

**MINUTES OF THE MARINE ADVISORY BOARD
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.**

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	Cumulative Attendance 5/2008 through 4/2009	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
John Terrill, Chair	P	10	0
Barry Flanigan, Vice Chair (7:08)	P	9	1
Rick Schulze* (7:18)	P	6	4
Mark Swenson	P	9	1
Randolph Adams	P	7	3
Norbert McLaughlin	P	7	1
Alec Anderson	A	7	3
John Baker	P	6	4
John Custer	P	8	2
Bob Ross	P	10	0
Lisa Scott-Founds	P	7	3
Stephen Tilbrook	A	8	2
Michael Widoff	A	9	1
Eugene Zorovich	P	9	1
Herb Rassing (7:41)	P	8	0

As of this date, there were 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff Present

Jamie Hart, Supervisor of Marine Facilities
 Andrew Cuba, Marina Manager
 Cate McCaffrey, Director of Business Enterprises
 Levend Ekendiz, Intracoastal Facilities Dockmaster
 Matt Domke, Downtown Facilities Dockmaster
 Sgt. Andrew Pallen, Sergeant, Marine Police
 Jenni Morejon, Planner III
 Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Terrill called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. It was noted that due to a traffic situation, more members may be forthcoming.

II. Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2009

Mr. Ross noted a correction on p.6, paragraph 6: "...the depth was found to be 100 ft." should be corrected to "...the width was found to be 100 ft."

On p.7, he also noted that "...the dock was found to be 16 ft. in length" should be corrected to "...16 ft. in width."

Motion made by Mr. Custer, and duly seconded, to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2009 meeting as corrected. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Flanigan joined the meeting at this time (7:08 p.m.).

III. Waterway Crime & Boating Safety Report

Sgt. Pallen advised that overall activity has increased on the waterways over the last month. One small motor was taken from a boat, and two burglaries occurred on vessels at isolated locations. One BWI arrest was made after an individual was responsible for wake damage.

Four vessel accidents were reported, one of which was minor in nature and resulted in no injuries. Another was caused by wake damage, and another accident involved one of the police boats, which had a mechanical malfunction while properly docked.

A narcotics arrest and seizure was made when illegal substances were brought into the country.

Chair Terrill asked Sgt. Pallen to clarify the penalties for Boating While Intoxicated (BWI). Sgt. Pallen stated that the penalties are the same as those for Driving While Intoxicated, as are fines and points assigned to licenses.

IV. Presentation: Riverwalk District Arts & Entertainment / Public Realm Plan – Jenni Morejon

Jenni Morejon, Planner, stated that the Downtown New River Master Plan, which she would present tonight, would go before the City Commission the following week for approval. She provided some background information on previous planning efforts, specifically in the New River area, and added that this was related to the Board's work in particular, as the City's waterways are its "crown jewel." She identified the New River as one of the Downtown area's best features for economic development as well as for recreational activity.

In 2002, the City began a series of Downtown planning efforts intended to shape private development and encourage a lively Downtown area. The Downtown Master Plan was created, which focused primarily on private development. Since that time, the City has decided that further study needs to be given to the New River area and the streets leading to the riverfront District. This led to a series of public meetings, which contributed to the development of the Downtown New River Master Plan.

In this document, the general boundaries of both the north and south sides of the river were examined, which encompass "what feels like the Riverwalk District." A series of "character areas" were identified within this District, which provide a variety of experiences. These established design guidelines for properties coming in via private development, and also take public activity into consideration, such as how to make the area more safe, active, and attractive for both day-to-day uses and major events. The vision of the planning effort is to consider the river the center of Fort Lauderdale, rather than a boundary separating the north and south of Downtown.

The first character area identified was the Cultural Arts Gateway, which includes the Performing Arts Center, New Maritime Museum, and others. Esplanade Park provides an "active space" in the center of these destinations. Ms. Morejon noted that the waterway provides the opportunity to set up a floating stage, or watch a performance from a boat.

Mr. Schulze joined the meeting at this time (7:18 p.m.).

The Retail & Entertainment Destination lies between the railroad and Andrews Avenue, Ms. Morejon continued, pointing out that this is akin to a "Times Square of Fort Lauderdale."

Further east is the River Park Promenade, which focuses on the more leisurely aspects of the District and emphasizes the lush landscaping in Smoker Park, DDA Park, and other public spaces.

The Las Olas Gateway area capitalizes on the existing retail establishments and proposed riverside hotels, with active uses to expand the Riverwalk further east and encourage action from Las Olas Boulevard to the river.

Finally, the south side is envisioned as Downtown Tarpon River, where there is an "urban village" area consisting of mixed residential and retail use. Pedestrian links along the river are intended to integrate with boat activities and storage.

A major component of the Plan involves connecting these spaces to encourage people to move toward the river, or from the river back toward Downtown. Ms. Morejon pointed out that this is often done in other cities with the use of fixed

pedestrian bridges; however, the City does not want to have a negative impact on the marine industry, or on navigation. One of the easier ideas that may be implemented is development of a ferry service.

The Plan is intended not only to move people across the river, but to improve the streets, sidewalks, and landscaping in the Downtown New River District. Downtown transit is another potential component, and studies of passenger rail services are underway.

She concluded that the vision presented throughout the development of this Plan, and endorsed by the City Commission, is the future of the heart of the City. The next steps will be to study the District's public spaces in greater detail and come up with designs for improving some of the area's parks.

To this end, Ms. Morejon stated, the City has developed the scope of services for the Arts & Entertainment/Public Realm Master Plan, which was presented to the City Commission earlier in 2009 and deferred until the new City Commission could be seated. Preliminary designs for public spaces along the river would be developed; the Riverwalk itself may be improved upon in some public spaces and streets; and cost estimates and feasibility studies, to be included in a Capital Improvement Program, will be considered, as well as the various funding opportunities that may be available to the City.

Not only will the parks be studied as a matter of design, but the activities that occur along the Riverwalk will be taken into consideration, such as allowing vendors, kiosks, or green markets to be developed. These activities can all contribute to a more vibrant Downtown experience. In addition to looking at public spaces, the Plan will also consider how to incorporate new development when it returns to the Downtown area.

She concluded that she hoped the Plan would have the Board's support, and offered to answer any questions they might have.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if tax incentives will be considered for the retail businesses in that particular area. Ms. Morejon responded that while this may be a consideration, a tax incentive plan has not yet been discussed.

