

# MANHATTAN BEACH

## **SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING**

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

20 October 2015



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OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Signage and Wayfinding Plan is to build awareness of the City of Manhattan Beach through a comprehensive and intuitive identification and wayfinding system for visitors and residents. This plan outlines the communication elements required to establish a sustainable identity and memorable sense of place for the residents and visitors of the City of Manhattan Beach.

PROJECT GOALS

- Build awareness of Manhattan Beach and its destinations
- Preserve the small town beach character and enhance quality of life for the residents
- Create a unified visual language for all communication elements to become a coordinated and consistent wayfinding signage program
- Create a welcoming, intuitive, and positive experience for residents and visitors to easily navigate and find desired destinations
- Identify and eliminate problems with existing signage, including information gaps, confusion, redundancy and sign clutter
- Reinforce the history of Manhattan Beach through storytelling
- Design a unified and flexible system to facilitate maintenance, repair, reprogramming, and replacement
- Integrate sustainable processes, materials, and technologies for all elements





# City of Manhattan Beach



CITY OF  
MANHATTAN BEACH



**PROJECT**  
CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

**PHASE**  
ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS  
20 OCTOBER 2015

**DESCRIPTION**

ENTRY POINTS AND PRIMARY DESTINATIONS





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DESCRIPTION

HISTORY—PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS





### CITY IDENTITY

There is no unified presence at key city entry points. We recommend prominent Manhattan Beach specific landmark signs where possible on major vehicle entrances into the city, supported by street banner campaigns along primary paths of travel.



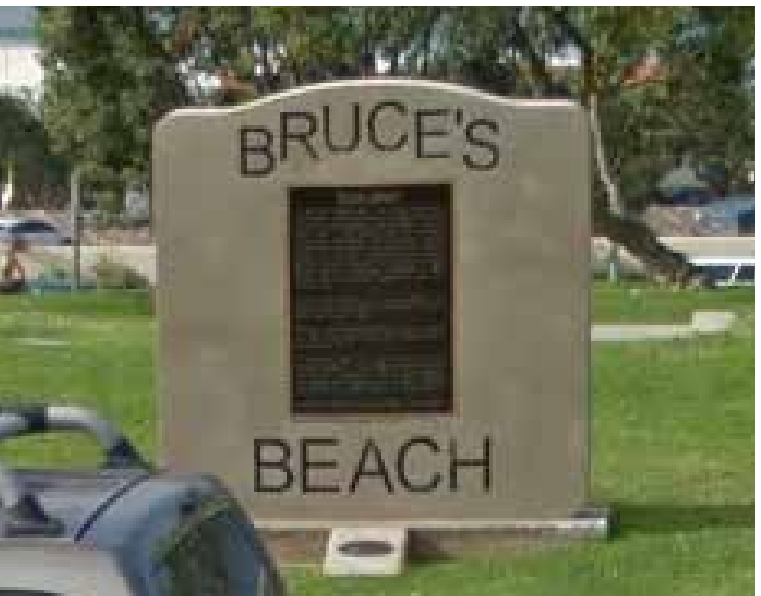
### DISTRICT IDENTITY

We recommend continued development of distinct district identities incorporating signage, public art programs, and unified public amenities; including crosswalks, seating, bicycle racks, and newspaper corrals. A unifying theme to connect visitors to various opportunities within each area will strengthen the uniqueness of the district.



### STREET IDENTITY

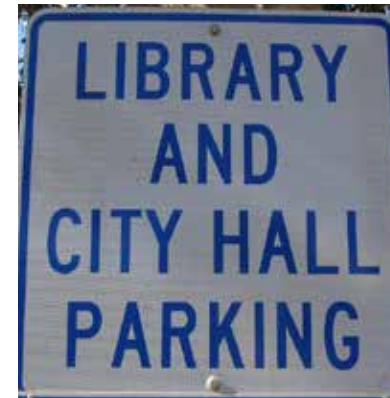
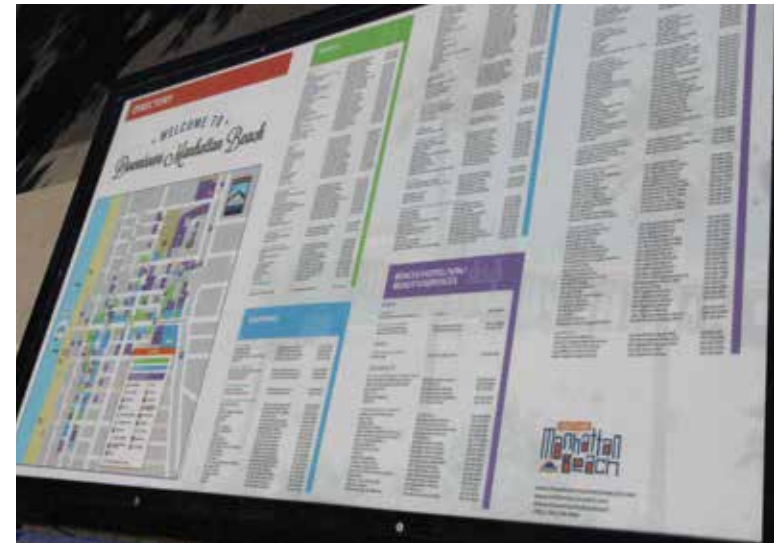
Pole mounted street signs have strong visual consistency throughout the City, except in the Downtown district. Downtown overhead street signs show visual disparity at major intersections. We recommend updating overhead signs into one cohesive design style and revising the Downtown pole signs to the style used throughout the city.



### DESTINATION IDENTITY

No cohesive design or visual consistency exists for destinations in Manhattan Beach. Signs are of various materials, sizes, and construction. We recommend an overhaul of all destination identity signs into one unifying design style to reinforce the city brand and accent the uniqueness of each destination.





