

Back to the Root:

Designing a Culturally Responsive Open Space for Seattle's Chinatown-International District

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Abstract

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The City of Seattle was seeking for a design team for the Hing Hay Expansion in early 2013. At that period of time, the community of the Chinatown-International District was busy gathering future participation in the Expansion Project. Critical issues of the community, such as safety and cultural identity, have always been the most discussed topics in the area. I started this thesis in the hope that I can contribute my personal efforts on the interests of exploring multi-cultural landscape and, as a result, to the community.

The thesis research used various surveys for collecting general ideas of the park usage, organized two focus groups to congregate thoughts from different ethnic communities that were once active on the S King Street, the core of Hing Hay Park neighborhood and interviewed business owners of the local commercial core in order to gather their insights to the park design. Additionally, behavior mapping and observations were conducted in this thesis research for understanding the current conditions on how people utilize the park and its programs. The collected data was analyzed and interpreted into guidelines, diagrams in order to support the design concepts.

In short, while users of the park are longing for more organized year round activities and special recreational design features, they also appreciate the multi-ethnic cultures of the community and have great desire to see a unique design for the pan-Asian community of Seattle.

I used bamboo and its root (actually is "rhizome" – the underground stem of bamboo) as the design concept and image in response to the fact that the Asian community have been rooted in Seattle's Chinatown International District over a hundred years and as the connection among the various ethnic Asian cultures. Plenty of artistic and novel design elements were integrated into the site. The site design also includes a strategic lighting plan for increasing night-use quality and safety for the community.

To conclude, this thesis aims to design a user-friendly open space on the focal spot in the District. Hing Hay Park is defined to serve a large community of Seattle and, as well, its local neighborhood for its critical position in the District. One of the design targets is to use lighting to scare away negative activities, such as drug dealing. As a consequence, it embraces more users to utilize the park even during non-programmed hours. Finally, it is important to represent the cultural characters of the pan-Asian community in their central gathering place. A final design with historical memories and cultural elements are integrated into the context of Hing Hay Park in this thesis.

DEDICATION

TO MY BRAIN AND HEALTH:
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR LOVELY IDEAS AND HARDWORKS IN THE FINAL
STRETCH.

TO MY LOVE ONES:
THANKS FOR ALWAYS FOR BEING BY MY SIDE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures

Chapter 1: Introduction	1
My Story	1
Critical Stance	1
Problem Statement	2
Research Questions	4
Anticipated Outcomes	4
Overview of the Hing Hay Park Expansion Project	4
History of the Site	5
Location and Context of the Site	5
Chapter 2: Background Research	7
History of International District	7
The Settlement of Japanese	7
The Old Chinatown in Seattle	7
The Shift to New Chinatown	7
Filipinos' Destination and Commerce Core	8
The District Today	9
Development near Hing Hay Park	10
CPTED and Strategies For Improving The C-ID Neighborhood	12
Precedent Study	14
Ju An Park, Taipei, Taiwan	14
Chapter 3: Background Research for Site Design	18
Research Methodology	18
Overview of Methods Used	18
Survey	18
Focus Groups	19
In-Depth Interviews	20
Key Research Findings	20
Key Findings of Survey	20
Key Findings from Filipino Focus Group	32
Key Findings from Chinese Senior Focus Group	34
Key Findings from Interviews with Local Business Owners & Employees	34
Conclusions	36
Common Opinions	36
Distinctive Perspectives	37

Chapter 4: Hing Hay Park Design	38
Site Analysis	38
Site Analysis – Behavior Mapping and Observation	39
Program Analysis of Hing Hay Park	52
Site Analysis – Conclusion and Design Goals	59
Design Concepts	60
Final Design	61
Chapter 5: Reflections and Conclusions	66
Reflections on the Thesis Questions	66
Strategies and Next Steps	67
Internship at IDEA Space	68
Interactions with the Community	69
Conclusions	69
Bibliography	71

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure Number		Page
1-1	“Sites of particular ethnic identity.”	2
1-2	Site Map of Hing Hay Park	4
1-3	Photo of the Bush Hotel	5
1-4	The Original Planting Plan of Hing Hay Park	6
2-1	International District, Seattle	8
2-2	Boundaries of Chinatown-International District and the Seattle Chinatown National Register Historic District	9
2-3	Perspective of Hing Hay Park	10
2-4	Residential Analysis	11
2-5	Commercial Analysis	11
2-6	Sidewalk and Lighting Development Proposal	12
2-7	Plan View of Ju An Park	15
2-8	Photo of Ju An Park Entrance	15
2-9	Water Feature of Ju An Park	16
2-10	Night View of Water Feature of Ju An Park	16
2-11	Photo of Ju An Park Features	16
2-12	Design Feature of Ju An Park	16
2-13	Night View of Design Feature of Ju An Park	16
2-14	Ju An Park at Night	17
3-1	Gender	21
3-2	Age	21
3-3	First Language	21

3-4	Citizenship	22
3-5	Employment Status	22
3-6	Resident/non-resident of C-ID	22
3-7	Frequency of Visits	23
3-8	Means of Getting to the C-ID	23
3-9	Time Spent Traveling to the District	24
3-10	Usual Activities in Chinatown-International District	24
3-11	Frequency of Visiting Hing Hay Park	25
3-12	Trees	26
3-13	More Greenery	26
3-14	Flowers	26
3-15	Benches/chairs	26
3-16	Tables	26
3-17	Lighting	26
3-18	Water Features	27
3-19	Chessboards	27
3-20	Paths	27
3-21	Plazas	27
3-22	Benches with Chinese chess/chess chessboards	28
3-23	Chinese style bulletin board	28
3-24	Chinese pavilion	28
3-25	Trees	29
3-26	The brick plaza	29
3-27	The square benches	29
3-28	The interpretative monument of Asian American history	30

3-29	Degree of interest in organized activities and programs	30
3-30	Degree of importance in integrating cultural/historical elements in the design of Hing Hay Park	31
4-1	Neighborhood resources map	38
4-2	Short stay, 9:00-10:00a.m., 5/17/2013, Friday	40
4-3	Short stay, 12:00-1:00p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday	41
4-4	Short stay, long stay, park-featured attraction and passing through, 3:30-4:40p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday	41
4-5	Short stay, 7:00-8:00a.m., 5/11/2013, Saturday	42
4-6	Short stay, 12:00-12:30 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday	42
4-7	Short stay, 1:30-2:00 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday	43
4-8	Long stay, 9:00-10:00 a.m., 5/17/2013, Friday	44
4-9	Long stay, 12:00-1:00 p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday	44
4-10	Long stay, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 5/11/2013, Saturday	45
4-11	Long stay, 12:00-12:30 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday	45
4-12	Long stay, 1:30-2:00 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday	46
4-13	Park-featured attractions, 9:00-10:00 a.m., 5/17/2013, Friday	46
4-14	Park-featured attractions, 12:00-1:00 p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday	47
4-15	Park-featured attractions, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 5/11/2013, Saturday	47
4-16	Park-featured attractions, 12:00-12:30 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday	48
4-17	Park-featured attractions, 1:30-2:00 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday	48
4-18	Table Tennis	49
4-19	Large Chess	49
4-20	Busker	49
4-21	Passing through, 9:00-10:00 a.m., 5/17/2013, Friday	49
4-22	Passing through, 12:00-1:00 p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday	50
4-23	Passing through, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 5/11/2013, Saturday	50

4-24	Passing through, 12:00-12:30 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday	51
4-25	Passing through, 1:30-2:00 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday	51
4-26	Comparing user types and time	52
4-27	Daily Non-programed Hours	53
4-28	Daily Programed hours	54
4-29	Summer Movie Night	55
4-30	Regular/Monthly Night Market	56
4-31	Flea Market/Street Fair	57
4-32	Annual Celebration	58
4-33	Bamboo	60
4-34	Bamboo Strips and Lighting	61
4-35	Master Plan	62
4-36	The Monumental Doorway Sculpture for the Philippines Café with the Acknowledgement of the History of Manilatown.	63
4-37	Historic Pathway and Interactive Arts – Planters along S King St.	63
4-38	Artificial Rocks	64
4-39	Section of Hing Hay Park	64
4-30	Lighting Design Plan	65
5-1	Draft of a Design	68

Table Number		Page
3-1	Potential Cultural or Historical Elements for the Park	32
3-2	Results of In-depth Interviews	35
4-1	User Counting	40

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

MY STORY

Since I came to Seattle to pursue my Master degree in Landscape Architecture, there has been culture shock and heavy schoolwork. This is the first time that I have lived alone in a foreign city in my life. To ease my homesickness, I have been trying to seek a sense of home in the diverse landscapes of Seattle, either in a crowded street¹, a rainscape², or the smell of Chinese cuisines wafting onto city streets. Even the slightest sense could comfort me. My cultural attachment was identified by Seattle's Chinatown-International District (C-ID) and its Chinese signage and excellent Chinese food, too.

I was fascinated by the varieties of cultures in this place. While exploring C-ID, I recognized that it is very different from other Chinatowns that I have ever known³. It is a Pan-Asian enclave that includes so many ethnic groups. In addition, C-ID is the only Pan-Asian city in the Pacific Northwest (Chin 2001), emphasizing how unique this enclave is in U.S.A.

I had an opportunity to work as an intern for nine months at IDEA Space⁴, a design and resource center in the C-ID, which is part of Seattle's Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda). At the very beginning of my internship there in the summer of 2012, I heard of the Expansion Project of Hing Hay Park, a small urban park in the center of the C-ID. I was so excited and hoped to seize this opportunity of contributing any design research or design suggestions to the expansion project. This is one of the reasons why I chose Hing Hay Park to be the site for this design thesis. I participated in the first few community meetings of the design process for the park, and treated these meetings as one of my research resources.

Working with IDEA Space, I had helped gathering the Friends of Hing Hay Park (FoHHP), creating flyers and spreading information regarding the expansion project to the community, and facilitating some sections of the FoHHP meetings. The ideas from different ethnic groups indeed gave me many insights as project underwent by.

This thesis is presented with the purpose to tackle the community and users' needs for an open space in the C-ID, particularly at the site of Hing Hay Park. How to represent such needs with an appropriate landscape design model? How are ethnic groups able to have their own thoughts and stories of the place? The Hing Hay Park Expansion Project gave me a great opportunity to contact the local people and users of this site. I appreciate their assistance. It is really a unique design experience in Seattle, throughout the project implementation.

CRITICAL STANCE

Hing Hay Park sits at the center of the Chinatown core (see Figure 1-1.) within the C-ID⁵ (Abramson et al. 2006) and its current design contains a lot of Chinese cultural elements, e.g. Chinese pavilion, Chinese bulletin, brick pavement, Chinese chessboards and some bamboo. It is obvious that a Chinese style park design will fit the context of this neighborhood. Yet, I also heard from the local community and organizations that the Filipino community has a strong voice, hoping their history could be literately represented in the new park even though

1 My hometown, Taipei, is a busy city that people could hardly find a place without other people. Places like Pike Place Market have crowds just as Ximending or the Shi-lin Night Market in Taipei.

2 The rain in Seattle is very similar to the rain of Taipei in winters.

3 I had been to several Chinatowns in the United States and other countries, and had seen photos of Chinatowns of many places. San Francisco, New York, Vancouver, etc.

4 IDEA Space is a design and resource center in Seattle's Chinatown-International District. It serves as a catalyst for mobilizing the community to participate in projects or processes that will shape the District. Currently, they assist the community in four aspects, safe and clean streetscapes, real estate development, design assistance and business assistance. From: <http://www.scidpda.org/what-we-do/community-engagement/idea-space>

5 There is undisputedly a Chinatown within the Chinatown-International District that is a sub-area of the larger district.

they do not have a strong physical presence in the C-ID. In the meetings⁶ in which I participated, the ethnic groups of Chinese and Filipino showed their great enthusiasm and interest in the expansion project and the design process. Though Hing Hay Park is located at the center of the Chinatown core, I state Hing Hay Park has the duty to describe the rich culture and history it contains in Seattle’s Chinatown-International District. In this design thesis, I learn how people think of the cultural and historical aspects to Hing Hay Park and their other concerns and ideas to the design portion.

Eventually, not only do multiculturalism and diverse histories, but also community engagement appeal to me. I have been interested in community participatory design in public spaces since I was in undergraduate college. People have always been the core of any design to me, especially in small-scale and community designs. I

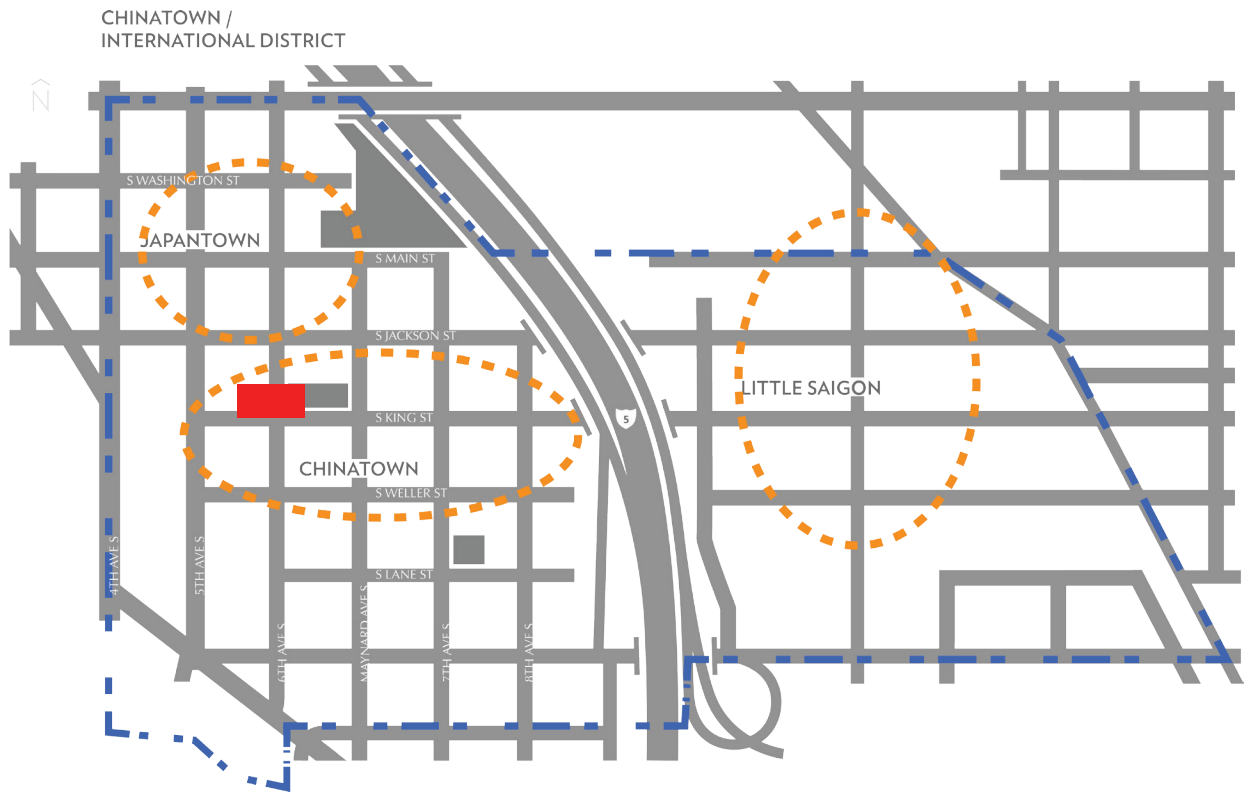


Figure 1-1. “Sites of particular ethnic identity.” The blue boundary is the Chinatown-International District and the orange boundaries are Chinatown, Japantown and Little Saigon. Hing Hay Park in red color.

always ask: What are the community’s needs? What kinds of details could physically and mentally fulfill them? How could we, as designers, convert people’s expressions into a design?

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Hing Hay Park is a small plaza that is located on S King St and Maynard Ave S. Based on the report of a previous studio project in the district, the CYLA Studio 2008⁷, people in this neighborhood use the park in weekdays

6 The observations to the FoHHP meetings are not considered in the research of the thesis.

7 Chung Yuang Landscape Architecture Studio, Seattle, 2008 is formed by a group of college students from Chung Yuang Christian University.

and weekends when it is sunny. This is the only larger open space that allows the residents to gather and socialize in C-ID. Large events like the Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration aim for this space to be the best space for gathering various ethnic groups. In a word, Hing Hay Park is a node, a concentration and a convergence of paths (Lynch 1960), in Seattle's Chinatown-International District.

However, the present park is poorly designed⁸ and it only functions well on clear days and when specific activities are programmed. Few people use the permanent benches on the park edges during off-peak times. That is not even enough for current needs. Moreover, there are no activities, no "eyes on the street"⁹ at night of Hing Hay Park. The corner is enclosed by the Bush Hotel and the US Post Office is dark during nighttime. The lack of lighting, even more, gives pedestrians a sense of insecurity to the park and discourages them to approach it. Besides, public crime can happen in daytimes, not to mention a dark corner sheltered by built structures.

For this complex ethnic area of the city, an urban park with a Chinese pavilion, a brick plaza and a few benches is simply not enough to serve the diverse population in this neighborhood or the City of Seattle as a whole. In the report of CYLA Studio 2008, the community expressed that they have great visions for the park – people are hoping to see more seating, activities, programs and uses functions in the future. The CYLA Studio 2008 even generalized some critical design issues and design strategies to the park (refer Chapter Three.) However, the research targets were only focused on the Chinese ethnic group. It is important to update the comments from the community, and to expand the project to more ethnic groups who are also, historically, related to Hing Hay Park. As a result, for my site design of Hing Hay Park, I made a concerted effort to include collecting opinions to the park from different generations and user groups in Seattle, and hearing expectations from the major ethnic groups that were once and are still activated on S King St.

Furthermore, the park is the only large plaza that the community can host large events in C-ID and the Chinese pavilion is such a strong image that echoes to the Chinese Gate on S King St and 5th Ave S. These two elements lead the image of C-ID and excite visitors to explore the area. Yet the design of Hing Hay Park rarely attracts newcomers to stay, and explore the features that we have in C-ID. Thus, a promotion to the park's concierge program¹⁰ and an elegant, socially and culturally responsive design for the park is needed. Also, the community would like to bring in new blood to the neighborhood. The more popular Hing Hay Park becomes, the more people will come and the more active the public spaces of Chinatown-International District will be. It is the goal that the neighborhood tries to improve and it would be benefited by a revitalized Hing Hay Park.

The above-mentioned promotions of redesigning Hing Hay Park could all contribute to reduce crime ratio of the neighborhood. Safety has always been on the top of the critical issues in this neighborhood. Fortunately, this issue can be solved by the security cameras on/near the site. They monitor the park and the streets, and prevent negative activities to take place in¹¹.

Last but not least, Hing Hay Park Expansion Project will significantly affect future use of the park. The US Post Office will be demolished so that Hing Hay Park is doubling its size and will become a half block open space. It will support more groups of users with more activities. A new design of Hing Hay Park can give birth not only to a revitalized site but also a revitalized neighborhood. It can affect current uses, behaviors, programs and characteristics of Hing Hay Park.

In this thesis, I will explore how people think about the extension project, their thoughts to the park program and the potential design they would like to see.

8 About people's perception to the design of Hing Hay Park, please see Chapter Four.

9 Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, (New York: Random House, Inc., 1961), chap. 2.

10 The park concierge program is managed by Seattle Parks and Recreation Department (Parks Dept.). Currently, the program has one staff that has been working on the site for 15 years. The program serves movable tables, chairs and umbrellas, large chess, table tennis and some flyers/brochures in a small shelf in the park during working hours when the weather is nice.

11 <http://www.king5.com/news/cities/seattle/New-surveillance-cameras-to-curb-crime-in-Chinatown-community-effort-189362651.html>

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What kind of design for Hing Hay Park would be responsive to the multiple needs of the users of Seattle’s Chinatown-International District?
2. What kind of design would be responsive to the culture and history of Seattle’s Chinatown International District?
3. What aspects of design can contribute to Hing Hay Park’s safety?

This thesis attempts to answer these questions through archival research, site observations, in-depth interviews and primarily focus groups with ethnic community and surveys with broader users of the City of Seattle in order to inform a culturally-sensitive and socially relevant site design for Hing Hay Park. Details of these methods and findings are described in Chapter Four.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

There are two main outcomes from the presented thesis. First, I will provide the results of the literature review, and research that I conducted to inform my site design. This includes findings from in-depth interviews, focus groups and observations. These results can show designers, including myself or the future design team of the Hing Hay Park Expansion Project, what the users of Hing Hay Park, need and want and what the key issues that designers should carefully deal with at this site. Second, a landscape design for the expanded park.

OVERVIEW OF THE HING HAY PARK EXPANSION PROJECT

The exciting part about Hing Hay Park is that the City purchased the property that is currently leased by the United States Postal Services’ International District Station (USPS) adjacent to the site. (See Figure 1-2.) The Expansion Project becomes possible by the 2000 Pro Parks Levy and 2008 Parks and Green Space Levy (Seattle). The park size will be expanded from .31 acres to a total of .64 acres after the termination of the Post Office’s lease on the site in 2013¹².

In summer 2013, the Parks Dept. started “the process of putting together a consultant selection team and advertising for qualifications to hire a design team. This team will provide professional services to renovate the existing post office site into an expansion of Hing Hay Park.”¹³ One of the goals of the Parks Dept. of this project is to actively engage in the process and have connections with Seattle’s diverse population. The findings of this thesis may provide the Parks Dept. and the design team useful information beyond the typical three public meetings that the Parks Dept. usually follows.

Planning and design of the park will start this year. The community forms a group of “Friends of Hing Hay Park” in order “to help with fundraising and programing both the existing park before construction and after the expanded park is complete.”¹⁴ I fortunately had chances to participate in the first few meetings of the Friends of Hing Hay Park.

The previous studies contain the effort of CYLA Design Studio’s

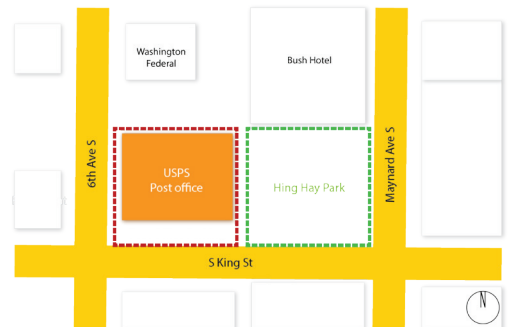


Figure 1-2. Red block is the expanded property. It is currently leased by the Post Office. Green block is the existing Hing Hay Park.

From: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ProParks/projects/pioneersquareID.htm>

12 <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ProParks/projects/pioneersquareID.htm>

13 http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/hing_hay/

14 http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/hing_hay/

research and design proposals of Hing Hay Park in 2008. The results were published as a report in 2009¹⁵. Inter*Im CDA¹⁶ started to work with Architects Without Borders in 2009 for preliminary design for the development of Hing Hay Park. There are four proposed concept designs and these practices were based on the community engagement and researches that the CYLA studio did in 2008. The researches concentrated on Chinese community's visions and preferences.

In February 2013, IDEA Space started to assist the community to form a Friends of Hing Hay Park to help with fundraising and programming for the entire park, which includes the existing portion and the new expanded park. I assisted the first few FOHHP meetings and knew that the committee members are enthusiastic about the park's design process. To take the benefit of working on the meetings, I scheduled some interviews, focus groups with these people by e-mails or the online survey.

HISTORY OF THE SITE

Hing Hay Park is located on South King Street, see Figure 3-1. It was once a hotel and was constructed in 1970s. There is a Chinese pavilion sits at the center of the park. The City purchased Hing Hay Park with the funds of Forward Thrust bond proposition and it was designed by landscape architect S. K. Sakuma. The City of Seattle place a Chinese pavilion in the park in 1975. It was designed in Taipei, Taiwan, the sister city of Seattle, making it an iconic feature of C-ID.

Hing Hay Park was designed by Sakuma, James and Peterson – Landscape Architects and constructed in 1973 (Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Neighborhoods et al. 1992). The pavement integrated the idea of Eight Diagram which is a symbolic concept and image in Chinese philosophy.

Figure 1-3. shows the mural, which was designed by John Woo, on the back wall of Bush Hotel. The two entrances that we see on the back wall did not exist in the original design. Figure 1-4. is the original planting plan of Hing Hay Park and only a planting bed is adjacent to the back wall of Bush Hotel.



Figure 1-3. A photo taken after the dragon drawings was finished. There were no entrances and the overhang structure at the park side of the Bush Hotel.

LOCATION AND CONTEXT OF THE SITE

Hing Hay Park is a focal point of C-ID and the core of Chinatown. The parking lot of Washington Federal and the Bush Hotel are adjacent to its north. *“From Ethnic Enclave to Multi-ethnic Translocal Community: Constructed Identities and Urban Design in Seattle's Chinatown-International District,”* S King St is identified as the core of Chinatown (Abramson et al. 2006) and Hing Hay Park is just located at the street center. Several community organizations are sited in the Bush Hotel. The entrance of Bush Hotel is open to the park and allows a great flow accessing the building.

From: Transportation Planning and Engineering, Inc., International District Parking Study, (Bellevue, Wash: Transportation Planning & Engineering, Inc., 1981).

15 Ed. Jeff Hou, Shu-Mei Huang (Seattle: Inter*Im Community Development Association, 2009).

16 Inter*Im CDA (Inter*Im Community Development Association)

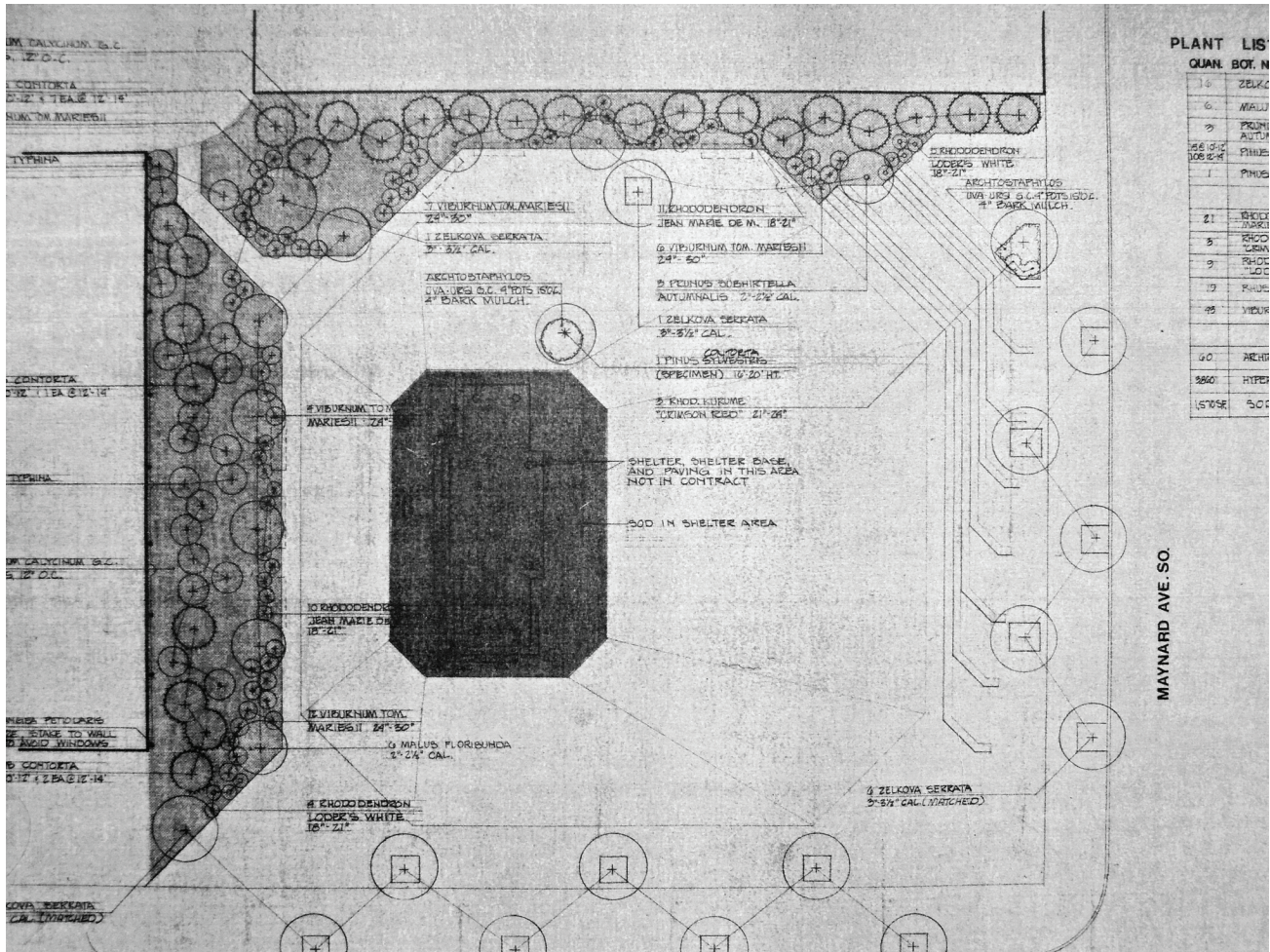


Figure 1-4. The Original Planting Plan of Hing Hay Park.

From: Seattle’s Parks and Recreation

Hing Hay Park is used as shortcuts connecting the streets and Bush Hotel.

The park locates in a mixed-use area serving a variety of population. People may have their lunches on the site; meet their neighbors or friends there; take pictures while they stop by Hing Hay Park as visitors in Seattle.

CHAPTER 2. BACKGROUND RESEARCH

HISTORY OF CHINATOWN-INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

Chinatown-International District is one of the oldest neighborhoods of Seattle. It is a cultural center for Asian Americans (Nygaard 2002). “C-ID is where pan-Asian American community agencies, social services, planning, health networks and cultural institutions developed and flourished...”¹ In this chapter, the immigrant history will be first reviewed. This will be followed by a discussion of the development that has taken place around Hing Hay Park, a review of the literature that can inform strategies for improving the C-ID Neighborhood, and a summary of several, key precedent studies that have informed the site design for Hing Hay Park.

The Settlement of Japanese

The first settlement of Japanese happened in 1879. From Second Ave S to 12th Ave S between Yesler Way and South Jackson St is the area of the substantial Japanese community, named “Nihonmachi” or “Japantown” (Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Neighborhoods et al. 1992). Figure 2-1. is the map of old Japantown. In 1940, the Japanese population declined from 8,448 in 1930 to 6975 in 1940. Some people returned to Japan because Japanese were no longer legal to own or lease land so that seriously affected the economy of Nihonmachi. In December 1941, “Japanese Seattleites were detained at Camp Harmony near Puyallup and sent to an internment camp in Idaho for the duration of the war [World War II].”² Finally, the Japantown turned downfallen and its residential area became the choice for the public housing project, Yesler Terrace.

The Old Chinatown in Seattle

There have been several Chinatowns, historically, in Seattle. “Seattle’s first Chinatown emerged on the eastern fringe of Pioneer Square in the 1880s as immigrant Chinese workers were recruited to help lay the area’s first railroads, dig its coal mines, and can its salmon harvests.”³ In 1890s, the early Chinese settlement lived above the storefronts on S Washington St from Second Ave S to Fifth Ave S and was isolated from the rest of Seattle City (Chin 2001). “The Second and Washington Street area also had three Chinese restaurants, eight laundries, a grocery and four general merchandise stores. These establishments formed the core of Seattle’s early Chinatown.”⁴ Mostly, the merchandise stores in Chinatown sold imported Chinese goods and American goods. From 1909 to 1914, The City of Seattle worked to regrade S Jackson St and S King St. It was called the Jackson Street Regrade Project. “According to a report by the Seattle Engineering Department, five and three-quarter miles of street or 56 city blocks were involved in the project.”⁵ In the meantime, the Chinese population doubled to 900 from 1900 to 1910. Therefore, S Washington St was too crowded and the Chinese community took the chance of the regrade project and expanded their living area to the present-day Chinatown.

The Shift to New Chinatown

1 Doug Chin, *Seattle's International District: the making of a Pan-Asian American community*, (Seattle: International Examiner Press, 2001).

2 Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Neighborhoods, and Interim Community Development Association (Seattle, Wash.), *Chinatown/International District Community Development Plan*, (Seattle: The Association, 1992).

3 <http://www.cidbia.org/history>

4 Doug Chin, *Seattle's International District: the making of a Pan-Asian American community*, (Seattle: International Examiner Press, 2001).

5 Doug Chin, *Seattle's International District: the making of a pan-Asian American community*, (Seattle: International Examiner Press, 2001).