Vice Chair Flanigan asked if the Planning & Zoning Department was familiar with the locations of the planned floating docks, and asked if these might be implemented into some of the site plans for this District. Ms. Morejon recalled that these sites, and how they related to the parks along the river, were discussed in 2008 in conjunction with the Plan. Vice Chair Flanigan asked if these might be specifically mentioned when the Plan is presented before the City Commission, as that body has not yet been made aware of the floating docks project.

Mr. Adams stated that changes would have to take place in the City's policies regarding building permits and waivers in order to draw private enterprises back into the Downtown area. He added that he would like to see additional parks off or leading up to the water to increase green space Downtown.

Mr. Baker suggested that the Plan might be made even more environmentally friendly by including "charging stations" for electric golf carts and/or boats. He pointed out that this might provide opportunities to take advantage of more government grants toward greening public areas.

Chair Terrill recognized Patsy Mennuti and Scott Strawbridge of the Riverwalk Trust and invited them to address the Board as well.

Mr. Strawbridge, Vice Chairman of the Riverwalk Trust, advised that the Trust has worked closely with City Staff as a stakeholder in the project. He noted that the Plan was funded, and those funds encumbered, from the Planning & Zoning Department's budget the previous year; in addition, as a developer, he was sympathetic to Mr. Adams' assessment of the permitting and approval process.

He felt an integral part of the Plan's success would be to look at a management strategy for the activation of the Riverwalk area. Years ago, he observed, events were planned for this area on a regular basis, but ceased when City officials apparently felt this job was complete. Other regulations, such as the prohibition of "pushcart" vendors, contributed to the underuse of the Riverwalk parks, he asserted.

Mr. Strawbridge felt that a key distinction between the Riverwalk area parks and other City parks was that the Riverwalk area stimulated the economy along with providing greater quality of life. He cited the influx of homeless persons in the parks and the disinclination of residents and tourists to come to this area as results of a lack of planning, and pointed out that the Riverwalk Trust's financial contribution to these parks as the beginning of a grassroots effort to reinvigorate the Riverwalk area by stimulating positive activities in public spaces.

He continued that the Riverside Hotel plans to construct a new plaza along the Riverwalk, which will begin a series of contiguous plazas with different ownership interests. He agreed with the connectivity of marine, pedestrian, and bicycle interests suggested by the plan as well, and reminded the Board that the Riverwalk Trust also has a vested interest in the floating dock project to extend this connectivity.

Mr. Rassing joined the meeting at this time (7:41 p.m.). He pointed out that Riverfront had been a "wonderful concept" to bring people into the area, and asked why that might have failed. Mr. Strawbridge advised that while he had not

been involved with that particular project, "poor management" seemed to have been a factor.

He continued that the efforts Riverwalk Trust is putting into the area are designed to create positive activity, although he noted that their budget is insufficient to addressing all the issues.

Chair Terrill advised that he is on the Board of the Riverwalk Trust, but would like to speak in support of the Plan. He encouraged the Board to do the same, as the success of a revitalized Riverwalk area would directly affect the marina. Boaters who come to the marina are concerned about security and are often unfamiliar with all that Downtown has to offer.

Motion made by Mr. Rassing, seconded by Mr. Schulze, to encourage the City Commission to support the Public Realm plan.

As the project would appear before the City Commission within the week, Chair Terrill pointed out that the Board can agree to "highlight" topics about which they feel strongly, and have these highlights sent immediately to the City Commission.

In a roll call vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

The Board agreed that they would like to make the City Commission aware of their recommendation. Ms. McCaffrey agreed to send this information on to the City Commission in memo form.

Ms. Morejon thanked the Board for their attention and recommendation.

V. Reports

• Floating Dock Project / Design & Permitting – Five Sites

Mr. Hart reported that this project is "making headway" through the design phase, and hopefully this part of the project will be completed and ready for presentation at the Board's May 2009 meeting. The design and construction plans are 60% complete and will be finalized when the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) issues a permit. All regulatory issues related to the submerged land lease should be resolved as of April 3, 2009, and FDEP has agreed to issue a completion letter in advance of the permit.

The dock near the Maritime Museum will be included in the project, Mr. Hart continued, with minor adjustments. At the next meeting, all plans should be completed and may be seen by the Board.

Mr. Rassing asked for an update on the dock near the Maritime Museum. Mr. Hart explained that this dock will be included in the bid documents for the original five planned sites.

Chair Terrill opened the floor to questions from the public at this time.

Jerry Hetfield, representing First Marine Diversified, stated that the Lauderdale Marine Center has "state-of-the-art floating docks," which he invited the Board members to see. He added that these are green construction and may be delivered in a price comparable to that of non-green floating docks.

He continued that most of these floating docks survived two hurricanes, including Hurricane Wilma, and no boats at the facility suffered significant damage. The key to these docks, he asserted, is "giant steel pilings" which keep the docks from floating away and provide strength in the movement of a storm.

Mr. Hetfield concluded that he hopes to participate in a bid for the construction of the City facilities, and offered to answer questions at this time.

Mr. Zorovich requested an explanation of "what makes a floating dock green." Mr. Hetfield described their construction as "virgin polyethylene" rather than "concrete over steel," covered with concrete or composite rather than treated wood, and can be spaced to allow sunlight to reach grass if necessary.

- **SE 15th Street Boat Launching & Marine Complex Improvement Project**

Mr. Hart advised that this project is "moving forward," and has been approved by the Planning & Zoning Board for a public purpose requirement. Concerns raised by the Harbordale Civic Association have been addressed, and this association has voted in approval of the project. It will appear before the City Commission in May.

He added that the City has applied for grants to help fund this project, and the City Commission will also vote on approval of these grant applications at the April 7, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Hart also noted that Cooley's Landing, another project of recent interest to the Board, has been advertised to bid and remains on schedule.

Vice Chair Flanigan asked if the 15th Street Project was presented by the Parks & Recreation Department or by Marine Industries. Mr. Hart replied that Parking & Fleet Services was a major participant in this project and in the presentation, as ADA compliance is an issue.

He pointed out that there have been "slight modifications" in the project since it was presented to the Board, such as increasing car parking by 17 spaces along the road. They had not, however, been able to make the dock larger, as had been discussed at one point.

- **Broward County Marine Advisory Committee**

Mr. Adams advised that this meeting had discussed "MLEG Grants" for the City of Hollywood, and additional "housekeeping" issues.

