

# Active Stewardship

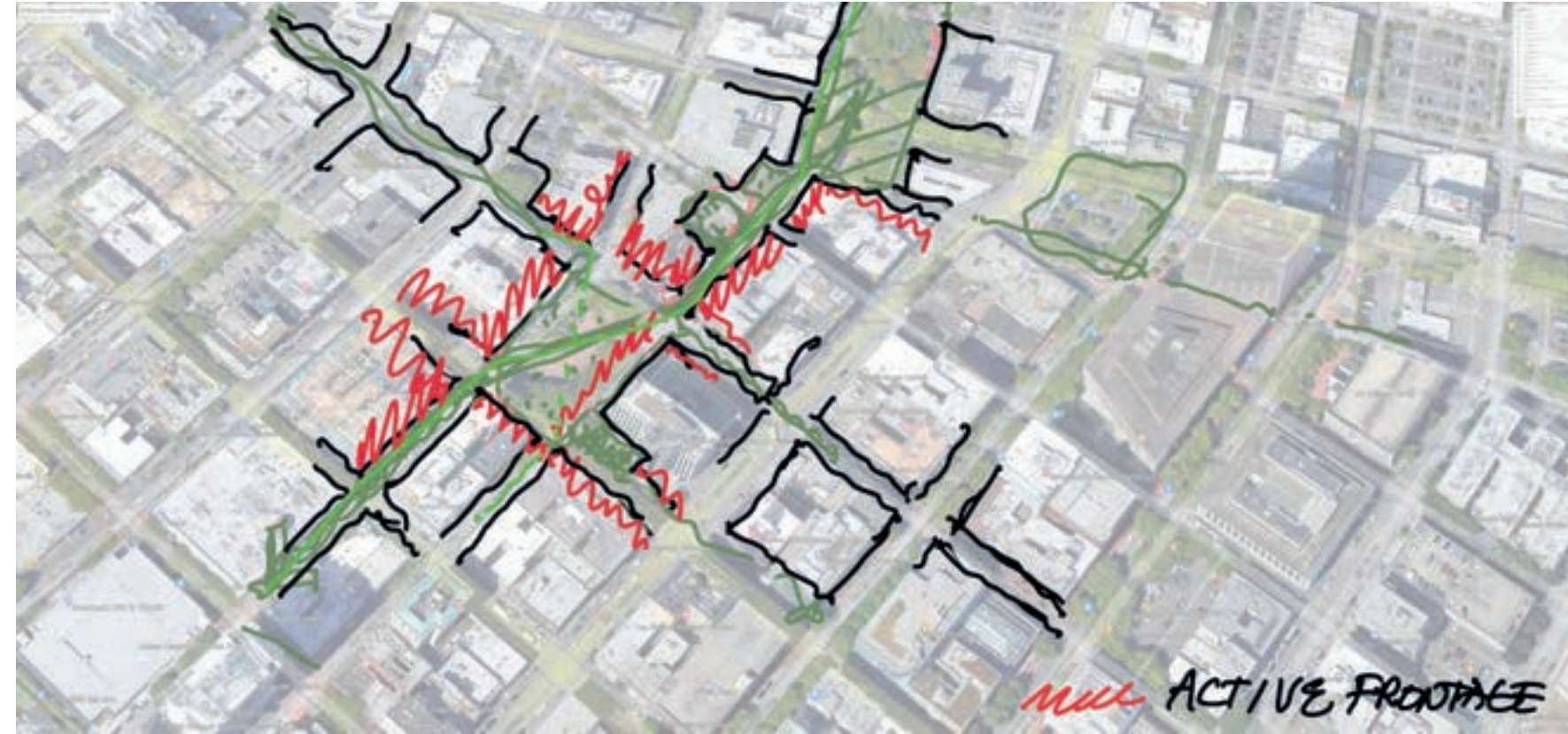
BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE



FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
Your Friendly SERA Neighbors

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:  
Abby Peterson, Artur Grochowski,  
Tim Smith, Travis Shappell

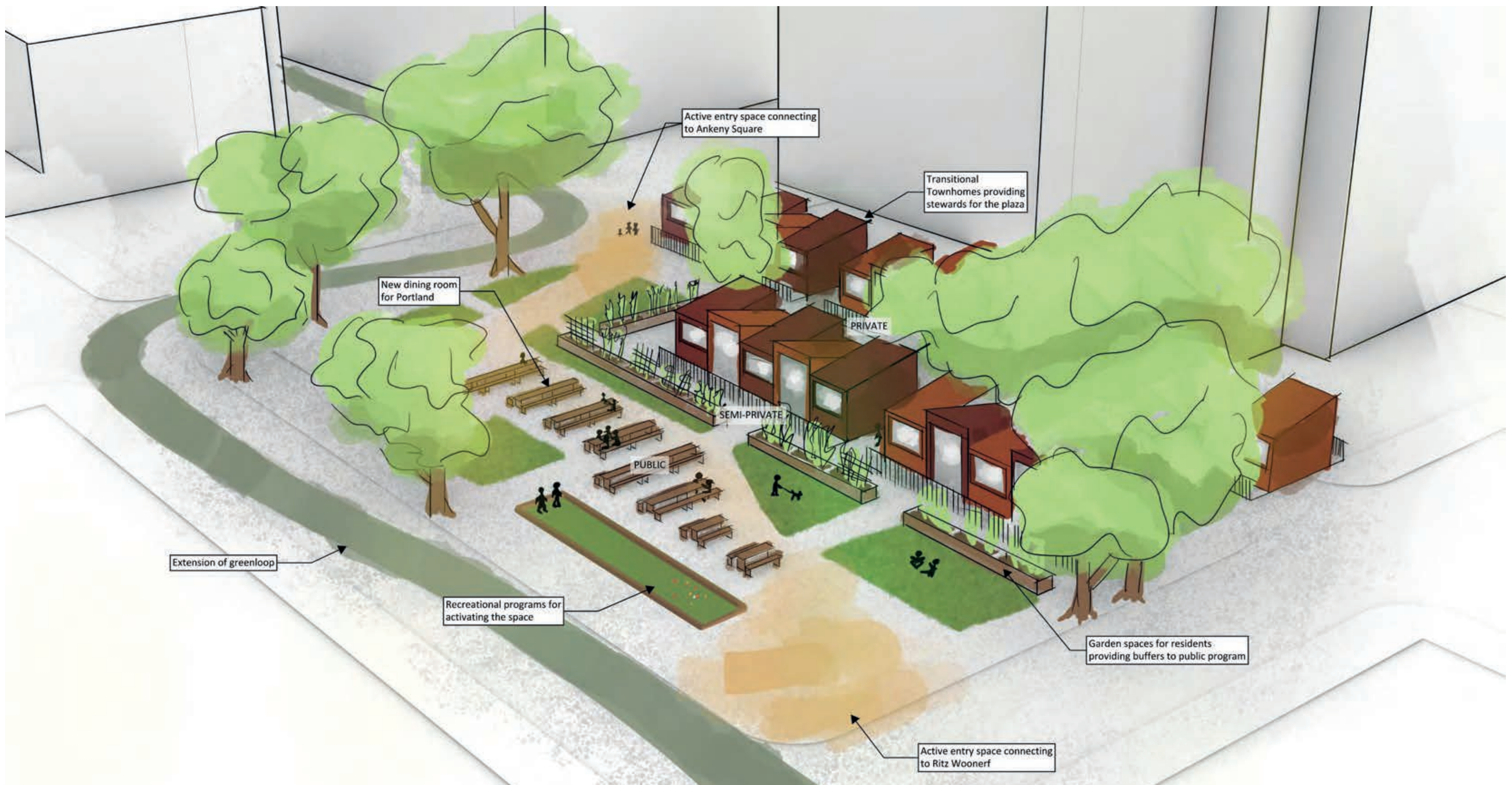
## PROJECT CONTEXT



## PRECEDENT



## PROJECT CONCEPT



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

O'Bryant Park is at the nexus of many flows and communities in Portland. However it does not have a local community of its own that would become the daily dwellers & stewards of this plaza. Active Stewardship proposes to bring in a community of families occupying small, transitional townhomes to be co-owners of this public space.

Along with this new community, the proposal aims to accept other nearby communities and activities into this space: A dining space in the center hints at the history of this park and attracts people from both the Ritz Food Hall & The Ankeny Square Carts becoming the in-between mixer of different cuisines and affluence levels. Additionally, the plaza hosts recreational activities like Bocce, ping-pong, a dog park, or a playground as further activators.

At the street level, Harvey Milk Street is closed to motorized traffic and becomes an extension of the green-loop while 9th Avenue becomes an extension of the Ritz Woonerf Concept completing the flows around the park. Meanwhile, the Park Avenue portion along this block is downsized to a 20' boulevard reserved for residents and emergency vehicle use, with additional townhomes occupying the remaining space along the Union Bank Building.

Ultimately the proposal allows a symbiosis of life where the permanent stewards have private space protected by semi-private gardens, while temporary users can dine, relax, and watch different activities happening around them.

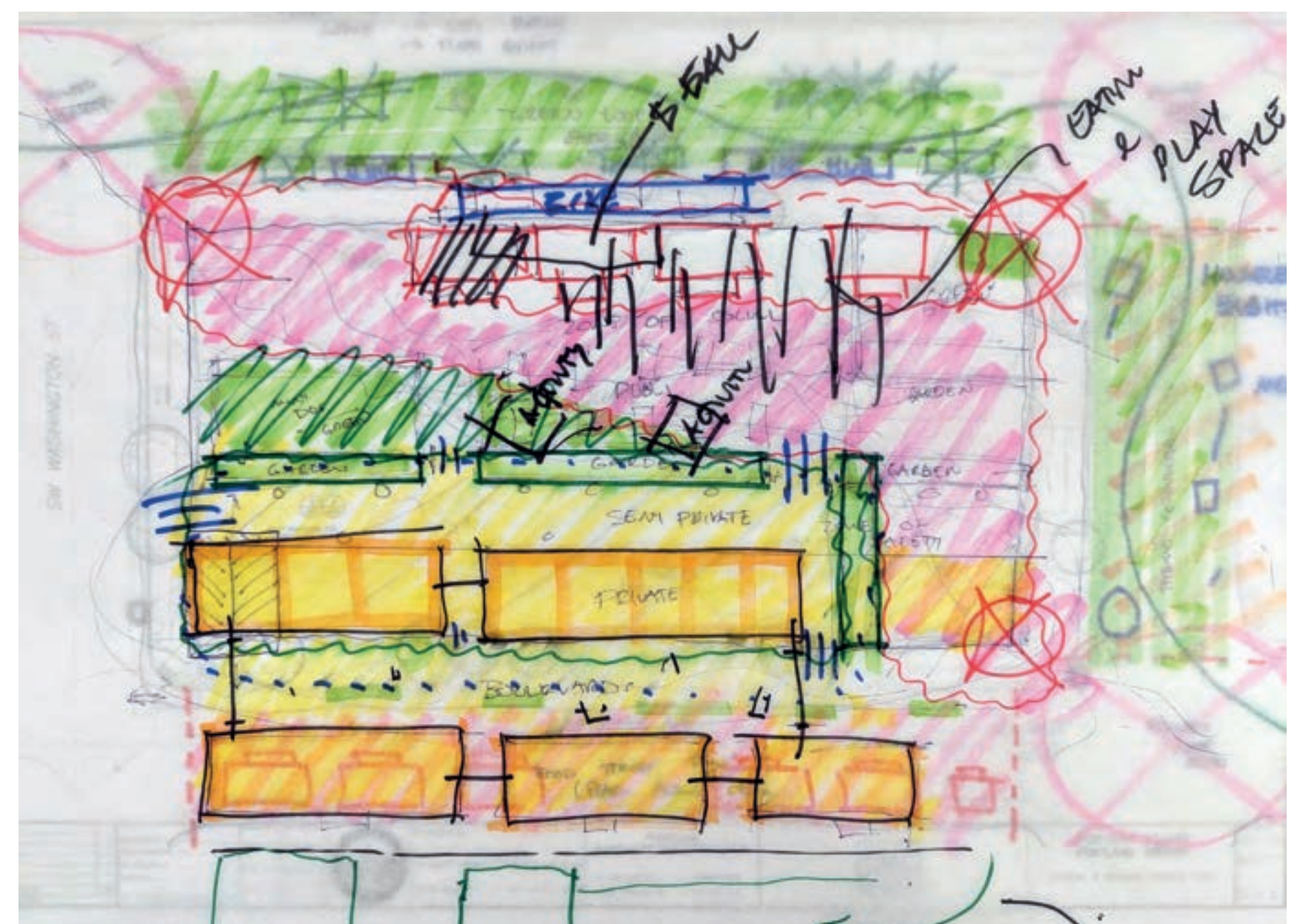
## MAIN GOALS:

- Address the severe homeless problem in Portland
- Build a community to take immediate ownership of this space
- Maintain the history of Portland's dining room by utilizing the food sources from Ankeny Square and the Ritz Food Hall and providing tables
- Activate the space further with recreational facilities like ping pong, bocce, playground, or a dog space

## SECONDARY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Appropriate car space for people
- Create zones of private and public buffered by semi-private front gardens
- Reduce the impact of the dead facades of union bank
- Separate pedestrians from cyclists at this zone where you want pedestrians to ebb & flow while bike traffic could continue on
- Provide connection to Harvey Milk Triangle and set up a precedent for how to make that street car-less

## CONCEPTUAL SKETCH





# Social Infrastructure

## BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE



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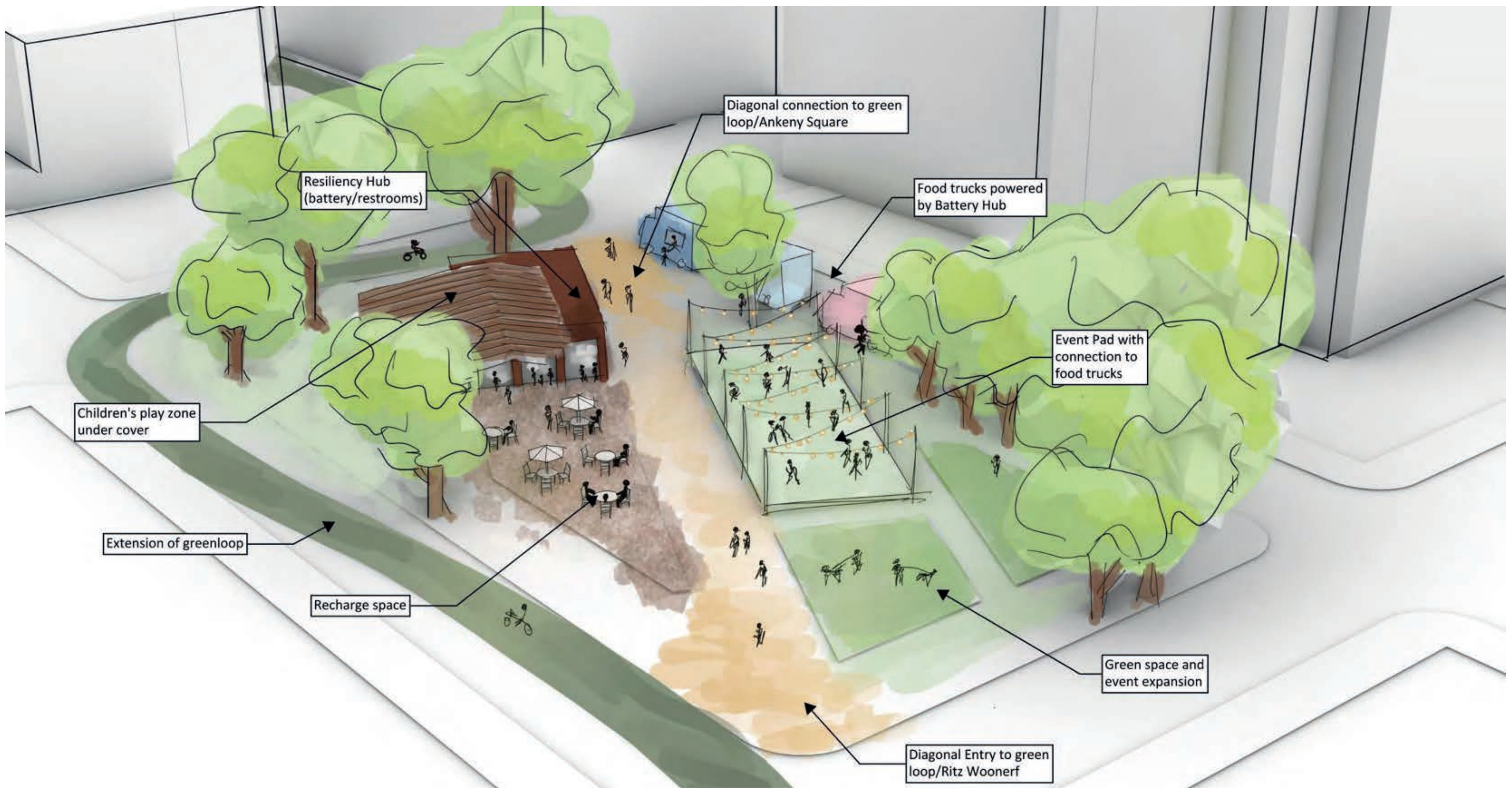
### PROJECT CONTEXT



### PRECEDENT



### PROJECT CONCEPT



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Social Infrastructure combines a resiliency hub which provides hard infrastructure with an event pad that builds social infrastructure. These two program categories are organized around a new diagonal connection between the Ritz Woonerf and Ankeny Square allowing for bike traffic & activation of the overall plaza.