## VEHICLE DIRECTION SIGNS

Post mounted vehicle direction signs currently appear in several styles and sizes. We recommend a single design style, consistent message language, and strategic sign placement along major paths of travel.

## PARKING DIRECTION SIGNS

Parking direction signs and information are displayed in various styles, shapes, and sizes. We recommend a unified design style that works in unison with updated vehicle direction signs to underscore the city's brand.

## PARKING IDENTITY SIGNS

Parking identity and information lacks cohesion from one site to another. We recommend updating signs at each parking site into a single design style. All related parking signs (regulations, etc.) should be included to reinforce the city brand. Where possible, existing parking space counters should be utilized.

## PEDESTRIAN DIRECTORY SIGNS

Directory signs should be modified to appear as parts of a unified wayfinding system, highlighting what is unique about districts and destinations while identifying the City of Manhattan Beach. Maps should display vehicle and pedestrian circulation routes.



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CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES





## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

We recommend development of standards for placement and sizes of public transportation signs displayed throughout the city, including number of signs per post, iconography, and terminology.

## CITY REGULATION SIGN

A broad variety of styles, colors, and sizes creates visual clutter and diminishes the city brand. We recommend development of a consistent sign design and regulation language to reinforce the casual, friendly nature of Manhattan Beach.

## AMENITIES

Various amenity styles are used throughout the city. Standards for parklets, crosswalk graphics, and other public spaces will help to promote the identity and attractiveness of the districts and the city. Amenities should be coordinated with district identity efforts.

## PUBLIC ART

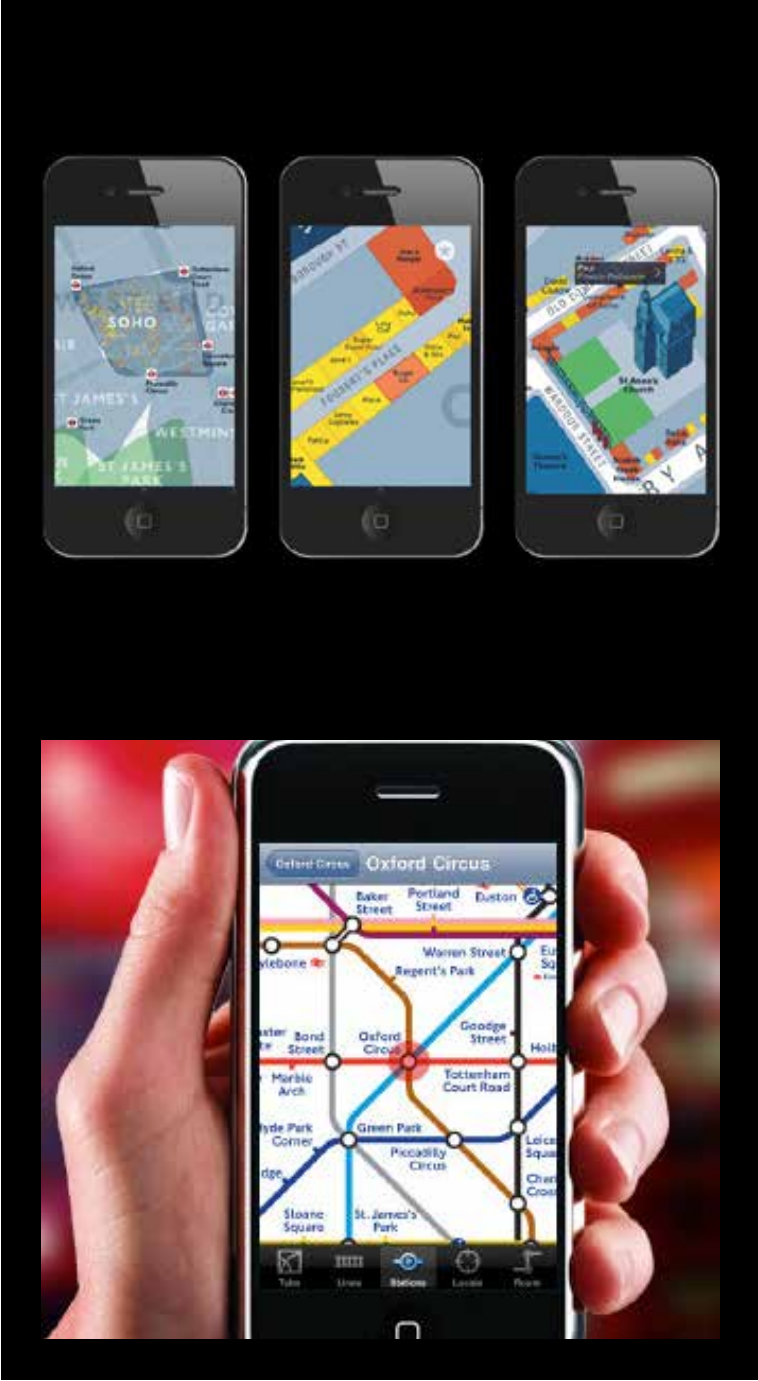
We recommend continued development of the existing public art program, expanding installation locations to support and enhance city and district identities. Guidelines for implementation should be established to maintain the character of the city.





**MAP**

We recommend developing a single map style for use throughout the city. A consistent graphic style will aid navigation and reinforce the city’s brand on public directories, printed materials, and electronic devices. Maps should display vehicle and pedestrian circulation routes, as well as identify the districts, key features, parking areas, and destinations.



**APPS**

As an aid for navigation we recommend developing apps for mobile devices that key into city destinations. Apps should retain the graphic style of city maps and provide access to city information.



