

Barren plazas hard to get to;
Walls where entrances should be



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Steps and barriers that limited access



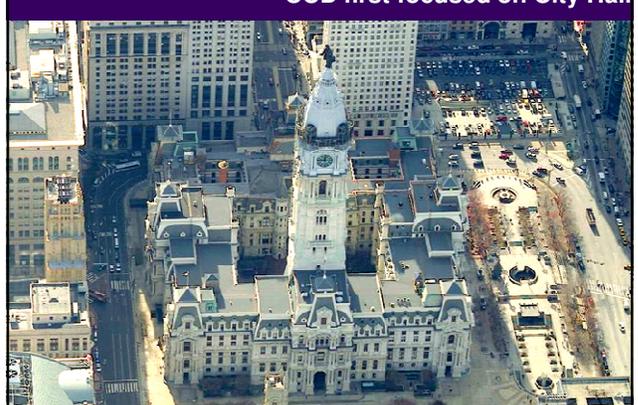
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Failed space even longer than Dilworth Plaza



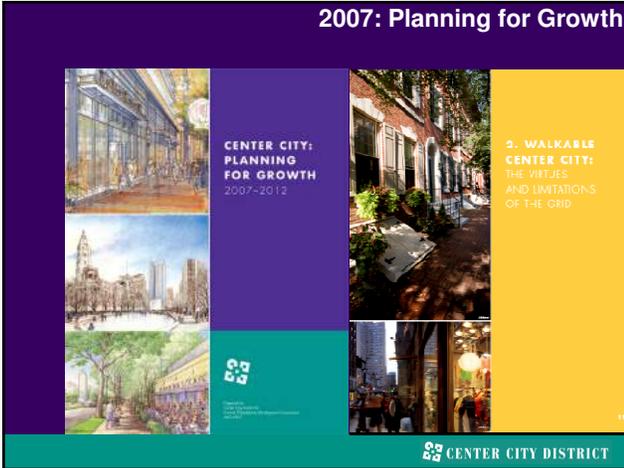
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CCD first focused on City Hall

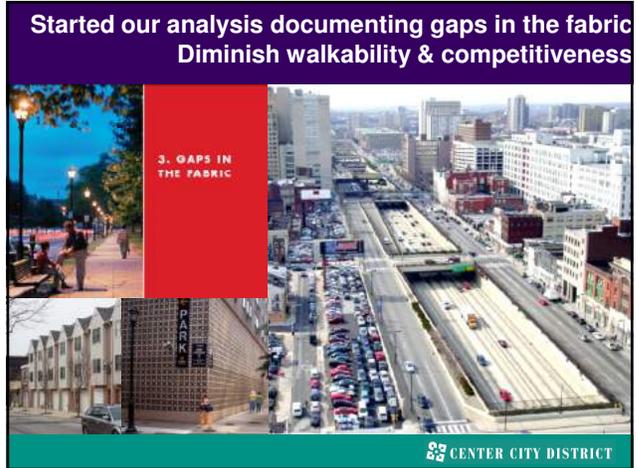


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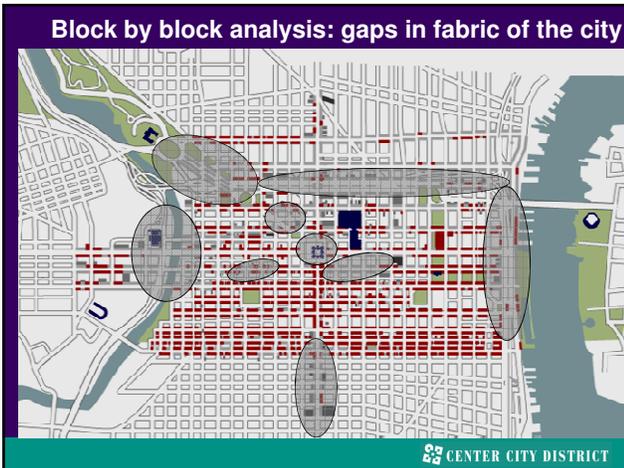
2007: Planning for Growth



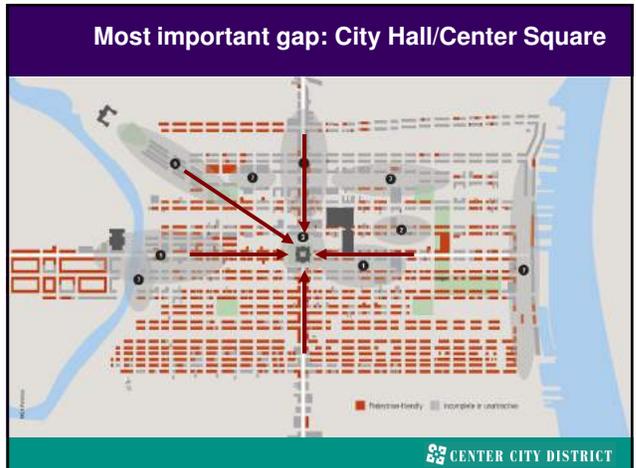
Started our analysis documenting gaps in the fabric Diminish walkability & competitiveness



Block by block analysis: gaps in fabric of the city



Most important gap: City Hall/Center Square



Walk directly in from the street



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Created first-class gateway to transit



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A great civic gathering space
Actively programmed



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With very diverse events



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Lush landscape



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2016 holidays: averaged 50,000 pedestrians/day
35,000 annual basis



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Love Park under construction
Plans for active programming



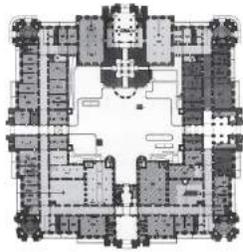
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In that context: what should the courtyard become?



