Cumulative analysis revealed that downtown Bellevue is missing a distinct identity. The environment is highly corporate and is not heavily used outside of work hours. With its tall towers, vast parking lots, and large blocks, downtown needs spaces that are designed at a more human scale. Bellevue also lacks retail and housing that are affordable for a wide range of income levels. Activating downtown Bellevue for local and visitor use at all hours of the day is an important goal for this growing neighborhood.

The three teams were structured around unique principles. The first team focused on “intimacy,” characterized by green infrastructure, rooms, and local residents. They treated the site topography as an advantage for green space and community gathering that they amplified in their designs. The second team focused on a “civic home,” characterized by space fluidity, vertical recreation, affordable opportunities. This team considered the potential to maximize residential units next to the future light rail as an essential opportunity. The last team focused on creating a “cultural center,” characterized by civic identity, local economy, culture and diversity. They identified art and affordable retail spaces as key aspects for a vibrant, culturally engaging civic space.

Images displayed on this poster represent aspects of the design process. Incorporating input from stakeholders, the three studio teams are generating final designs for stakeholder review following the LCY Open House.