- **Commission Agenda Reports**

Mr. Hart reiterated that two grant applications for the Florida Inland Navigation District and the Florida Boating Improvement Program will be before the City Commission for approval at the next meeting, on April 7.

Two projects previously approved by the Board, at Seminole Drive and Aqua Vista, will come before the City Commission in May, he noted.

VI. Old / New Business

Chair Terrill stated that Mr. Zorovich and Mr. McLaughlin have served on the Board for several years with "outstanding" dedication. He commended the information they regularly contributed regarding items that appeared before the Board for votes, and served the community well. He concluded that the Board and the community owe them a debt of appreciation.

Mr. Zorovich commented that he has enjoyed his service on the Board for the past six years, and has found it "quite informative."

Mr. Schulze added that he has "termed out" as well, and Chair Terrill thanked him for his service as well.

Mr. Hart clarified that these annual terms expire on April 15, 2009, and these members will either be reappointed or someone else will be appointed in their stead.

Vice Chair Flanigan felt there are unresolved items that should be addressed by the Board. He felt the restrictions placed upon boat lifts are outdated with regard to the growing size of boats, and proposed that the Board, and the new City Commission, should examine the City's boat lift requirements as compared to those of other municipalities.

He continued that the new Board and City Commission should also consider the dredging issue on the river, as he felt the current laws are in need of

improvement or modernization. He pointed out that these laws were included in the Master Plan Rewrite of 1982 and should be updated.

Mr. McLaughlin agreed with Vice Chair Flanigan, noting that boat lifts can be "handicapped" in relation to the size of docked boats and are currently required to go through a variance to address this. Regarding dredging, he felt a maintenance program should be established, as there are parts of the river that have not been dredged in several years and shoals are beginning to build in some areas. Larger vessels are now "bumping" in places on the river. He added that tributaries are "neglected" as well with regard to dredging.

Chair Terrill recommended placing both boatlifts and New River dredging on the Board's Agenda for formal discussion.

He noted that on Thursday, April 9, the Lauderdale Marine Center and the United States Superyacht Association will host a networking event, at which Mayor Seiler will speak about the marine industry. He invited Board members and Staff to attend, as this is an opportunity to hear the Mayor's thoughts on the industry in general.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]