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Funded by the William Penn Foundation
& Poor Richard's Charitable Trust
Wallace Roberts Todd (WRT)



GROUND FLOOR

Background Interviews:

- Greta Greenberger
- Bridget Greenwald
- Jon Farnham
- Nan Gutterman (Vitetta)
- Jeff Knueppel, Bob Lund, Joe Palantino (SEPTA)
- Sherman Aronson (BLT)



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Advisory group



- Paul Biedeman
David Brownlee
Feather Houstoun
Meryl Levitz
Julian Rackow
David Seltzer
Harris Steinberg
Page Talbott



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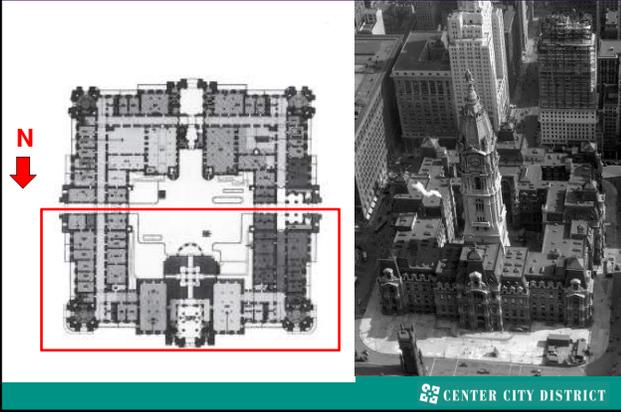
Lessons from the past:
When decision was made to move City Hall to Center Square



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Multiple options were considered
For both Municipal government & Court functions

Designed as 2 buildings: municipal government



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Front door to City Hall faced north



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Ceremonial entrance



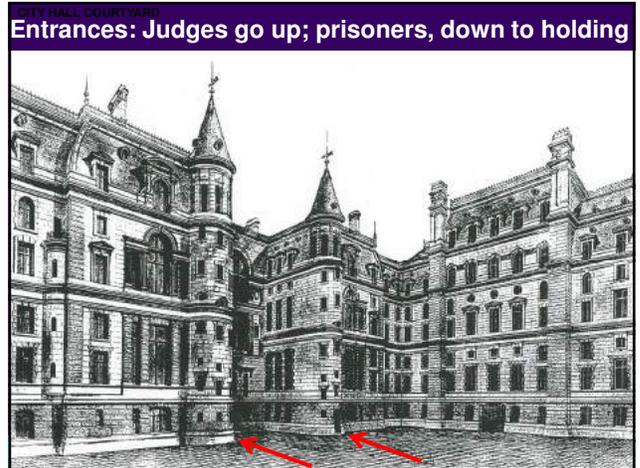
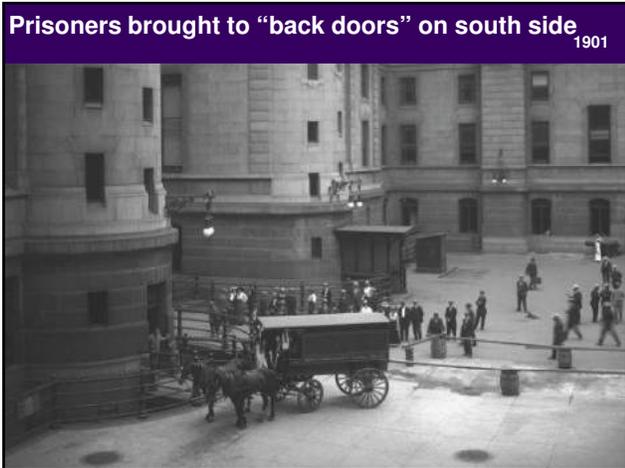
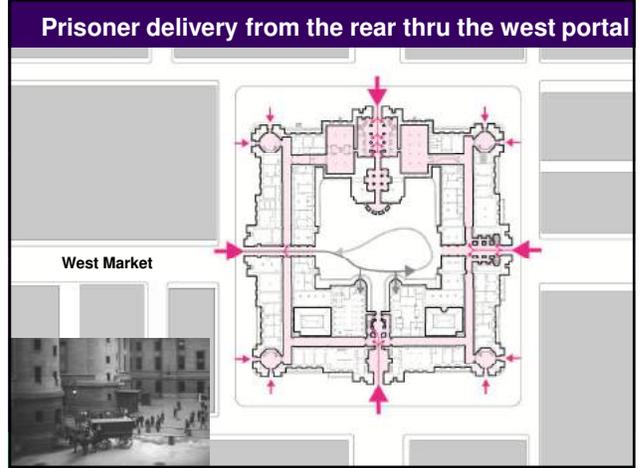
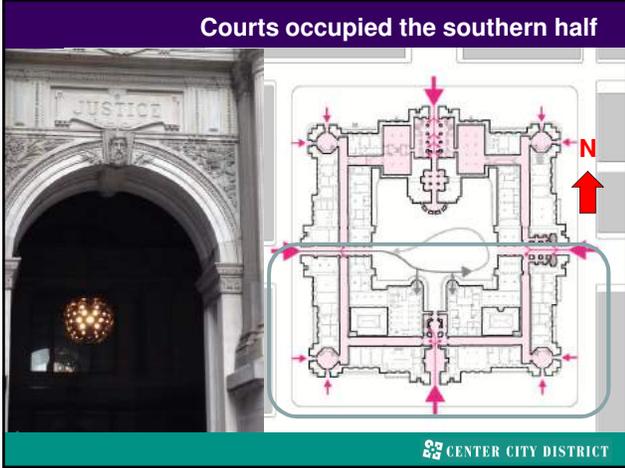
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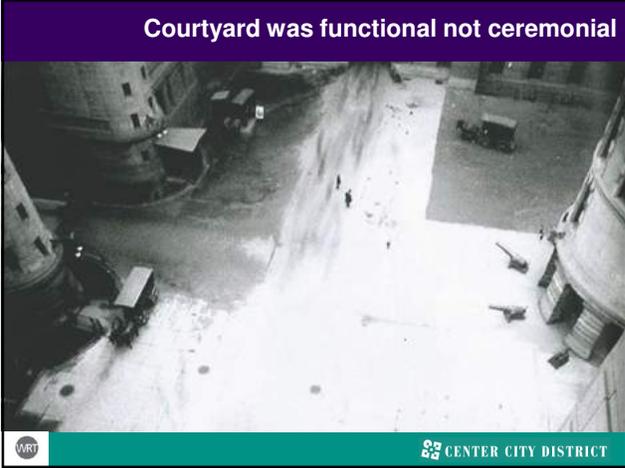
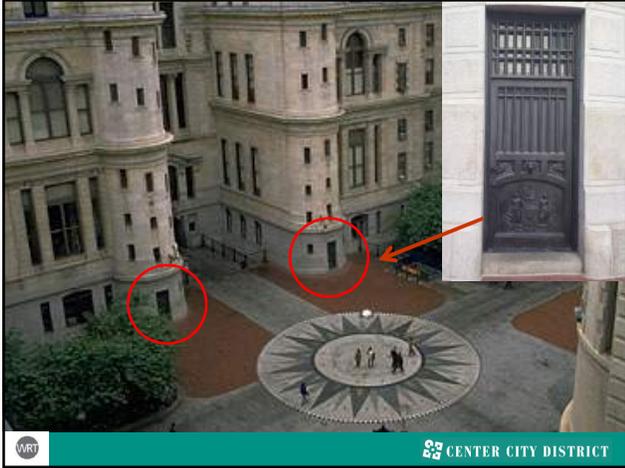
With stairs leading to Conversation Hall



