

# **Buck Up on Beat Street**

Spotlighting Downtown Kingston's Musical Heritage

# **Uptown vs Downtown:** Spatializing Jamaica's Socioeconomic Divide



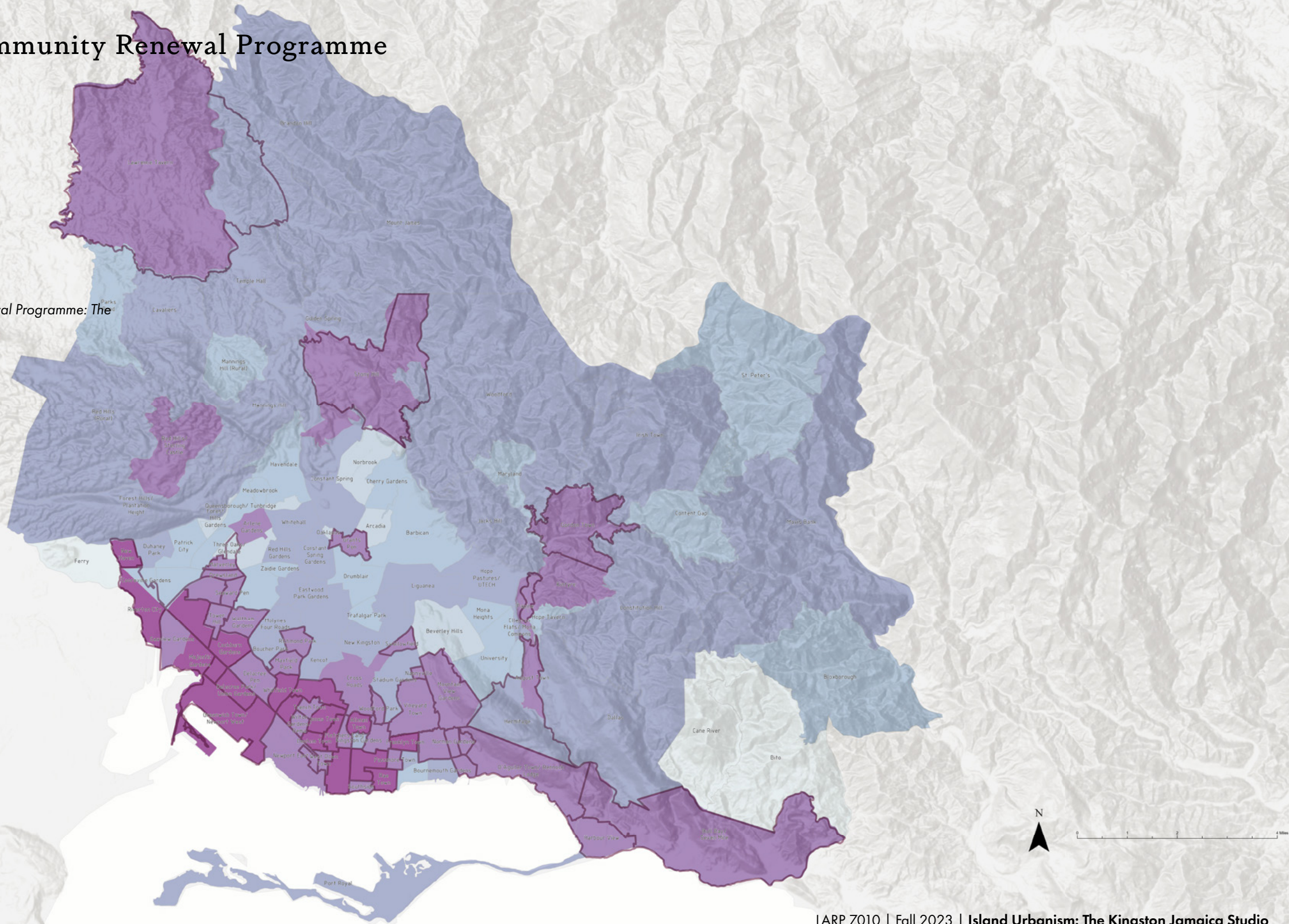
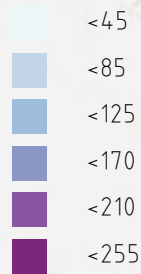
# Kingston & St. Andrews: Community Renewal Programme

The ranking of a community is based on the following indicators:

- Crime (murders and shootings)
- Poverty
- Teenage pregnancy
- Literacy (Grade 4 literacy)
- Ex-convicts
- Accessibility of communities
- Child abuse
- Violence-related injuries
- Presence of gangs
- Presence of squatter settlements

Source: Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). “Community Renewal Programme: The Community Selection Process.” 2021.

## COMMUNITY RANK





# Kingston & St. Andrews: Population Density Community Renewal Programme

The ranking of a community is based on the following indicators:

Crime (murders and shootings)

## Poverty

## Teenage pregnancy

Literacy (Grade 4 literacy)

### Ex-convicts

### Accessibility of communities

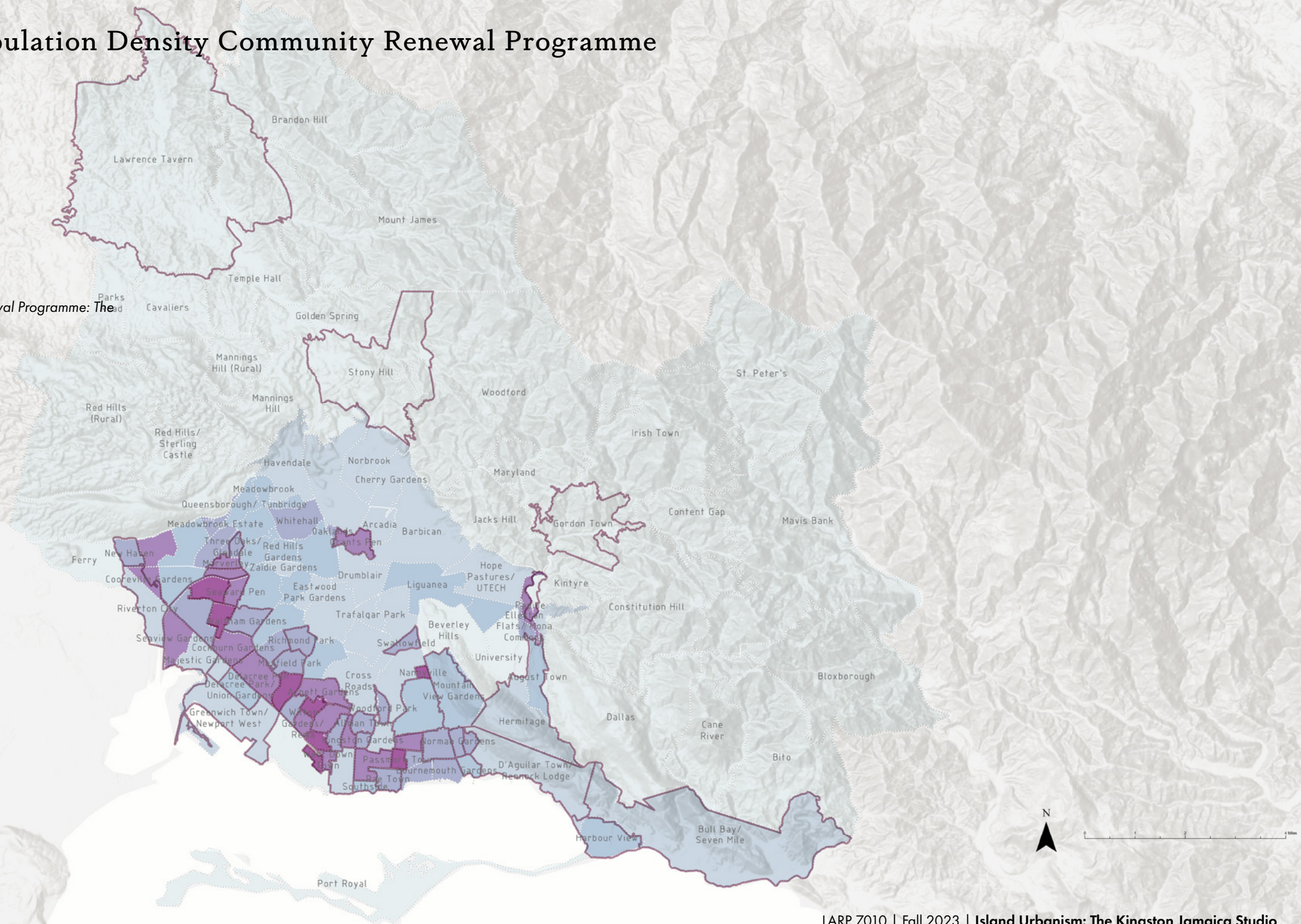
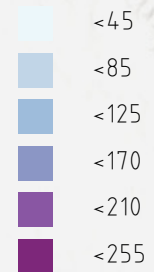
## Child abuse

## Violence-related injuries

### Presence of gangs

### Presence of squatter settlements

Source: Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). "Community Renewal Programme: T Community Selection Process." 2021.

