The spaces between buildings are where civic life takes place. They significantly shape how we experience our city. Planned well, they are places to meet, enjoy, play, rest, and many more activities.

The ground floors of the buildings that frame streets and open spaces are important to their success. While shopfronts and other active uses enliven the public realm, blank walls and backsides diminish the life of a city.
Buildings house the many different uses that make a vibrant neighborhood. They also shape the neighborhood with their presence in the public realm. Well-designed architecture that respects the human scape makes a neighborhood fell welcoming. They can provide a sense of safety day and night.

In Civic Center, new buildings should enhance the appearance of City Hall and not overshadow it.
MASSING

FACADES

BULK AND HEIGHT

RELATIONSHIP TO CITY HALL

FABRIC VS. ICON
Great neighborhoods have an identity of their own. When you get there, you know that you have arrived. Many things come together to create this identity: the character of buildings, materials, plants and trees, the uses, the presence of art, and many more.

The future Civic Center should reflect the Los Angeles we love. It should also have an identity of its own that reflects its role as the center of government for all Angelenos. In addition, it should be easy to find your destination.
Today, the way we connect with the city is changing rapidly. There are more and more choices about how to get around. Bike shares, scooters, hoverboards, and others augment cars, bikes, and transit. At the same time, the internet allows us to do business at City Hall without even going there. Civic Center will accommodate not only today’s technologies but also tomorrow’s.

How we build neighborhoods also influences our environmental footprint. New development in Civic Center will consider our use of water, energy, and other resources.
Civic Center District Design Guidelines

Streets and Open Spaces

Buildings and Architecture

Identity and Wayfinding

Mobility and Technology