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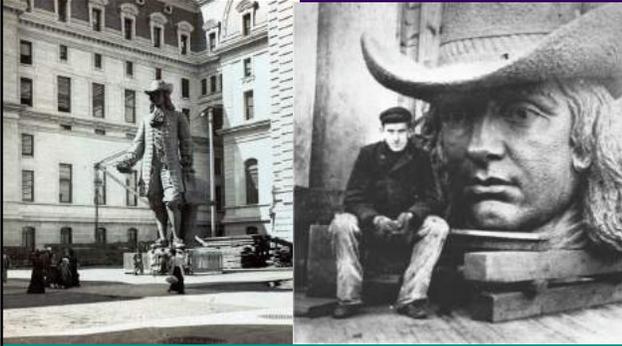
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**It wasn't just the William Penn statue,
it was all construction**



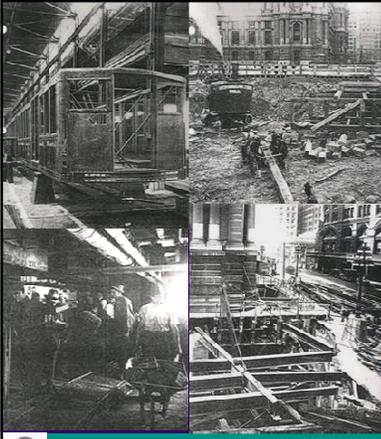
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**During 30 years of construction,
Courtyard never was a public space**

- 1871 – Commissioners name John McArthur as Architect
- 1872 – First foundation stone is laid
- 1875 – Stone façade is underway – 500 masons at work
- 1877 – First story is completed
- 1881 – Fourth story is completed
- 1886 – Alexander Calder finishes plaster cast for sculpture of William Penn
- 1891 – Tower is completed at 337 feet
- 1894 – William Penn is installed on top of the tower
- 1901 – Submission of final completion report to commissioners.



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No sooner was the building done than construction started on subway lines:

- 1903 – 1908
Market Street line
- 1915 – 1920
Broad St station
- 1928 - opening the
Broad Street line
- 1929 - 1934
Market Frankford
under City Hall

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1915-11-16-15

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1931 Subway construction



1931 - 1932 - General view, City Hall courtyard from 27th floor

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There is no "golden age" of the courtyard
it was mostly a functional space



VRT

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CITY HALL COURTYARD

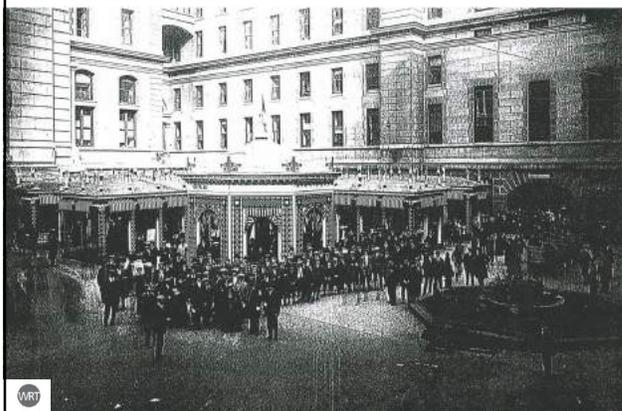
One 1908 Parkway inspired vision



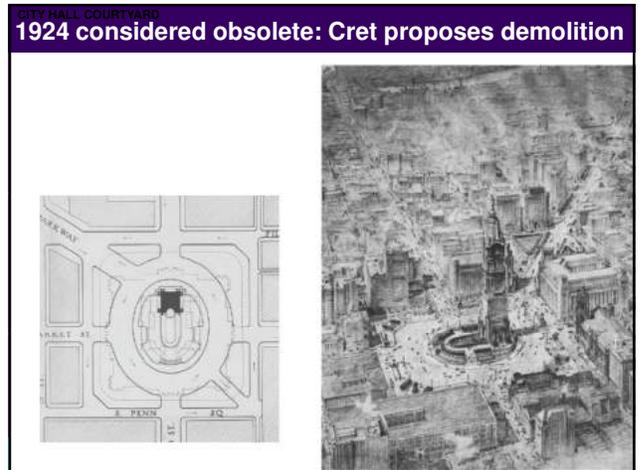
VRT

CITY HALL COURTYARD

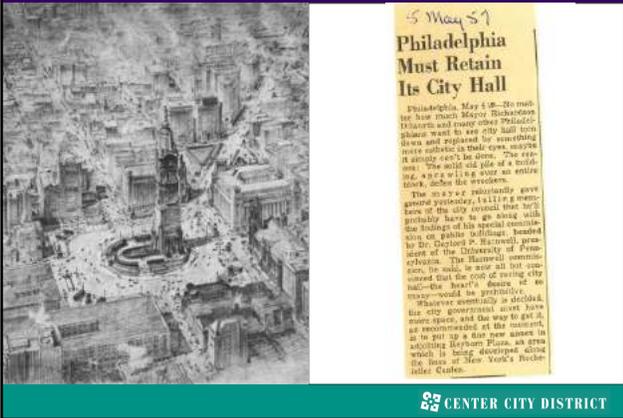
A few temporary uses as exhibition space: 1912



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CITY HALL COURTYARD
Only in 1957 did Dilworth conclude: too expensive to demolish



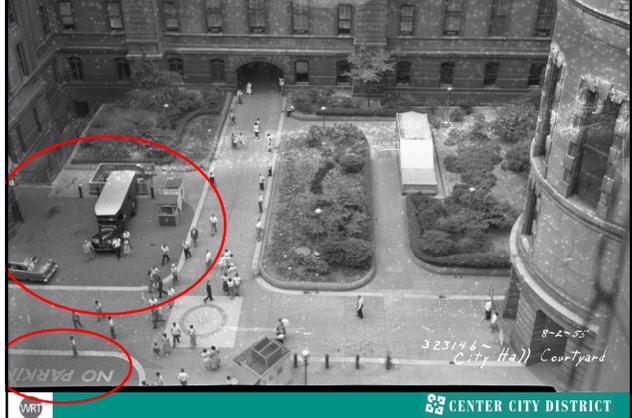
CITY HALL COURTYARD
Original compass installed in 1935



