

NASHUA **ARTS** COMMISSION

NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION
Tuesday, January 13th at 8am
3rd Floor Auditorium
Nashua City Hall
229 Main Street, Nashua NH 03060

AGENDA

- 8:00am Call To Order
 Roll Call of Members
 Welcome Guests
 Approval of Minutes [Dec 2025](#)
- 8:05am Old Business
 Grants Update (Jenn)
 NAC 25/26 Project Adoption Discussion Continued (Grants v.
 Nongrants)
- 8:20am New Business (Lindsay)
 Garage Art Project (Liz)
- 9:10am Call To Artist Notices
 Open Discussion for Commissioners (*if time allows*)

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026 at 8am** in City Auditorium of Nashua
City Hall (***Please note-this is a week earlier than usual***)

Beautification of Elm Street and High Street Garages

Assessment Report



Image credit: Great American Downtown

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Goals: Map the territory. Identify opportunity.

Project Overview

Purpose: We have been charged with the beautification and reactivation of Elm Street and High Street Parking Garages through public art. This work shall be coordinated with the City's broader planning and branding initiatives.

Priorities:

- Visual Identity
- Placemaking
- Urban Connections
- Wayfinding Clarity
- Safety

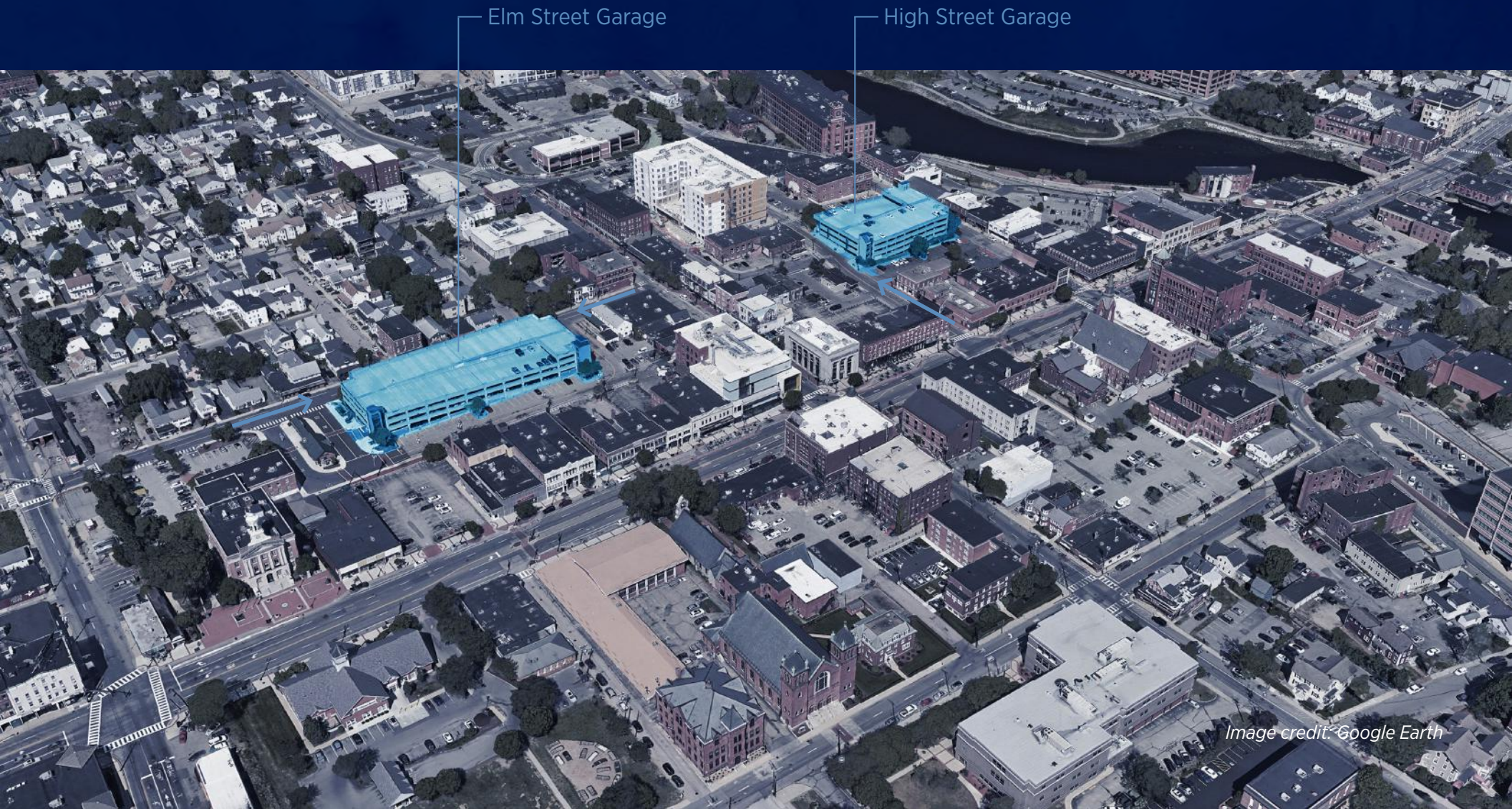


Image credit: Google Earth

Reference Material

Our work began with a review of City-provided reference material. Reviewed materials include:

- Brand Audit and Strategy
- Parking and Mobility Studies
- Master Planning Reports and accompanying community feedback
- Nashua Visual Identity Studies
- Drawings of both garages
- Property Overview Documents

Planning

Elm Street Garage is accessed equally from the north and south along Elm Street with most traffic coming from Main Street via Hollis Street and Pearl Street.

High Street Garage is accessed primary from the east, from Main Street via High Street. This building is also visible from the recently enhanced riverfront.