**CITY LOGO**

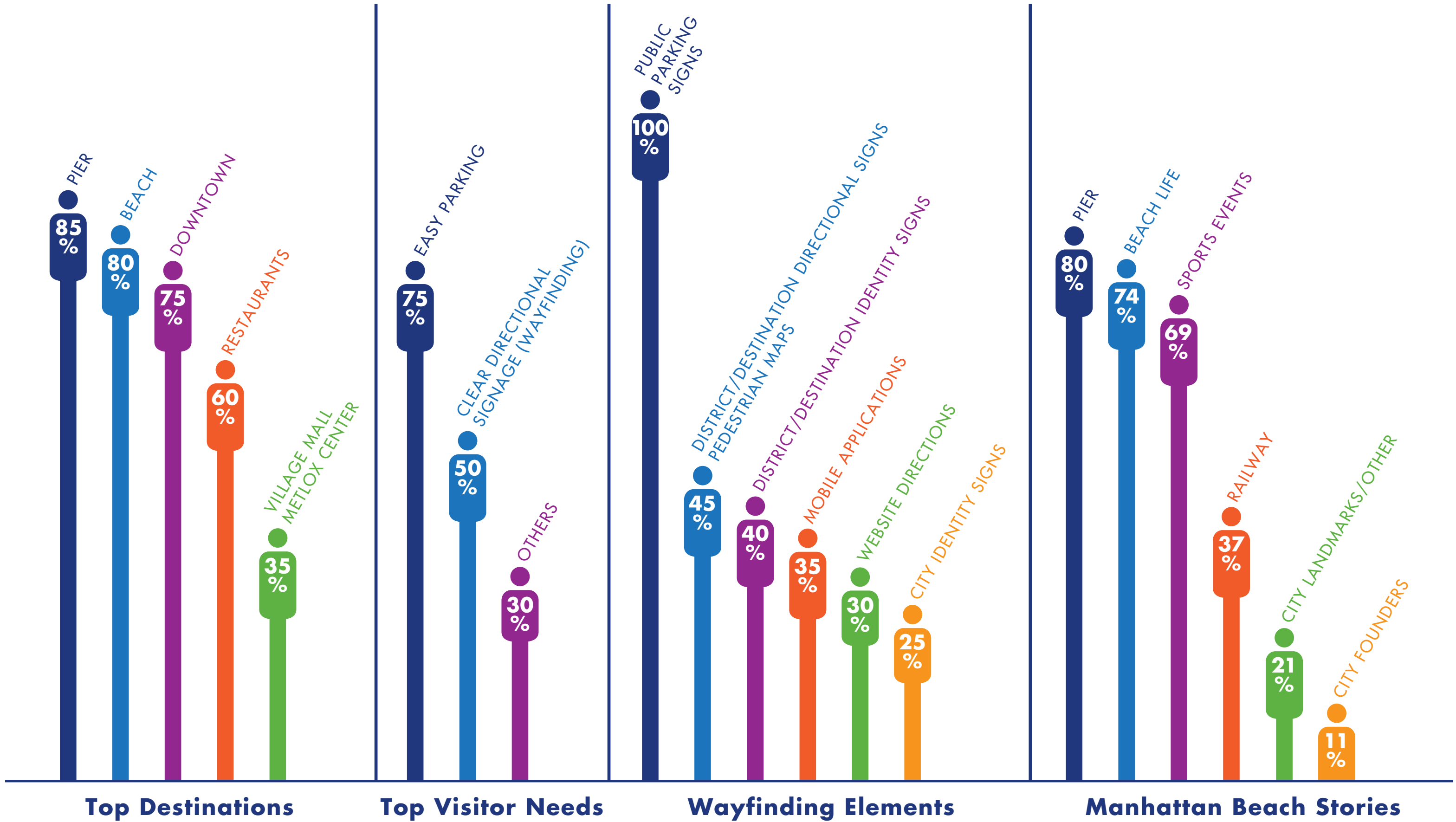
We strongly recommend the creation and implementation of a new city logo. The logo and its application should be distinct from the current “circle-triangle” mark and reflect the best attributes of Manhattan Beach. The logo should be distinct and versatile for marketing and promoting the city in multiple ways.



**MERCHANDISE**

Official merchandise created specifically for Manhattan Beach should be regulated by high professional standards. Use of the city logo and other brand elements should be standardized to a degree that promotes the city in the best methods possible.