Landscape improvements: 1955



Still very much a functional, service space



CITY HALL COURTYARD

Holiday decorations 1959



47385-2 12-17-57



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CITY HALL COURTYARD

Flags for the Bicentennial



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CITY HALL COURTYARD

Theatrical performances: 1978



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CITY HALL COURTYARD

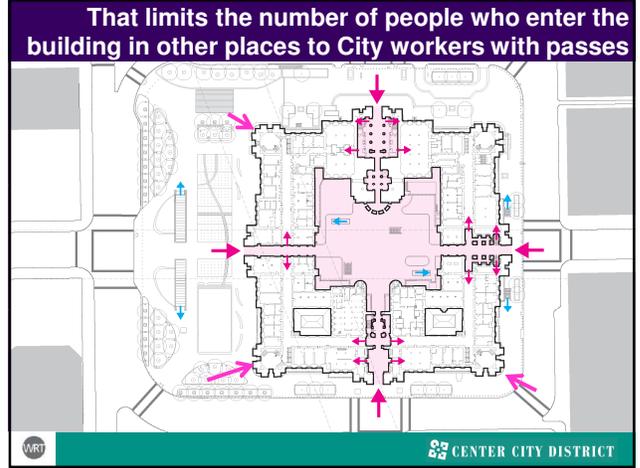
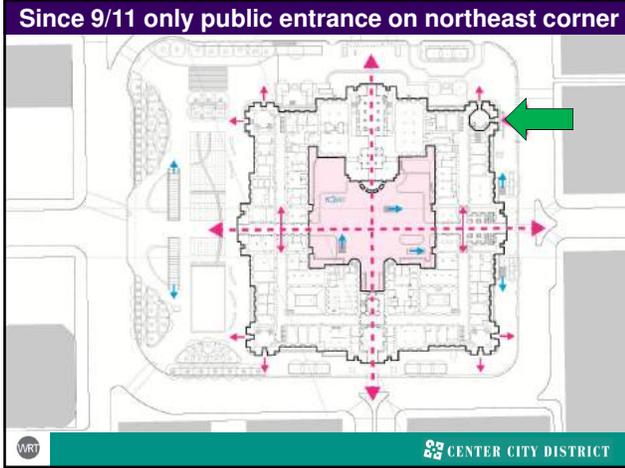
Ed Bacon, Mirrored Ball over City map: 1994



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(6) Used for holiday tree lighting



(7) Used by PIFA as special events space

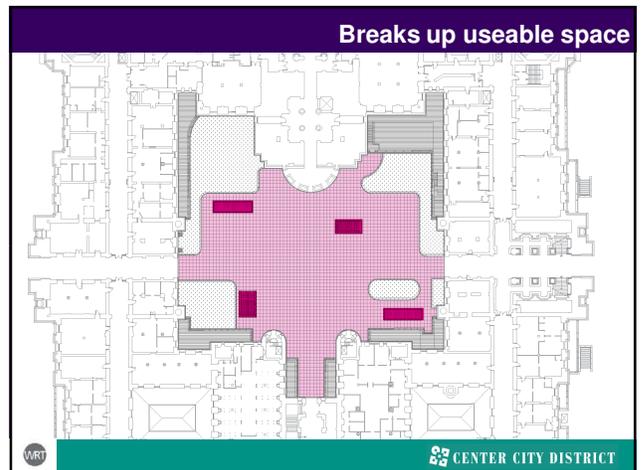
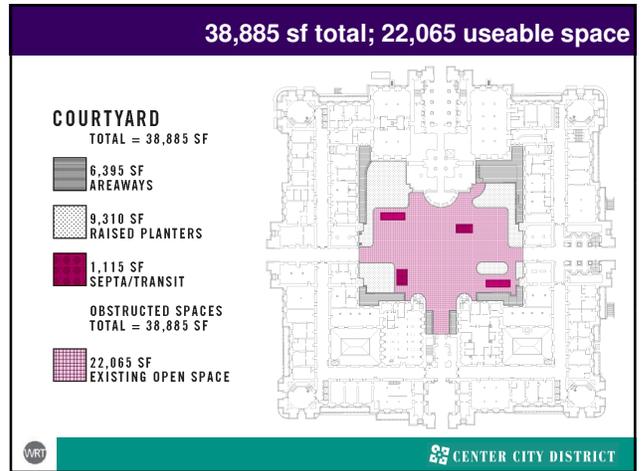
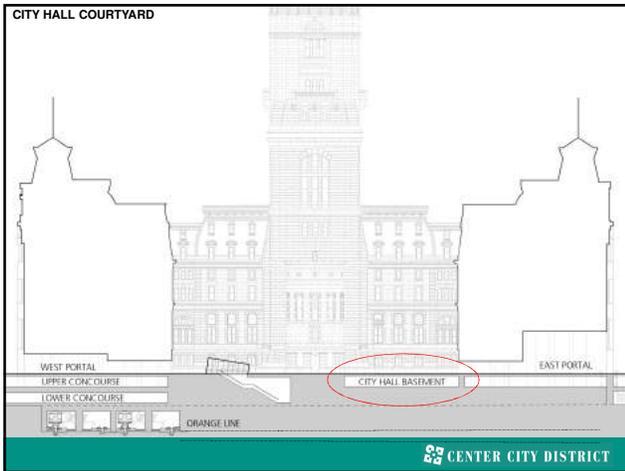


Expanded with the new temporary stage

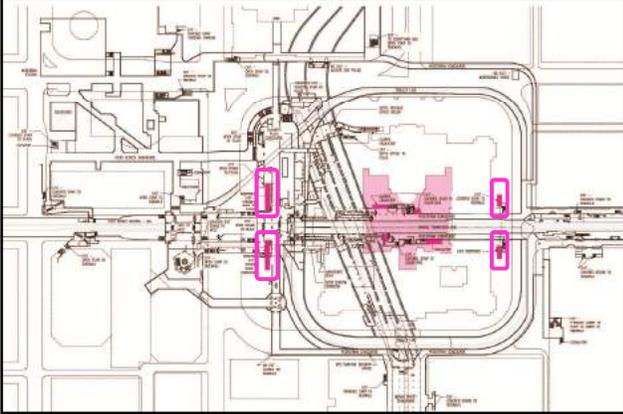


CITY HALL COURTYARD
Subsurface constraints: basement areas





Four courtyard stairs; four options outside



Dilworth transparent glass



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Northwest stairway boarded up





