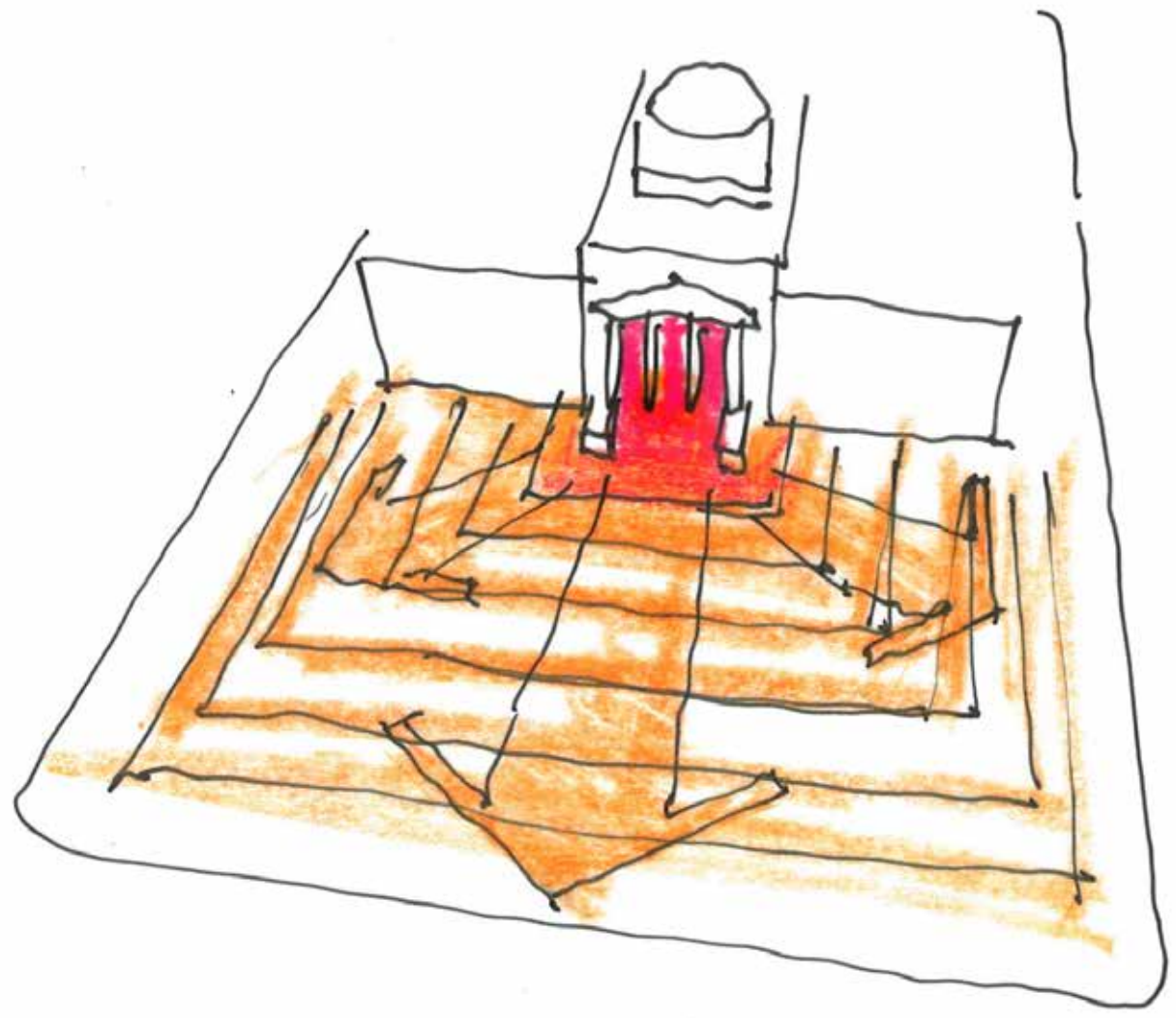


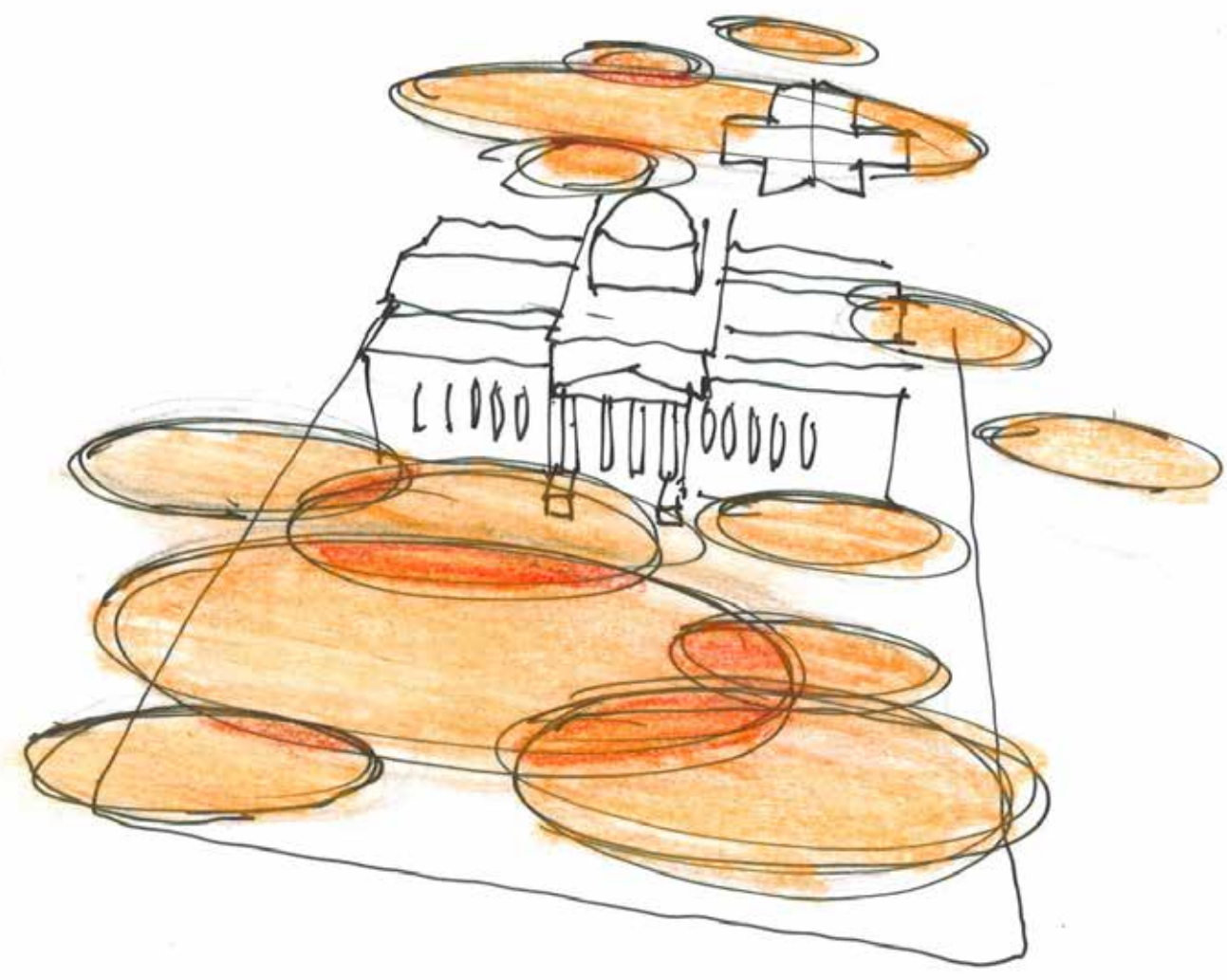
# OBJECTIVES

## VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA REDEVELOPMENT

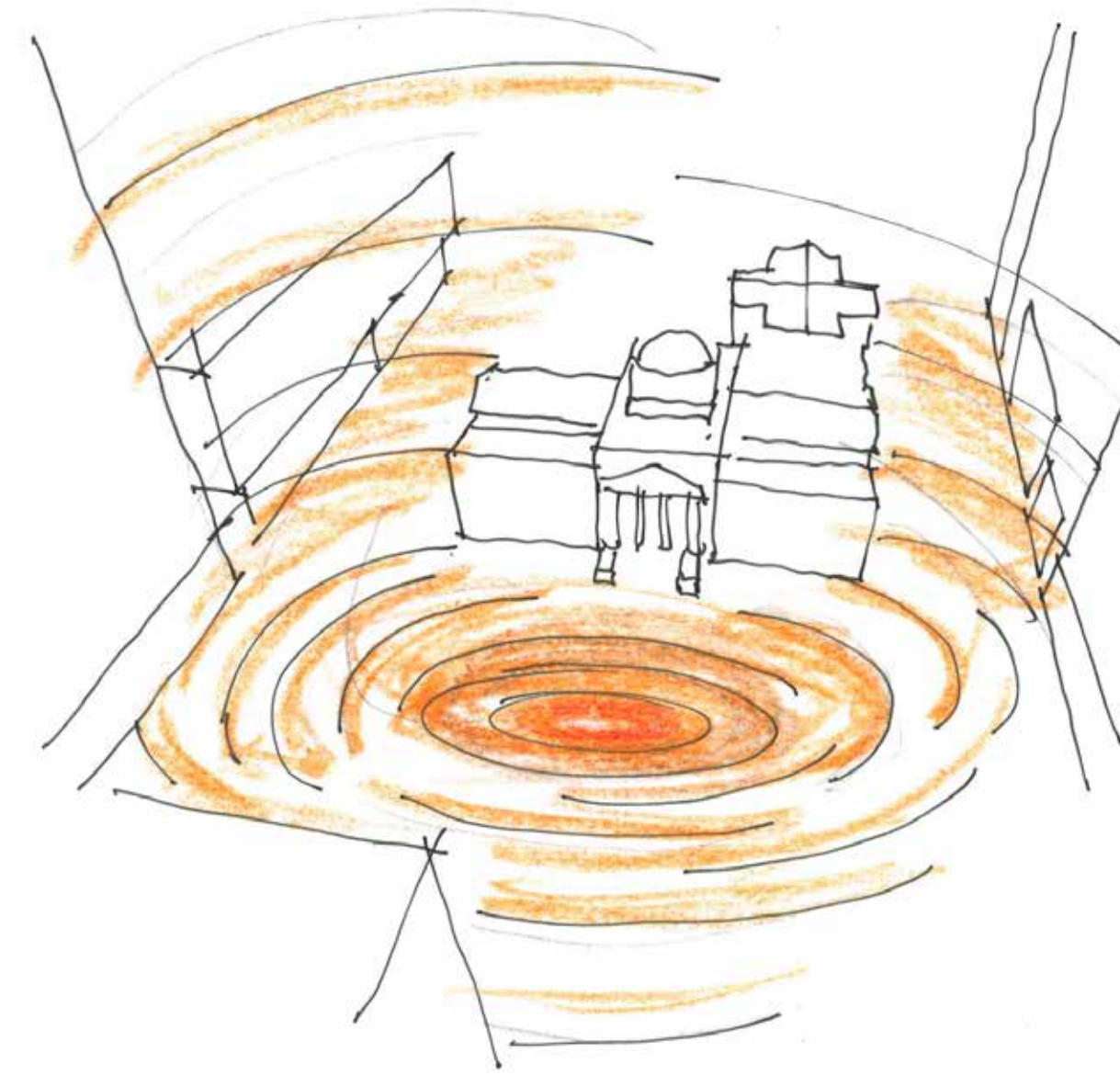
- 1 Make the space inviting and safe, designed to be as flexible as possible so that individual and small group use is as comfortable as large events on the plaza.
- 2 Renew the waterproofing to the Vancouver Art Gallery spaces under the plaza.
