

An aerial photograph of Columbus, Indiana, showing a mix of modern and historic architecture. A prominent building with a clock tower is visible in the background. The foreground features a multi-lane road with several cars and a parking lot. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red color.

Columbus Downtown Entrance Plaza *Columbus, Indiana*

The City of Columbus
Columbus Redevelopment Commission
Columbus Design Institute

July 23, 2024

Engagement Recap

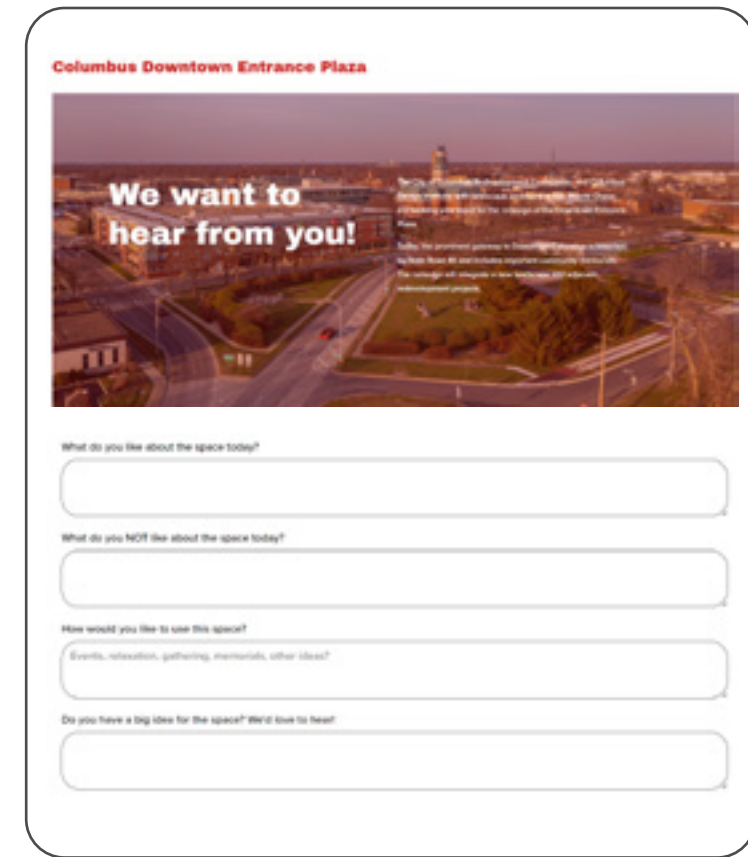
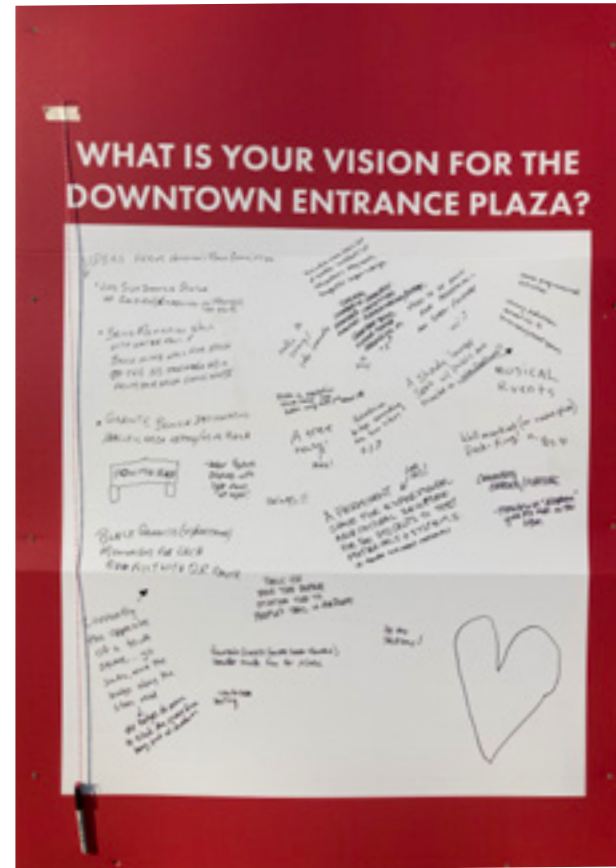
Challenges

Opportunities

Key Takeaways

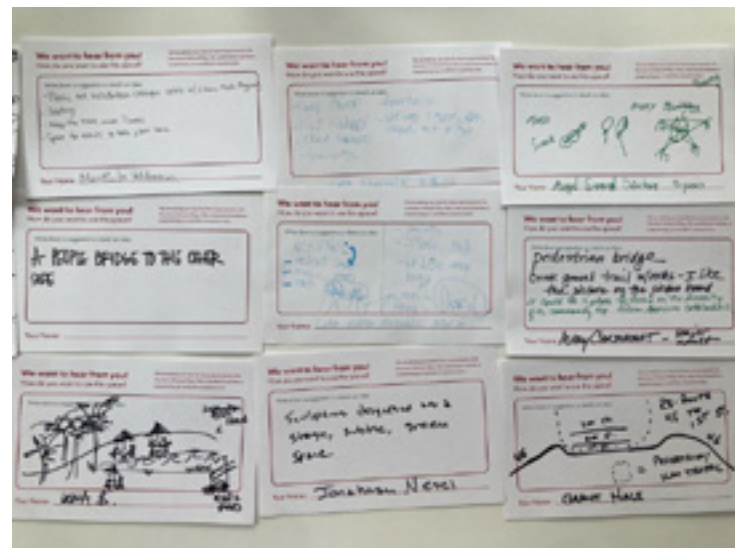
Introduce and welcome people to Columbus
Consider the context
Design a comfortable, safe, and interesting space
Enhance ecology
Celebrate community and culture
Create areas for reflection and honoring history