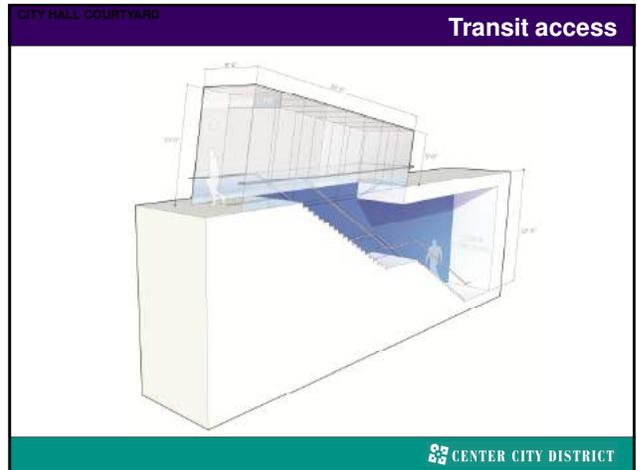
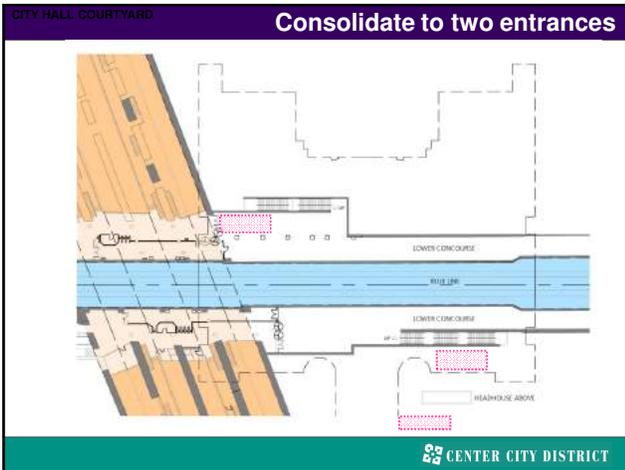
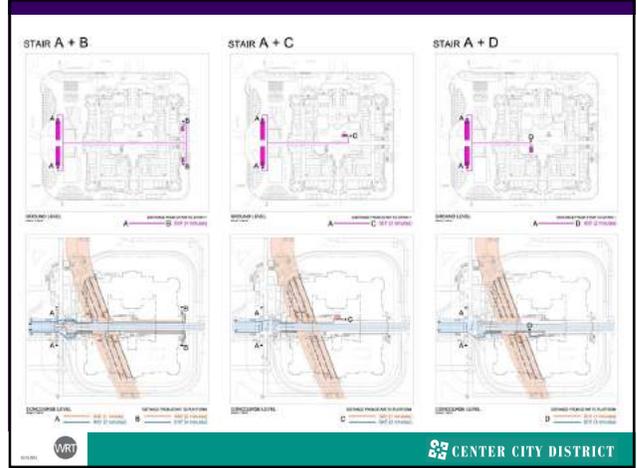
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Some provide a great sense of arrival





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Concept design: either one



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Concept design: or two entrances



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Illuminated at night



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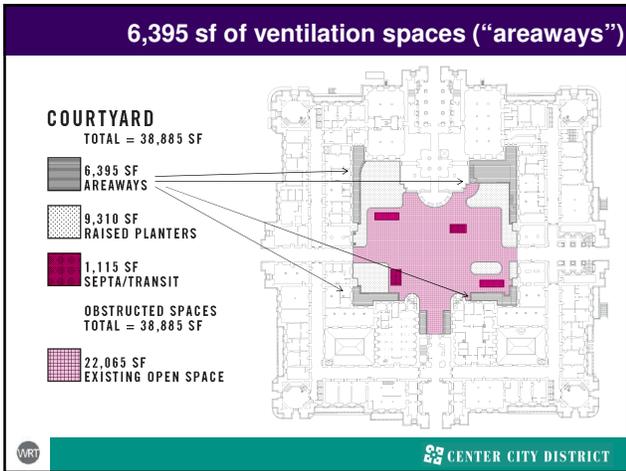
CITY HALL COURTYARD

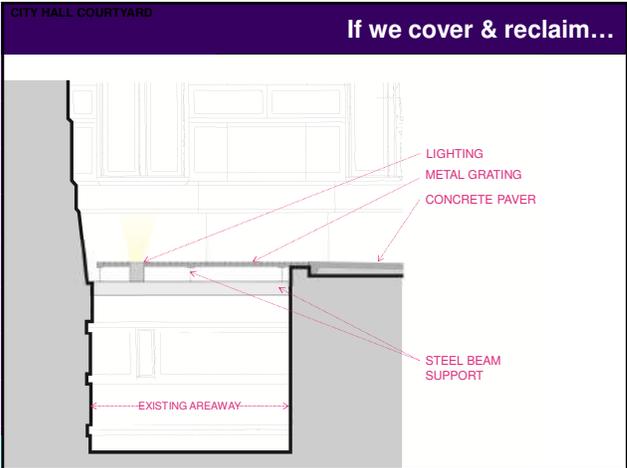
Edge conditions

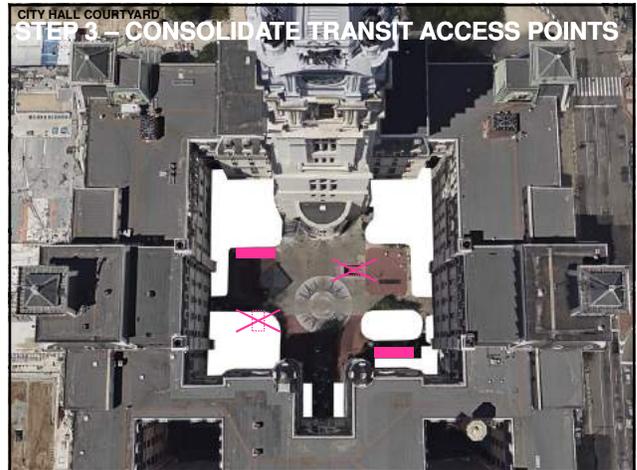
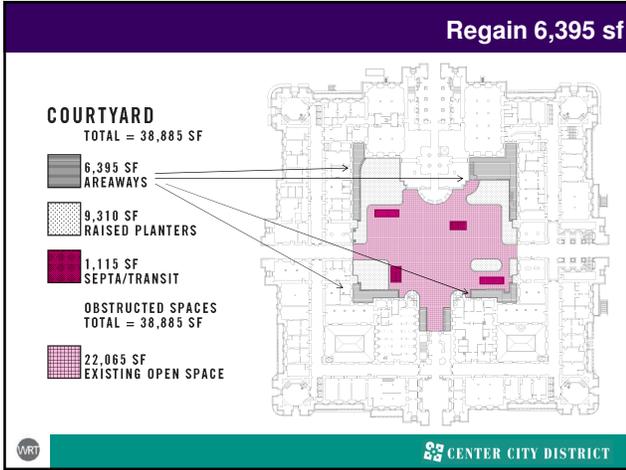