What is now the Chinatown-International District was originally covered by tideflats. Between 1910 and 1912, three large Chinese businesses moved to the new Chinatown (Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods I. 1992). The Chinese began their business development between 7th Ave S and 8th Ave S on S King St. Many of the historical architecture that we see today were built in this period. The Hip Sing Tong building, the Kong Yick buildings, the Milwaukee Hotel, the Eastern Hotel, the Republic Hotel were the Chinese buildings constructed between 1910 and 1920 for housing Chinese associations and companies. In addition to the above-mentioned buildings other buildings along S King St were either built or purchased by Chinese. Besides, half of the Chinese restaurants were located in the what we now call the International District. The rest were on S Main St or downtown, in the old Chinese quarters. As a result, S King St became the core of Chinatown (Chin 2001) and only a few restaurants and residents remained in the old Chinatown after 1925 (Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods 1992). In Washington State, "the population of the Chinese has steadily increased from 1930 to the present time. Seattle has the fourth largest Chinese community on the West Coast."⁶

Filipinos' Destination and Commercial Core

The first Filipino settlement in Seattle happened in 1909 and by the 1920s, there were about 500 Filipinos in Seattle. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, S King St and its adjacent streets were the commercial core for Filipino community. When Filipino immigrants and migrants arrived in Seattle, they typically went to the International District and stayed in the Eastern Hotel on Maynard Ave S, the Alps Hotel and LMV (Luzon, Mindanao, and Visayas) Hotel on S King St, and the New Manila Hotel. This was typically the case during spring and winter, the seasons of their return from labor. To cater to the Filipino residents who occupied the District, several commercial spaces, particularly restaurants and grocery stores, were established.

The Philippine Café, started and owned by BiBiana Montante Laigo⁷, was another popular restaurant in the district during the 1930s, as was the New Manila Café at Maynard Avenue and King Street (the current site of Hing Hay Park). The V.M. Company (at Six Avenue and King Street) was the only Filipino grocery in the city in the 1920s and 30s.⁸

From the above description we learn that the commercial activities for Filipino residents had a certain degree of density around S King St and Hing Hay Park. Chin (2005) also mentions how vibrant S King Street was and how it resembled a lively small city in Philippines. Shops were busy, people talked about the news and socialized on the street. Moreover, at night, music sounded from the Rizal Hall and Atlas Theatre, which seemed to never sleep.

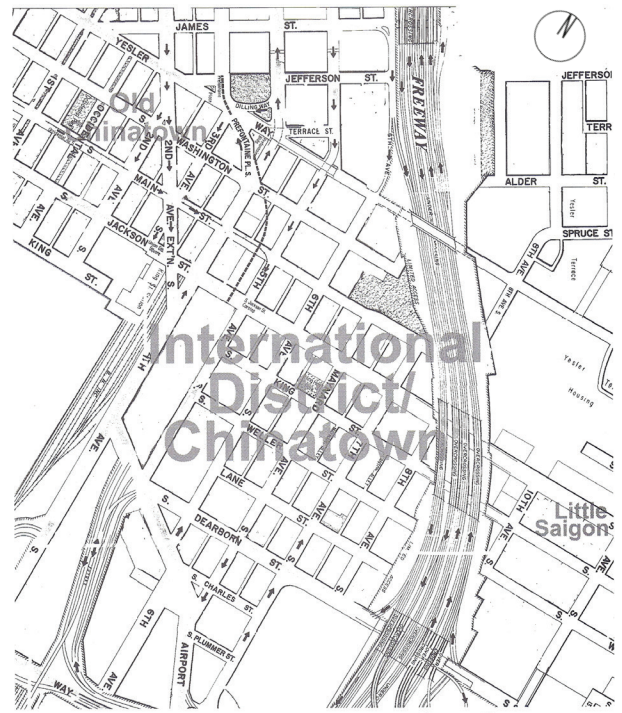


Figure 2-1. International District, Seattle

From: Doug Chin, *Seattle's International District: The Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*, (Seattle: International Examiner Press, 2001).

6 Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Neighborhoods, and Interim Community Development Association (Seattle, Wash.), *Chinatown/International District Community Development Plan*, (Seattle: The Association, 1992).

7 In Chapter Three, the Filipino focus group mentioned about the Philippine Café and BiBiana Montante Laigo, who is Dr. Dorothy Cordova's, the founder of Filipino American National Historical Society, mother.

8 Doug Chin, *Seattle's International District: the Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*, (Seattle: International Examiner Press, 2001).

THE DISTRICT TODAY

The Chinatown-International District, as it is officially named in the Seattle Comprehensive Plan (2001), is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Seattle, “which is the historical home of Seattle’s Asian American community.”⁹ Abramson (2006) stated that the boundary and identity of C-ID could hardly be simplified and expressed by a single ethnic community because there were several ethnic immigrant groups rooted in close proximity. As a matter of fact, the C-ID now we have today is the union of Japantown (Nihonmachi), Chinatown and Little Saigon. The Filipino community was once very active in the District. However, most of the immigrants were single males traveled between the fish canneries in Alaska and the farmlands of Eastern Washington and California. Thus only a few establishments remain in the neighborhood today (Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods 1992).

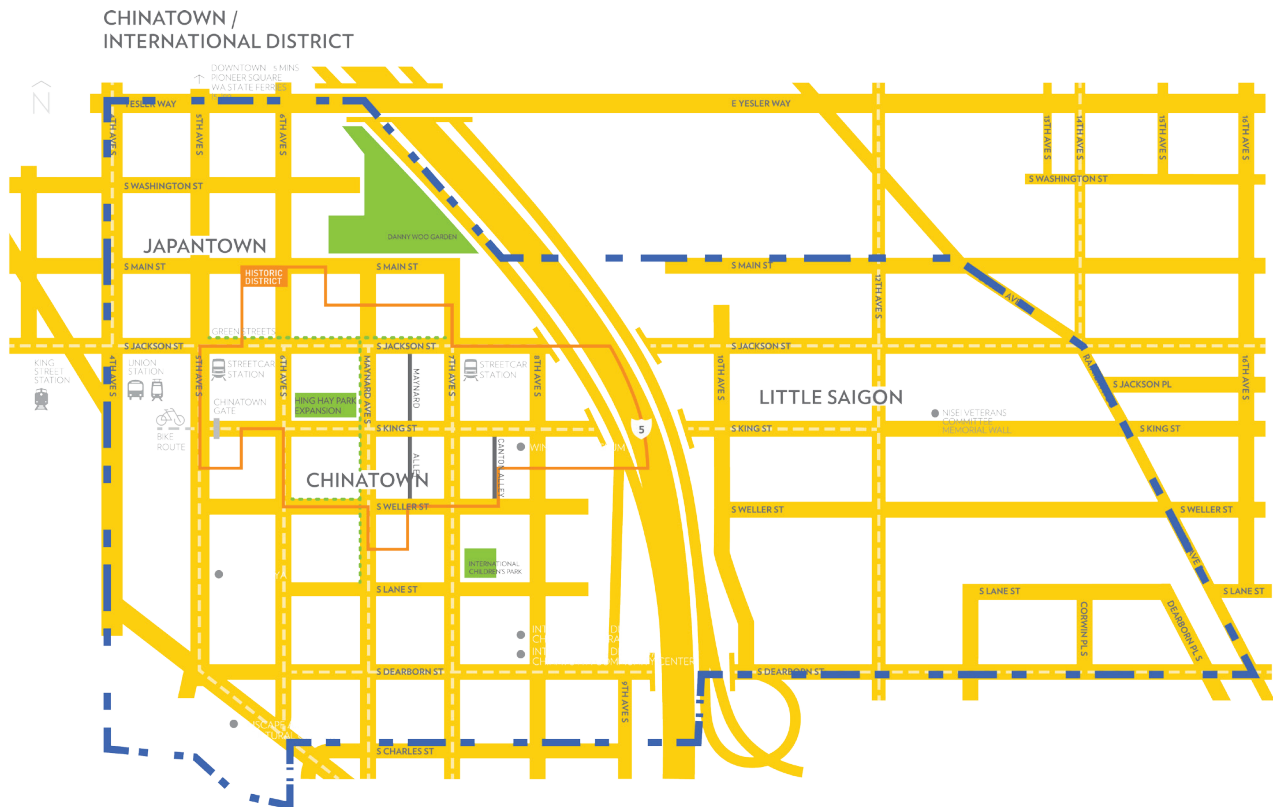


Figure 2-2. Boundaries of Chinatown-International District (Blue) and the Boundary of the Seattle Chinatown National Register Historic District (Orange).

From: SCIDpda IDEA Space

There are seven historic districts in Seattle and the International Special Review District, which shares the same boundary with Chinatown-International District¹⁰, is one of them. It is the area that features the commercial and hotel buildings that were constructed in the 1920s where the diverse Asian American community rooted¹¹.

⁹ Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Neighborhoods, and Interim Community Development Association (Seattle, Wash.), *Chinatown/International District Community Development Plan*, (Seattle: The Association, 1992).

¹⁰ http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/documents/brochure_historicdistricts.pdf

¹¹ <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/id.htm>

In 1973, the City of Seattle established the district, aimed to preserve the pan-Asian American character and to encourage housing or pedestrian-oriented businesses to settle down in the area¹². Besides, “the Seattle Chinatown National Register Historic District is located within the International Special Review District.”¹³ The Registered Historic District highlights the significance of the many historic buildings and the area on a national level.

Within the District, Seattle’s Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) is a non-profit organization which serves the community. It preserves historic properties and develops new facilities in the International District (Nygaard 2002).

DEVELOPMENT NEAR HING HAY PARK

The location of Hing Hay Park makes it a central spot in the District, so it is logical that the area immediately around it developed with many shops and restaurants surrounding the site (Seattle 1974). At the same time, the City of Seattle identified the area around Hing Hay Park as an “International Special Review District.” This meant that the area was not only historically significant but that it had a distinct Asian history and character that needed to be considered during development.

From Figure 2-4, we learn that the Chinatown-International District includes plenty of residential buildings and their sites. We can also see from Figure 2-5 which buildings have commercial use on their ground floors. Through comparing the two analyses, it is obvious to see that plenty of the buildings in the District are mixed-use. This is one of the factors that encouraged people to stay and hang out in the area all day because residents living in the buildings could easily visit any restaurants, bars, café, or theatres during daytime or even late at night.

The development plan of 1974 stated that the ground floor vacancy rate was only 14% at that time, but it still created a discontinuity in the core area as this valuable ground floor section was occupied by warehousing, clubs, associations or living units. This was the problem on S. King St. These types of commercial or residential activities blocked away those retail spaces that could earn business profits, and also broke the continuity of retail shopping and fragmented the commercial core (Seattle 1974). In my personal opinion, such a suggestion reminds a designer to propose potential commercial possibilities to

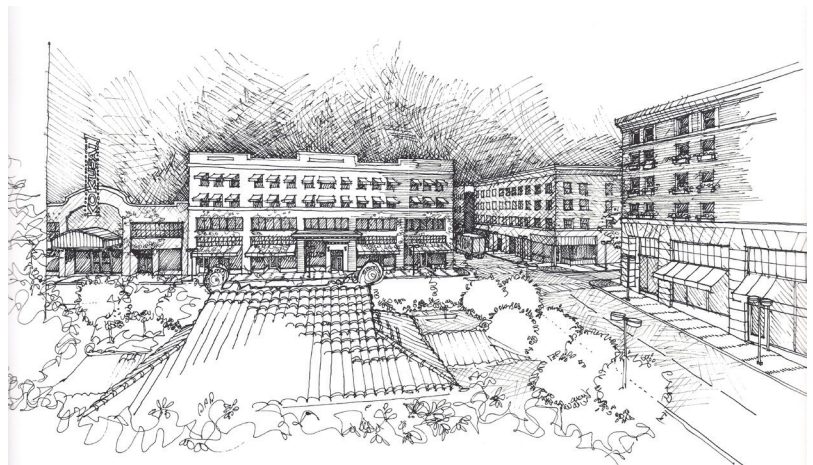


Figure 2-3. The view from above Hing Hay Park looking Southeast at the buildings facing the park along King Street and Maynard Ave.

Seattle (Wash.). Department of Community Development. International Special Review District Board. International Special Review District: developmental guidelines & design report. Seattle: Seattle, 1975.

12 <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/id.htm>

13 <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/id.htm>

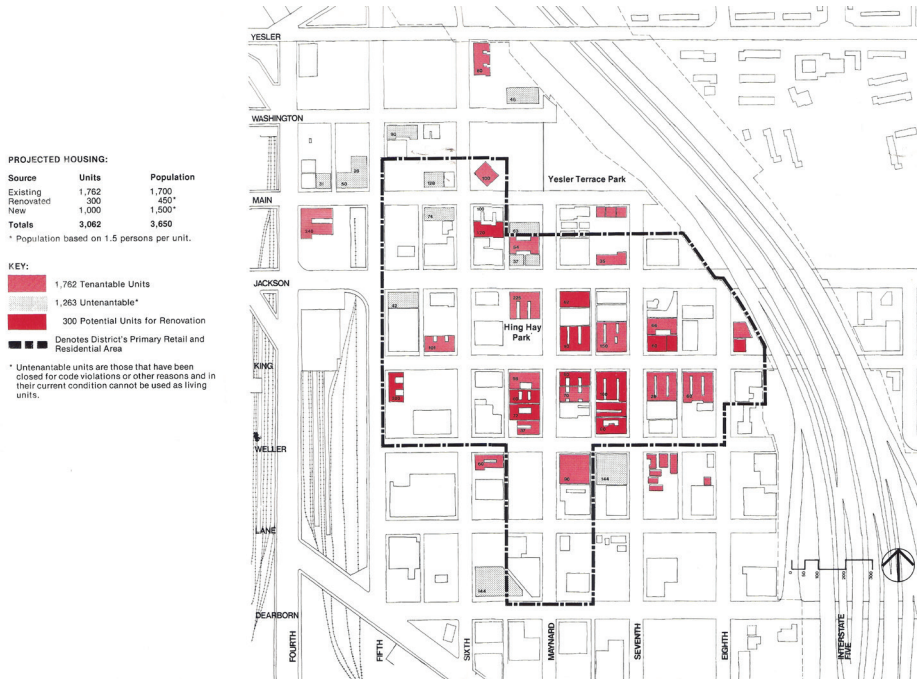


Figure 2-4. Residential Analysis. The data and graphic shows the tenantable units in the district. Comparing to Figure 2-5., most of the residential buildings contain commercial activities on their ground floor which means the District is well mixed-used by the community.

Seattle (Wash.). Department of Community Development. International Special Review District Board. International Special Review District: developmental guidelines & design report. Seattle: Seattle, 1975.

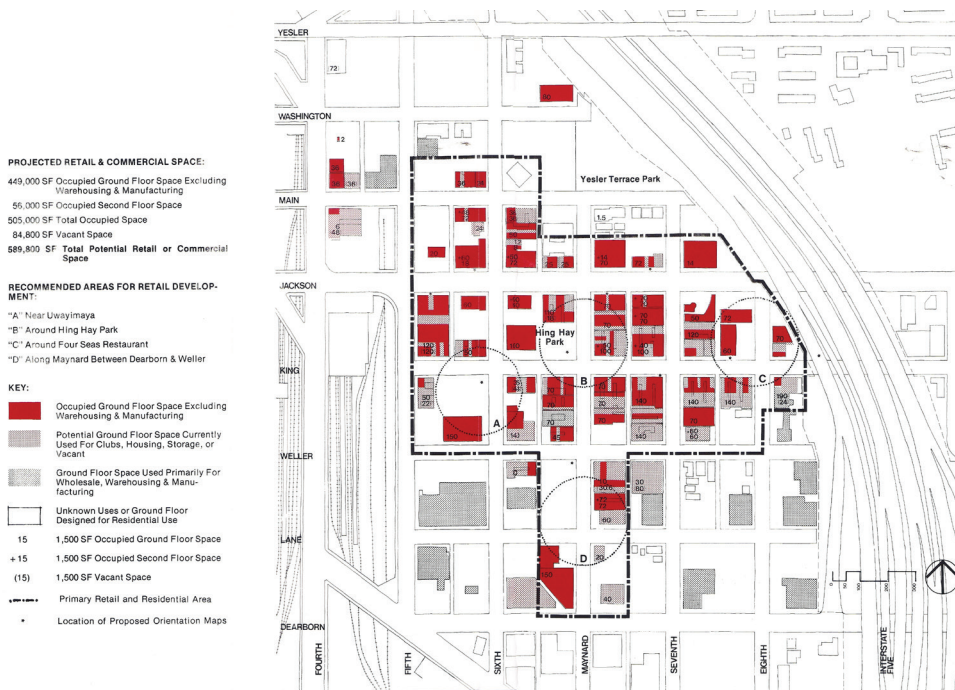


Figure 2-5. Commercial Analysis

Seattle (Wash.). Department of Community Development. International Special Review District Board. International Special Review District: developmental guidelines & design report. Seattle: Seattle, 1975.

the buildings adjacent to the north of the park. For instance, the designer can discuss with SCIDpda, the owner of the Bush Hotel, regarding the room located on the second floor of the Bush Hotel. The other possibility can fall upon the building in which the Washington Federal is located. This building can be remodeled or renovated into restaurants or other commercial uses that will activate the park. When walking along S King St., you will find the street has been improved a lot before the plan is completed. There are many stores and restaurants at street level from 5th Ave S to 8th Ave S.

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED) AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING THE C-ID NEIGHBORHOOD

The history of C-ID shows that it has been isolated from and neglected by the City of Seattle (Chin 2001). Over time, the District became the hotbed of crime. Nowadays, the City of Seattle, the community and local organizations have put much effort on improving the neighborhood and addressing safety and crime. Business and property owners, residents, service organizations, and police have a chance to publicly discuss the safety issues of the neighborhood through SCIDpda's Community Action Partnership (CAP) which provides a forum within the community that tends to address public safety issues (Nygaard 2002).

Public safety objectives were stated in the C-ID community development plan and strategies were listed for addressing the safety issues of the area (Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Neighborhoods et al. 1992). Lighting and sidewalk replacement were included in the 1974 development plan. In Figure 2-6 the streets in red were planned to install street lights every 30 feet (Seattle (Wash.) 1974)¹. It included the sidewalks around Hing Hay

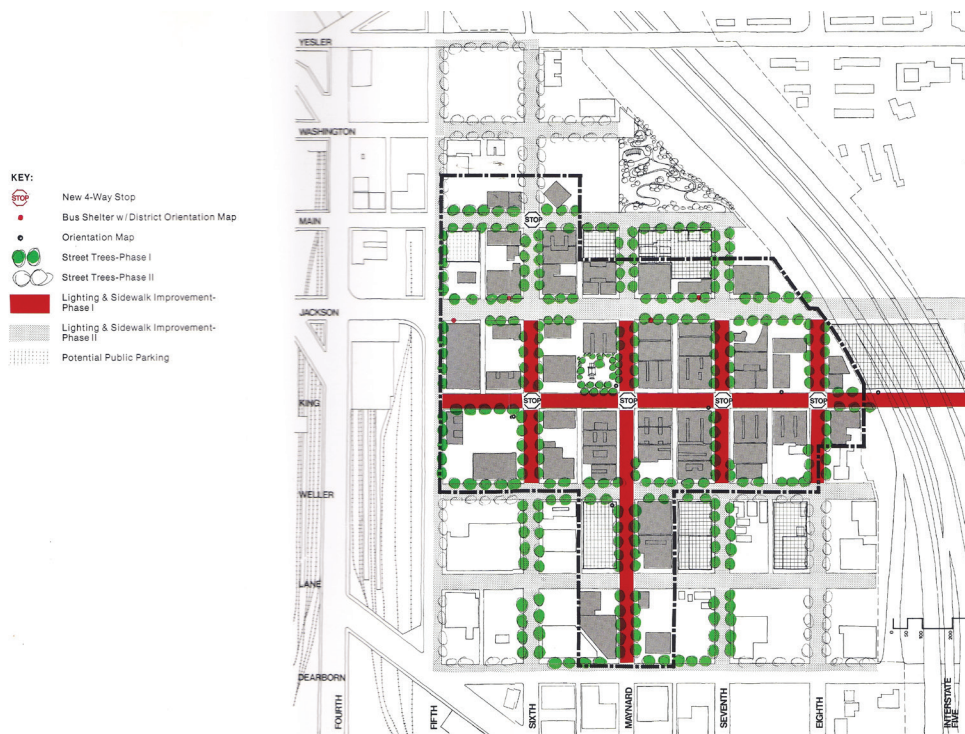


Figure 2-6. Sidewalk and Lighting Development Proposal

Seattle (Wash.). Department of Community Development. International Special Review District Board. International Special Review District: developmental guidelines & design report. Seattle: Seattle, 1975.

Park. The current lighting of sidewalks around Hing Hay Park is enough for people to see things and be seen. However, the lighting in the park is not sufficient. The current condition, moreover, has a dark corner that is

adjacent to the Bush Hotel and the US Post Office. After demolishing the US Post Office, the dark corner will automatically disappear. What needs to be addressed is how the park shall be lit up to attract users and maintain safety.

There are some critical strategies for designing a safe open space. Cisneros (1995) stated that attitudes – determined – and behaviors – organized – of residents could affect the defense of a space. Appropriate street furniture such as street lighting and seating provided along paths can orient people where the public spaces and edges are. “In the case of crime specifically, social, cultural, and economic factors almost always have far stronger impacts on how much crime is taking place in a locale than design features”¹⁴ (“Handbook of Environmental Psychology” 2003). It is also important that the design provides landscaping to make the open space attractive to welcome users. CPTED principles are natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement and maintenance¹⁵. Referring these principles to the park, I filtered the strategies of safety concerns that are related to the design of Hing Hay Park as follows:

“Increase the visibility often police/foot patrols, especially during the evenings through increased manpower allocations.

“Improve public safety and security in the ID open spaces – Hing Hay Park, Children’s Park, Kobe Terrace and Community Garden through better lighting and pruning of trees and shrubbery.

“Sponsor local events/activities in Hing Hay Park during the summer to reclaim it for the public.”¹⁶

Enlarge the Cultural Value of Hing Hay Park

When people move to a neighborhood, live or work there for a long time, they are likely to join in the activities in the local community, interact with local people, and talk about the history and stories of things that have happened in the community. These activities factor into the creation of cultural values (Low et al. 2005). For instance, people living in the neighborhood near Hing Hay Park, usually get together to have conversations with each other, or take part in large community activities. These cultural place attachments (Altman et al. 1992), therefore, become decisive issues to consider in park planning.

Anthropologists and environmental psychologists who have studied the culturally based uses of urban parks have argued that, “Cultural values and their representation in park planning and renovation are decisive in producing programs that will work in a specific community.”¹⁷ Hing Hay Park should be developed at least in part by creating programs which can correspond to its cultural context. To do that, it has been necessary to dig deeper into its cultural context and learn much more about habitual activities and needs (this work is presented further in chapters 3 and 4).

To understand the cultural values of the community, it has been necessary to engage in discussions with people in the community. Designers also need to explore how to present a concrete design that refers the cultural context of the Hing Hay Park and Chinatown-International District. An open space should not be designed based solely on the landscape preferences of designers (Low et al. 2005). Programs and activities for Hing Hay Park that are socio-culturally responsive to the people in the District who are likely to use the space have the potential to create place attachments between people and place. In other words, the ongoing use and interactions in the park are meaningful in memory making because they have potential to create and reflect cultural meaning.

One of the necessary ingredients for culturally-based place making and the development of place attachments

14 “Handbook of Environmental Psychology,” *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED): Yes, No, Maybe, Unknowable, and All of the Above*, Vol. 27, ed. Robert B. Bechtel, Arza Churchman (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2003).

15 http://cptedsecurity.com/cpted_design_guidelines.htm

16 Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Neighborhoods, and Interim Community Development Association (Seattle, Wash.), *Chinatown/International District Community Development Plan*, (Seattle: The Association, 1992).

17 Setha Low, Dana Taplin, and Suzanne Scheld, *Rethinking Urban Parks: Public Space and Cultural Diversity*, (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 2005).

includes honoring the culture and history of the people who might use the space and of the history of the space itself. This is not possible unless those cultural identities and histories are acknowledged in the first place.

How can the Filipino ethnic culture and history be well expressed in the contemporary park site? The history of the Filipinos is presented in the development plans and books regarding the Chinatown-International District, but one could hardly recognize their stories while walking in C-ID because their commercial activities and spaces are now replaced by other ethnic businesses, mostly Chinese retails. Therefore, I strongly believe that it is significant and necessary to represent the history and culture of the Filipino community and the entire district when designing Hing Hay Park.

It is extremely important to consider how to increase utilization of Hing Hay Park to help ensure the success of the expansion project. How to keep current cultural values and develop more potential ones are primary elements to make the park become more popular, activated and safe. Low et al. (2005) asserted that understanding cultural diversity and values are critical to the success of a park design. Hence, if we want to raise the security of the Hing Hay Park, the study must considerably understand community life and ethnic cultures in its community. In the study of Chapter Three, you will find how I involve the community; how I learn about the park's patterns of use by the local people, and their various expectations to the Hing Hay Park Expansion Project.

PRECEDENT STUDY

Based on the history of the district and the concerns outlined in the sections above, this section will now highlight some urban open space design projects that I have informed my thinking about Hing Hay Park and potential design interventions for its improvement. The following project has been a good resources and precedent to consider. This section aims to gather design ideas for lighting, park programs and park attractions for future development.

Ju An Park, Taipei, Taiwan

The precedent for my thesis is Ju An Park in Taipei, Taiwan because it has several features I feel would be of value to consider for Hing Hay Park, such like lighting, street furniture, interactive arts, and its connection to the sidewalks.

This park is designed to be open. Firstly, the designer weaves the park pavement into its adjacent sidewalks and preserves an open edge to the main street on the West. Thus it creates three friendly main entrances for the park, see Figure 2-7 and 2-8. The paving of Hing Hay Park can refer to this idea of keeping an open and clear entrance with various materials that embraces users.

Combining public arts, street furniture and lighting features is how Ju An Park charmed so many users. A huge rock stands on a side of the sidewalk and children were climbing on it. On the other side of the park is a water feature that sprays mist every thirty minutes. These artful designs provide an open playground for the children and attract pedestrians who stop by and people watch. At night, the large stone and part of the water feature become illuminated on the street and attracts neighborhood children to play. The most popular time to use Ju An Park has been in the evening when families come after dinner for a stroll and a chat.

The strategies that I learn from this precedent are the possibility of creating interesting interactive activities for the users of Hing Hay Park. Like Ju An Park, Hing Hay Park is located in an urban mixed-use neighborhood so it has the potential of serving people who live or go to work in the area. However, Hing Hay Park does not include playful or any modern artful design features so that people think there is nothing attractive to them when it is not programmed, according to the survey findings. Therefore, design something more than such typical street furniture and integrate them with lighting can be fun to users.



Figure 2-7. Plan view of Ju An Park. This shot was taken right after the construction therefore the trees are small and the canopies are few and far between. Now the park is fully shaded and provides an amenity for users in hot weather.

From: http://www.taipeiface.com/infor_detail.php?p_id=32&id=89



Figure 2-8. Standing at the Northwest corner looking through the entrance of Ju An Park.

From: Street View from Google Map



Figure 2-9. The water feature at a corner of Ju An Park.

From: <http://blog.xuite.net/hsuchiahung/bubble/16405589>



Figure 2-10. The water feature becomes a luminous attraction at night.

From: <http://blog.xuite.net/hsuchiahung/bubble/16405589>



Figure 2-11. People are interested in the interactive artful structure

From: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/entayang/122452090/>



Figure 2-12. The Interactive Art.

From: <http://blog.xuite.net/hsuchiahung/bubble/16405589>



Figure 2-13. The bright stone looks like a normal rock in daytime.

From: <http://blog.xuite.net/hsuchiahung/bubble/16405589>



Figure 2-14. Ju An Park at night. Part of the park is lit up by the lighting of an adjacent building.

From: <http://blog.xuite.net/hsuchiahung/bubble/16405589>

CHAPTER 3. BACKGROUND RESEARCH FOR SITE DESIGN

The goal of this chapter is to give a strong research foundation for the design process and to help creating a rich site design for Hing Hay Park.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Overview of Methods Used

In this chapter, the research methodology and findings that informed my site design will be described. The research methods used for "Use of Hing Hay Park" are surveys, focus groups, and in-depth interviews. The survey collected the general quantitative data of how people use Hing Hay Park and how they perceive the expansion project. The two focus groups gathered two ethnic groups' thoughts and expectations about the design and the expansion project. In-depth interviews assembled more opinions from a different user group, the local businesses.

These researches methods and the behavior mapping described in the next chapter aim to present a more exhaustive study of Hing Hay Park to inform the design proposal developed in this thesis. Finally, the findings of these methods will be summarized at the end of this chapter and the results will be integrated into site analysis in Chapter four.

SURVEY

A survey is an instrument composed of a series of questions that are set to gather data on a particular topic or set of themes. The advantage of a survey is the possibility of gathering data relatively easily from a larger sample than focus groups or in-depth interview methods allow (Wolff et al. 1993). Besides, questionnaires can be implemented over a phone, through the mail, over the Internet or in person. The general idea of a survey is to collect quantitative data. Therefore, quantitative questions usually comprise most portions of a survey. However, some open-ended questions can also be used to provide opportunities for respondents to write in short comments – limited texts may be stated with the question – that can be coded and analyzed.

Languages and Formats

The survey was designed and administered in two languages and two formats. To adapt to the ethnic context of the neighborhood, I developed the survey both in English and Chinese. The contents of the survey were the same, even the order of the answers to the multiple choice questions. To conduct the survey, I used a traditional on-site paper method. For people who feel comfortable with technology, I established an online survey and a link to it. Therefore, those who may not have access to the physical paper survey would receive an e-mail or see the link on specific webpages, e.g. a group webpage of a social network.

This did help me have a broader and more diverse sample for the research because there are park users who do not go to the park so frequently that I may not have been so lucky to catch them to do the questionnaire. These infrequent park users include those not living in the neighborhood but who go to the park once or twice a year for a specific time and activity.

To ensure that the survey is valuable for both this research and the future design team, all the questions were discussed with IDEA Space, the local organization that is familiar with the community that formed the group known as the Friends of Hing Hay Park. Without their help, I could not have succeeded.

Topics of the Survey

The survey was designed in 5 sections. The first section aimed to know people's experiences in Seattle's Chinatown-International District (C-ID) by asking residents' longevity, time spent traveling to work, frequency of visits and activities they have in C-ID. The second section asked some general questions directly related to Hing Hay Park, which included knowing or not about the park, frequency of visits and reasons why they do or do not

use the park. The third section briefly described the expansion project to give the person being surveyed the idea that the park will soon be expanded and that I was eager to have his/her voice be heard. The respondent was asked to score how much he/she liked the existing features or designs, what future activities or features he/she would like to see and an open-ended question welcoming him/her to express other design ideas to the future design team. The next section investigated how people like the large events or programmed activities, and their ideas about cultural/historical design/design elements. There was an open-ended question that allows the survey takers to add on their opinions. The last portion is comprised of general questions asking the respondent's gender, age, native language, citizenship, and occupation. In general, the survey was designed to take a person about 15 minutes to complete.

Research Samples and Outreach

This survey aims to collect a sample that includes different groups, e.g. the Chinese local community, different ethnic groups, people who work in C-ID, people who visit C-ID frequently, travelers, young people and seniors, etc. I used snowball sampling to gather information for the research. There were 62 questionnaires completed and collected from February 1st to March 31st, 2013.

Paper survey: A pile of paper surveys, 2/3 in English and 1/3 in Chinese, were placed on the reception table of the International District/Chinatown Community Center on February 14th, 2013 and collected on February 21st, 2013. The staff of the Community Center were enthusiastic people and felt comfortable to ask or assist people in doing the survey – some seniors needed other people reading the questions and writing the responses down for them. The other way of obtaining more survey responses was to distribute the survey in person at the site. I planned 3 field trips to the park in February, asking people on the streets, inside the park or passing through the park, or in the Bush Hotel, to do the survey. Respondents obtained using this method completed the survey by themselves and then returned it to me after finishing it.

Online survey: E-mails with the link to the online survey were sent to people on February 1st – my friends who live in Seattle, March 21st – the committee members of Friends of Hing Hay Park, and March 28th – Bush Hotel staff. Some of the survey takers forwarded the e-mail to their friends after taking it.

