

2016

## Halprin Sequence Reimagined

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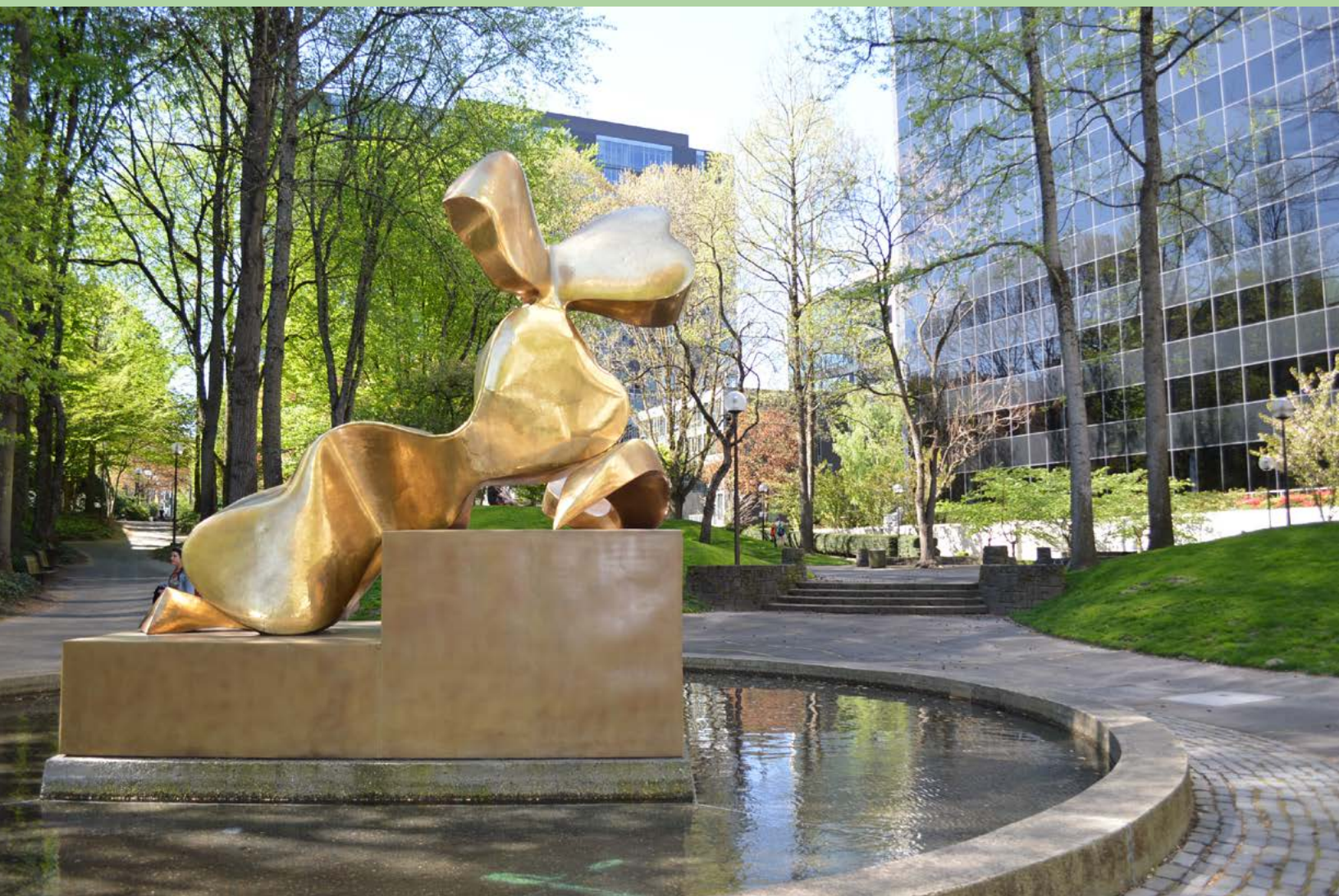
### Citation Details

Villarroel, Andrea; Miller, Nate; Decker, Kris; Gough, Foster; and Robinson, Scott, "Halprin Sequence Reimagined" (2016). *Urban Design Workshop*. 5.

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# Halprin Sequence Reimagined





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# Introduction

The Halprin Sequence is a series of underutilized green spaces in the heart of Portland, Oregon. Once a booming attraction, as time has past and the city has grown, the Halprin Sequence has been forgotten amongst the towers. With a rich history in urban development and design, the Halprin Sequence could offer much more to the people of Portland than it is currently. The surrounding street of Fourth Avenue is also underutilized. The street is primarily used by automobiles, and the sidewalks are not pleasant to walk through.

