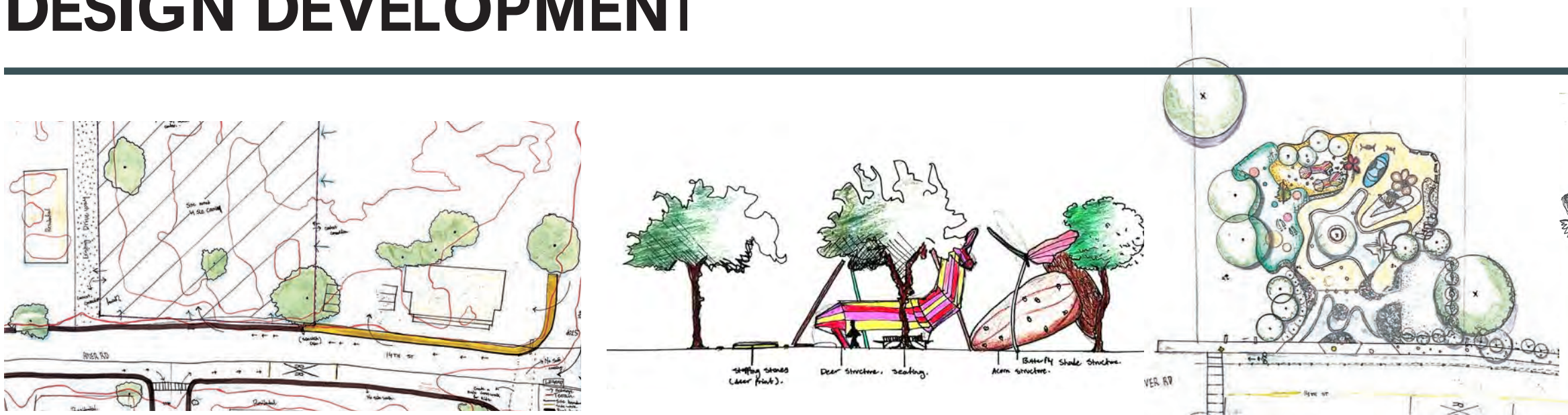
CULTURAL REPRESENTATION
CLIMATE RESILIENCE





WILD PLAY

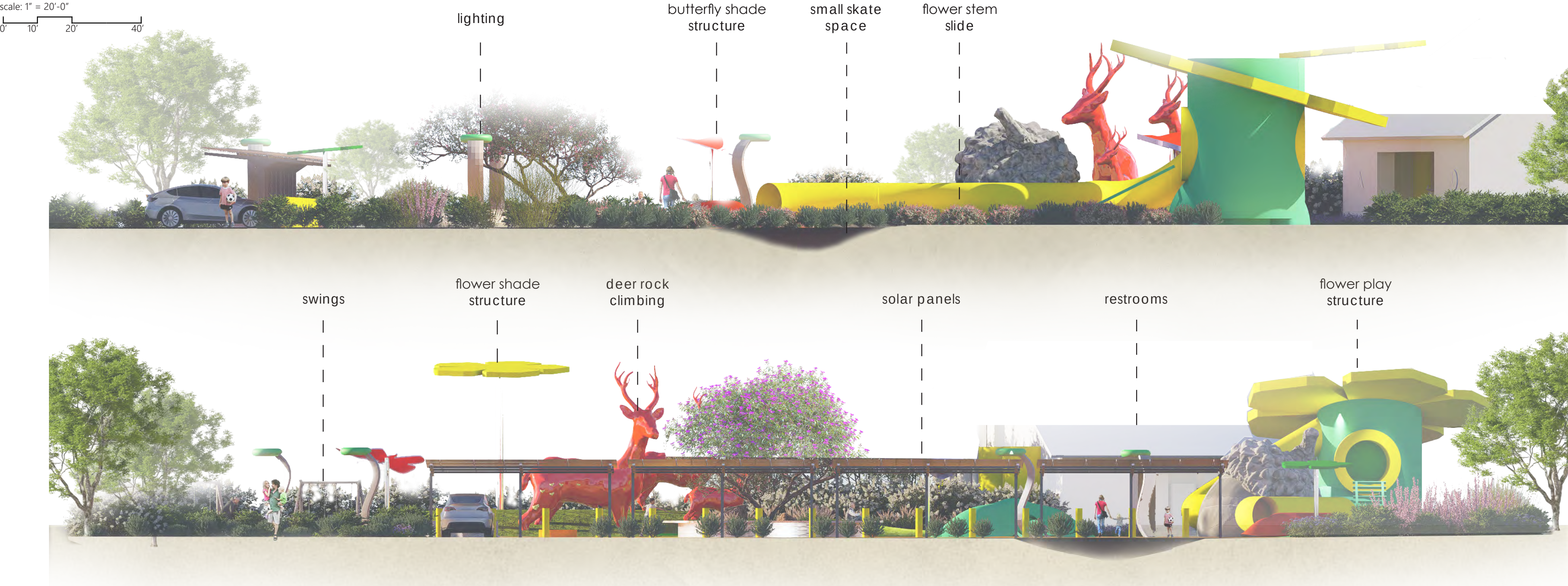
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