- 3 Respond to the plaza's location in the larger city including:
  - a. The Vancouver Art Gallery building
  - b. Robson Square
  - c. The ceremonial character of Georgia Street
- 4 The design must permit phasing so that the first phase can fit within the available budget.



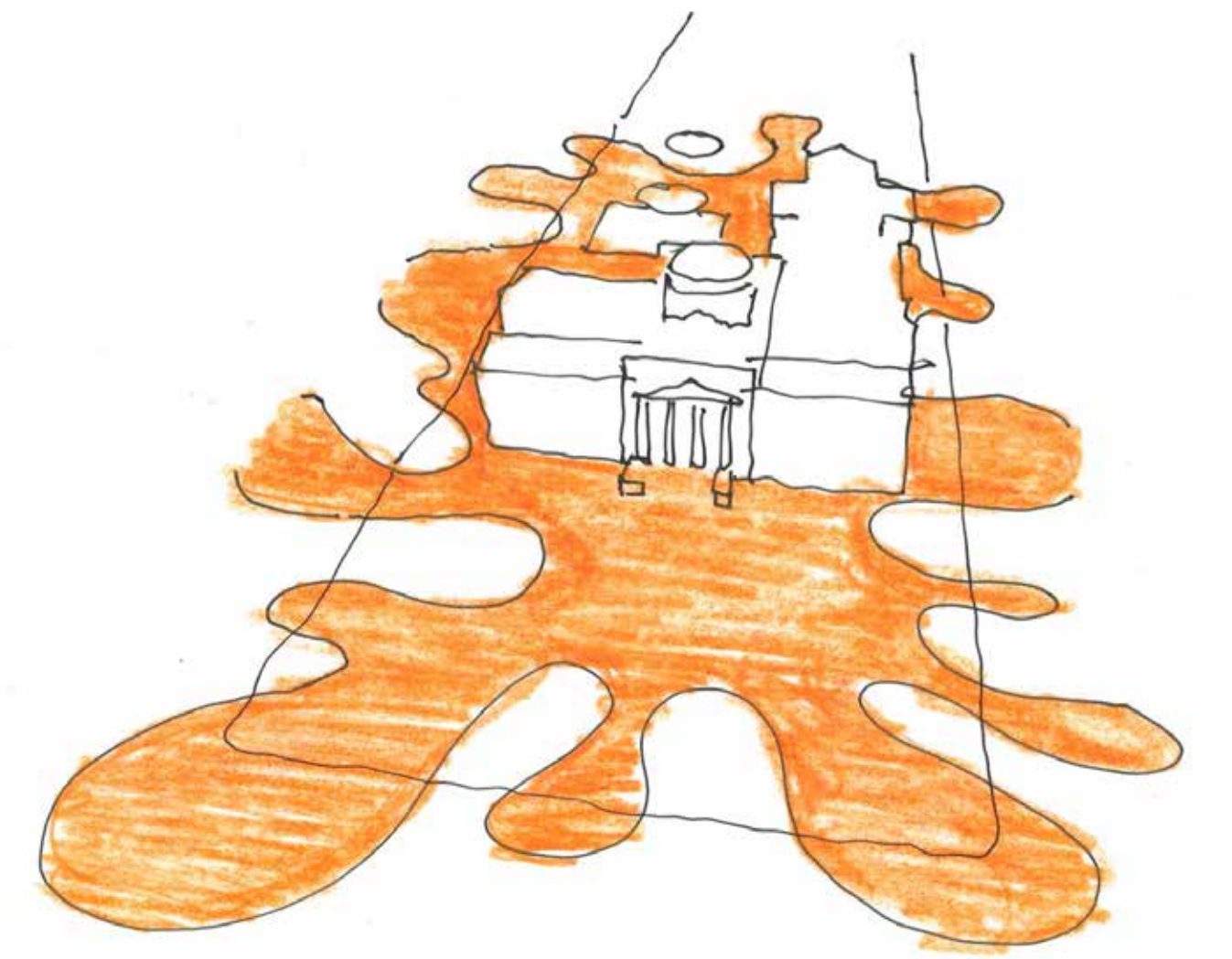
**ADDRESS THE FORMAL  
FACADE OF THE BUILDING**



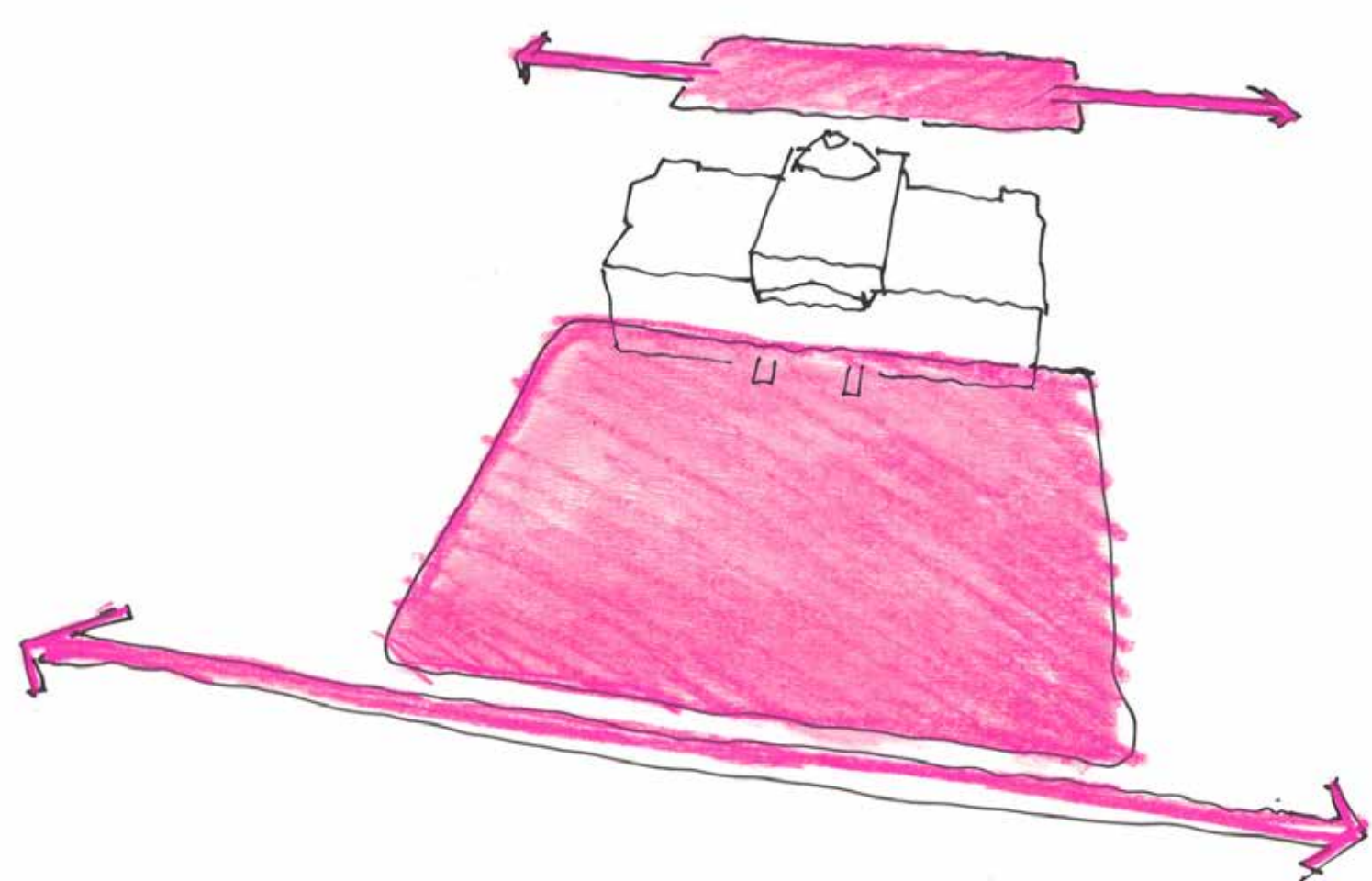
**OVERLAP ACTIVITIES  
EVENT / EVERYDAY**