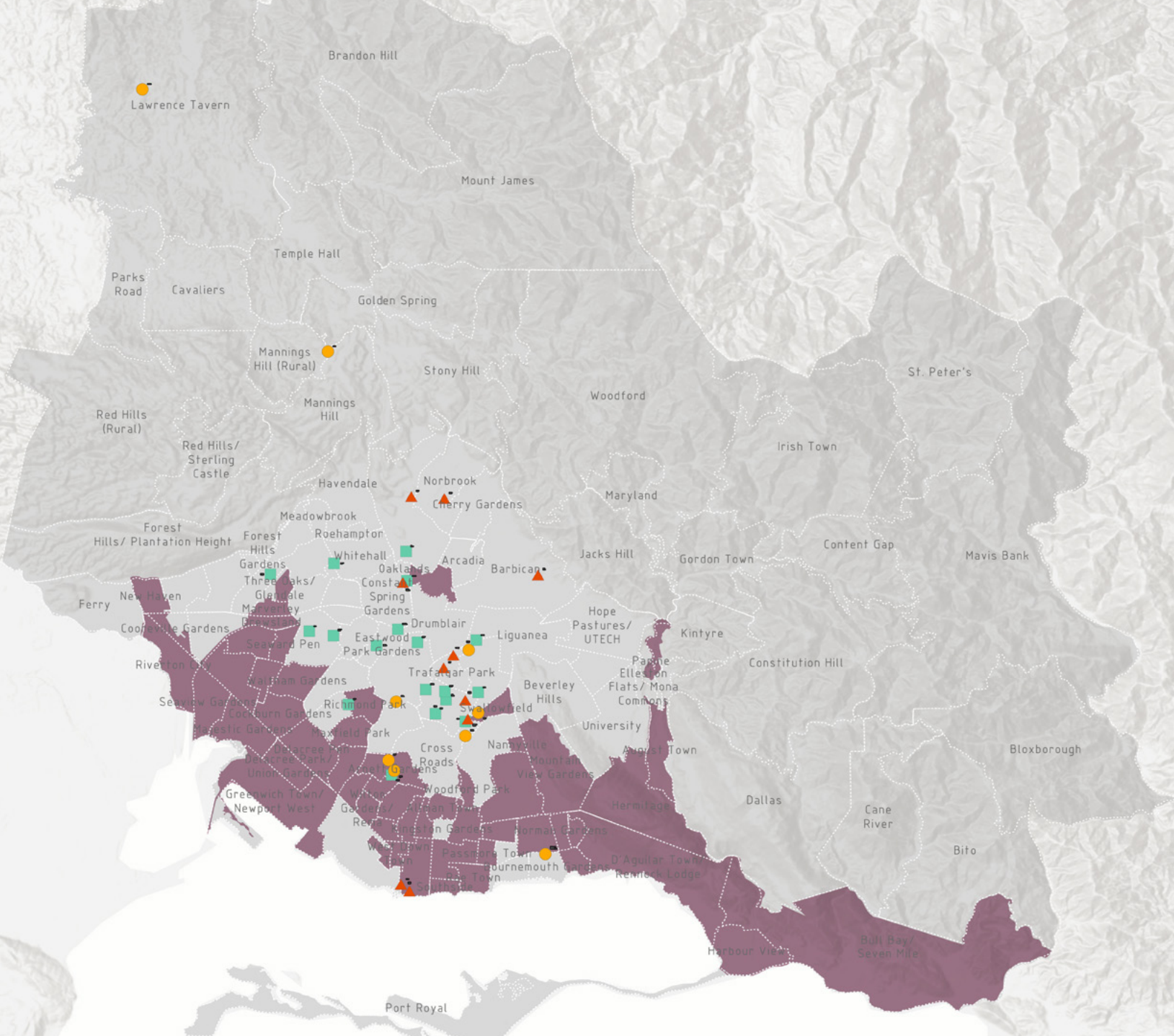




# Formal arts & cultural institutions concentrated uptown

ART/CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

- Art Galleries
- Bars & Clubs
- Music Venues

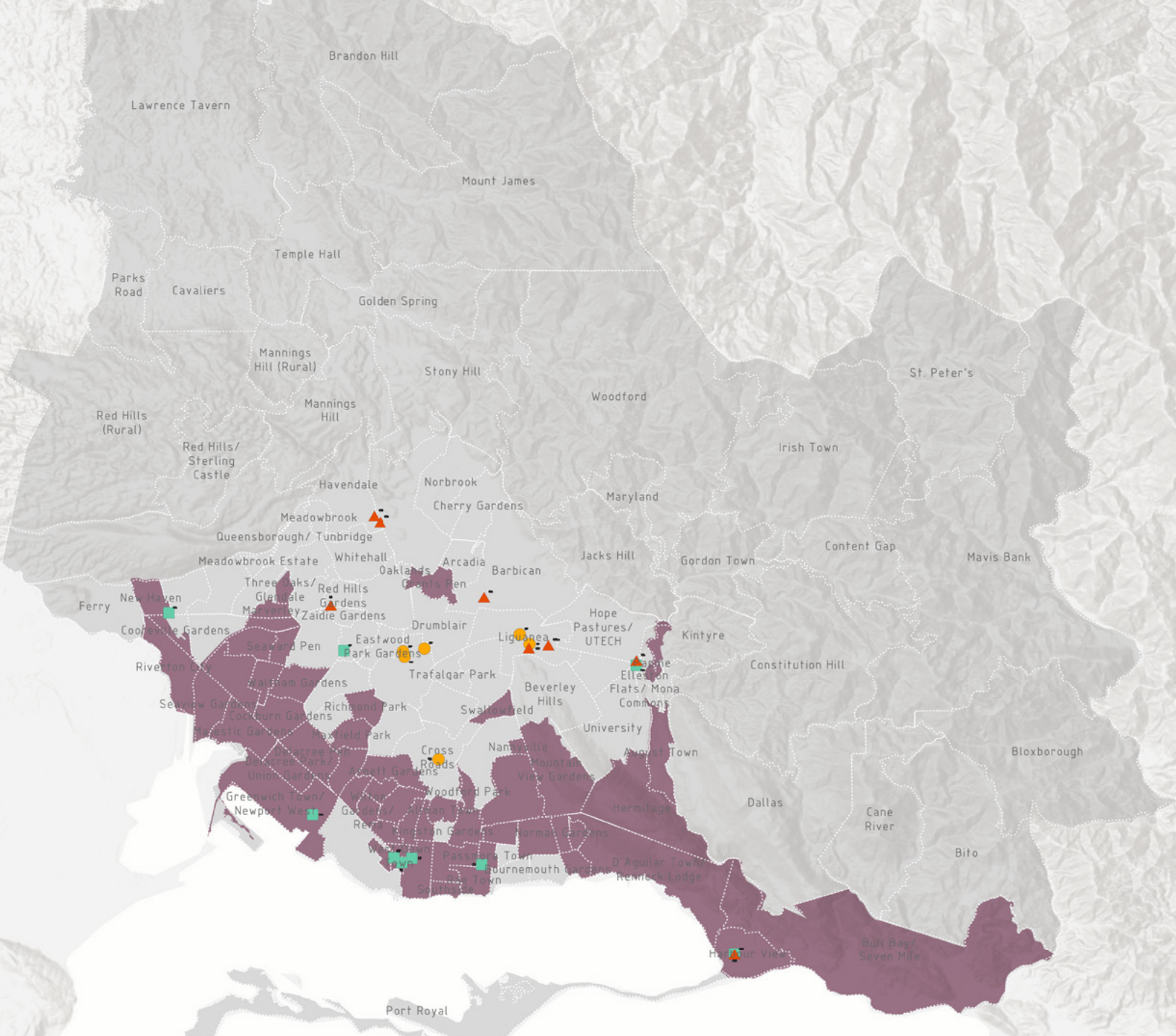




# Uptown/Downtown districts serviced by different types of commerce

COMMERCE/RETAIL

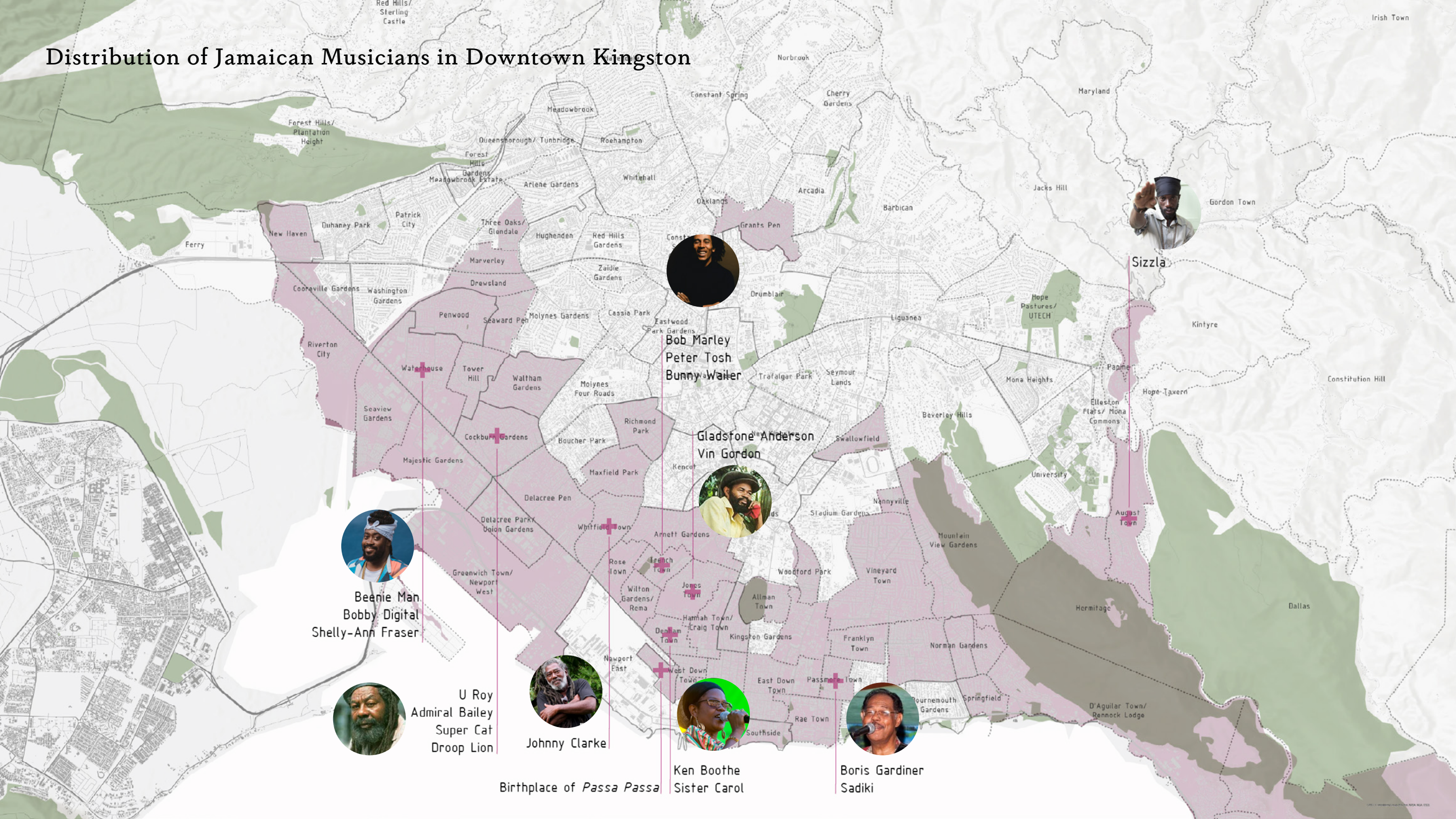
- Markets
- Shopping centres
- Supermarkets



# **Jamaican Music:** A Reflection of the People from Downtown Kingston



# Distribution of Jamaican Musicians in Downtown Kingston





## *Link Up Spots / Endz*: Personal Nodes, Cultural Points of Reference, and Exclusivity



“All these spaces are essentially **personal nodes** or meet up spots that then eventually morph into landmarks or points of reference through **convergence**. A phrase like “*link me pon di endz*” (meet me at the spot) actually consummates and transforms that location from a mere space to a now recognized place; a new datum or **point of reference**.”

These really are **cultural places** that initially start as smaller scale personal spaces in communities. Often, artists from the area may brandish these endz in the music lyrics and music videos, connecting a sense of pride to these intimate spaces. These spaces become more popular as many people gravitate to a now famous place.”

Source: Chambers, Jamal. “A Visual Analysis of Reggae Culture: An Analysis of the Authenticity of the Places and Spaces that Make Reggae Culture.” 2023.



## *A Visual Analysis of Reggae Culture* - Jamal J. Chambers



"The spaces of Reggae are in fact synonymous with the **spaces of authenticity**. The music is a bi-product of the genuine contexts, and the genuine locations that create the genuine vibes that can then birth the inspiration for the music... **the music starts where the real people are, in the real context, where the real vibes are felt. The music starts when people connect.** The music comes from the places and spaces where the real people meet up, link up, hol' a reasonin', hol' a vibe, and par. The music is the gathering of the energies... it is not about the I - **it is about the us, the we.**"

Source: Chambers, Jamal. "A Visual Analysis of Reggae Culture: An Analysis of the Authenticity of the Places and Spaces that Make Reggae Culture." 2023.

Spaces for:

**life**

**laughter**

**relationships**

**commerce**

**gathering**

**sharing**

**events**



# Themes of Jamaican Music

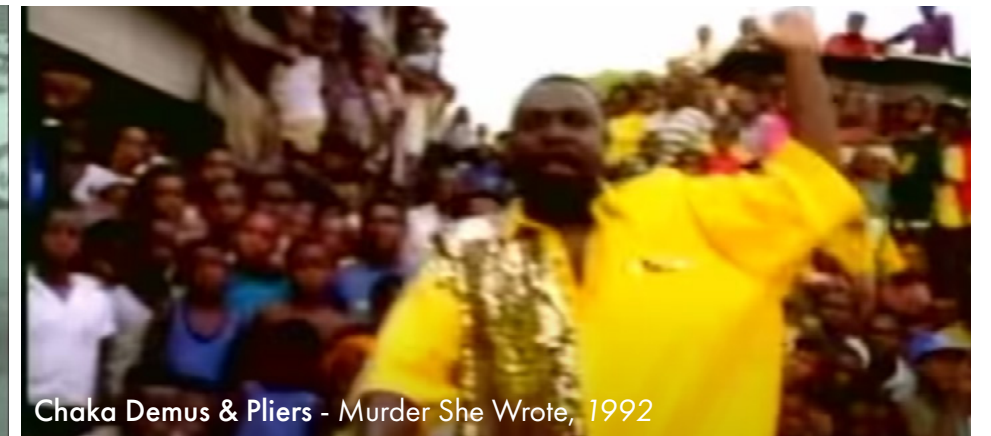
## PERFORMANCE/DANCING



## DOWNTOWN KINGSTON STREETLIFE



## DOWNTOWN KINGSTON STREETLIFE





# Themes of Jamaican Music

## STRUGGLE IN THE GHETTOS



Inner Circle - Bad Boys, 1989



Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley - Welcome to Jamrock, 2005



Popcaan - System, 2013

## RASTAFARI & PAN-AFRICAN SYMBOLISM



Bob Marley & The Wailers - Redemption Song, 1980



Sizzla - Thank U Mama, 2002



Proteje - Who Knows (ft. Chronixx), 2015

## LUSH TROPICAL LANDSCAPES



Jesse Royal - Modern Day Judas, 2013



Shaggy, Rayvon - In the Summertime, 2009

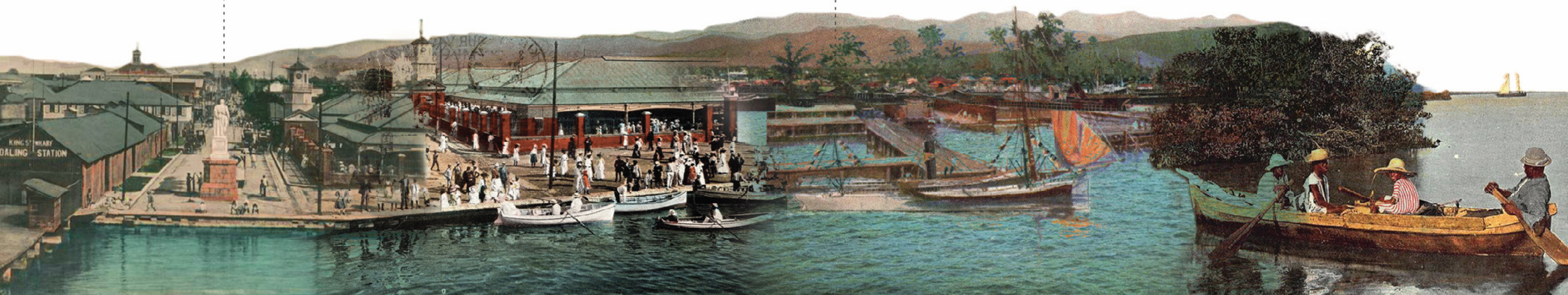


Tarrus Riley - Simple Blessings (ft. Konshens), 2017

Taking a Glance into Downtown Kingston



# Victoria Pier: Historical Waterfront





# King Street & Harbour Street: Historical Civic & Commercial Corridors

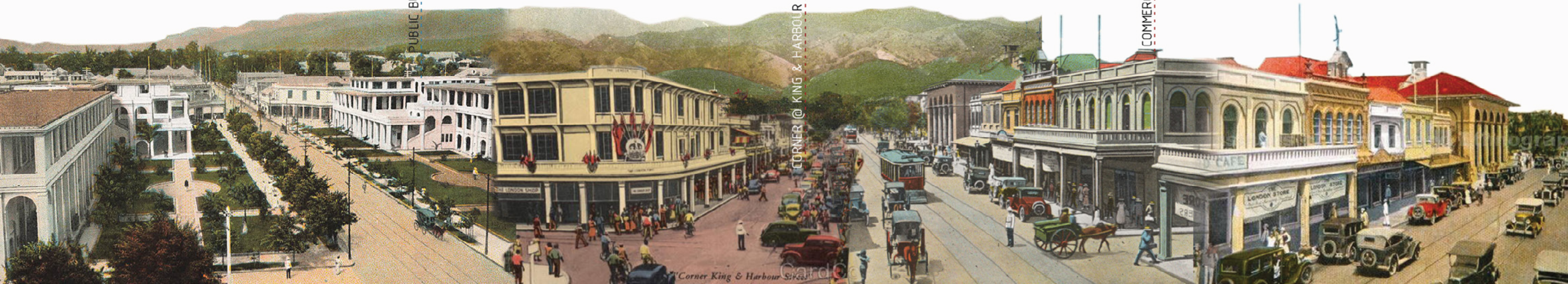
- COMMERCIAL
- OFFICE
- GOVERNMENT
- CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
- RESIDENTIAL
- OPEN SPACE