FOCUS GROUPS

The focus group is a qualitative research method that allows the researchers to collect richer information than one-to-one interviews. The purpose of the focus group is to create an open discussion that allows the participants to share their perceptions and opinions. In the conversation, people can add on thoughts that they may never think of after hearing others' understanding to a theme or a question (Patton 2002). As the focus group moderator, I led the conversation focusing on the theme questions without forcing the participants to any biased conclusions or common consensus.

To obtain information on how members of different ethnic groups might perceive Hing Hay Park and have distinct interests in the park and its design, I conducted two focus groups – One for the Filipino Americans in the District and one for the Chinese community. In order to gather enough people for focus groups, I asked the manager of IDEA Space to introduce some potential interviewees to me. She offered several names and organizations for me to contact with. Finally, I connected with one of the Filipino activists who was willing to gather a group of 6-10 Filipinos and an IDEA Space staff who was responsible of leading a Chinese block watch team.

The goal of the focus groups of this research aims to know different user groups' perceptions to Hing Hay Park. The two focus groups of this project used the same instrument.

Filipino Americans Focus Group

IDEA Space introduced one of the Filipino activists (W1) to this research project. W1 is familiar with many Filipino community members who were interested in the expansion project. Therefore, we sent out an email invitation for an hour-long focus group for Filipino Americans to take place on February 5th to a 23 people. Finally, seven Filipinos arrived for the conversation in the Panama Hotel teashop on Tuesday February 5th, 2013 at 6p.m.

Chinese Senior Focus Group

This focus group took place on Tuesday February 12th, 2013 at 6pm, which was the regular time of the block watch of the Chinese seniors. In this focus group, one of the staff of IDEA Space, who was able to speak Cantonese, assisted in interpreting the questions and the conversation between the focus group participants and me. Some conversation may be missing in the records due to imperfect interpretation, but the main ideas were noted down¹. According to the leader of the block watch team, they have less people coming for the night watch program due to the cold weather². As it was, only 4 people arrived for the focus group and the conversation lasted 30 minutes.

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

In this methodology, one-on-one, in-depth interviews complement this research with the advantage of accommodating interviewee's schedules individually rather than as a larger group. The local businesses near Hing Hay Park were the research targets. However, it was impossible to gather the managers or their staff for a focus group because of the differences of business hours they have or they could not leave their stations during work hours. Therefore, I planned two field trips visit to the businesses located near Hing Hay Park. On these visits, I walked into every store and restaurant that surrounds Hing Hay Park asking if the manager, supervisor, or a staff could do a 15-minute interview with me. If a business was interested but was not able to have the conversation right away, I suggested that we could reserve an appointment and meet on some other day. The interviews were done one February 1st and 2nd, 2013³. Finally, there were four people who agreed to participate in the in-depth interview.

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

Key Findings of Survey

In this section, the findings from the Hing Hay Park survey will be discussed, with a focus on different themes of "user background," "common activities of current users," "reasons why people do not use the park," "expectations to the expanded park," "opinions to future program of Hing Hay Park" and "attitudes toward cultural and historical aspects."

The results of every question were analyzed. In general, a common preference was found irrespective of different genders, ethnic groups or generations.

- User backgrounds
 - About half (53%) (N=62) of the respondents are female and 47% (29) are male (Figure 3-1). 60% of the sample speaks Chinese as a first language (Figure 3-3); 29% of the respondents' native language is English; three people speak Filipino; two people speak Vietnamese; one person speaks Spanish and one person speaks Japanese. Three quarters (77%) of the survey takers are citizens (Figure 3-4). Most of those who are not citizens are younger than those in the sample who are citizens. Non-citizens' ages clustered between 20-39 (86%, N=14). Almost 50% of the sample goes to work (Figure 3-5); one quarter of people are students and one quarter are retired.
 - Three quarters (76%) of the respondents are non-residents (N=62) of C-ID (Figure 3-6.). One quarter

1 Personally, I do not speak Cantonese. However, when the seniors were telling their stories, I could "guess" what they mean. Some of the pronunciations of Cantonese are similar to Mandarin Chinese.

2 It was difficult to request the block watch Chinese seniors to come to the focus group. The block watch program was a volunteering program and the Chinese seniors were not familiar with computers and emails. The block watch team leader tried his best to arrange a meeting for this research, which I appreciate very much.

3 February 2nd, 2013 is Saturday. Restaurants are usually open on Saturdays. Therefore, I could still do interviews with people.

N=62

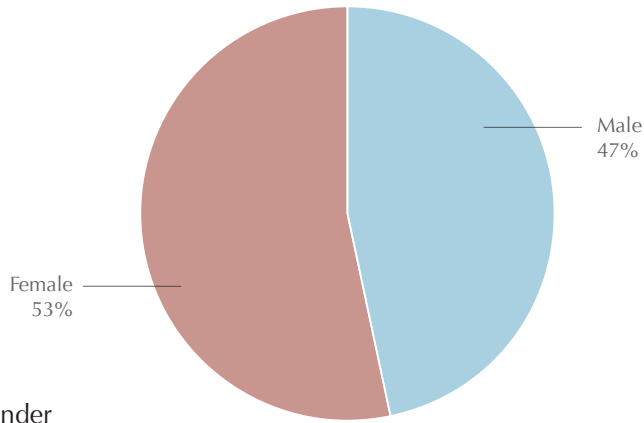


Figure 3-1. Gender

N=62

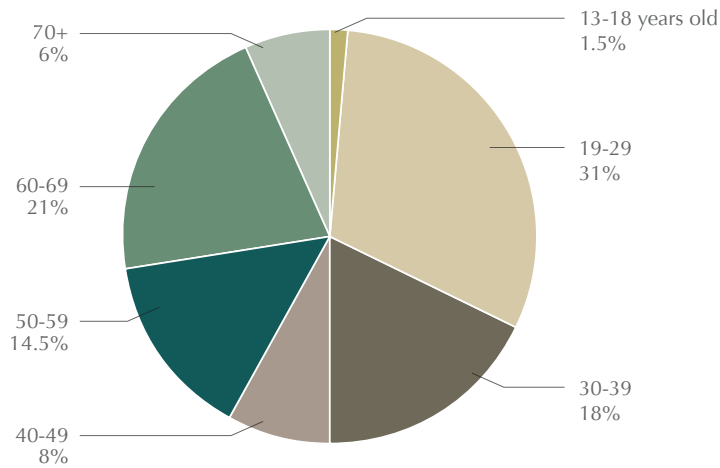


Figure 3-2. Age

N=62

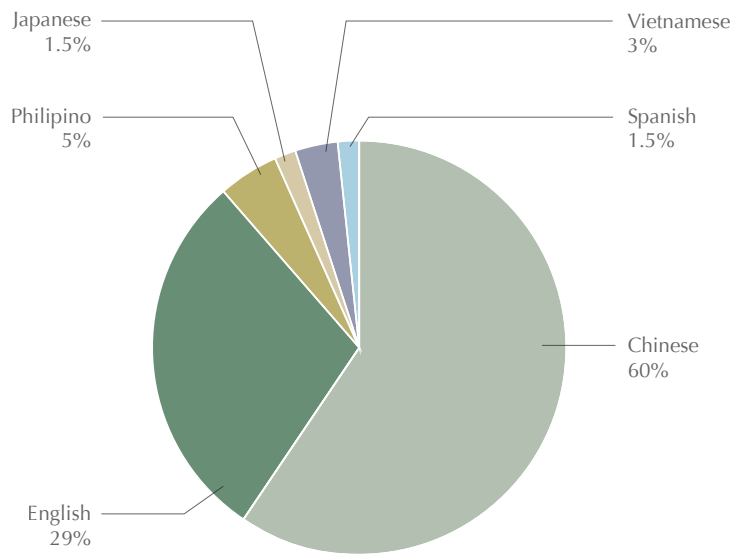


Figure 3-3. First Language

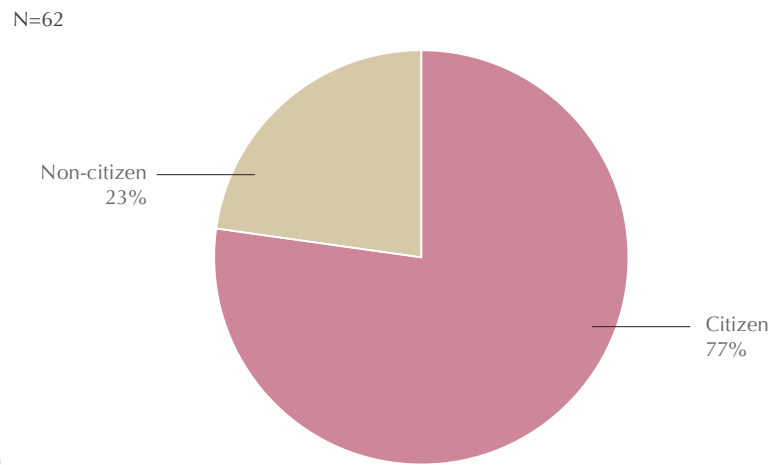


Figure 3-4. Citizenship

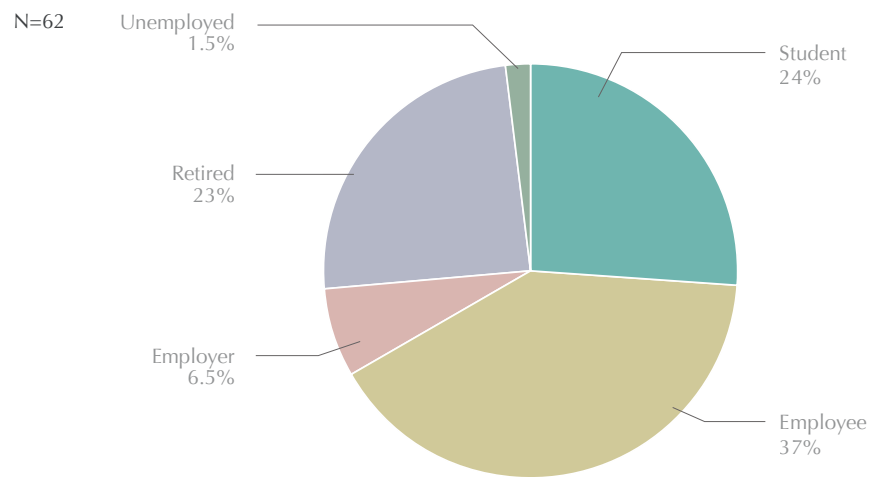


Figure 3-5. Employment Status

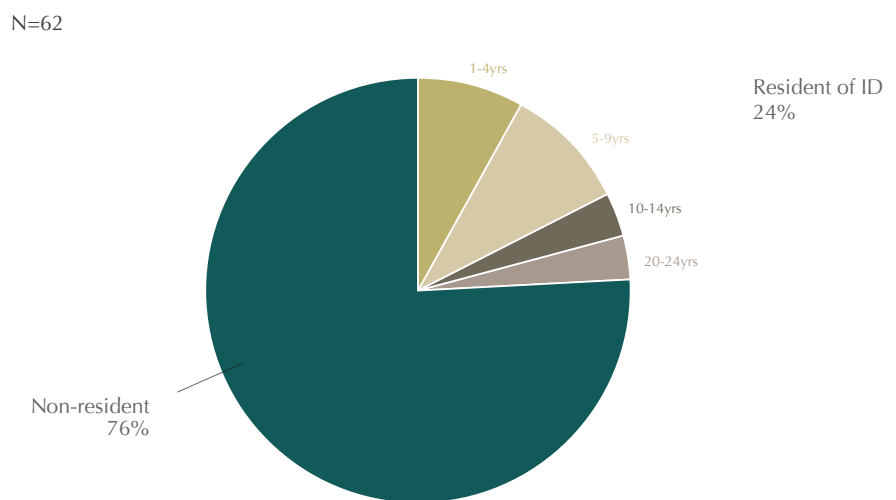


Figure 3-6. Resident/non-resident of C-ID

(24%) of the respondents (N=62) are residents of Chinatown-International District. Generally, they visited C-ID daily (21%), several times a month (21%), several times a week (19%), or once a month (Figure 3-7.) ½ of the non-residents visited C-ID through driving automobiles and 40% by bus (Figure 3-8.) These trips took 15 minutes to one hour to travel to work (Figure 3-9.)

- Usual activities that the respondents (N=61) reported going to the C-ID to engage in included *grocery shopping* (79%), *working* (57%), *socializing* (54), *ethnic food* (34%), and *exercising* (31%). The respondents could choose more than one answer in responding this question (Figure 3-10.)

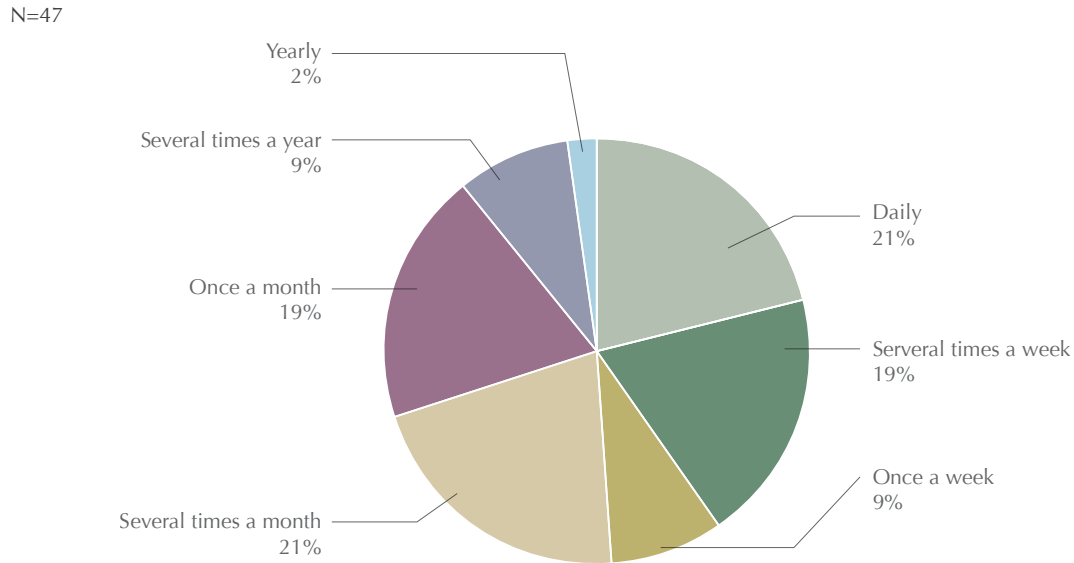


Figure 3-7. Frequency of Visits

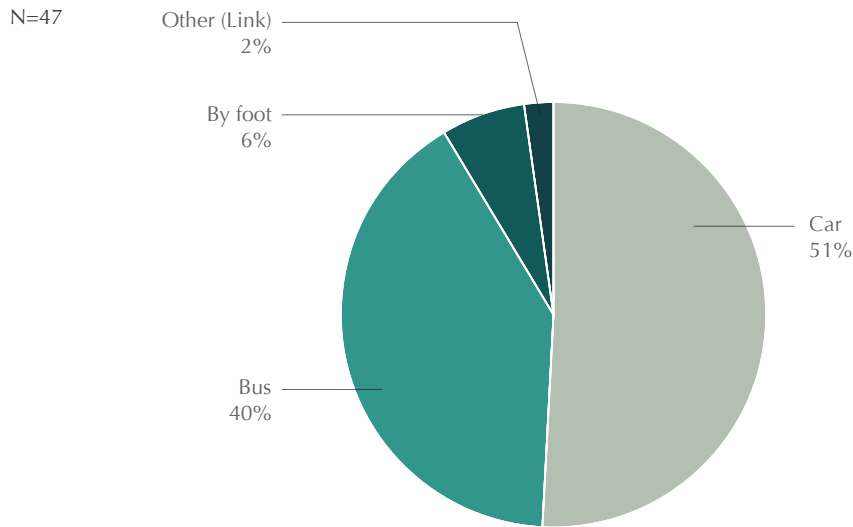


Figure 3-8. Means of Getting to the C-ID

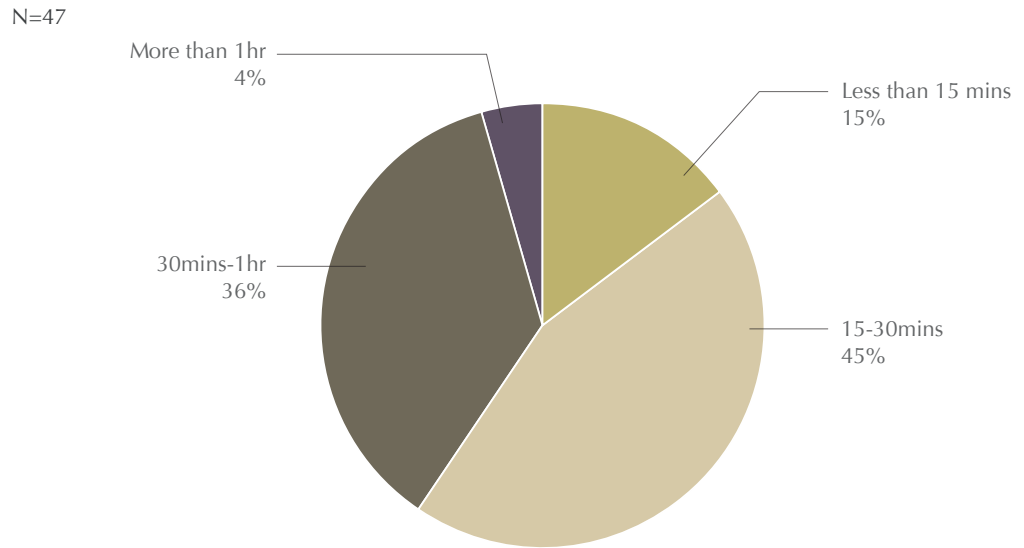


Figure 3-9. Time Spent Traveling to the District

- What are people’s perceptions of the current design of Hing Hay Park?
 - Eighty four percent of the respondents (N=62) knew of Hing Hay Park, and almost 90% of these people had been there. The frequency of people visiting Hing Hay Park was evenly distributed across every option (Figure 3-10). Most people use the park as a shortcut. Other activities like enjoying street performance (6%), joining activities (30%), and resting (30%) are popular, too. Only two

N=61

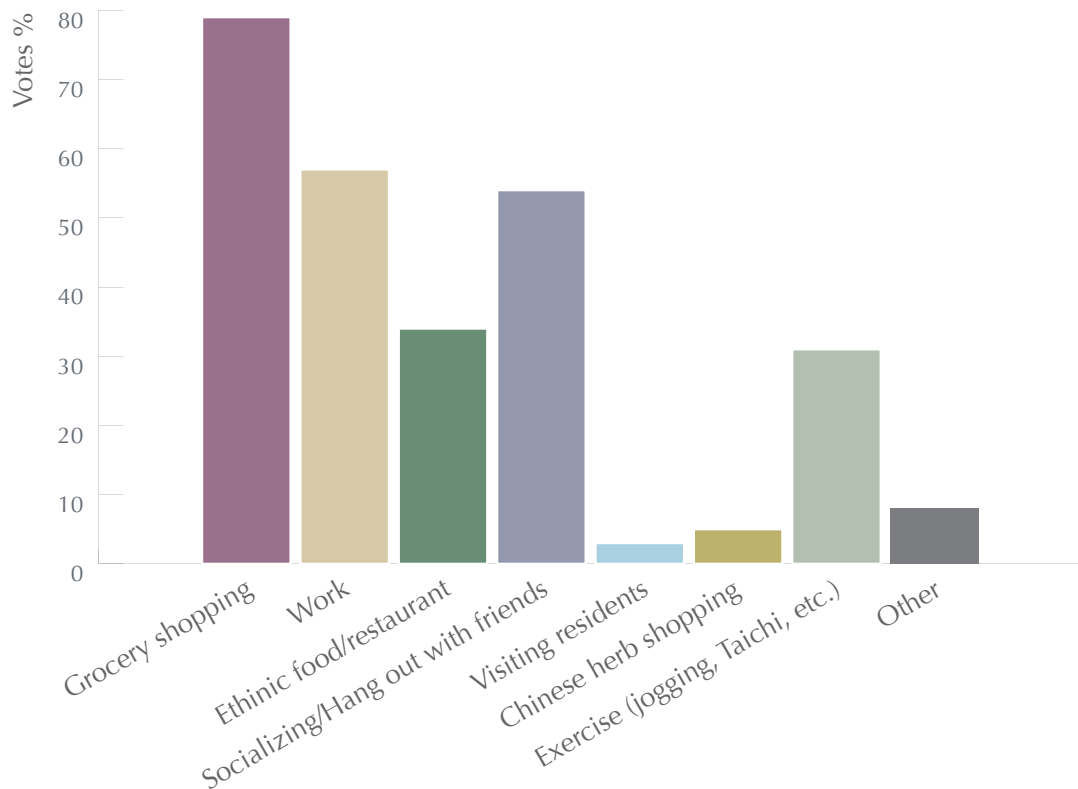


Figure 3-10. Usual Activities in Chinatown-International District

people had ever played chess/Chinese chess in the park although I often saw people playing the giant chess on site. 50% (N=46) of the respondents went to the park themselves and almost 24% of the population went with their family or friend(s).

- The reasons why people did not visit Hing Hay Park were that there are too few attractions to draw users to the site (100%), and security issue (4). Two people think there are not enough seats and tables.

o Design features and activities of the expanded park

N=46

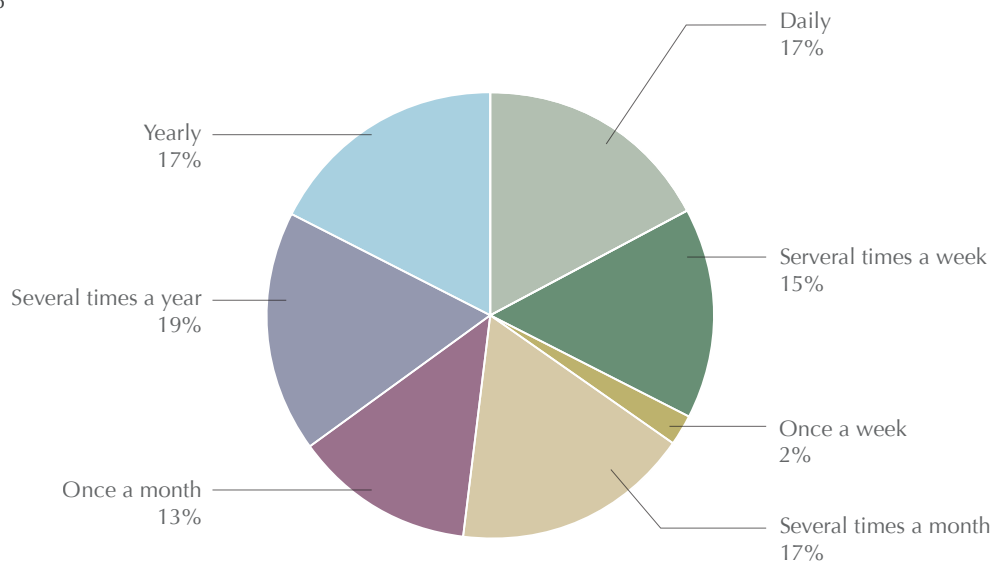


Figure 3-11. Frequency of Visiting Hing Hay Park

- Activities: When people were asked, “What activities do you want to see/have in the park?,” four main activities that people expressed interest in were: Play activities for children, chess/Chinese chess, Taichi and street performance. Most respondents (68%) wanted to see kids playing in the park and people hope to see users watching street performances (58%), playing chess/Chinese chess (56%) and playing Taichi (53%). 7 respondents suggested more activities to the park such as interactive arts, food stands, festivals, summer outdoor movies or stationary bikes in the open-ended question. The results showed that gathering, exercising and interactive activities are welcomed.
- Design features: To assess interest in particular design features for Hing Hay Park, 10 possible design features were listed in the survey and respondents were asked how much they agreed that each was an important feature to include in the new park design. These items used a Likert scale for responses which ranged from 1 = strong disagree to 5 = strongly agree. Below are the bar charts of people’s preferences toward every feature (Figure 3-11 to Figure 3-20). The majority of survey participants responded positively to each of the suggested features, with the vast majority wanting to see more trees, flowers and greenery (Figures 3-11 to 3-13). There was also great interest in benches and seating (Figure 3-14) and more/better/different lighting (Fig 3-16). About as many were ambivalent about the proposed chessboard feature (Fig 3-18) as there were in agreement that it was a good addition. Respondents seemed the least enthused about the addition of a water feature (Fig 3-17). In the later section of interview analysis, people’s perspectives to a water feature will be expressed.

New Design Features Preferences

- What to preserve on site: Generally, Hing Hay Park features seven kinds of design elements. The bar charts below show the results of people’s perspectives on the existing designs. By taking into account

the non-on-site survey takers who may not have any reference to existing features, they could choose

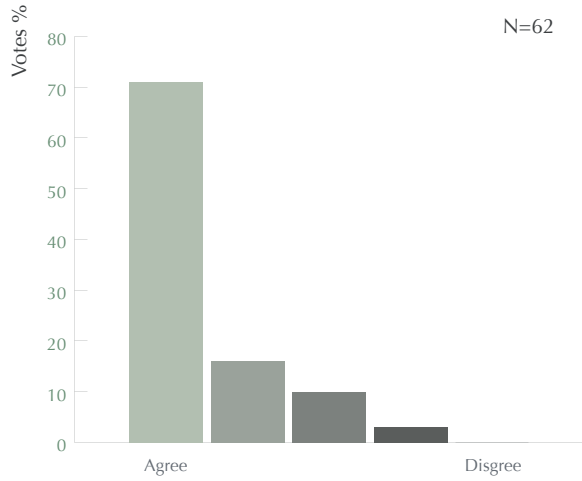


Figure 3-12. Trees

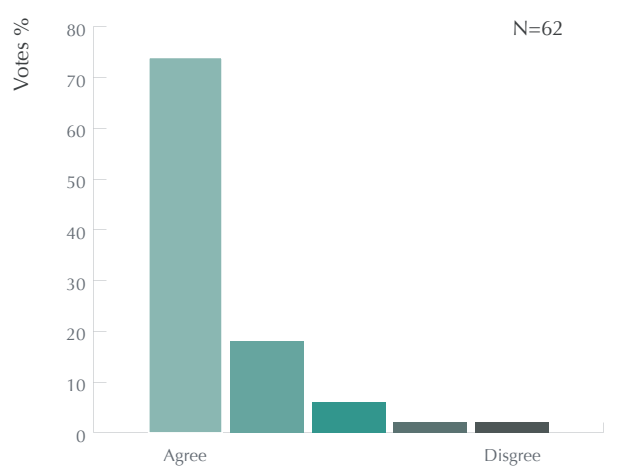


Figure 3-13. More Greenery

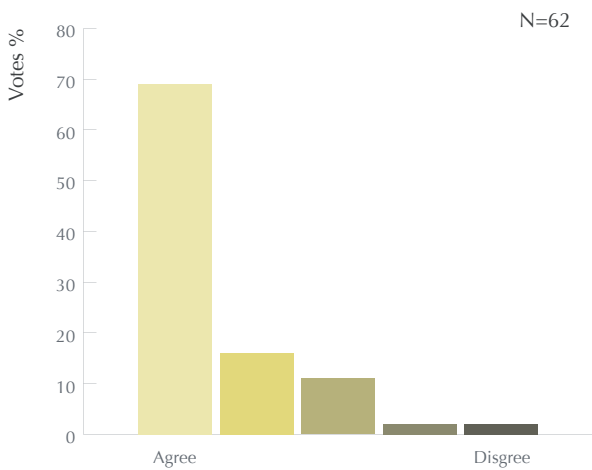


Figure 3-14. Flowers

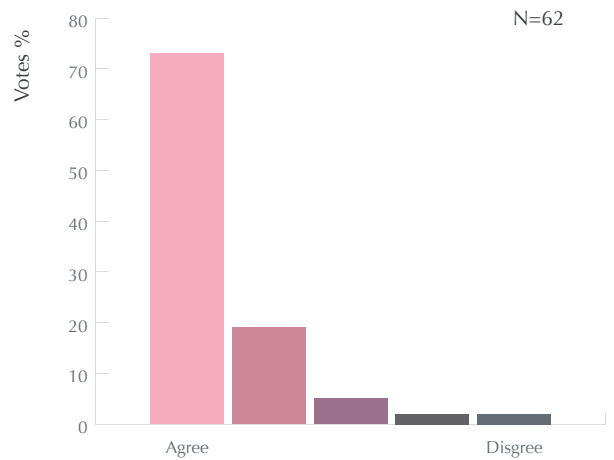


Figure 3-15. Benches/chairs

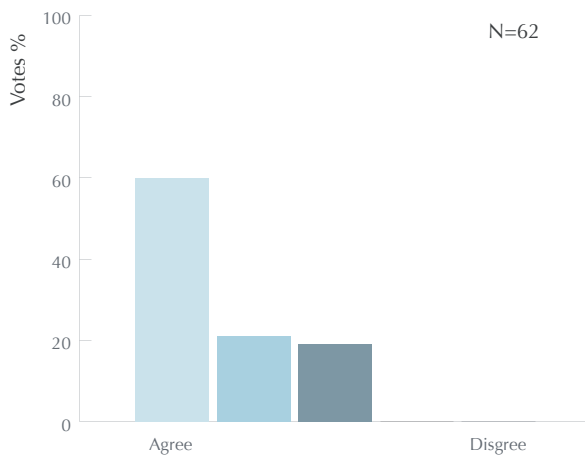


Figure 3-16. Tables

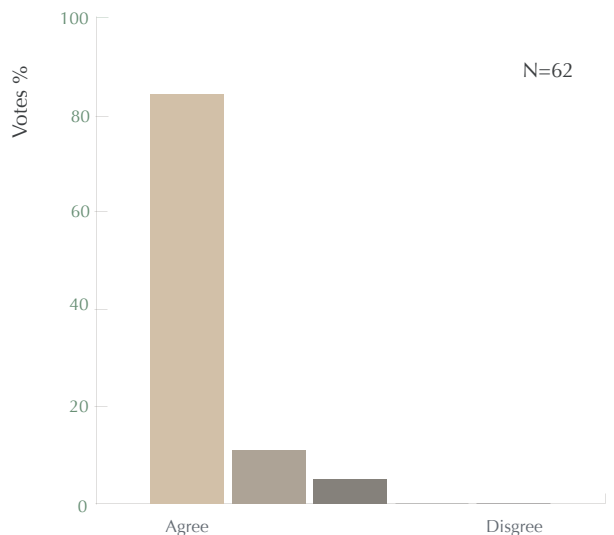


Figure 3-17. Lighting

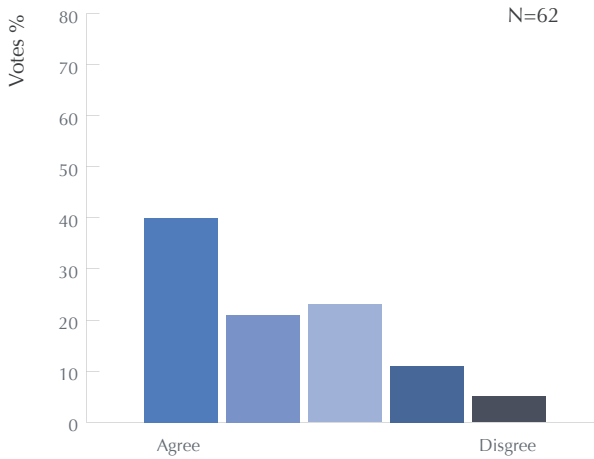


Figure 3-18. Water Features

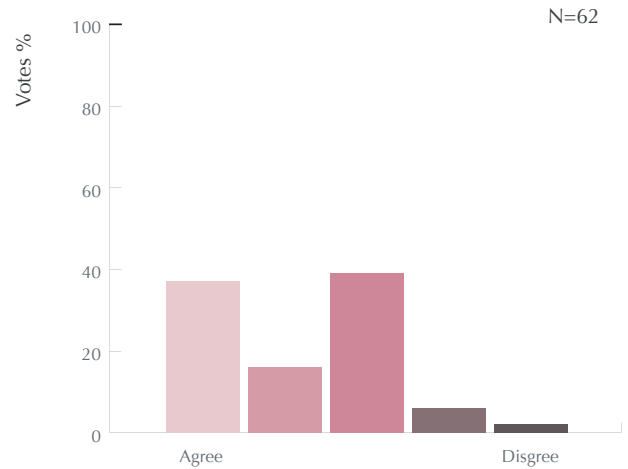


Figure 3-19. Chessboards

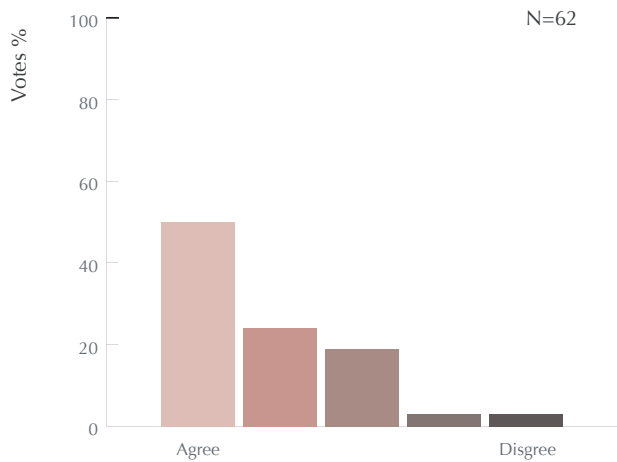


Figure 3-20. Paths

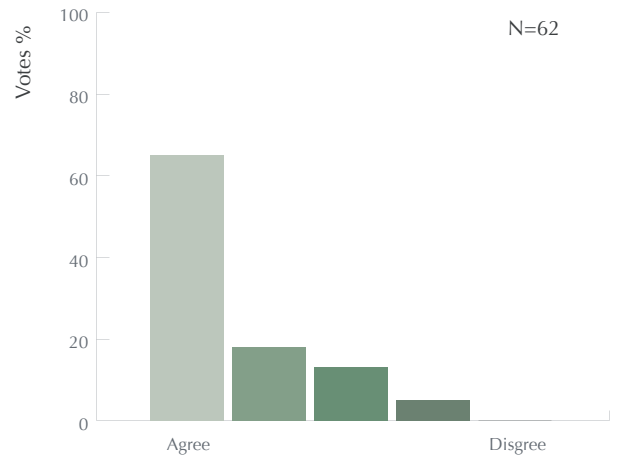


Figure 3-21. Plazas

"I am not familiar with this feature" rather than scoring a design element.