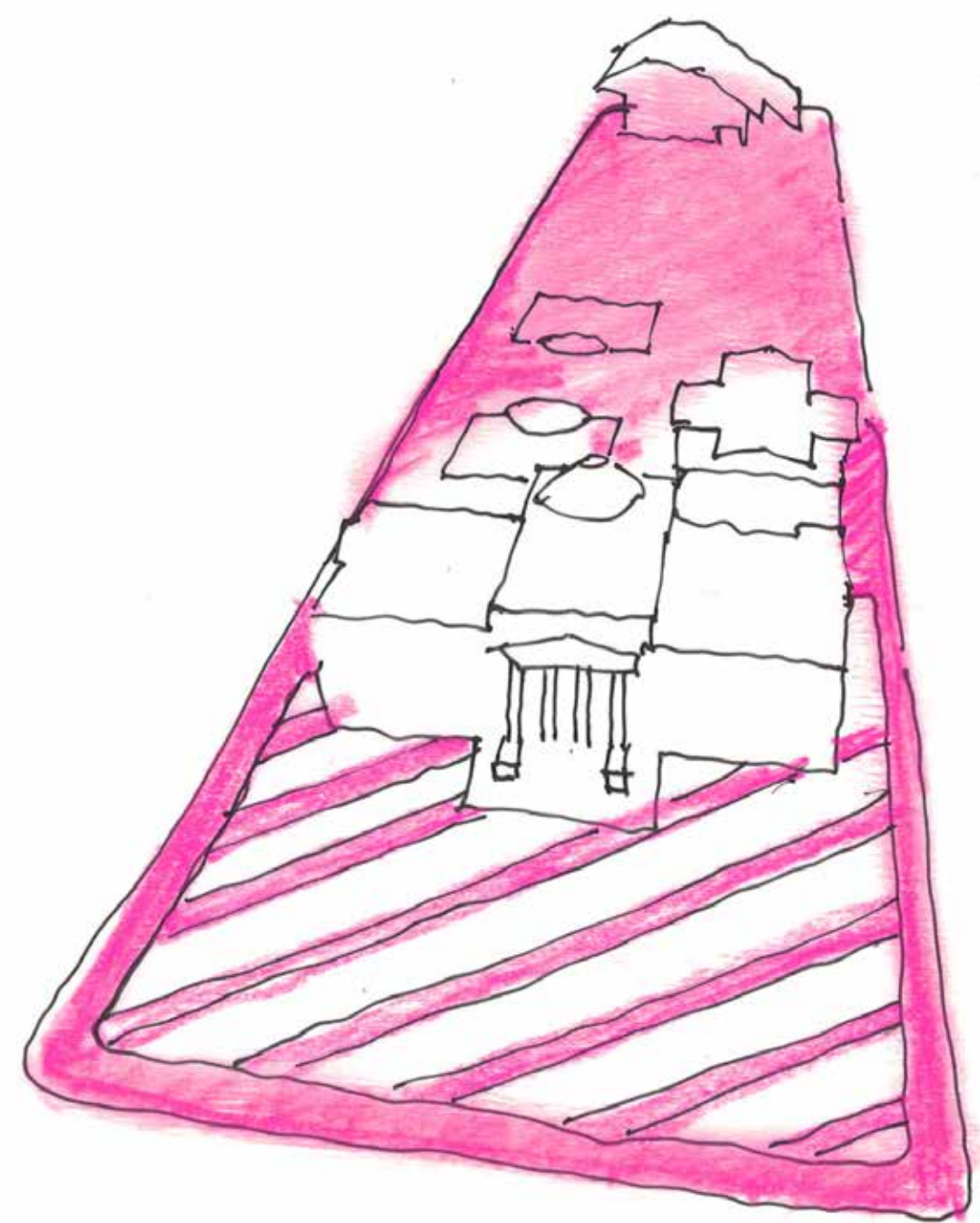
**FIND MAGIC**



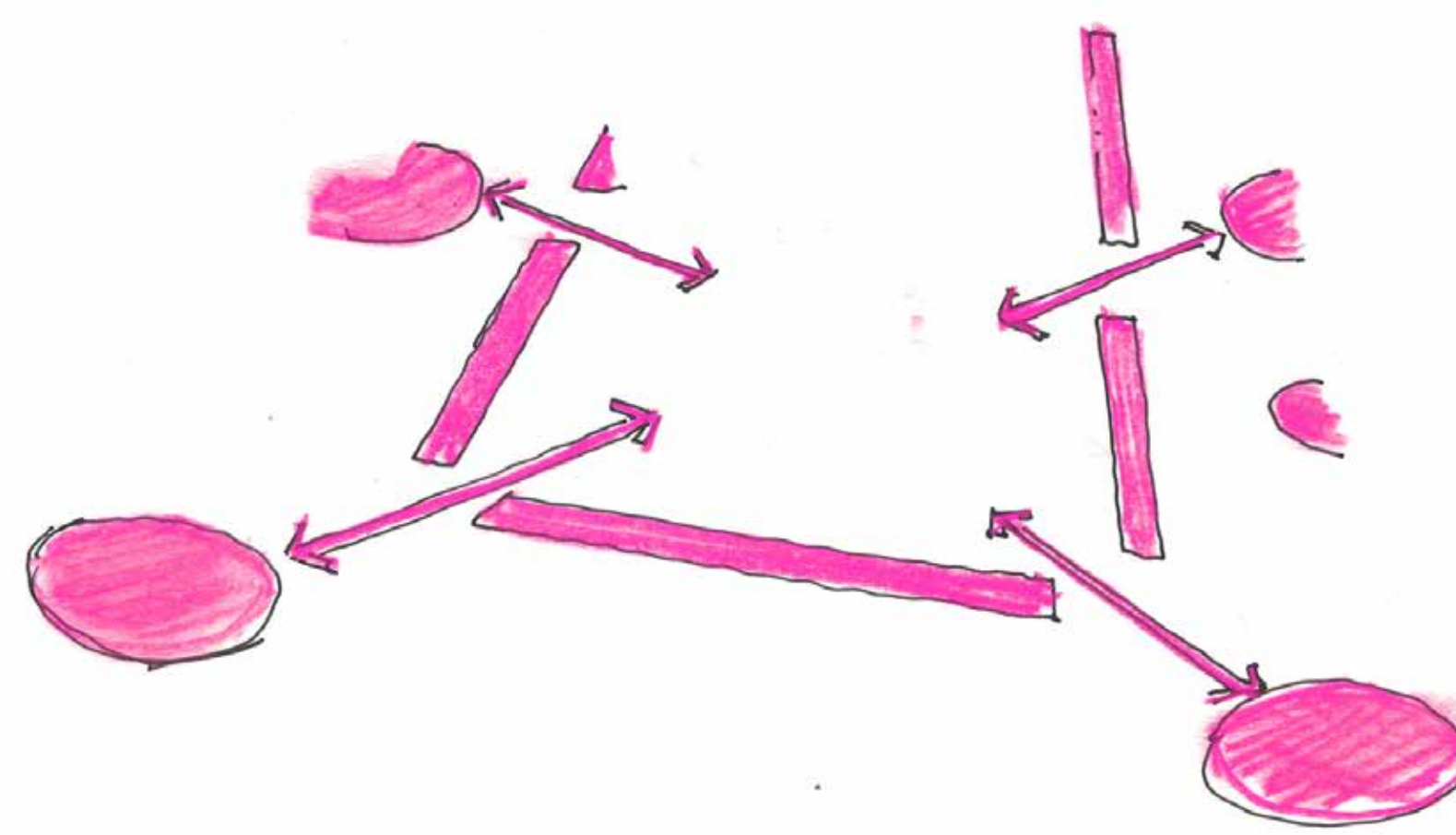
**BE A SYMBOLIC AND PHYSICAL  
CENTRE OF THE CITY**