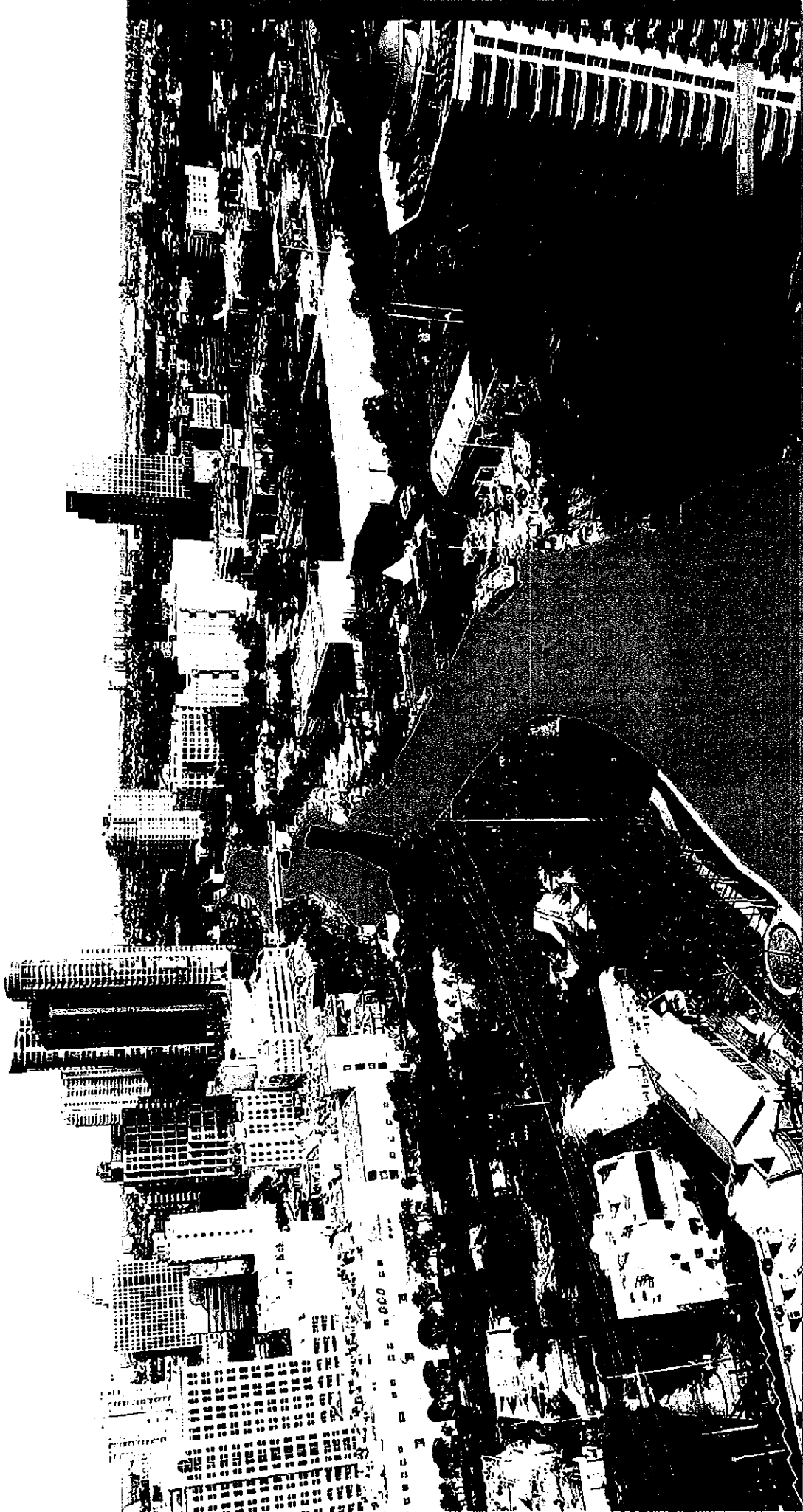


CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT



Riverwalk District Arts & Entertainment (A&E) / Public Realm Plan

FORT LAUDERDALE NEW RIVER MASTER PLAN

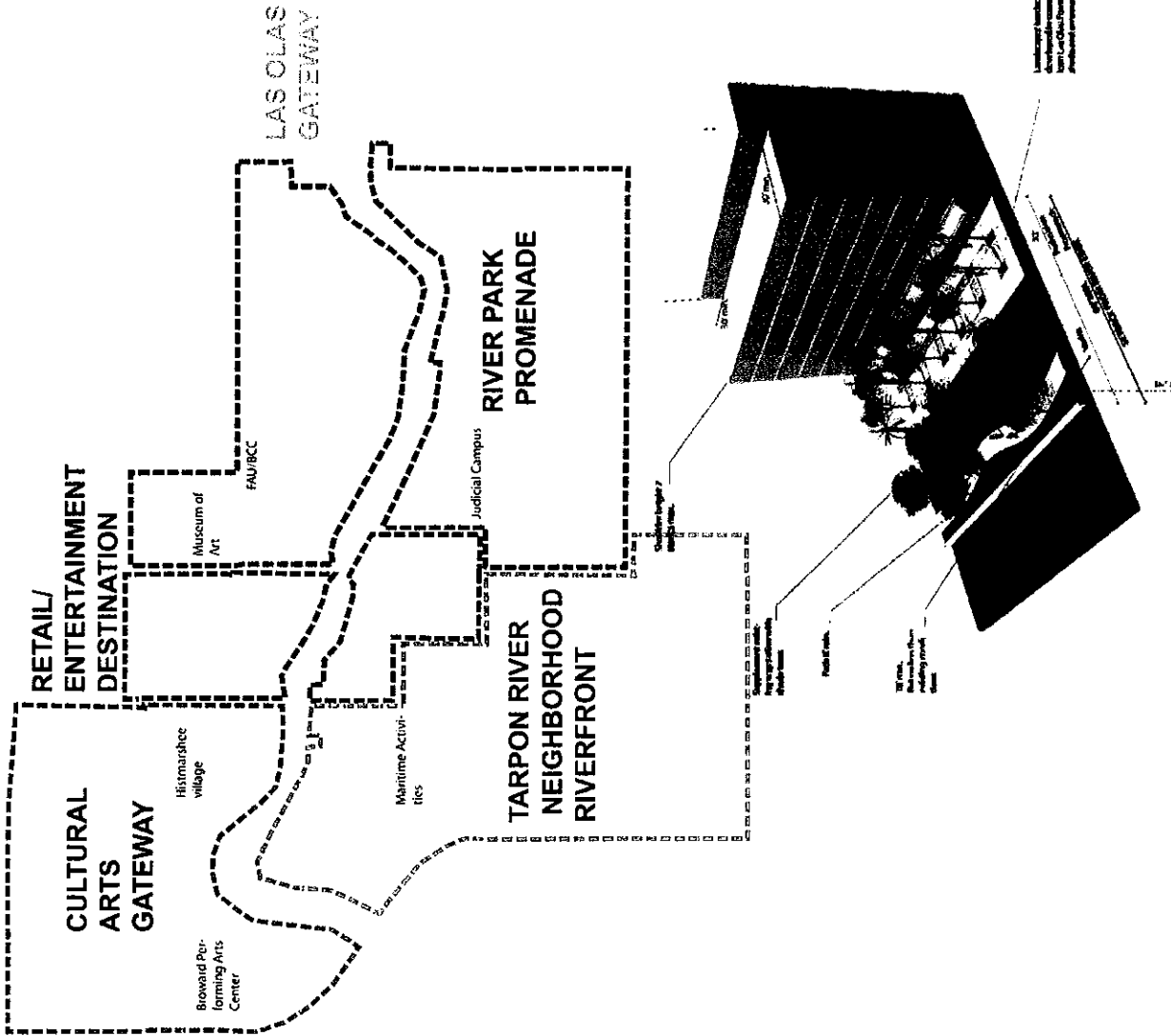


Downtown New River Master Plan

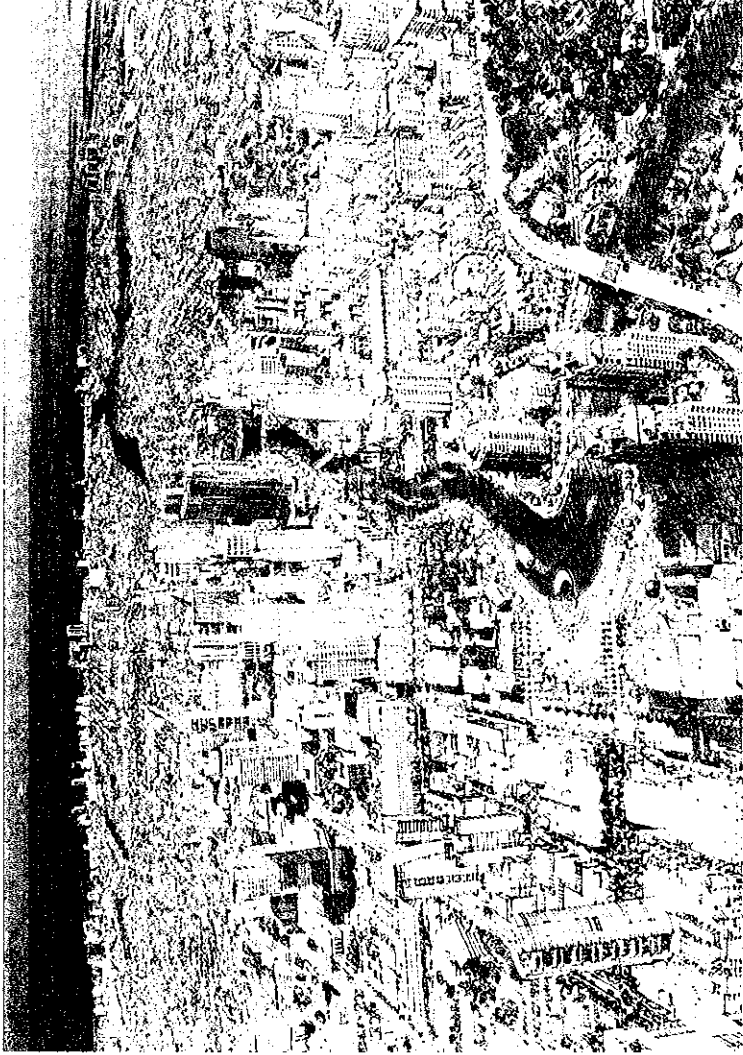
• Approved September 2008

• Provides a compelling vision for the areas north and south of the New River

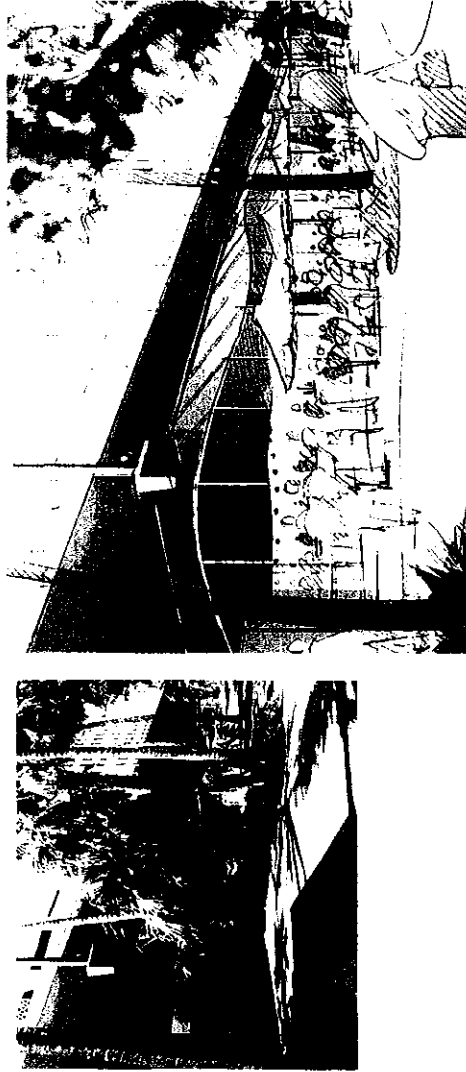
