

2023 AIA | DC Chapter Design Awards

Project Title: Prather's Alley

Location: Mount Vernon, DC

Date of Completion: 2022

Project Statement (150 words max):

This project to reimagine Prather's Alley reclaims historically underutilized alley infrastructure to inspire culture, commerce, and connectivity. After a series of community surveys and design workshops the proposed improvements included three interventions: a public art display, mobile market, and traffic calming.

Design Narrative: How does this project address Design for Integration, Wellbeing, and Discovery? (150 words max)

To celebrate the living history of Prather's Alley, visual installations have been added to reintegrate and reactivate the space. A vinyl mural pays homage to the former Northern Liberty Market, a cultural anchor of its time, and hosts a rotating photography installation.

A family of mobile market stalls brings activity and commerce to the alley. Capitalizing on a popular weekly farmer's market nearby, three of the stall types work together to support food preparation and instruction.

The final intervention was to convert the alley to one-way traffic and delineate a pedestrian corridor. The new plan allows people, cars, and delivery trucks to safely occupy the alley together.

Community Engagement: How does this project address Design for Equitable Communities and Economy? (150 words max)

The inclusion of diverse voices has been vital to reinvigorating Prather's Alley. Engagement to understand the needs and desires of the Mount Vernon Triangle community with respect to the alley's reimagination started in 2018. Subsequently, a series of events – survey, focus group design workshop, and site visits – engaged the community in the project as it developed. At the focus group, community members used paper models of the alley to diagram potential activation form and program. This feedback was coalesced into three schemes, which were posted for a community vote in the alley. The winner - market stalls!

Sustainability and Resilience: How does this project address Design for Ecosystems, Water, Energy, Resources, and Change? (150 words max)

The outdoor kitchen kiosk connects the resources from the fresh farm farmers market to local residents with the goal of teaching healthy eating habits.

Would you like this project to be considered for a Jury Citation in any of the following categories? (For more information on the 10 Measures from the Framework for Design Excellence, please [click here.](#))

