Lessons from Place-making research and Case Studies:

Lesson 1: Connect and Re-connect
Changes in zoning and the subsequent development and redevelopment of areas of South Downtown offer an opportunity to remedy through urban design some of the disconnections found in the landscape. In addition to the functional connections between home and the grocery or work and the bus stop, there are also the connections between people and nature, between neighbors and those connections between place and its overall significance and meaning.

Lesson 2: Green interventions for Health
Expanding upon the healthful benefits of the environment by providing greenery and other natural elements is needed within this district. While the beneficial effects on mental health for residents would be felt, the physical benefits to health through the creation of more walkable spaces and the expansion of local food production could also occur. Green strategies should be implemented in the most efficient and economical ways. Finding the opportunities through the landscape and the community that are already present should guide the designer towards this goal.

Lesson 3: Flexible/Hybrid open space for commercial and community use
Similar to the diverse and dynamic third place of the Metro bus and bus stop, open space within this urban setting should encourage community use in a flexible, sometimes informal way. Spaces should bring together diverse uses so one’s view of the city is ever expanding. Large scale master planning efforts can deaden a once lively place through homogeneity and gentrification. Smaller interventions in terms of open space can help preserve the dynamic character of a place, while allowing new and old users to intermingle comfortably.

Lesson 4: Authentic and inclusive historic narrative
History-telling through landscape should aim for the authentic and inclusive narrative. The stories of a place need not look back with rose-colored glasses but they should reflect why a place has developed as it has. Design elements should also encourage further discourses with greater exposure. Through the dialogues and studies produced, historic elements should help one better understand the complex realities of a place.
Transit Hub Proposals

Section A-A'
Transit Hub

Arrival/Departure/Historic Narrative kiosk
Grated lid over train platform level
New Metro/Light Rail tunnel entrances/shelters
Transit stop seating
Rooftop water collection
Areaway cisterns
Arrival/Departure kiosk on grated lid over platforms
Pedestrian plaza with seating
Stairway towards King Street

Tunnel entrances/shelters with stormwater elements
Streetcar stops
Tidelands boundary and "tidal" paving/seating pattern
Stairs towards King Street and stadiums

Metro transit entrances/shelters
Historic and Present day Arrival/Departure Kiosks

Visual connections towards 4th Avenue through grated lid
Cisterns within underground areaways

Central Station
King Street Station
Chinatown Gate
Overtracks Development
Union Station
S. Main Street
5th Avenue
4th Avenue

Transit stop seating

Visual connections towards 4th Avenue through grated lid
Cisterns within underground areaways
I-5 Underpass and Yesler Terrace Proposals

Larger scale trees and stormwater plantings in Little Saigon.

Yesler Terrace pathway towards Commercial Core.

Section B-B': Pedestrian pathway and new development.

Circulation Diagram:
- Pedestrian path and market gardens
- Mixed-use development with parking garage, roof gardens, and pedestrian pathway
- Pick up/drop-off turn around
- Commercial spill-out opportunities
- Constellation lighting under the freeway
- Night Sky during freeway's completion
- Asian Star Map

Constellation lighting under the freeway.
Some surface parking retained while making more room for pedestrian through Commons Park, spill-out areas and amenity-rich transit stops.

Stepped mid-block throughway

Pedestrian path amongst existing buildings

Goodwill Development

Section C-C': Infiltration swale stormwater option

Section D-D': Cistern stormwater option

Section E-E': Mid-block throughway between Jackson and King Street

Specimen tree canal planting, Vietnam

Commons pocket park and spill-out area at 12th and Jackson

Viet Wah Grocery

S. Jackson Street

12th Avenue

S. King Street

S. Weller Street

Historic Apartment Building

Photo: G. Coffman

Little Saigon Core and Mid-block Throughway Proposals