Columbus Downtown Entrance Plaza Engagement Recap

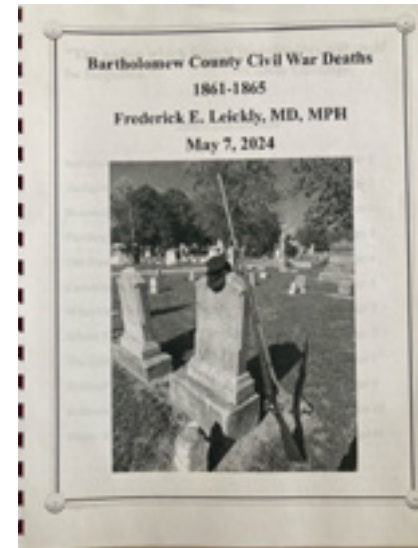


Picnic event with interactive boards

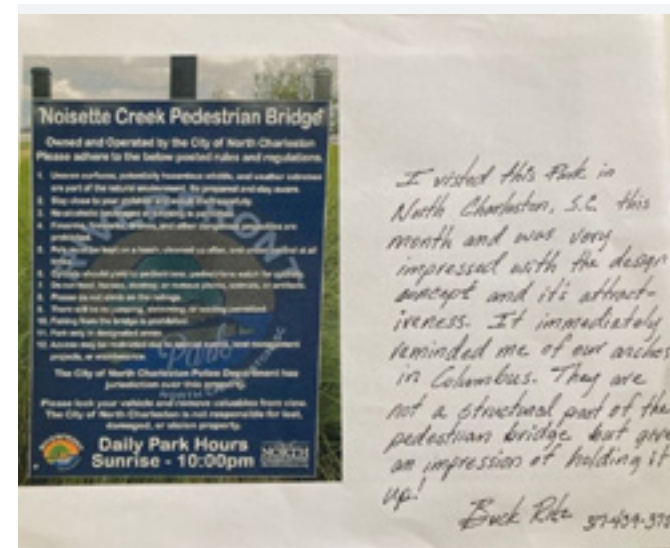
Online survey



Comment cards



Collected materials



- POW/MIA Memorial Representatives
- Columbus Police Department
- Columbus Fire Department
- IU Architecture Program Representatives
- Columbus City Council
- Columbus Mayor's Office
- Columbus Redevelopment Commission
- Picnic on the Plaza Public Event

Stakeholder meetings

Columbus Downtown Entrance Plaza Engagement Recap



Columbus Downtown Entrance Plaza Engagement Recap



"The space is **disconnected** to the surrounding blocks, sidewalks, trails, etc. It does not relate to any of the surrounding structures."

"Its scale is too small, the contents too random... **inaccessibility** from being surrounded by busy streets."

"This could be a great space for smallish outdoor events, but it's so **underutilized**. I didn't even know it was here!"

"Two spaces separated by **traffic**. Why do we hate pedestrians?"

"Separation is backwards - need berm to obstruct street noise and need to open up space by the Bicentennial Trail because **nobody knows this plaza is here**."

"Not enough shade!"

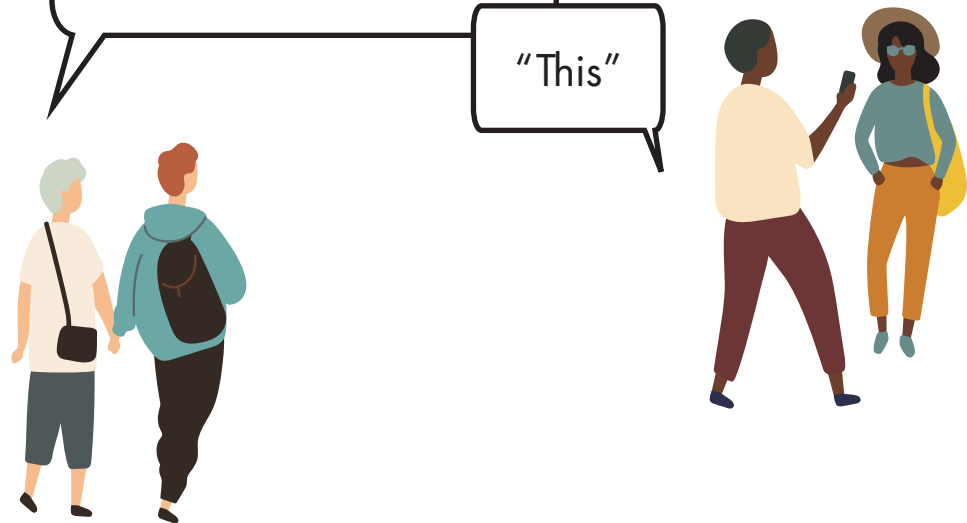
"Another vote for this, the separation"

"This"

"It's almost **unusable for pedestrians** with the **state highway** running through it."

"The **exhaust/road noise** is a barrier to enjoyment"

"I do not think this area needs an upgrade. I would rather see taxpayer dollars go to improving other areas of town."



"Something that says
"**Welcome to Columbus**"
metaphorically"

"**Eye catching** - but not distracting as
people drive into town"

"**Slow down traffic** here
plus 2nd + 3rd Streets.
Pedestrians = Energy"

"I know there is **untapped potential** here."

"Create **clear visual connectors** to draw
people across the busy street (safely) and
into the area."

"More **programmed** activities"

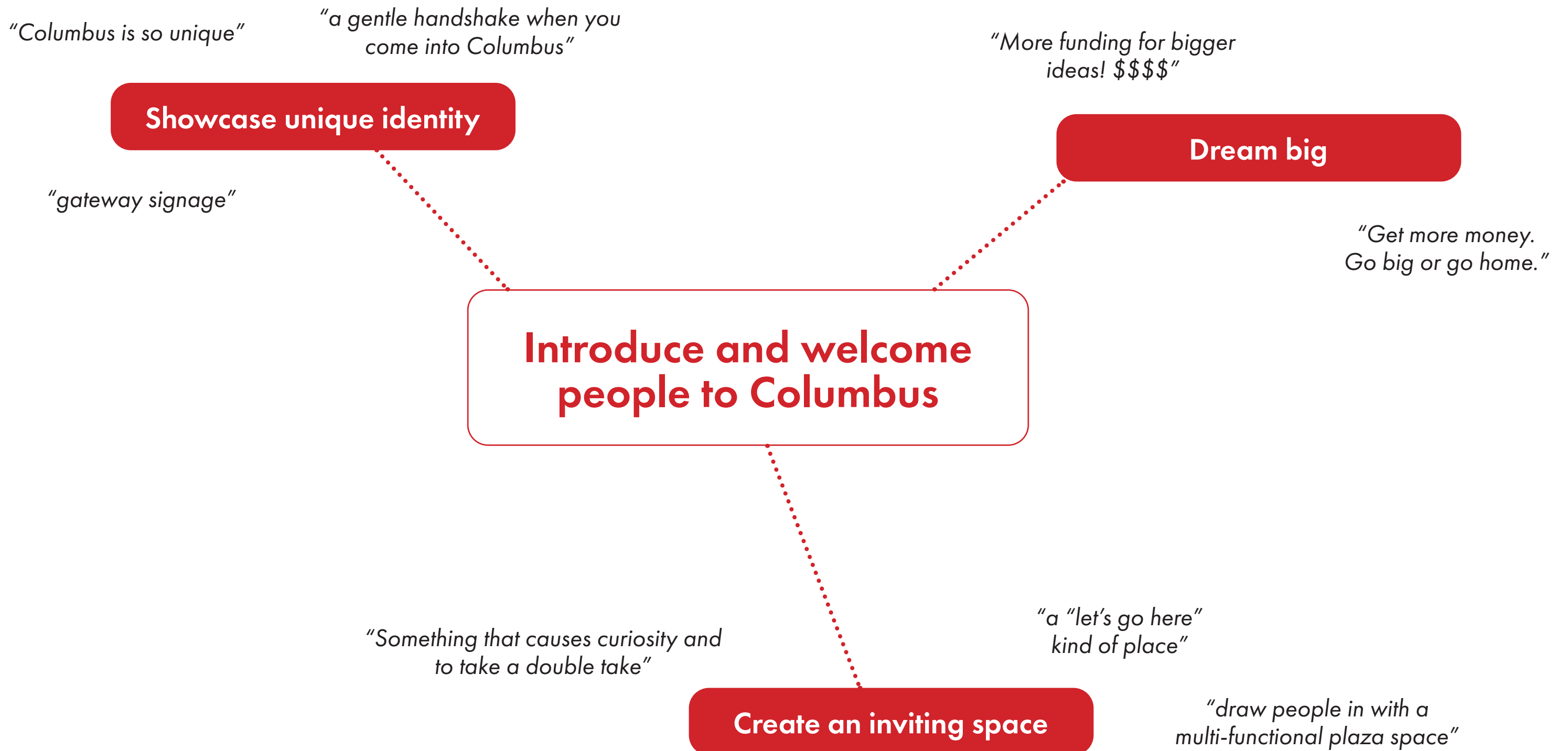
"The entire space must have a **unified**
design, not just trying to build on what exists.
Start again with a **clean slate**, unhindered
by the ad hoc nature of the current design."