**VOLLEYBALL**

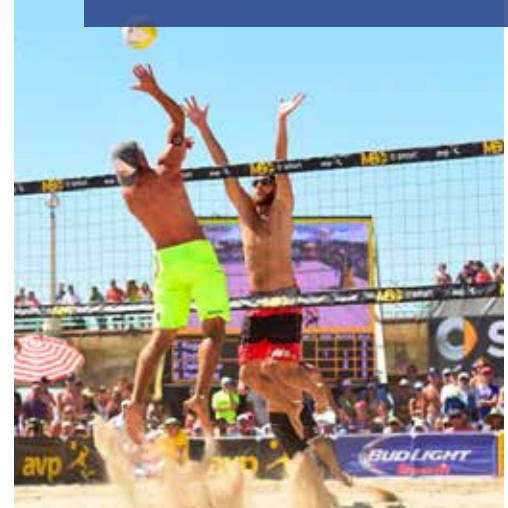
**OCEAN**



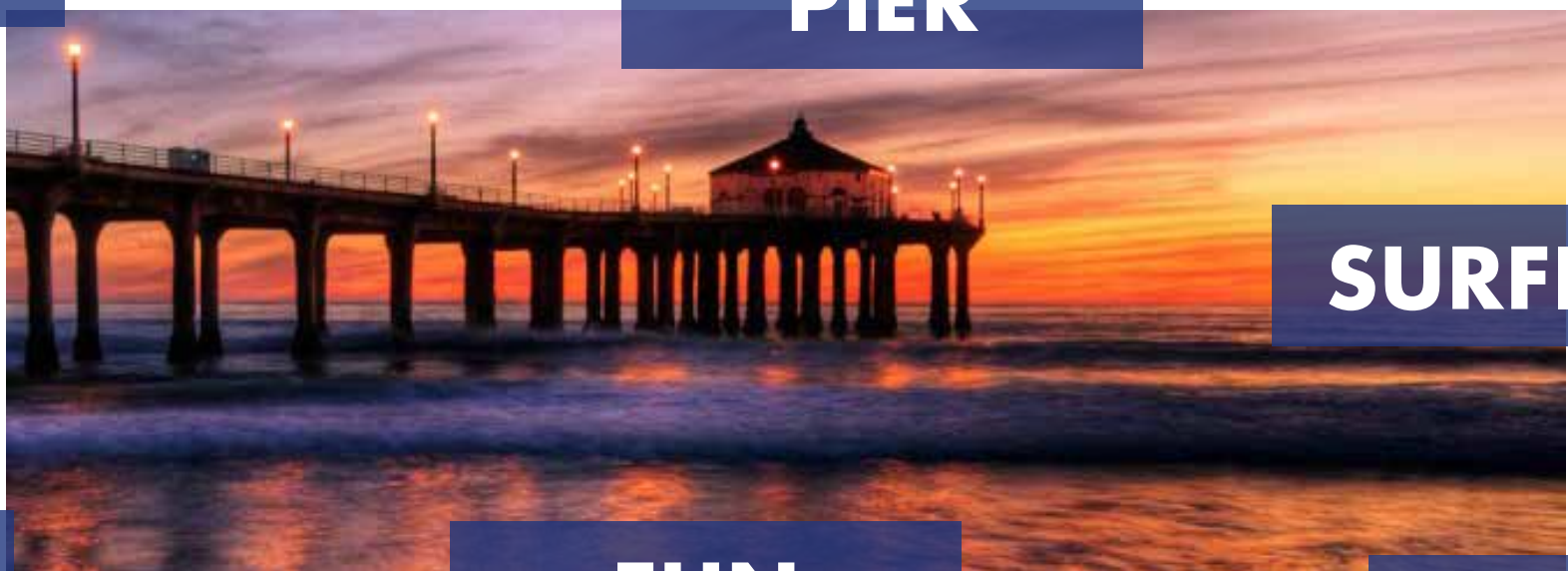
**BEAUTIFUL**

**PIER**

**TIMELESS**



**SAFE**



**FUN**

**SURFING**



**BEACH SUN SAND**



**UPSCALE**



**COMMUNITY**



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DESCRIPTION  
CORE PERSONALITY





PRIMARY DESTINATIONS



**Pier**

Parking



**Downtown**

Parking

City Hall

Metlox

Restaurants  
Shopping



**Beach**

Parking



**North End**

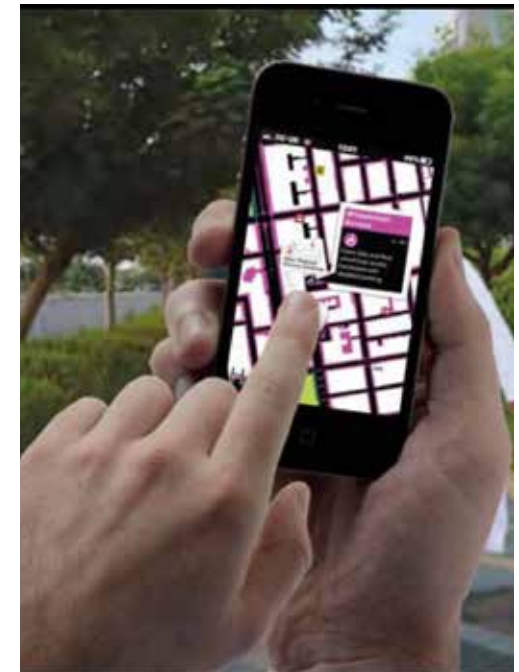
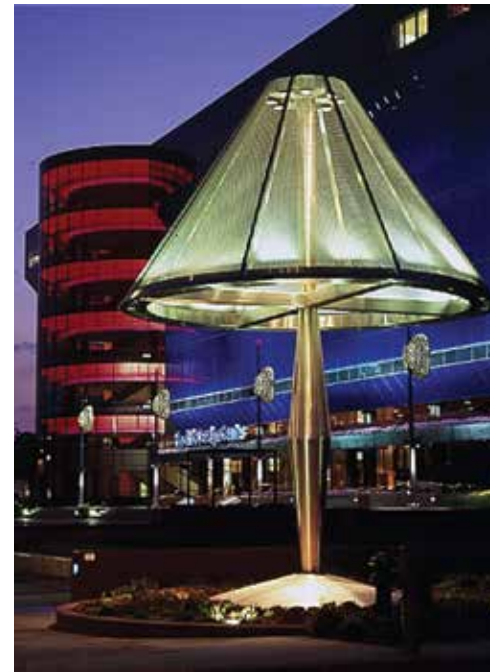
Parking

Beach/Surf

Restaurants  
Shopping







## GATEWAYS/LANDMARKS

Establish bold and memorable gateways & landmarks to identify the city, internal districts, key features and enhance the "Welcome" experience.

## IDENTIFICATION

Identify the city, districts, key features, and destinations.

## DIRECTION

Provide clear vehicle and pedestrian guide signs to reinforce circulation paths.

## INFORMATION

Integrate public information through information kiosks and mobile apps.

## PUBLIC ART/AMENITIES

Reinforce the identity and attractiveness of the city, residents, and tenants with art elements and amenities.

## MOBILE APPS/MERCHANDISE

Enhance wayfinding, access to information, and the city identity while building revenue through merchandise and mobile apps.





