BILLBOARD PERMIT APPLICATION

8433 SUNSET BLVD WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

SUBMISSION CATEGORY
ALTERNATIVE PROJECT, DIGITAL

ORIGINAL SUBMISSION DATE AUGUST 10, 2021

RESUBMISSION DATE
December 01, 2023









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PROJECT TEAM

Applicant:

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RIOS

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Building Ownership:

The Shore Family

















A LIVING MUSEUM

For nearly 50 years, The Comedy Store has been a cultural institution on the Sunset Strip, helping to define the very essence of West Hollywood as a unique hub of creative activity and artistry. The legendary venue is known worldwide and is beloved by iconic and upcoming comedic talent who consider it a home away from home and safe space to hone their craft.

As a true family enterprise, The Comedy Store was founded in 1972 by famous comedian Sammy Shore, Sammy's wife Mitzi, and comedy writer Rudy DeLuca. Mitzi assumed full-time ownership after taking the reins in 1974, and her vision transformed this comedy mecca into what it is today, with sons Peter, Pauly, and Scott continuing the legacy their mother created.

The Shore family's fierce commitment to preserving the authenticity and intimacy of The Comedy Store has resulted in a living museum that remains unchanged and welcomes comedians back time after time with the familiarity and comfort they have come to depend on in a constantly changing outside world. It is a place for them to feel supported as they practice and refine their material, mentored by each other, and free to take risks in an environment that does not allow phones or cameras. This foundational sameness instills in them a sense of community and confidence that is crucial to their continued development.

The Comedy Store is also a destination for fans, agents, talent scouts, and celebrities who gather to enjoy their favorite entertainers and witness the development of artistic production. The audience, too, plays a role in shaping the careers of those who take the iconic stage in an experience that is uniquely West Hollywood and synonymous with the spirit of the city.

This landmark establishment is a testament to the importance of staying true to who you are. The Comedy Store is an original. It will always be an original. The comedic craft evolves, but the authenticity of this unique property will stay the same. It is a space frozen in time, preserving all that is special about it, dedicated to the value it adds to the Sunset Strip and serving as a true beacon to comedians, the community, and the City of West Hollywood.









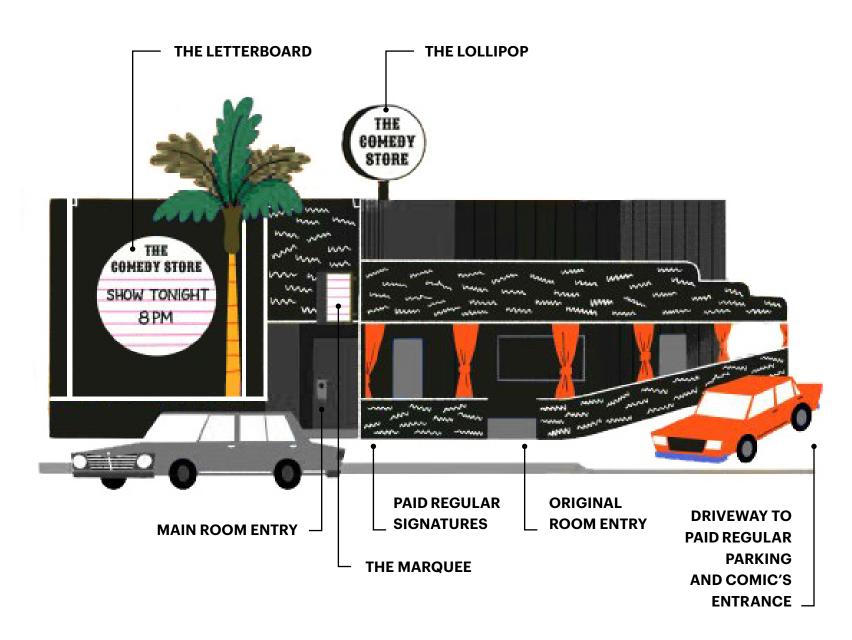


A LIVING MUSEUM: THE ICONIC FACADE

The iconic façade of the Comedy Store is synonymous with the community and lifestyle of working comedians and can be seen as a backdrop in countless television shows and movies about the culture of comedy.

Despite an evolving context, the Shore family has preserved the ritual of entering the Comedy Store for returning comics. The Store's core group of comedians, **Paid Regulars**, enter the Comedy Store through the rear of the building. The key elements of the façade that define the comic's entry experience have remain unchanged for almost 40 years.

- The Lollipop: The Comedy Store building identification playfully sits above to façade on a short pole.
- The Marquee: The marquee allows Los Angeles community to see the night's performers.
- The Letterboard: The large wall mounted board displays a variety of content including upcoming shows and tributes.
- Paid Regular Signatures: The signatures of comedians who have been accepted into The Store's elite group of Paid Regulars are displayed across portions of the façade.



One of the main things I wanted when I came out here was to get my name on the outside because that would make me feel like I was a comic.

KEVIN NEALON

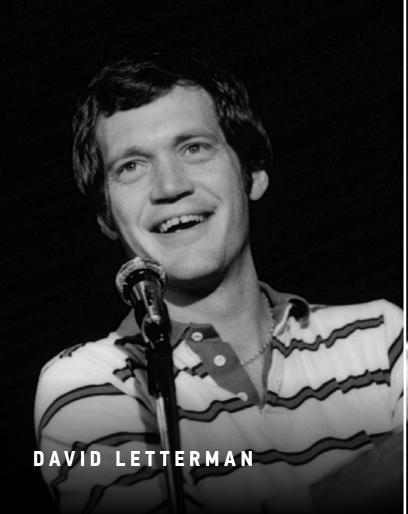
2020 SHOWTIME DOCUMENTARY THE COMEDY STORE

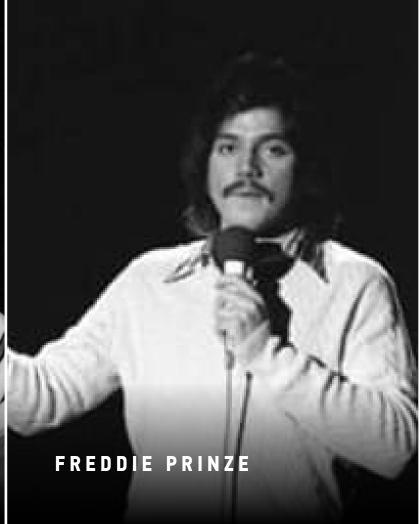




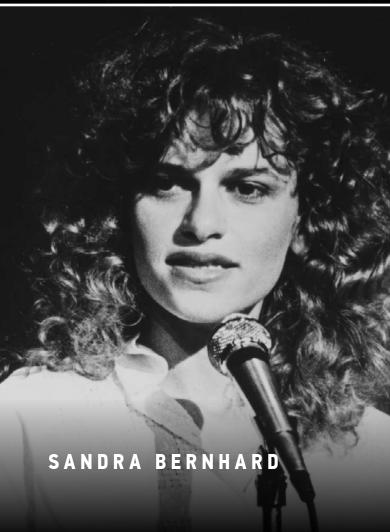


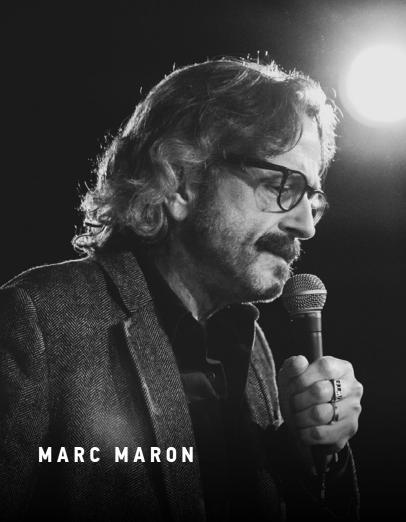
















DESIGN CONCEPT: GOALS

OBM worked closely with the Shore family to develop a design which enhances the operations of the Comedy Store and benefits the West Hollywood community. Key design goals include:

- Celebrate the Comedy Store's legacy by using digital displays to share the Comedy Store's history with the public.
- Enhance Main Room queuing. The queue for the 8pm Main Room currently occurs in the public sidewalk along the existing planter to the west. While the queue is active, pedestrians encounter pinch points in circulation where trees and parking meters are located.
- Maintain the comic's entry experience. The proposal team studied the locations of all enhancements to minimize the impact on the iconic east corner of the building (the Paid Regular signatures, the Lollipop, and the Marquee). Comic's entrance is shown in top image on this page.
- Generate Revenue to support the ongoing operations of a Living Museum within the evolving Sunset Strip.

The Comedy Store's Main Stage's art deco detailing inspired the design of the digital sign in this proposal.











DESIGN CONCEPT: COMPONENTS

The proposed design, developed in collaboration with the Shore family, enhances the public's experience of the Comedy Store without altering the entry procession for the comics who call The Store home. The Lollipop sign, the Paid Regular signatures, the Letterboard, and the Marquee remain prominent in the overall composition. While staying true to the comics that made this institution, this design transforms the experience of the Comedy Store for the public. A cramped sidewalk becomes a parklike oasis where the public can appreciate The Comedy Store's legacy. Together the assembly of the digital sign, the Letterboard, the iconic elements of the Comedy Store façade, and the verdant urban garden will create a one-of-a-kind node along Sunset Blvd.

The proposal for the Comedy Store includes:

- **Digital Sign:** A new digital sign adds a bold new element to the façade composition that reflects the increasing scale the Strip while remaining respectful to the scale and character of The Store itself. The design draws on the history of striking signage at premier performance venues along the Sunset Strip and brings the iconic Art Deco detailing of the Main Room stage onto the street. The two-sided sign is located on the west side of the building, away from the iconic elements of the east facade. The sign is freestanding to avoid impacts to the building roof of the 1940's building which cannot support additional weight.
- **Sidewalk Extension:** An expansion of the sidewalk into the parking lane accommodates an expanded Main Room queue as well as lush planting. From new public seating, the public can view Comedy Store curated content on the digital Letterboard and the analog signatures over the venue's entrances. Benches in the sidewalk expansion are inspired by benches inside the performance space.
- **Native Planning:** The expanded sidewalk will be flanked by two rows of planters filled with climate-appropriate, pollinator friendly plants.
- **Digital Letterboard:** The existing analog Letterboard will be upgraded to include a digital screen. The upgraded Letterboard will exclusively host creative content curated by The Comedy Store's creative team.