"Something that **acknowledges/**
celebrates African Americans in community"

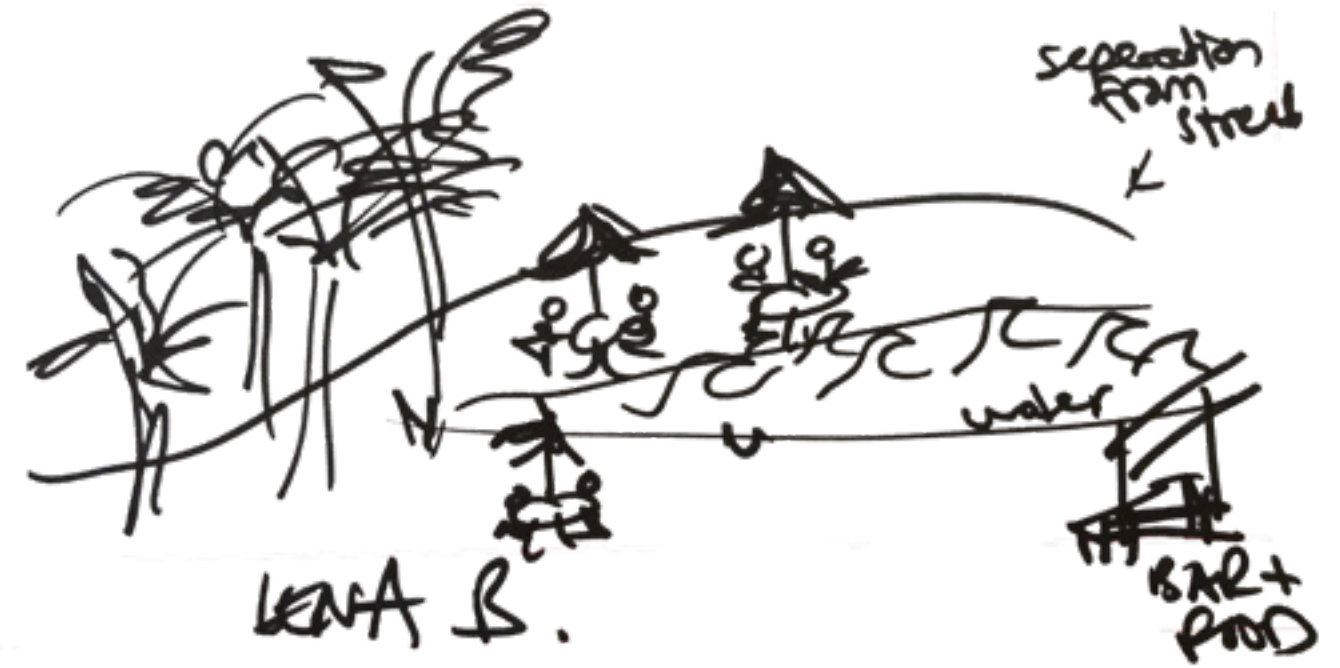
"This is a connecting space -
let's be **intentional**"







Columbus Downtown Entrance Plaza
What We Heard | Key Takeaways



*"Cohesion with design
downtown, the bridge and
uniting both spaces"*

Cohesiveness

*"This whole area has a lot of traffic
"artifacts" of old patterns. May need
a thoughtful larger redesign."*

