



McCullough
landscape architecture | environmental planning | urban design

RWQA
ROB WELLINGTON QUIGLEY ARCHITECTS

Michael J. Stepner

Park Boulevard –
Balboa Park Entry to San Diego
01-02-24

Balboa Park/San Diego High School Connections

The City of
SAN DIEGO



Visions Past

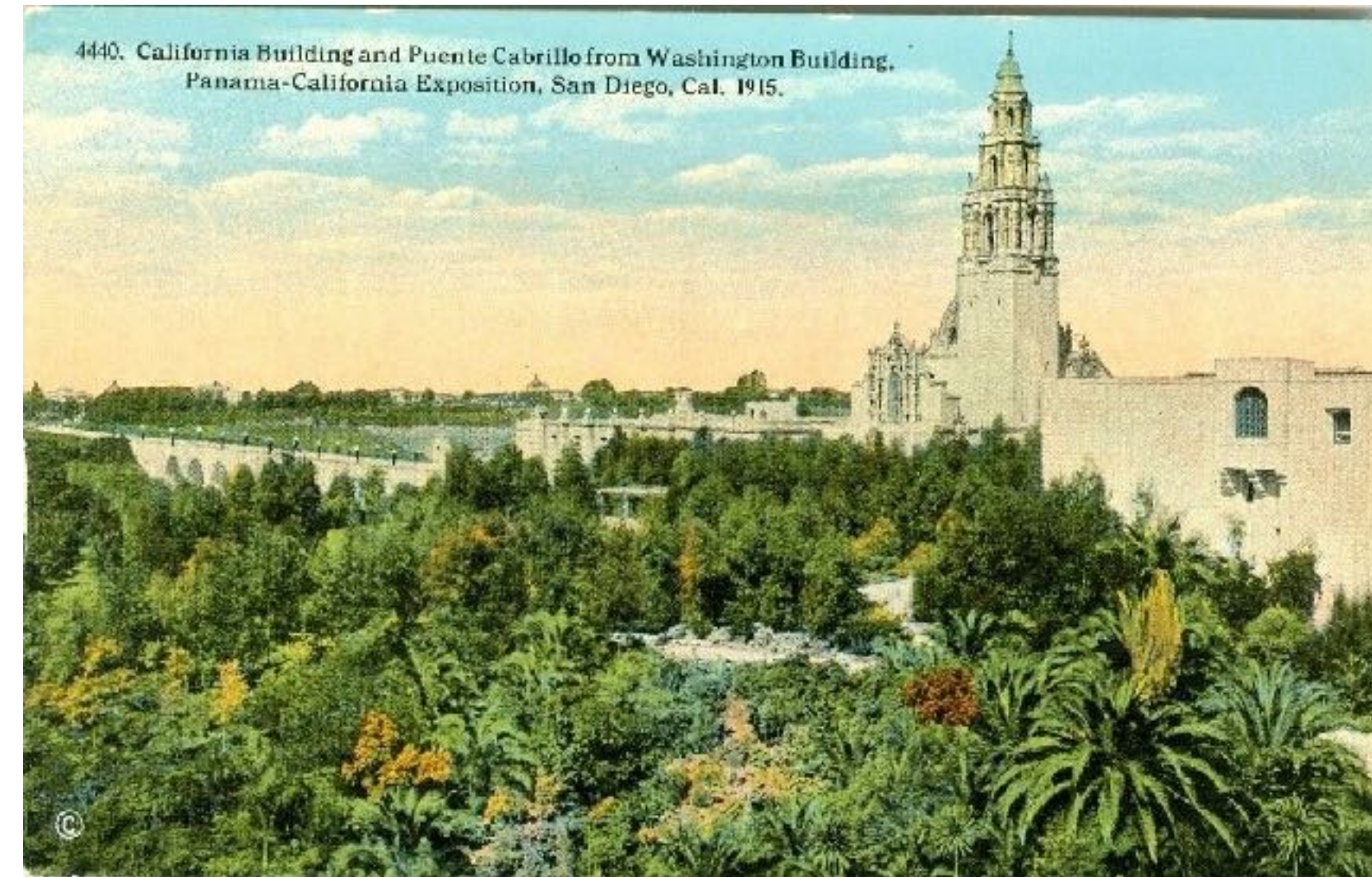
Balboa Park:

“The two great central recreation features of the city, now and always, are the City [Balboa] Park and the Bay Front, and that the value of both will be increased many-fold if a suitable connecting, link or parkway or boulevard can be developed, bringing them into direct and pleasant relation.”