The City's planning studies highlight Main Street improvements to support downtown commercial activity. These documents recommend increased wayfinding to guide visitors to nearby parking garages within walking distance of Main Street.

Branding

Nashua is a city shaped by movement — of water, of people, of ideas. We are committed to building on that momentum to become the most sustainable, inclusive and culturally-rich community in New England.

The City should highlight internal strengths – such as parks, the riverfront, and cultural amenities – to position Nashua as a vibrant community in its own right, independent of external associations

The City should reinforce a sense of place by enhancing the visual and functional aspects of downtown and the riverfront.

Nashua embraces change.

Nashua is built for everyone.

Nashua is alive with creativity and culture.

Nashua is committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

We are a City in motion

Existing Conditions

Elm Street Garage

- Brick and concrete façade with visible wear (spalling, discoloration, outdated signage)
- Glass stairwell tower provides opportunity for branding and lighting-based connectivity cues
- Wayfinding signage is inconsistent and lacks hierarchy or visual cohesion

High Street Garage

- Entrances underlit and poorly marked for pedestrians
- Wayfinding and identity elements are minimal, strong opportunities for new brand aligned interventions



Remediation Priorities

Depending on the scope and media of art interventions, repairs may be necessary:

- Surface cleaning, crack repairs, sealing
- Rust removal and repainting of exposed metal and railing systems.
- Replacement of damaged panels and concrete patching.
- Assessment of electrical infrastructure for future illuminated signage and art.
- Preparation of wall and stairwell surfaces for graphics or murals
- Lighting upgrades focused on visibility, safety, and nighttime visual connection between sites.