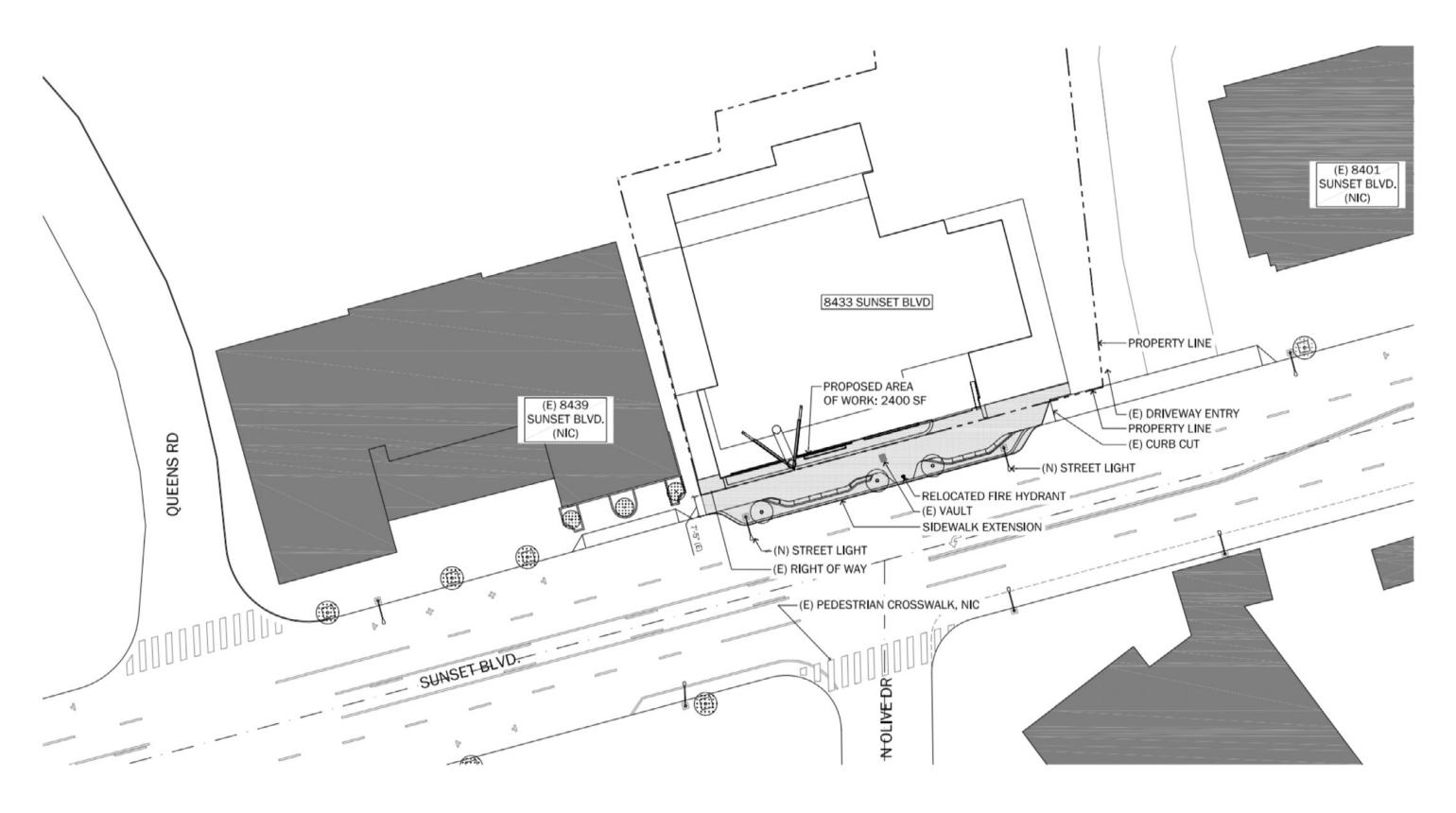








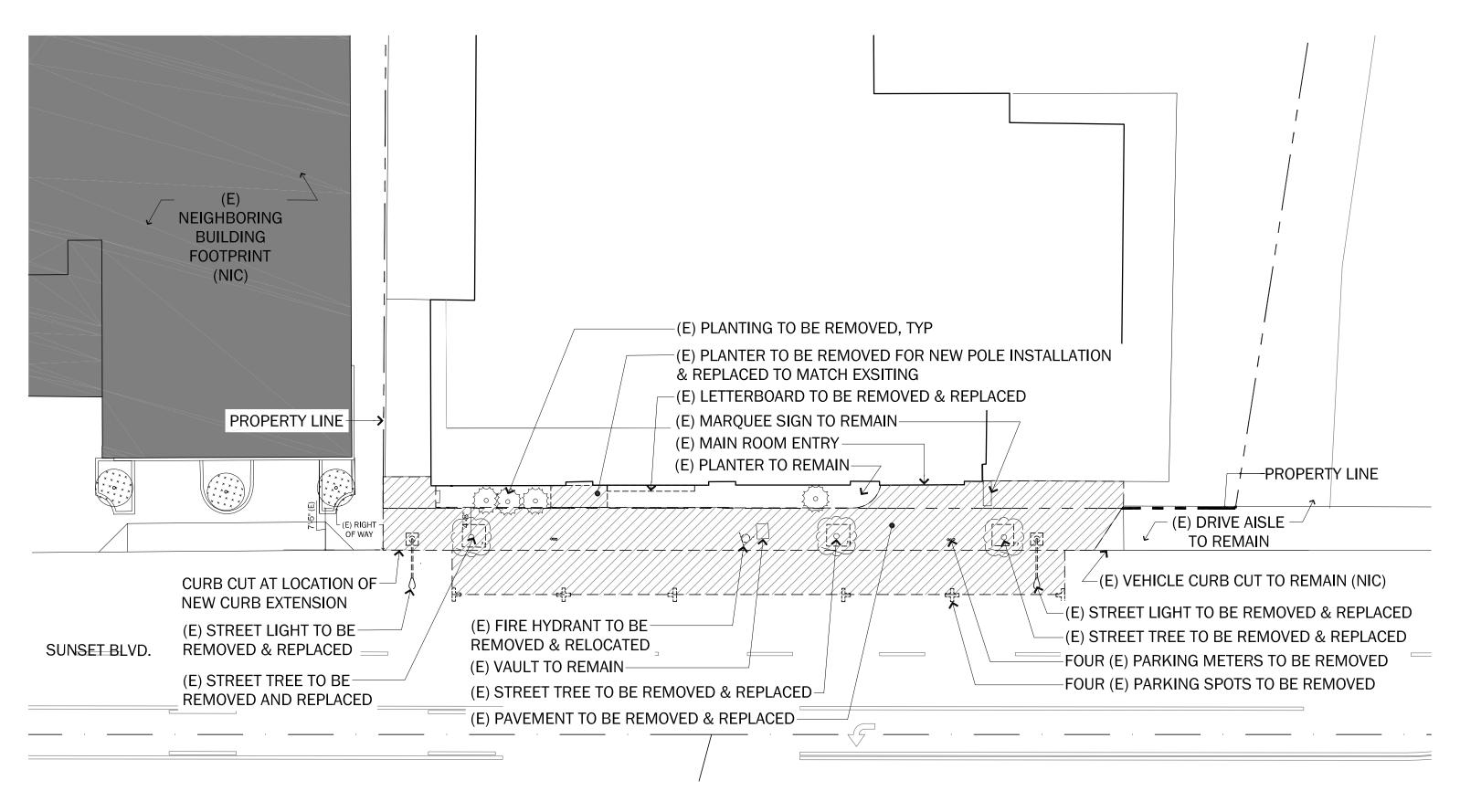
CONTEXT SITE PLAN: PROPOSED







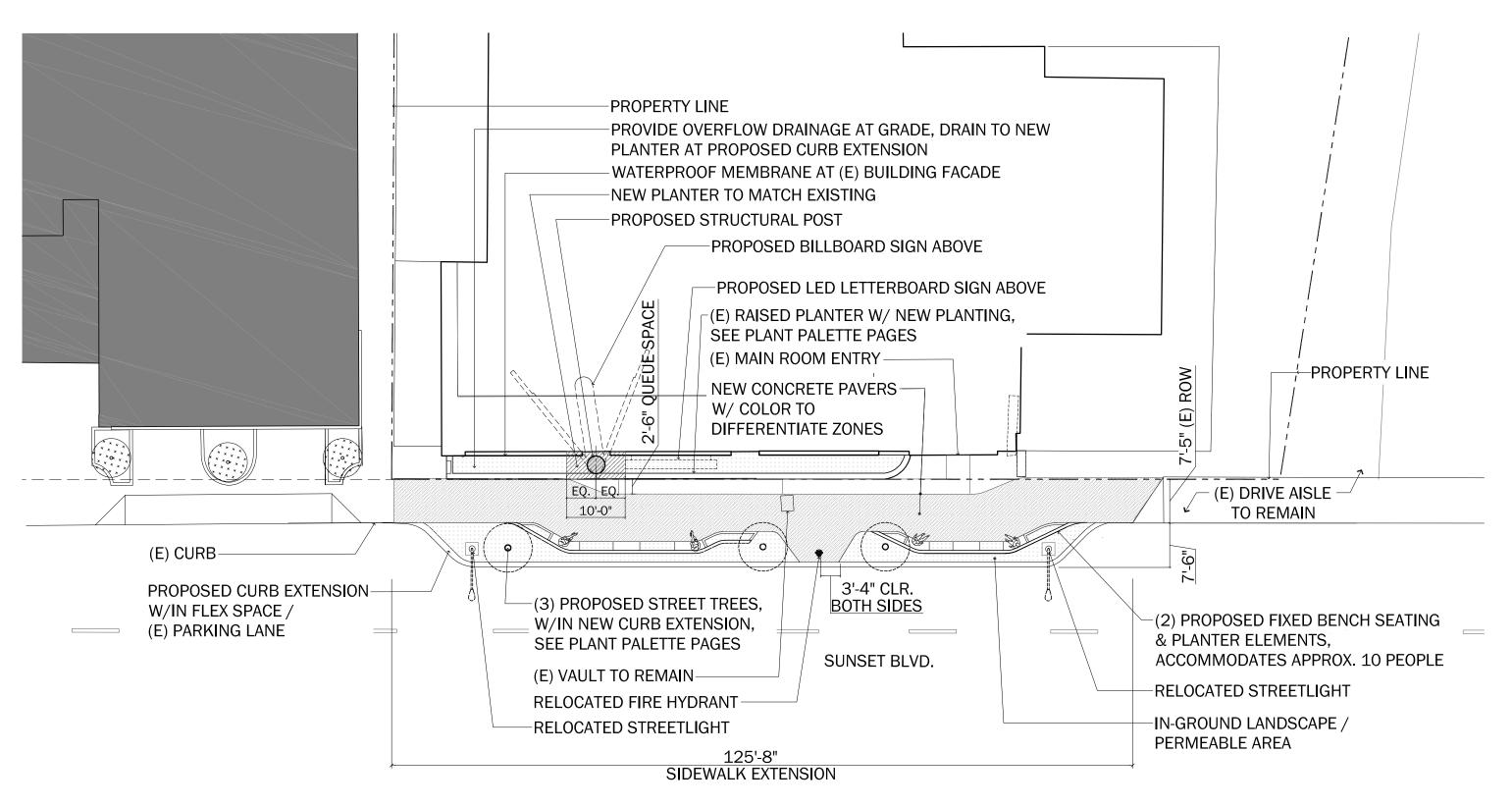
SITE PLAN: DEMOLITION







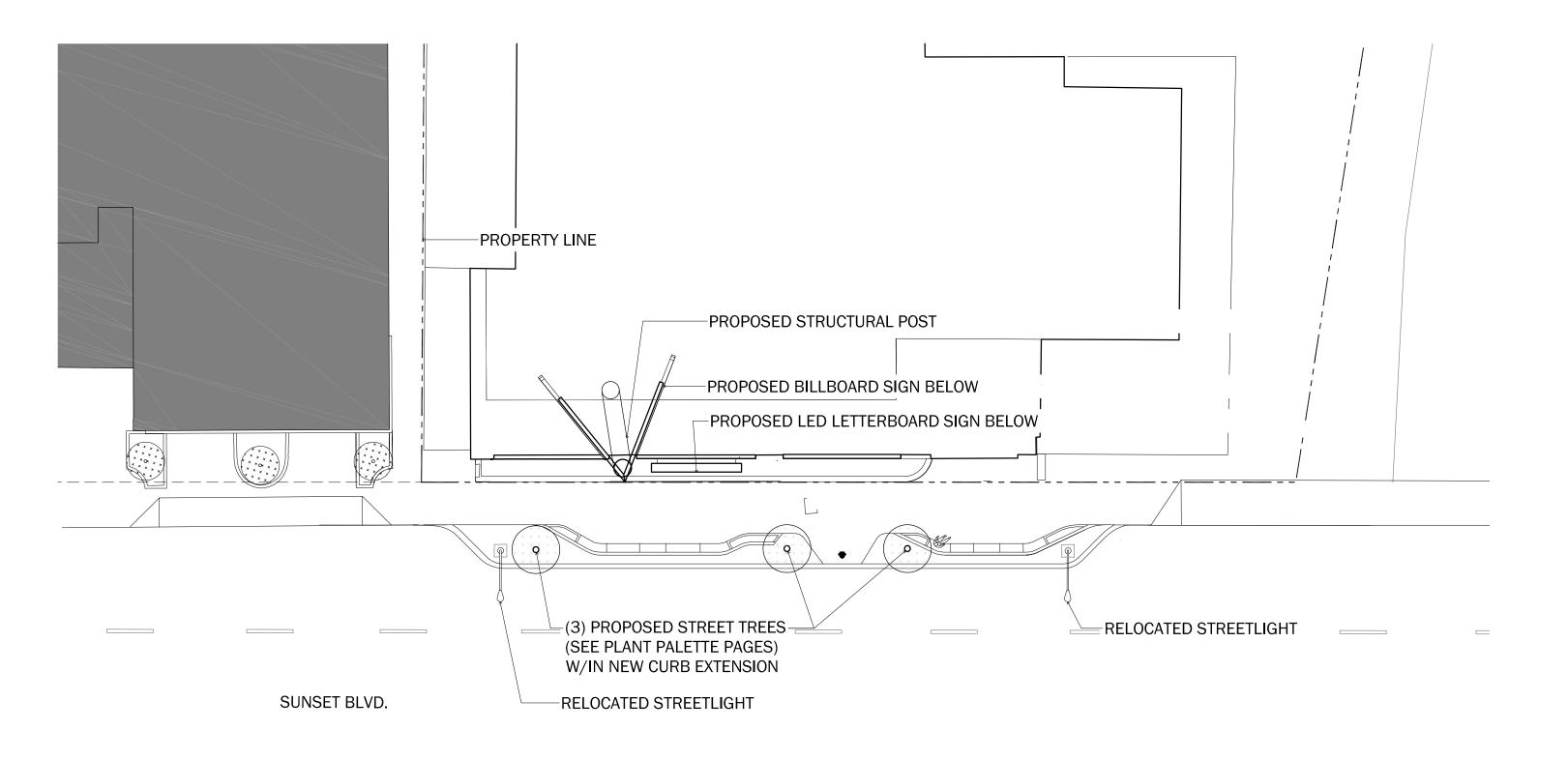
SITE PLAN: PROPOSED PLAN AT GRADE







SITE PLAN: PROPOSED PLAN AT ROOF LEVEL

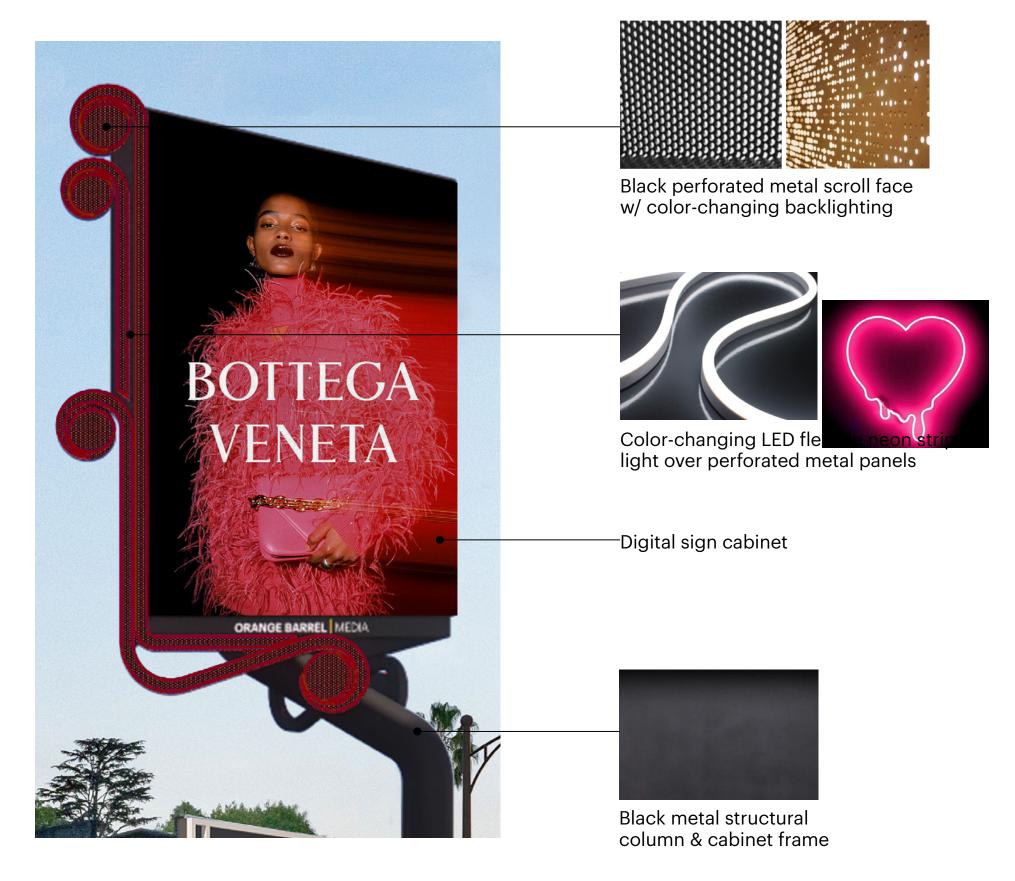








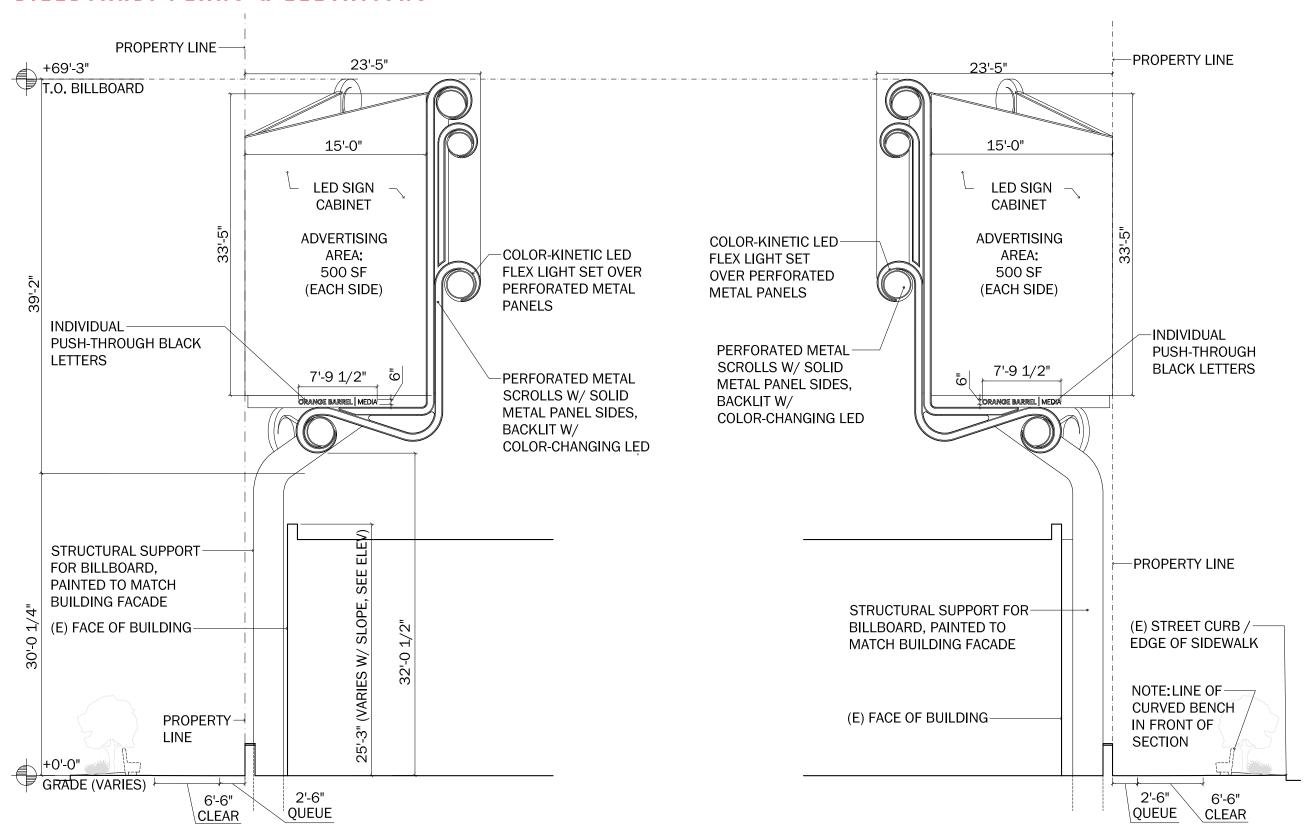
BILLBOARD: MATERIAL PALETTE







BILLBOARD: PLANS & ELEVATIONS



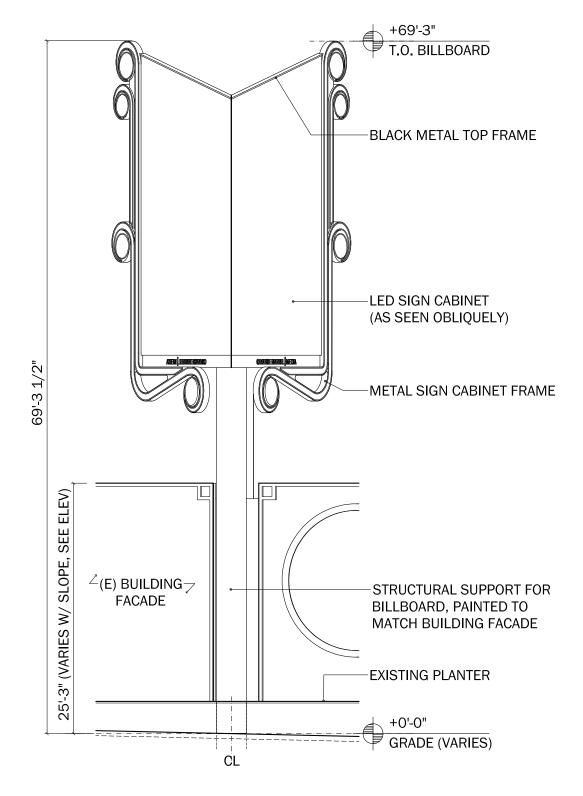
EAST ELEVATION

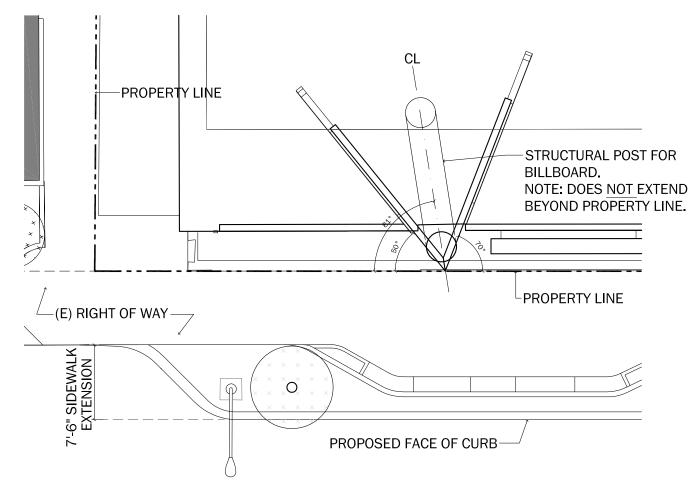
WEST ELEVATION



OB M RIOS

BILLBOARD: PLANS & ELEVATIONS



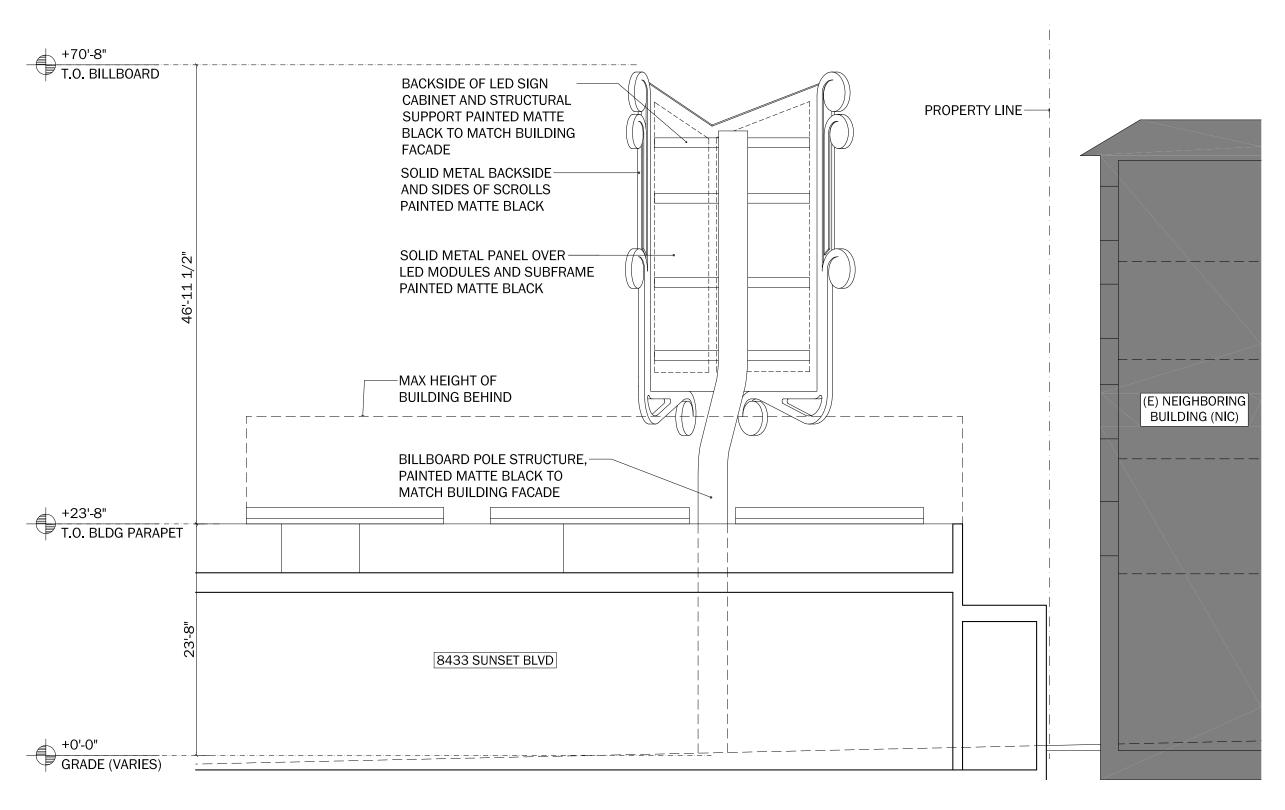


BILLBOARD PLAN AT ROOF

SOUTH ELEVATION



BILLBOARD: PLANS & ELEVATIONS



NORTH ELEVATION



OB M RIOS

BILLBOARD: OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

SIGN OPERATIONS

Sign assembly shall comply with the Lighting and Operation Standards in Section 5 of the City of West Hollywood Sunset Blvd Off-Site Signage Policy for lighting and digital technology.

- Hours of Operation: Sign luminance shall adjust throughout the day: a maximum of 2,400 candelas in the daytime (sunrise until 20 minutes to sunset), a maximum of 300 candelas per meter squared in the evening (sunset until 20 minutes prior to sunrise). Changing content will not be displayed from 2 am until 20 minutes to sunrise.
- Residential Impact: The sign faces east and west on Sunset Blvd and will not impact residential property.
- Transitions: Transitions in luminance due to time of day, or changes in ambient lighting conditions, shall be gradual. Content shall not be refreshed more often than once every 8 seconds.
- **Visual Comfort:** Signs will not incorporate driver interaction features, display scrolling text, or display flashing images. Custom animated content shall include dissolves, and not change content at a rate of more than three edits per second. Ambient brightness sensors are used to manage brightness levels and adjust to real-world conditions.
