

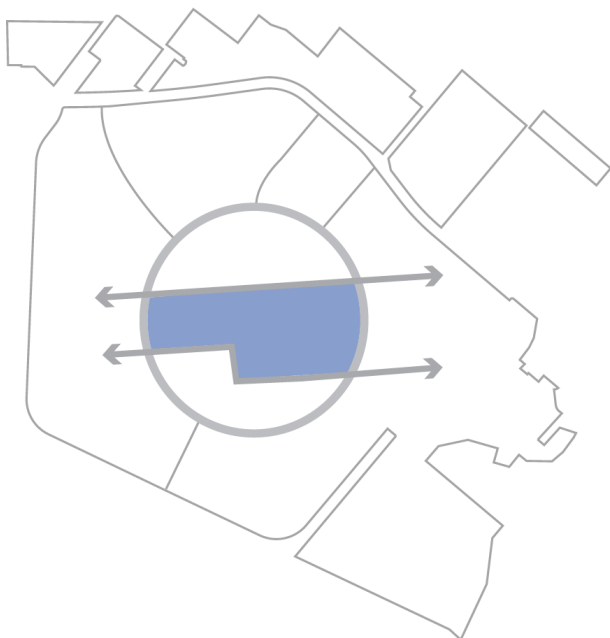
THE GRAND PROMENADE

Design Charrette

Summary Report 11.2018

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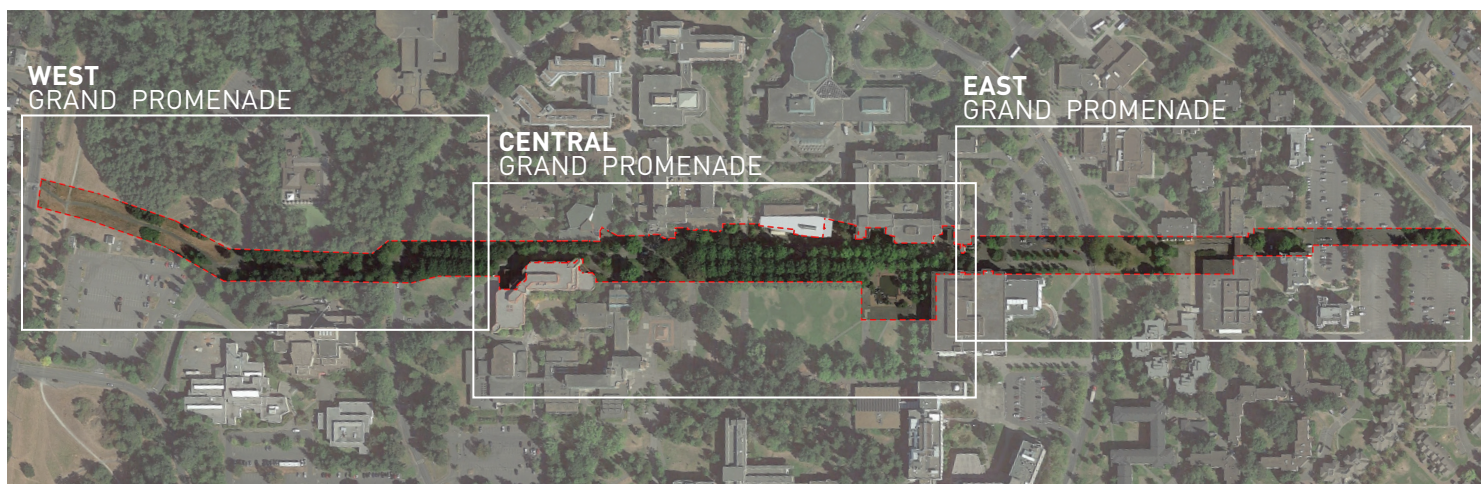
INTRODUCTION

THE DESIGN CHARRETTE

The Grand Promenade Landscape Design Strategy represents a pivotal opportunity for the University of Victoria to establish a distinct and memorable public realm that celebrates the spirit of place and contributes to a vibrant, inclusive campus. While the Ideas Fair in October sought feedback and insight from the general campus population, this workshop used a group of key staff, student and faculty stakeholders from across the campus to provide feedback and design visions for the Promenade.

The goals of the workshop were:

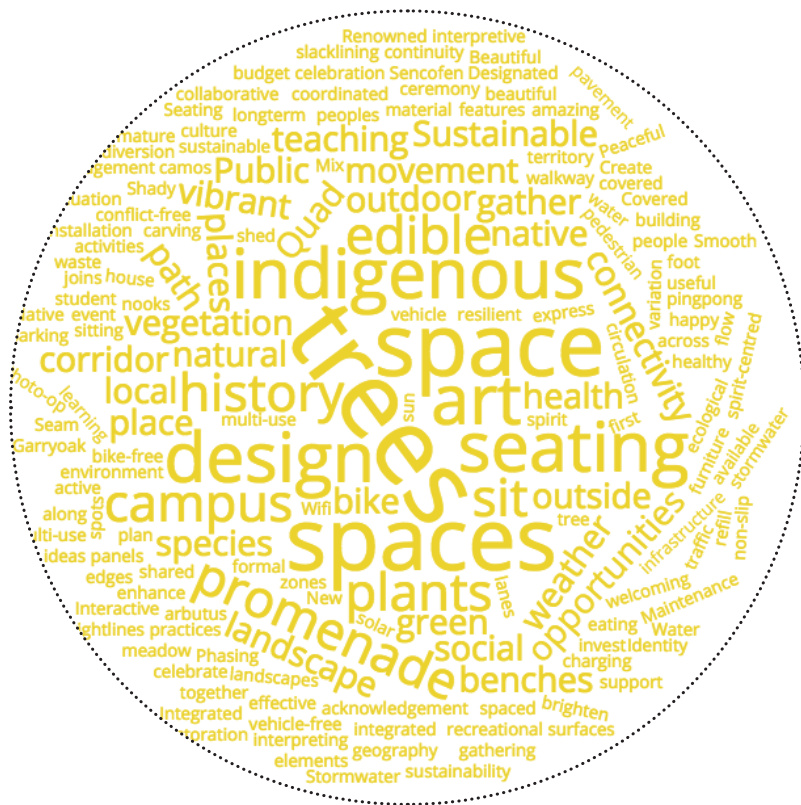
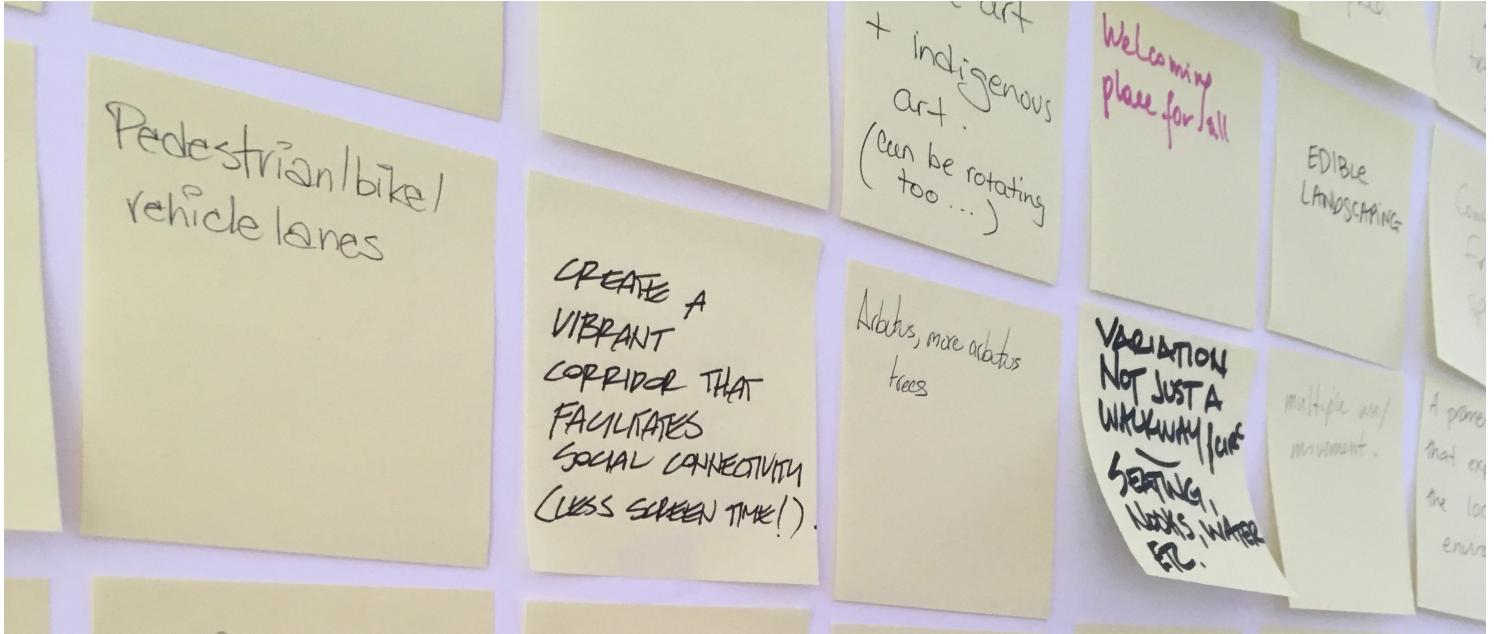
- To inform and update
- To gather aspirations/concerns
- To determine emerging themes
- To engage the stakeholder group in a deep-dive session
- To generate initial big ideas
- To confirm design principles/vision for the Grand Promenade.



ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #1

What are your top 3 aspirations?

In this first exercise, participants were asked to write down their top three aspirations and top three concerns related to the Grand Promenade. Each participant discussed their top priorities to their table.



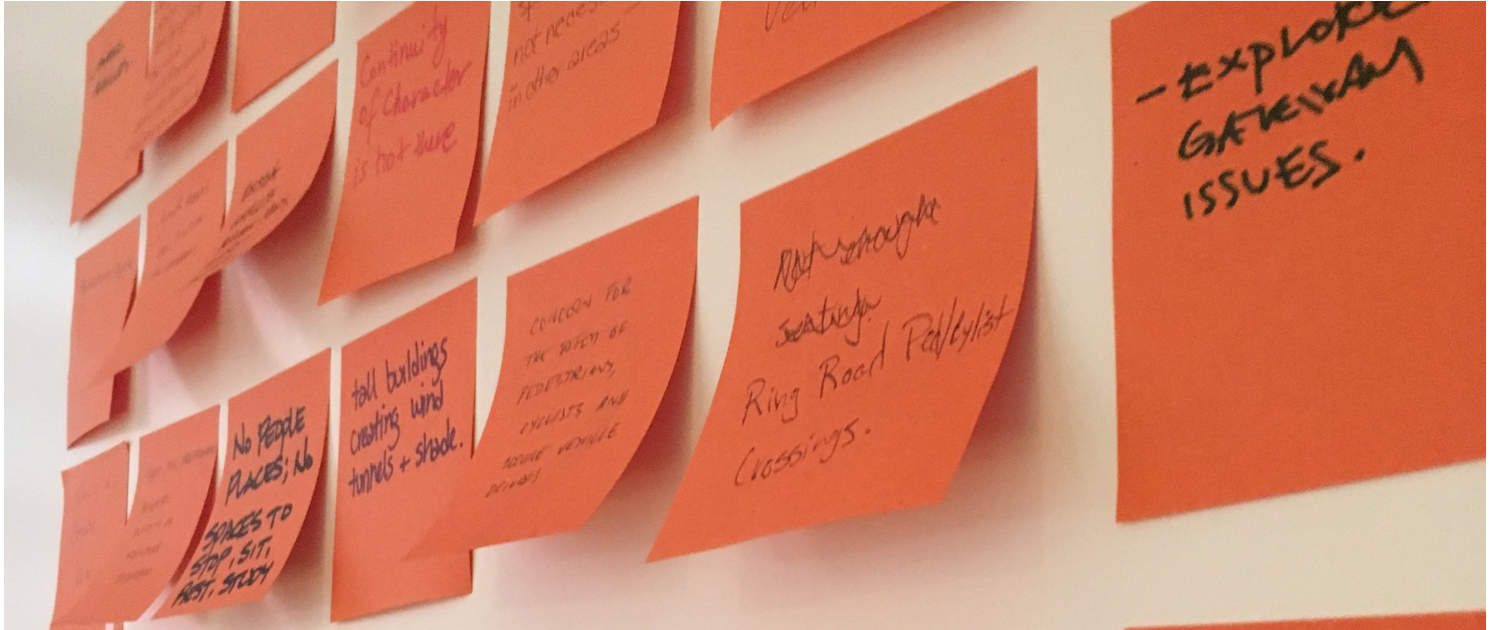
A word cloud created from all “aspirations” sticky notes

Some of the aspirations we heard:

- “Mix of social and teaching space”
- “A vibrant space”
- “A welcoming place for all”
- “A place of celebration”
- “Integrated sustainability elements”
- “Smooth, non-slip surfaces”
- “More indigenous plants”
- “Multiple uses/movement”
- “A place to gather and sit”

What are your top 3 concerns?

In this first exercise, participants were asked to write down their top three aspirations and top three concerns related to the Grand Promenade. Each participant discussed their top priorities to their table.



Some of the concerns we heard:

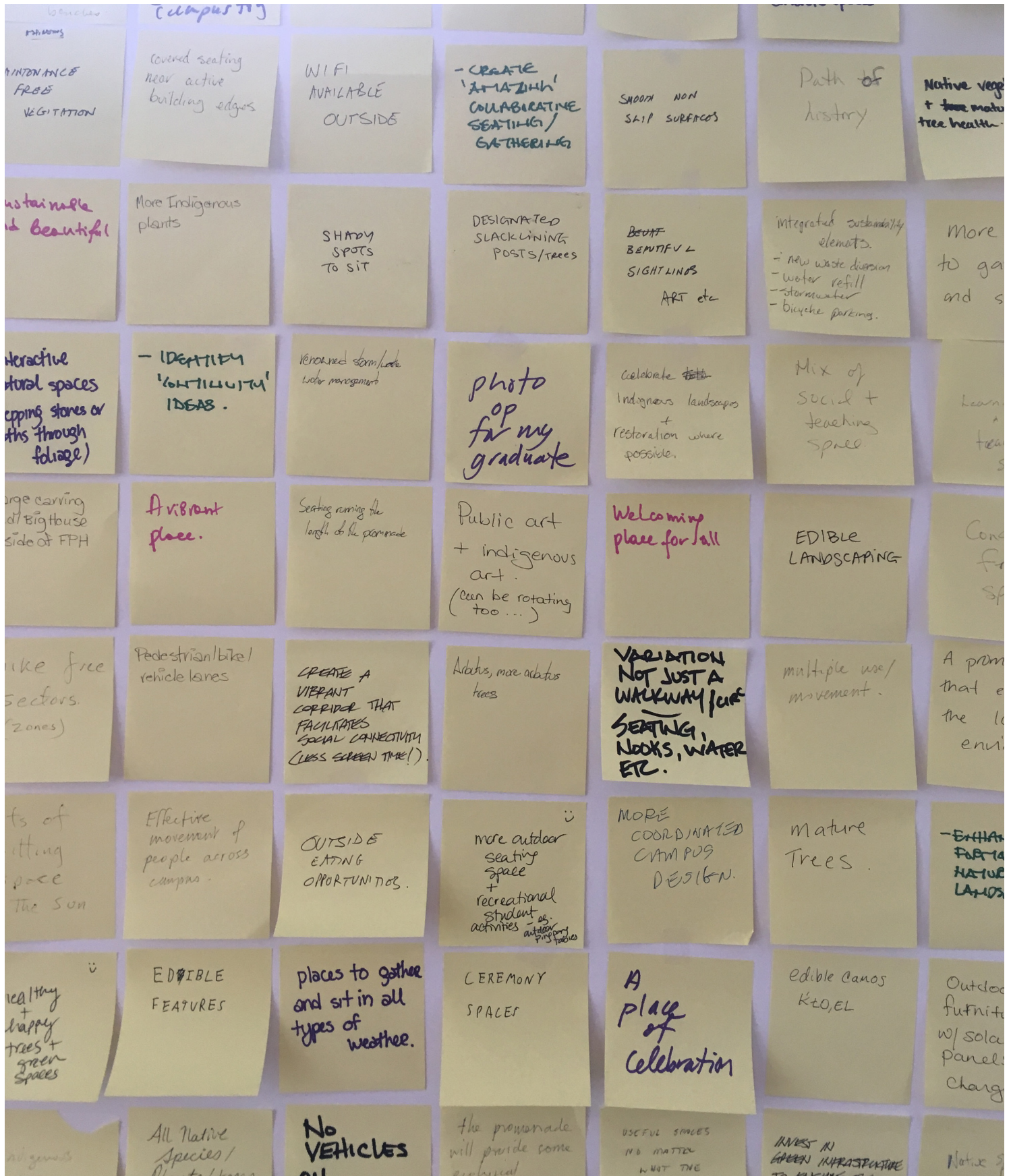
- “Tree health and longevity”
- “Conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists and vehicles”
- “Safety at night”
- “Quality of paving material”
- “Lacks cohesive character”
- “Growth means less natural environment”
- “Ring Road crossings”