Elm Street Garage



Elm Street Garage



High Street Garage



High Street Garage

Intervention Zones

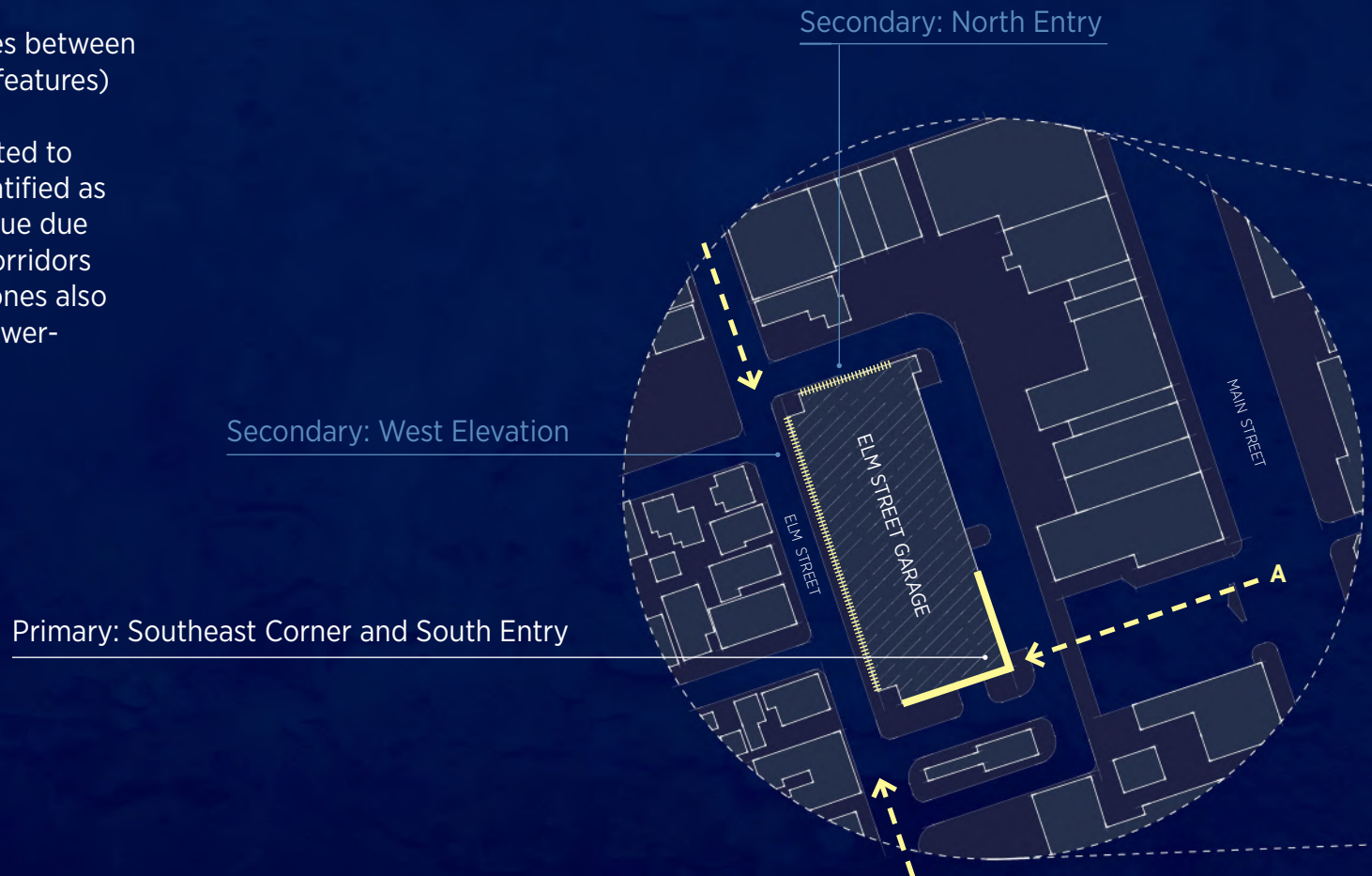
The primary charge of this project is to beautify the façades of the Elm Street and High street garages with large-scale public art.

