

A photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, there is a concrete sidewalk on the left, bordered by a low stone wall and some green plants. A large tree with thick, gnarled roots stands on the sidewalk. To the right of the tree is a street with a dark car. Further right is a utility pole with a street lamp and a Metro sign. The sign has a black circle with a white 'M' and the word 'Metro' below it. Below that, it says '102' and 'LAX City Bus Center'. The background shows more trees and buildings under a clear sky.

INVESTING *in* PLACE 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

M Metro
102
LAX City Bus Center



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Investing in Place has been leading a transformative movement, challenging the status quo for how Los Angeles manages and budgets for its sidewalks and streets now and for the future. In 2023, we made significant strides in advocating for and laying the groundwork for Los Angeles' Capital Infrastructure Plan (CIP). Here's a snapshot of our journey:

1 Building a Strong Foundation

We have successfully initiated a movement to reshape the City's broken budgeting and planning processes. Building on our years of research, experience, and conversations to understand what's needed, we have urged City leaders to create LA's inaugural Capital Infrastructure Plan (CIP).

2 Gaining Consensus and Action

Our work has resulted in building consensus among policymakers and Mayor Karen Bass' administration. We've collaborated with the Mayor's office throughout 2023, and the CIP now stands as one of the Mayor's top four infrastructure priorities. This summer the Mayor's office hired a full-time staffer dedicated to moving forward a Capital Infrastructure Plan, and the Mayor further

demonstrated urgency by focusing Executive Directive 5 on faster, better City service operations and transparent communication around LA's public right-of-way. Support is also evident on the 4th floor of City Hall, with a newly introduced Council Motion by Councilmember Heather Hutt to move LA toward a CIP (Council File: 23- 0919).

3 Conducting Research and Assembling Data

We published the only comprehensive inventory of citywide public right-of-way assets, providing an essential baseline for the development of the CIP. Our research extended beyond city limits, examining CIPs from 30+ U.S. cities to identify best practices while tailoring our plan to the unique characteristics of Los Angeles.

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4 Engaging and Partnering

We successfully introduced the CIP campaign to influential stakeholders, including the Deputy Mayor of Infrastructure, key City staff from various departments, as well as civic and business leaders. One of our most valuable presentations and conversations was our presentation to the Interdepartmental Public Right-of-Way meeting, attended by more than 50 key leaders, which fostered critical partnerships for the realization of our vision.

In addition to business and civic leaders, we are also sourcing direction and insight from people across LA who traditionally are not part of these processes or conversations. We participated in four public events like CicLAvia, talking directly with hundreds of Angelenos. We initiated an ongoing survey asking people to share their favorite public spaces.

- **90 interviews**
- **40 self-administered surveys**
- **1,500 votes on infrastructure priorities**
The top three priorities were clean streets, consistent trash pick-up, and shade trees.

What's your favorite public space in LA and why?

Thai Town

"I've been going since I was a teenager. People care about it."

Miracle Mile

"My family and I have been going there since I was a kid."

Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Park

"I head over there to watch people and decompress from the day."

Leimert Park Village

"It was designed for good pedestrian and automotive traffic that work well together."

Los Angeles River Bike Path

"Fresh air, safety from speeding cars, protected bike lanes, flora and fauna, neighborly people, coffee shops, mixed use."

We want to hear from you!

[Click here and tell us about your favorite public space in LA](#)



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5 Connecting with People

Sharing our expertise is a crucial priority for us. We invest in communications designed to simplify complex topics so anyone can advocate for improvements in how LA manages public space. Our audience is engaged: our emails have a 50% open rate (which is more than double the industry average).

- **Sent 19 email newsletters** with 50% open rate
- **Created 11 educational guides** on LA's budgeting process and how the City manages public space
- **Produced 10 white papers and critical memos**

6 Articulating Essential Principles

Our extensive research and outreach facilitated the production of a set of essential principles for a CIP, endorsed by LA business and civic leaders.

7 Identifying Key Next Steps

Based on our research, and on convenings we held across Los Angeles, we articulated and shared three key next steps for the City:

- **Create a shared vision:** Develop, articulate and adopt a vision for the streets and sidewalks that incorporates all competing uses this critical public space contains. Policymakers need to agree on outcomes the City wants to achieve in the public right-of-way over the next several years.
- **Develop an accurate inventory and assessment:** Collect asset management inventories from all departments and bureaus, starting with the five Public Works Bureaus and Department of Transportation. The City needs to inventory assets to understand the scale and conditions.
- **Coordinate, coordinate, coordinate:** Identify and coordinate all of the existing, disconnected, and often conflicting efforts to plan for the public right-of-way from various City entities.

MOMENTUM FOR 2024

Investing in Place is kicking off the year strong, by hosting a summit in Q1: *"The Public Way: Making Infrastructure Work for People."* The event will bring together a combination of public sector, private sector, and community leaders with a common thread of shaping the way public dollars are spent on public infrastructure.

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2015, Investing in Place is an award-winning, human-centered nonprofit organization that envisions Los Angeles as a city where inclusive, accessible public spaces foster well-being and improve quality of life.

The elements in LA's public right-of-way, with fair investment and maintenance, serve as a bridge to economic opportunities and promote public health, social equity, and climate resilience.

Investing in Place provides an independent and thoughtful voice to LA's power and politics around public works and transportation policy.

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