Helping communities shape their own growth.
LA-Más is a non-profit urban design organization that helps lower-income and underserved communities shape their future through policy and architecture.

We envision a world where city growth is equitable and self-directed — where the best local solutions are brought to a city-wide scale.
POLICY

DESIGN

IMPACT
7,500 MILES OF SIDEWALK
Bureaucracy.
15 Council Districts
COMMUNITY WALK

Be a part of transforming Avenue 26 into a pedestrian-friendly street!

Saturday, March 4th
10am-12pm*
*Optional 30 min walk begins at 10:30am

Lacy Street Neighborhood Park
Corner of Lacy St. & Ave 26
Across from Lincoln/Cypress Metro Station

Share your ideas on how Ave 26 can better support pedestrians and transit riders. Join us for the walk or simply stop by and share your feedback. Meet your neighbors from Lincoln Heights, Cypress Park, and Elysian Valley.

Questions: please contact nikki@mas.la
Follow us: @goave26 on Facebook

Go Ave 26 is a project that supports pedestrians and public transit users near the Lincoln/Cypress Station on the Metro Gold Line. This year-long project will feature physical design interventions that make getting to and from public transit hubs along Avenue 26 easier, safer, and more welcoming.
Online Survey (English + Spanish)
Clear Paths To Transit
Community Findings Report

www.mas.la
GO AVE 26
ZONE 1: bus stop hub

Bus stop patrons use Big Save for seating and buying snacks.

Gas stations mean the sidewalk has huge curb cuts.

Many users with walkers and canes.

Bus users hurry to transfer from one stop to another across the intersection.

Signage for Gold Line station is hard to see.
People were already here, we needed to support them.
PASSPORT STOP #2
PARADA #2

Improvements along Avenue 26
To make the path to transit clearer and safer for pedestrians, #GoAve26 improved sidewalks, fences, utility poles, crosswalks and underpasses. Tell us what you think!

Mejoras a lo largo de la Avenida 26
Para hacer del camino a la transporte público más claro y seguro para peatones, #GoAve26 mejoró las banquetas, las rejas, pasos de peatones y los bajopuentes. ¡Contanmos que te parece!

1. Write your favorite feature of the installation on a Post-it and place it on the board below!
¡Escribe tu característica favorita de la instalación en una Post-it y pégala en el póstel!:
   - Easy to follow directions
   - Colors are eye-catching
   - Instructions are clear

2. Place a star below to show us if you think this installation works!
¡Pega una estrella y dínós si crees que esta instalación funciona!

*Stars indicate user feedback*
Temporary wasn’t resilient.
Safety
Many business employees noted that they do not feel safe at night on Western because it is dark and robberies are a prevalent issue. Some business owners also commented that prostitution on Western Avenue also deters customers. Several people also noted that the sidewalks are in need of repair, as there are many trip hazards.

Visibility
Several businesses near bus stops mentioned that their entrance is obscured by the bus stop. Additionally, several business do not have clear and visible signage that communicates what type of products they offer.

Desired Amenities
Some businesses expressed that they would welcome more benches, shading (trees), and trash cans, although some were concerned that the amenities would not be well maintained and encourage loitering.

Hourly Snapshot
Several business owners commented on the fact that Western Avenue is very different place, with different uses and visitors, during the day and night. From 10am-7pm, most retail stores are open and the majority of customers are driving in from all over the city to find particular products and services. From 6pm until 2am, the restaurants and bars are open and food trucks and carts arrive to serve the local residents.
Hearing from Western Ave’s Business Owners

Andrew X.
China Harbin Deer Antler Trading Co.
We’ve been in the neighborhood for more than 25 years. We love this location. Old Koreans know our store.

Alex C.
Box-Land
I like being in the heart of Koreatown because it’s very diverse... I expected Western to be busier. There is car traffic but no foot traffic...

Brian R.
Roman Deco Furnishings
The street is very different during the day and at night. During the daytime, the businesses are open and there are shoppers from all over. At night, the street is for food trucks and local residents.

Sarkis C.
West Rev Vision
The neighbors are very friendly... but it’s hard to find parking, and homeless people scare customers in the parking lot. We need more trash cans and cleaner streets.

Chris N.
The Cellphone Spot
I like that the community looks out for each other. Sometimes we even pay for our old-time customers’ parking meters... but it’s scary at night.

Western is a great location – everyone in LA knows Western. I think Western has a lot of potential for local businesses, and will always be that way.

There have been several accidents and two deaths on Western and Oakwood (in front of KFC.)

Art Blipsy Barcade
The neighbors are very friendly... but it’s hard to find parking, and homeless people scare customers in the parking lot. We need more trash cans and cleaner streets.

Jaya
Elan Shoes Salon
There’s no such thing as green space here.

E.Z.
LaB Coffee and Roasters
There have been several accidents and two deaths on Western and Oakwood (in front of KFC.)

Victor C.
Home Living Furniture
There’s no such thing as green space here.

Jaya, owner of Elan Shoe Salon (163 S. Western Ave) meets with Avital from LA-Más

I like that the community looks out for each other. Sometimes we even pay for our old-time customers’ parking meters... but it’s scary at night.

The sidewalk is very bumpy and people trip; we need better sidewalks.

