The Arts and Culture Corridor

Javier M-Galinsky, Reyna Lusson, Jorge Carrillo, Andrew Spiller, Frank Hall, Alaina Parrish, Derek Slone, Bill Plumley
Guiding Principles:

Connectivity, Sociability, Activity
Overview

15th and High

Wexner Plaza
Overview of Framework Proposal

Main Points

Outline of ideas for increasing utilization of area around 15th Avenue and High Street

Identifies three pulses of a “cultural corridor” with the 15th and High at the center

This intersection is the “historic gateway” of the university, and forms an axis from the East Residential area through the Oval

The Arts District, Framework 1.0
Is This District Effective?

‘Dimensions of Performance’

Vitality, Sense

Fit - Does it match the needs of its users?

Cultural uses largely confined indoors

Access - Where can you go from here?

Proximity to parking garages, COTA and CABS stops

Control - Can the space be managed?

‘No Man’s Land’ in intermediate spaces
Areas Covered in Our Proposal

- North Plaza
- Wexner Plaza
- 15th and High
15th and High

Current Conditions

Poorly utilized

Buildings on large setbacks

East buildings being demolished

Vital access point to OSU

“Historic Gateway” to campus
- Uninviting
- Uneven slope
- Poorly maintained
  - Broken pavers

15th and High looking west towards Wexner Plaza
- Already a node of social activity
- Plan to preserve and enhance this aspect

15th and High looking East towards proposed pedestrian block
15th and High

Framework Plan Proposals

Guidelines to consolidate Arts District and center it around this intersection

Lacks specifics but does establish some helpful ideas

Division Street, Somerville, NJ
15th and High

Our Proposals

Convert 15th from High to Pearl Alley into a pedestrian-only corridor

Move setback closer to street to compensate for lessened traffic

Rezone and repurpose Pearl Alley

Plaza-like space created
Amenities for outdoor performances and leisure
Matches gridwork and character of Wexner Plaza across High Street
Symbolic Signs

University Hall

Oxley Hall

Wexner Center for The Arts

Sullivant Hall
Wexner Plaza

Current Conditions

- Main pedestrian entrance to campus from High St.
- Mostly paved, save for a scattered grove of trees
- Gradual elevation changes from east to west
- Short sitting wall along north end
- Undulating brick paving
Iconic Signs

Wexner Center for the Arts
Wexner Plaza from the East
Current Challenges

- Trees on site have not taken well despite years in place
- Paving is unsightly, and is a safety hazard
- Limited seating options
- Space is used primarily as a thoroughfare, is not very inviting
- Lacks visual continuity and connectivity to the Oval
- Dramatic grade change on west side of the plaza disconnects it from the Oval
Recommendations

- Provide moveable seating options
- Replace existing trees, modify planting patterns to provide shade
- Remove ‘amphitheatre’ on the west side of the plaza
  - Replace with a gradually sloping green-space
  - Allows for informal seating and visual connectivity from the plaza to the Oval
- Alternate paving and swaths of grass between High and College Rd.
  - Separate these with pavers
Why This Works

Provides better visual connection between High Street and the Oval

Alternating paving and grass smooths transition from High St. to the Oval

Addresses the disconnect between the Plaza and the Oval

Provides more seating options around Arts District venues
Conclusion

15th and High - Vibrant plaza connecting campus to revitalized Pearl Alley

Wexner Plaza - Quality and care restore ‘gateway’ status for campus

Encourage development of the space as a Cultural hub

These elements will uniquely encourage Connectivity, Sociability and Activity while creating an instantly recognizable destination.