



CITY THREAD

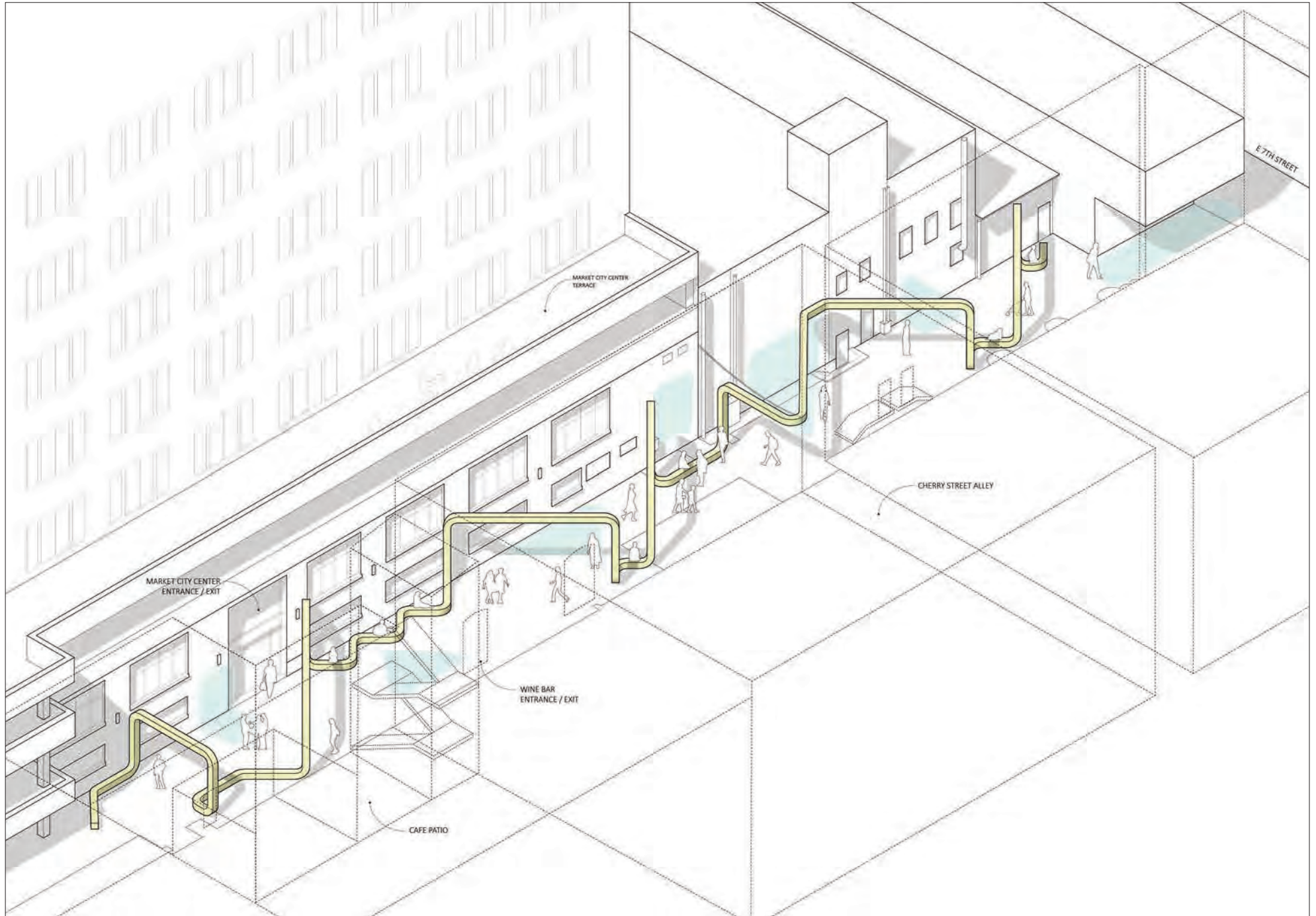
CITY THREAD

Built, 2018 / Chattanooga, Tennessee

City Thread is the winner of an international design competition to transform a formerly unused and blighted alley in downtown Chattanooga, TN into a vibrant public space and help catalyze a revitalization of this part of the city. Situated in a city that understands how contemporary infrastructure can enhance urban life (Chattanooga is famous for investing in the first public 1-gig fiber Internet in the USA to help foster economic development), the idea of the design is to operate as an element of social infrastructure. The project serves as a social connector where the different actors of the city can come together for both unique public programming and informal hangout. Consisting of a 500ft continuous linear steel tube and painted graphic surfaces, the project physically connects visitors and local tenants with a single gesture while also supporting numerous programmatic possibilities and activities. Further, the zig-zagging linear structure and graphics imply a variety of smaller spaces within the alley, breaking down the overall space into a series of more intimate spaces, or “urban rooms”.

While the project has a precise design calibrated to the contingencies and clearances of the alley, it is designed specifically to instigate discovery and exploration. By virtue of its form and geometry as well as its relationship to the adjacent buildings and pedestrian access points on either side of the alley, the project supports a variety of programmatic possibilities and including informal lounging/sitting, mini-stages, and movie screenings, festivals, among others. The design is intended to allow visitors, local tenants, and those in charge of programming activities to interpret the functionality and discover different ways to utilize the alley. In so doing, the project can be used widely by a diverse range of users over the years in Chattanooga, maintaining the alley as a vibrantly activated space as community and tenant needs change over time.

City Thread explores the potential for small-scale, small budget, urban interventions when designed in accordance with community feedback, resourcefulness, and high economy design gestures. The large alley site was formerly a dingy, unused and disconnected space in the downtown area. Now, the site is a visually and socially vibrant space that serves the downtown community and provides a renewed sense of place, urban excitement, and engagement between the numerous parties downtown.