In general, almost 70% of the respondents suggested preserving every design feature. The data shows that the survey takers were not familiar with the benches or with the chessboards (Figure 3-16), yet these benches, which are located on Maynard Ave S, were the most used permanent street furniture, according to on-site observations. The Chinese pavilion (45, N=62) and the Chinese bulletin board (45, N=61) were strongly recommended to be preserved. More neutral votes (13) and six disagree votes happened on the option of brick plaza. A discussion of the brick plaza or brick pavement will be concluded in focus group and in-depth interview sections.

Preferences for Site Elements Preservation

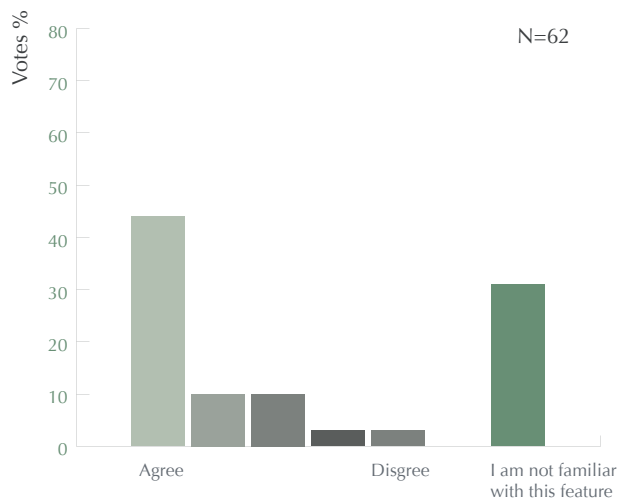


Figure 3-22. Benches with Chinese chess/chess chessboards

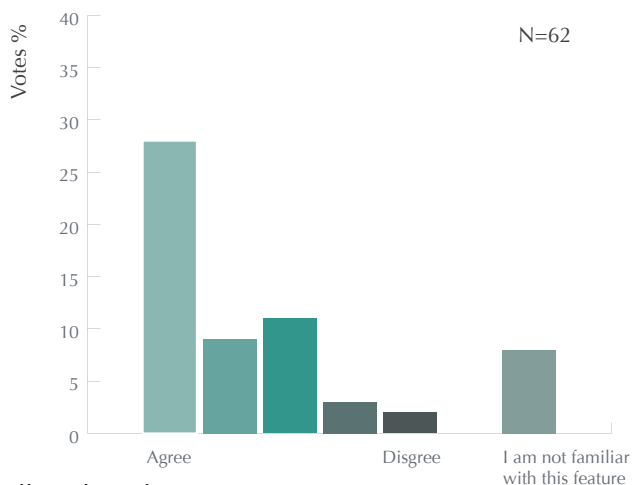


Figure 3-23. Chinese style bulletin board

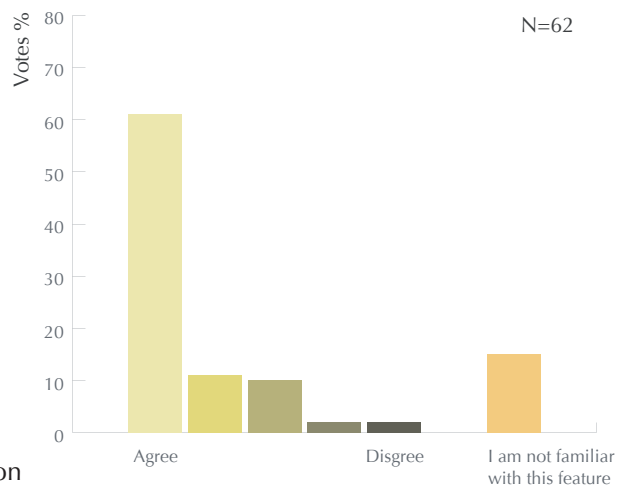


Figure 3-24. Chinese pavilion

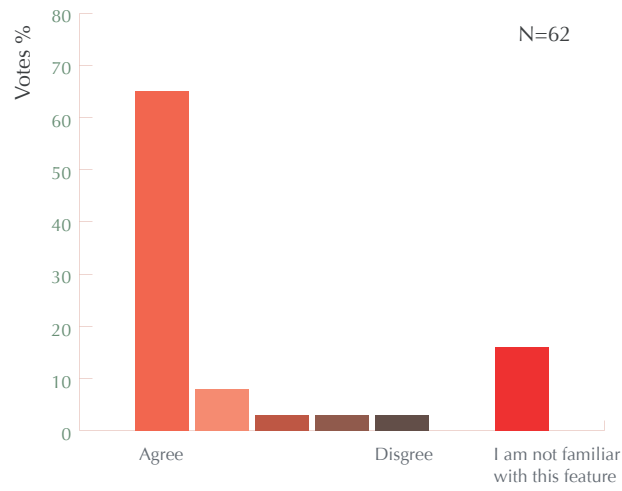


Figure 3-25. Trees

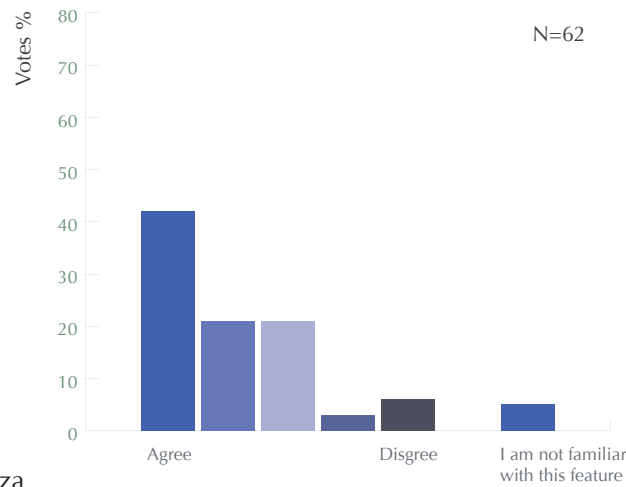


Figure 3-26. The brick plaza

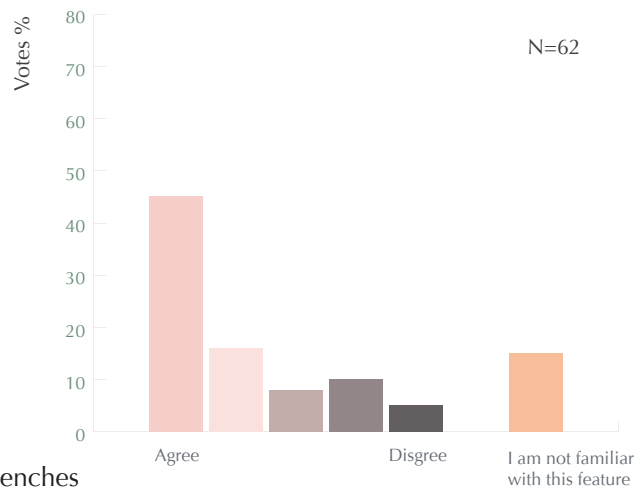
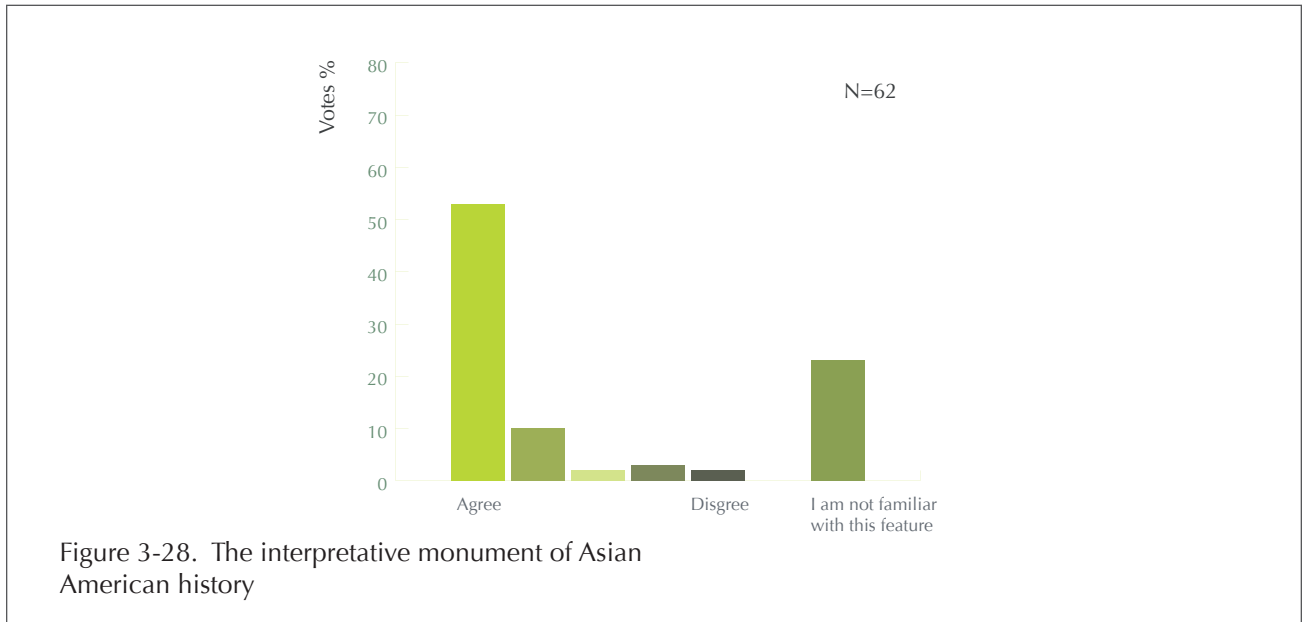


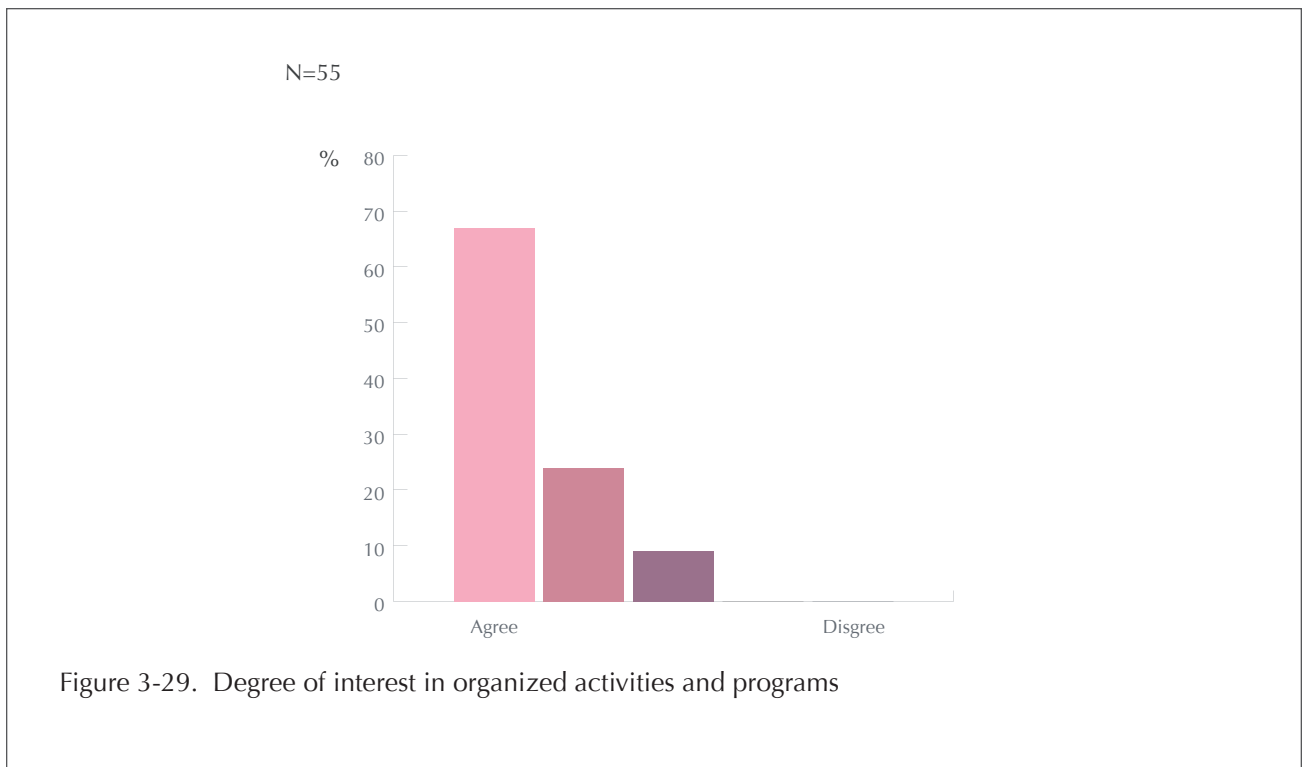
Figure 3-27. The square benches



- Expectations to the programs or activities of the expanded Hing Hay Park.

Survey respondents were also asked to give their opinion on what kind of activities and programs they would like to see in the park. Some respondents (33%, N=55) noted their opinions in the open-ended question. The responses of the open-ended question will be categorized into different themes and will be described in the following section:

- The vast majority (91%) of the respondents (N=55) would like to see organized activities and programs of Hing Hay Park. Only 9% are neutral on the matter and no one disagreed with the idea of programs or activities.



- More social life is desired: When survey respondents were asked to volunteer ideas for what they want to see happen in the park, a number of them (16%) offered that they want to see the park used more as a social space. Organized activities can invite community participation. “Programs and activities always draws the crowds and brings the community together,” said one of the respondents. People think the park as a great open space in the neighborhood and look for outdoor activities for the adults and children of the Chinatown-International District community. People in the C-ID community, especially the seniors, would like to have more activities for this group of users because Hing Hay Park is the only (outdoor) open space that they could gather and socialize. It is a significant spot for the elderlies to relax and enjoy their leisure time. One respondent has the concern of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organizing work.
- Activating the park for different reasons: When survey respondents were asked to share ideas for the reason of activating the park, a number of them (7%) offered that they want to improve safety, improving the image of the community and neighborhood vitality. They think that activating the park is the best way of expelling undesirable activities. Through increasing “eyes on the street” (Jacobs 1961), the community will be exposed to a more secured environment. One person said, ‘I also feel like the more community activity you have there [Hing Hay Park], the less you’ll see “bad” activity.’ Moreover, some people who do not live in C-ID are excited to join the programmed activities of Hing Hay Park. One of the non-residents said, “I have a crazy schedule. Planned activities can be worked into my schedule. I live in west Seattle, but I come here when I am in the ID.” These words show that it is possible to have users or audiences for the platform or stage of Hing Hay Park. If the program information is well spread, the park will attract its fans. Some respondents described that organized programs would give an image of vitality to the neighborhood and help integrate the community to the city as a whole. Residents from other neighborhoods are welcome and should be invited to such kind of programs. Only two people thought that some activities could cause too much noise for the neighbors of Hing Hay Park and they hold back their votes of encouraging more activities.

In general, most people who took the survey look forward to every listed activities/events/programs (N=55). Ethnic celebrations (Lunar New Year or other annual celebrations) (96%) and summer night markets (95%) received more votes/agreements than other programs. These two events are, actually, current programs that the neighborhood has been hosted for years. Other programs such like farmers market, flea market, education tours and concerts had 82% of agreements on average. Education tours (school events) obtained no negative votes.

○ Perceptions to cultural/historical aspect of designs

N=54

- 94% or the respondents (N=54) emphasized the significance of embracing cultural/historical designs into the Hing Hay Park Expansion Project. The result shows that it is very important for the respondents to have ethnic culture or historical stories be represented in the open space. Only three people had neutral opinions to this question and none of the respondents were against the idea.
- As for why weaving cultural/historical aspects into the park design are important, half of respondents emphasized that this was to show respects to the

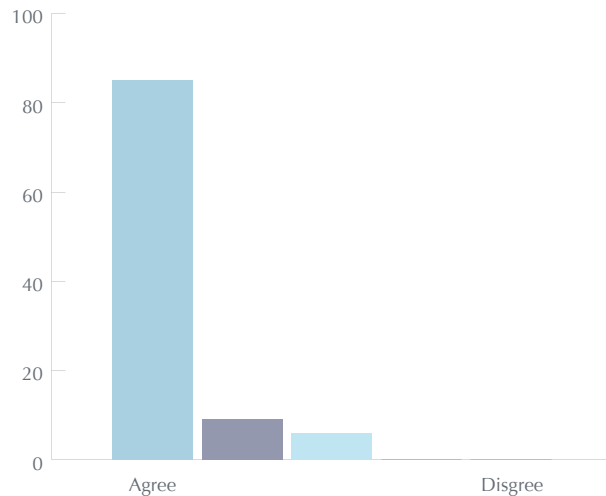


Figure 3-30. Degree of importance in integrating cultural/historical elements in the design of Hing Hay Park

pan-Asian pioneers and the community of Chinatown-International District.

11% of the respondents thought that it was significant to give a remarkable image of the entire “International District” rather than a single ethnic area because Hing Hay Park was the only open space in C-ID where different ethnic groups historically gathered. Three people claimed that it was nice to share cultures in the open space and a multiple cultural design could give the diverse immigrant population a sense of integration and feel like being home.

- About a third (30%, N-62) of survey respondents also noted any cultural/historical elements that are important to them. Their answers are listed below.

Cultural/historical design elements	Count	Reasons
Brick pavement	1	/
The Chinese pavilion	1, -1	A symbol of Chinese culture; “Not sure it good representative as Cultural and Historical”
Chinese chessboard	1	A good landscape design element
Anything that is symbolic, easy-understanding, innovative	2	More than just a painting of a dragon; anything from Asian capitals
Ethnic food cultures	1	/
Morning exercises (e.g. Taichi)	2	Asian people’s habit of using public spaces
Ethnic fusion	5	Recognition/education of the diversity of the communities and their respective experiences
The integral history of Filipino Americans and some sort of element for each of the prominent ethnic groups in the C-ID; early immigrants	3	So all people feel part of the same community
Dragon	1	Unsure
Moon koi fish	1	“Beautiful symbolizing love and light in Vietnamese culture”
An integration of Chinese and Japanese design elements	1	“Keeping a mix of Chinese and Japanese design elements that are important as they both share a deep historic par of our neighborhood”

Table 3-1. Potential Cultural or Historical Elements for the Park

- Note that “bricks,” “Chinese pavilion,” and “Chinese chessboard benches” are existing designs under consideration for preservation or removal This portion will be discussed in Chapter Four.

Most of the respondents were aware of the diverse populations in C-ID and preferred multi-cultural designs or food to be integrated into the design of Hing Hay Park. Some Filipino respondents expressed a claim for their community. Nevertheless, they realized that other ethnic groups have a share of the Hing Hay Park.

Key Findings from Filipino Focus Group

- Backgrounds: One man (M1) has been living in C-ID since 2009 and he works in one of the organizations in C-ID. One woman (W2) used to live in C-ID. Most of the people came to C-ID weekly for attending meetings and volunteering and everyone sometimes came for ethnic food or grocery shopping. All the

interviewees knew of the Hing Hay Park and its Expansion Project and have high expectations for the new design.

- What they like about the park: The Filipinos think that the park is a gathering place for the community seniors, a place to sit and chat, an open playground for children to enjoy, an intersection to wait for their friends or love ones, a place full of memories, a sightseeing focal point for visitors, and a stage for games, festivals or performances. “I think I like it because the seniors congregate there. That’s a place that they can sit outside their apartments in the International District,” said M1. It is a central location for the festival activities and it is a place that has seats to sit in a shade. Taichi and other martial arts gatherings. A sightseeing spot for people to take pictures.
- Place attachment: M2 shared a story. When the park was build, he used to chat with his uncle in the park. He expressed: “For me, I feel that home of nostalgia because I used to sit there with it was first built with my old uncles. They used to come down from the Hotel of International Terrace and they were in their seventies or eighties... It finally became a place that you can sit without having go into a bar for a drink and you can sit outside and chitchat with your uncles... It was very important for me to connect that.” Hing Hay Park is a gathering place for families, a meeting point for friends, a place to sit and eat. It is important for the children in the neighborhood, too. That is where they can play. W1’s husband used to work in In*terim, which their office used to be on the third floor of Bush Hotel. She and her child used to look up in the park and wait for the father.
- What they dislike about the park: People think safety is the key issues in of Hing Hay Park. They hope to see less bushes in the new design to eliminate areas for people to hide behind. Port-o-potty was the worst design the park had ever had in their consensus. “Sometimes it feel safe and sometimes doesn’t when I walked by Hing Hay Park... I am usually here [Hing Hay Park] like rush hour.” However, another person described that the negative activities such as stalking or drug interactions happened in many corners of C-ID, not just Hing Hay Park.
- History: The entry doorway of the US Post Office at 1404 6th Ave S, was once the entrance to the Philippine Café, run by the mother of the founder of the Filipino Americans National History Society. Therefore W1 suggested the expanded park could design something at where the entrance used to be or move the historical kiosk of Honoring Filipino Americans in Chinatown International District 1911-2010 from its current location to the park.
- What they hope to see in the future design: People would like to see the future park to be a highlighted destination of C-ID, more landscaping and greenery in the park, glassy shelter or structure(s) of gatherings that would function in winter. In the discussion, M2 said that each of the group from China, Filliping, Japan and Vietnam, has terraces in their agricultures, and rice and bamboo are the common products that they all have in their agriculture. He recommended these could be part of the concepts to this park in the pan-Asian district.
- The pavilion: People think the pavilion significantly represents C-ID and strongly recommended of preserving the pavilion. However, later in the conversation, one of the women expressed her dislike to the current position of the pavilion for it sits at the center of the park. She suggested the pavilion to be moved adjacent to the Bush Hotel facing S King St or be placed on either of the short edges of Hing Hay Park.
- Daily lives of the elderly were broadly discussed. Issues related to safety, universal design, social life, entertainment, activities, etc. were a strong concern of this group although they are young and middle-age populations. They thought the neighborhood was secure for the elders to walk around since there are security cameras watching the open spaces. They like the color of brick, however, the brick pavement can be slippery for senior citizens. Social lives of the senior were taken into account to the conversation. Everyone in this group agreed that the park should provide more types of arrangement of seating that would allow more types of social activities. The group conjectured the seniors might love “people watching” – to see children playing in the park. They hope to see different generations using the park, teenagers, children, etc.
- Multi-cultural design: The Filipino focus group draws the conclusion that integrating the four major cultures of C-ID is very important and they hope to see a harmonious cultural design in the future. They even suggest the future design team should embrace other ethnic groups’ perceptions to the park design. They

dislike any group to be neglected.

Key Findings from Chinese Senior Focus Group

- Backgrounds: All of the Chinese seniors are residents of C-ID. Three people visited the park once a day and one person visited twice a day.
- What they like about the park: They like the fresh air in a park. It is good for exercise, especially morning exercises like Taichi classes. The park provides a place for them to sit and the monuments on the site reminds people the history of the immigrants.
- What they hope to see in the future design: Like the Filipino focus group participants, the senior Chinese hope to have more places to sit and more tables for socializing. Actually, they were satisfied with the design. What they love to do is just comfortably talk to their friends in the park for a half hour to a whole afternoon, depending on different persons. Therefore they desire more seating and tables. Another activity they mentioned was people watching. They like to see children playing in the park.
- Safety: They think it is safe to be in the park compared to the past when no security cameras were there to keep a watchful eye in the park. More police patrols in the neighborhood or sometimes staying on the site for a while does help improve the social environment and provide a safer place for the seniors to stay. The criminals stay away since the park/neighborhood formed a better complete set of security measures.
- History/ecology/culture: They thought it is important to let their future generations learn about the histories of the park and the neighborhood. Increasing greenery will help them feel relaxed and entertain the users of the park. They think more planting can invite visitors to stay longer instead of just stop by Hing Hay Park. The pavilion has to be preserved as an icon of the Chinese cultural.
- What they dislike about the park: The seniors think the park is too small and the benches at the corner of the Post Office and Bush Hotel attracted people, usually the homeless, to lay down.

Key Findings from Interviews with Local Business Owners & Employees

Although the sample size of in-depth interviews is small, these people's opinions are still valuable to the research and design. Since they run the businesses near the park, with the meaning they have daily observations of the park and the users, their thoughts to the design of Hing Hay Park can be somewhat different from most people and to some extent represents the attitude of nearby businesses. The following table categorizes the interviewees' opinions to different topics.

	I1	I2	I3	I4
General information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Resident of C-ID, 3 years. Work in C-ID for 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> Never entered HHP, only passing by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A mother, non-resident of C-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Visited the park for a walk one or twice a week <input type="checkbox"/> Her children used to play in the park during weekends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Non-resident of C-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom visited Hing Hay Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Non-resident of C-ID. He has been working in C-ID for 15 years.
Like about the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Likes the pavilion <input type="checkbox"/> Seeing seniors gathering in the park <input type="checkbox"/> The park is safe when she's around (working hours and sometimes at night.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Seeing seniors gathering in the park. The park is a good place for a break. <input type="checkbox"/> Feels safe to be in the park since there are crime watch cameras 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> She loved seeing events hosting in Hing Hay Park although she never went for them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lunar New Year Event and street festivals. <input type="checkbox"/> A great place for sitting
Dislike about the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The park looks old and lack of maintenance. This caused her feel uncomfortable to use it. <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> It used to attract drug dealers and homeless. The negative activities are gone now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> There were too many homeless. Therefore she had safety concerns and tried not to approach the park. <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough lighting in the park so that many negative activities gathered in the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drug dealers and safety issues
Expectations to the expansion project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hope to see bird houses, Chinese poems on street furniture, public restroom, trash cans, more seating, evergreens <input type="checkbox"/> No water features – high maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organized or random activities are good, e.g. Kungfu, dance or large monthly, annual events. <input type="checkbox"/> This park is the only open space that Chinatown has and can concentrate so many people to enjoy a celebration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Expecting the new park would attract more people to use the park. <input type="checkbox"/> Hoping US Post Office could stay <input type="checkbox"/> The park has to be seen thoroughly. No benches allow sleeping. Dislike any design that attracts birds and bees. No water feature – high maintenance. Underground parking. Recreation center. Asian garden. Exercise equipment. Hopes to see different generations. Less maintenance is encouraged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Walking space, like sidewalks. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular night markets or street fairs can be awesome because they will attract people for the local businesses. <input type="checkbox"/> A central stage <input type="checkbox"/> Design some Asian elements different from other Chinatowns.

Table 3-2. Results of in-depth interviews

Interviewees' preferences to the safety issues and common expectations to the future designs are similar to the responses of the focus groups. The only opinion that they emphasized differently is the reason they hope to see more users of Hing Hay Park is not just for activating the park and creating a more secured open space but also bringing more opportunities for their businesses. They think that if Hing Hay Park has more programmed or scheduled activities and events it can attract more tourists for sightseeing and citizens for special events in Chinatown-International District. Therefore, their businesses may increase in some way. Otherwise, the findings of in-depth interview echo the results of the other research methods.

CONCLUSIONS

This research used multiple research methods to study various phases of the current use and people's expectations of Hing Hay Park. The survey questionnaire obtained the expectations and perceptions of the park from a broader and more diverse population. The focus groups aimed to acquire impressions and imaginations from the Chinese and Filipino ethnic groups that arguably have stronger present or historical connections to the park than other ethnic groups. Besides, elderly people who often use the park as their social space were targeted in the focus group, too. The in-depth interviews tend to gain some different information from business people who have commercial spaces near the park.

Through analyzing all the data collected in the process, I conclude that there are various common perspectives and a few distinctions between groups. Here are two sections expressing the common opinions and distinctive perspectives from different groups.

Common Opinions

Basically, the current design of Hing Hay Park is at an acceptable level of satisfaction to the users, regardless of age, gender, race, occupation, etc. People have similar opinions not only regarding safety issues, existing park design and observations of the user groups, but also in terms of organized programs, design elements, representations of culture fusion and immigrants' history.

In general, most of the participants across all research methods think that the park is a safe place to be in after the crime watch cameras were installed. There were less negative activities such as drug trades or homeless sleeping in the park. Many participants of focus groups and interviews discussed a sense of security. It is interesting that seldomly participants personally felt unsafe when they visited Hing Hay Park but they had concerns when seeing seniors, children or females being in the park. People thought the brick pavers could be slippery for the elderly and children to step on; they worried about females being vulnerable to harassment or crime. So while people reported that they felt the park was relatively safer than in the past, they still saw room for improvement and expressed some safety concerns. Therefore, usually people came to a suggestion of adding more streetlights at night for safety concerns.

All in all, people think the design of Hing Hay Park is plain but they like the Chinese pavilion and strongly recommended to preserve it during the expansion project. They described the beauty, cultural meaning, diplomatic history, and ethnic representation of the pavilion to emphasize its importance to stay on site. One of the interviewees likes the Chinese pavilion saying it is beautiful and emphasized the importance of preserving it. The City spent lots of money on its maintenance recently. It is not reasonable to remove the pavilion. For other design elements, the participants like the table tennis, movable tables and chairs, and large chess game. They also requested more seating for the elderly, an open plaza for large events and facilities for on-site activities such as permanent equipment for exercising or a playground for children.

For organized activities and programs, people gave positive responses to the various options provided in the survey or discussions. Some of the respondents had the concern of who would and how to maintain the programs offered in the park. The Parks Department and the local community organizations have had this conversation in their meetings and wish to refer to the suggestions of the results of the questionnaire of this research. The Hing Hay Park Concierge Program is currently in charge of facilitating the daily activities, e.g. the giant chess set, the tables and chairs, and table tennis. Actually, not only do the respondents hope to see more organized activities happening on Hing Hay Park but also the Parks Department and non-profit organizations like IDEA Space wish to see this as well. More people using the park ensures more eyes to watch the open space, increasing safety and improving the neighborhood.

The participants across various research methods stated that it is significant to present the history of the pan-Asian American community of Seattle's Chinatown-International District, the history of Hing Hay Park and integrate a culture fusion into the park design. Most people are happy to share culture and learn from each other. They also think that a design comprised of different cultures could create a place that evinces familiarity for those people who are away from home, providing a place to contemplate their emotions. People for the most part agree with a harmonious multi-cultural design for the park rather than specify only one ethnic culture.

Distinctive Perspectives

Different groups definitely have various perspectives to one thing or emphasize different aspects of the park and its design. Some care about the design because they are users of the park, but some only care about the number of visitor who would be attracted to the neighborhood, these respondents are not users but have businesses nearby the park. Three groups in this research were distinguished from the responses, the Filipino focus group, Chinese community and the local businesses.