- Renewable Energy Use: Sign assembly shall utilize the highest available clean energy tier from the City's energy provider to the extent feasible.
- Audio: Marquee sign and Letterboard do not include audio.
- Monitoring: A lighting monitoring report shall be submitted upon installation, and at three-year intervals.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

OBM shall be responsible for repair and maintenance issues related to the signage. OBM works with experienced in-market vendors to perform ongoing maintenance and repairs.

- **Technology:** The LED surfaces will consist of independent LED modules attached to a manufacturer provided subframe. The LED design will allow for replacement and/ or maintenance of the LED modules to ensure reliable performance.
- Maintenance: During normal business operation, any non-physical, digital repairs are started remotely within 12 business hours of issue identification. If the issue cannot be resolved remotely within 8 business hours, then a service technician will be dispatched within 24 business hours for physical repairs.
- **Software Updates:** Our digital signage is remotely programmable and upgraded. Our software-agnostic hardware allows for the continued integration of new technologies and ensures our features stay on the cutting edge of digital trends.
- Brightness Control: Display brightness is controlled through an ambient brightness sensor, as well as remote access software, which allows for direct adjustment of the brightness. The ambient brightness sensor reacts to the existing brightness condition and adjusts the digital display accordingly. In the event that the ambient sensor is malfunctioning, OBM can remotely access the direct controls and adjust the brightness to an appropriate level.





LETTERBOARD: PROGRAMMING (NO COMMERCIAL CONTENT)

