

MKSK

REIMAGINING COURT AVENUE

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY | PROJECT ANALYSIS AND APPROACH | 01.20.2023

Overview

The 2016 Comprehensive Plan, and subsequent Department of Planning initiatives, have identified the Downtown as a top priority and the Court Avenue Corridor for civic improvements and future programming opportunities. The study area begins from 6th Street NW to the north to 4th Street SW to the south and is located within the central business district and Center City Planning Area of the 2nd and 4th wards. Court Avenue's location offers a commanding position within the downtown core serving as the main pedestrian corridor linking the Arts District, Innovation District, various restaurants & shops, City Hall, Federal Courthouse, First Ladies, and the Canton Palace Theater.

The City plans to build upon the success of the Canton Hall of Fame Ice Rink, the state-of-the art Centennial Plaza, and the programming of Illumination – Canton Light Festival to “Re-imagine Court.” Redevelopment strategies focused on promoting economic development, improving the public realm, and establishing a safe environment for residents and guests. The City has embraced various policies and initiatives to enhance environmental sustainability (Best Management Practices and Low Impact Development) and City transportation (“Complete and Green Streets”).

ANALYSIS OVERALL CORRIDOR

Court Street as it exists today is an alley, service drive, and pedestrian thoroughfare that forms a continuous connection from 6th Street Northwest to 6th Street Southwest, running almost the entire spine of the downtown core.

Along its route, the corridor connects various plaza spaces, retail, commercial and art venues, as well as a long list of cultural facilities.

THE STORY ISN'T ABOUT CANTON

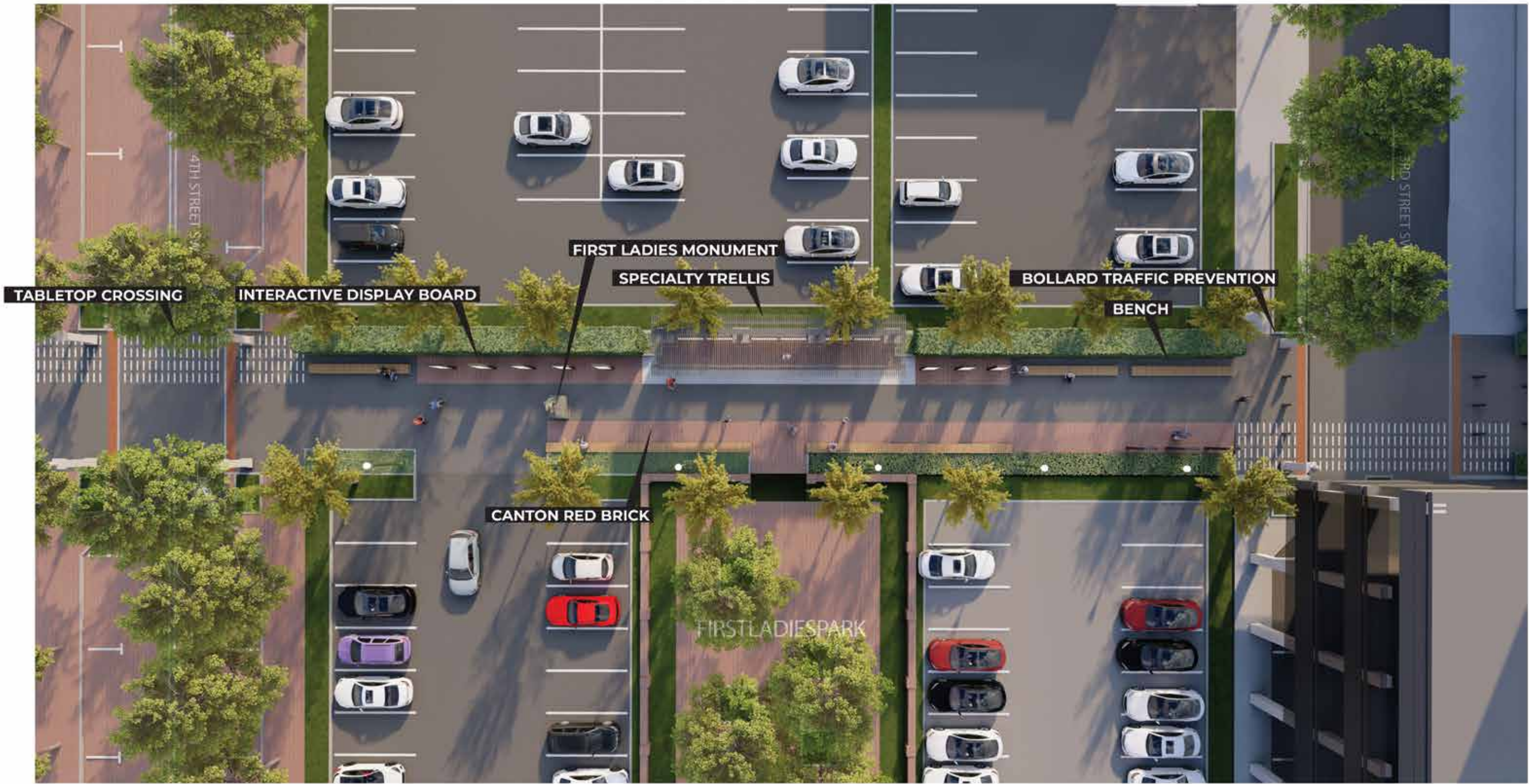
THE STORY IS CANTON.