Secondary zones of intervention may also be considered, such as:

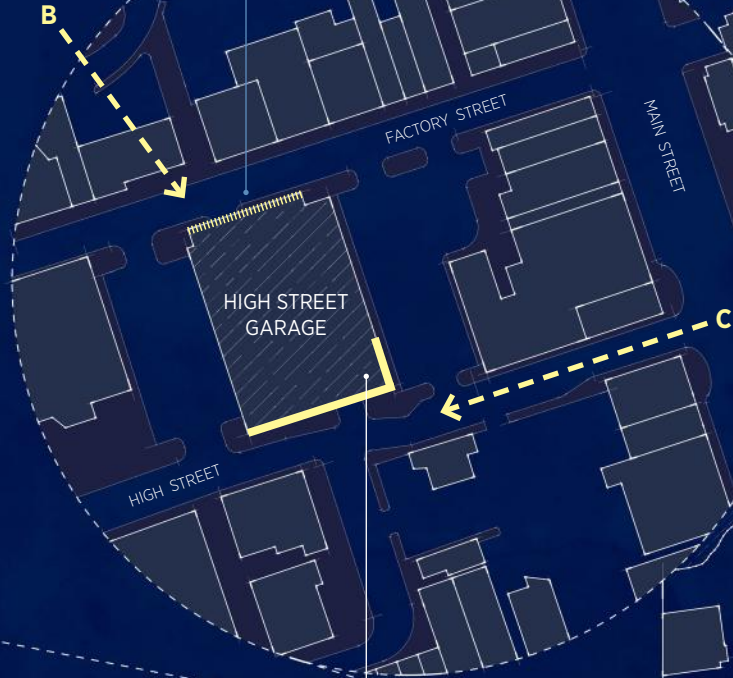
- Entrances and Exits
- Interior parking levels
- Elevators and stairwells
- Offices and operations areas
- Wayfinding and signage
- Connectivity corridors (linkages between garages and other downtown features)

The art interventions shall be located to maximize their impact. Zones identified as “Primary” provide the greatest value due to their relationship to key view corridors and access points. “Secondary” zones also provide good value but warrant lower-intensity investment.

B. View from Riverwalk to High Street Garage



Secondary: North Entry



Primary: Southeast Corner
and South Entry

A. View from Main Street to Elm Street Garage

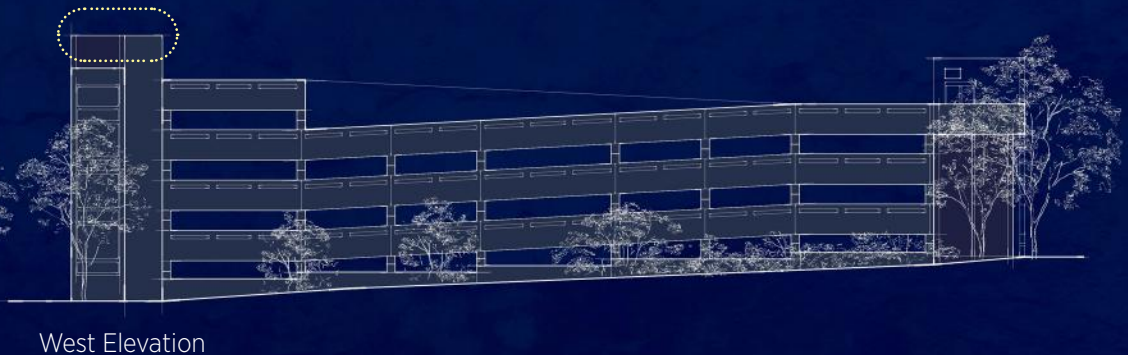
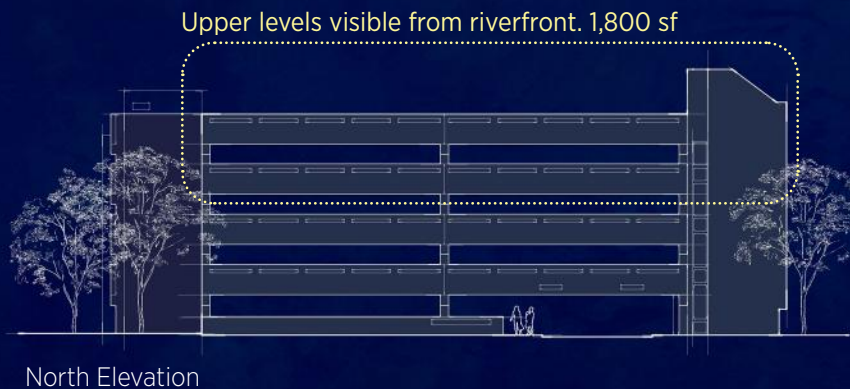
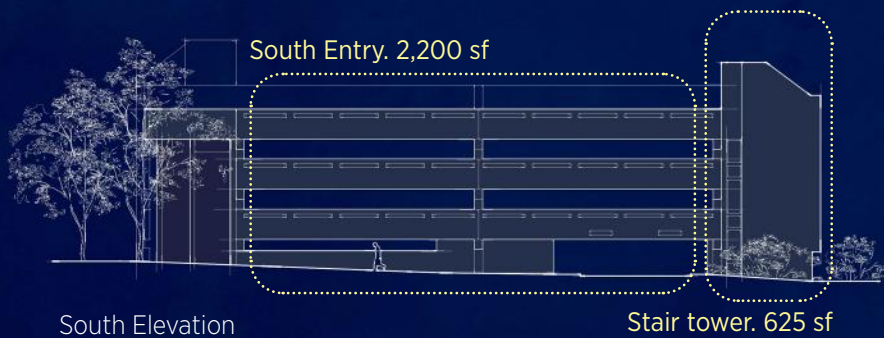