MATERIALS

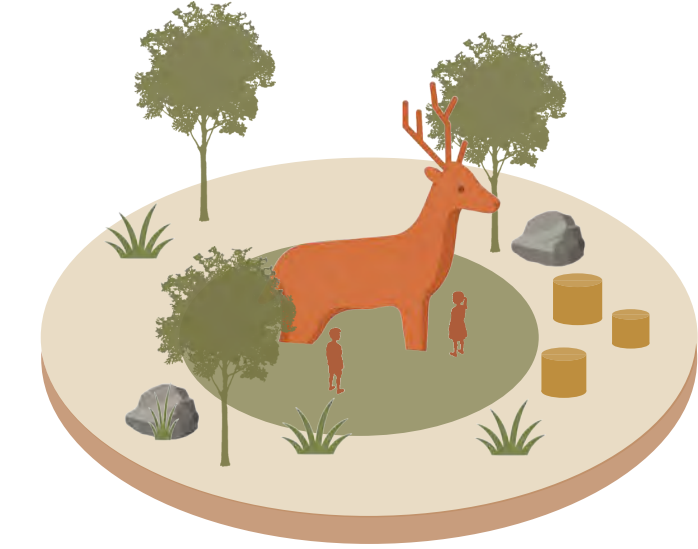


SITE SECTIONS



DESIGN STATEMENT: STORYTELLING

Inspired by the deer as both a cultural symbol and playful guide, this proposal reimagines a neighborhood park as an immersive landscape of storytelling, identity, and community connection. Designed for all ages, the park weaves together play, heritage, and place-making to create one of San Miguel's defining public destinations.

