



SCIDpda

**BERK**

**MxM** LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE

日本町横丁  
NIHONMACHI ALLEY

**PREFERRED DESIGN  
CONCEPT PRESENTATION**



Context

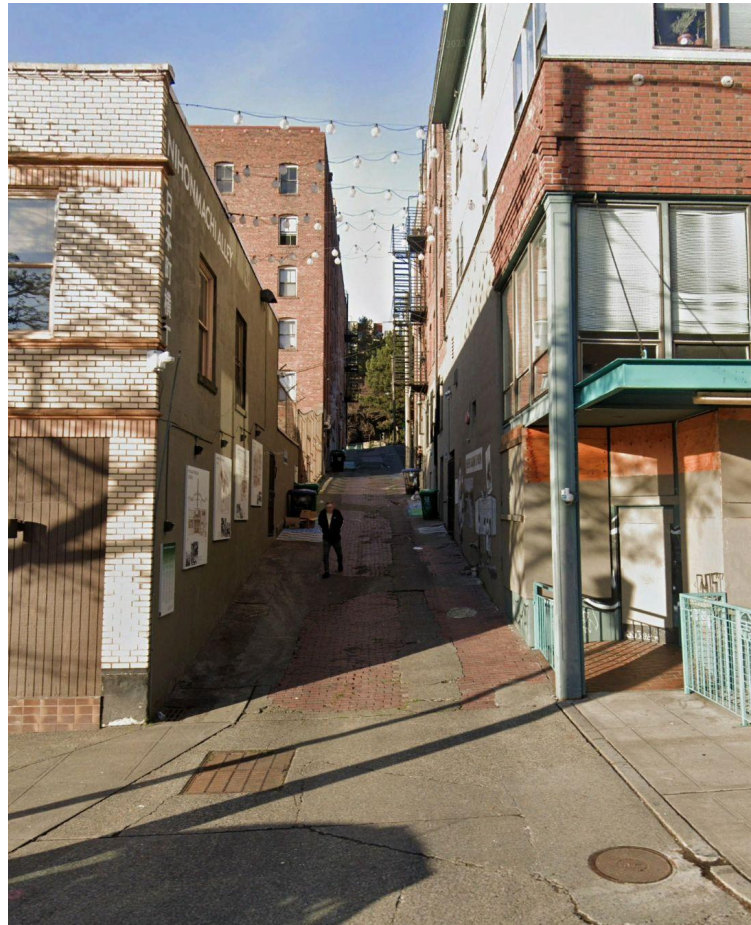


Green Space Context

CONTEXT



North Alley Entrance (from S Main St)



South Alley Entrance (from S Jackson St)

CONTEXT



# ACTIVE ALLEYS



ISRD IN ALLEY

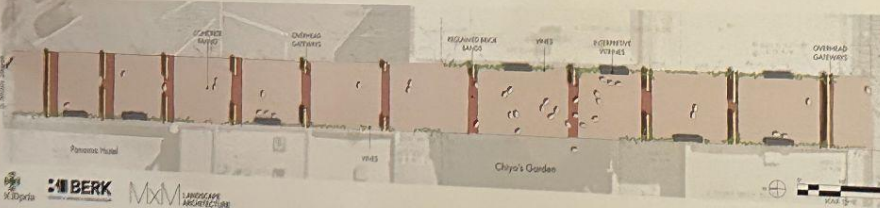
# GATEWAYS TO THE PAST

Inspired by the gateway built by the CID and gateway's ethos with the local community of Shinjuku, this option proposes to create a series of gateways that connect through the CID as part of a cultural progression through the neighborhood.

The wood gateways are crafted from two species: Western red cedar, representing North America and paying homage to native American stewards of this land, and Japanese yellow cedar, in a callback to Japan. These vertical posts form a horizontal beam, these wood species are joined through complex, hand crafted joinery.

Between the gateways, interactive art will tell the stories of Japanese through text, artwork, lighting and sound. Where views are inflexible, vines grow up over the alley, slowly creating a continuous corridor of greenery.

In addition, the "Green Alley" program continues as operates today, with the alley serving as the location for waste pickup.



