

DOWNTOWN BERKELEY BART PLAZA ACTIVATION PLAN

10/11/2018

On October 18, 2018, the Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza will open after a \$13 million renovation, including a new main entrance, plaza pavers, sound and light poles/system, catenary lighting, trees, and landscaping. Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza is the heart of the Downtown and a transit portal for the City. The programming of the plaza presents a once in a generation opportunity to establish a vibrant public space that is welcoming and engaging for all Berkeleyans and visitors, and also a place to showcase the creative and artistic soul of the City. This Activation Plan was developed by the Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) in close association with City of Berkeley staff, Civic Arts Commission (CAC), and in consultation with Mayor Jesse Arreguin and Councilmember Kate Harrison.

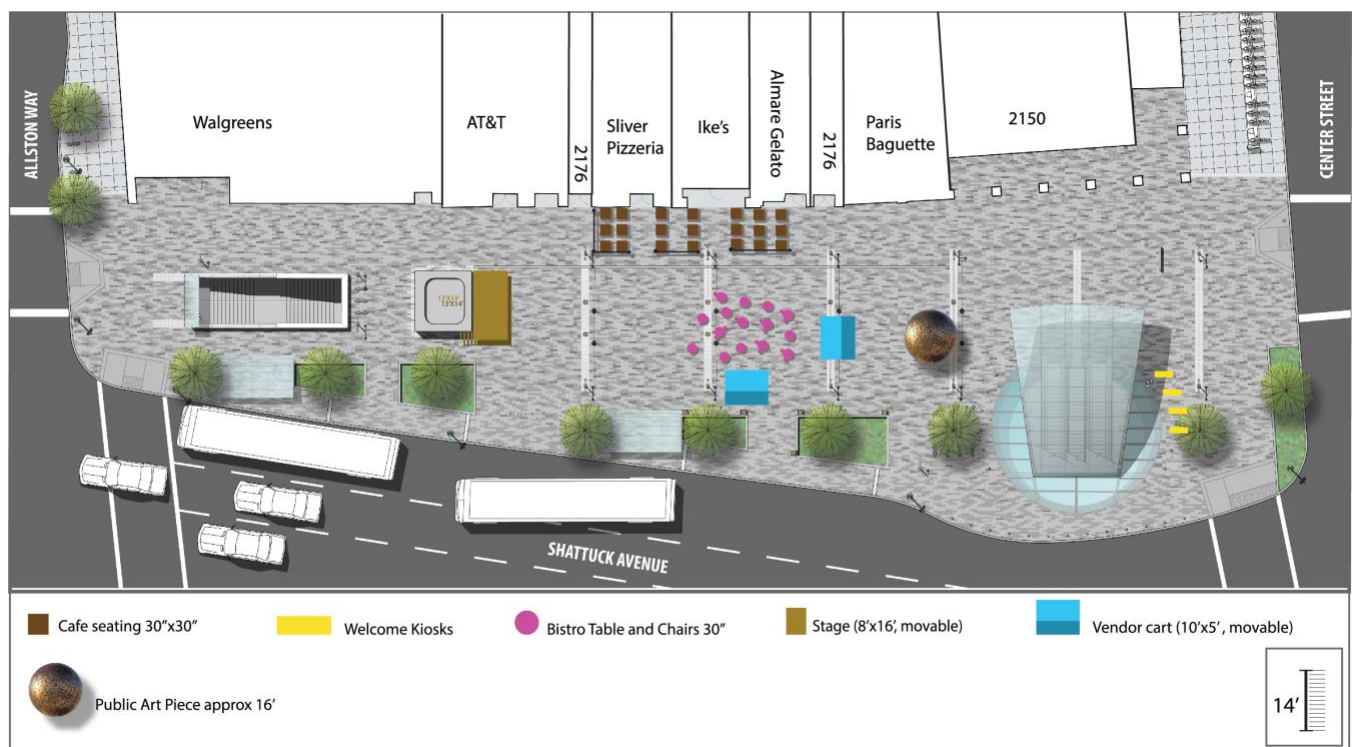
The [BART Plaza renovation project](#) is slated for completion in October 2018 with the following elements:

- A. A **new main steel and glass entrance** surrounded by a stunning glass floor that will illuminate from below at night, with a glass staircase into the station
- B. **New entrances at Allston and Addison** with similar glass and steel design
- C. New **high quality pavers** throughout the plaza with granite-like appearance
- D. Sleek **aluminum clad ventilation shaft**, which will be the backdrop for Berkeley LIVE! programming
- E. **Nine new trees** and **three landscape areas**
- F. **Eight sound and light poles** with catenary overhead LED lighting between poles
- G. **Two new bus shelters** with similar steel and glass design

This Activation Plan (in addition to the above Plaza project) entails the following components:

- 1. **Large Temporary Sculpture** funded and selected by Civic Arts Commission
- 2. **State of the Art Sound System** funded and selected by Civic Arts Commission
- 3. **Ambient Sound Installation** funded and selected by Civic Arts Commission
- 4. **Berkeley LIVE!** temporary stage and programming - managed by DBA
- 5. **Welcome Kiosk** on the north side of main entrance with maps and info about Downtown Berkeley, the City, and UC Berkeley
- 6. **Sidewalk Seating** managed by merchants (Paris Baguette, Almare Gelato, Ikes, and Sliver Pizzeria)
- 7. **Bistro Tables and Chairs** in the middle of Plaza managed by DBA and for public use
- 8. **Two nonprofit food vendors:** Ecology Center's *Berkeley Farm Stand*, and *1951 Coffee Kiosk*

DOWNTOWN BERKELEY PLAZA ACTIVATION PLAN MAP



Plaza Activation Plan components (in addition to the BART Plaza design) are as follows:

1. Large Sculpture

The Civic Arts Commission selected a piece by Berkeley-based artist [Michael Christian](#) for its first temporary art installation on [BART plaza](#). This stunning sculpture, called *Home*, is an oversized desktop globe made of multiple layers of steel with cutout imagery of street maps from around the world. At night, light from within the piece casts shadows of these maps on the surrounding plaza. Whether seen during the day or at night, the artwork communicates the perspective and influence of Berkeley—a small city with global reach!



2. State of the Art Sound System

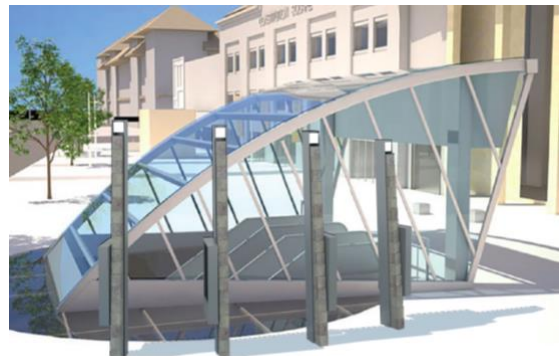
The Plaza includes a state-of-the-art [Meyers Sound](#) system on eight sound and light poles that will help activate the Plaza. The system can also be augmented for directional sound during live performances.

3. Ambient Sound Installation

The Civic Arts Commission (CAC) has commissioned ten sound art compositions by different artists for ongoing programming on the Plaza’s multi-channel sound poles. The first sound art installation to be presented on the Plaza is an original site-specific composition by local composer and electronic musician, [Chris Brown](#), called *Flow in Place*. With the multi-channel audio environment the public will be engaged in inspiring and provocative ways.

4. Welcome Kiosk

The Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) in conjunction with Visit Berkeley and UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Community Partnership Fund is installing a Welcome Kiosk designed by [Square Peg Designs](#) on the north side of the new entrance. The kiosk will consist of four pylons, with four illuminated light boxes with the following material: map of Downtown Berkeley, map of UC Berkeley Campus, list of Downtown cultural happenings, and Visit Berkeley information. The kiosk will also have slots for brochures and maps of Downtown etc. The kiosk is constructed by Berkeley builder Alex Nolan of Ohmdrone and will be installed by October 27th.



5. Sidewalk Seating

Plaza plans allow for up to 11.5 feet of sidewalk seating in front of storefront cafes (e.g., Sliver Pizzeria, Ikes, Almare Gelato and Paris Baguette). Seating will be managed and maintained by merchants or property owners, as per [Berkeley sidewalk seating regulations](#).

6. Bistro Tables and Chairs

The DBA has purchased and will make available to the general public 32 chairs and 16 tables by [Fermob Bistro](#) in the middle of the Plaza near the anticipated vendors. The DBA will bring in tables and chairs at night and during special event programming, and/or when other issues arise in the Plaza.

7. Two Nonprofit Food Vendors

The City conducted an RFP process for a one-year pilot program for two mission-driven nonprofit vendors to sell food and/or drink that activates the public space and provides useful healthy products. [1951 Coffee](#) and the [Ecoolgy Center](#) were the selected vendors. The Ecology Center’s *Berkeley Farm Stand* will open on October 19, making available fresh fruits and vegetables. The *1951 Coffee Kiosk* is expected to open in early November. Each booth will be approximately 10x10 in size, and located near power and water in the Plaza. The DBA is assisting the vendors with storage, waste disposal, and other services as needed.

8. Berkeley LIVE! On The Plaza

The DBA, with support of the CAC and the City, on a pilot basis will be programming music and other artistic performances and community activities under the name of Berkeley LIVE!. Performances will take place on a temporary stage in front of the newly sheathed ventilation shaft, and make use of the eight sound poles, as well as temporary directional sound when needed. Taylor Street Production (a Berkeley-based family owned company) will assist the DBA with an open transparent selection process, based on guiding principles of *Equity, Quality, Community, and Frequency* of programming. Berkeley LIVE! will kick-off with [BART Plaza Opening Week on Oct 18-21](#).