PUBLIC BUILDING ON KING STREET

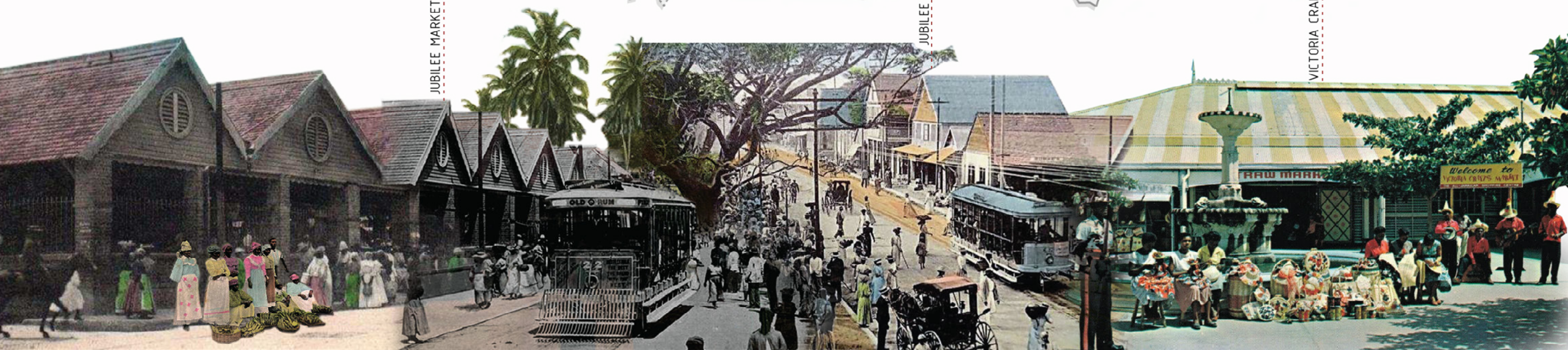
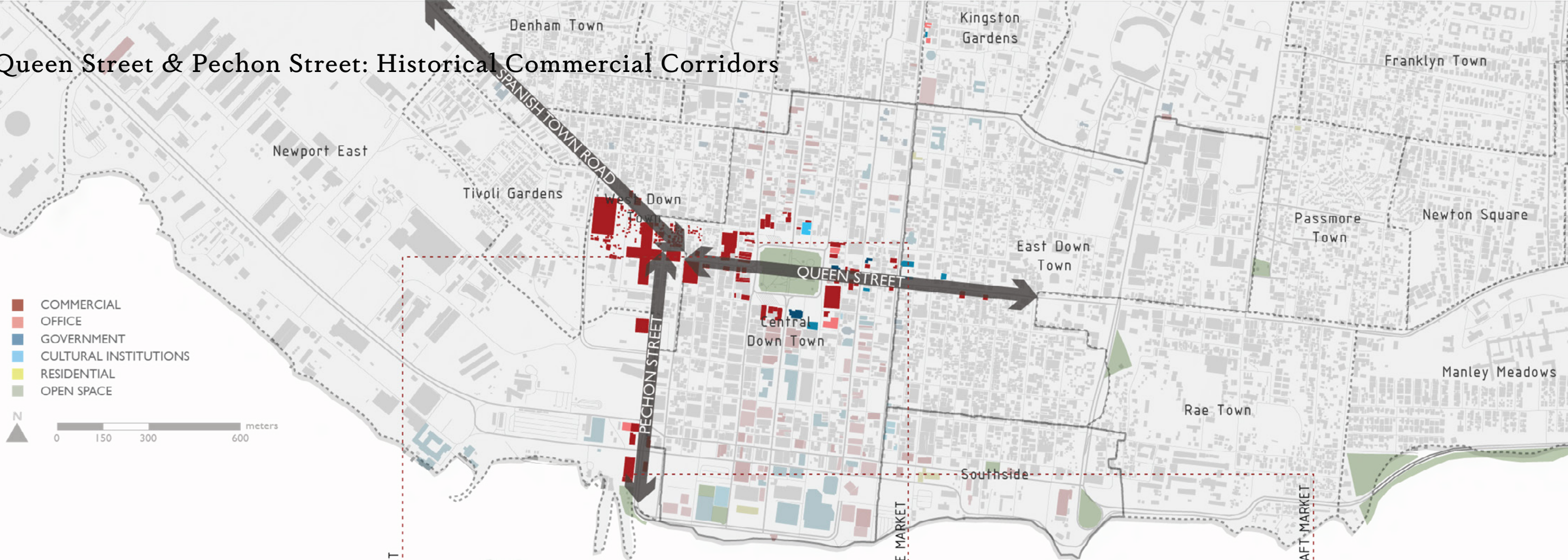
CORNER @ KING & HARBOUR STREET

COMMERCE ON KING STREET



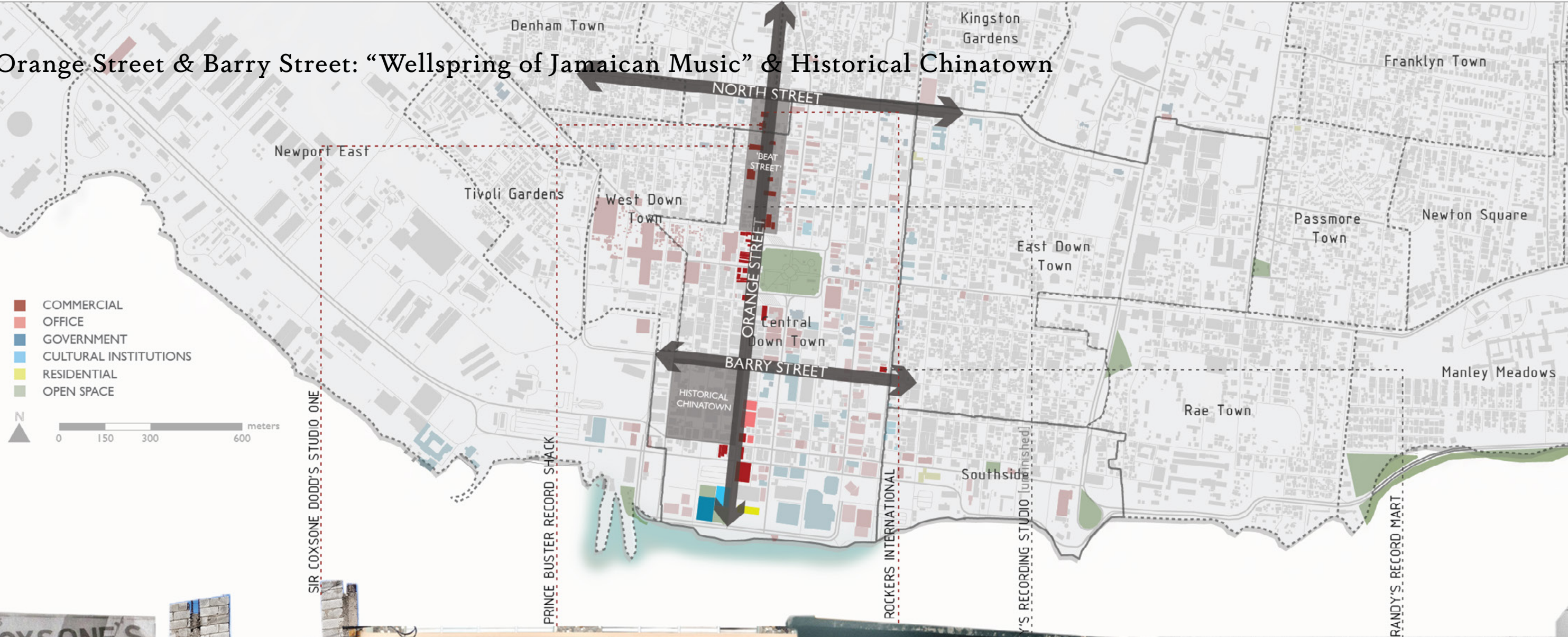


# Queen Street & Pechon Street: Historical Commercial Corridors



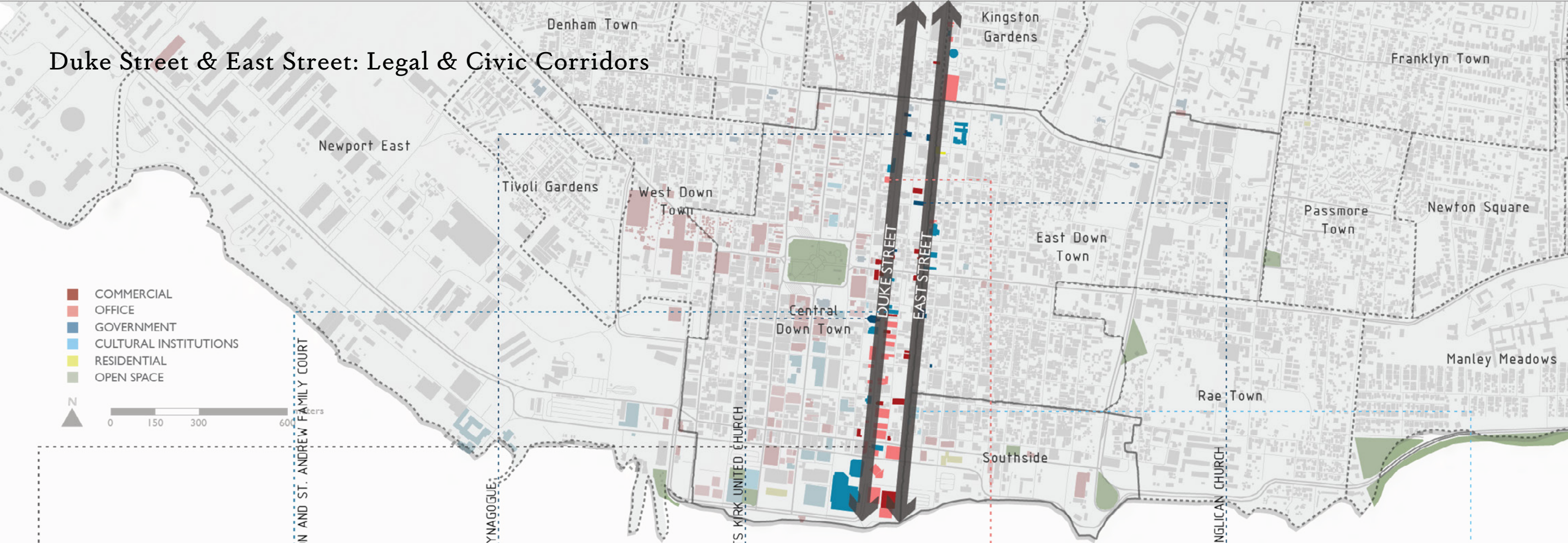


# Orange Street & Barry Street: “Wellspring of Jamaican Music” & Historical Chinatown





# Duke Street & East Street: Legal & Civic Corridors





# Beat Street Design Proposal



## Downtown Kingston: Existing Primary Network





# Establishing Beat Street Spine





# Beat Street: Music + Community

- COMMERCIAL
- OFFICE
- GOVERNMENT
- CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
- RESIDENTIAL
- OPEN SPACE
- HISTORICAL BEAT STREET
- MUSIC + STREETLIFE
- ENTERTAINMENT ZONE
- MUSIC + ECOLOGY