The Filipino focus group was structured by activists and volunteers who often participate in activities and meetings in C-ID, put much effort into the Filipino community of Seattle and generally are very familiar with their community history. Therefore, in the focus group discussion they provided information regarding the community history. They specifically pointed out the original entrance of the historical café owned by the mother of the founder of Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) and hoped the Kiosk Honoring Filipinos in Seattle's Chinatown I. D. could be relocated and moved to Hing Hay Park. Moreover, their life experiences in C-ID were shared in the conversation. Not only the present experiences but also some people's childhood memories were described. I think their opinions deeply touch the core of the research questions of this thesis. As I concluded in Chapter Two that any ethnic historic stories should be represented in the park, the Filipinos' descriptions just emphasized the same idea, e.g. the historical location of Philippines Café. Part of their perceptions and suggestions can be considered and applied to the design.

For the most part, responses from the Chinese community (whether from the survey, interviews or the Chinese focus group) emphasized the importance of giving the Chinatown a novel and creative design to Hing Hay Park. They compared Seattle's Chinatown with the Chinatowns of other cities in The United States such as Chinatown in San Francisco. They explained how much they care about the identity of the Chinese community in Seattle. Additionally, many Chinese think this park is not just a neighborhood park in Chinatown but also an urban park that happens to be in the Pacific Northwest. It should contain its unique history and cultures of the pan-Asian community. Although people expressed their opinions from different points of views, they all hope the park to have a unique cultural style and become a cultural cradle in Seattle. I think it is reasonable to preserve the Chinese personality of Hing Hay Park since it is situated in the Chinatown core as well as positioning this space as the "courtyard" of Seattle's Chinatown-International District.

Finally, the business people described the key factor of the expansion project. For them, the crowds that the new park design could attract are way more important than the park design itself. Most of them were not users of Hing Hay Park, due to their work hours. Therefore they encouraged children, teenagers, seniors, workers and tourists to use the park. This is very different from other groups of respondents. Other groups considered the park should be prioritized for the C-ID community, especially for elderlies. However, the business group gave a different point of view to the research. This may be one of the key factors of activating the park and increase its night use. Activity and potential uses of the expanded park will be analyzed in Chapter Four.

Through survey questionnaires, individual interviews and focus groups, the research collected rich information from a diverse population. The data will be a sound foundation of the site analysis in Chapter Four. The basic and general comments can be the design guidelines to lead the design for satisfying the larger population and those particular feedbacks then can be the design components of delighting people who have higher expectations or personal/spiritual needs.

CHAPTER 4. HING HAY PARK DESIGN

This chapter begins with a summary of the current condition of Hing Hay Park, and the potential impacts of the Hing Hay Park expansion project on the neighborhood and the community. The second section, following the background studies and research findings of previous chapters, will present the rich input provided from the community and interpret them as a part of programming studies for the park. This chapter concludes with a design concept and final design for Hing Hay Park.

SITE ANALYSIS

Neighborhood Resources

Hing Hay Park is located in Seattle’s Chinatown-International District, which is an ethnic area that contains several Asian cultures and has been known as a pan-Asian district. Figure 4-1 is the neighborhood resource map which shows the public spaces, parks, cultural resources and public transportations, etc. in the District. Architects Without Borders expressed in their design proposal (2010) that the Expansion Project (described in Chapter One) is an opportunity for strengthening community connections and cultural identity.

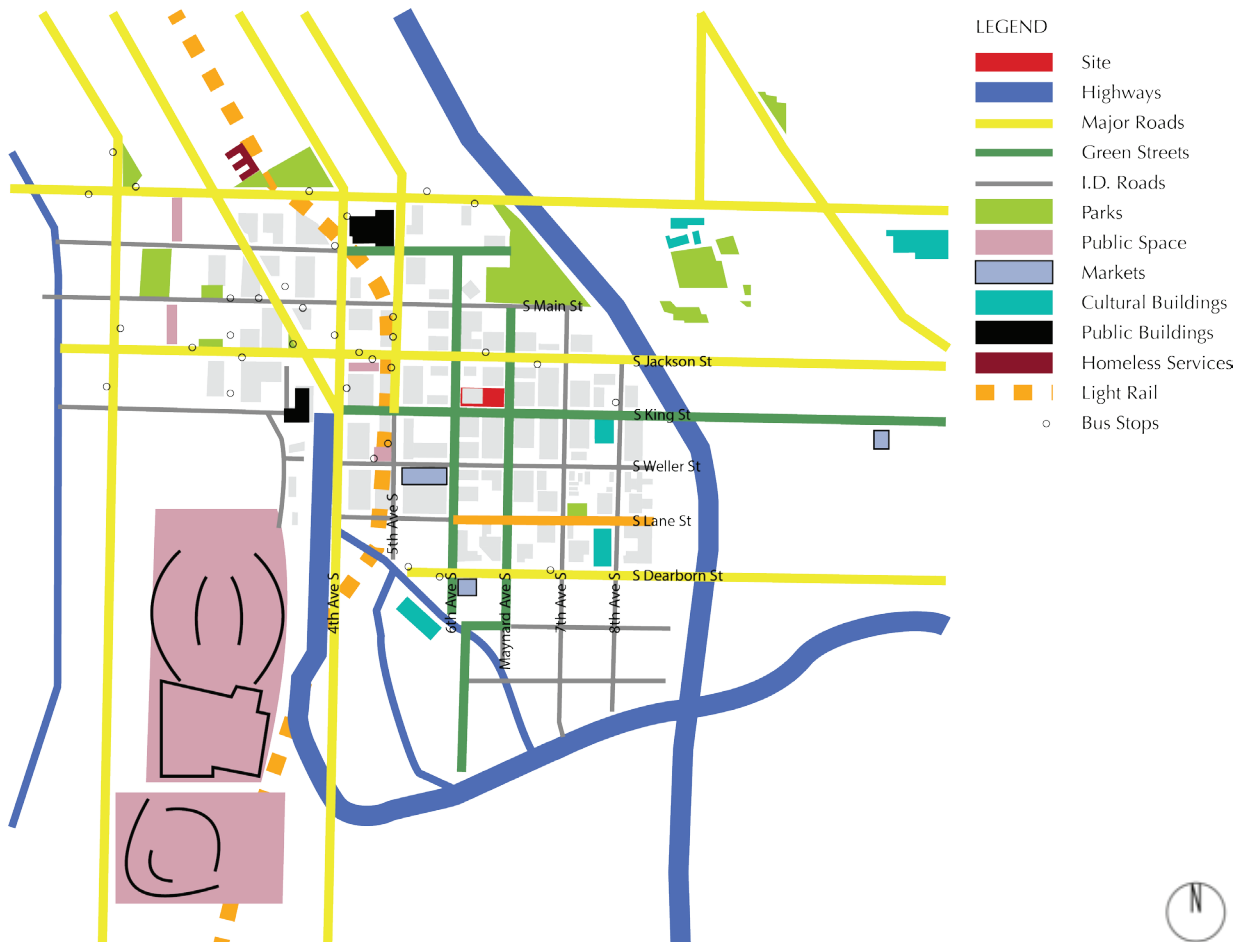


Figure 4-1. Neighborhood resource map
From: schematic designs done by Architects without Borders, 2010.

SITE ANALYSIS - BEHAVIOR MAPPING AND OBSERVATION

As described in Chapter Three on Methodology, part of the site analysis conducted for this design thesis included behavior mapping and observation. I decided to discuss behavior mapping and observation separate from Chapter 3. Research Methods and these two research methods were a fundamental part of my site analysis, and as such they seemed more suitable to present separately as part of my site design.

What and How to Observe?

The assumptions of using this methodology are that the pattern and peak hours of using the park can be different on weekdays and weekends. Therefore, we decided to have morning hours, noon and afternoons to observe.

Observation: We created simple maps on plain paper, annotated and traced different details in the environments, featuring the stairs, benches, entrances, planting areas, buildings, the Chinese pagoda and the Ping-Pong table. Selected themes were chosen to record and note down while observing: gender, age (seniors/youth), races, longevity, activities, time and special movements, etc.

Mapping: We mapped the location of people on the site as to their entry points, standing spots, sitting spots and walking paths. We also recorded whom they interacted with and how.

When to Observe?

All observations were planned in daytime. The researchers assumed that most of gatherings happened during daytime¹. For every observation, we recorded at least half hour sessions and extended it if some activities took longer than expected. Finally, depending on the observed activities, we compacted the data to 1-hour-base records. Below are the hours of observation mapping.

- Weekday:
 - 5/14/2013, Tuesday: Noon (1:00-1:30 p.m.)
 - 5/17/2013, Friday: Morning (9:00-10:00 a.m.), noon (12:00-1:00 p.m.) and afternoon (3:30-4:30 p.m.). Total hours: 3.5 hours.
- Weekend:
 - 5/11/2013, Saturday: Early morning (7:00-8:00 a.m.)
 - 5/18/2013, Saturday: Noon (12:00-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-2:00 p.m.). Total hours: 2 hours.

Key Findings From Observations and Behavior Mapping

The observed activities were classified into four types, based on the users' behavioral patterns and the length of time of their stay. They are "short stay (blue)," "long stay (red)," "Park-featured attraction (green)," and "passing through (yellow)."

The weather was generally partly cloudy except Tuesday was a sunny day. However, the observation was different along the four days because the notation technique was different. Comparing the numbers of Tuesday

¹ We discussed with our instructor, Professor Daniel Abramson, whether we should observe nighttime activities. For students' personal safety, he recommended us having a company if we wanted to do the exercise at night. Unfortunately, Ivy and my schedules could not have a common slot to achieve our perfect goal of including nighttime observation. Thus, we had behavior mapping for weekday and weekend only.

and Friday early afternoons, we can see that Tuesday has one and half times of users more than Friday. In other words, the observation shows that nicer weather attracts more people to use the park and suggests the designer should consider this factor in the design process.

Weekday	Weekend
5/14/2013, Tuesday	5/11/2013, Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:00-1:30 p.m. (61 users) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00-8:00 a.m. (14 users = 7 users every 30 minutes)
5/17/2013, Friday	5/18/2013, Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00-10:00 a.m. (56 users = 28 users every 30 minutes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00-12:30 p.m. (37 users)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00-1:00 p.m. (86 users = 43 users every 30 minutes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:30-2:00 p.m. (41 users)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30-4:30 p.m. (57 users = 28.5 users every 30 minutes) 	

Table 4-1. User Counting

Short stays: If the longevity of using the site was less than 10 minutes, we defined it as a short stay activity. These tended to include such activity as sitting, standing, and resting. Short stays were the most popular activity (20, N=56) of the morning on Friday May 17th, 2013. Usually, these activities took place at the benches or seats on the edges of Hing Hay Park (as shown in Figure 4-4); people shortly stopped at the center of the plaza talking to another person (as shown in Figure 4-3); a group of people were waiting for friends staying at the corner of the park (as shown in Figure 4-2); some of the users walked to the Chinese pavilion resting for five to ten minutes. (See Figure 4-2, 4-5, and 4-6)

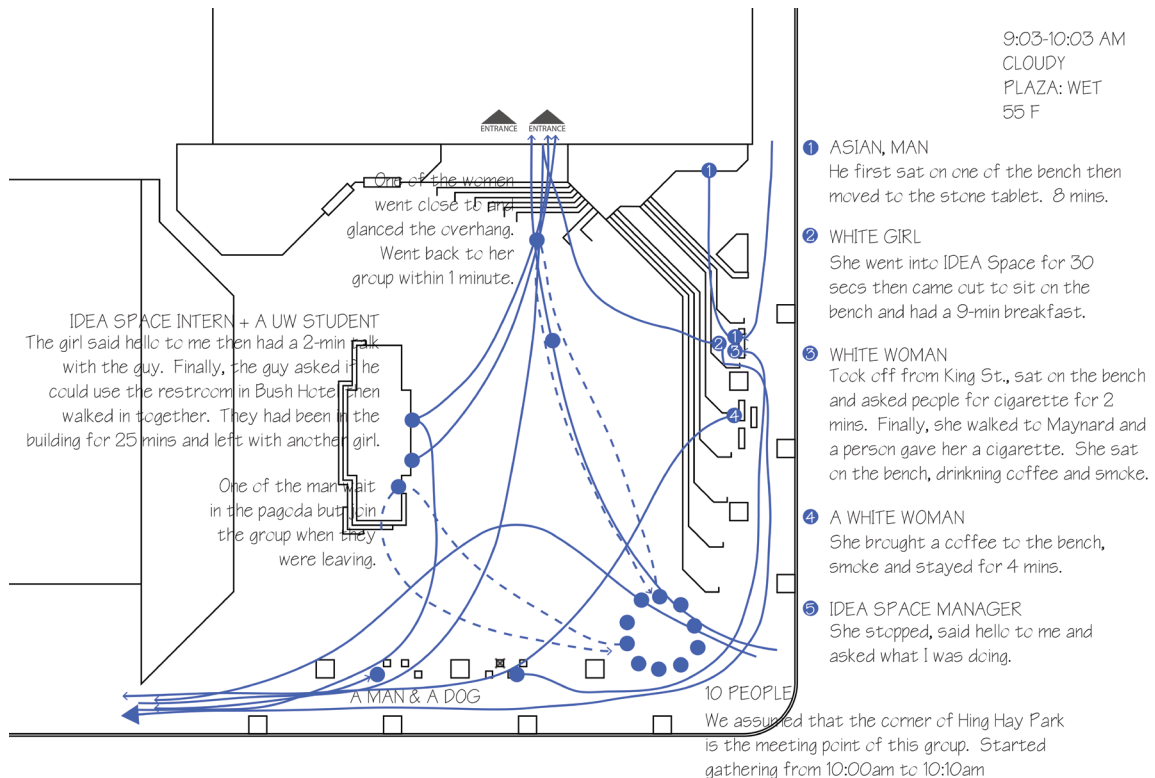
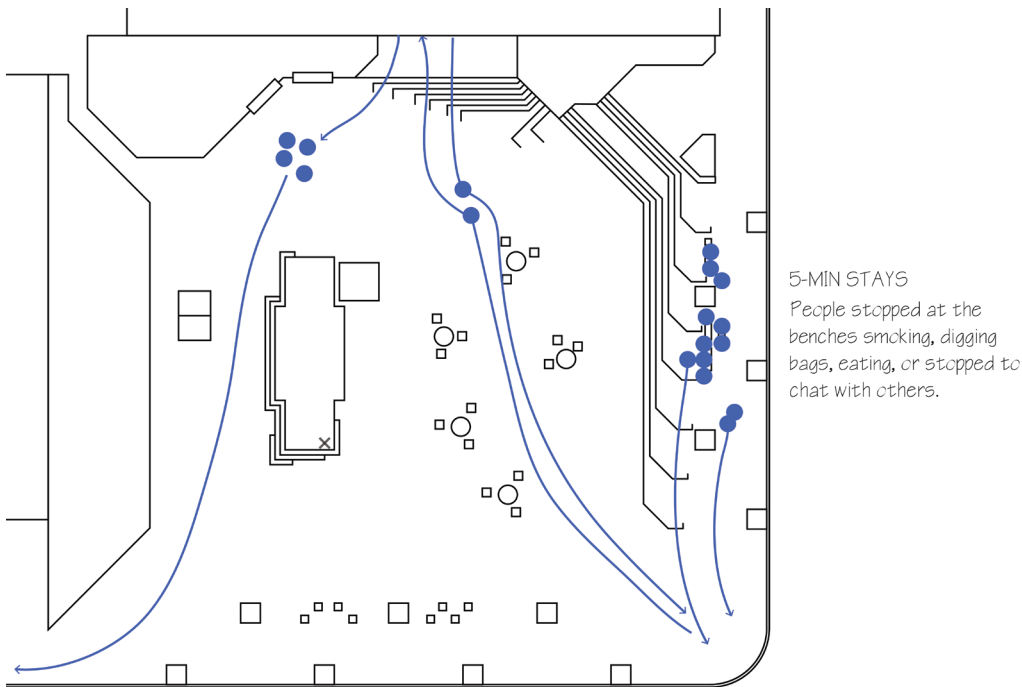
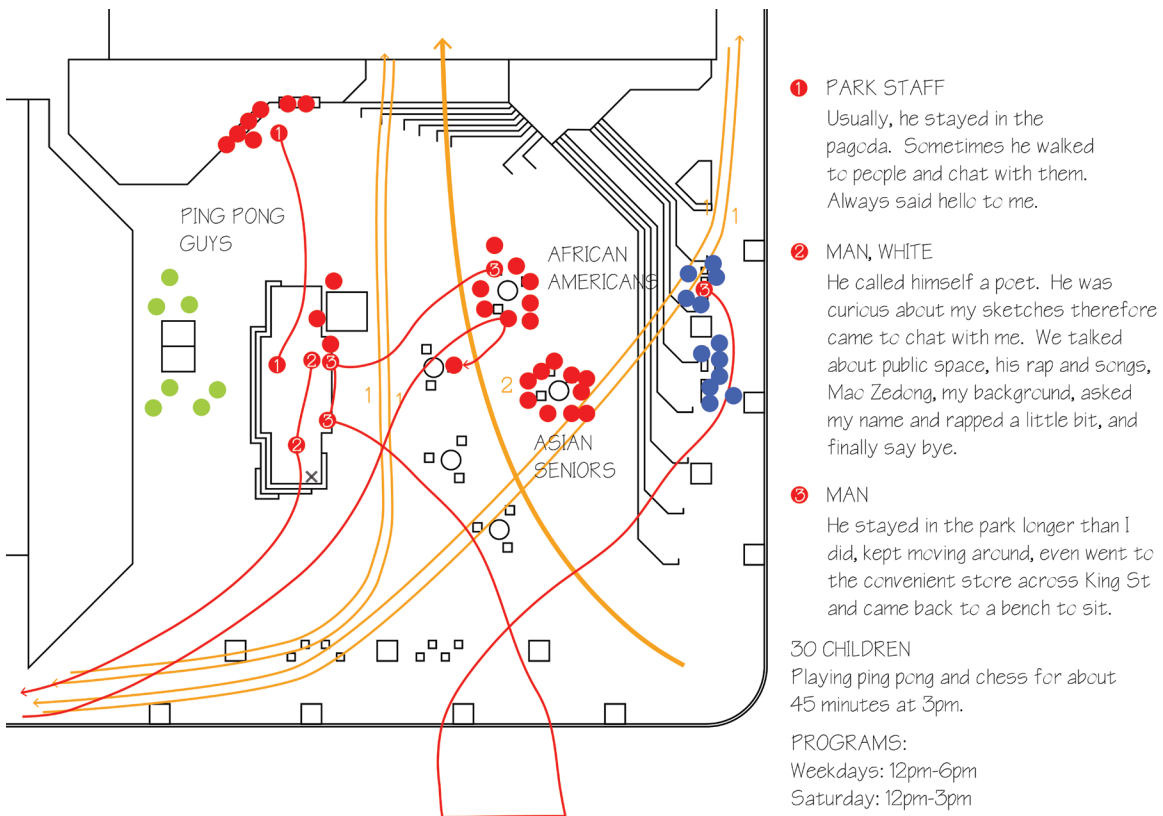


Figure 4-2. Short stay, 9:00-10:00 a.m., 5/17/2013, Friday



5-MIN STAYS
 People stopped at the benches smoking, digging bags, eating, or stopped to chat with others.

Figure 4-3. Short stay, 12:00-1:00 p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday



1 PARK STAFF
 Usually, he stayed in the pagoda. Sometimes he walked to people and chat with them. Always said hello to me.

2 MAN, WHITE
 He called himself a poet. He was curious about my sketches therefore came to chat with me. We talked about public space, his rap and songs, Mac Zedong, my background, asked my name and rapped a little bit, and finally say bye.

3 MAN
 He stayed in the park longer than I did, kept moving around, even went to the convenient store across King St and came back to a bench to sit.

30 CHILDREN
 Playing ping pong and chess for about 45 minutes at 3pm.

PROGRAMS:
 Weekdays: 12pm-6pm
 Saturday: 12pm-3pm

Figure 4-4. Short stay (blue), long stay (red), park-featured attraction (green) and passing through (yellow), 3:30-4:30 p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday

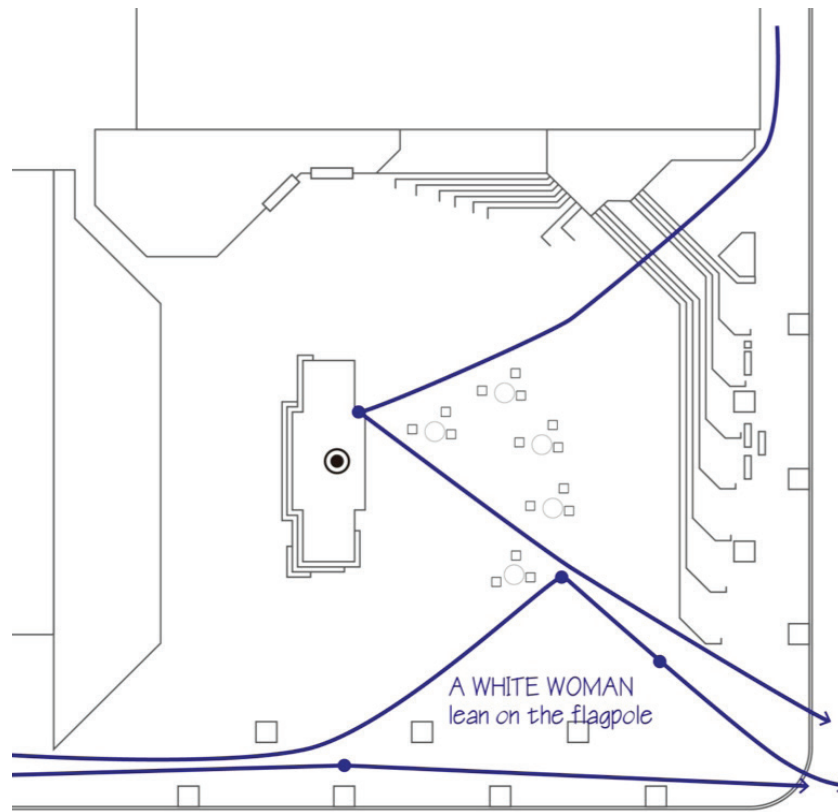


Figure 4-7. Short stay, 1:30-2:00 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.

Long stays: If people stayed in the park socializing, walking or standing, we recognized this type of activity as “long stay.” These activities happened longer than 15 minutes. (See Figure 4-8, 4-9, 4-10, 4-11, and 4-12.) Mostly, these activities happened at the seating areas, for example, the benches along Maynard Ave, the Chinese pagoda, the movable chairs and tables, or the square benches on King St. The park is just like the users’ outdoor “living room.” They felt comfortable to talk to people in different groups in the park, walked around the plaza and sometimes crossed the street to buy things from a convenience store then back to enjoy drinks and snacks in the park.

Park-featured attractions: This type of activity was related to a lot of park programs, e.g. large chess, table tennis, busker, and use related to the bulletin board. People came to the site because the park contains these programs or features. They enjoyed their time with friends in the park. During the weekend noon hour the weather was cloudy. However, many people came to eat. They walked along King Street to the East. Most of them were attracted by the performances in Hing Hay Park. They stopped for a while enjoying music. Some of the users stopped to sit, donate money or go to the pavilion for flyers or booklets. Furthermore, the site manager of Hing Hay Park Concierge Program set the chessmen and chessboard up and this aroused some people’s attention. (See Figure 4-13, 4-14, 4-15, 4-16, and 4-17 for maps and 4-18, 4-19 and 4-20 for activity photos.)

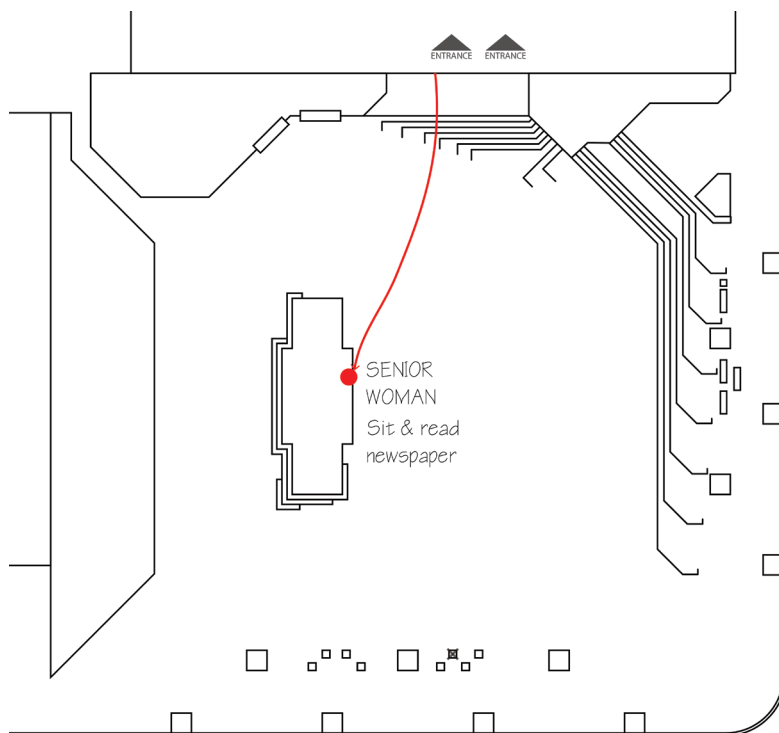


Figure 4-8. Long stay, 9:00-10:00 a.m., 5/17/2013, Friday

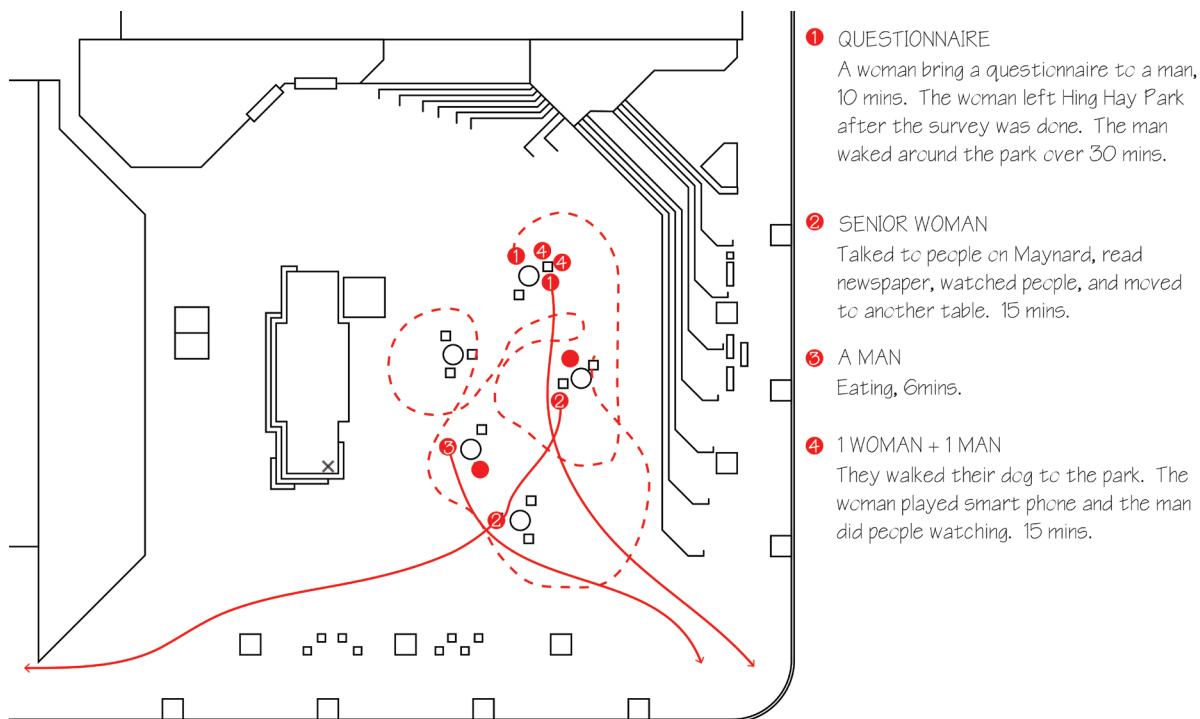


Figure 4-9. Long stay, 12:00-1:00 p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday

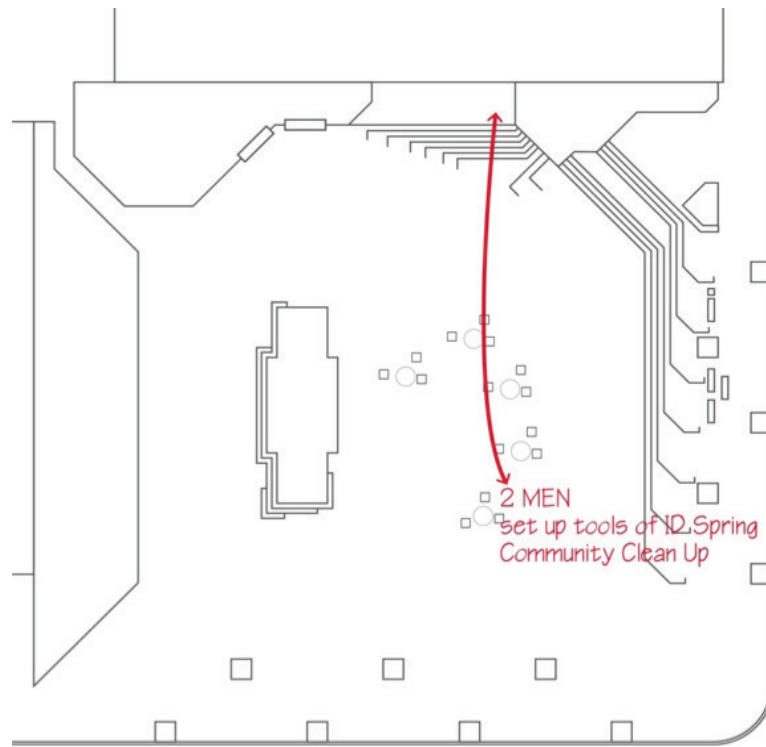


Figure 4-10. Long stay, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 5/11/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.

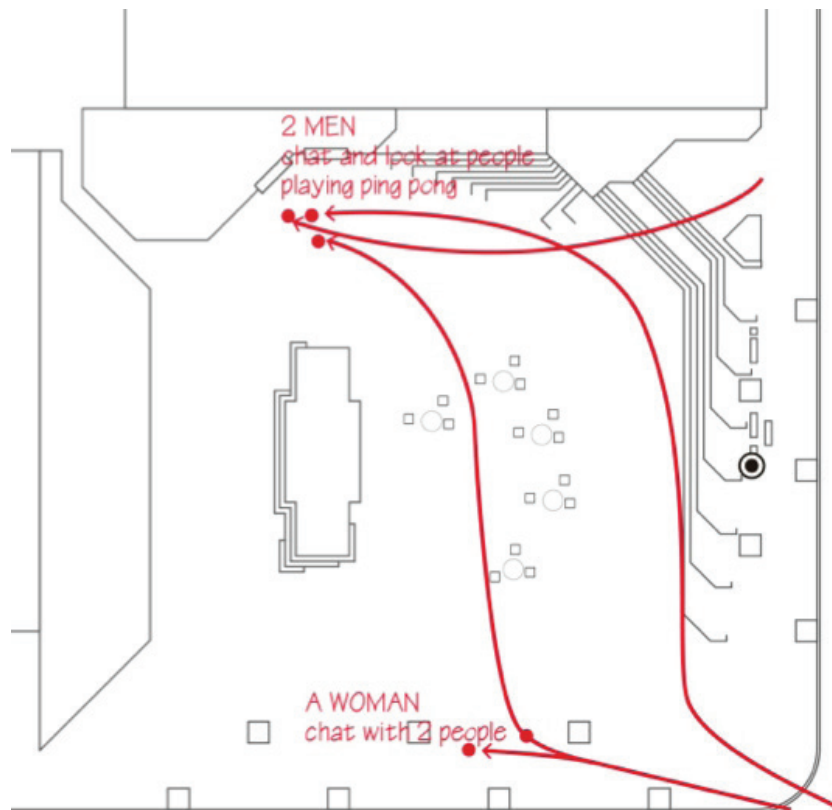


Figure 4-11. Long stay, 12:00-12:30 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.