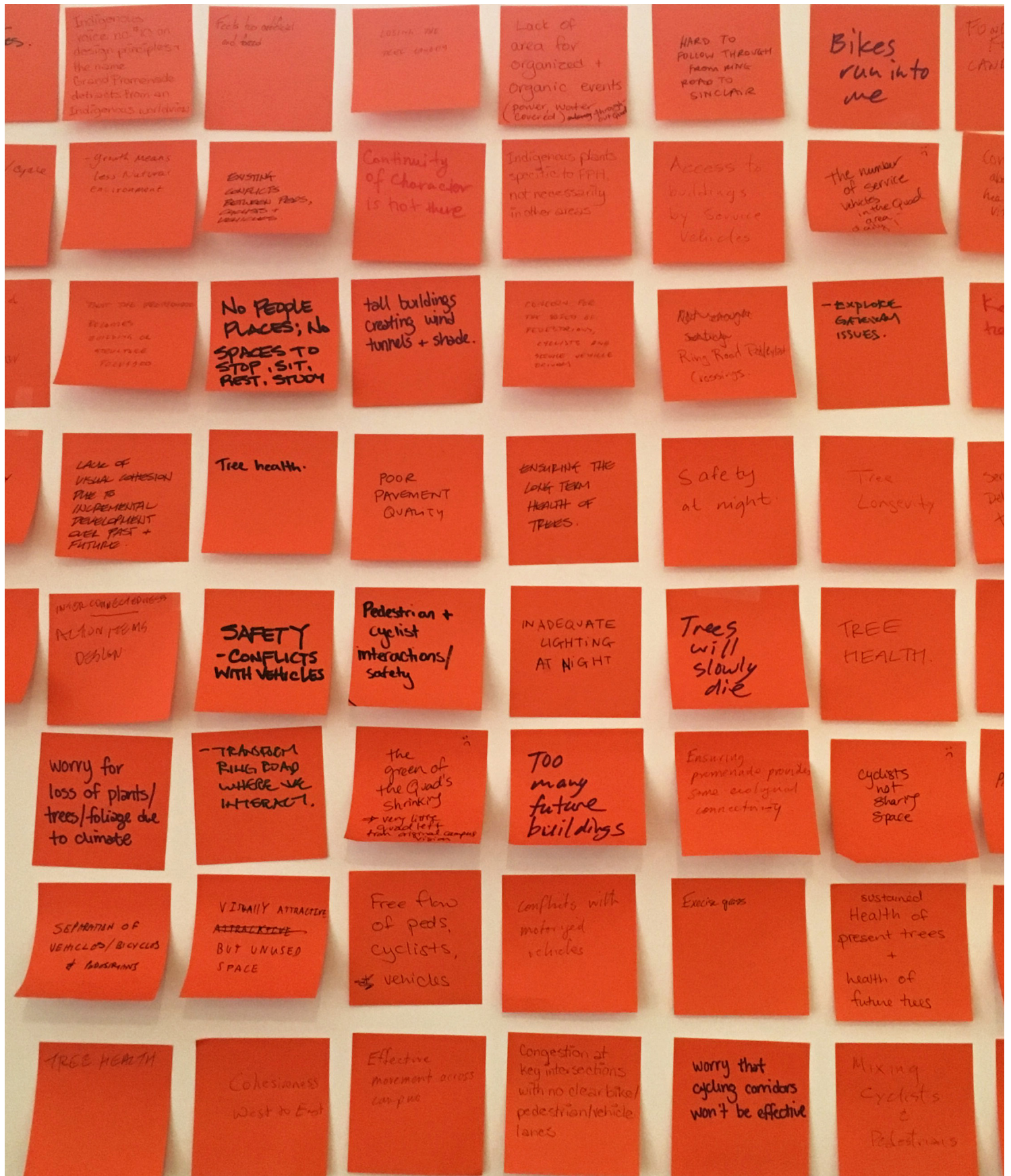
A word cloud created from all “concerns” stickie notes

ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #1

What are your top 3 aspirations?



What are your top 3 concerns?



ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #2A

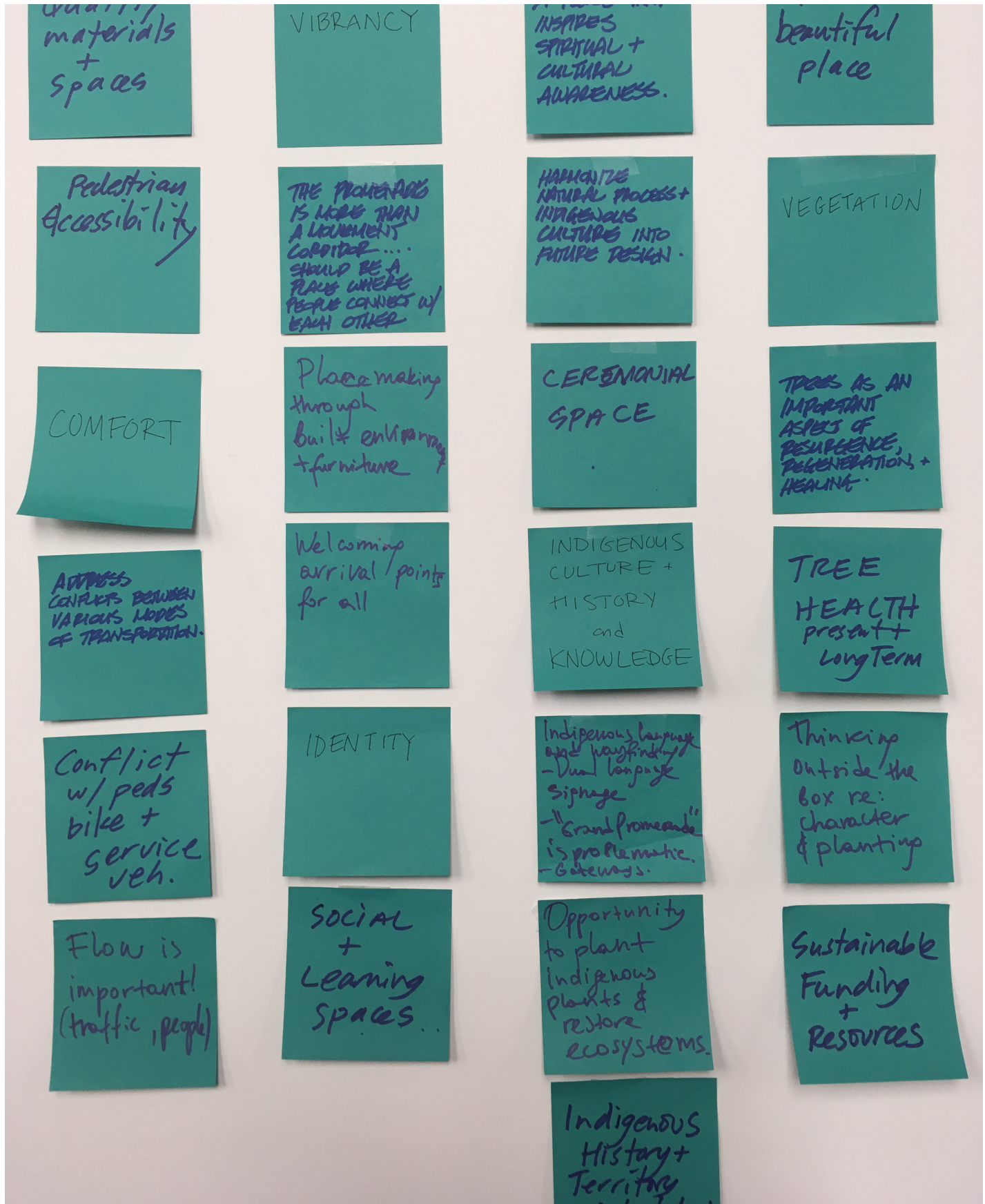
What are the emerging themes?

The next exercise involved reviewing the aspirations and concerns and classifying them into Emerging Themes. Each table listed 5-10 Emerging Themes and then reported back to the larger group. As a large group, these Emerging Themes were further summarized and discussed (see following pages).



A word cloud created from all "Emerging Themes" sticky notes

What are the emerging themes?



ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #2B

What are possible Design Responses to these themes?

Once a shortlist of Emerging Themes was determined, these themes were randomly assigned to the various tables for further, more focused, inquiry. The facilitator provided guiding questions to determine Strategies and Action/Design Responses for each of these specific themes.

SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY

“Address conflicts between various modes of transportation.”

“Use material and signage as indicators”

“Vehicle-free zones”

“Use bollards and lighting”

“Weather protection - covered areas and surfacing that doesn't puddle”

VIBRANCY

“Places to sit and interact, gathering space”

“Flexible spaces for ceremonies, performances, informal gathering”

“Activate building edges”

“Outdoor classrooms”

“Variety of spaces”

“A place that is the 'Heart'”

VEGETATION

“Edible/Healing Plants”

“Use Indigenous plants along the Promenade”

“Trees as important aspect of resurgence, regeneration, healing, etc.”

“Opportunity to plant Indigenous plants and restore ecologies”

“Think outside the box re: character and planting”

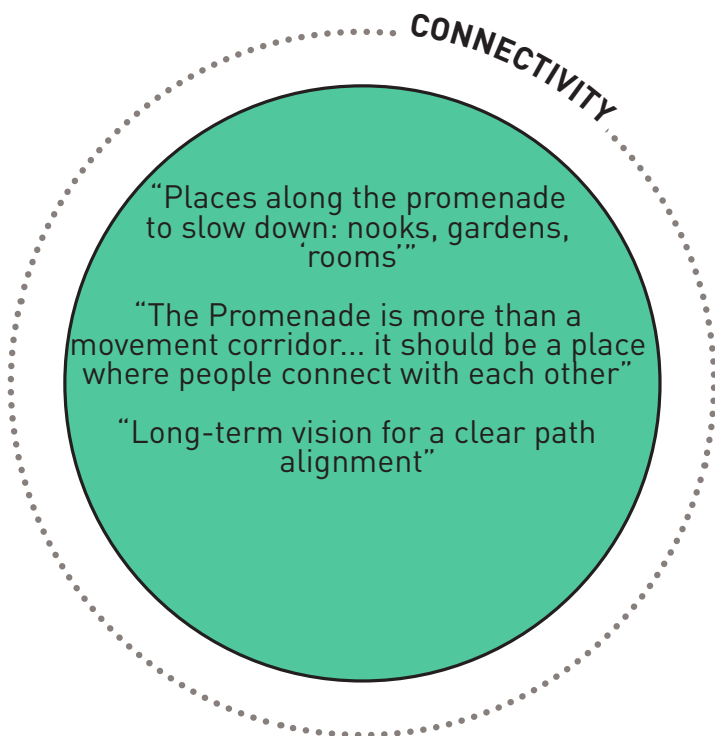
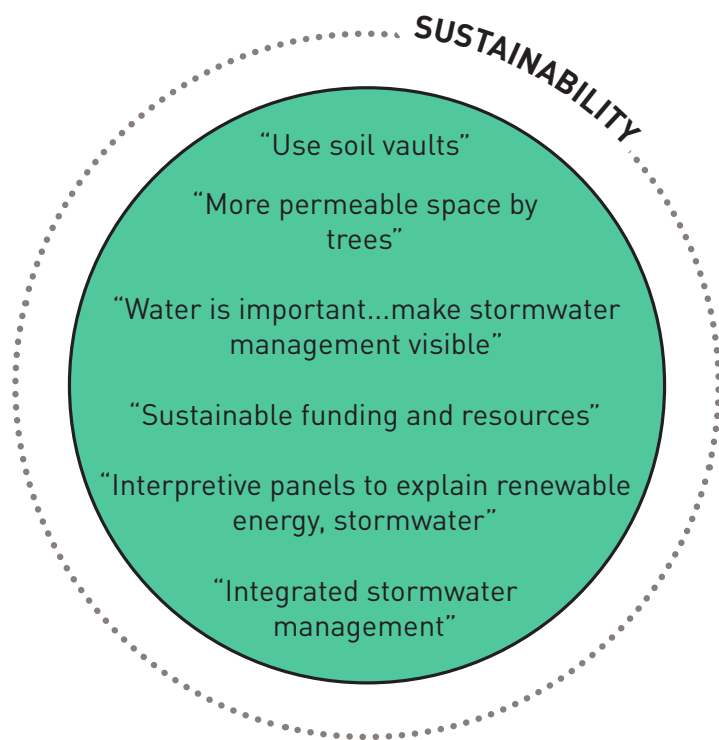
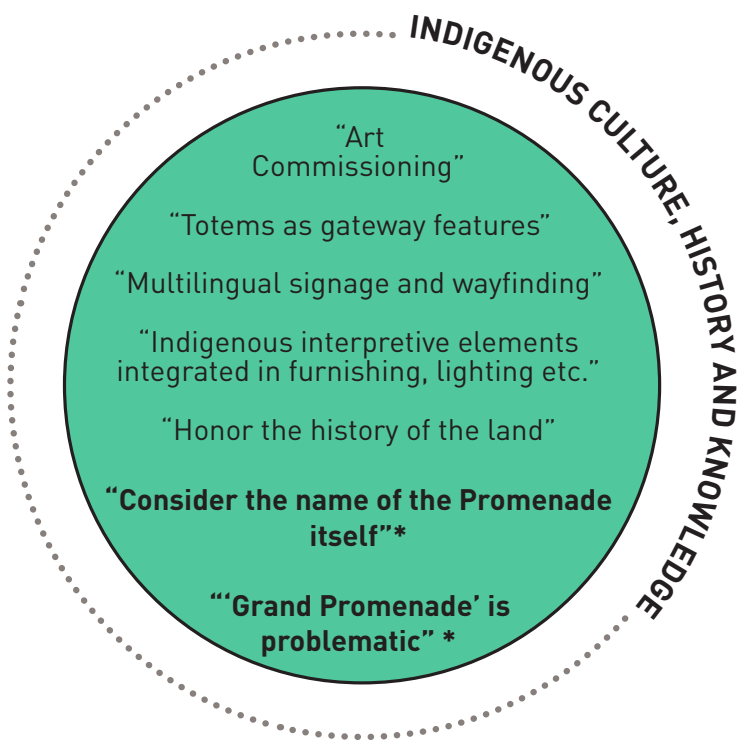
IDENTITY

“One consistent material palette with special zones - site specificity”

“Consistent signage and lighting”

“Art and installations”

“GP like a nurse-log - supports campus vitality”