Spaces for:  
**record stores**  
**neighborhood**  
**pocket parks**



**Beat Street: Music + Streetlife**

Denham Town

Kingston Gardens

North Street

Rockers International Records

Prince Buster Record Shack

Kingston 3 Entertainment

Newport East

Tivoli Gardens

Coronation Market

Heywood Street

Orange Street

Queen Street

Jubilee Market

East Down Town

Central Down Town

Southside

Rae Town

Victoria Pier

Commercial

Office

Government

Cultural Institutions

Residential

Open Space

Historical Beat Street

Music + Streetlife

Entertainment Zone

Music + Ecology

Spaces for:

- live performances
- sharing of food
- preparing of food
- board games
- recreation

0 100 200 400 meters

**Beat Street: Music + Streetlife**

Denham Town

Kingston Gardens

North Street

Rockers International Records

Prince Buster Record Shack

Kingston 3 Entertainment

Newport East

Tivoli Gardens

Coronation Market

Heywood Street

Downtown Kingston Market

Jubilee Market

Queen Street

East Down Town

Central Down Town

Southside

Rae Town

Victoria Pier

Legend:

- COMMERCIAL
- OFFICE
- GOVERNMENT
- CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
- RESIDENTIAL
- OPEN SPACE
- HISTORICAL BEAT STREET
- MUSIC + STREETLIFE
- ENTERTAINMENT ZONE
- MUSIC + ECOLOGY

Spaces for:

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- preparing of food
- board games
- recreation

0 100 200 400 meters



**Beat Street: Music + Streetlife**

Denham Town

Kingston Gardens

North Street

ROCKERS INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

PRINCE BUSTER RECORD SHACK

KINGSTON 3 ENTERTAINMENT

Newport East

Tivoli Gardens

Central Down Town

HEYWOOD STREET

ORANGE STREET

QUEEN STREET

JUBILEE MARKET

East Down Town

Southside

Rae Town

VICTORIA PIER

COMMERCIAL

OFFICE

GOVERNMENT

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

RESIDENTIAL

OPEN SPACE

HISTORICAL BEAT STREET

MUSIC + STREETLIFE

ENTERTAINMENT ZONE

MUSIC + ECOLOGY

CORONATION MARKET

DOWNTOWN KINGSTON MARKET

Spaces for:

- live performances
- sharing of food
- preparing of food
- board games
- recreation

0 100 200 400 meters



**Beat Street: Music + Streetlife**

Denham Town

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North Street

Rockers International Records

Prince Buster Record Shack

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Heywood Street

Coronation Market

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Residential

Open Space

Historical Beat Street

Music + Streetlife

Entertainment Zone

Music + Ecology

Spaces for:

- live performances
- sharing of food
- preparing of food
- board games
- recreation

0 100 200 400 meters



**Beat Street: Music + Entertainment**

Denham Town

Kingston Gardens

North Street

ROCKERS INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

PRINCE BUSTER RECORD SHACK

KINGSTON 3 ENTERTAINMENT

Newport East

Tivoli Gardens

st. Down Town

CORONATION MARKET

HEYWOOD STREET

DOWNTOWN KINGSTON MARKET

JUBILEE MARKET

QUEEN STREET

East Down Town

Central Down Town

BARRY STREET

HARBOUR STREET

Rae Town

Southside

VICTORIA PIER

Legend:

- COMMERCIAL
- OFFICE
- GOVERNMENT
- CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
- RESIDENTIAL
- OPEN SPACE
- HISTORICAL BEAT STREET
- MUSIC + STREETLIFE
- ENTERTAINMENT ZONE
- MUSIC + ECOLOGY

Spaces for:

- nightclubs
- bars
- art galleries
- street performance

Scale: 0 100 200 400 meters

**Beat Street: Music + Entertainment**

Denham Town

Kingston Gardens

North Street

ROCKERS INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

PRINCE BUSTER RECORD SHACK

KINGSTON 3 ENTERTAINMENT

Newport East

Tivoli Gardens

st. Down Town

CORONATION MARKET

HEYWOOD STREET

DOWNTOWN KINGSTON MARKET

JUBILEE MARKET

Queen Street

East Down Town

Central Down Town

Barry Street

Rae Town

Southside

Harbour Street

VICTORIA PIER

COMMERCIAL

OFFICE

GOVERNMENT

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

RESIDENTIAL

OPEN SPACE

HISTORICAL BEAT STREET

MUSIC + STREETLIFE

ENTERTAINMENT ZONE

MUSIC + ECOLOGY

Spaces for:

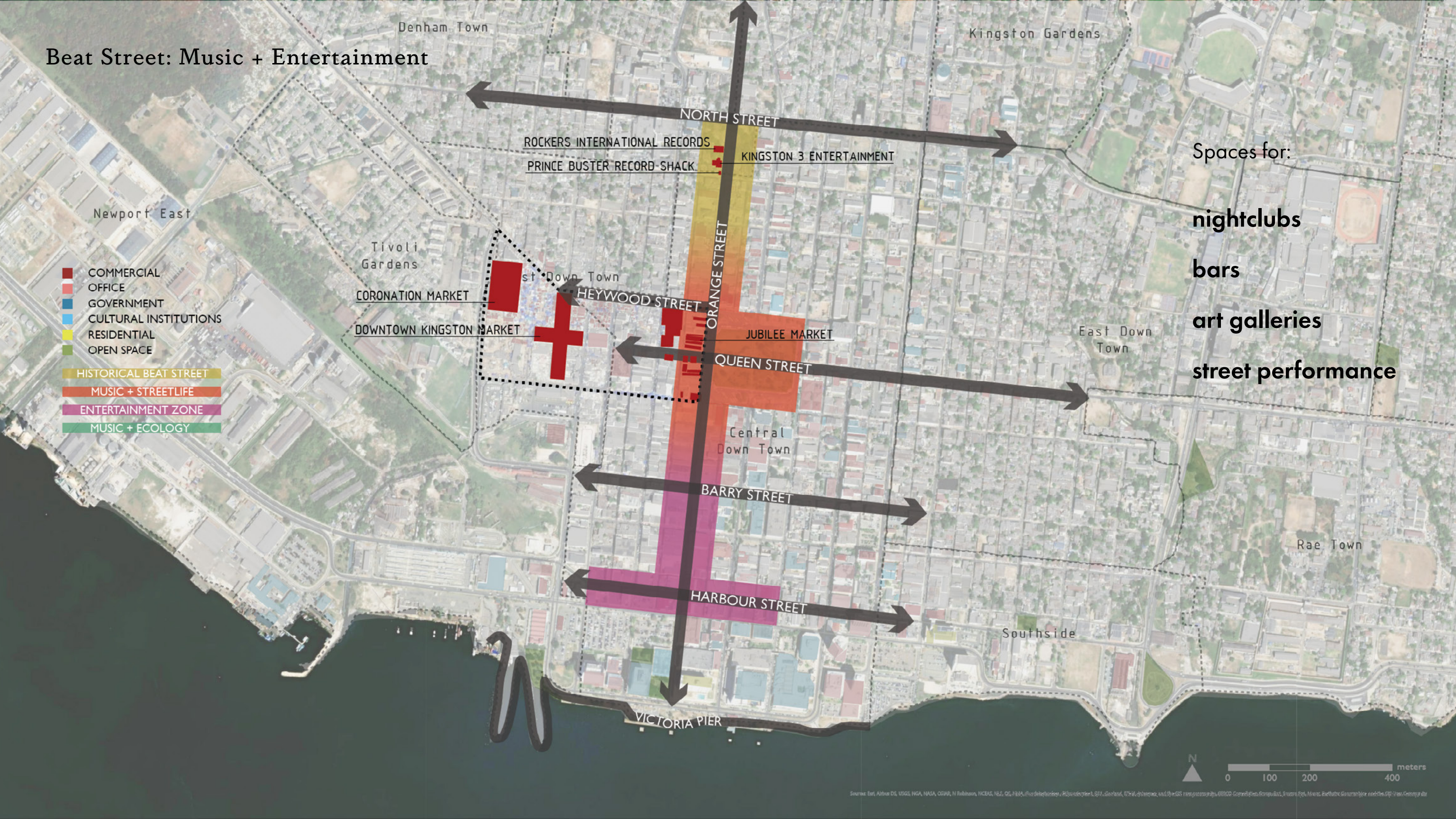
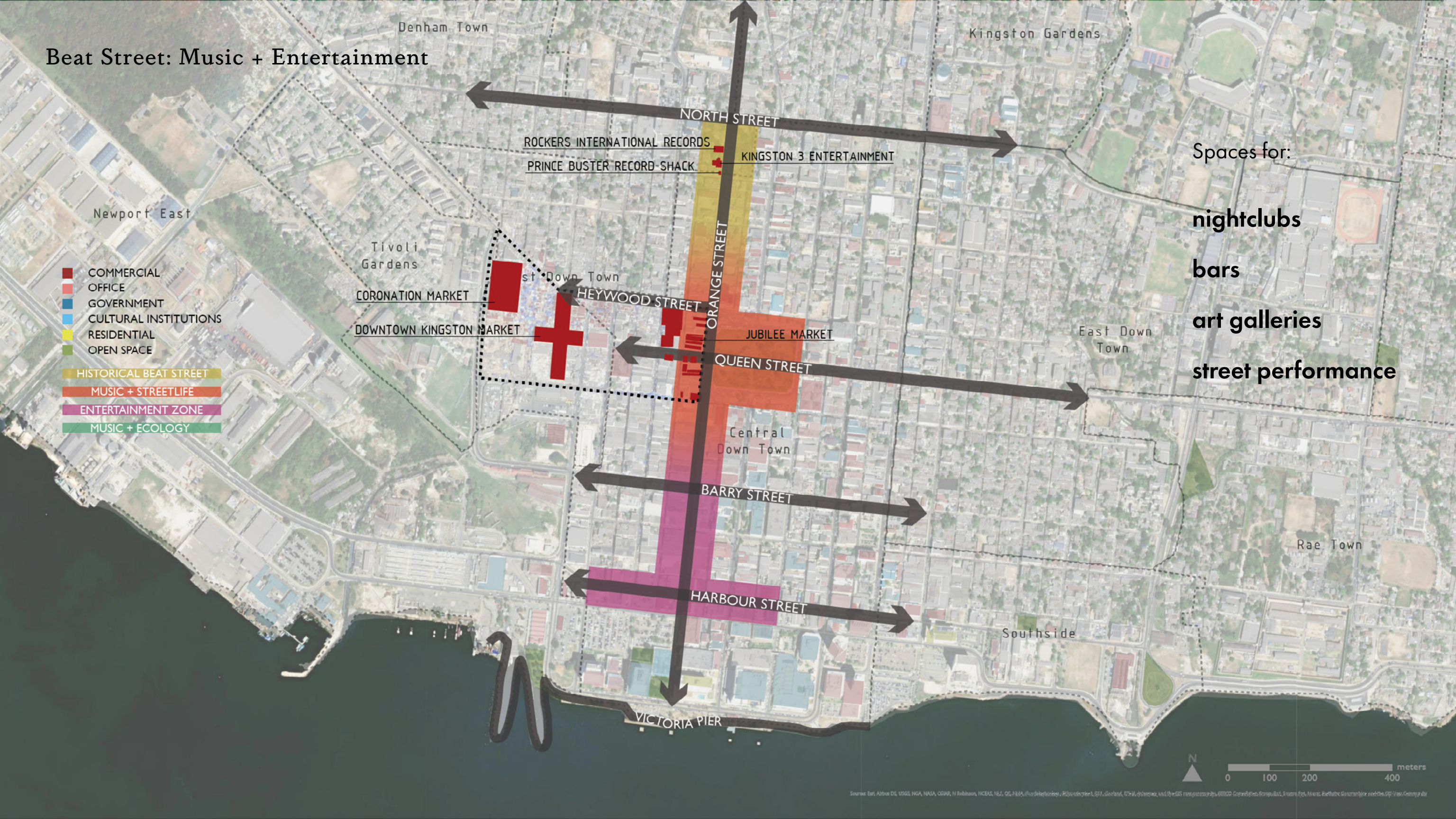
nightclubs

bars

art galleries

street performance

0 100 200 400 meters

[illegible]

**Beat Street: Music + Entertainment**

Denham Town

Kingston Gardens

Spaces for:

- nightclubs
- bars
- art galleries
- street performance

NEWPORT EAST

Tivoli Gardens

CORONATION MARKET

DOWNTOWN KINGSTON MARKET

st. Down Town

HEYWOOD STREET

JUBILEE MARKET

Central Down Town

East Down Town

Rae Town

Southside

VICTORIA PIER

LEGEND:

- COMMERCIAL
- OFFICE
- GOVERNMENT
- CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
- RESIDENTIAL
- OPEN SPACE
- HISTORICAL BEAT STREET
- MUSIC + STREETLIFE
- ENTERTAINMENT ZONE
- MUSIC + ECOLOGY

Streets:

- NORTH STREET
- ORANGE STREET
- QUEEN STREET
- BARRY STREET
- HARBOUR STREET

Other locations:

- ROCKERS INTERNATIONAL RECORDS
- PRINCE BUSTER RECORD SHACK
- KINGSTON 3 ENTERTAINMENT

Scale: 0 100 200 400 meters



**Beat Street: Music + Ecology**

Denham Town

Kingston Gardens

Newport East

Tivoli Gardens

Central Down Town

East Down Town

Rae Town

Southside

VICTORIA PIER

HARBOUR STREET

BARRY STREET

QUEEN STREET

HEYWOOD STREET

JUBILEE MARKET

DOWNTOWN KINGSTON MARKET

CORONATION MARKET

PRINCE BUSTER RECORD SHACK

ROCKERS INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

KINGSTON 3 ENTERTAINMENT

NORTH STREET

ORANGE STREET

St. Down Town

Spaces for:

- live performance
- sound clash parties
- celebration
- resilience

COMMERCIAL

OFFICE

GOVERNMENT

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

RESIDENTIAL

OPEN SPACE

HISTORICAL BEAT STREET

MUSIC + STREETLIFE

ENTERTAINMENT ZONE

MUSIC + ECOLOGY

0 100 200 400 meters

**Beat Street: Music + Ecology**

Denham Town

Newport East

Tivoli Gardens

CORONATION MARKET

DOWNTOWN KINGSTON MARKET

st. Down Town

HEYWOOD STREET

JUBILEE MARKET

Central Down Town

East Down Town

Rae Town

Southside

VICTORIA PIER

NORTH STREET

ORANGE STREET

QUEEN STREET

BARRY STREET

HARBOUR STREET

KINGSTON 3 ENTERTAINMENT

ROCKERS INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

PRINCE BUSTER RECORD SHACK

LEGEND:

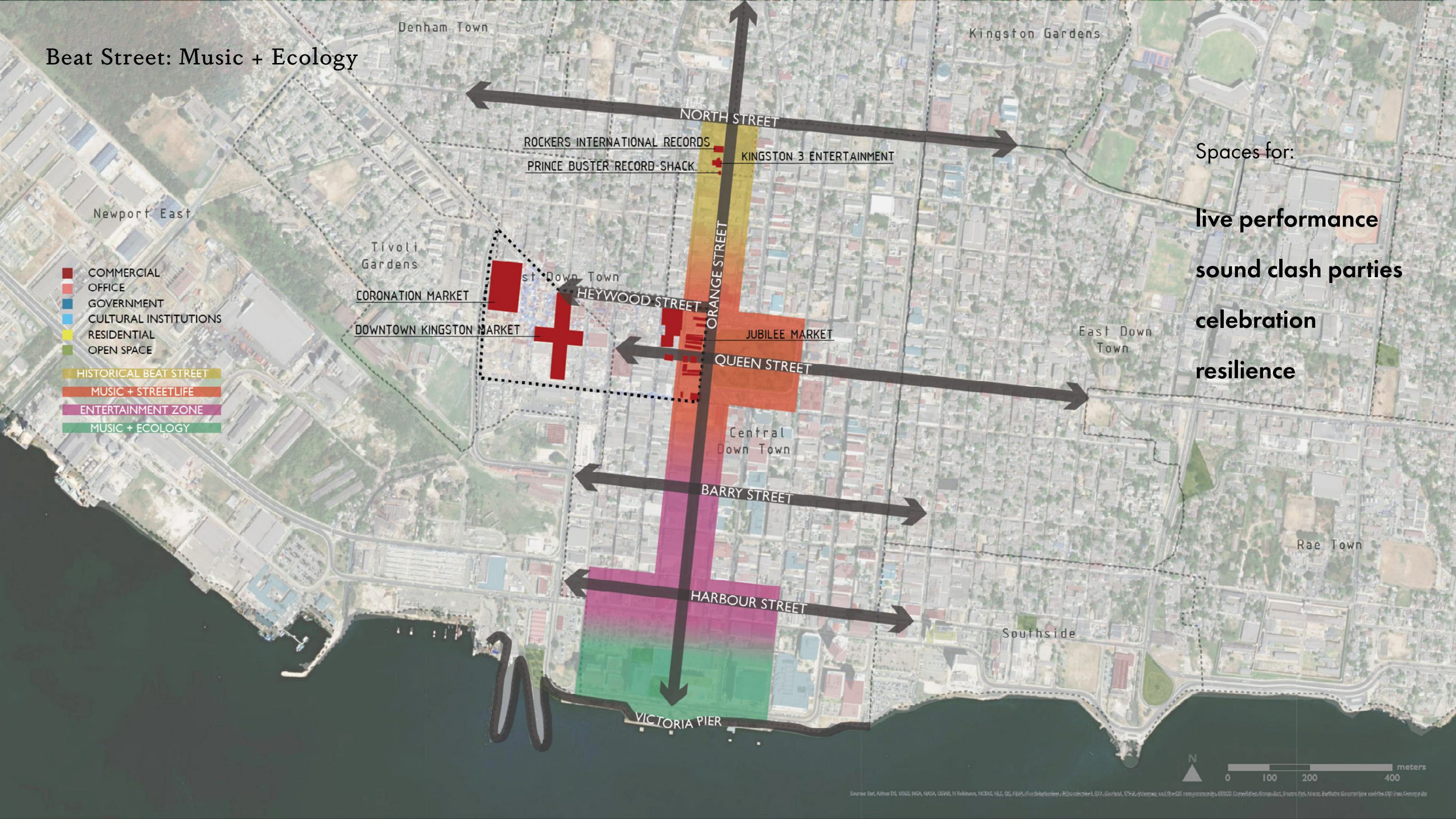
- COMMERCIAL
- OFFICE
- GOVERNMENT
- CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
- RESIDENTIAL
- OPEN SPACE
- HISTORICAL BEAT STREET
- MUSIC + STREETLIFE
- ENTERTAINMENT ZONE
- MUSIC + ECOLOGY

Spaces for:

- live performance
- sound clash parties
- celebration
- resilience

Scale: 0 100 200 400 meters

Source: Esri, Airphoto DS, USGS, NOAA, NASA, OSM, N. Robinson, HERE, NLS, OS, FEMA, iStockphoto.com, Pixabay.com, SPT, Google, ETW, iStockphoto, and other GIS mapping providers. ©2020 Copyrights Reserved. All Rights Reserved. Kingston, Jamaica. All rights reserved.





**Beat Street: Weaving through the Beats**

The map illustrates the urban fabric of downtown Kingston, Jamaica, centered around the historic Beat Street corridor. Key features include:

- Neighborhoods:** Denham Town, Newport East, Tivoli Gardens, Central Down Town, East Down Town, Rae Town, Southside, and Kingston Gardens.
- Streets:** NORTH STREET, ORANGE STREET, HEYWOOD STREET, QUEEN STREET, BARRY STREET, HARBOUR STREET, and VICTORIA PIER.
- Landmarks:** ROCKERS INTERNATIONAL RECORDS, PRINCE BUSTER RECORD SHACK, KINGSTON 3 ENTERTAINMENT, CORONATION MARKET, DOWNTOWN KINGSTON MARKET, JUBILEE MARKET, and VICTORIA PIER.
- Color-Coded Zones:**
  - HISTORICAL BEAT STREET (Yellow)
  - MUSIC + STREETLIFE (Orange)
  - ENTERTAINMENT ZONE (Pink)
  - MUSIC + ECOLOGY (Green)
- Legend:**
  - COMMERCIAL (Red)
  - OFFICE (Light Red)
  - GOVERNMENT (Blue)
  - CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS (Light Blue)
  - RESIDENTIAL (Grey)
  - OPEN SPACE (Green)
- Scale and Orientation:** A scale bar indicates distances up to 400 meters, and a north arrow points towards the top right.

- [illegible]

**Beat Street: Weaving through the Beats**

Denham Town

Kingston Gardens

North Street

Rockers International Records

Prince Buster Record Shack

Kingston 3 Entertainment

Newport East

Tivoli Gardens

Coronation Market

St. Down Town

Heywood Street

Jubilee Market

Queen Street

East Down Town

Central Down Town

Barry Street

Harbour Street

Southside

Rae Town

Victoria Pier

**Legend:**

- COMMERCIAL
- OFFICE
- GOVERNMENT
- CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
- RESIDENTIAL
- OPEN SPACE
- HISTORICAL BEAT STREET
- MUSIC + STREETLIFE
- ENTERTAINMENT ZONE
- MUSIC + ECOLOGY

0 100 200 400 meters



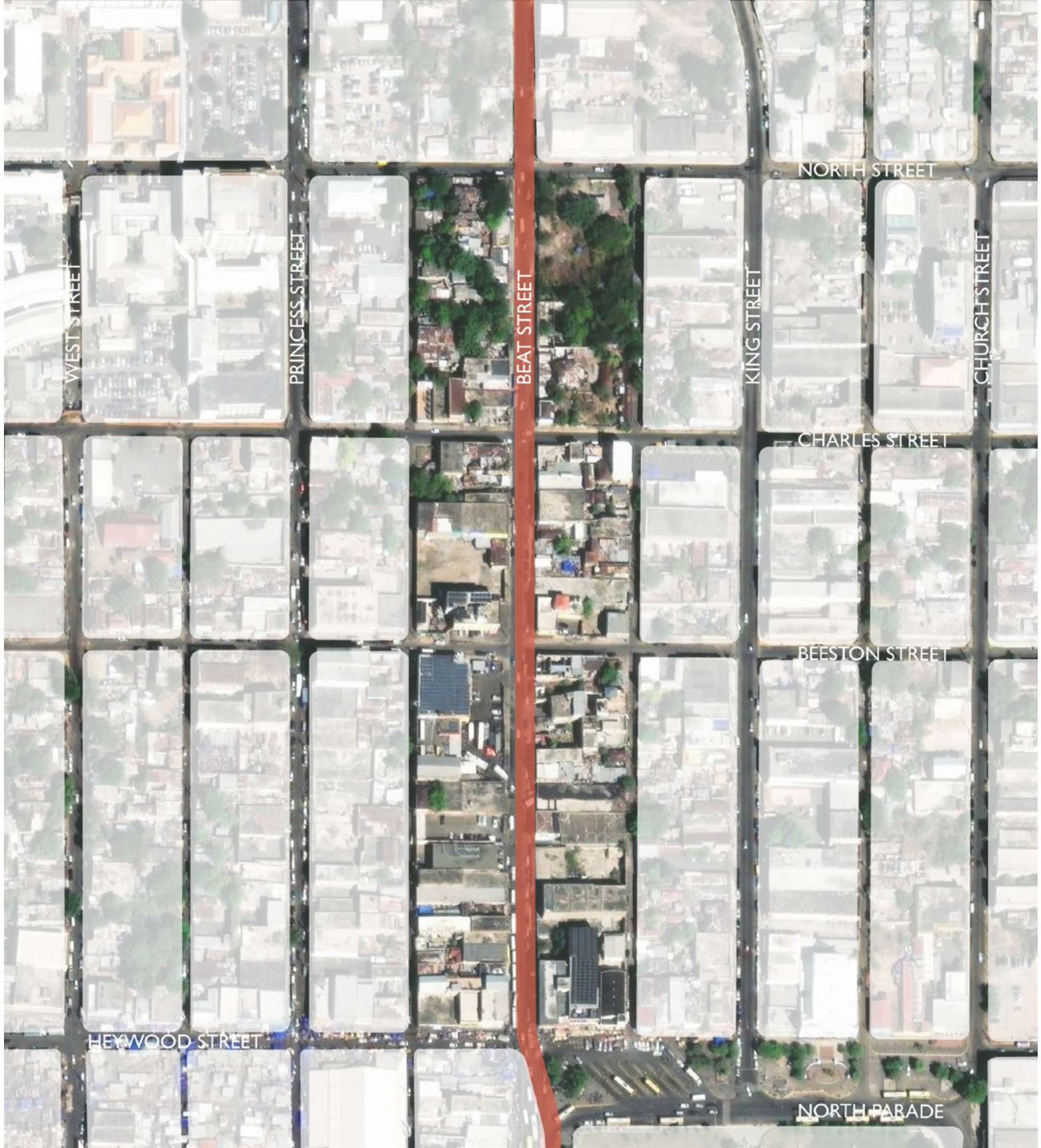
# Plan overview of design implementation