Louisville, Kentucky



Worcester, Massachusetts



London, England





Marina Del Rey



Santa Monica



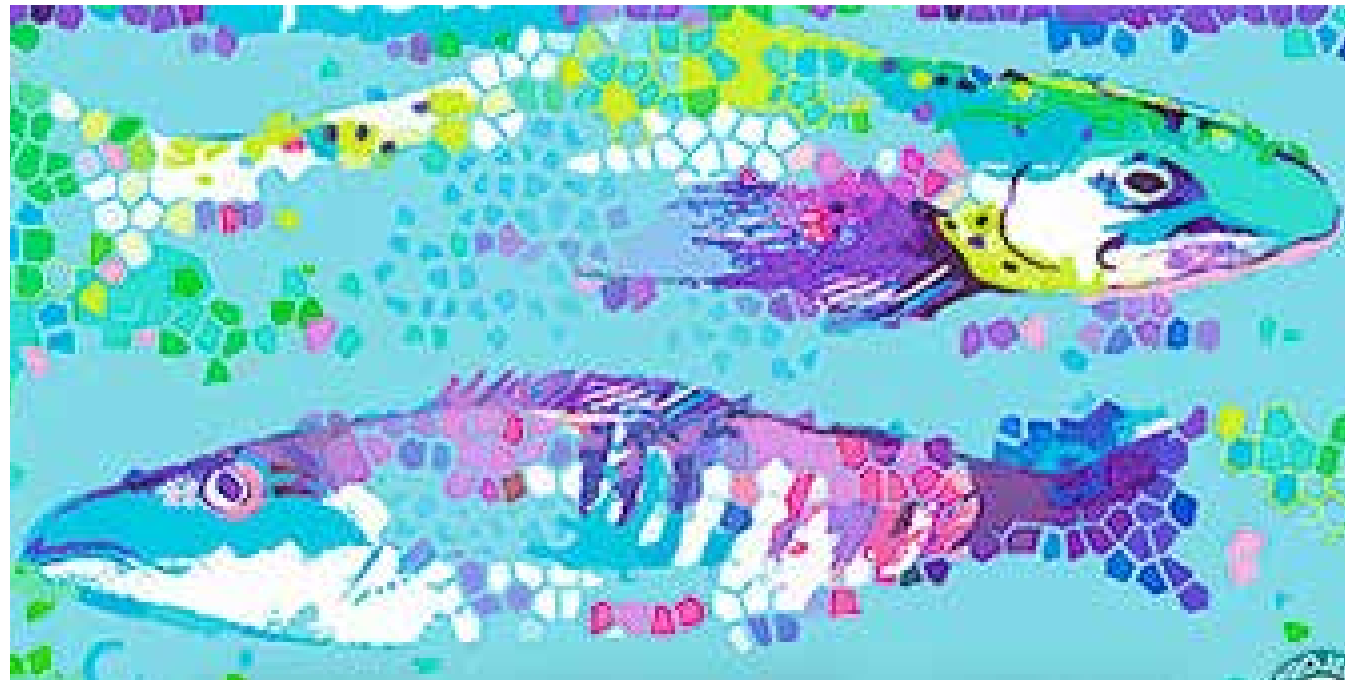


## **Concept 1—Repurpose**

