— John Nolen,
1908

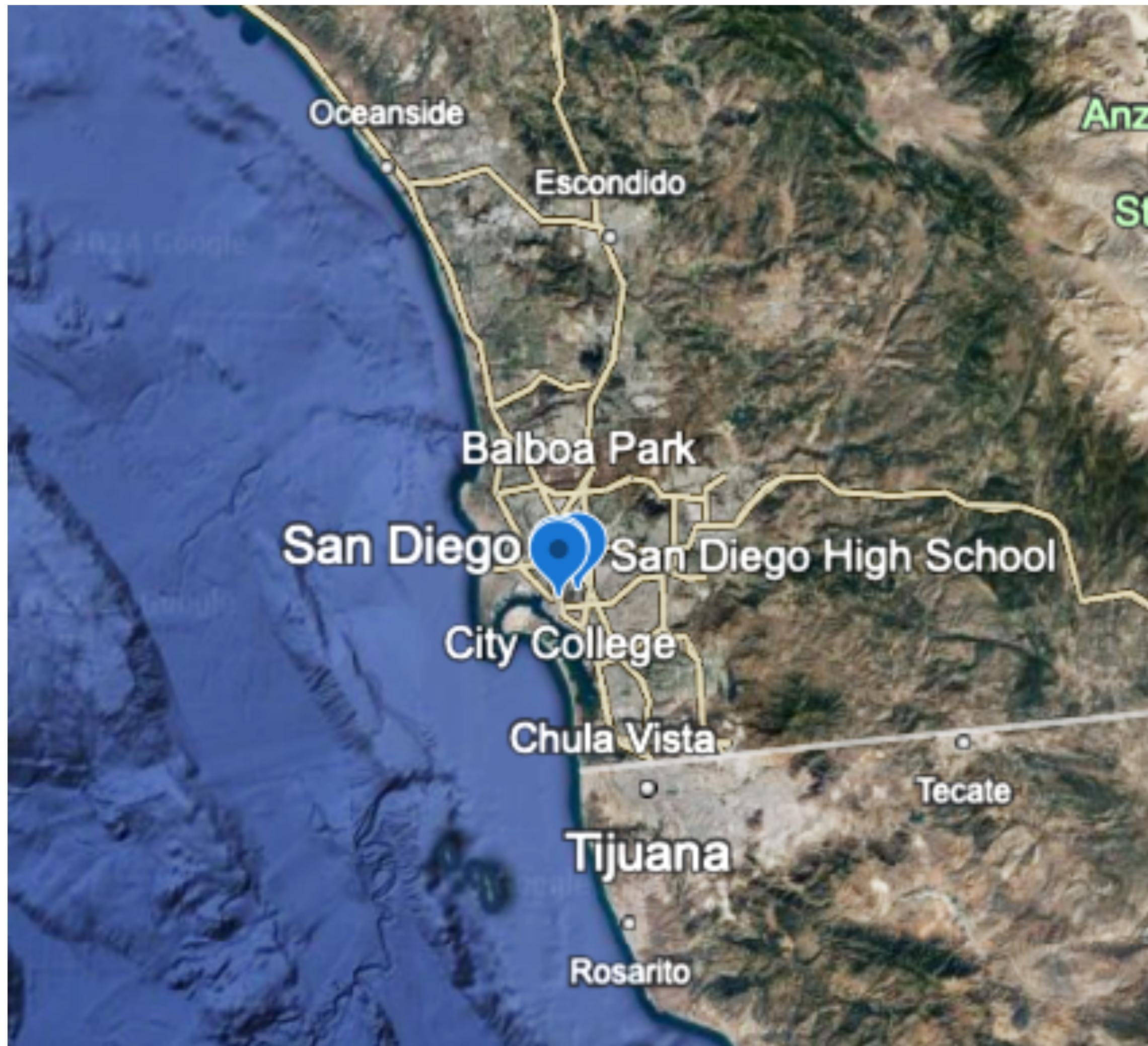
San Diego High School:

“We visited the Russ school house yesterday evening and went through that noble building, enjoying the magnificent view from the cupola.” — San Diego Union, Aug. 15, 1882.