High Street Garage

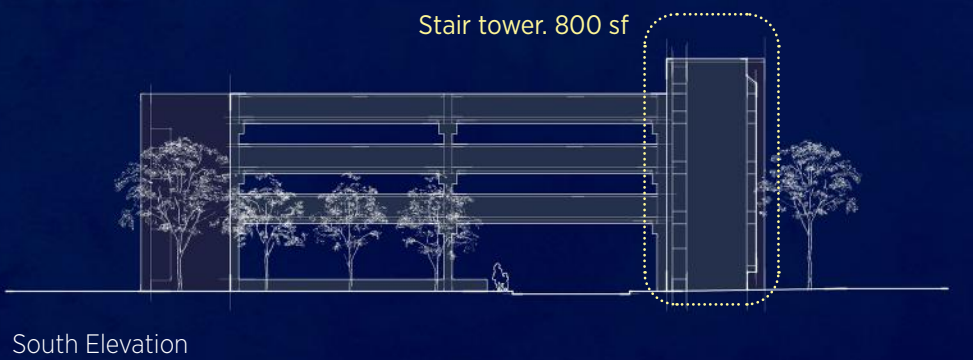
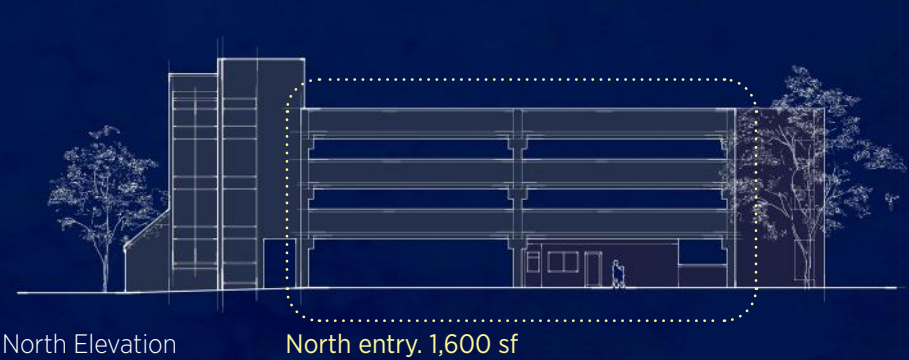
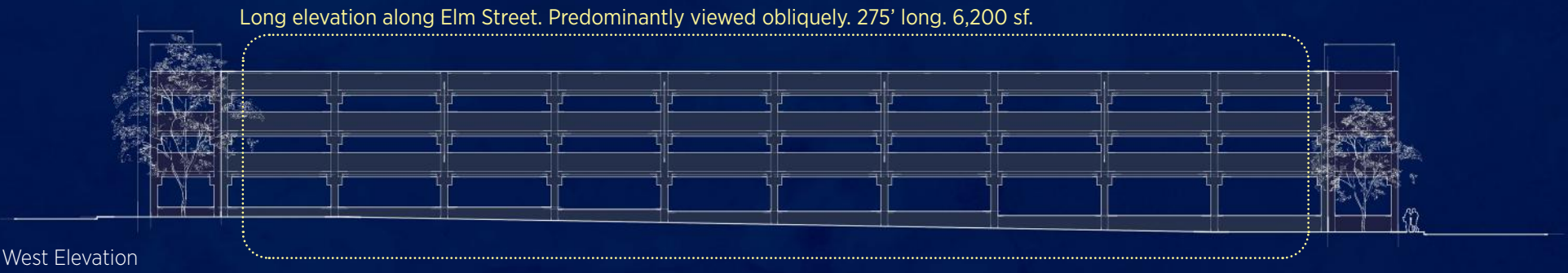
We developed scaled drawings of the existing building elevations based on the original construction documents, renovation plans, and site observations. These drawings will be used to identify locations for art and obtain area take-offs for cost estimating.

