

16th Street BART Plazas Community Design Plan

Mission Housing Development Corporation
Bay Area Rapid Transit
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Urban Ecology

The issues at 16th and Mission – transit access, public safety, and homelessness – are vitally important to the future of the Mission District. Thousands of low-income people depend on the station in order to reach jobs and services. In a neighborhood that is sorely lacking in parks, the transit plazas are also crucial, but imperfect, open spaces.

The plan aims to find a way for commuters, the homeless, and other community members to share this important public space. Three principles guide the design: increase accessibility and choices; improve visibility and connectivity; and encourage a diverse range of activities and people on the plazas.

Visibility and accessibility will be addressed by removing the visual and physical barriers that give the plazas a fortress-like quality and impede pedestrian circulation. In order to create a vibrant, active atmosphere on the plazas, space will be provided for vendor stalls, an outdoor seating area, stages, and a new community center, creating an urban *zócalo*, or traditional town plaza. The intent is to draw more people to the plazas in the evening and on the weekends, with activities and facilities that serve the existing working-class community surrounding the plazas. Lastly, the design aims to eliminate the sense of disorientation and placelessness experienced at the station by connecting the plazas to adjacent buildings and installing locally created public art.

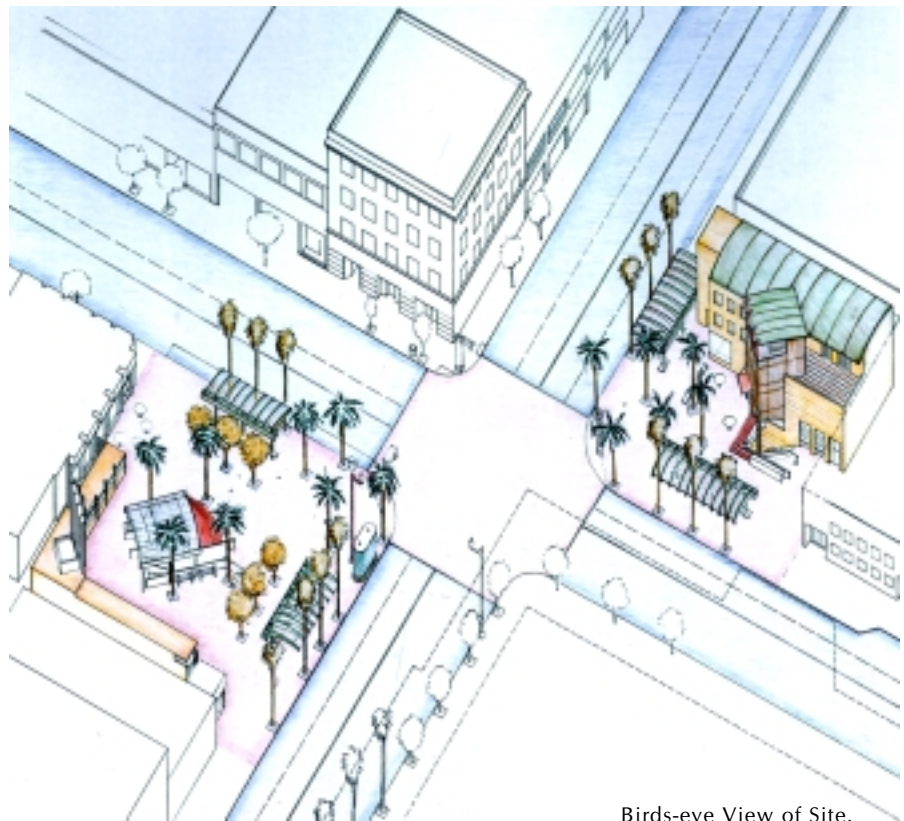
The estimated cost of the design and construction of the physical improvements is approximately \$4.5 million. BART is leading the capital improvement phase for the southeast plaza, which broke ground in 2001.



North Plaza Perspective, showing *zócalo* marketplace and community center.



South Plaza Perspective, showing stage and entry canopy.



Birds-eye View of Site.