# What can be done on the ground to recover our downtowns?

History has shown us that cities are remarkably resilient, even when faced with sudden or chronic challenges. What tangible ways can civic leaders, policymakers and entrepreneurs bring our downtowns not only back, but catapult them to a new dynamic future?

James Lima, President of James Lima Planning + Development

Nolan Marshall III, President and CEO at Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association

**Regina Myer**, CEO, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, New York **Nick Griffin**, Executive Director, Downtown Center Business Improvement District, Los Angeles

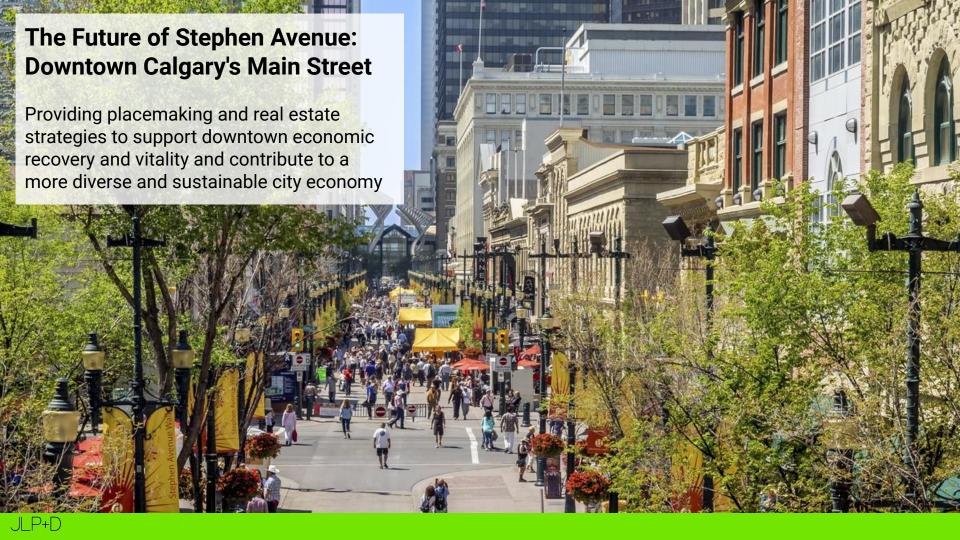
**Amahl Hazelton**, Producer, Strategy and Development, Moment Factory



# Work will not be the primary driver in bringing people back to their business districts; people want their business district to be a lifestyle hub.

### WHAT ACTIVITIES DOWNTOWN DO PEOPLE MOST WANT TO DO POST-PANDEMIC?

### RANK 1 8 Seek healthcare Public outdoor space has become increasingly important since the 2 Visit parks 9 Visit with friends/family who live in the business district pandemic. Before the pandemic, visiting parks appeared only 6th in chart. 3 10 Attend professional events Simply hang out 4 Dine out 11 Go to beauty salons/spas 5 Culture & entertainment 12 Go to gyms/fitness centers Go to work Attend classes/seminars 6 13 Take children to childcare/school Run errands 14



# 5 Repositioning the Avenue

### The Strategic Move

The Avenue can support Calgary's Economic
Development and Downtown Strategies by rethinking
real estate at strategic locations to attract tenants and
talents for a more diversified economy, enhance visitor and tourism
experience to generate new spending, and improve the quality of
life for residents. Specifically, The Avenue presents opportunities
for infill development at selected vacant and/or under-utilized sites
and repositioning strategies for key cultural and commercial assets.
Redevelopments on The Avenue provide tangible and specific opportunities
to implement the City's economic and downtown strategies, amplifying
the impact of existing public and private investments in Calgary.

### Why it's Important

- Given ongoing economic shocks and to embrace a more diversified and resilient downtown economy, The Avenue would need to emphasize on innovation and attract talent by becoming more mixed-use and amenity-rich.
- Market demand for traditional retail and hospitality is shifting, affecting businesses on the Avenue.
- Convention businesses and related ventures on the Avenue are facing increasing competition and need strategies to differentiate themselves and pursue long-term growth.



