M. D. Byars Thesis Brief
for The City of Davis
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After researching downtown Davis from a design, inclusion, and transportation perspective, I reached several conclusions through my research that I recommend here to be included in the Downtown Specific Plan and the form-based codes. The E Street Plaza space will likely be designed under a different city council and different commissioners. By explicitly stating these recommended processes, design requirements, and the demands for a civic gathering space, downtown Davis is more likely to achieve community support from the outset.

For more detailed explanations, examples, and additional recommendations, please refer to my full thesis, “An Inclusive Civic Gathering Place in Davis: Connecting Community Input, City Goals, and Design at the E Street Plaza” that is being submitted along with this brief.

Process recommendations to include:

1. **Deep outreach** must be performed during the planning and design phases to gain both financial support and endorsement from the community at large.
   a. An advisory committee representing various interests and various cultures that include: multi-racial people, people from all generations from small high school children to UCD students and the experienced generation.
   b. It is critical to include people with disabilities to ensure Universal Design.
   c. Participatory design outreach – go to the people, go to the site.

Form-based code, design and policy recommendations to include:

1. Prohibit waste storage on civic property to free up and provide cleaner pedestrian space.
   a. Require commercial businesses and landowners to store their waste and waste run-off within the boundaries of their private property.
   b. Enforce violations.
   c. Offer daily waste pickup for downtown businesses and residents.

2. Prohibit privately owned seating on the plaza to prevent losing civic space and to ensure social equity for those that cannot patronize those businesses.
   a. Encourage private café/street seating on E and F streets.

3. Employ fun design elements to invite children and families to the plaza, but do not allow a segregated playground section.

4. Promote UC Davis as a significant part of Davis’ identity and pride.
   a. Use UC Davis blue/gold colors in designs.
   b. Provide wi-fi on the plaza to encourage students to visit.
   c. Take advantage of the intellectual knowledge at UC Davis by partnering on events, and engaging people downtown in the artistic, sustainability, and technological disciplines.
5. Indicate a long-term economic generator(s):
   a. Become regional leaders in applying and showcasing sustainability.
   b. Become regional leaders in applying universal design.
   c. Prioritize active, progressive, and safe downtown transportation to rejuvenate Davis’ identity as such.

6. Focus transportation funds and grants on creating safer active transportation facilities.
   a. Protected bike lanes.
   b. Wider, inclusive sidewalks and crosswalks.
   c. Transit and ride share zone and process improvements.

7. Require people with disabilities be involved on all civic design projects.

8. Require mitigation of heat island effect through vegetation and passive solar design requirements.

9. Designate required sustainable solutions for downtown home and businesses such as: water usage and storage, implementing renewable energy, and solid waste reduction measures.