

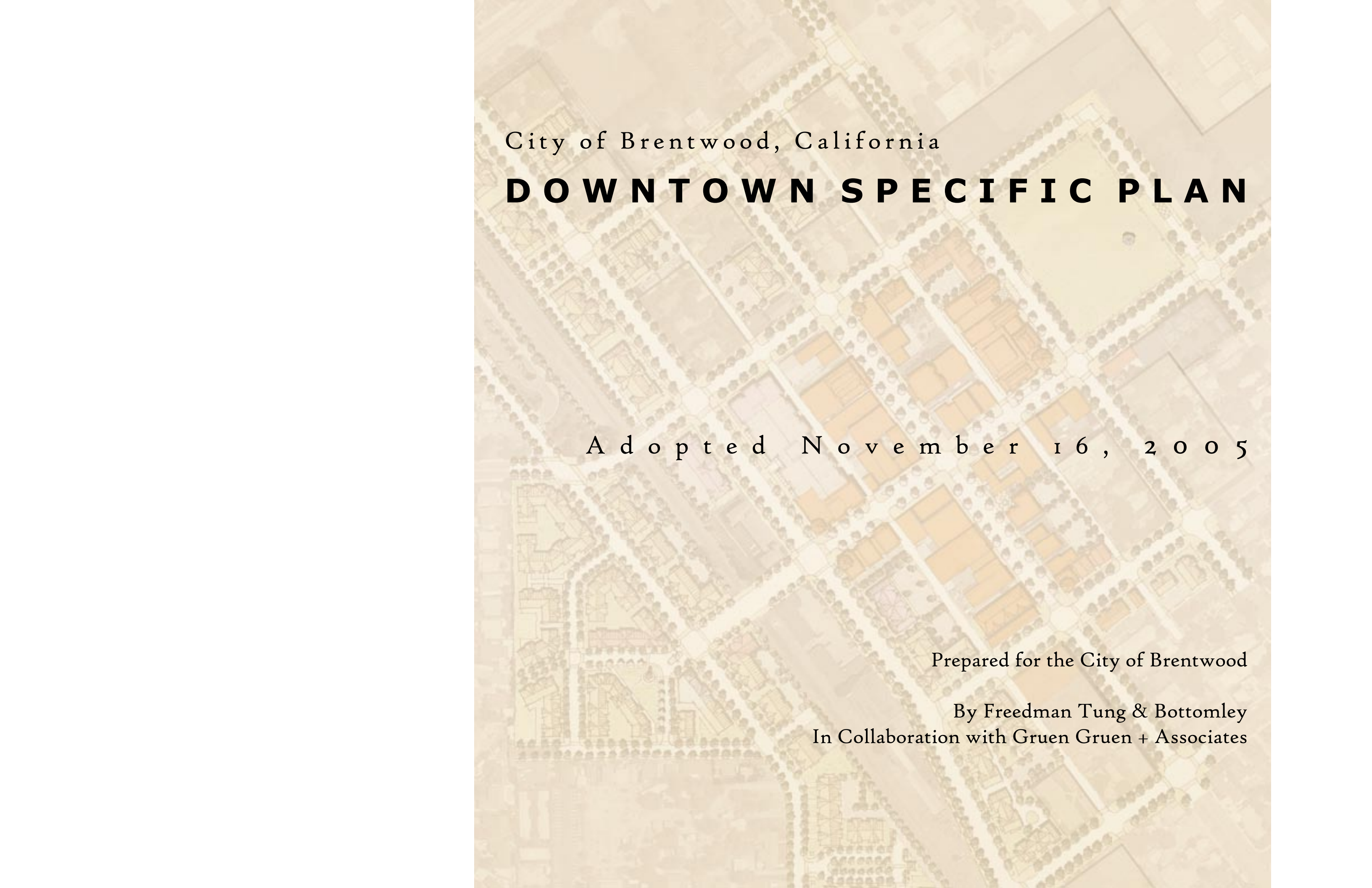
### The Vision: “A Day in the Life of the Future Downtown Brentwood”

*Along the main shopping streets - Oak Street, between Brentwood Boulevard and Second Street, and First Street, between Chestnut and Maple Streets, Downtown is abuzz with activity from the moment the first shopkeepers arrive to open for business. Quickly, the sidewalks are bustling with employees coming to work, city officials and employees heading to the Civic Center, and seniors converging on the Community Center for early morning classes. Walking down Oak Street towards Brentwood Boulevard, Downtown residents grab a cappuccino and the local paper before heading off to work or catch the commuter rail at the Transit Station. Running in the opposite direction, school children are hustling to get to school before the bell.*

*During the day, Downtown streets are full of business, civic and cultural activity. The City’s residents can be seen patronizing a variety of personal and business services including salons and copy shops, architects, accountants, and attorneys. Unique retail shops, galleries and cafés are brimming with business, as many local and area residents take advantage of Downtown’s charming physical environment. During the lunch hour, many shops and cafés spill out onto the shaded sidewalks and into paseos and plazas. Sidewalk menu boards describe the day’s specials, and tables and chairs arranged on the sidewalk invite shoppers to sit down for a bite to eat. Some folks choose to hold their meetings at a local restaurant. Art studios are hosting gallery exhibits and openings, while dance and theatrical performers are rehearsing in the Community Playhouse in preparation for opening night. Above the ground floor shops, residents visit day spas and physical therapists, or attend midday classes at dance and yoga studios. In City Park, parents sit and chat as young children have fun in and around the playground and chase each other around the trunks of massive old trees or head to the Library for story time, while seniors can be seen reading the paper and playing cards in the shade.*

*At the end of the working day, street life within the Downtown Core feels akin to intermission during a theater performance. Shopkeepers can be seen moving outdoor display signs and wares off of the sidewalk and back indoors and sweeping up in front of their store; employees stop by the bank or the Post Office to tend to last-minute business before walking towards the transit center, or to retrieve their cars from nearby parking lots. Activity around the Civic Center reaches a calm frenzy, with many students and parents returning books to the Library and daytime social events at the Community Center come to an end. Some folks walk up to the Civic Center to pick up their kids from their ‘after-school’ activities, then grab a snack and sit in City Park to enjoy the last moments of daylight, the long rays of the sun illuminating the façade of City Hall. On all streets, residents of Downtown can be seen returning home after the workday. Along Oak Street they stop by a local gourmet shop or bakery to pick up something to have with dinner, and then turn onto First Street to pick up their dry cleaning before heading home.*

*After the sun sets and the air cools, Downtown is again transformed into the gathering place for meals, entertainment and cultural activities. The sidewalks are beautifully lit with the warm glow of street and tree lights. The steady hum of social chatter can be heard at many of the busy restaurants and faint melodies of jazz standards emanate from within a local brew pub. Friends and families large and small cue in front of the Brentwood Theater to catch an evening showing of a first run film or carry blankets out to City Park for a free musical concert under the stars. Performers and attendees gather in anticipation of the night’s performance in the Community Playhouse. Throughout the Downtown Core, families and couples stroll in the evening air taking in the sights and sounds of the community’s most cherished environment. Ice cream shops, bookstores, and some art galleries stay open late to welcome the community into their doors.*



City of Brentwood, California

# **D O W N T O W N S P E C I F I C P L A N**

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Prepared for the City of Brentwood

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