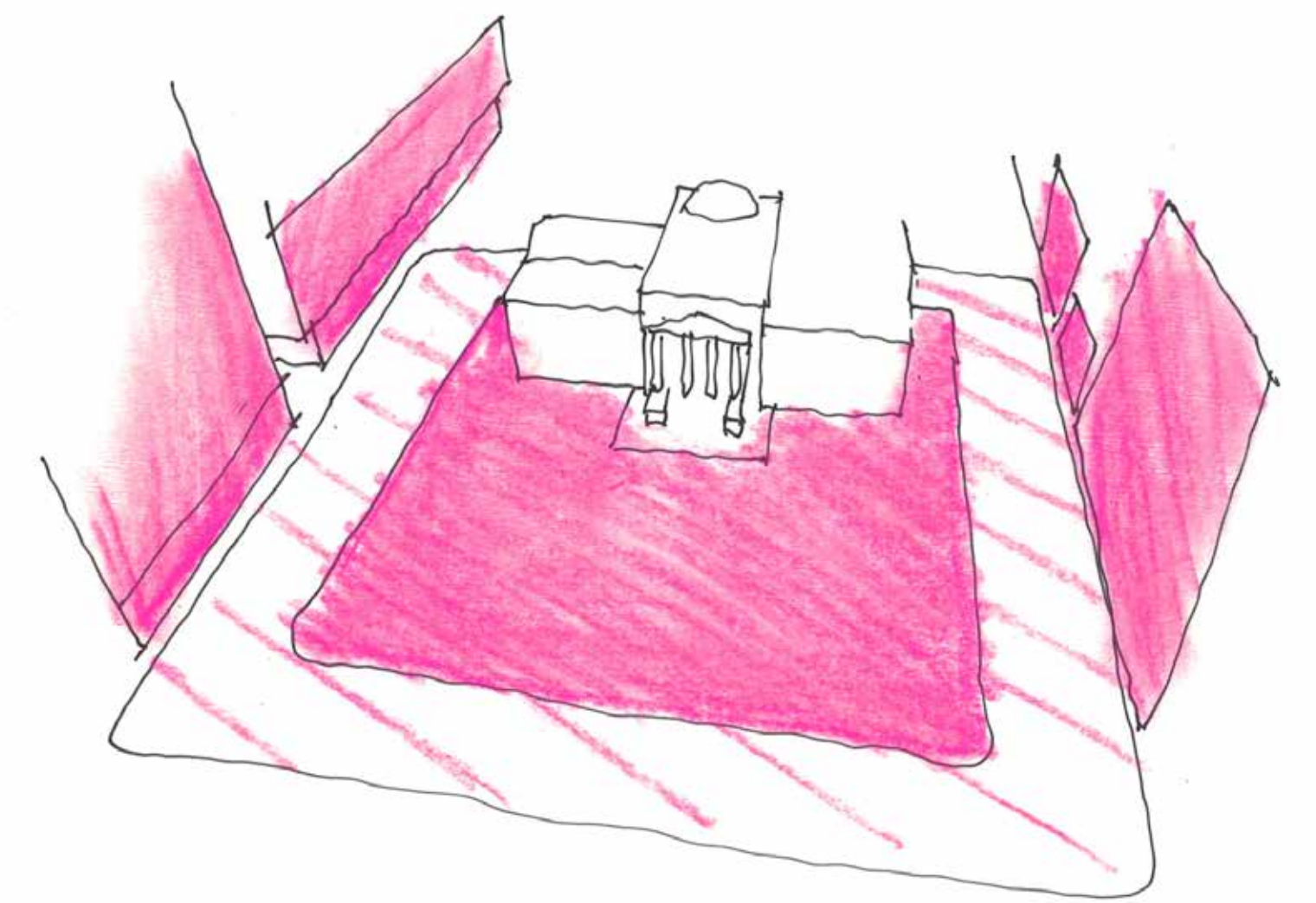
**CEREMONIAL / CASUAL  
PASS-BY SPACE / THROUGH SPACE**



**COMPLETE THE SQUARE**



**CAPTURE THE CORNERS  
EDGE / ENCLOSE**



**INDOOR ROOM / OUTDOOR ROOM**

# RATIONALE + PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

## VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA REDEVELOPMENT

### 1. TREE REMOVAL/RETENTION



- Some existing trees are in poor or declining condition, or are recent transplants.
- Some trees are in locations that restrict or preclude uses of the plaza.
- Several tree species are inappropriate for a large urban plaza
- Inconsistent, wide range of tree species with no consistency, between species type, size, age, spacing and location, creating an uncoordinated and inelegant urban landscape.
- Some trees obscure site-lines of the heritage Courthouse façade.
- The two large cedars located either side of the VAG/Courthouse north façade obscure views and limit access to the building, and present a security risk by creating dead unmonitored space beneath and behind them; they have been severely pruned for security reasons; they are also transplants, having originally been planted on the south side of the building.

### 2. FOUNTAIN REMOVAL



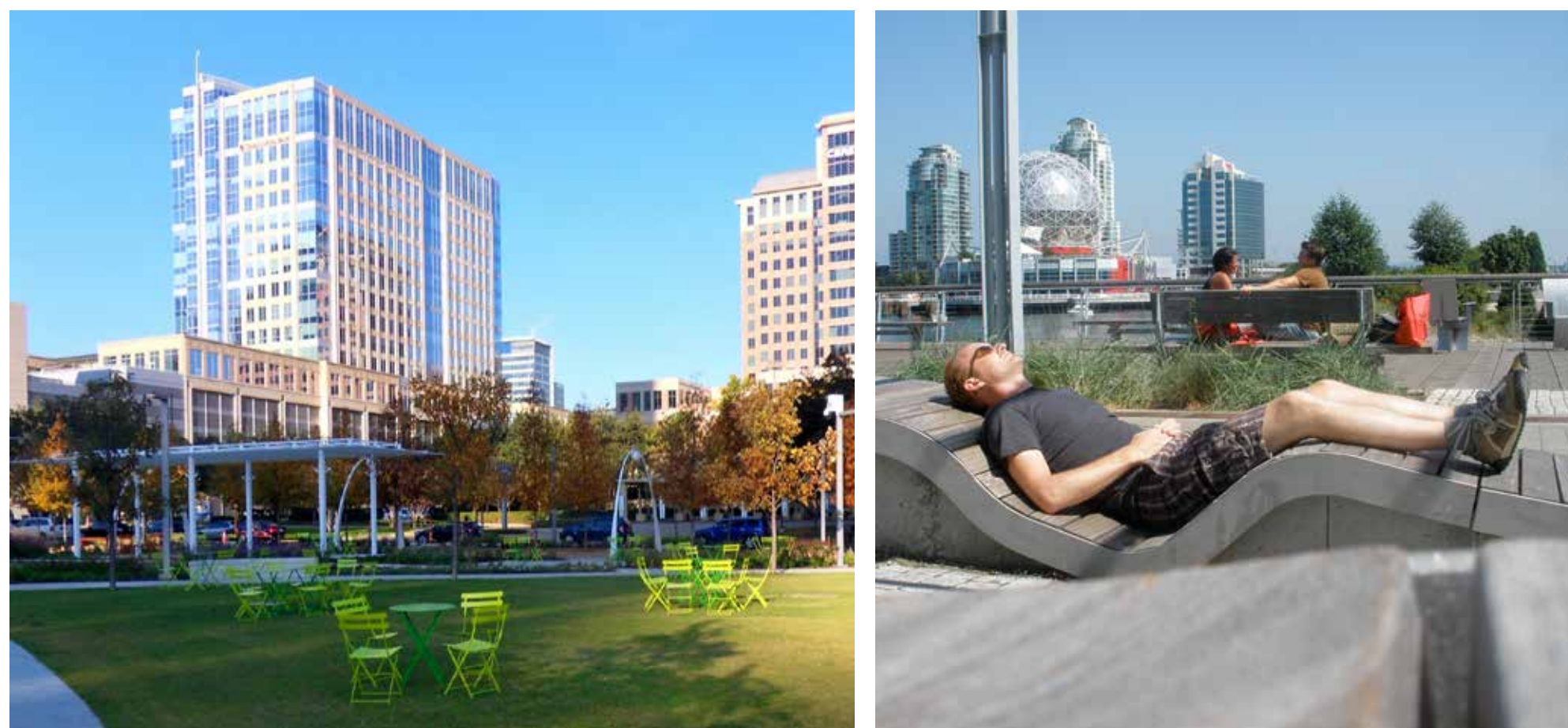
- The Province of BC is planning to remove the fountain and place it in storage as the fountain is no longer operable and the sculpture is very deteriorated.
- The removal of the fountain will support a more flexible plaza for events and public assembly.

### 3. INCLUSION OF A PAVILION/KIOSK



- A number of functions that either need to be accommodated or are desirable in the plaza could be housed in such a structure, including bus shelters, food/beverage service, utility outlets, etc.
- Many respondents to the 2012 questionnaire supported the idea that food/beverage should be available on the plaza.
- The location of the proposed pavilion/kiosk along the Howe Street side of the plaza supports its use as a stage backdrop, and also helps screen the plaza from the relatively sterile plaza edge along Howe Street.
- Many successful plazas demonstrate the value and importance of having food/beverage tourist services in a public space, both as a public draw and for providing 'eyes' on the space.