• Outlines design guidelines for future development proposals and open space improvements within the Riverwalk District



Downtown New River Master Plan



- Envision the river as a center
- Encourage daily life and activity
- Allow for a variety of experiences along the Riverwalk
- Strengthen links to

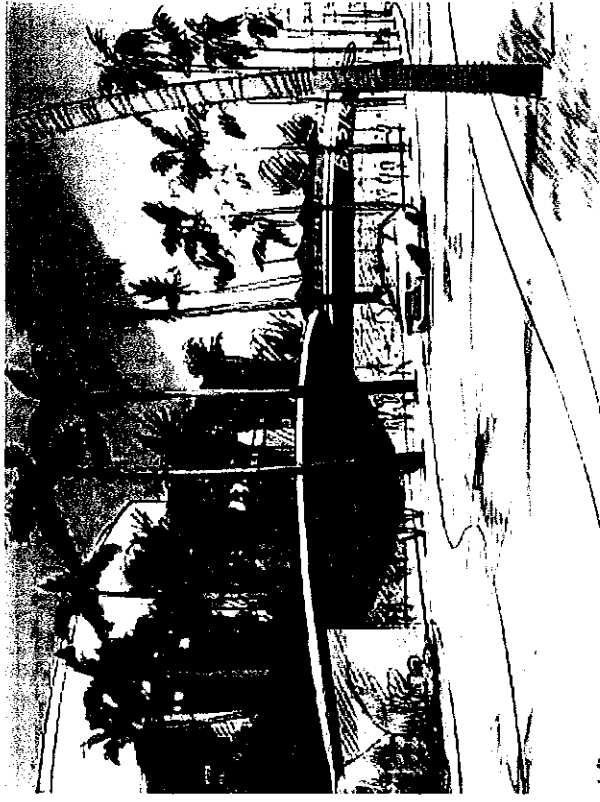
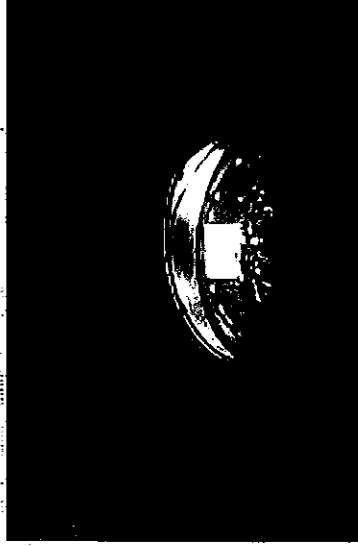
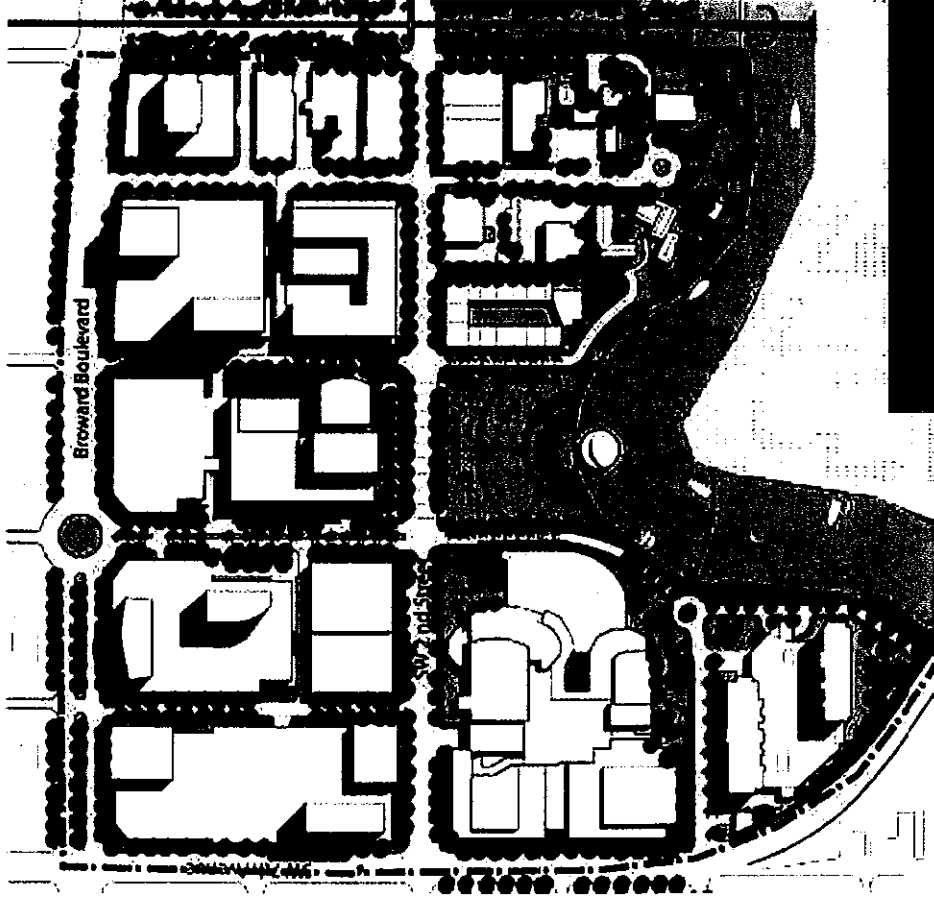