Rather than tell a linear story about Canton, **The Gallery** is an augmented urban experience that lets citizens and visitors use Court Avenue as an engaging canvas as they activate the creative energy of the city. **The visitors are what bring this space to life.**

The major narrative thread is a nod to the past that takes us into tomorrow. Our journey through Court Avenue is a metaphor for the creative process and for Canton's heritage - where one idea leads to a barrage of activity, one moment can reshape an environment, and one step can become an experience.

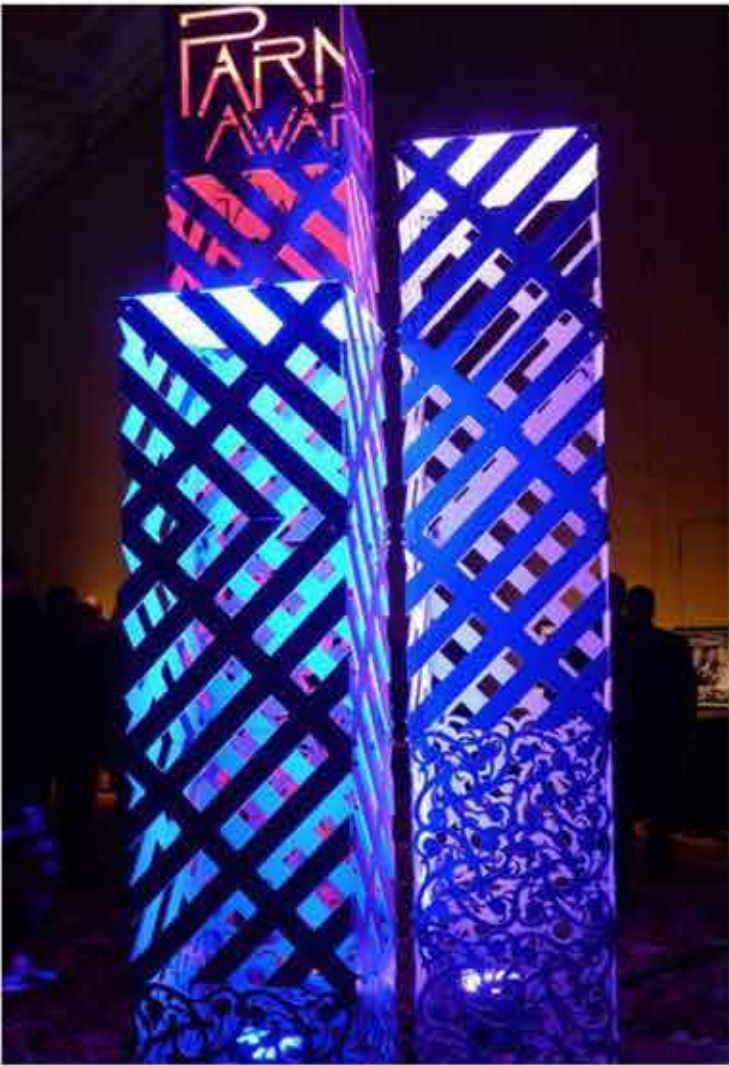
It also **UNIFIES** us with each other, and this moment, through a variety of analog and digital elements that turn the street into a living canvas. An interactive and generative experience that **REVEALS** how a visitor's contributions become an act of collective creation - human presence is effectively transformed into art as the city itself **EMBRACES** the community.