### 4. PROVIDE A DIVERSITY OF SEATING



- All schemes recognize the importance of offering a variety of seating types and choices within the plaza.
- Moveable and fixed furniture will offer a flexibility to the space that accommodates daily ongoing use as well as large scale events.
- Moveable seating will allow for predominantly open spaces to be inhabited and utilized on an ongoing basis.

### 5. HARD/SOFT LANDSCAPE BALANCE



- Hard landscaping is more durable and long lasting, whereas soft landscaping would restrict the amount of use and number of events in the plaza as it deteriorates faster with heavy use.
- Hard-surfaced landscaping will better support festivals and large public assemblies, the current frequency of events and heavy use of the plaza does not permit grass to be used.
- A predominantly hard-surfaced space is consistent with the design and spirit of the rest of the Robson Square precinct.

### 6. RESPOND TO THE VAG/COURTHOUSE BUILDING

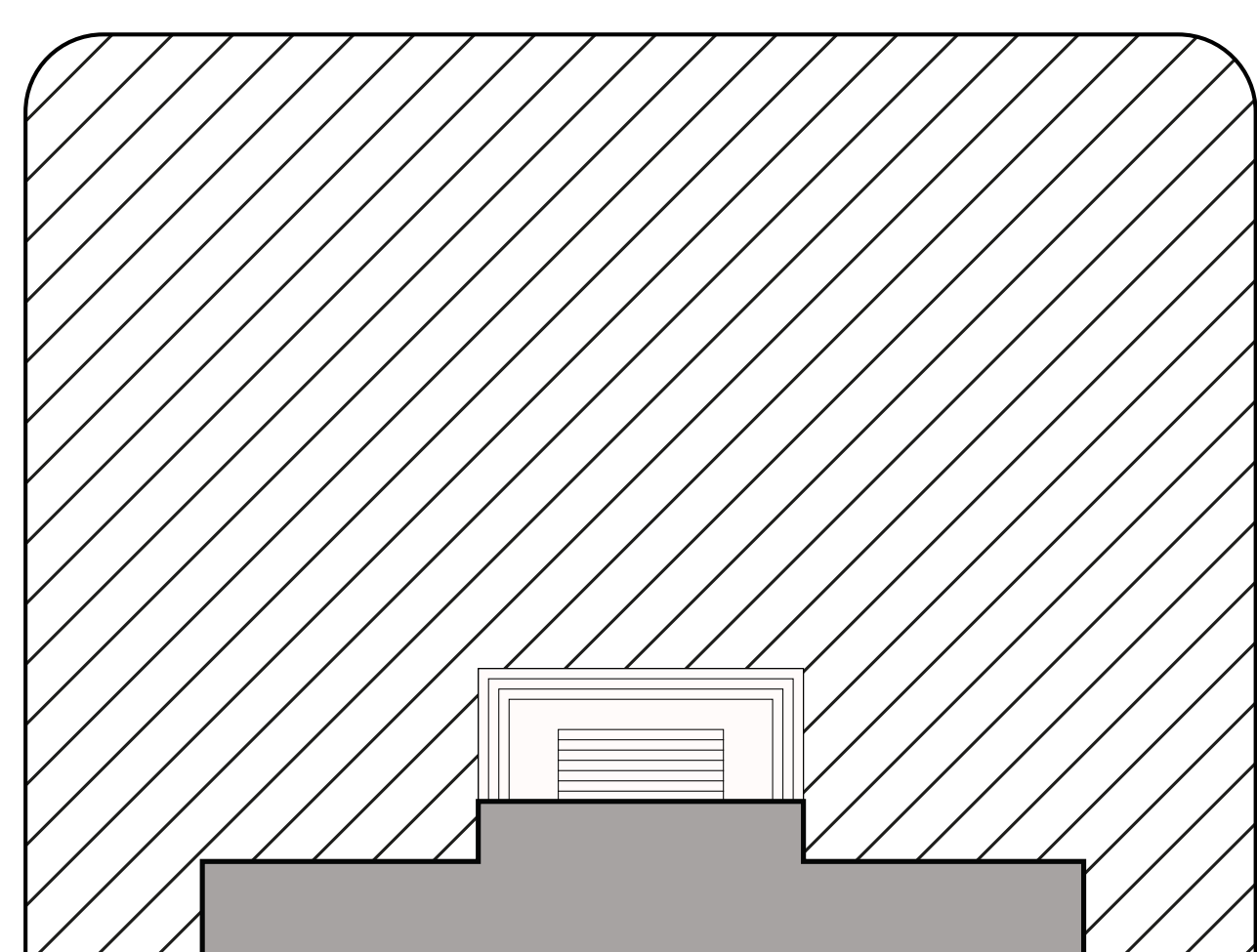


- All schemes respond to the north façade of the Vancouver Art Gallery building. Its classic proportions and commanding presence on the plaza has a direct impact on all schemes, and a relationship to the grids, axis, and placement of components within the schemes.
- The Vancouver Art Gallery is planning to move out of the building (subject to funding), and if this happens a new public use tenant will locate here.
- Depending on the future tenant, the northern entrance to the building could be used again and open onto the plaza.

### 7. BUDGET

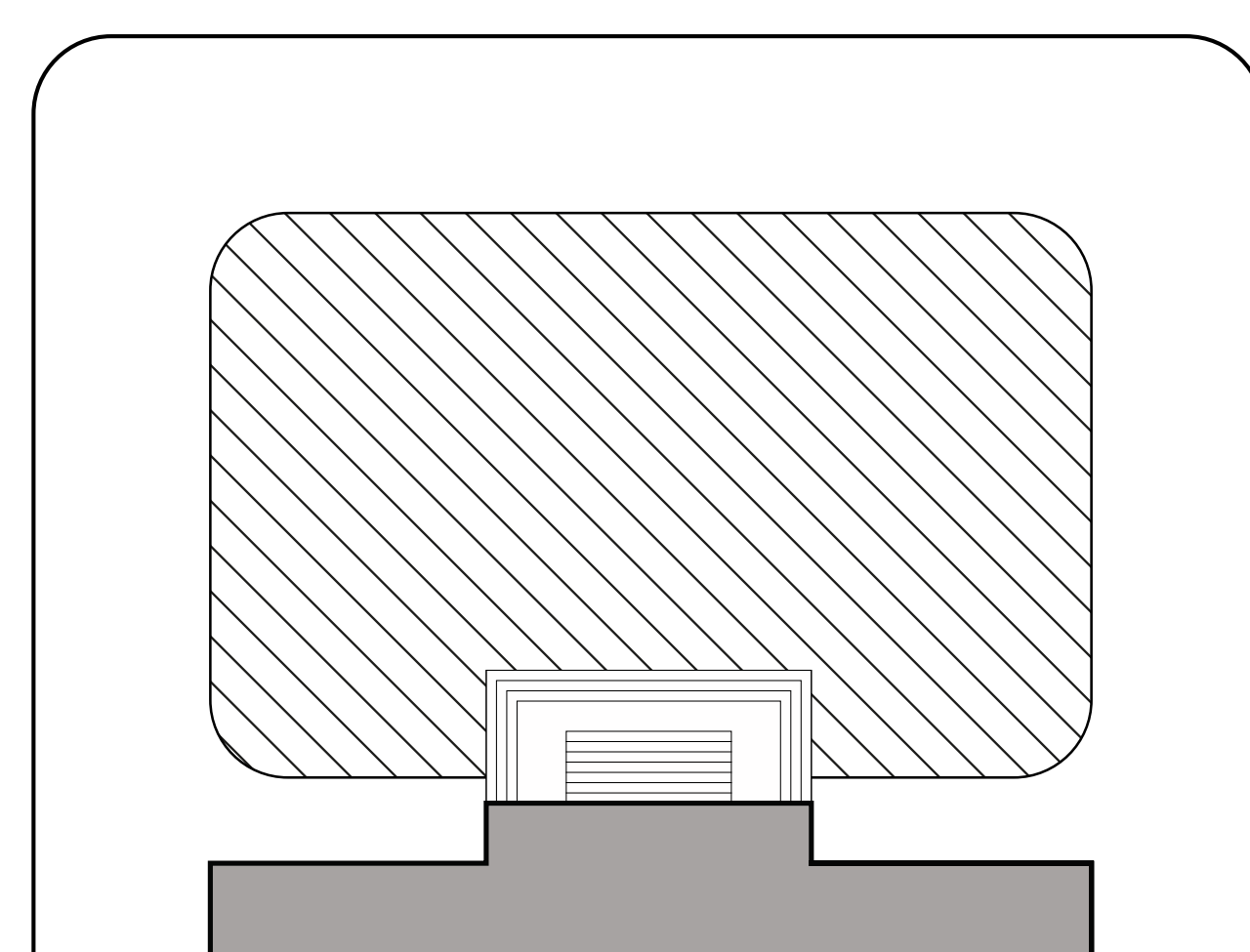
- The design must be buildable in phases; the first phase must fit within the budget and deliver all the basic needs of the plaza.
- The purpose of creating designs which go beyond the current budget is to establish a master plan which can be built in phases..