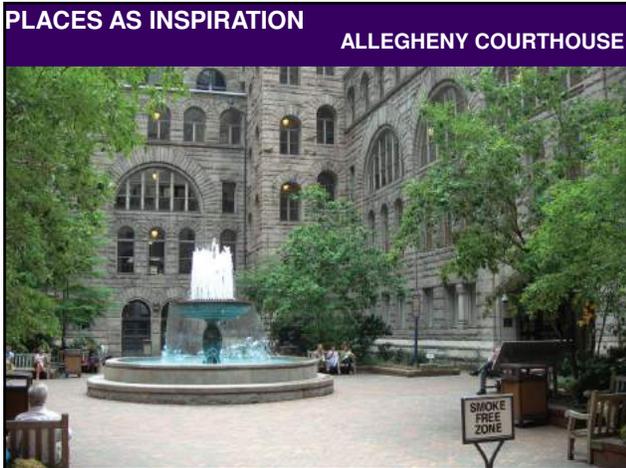
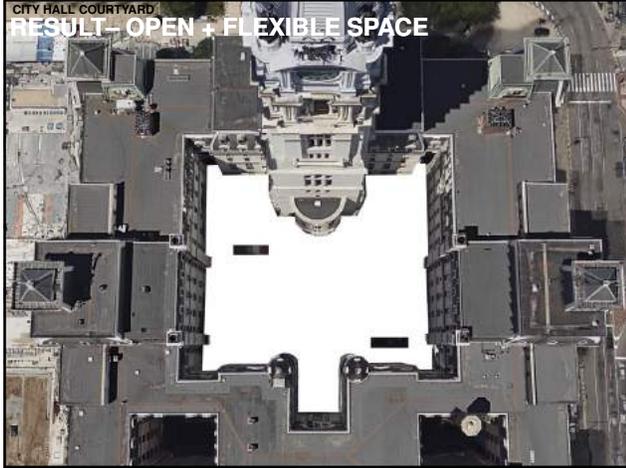
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CITY HALL COURTYARD

PLACES AS INSPIRATION

PALAIS ROYALE



PLACES AS INSPIRATION

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, DC



Objectives: Improve gathering/sitting spaces



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CITY HALL COURTYARD

Improve gathering/sitting spaces



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Add food: restaurants or lunch trucks?



CITY HALL COURTYARD

Chairs & tables?



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

DANCING



Advisory group



- Paul Biedeman
- David Brownlee
- Feather Houstoun
- Meryl Levitz
- Julian Rackow
- David Seltzer
- Harris Steinberg
- Page Talbott

Keep it open to the sky



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Emphasize crossroads function & historic position at center of city



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Keep it simple, like a Quaker meeting space



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A more passive contemplative place