BERK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

NIHONMACHI ALLEY

# What We Heard

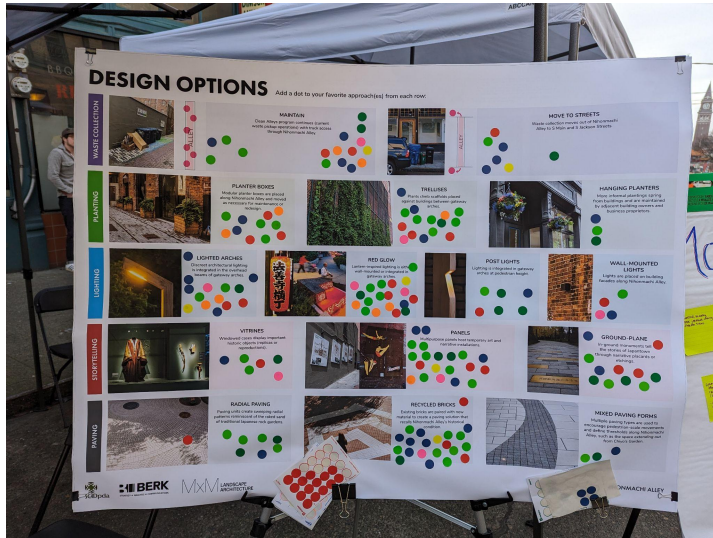


# Early Themes

- Nihonmachi Alley is a site of **cultural placekeeping and intergenerational legacy keeping** with casual interactions and formal events.
- **The authenticity of the alleyway lies its in historical design and character.**
- Nihonmachi Alley is a **green connection between the neighborhood's open spaces.**
- Respondents would love to see the alley as a **regional cultural hub** for the greater APA community.



# Lunar New Year and Business Door to Door Outreach - Feb 2024



- **Public safety** remains a top priority issue for businesses
- **Trash and cleanliness was a common concern.** Many were concerned about moving trash in front of businesses with current infrequent trash pick-up.
- **Planting should be easy to maintain** and keep sanitation in mind (such as the hanging option)
- **Lighting is a critical component** to provide a sense of cleanliness and safety in the alley (no consensus for the type of lighting)
- There is interest for the **paving to be level** for accessibility (no consensus for the type of paving)





Chinatown Gate



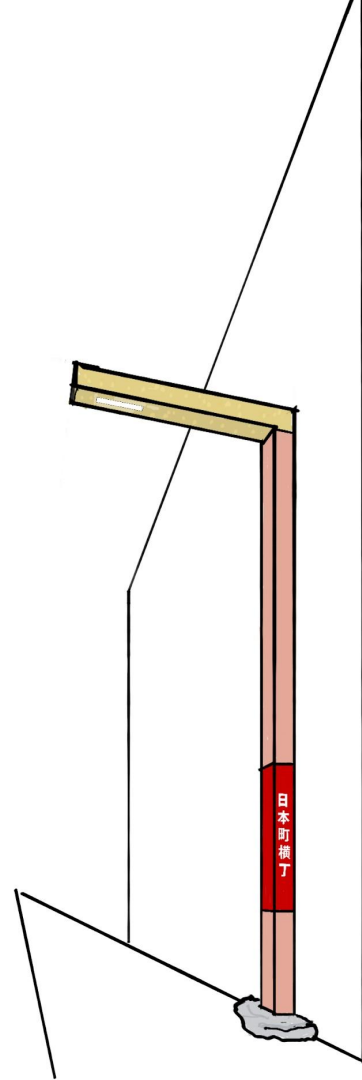
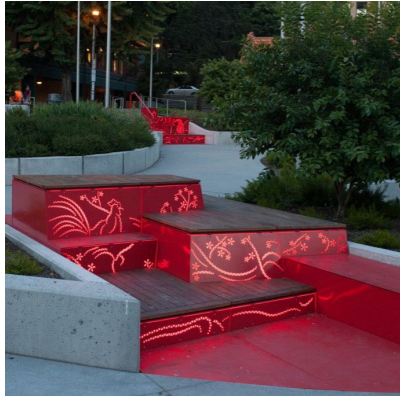
Danny Woo Garden Gate