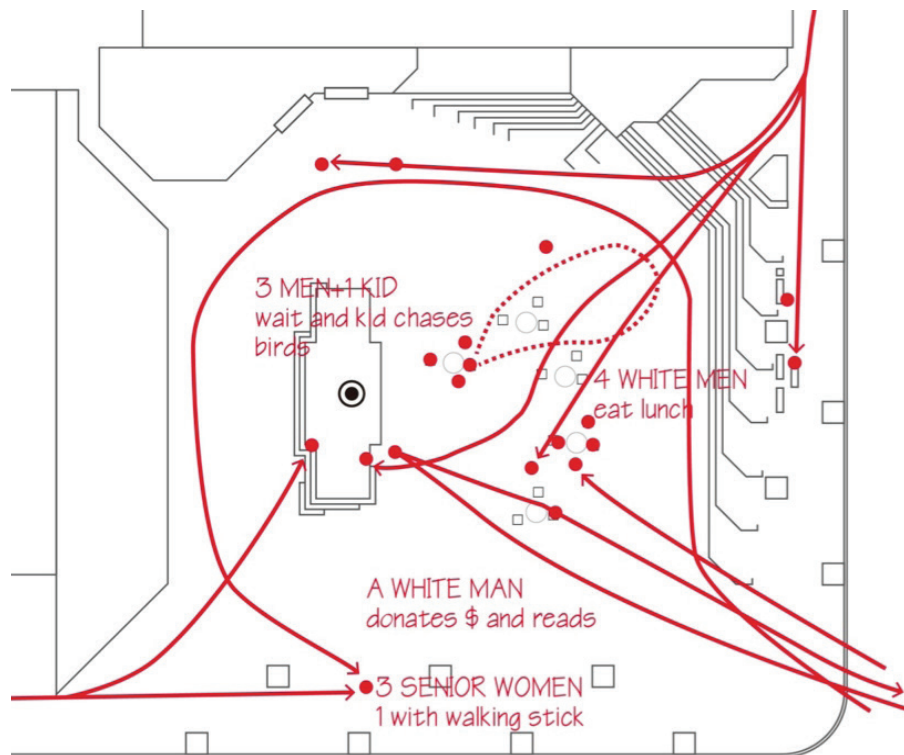


Figure 4-12. Long stay, 1:30-2:00 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.

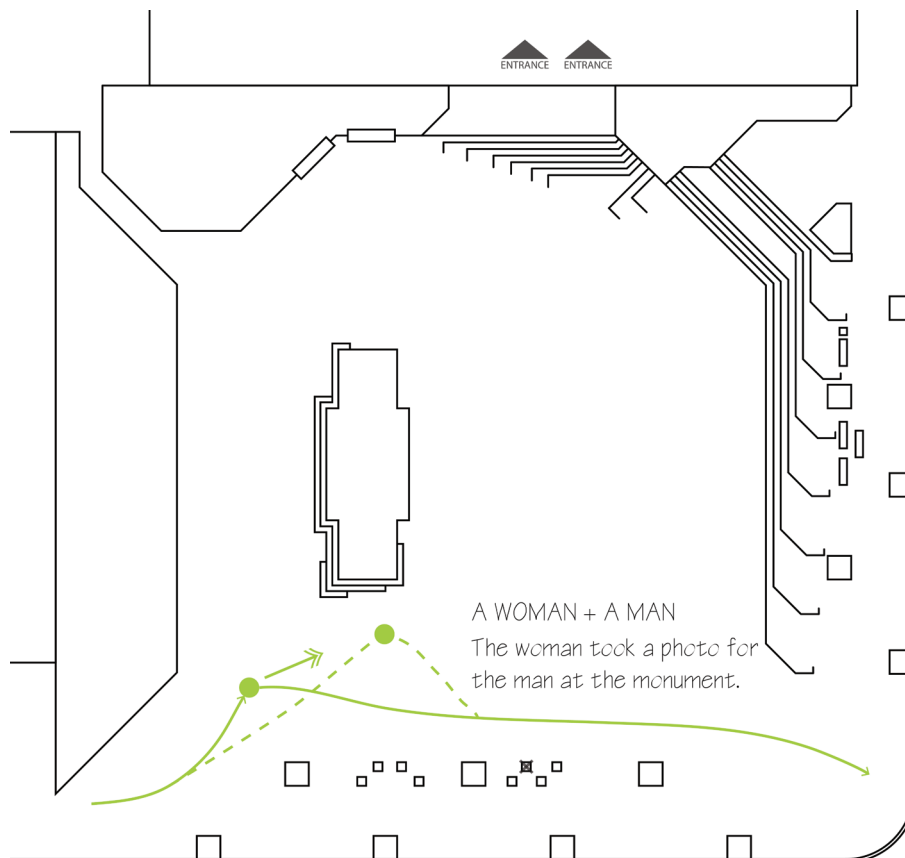


Figure 4-13. Park-featured attractions, 9:00-10:00 a.m., 5/17/2013, Friday

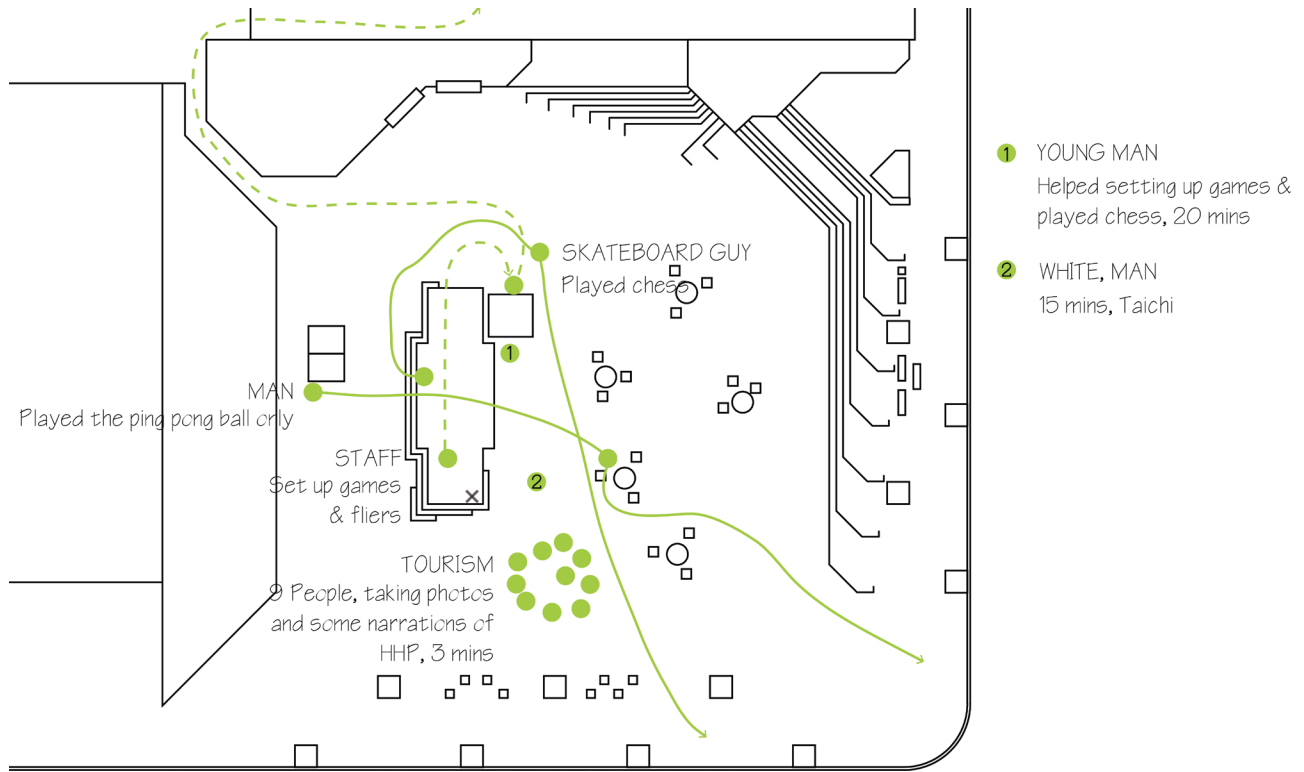


Figure 4-14. Park-featured attractions, 12:00-1:00 p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday



Figure 4-15. Park-featured attractions, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 5/11/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.

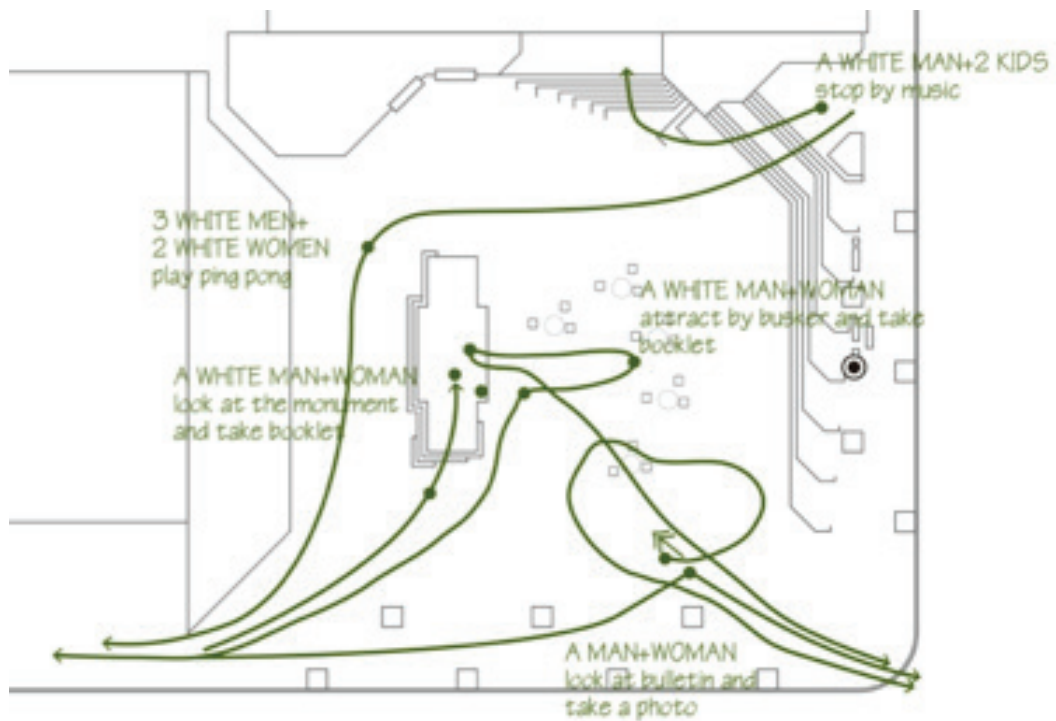


Figure 4-16. Park-featured attractions, 12:00-12:30 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.

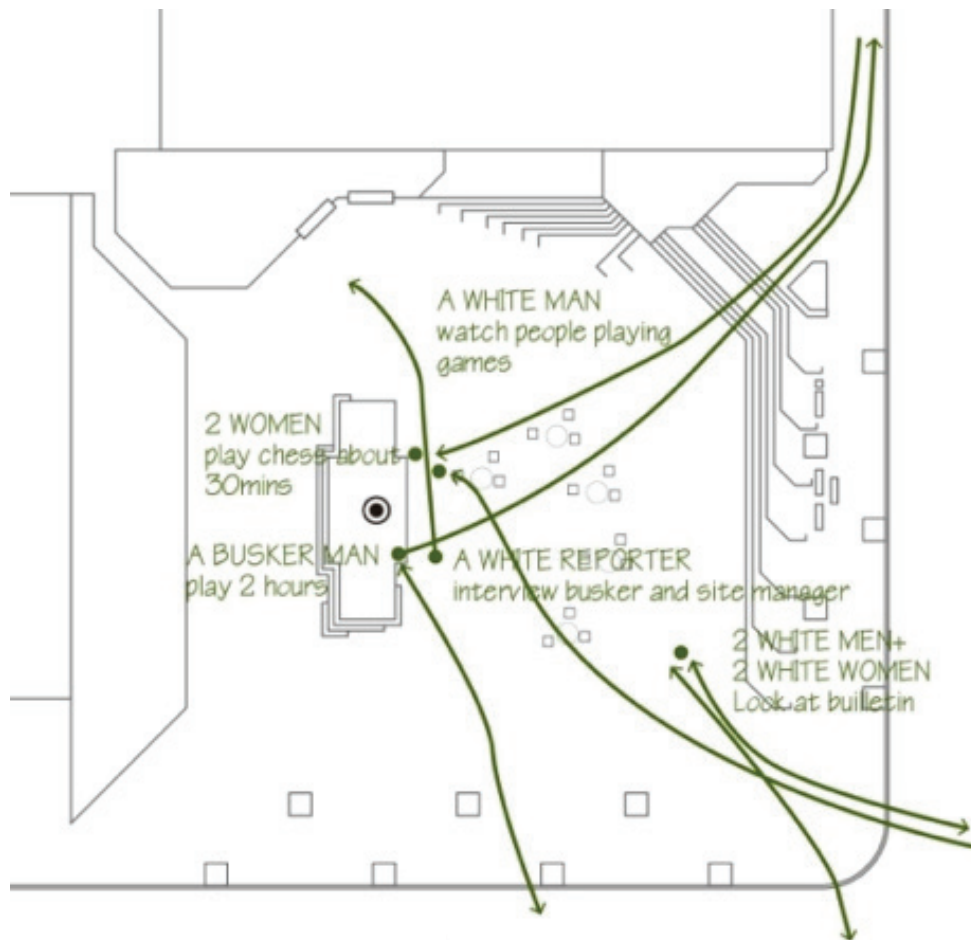


Figure 4-17. Park-featured attractions, 1:30-2:00 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.



Figure 4-18. Table Tennis



Figure 4-19. Large Chess



Figure 4-20. Busker

Passing Through: Hing Hay Park was more often used as a shortcut for people going to other destinations. Based on our data/diagrams, we found that shortcut traffic took place at weekday morning peak hour (9:00-10:00 a.m.), lunch time (12:00-1:30 p.m.) and the C-ID community clean up hours. During the weekend, there were not many people passing through the site because it was not work hours of the organizations in Bush Hotel. But 14th May, IDEA space hosted a C-ID Spring Community Clean Up. So there were 2-3 people crossing back and forth through the site. (See Figure 4-21, 4-22, 4-23, 4-24, and 4-25)

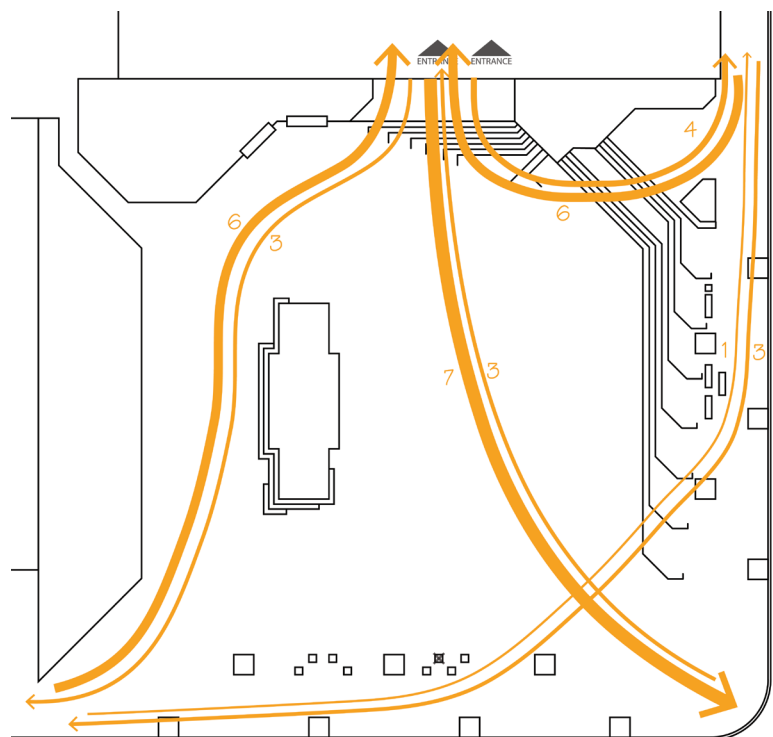


Figure 4-21. Passing through, 9:00-10:00 a.m., 5/17/2013, Friday

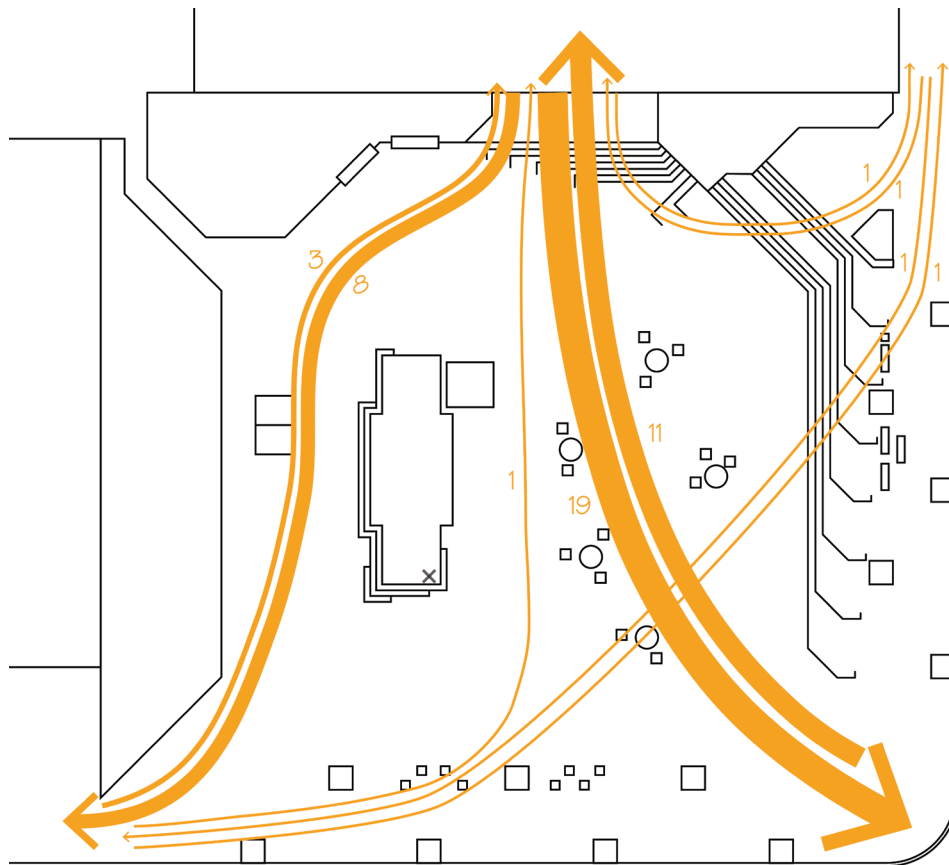


Figure 4-22. Passing through, 12:00-1:00 p.m., 5/17/2013, Friday

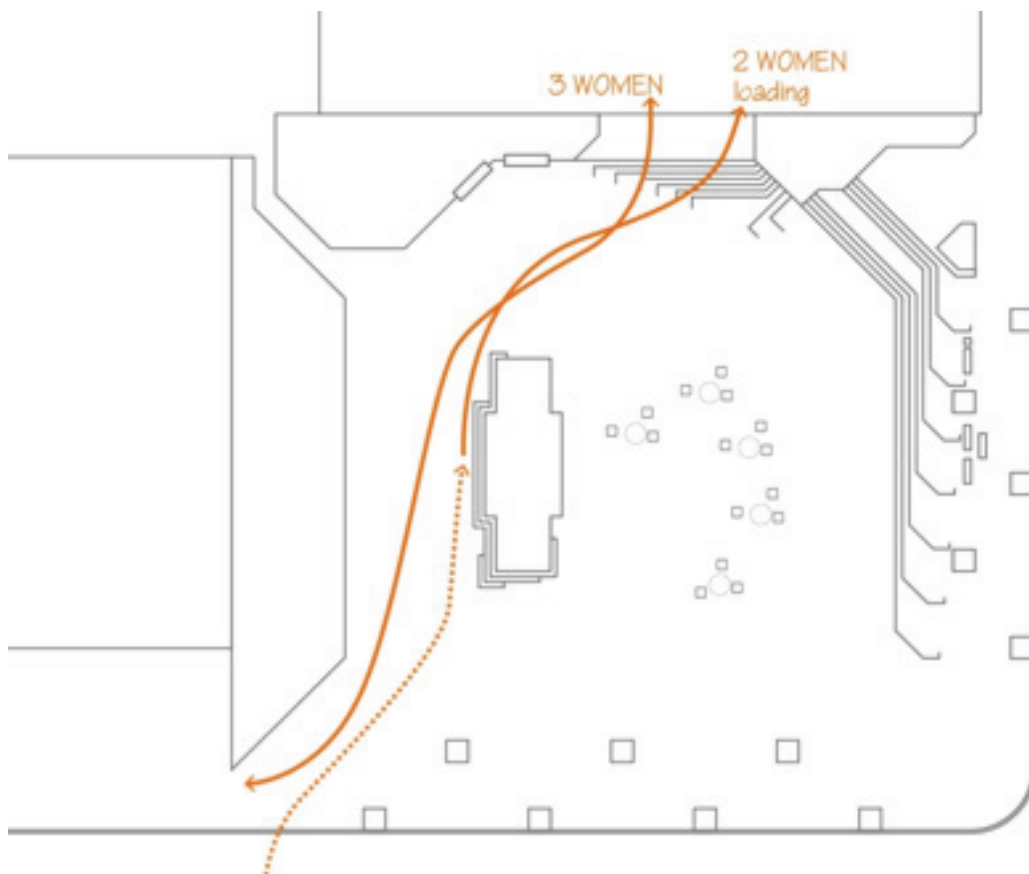


Figure 4-23. Passing through, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 5/11/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.

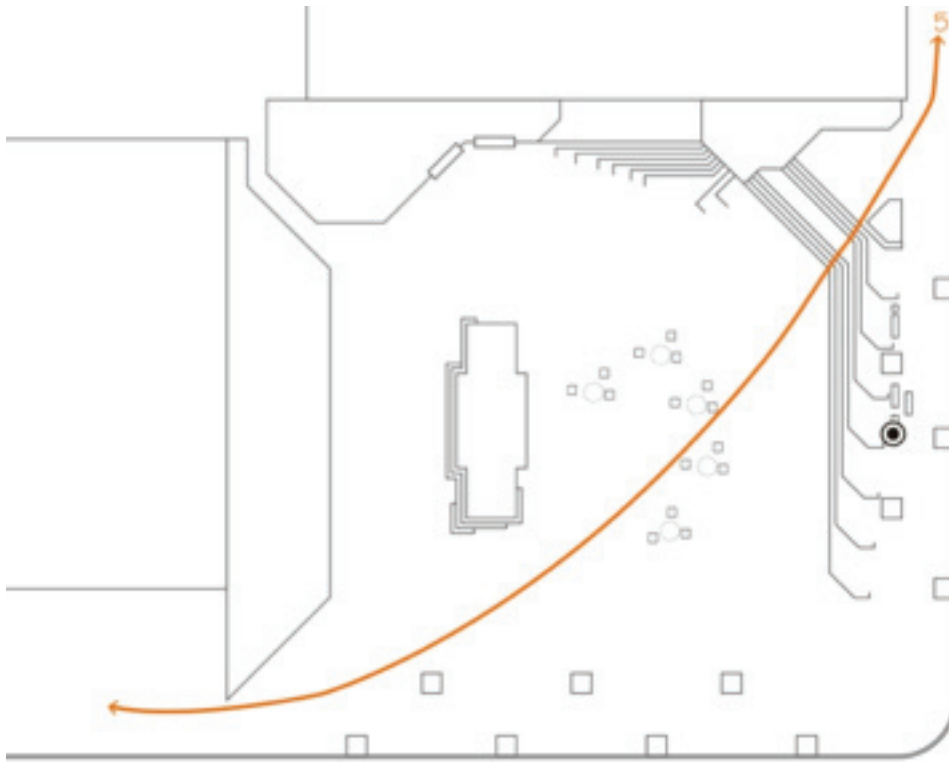


Figure 4-24. Passing through, 12:00-12:30 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.

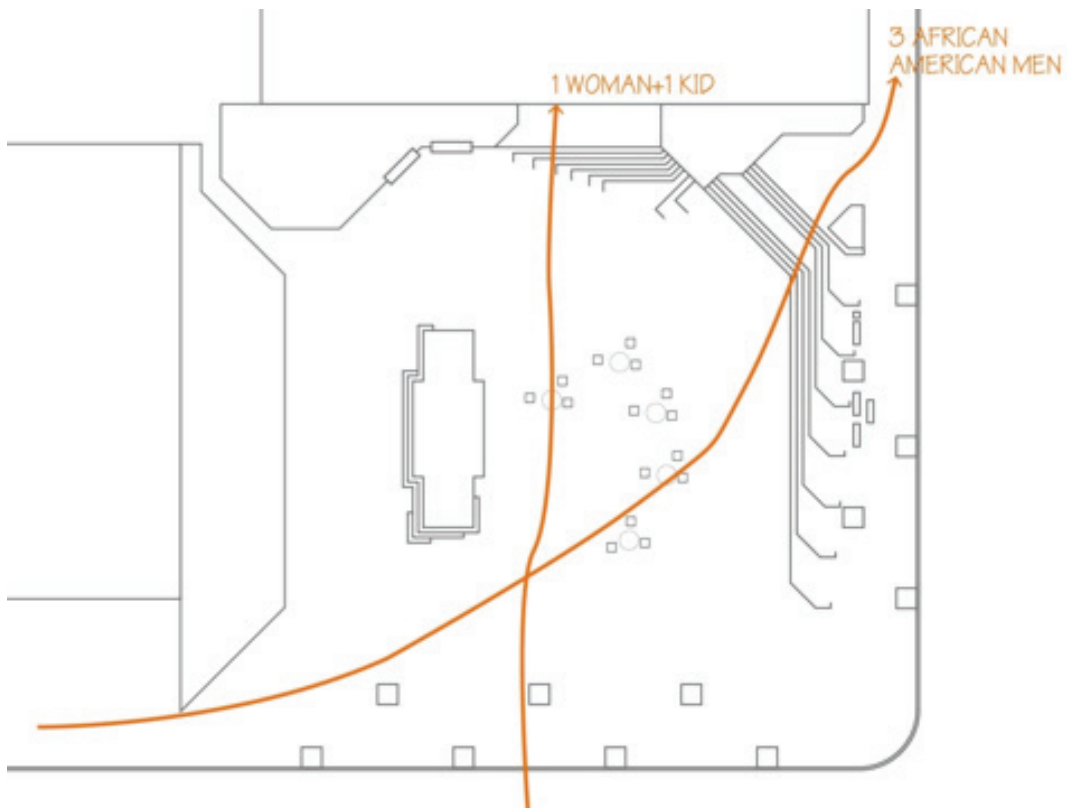
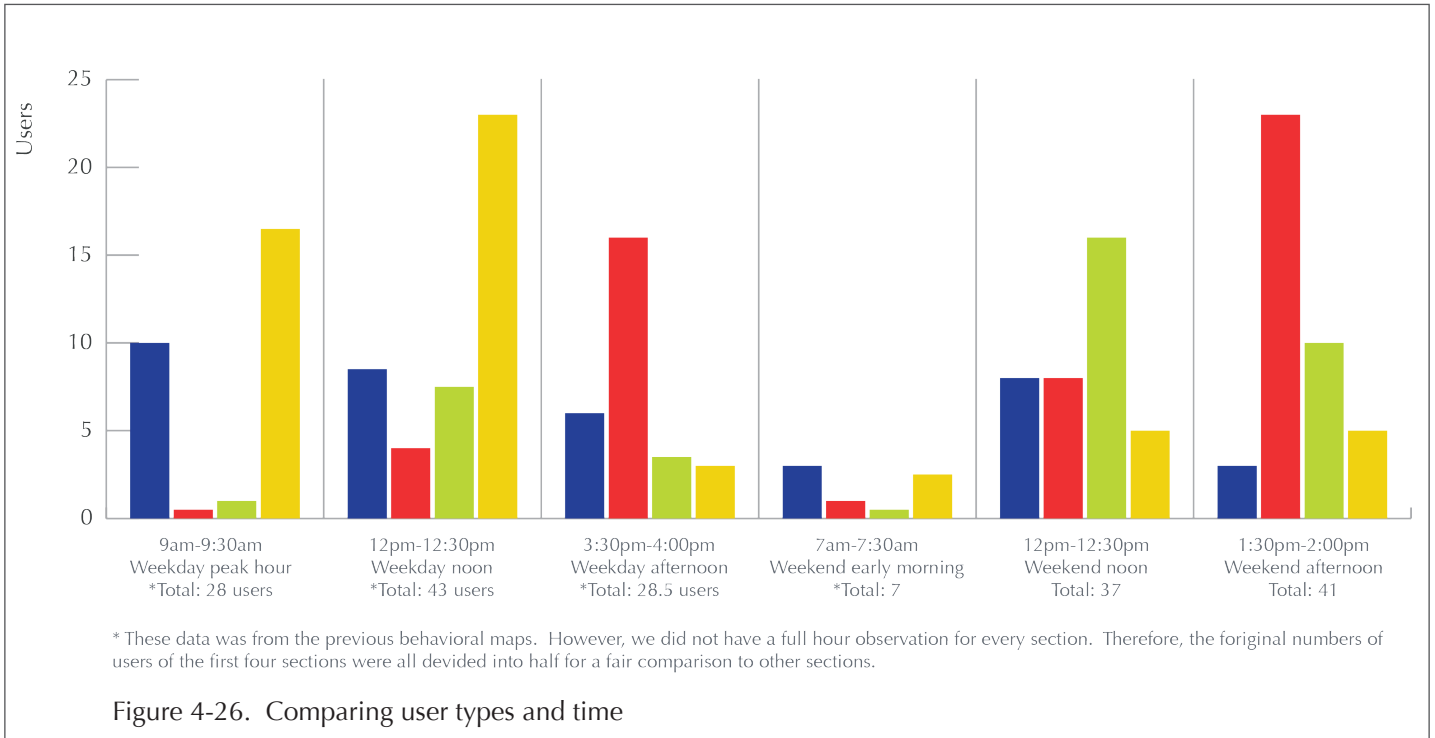


Figure 4-25. Passing through, 1:30-2:00 p.m., 5/18/2013, Saturday. By Ivy Wang.



In short, the behaviors happening in Hing Hay Park show that there are different types of users. They can be community members like seniors gathering or children playing in the park, workers passing through the park or having their lunch in sunshine, a group of visitors meeting at the park for ten minutes, etc.

Different types of activity occupied different time slots (Figure 4-26). Short stays (blue), in general, took place in weekday peak hours and weekday and weekend lunchtime hours when people eat food or wait for others. The latter type of users mostly are not residents of C-ID. Long stay activities (red) usually happened when the movable tables and chairs (and umbrellas²), chessmen and chessboard are on the site. The park manager brings out the between 11a.m. to 4p.m from Monday to Saturday. Park-featured attractions (green) are more popular on weekend afternoons. Table tennis, large chess game set and the booklet shelf are only provided during staff hours of the park concierge program. A group of young men came to the park, took turn playing Ping-Pong or chess. It is interesting that some players played with strangers. Those who did not play chess or table tennis sat at the corner benches watching their friends playing. The interactive chess game provides people opportunities of making new friends. People passed through (yellow) the park mostly on weekday. They are staff who work in Bush Hotel, the community seniors who came to Bush Hotel for cafeterias or Chinese senior association, or people that came for public restrooms. The public restroom located at the Bush Hotel is staffed by IDEA Space and open between 10a.m. to 4p.m. in summer/2p.m. in winter. Anytime after open hours, people will need keys to access the restrooms.

PROGRAM ANALYSIS OF HING HAY PARK

Chapter Three concludes by noting that the users of Hing Hay Park hope to see more activities in the park to help activate the neighborhood. Some non-residents expressed that they are or will be interested to come to Hing Hay Park for the existing programs, e.g. table tennis or chess games, or other new organized events. Furthermore, when the park was staffed, there were more users coming for seating and gathering. Hing Hay Park is the only large urban park in the neighborhood. Therefore, the way the Parks Department and community

2 We did not see umbrellas for the movable tables due to the cloudy weather. The park manager will bring them out if it is a bright sunny day for shades.

organizations program the park is critical to the design of Hing Hay Park. This section will propose several types of activities or programs for Hing Hay Park and analyze the effects to the design. All the analysis should be considered to retain space for expected programs and to locate designed facilities at appropriate locations.

Daily Non-programed Hours

Any time that the park is not staffed is under this category, e.g. regular mornings and evenings. Permanent facilities of Hing Hay Park can generate considerable new ideas of activities and bring more users to the site. At these times of the day, the park is without a staff or a program. Thus the permanent design is actually the charm of the park. The design itself should be attractive to the community users and those who are unfamiliar with the C-ID alike. Furthermore, it should create opportunities for the users to interact with each other and transform the park to an active social space in order to activate the public life, the local businesses and ensure people's safety. The senior's preferred facilities, such like tables and chairs, should be prioritized. The following figure (Figure 4-27) shows the proposed profile of daily-non-programed hours of the site. It would be good and may increase public safety to evenly distribute the design features throughout the park and attract users to all areas of the park. (Please refer to Figure 4-28 for garden seating and interactive arts.)