The resiliency hub focuses on a large battery array connected to a public restroom facility. This battery array provides day to day power to people charging phones, using free wifi, and charging e-bikes. Additionally the array can be used as part of a local micro-grid and during emergency situations like earthquakes, heatwaves, or snowstorms. It is supported by a sheltered area and a playground creating a comfortable space for families year-round.

Meanwhile the event pad is supported by a food cart pod along Park Avenue connecting to local block-party events to the South and Ankeny Plaza to the North. The pad includes infrastructure connected to the battery array for events like night markets, weddings, beer gardens, and all sorts of other less-formal community events.

These different pieces of program use public art throughout as attractors and wayfinding. As the park ages and develops, local artists and institutions get the chance to contribute to the park and shape the community's relationship with the space. Art pieces could include temporary installations, more permanent sculptures, and even the periodic renaming of the park during large festivals.

The value proposition of this park is the creation of resilient connections between people that can be relied on during an emergency event, protecting the community and people.

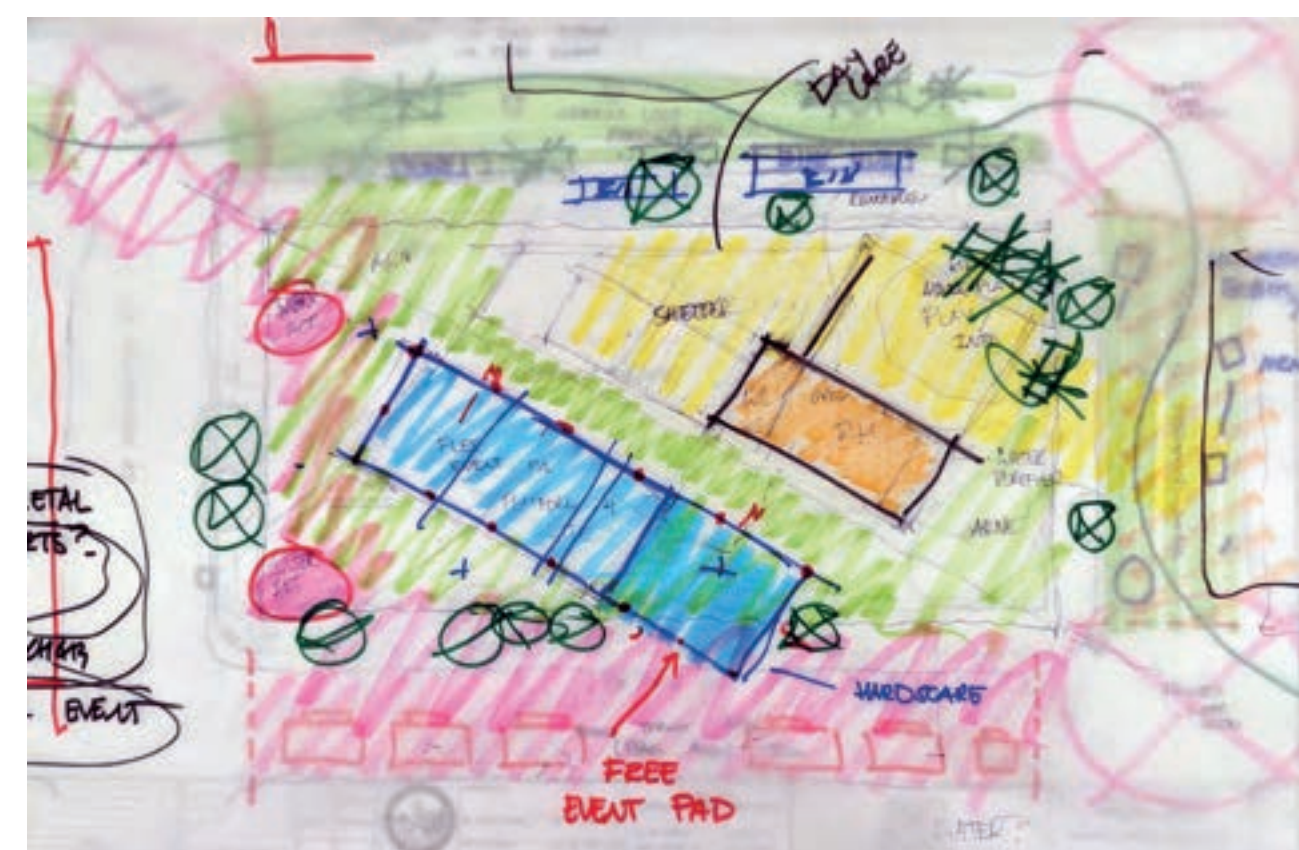
### MAIN GOALS:

- Provide spaces that build community through repeated connection
- Be a resource for families and individuals to be able to recharge and stay safe
- Be part of a local microgrid system by providing battery storage
- Allow for flexible, community owned space that encourages informal programming (weddings, festivals, night markets)
- Use Art to pull people into the space and as wayfinding

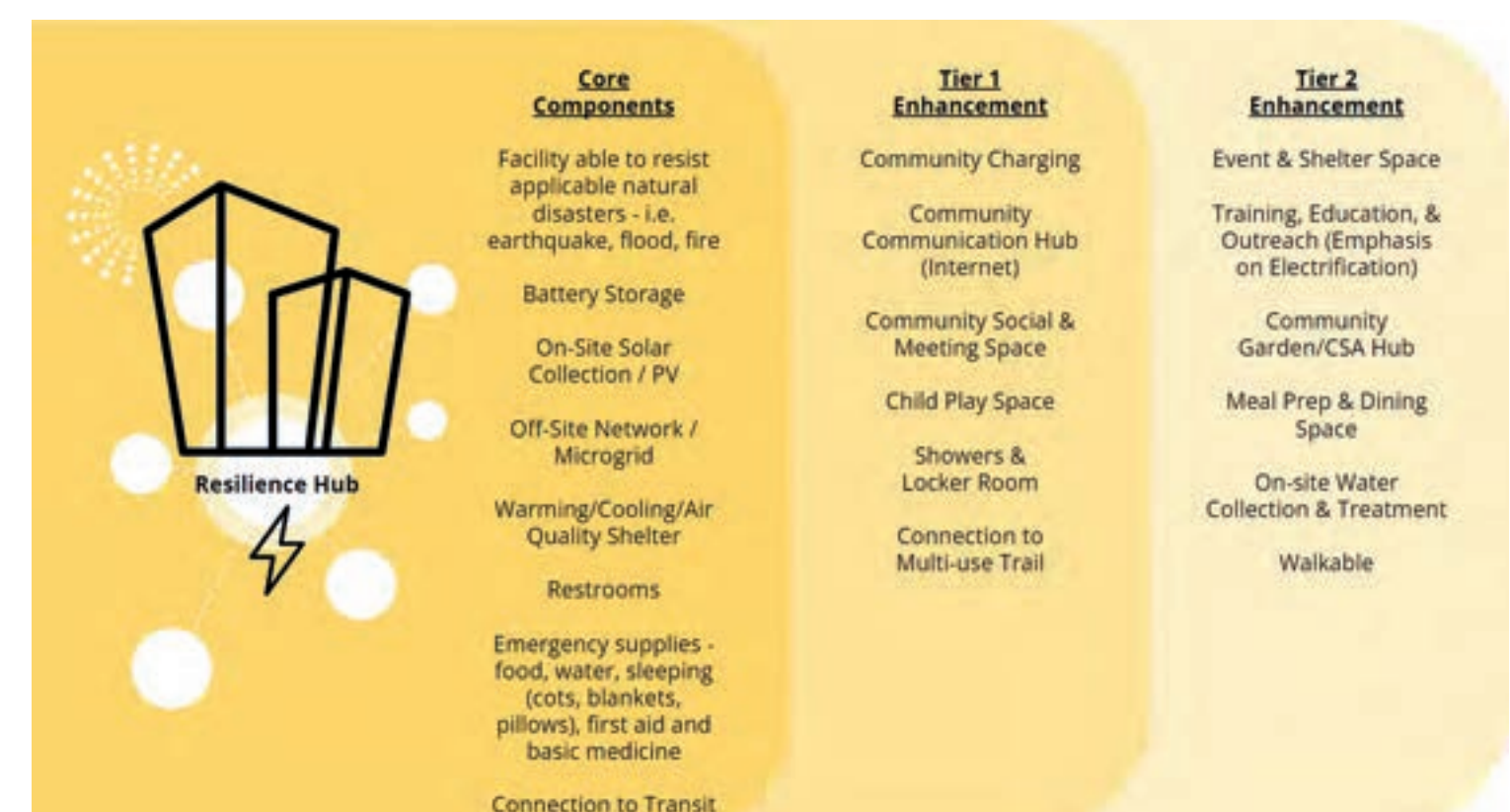
### SECONDARY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Make a prominent diagonal connection across the block creating a path for the green loop to activate the plaza
- Provide space for food carts along Park Avenue connecting to local block-party events to the South and Ankeny Plaza to the North
- Allow children to play while parents shelter, charge equipment, and eat
- Power micro-retail locations with on-site battery systems

### CONCEPTUAL SKETCH



### PROTOTYPE





# Stitching Garden

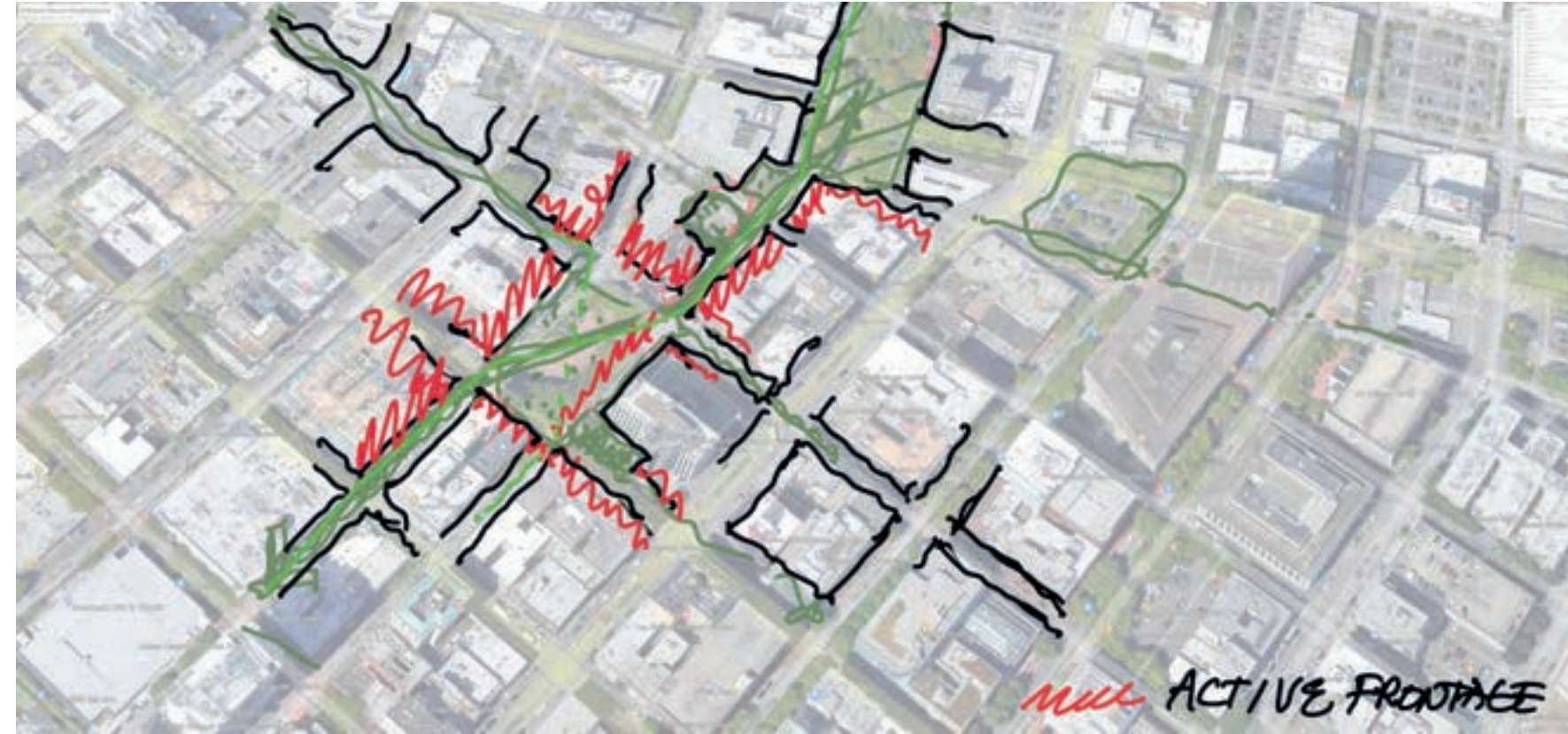
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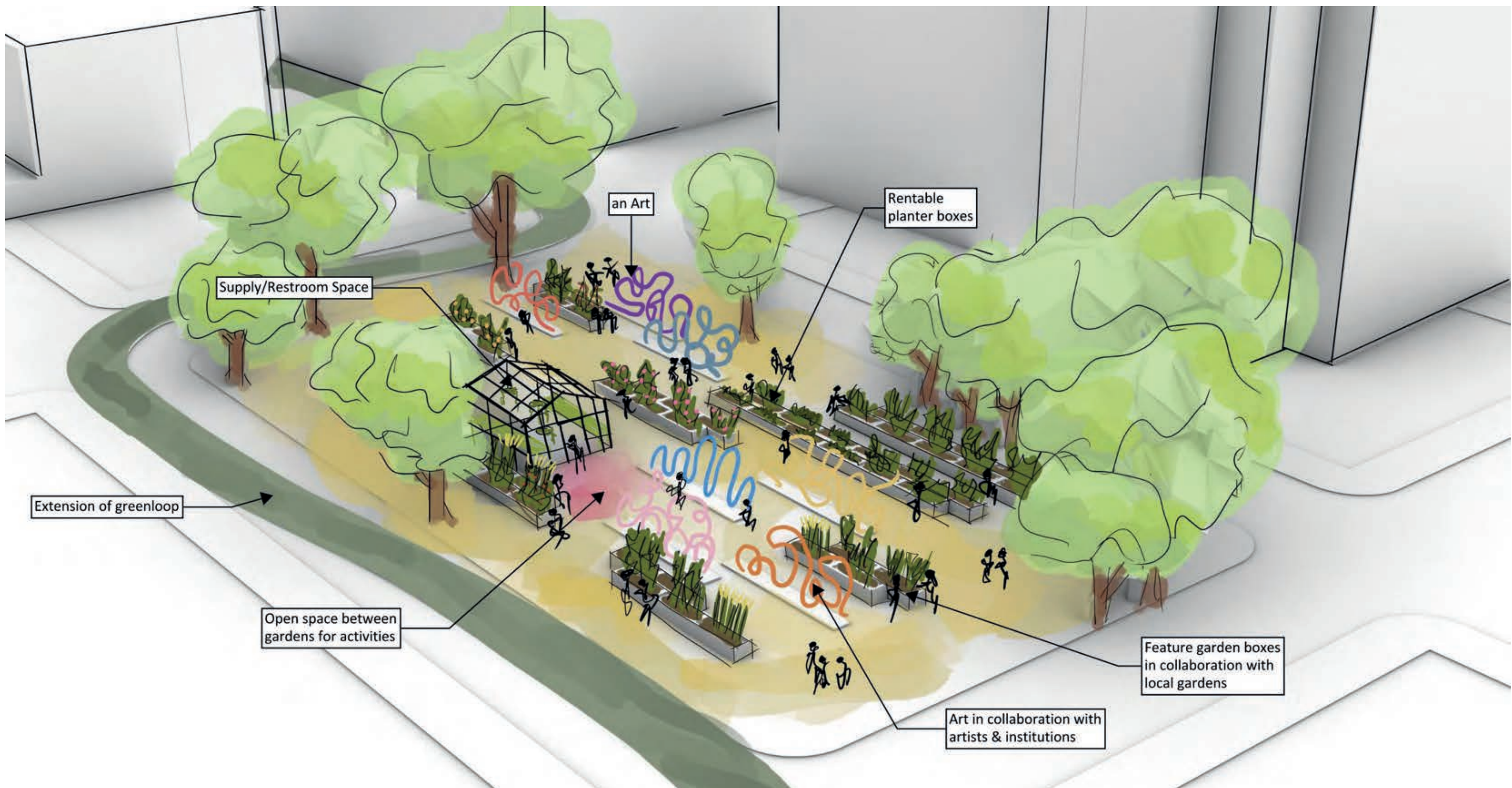
## PROJECT CONTEXT