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OPTION 1—ROSECRANS AVE/HIGHLAND AVE

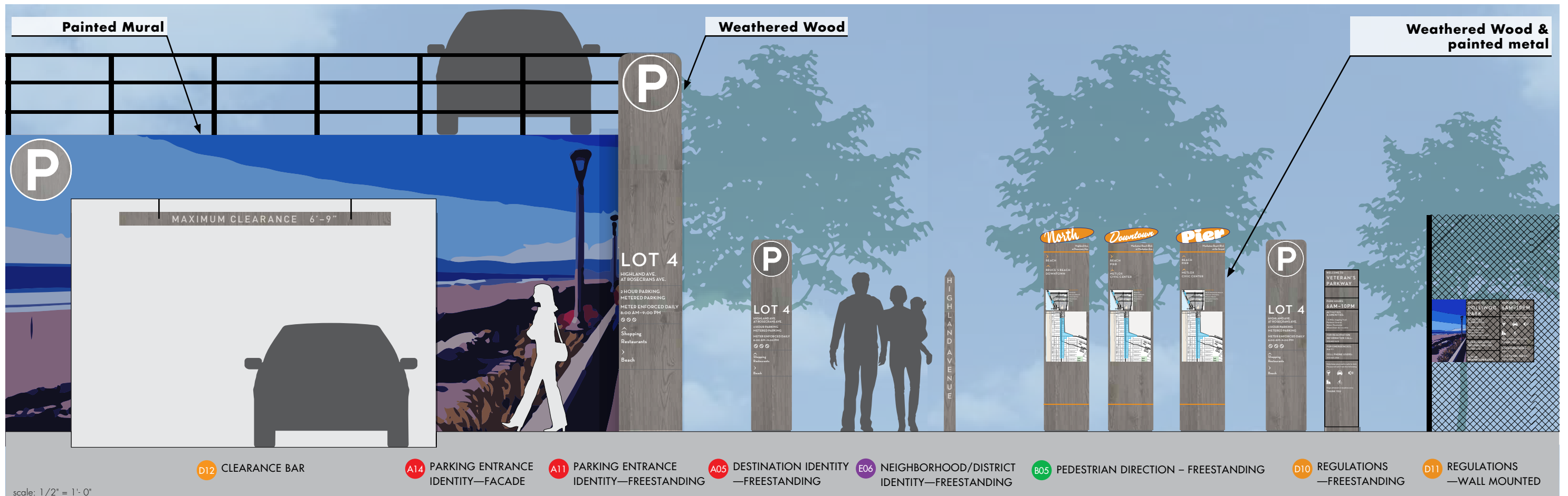
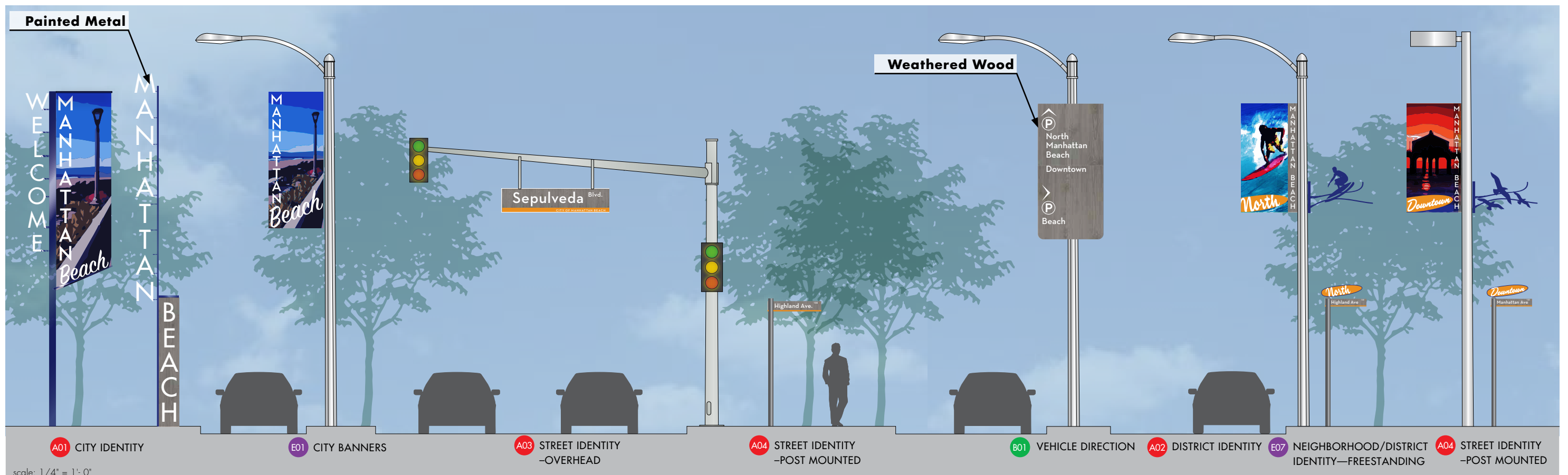