Circulation

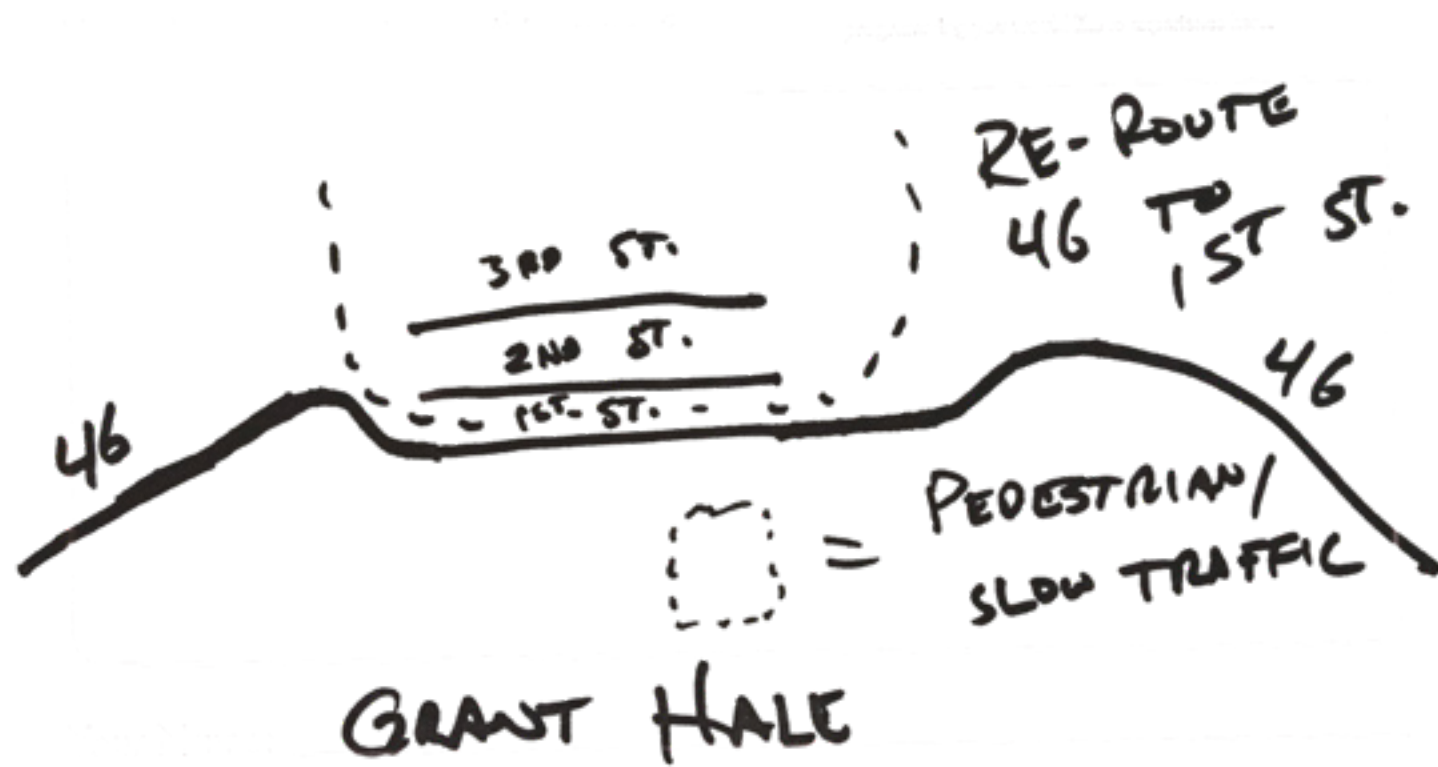
Consider the context

*"Not "how can we connect this site to
downtown" - how can this site serve
as a conduit between waterfront etc
AND downtown?"*

Connections

*"Strong pedestrian connections to
surrounding event spaces"*

Columbus Downtown Entrance Plaza
What We Heard | Key Takeaways



“Pedestrian connecting possible over-street **bridge** to allow view of downtown and the Riverfront.”

“I like that the People Trail is now **connecting both sides** of the highway. The bridge beautifully frames the view coming into downtown.”