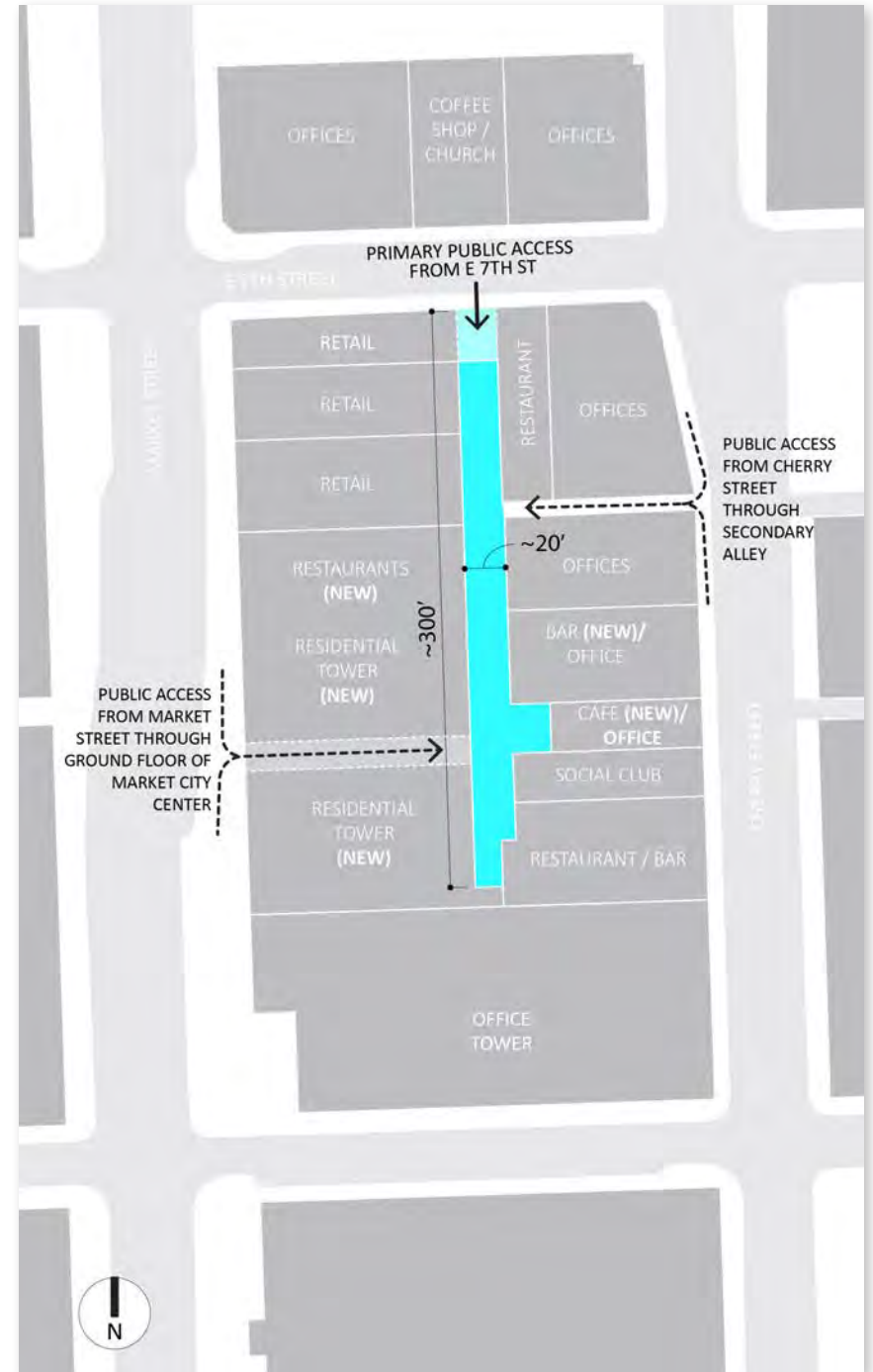
Isometric Drawing: Project in Site



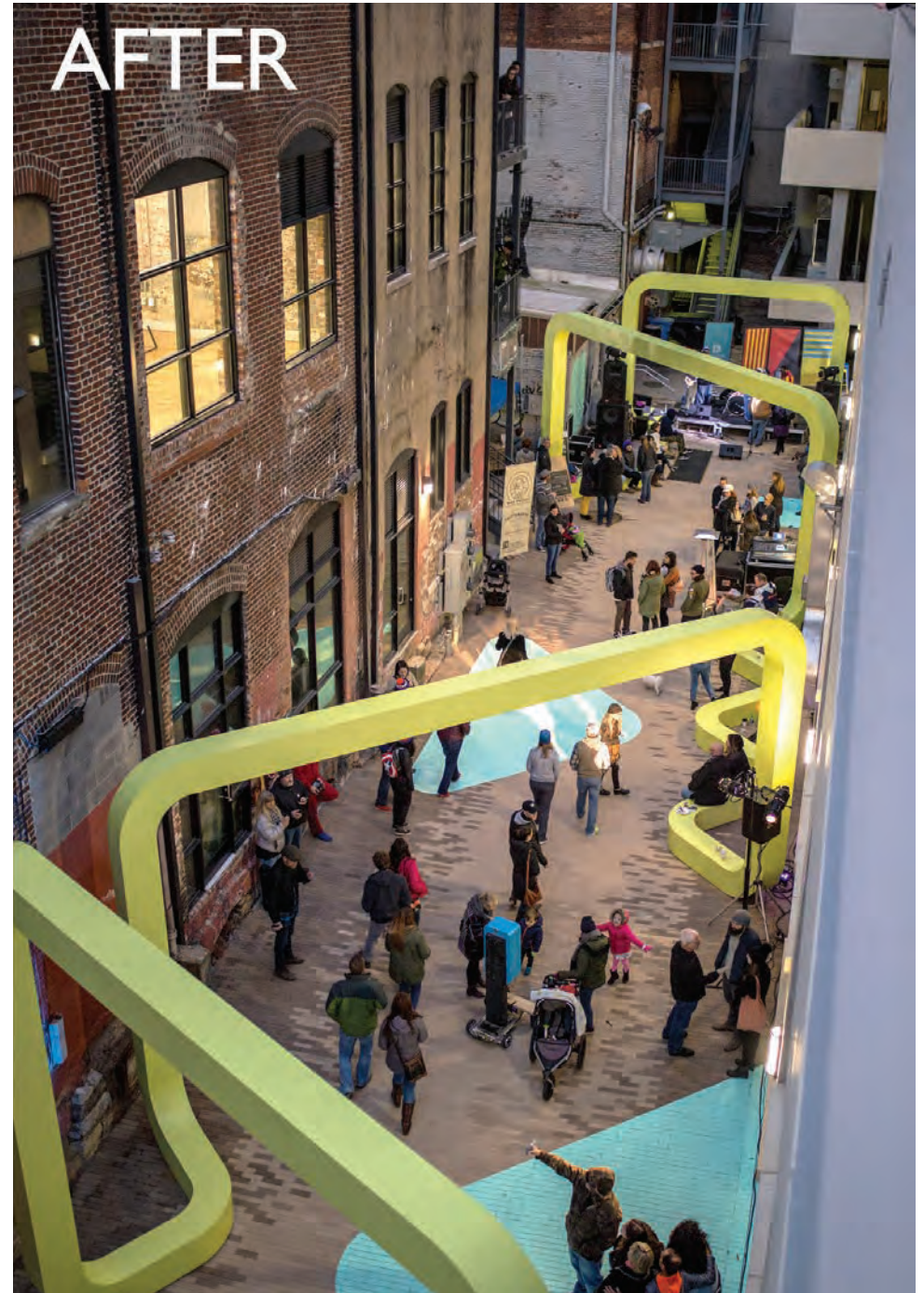
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Warehouse Row | 8. Bessie Smith Cultural Center | 15. The Loveman's Building |
| 2. The Edney Innovation Center | 9. AT&T | 16. Widgets and Stone |
| 3. City Hall | 10. James A. Mapp Building | 17. Chamber of Commerce |
| 4. ArtsBuild | 11. Causeway | 18. Chattanooga Design Studio |
| 5. Public Education Foundation | 12. The Tomorrow Building | 19. 701 Cherry St. |
| 6. Chattanooga Public Library | 13. One Central Plaza | 20. H&D Corporation |
| 7. EPB Fiber Optics | 14. River City Company | |