BLOCK ONE: HISTORY



Maintaining Connections.
Important connections to First Ladies parking and existing park will be maintained. Bollards and a strategically placed First Ladies' monument will serve as vehicular control and provide security to the block for pedestrians.

BLOCK ONE: HISTORY



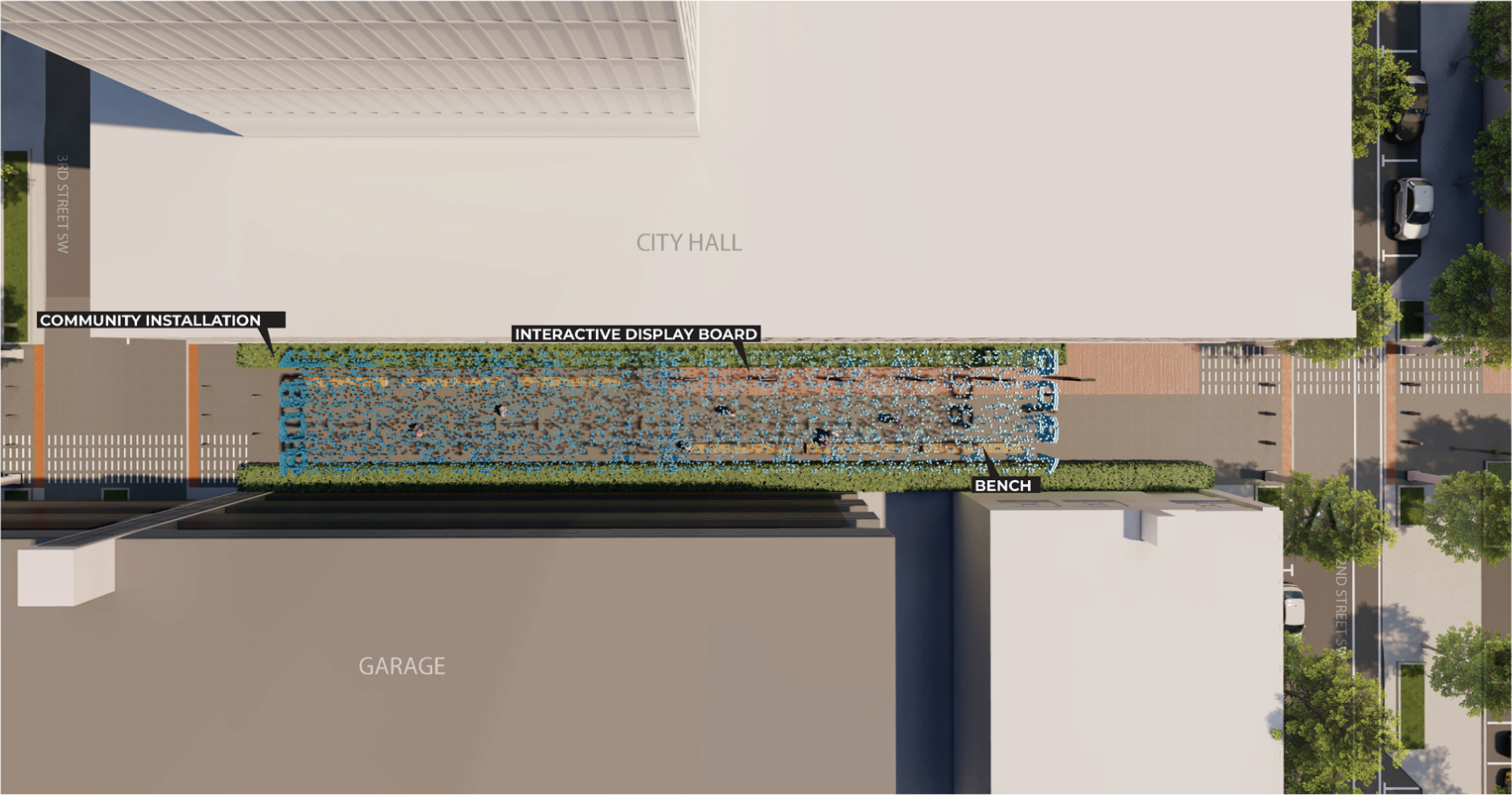
Monolithic or sculptural canvases, hosting interactive screens that reveal Canton's history. Interactive display boards will host a variety of historical and artistic video productions that can be activated by approaching guests. The integration of QR codes allows visitors to explore or become connected to additional content via the local institutions. This system can be reproduced along the avenue as information stations or as dedicated canvases for multimedia art.