Integration

Equitable Communities

Ecosystems

Water

Economy

Energy

Well-being

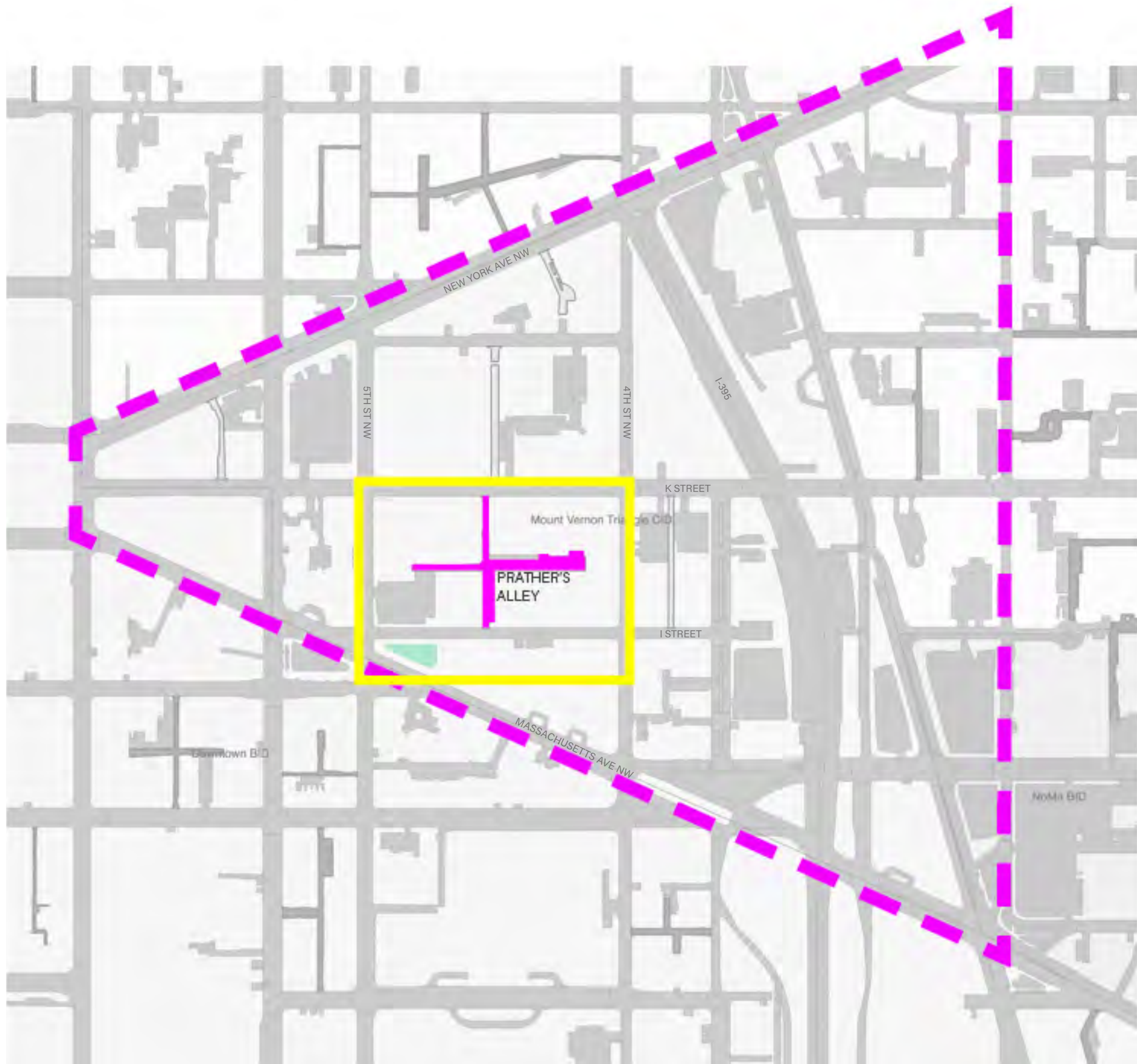
Resources

Change

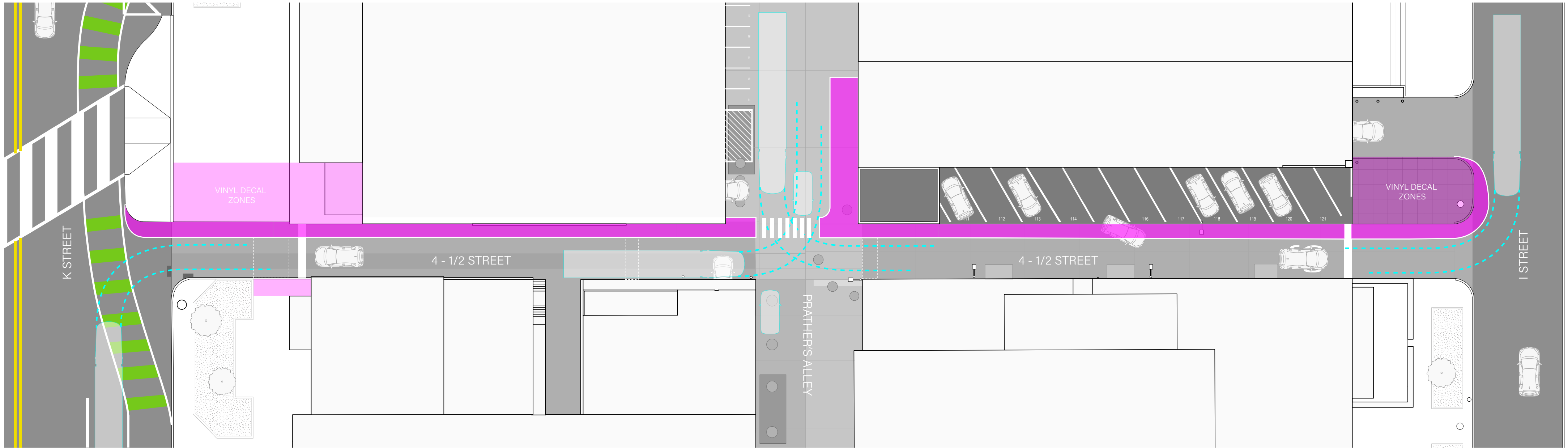
Discovery

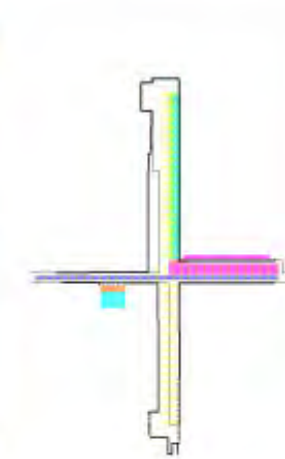
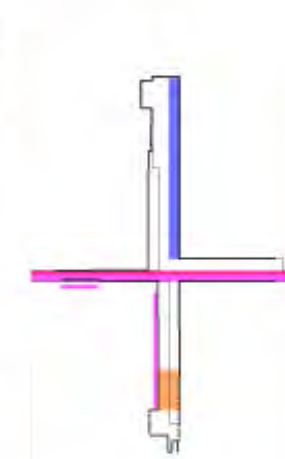


HOW CAN AN ALLEY BECOME
THE CENTER OF COMMUNITY?
PROJECT THE PAST TO MAKE NEW PLACE.