Visions Future

- World Design Capital 2024 - San Diego-Tijuana
- 'Grow' the park
- Rebuild SDHS, expand City College



The Path Forward

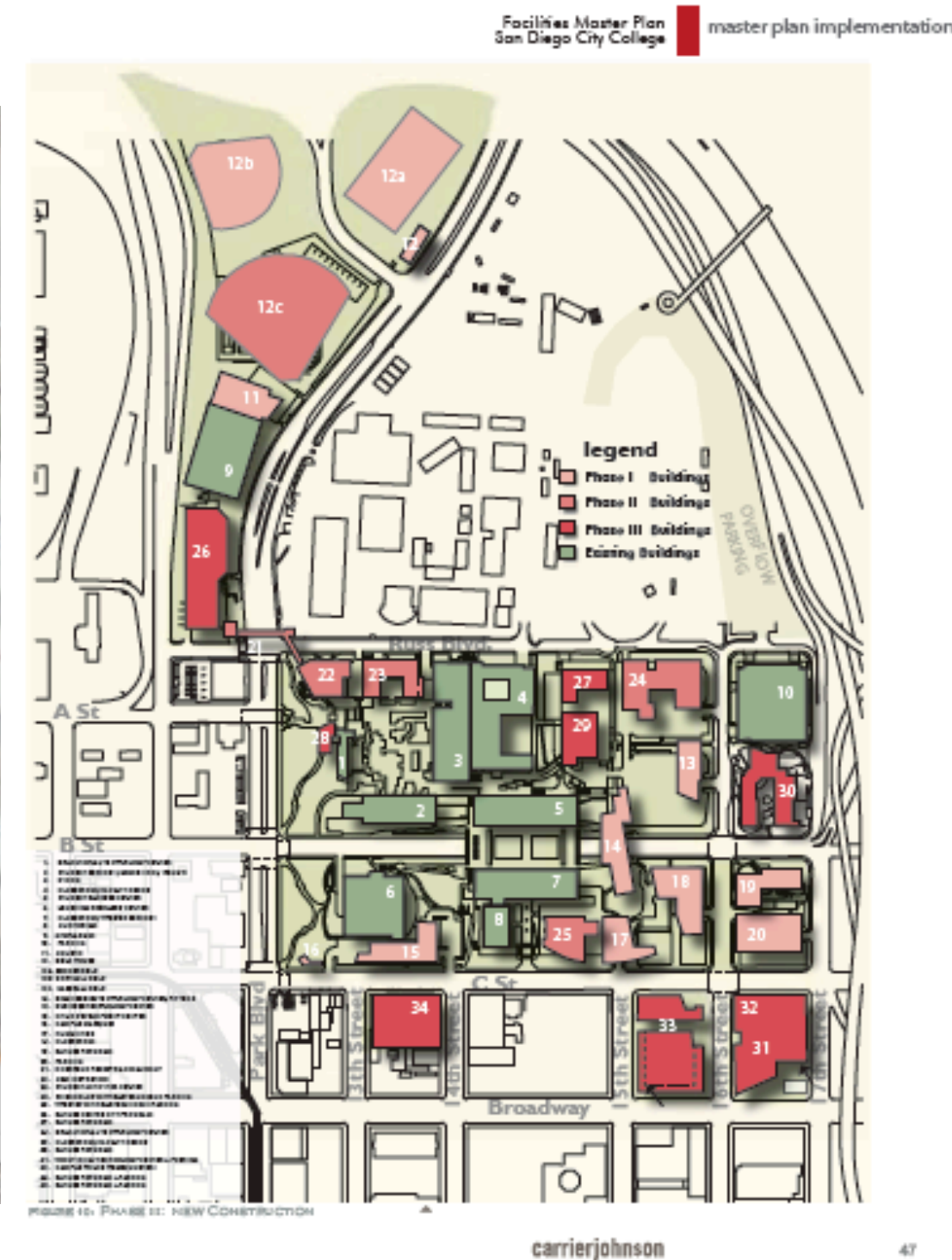
- City Council's directive, 2021: Identify the public benefits from rebuilding San Diego High School
- Balboa Park-SDHS Connections Working Group, 2024: 60 recommendations for physical and social infrastructure projects
- Next steps: Ask Balboa Park Committee, Parks & Recreation Board, City Council, Mayor Gloria to review the report and map out implementation