## BASIC ATTRIBUTES



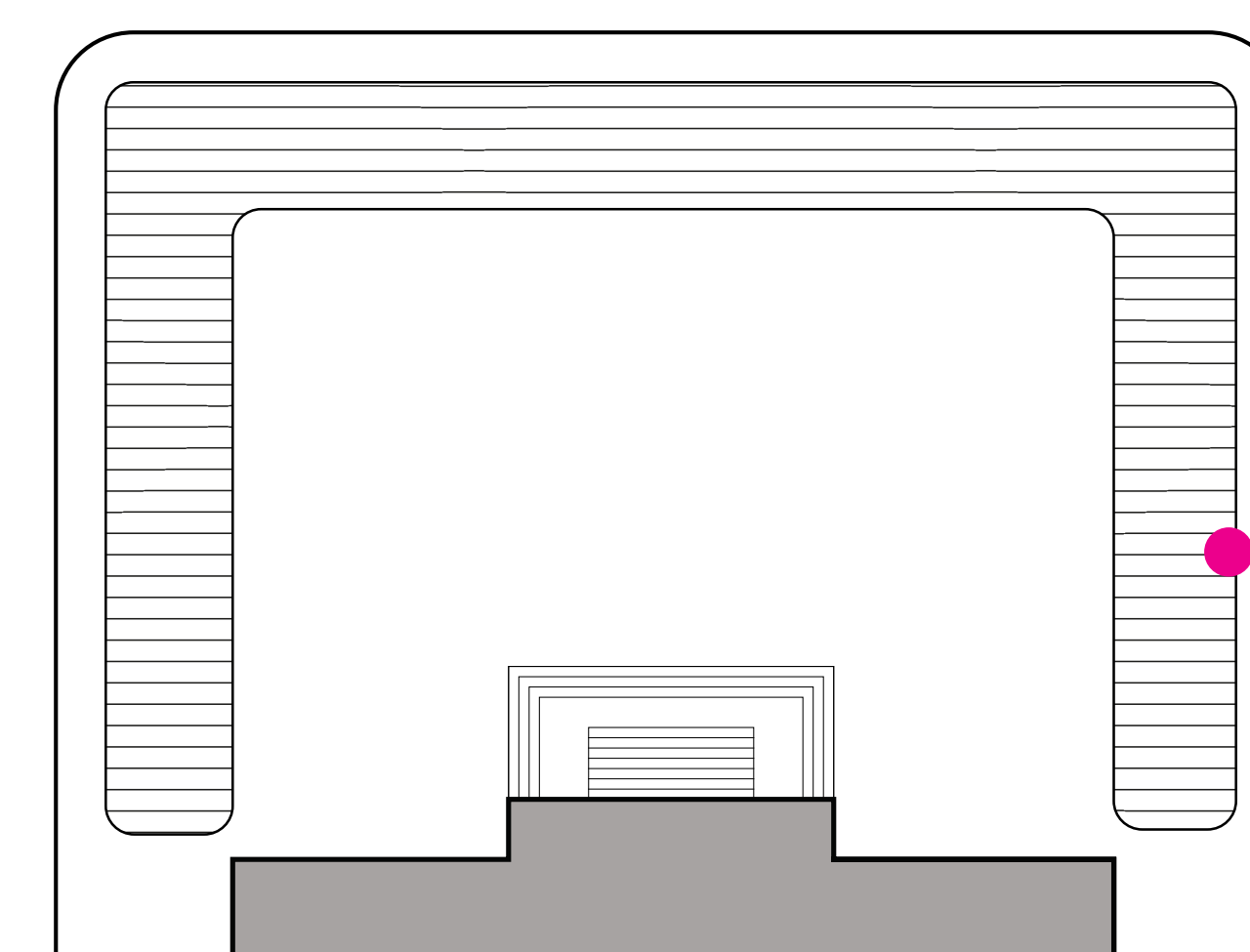
#### 1. SINGLE SURFACE

Unify the site and establish a significant urban scale.



#### 2. OPEN CENTRE

Allow for maximum flexibility for large events and gatherings.



#### 3. DETERMINE THE EDGE

Identify the extent of porosity and closure of edges.

### POSSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE

- LIGHTING
- SHADE
- SHELTER
- FIXED SEATING

# RESULTS OF PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRE

## VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA REDEVELOPMENT

The City of Vancouver also undertook a public questionnaire about the future of Block 51 in November 2012. The following are key responses that emerged from the portion of the questionnaire focused on the North Plaza.

### Most common responses to how people use or experience the North Plaza:

- passing by to somewhere else
- meet people there
- sit and relax
- visit as a destination (e.g. VAG)

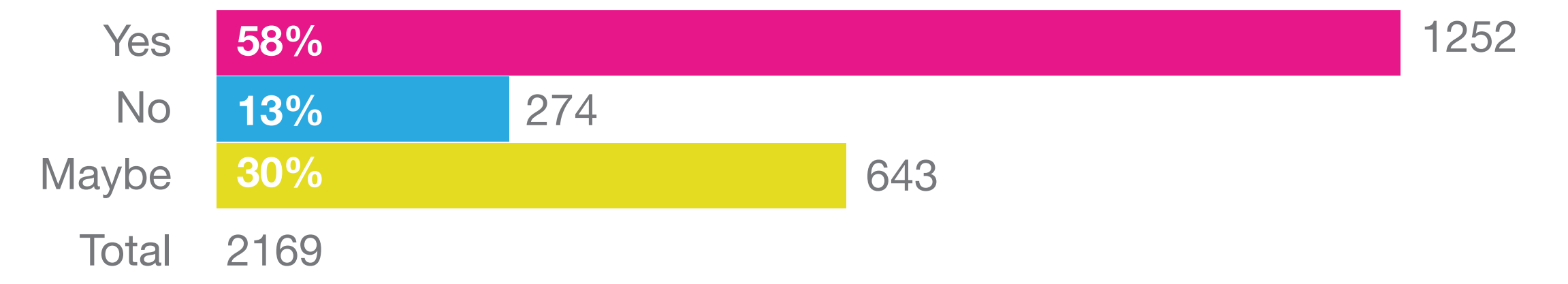
### How people would like to see/use the North Plaza in future:

- slow down and sitting
- enjoying food
- enjoying public art
- attending a festival or show
- visiting a market
- enjoying an urban 'European' plaza, a formal civic square, clear, open, flat, paved, etc.

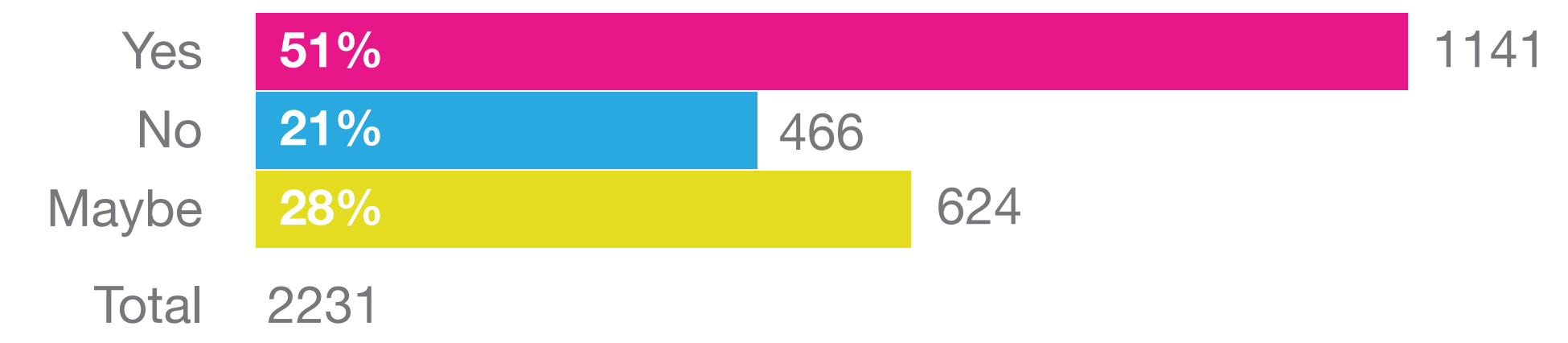
### Some things respondents do not want to see in future in the North Plaza:

- no fountain
- no bark mulch
- no green space, keep it functional unique, open and flexible
- no riots
- not another park, or landscaped garden, but rather an urban plaza
- no cars or parking
- de-clutter the space
- no advertising or corporate presence or commercial activity
- don't overdesign the space, keep it minimalist and functional
- don't privatize

### Are you attending a festival or a show on the North Plaza?



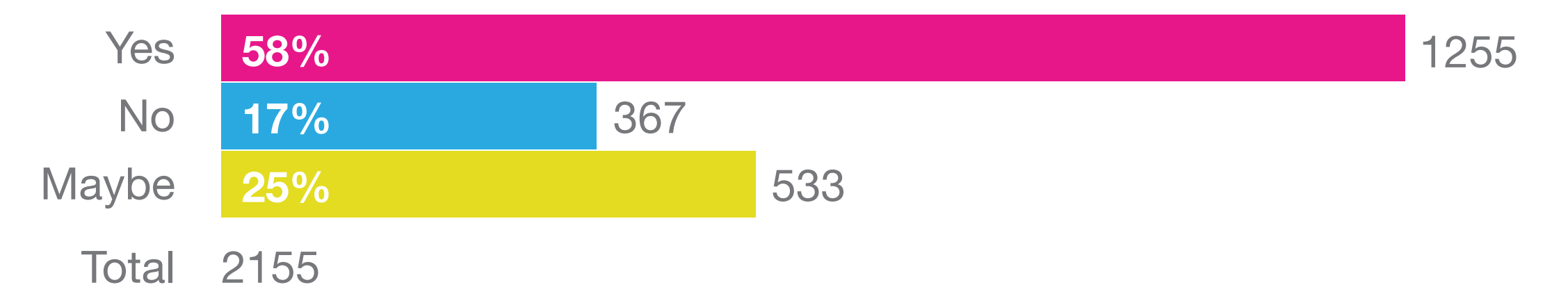
### Are you enjoying food on the North Plaza?