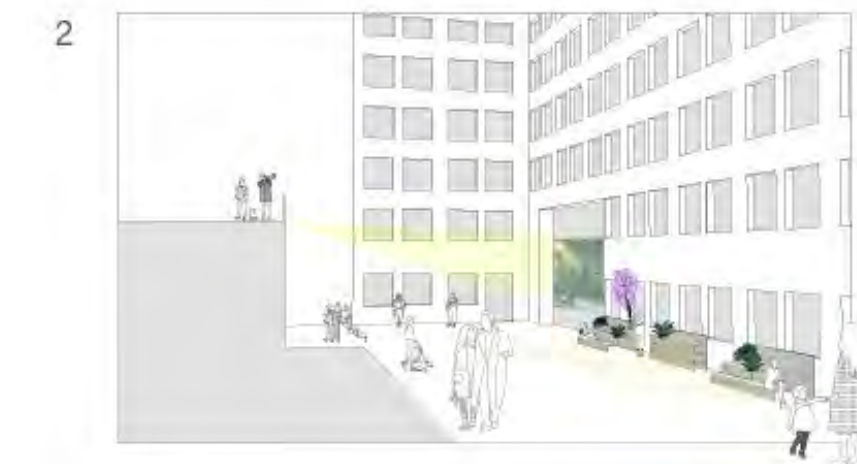


Mount Vernon Triangle CID