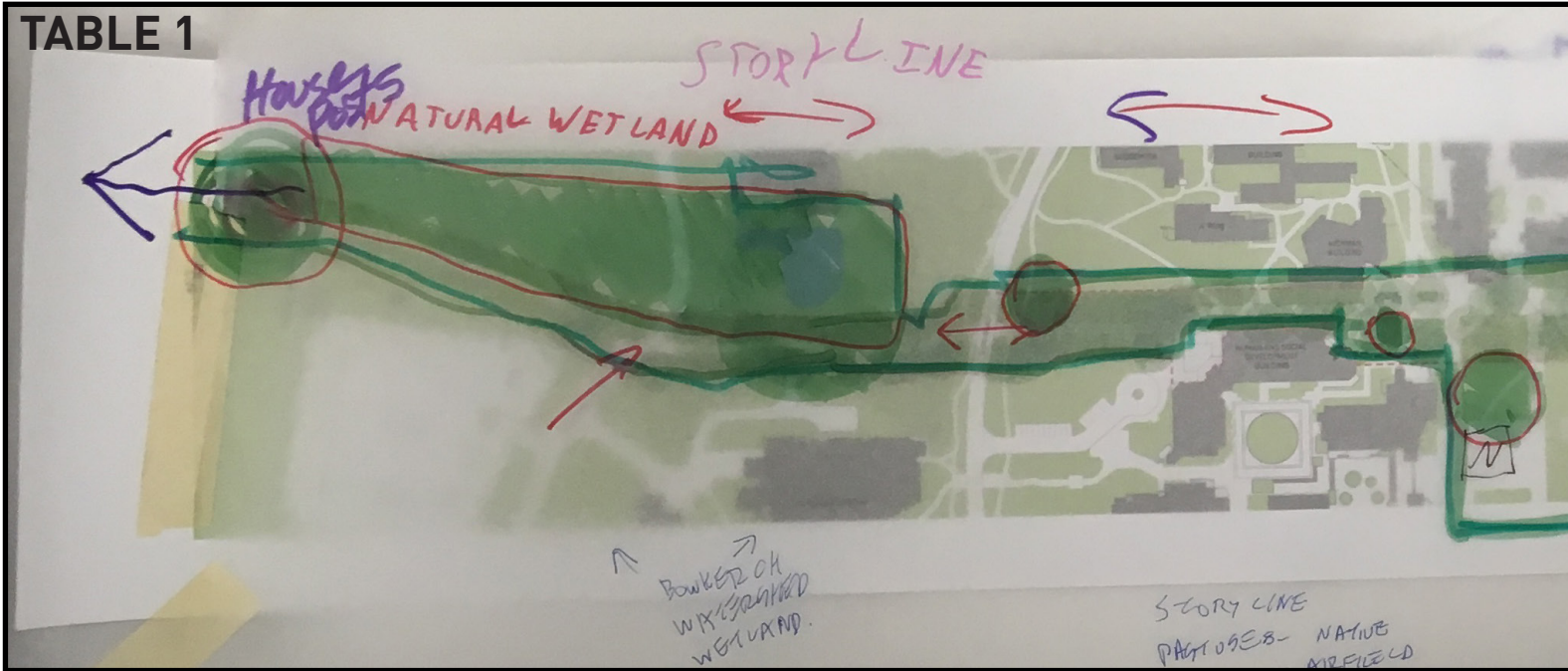


*One discussion that kept surfacing was the name of the Promenade which was deemed “problematic” and at odds the Campus’ longstanding commitment to and relationships with Indigenous communities.

ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #3

Design Exercise - What's Possible?

Each table spent about 45 minutes discussing how the emerging themes could be reflected on the Promenade plan. Prompts for sketching included: How do we apply the emerging themes to the site? What should the promenade look like? What should the character be?