BLOCK ONE: HISTORY



An elevated trellis reminiscent of McKinley's 'front porch'.
A central trellis with historical interactive display boards will be centrally located. Broad steps will elevate the trellis and display board in homage to William McKinley's 'front porch' presidential campaign.

BLOCK TWO: COMMUNITY



Interactive elements to tell the story of community.
This section of Court Avenue can be more pedestrian focused as vehicular traffic can be limited. The tall buildings on either side of Court avenue provide opportunity to support an overhead sculpture that can be a one of a kind experience.

BLOCK TWO: COMMUNITY



Interactive elements to tell the story of community.
Overhead a system of objects shimmers and reflects the surrounding corridor in the daytime, while in the evening catches supplemental lighting to tell the story of how many elements come together to become one. Mirrored surfaces can be integrated to allow for the passing citizens and visitors to see how they are part of the collective story of Canton. A mesh screen along the garage facade can act as a projection surface for art or interactive display.

BLOCK TWO: COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY INSTALLATION

GARAGE SCREENING ELEMENT

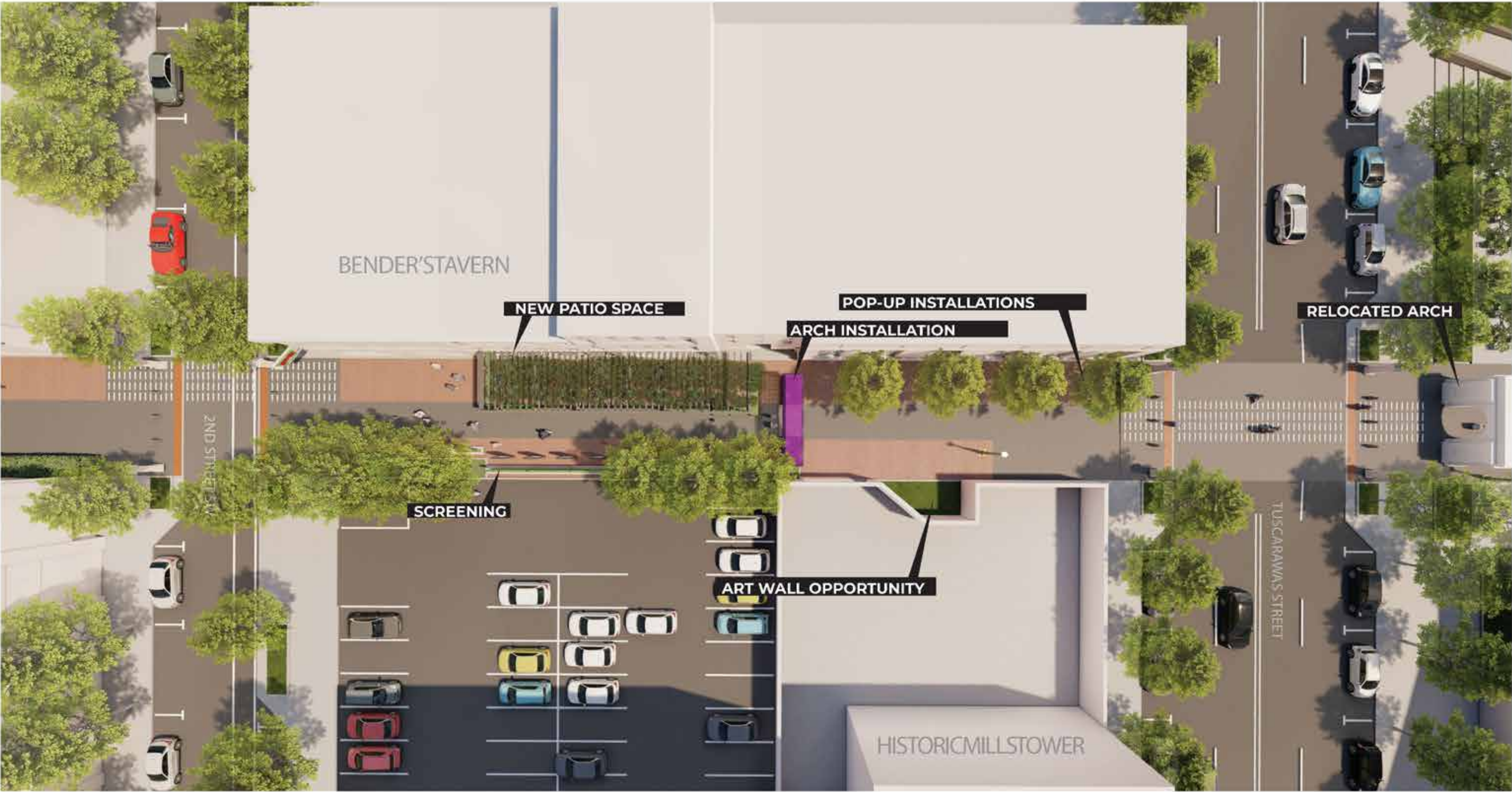
INTERACTIVE DISPLAY BOARD

BENCH



Interactive elements to tell the story of community.
City hall's importance in the cultural and civic fabric of Canton can be told through the implementation of graphic display boards. The overhead structure and display boards can be programmed as one to tell a more impactful story of community.

BLOCK THREE: FARE



An artistic patio and dining experience.
A new artistic arch will be installed to be a mirror of the existing arch. Spaces on the north end of the block will be created to host pop-up art installations that can rotate throughout the year.