Site Context - Downtown Innovation District of Chattanooga



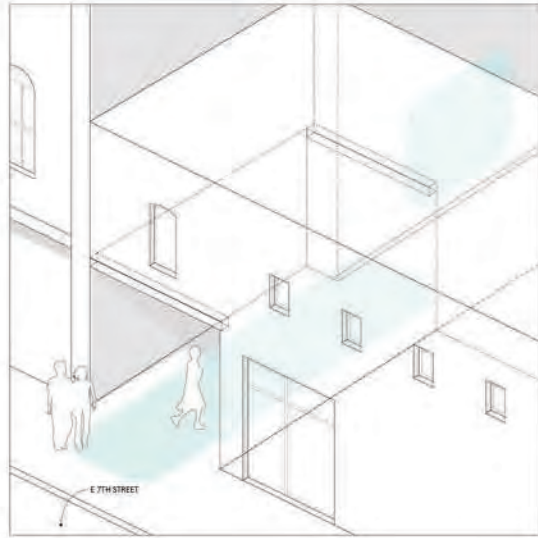
Site Plan



Urban Transformation

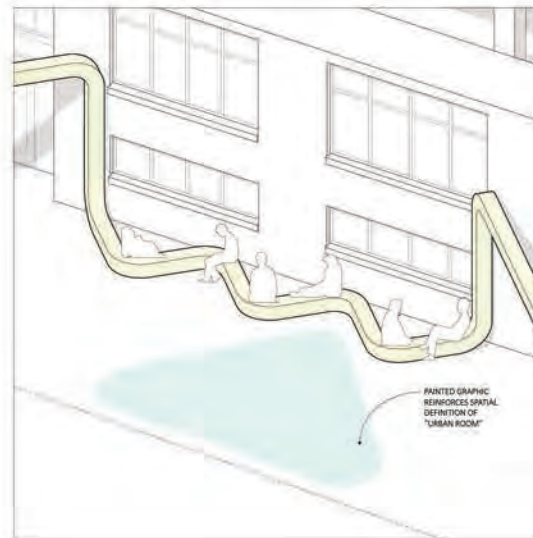


Looking north, towards alley entrance



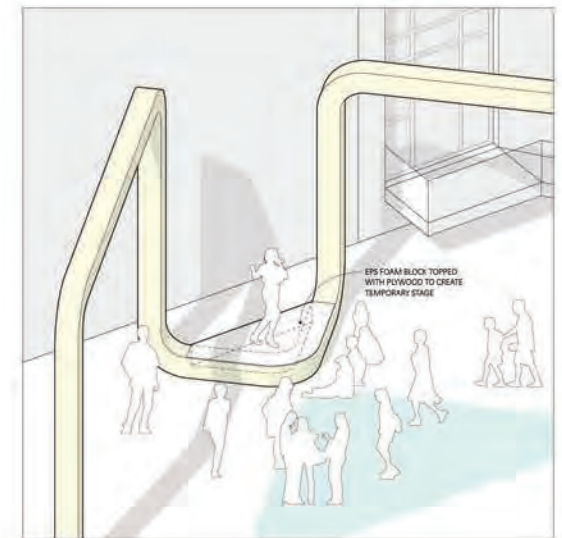
URBAN TEASE

The painted graphic peaks its way out onto E 7th St to invite people to come enjoy the spaces and activities of the new alley.



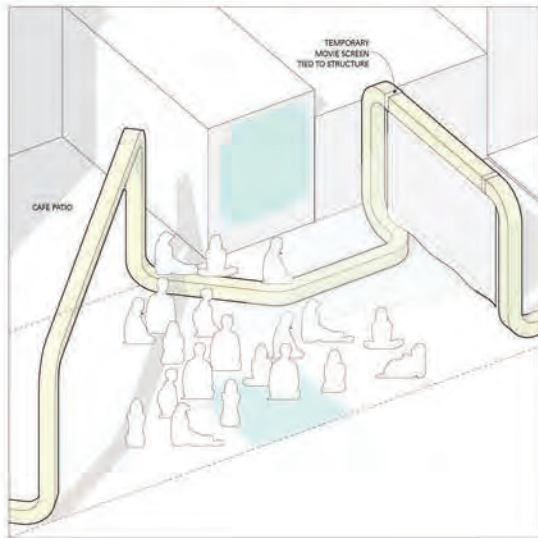
SEATING

The form of the linear volume creates dynamic and playful moments that serve as informal seating for visitors to engage.



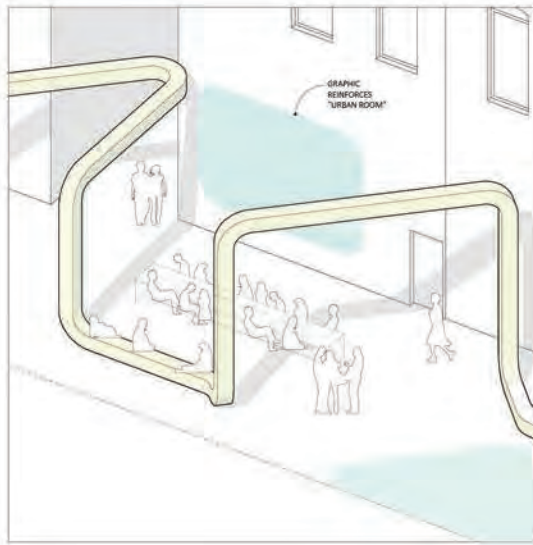
PERFORMANCE

The undulations in the bench areas can be utilized as the framework for small stages by putting a simple wood platform on top.