- BEAT STREET OPEN SPACES
- GREEN SPACE
- BEACH
- BUILDINGS FOOTPRINTS





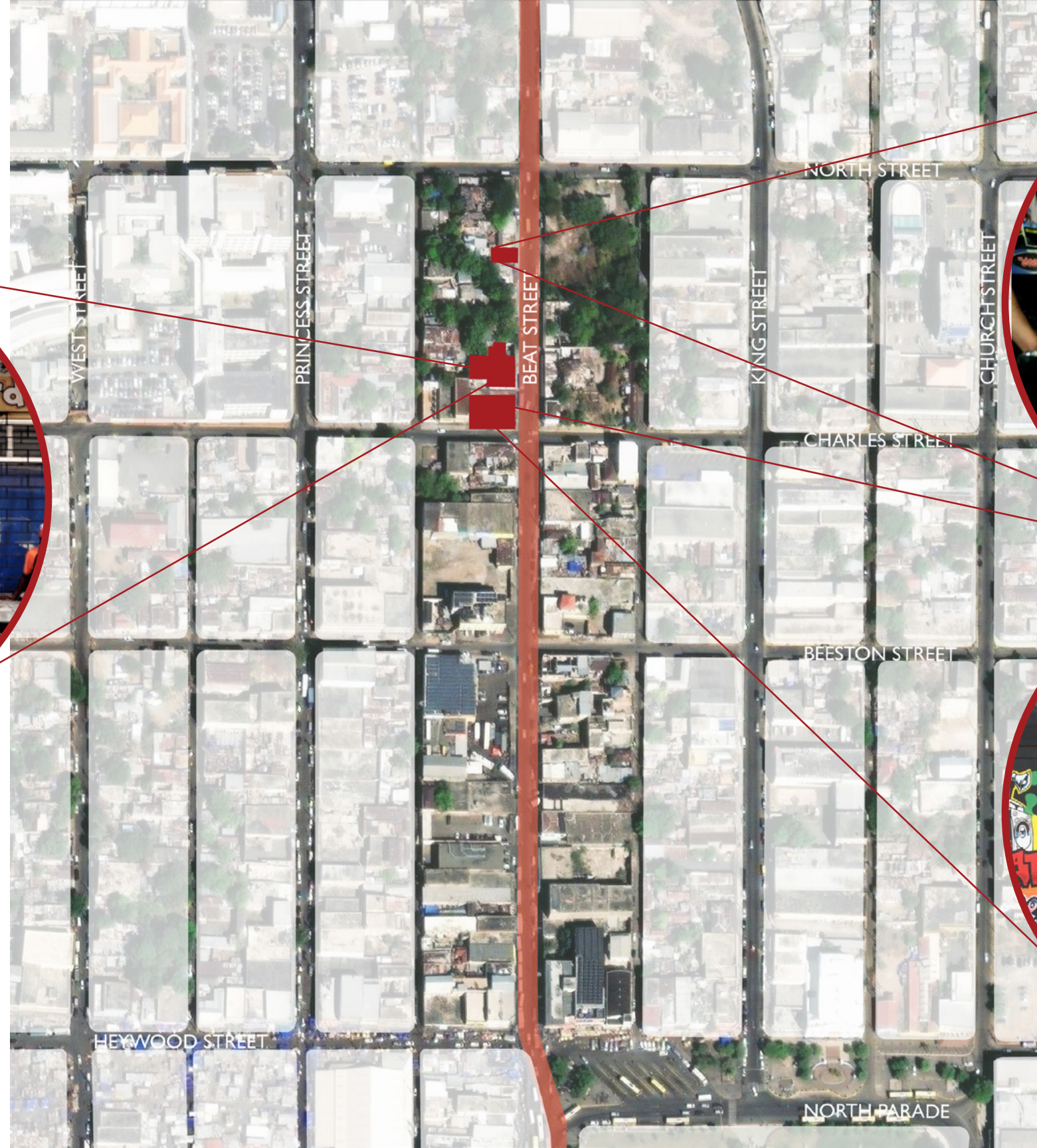
# **Beat Street:** *Music + Community*







PRINCE BUSTER RECORD SHACK



ROCKERS INTERNATIONAL

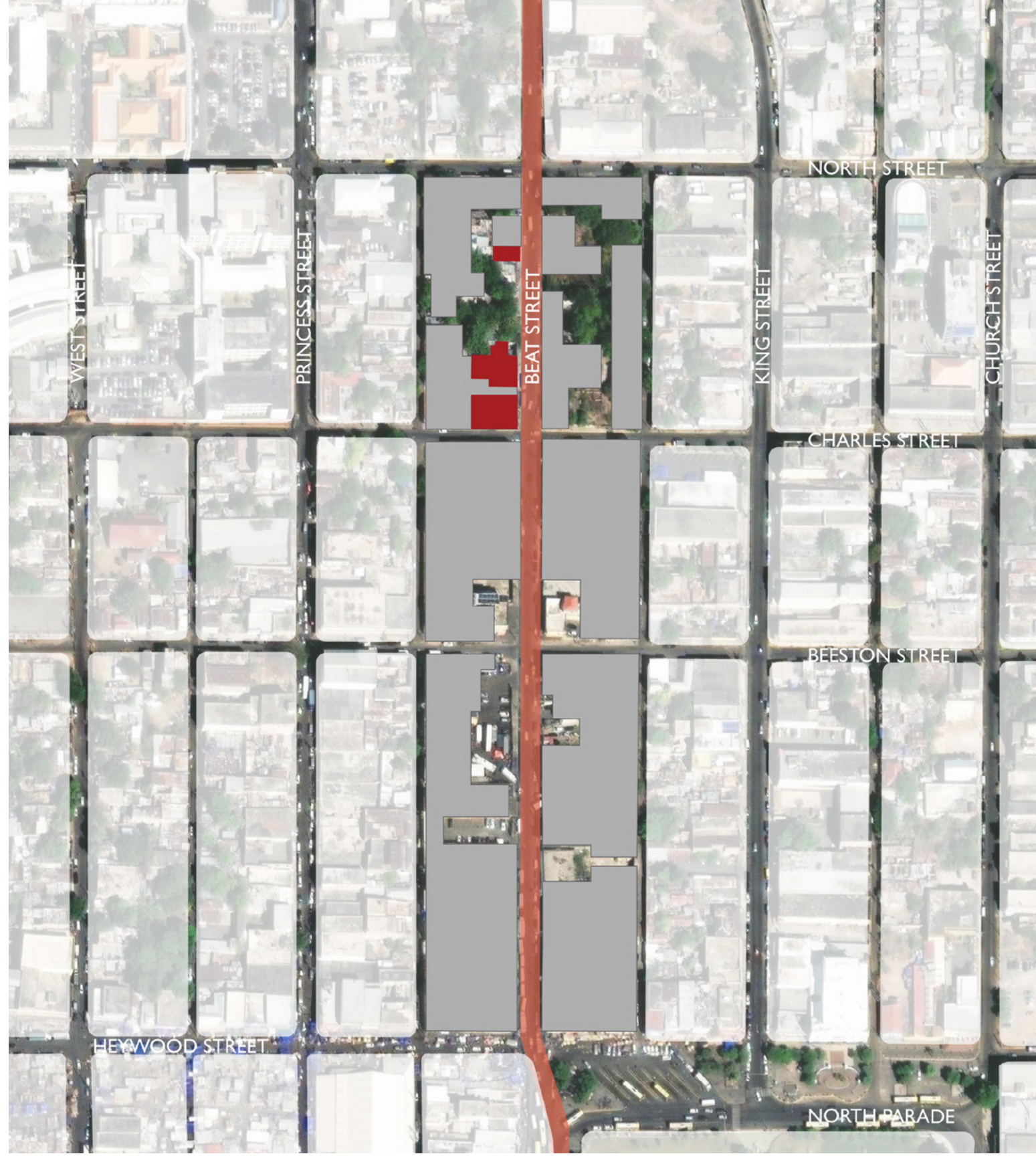


STUDIO ONE

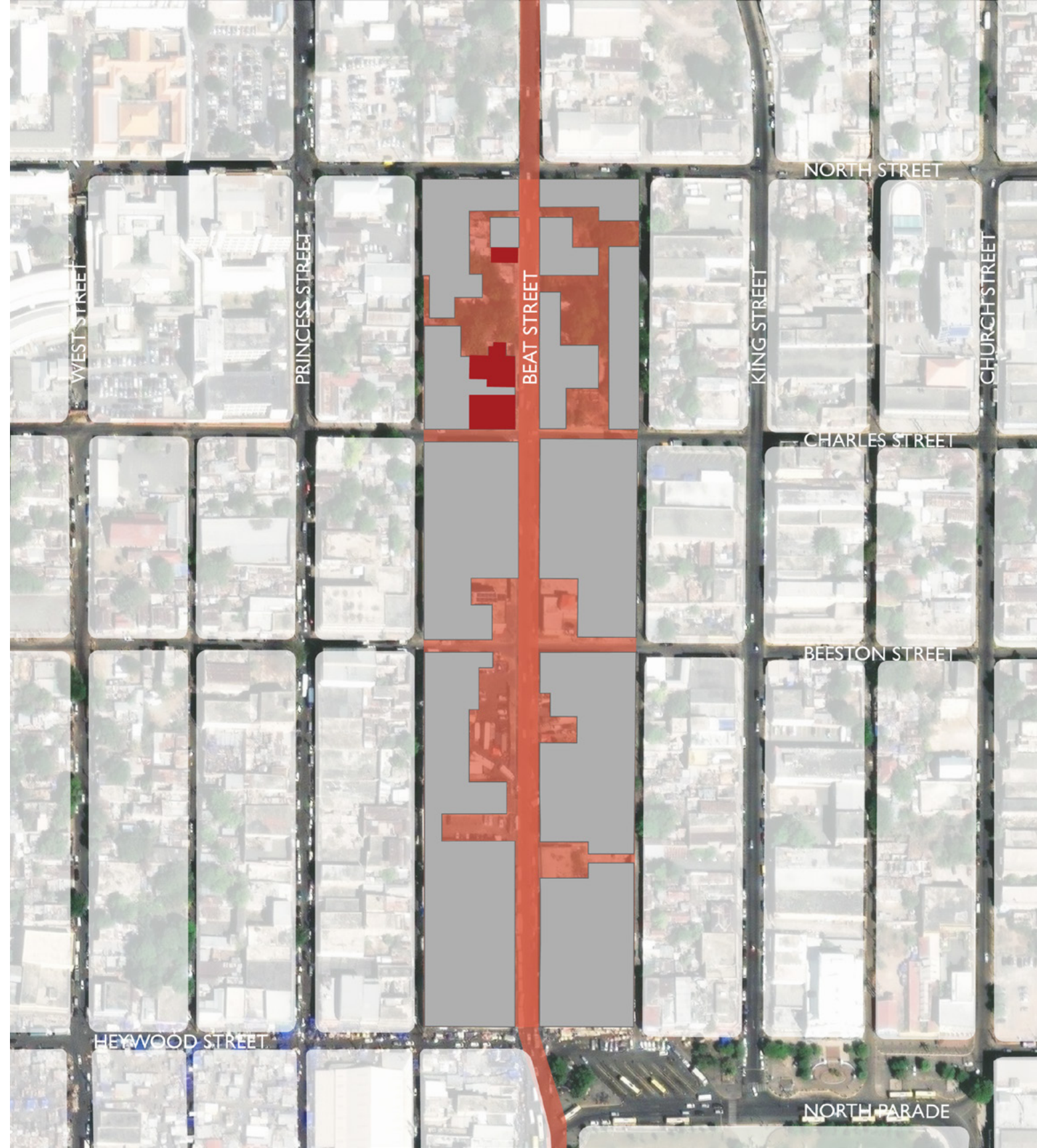




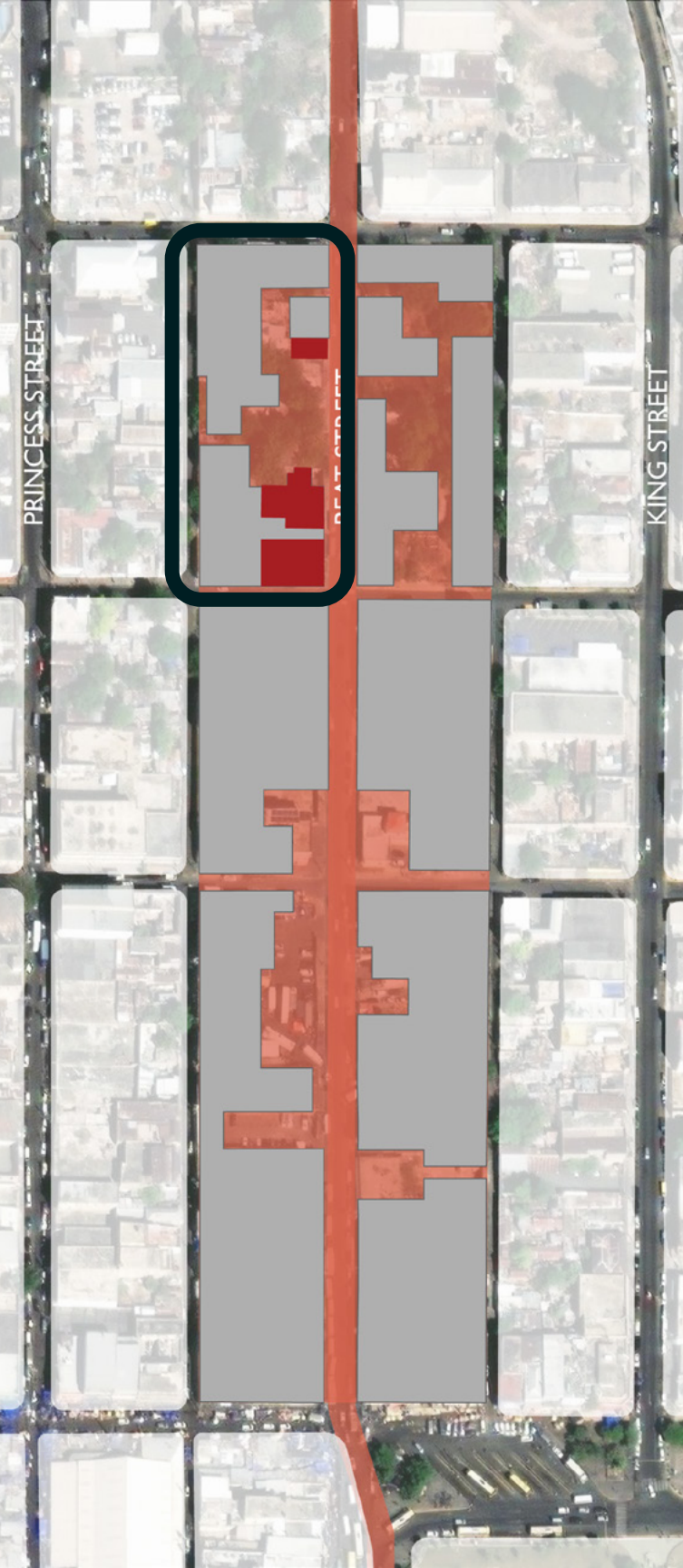














# **Beat Street:** Music + Streetlife





HEYWOOD STREET

QUEEN STREET

BECKFORD STREET

WEST STREET

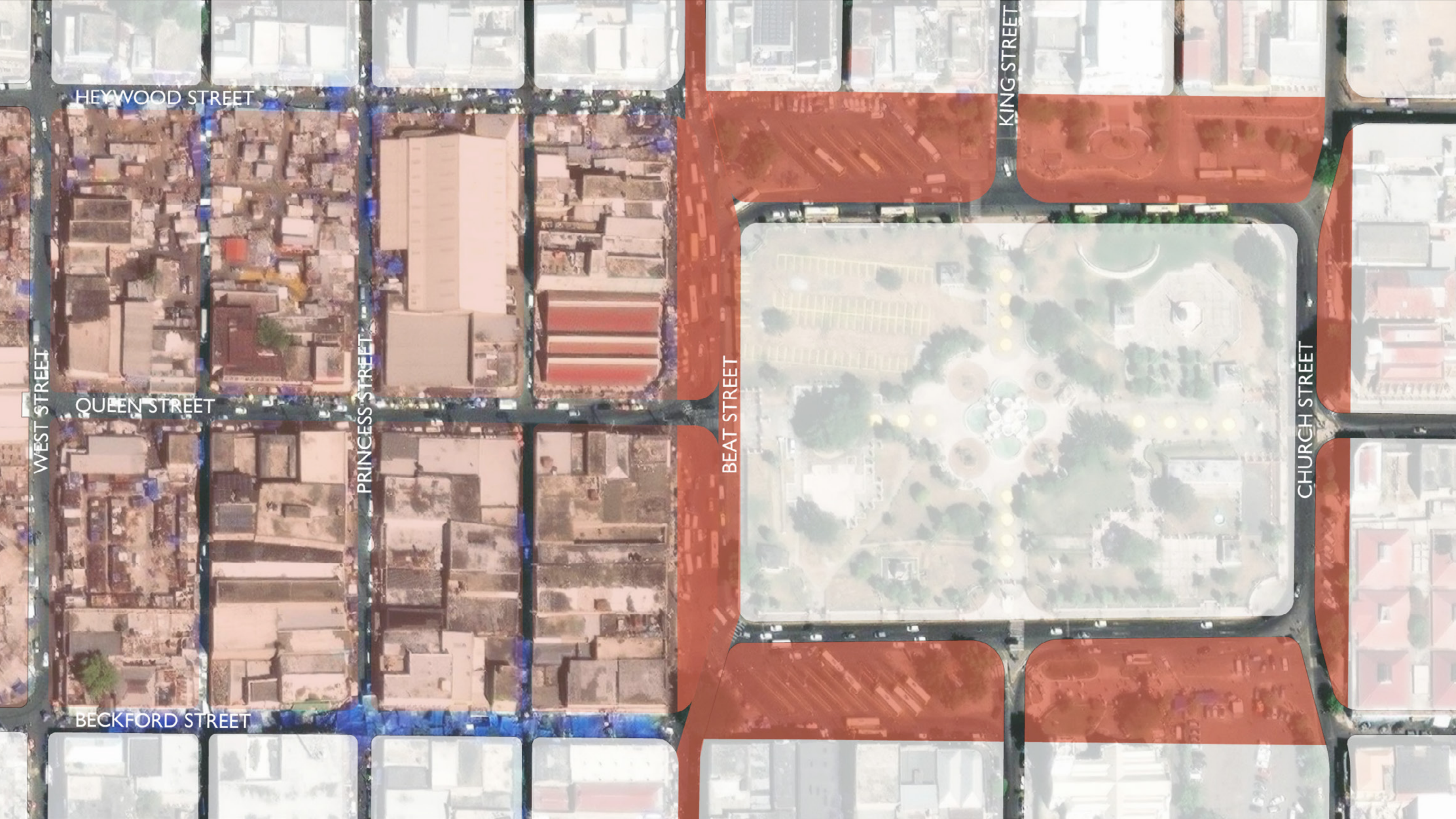
PRINCESS STREET

BEAT STREET

KING STREET

CHURCH STREET





HEYWOOD STREET

QUEEN STREET

BECKFORD STREET

WEST STREET

PRINCESS STREET

BEAT STREET

KING STREET

CHURCH STREET



HEYWOOD STREET

KING STREET