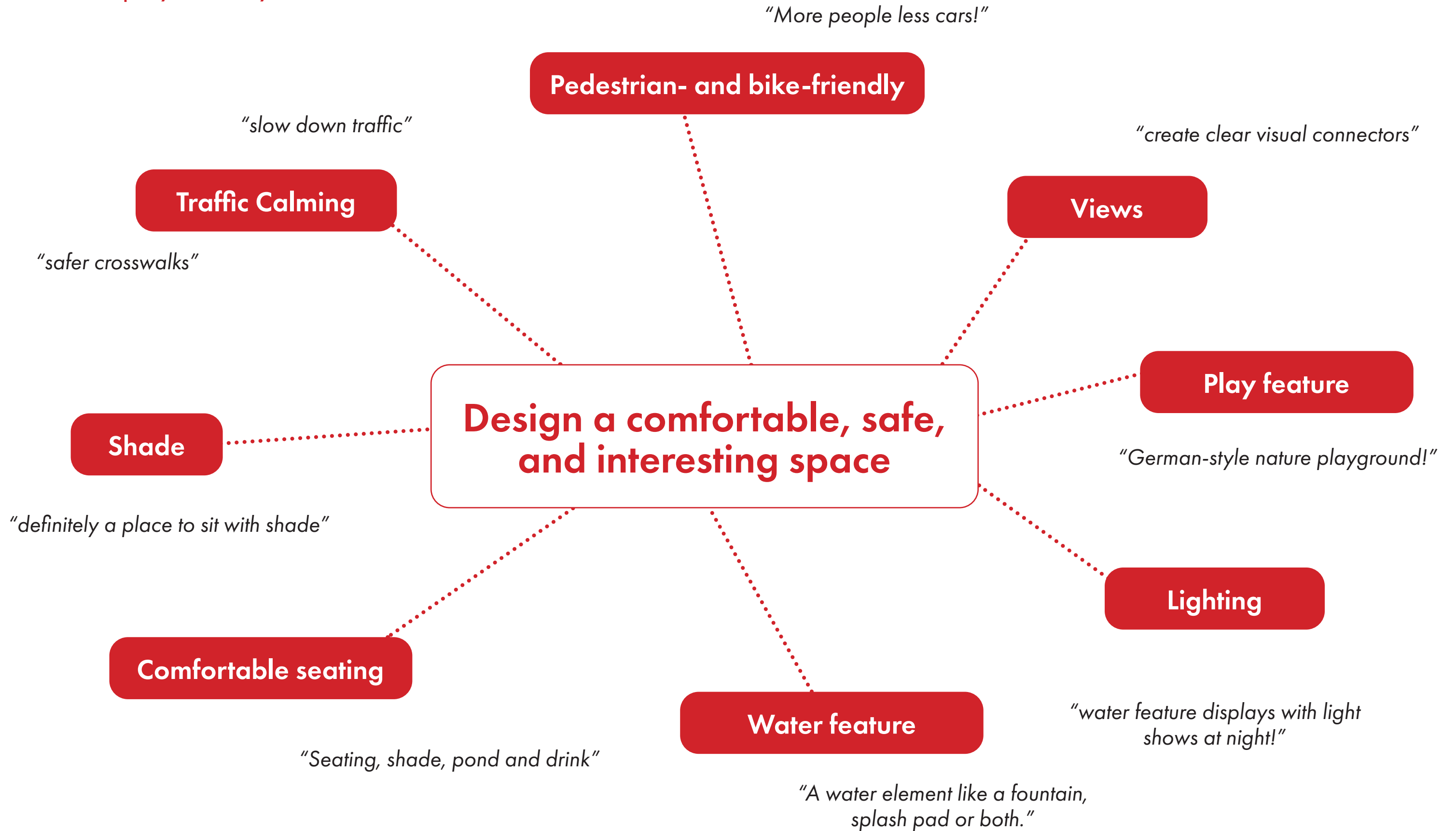


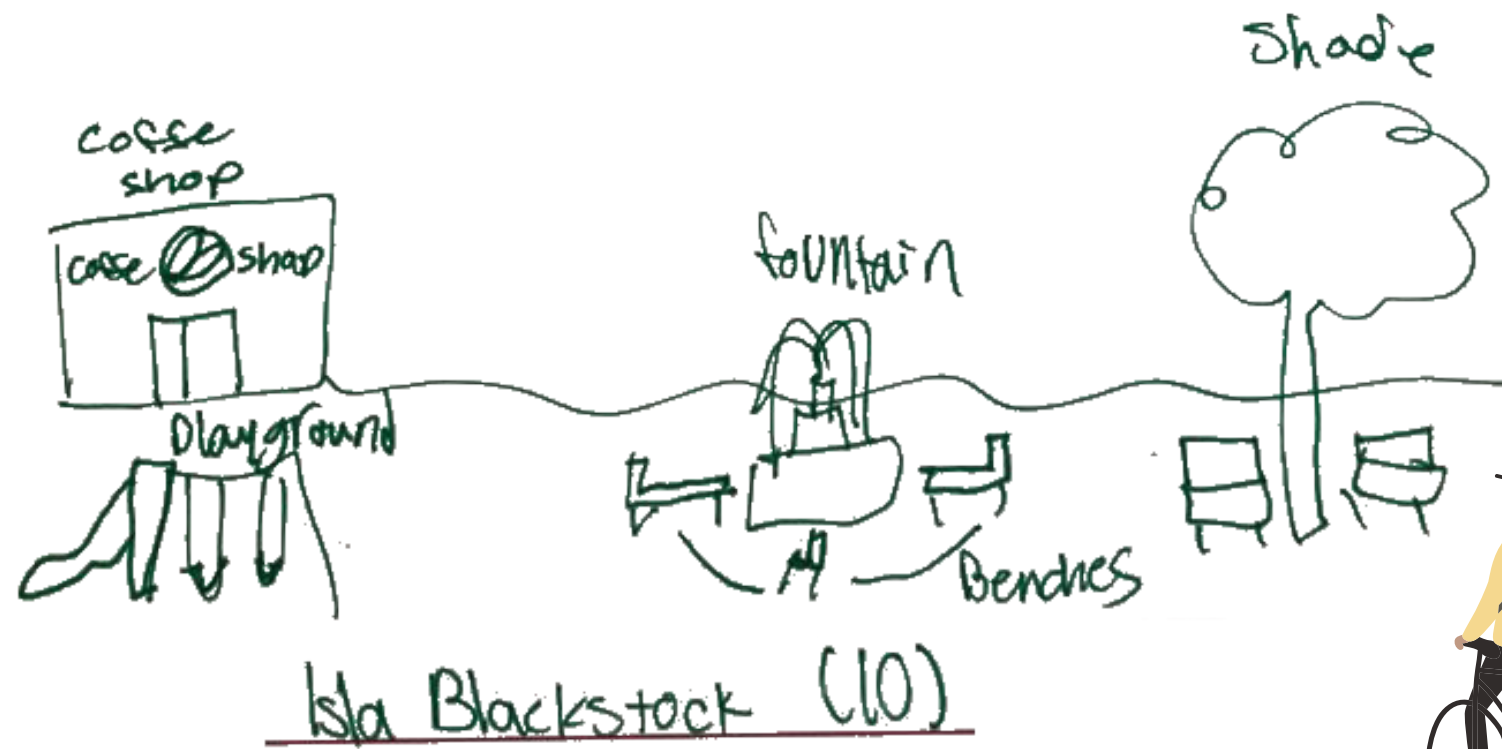
“Unless the **traffic pattern** is significantly changed, it won’t be a very relaxing area.”

“**Coordinate** this space with north entrance to downtown at Mill Race & on to 11th Street.”



“Connect to **biking trails**”