Notes in yellow indicate potential zones for art and are intended to help structure conversations about scope and cost estimating.

C. View from Main Street to High Street Garage



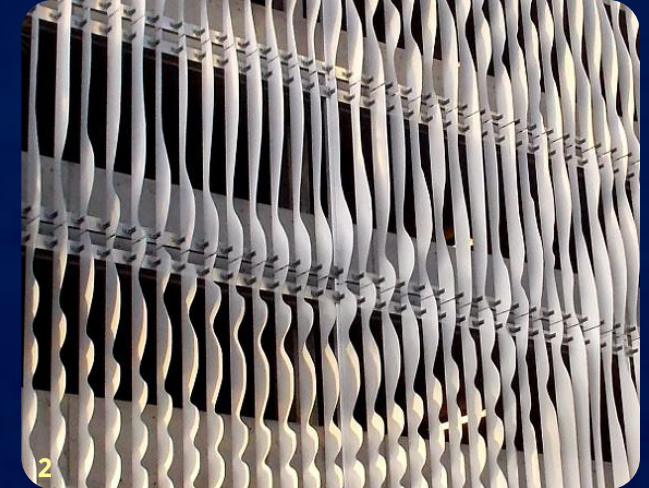
Elm Street Garage



Art Precedents

1. *Summerlin* by Bonnie Kelso
2. *California Rain* by David Franklin
3. *Orbital* by FutureForms

4. *MEVA Garage* by Foam
5. *Cosmic Journey* by Drigo
6. *Nori* by Julie Lancia



1. *My Favorite Things* by DAAS
2. *Ribbons of Light* by Jacob Stanley
3. *Amsterdam Vale* by Smith & MacDowell

4. *Iscariot* by Tracc O'Connor
5. *Cod* by Steve Israel & *Rise* by Silvia López Chavez



Next Steps

The purpose of this Assessment Report is to understand opportunities for large-scale public art on the Elm Street and High Street Garages in the context of previous studies and concurrent initiatives.

The next phase of our work will involve the development of conceptual approaches for art features which can be applied to either site and calibrated with respect to client feedback and preliminary cost estimating.

We tender this Assessment Report to solicit feedback and confirm our assumptions and priorities before commencing the second phase of this design work.



Image credit: Great American Downtown