WEST STREET

QUEEN STREET

PRINCESS STREET

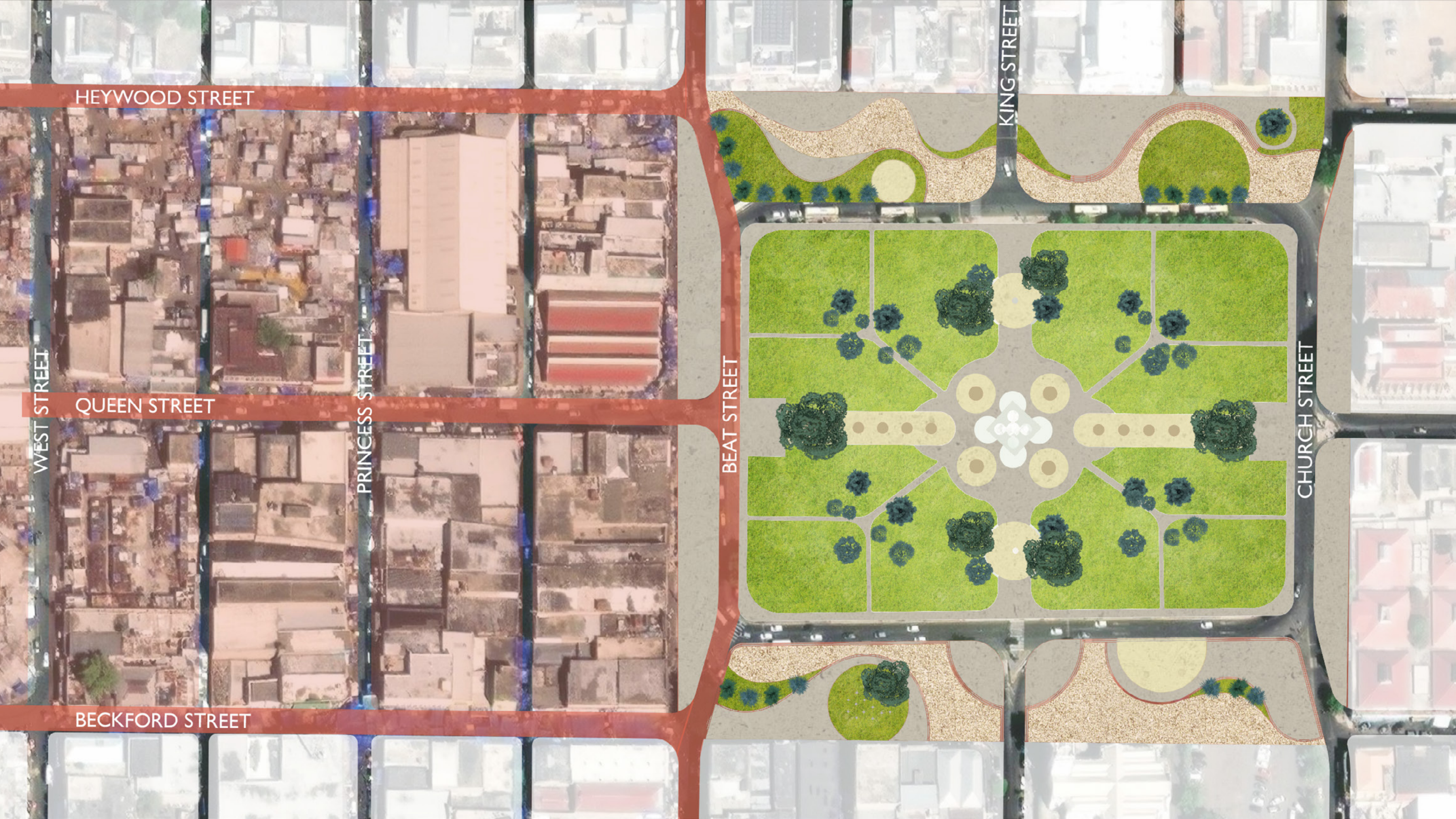
BEAT STREET

CHURCH STREET

BECKFORD STREET







HEYWOOD STREET

QUEEN STREET

BECKFORD STREET

WEST STREET

PRINCESS STREET

BEAT STREET

KING STREET

CHURCH STREET







# **Beat Street:** *Music + History*



Architectural Features between Harbour + Barry Street













# **Beat Street:** *Music + Ecology*





PECHON STREET

WEST STREET

PRINCESS STREET

BEAT STREET

KING STREET

PORT ROYAL STREET

OCEAN BOULEVARD



PORT ROYAL STREET







PORT ROYAL STREET

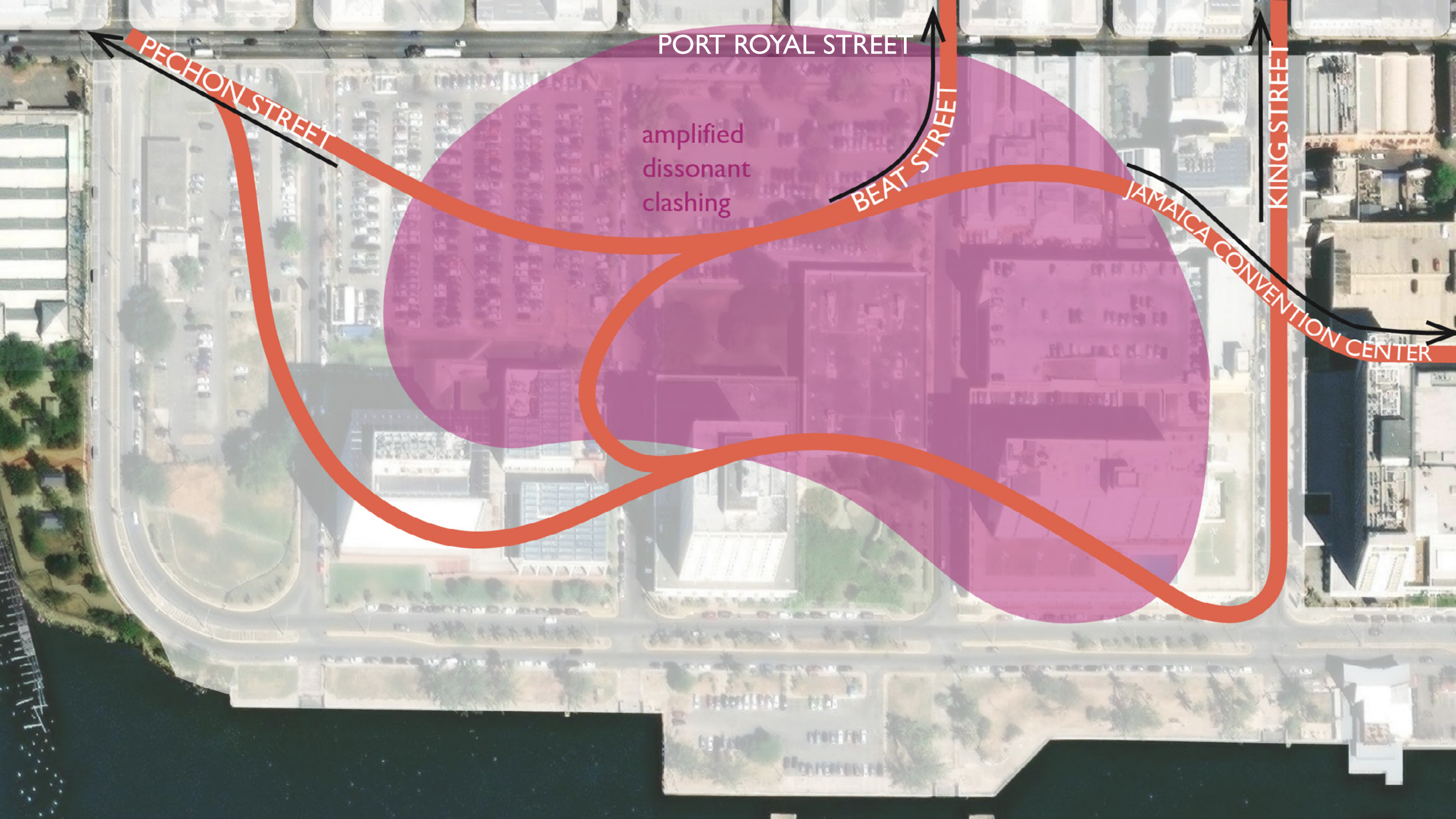
PECHON STREET

BEAT STREET

KING STREET

JAMAICA CONVENTION CENTER





PORT ROYAL STREET

amplified  
dissonant  
clashing