- surrounding neighborhoods and destinations
- Encourage exceptional architecture, landscape and streetscape design

Downtown New River Master Plan

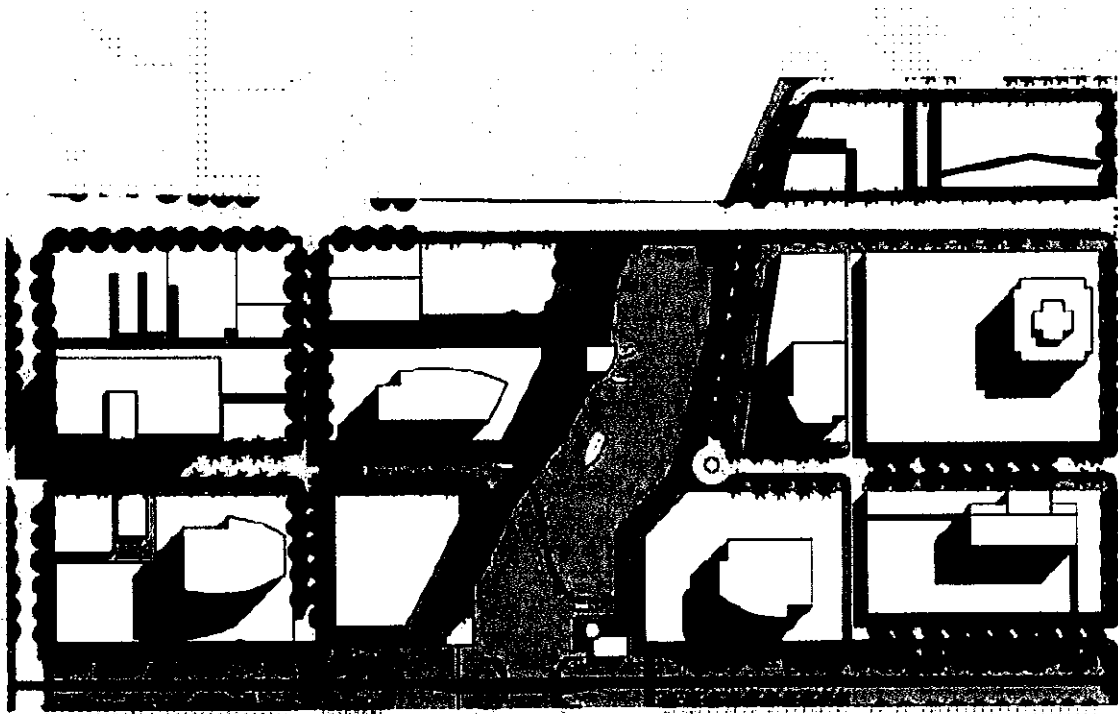
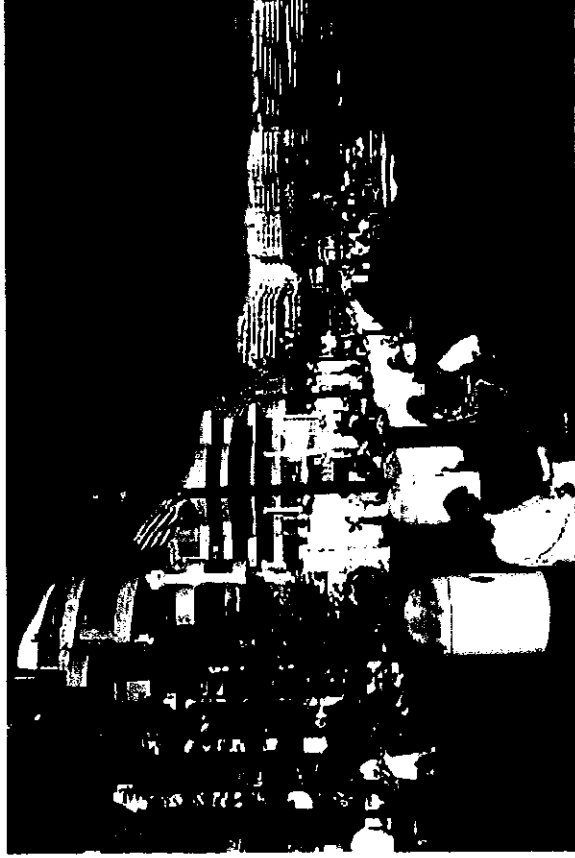
Cultural Arts Gateway

- Integrate cultural uses into outdoor spaces
- Performing Arts Center focal point with restaurant on the park