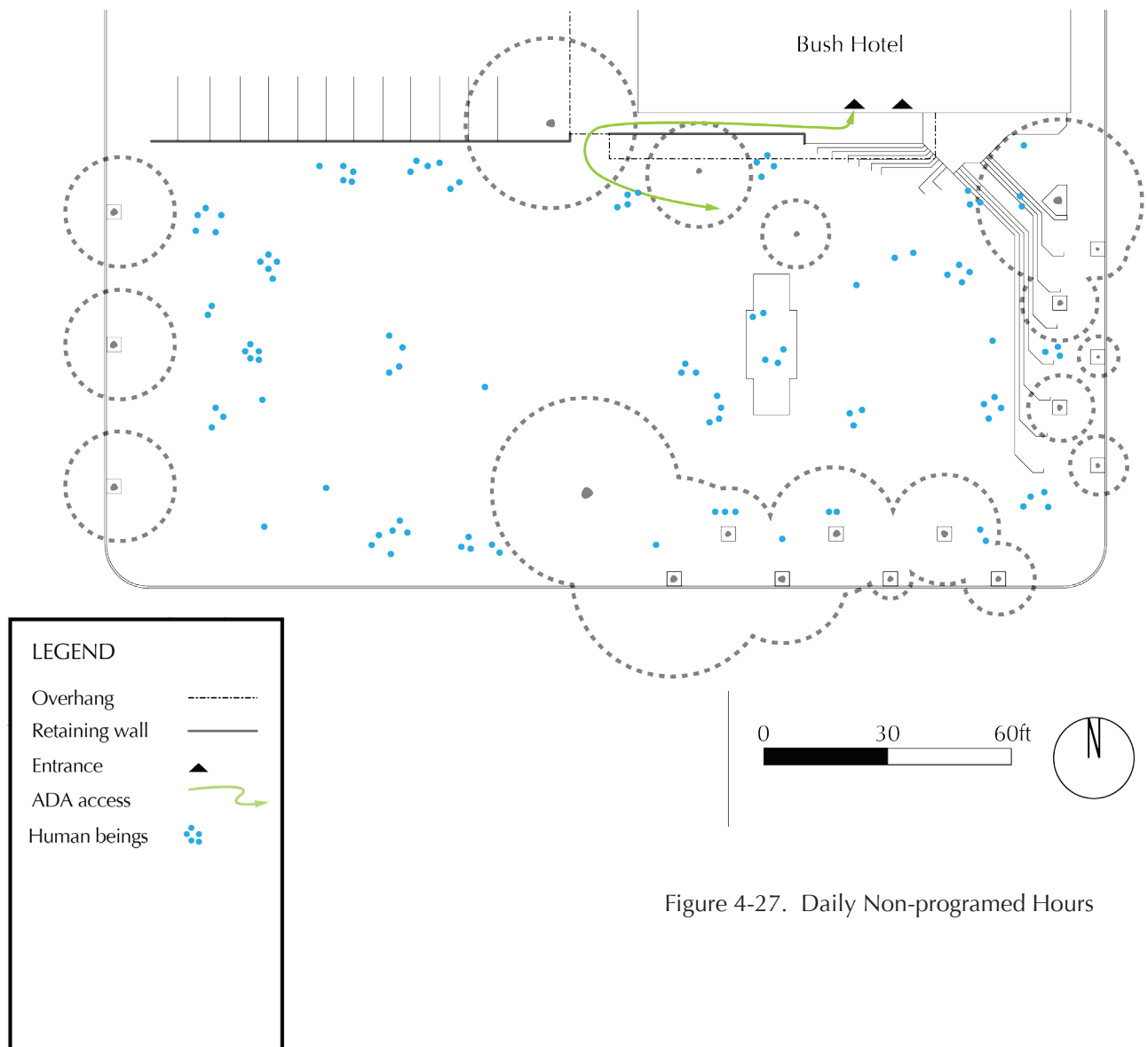


Figure 4-27. Daily Non-programed Hours

Daily Programed Hours

On weekdays, the Parks Department or community organizations provide adaptive programs for the user group and they are the desirables to the community. People love the movable tables and chairs, the large chess and the table tennis. Moreover, they hope to see more possibilities of how the community can program the park. In addition to the permanent facilities, the park concierge program services can increase park usage. I suggest keeping the original program the Parks Department has and propose a “visible” service station on site so that people can see and know whom to talk to if they have any questions while visiting Hing Hay Park and C-ID. A formal service station can be a focal point of Hing Hay Park and scare away any negative activities during staffed hours.

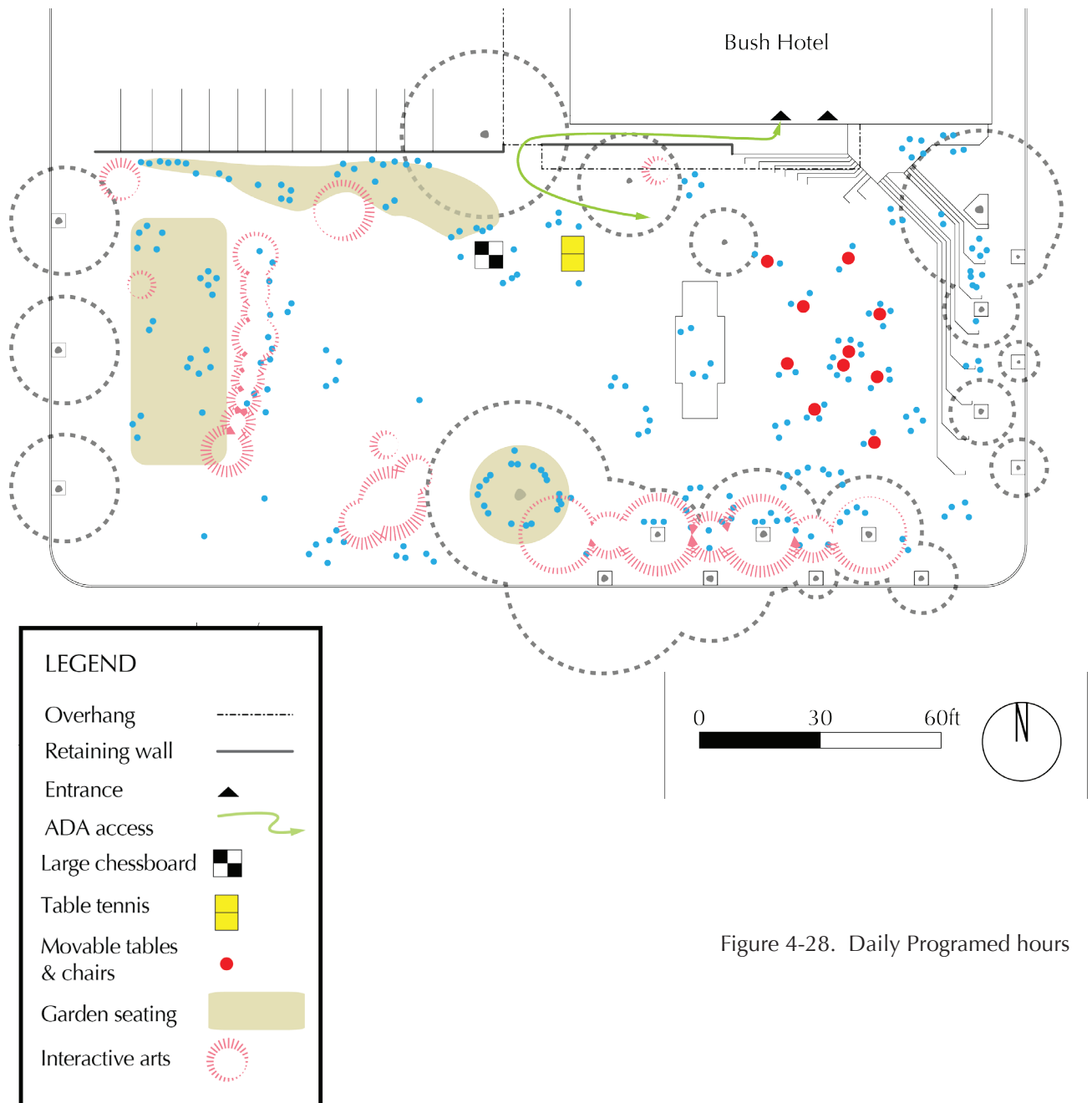


Figure 4-28. Daily Programed hours

Summer Movie Night

Summer movie night is a proposal for clear summer nights at the Park. The current program only plays movies on three Saturdays of August. Movies begin at sunset and will be canceled in the case of rain. However, I think it is possible to prolong the movie season from July to September and keep the cancellation mechanism. The movies can be a common topic between the community members and give them a wonderful excuse to hang out at night. Besides, their gatherings can keep negative activities away from the core of the community for a longer time. If the community movie is happened on the west of Hing Hay Park, children or people who are not interested in the movie can enjoy themselves on the east side of or around the park. The open space should be enough to embrace the daily activity.

I propose a screen, a wall or any buffer at the edge of the parking lot adjacent to the park because parked cars can affect the quality of being in the park. With a designed buffer, users will feel more comfortable to stay in site. Some people who participated in this research expressed the benefits of having summer movies. They think it was interesting to watch some movies about Seattle's history, culture, celebrities, etc. This could become the topics between the local community members, increasing opportunities for socializing. Summer movies could be one of the icebreakers between their neighbors.

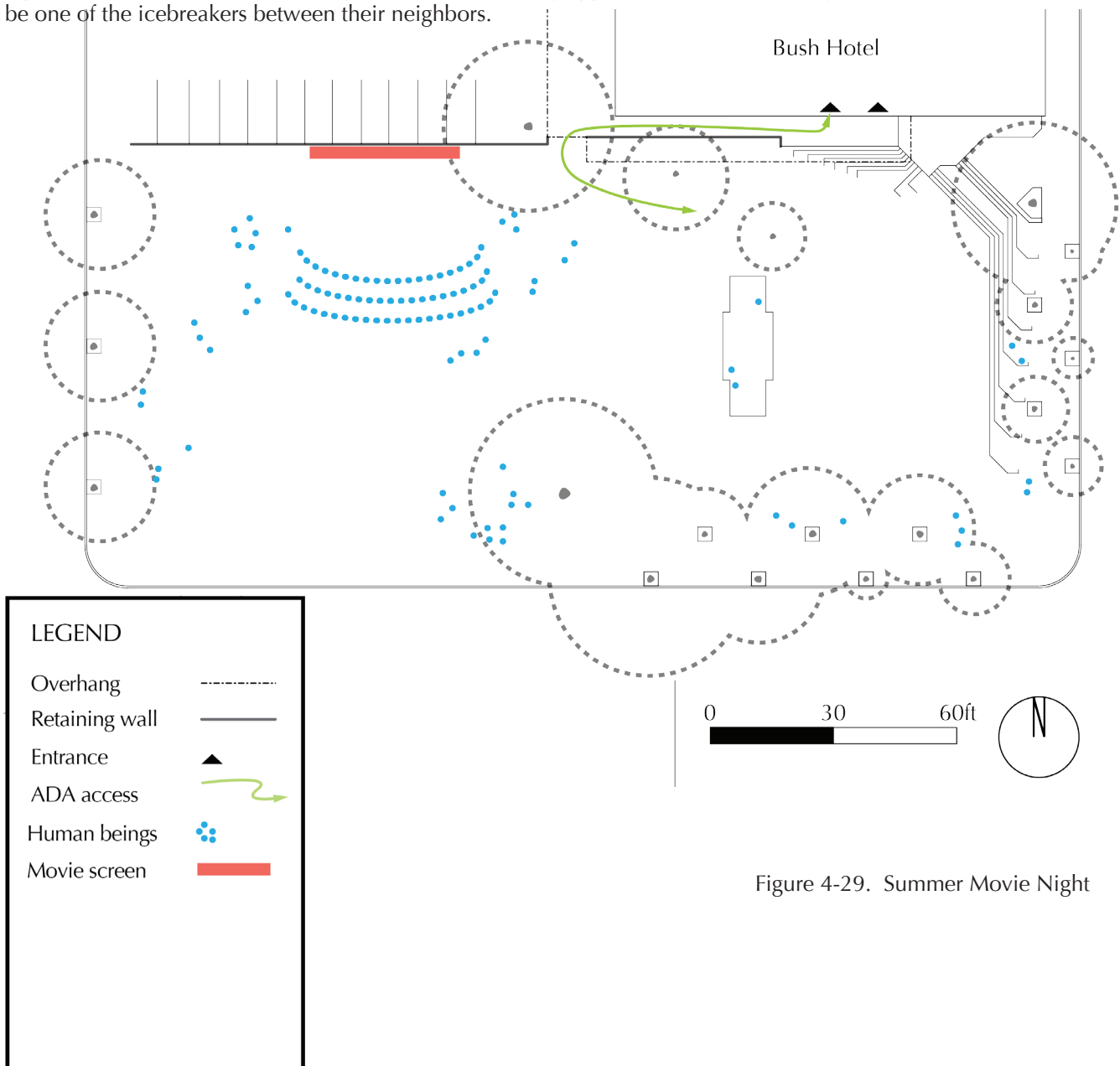


Figure 4-29. Summer Movie Night

Regular/Monthly Night Market

I suggest the park having night markets once every other week or every month especially during tourist season – summer. Night markets will need support from organizations or associations. Not only should the organizations from the city like Seattle Parks and Recreation, SCIDpda or CIDBIA be in charge, but also any Asian student associations can be include in the process of organizing activities. With students participating in the process, more ethnic food businesses in Seattle can be gathered and more young people will be attracted to the night markets. Students have the time, mobility and creative ideas to connect different cultural businesses in the Seattle area or near Seattle. The local businesses or stakeholders would be happy to see more people coming for events like night markets for the stream of people and money they could bring in to the neighborhood. Once visitors come to Hing Hay Park for the market, they would want to find other things to do in C-ID and the park may not have enough space for holding such a large population. Therefore, the local restaurants, bubble teashops, or small businesses in the neighborhood will be the beneficiaries of these events. This will reach the goals of improving the utilization of the park and the activation of the entire neighborhood.

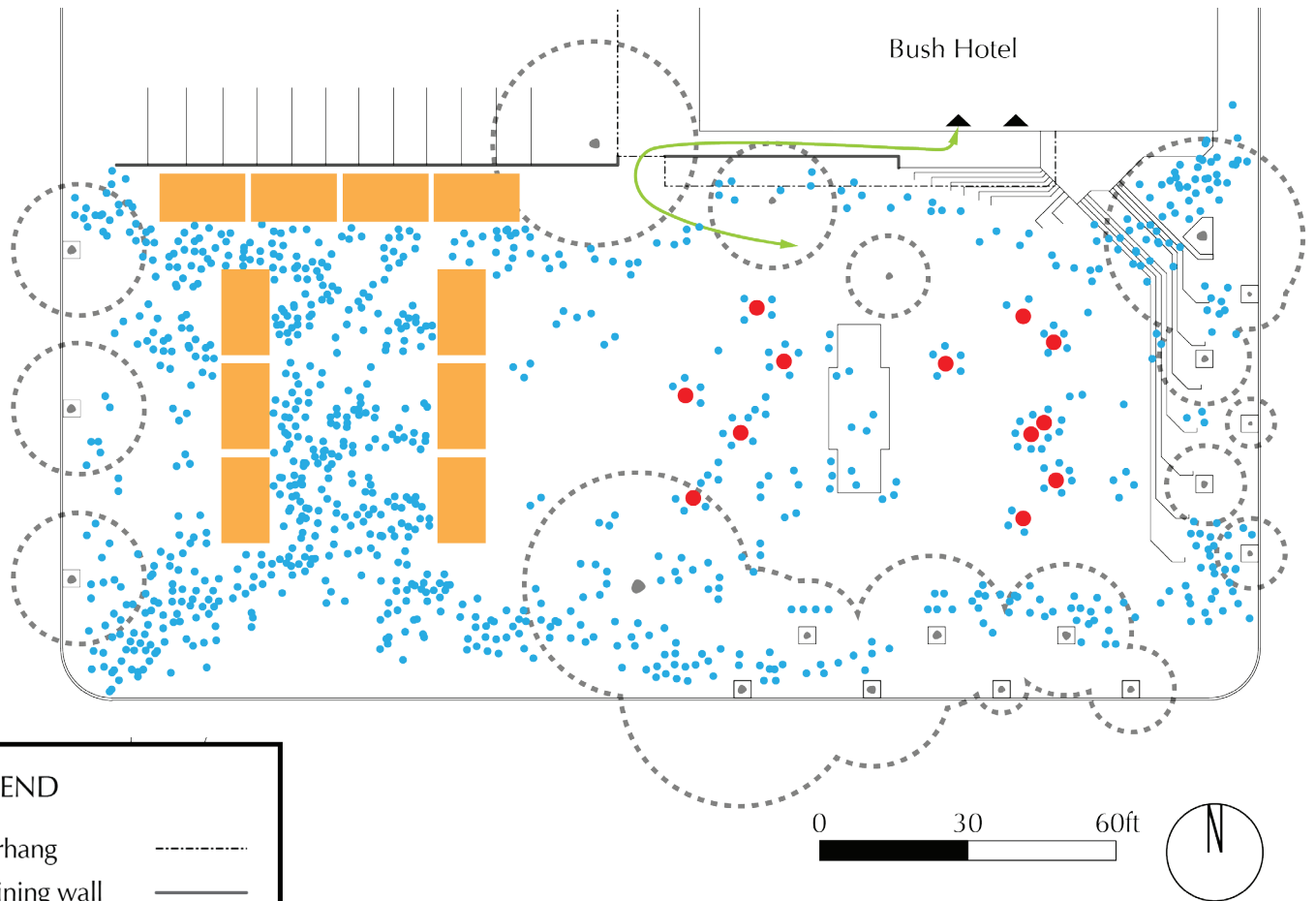


Figure 4-30. Regular/Monthly Night Market

LEGEND

- Overhang - - - - -
- Retaining wall ———
- Entrance ▲
- ADA access →
- Food cart [Orange Box]
- Human beings ●●●●●
- Movable table & chairs ●

Flea Market/Street Fair

A daytime activity corresponding to the night market would be a flea market or a street fair. Based on the suggestions from the community gathered through my research, it is possible to host this kind of event once or twice a year. Some people considered the noise would affect the community. Possible seasons of this kind of event can be a weekend in spring or autumn. There are lots of activities in summer and a large annual Lunar New Year event in winter. Therefore, I propose to have a flea market before Lunar New Year or a street fair in spring. The market can expand to the streets (Figure 4-31).

Some residents have suggested Hing Hay Park regularly having farmers' markets. But the commodity of Farmers' Market is too much alike to the grocery stores in the community so that it might negatively affect the local stores. Thus this idea was not taken into account.

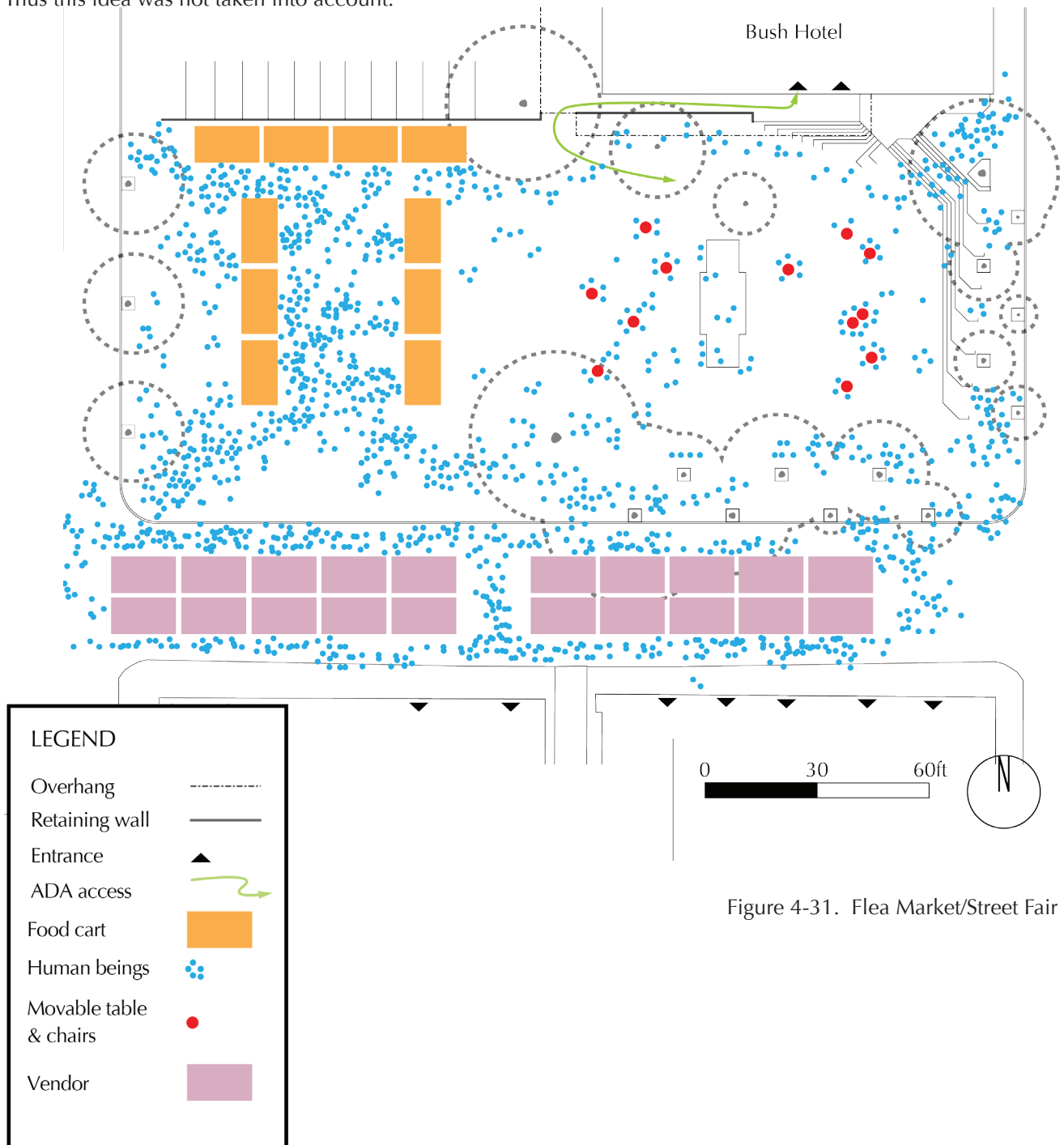


Figure 4-31. Flea Market/Street Fair

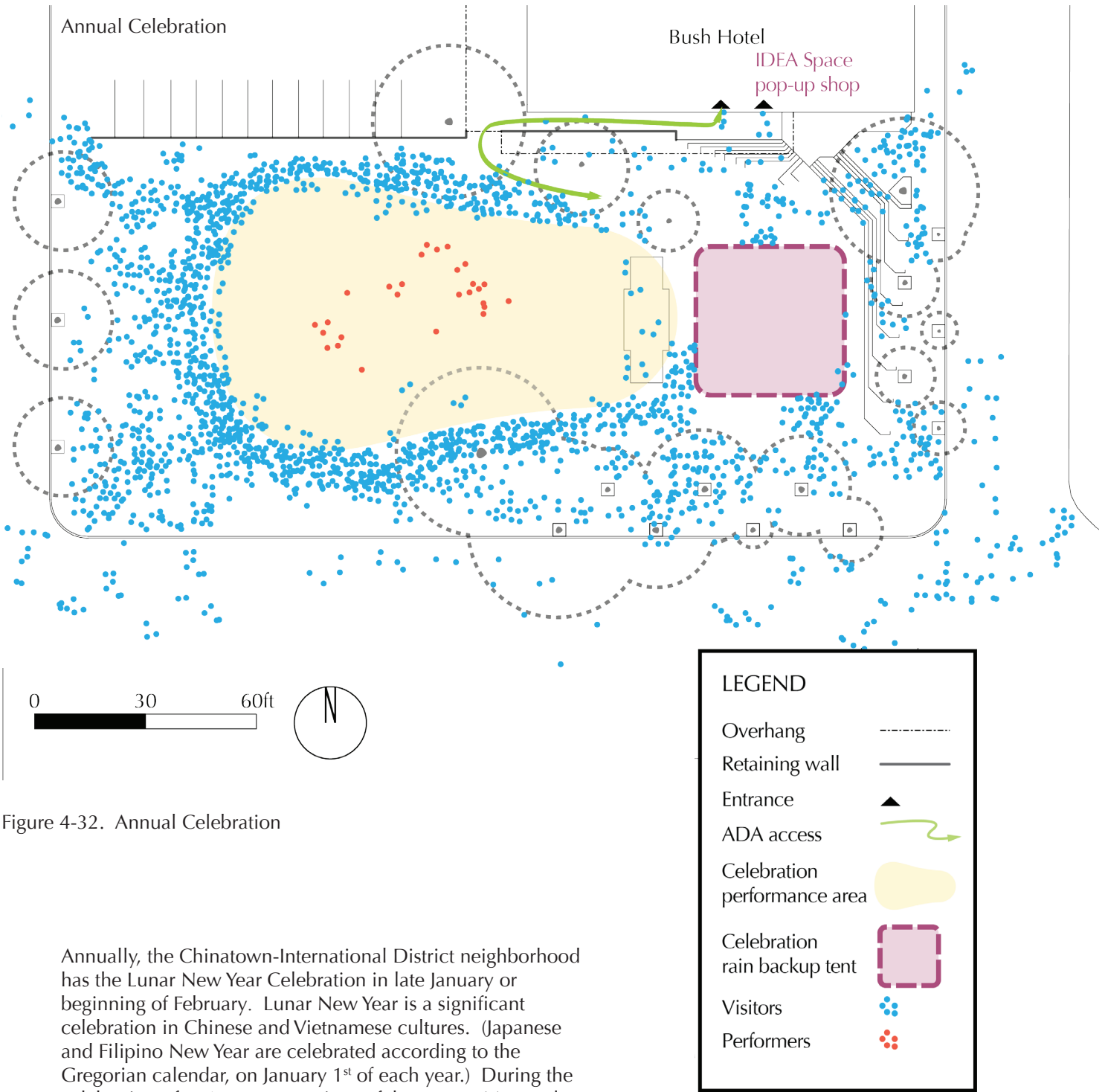


Figure 4-32. Annual Celebration

Annually, the Chinatown-International District neighborhood has the Lunar New Year Celebration in late January or beginning of February. Lunar New Year is a significant celebration in Chinese and Vietnamese cultures. (Japanese and Filipino New Year are celebrated according to the Gregorian calendar, on January 1st of each year.) During the celebration of 2013, some portions of the streets, Maynard Ave S – the section between S Jackson St to S Weller St and S King St – the section between 6th Ave S and 7th Ave S³, are closed for pedestrians and the event. It was very crowded to be in the Hing Hay Park core and there was no appropriate stage area for dragon dancing and lion dancing. Local organizations set the intersection of S King St and Maynard Ave S as the performance stage. The audience circled the intersection for watching the performance. However, there lots of people could not see the dancing due to the landform. In the future, the expanded Hing Hay Park can be the stage for these performances. The park design aims

3 <http://www.cidbia.org/events/lunar-new-year-celebration-2013-year-of-the-snake>

to provide enough space for performers and adequate expanse for the audience to watch and a sufficient path for pedestrians. As the diagram below shows, the yellow area is for performance, pink area for an activity tent, and the rest of the area for people to gather and wander.

Site Analysis – Conclusion and Design Goals

Hing Hay Park is located on South King Street, Maynard Avenue South, 6th Avenue South, and the parking lot of Washington Federal and the Bush Hotel are adjacent to its north. Hing Hay Park is located on the important node of the street. There are several community organizations in the Bush Hotel so that the park is currently used as a shortcut for entering the building.

From the preceding analysis, as Hing Hay Park is the concentration of community gathering for the neighborhood, it is obvious that it would be important to reserve a large flexible space and provide sufficient open space for large-scale events. In addition, the surrounding areas, including sidewalks, are to provide the necessary facilities for most daily needs of users. In this section, some of the recommendations of design strategies mentioned in the report of CYLA Studio 2008 will be extended to further discussions and I will draw several interpretations as the conclusions and goals for Hing Hay Park's design.

- Lighting: In the report of CYLA Studio 2008, lighting was an essential strategy of addressing safety concerns⁴. The report suggested that if the building, which is adjacent to the park, could change its transparency and increase its lighting, the park will be illuminated. In addition, installing lights with pavement and other facilities on site may also increase utilization of Hing Hay Park.

More importantly, the lighting design for Hing Hay Park can be categorized in three types. The inner side, where the Bush Hotel is located, the lighting equipment should be installed in order to light up the low-leveled, enclosed corridor and darkness. It shall be strong and bright and wide-range lighting style for this area so that people can easily see what is happening in the park. Lighting for the main park – the plaza – embellish so that the park will look aesthetically appealing at night, such as indirect lighting integrated with planting, the pagoda or pavement will be appropriate. Finally, on the border of the park – the sidewalk and edge of Hing Hay Park – lively lighting design for orienting the park entrance and boundaries shall be good. Combining lighting with interactive art and seating can attract people who are curious about and seek to have fun in a park at night.

- Cultural ambience: Selecting representative Pan-Asian cultural elements and integrating them into the park design is one possibility of creating cultural ambience⁵, which was concluded in the report of CYLA Studio 2008. The participants of this research generally hope to see their own ethnic culture and share other ethnic cultures be expressed in the design. Some people described that they are eager for a sense of being at "home," too. Therefore, seeking common ground is a key idea of addressing cultural ambience. The park design shall contain such a significant cultural element(s) that could arouse the users' sympathies and let people experience what they share with each other.
- Programming: Programs are very important to the park design as the previous analysis demonstrates. I believe having a conversation with Wing Luke Museum would benefit the park design on cultural or historical aspects because they have great knowledge regarding immigration and neighborhood histories. Besides, the museum has historic tours or neighborhood tours for education⁶. The expansion project of Hing Hay Park is a great opportunity to cooperate with Wing Luke Museum in creating an outdoor educational site for the history of Seattle's Chinatown-International District. Part of the park design can be

4 Ed. Jeffrey Hou, Shu-Mei Huang (Seattle: Inter*Im Community Development Association, 2009).

5 Ed. Jeff Hou, Shu-Mei Huang (Seattle: Inter*Im Community Development Association, 2009).

6 <http://wingluke.org/schooltours.htm> & <http://wingluke.org/neighborhoodtours.html>

teaching materials of the educational tours.

- Flexible seating and interactive arts: The flexible tables and chairs are always popular to the users and people strongly recommended adding more designs for seating. They think the current ten sets of movable tables and chairs are not enough for public use. However, considering the workload of park manager and non-staffed hours of the park, Hing Hay Park needs permanent street furniture to support user needs. I believe that placing permanent tables and chairs is a valuable investment to the park. The design of street furniture can be traditional and comfortable for the seniors or creative such as integrating interactive art and seating for the youth. In order to activate the park, it is important to create opportunities for the users to imagine other possible uses of the park. The more interesting the park is, the more people the park can attract.
- Creating a city image that is unique and memorable to the community of Seattle is weighty to Hing Hay Park. Hing Hay Park not only represents the Chinatown of Seattle’s Chinatown-International District but also the entire ethnic area. Its new design shall express, first, that the park is a large urban open space of the International District. It welcomes every user whether a citizen or a foreign visitor. Secondly, it currently marks the core of Chinatown and historically was a part of the Filipino commercial community. Therefore, it shall carry and tell the historical stories of itself to the community and visitors.

DESIGN CONCEPTS

The concept of a “root” significantly symbolizes the design of Hing Hay Park in many aspects. The topic of the thesis is “Back to the Root: Designing a Culturally Responsive Open Space for Seattle’s Chinatown- International District.” Root, in Chinese culture, occupies a great position for it covers a broad range of grand words in the culture. It signifies “origin,” “foundation,” “source,” and itself – “root.”



Figure 4-33. Bamboo

I think “root” is an appropriate word of expressing the spirit that the ethnic groups are seeking in the design process of the Hing Hay Park Expansion Project. Based on the research I have done, the Chinese and Filipino communities had the strongest feelings about the cultural ambience of the park. The Chinese community argues that the park is located at the core of Chinatown (Abramson et al. 2006), so the park shall be “Chinese.” The Filipinos think the neighborhood near the park was the commercial area in the history of C-ID. Therefore they claim (from the research) sort of historical and cultural representations in the new design. For example, the entry doorway of the US Post Office was the restaurant entrance, 1404 6th Ave S, Philippine Café, which owned by the mother of the founder of the Filipino Americans National History Society. It can be interesting to share this kind of stories with the entire community on the site of Hing Hay Park since it is part of the site history.