In addition to nightly performances in 3 spaces (The Main Room, The Original Room, and the Belly Room) the Comedy Store is home to frequent comedy specials and podcasts. The Comedy Store's creative team maintains a robust archive of The Store's performances in videos and photographs. The Letterboard will provide a venue for the Comedy Store's creative team to showcase archival and recent content with the greater West Hollywood community. The curators will showcase up-and-coming and underrepresented comic voices as well as legends who have honed their craft at The Store.

The Letterboard's content will populate a stretch of public sidewalk where club-goers line up for shows at the Main Room, inviting them to look up from their phones and begin the shared experience of enjoying The Comedy Store with fellow fans, comics, and passers-by. Outside of club hours the Letterboard will commemorate a living part of West Hollywood's cultural history, bringing it to life for the enjoyment of thousands of pedestrians who visit The Sunset Strip daily.

The proposed upgrade of the existing letterboard will consist of two parts: (1) a static portion with the Comedy Store's branding on a white acrylic face backlit with color kinetic lighting, (2) a digital screen to replace the changeable letters. This mix of static and changing copy captures the spirit and function of the original letterboard while allowing the Store to share a wider range of new and archival content.

Letterboard content could include:



UPCOMING SHOWS



JOKES



LAST NIGHT AT THE STORE



THIS SIGN WILL BE EXCLUSIVELY PROGRAMMED BY THE **FUNNIEST PEOPLE** ON THE PLANET.



TRIBUTES



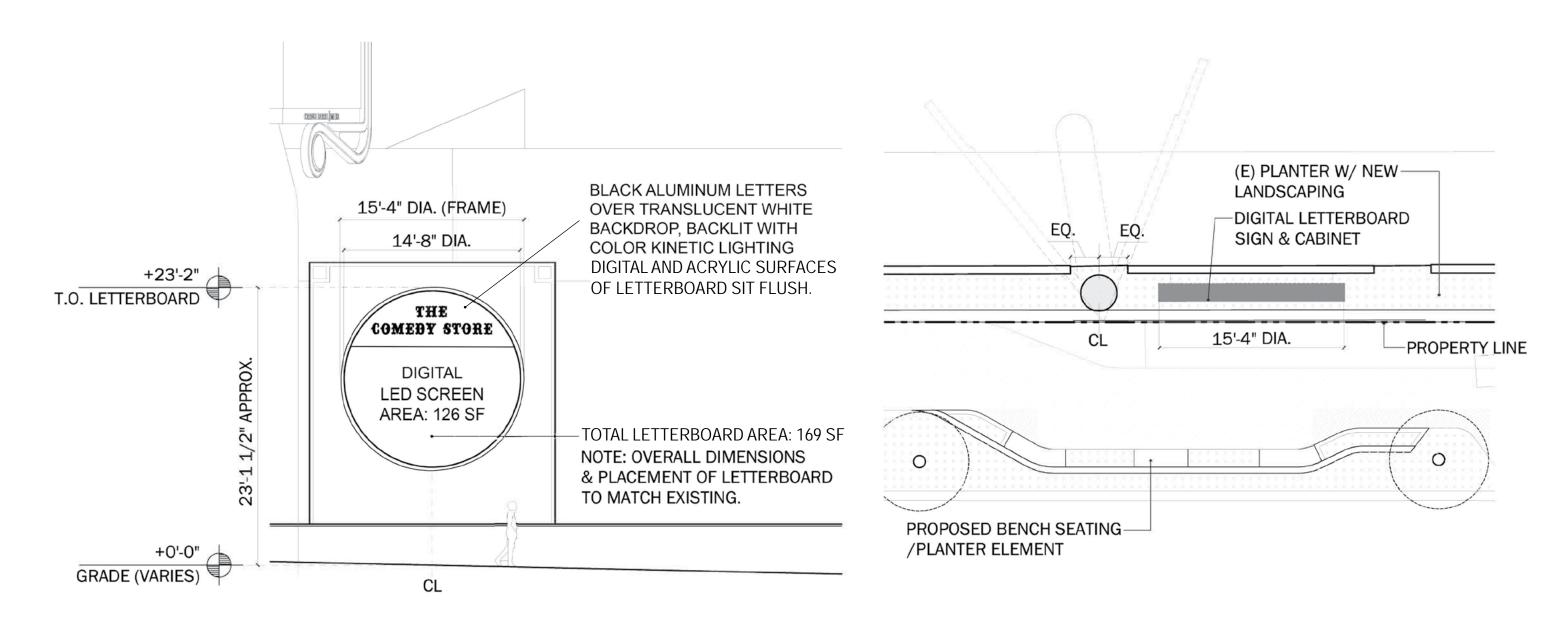
ARCHIVAL PHOTOS







LETTERBOARD: PLAN AND ELEVATION



ELEVATION PLAN







LETTERBOARD: OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

LETTERBOARD OPERATIONS

Letterboard assembly shall comply with the Lighting and Operation Standards in Section 5 of the City of West Hollywood Sunset Blvd Off-Site Signage Policy for lighting and digital technology.