BLOCK THREE: FARE



An artistic patio and dining experience.
The addition of a new pergola neat Bender’s tavern can define the edge of a new patio space and provide respite from the elements. Green screen walls will define the edge of court and help to screen the parking lot beyond.

BLOCK FOUR: EQUITY



An artistic, flexible experience.
Along with the new art and seating opportunities, a new dog park will be installed on the north east corner of the site. Existing access and parking will remain at the Stark County Court House.

An aerial perspective rendering of a park renovation project. The plan shows a central paved plaza with a large, colorful geometric mural. To the left is a modern building with a glass facade. To the right is a parking lot. The park includes a new dog park, community seating, a relocated arch, a seasonal cafe seating area, a rotating art installation, a gateway installation, and a mural opportunity. The area is surrounded by trees and greenery. Labels with leader lines point to the following features: MURAL OPPORTUNITY, NEW DOG PARK, STARK COUNTY COURT, GATEWAY INSTALLATION, COMMUNITY SEATING, EXISTING PARKING, INTERACTIVE MURAL, ROTATING ART INSTALLATION, RELOCATED ARCH, and SEASONAL CAFE SEATING.



By relocating the existing arch to the south end of the block and creating a new gateway experience on the North end, a defined space is formed that can play host to a variety of events. The existing ice rink slab can be repurposed in the warmer months to hold interactive murals or traveling art installations. Multi-tiered benches will flank the plaza to give a variety of seating and viewing experiences during events or in the winter months for ice skating.

BLOCK FOUR: EQUITY



An artistic, flexible experience.
The new north gateway will be a playful arch expression that contrasts the traditional arch on the south end.

