SPUR Program: Opening Up Lake Merritt’s Cultural Institutions
December 9, 2019
Project Objectives

Big Results Small Changes

#1 Museum in Support of District-Wide Changes
- Respond to and enhance planned or completed City of Oakland, Bart, Laney College and private improvements to the neighborhood
- Improve pedestrian experience of building with lighting, plantings and removal of problem areas
- Pedestrian way created from 12th and the Lake to 10th, connecting to Lake Merritt, Kaiser, Bart, Laney, etc.

#2 Museum in Support of and Enhancing Community Engagement
- Open up the massive 4 block building on 10th and 12th Streets
- Expand community access to and use of the Gardens as a public amenity
- Reduce accessibility barriers such as distance to entries and other routes of travel
- Improve community event amenities in the Gardens and at 10th Street particularly for Friday nights
- Café and Program space can be a neighborhood amenity

#3 Gardens in Service of Architecture
- Evolution over time – little remaining healthy material
- Retain healthy specimen trees
- Be more strategic in planting and
- Be more restrained in planting so architecture is revealed as in original design intent

#4 Gardens in Service of Programs
- More sustainable plantings and maintenance needs
- California focused for interpretation with Natural Science Programs

#5 Gardens in Service of Community Uses
- Shade protection
- Stage for performances
- Paving adjustments for informal and formal gatherings
- Power and lighting improvements
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Ecoregions of California

Planting Approach

The ecology of California can be understood by dividing the state into a number of ecoregions, which contain distinct ecological communities of plants and animals in a contiguous region.
Cross Section of California
Planting by Ecoregions
10th Street Elevation

Existing

Removed

2022

2035
Thank You