- **Hours of Operation:** Sign luminance shall adjust throughout the day: a maximum of 2,400 candelas in the daytime (sunrise until 20 minutes to sunset), a maximum of 200 candelas per meter squared in the evening (sunset until 20 minutes prior to sunrise). Changing content will not be displayed from 2 am until 20 minutes to sunrise.
- **Transitions:** Transitions in luminance due to time of day, or changes in ambient lighting conditions, shall be gradual. Content shall not be refreshed more often than once every 15 seconds.
- Visual Comfort: Signs will not incorporate driver interaction features, display scrolling text, or display flashing images. Custom animated content shall include dissolves, and not change content at a rate of more than three edits per second. Ambient brightness sensors are used to manage brightness levels and adjust to real-world conditions. The letter board shall not use stroboscopic of flashing images which rapidly change direction, oscillate, flash or reverse in contrast.
- **Renewable Energy Use:** Sign assembly shall utilize the highest available clean energy tier from the City's energy provider to the extent feasible.
- Audio: Letterboard does not include audio.
- **Monitoring:** A lighting monitoring report shall be submitted upon installation, and at three-year intervals.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

OBM shall be responsible for repair and maintenance issues related to the signage. OBM works with experienced in-market vendors to perform ongoing maintenance and repairs.

- **Technology:** The LED surfaces will consist of independent LED modules attached to a manufacturer provided subframe. The LED design will allow for replacement and/ or maintenance of the LED modules to ensure reliable performance.
- **Maintenance:** During normal business operation, any non-physical, digital repairs are started remotely within 12 business hours of issue identification. If the issue cannot be resolved remotely within 8 business hours, then a service technician will be dispatched within 24 business hours for physical repairs.
- **Software Updates:** Our digital signage is remotely programmable and upgraded. Our software-agnostic hardware allows for the continued integration of new technologies and ensures our features stay on the cutting edge of digital trends.
- **Brightness Control:** Display brightness is controlled through an ambient brightness sensor, as well as remote access software, which allows for direct adjustment of the brightness. The ambient brightness sensor reacts to the existing brightness condition and adjusts the digital display accordingly. In the event that the ambient sensor is malfunctioning, OBM can remotely access the direct controls and adjust the brightness to an appropriate level.



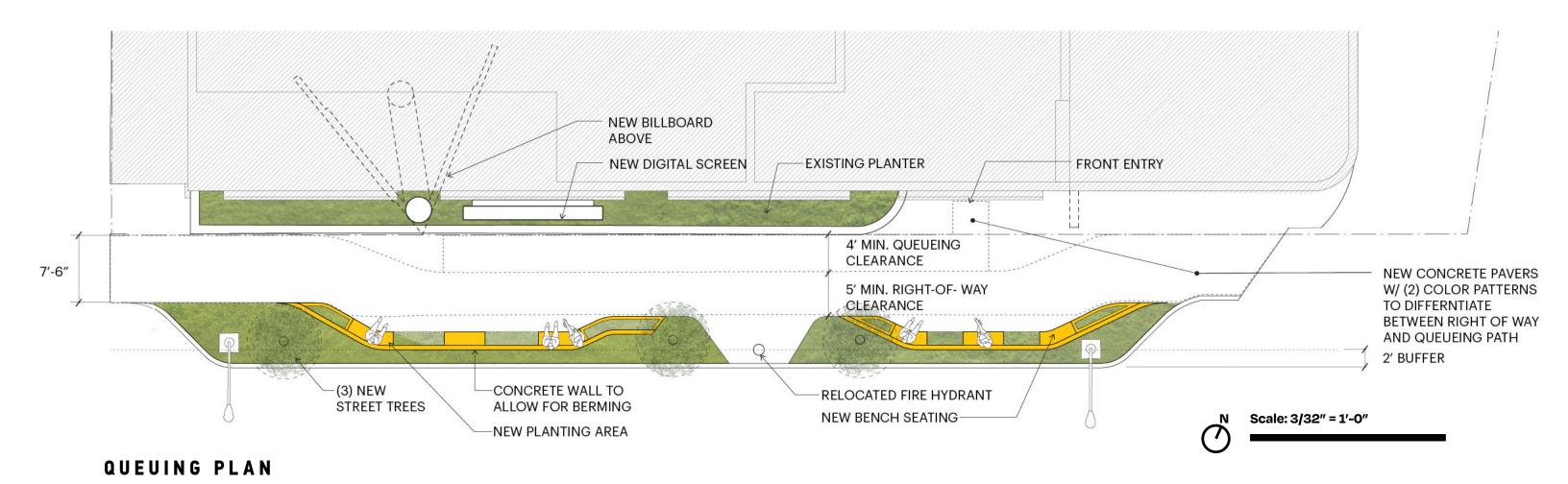




SIDEWALK EXTENSION: IMPROVED QUEUING

The sidewalk extension transforms the queuing experience for Comedy Store patrons and the general public. Queuing for the main room occurs on the public sidewalk. The queue extends from the Main Room door and runs west, hugging the planter. Presently, pedestrians encounter pinch points where public utilities are placed in the sidewalk (street trees, street lights, parking meters, fire hydrants) making the sidewalk feel crowded and impassable.

The newly expanded sidewalk designates a 4'-0" wide space for queuing. Utilities are relocated to a new planting strip along Sunset Blvd allowing a 5'-0" path of travel to be maintained alongside the queue. The experience of queuing along the planter is further transformed with new verdant planting in an underutilized planter and a new planter along the street.





SIDEWALK EXTENSION: MATERIAL PALETTE

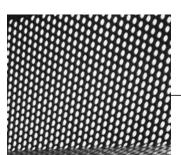




Design inspiration taken from existing Comedy Store lounge booths



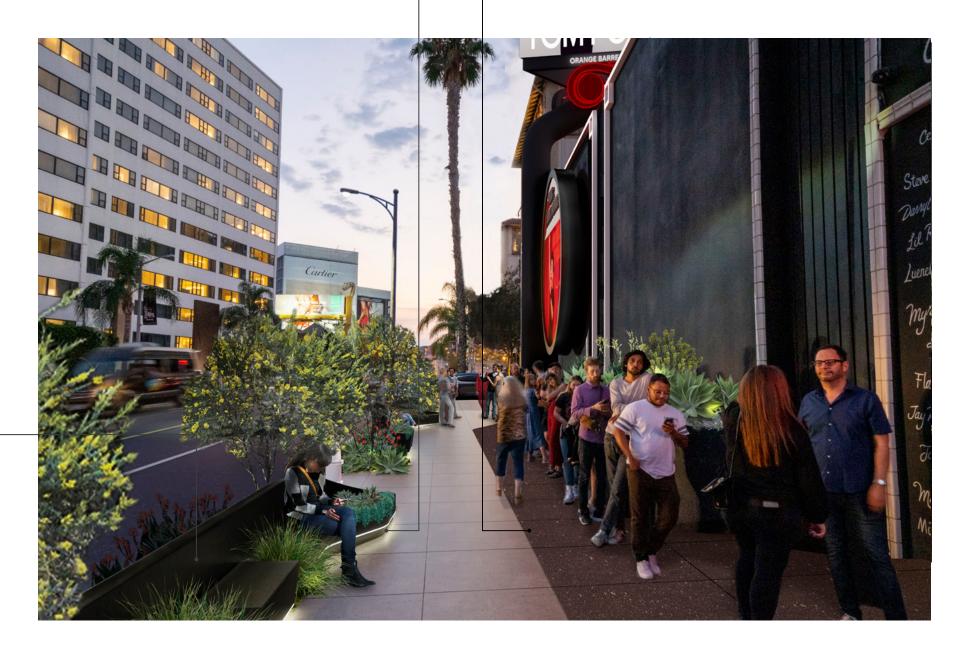
Material Reference: Pre-cast concrete w/ integral color



Perf metal toekick



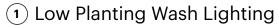
Material Reference: Mica flecks in sidewalk