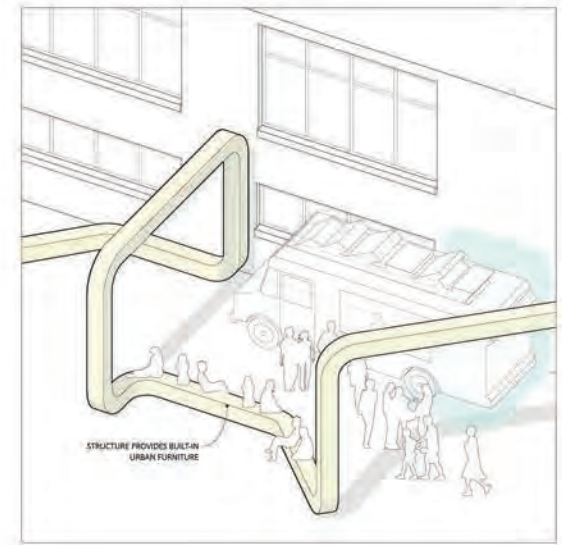
MOVIE NIGHT

The form of the linear volume generates infrastructure that can be utilized for film screenings or digital media art.



SUPPER CLUB

City Thread's "urban rooms" create spatial definition within the overall alley. Just add tables to create supper club events!

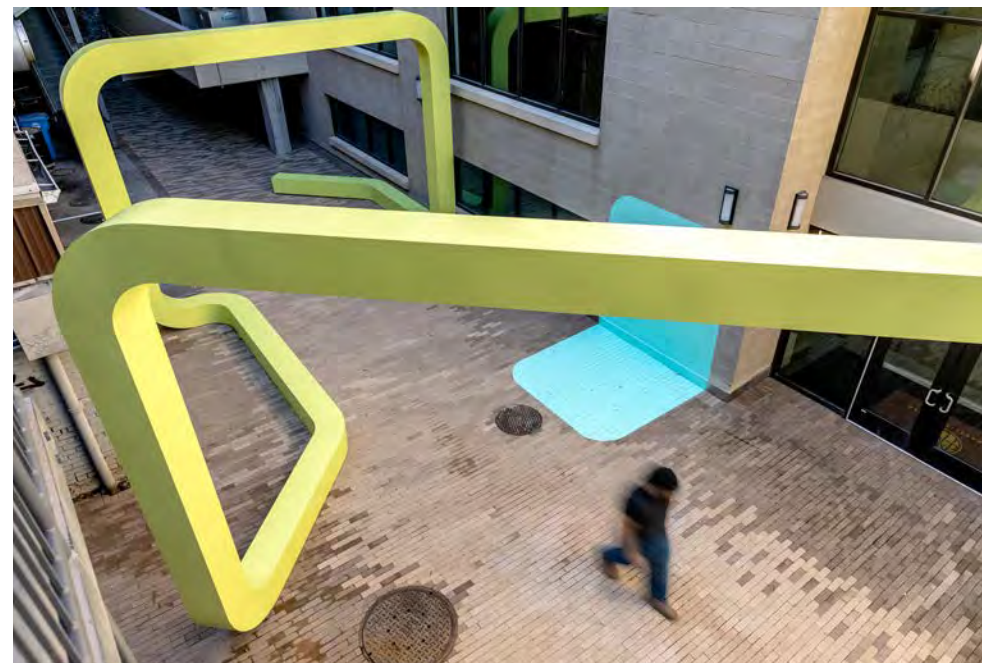


FOOD TRUCK EVENT

The structure maintains clearance for vehicle access, whether for maintenance or fun events like food truck nights. The linear volume provides built-in seating.



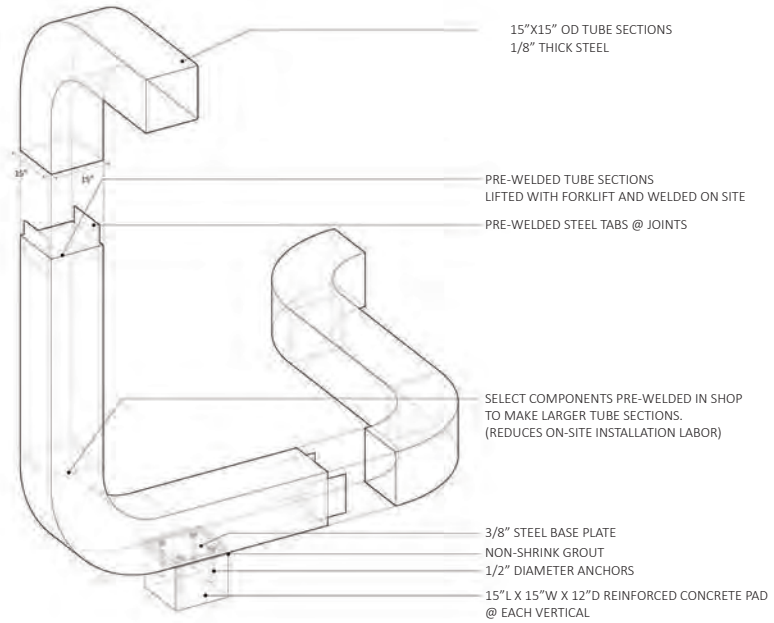
Formal strategy break down the large undefined alley into smaller “urban rooms”



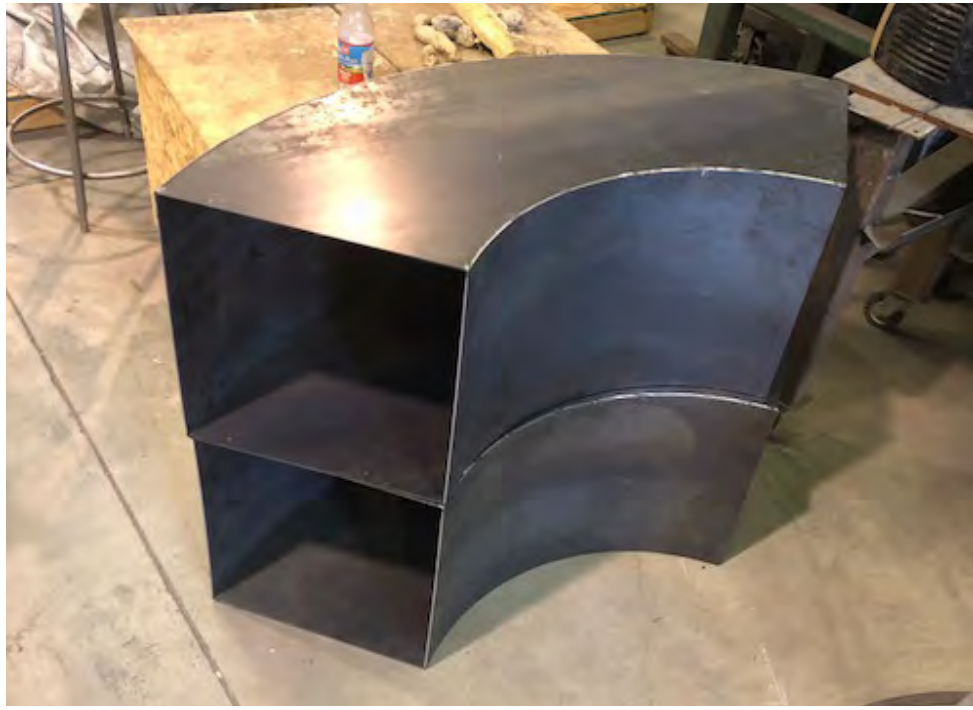
“Urban rooms” include ample seating areas for informal hangout