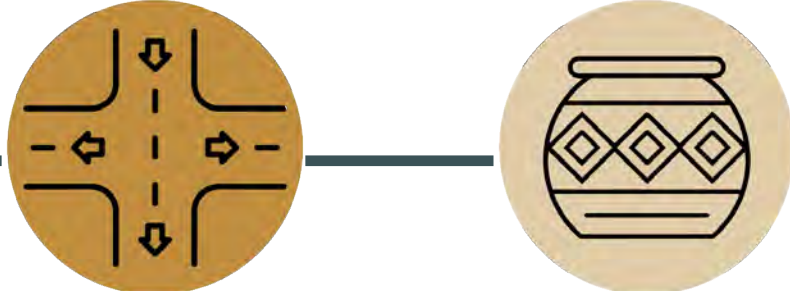


INTERVENTION

NATURE PLAY

KEY GOALS ADDRESSED

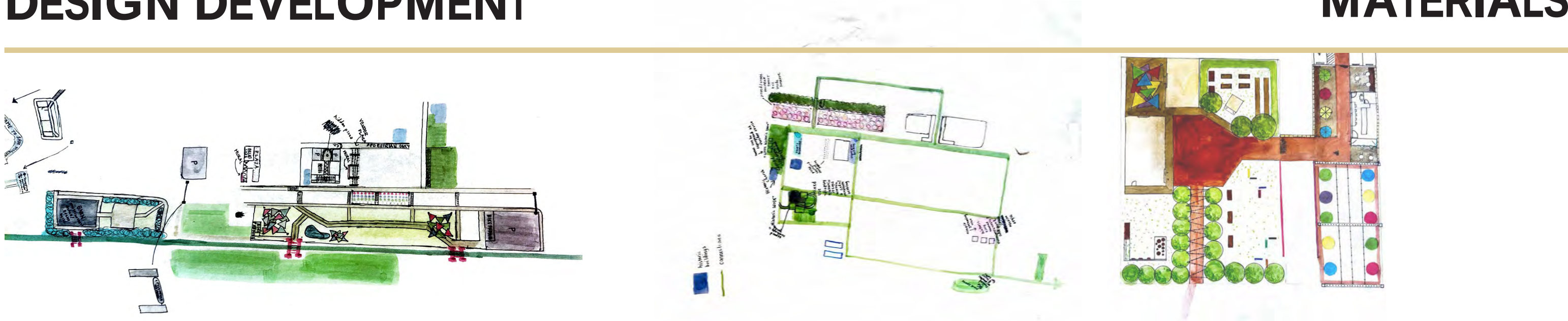
SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY
CULTURAL REPRESENTATION