Bamboo is a plant that has a special relationship with Asians (Oprins et al. c2006). Its “root”, actually an underground rhizome, characterizes the relationship that the ethnic groups share. They are deep-rooted and share a common relationship that could not be separated in the neighborhood of C-ID. Eventually, there are four images extending from the bamboo rhizome. First, root means going home in Chinese culture and with various meanings that relates to origins or foundations. Second, bamboo is a symbol of continuation life and the rise of new generations in many Asian cultures. In Vietnam, bamboo symbolizes a significant spirit of the Vietnamese soul. A Vietnamese proverb says, “When the bamboo is old, the bamboo sprout appears.” Meaning that their culture will last forever because the new generations will always take the place when the old generations

pass⁷. In the Japanese fairy tale, “The Tale of Bamboo Cutter”, a princess from the Moon is born from a section of bamboo stem. A famous Filipino legend tells that the first man and first woman were emerged from equal halves of a bamboo stem⁸. These stories all describe that bamboo is the symbol of regeneration. Furthermore, the rhizome of bamboo can create an underground complex network and reproduce young bamboos. Once the bamboo sprout up, it can live ten to twenty years. Lastly, this form of interlacing rhizome growth expresses the way that different ethnic cultures connect to each other and the link among different generations.

FINAL DESIGN

Design Process

To begin the design process, I asked myself the thesis questions again and thought carefully about the findings from the research I conducted with the local community. The background research offered a way to understand the history and cultures of the immigrants in the District and founded a base for the design process. I developed further knowledge to inform my site design through the survey and interviews I conducted to understand the community needs. Based on this information, I knew what was necessary to start designing for the site. The final design section of this thesis will interpret one by one the previously collected research findings and shows how I translated these into design language.

- In the design process, bamboo is not only used for planting but also its form is used on the design. Plant a three-foot wide strip of smaller bamboo that has slender stems to create a fence-like shield. Smaller bamboo species is slim and thin, and it appears more transparent. There will be a few gaps on the southwest site in my design, and such a design is for the purpose of planting bamboo. The form of this kind of planter is long and narrow. It will not permit the bamboo from growing too wide and dense, looking like a thick wall. This way of design will put the site under protection to a certain degree, and promote an interesting feature, and will also avoid the possibility of a blind angle for potential criminal behavior.



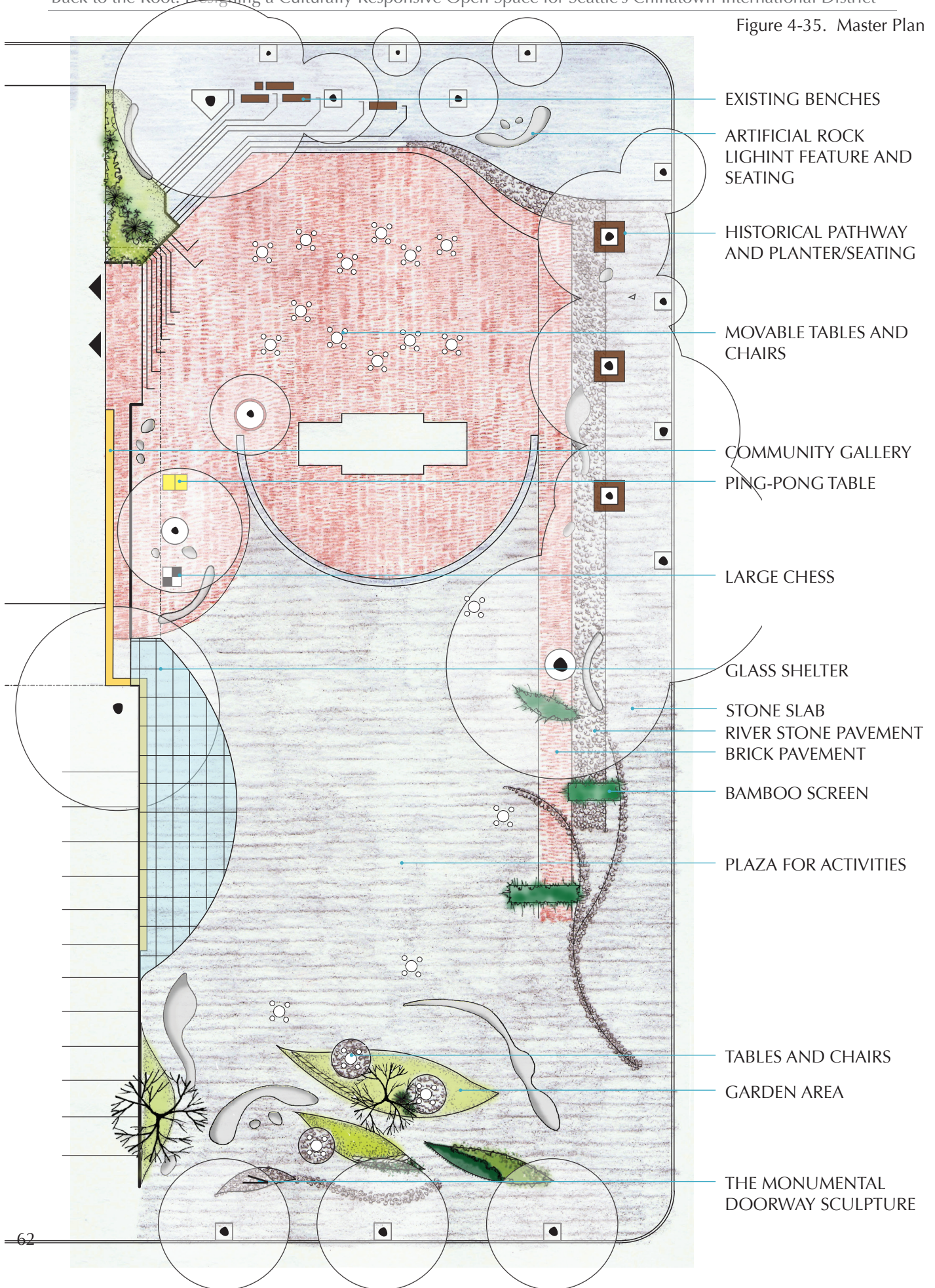
Figure 4-34. Bamboo Strips and Lighting

- The primary concern of my design is those needs from senior persons because they are the major users of the park. A park with more chairs and greenery to take a rest is their main expectation for the new design. Keep the original movable tables and chairs and benches along Maynard Ave S. On the west side of the park, permanent tables and chairs are newly designed and weaved with leaf-shape gardens. This design aims to provide users a comfortable open space with beautiful greeneries to gather.

7 <http://www.asian-bamboo.com/bamboo-culture/the-history-of-bamboo/the-symbolism-of-bamboo-in-asian-culture/>

8 <http://filipinorenaissance.wordpress.com/2013/06/25/split-bamboo-dance-of-the-perfect-man-and-woman/>

Figure 4-35. Master Plan



- The entrance of the US Post Office is the original entrance of the coffee shop previously owned by the FANHS founder's mother. This is a unique part of cultural history in the Hing Hay Park from my point of view, therefore, public art on the location of door entrance of the coffee shop is designed to remember the Filipino culture. I believe the Filipino community or the general users can gain knowledge regarding the Filipino history and culture.

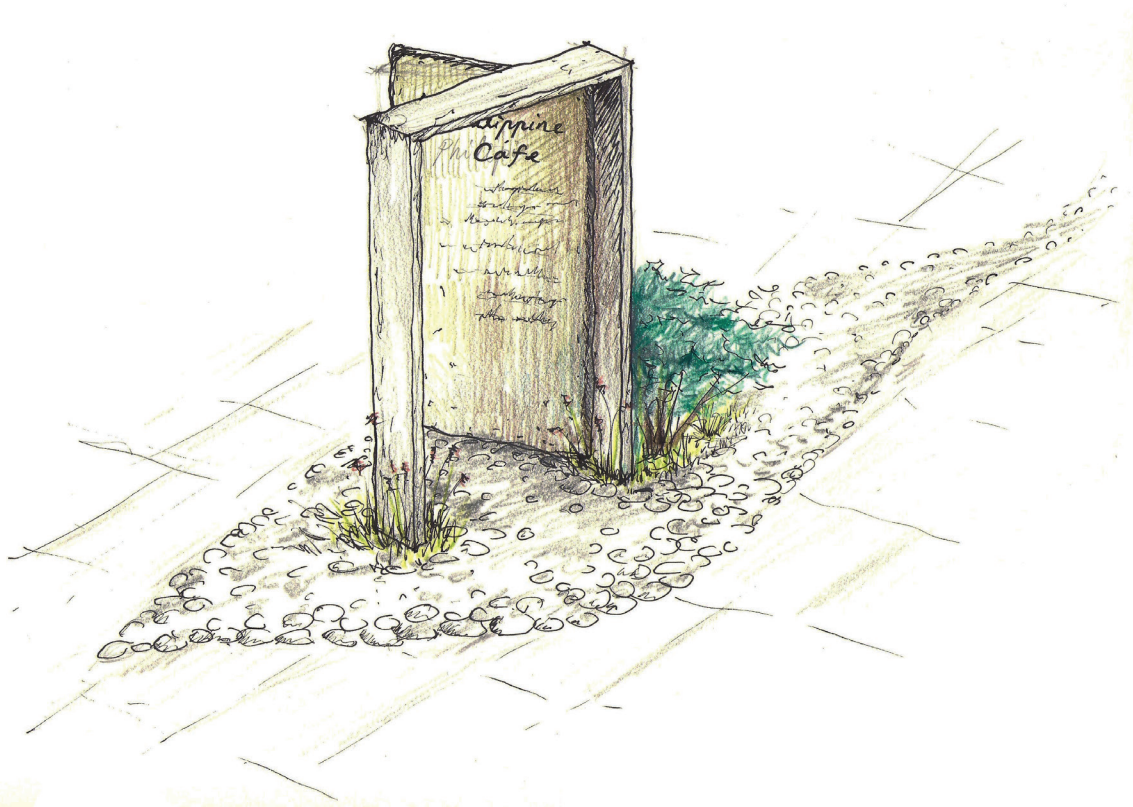


Figure 4-36. The Monumental Doorway Sculpture for the Philippines Café with the Acknowledgement of the History of Manilatown.

- The design of the planters on S. King St. aims to attach the planter, lighting, seating, and immigration story line in one design. Its purpose is to create a novel, elegant, educational and meaningful historical passage. In order to meet the elegant design idea, the paving of this strip is detailed and neat. It is a combination of brick, river stone and stone slab parallel along S King St., giving people a sense of historic order to understand the history of C-ID. History is important to the community of C-ID. Originally, I was hoping to discuss with Wing Luke Museum (WLM) regarding the sequence of describing cultures and historical stories. WLM has different educational tours in their services and I believe the redesign of Hing Hay Park is an opportunity of expanding the cultural resource to a public space. I think it would be wonderful to have a discussion with WLM about this idea and maybe transform the idea into the design. However, due to the limitation of the research and my time. It becomes only a design concept rather than a detailed design in this thesis.

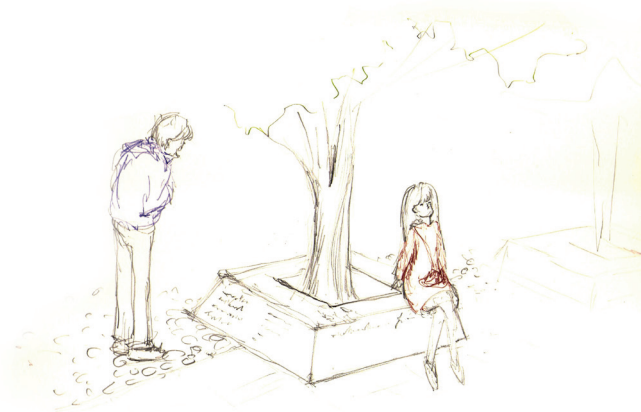


Figure 4-37. Historic Pathway and Interactive Arts – Planters along S King St.

- The interactive art on the site involves large artificial rocks. The “artificial rock” is the idea of a hollow shell installing light bulbs inside it (Figure 4-38). The fake rock looks like a boulder in day and it will be a luminant at night. The main purpose of the fake rock is to add flavor to Hing Hay Park, hoping to increase the use of and invite different generations to the open space. It can be seating, playground, interactive art and lighting at night. Whether during daytime or nighttime, it will attract users to the park and have fun with it. Children can be a new user group of the park. They may think it is interesting to climb on the boulders. Young people or families may come to use the boulders, too, for some parts of the height are wonderful to sit on. The fake rock may be less attractive for the seniors. However, they had expressed that they would love to see young generations using the park and they enjoy people watching on site.



Figure 4-38. Artificial Rocks can be childrens' playground or seating for gathering.

- The outdoor gallery is also a novel designed feature of Hing Hay Park. Taking the benefit of the corridor between the park and the Bush Hotel, I define the hallway as a gallery that can exhibit community artwork or memories. A glass shelter is designed above the gallery for some of the users requested a shelter for rainy days. Actually, the overhang of the Bush Hotel and the new shelter both give the gallery a quiet and calm atmosphere. I think it is good to extend and connect the shelter of the Bush Hotel to its west and creates a buffer for the park users from the north parking lot.

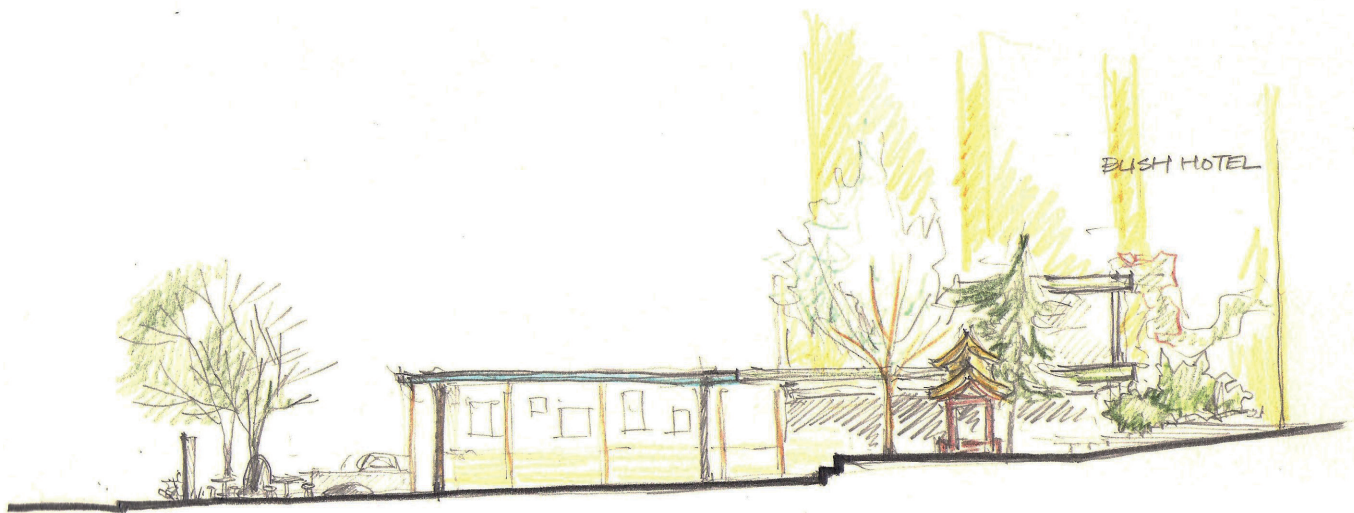


Figure 4-39. Section of Hing Hay Park, facing North.

- The lighting design strategy was mentioned in the conclusion of Site Analysis. The following figure shows the idea of having lights integrated in site features. The brightest areas are the gallery, gardens, the pagoda and the sidewalks. Only the centers of two plazas are not totally lit up.

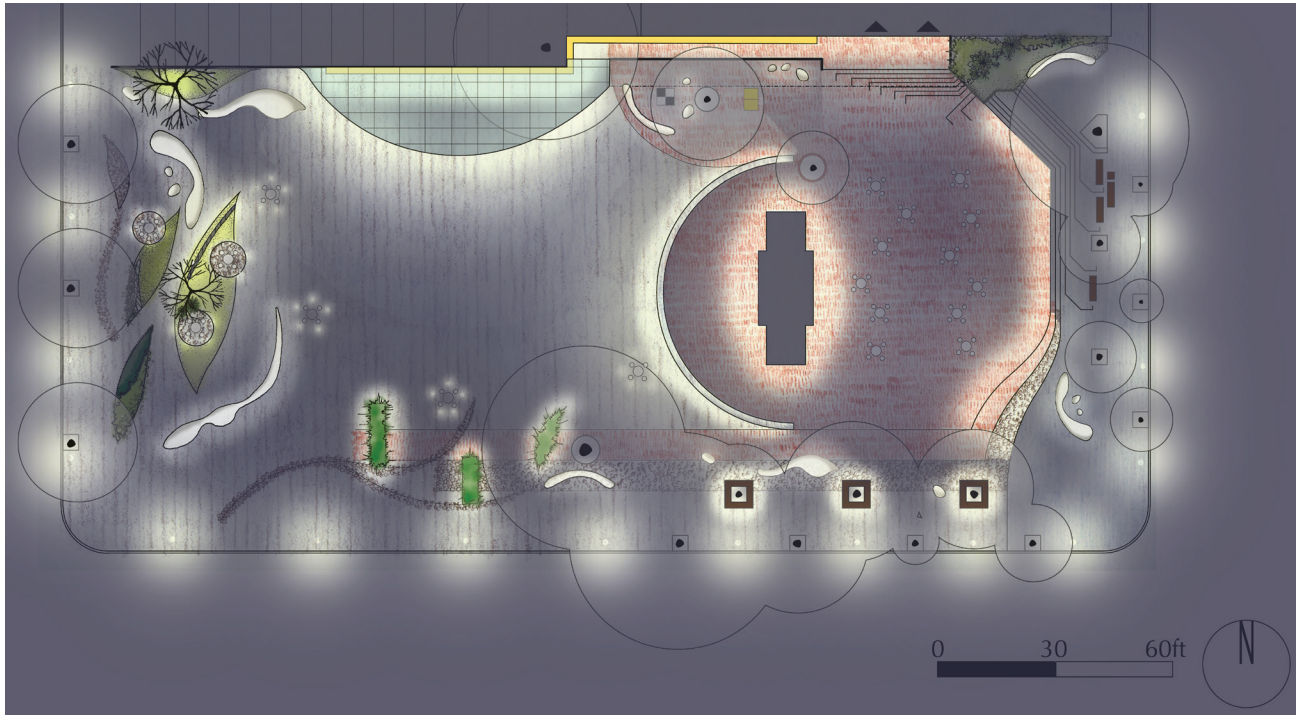


Figure 4-40. Lighting Design Plan

CHAPTER 5. REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

REFLECTING ON THE THESIS QUESTIONS

As I mentioned in chapter one, I had three questions when I started the thesis. Guided by these questions, I went through the background research, precedent study, design research and finally came to a site design plan for Hing Hay Park. Throughout the process, I believe I was able to answer the research questions I originally posed. I list out my original questions below along with what I was able to conclude in response to the questions through the research and design process of completing the thesis project:

1. What kind of design for Hing Hay Park would be responsive to the multiple needs of the users of Seattle's Chinatown-International District?

The research and design I completed through this thesis project shows that many people believe Hing Hay Park is an important core of the C-ID. Visitors and citizens of Seattle pointed out that if there is something attractive to the public in the C-ID or Hing Hay Park, they are willing to come to the park. This is why the design presented in this thesis tends to keep enough open and flexible space for events, and creates an open image to increase the attractiveness of the park. Benches and recreation facilities are required to accommodate the elderly users or those who work in the neighborhood for their daily activities. It is necessary to provide orientations to the District and neighborhood resources for visitors in order to highlight the park concierge program. An information center with clear assistance or message to welcome visitors is one of the feasible functions on such a design. To those people who care about security in the community, the design also provides artful illumination for evenings and dark days by combining interactive arts, to attract more people who hanging around either inside or outside the park, and to enhance frequency of use in response to having "eyes on the streets."

2. What kind of design would be responsive to the culture and history of Seattle's Chinatown International District?

In reflecting on the issue of designing with sensitivity toward users' cultures, I believe it is very challenging, and in fact, unwise, to try to connect separately to the different elements of each ethnic culture. It would be much better to discover and focus on any mutual and existing elements across the different cultures, and to reference these in the design in various ways. For example, in my view, bamboo is the right choice to be use as a culturally relevant element in the design of Hing Hay Park. Bamboo is often used for craft or architectural materials in Asian culture. Besides, it is a symbol of reproduction or represents high moral characters in some Asian countries. As the design concepts, I also express the indication of root in various culture and combine with each other in landscape design.

From the aspect of representing histories, the historic path I incorporated into the design, is the space which states and displays local immigrant history. However, I believe what needs to emphasized in Hing Hay Park is the park history itself, and those who once activated this space on S King St even if they did not have a physical enclave in the District, as was the case for the Filipino community. There are plenty of existing Chinese characters which are defined in Hing Hay Park. These characters are located throughout the C-ID and are a direct interpretation of Chinese culture, such as the dragon painting on the Bush Hotel wall, the Chinese pavilion, and the brick Eight Diagram pavement design.

From reading historical documents, I learned that the same neighborhood connected both Chinese and Filipino communities. Meanwhile, we can even find, from the research documents, the mother of the founder of FANHS had once opened a restaurant on the site of Hing Hay Park. This historic information is clearly related to the site and can be displayed in the site design. Moreover, adding in these culturally relevant historical elements is the most straightforward and logical way for the users of the park to study their own history. They can read through the narratives related to immigrant history and Chinese culture. Besides, learn about the founder of the FANHS and her mother's business.

3. What aspects of design can contribute to Hing Hay Park's safety?

Most users of the Hing Hay Park believe that it is safe to be in the park, but it is necessary to increase

various facilities and measures to further support a sense of safety and solve current problems there. Police patrol and surveillance cameras are not included in the discussion of this project, but they had been mentioned by some research respondents as elements that are helpful to reduce the crime ratio. Therefore the highlight of my design to raise the sense of security on the site chose to focus on increasing lighting facilities. As stated in chapter four, there is clear scheme offered for the design of lighting. In addition, it is combined with interactive arts and the use and installation of street furniture. The lighting should be effective to make the park visible, and raise its rate of use at night.

Moreover, through analyzing the combinations between different types of activities, the park design and suggestions for the concierge program are key factors which can promote an increased rate of park use and a decrease in the crime rate. It is expected that design of the Hing Hay Park can help its community be much safer.

STRATEGIES AND NEXT STEPS

The biggest challenge for this site was how to retain its flexibility for multiple events and users given its small size and the pavilion sitting at the center. In my opinion, I do not think it would be worthy to spend any budget on relocating the pavilion and it can be good to preserve the sequence of the park. Moreover, feedback from the community indicated that they liked the pavilion where it was located. However, my goal was to accommodate elements and programs that provide both daily and year-round activity services for the users in order to increase the park use in response to the safety issue in the neighborhood. Therefore, within the limited space, I created a plaza for events and placed most of the design features circling the plaza to attract people to stay and watch the open space. Additionally, I applied some interactive arts and varied different materials for the pavement along S King St. I believe that this is the way of making the park more interesting.

The grade change is a challenge to the design of this particular site. At the beginning of the design process, I was very excited to giving it a new taste. Therefore, I regraded the park and designed stair terraces on the east portion of Hing Hay Park, aiming to create a flush¹ and more open entrance for the Bush Hotel. (See the red area of Figure 5-1.) However, it seemed like that design would create a solid dark corner at the in front of the Bush Hotel and totally destroy the historic sequence of the park. Therefore, after having a desk critique with my committee members, I decided to preserve the original Eight-Diagram² stairs.

1 The grade change between the Bush Hotel entrance and the park level is about 3.5'.

2 The Eight Diagram in Taoist cosmology to represent the fundamental principles of reality. This geometry is used in the pavement of current design of Hing Hay Park.

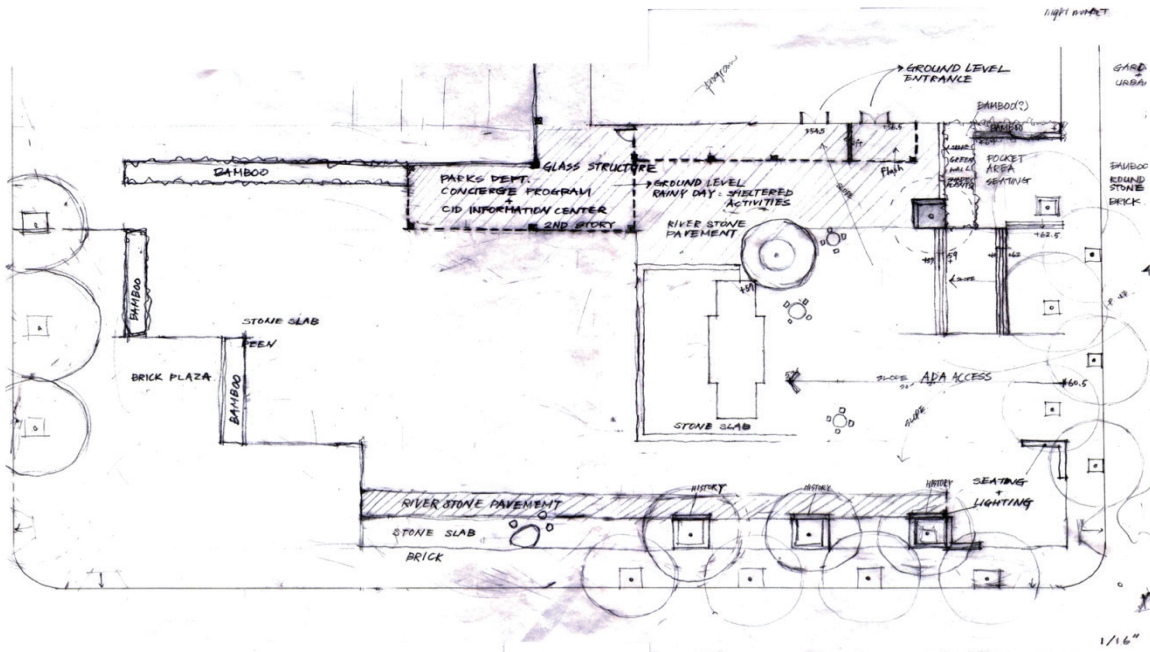


Figure 5-1. Draft of a Design

Having completed the research and design work for the thesis, I realize that it could be never be finished. There are still and always some issues to address or aspects of a design that could be strengthened. In short, below are some critical issues that would need to be further considered in improving this design:

1. The connections among the glass shelter, the parking lot to its north and the overhang structure of the Bush Hotel may need to be refined. The glass structure is meant to function as a shelter for short stays in the rain and provide a continuous gateway for the gallery. However, in future design endeavors, it may be good to work on the detail design for the attachments of the buildings and different spaces in order to better the edges among spaces.
2. The planting design for the park can be further designed. A plant research for the entire International District can be conducted to see if there are certain species that would be well adapted to the pan-Asian culture of the area.
3. The historical pathway and planter seating provide opportunities for the users to better understand the historic context of the District. However, it is not detailed completed yet. I believe it is possible to cooperate or have some interviews with Wing Luke Museum to help with the story telling. This may enhance the quality of the Museum's educational tours for having matters in the park, and provides a "space" but not just a monument for visitors to read the context of the history and cultures of C-ID.
4. For the concierge program of Hing Hay Park, more conversations or interviews could be done with the Parks and Recreation Department, the staff of Hing Hay Park and IDEA Space. Their opinions will be crucial for the suggestions that I had for the park.

INTERNSHIP AT IDEA SPACE

My experiences of working at IDEA Space significantly informed my research process. They provided their experiences with, and connections to, the community and introduced me to local organizations, stakeholders and community leaders. The manager, Joyce Pisanont, and my supervisor, Ching Chan, also helped me with conducting the survey, making sure that the questions would be useful for the real expansion project, and helped spread the word about the survey to the local community. Besides, IDEA Space is located in the Bush Hotel which is adjacent to Hing Hay Park. Thus I could observe the park every time I entered the Bush Hotel and sometimes had chances to chat with the park manager, Bill, who has been working for Hing Hay Park for 15

years and knows many interesting stories that happened in Hing Hay Park.

Before we started to for the group of Friends of Hing Hay Park, I heard some regular conversations about the Filipino community very much wanting to participate in the design process. In particular, the relocation of the Chinese pavilion was a topic people often discussed. Therefore, I realized that although it is important to express the pan-Asian culture in the park, it is also fitting that some cultures, such as the Chinese and Filipino communities, could be represented more strongly, in the park based on their strong historical presence in the area immediately near Hing Hay Park.

INTERACTIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

I believe it is crucial to interact with different ethnic communities in the design process for the park design because they are the important figures in response to a design that can reflect ethnic cultures and histories. An ethnic community must have particular emotions and knowledge to their own culture and what they could share with me would be the best inspirations to a landscape design. My internship at IDEA Space and the research of the thesis created the best opportunities of learning and having conversations with them. Exploring and working with different ethnic groups accelerated my learning of how they could get along and approach harmonious suggestions.

The richest information that I gathered was from the focus groups. Firstly, the way people having the conversation really created an atmosphere that encouraged every one of them to talk and share ideas on the questions. Because they were able to share knowledge and, even more, asks question to each other for reconfirming. This gave some interviewees courage to speak up and threw out more thoughts he/she had. Moreover, once one person said something that catches the group's attention, others may support the proposal and add on more ideas that they had ever thought of before.

Sample of the Research

In conducting the research for this design thesis, one lesson I learned is that sampling is critical in research base design thesis. The rich outcomes of the Filipino focus group were very different from other interviews or focus groups I conducted. Honestly, I could tell that some of the participants were well prepared to join the discussion. These activists, volunteers and community members had high expectations for the focus group and seriously took it as an opportunity to share their thoughts to the real design team. I was humbling just seeing community members share their enthusiasm in the process. The results were richer than what I expected to gain. For example, in the Filipino focus group, participants not only responded to the questions I asked, even more they started to discuss potential design strategies or cultural elements that can be applied to the future design. Some of them attended the meetings of Friends of Hing Hay Park to follow up the expansion project and speak up for the community. Overall, I enjoyed the research process with all the interviewees and appreciate their time and efforts very much. In this research process, I was lucky to have two groups that have contrary personalities, one was active, and the other was shy. This experience inspired me that a researcher should have the ability to encourage people to share their opinions and feelings, and using appropriate probes to stimulate participants to interact with each other in order to receive a rich conversation for a research.

CONCLUSION

When I started this project, I did not have the confidence to have a design that could respond to the multiple cultures in Seattle's Chinatown-International District. Honestly, I admitted that I once decided to state that Hing Hay Park should represent only Chinese characteristics, revealing my lack of the knowledge about the District, and demonstrating my bias to Chinatowns at that time. However, after reading and gathering more information regarding the history and culture of C-ID³, and engaging on this year long journey of research and design, I realized how crucial it is to respect the different cultures and the community's real desires.

³ Danial Abramson, Lynne Manzo, and Jeffery Hou, "From Ethnic Enclave to Multi-ethnic Translocal Community: Constructed Identities and Urban Design in Seattle's Chinatown-International District," *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, 4 (2006): 341-360.

In Taiwan, we could hardly have a process that pays close attentions to both a community/grassroots interests and the Government at the same time. Actually, the quality of design process is improving there. People now have more opportunities to express their needs and more local organizations are aware of cooperating with the locals and the Government in a public space design. The experiences of the thesis process helped me understand how the efforts came from two ways can work. The Parks and the community organizations have a strong relationship to collaborate in a project like this, and the activists and volunteers in the community are very engaged. The Hing Hay Park Expansion Project is the first design opportunity the park faces since the installation of the Chinese pavilion in 1975. The community is very excited about the expansion project and I was totally moved by their enthusiasm. Therefore, I learned and gained more from the research process than the design approaches.

Landscape architects need to collaborate with community organizations and communities to understand their specific needs. We can create site-specific cultural environments that they need if we as designers understand what they need. For my thesis, I believe that the proposed design of Hing Hay Park can activate the park in various ways and people will enjoy being in and using the park, as I tried to deeply perceive the way they live and create a user-friendly open space, hoping people are happy and comfortable when in their Hing Hay Park.

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