There have been several accidents and two deaths on Western and Oakwood (in front of KFC.)
We knocked on every door to get un-sanitized feedback.
On October 17, LA-Más and our community partners organized a Community Open-House for #WelcomeToWestern to present the project, and to receive feedback from the neighbors and local businesses owners. We hosted 40+ community members that shared their opinions and comments about the ways in which we can improve Western Avenue. This is what they told us.

What public space amenity would you like to see on Western Avenue?
We meet people where they are.
Design Sketches

Based upon what we’ve heard, here are some sketches of different design interventions that could be installed on Western Ave.

Please tell us (or write) your thoughts about these different design proposals!

Site Selection

We have combined our analysis of street/sidewalk conditions with what we’ve heard about Western Ave during street scanning and business interviews, and selected three focus areas for the first Design Workshop — to select the following three sites or “kinds” to be the focus of our design interventions. The new installations at each of these three proposed hubs will include both the east and west sides of Western Ave. In addition to these three focus areas, there will also be other improvements distributed throughout the rest of the corridor (like trees, trash cans, bike racks, and potentially more). Please tell us (or write) your thoughts about these three proposed sites!

Between Beverly + 1st Street

Assets to Build Upon

Popular Businesses, including:

- The Dog Patch
- The Beer Store
- Great Wax
- The Beer Spot
- The Bike Shop
- La Brea Bagel
- Mother’s Market
- Bon Appetit

Interested Business Owners:

- Pacific Thai
- Chinatown Express
- Biergarten LA
- Isaan Thai Street Food
- Paris Baguette
- Thai Angel
- The Bun Shop
- Pho 2000

Popular Businesses, including:

- Classic Barbershop
- Meson Cafe
- Bok Duk Bong Bakery
- Western Doma Noodle
- Castle BBQ
- Meson Cafe
- Eagle Coffee
- Oriental Mission Church
- LaB Coffee and Roasters
- Oriental Mission Church

Physical Opportunities:

- Street Trees
- Bike Infrastructure
- Crosswalks

Physical Opportunities:

- Biergarten LA
- Meson Cafe
- Castle BBQ
- Classic Barbershop
- LaB Coffee and Roasters
- Oriental Mission Church

Between 2nd + 3rd Streets

Assets to Build Upon

Popular Businesses/

- Shopping Plaza at 301 S.
- Chinatown Express
- US Post Office

Popular Businesses/

- Shopping Plaza at 301 S.
- Chinatown Express
- US Post Office

Physical Opportunities:

- Biergarten LA
- Meson Cafe
- Castle BBQ
- Classic Barbershop
- LaB Coffee and Roasters
- Oriental Mission Church

Physical Opportunities:

- Bike Infrastructure
- Crosswalks

Between Maplewood + Elmwood

Assets to Build Upon

Popular Businesses/

- Shopping Plaza at 301 S.
- Chinatown Express
- US Post Office

Physical Opportunities:

- Crosswalks
- Bike Infrastructure
- Public Art

Available in Spanish and Korean on the handouts!
The ‘project’ should not solve the ‘problem’.
We didn’t invite people to a ribbon cutting.
Community Festival
Next step:
Institutionalize wins into new policy
Adopt-a-Sidewalk Program
Creating a Sense of Place on the Public Canvas

The Opportunity

There are 7,500+ miles of sidewalk in Los Angeles. Sidewalks can have different functions, such as supporting pedestrian access and neighborhood connectivity, but sidewalks can also be viewed as public canvasses and vibrant gathering spaces that have the potential to:

1. Creatively reflect community identity and connote a sense of place;
2. Highlight neighborhood assets through wayfinding signage and street furniture; and
3. Provide fun guides about how to safely, efficiently, and enjoyably navigate the corridor as a pedestrian.
Business Improvement Districts and non-profits often attempt to implement community beautification and placemaking projects throughout the City. For example, last year, a non-profit organization installed temporary wayfinding sidewalk symbols near the Lincoln/Cypress Metro Station to help pedestrians safely navigate in and around the station. Similarly, a stretch of Avalon Boulevard in Wilmington received sidewalk art and furniture as part of Mayor Garcetti’s Great Streets Initiative. In both of these examples, due to lack of a suitable alternative, the projects were approved through the R-Permit process.

The R-Permit issued by the Bureau of Engineering was initially designed and intended for large-scale infrastructure projects in the public right-of-way. However, the R-Permit is also deemed necessary for quick and simple design interventions that call for paint, vinyl stickers, and movable furniture, making these projects cumbersome, time-consuming, and expensive.

The City of Los Angeles should encourage community beautification projects in the public right-of-way by making their approval processes as simple and affordable as possible.

The Adopt-A-Median Program, established in 1988 by the Board of Public Works, was designed as a way to empower neighborhoods to initiate and engage in community beautification efforts. Administered by the Office of Community Beautification, the Program is a tool to promote community involvement through landscape and streetscape projects, foster a sense of community pride and ownership, and enhance neighborhood aesthetics. While the Adopt-A-Median Program has been successful in achieving these goals, it is limited in scope.

There is untapped potential in the Adopt-A-Median Program and, if expanded to include all simple beautification projects in every public right-of-way, could satisfy the needs and desires of those interested in implementing beautification projects.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the Office of Community Beautification, Board of Public Works, and Bureau of Engineering be DIRECTED to report with recommendations to broaden the scope and of the Adopt-A-Median Program, or to create a new parallel program, to include all community beautification projects on all public rights-of-way, including sidewalks, plazas, staircases, parking spaces, and beyond.
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