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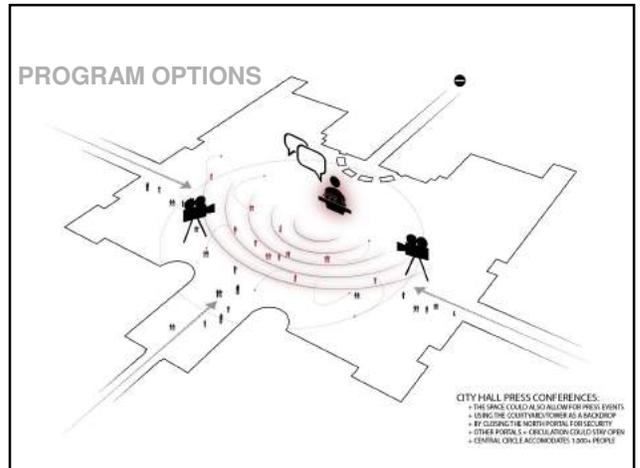
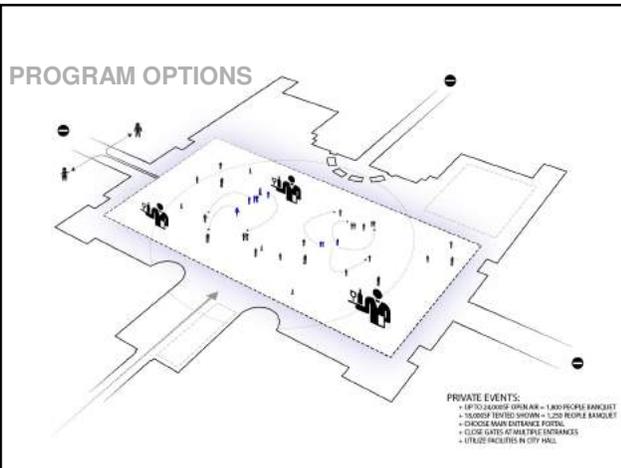
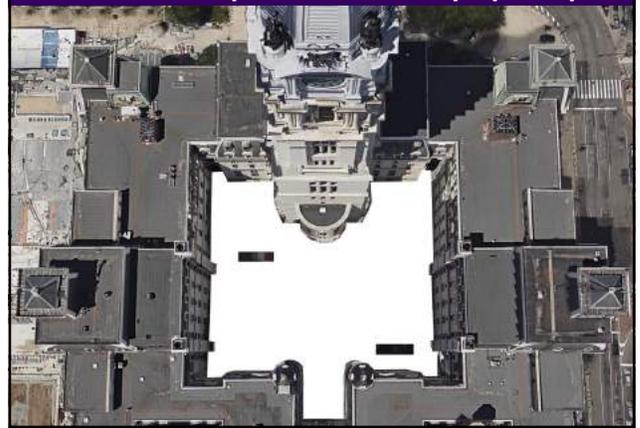
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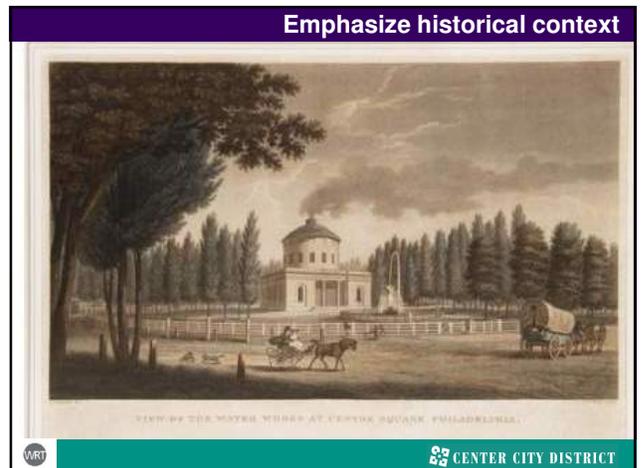
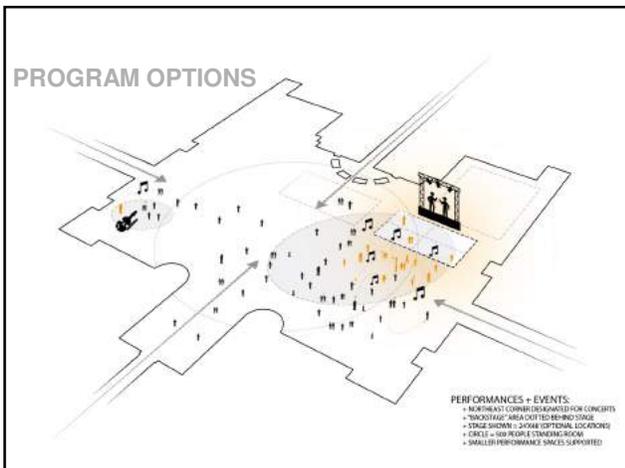
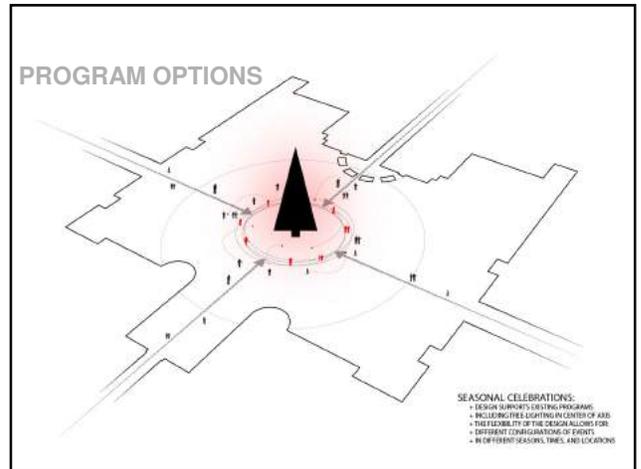
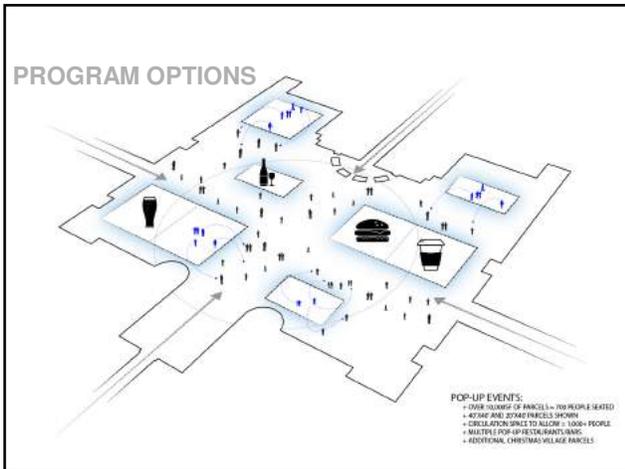
Activate with periodic programming



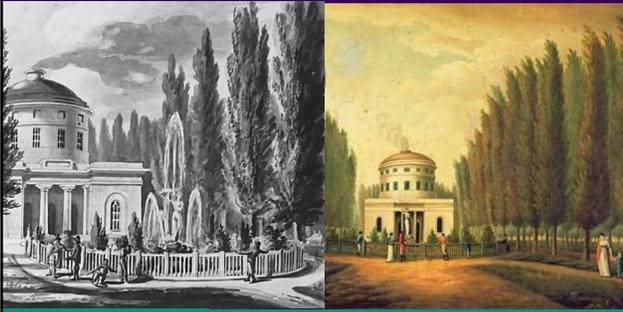
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Create an open, flexible, multi-purpose space

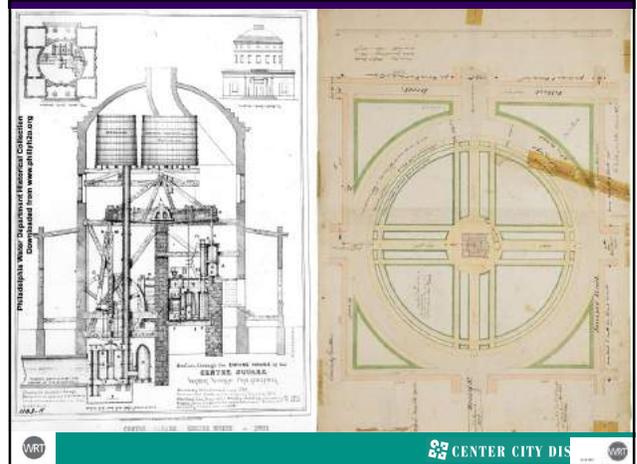




Original waterworks located at center of current courtyard



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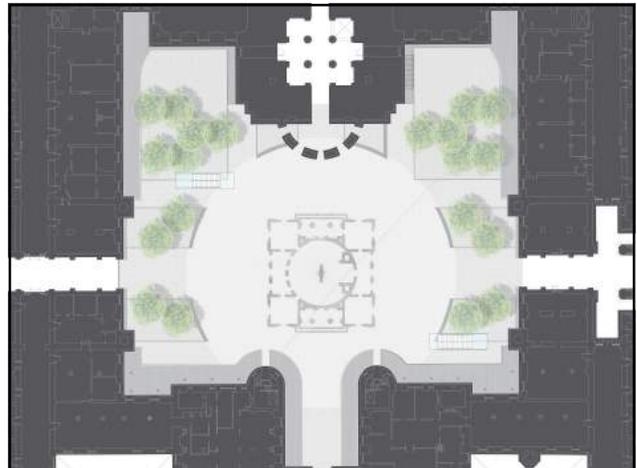