## **Concept 2—Vintage/Retro**





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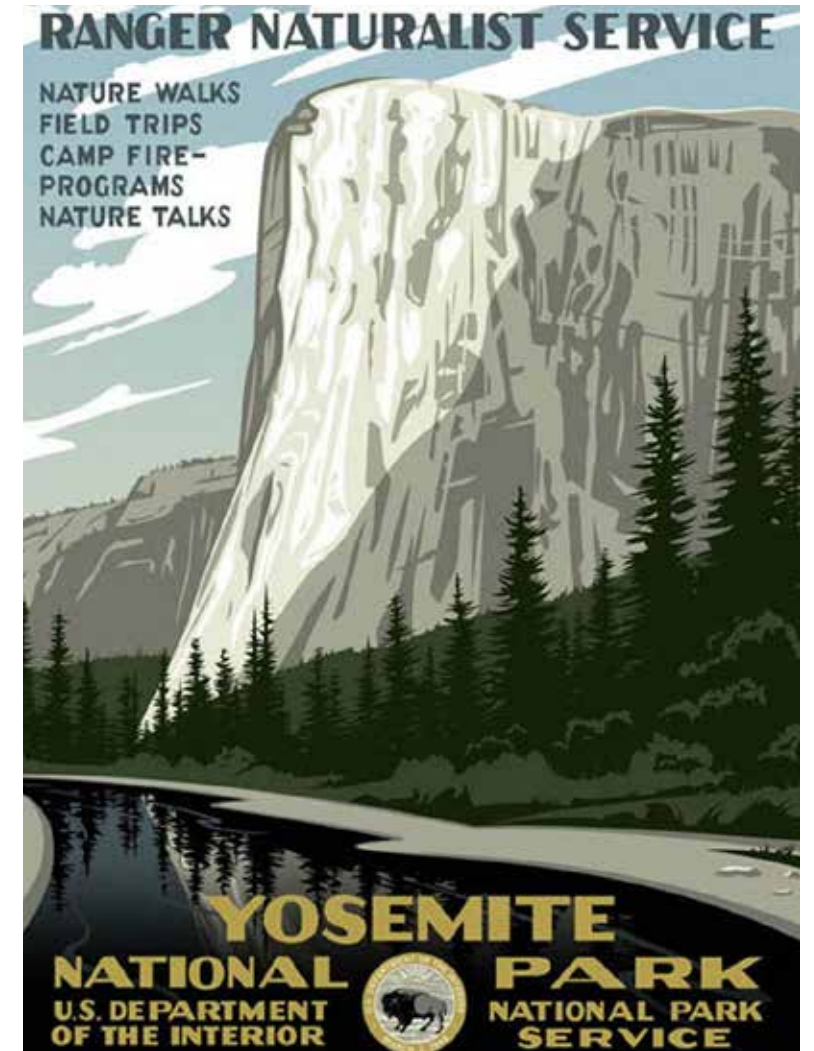
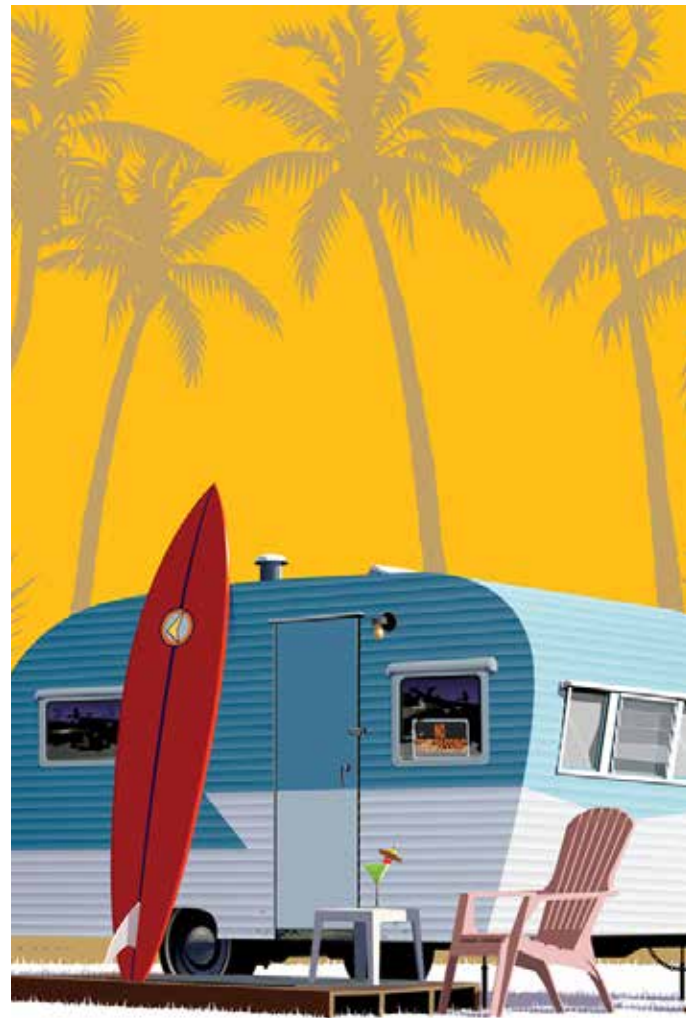
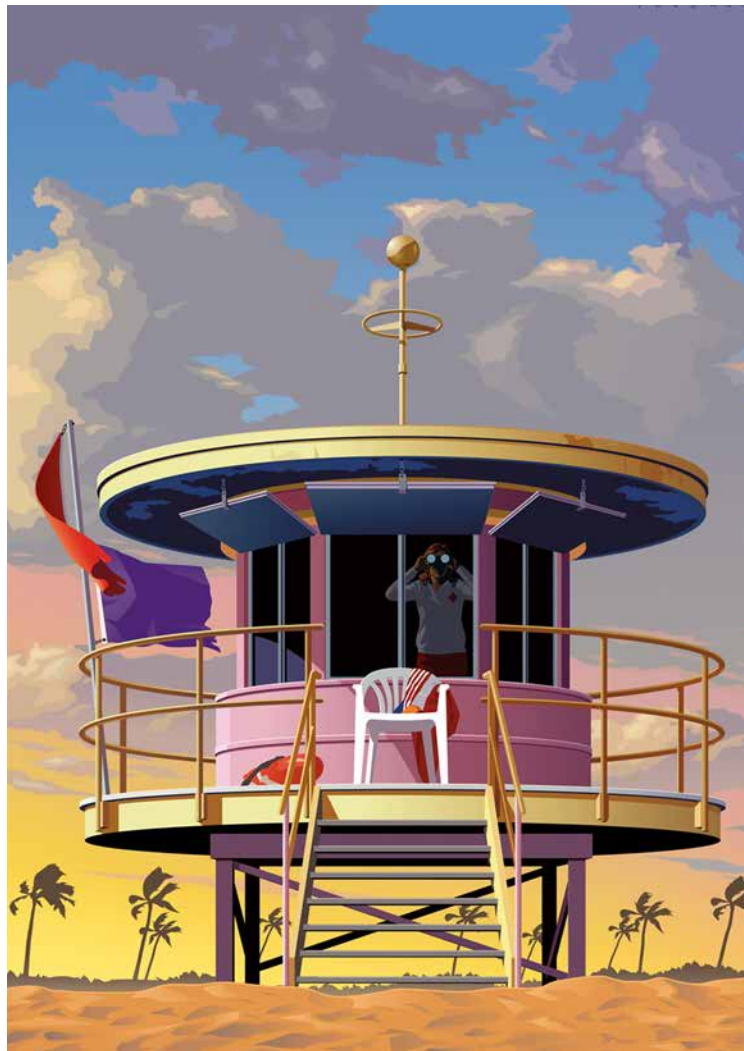
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OPTION 2—VINTAGE / RETRO





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OPTION 2—VINTAGE POSTER ILLUSTRATION STYLE









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OPTION 2—ROSECRANS AVE/HIGHLAND AVE