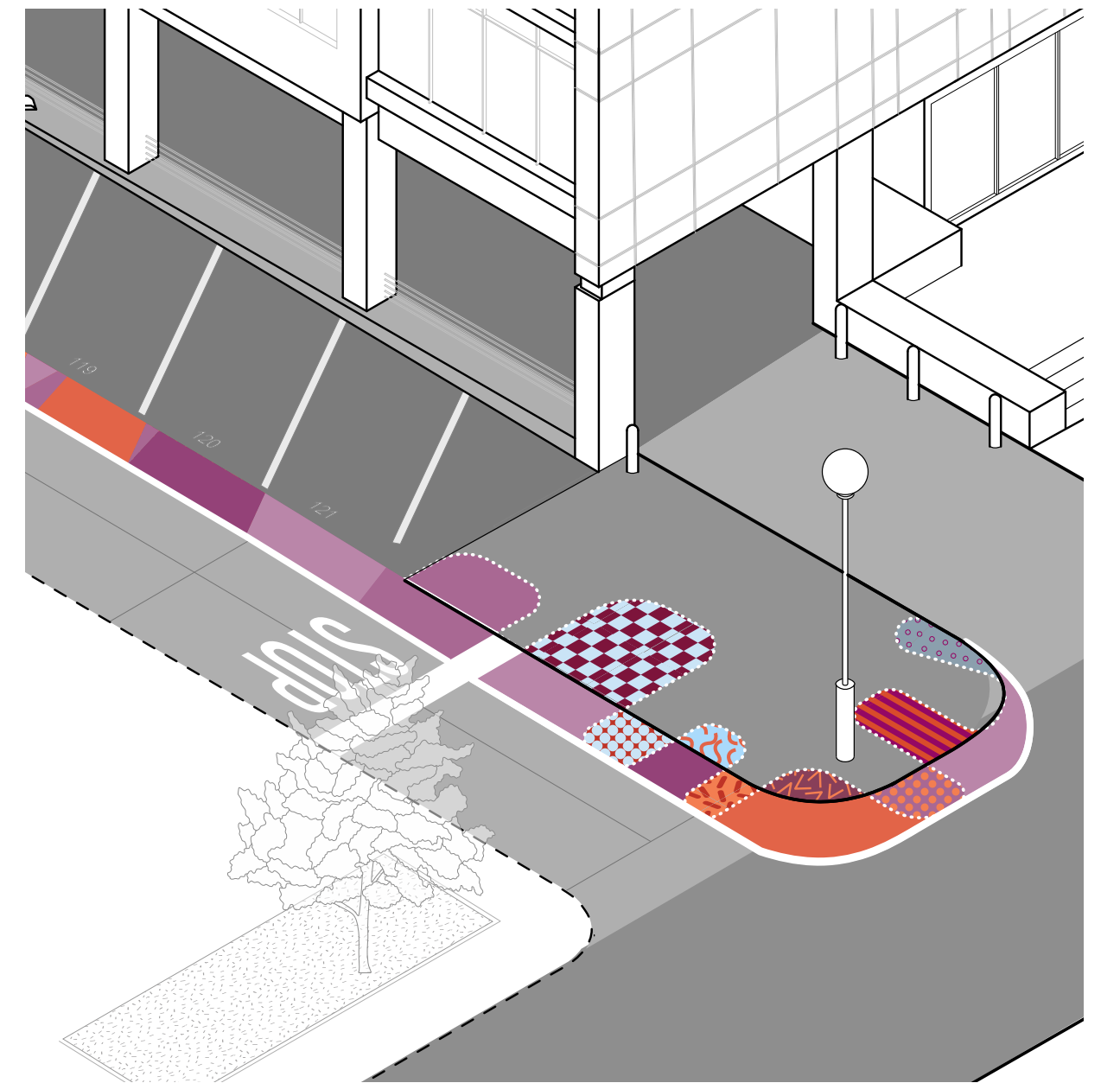