For a green space network, the Halprin Sequence is in an ideal location. It is tucked away near university campus while surrounded by workplaces and residential housing. However, a major problem is that the surrounding buildings turn their backs to the Halprin Sequence creating a sense of isolation and disconnectedness. We propose strategic nodes and sites of interest along Fourth Avenue to activate the Sequence, as well as Fourth Avenue. Strategic development could act as a "spline" that connects Portland State University to the Halprin Sequence and adjacent communities.



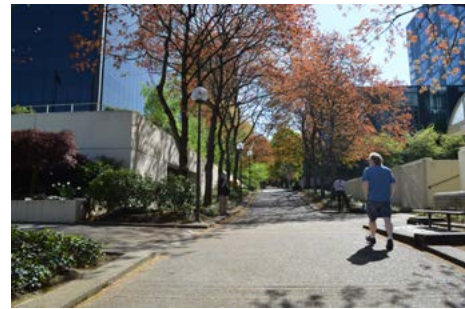
# Goals

how to think about the neighborhood

## 1. Return the City to domain of the pedestrian

The Halprin Sequence exists among the students and the resident population. Trends suggest that these students and residents prefer bicycle and pedestrian paths. Through the creation of cohesive and safe spaces for walking, biking, and recreation.

- Establishing walkability in and around the H.S.- by doing this it will create an “eyes on the street” approach to the urban campus and will enhance the everyday urban experience and establish a precedent for public space and for public safety
- Create Conspicuity and legibility of paths and public spaces



## 2. Redevelop Coherence in the Plan

The South Auditorium Renewal Area has not been treated as a community. There must be recognition of the residents' values and the space's opportunities. This will happen through providing destinations, activating spaces, and using design to protect identity.

- Creating connectivity through thoughtful design
- Recognize individual importance in the interest of institutions and people
- Establish continuity between public stakeholders
- Resurrect the spirit of Halprin through rebranding the neighborhood



## 3. Cultivate Identity of Place

The identity of place begins with celebrating the character of a neighborhood through its physical design and geography, taking into account how these elements contribute to the individuals conceptualization of their surroundings

- Capitalize on the neighborhood's assets through the design of public spaces to promote the well-being of the neighborhood
- Incorporating the goals, common attitudes and interest of the neighborhood to create a sense of fellowship into the “urban campus”
- Using a place-bound lens to evoke and sustain a sense of history and heritage



## 4. Determine Systemic Relationships

The neighborhood surrounding the H.S. should evolve into an holarchic construct; an embedded system of physical systems (environment, infrastructure, transit modes) and social systems (education, university, tourism).

- To embody a holarchic philosophy in the fractal perspectives and design of the Halprin Sequence, PSU campus and the overall university district
- Understanding how the neighborhood and its adjacent surroundings are identified as an integral piece of a larger system of neighborhoods



## 5. Honor Cultural + Historic Diversity

The university and the surrounding neighborhood have historically been



subject to countless incarnations of urban renewal projects which have created a deficit in the cultures that once existed here.

- Create exposure to culture: design for relevant arts + events
- Brand sites, buildings, and neighborhood. to reflect current and past cultures  
Social legibility, relating to space, expression of the area (expression is social and individual)
- Identify past histories of different cultures and bring awareness

## 6. Make Economically sustainable

The university prides itself in cultivating an intrinsic culture of being innovative, fearless and champions of sustainability. The university must capture and utilize these assets to harness economic opportunity throughout the campus and its many programs.

- Identify local community needs and utilize assets to serve residents
- Leverage public-private partnerships
- Reach critical mass of services + retail
- Capitalize on technology transfer
- Insure diversity of opportunity (cost-location axes)

## 7. Build on Existing Assets

To be Portland State is to be innovation; innovation is a key asset of the university and one in which we can use to build upon for future benefit.