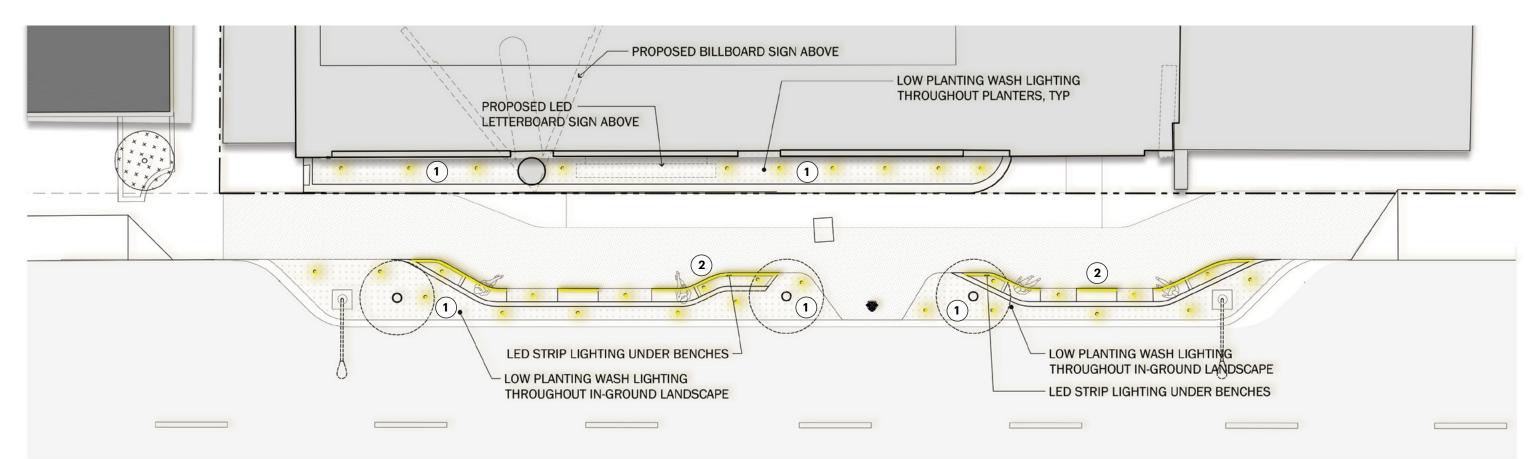
SIDEWALK EXTENSION: LIGHTING CONCEPT







(2) Recessed LED Lighting Underneath Benches/Planters





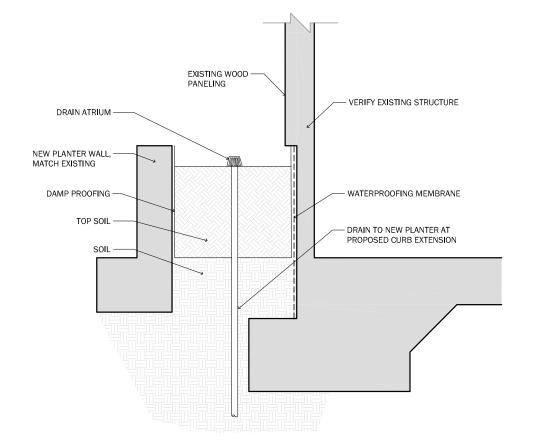




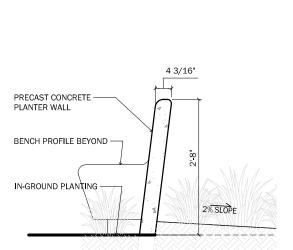




SIDEWALK EXTENSION: BENCH PLANS AND SECTIONS



CONCEPTUAL PLANTER SECTION AT BUILDING



CONCEPTUAL PLANTER WALL SECTION



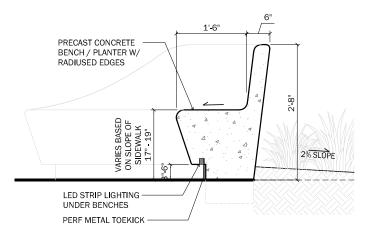
Seaming every 24 inches



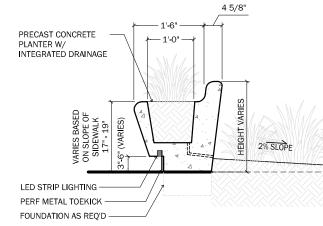
Strip lighting under benches



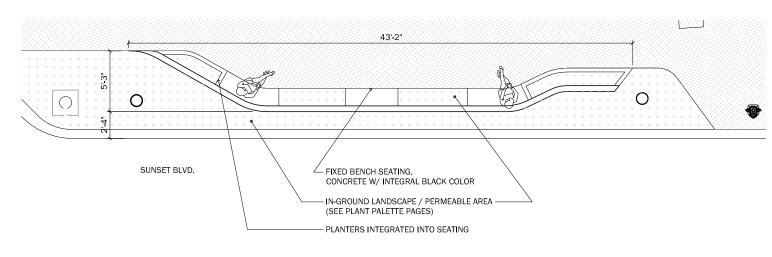
Concrete with integral black color



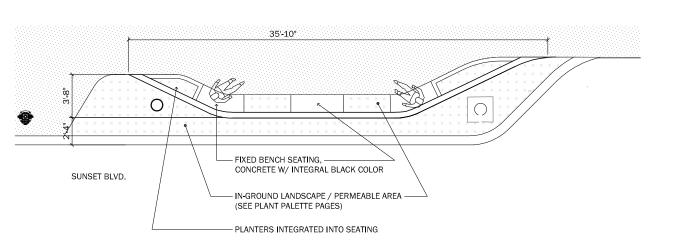
CONCEPTUAL BENCH SECTION



CONCEPTUAL PLANTER SECTION



WEST BENCH ENLARGED PLAN



EAST BENCH ENLARGED PLAN







NATIVE PLANTING: CONCEPT







NATIVE PLANTING: PLANT PALETTE

PLANT PALETTE - LOW TREES



Acacia cultriformis Low Water Maintain at 8' H, shaped in tree form



Flower Color: vellow Bloomtime: Fall Visitation by Pollinators: bees, fruits for birds

PLANT PALETTE - MEDIUM HEIGHT SPECIMENS



Aloe plicatilis Fan Aloe Low Water 4′ H



Flower: red orange Bloomtime: Annually, winter/spring Visitation by Pollinators: humming birds, long beak birds, butterflies, moths



Euphorbia lambii Tree Euphorbia Low Water, 6' H



Flower: green yellow Bloom: Annually, Spring **Visitation by Pollinators:** butterflies, bees



Agave attenuata Low Water 2′ H



Euphorbia characias 'Humpty Dumpty' Low Water 2′ H



Flower: green yellow

Flower: green yellow Bloom: Annually, Spring **Visitation by Pollinators:** butterflies, bees

LEGEND

Bold Text = Pollinator Notes



= Monarch Butterfly attractor

PLANT PALETTE

Proposed plant palette is composed of climate appropriate plants including select California natives. The palette will provide yearround blooms to support a variety of pollinators. The abundant native planting will enhance the public realm for pedestrians and Comedy Store patrons with a vibrant display of changing colors, rich textures, and pleasant scents.

IRRIGATION

All planters will include low-water drip irrigation. Irrigation controls to be located on the west end of the planter adjacent to the facade.

MAINTENANCE

Applicant will contract a local landscaper for periodic maintenance to ensure planting remains abundant and well pruned.







NATIVE PLANTING: PLANT PALETTE

PLANT PALETTE - GROUND COVER/SPILLERS



Dwarf Fountain Grass Low Water, 12" H



Pennisetum 'Little Bunny' Flower: creamy white Bloomtime: Year round **Habitat and Seeds for birds**



Acacia 'Cousin Itt' Low Water 2′ H



Flower: pale yellow Bloomtime: Mid-Summer **Visitation by Pollinators:** butterflies, bees



Lomandra 'Nyalla' Low Water 2.5′ H

Asclepias fascicularis

Narrowleaf Milkweed

Low Water, 2.5' H



Flowe: creamy white

Monarch butterflies

Bloomtime: June, July, August

larva food source for the

Visitation by Pollinators:

Flower: creamy white - pale yellow Bloomtime: Spring/Summer **Visitation by Pollinators:** humming birds, bees, moths



Russelia 'Aurea' Low Water Cascades



Flower: creamy white - pale yellow Bloomtime: Spring to Autumn **Visitation by Pollinators:** humming birds, bees, moths



Hesperaloe parviflora 'red' Flower: red, pink Low Water 3-4' H



Bloomtime: Spring/Summer **Visitation by Pollinators:** humming birds, butterflies, moths



Sedum reflexum 'Blue Spruce' Low water, 5" H



Flower: Yellow Bloomtime: Spring - Early Summer Visitation by Pollinators: bees and flies



Casuarina 'Cousin It' Low Water Cascades



Flower: creamy white Bloomtime: Year round **Visitation by Pollinators:** bees and flies



Dichondra 'Silver Falls' Low Water Cascades



Mangave 'Falling waters' Low Water 2′ H

LEGEND

Bold Text = Pollinator Notes



= Monarch Butterfly attractor







NATIVE PLANTING: PLANT PALETTE

MEDIUM HEIGHT SPECIMENS



Aloe Plicatilis 'Fan Aloe' Low Water 4' H



Flower Color: Red/Orange Bloomtime: Annually - Winter/ Spring Visitation by Pollinators: Humming birds, Long-beak birds, Butterflies & Moths



Flower Color: Yellow/Green Bloomtime: Annually - Spring Visitation by Pollinators: Butterflies & Bees



Agave Attenuata Low Water 2' H

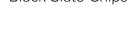


Flower Color: Yellow/Green Bloomtime: On a +/- 10 years cycle Visitation by Pollinators: Bats & Bees











Euphorbia Lambii Tree Euphorbia Low Water 6' H



Euphorbia Characias 'Humpty Dumpty' Low Water 2' H



Flower Color: Yellow/Green Bloomtime: Annually - Spring Visitation by Pollinators: Butterflies & Bees



White Cloud Boulders







PUBLIC BENEFITS

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

Proposal includes revenue sharing with the City of West Hollywood.

17.5% of programming time on the billboard will be dedicated to civic announcements or arts programing to be displayed at the top of the hour or in connection with the Sunset Moment, as established by the West Hollywood Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Art On the Outside Subcommittee.

PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT

The sidewalk extension and urban garden proposed in front of the Comedy Store will transform a cramped sidewalk into a park-like oasis that better accommodates pedestrians and nighttime queuing. The expanded sidewalk is infused with pollinator-friendly planting and public seating nested into planted areas to create beautiful moments along Sunset Blvd where pedestrians can pause and enjoy a piece of the history of the Sunset Strip.

The Comedy Store is a cultural anchor in the history and ongoing life of the Sunset Strip. The proposed billboard supports the ongoing operations of this living museum.

EXTRAORDINARY BENEFIT

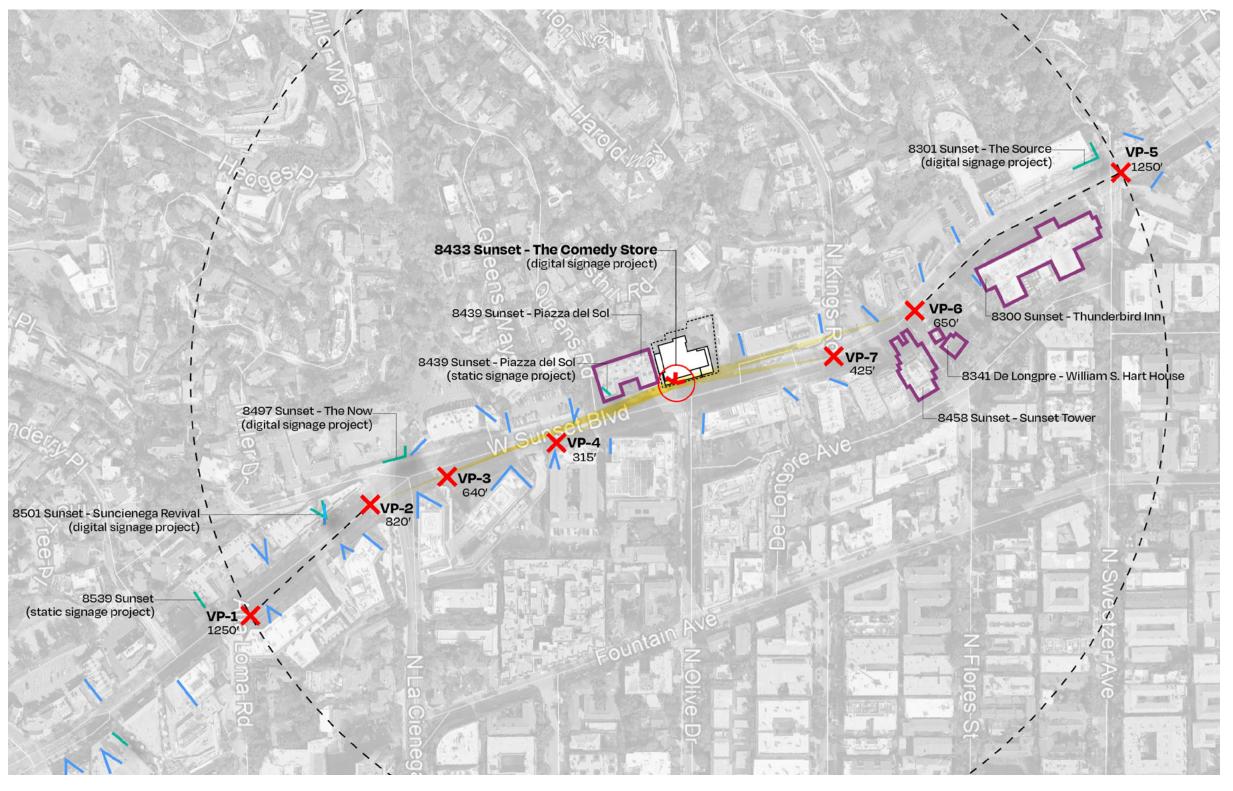
Under the development agreement for the project, the Comedy Store will provide an extraordinary benefit to the City of West Hollywood in the form of a financial contribution of \$330,000 to be used by the City for streetscape improvements on Sunset Boulevard or other uses as directed by the City. The contribution will be paid in equal annual installments of \$110,000 in years 6, 7 and 8 of the development agreement term.