Physical Infrastructure

San Diego High School

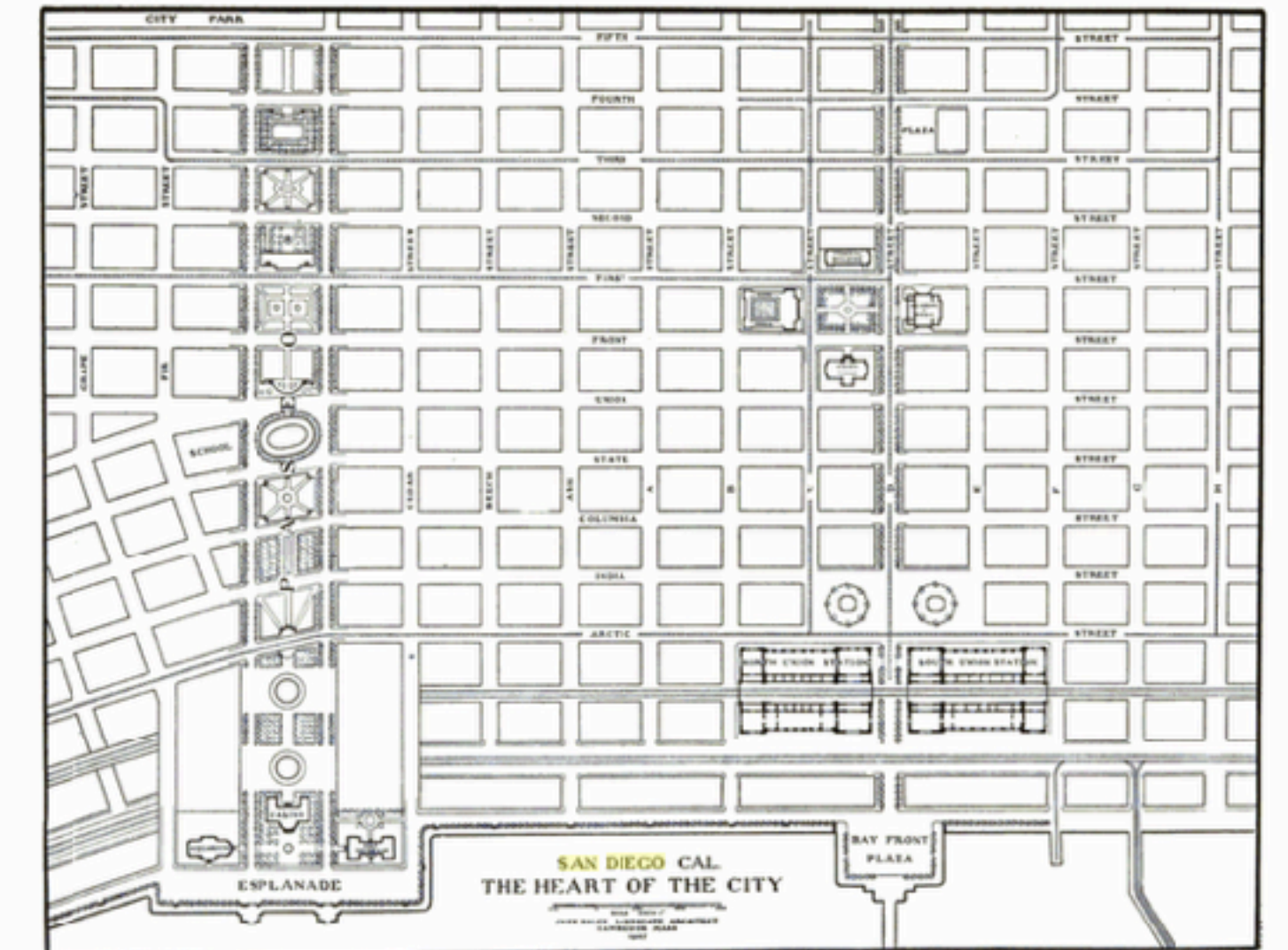
- Replace 1977+ buildings
- Add performing arts center
- Restore Balboa Stadium
- Enhance public spaces
- Develop aquatic center