- Maintain and maximize being aware to not replace the current culture of the university
- Programming parks, to uphold the physical heritage and street culture through music, street food, public art and street performance
- Build for an environment where a triad exist between the residence, students and visitors
- Development of the fourth place: where strangers meet the outdoor living room

## 8. Promote Equal Access

To differentiate policy from design through aiming to establish inclusivity that embraces and enhances the different range of cultures that are represented within the students and residence of the university

- Give access through wayfinding, monuments and public
- Offer a mixed range of housing opportunities
- Maintain key businesses, offer diverse opportunities
- Access to public space
- Ensure that equitable access is provided at a multigenerational level to guarantee enjoyment

## 9. Emphasize Relationship to nature

Lawrence Halprin built the spaces to celebrate our geography and hydrology far ahead of his time. We can now pick up that legacy and continue connecting people to nature. This means bringing people to greenery and to echo nature in design. (Biophilia)

- Being cognizant in the design process of the organic assets in the open space
- Creating harmony between humanity and nature in the everyday experience

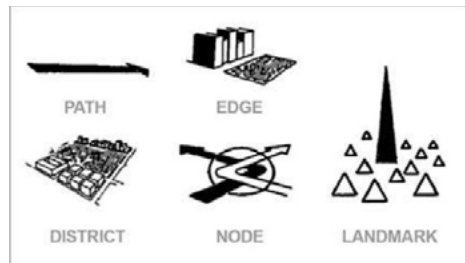


# Inspirations



## Lawrence Halprin

- Design arises from desires of the community; it is participatory and inclusive. Important to design in a way that includes the needs and experiences of people interacting with the environment, and to let them be part of the design creation
- Space should be flexible to the community's needs
- Biophilic design expresses a relationship between human and nature, but is not constrained to natural forms
- Leave the space open and unfinished, for the community to define later



## Kevin Lynch

He explains that there are five elements that form a city:

- Paths are the channels that observers routinely move on
- Edges are the linear elements that are not commonly used or considered paths by the observers
- A district is a section of a city, that the observer enters into
- A node is a strategic location in which the observer enters a place
- A landmark is a point reference for the observer



## Jane Jacobs

- The everyday interactions that occur in neighborhoods, builds relationships between neighbors; instilling trust, resilience and shared effort
- There are four elements that make cities safe, vibrant, diverse, social and convenient
  1. A mixture of residence, retail and workplace
  2. Old buildings provide opportunity for non-profit enterprise
  3. Dense blocks give opportunity for retail and create social capital
  4. Dense neighborhoods provide use for parks, and retail



## Jan Gehl

- Street life closely reflects the social situation
- Return the street as a public place where pedestrians can see and be seen
- Public spaces can be an important first link in places to go in an urban environment
- Find a better balance between public interest and private enterprises to create the invaluable free joys of public urban life



## Frederick Law Olmsted

- Every site has ecologically and spiritually unique qualities
- The composition of a place should subtly create movement through the landscape, and incorporate a healthy influence to surrounding areas and boundaries
- The design should allow for long-term maintenance and conservation of the realized and perpetual design intent
- Ensuring the best possible use for each site and as to not create competition between each uses

# Design Guidelines

These are the design guidelines we would like to see used as development in and around the Halprin Sequence moves forward. These guidelines are drawn from the works of the inspirational urban designers cited and the professional contributors of this class. The guidelines act as a foundation to our framework.

## Access

With access we would like to see the target area open to all people. We would like to see this place be a desirable for the community. HALPRIN's work embodied the idea that design arises from desires of the community. The Halprin Sequence was built on these ideas.

## Wayfinding

Wayfinding in design means making permeable spaces with objects that orient participants, meaning they should be acutely aware of the LYNCHian district they are in, and the context of that place within the city. OLMSTEAD speaks of the "orchestration of movement" which emphasizes the places as a guide for the user; and a "comprehensive approach" that incorporates the context of an area for each site.

## Outdoor room

The sense of a place is dictated as much by the negative space between buildings as much as it is the design of the built-up environment. GEHL shows how the activity in open space indicates the social health of a city, and expresses the importance of open space as the introduction to the city's "places;" the monuments and destinations that must draw us through an appropriate channel.

## Form

The form in each design should allow for diversity of use and acknowledge the context of the city for each site, observing any intervention as a small piece in a complex system. HALPRIN notes the importance of diversity in use, while JACOBS speaks to the complexity of a city that is established by a holistic structure of humans interacting at many levels.

## Relationship to public realm

Design decisions should arise from local involvement, especially artistic ones. The resulting designs should also continue to promote interaction with the public by inviting a variety of uses. HALPRIN speaks of "incompleted designs" that can fulfill needs that the designers did not anticipate because are less fixed and are more forgiving to change.

## Sun/ Shade

In the city of Portland, we want to leverage as many good "outdoors days" as we can get. That means allowing sunlight to fall on public spaces and designing comfortable places in a variety of weather. Buildings should not crowd out the sun, and public spaces should offer some protection from the elements.