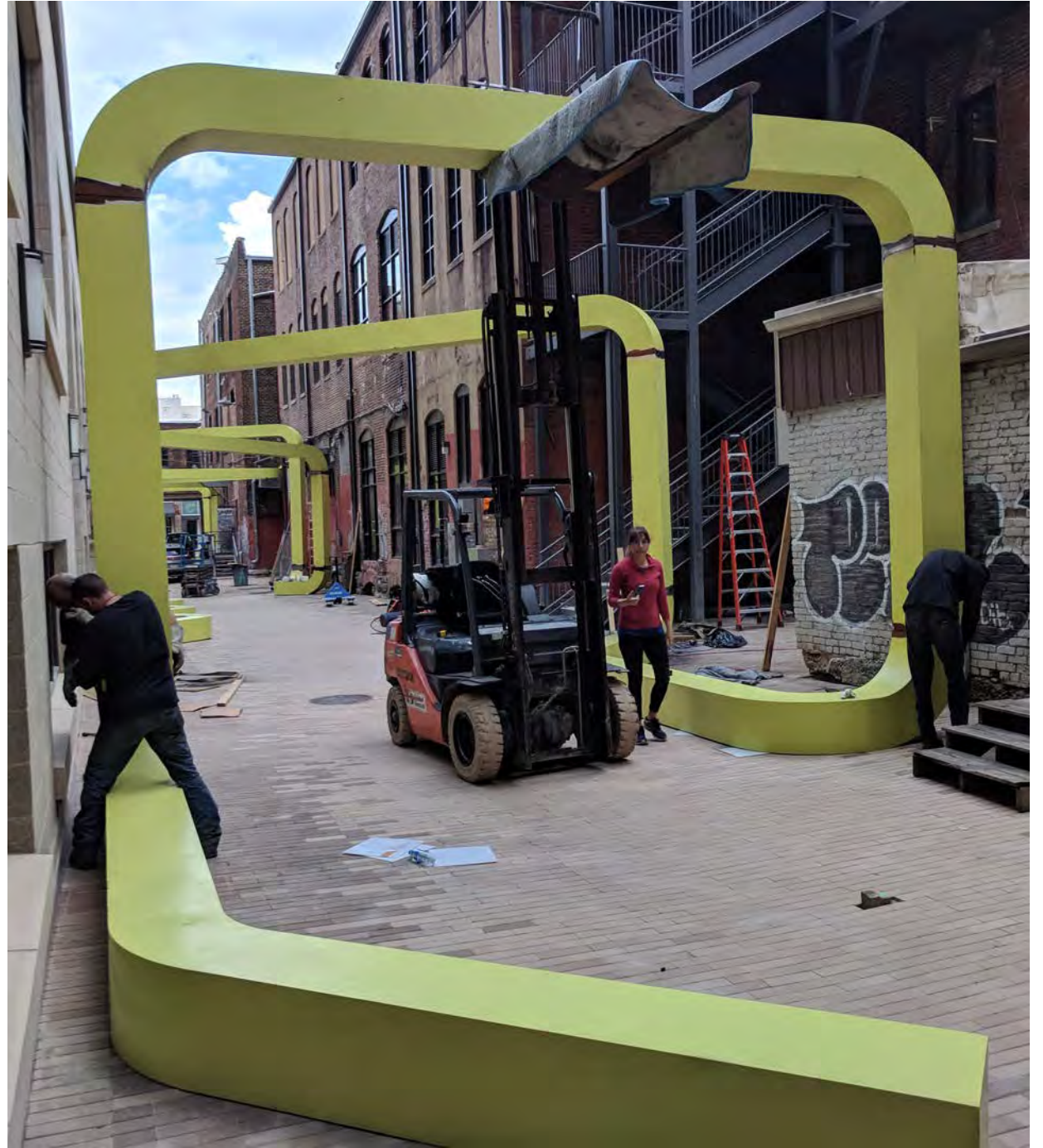
Body-scale Formal Features



Assembly Diagram



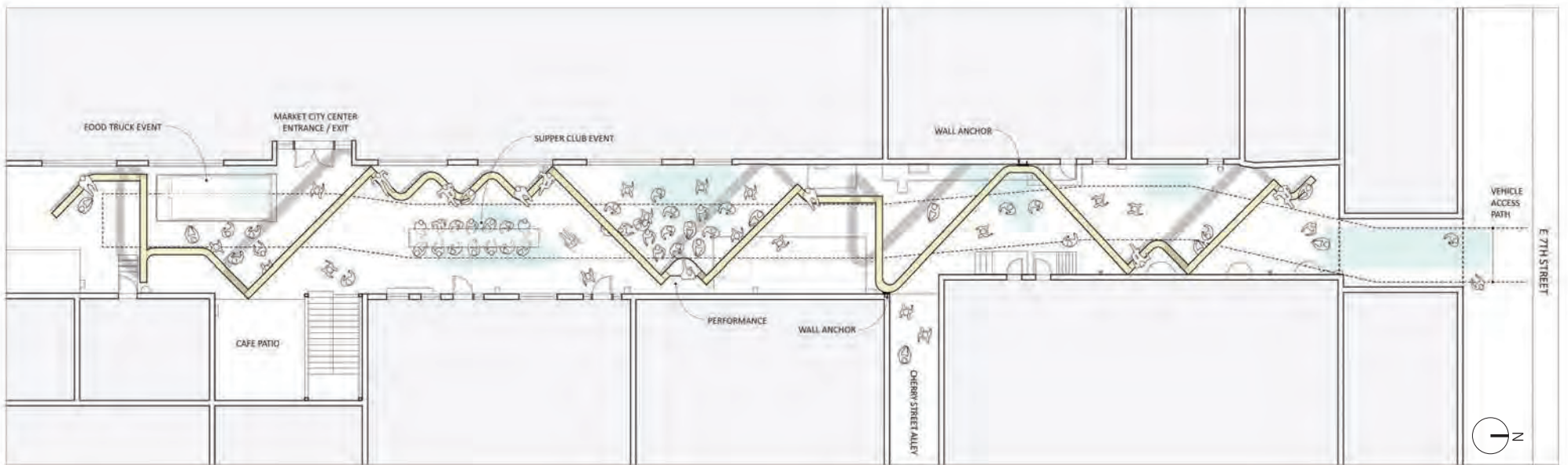