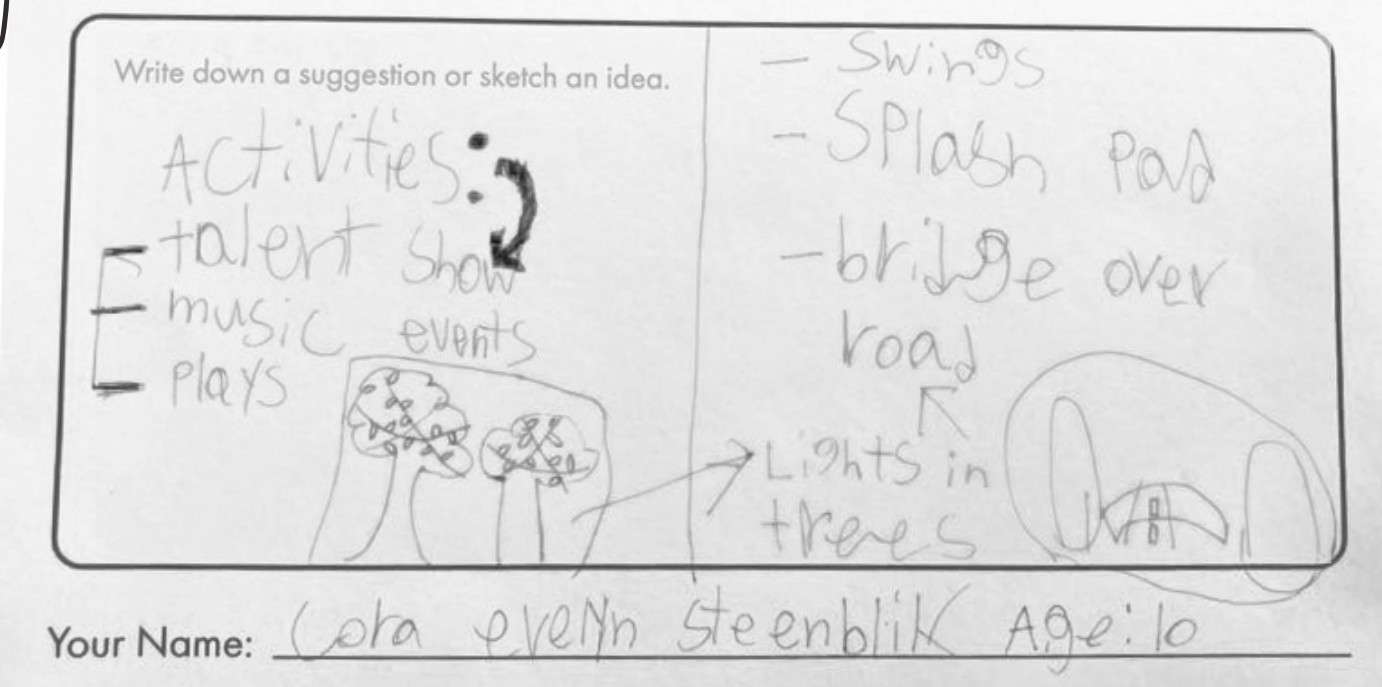


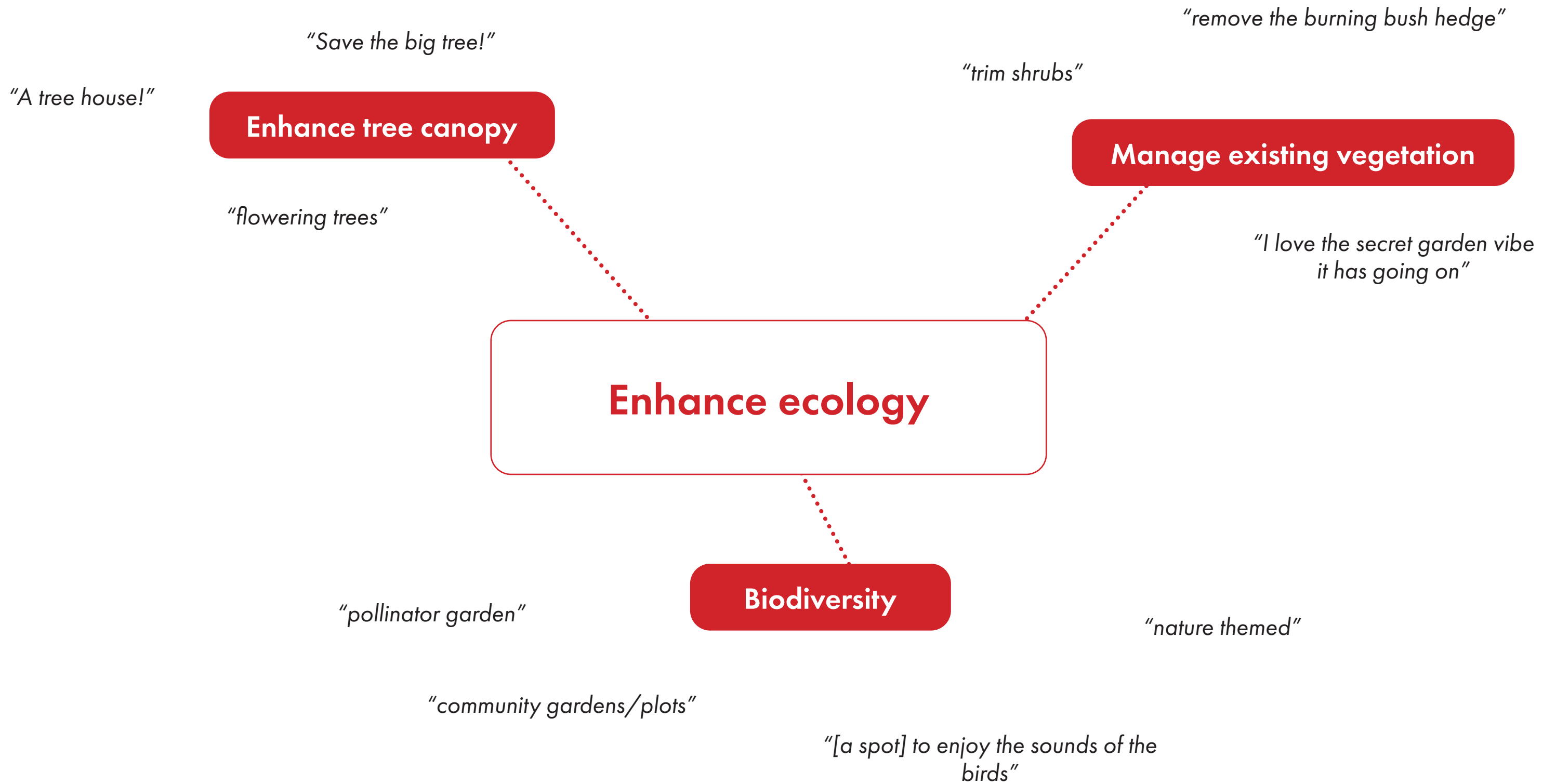
"Put colorful, artistic barriers that act as both **design and safety structures**"

"I'm a biker and would love to be able to **bike through** the space."



"Maybe some **park benches** and some large outdoor swings for adults or children to swing on"



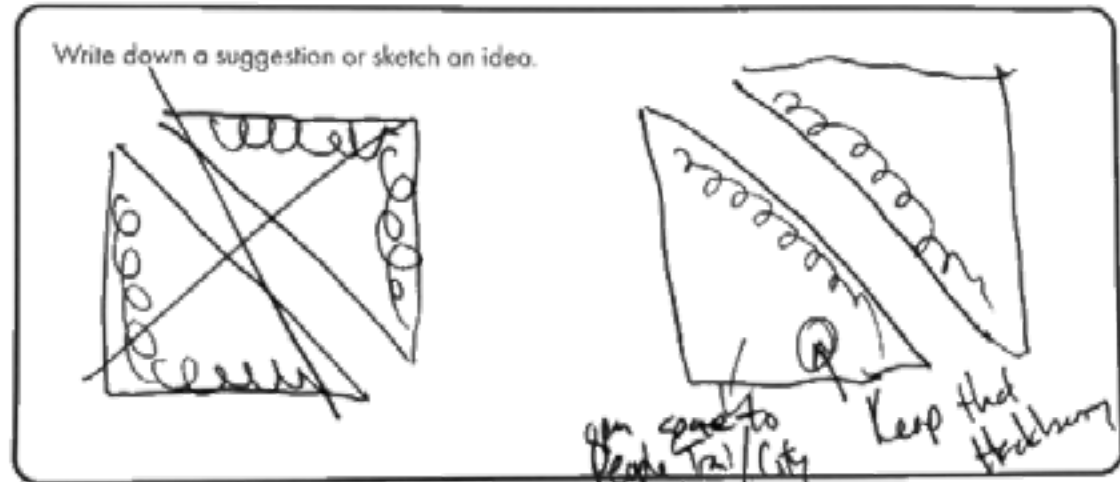


Columbus Downtown Entrance Plaza
 What We Heard | Key Takeaways



We want to hear from you!
 How do you want to use this space?

We are seeking your input for future improvements to the Downtown Entrance Plaza. Tell us what kind of activities or programming you would like to experience here.