Potential infill

opportunity

development site

Potential repositioning

Mixed income

## The Avenue: Supporting and Anchoring the City's Economic Development & Downtown Strategies

### Diversified Economy; Innovation in the Downtown

In the pursuit of a more resilient path for economic growth, The Avenue possesses the potential to anchor the development of an innovation district in the downtown core, where the business community, academic institutions, cultural entrepreneurs, and the community work together tenhance Calgary's knowledge economy. Nearby academic institutional presence; transit; strategic investments in Platform Innovation Centre, the public library, and the East Village; and the Avenue's diverse arts, culture, and leisure activities all provide the context and momentum for more resources, amenities, and infrastructure that can support the knowledge economy to emerge and cluster around the Avenue.

### **Business Attraction and Adaptation**

For traditional retail, hospitality, and tourism industries that rely heavily on Calgary's energy sector and convention visitorship, change in demand is a risk during recessions and when the business district's centre of gravity shifts its location. The Avenue can work with property and business owners to pursue strategies that are more adaptable to future risks and opportunities.

### Visitor Experience, Tourism, and Downtown Spending

More food & beverage, arts and culture, leisure and entertainment, and public space programming can help activate The Avenue during the day and extend use into the night. Such activities diversify the user group of The Avenue; in addition to office workers, the tourists, visitors, and residents will bring more spending power to benefit businesses on The Avenue.

### **Quality of Life and Downtown Residents**

Currently on The Avenue, services and amenities essential for a live-work neighbourhood have been lacking, such as grocery stores at different price points, visible everyday amenities, bodegas and deli shops, coffee shops, dry cleaners, and entertainment. These amenities would make The Avenue a more appealing place for live and work, a crucial step towards more successful talent attraction for the new economy.

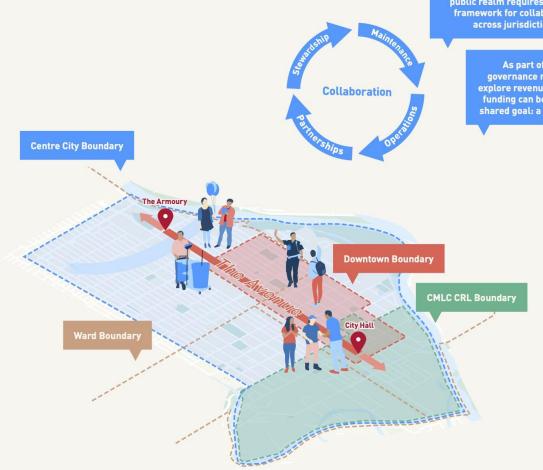
# 6 Governing the Avenue

### The Strategic Move

Develop a strong framework for stewardship, funding, operations and maintenance for the Avenue. Consider establishing a central entity that can take lead and connect across multiple agencies in and around the Avenue.

### Why it's Important

- Jurisdictional overlaps with diverging missions are challenging the delivery of a high quality and successful downtown main street.
- Limited collaboration, across public and private entities with varying responsibilities, is a road block for developing a sense of ownership and for new initiatives emerging on the Avenue.
- Limited coordination across entities overseeing different components of the Avenue may mean that funding for governing and maintaining the Avenue are not spent in the best way possible.



A successfully governed public realm requires a strong framework for collaboration across jurisdictions

As part of a successful governance model, it is key to explore revenue streams and how funding can be aimed towards a shared goal: a successful Avenue

> As part of the Reimaging Stephen Avenue project, the consultant team has been asked to review the existing governance framework for the Avenue and to assemble case studies and best practices from around the globe for inspiration.

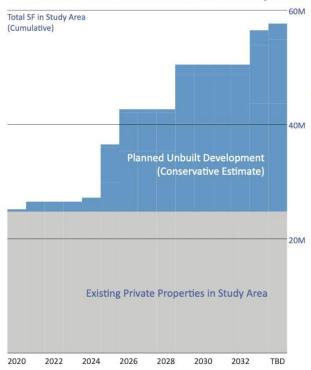
As with the other strategic moves, the recommendations are subject to further exploration following this scope of work, and serves as inspiration for new ways of thinking public realm governance in Calgary.