## PRECEDENT



## PROJECT CONCEPT



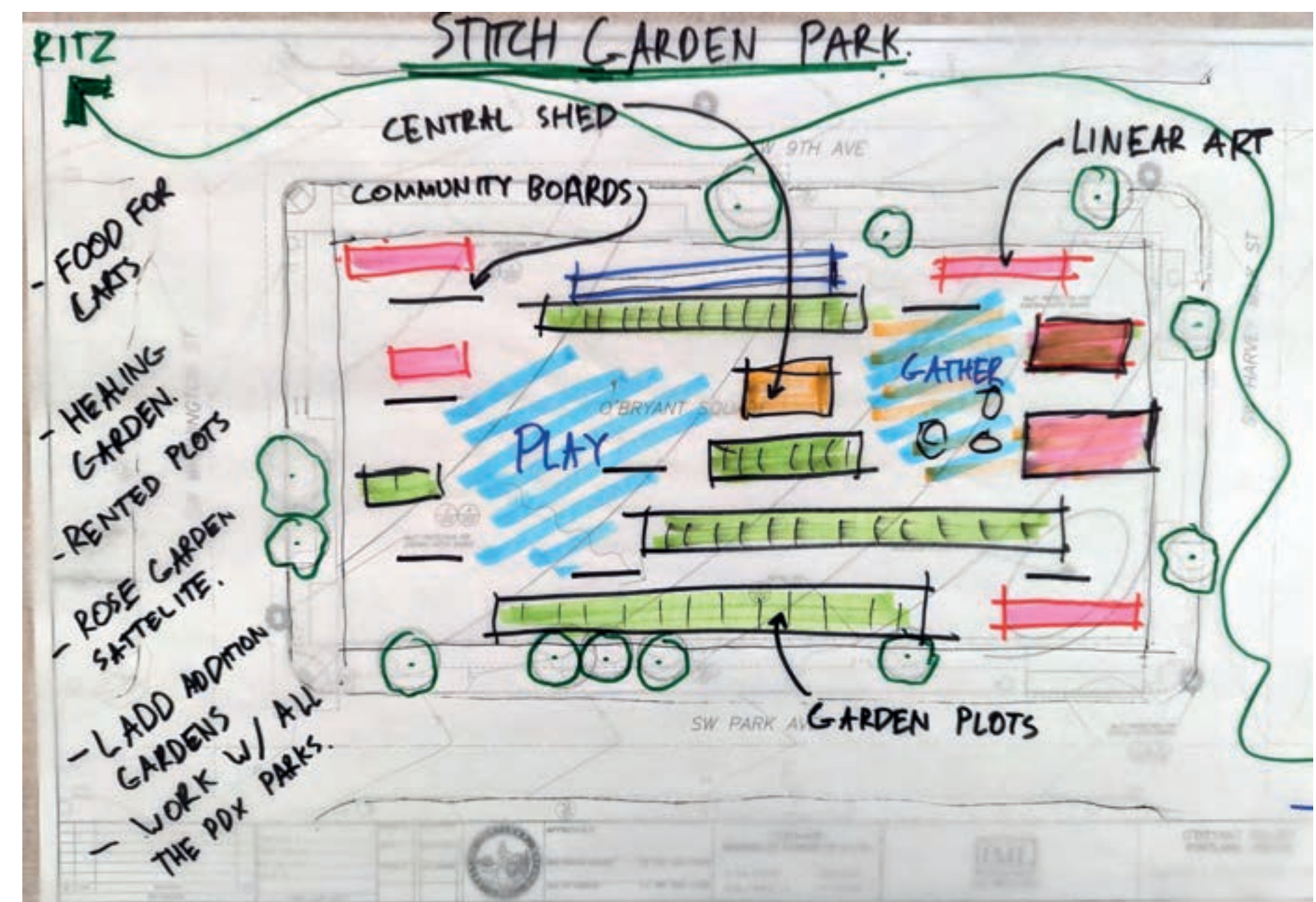
## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Stitching Garden quite literally stitches together many activities formally and programmatically to create a vibrant quilt of many communities.

The proposal utilizes linear garden plots as the basic building block. These garden plots will be rentable by members of the public and provide space for local urbanites to get some exposure to some much-needed biofillia. Conforming to the same size of basic building block, the project also provides space for artists and institutions to exhibit work adjacent to garden space.

Woven within the infrastructure of art and gardens are recreational play spaces (Bocce court, pingpong table, etc.) and gathering spaces (tables, eating, relaxing). All of this is completed by bike facilities along 9th Avenue, a non-motorized street along Harvey Milk Street, and a centralized restroom/clean-up/storage facility.

## CONCEPTUAL SKETCH



## MAIN GOALS:

- Activate the plaza through low-cost approaches
- Provide space for the local urban community to grow a garden (especially with all the new residential buildings coming online)
- Create an infrastructure for showcasing art
- Provide a space for local gardeners and people passing through on the greenloop to interface

## SECONDARY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Partner with local gardens like the Rose Garden, Japanese Garden, to create "satellite plots"
- Partner with local artists and institutions to bring in art and installations
- Keep it simple!



# ONE [SQUARED]



## BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

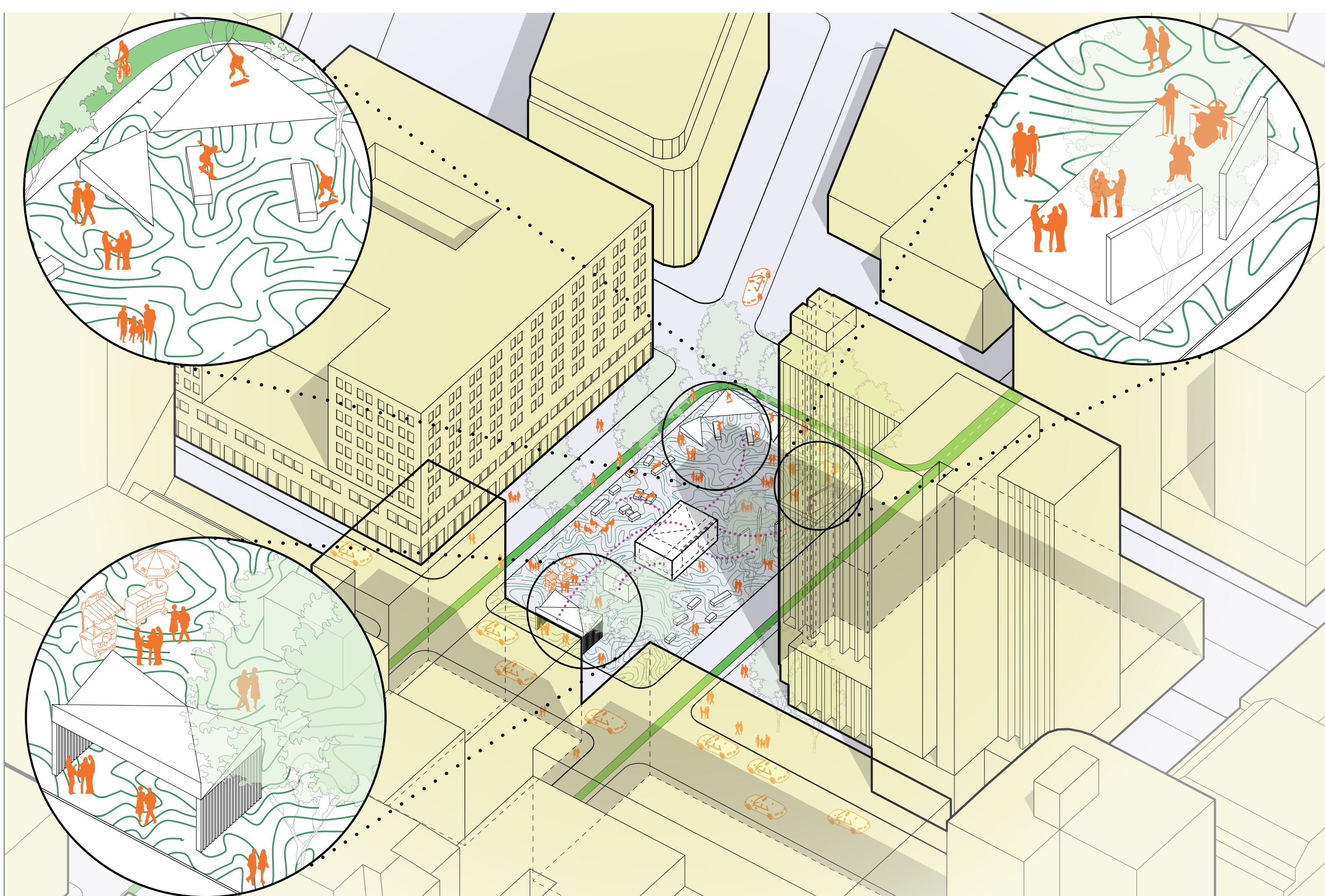
### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
Architects without Borders

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:  
Jake Bryda, Kirk Gylling

The One [Squared] Park proposal utilizes a central mass composed of light movable structures and street furniture for temporary configurations for events. These opportunities for community members to gather include sculpture exhibitions from the local art schools, social services, pop-ups, live music, farmer's markets, and cooking events. Event organizers can move and place these elements to best suit the intended use. These configurations may remain for the day, week, or until the next event. This space is intended as a living room for the growing community surrounding the park. The addition of a canopy and the movable structures complement the trees recovered from O'Bryant Park, providing three layers of shelter and levels of protection from the weather.

Borrowing ideas from tactical urbanism, these configurations for community events will give the park's users the opportunity to see the best uses for the space. Activation of the park for different events by a variety of populations will show overlapping community needs and desires, building from the ground up and potentially giving rise to more permanent design implementations in the future.



### TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

Immediate activation of the square will require multiple programs taking place at various times of the day, as well as weeks and months to follow. Thus, a flexible, multi-functional approach to the programming of the square is necessary to the success of the plaza as a lively urban public space. The approach shown takes this into account by implementing a central "box" that can be disassembled as a "kit of parts" and situated across the numerous zones of the park. Along Washington St. is a covered bus shelter for commuters to wait, urbanites to rest, and various people to take refuge from the elements. To the West are benches and tables for seating, eating, reading, or challenging a friend to a game of chess. To the North is a recreational zone for exercise, play, and skateboarding, where group yoga and skate competitions can take place. Finally, a large stage can be deployed for larger music concerts, art shows, light festivals, presentations, protests, and movie nights, allowing for a variety of activities to occur at different times of day. The components of the box, at the end of each programmed session, can be put back and reassembled as originally placed on the site.



# COMMUNITY CANVAS

Hennebery Eddy  
Architects



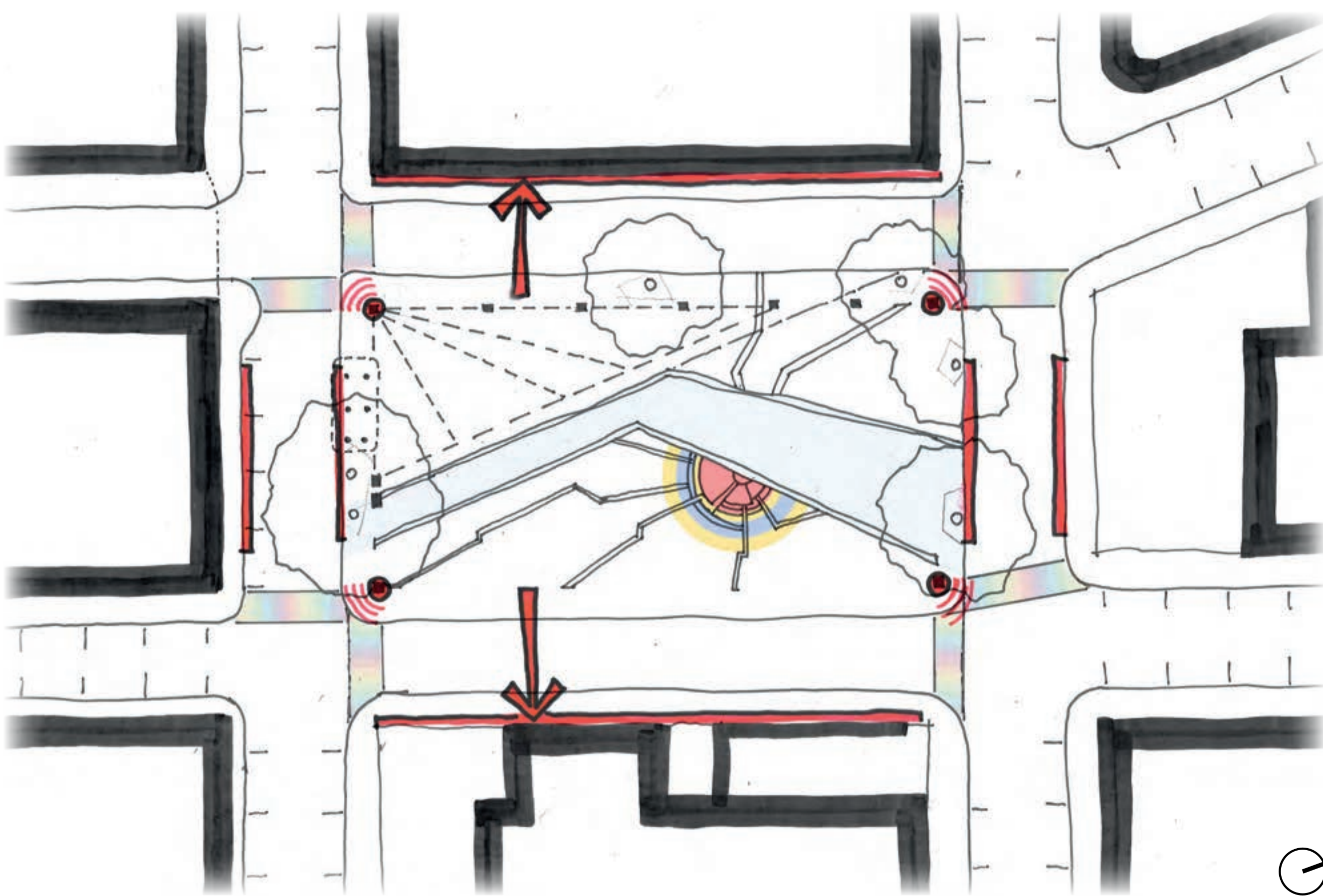
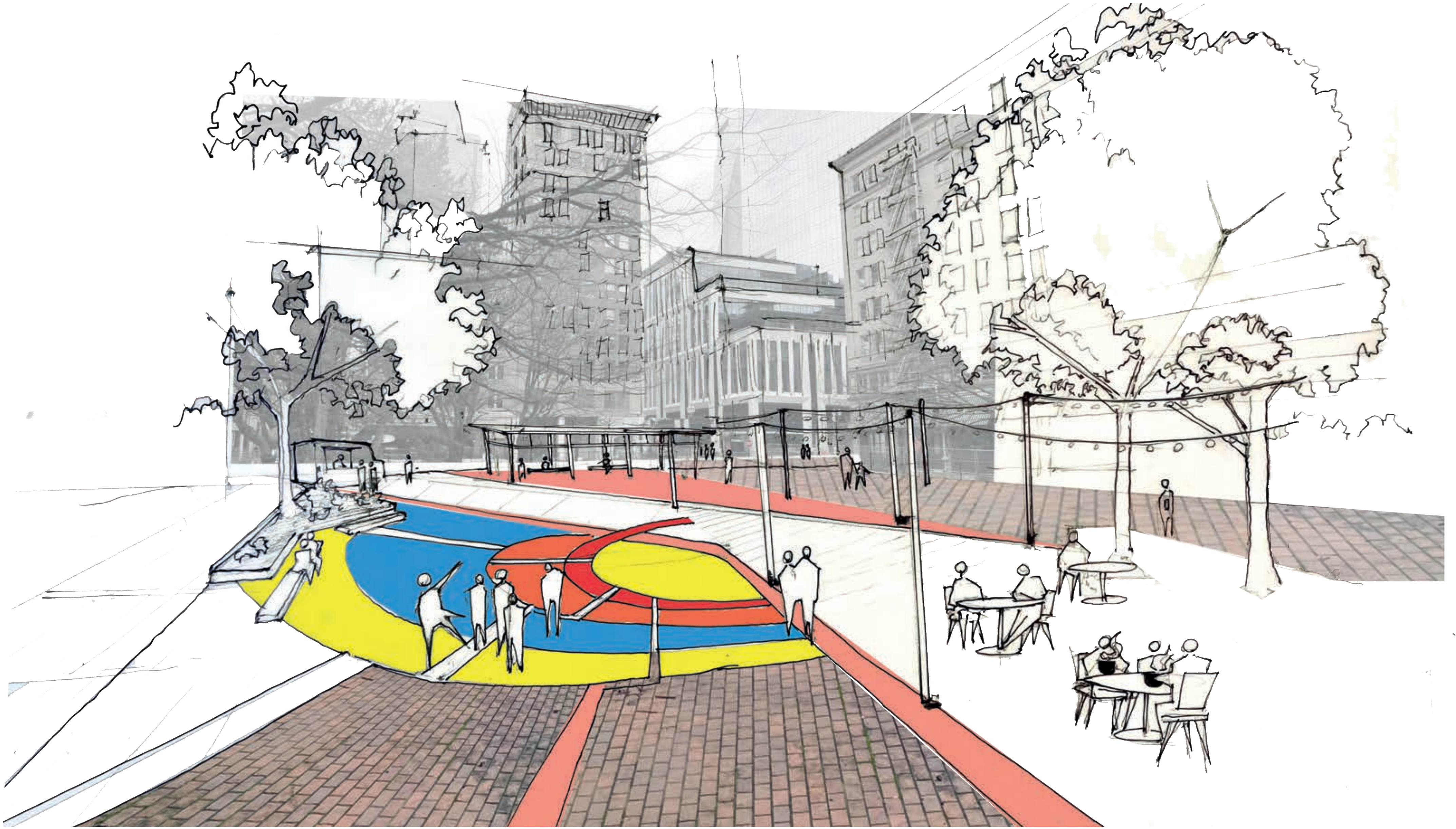
## BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FIRM/GROUP NAME: HENNEBERY EDDY ARCHITECTS

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS: ANDREW MILNER AND SEAN SILVERSTEIN

A canvas is a substrate. It marks the foundation of making. A canvas is necessarily comprised of material that promotes certain applications but does not necessarily preclude others. If you give the people a canvas, they might even make something on it. There are so many aspirations for what comes after O'Bryant Square; bubble festivals, ancestral memorials, hair cut trucks. A small city square can only be so many things, so it ought to first acknowledge its context and principally, the people; people who live in buildings nearby, people without a house but see the city as their home, people who frequent the area for work and people visiting for the day, people with dogs, people who make food and many more who like to eat it, and plenty just looking for a place to enjoy for a moment before passing through. This is an intersection of a lot of people that make Portland Portland. Let the people make their mark on the canvas.



### TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

The first act is to preserve what is already there. O'Bryant Square has an accumulated history, memories, and other marks of time that define its place in downtown Portland that ought to be reused in its immediate reopening. These materials recontextualized can express what was, what is, and what might be possible as people make use of the square once again. One might envision a mosaic formed from the old clusters of brick salvaged from the demolition. Once resurfaced, chairs and café tables, benches and string lights, can immediately call attention to everyday uses within the square. In both immediate and long-term visions, it is ultimately the activities that people mark within the square that will continue to refine its definition. Basic principles will help ensure the canvas maximizes on this potential.

#### Project Principles

1. Preserve existing heritage trees.
2. Foster visual and physical connections within and around the site.
3. Celebrate the act of lingering; sitting, resting, dancing, people-watching.
4. The space is a canvas.



# A MOVING CANVAS

BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

# BORA

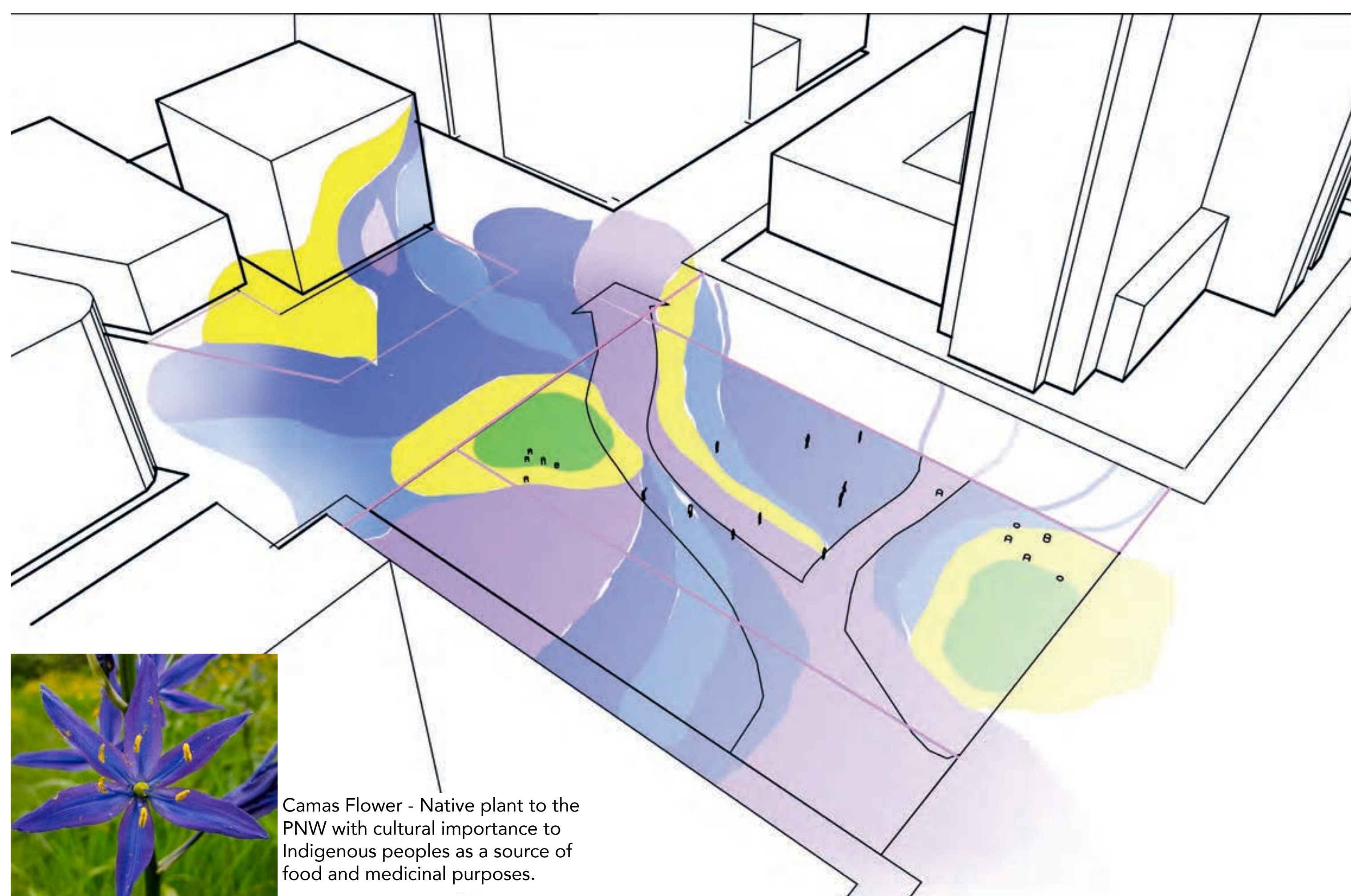
ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS

FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
BORA Architecture & Interiors

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS: Becca Cavell,  
Ivy O'Neal, Travis Nissen and Sarah Matta

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Square One is a bold splash of color and 24/7 activity that invites EVERYONE to come play. With the GREEN LOOP bisecting the park, this place is a canvas for any activity a person can dream up. The painted [permeable] hardscape draws inspiration from the CAMAS FLOWER. Bikes, skateboards, runners, visitors, and residents: everyone is welcome here. Robust infrastructure offers free power and free WIFI. Pop up uses include mobile food trucks, hygiene stations, food and clothing closets, musical performances – anyone's dream can be a reality at Square One. NIGHT TIME activities include silent discos and family movies nights that activate adjacent walls, creating a vibrant GATHERING space in the middle of our city. Each year, the People's Choice installation from Portland's Winter Light festival is moved to Square One as part of a rotating installation. Sketched in paint on day one, Square One is fully realized when its infrastructure and its armatures are complete, but it will always be a canvas where we paint our dreams for our city.



Camas Flower - Native plant to the PNW with cultural importance to Indigenous peoples as a source of food and medicinal purposes.

## TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

Square One is always reinventing itself, starting on Day One. At its inception the park will include:

- Playfully painted ground surface that extends across Harvey Milk, 9th and Park, and begins to infiltrate adjacent intersections, even creeping up building walls when possible
- Seats made from the trees that are removed during demolition
- Instagramable opportunities from every angle to light up social media
- Host site for temporary installations from the local design community and the Portland Winter Light festival
- Hook ups for mobile social services, food trucks and musical performances
- A schedule of colorful night-time events – silent disco, silent family movie night – that bring life and activity to the space.

Square One is trending – the world is watching.



# EVERYTHING'S ON THE TABLE

BR|IC

BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
BRIC ARCHITECTURE

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:  
Alec Perkins, Brett Lundmark, Natalie deFrance Dreyer, Nusaibah Khan, Keely Merten, Molly Esteve

Everything's on the table...

And there's a seat for everyone at Square One. Connecting across the site, a shared table invites guests from Portland and beyond to join together. A sense of warm welcome is created as the table rises and shifts to meet users' needs. Here a bench, then a table. There a quiet pod and reading nook. Shifting again to become a climbing wall, a play structure. A pavilion. A public stage and celebration plaza. The table offers moments of activation that invite curiosity, connection, and community.

Everyone, join us!  
Everything's on the table.



A table could be ... a table, a bench, a stage, a room, a play structure, a pool, a resting place, a canopy. Everything's on the table.



The ribbony form of the table suggests a playful connection to surrounding partners. Temporary activation informs the permanent form of the table as community connections and engagement are tested.

Perhaps the table supports a BikeTown station and community bike hub supported by P;EAR youth. A conversation table becomes a place for storytelling supported by the adjacent Literary Arts Council, with pop-ups from Powell's.



Here the table creates a shelter, supporting the efforts of Portland Street Response. There the table opens into a wide pavilion, inviting celebration and play: music and dance, court sports and Silent Roller Disco. Again the table shifts, supporting a vertical green scape. And finally, across Harvey Milk Avenue, the table rises and provides a backdrop for community identity and pride. Everything's on the table.



# DREAM SPACE PARK

BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

SALAZAR  
ARCHITECT

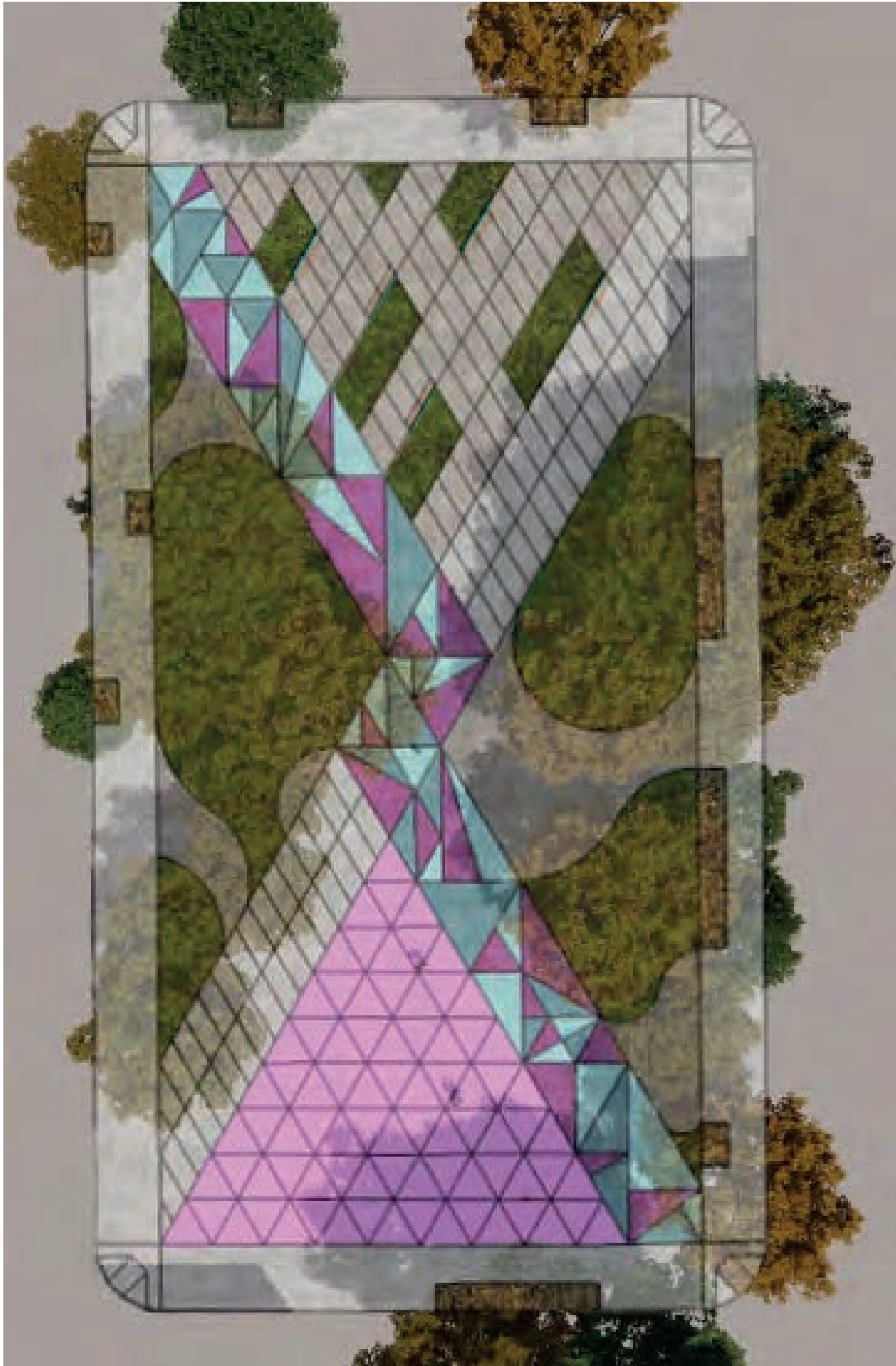
FIRM/GROUP NAME: Salazar Architect Inc.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A burst of green with a dense tree canopy cradles a colorful path with triangular plazas on both ends, paying homage to the LGBTQIA+ community roots in the neighborhood and its connection to the Burnside Pink Triangle. The mini urban forest connects to the green loop, breathing new life into the expanse of concrete city blocks while providing an alternative park design to the larger urban plazas and fountains nearby. A small stage at the SW corner activates the space by providing a platform for smaller community organizations, like the neighboring New Avenues for Youth, to experiment with music and performance art. Built-in amphitheater style steps provide permanent seating along the South edge facing the stage, giving people options about where to stop and rest. Light installations will illuminate the park and tree canopy during the evening and provide an experiential component to draw in visitors

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:

Christina Kwocienski & Jake Lewis



## TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

The idea for this temporary activation draws inspiration from the James Turrell Skyspace, *Twilight Epiphany*, located at Rice University in Houston, Texas. The concept would bring in a temporary structure with an opening cutout looking toward the sky that becomes washed with layers of slowly changing colors of light framed against the sky above.



# SK8-SRO

BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

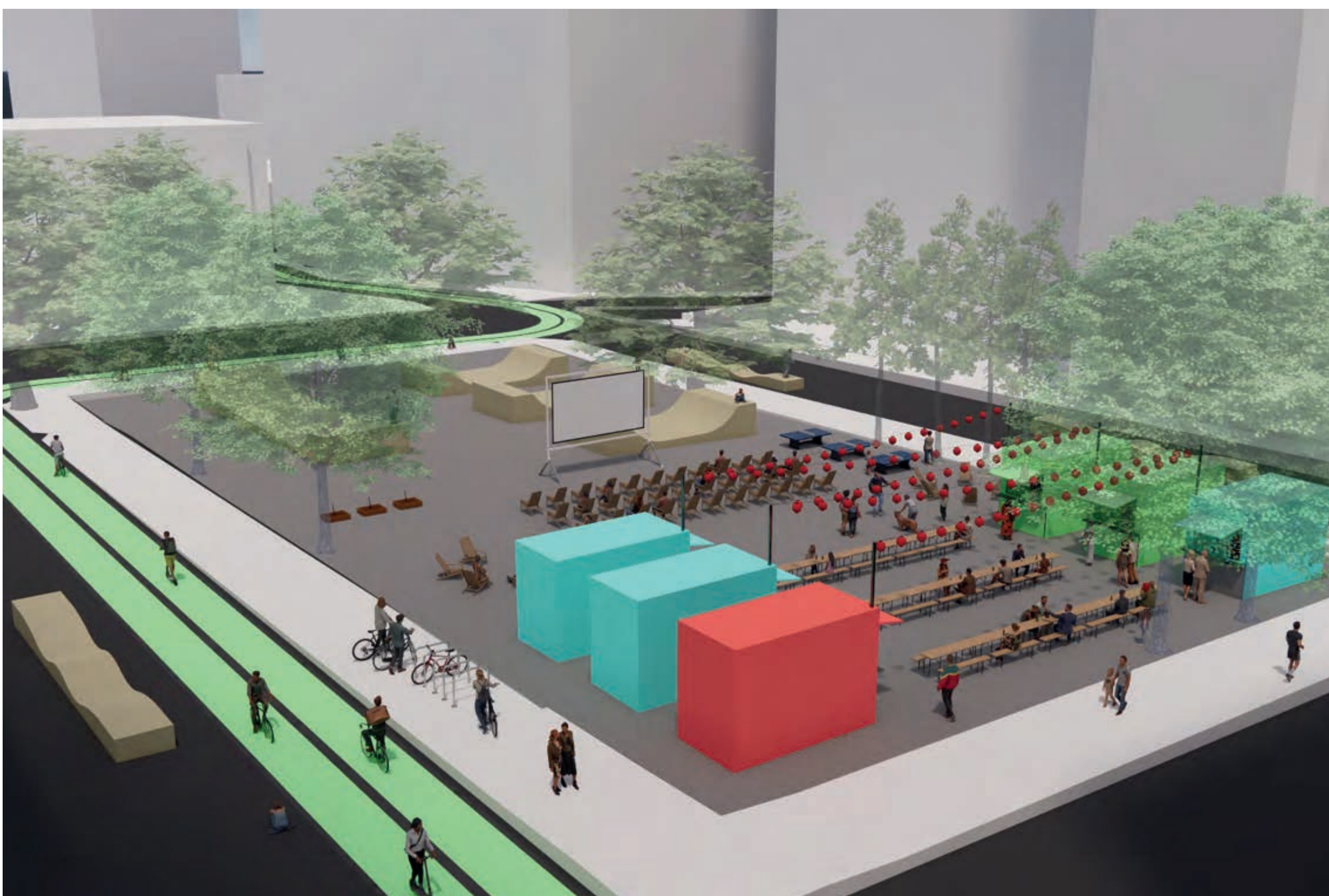
# GBD

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
GBD Architects

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:  
Kyle Andersen, Mark Raggett, Nick Hodge

O'Bryant Square has served Portland's downtown community well since it was established. As Park Block 1, it was the first of the iconic Park Block chain, and when it was redesigned in the 1970s, it became Portland's first "Living Room". As Portland emerges from the challenges of the early 2020s, it is poised to serve the Central City in a new way yet again. The west side of the Central City is not lacking for park space, and the local context and built edges around O'Bryant Square have evolved to make open space challenging without active programming and management. The SK8-SRO concept proposes that O'Bryant's next chapter serving the Central City is through a public-private development deal, where strategic open space functions are maintained, and the site is redeveloped to address the crises of the 21st Century. This concept envisions a skatepark and a community space beneath a 20-story single-room-occupancy (SRO) tower with approximately 300 SRO units. The tower would be comprised of a mix of units for different incomes and housing types, which would allow residents to move in and transition through different stages of recovery as they navigate from houseless to personal stabilization. This building could act as a beacon of hope for the clients of the adjacent social services where they could see a potential path forward. The skatepark offers self-programmed and self-regulating active recreation space that would attract a younger and more diverse demographic to downtown Portland. The flexible O'Bryant Plaza at the southern end of the block connects the food-oriented spaces from the Ankeny West food carts to Block 216 along the future Green Loop. Funds generated from the development deal would be used to acquire new park lands in the northern Central Eastside, where thousands of new residential units have been built but no park space currently exists. This concept is a uniquely Portland approach that highlights our nationally acclaimed food scene, historic skate culture, and our creative spirit that we bring to tackle tough challenges.



## TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

In the near-term, the SK8-SRO concept would be implemented through a combination of approaches. The northern half of the site and the adjacent street spaces of SW Park and 9th Avenues would become a skatepark. Roughly 10,000 square feet of the park space would be built out with skate ramps and bowls, similar to what has been deployed at other temporary parks like those at the PSU tennis courts or near Laurelhurst Park. The existing street spaces would incorporate an assortment of street skating elements and obstacles, and 9th Avenue would accommodate the Green Loop movement path through the space as well. The southern half of the block would feature a flexible plaza space that could incorporate 6 – 8 food carts or other micro-businesses with ample seating and gathering space. This area could serve as a connection of the food-oriented spaces that currently exist at the Ankeny West food carts and the future food hall in the ground floor of Block 216 across SW Washington Street to the south. This space could offer seating for patrons to watch the skating, movable tables and chairs for impromptu gatherings, and larger spaces that could feature outdoor movies and seating in the warmer months.



# equiTABLE

# PLACE

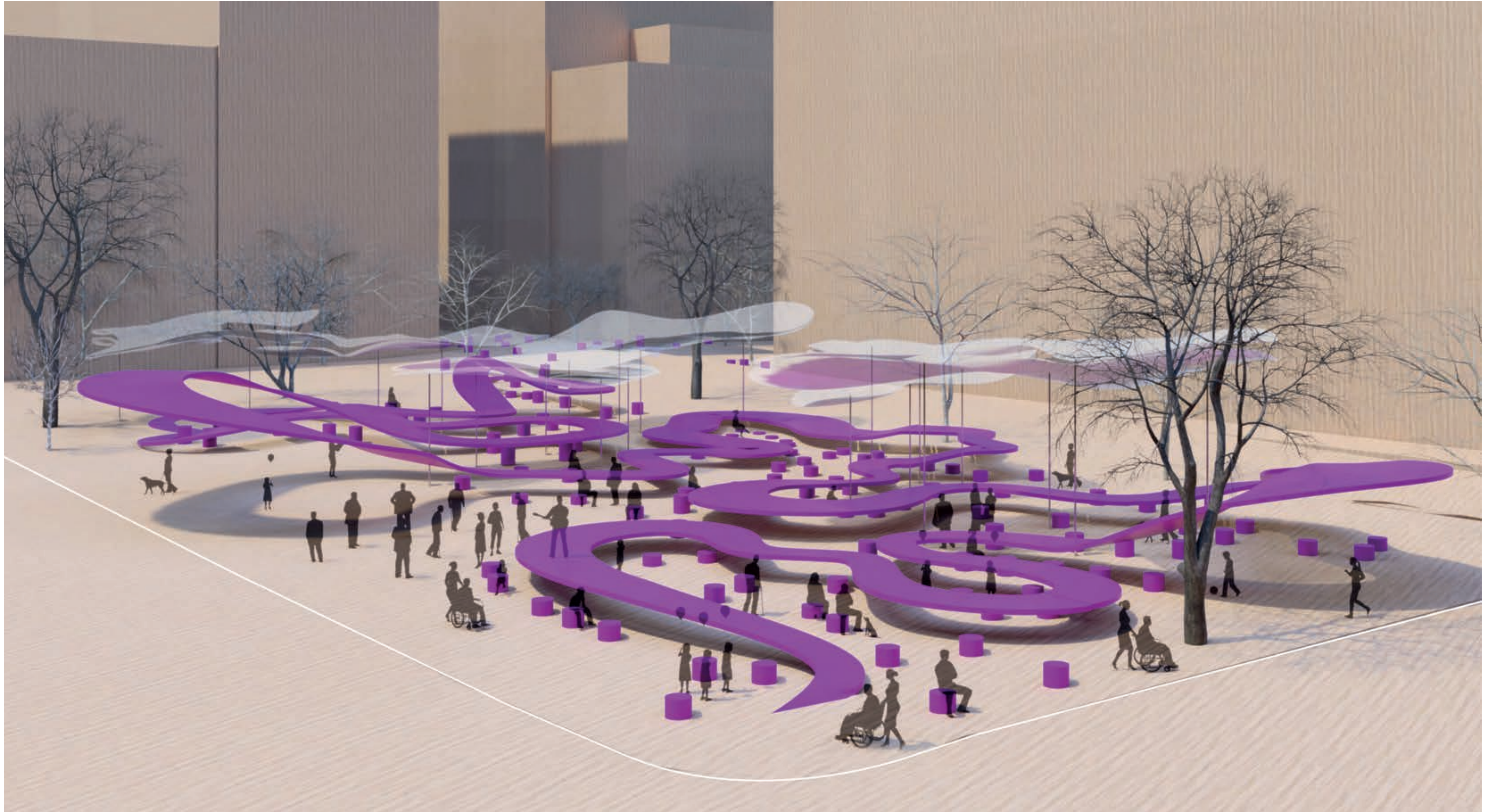
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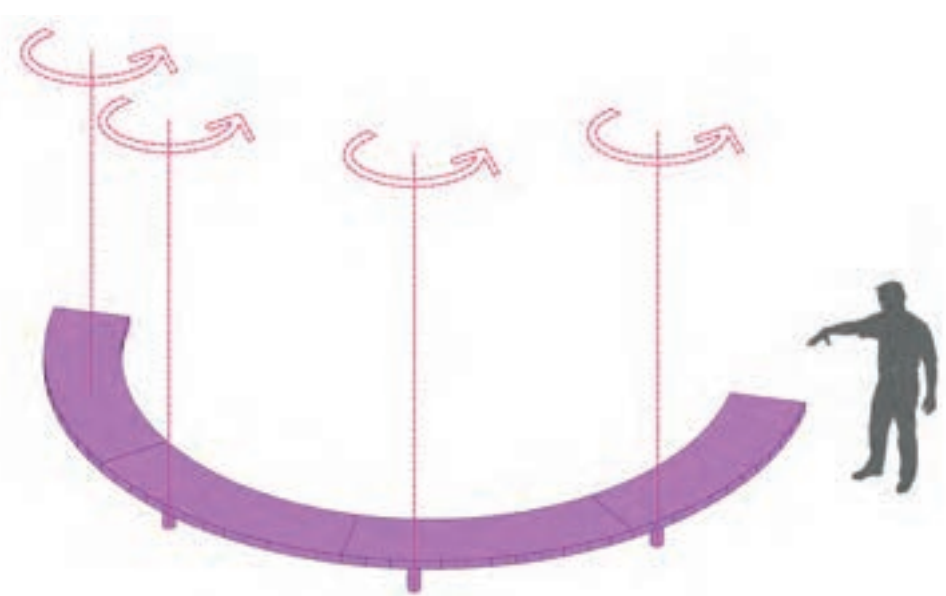
FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
PLACE

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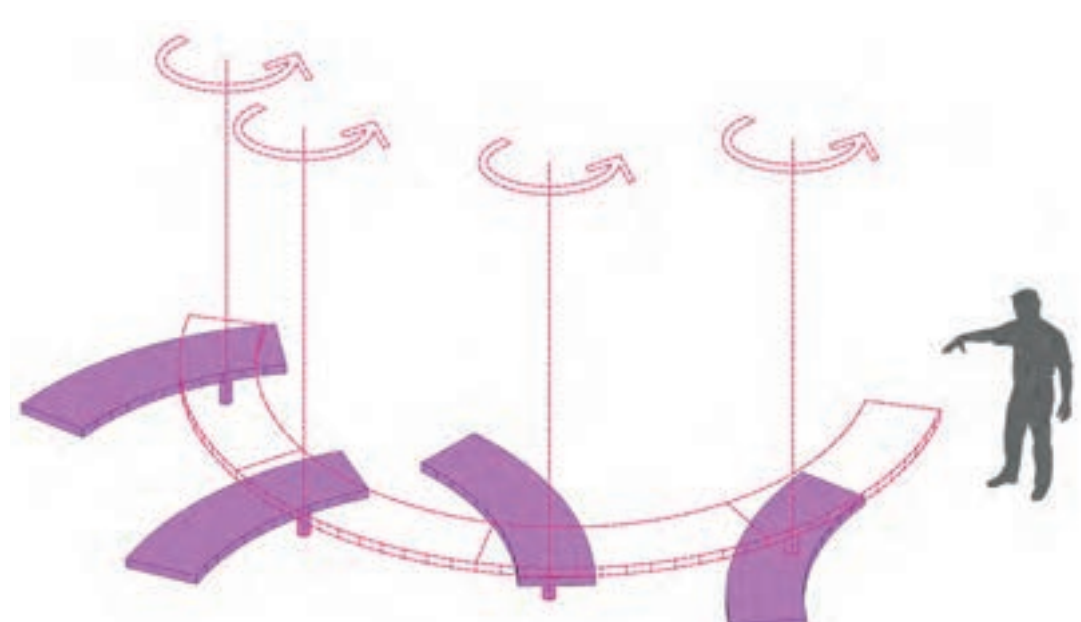
DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:  
PLACE



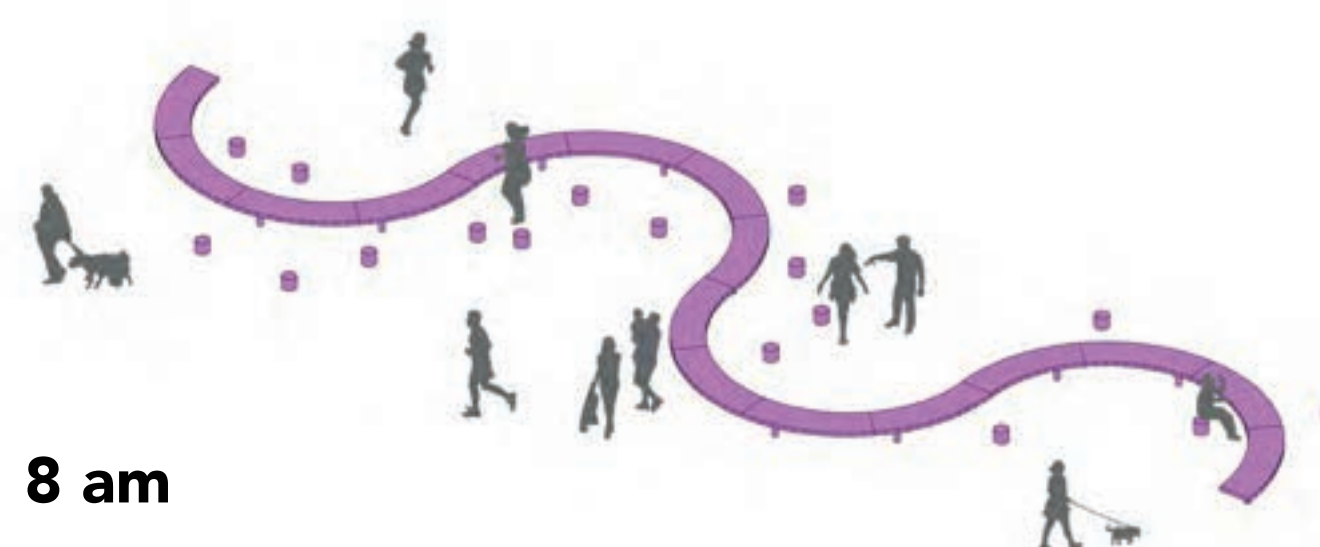
### TEMPORARY ACTIVATION



Default Setting



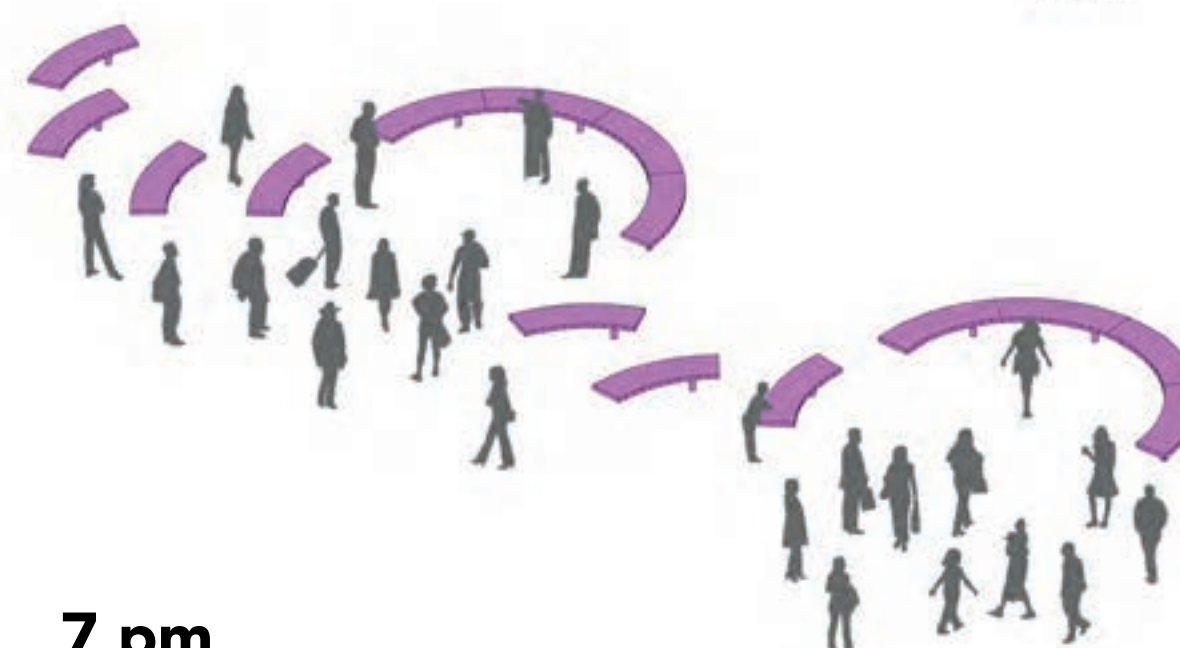
Flexible Module



8 am



1 pm



7 pm

- community TABLE
- meeting TABLE
- farm TABLE
- changing TABLE
- writing TABLE
- dancing TABLE
- chef's TABLE
- banquet TABLE
- kitchen TABLE
- card TABLE
- drum TABLE
- ping-pong TABLE
- time TABLE
- game TABLE
- bar TABLE
- coffee TABLE
- conference TABLE
- end TABLE
- drawing TABLE
- side TABLE
- patio TABLE
- craft TABLE
- talking TABLE
- kids TABLE
- harvest TABLE