BLOCK FIVE: LEGACY



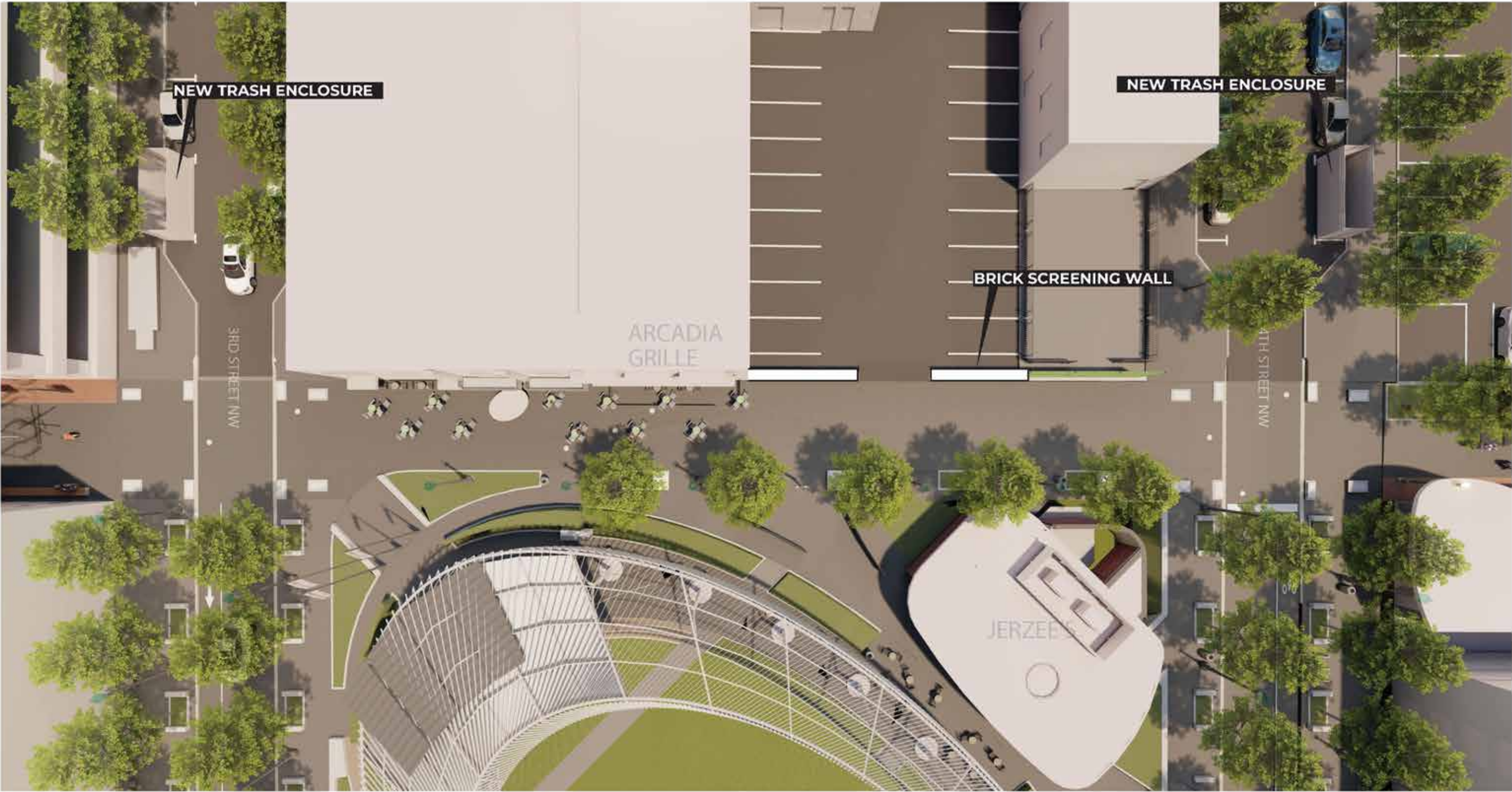
A reactive corridor.
Access to the parking garage and valet parking area will be maintained while railings and pavement will be used to define outdoor dining and pedestrian spaces.

BLOCK FIVE: LEGACY



A reactive corridor.
Using an overhead kinetic sculpture, this section of corridor can react to environmental changes and pedestrian movement. This multi-layered programmable net of lights can also offer opportunity to host other guest content.

BLOCK SIX: SIGNIFICANCE



Showcasing Canton's identity.
The completion of Centennial Plaza gave Canton a downtown park to host events and welcome new visitors to the city. A new screen wall at the western edge will block views to service while new trash enclosures on 3rd and 4th Streets will remove trash services from Court Avenue.