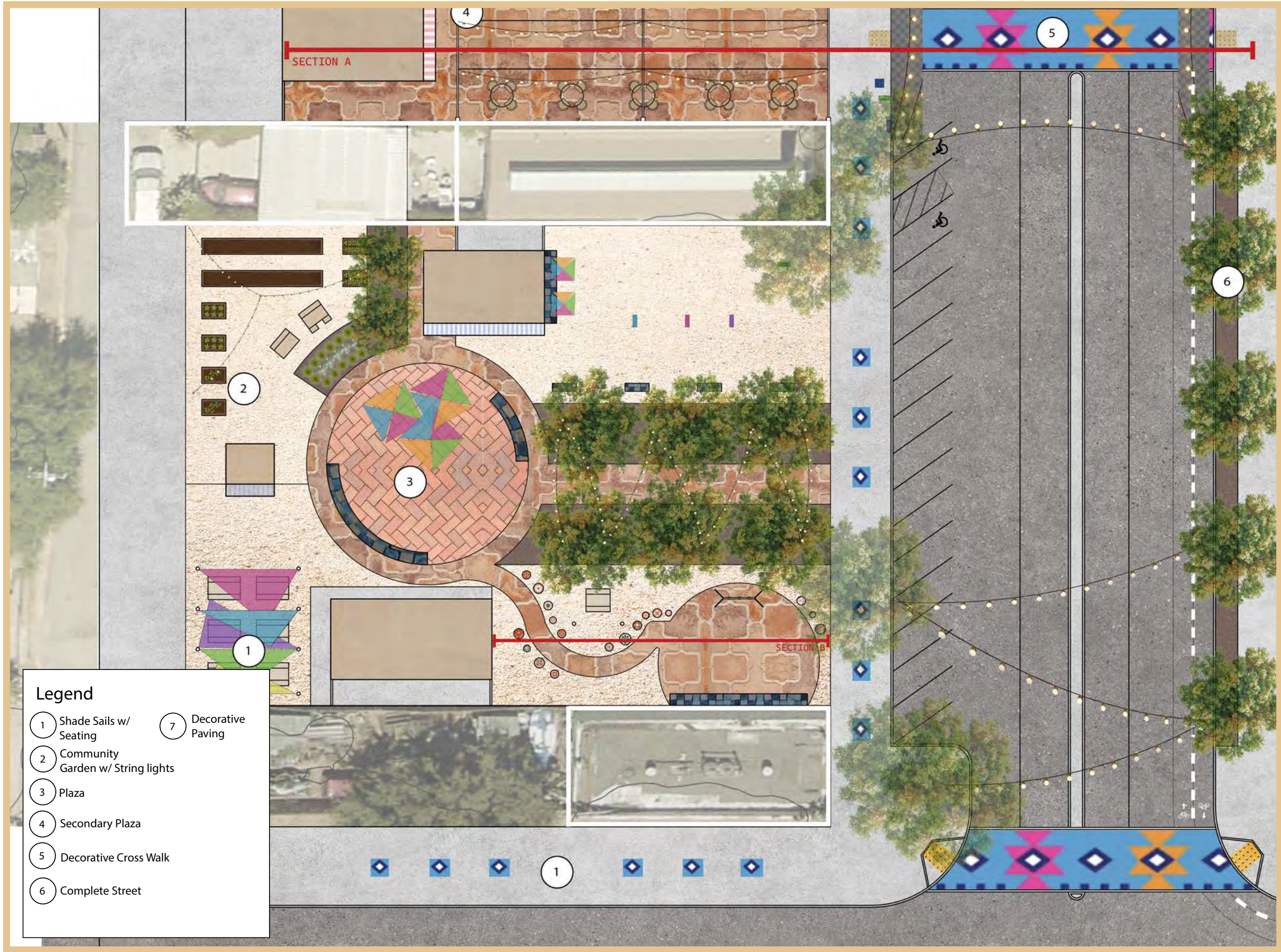
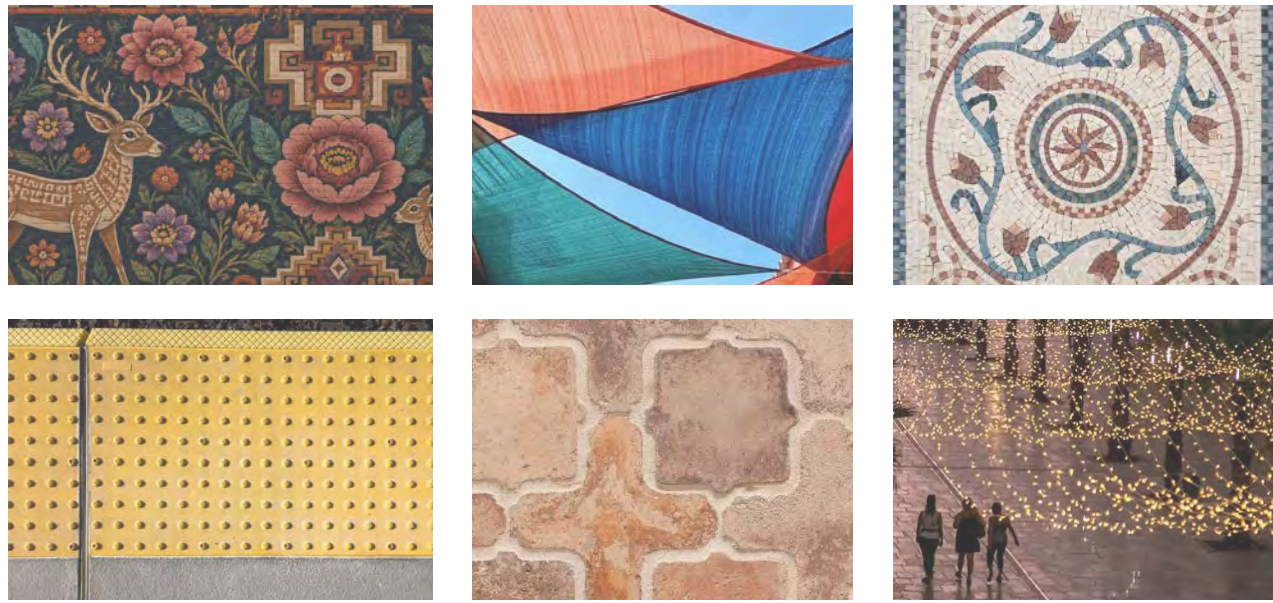


UNDER THE LIGHTS

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



MATERIALS



DESIGN STATEMENT: REVITALIZATION

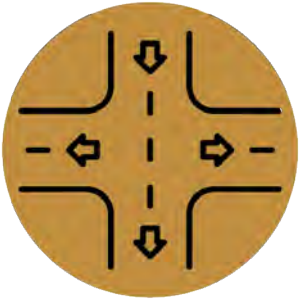
Under the Lights is a vibrant community gathering space that supports social connection, local businesses, and active living. Featuring flexible plazas, community gardens, vendor spaces, shade structures, and ambient lighting, the design creates a safe and welcoming place for people of all ages while revitalizing long-vacant sites.



INTERVENTION COMPLETE STREETS

KEY GOALS ADDRESSED

DOWNTOWN VITALITY
SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY



SITE SECTIONS

scale: 1" = 20'-0"