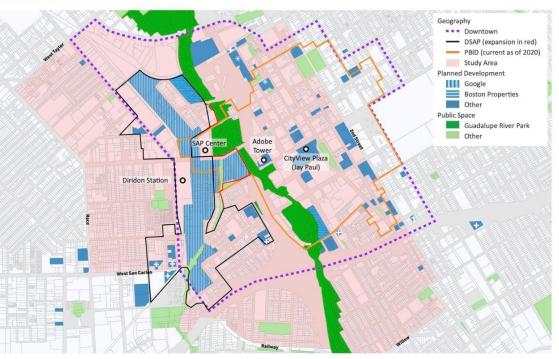
This strategic move is supported by a white paper outlining the research more in detail.



# Guadalupe River Park's centrality is underscored by its proximity to the majority of Downtown real estate, existing and proposed.

### Estimated timeline and locations of development over the next decade:





62% of the approximately 29 million SF of planned unbuilt development in the next decade is located within 5-min walk from the Park.

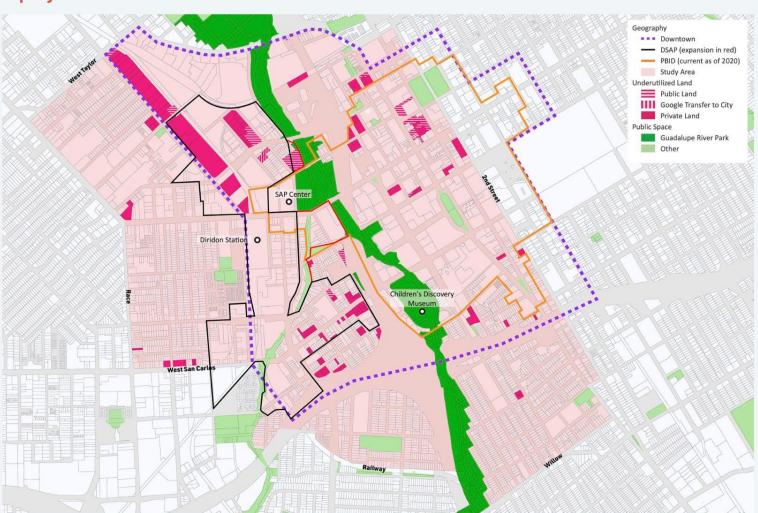
Downtown San José is undergoing unprecedented change. Guadalupe River Park is the new center of the city's urban transformation.







## **Equity**



Underutilized parcels proximate to the Park, especially those owned by government agencies, offer opportunities for district-wide equitable planning and community infrastructure development.

Potential opportunities, to be further studied, include affordable housing, Community Land Trust, small business incubator and leases, and arts and cultural amenities.







# WHAT CAN BE DONE ON THE GROUND TO RECOVER OUR DOWNTOWNS



Regina Myer - President, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership



# **RECOVERY**





## **RECOVERY: COVID-19 Vaccine Hubs**











# **RECOVERY: The Brooklyn Hospital Center Fundraiser**



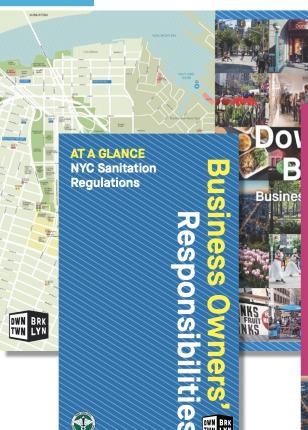








# **RECOVERY: Business Support**



# **Downtown** Brooklyn Partnership

### About Downtown Brooklyn

### **Public Space**

### Shopping + Dining

### CONTACT US

### What We Do

### Sanitation

DBP provides year-round supplemental sanitation services, including sweeping. graffiti removal, and pressure washing. And with the installation of over 150 Big Belly solar-powered trash and recycling receptacles, DBP is diverting up to 20% of collected trash away from landfills.

### Public Safety

DBP security officers patrol the neighborhood and staff outdoor events. providing a visible presence throughout to thousands of shoppers, workers, students, and residents.

### Streetscape Improvements

DBP coordinates with city government to ensure investment in, and maintenance of, infrastructure such as sidewalks, lighting, wayfinding, public plazas, parks, and bike lanes, DBP also provides and maintains colorful street furniture, umbrellas, Tivoli lighting, and district-wide holiday lights.

### Beautification + Landscaping

DBP's "Clean Team" maintains over one million square feet of public snace. including landscaped medians, sidewalk tree pits, street planters, and plaza

### Snow Removal

DBP provides supplemental snow removal services to key commercial. corridors in the district to help ensure the public's safety and keep retail thriving. This includes clearance of more than 500 curbs, corners, and crossing areas.