Fabrication in Shop



Installation on Site

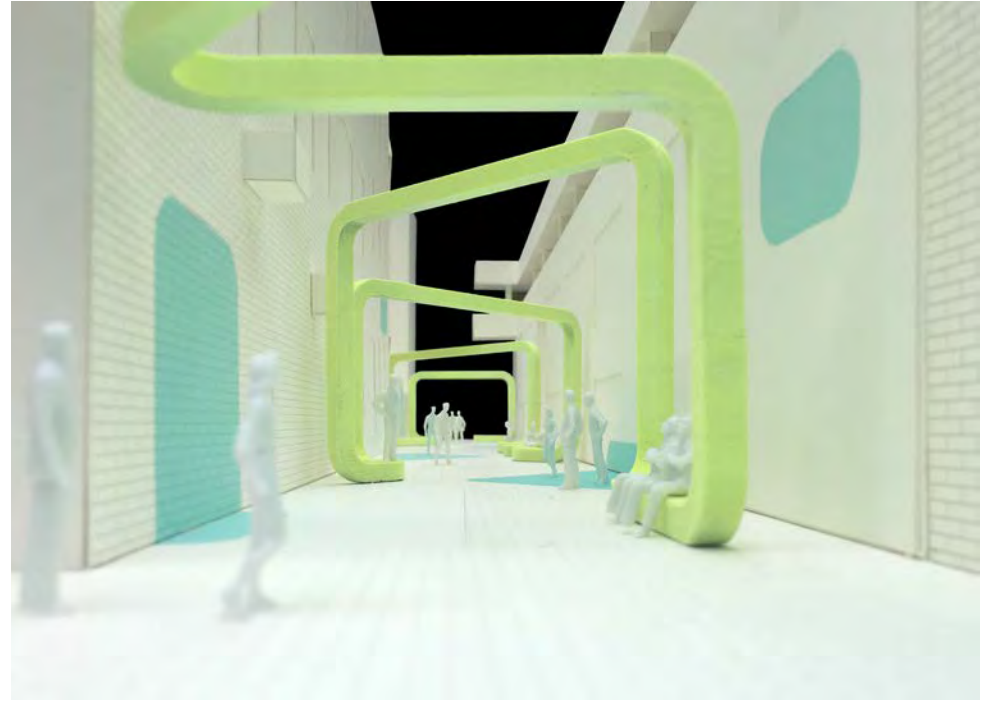
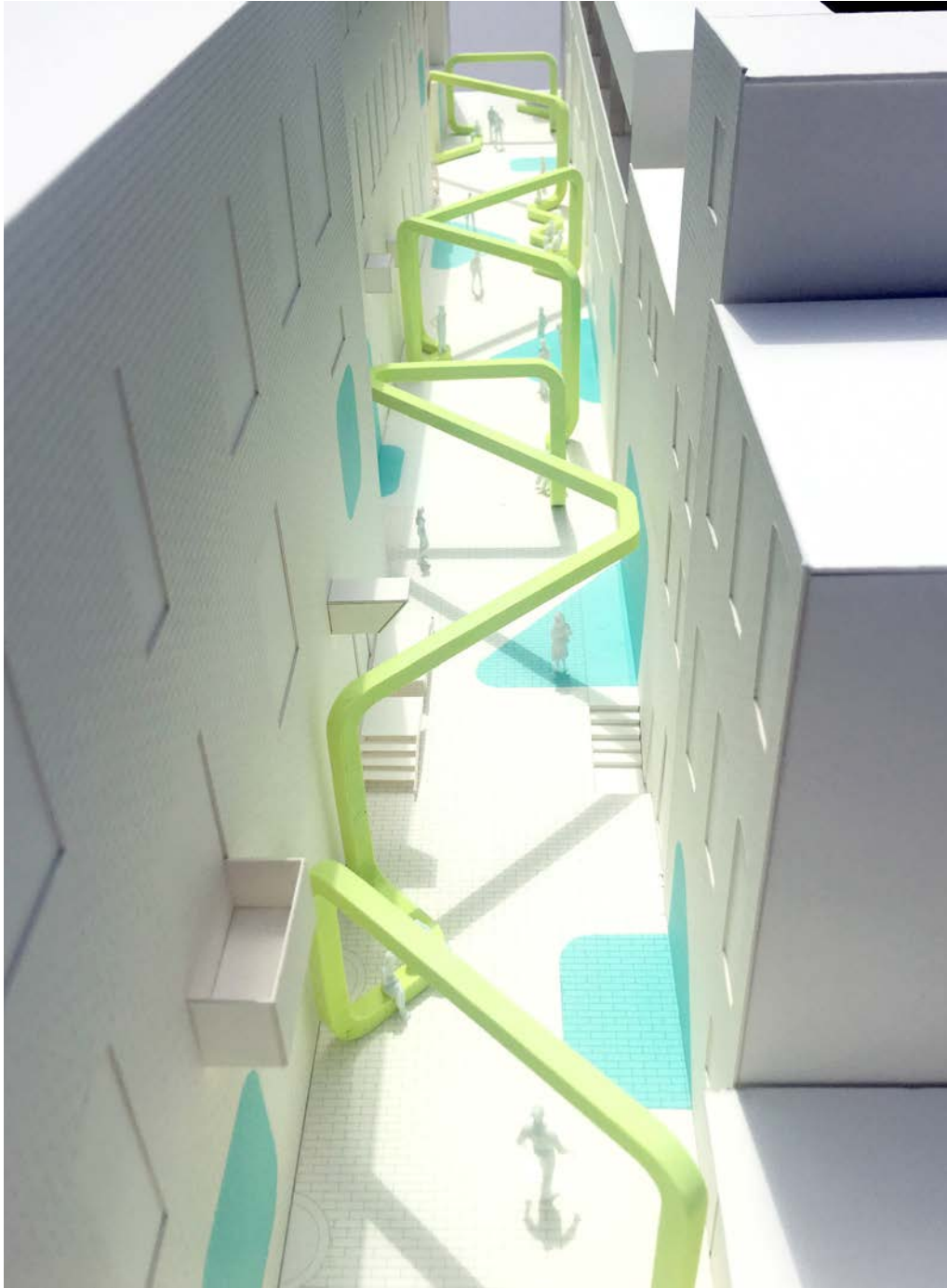