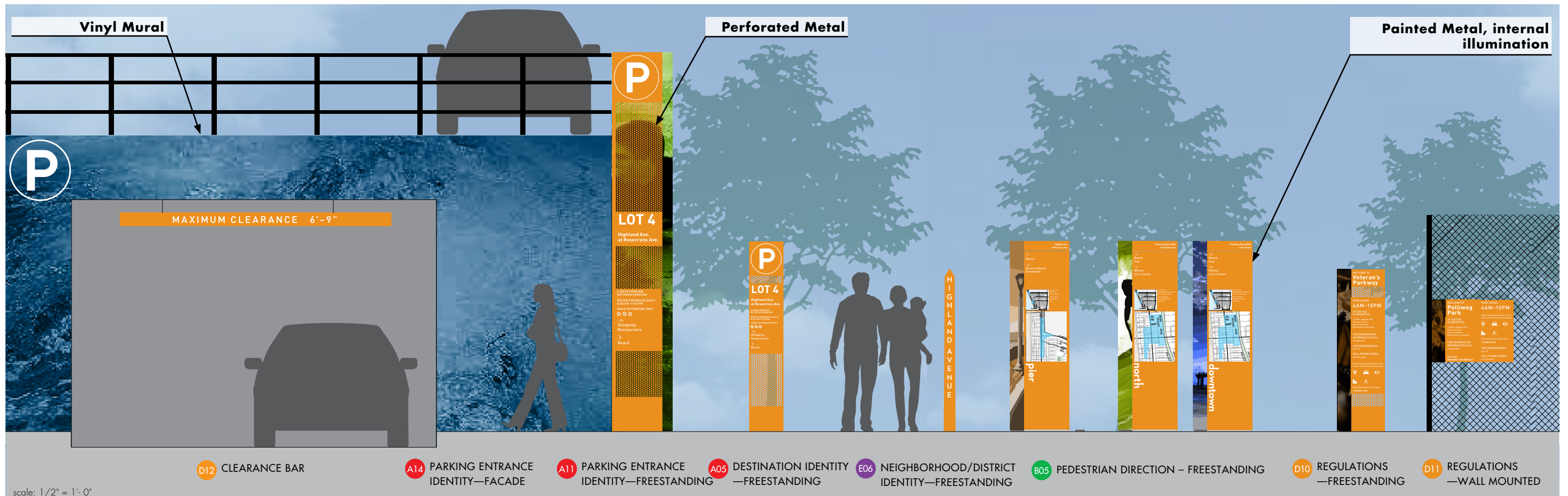
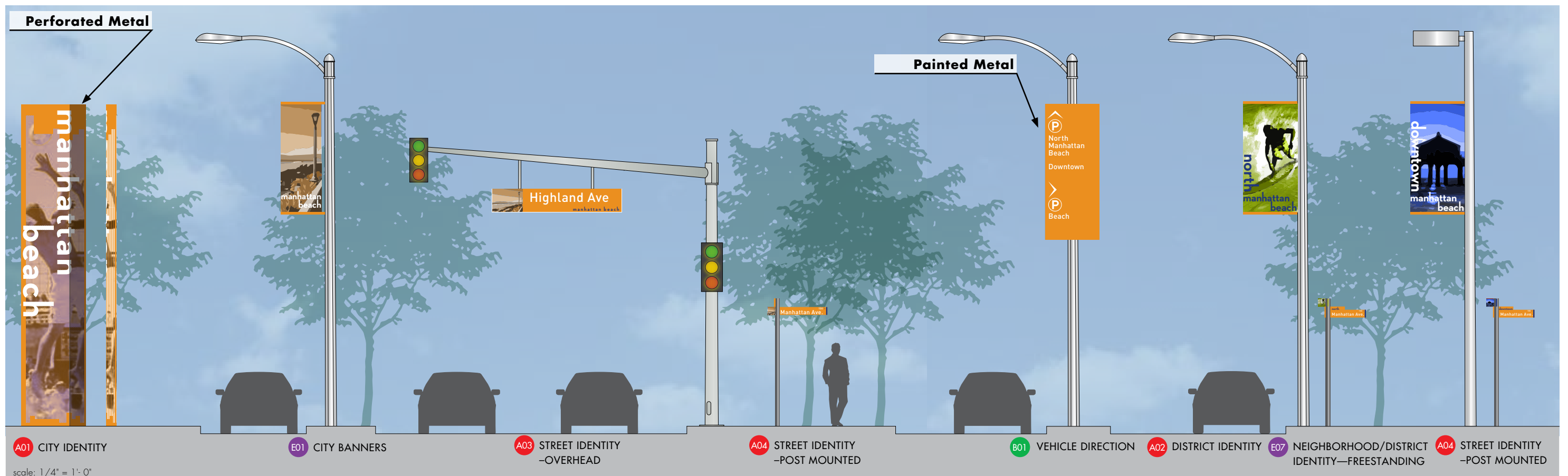






## **Concept 3—Modern**





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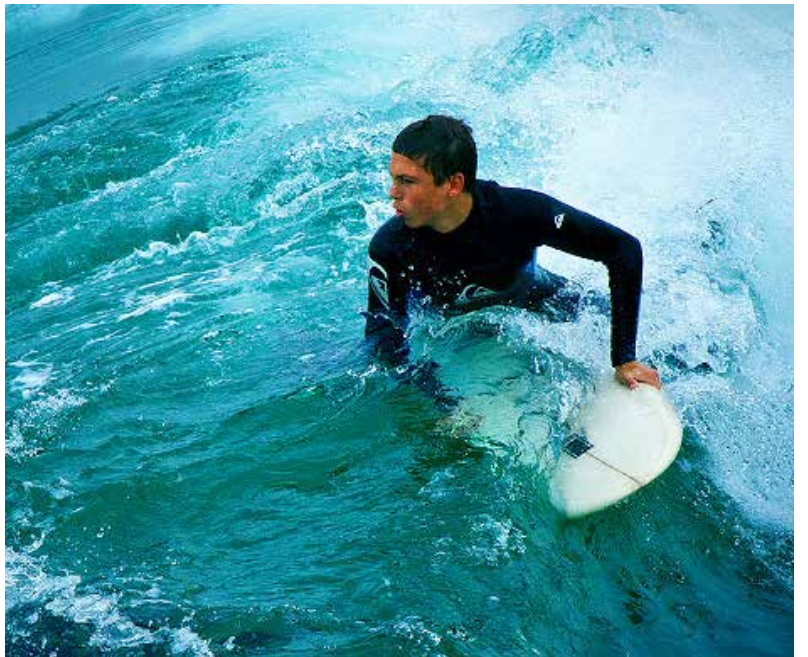


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**DESCRIPTION**  
OPTION 3—MODERN





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OPTION 3—PHOTOGRAPHIC STYLE ILLUSTRATIONS





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OPTION 3—ROSECRANS AVE WEST





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OPTION 3—ROSECRANS AVE/HIGHLAND AVE