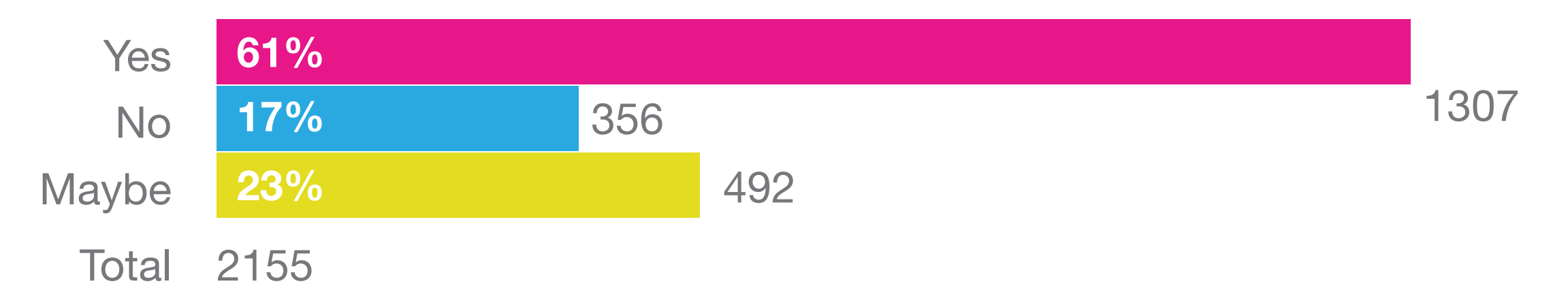
### Are you or others playing on the North Plaza?



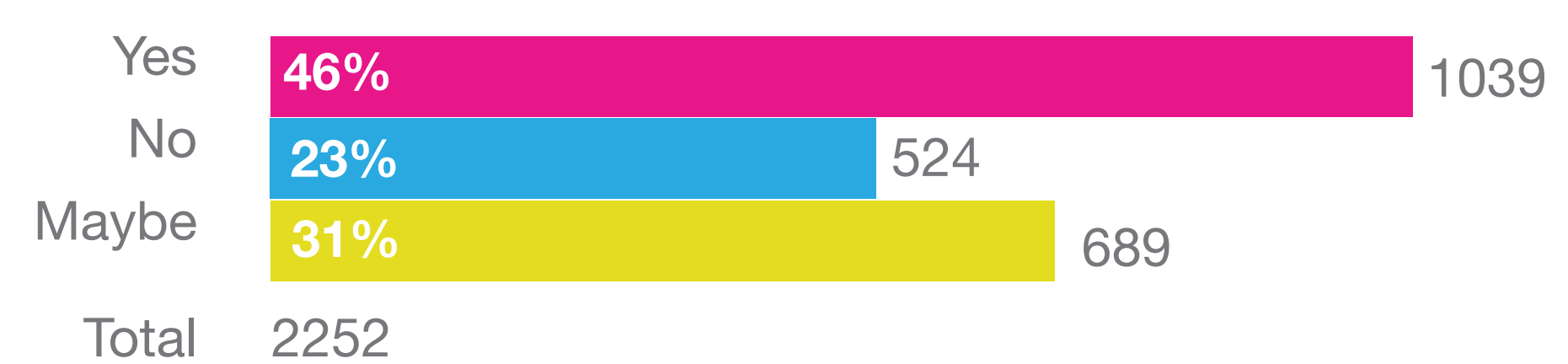
### Are you visiting a market on the North Plaza?



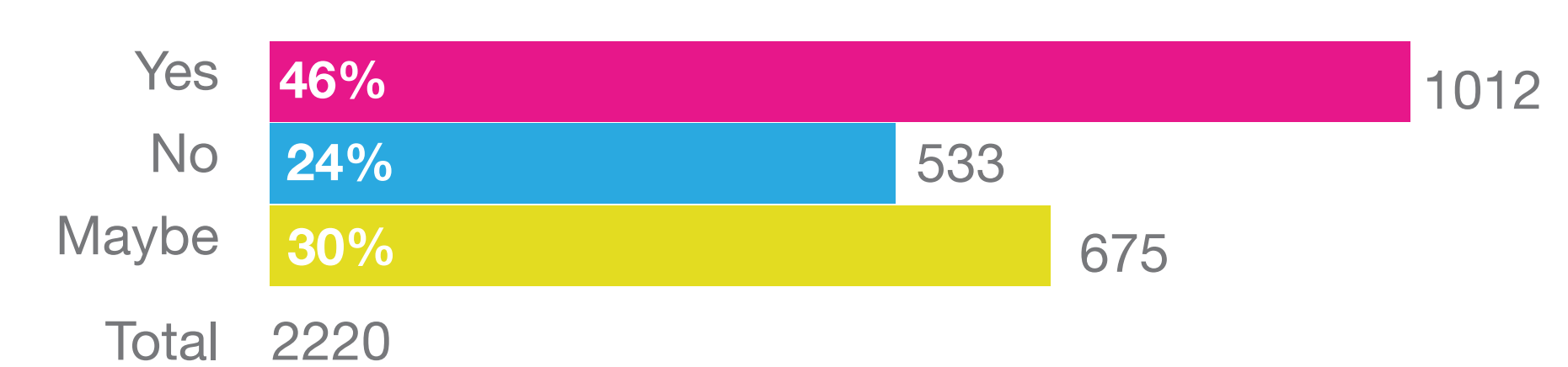
### Are you enjoying a landscaped park on the North Plaza?