BLOCK SEVEN: INGENUITY



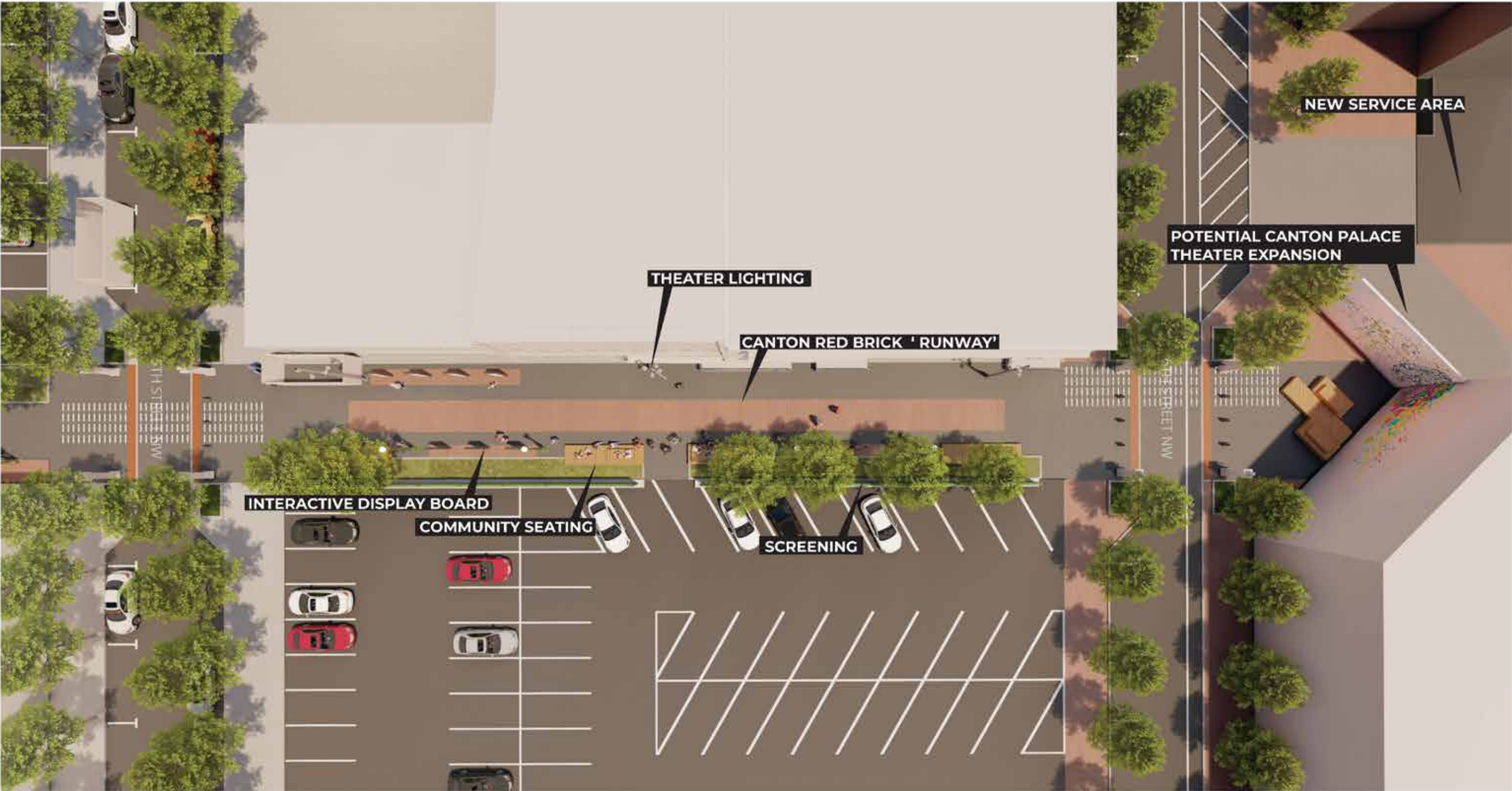
A flexible market corridor to highlight Canton’s inventive energy.
Market shelters will double as screening to the adjacent parking lot. Improvements include new planting and updated accessible paving throughout the corridor.