DBP host free events, including the seasonal Downtown Brooklyn Presents series of fitness classes, ping pong tournaments live music dance movies. and holiday festivities. These events engage shoppers, the residential population, and provide a means for susinesses to promote themselves further through sponsorships or direct

### Marketing

DBP offers many opportunities to local businesses for promotion and community engagement. The DBP website lists 400+ businesses and organizations, and showcases events happening in Downtown Brooklyn. DBP also spreads the word about local businesses via newsletters and social media channels that engage thousands







# **RECOVERY: Business Support**



# Brooklyn's Black innovators lead the way

Michelle Cadore and Brian Williams share insights on growing their businesses in the borough.

### February 23, 2021

In celebration of Black History Month, we are highlighting Black founders and entrepreneurs and their contributions to Brooklyn's innovation ecosystem.

DBP recently spoke with two leading innovators, **Michelle Cadore** (YES I AM, INC. / DA SPOT) and **Brian Williams** (BREAUX Capital), about their founding stories, recent achievements, and goals for the year ahead.



## Women's History Month Spotlight: Christina Perla of MakeLab NYC

### March 11, 2021

This Women's History Month, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership is proud to share stories of the neighborhood's many women founders and business owners.

Makelab is a professional 3D printing service located in Downtown Brooklyn's historic Clocktower Building on Gold Street. Makelab handles everything from prototyping, productions runs, and custom models. Their office is also decorated with memorabilia from *The Office*, commemorative 3D sculptures, and also features a beloved pet dog.

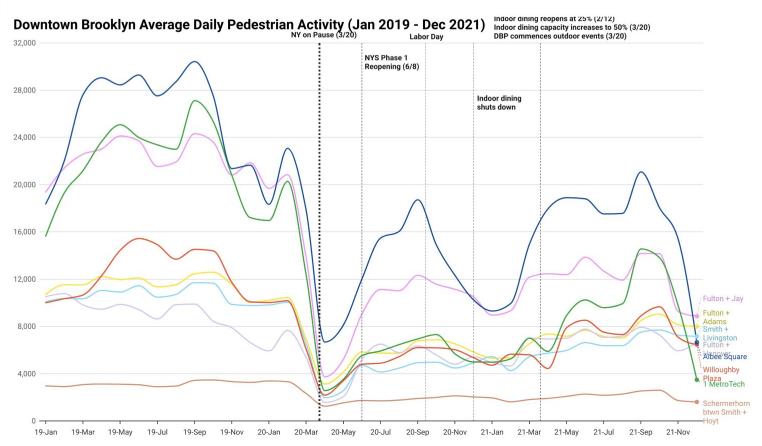


# Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Downtown Brooklyn!

Happy Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month! Here in Downtown Brooklyn, there are plenty of ways to support Asian-owned businesses and support some of the folks who help make our district come to life!