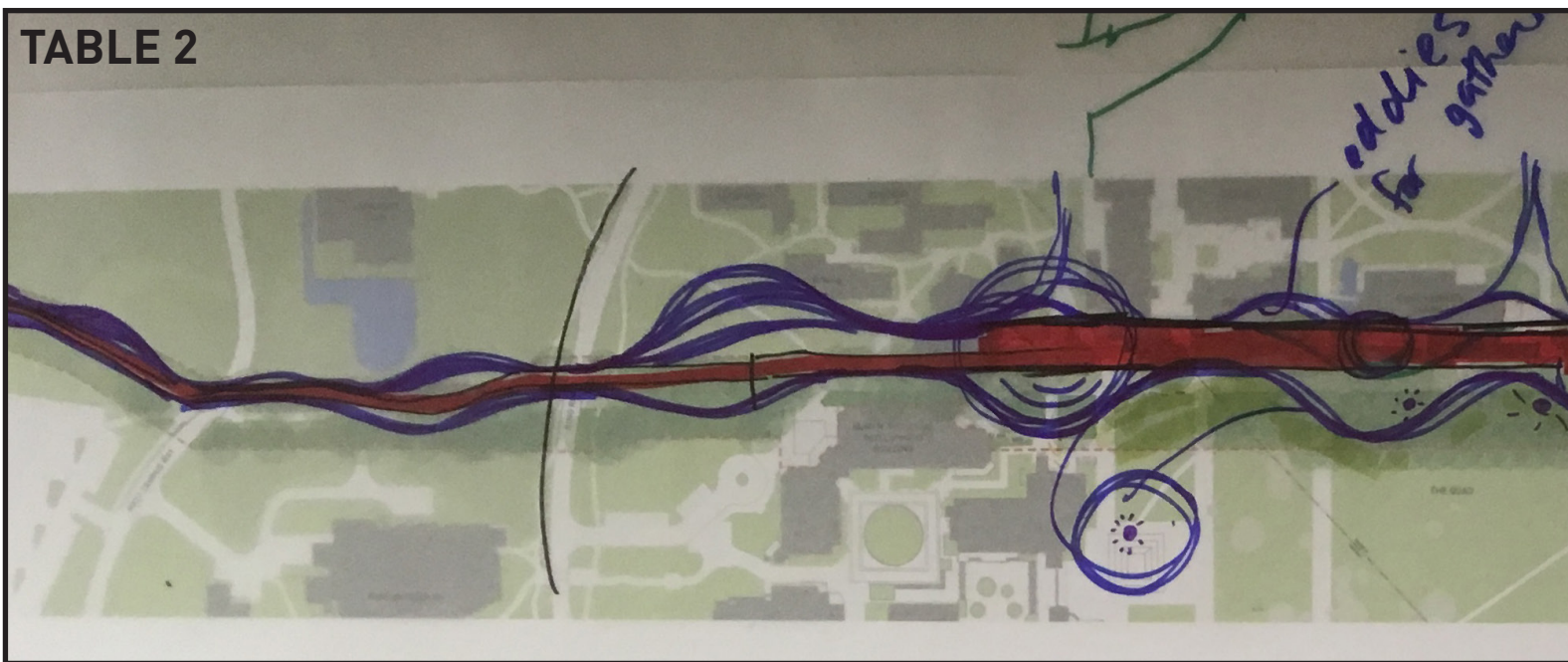


The Promenade tells a story

West: more naturalized
East: more modern

Reinforces connection to watershed

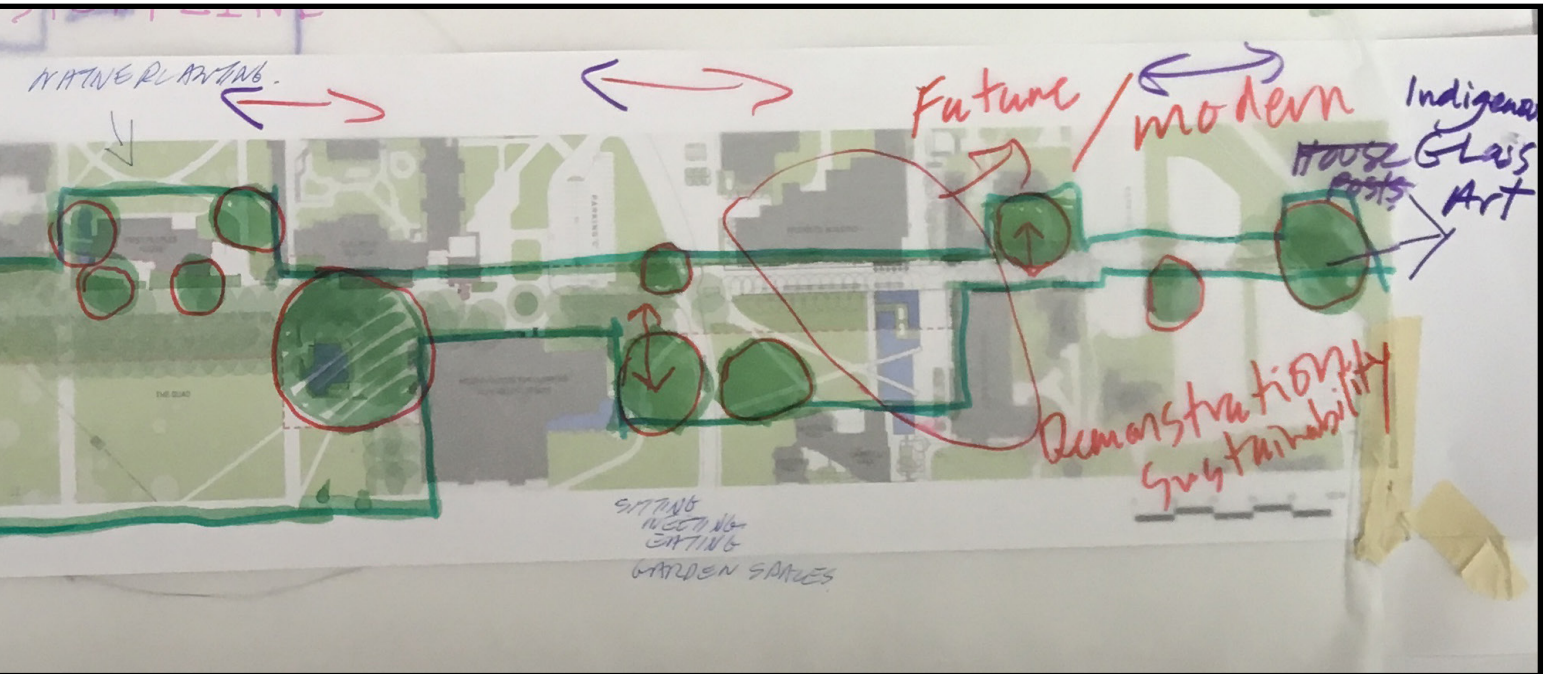
Demonstrates Sustainability



Supports *connectivity* and places for slowing down and *connecting*

Eddies : places to slow down and gather

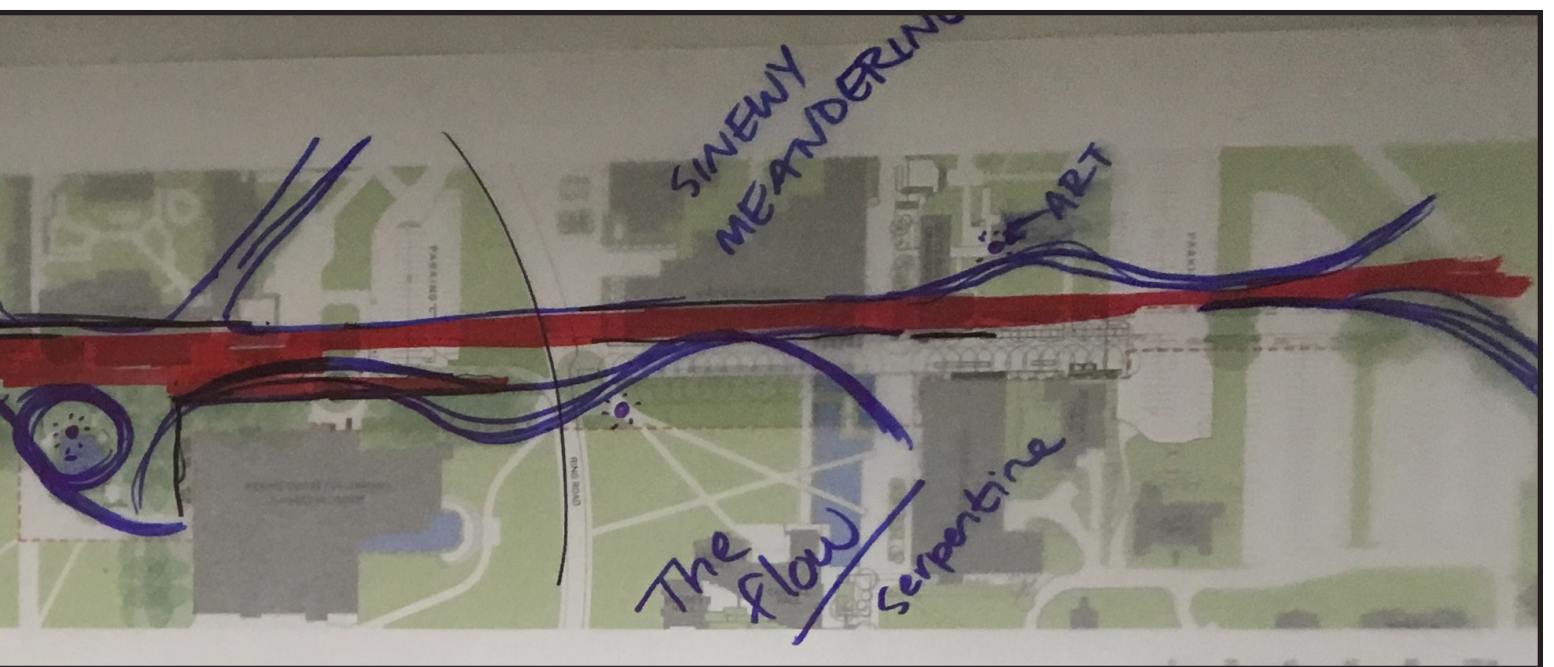
Strengthen connection between FPH and Promenade



Positions FPH at the physical and cultural centre of the Promenade / campus

Connect Promenade to green nodes along extents

Places to sit, eat, meet, garden



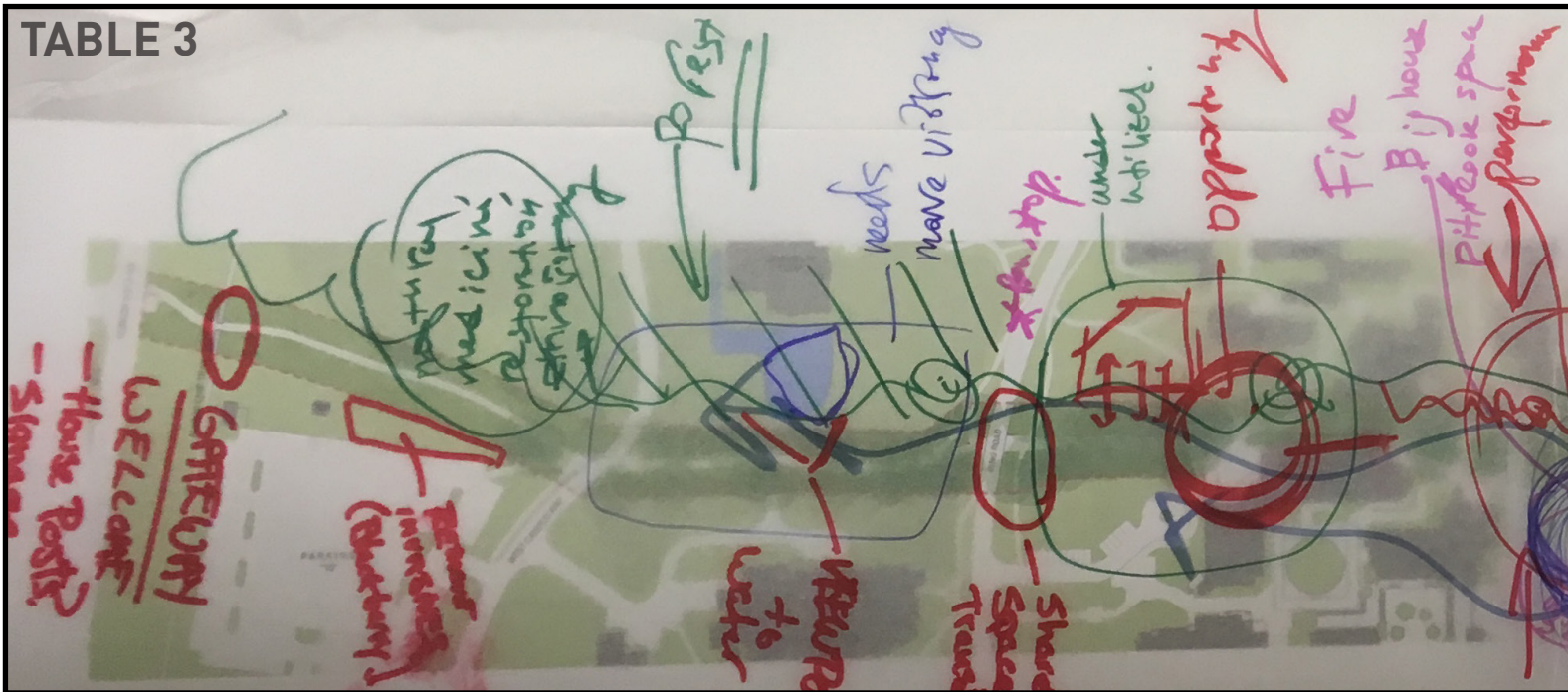
Encourage both meandering and direct connections

Allow promenade to expand into adjacent landscape where appropriate

Use art to provide a sense of cohesion and identity

ROUND TABLE EXERCISE #3

Design Exercise - What's Possible?