Elevation

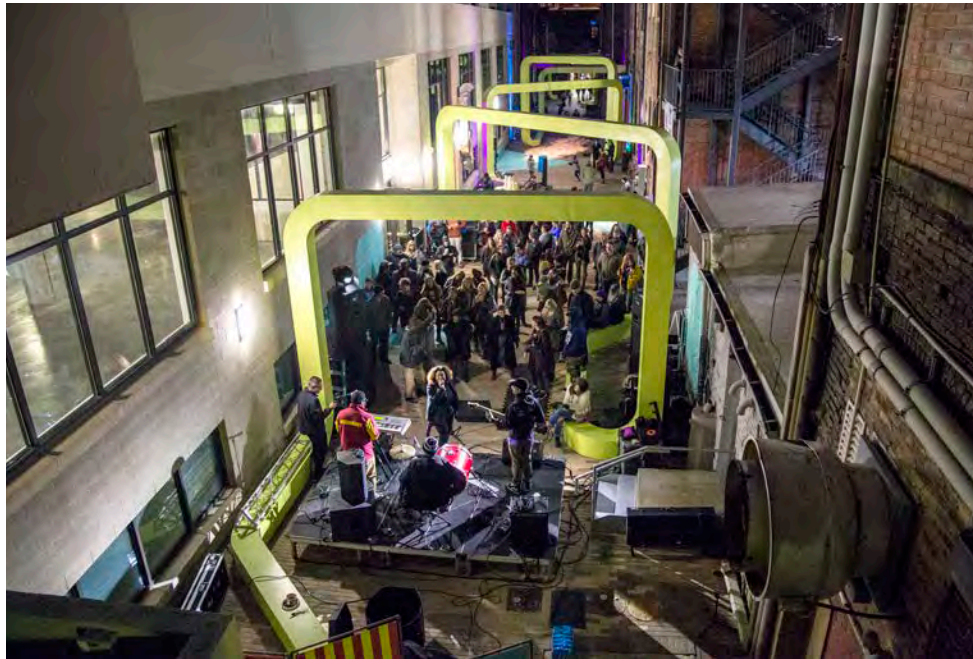


Top View

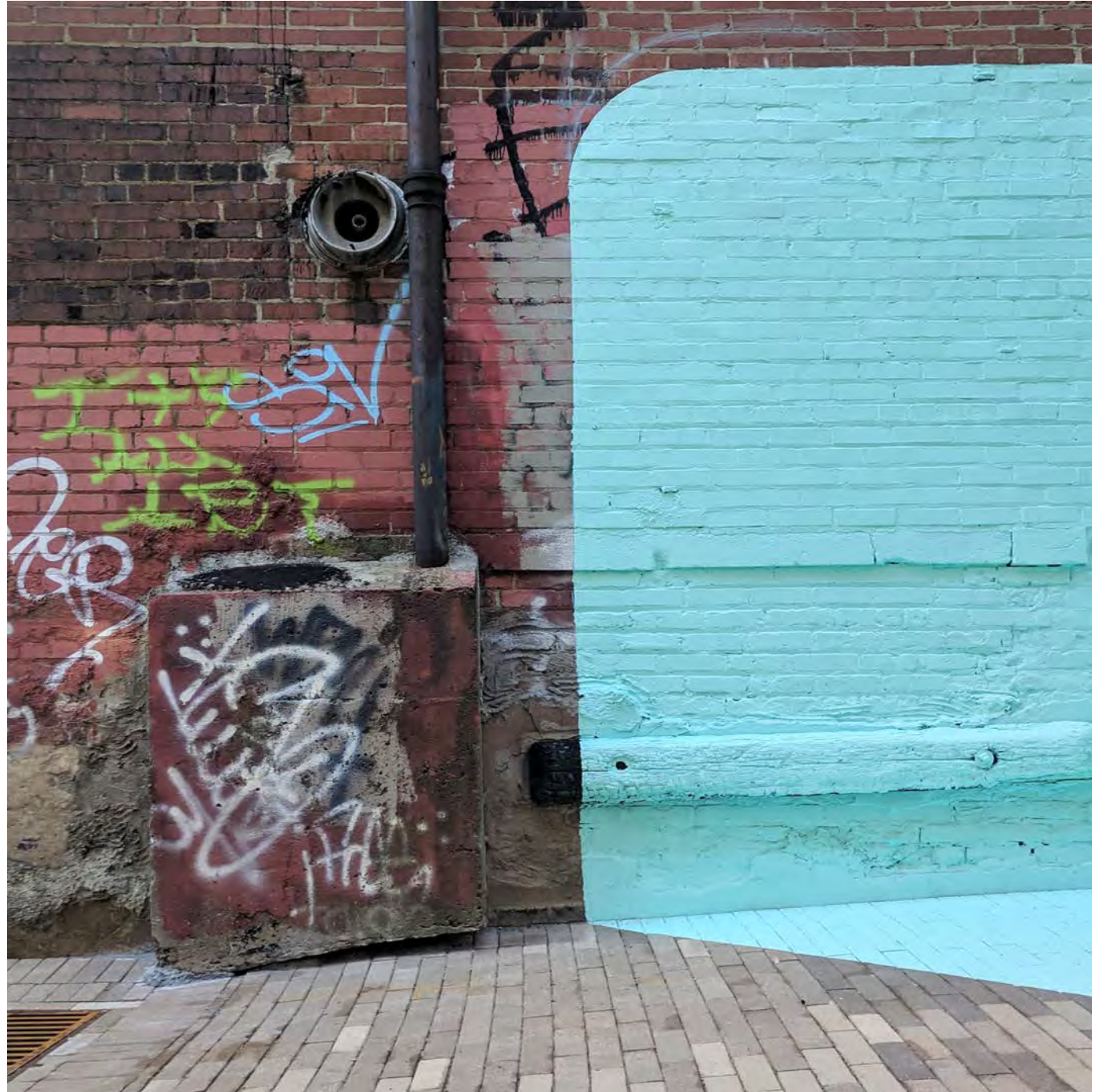
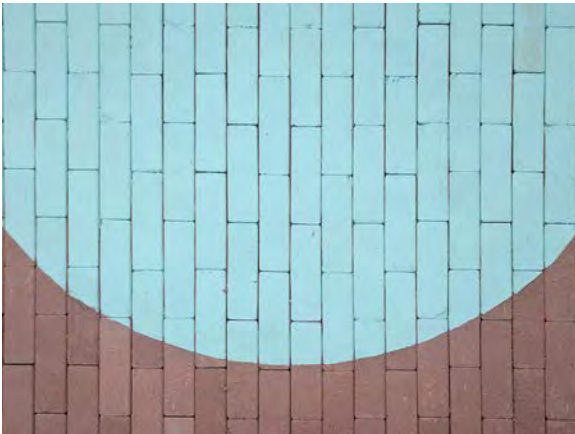
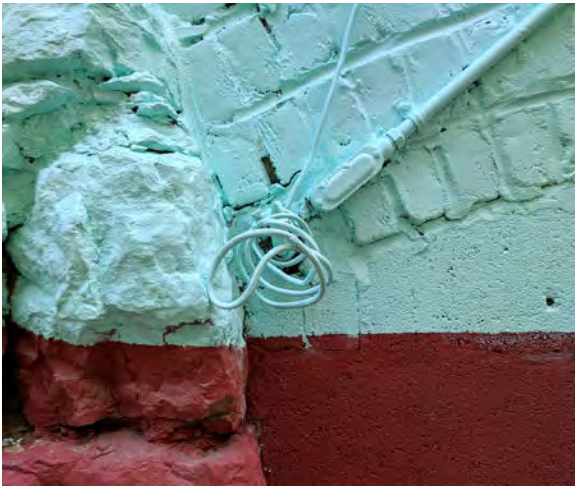




