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Eagle Plaza
Phase 1 – Schematic Design Submittal
Request for Review Form - Attachment A

Design Concept:

In 2011, SF Planning published “[Recognizing, Protecting and Memorializing South of Market LGBTQ Social Heritage Neighborhood Resources](#),” in an effort to document LGBTQ assets and make recommendations for celebrating these past and present neighborhood resources. The conceptual vision for Eagle Plaza emerged as a way to support this initial effort by creating a physical commemoration of Folsom Gulch’s LGBTQ history, and has evolved as a public gathering space for the neighborhood, a green respite from the city in a neighborhood underserved by green spaces, a place to host special community events.

Build Inc., the project sponsor, Build Public, a local non-profit, Gehl Studio and Bionic, two local urban design firms, and the owners of the Eagle Tavern, a local business that is adjacent to the plaza, have collaborated to develop a proposal to convert approximately 13,500 sf of the 12th Street public Right-of-Way (ROW) between Harrison and Bernice Streets into a new public pedestrian plaza. The proposed plaza would reduce the existing, two-way, 46-foot-wide ROW on 12th Street into a single lane, one-way, 14-foot-wide “slow street,” providing southbound-only auto access from 12th Street to Harrison Street. 15 on-street, parallel public parking spaces would be eliminated because they are located within proposed plaza area. In order to curb but not entirely prohibit through-traffic, the “shared street” design allows slow-moving cars but in a plaza environment designed primarily for pedestrians. The plaza is designed for maximum flexibility in use, with areas that can function as small, independent enclaves for a range of active and passive uses but that, when closed to through-traffic can be converted into a large, unified space for special event programming. This project is being proposed as an In Kind Agreement in conjunction with the development of 1532 Harrison St, a mixed-use project on a surface parking lot at the corner of 12th St and Harrison St.

- **Typical Day, Open to Traffic:** The surface of the proposed plaza would extend from property line to property line, with the “slow street” roadway flush with the plaza. In its

typical configuration, with the plaza open to slow-moving cars, the slow street is clearly demarcated by continuous vegetated or seating elements that are at least 6 inches high and with a maximum of a 12 inch gap between elements, to meet ADA requirements. We reviewed our plans with Kevin Jensen on 8/10/15 and he confirmed for us that at the current level of design, this approach would meet his standards for safety and accessibility.

- **Event Configuration, Closed to Traffic:** For community events, the plaza becomes pedestrian-only by moving the planters and benches with a pallet jack into the right of way at each end of the plaza to block vehicular access, opening the space into a contiguous and cohesive-feeling gathering and celebration area.
- **Programming:** The pedestrian-only areas of the plaza would be used for a variety of active and passive recreation, occasional special events like festivals or performances, and limited, small-scale commerce to activate the space, such as temporary food trucks and/or a coffee kiosk. The number and type of events to take place on the plaza will be determined through negotiations with relevant City agencies, but may entail monthly plaza-wide events including but not limited to: farmers' markets, local festivals, small-scale live music events, or outdoor movie nights. Ongoing daily programming to generate foot traffic and "eyes on the plaza" may include a coffee kiosk, fitness classes, outdoor seating and gathering space, and/or dedicated space for a lunchtime food truck. Plaza management, including programming, operations and maintenance, will be overseen by a neighborhood-based nonprofit stewardship group, the Friends of Eagle Plaza (FoEP). FoEP, comprising adjacent property and business owners and neighborhood stakeholders, has formed with the express intent of becoming Eagle Plaza's long-term stewards.

Community Outreach:

Build Public is publicizing the Phase 1 – Schematic Design Review Presentation on November 16, 2015 in the Western SoMa community through various neighborhood associations, including the Friends of Eagle Plaza and the SoMa Bend Neighborhood Association, as well as an internal email list generated from the project website (<http://www.eagleplaza.org/>).