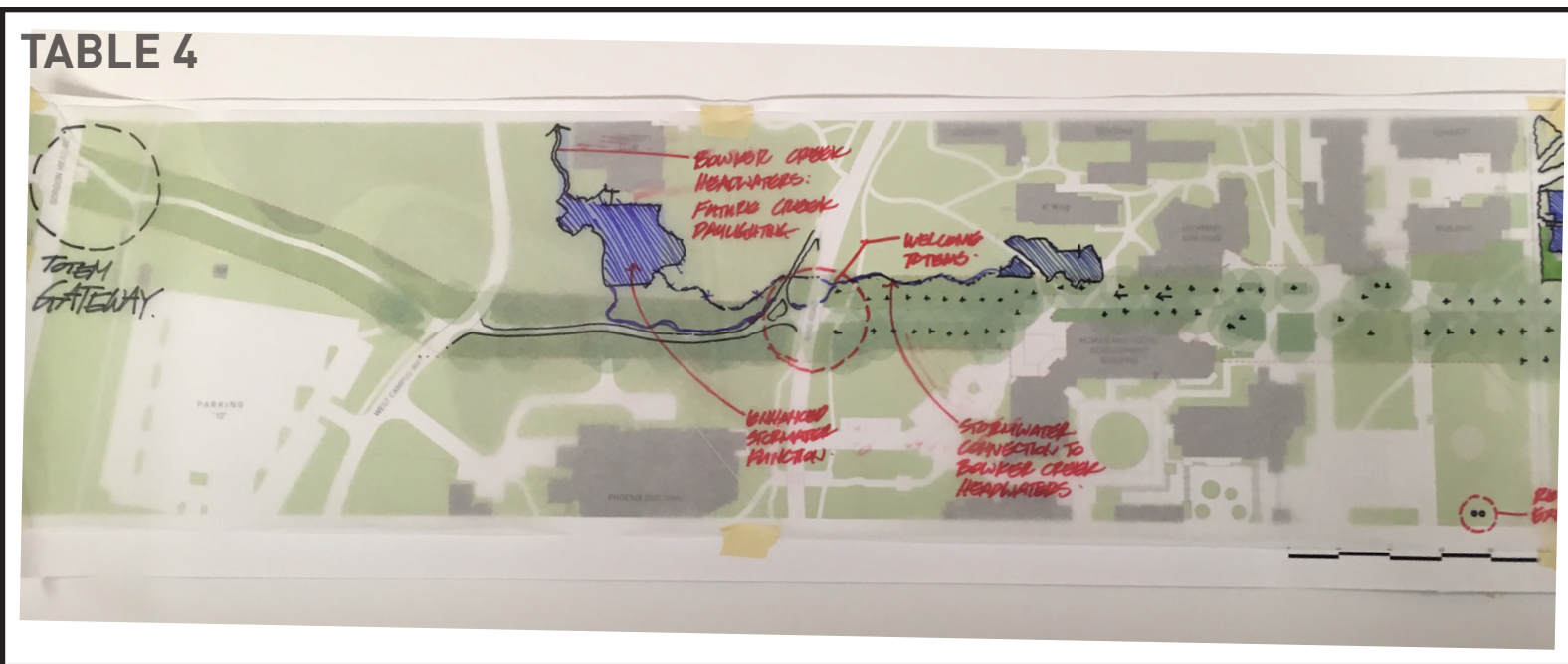
Gateway -
Welcome

Remove
invasives

Natural areas-
medicinal, restoration etc.