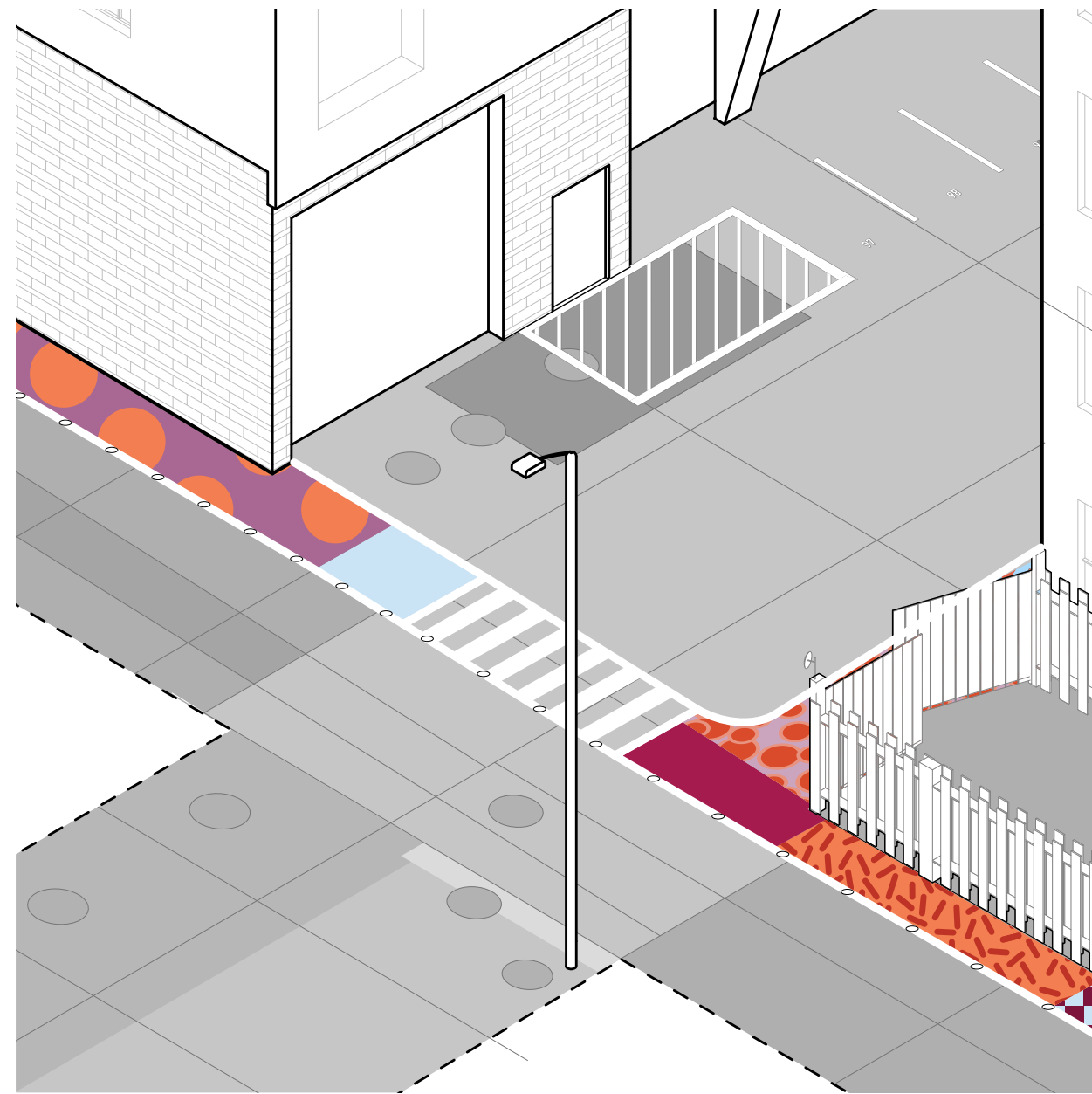
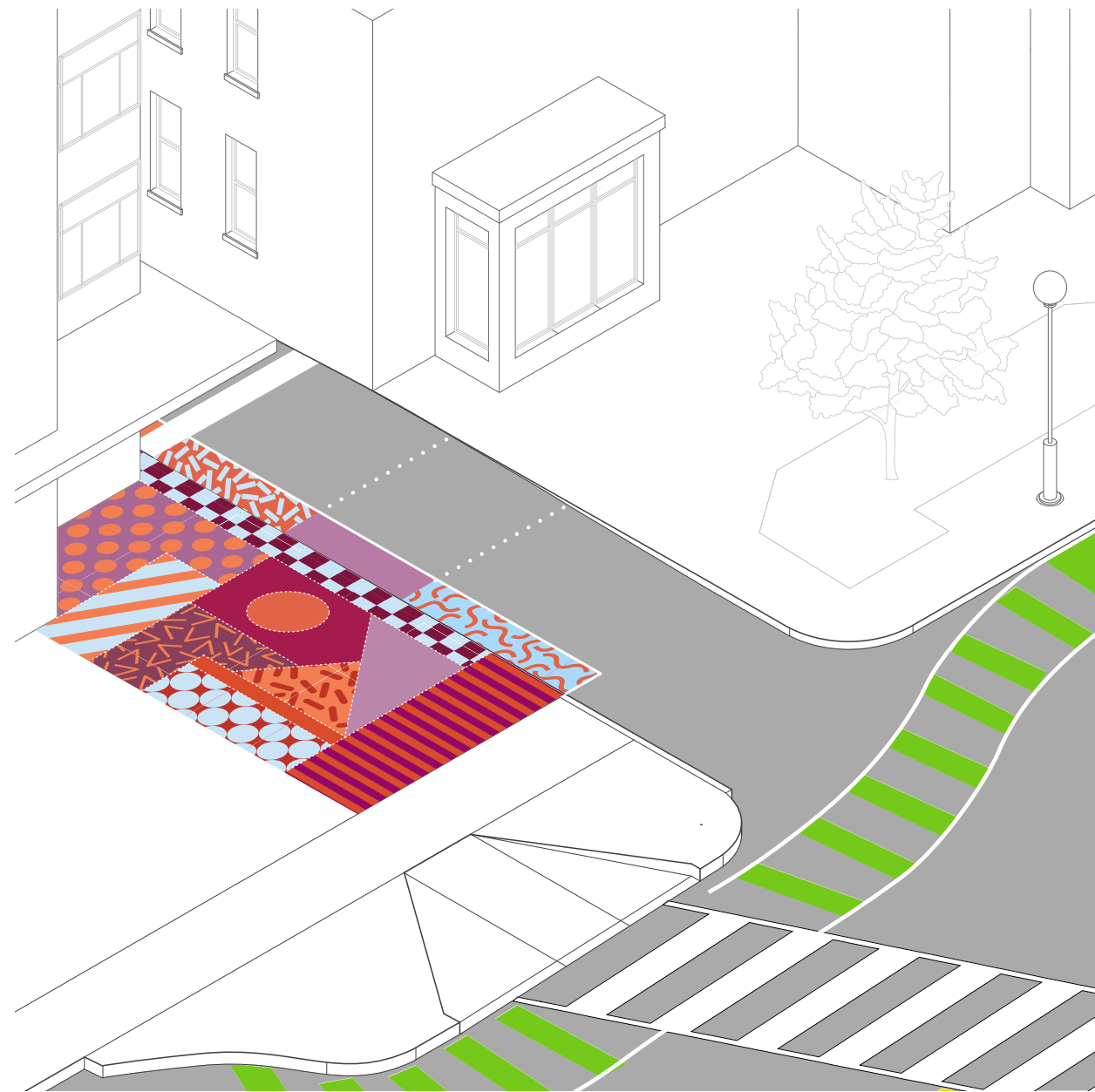