SITE PLAN (PROPOSED BILLBOARD NOT VISIBLE AT VANTAGE POINT 1 & 9)





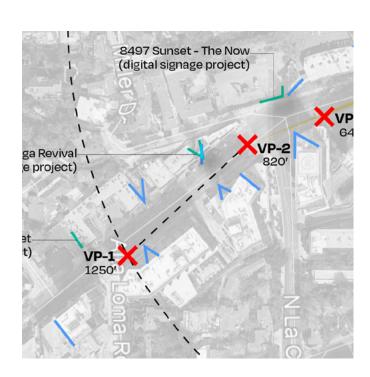


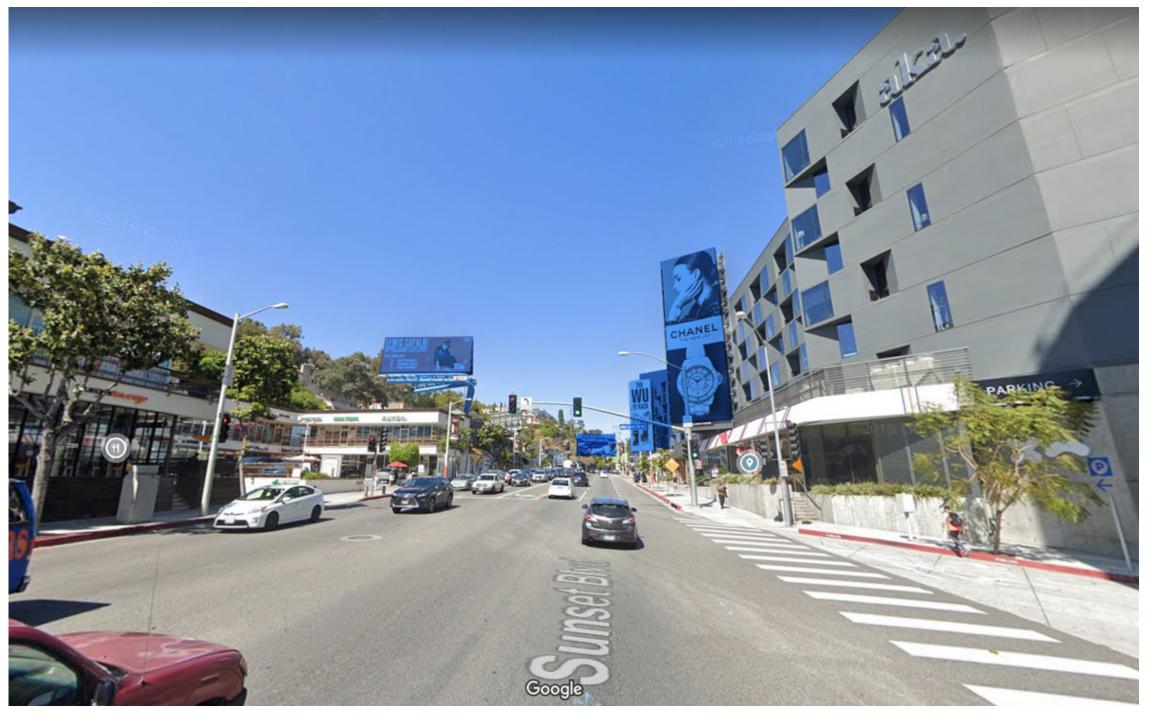


VANTAGE POINT 1

Sunset Blvd at Alta Loma Rd, looking east (Proposed Digital Billboard not visible)













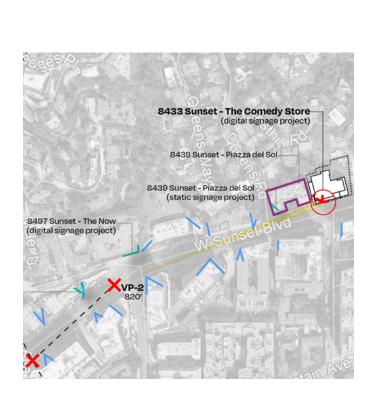
VANTAGE POINT 2

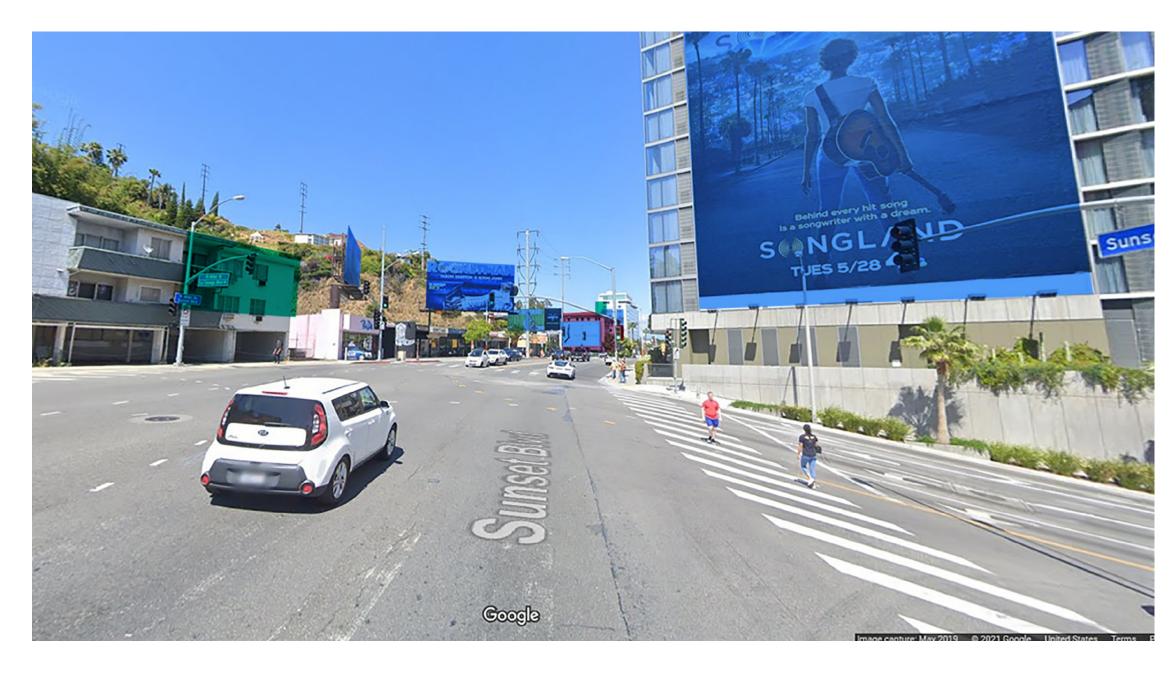
Sunset Blvd at La Cienega Blvd, looking east