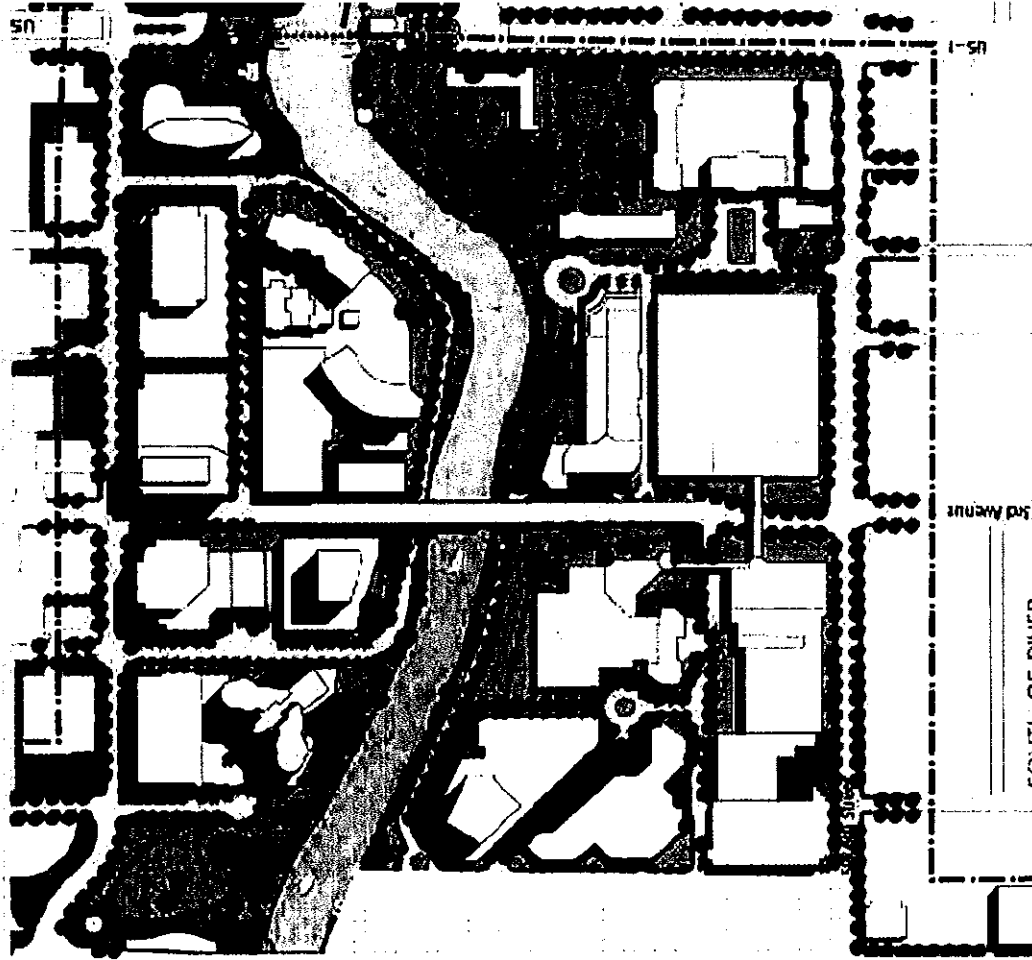
Retail & Entertainment Destination

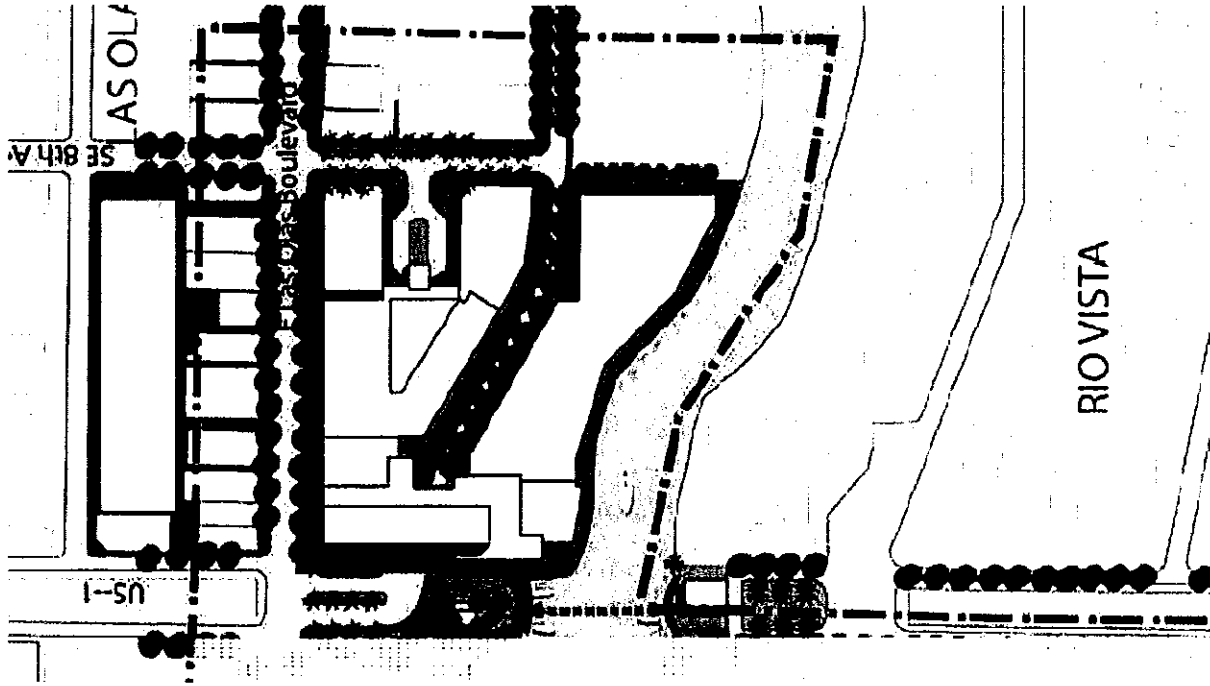
- Central hub of activity
- “Live, Work, Play”
unite at the river



River Park Promenade

- Various experiences along the River
- Lush landscaping reminiscent of River's past..