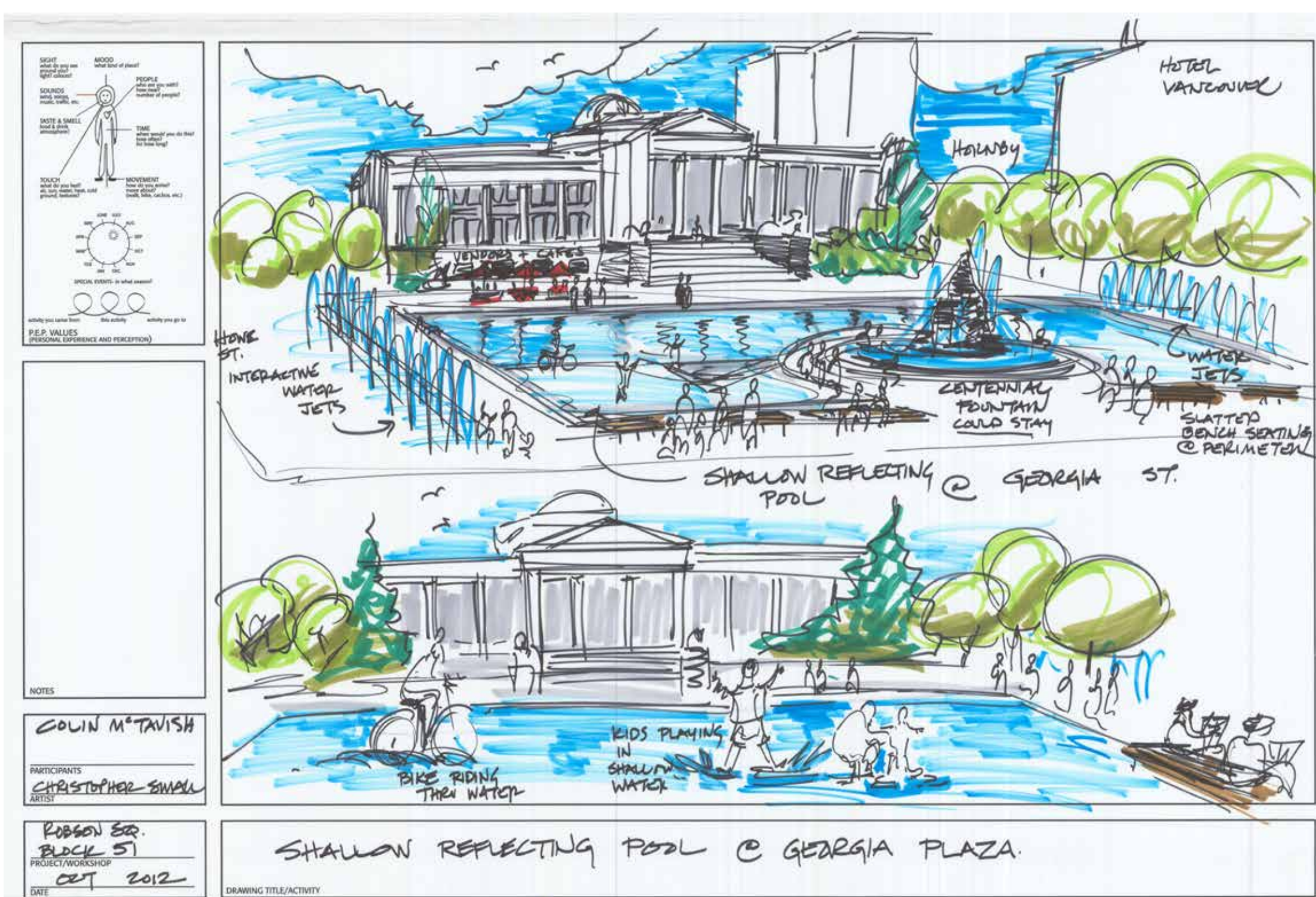
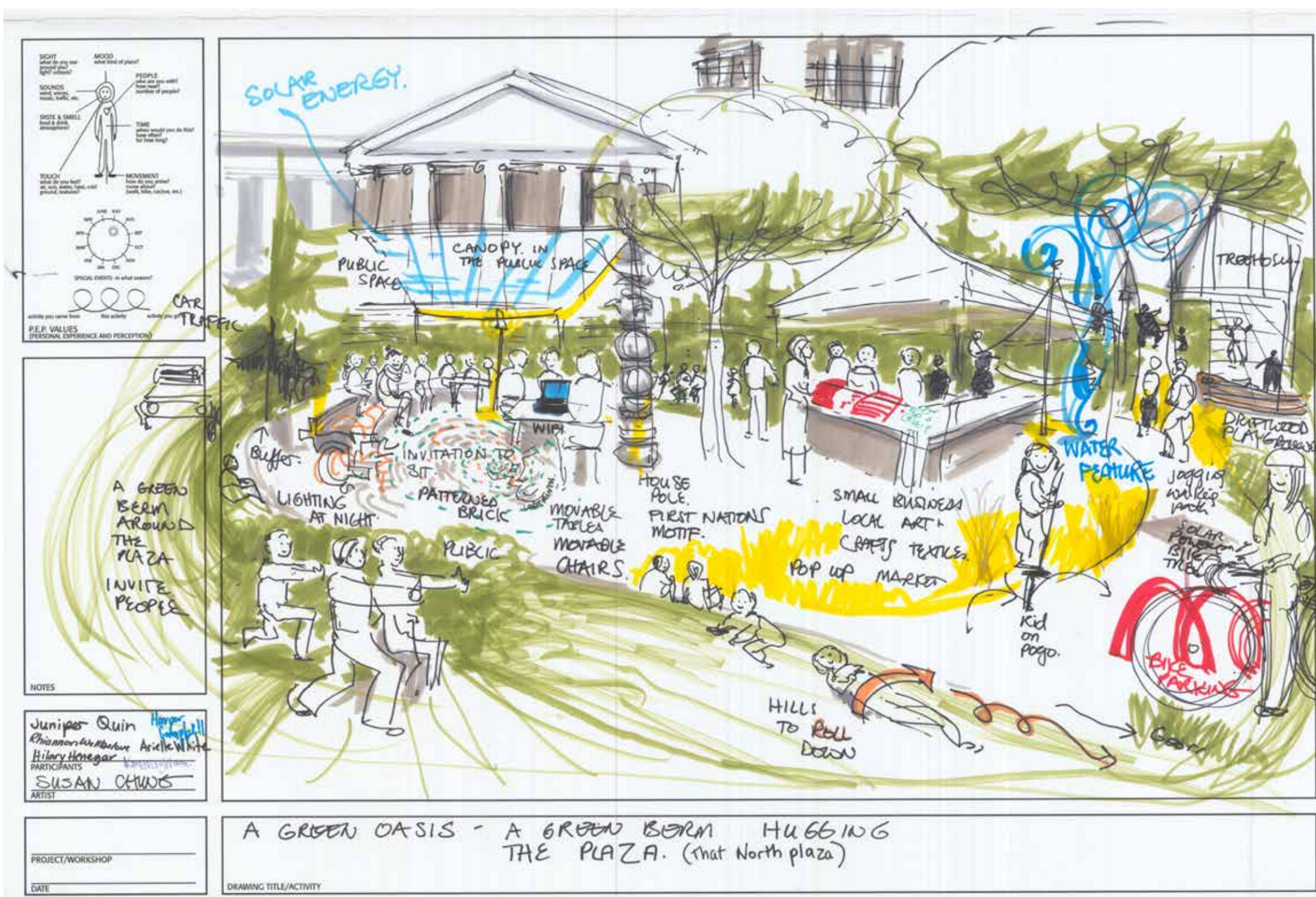
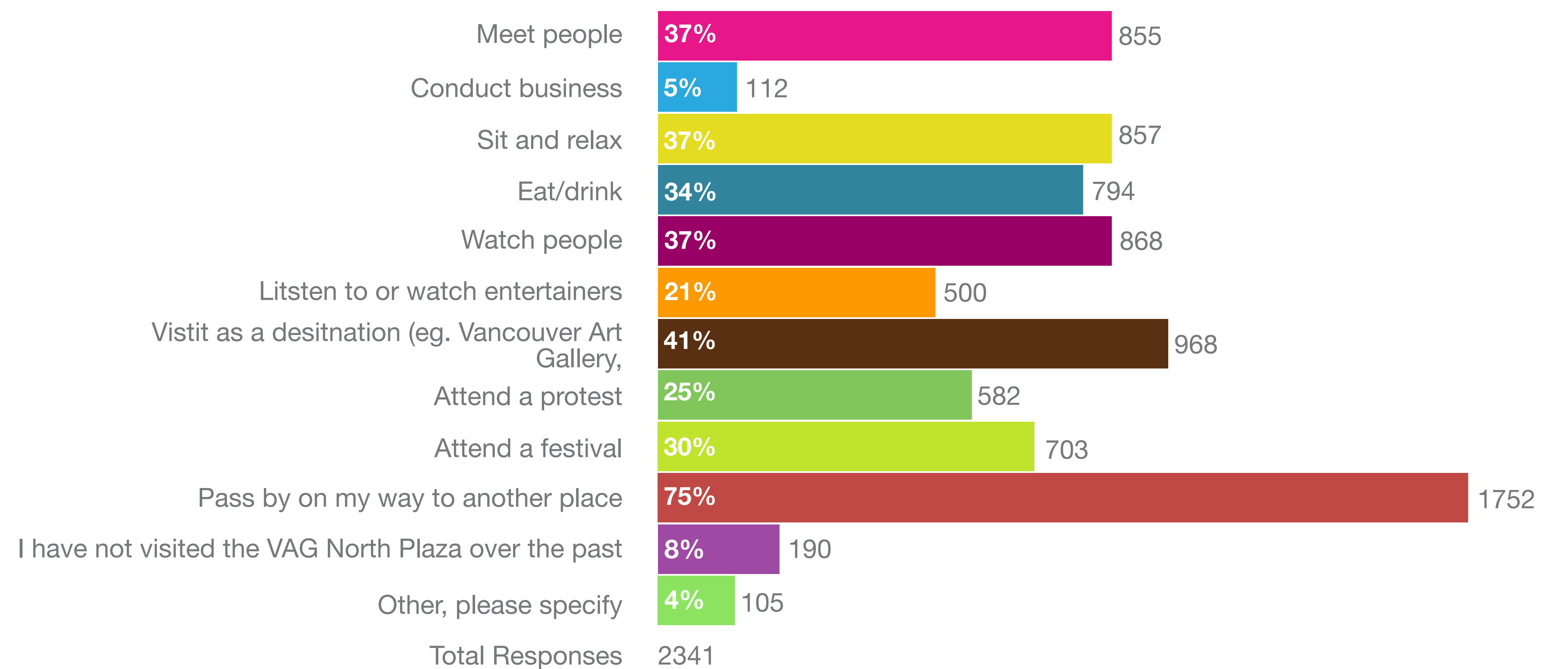
### Are you slowing down and sitting on the North Plaza?



### Are you listening to buskers and musicians on the North Plaza?



### Please tell us how you have used the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza over the past year? Please check all that apply.



# DESIGN TEAM

## VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA REDEVELOPMENT

The Design Team is uniquely qualified to transform the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza into the outstanding public space that it deserves to be: a vibrant and dynamic space that sits front and centre in Vancouver's public consciousness. The team synthesizes diverse expertise, experience and dispositions into an unparalleled and unprecedented amalgam for innovation and world-leading success.

The Design Team is led by **Nick Milkovich Architects**, one of Vancouver's most trusted architecture firms, who continue to consistently develop what are widely recognized to be some of the city's most successful buildings and public spaces. Nick has a historical connection to the site as he was on the original design team

for Robson Square and the Provincial Law Courts while working for Arthur Erickson Architects.

**Joseph Fry, Principal of Hapa Collaborative** is at the forefront of designing the socially and ecologically sophisticated landscapes of the 21st Century. **Matthew Soules, Director of Matthew Soules Architecture** has been called Vancouver's 'most progressive architect' and his urban design work is reshaping the discipline. **Lance Berelowitz, Principal of Urban Forum Associates** is a leading expert on Vancouver urbanism, author of Dream City, and a highly sought after public consultation facilitator.

**NICK MILKOVICH**  
ARCHITECTS INC

**hapa**  
COLLABORATIVE

**MSA**  
MATTHEW SOULES ARCHITECTURE

**UFA**