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Recreate footprint in surface; align plantings in original layout



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Flexible open space programmed for different uses
Less is more



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\$9.1 million



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Reclaim & activate the portals



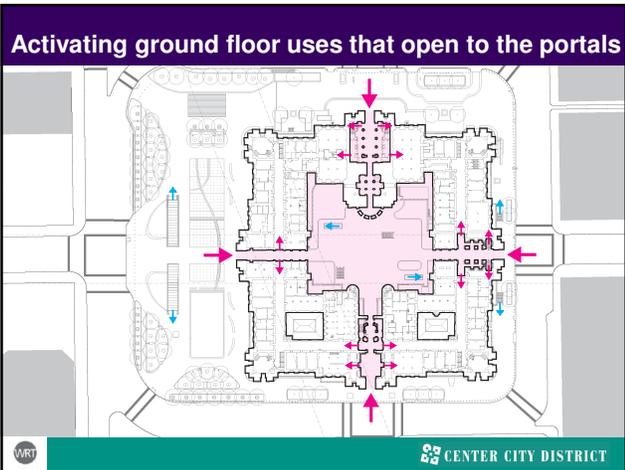
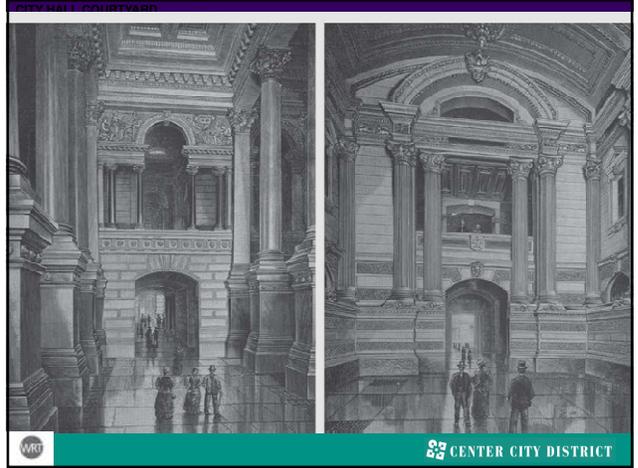
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CITY HALL COURTYARD

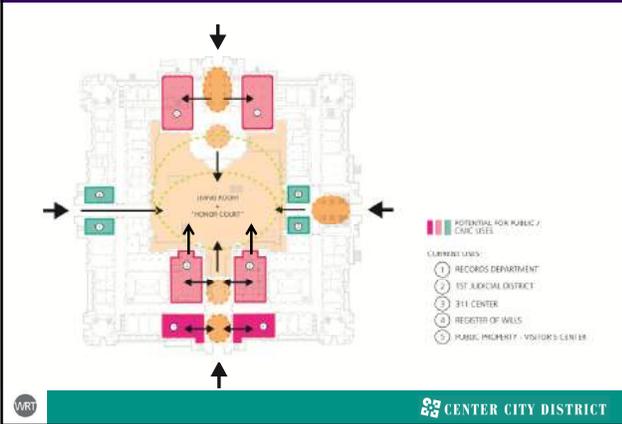
2015: the chain link fences



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Potential for other public/civic uses on ground floor



Enhanced center square for Philadelphia
Use Southwest funded phase to evaluate what works



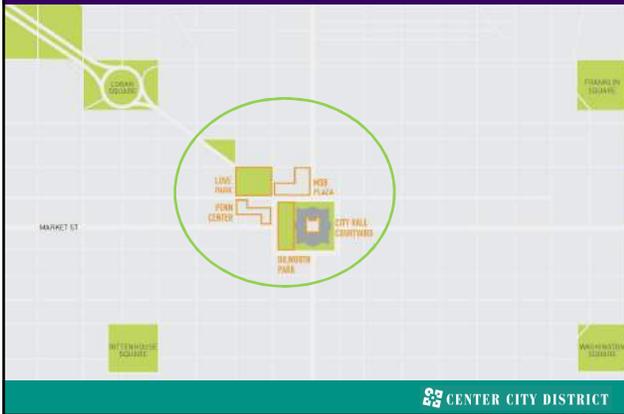
Re-evaluate after Love Park opens
& we understand interplay with Dilworth Park



Final decisions should wait on experience
Other Penn Center places



All these spaces result from major interventions



From building the Parkway



1951-1952 Demolition of "Chinese Wall"



Created both Dilworth Park



& Penn Center Plaza



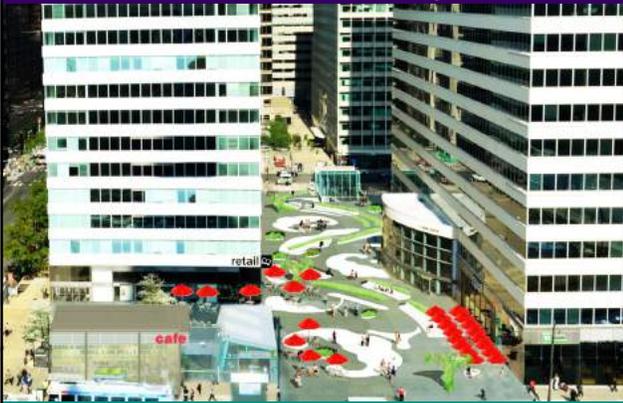
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Failed space even longer than Dilworth Plaza



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We've done periodic studies



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How to add new green public amenities



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Active thriving use & bicycle station



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Love Park open by end of year



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Challenge of MSB plaza



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2001 City Planning Commission concept



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2012 concept & connection to Convention Center



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PHS: Temporary Urban Garden in 2018



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PHS: Temporary Urban Garden in 2018



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Not simply about design or temporary place-making:
Are sustainable resources available for active management?



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For continuous maintenance



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Seasonal plant changes



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Routine upgrades



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Sufficient demand to support multiple cafes/food trucks?



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Draw crowds & attract sponsors



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**Do we have the capacity to think about
A coordinated management plan for public spaces?**



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