# **RECOVERY: Pedestrian Activity**





# **RECOVERY: Open Streets**







# **RECOVERY: Streetscape Beautification**











# **RECOVERY: Open Restaurants**









# **RECOVERY: Indoor Dining**









# **DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN PRESENTS**













# **DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN PRESENTS**

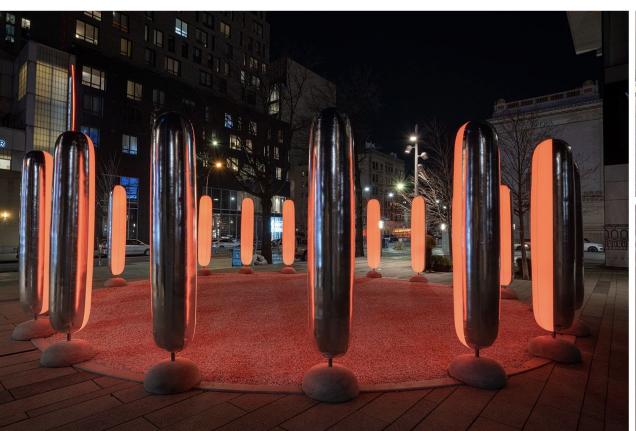








# **EKENE IJEOMA'S BREATHING PAVILION**









## **DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN PUBLIC REALM ACTION PLAN**

















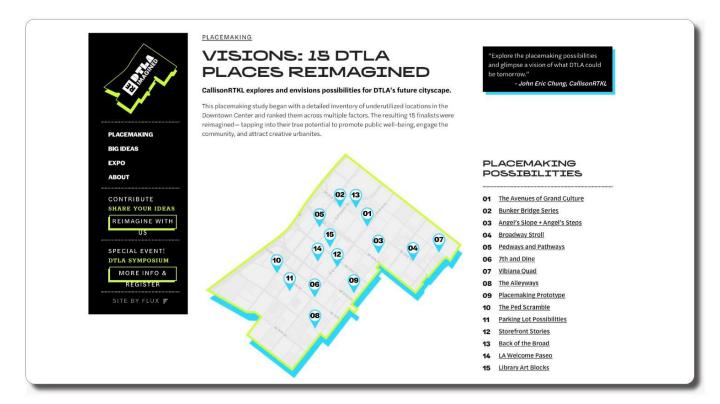
# IN CRISIS, OPPORTUNITY

Reigniting Enthusiasm for Downtown Storytelling & Community Engagement

Digital Spaces & Physical Places



### **DTLA REIMAGINED**



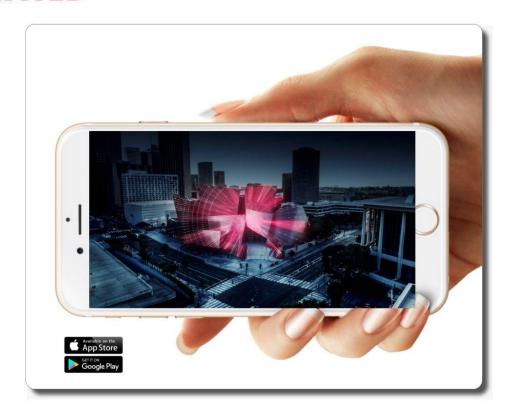


# **DTLA VIRTUAL**





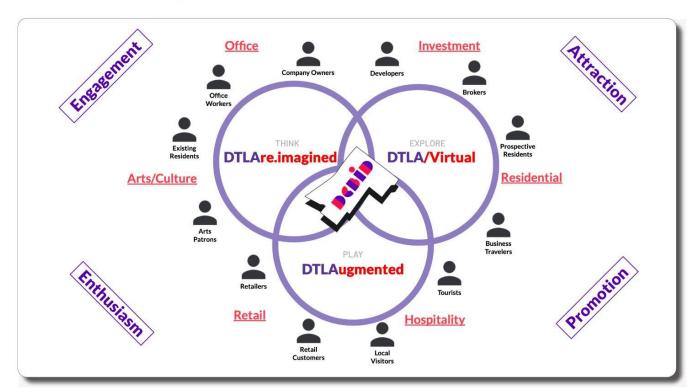