# BALL-PARK

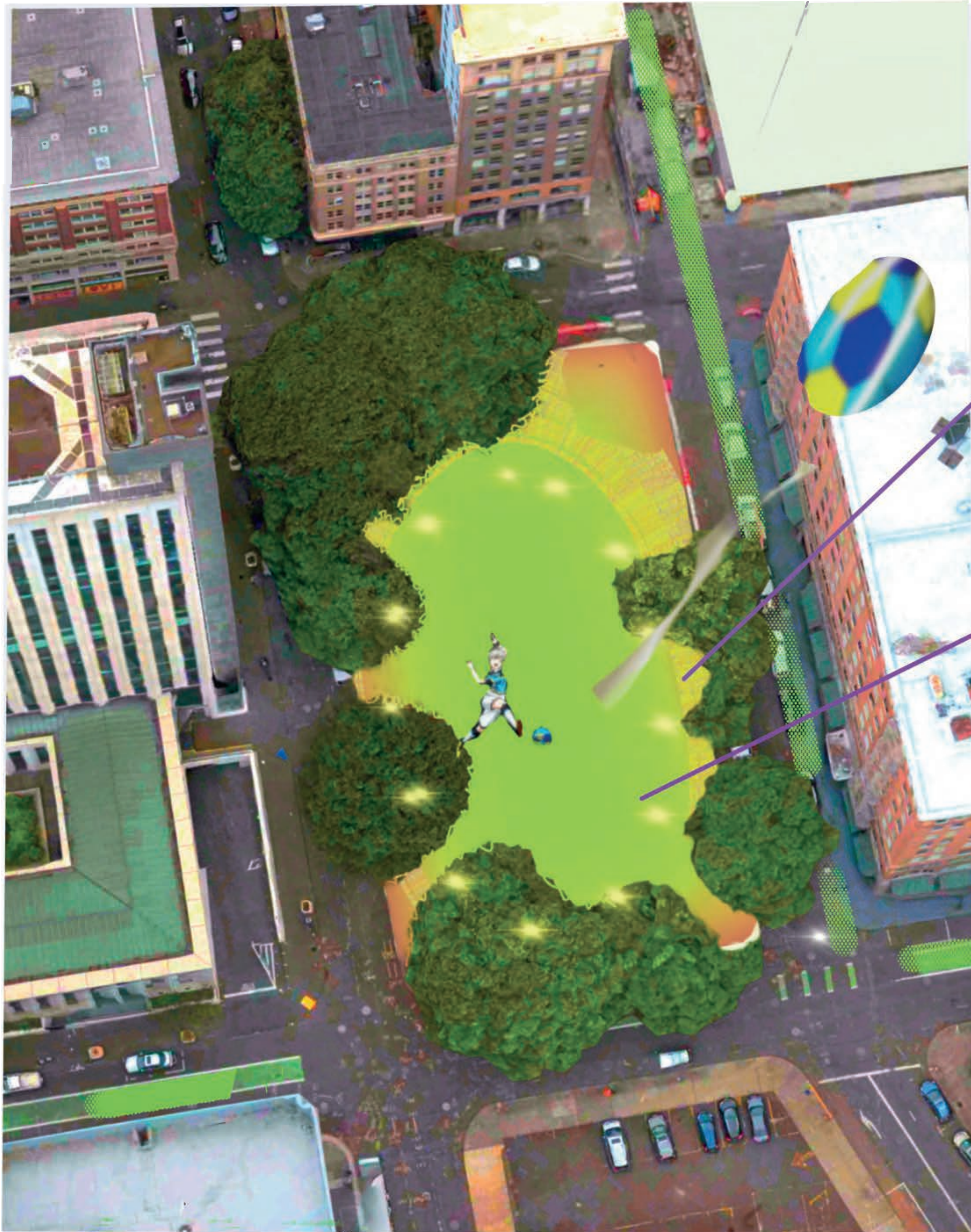
BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE



Urban Strategies LLC  
Charles McKinney  
estuaryone@aol.com

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- ◆ 7x7 soccer size field with a poured in place multicolor safety surface for Futsal, Soccer, Speedball, Dodgeball, free play.
- ◆ Enclosed by an oval of climbable net with integrated play elements, swings, climbing ropes, travel rings, lights ound system, and bouncy seats.
- 🕒 Buy your food and drinks at the storefronts across the street



## TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

### Phase 1

1. Establish artistic protection zone for trees
2. Compact subgrade, install gravel drainage layer and pave with asphalt graded towards trees
3. Community design for Painting

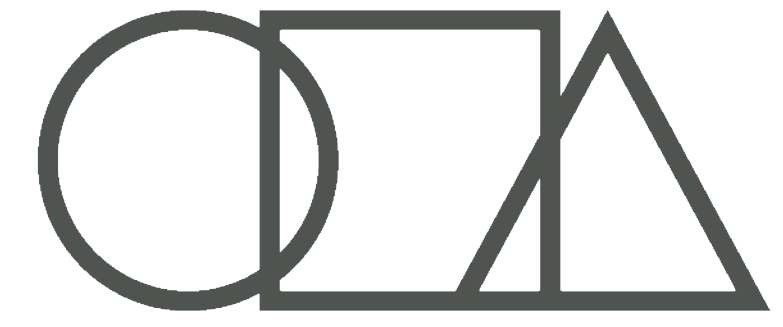
### Phase 2

1. Install multicolor soft playsurface
2. Install fish net climbing fence by KNSTRCT or other.
3. Provide movable tables and chairs





# PRIDE PLAZA



## BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
CARLETON HART ARCHITECTURE

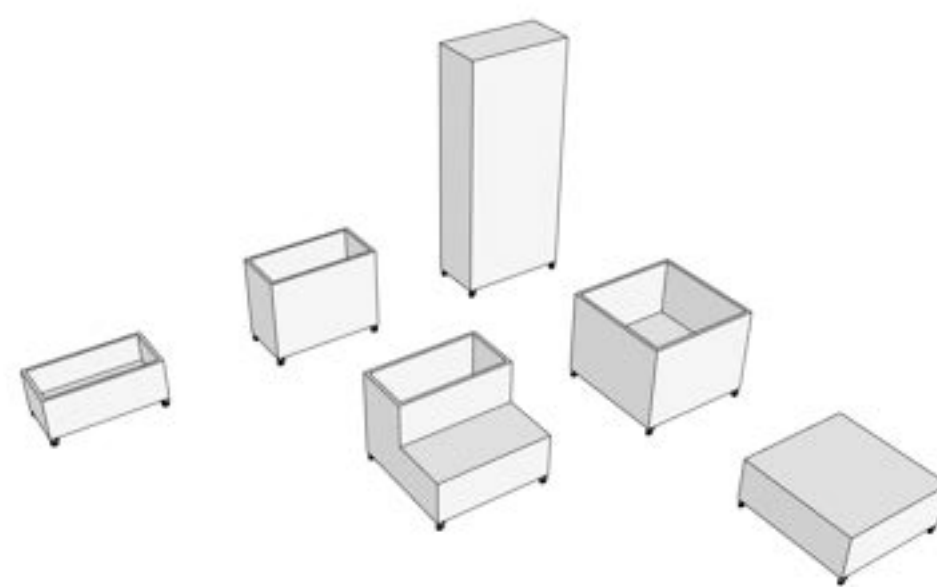
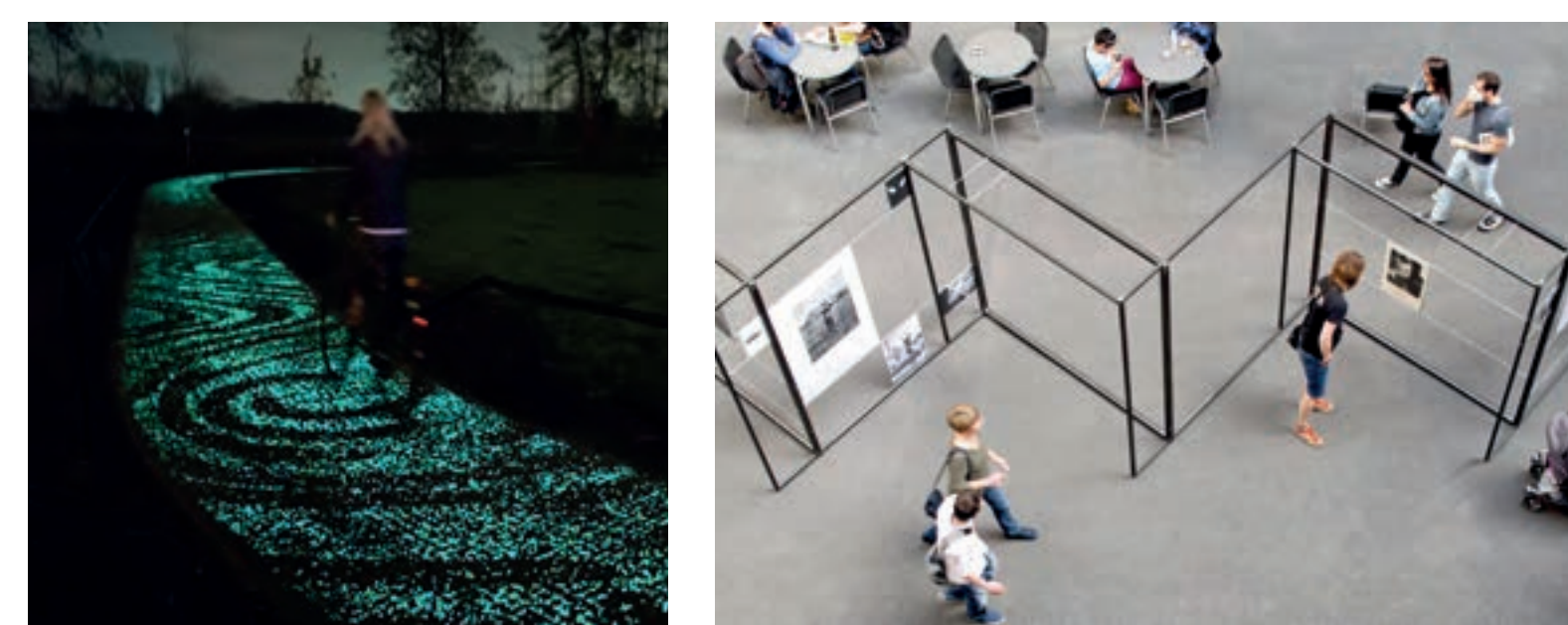
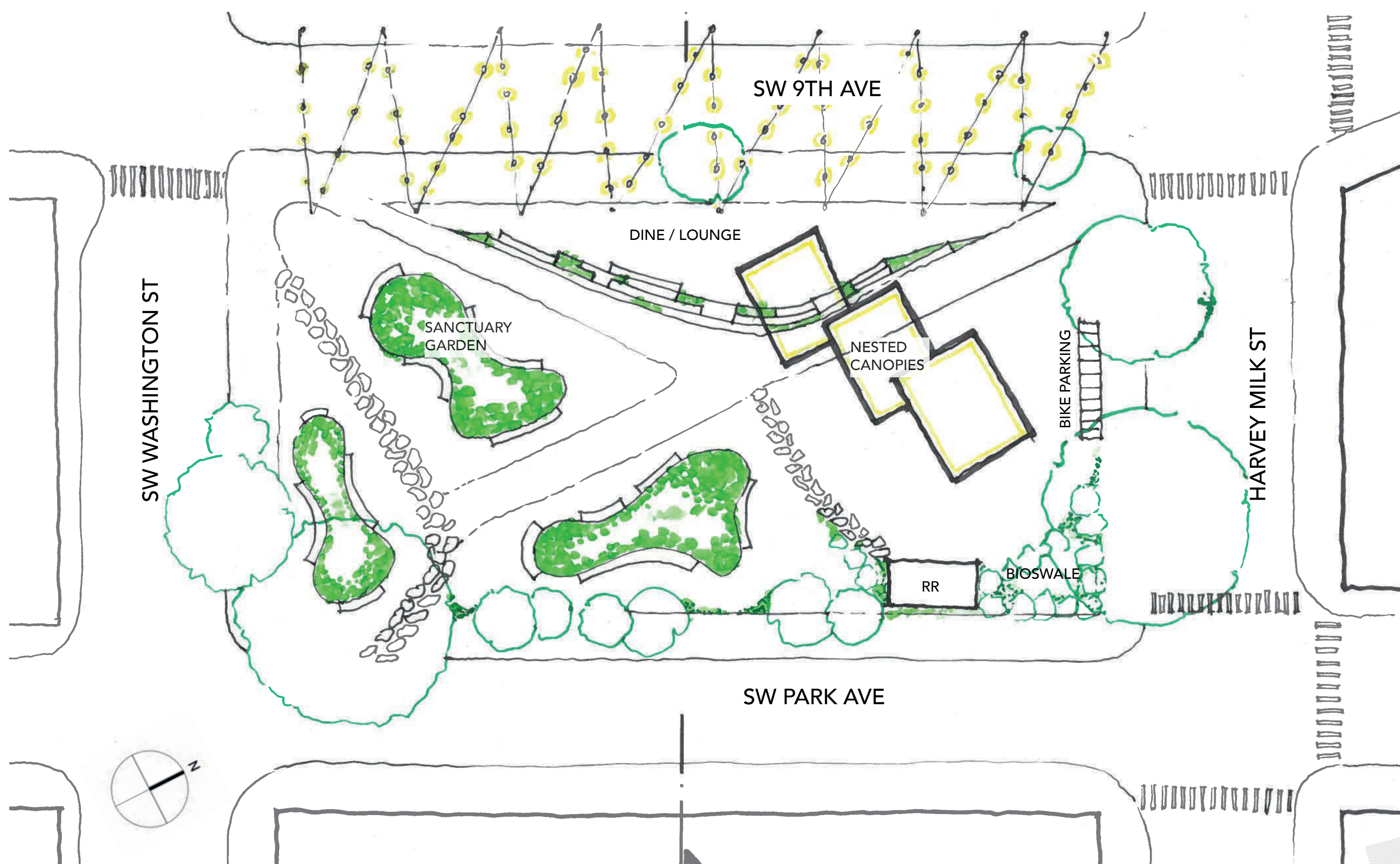
DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:  
ANDERS OTTERLEI, EMILY WALDINGER,  
SHRUSHTI BHATKAL, THIERY NANETANGAR

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

O'Bryant Square lies at an intriguing crux of Portland's city center. To the southwest sits a new luxury tower which promises to increase density, while to the north shelter services are provided for both youth and adults. It also makes up a corner of the "Pink Triangle" which is a district with a higher density of LGBTQ friendly businesses. In addition the west and north edge are included in the new "Green Loop" which lends itself to pedestrian activity throughout Portland.

The park's main entry is at the NW corner with a path in alignment with 9th Avenue. This diagonal sightline provides views back in the direction of the pink triangle district. A secondary entrance comes from the SW which invites food hall customers to enjoy their meal in the park. These paths will be lined with panels as opportunities for local artists to display their work or engage the community with shared artwork projects. The paths create an active space along the west side of the park and an extension of the pedestrian path on 9th Avenue. The park intends to keep all existing trees, as a result the SE corner of the park provides a quieter and more peaceful space to sit back and enjoy the scene under the natural canopy. A large shelter structure near the center of the park will provide opportunities for performances or simply protection from the elements during the rainy season. Other programmatic elements include a public restroom, bike parking, and a bioswale to account for storm-water runoff.

Our design centers around three main principles; safety, activation, and flexibility. Light features throughout the park will activate the space while also allowing park goers to feel safe at all times of day. The negative space created by circulation routes makes zoned spaces with a variety of active and calm areas. Flexible exhibition opportunities help activate the space and encourage engagement with park goers, while also incorporating the artistic culture of Portland.



### TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

To test out the program of the new park design, we suggest four ways to temporarily activate the space:

Modular planter seating that can be arranged around the park. These moveable pieces can define areas of seating and rest while simultaneously introducing plants and greenery into the park space. They will be efficiently constructed of a 4x4 module but vary in height.

Moveable art displays create a gallery walk along main circulation routes. These will draw pedestrians into the park while also giving local artists the opportunity to share their creativity with the community.

Glow-in-the-dark paint applied to ground planes to define main circulation routes within the park whether during the day or at night. This is done with the intent to activate the space at all times of day as well as test out proposed circulation routes for the park.

Pop up canopy tents to allow for weather protection in proposed areas. Portland's climate demands opportunities to be shielded from the elements and encourage people to visit the park during all seasons.