## Topography

Using topography in design means taking advantage of the dimensionality of space, looking at natural and built-up landscapes to find hidden solutions and produce complex spaces that are useful as well as beautiful. A consistent goal of HALPRIN was to produce built-up spaces that echo and arise from the existing landscape, existing in harmony with nature.

## Human scale

Designing in human scale means emphasizing the fact that cities are built for, by, and of people. The way you feel when walking down a street makes a world of difference. GEHL highlighted the importance of building cities for people not cars. Streets should be public places where people can be seen, a place where people can linger for a minute before continuing with their day. This is what we envision for fourth avenue; a place where people do not feel the pressure to dodge a speeding car.

## Halprin Village

Our approach to activating the Halprin Sequence and design strategy is centered around three principle ideas:

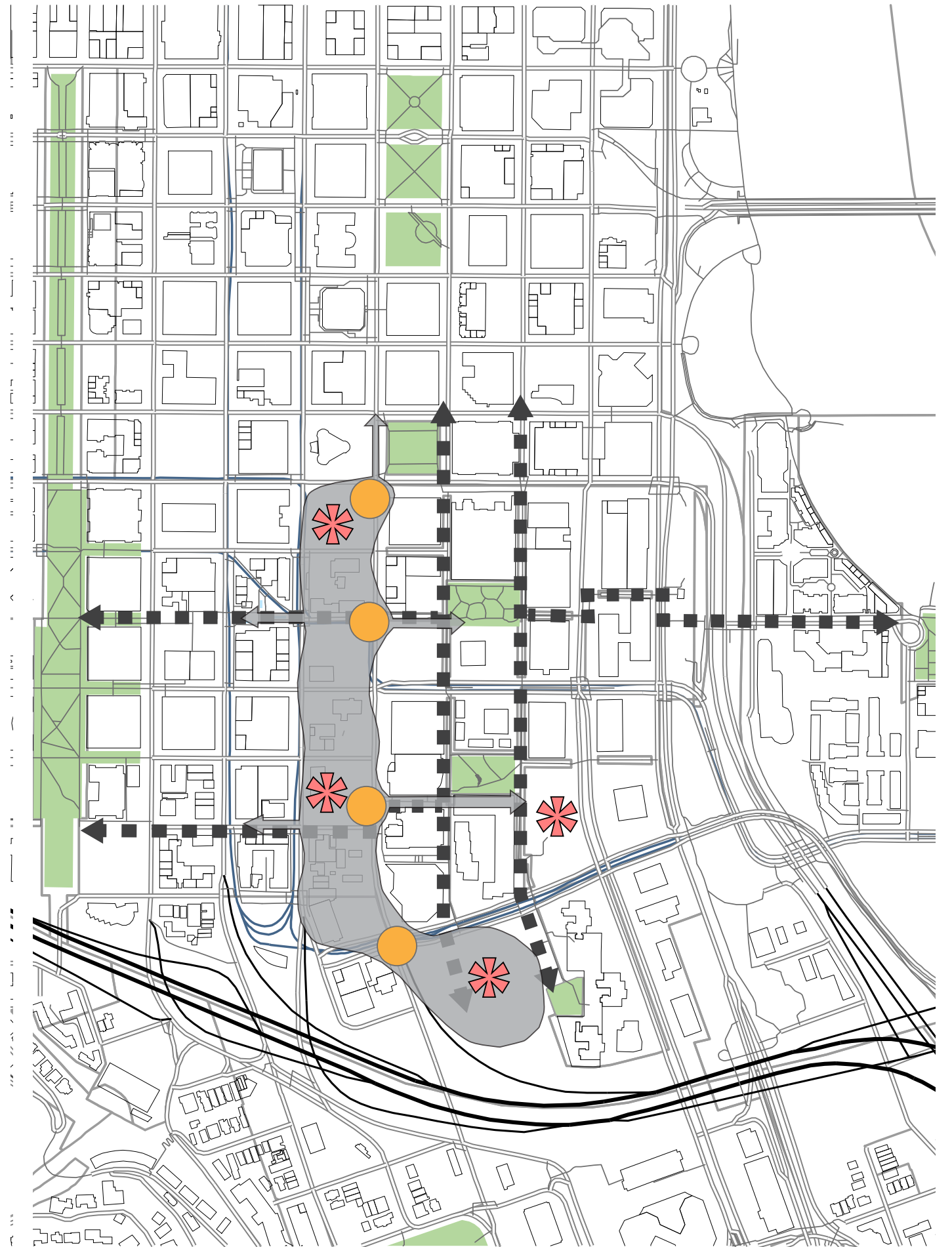
- + Increasing Activity
- + Improving Connectivity
- + Developing Unique Neighborhoods