# **DTLAUGMENTED**





### **CONNECTING THE DOTS**

Content, Communication, Community

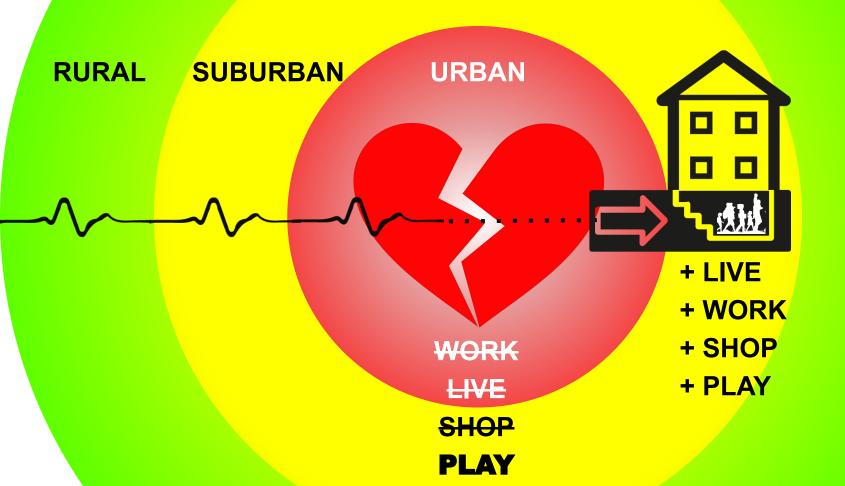








# PANDEMIC = LOCK DOWN



# GET OUT OF OUR EXPERIENTIAL BASEMENTS



# PROGRAMMABLE PLACES NEXT-GENERATION ARCHITECTURE + PUBLIC SPACES



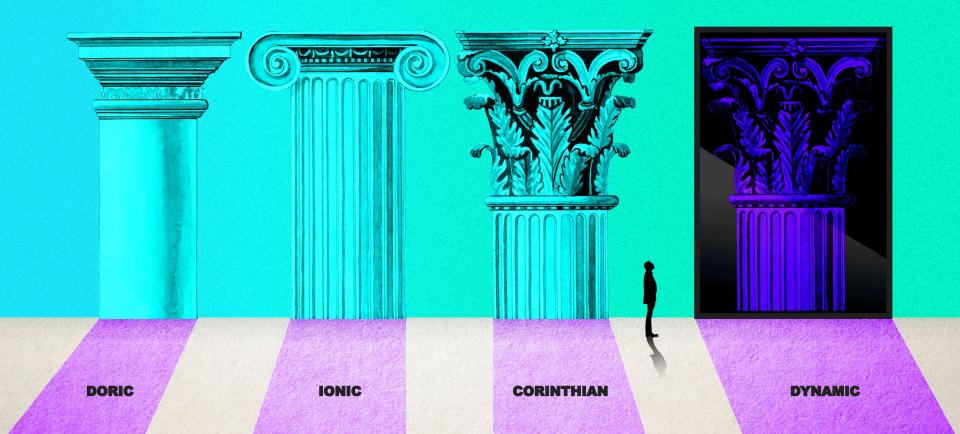
NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène. MOMENT diamond schmitt

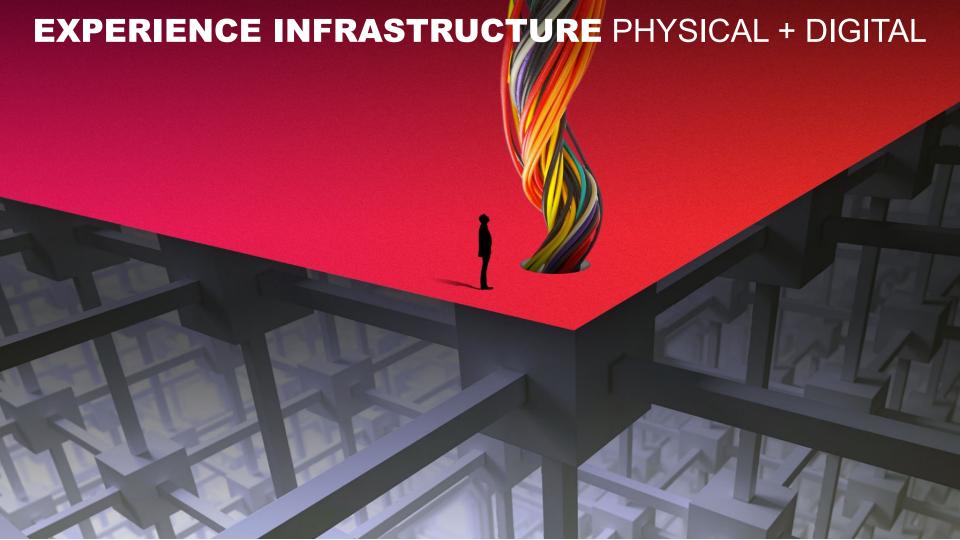


# INCLUSIVITY INDIGENEOUS PEOPLES' DAY Simon Brascoupé Anishinabeg/Haudenausanee - Bear Clan Christi Belcourt Métis visual artist



# **EVOLVING LANGUAGE OF ARCHITECTURE**









# ACCESSIBLE. PARTICIPATIVE.



# ACCESSIBLE. PARTICIPATIVE.

# FROM ROI

RETURN ON

INVESTMENT

INFORMATION

TOROE

# RETURN ON **EMOTION** EDUCATION EXPERIENCE ENGAGEMENT ENTERTAINMENT

# What can be done on the ground to recover our downtowns?