Nihonmachi Alley

Hing Hay Park Gate

# GATEWAYS



GATEWAYS

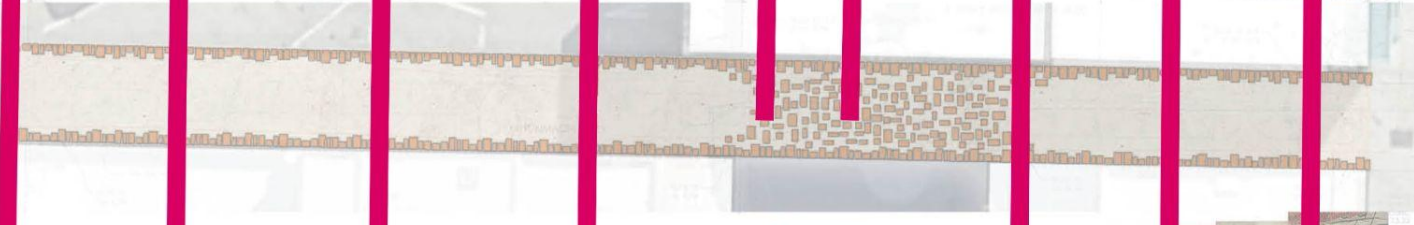


GATEWAYS

East side of alley



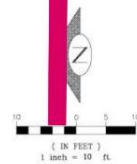
S Main Street



S Jackson Street



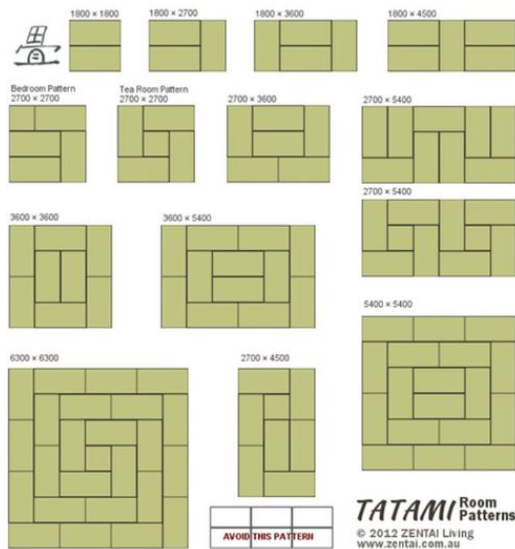
West side of alley



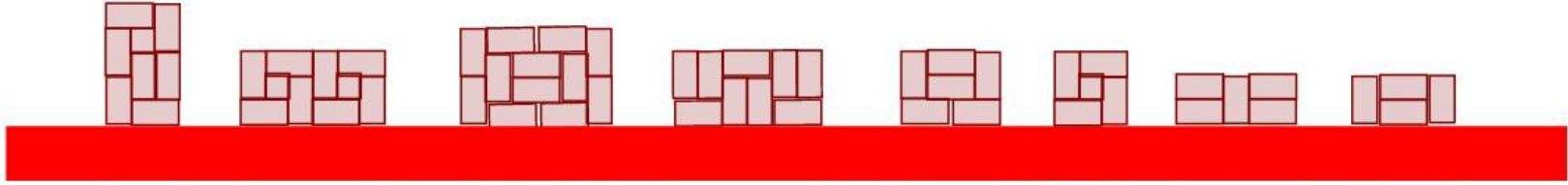
GATEWAYS



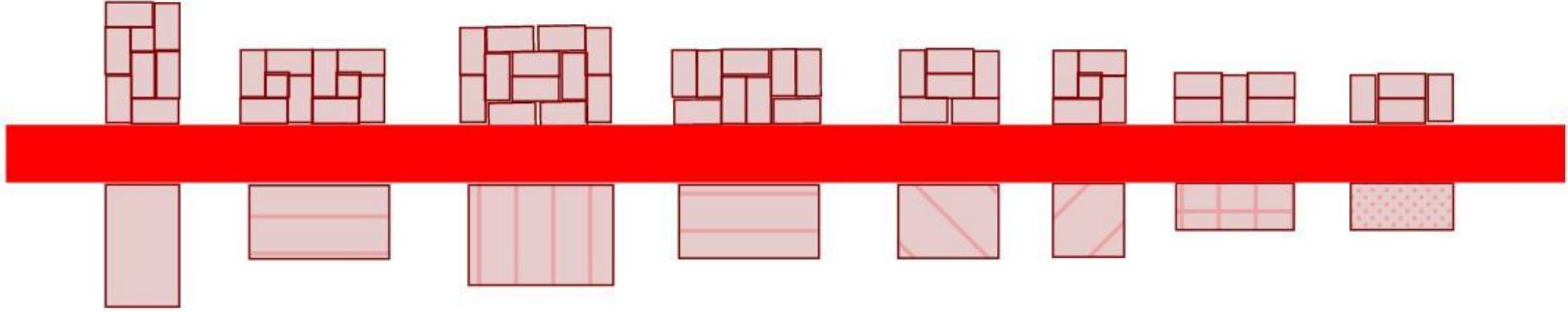
PAVING



PAVING



PAVING



PAVING





S MAIN STREET

S JACKSON STREET

MAYN SUITES

ITSUMONO

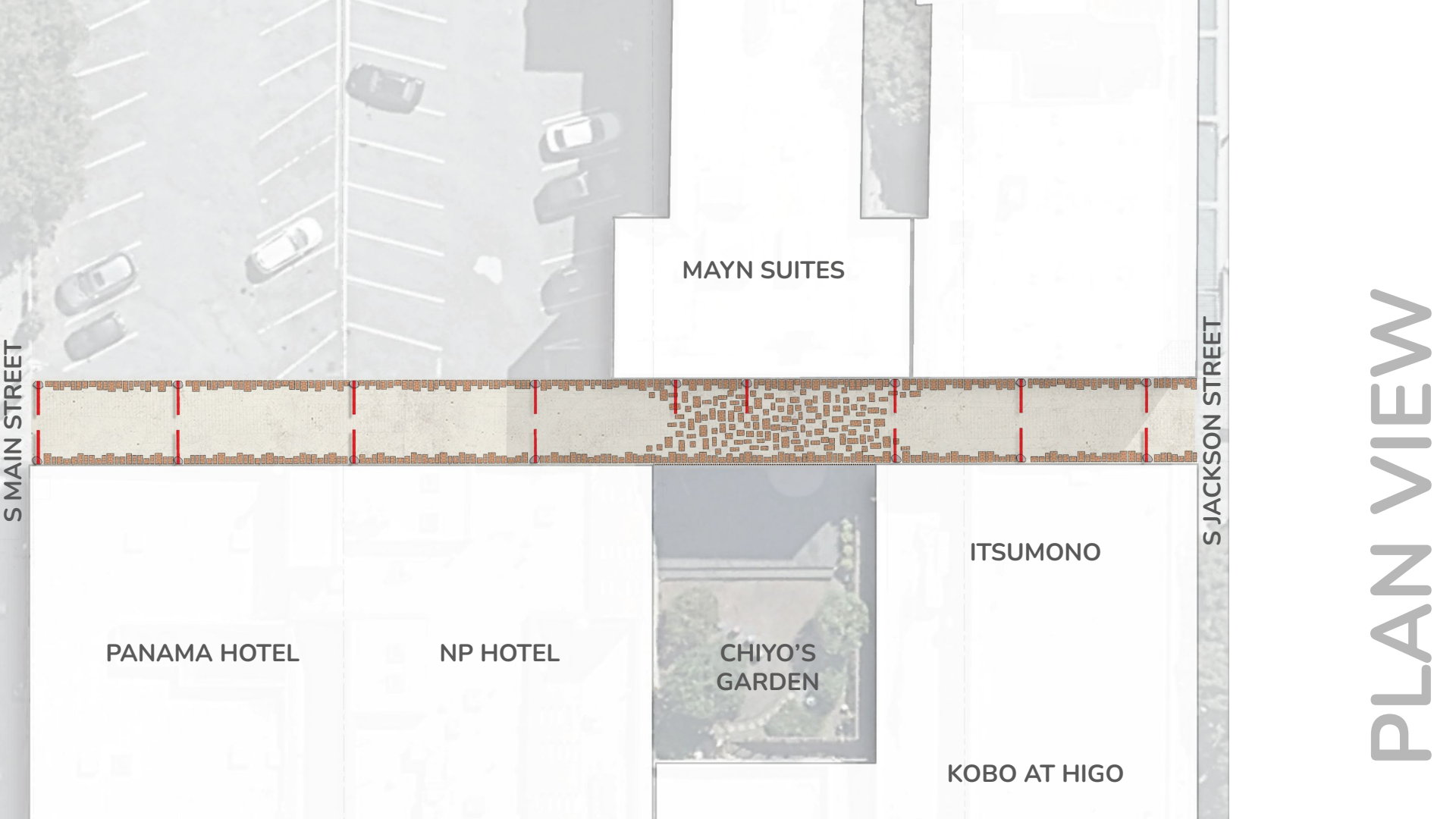
PANAMA HOTEL

NP HOTEL

CHIYO'S GARDEN

KOBO AT HIGO

PLAN VIEW



CONCRETE PAVING

GATEWAYS

"TATAMI" BRICK INLAYS



DAYTIME