View to water
at University Club

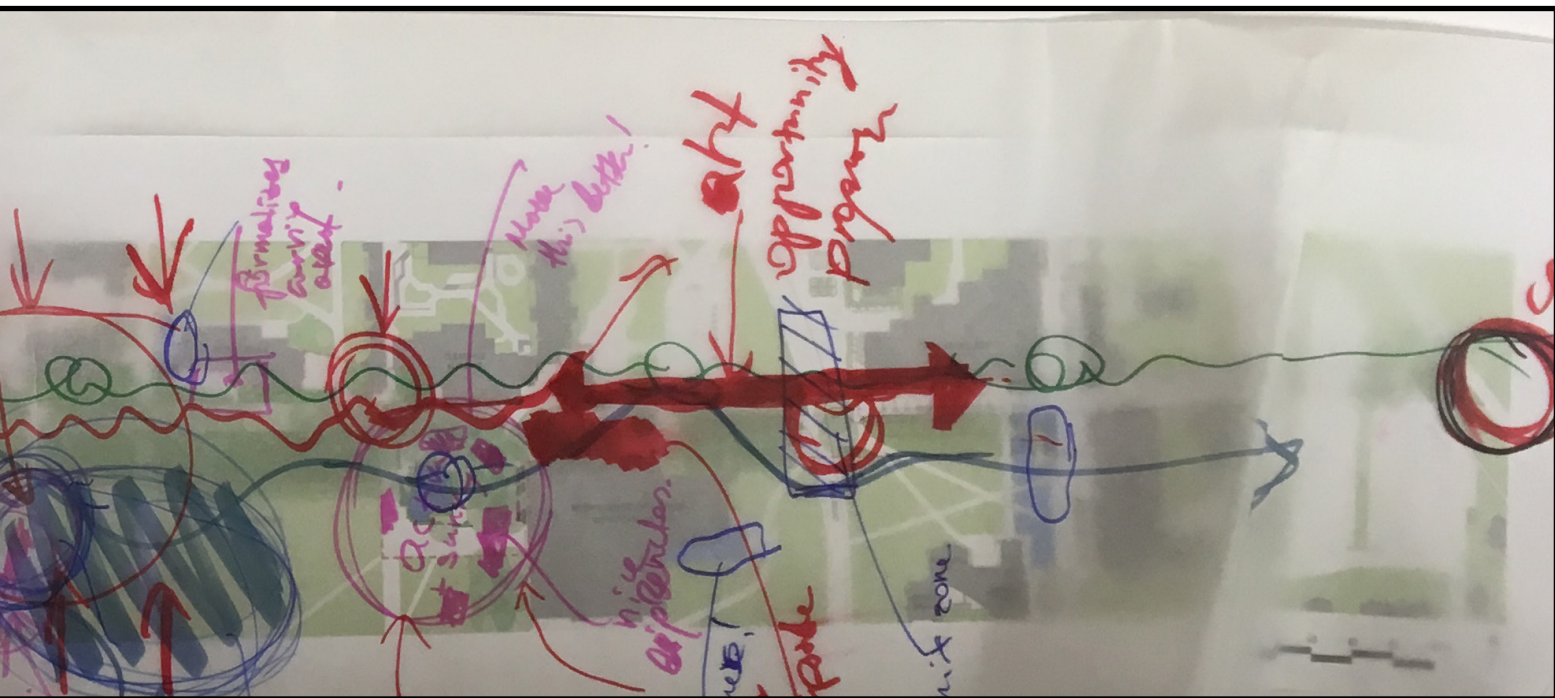
Shared space
at Transit



Totem Gateways at East
and South Extents

Future stream daylighting and connection
with Bower Creek Headwaters

Welcome Totems at key
gateways

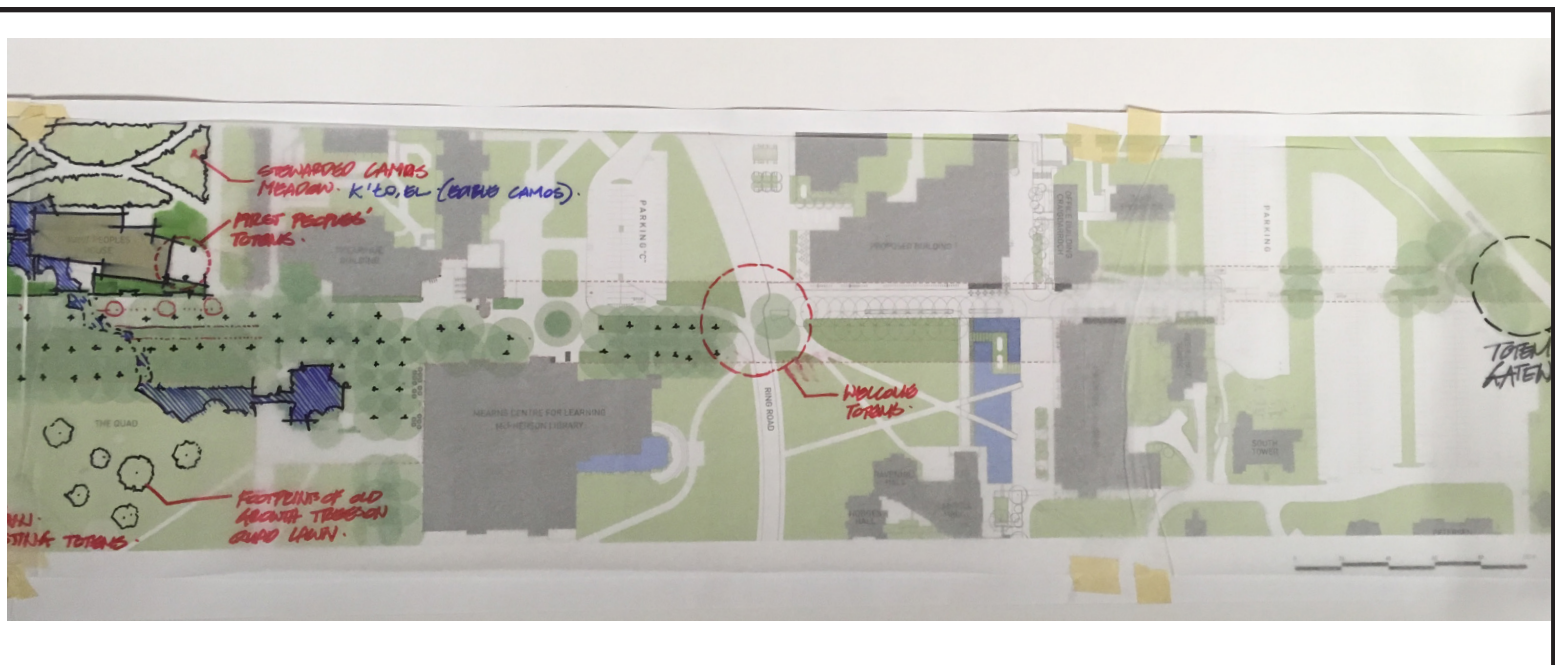


Fire Pit/cook space

Improve Petch Fountain

Opportunity at Ring Road Intersection

Gateway - Ring Road Intersection



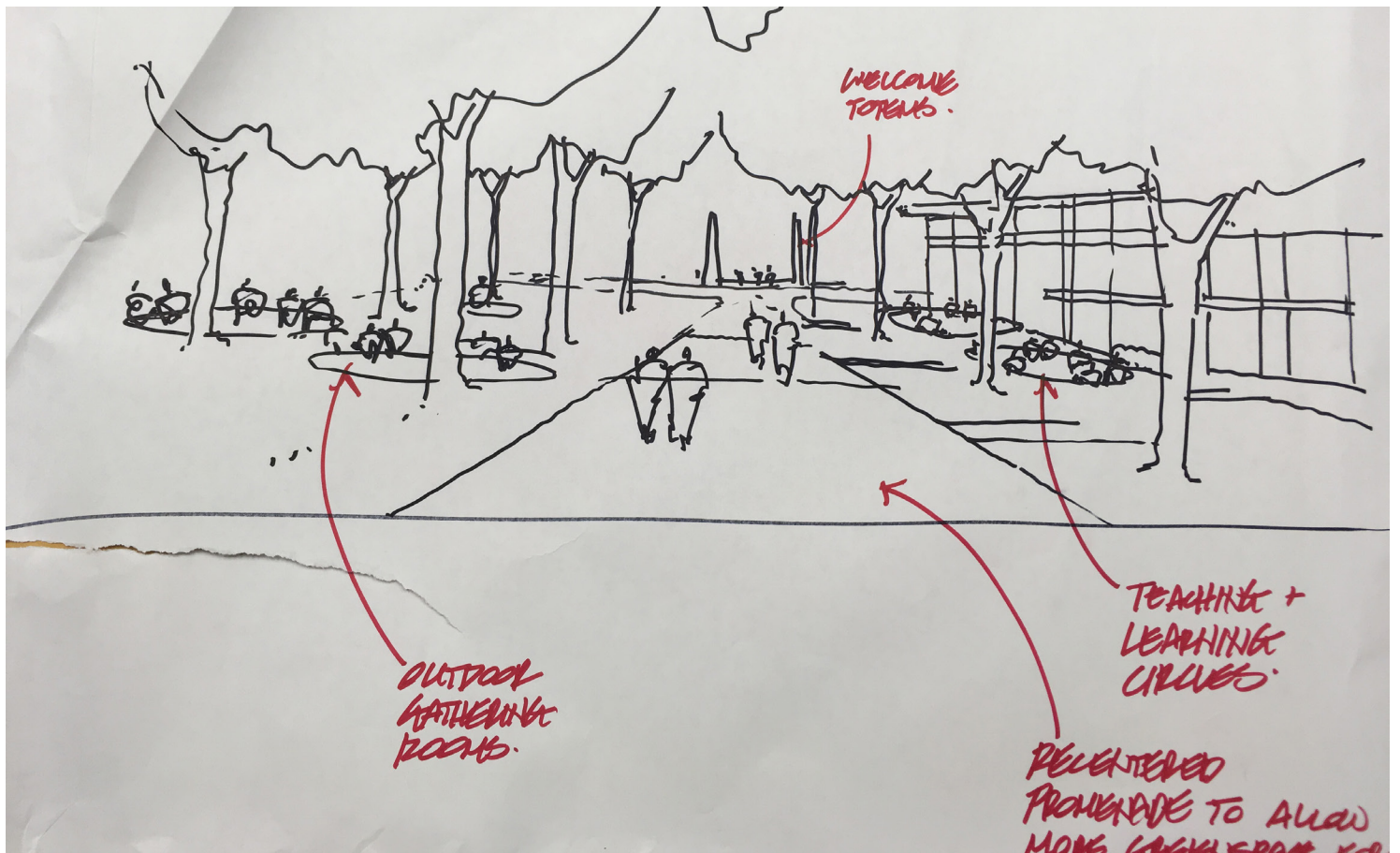
Connections between Petch Fountain and First Peoples' House

Footprints of old growth trees on Quad lawn

Stewarded Camas Meadow

SUMMARY

Emerging Big Ideas



WHAT WE HEARD

The Design Charrette successfully brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to envision a vibrant future for the Grand Promenade. We heard many concerns that hadn't previously been acknowledged, such as the problematic connotations with the name of the Promenade itself and the enthusiasm for a central connection with the First Peoples' House.

It's clear there is strong desire for a cohesive vision that also responds appropriately to the shifting context and character. Through active discussions and sketching, the future Promenade was envisioned as a place, not just a corridor, that celebrated the culture, history and vibrancy of the UVic Campus.

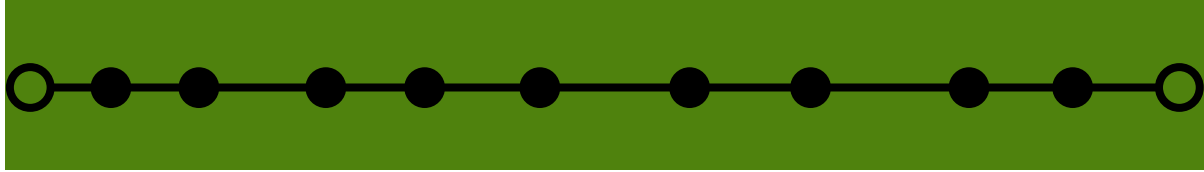
The big ideas that emerged from this process will be invaluable insight for the design team in the development of the Landscape Plan.

SUMMARY

Emerging Big Ideas

The Promenade tells a story

It has an identity and sense of cohesion



The Promenade expresses a gradient of character

From natural (west) to modern (east)



The Promenade has a heart

The Quad-Petch Fountain-First People's House is the Centre of the Promenade



The Promenade (and people) take precedence

Where the Promenade intersects with Ring Road, pedestrians take precedence



The Promenade is green in character

Defined by its tree canopy and sense of walking *through* a landscape



The Promenade is a place *not* just a corridor

It expands to connect with green nodes and social spaces along its extents



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Draft Principles Presented at Design Charrette

- 1 Ensure design presents a cohesive vision of the entire Grand Promenade.
- 2 Integrate mature and any new trees as key and defining features of the Promenade.
- 3 Create a variety of outdoor spaces integrated with the Promenade that support social and academic interaction.
- 4 Ensure design reduces conflicts between pedestrian, cyclists and service vehicles.
- 5 Embed demonstrated sustainability practices into every design solution.
- 6 Ensure the design of the Grand Promenade responds to campus mobility and accessibility.
- 7 Ensure any design responds in a meaningful way to adjacent buildings and broader campus connectivity.
- 8 Ensure the entire extents of the Grand Promenade is a safe, secure and inclusive path during all times and weather conditions.
- 9 Ensure all material are durable, regionally appropriate and adaptable over time.
- 10 Embed indigenous culture, history and connections to land into the design process.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Updated Principles based on Feedback from Design Charrette

- 1 Embed indigenous culture, language, history and connections to land into the design process.
- 2 Integrate mature and any new trees as key and defining features of the Promenade.
- 3 Create a variety of outdoor spaces integrated with the Promenade that support social and academic interaction.
- 4 Ensure design reduces conflicts between pedestrian, cyclists and service vehicles.
- 5 Embed demonstrated sustainability practices into every design solution.
- 6 Ensure the design of the Grand Promenade responds to campus mobility and accessibility.
- 7 Ensure any design responds in a meaningful way to adjacent buildings and broader campus connectivity.
- 8 Ensure the entire extents of the Grand Promenade is a safe, secure and inclusive path during all times and weather conditions.
- 9 Ensure all material are durable, regionally appropriate and adaptable over time.
- 10 Ensure design presents a cohesive vision and narrative of the entire Grand Promenade.
- 11 Ensure design supports learning opportunities.
- 12 Ensure proposed design is economically sustainable and will be maintained over time.