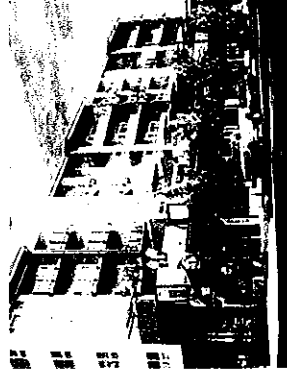
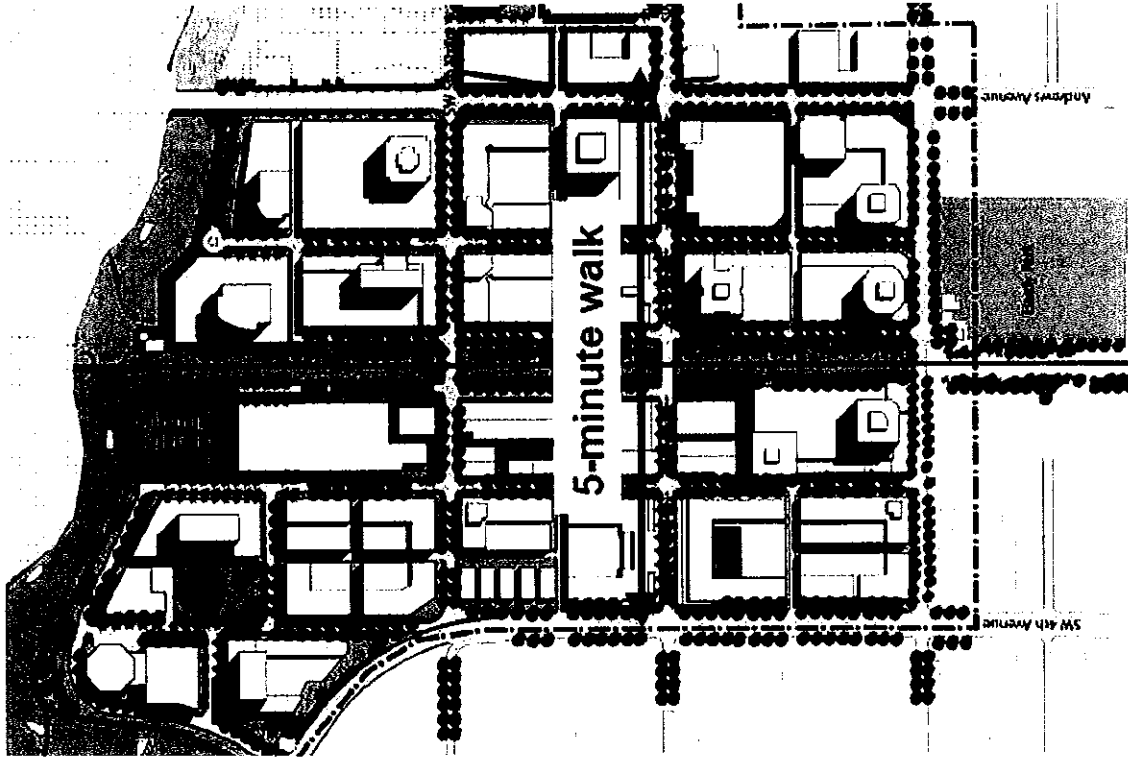
Las Olas Gateway

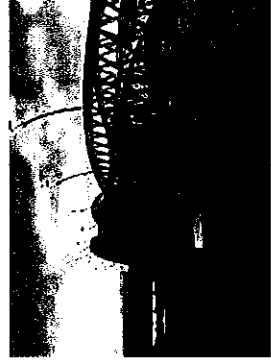
- Connect Riverwalk to Las Olas
- Create more retail opportunities along the River



Downtown Tarpon River

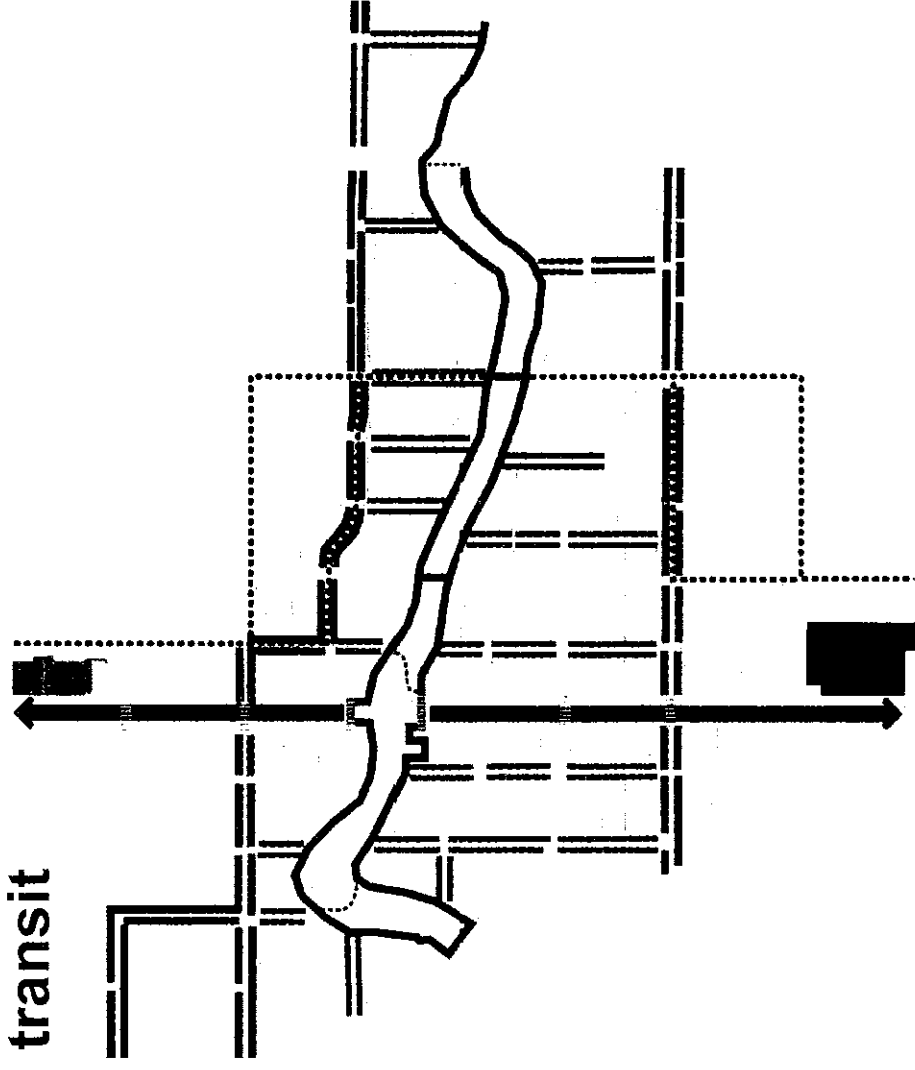
- Urban neighborhood on the River
- Neighborhood retail corridor along SW 6th Street





Connecting the Riverwalk District

- Ferry landing / river crossings between north & south side destinations
- Downtown transit



Riverwalk District Arts & Entertainment (A&E) / Public Realm Plan

- **Preliminary design for parks, open spaces and streetscapes**
- **Feasibility and cost estimates, resulting in an actionable capital investment program for public space improvements**
- **Programming and planning of parks and open spaces for public activities and events**

- **Easily implemented, short-term actions** including event planning, improved signage, and marketing and promotion of the Riverwalk District
- **A strategy to strengthen and expand the arts, entertainment, and cultural amenities in Downtown**
- **Promote these uses as a key economic development tool to strengthen the core of the Downtown for continued sustainability**