X Vantage Point & Viewshed **Existing Billboard** 2019 Concept Awards

Cultural Resource

Proposed Digital Billboard







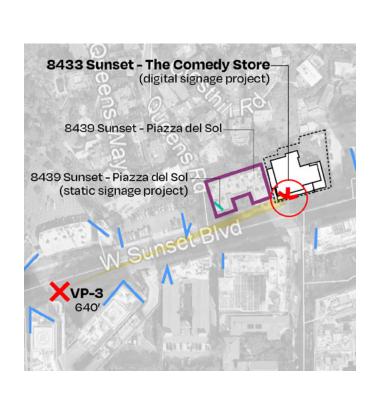


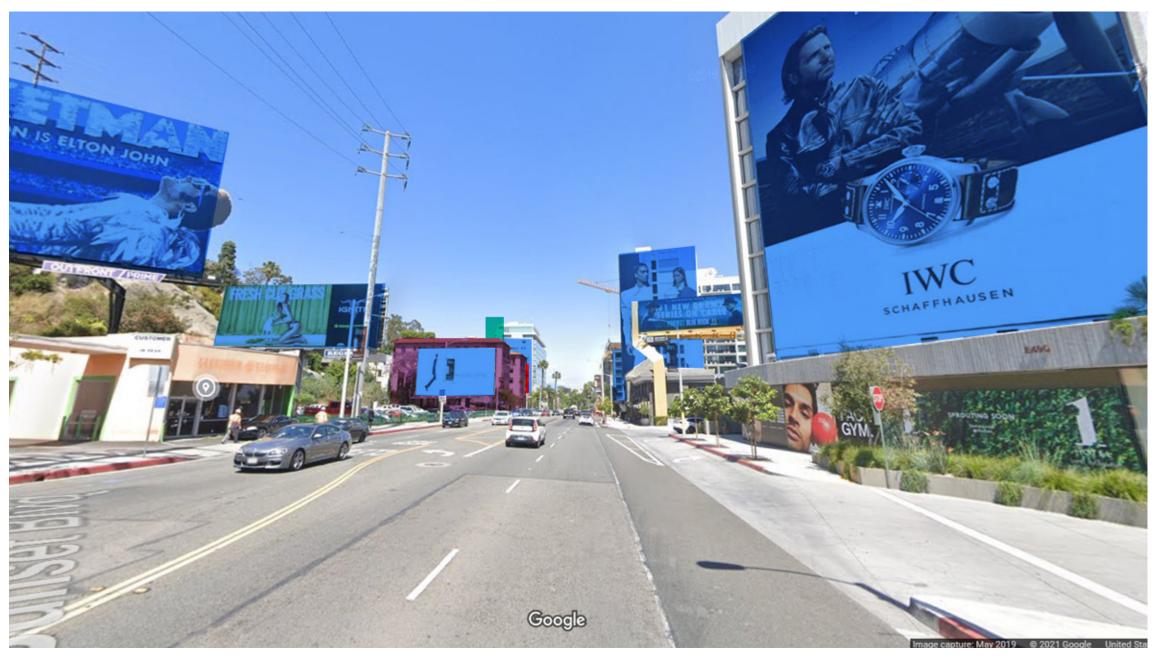


VANTAGE POINT 3

8490 Sunset Blvd, east of La Cienega Blvd, looking east











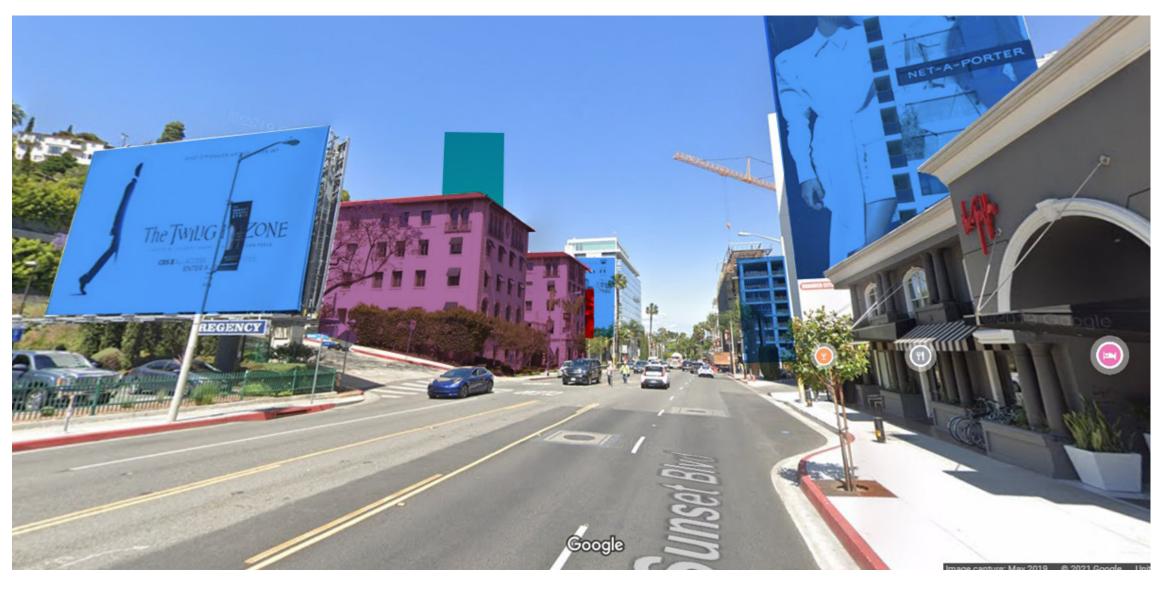


VANTAGE POINT 4

8462 Sunset Blvd near Queens Rd, looking east













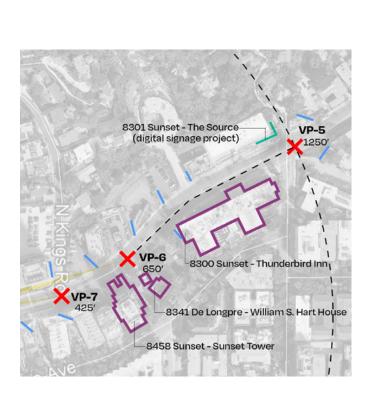
VANTAGE POINT 5

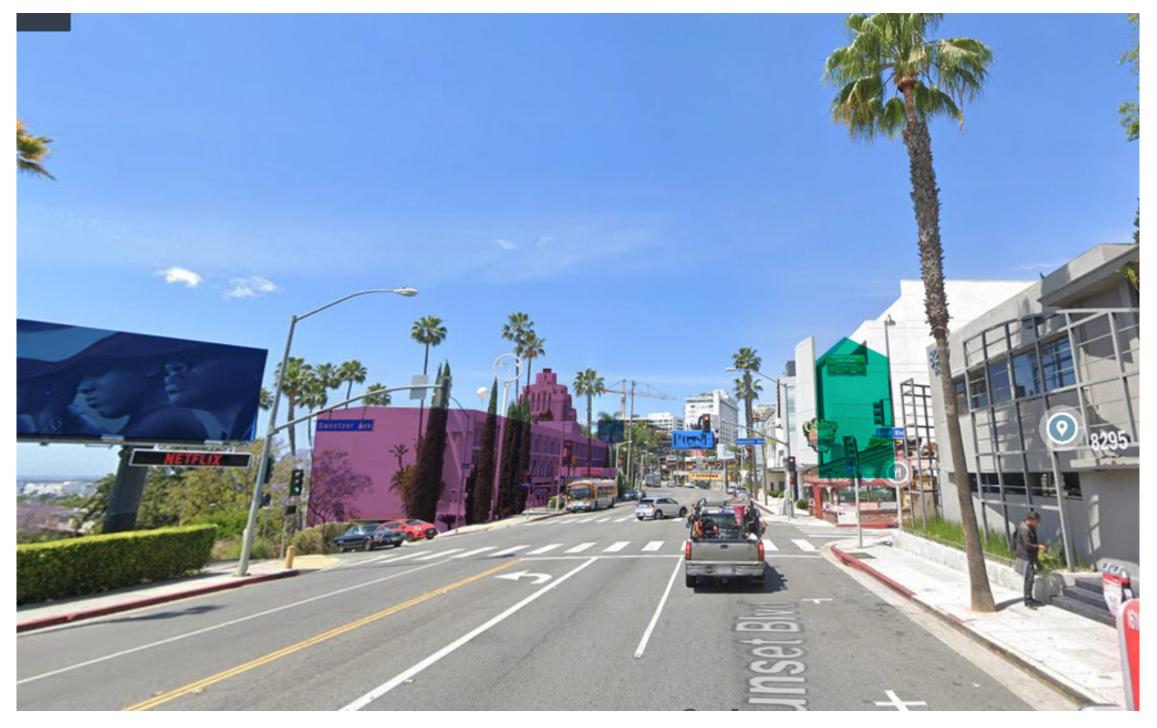
Sunset Blvd at Sweetzer, looking west (Proposed Digital Billboard not visible)

X Vantage Point & Viewshed Existing Billboard 2019 Concept Awards

Proposed Digital Billboard

Cultural Resource





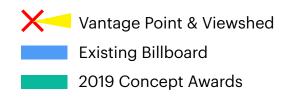






VANTAGE POINT 6

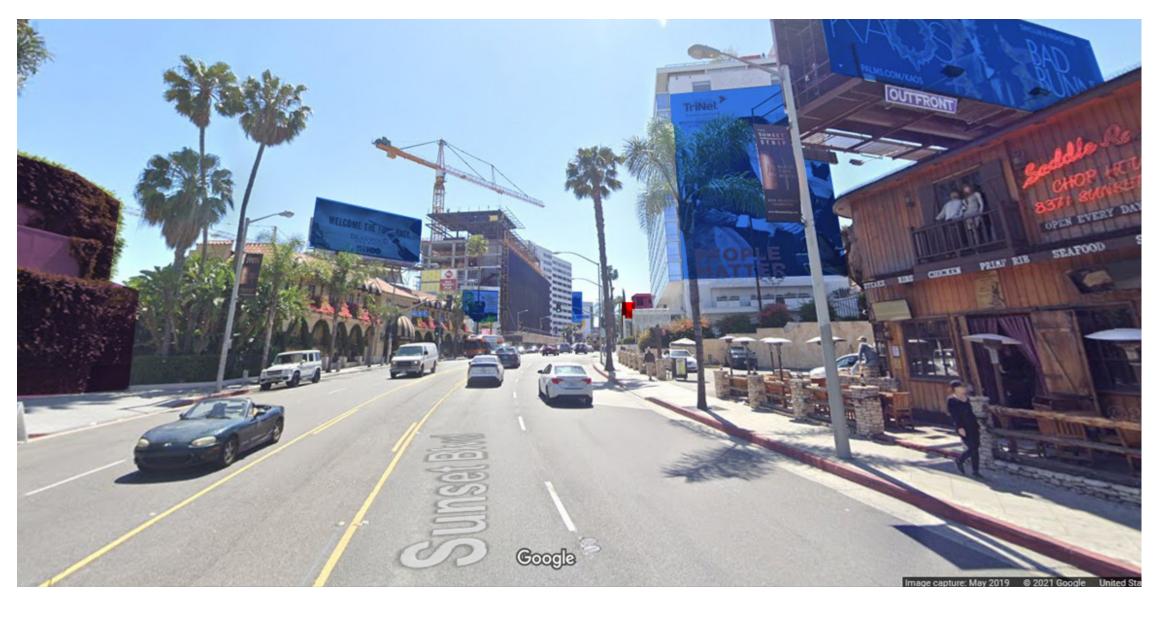
8363 Sunset Blvd, just east of Kings Rd, looking west



Proposed Digital Billboard









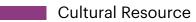


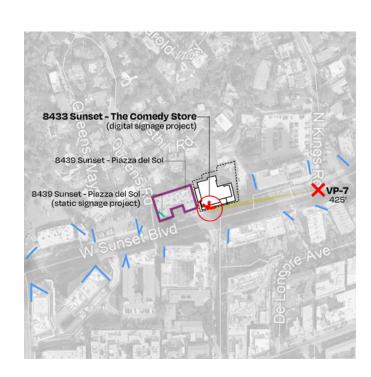


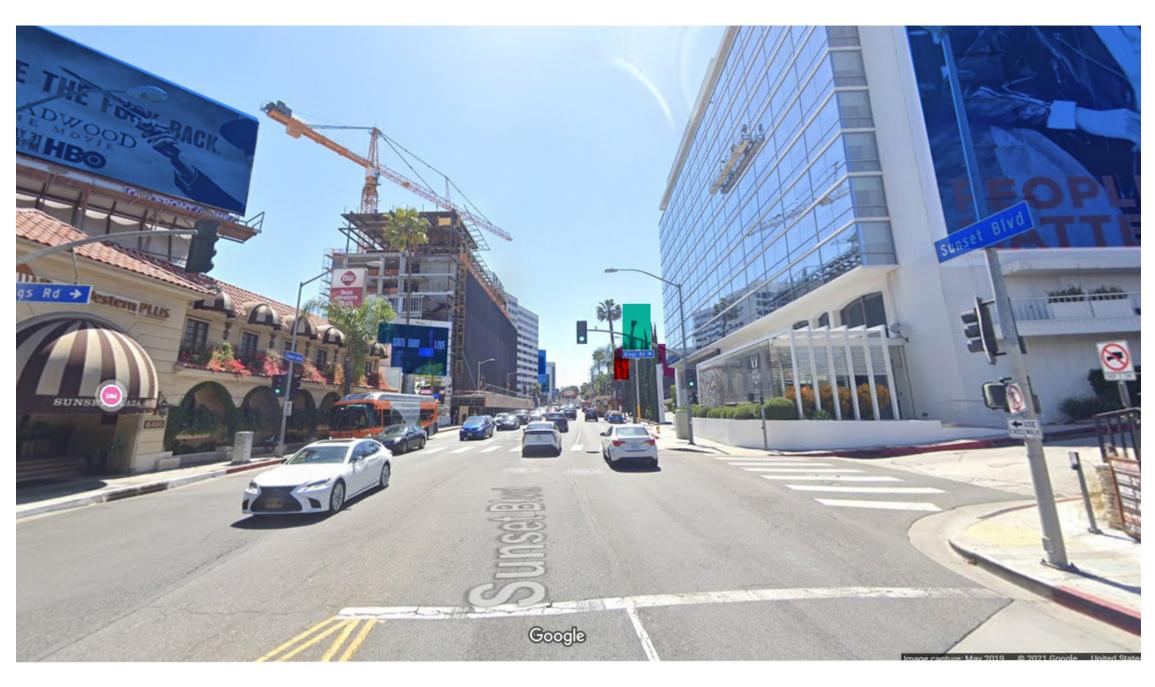
VANTAGE POINT 7

Sunset Blvd at Kings Rd, looking west

X Vantage Point & Viewshed **Existing Billboard** 2019 Concept Awards Proposed Digital Billboard













THANK YOU

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