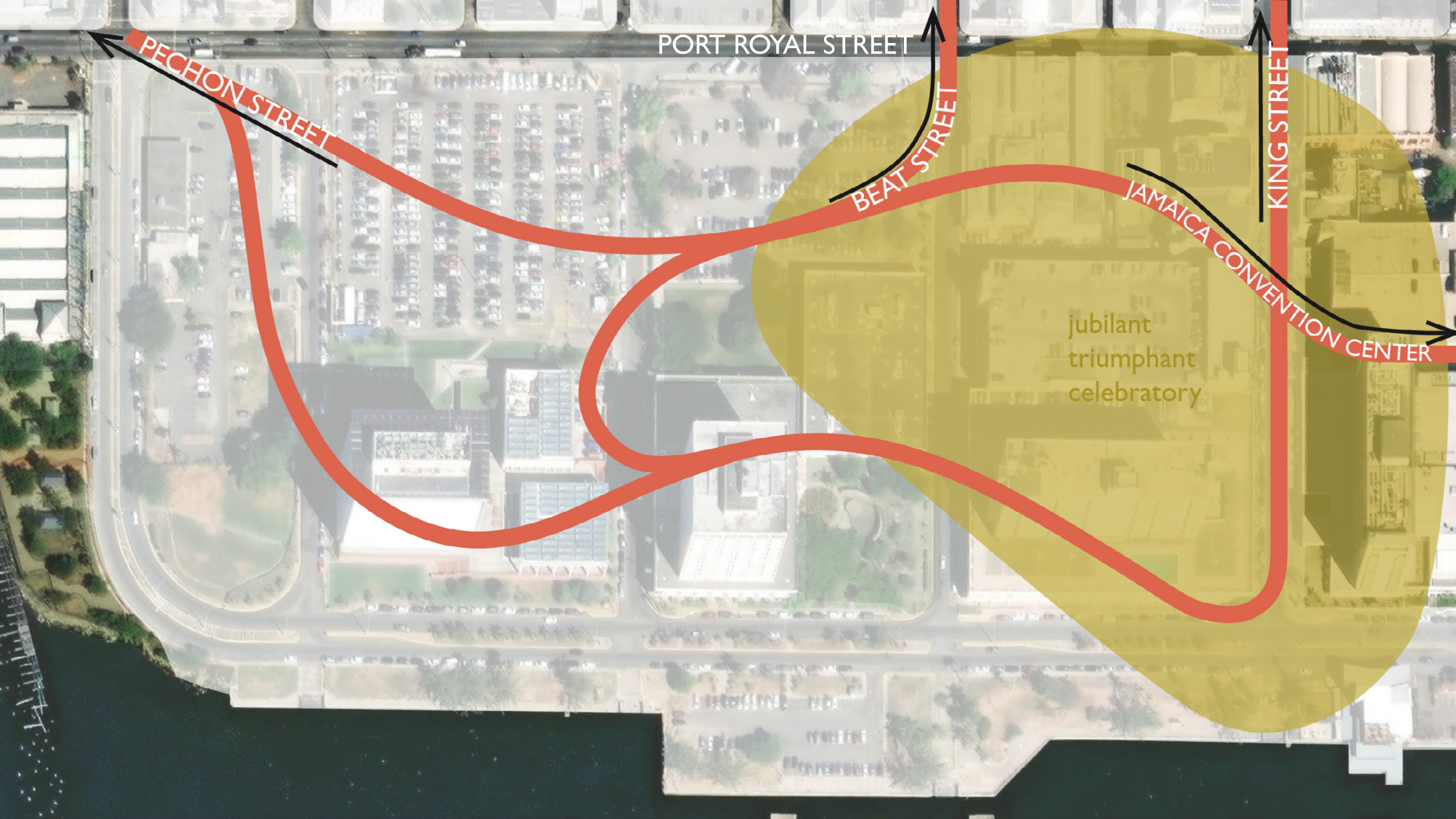
BEAT STREET

KING STREET

JAMAICA CONVENTION CENTER

PECHON STREET









PORT ROYAL STREET

PECHON STREET

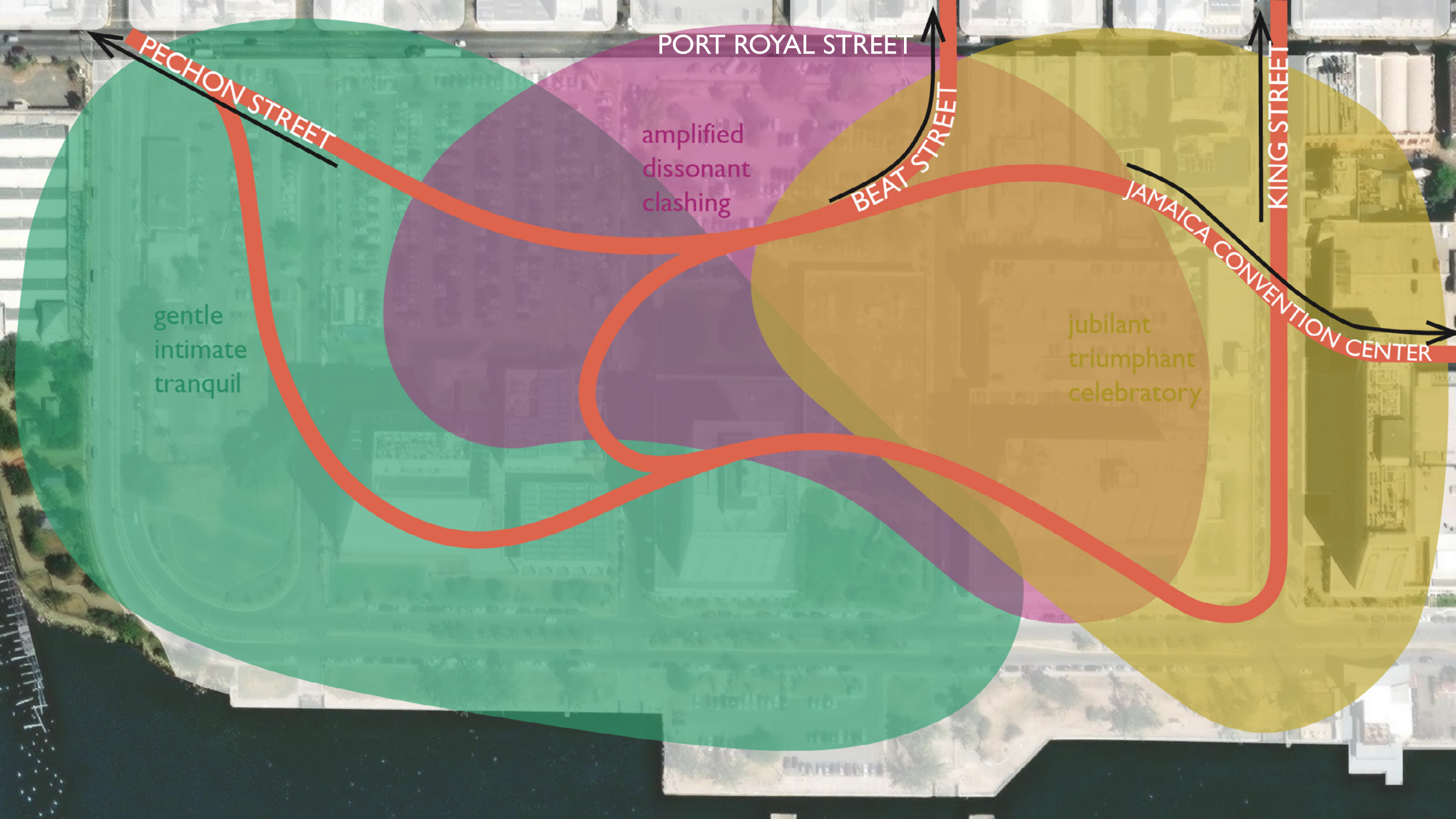
BEAT STREET

KING STREET

JAMAICA CONVENTION CENTER

gentle  
intimate  
tranquil





PECHON STREET

PORT ROYAL STREET

BEAT STREET

KING STREET

JAMAICA CONVENTION CENTER

gentle  
intimate  
tranquil

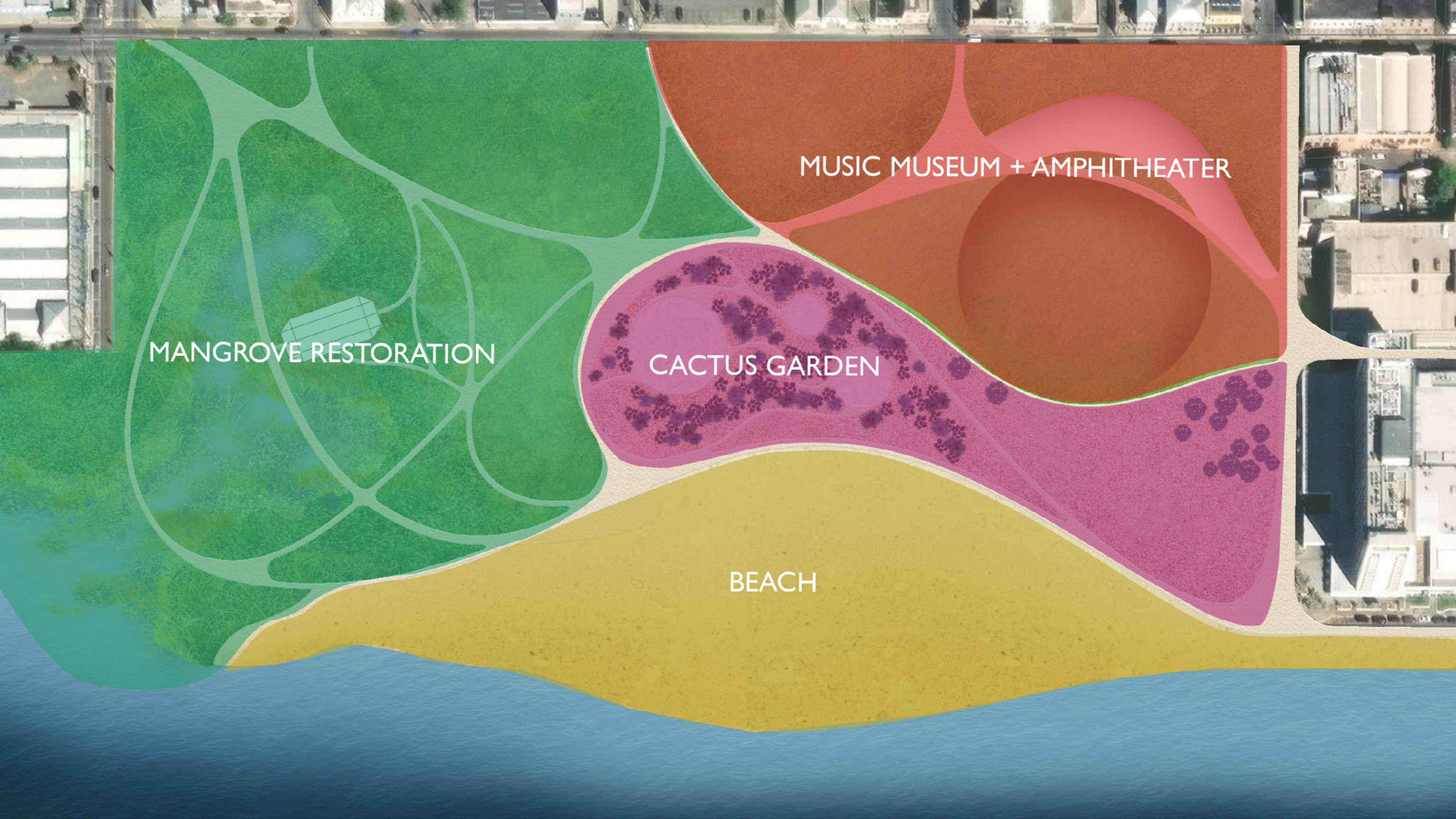
amplified  
dissonant  
clashing

jubilant  
triumphant  
celebratory









MANGROVE RESTORATION

MUSIC MUSEUM + AMPHITHEATER

CACTUS GARDEN

BEACH





Fishing Pier

Botanical Greenhouse

Music Museum

Ministry of Health

MANGROVE RESTORATION

CACTUS GARDEN

MUSIC MUSEUM + AMPHITHEATER

CIVIC