Your Name: Eric Riddle

you want to
 People Trail/City
 Hall/Ward

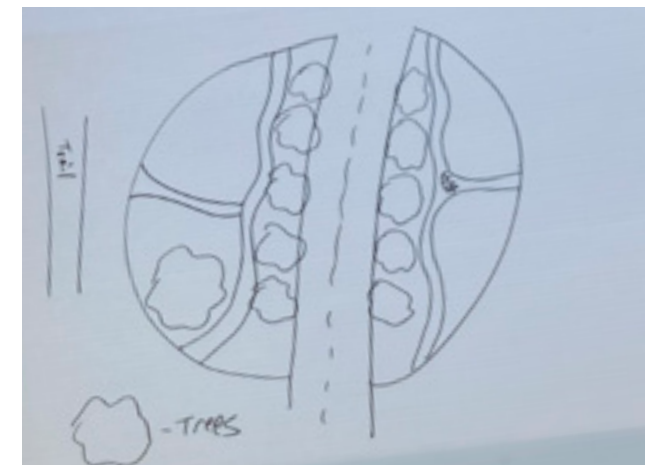
"Separate space from road.
Line with trees"

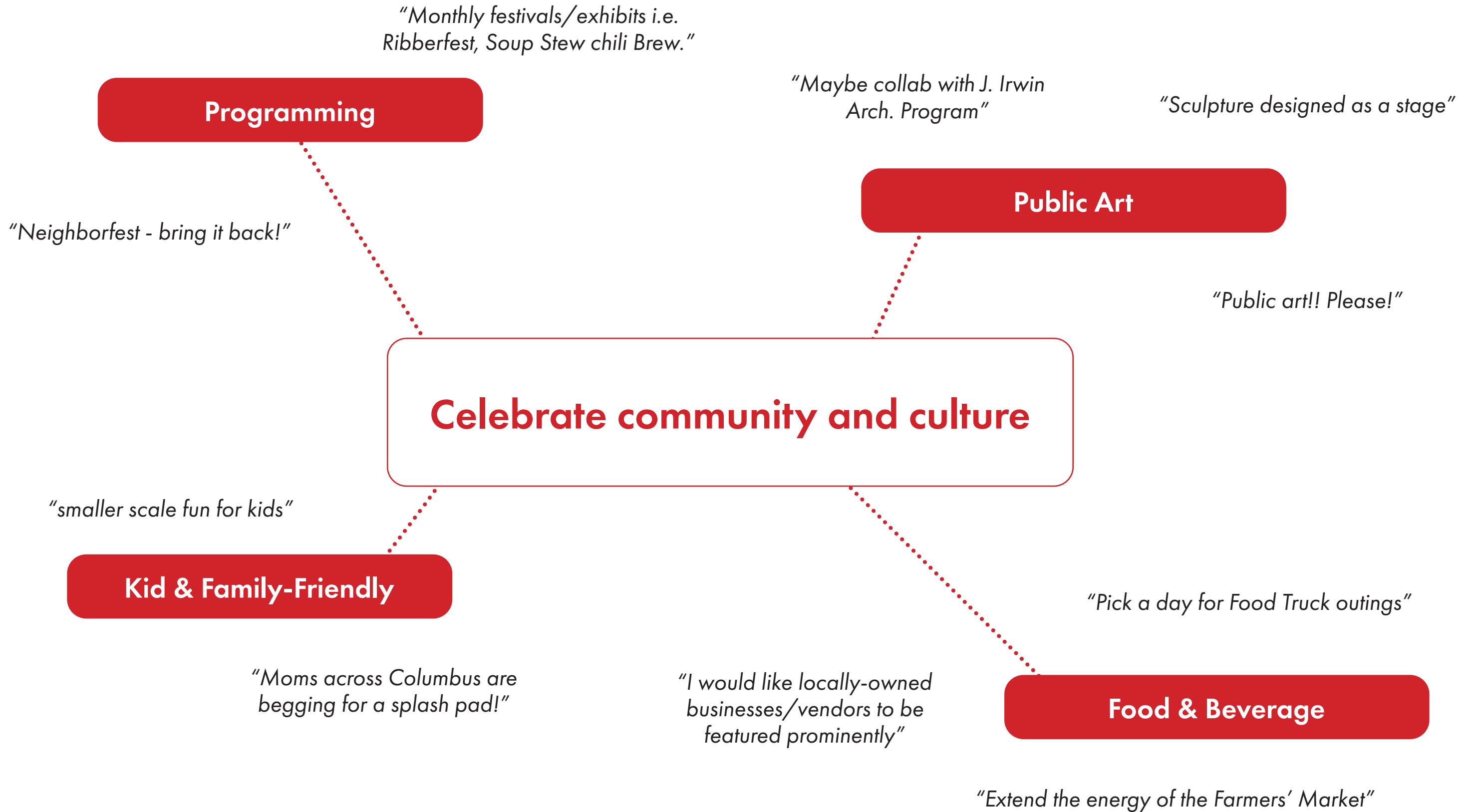
"I would love to see it as a
community veggie garden space.
 Not only plots for specific people.
 But a garden that can be utilized by
 anyone around."

"I think this space would be great
 for an outdoor activity area or
 relaxation area with **birds and
 bird houses.**"

"Make a **maze** with all of
 the bushes"

"Add more **shade.**"





Columbus Downtown Entrance Plaza
What We Heard | Key Takeaways



"Add some bocce ball spots and other inexpensive outdoor activity game areas people of **all ages** would play."

"A permanent space for experimental architectural sculpture for the **students** to test materials + systems i.e.: bamboo and other materials"

"Space dedicated to **C4** installation for Exhibit Columbus"