# BUTTERFLY PARK

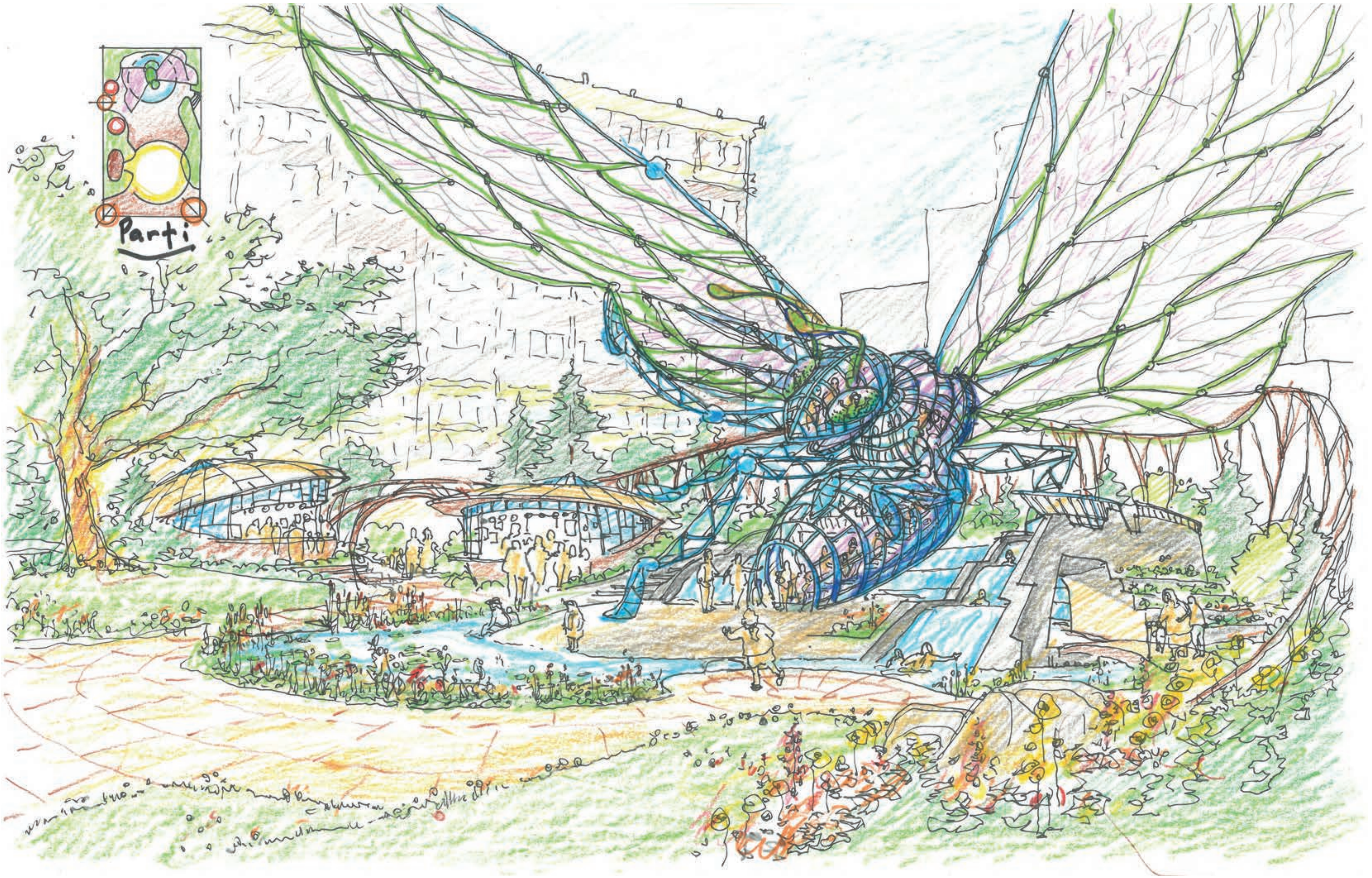
## BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FIRM/GROUP NAME: communitecture,  
architecture & planning

DESIGN TEAM:  
Mark Lakeman

Our design proposes an invigorating spatial and programmatic dialog between an iconic, permanent public fixture that will attract people from all over the world, and a changeable companion space. Expressing the 21st century value to facilitate social evolution, the companion space would be a field for testing new interactive and spatial ideas. Thus the interaction between the two elements will express a new kind of public space that presents a commitment to new ways that can expand upon old ways. Numerous vital 21st century values of an increasingly diverse society concerned with resilience are expressed in the design through integrated design elements. These include features that inspire a symbolic and functional reintegration of humanity with nature; animated edges that model collaboration between public and private; a field for changeable installations that keep the attention of the community actively focused; verdant gardens with phases of beauty and native pollinator support; a strong presence of interactive biologically filtered water that helps to link this public space to some of the great interactive water places of Portland; a space that is multi-usable that provides places in sunlight and shade during the day, and that is luminous and spectacular at night. This design is time based and LED-luminous, both daily and seasonal in its effects. The design is very much a playground in the sense that it is inspiring to the imagination of multiple generations with multiple environments and levels for interaction and creativity. Perhaps its greatest strength is that it emphatically asserts that nature and humanity have a place with each other, while expressing this in a way that is compellingly absurd. Let's invite our community, and visitors from around the world, to come back to the urban core and witness the return of birds and butterflies while we revitalize our downtown. This design is offered in honor Willard K. Martin's affinity for butterflies and his faith in the legacy that public space provides.



### TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

To test the concept of a social-spatial, biomorphic installation that provides an interactive power of place, we will need an extraordinary installation. Fortunately, since we are in Portland we can propose to activate Portland's legendary nomadic place making demonstration project called T-Horse. Since bringing thousands of people together to link hands around the city of Portland, this extraordinary ephemeral gathering place has attained mythological status. People all over the city know and love it. In the wake of the pandemic, T-Horse has recently been rebuilt for service to bring communities across the city out of isolation and back into contact with each other. Further, we propose to combine the presence of T-Horse with other ephemeral installations that are sculptural, interactive, ecological, informative, may provide habitat, and display dazzling technology that would help animate the space.





# CONTAINER PARK

## BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

DESIGN TEAM:  
Sam Barber, Jennifer Siegal



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The objective of this project is to breathe life into this new park immediately by creating spaces for food carts, a beer garden, live music, art galleries and other programming, all housed in repurposed shipping containers on the site. The design phase of the project will focus on creating a welcoming and accessible space for all members of the community. The park's layout will include seating areas, shade structures, landscaping, and lighting to enhance the overall user experience. The shipping containers will be designed to be aesthetically pleasing and will feature indoor and outdoor seating areas. The park will be marketed as a destination for locals and tourists alike, with events and activities hosted throughout the year. The park will also provide opportunities for local artists and musicians to perform and showcase their work.



### TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

The first step would be to bring in a single shipping container converted to a performance space. Mobile food carts could apply for a free short term lease, allowing the site to serve as an incubator for new businesses in the community and providing an incentive for them to commit to a site for the test period.



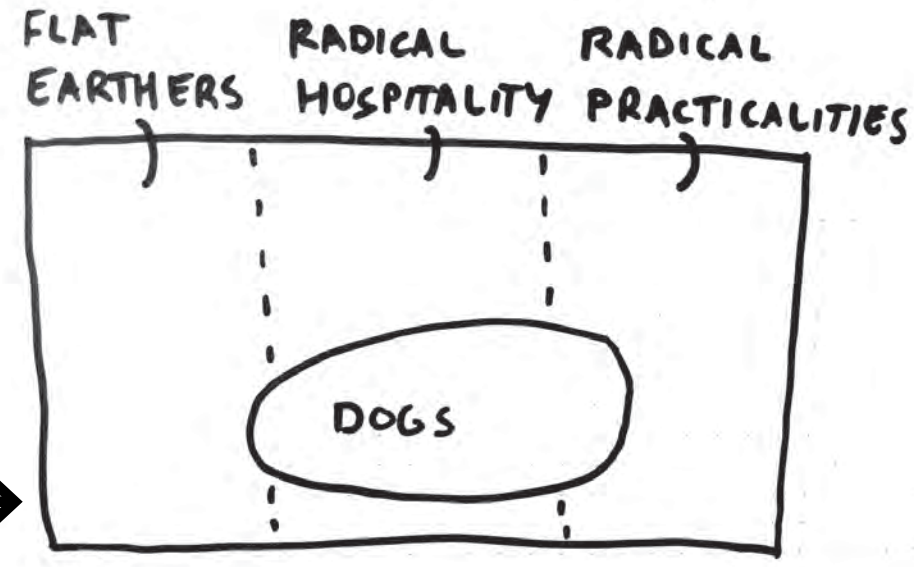
# BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

# COEXISTENCE SLOTS



Over the next few years, how might this space offer opportunities to explore, celebrate & evaluate **MODES OF COEXISTENCE?**

Imagine these 21,000 square feet divided into three strips like the display of a slot machine



For each strip, different organizations & collectivities take responsibility for interim set-up, operations & programming for 4-month periods, then the slots are rolled again.

The goal of the research is to find modes of coexistence with mutual recognition & respect suitable for long-term trust & investment.

## Potential O'Bryant Experiences

- Dog & Pet Run
- Skate-able Area
- Visual Art Display System / pear Gallery
- Giant Light & Sound Installation
- Bubble Festival
- Needle Drop / Safe Injection Area
- Seating
- Storytelling
- Drag Queen Hall of Fame
- Stage
- Electricity
- Micro-Retail
- Flea Market / Swap Meet
- Potluck in the Park
- Mandatory New Resident Education
- Hobby Huts / Carpentry Area / Tool Shed
- Street Roots Newspaper Stand
- Maintained Trash Cans
- Shower & Haircut Trucks
- Blanket / Handwarmer / Jacket Swap
- 50¢ Hot Water Cup Stand / Cocoa Ministry
- Annual Pavilion & Ground Mural
- Zoom Infrastructure
- Vending Machines
- "Clean European" Space
- BBQ Area
- Community Kitchen
- Restrooms
- Community Ambassadors
- Med Shed
- Raised Garden Beds with Native Plants
- Basketball Half-Court
- Water Fountains on All Corners
- Snacks
- Chargers
- Public Info Center
- Guillotine
- Day Storage
- Mounds
- Social Work
- Shade & Shelter from Weather
- Wifi
- Opera Cart
- PCNA Focus Week
- Memorial for Ancestors
- Low-Sensory Space
- Game Tables
- Giant Disco Ball
- Accessible Surfaces
- Youth & Queer Culture History

## Potential O'Bryant Denizens

- Skateboarders
- Gardeners
- Young people
- Ritz condo buyers
- Pet owners
- LGBTQIA2S+ people
- Tourists & visitors
- Vendors
- Artists
- Hungry People
- Lunch eaters
- Office & Telco workers
- Musicians
- Unhoused People
- Differently Abled People
- [...]

WORK IN PROGRESS

## Potential futures

LEFT  
Radical Hospitality: Annual Fashion Extravaganza sponsored by underU4men & Travel Gay Portland, Set design includes raised planter beds & stage built & maintained by BHRC clientele

RIGHT  
Radical Practicality: Discreet lockers, water & charging stations for everyday needs of people experiencing houselessness



Major elements here borrowed from *Our Skid Row Urban Design Sourcebook*, published by Skid Row Housing Trust, Los Angeles, 2015



# GARDEN SQUARE

BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE  
**RISA BOYER**

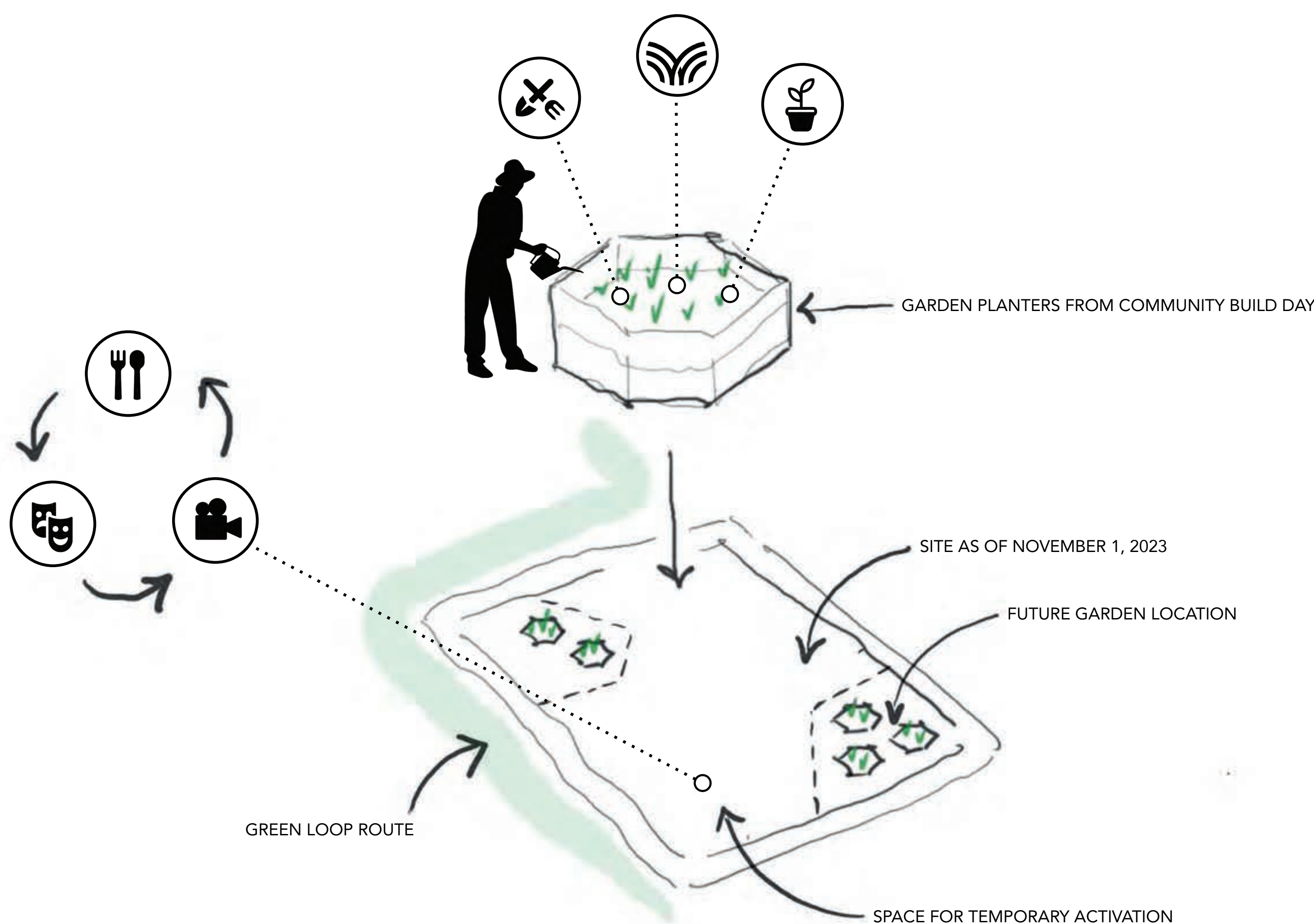
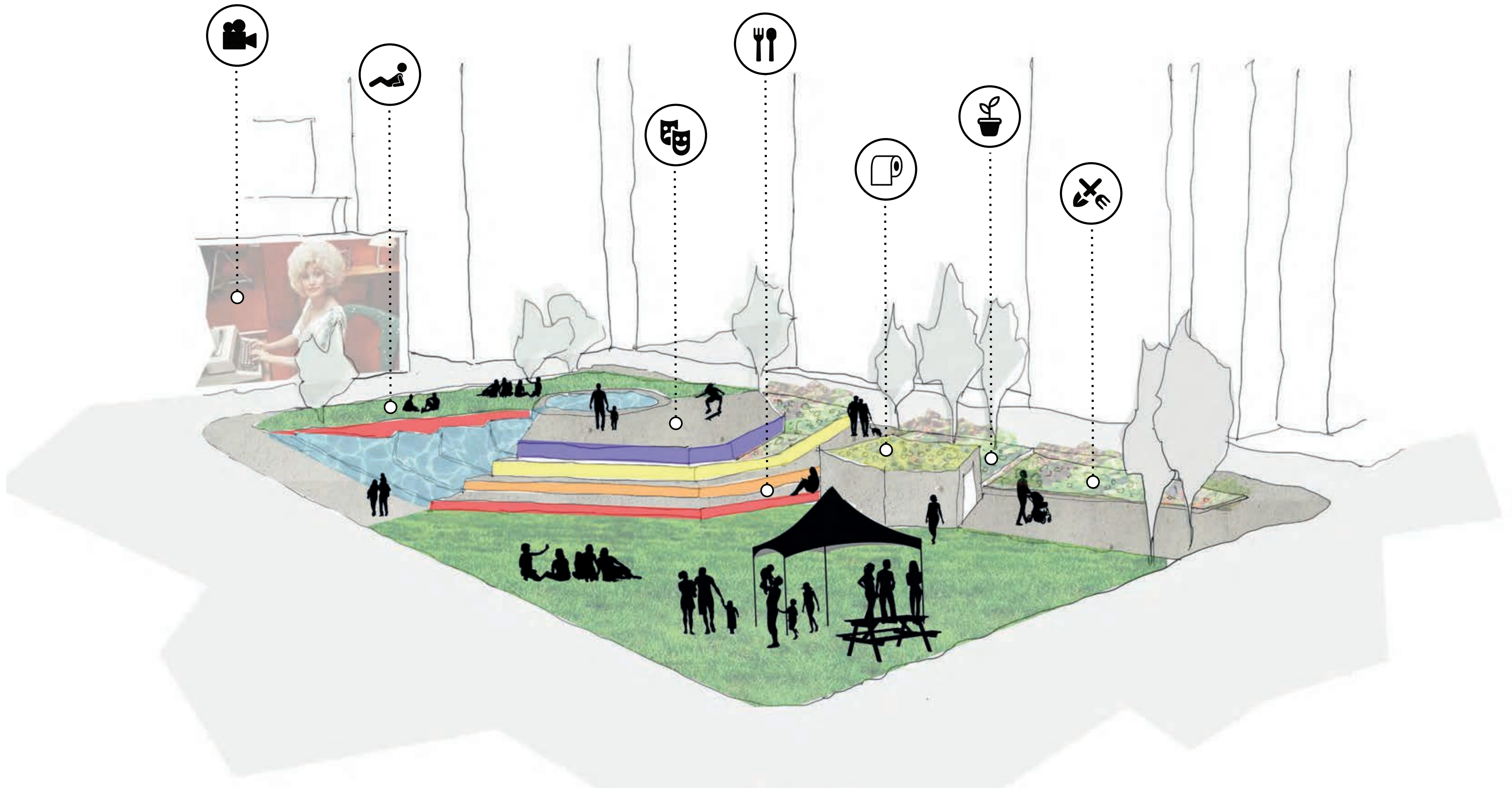
FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
Risa Boyer Architecture

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:  
Risa Boyer Leritz, Val Reynolds, Kate Jensen, Lisa Patterson, Olivia Snell

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**What we heard from the community:** Greenspace for people watching, reading, places to eat; Bringing young people together for constructive, self-directed activities; LGBTQ+ honoring the "Pink Triangle" cluster of gay clubs nearby and Harvey Milk Blvd; and Community Gardens.