# GATEWAYS LIGHTS



GLOWING GATEWAY  
POST LIGHTS

NIGHT TIME

# Summary of City of Seattle Feedback

## What We Heard:

- This preferred alternative works best for solid waste and on-going maintenance.
- Design should include horizontal and vertical clearance.
- Alley needs robust materials.
- Concerns around how the gates will be anchored to the ground.
- Early design review with SFD is needed to think about fire trucks.
- On-going community engagement with CIDBIA and businesses.

## City Agencies Engaged:

- Department of Transportation
- Department of Neighborhoods
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Seattle Fire Department

# Project Schedule - Current Contract



**Aug  
2023**

**Hai! Japantown**



**Dec  
2023**

**Japantown  
Jingle**  
Community Meeting

**2024**

Community Meeting



**Feb  
2024**

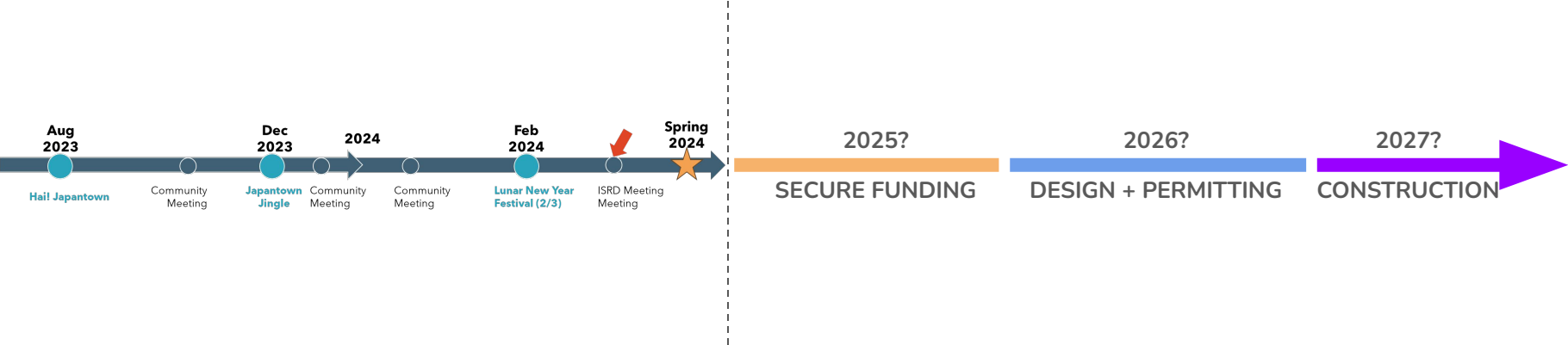
**Lunar New Year  
Festival (2/3)**

ISRD Meeting Meeting

**Spring  
2024**



# Project Schedule - Projected Future





**THANK YOU AND WE LOOK FORWARD  
TO ISRD'S FEEDBACK**



# GATEWAYS TO THE PAST

Inspired by the gateways both of the CID and gateways' echoes with the spiritual animism of Shinto, this option proposes to create a series of gateways that connect through the CID as part of a cultural progression through the neighborhood.

