



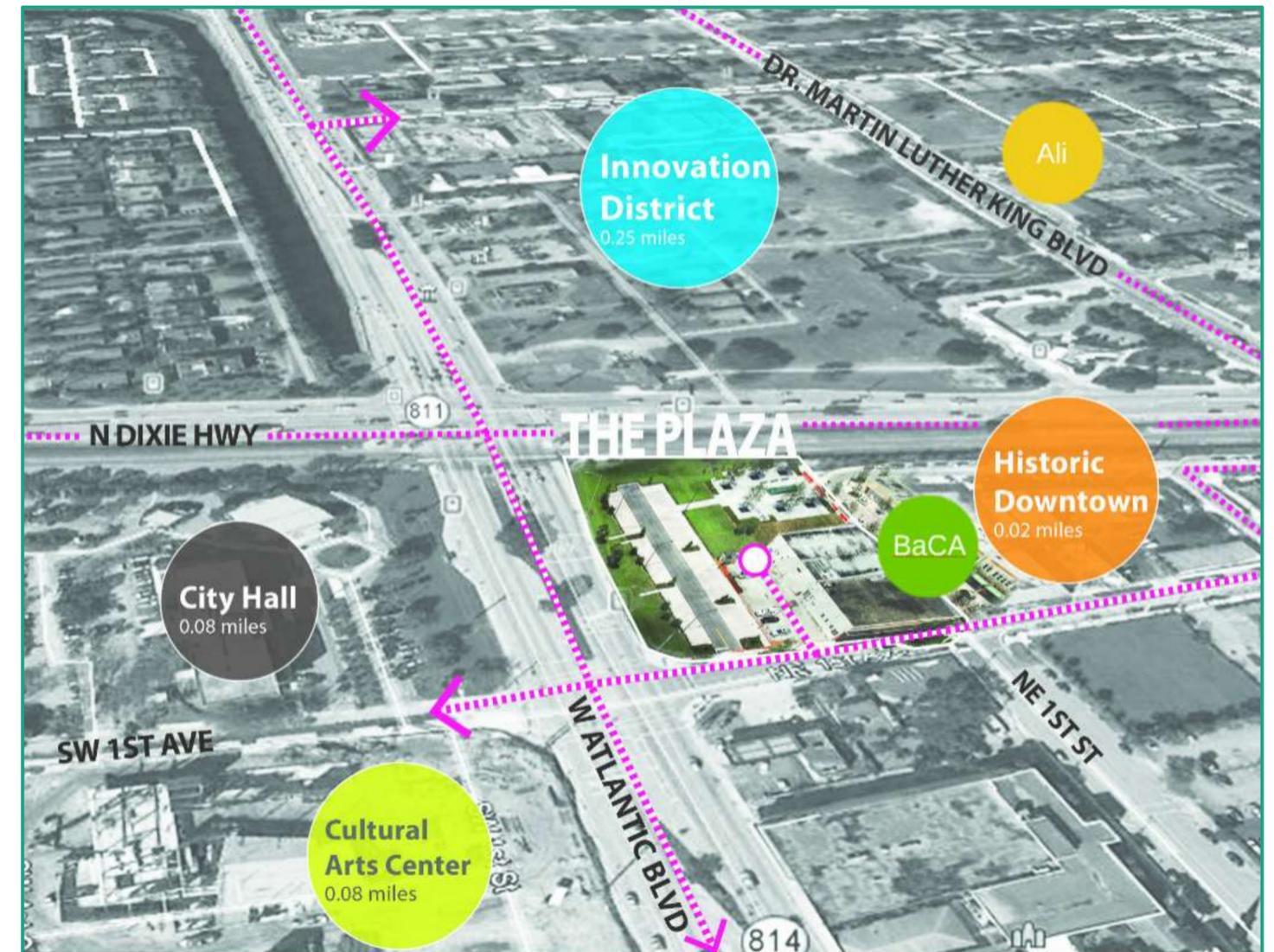
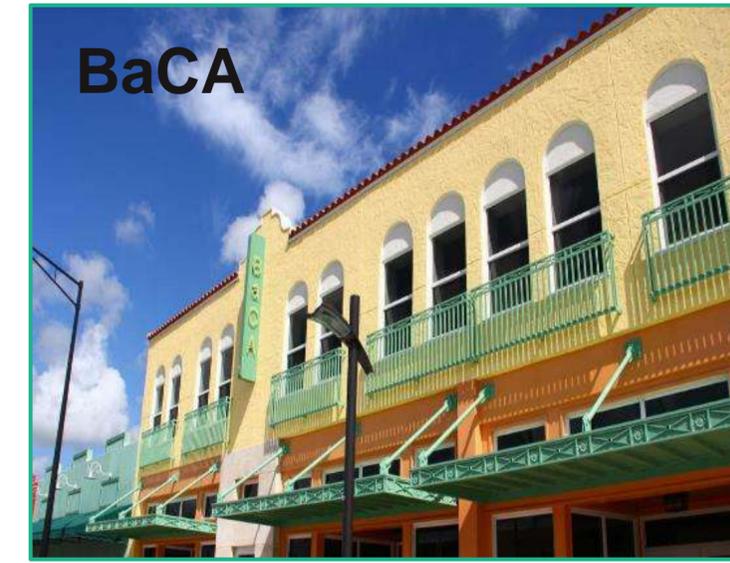
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POMPANO BEACH CULTURAL CENTER  
AND LIBRARY  
2017 FRA AWARD APPLICATION  
OUTSTANDING NEW BUILDING PROJECT