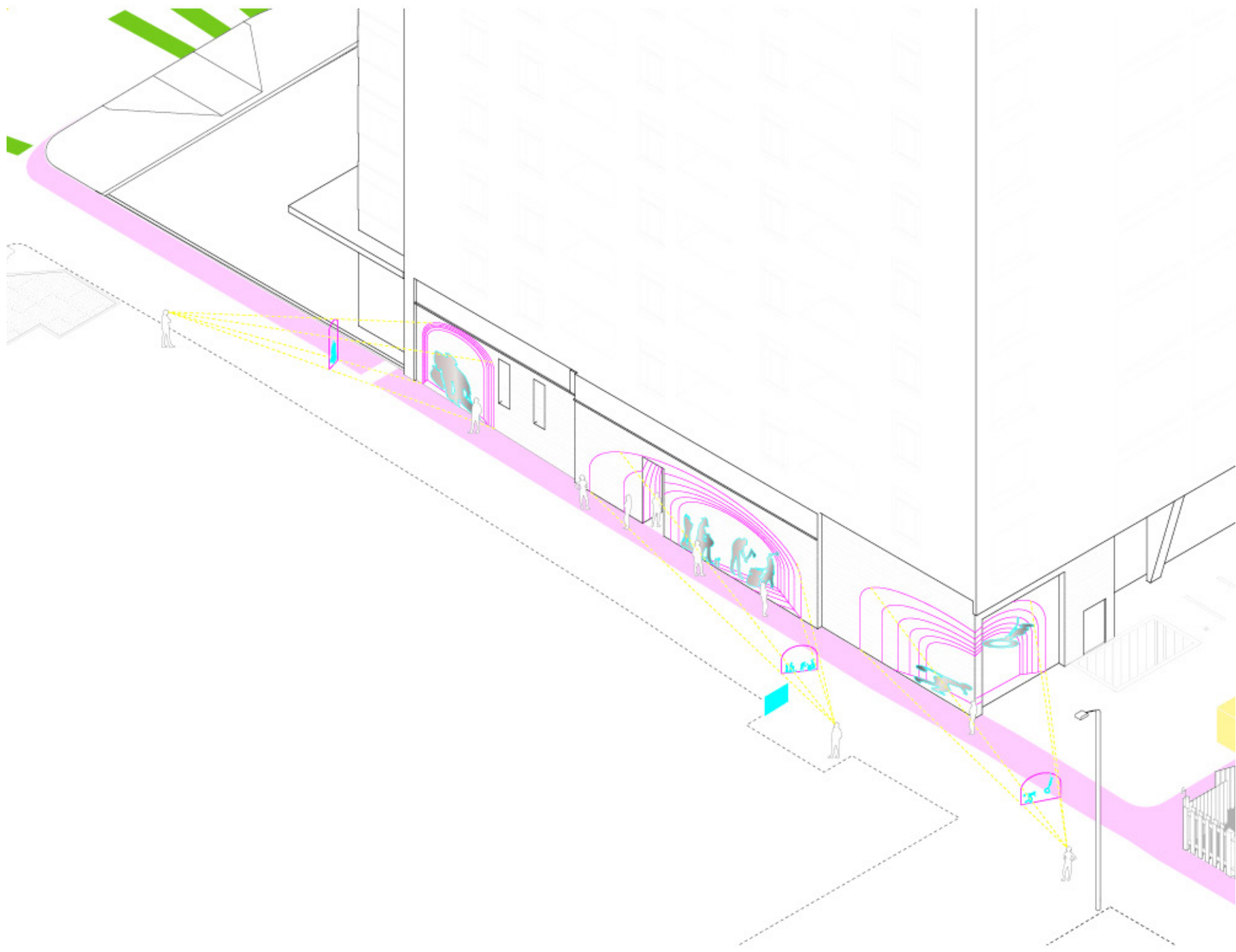


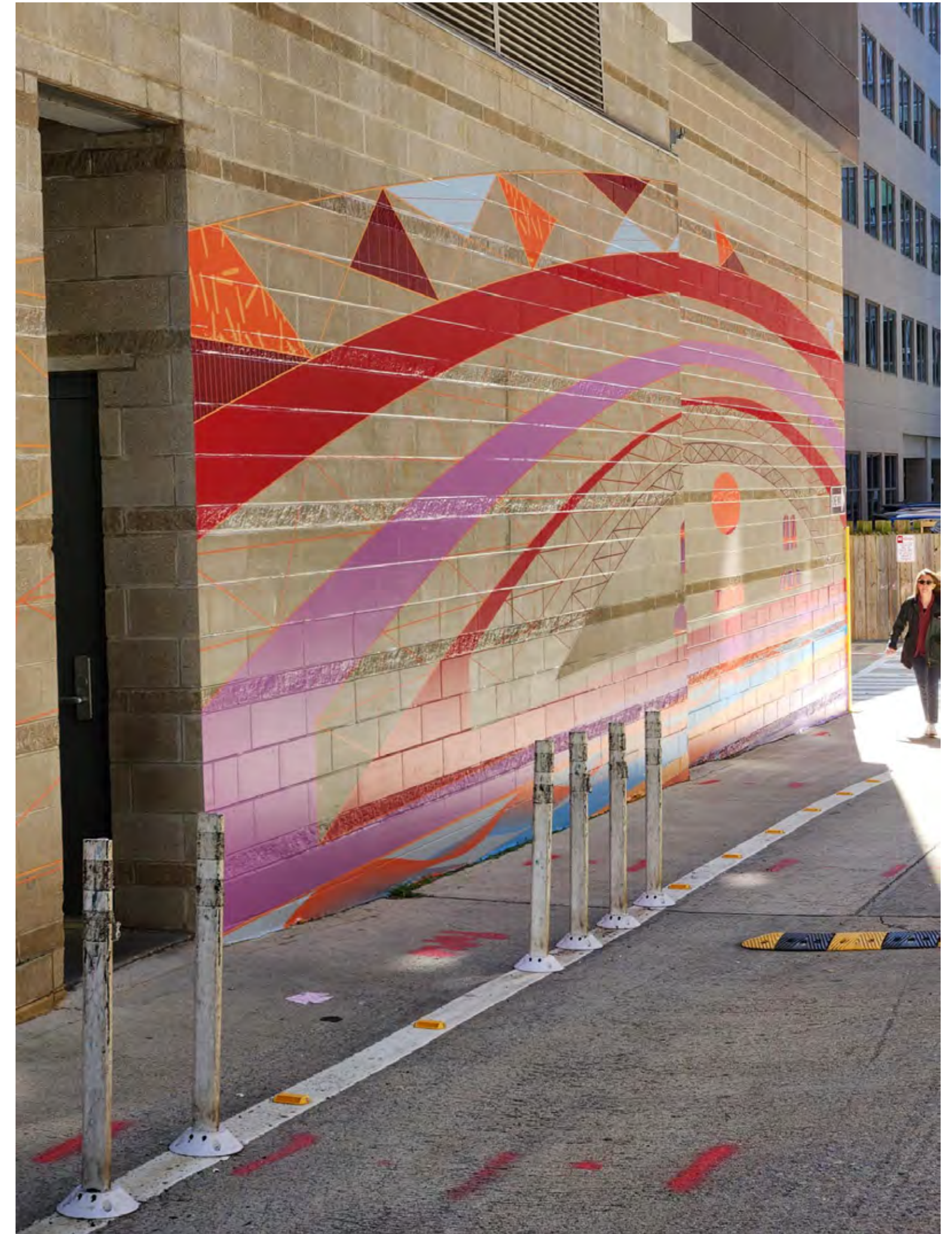
- ACTIVITIES:**
- EXPERIENCING ART (4)
 - MEETING FRIENDS/LOUNGING (3)
 - FEELING SAFE (3)
 - EATING + PICNIC (2)
 - ATTENDING A SHOW (2)
 - LIGHTING (2)
 - GARDENING (2)
 - WALKING YOUR DOG (2)
 - COVERING (1)