City College

- Add buildings to handle 50% growth to 25,000 students
- Replace Saville Theater
- Build student housing
- Improve access and

- Enhance Park, Russ blvds., 14th Street Promenade
- Add or replace pedestrian bridges
- Improve access and parking
- "John Nolen Parkway"
- Freeway lids
- Design Review



Initial Project: 5 Phases to Success

- 1-2 Russ Blvd.
- 3 Park Blvd., Park Blvd/I-5 bridge, sidewalks and bikelanes
- 4 Balboa Stadium
- 5 Pedestrian bridge to Inspiration Point



Social Infrastructure

- **Education:** Promote internships, summer camps, park-connected curriculum
- **Cultural Resources:** Capitalize on museum exhibitions, drama and musical performances, exhibitions, zoo collections
- **‘Grow the park’:** Contribute to regional cultural districts
- **Widen awareness:** Market sports and recreation programs; boost communication campaigns



Auto Museum Vocational Education Academy



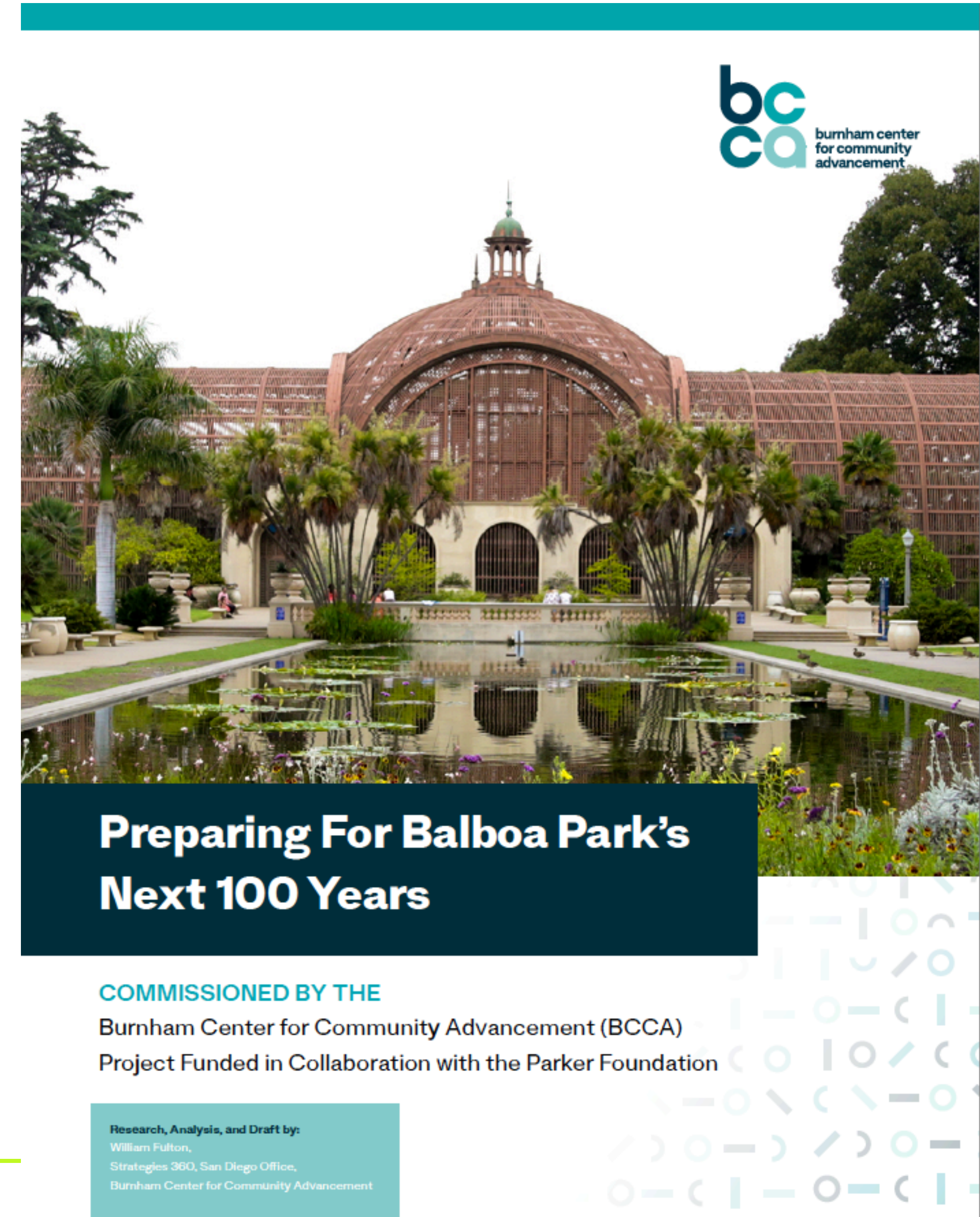
Barrio Logan Cultural District
mariotorero.art