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In 2010, the CRA and City started to plan for the redevelopment of the historic Downtown Pompano Beach. They recognized the importance that cultural assets would play in the transformation of the City. The CRA and City commissioned a Needs Assessment for Cultural Facilities and Programming in 2011. This study concluded there was latent demand for cultural programming in Pompano Beach given its population that were likely to respond to a multitude of culturally-specific, hands-on and live performance opportunities.

The CRA ignited the cultural transformation of the Downtown by renovating two historic buildings, the Ali Cultural Arts and the Bailey Contemporary Arts (BaCA), in 2014. These \$3.7 million renovations were the catalyst for a new City cultural center.





Around the same time the Cultural Needs Assessment was completed, the City, CRA and County were negotiating plans for a new regional library on land within the new “downtown” that was being created. It soon became apparent that instead of the city pursuing a separate cultural center, the library coupled with cultural uses could exponentially create more impact, and thus, more value to the community.

This idea would help the City ensure the new cultural facility would be successful and not just a financial drain. This was achieved by having a cultural asset as part of a mixed-use project. The elected officials in Pompano Beach understood the importance of having multiple cultural assets and had the foresight to build a facility that combined the cultural center, the new regional library, a digital media and tech center, and an art gallery space.

The design of the project was very modern and iconic, making this a stand out asset for the Community. The architect designed a 46,000 SF Cultural Center and Library. With the relocation of the Library to the intersection of all neighborhoods, and by combining it with a Digital Arts and Media Center the project team was charged with designing a building that could support and enhance the diversity of its community. The project anchors a larger civic campus: the “Downtown Pompano Creative Arts District,” which aims to enhance and renew the artistic heritage of Pompano Beach and enrich the public environment for residents and visitors.



The building itself brings together two distinct facilities: a Cultural Center and a branch of the Broward County Public Library. As such, the project was guided by two distinct clients, the City of Pompano Beach and the Broward County Library System, with different aspirations and conceptions of public life. For the City of Pompano Beach the building’s relationship to and public presence on Atlantic Boulevard was paramount. For the Broward County Library System, locating the entry in direct relationship to parking was essential.



While the original project brief called for a single lobby as point of access to both programs, the design solution provides two points of entry and connects them by creating a breezeway and courtyard off the main plaza. This extension of the civic space allows the two separate programs to further support one another, and connect the project as a whole. Thus, the project capitalizes on two interlinked new green spaces: the plaza on Atlantic Boulevard and the collaborative courtyard. These community green spaces stitch together the two institutions and make the programs visible to the public.



The building also includes an outdoor patio, gallery space, and a digital media center. Digital media is understood, not only as a means of disseminating, but also producing knowledge. Both, the Library and the Cultural Arts and Media Center have received grants to become pilot programs in providing public access to advanced digital technology, allowing the public use of technology for making and learning. The program incorporates digital technology classrooms and maker spaces, and technology is widely distributed throughout the project.



On May 11, 2017, an estimated 1,000 people attended the Grand Opening for the Pompano Beach Cultural Center with an artistic unraveling ribbon cutting. The community was delighted that the city now had a cultural asset that could be enjoyed by all.



# POMPANO BEACH CULTURAL CENTER AND LIBRARY

AFTER