It is our primary desire that actions taken to enhance this historic monument, and this part of South West Portland, would be done so with sensitivity to the history of the Sequence, and of this area, while embracing a long-term vision for the benefit of future inhabitants. To this end, we believe that ideas should be rooted in the philosophy and spirit of Halprin and his work, while incorporating the needs of a growing and dynamic urban environment. In assessing what could be implemented to reinvigorate the area and substantially impact these three ideas we considered numerous options that varied in size and function taking into consideration the social, economic, and cultural landscape. In the end our strategies came together in a unique specific urban design concept, which we believe, is at the correct scale for achieving our principle ideas.

What we are identifying as “the spline” is a block sequence development intervention that will bring the appropriate economic charge and revitalization necessary, giving direction and definition to the unique communities in this area, while preserving the historic and physical integrity of the Sequence.

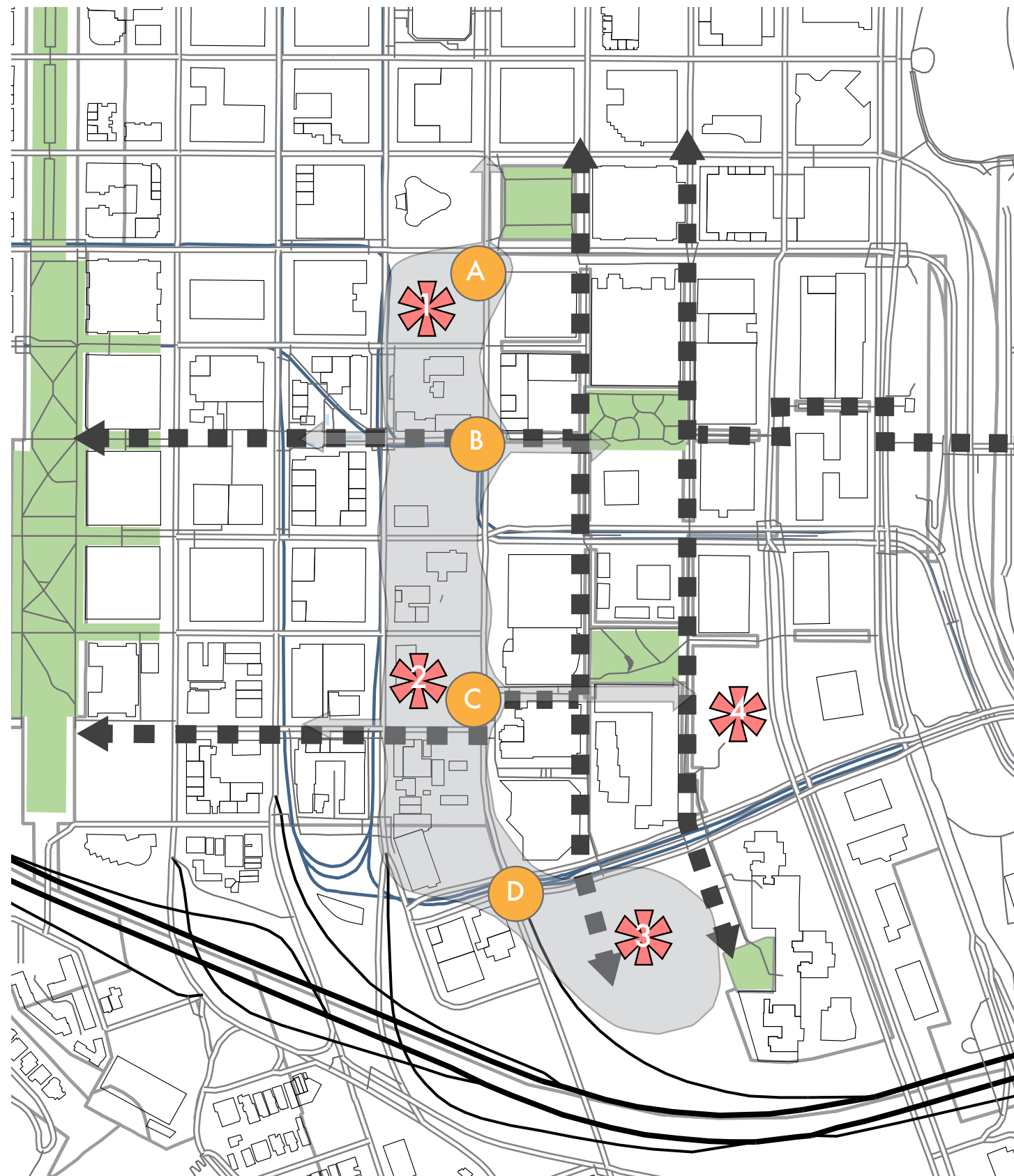
This intervention includes:

- + Creating an active retail/ mixed use promenade between 4th and 5th Avenue with site specific developments on identified “soft lots”
- + Undertaking 4th Avenue Street Diet with sidewalk extensions and improved bike lanes for active transportation accessibility.
- + Increase east/west pedestrian pathways and greenways at SW Montgomery Street and SW College Street.
- + Establishing destination developments of civic spaces that mix public areas with retail opportunities.
- + Erecting neighborhood entrance sculptures that serve as landmarks and promote wayfinding in the community.
- + Investing in museums for educational and innovation spaces that house Portland based corporations that would benefit from university research.





# Implementations specific opportunities for the neighborhood

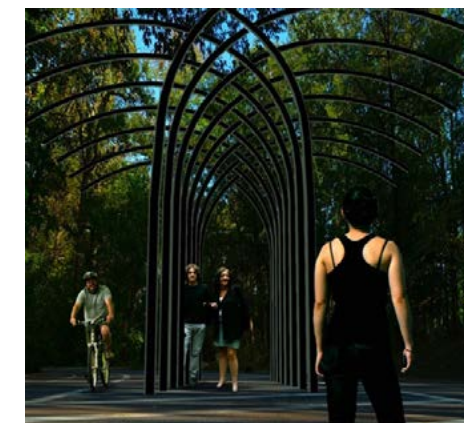


**A.** As the Northern gateway into the 4th Ave Promenade. This gateway will emphasize the pedestrian-orientation into the “spline” through elements of wayfinding.

**B.** A key node in the center of the “spline”. This node will be the “outdoor living room” consisting of parklets and a other outdoor inspired seating. This is the site of the proposed green street, which will represent the entrance from the urban plaza into the entrance of Pettygrove Park and create a feeling of cohesion between the university and that section of the Halprin Sequence.



**C.** As the entry into the Lovejoy Fountain and also the proposed promenade. This node would create a circular pedestrian walkabout with tributaries that would leading to not only the fountain and promenade but also other areas of the Sequence.



**D.** As the Southern gateway into the “spline”. This gateway will emphasize the pedestrian orientation through wayfinding, while connecting local public transit stops to the commercial activity located on the “spline”.

**1.** An ideal site for a public and private partnership linking research and innovation in a flexible-use facility; a specific suggestion would be a textile museum/center for research. We envision this site as the gateway to the 4th ave promenade.

**2.** The first of the goals in the re-imagining of the Halprin Sequence; the idea is to return the city to the domain of the pedestrian. This will be accomplished through the creation of a promenade, where students, residence and visitors can enjoy a leisurely walk through the urban campus.



**3.** The redevelopment of this site is essential for the continuation of the Halprin Sequence, while influencing a North/South polarity of commercial activity along the 4th avenue promenade.

**4.** An opportunity for intervention exist at this retail area on the corner of Lincoln street and 1st. The proposed use for this site would be an urban ecology museum to celebrate the eco-focused infrastructure and policy in Portland.

**4th Avenue Street Slimming.** The transformation and success of the Halprin Village block development is intrinsically connected to a 4th Avenue reduction in traffic lane and an increase in active transportation infrastructure. This strategic step increases the outdoor room facilitating pedestrian movement, increasing public space uses, and encouraging vital commercial activity.







# Acknowledgements

## Guest Speakers:

Zeljka Carol Kekez, Principal,  
PLACE Studio

Mark Raggett, Senior Planner/Urban Design,  
City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainabil-  
ity

Robert Hastings, Agency Architect,  
TRI-MET

Martin Glastra Van Loon, Urban Designer,  
SERA Architects

Judy Buffo, Grant Higginson, Joan Kvitka:  
SAGE

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Urban Design Workshop  
USP 475/575  
Spring 2016  
School of Urban Studies and Planning  
College of Urban and Public Affairs  
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