Reinventing Kendall Square for the 21st Century
Public places workshop

KENDALL SQUARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 8, 2012

urban design/planning study for the central and kendall square area
Agenda

- Public places framework
- Group exercise: Defining public place character and activity
- Report-backs and conclusions
Built and public spaces grow in tandem
Streets become more active...
The public realm is enriched and expands...

Gardens and Courtyards

Roof Gardens

Parks

Plazas

Promenades
...creating a network of diverse places that contribute to community, vitality, innovation

...connected, energized and augmented by

• Active sidewalks and interiors
...that create a connected public realm
In the study area:
- Existing/pipeline: Approx. 15 ac

Near the study area in this diagram:
- Existing/pipeline: Approx. 38 ac
Potential additional spaces

In the study area:
• Existing/pipeline: Approx. 15 ac
• Potential: Approx. 10+ ac
• Total: Approx. 26 ac

Near the study area in this diagram:
• Existing/pipeline: Approx. 38 ac
• Potential: Approx. 2 ac
• Total: Approx. 40 ac
Gardens and courtyards

Personal experience, more intimate scale

- Existing: approx. 6 ac.
- Potential: approx. 1 ac.
Gardens and Courtyards

Significant plantings, comfortable microclimates (South End)

Spaces for group gatherings (University Park)

Semi-public character, access (Malmo)
Roof Gardens
Informal gathering, unique spatial experience

• Existing: approx. 1 ac.
• Potential: approx. 4 ac.
Roof Gardens

- Quality plantings & furniture (West End)
- Promoting gathering; visible and accessible from buildings (NYC High Line)
- Interior gardens on upper floors (Dana Farber’s Stoneman Healing Garden)
- Offering unique views (Lincoln Center)

- Existing: approx. 1 ac.
- Potential: approx. 4 ac.
Parks
Community playground for people of all ages; urban nature experience

- Enhanced Park
- Potential Park

- Existing: approx. 6 ac.
- Potential: approx. 4 ac.

Broad Canal
Parks

- Mix of lawn, trees, sun, shade (SF)
- Water elements (Copley Square)
- Seating and walking areas
- Pocket parks (Velluci, Inman Sq.)
- Host events

- Existing: approx. 6 ac.
- Potential: approx. 4 ac.
Parks
Plazas

Outdoor living rooms fostering interaction among the entire Kendall community

Enhanced Plazas
Potential Plaza
Small plaza opportunities

Enhanced plaza

South Plaza
- Existing: approx. 3 ac.
- Potential: approx. 2 ac.
Plazas

Engaging water, art, cultural anchors (Centre Pompidou, Paris)

Places to see and be seen; cultural anchors (Lincoln Center/Juilliard)

Public art, water (Rose Kennedy Greenway)

- Existing: approx. 3 ac.
- Potential: approx. 2 ac.
Plazas

Spaces for arts programming (Rose Kennedy Greenway)

Outdoor dining (West Philadelphia)

Distinctive nighttime lighting (Rose Kennedy Greenway)

Retail, seating (New York)

- Existing: approx. 3 ac.
- Potential: approx. 2 ac.
Plazas

Canopies adding scale, weather protection

Winter Garden (Sheffield U.K.)

- Existing: approx. 3 ac.
- Potential: approx. 2 ac.
Promenades
Telling the story of the place; urban nature experience

- Existing: approx. 5,600’
- Potential: approx. 7,900’
Promenades

Landscapes

- Street, walk or woonerf formats (Kassel, Germany)
- Quality design (Malmo)
- Pocket gathering spaces
- Rain gardens (Portland)

- Existing: approx. 5,600’
- Potential: approx. 7,900’

Rain gardens (Portland)
Promenades

Storytelling

Convey history, future

Experiential art (Kennedy Greenway)

Interactive media

High quality interpretive signage

- Existing: approx. 5,600’
- Potential: approx. 7,900’
Active sidewalks/interiors
Enlivening public places; hosting informal gathering

- Existing: over 350K+ sf
- Potential: over 350K+ sf
Active sidewalks/interiors

Retail/info kiosks (Darmstadt)

Traffic separation, interior connection (Seattle)

Public art/activity at challenging edges (Charlottesville)

Interior/exterior transparency (Rome)

Interior/exterior transparency (Portland)

- Existing: over 350K+ sf
- Potential: over 350K+ sf
Wayfinding and character areas
Reinforcing sense of place, accessibility

Directional and identification signage/cues at gateway

Signage at decision point or visual barrier

Central Square

University Park

“Transition” Area

Area 4

One Kendall Square

MIT Core Campus

MIT Gateway

Main/Broadway

Broad Canal

Point Park

East Cambridge

urban design/planning study for the central and kendall square area
Defining priorities for Kendall public space character and activity

• BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
• Choose 3 to 5 public places as focus area for discussion. Among your selections you are encouraged to include:
  – Existing and potential places
  – A variety of space types among gardens/courtyards, roof decks, parks, plazas, promenades, and active sidewalks/interiors
• For each of these places, identify priority program and character goals
  – Who are the principal user groups?
  – What activities should be possible in the place? Consider different uses at times throughout each day, week and season
  – Identify any critical facilities needed to support these activities
  – How should adjacent streets, buildings, activities, land uses and other conditions best support these activities?
• Identify any more general priorities for the public space network that may arise out of your discussion (i.e. relating to wayfinding, programming, placemaking etc.)