BLOCK SEVEN: INGENUITY



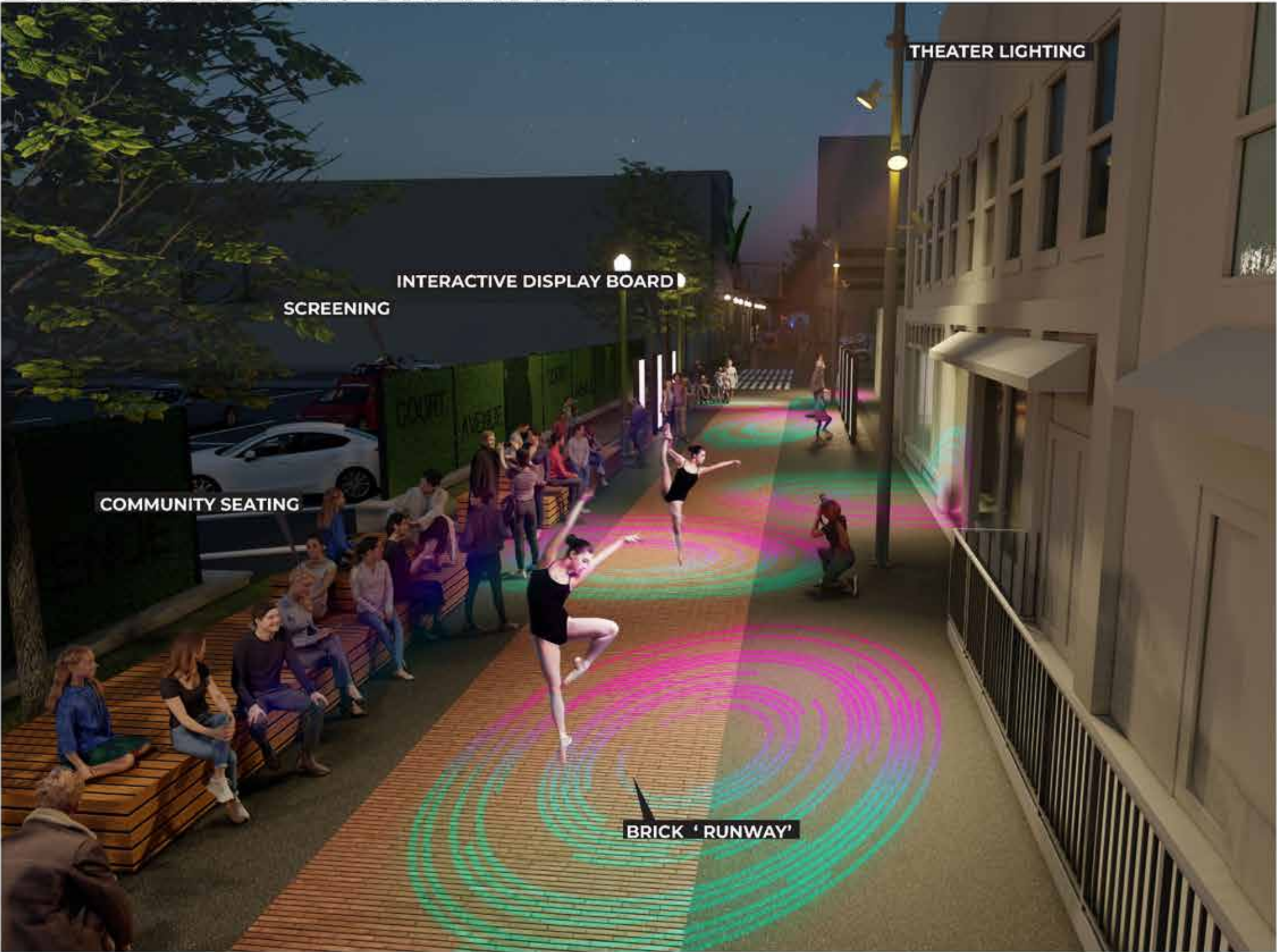
A flexible market corridor to highlight Canton’s inventive energy. Shade structures will be implemented to provide comfort for users and double as market stalls for events. A new service building with restrooms and public art will be constructed to support Centennial plaza and other events.

BLOCK EIGHT: CREATIVITY



The Corridor’s surface as a stage honoring the artistic creativity that flows through Canton.
Screening will be provided on the parking lot adjacent edge to better define the corridor. Theatrical lighting will be added to showcase and highlight events taking place on the corridor’s ‘stage’.

BLOCK EIGHT: CREATIVITY



The Corridor’s surface as a stage honoring the artistic creativity that flows through Canton.
Tiered seating and a runway style paving pattern create a stage-like corridor to promote the arts. An animated layer of video projection cast onto the streetscape further enlivens the corridor.