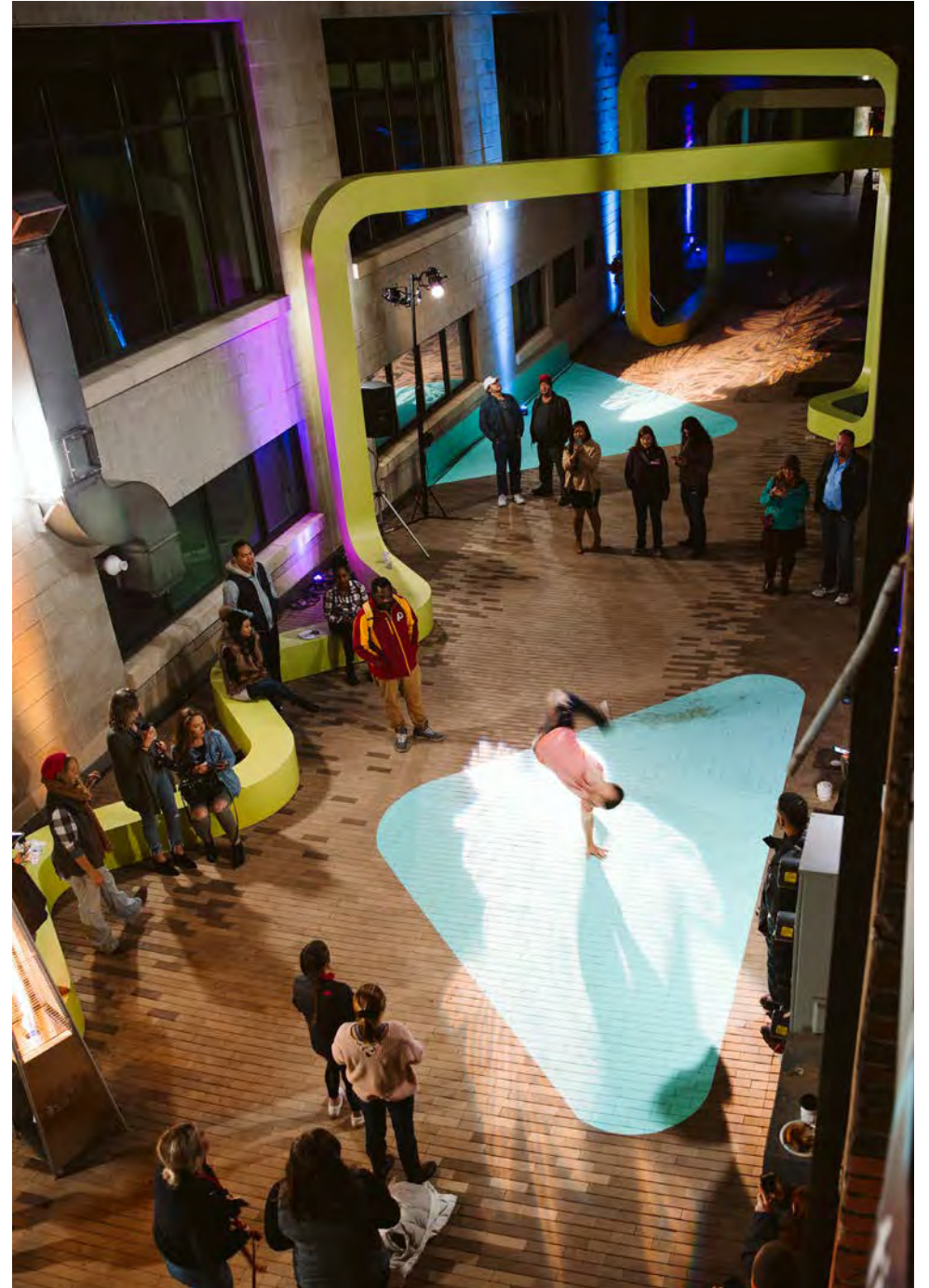
Physical Model



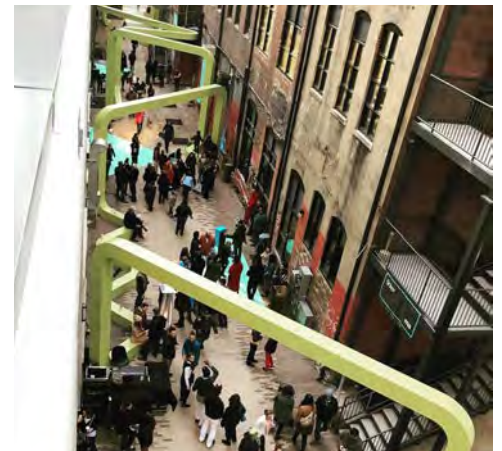
Community Events



Painted graphics responds to graffiti history of alley



Evening Public Activation



Community ownership as observed through Instagram



Community 'Supper Club' Event