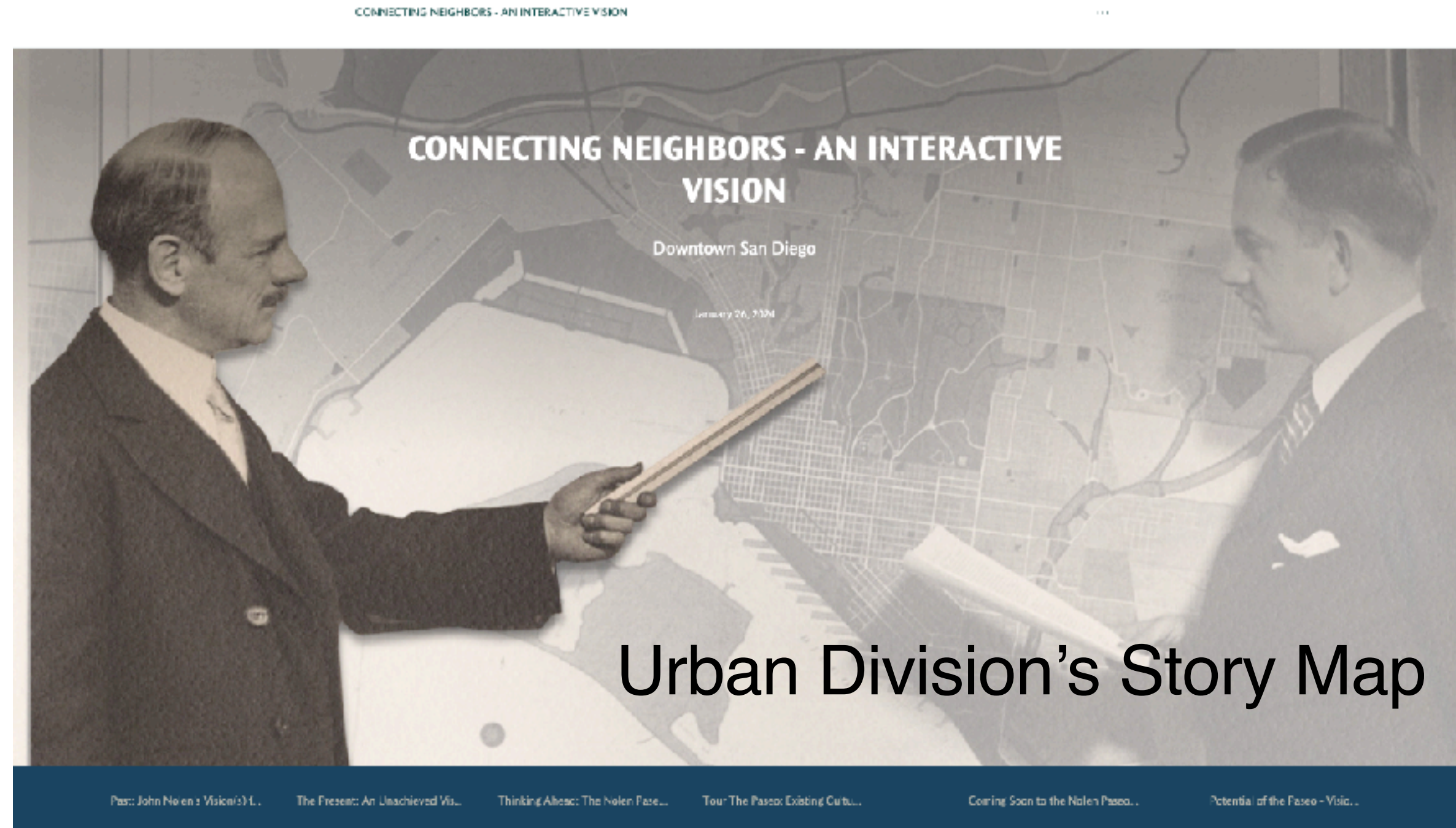
San Diego Velodrome

Governance & Finance

- Burnham Center for Community Advancement:
 - A white paper issued in November 2022 laying out options for funding and managing the park.
 - Progress Report issued in July 2024
 - Subgroup of stakeholders drafting recommendations by year's end
 - Public forums are planned



Implementation



Access Story Map at:

<https://webmaps.sandiego.gov/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/1f7ce2bbacce4f4287b0cc563a0755db>

or

<http://tinyurl.com/ymvu595v>

Appendix 2 BP/SDHS Connections Working Group: Implementation Recommendations				
Physical Infrastructure	Participants	Output	Timeframe	Notes
SDHS				Ref: Campus Modernization Plan
Public use of social facilities	SDHS, City [P&R]	Formal Agreement	Near Term	
Balboa Stadium	SDHS, City [P&R]	Formal Agreement	Mid/Long	Mid term-Engagement in design alternatives. Long term-formal agreement
Parking Structures, including Inspiration Point	SDHS, City [P&R]	Formal Agreement	Near/Mid	Near term-use of current structures. Mid term-coordinated planning
Athletic facilities and future gym	SDHS, City [P&R]	Formal Agreement	Near/Mid	Near term-use of current structures. Mid term-coordinated planning
Physical Connections – Develop a joint implementation model	SDHS, City [P&R, Mobility, DSD], SDCC	Informal Agreement	Near/Mid	Park Boulevard, Russ Boulevard, 14 th Street
Landscaping	SDHS, City [DSD], Downtown Partnership	Informal Agreement	Near	In process
City College				See Transportation, Parking, Circulation
City College Parking, nights/weekends as available	SDCC, SDHS, City [P&R]	Formal Agreement	Near/Mid	Including expansion of shuttle service. Ref: City College Master Plan – in process

'Low-hanging fruit' projects to pursue:

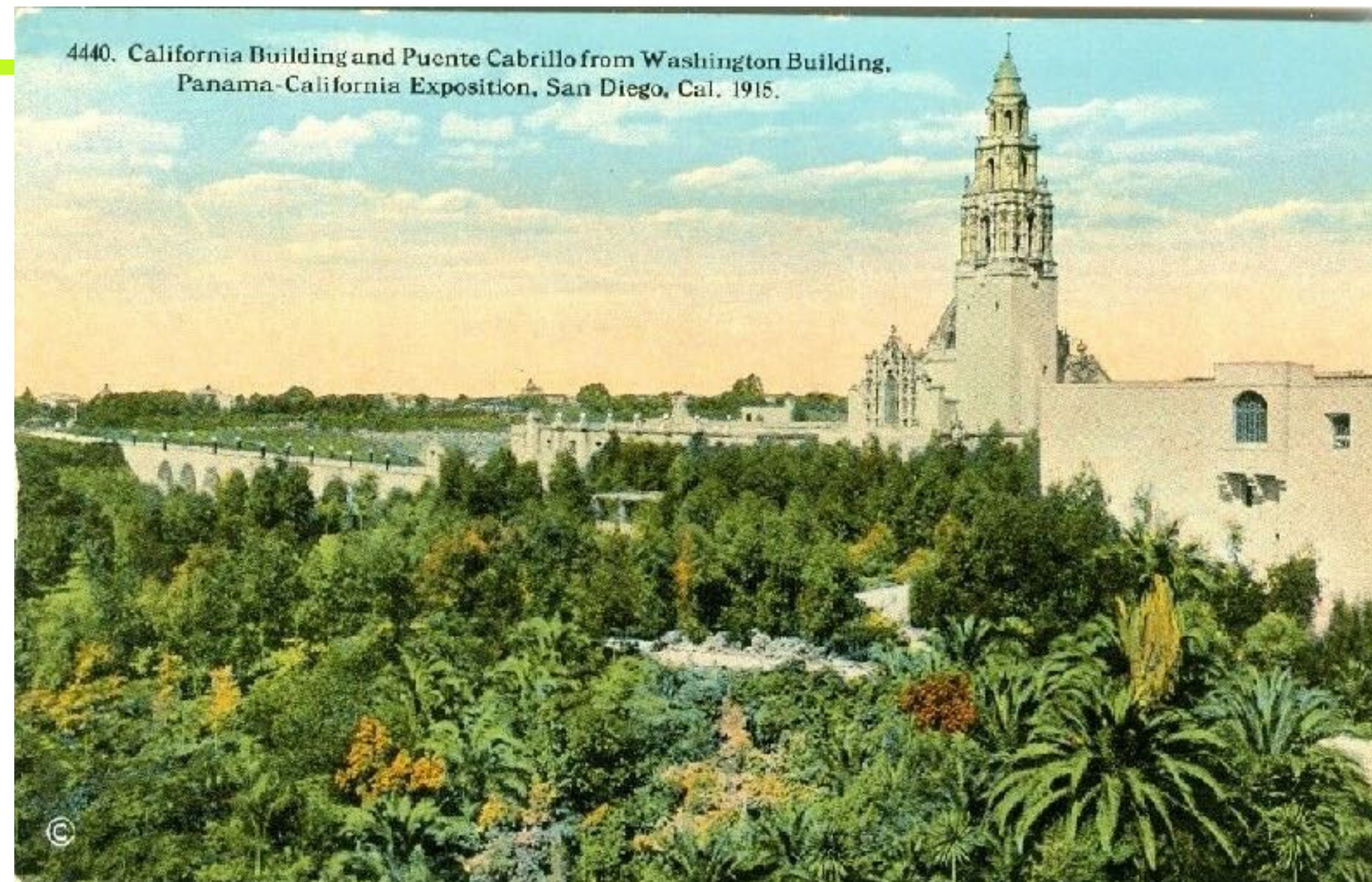
- Enhance Russ, Park boulevards
- Sign joint-use agreements
- Create honorary "John Nolen Parkway" designations
- Reform park management and finance
- Explore internships, job placements
- Develop curriculum links between park and schools
- Implement design review



Key Working Group recommendations:

- Ask City Council to:
 - Accept the Working Group's report as a planning framework
 - Direct city staff to review its recommendations
 - Incorporate them as appropriate into Balboa Park's prioritization framework document, the expected update to the park's master plan and other projects and planning materials.
- Request other interest groups and stakeholders also review and comment on the report.
- Designate the Balboa Park Committee as the oversight entity to follow up and monitor implementation.





- As a reminder, the Balboa Park Committee's bylaws provide that it should:
- "Advise the Parks and Recreation Board and City Council and San Diego mayor on public policy matters relating to the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of Balboa Park."
- "Coordinate the work of such committees as may be established towards the end of developing a integrated and balance policy recommendations."
- "Conduct such investigations, studies and hearings which, in the judgment of the committee, will aid in effectuating its general purpose."

Discussion