The wood gateways are crafted from two species: Western red cedar, representing North America and paying homage to Native American stewards of this land, and Japanese yellow cedar, in a callback to Japan. Where vertical posts turn to horizontal beams, these wood species are joined through complex, hand-crafted joinery.

Between the gateways, interpretive vitrines tell the stories of Japantown through text, objects, lighting and sound. Where vitrines are infeasible, vines grow up over the alley, slowly creating a continuous corridor of greenery.

In this option, the "Clean Alleys" program continues as it operates today, with the alley serving as the location for waste pickup.



Aerial view of the alley under the option.



Western Red Cedar, an important native tree for various cultures in the Pacific Northwest, including Coast Salish peoples.



Japanese yellow cedar, or sugi, is used in all manner of traditional building.



Complex, and beautiful, joinery represents centuries of woodcraft by passing down through generations.



High-angle view of the alley under the option.



Passiflora



Japanese hydrangeas



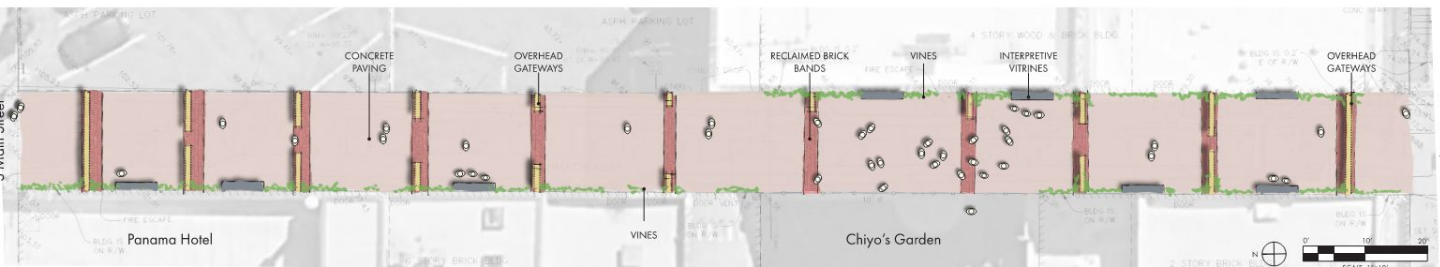
Combined with text, lighting and sound, vitrines can also contain audio, display, and interactive interpretive objects. Green for public locations, vitrines might be reproductions, yet still offer interpretive glimpses into everyday life in Japantown throughout the decades.



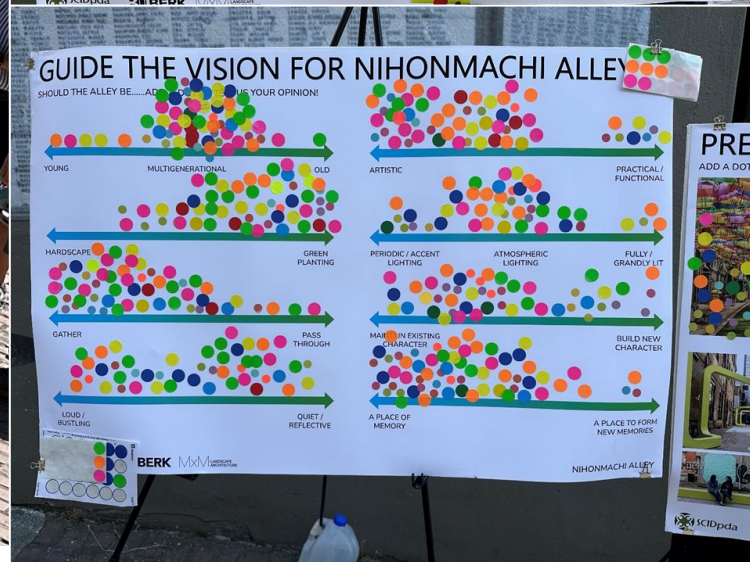
At the base of the gateway posts, it allows one to explore the structure as a vertical wall that retains playability of contemporary signs.



The sequence of gateways through the neighborhood center CID promenade.



# Hai! Japantown - Aug 2023



# Early Themes



# Japantown Jingle - Dec 2023