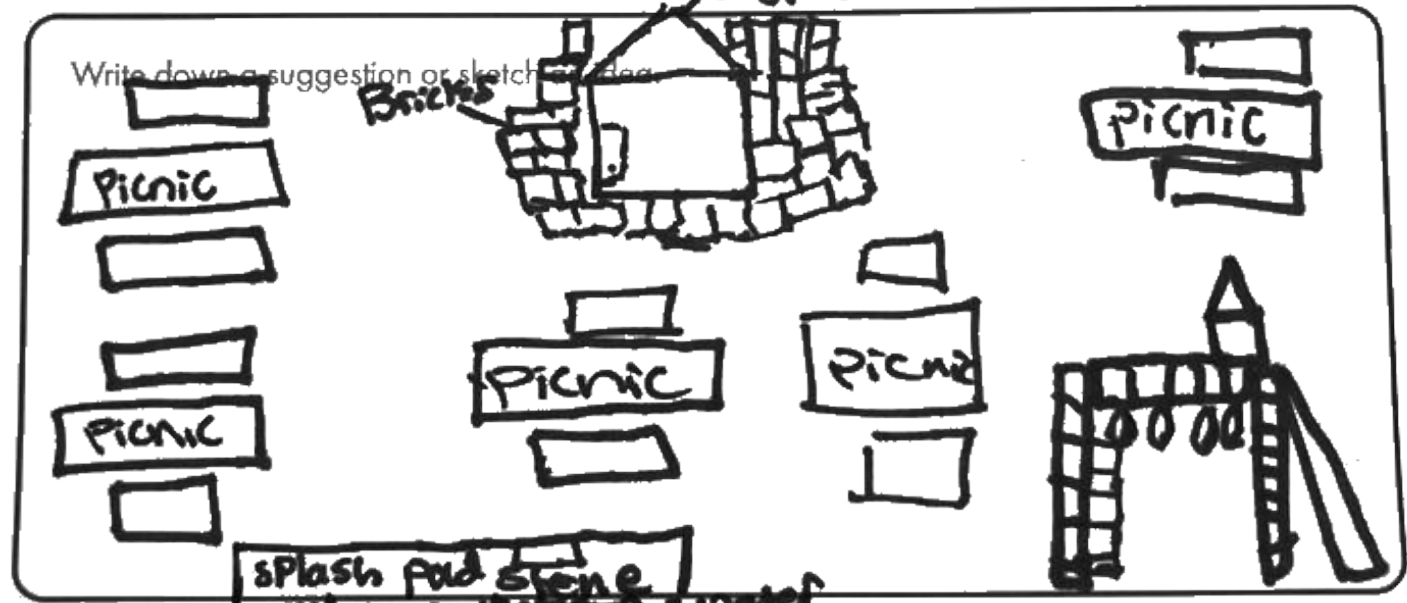
"Afternoon event spot following the Saturday morning **Farmers' Markets.**"

"Utilize as part of various downtown **street fests** as an alternative to closing down 4th St or Washington"

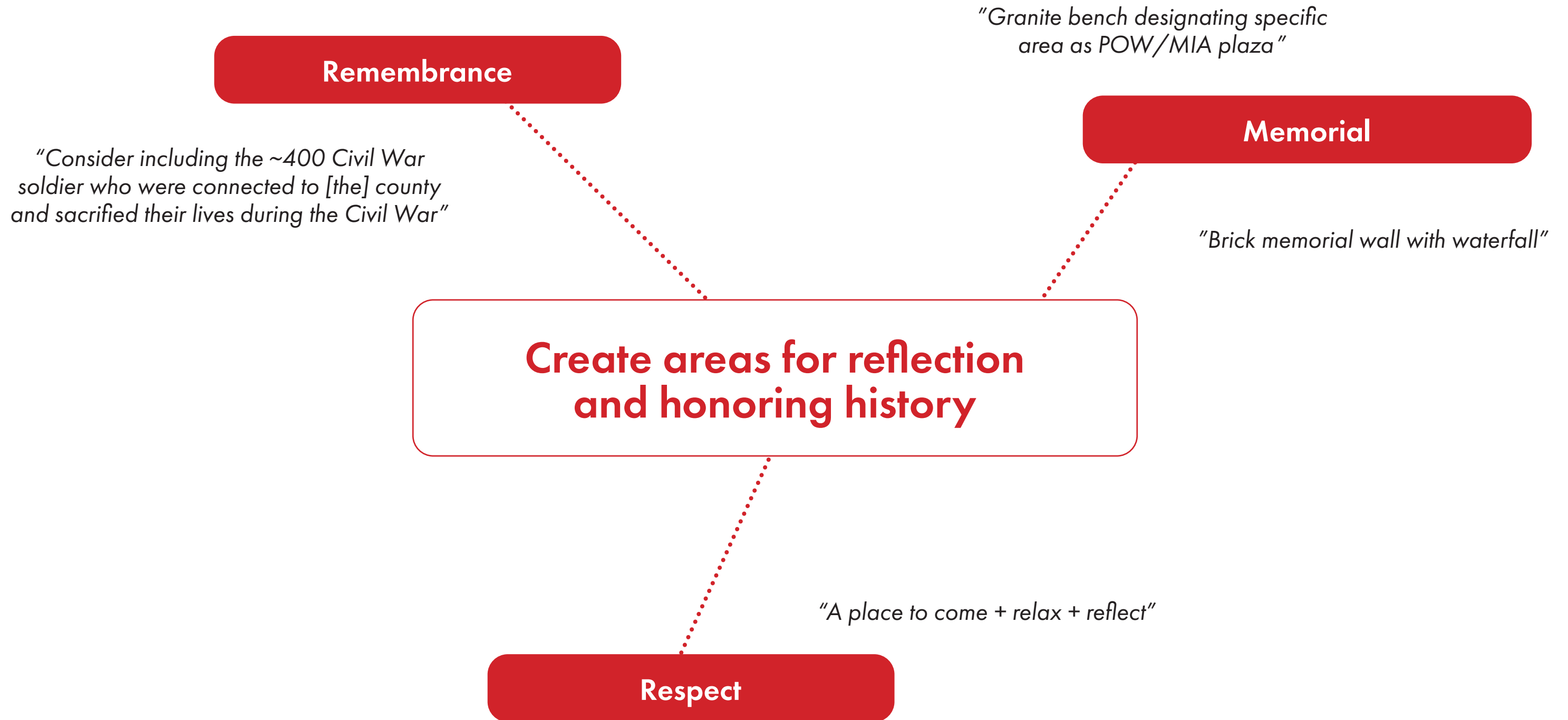


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Your Name: hily Garrett 12, Rose S. 9 years old



Columbus Downtown Entrance Plaza
What We Heard | Key Takeaways

“Make sure people feel safe...so they can come to the space in a mood of calm, awe, **respect** :)”



“The current sculptures are... too small to be appreciated while driving past at 40 miles an hour and would be better used somewhere in Columbus where there are more pedestrians that can **interact** with them.”



“Granite bench designating specific area as **POW/MIA plaza**”

“Keep the sculptures. In fact, bring in **more**.”



Introduce and welcome people to Columbus
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Enhance ecology
Celebrate community and culture
Create areas for reflection and honoring history

***Transform** the space to be more desirable*
***Collaborate** with local partners and adjacent projects*
***Improve** key design features and connectivity*
***Ensure** the project's integrity and universal accessibility*

Downtown Entrance Plaza Goals