Northern Liberty Market



ONE WAY



TRAINING



Art walk

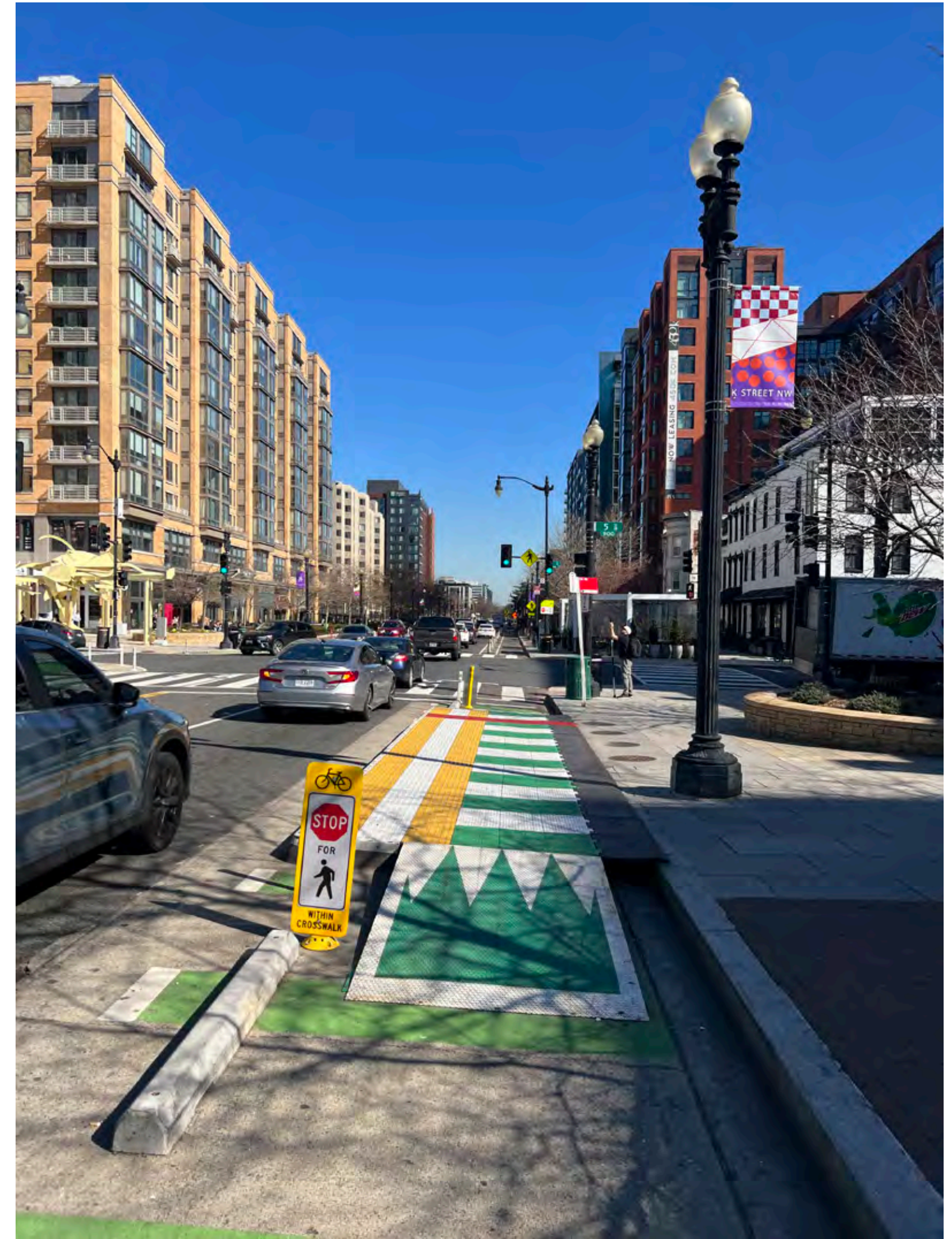


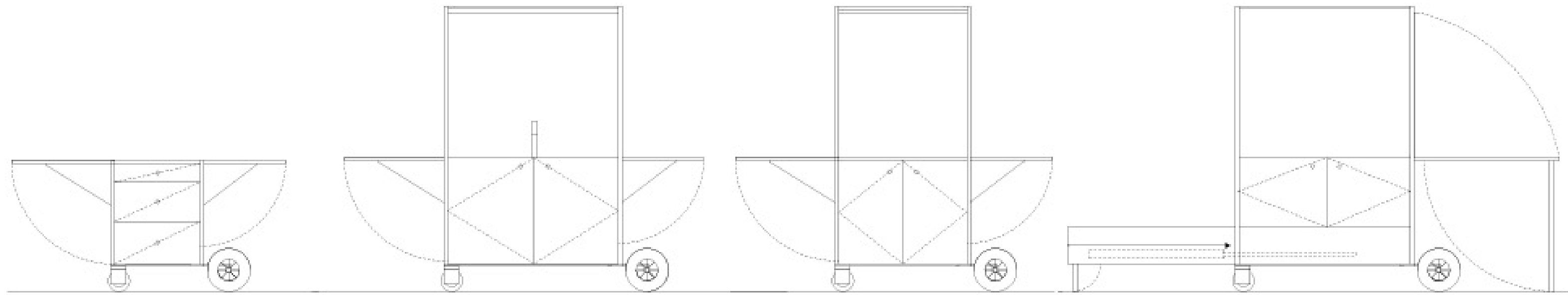
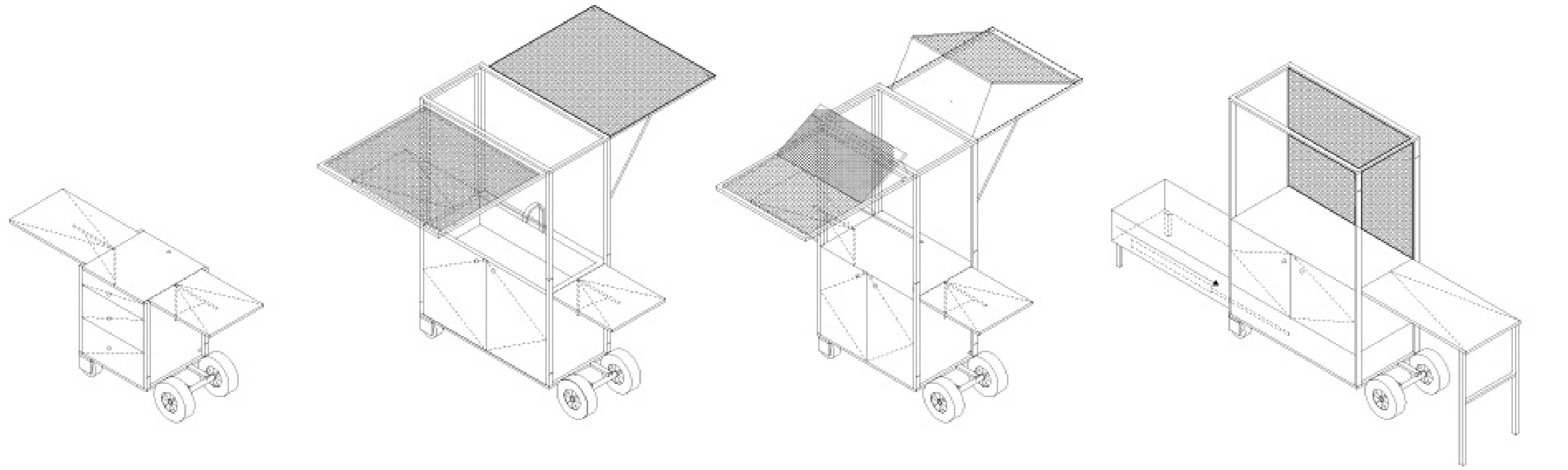






Community Partnerships
are Key!





STORE

WASH

COOK

SELL



Test - Kitchen in Action



The Kiosks can be combined to create different lengths



Market Kiosk





Mirrors reflect kitchen action to the audience