**Our response:** Referencing the original park design we are proposing a softer, more welcoming space for a wider population of Portland that responds to the disparity between the surrounding communities that range from the Ritz to the New Avenues for Youth. Public spaces should bring communities together and provide a safe place to gather, regardless of socioeconomic status, background, or identity. Our design links the PDX Green Loop and a series of new food carts on 9th Avenue to the square through open pathways, green space, a water feature and a series of community gardens that reference the original forms of the park's brick tiers. We inverted the original tier lines to start with a fountain as the high point that seconds as a stage. From the highest point, the tiers terrace as a series of gardens and fountains that provide space for community garden plots, cooling water features, open grassy spaces and shaded walkways. On the north side of the park there is a sloped grassy knoll for picnics during the day and seating for a movie in the evening, utilizing a neighboring wall as a projection screen surface. Creating a safe public space that supports the houseless community, reflects the history of the LGBTQIA2s+ communities and protects natural resources reimagines the urban park for future generations.



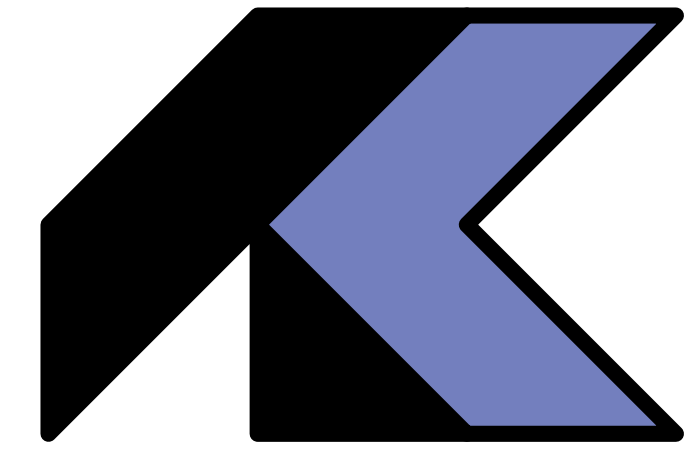
## TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

Our temporary activations would be to start the community gardens immediately, establishing a personal connection with the park. The center of the park would be a flexible space for ongoing rotating programmed events to keep the space activated allowing for gatherings, temporary art installations, and pop-up movie nights.



# FLYING COLORS

BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

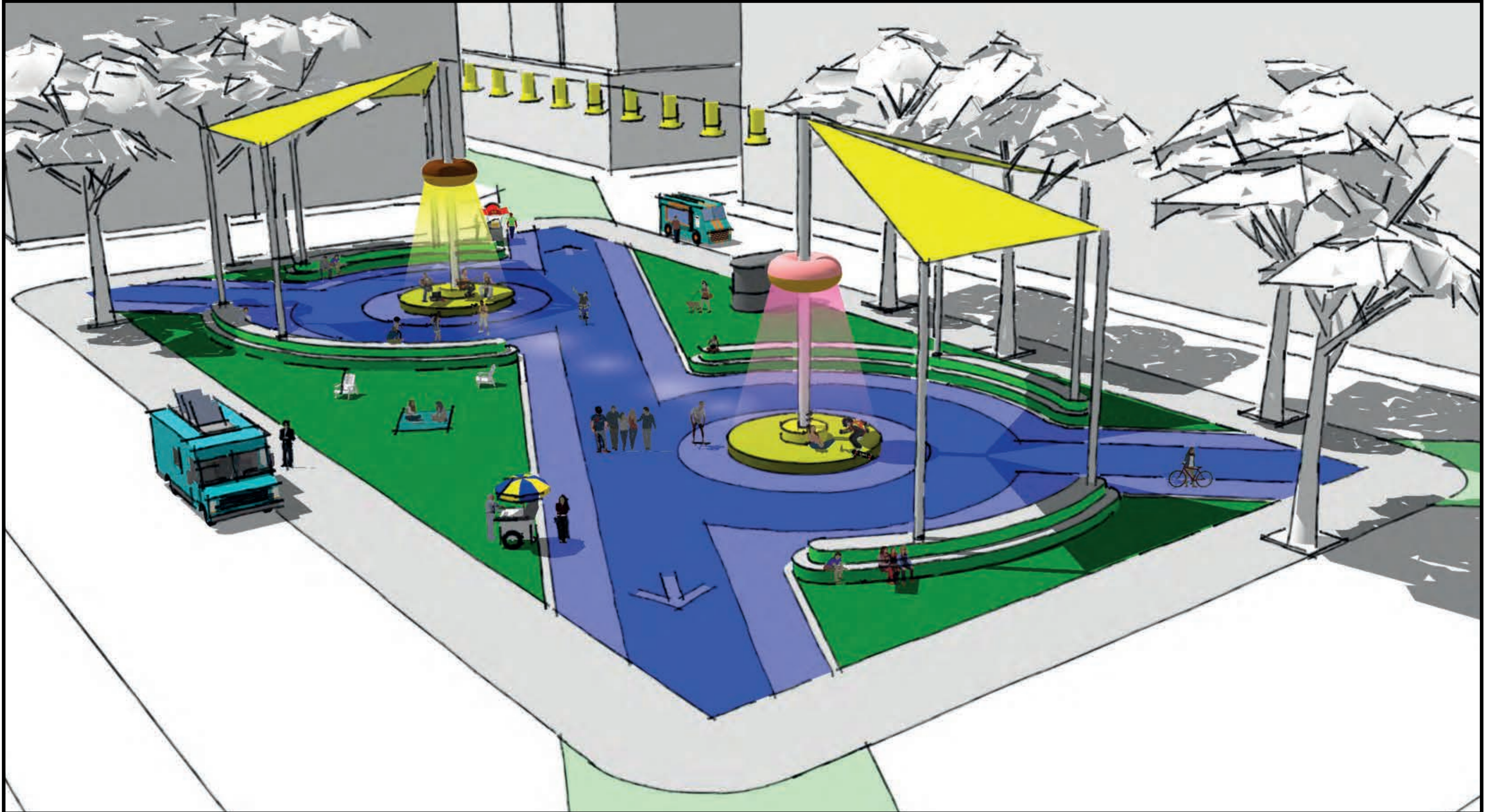


FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
Aaron Kuehn / BikeLoud

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:  
Aaron Kuehn, Joseph Perez

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Let's bring some life back to downtown Portland, by inviting people in from all directions. With the **Green Loop** running **directly through the center** of this park, there's no end to the fun! Flying Colors puts everyone under the same roof, like a pre-colonial longhouse, or is it a circus tent? It's just enough shelter to feel warm — on the inside. The playful stages elevate spontaneous performances without getting in the way of sightlines and access. And the chocolate and berry donuts illuminate the performances, and the way to more culinary sensations. This is the easiest park to walk through with pathways as wide as the surrounding streets, plenty of room for people traveling on all kinds of 3, 2, and 1-wheeled contraptions. It's all laid out like the Portland City Flag — our unifying symbol. Let's fly our colors Portland!



## TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

The original O'Bryant Square amphitheater design was a great idea, it just needed better access. **This design is all about access.** You can enjoy the performance even when you're just breezing through on the Green Loop.

But don't you want to stop for a minute? There's plenty of seating, or room on the dance floor. Or maybe next time you'll bring your cajón, or your mini analog synthesizer and see if there's an outlet on that pole, the one with the giant donut.

Portland's full of creative types, that's why it's fun to visit and to live here.



# THE JOY PLAZA

## BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE



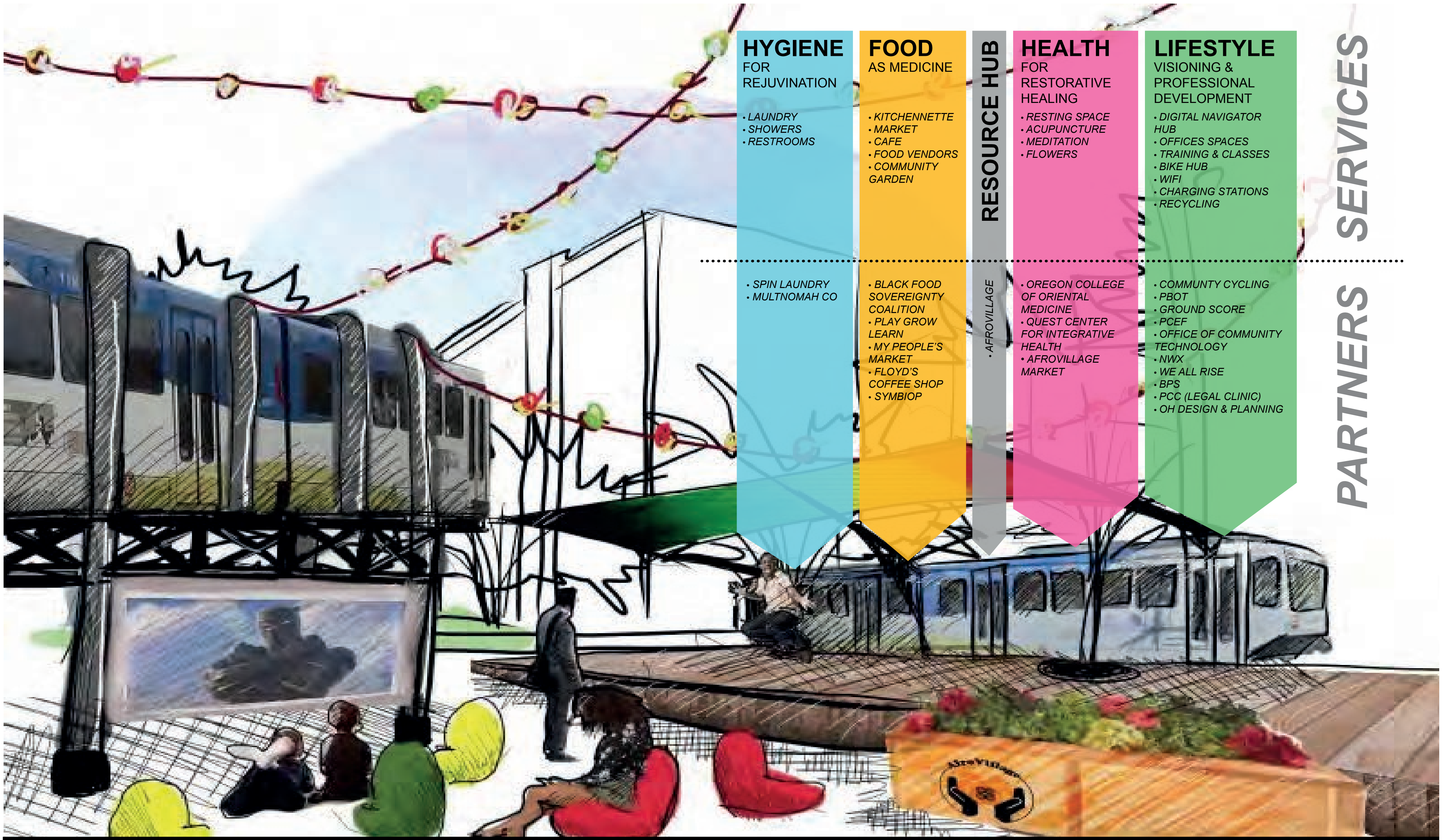
FIRM/GROUP NAME:  
AfroVillage PDX

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS:  
LaQuida Landford  
Marta Petteni  
Jung Sarut Choothian

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

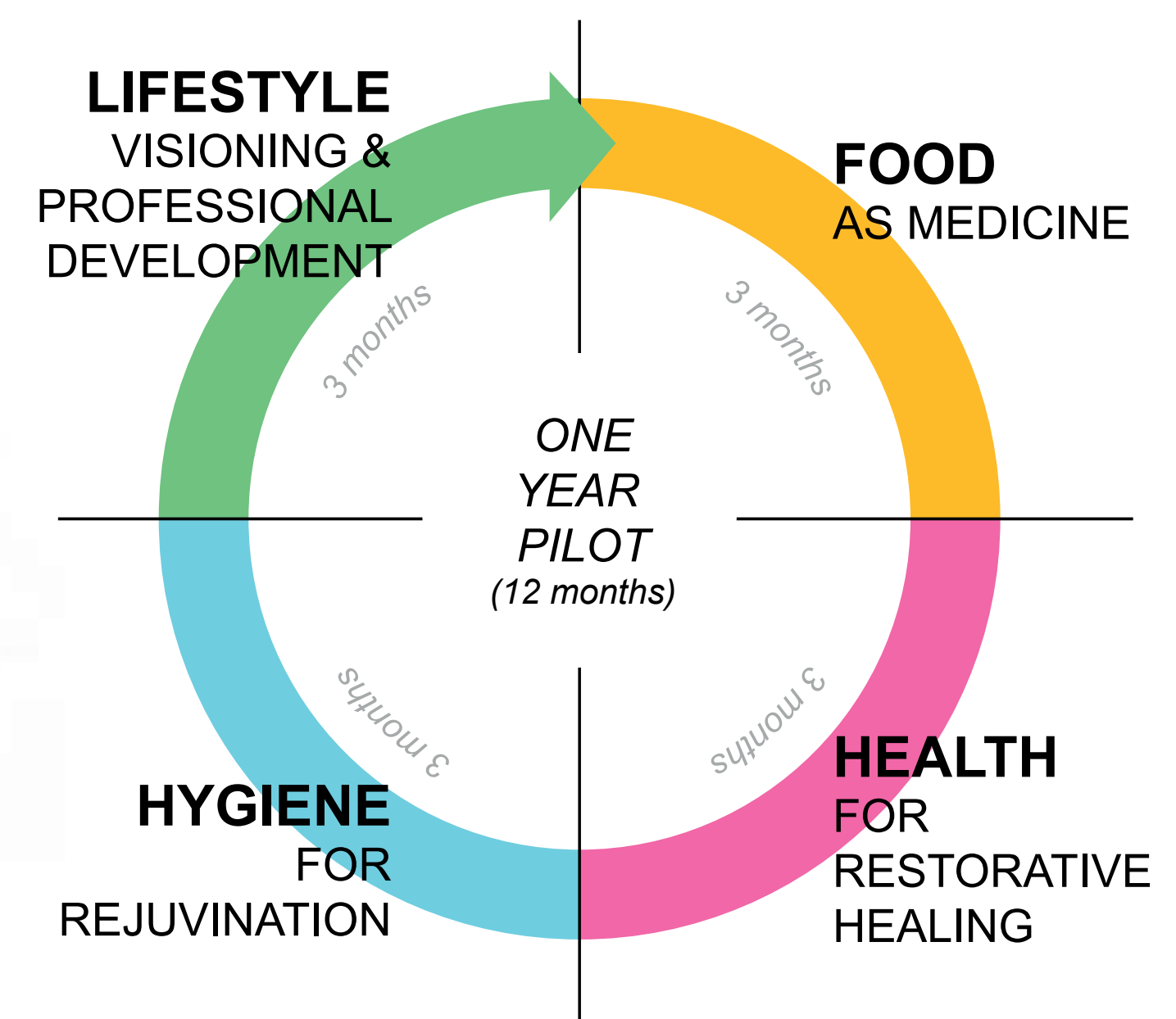
The AfroVillage Movement fosters equity, dignity, and sustainability in Portland's Black and Brown communities, with a focus on women and people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. The movement provides safe and healing spaces, direct care, and a variety of critical services including food, hygiene, and economic opportunities to community members in need. The movement also works to eliminate the systemic barriers that make housing, food, and economic opportunities inaccessible to Black and Brown communities through innovative and sustainable solutions.

Within this vision, the Joy Plaza will be a community healing space for Portland's Black and Brown communities to gather, heal, and build professional skills. The site will host the first retired MAX train cars, which will be refurbished to provide a variety of services including laundry, kitchens, a café, a bike store, a wellness room, office spaces, wifi, and more. While creating safe and welcoming community space for all, the Joy Plaza will help strengthen BiPOC's social fabric and sense of community in Portland. Winner of the People Choice Award at the 2019 MAX Train cars Reuse Competition, the project is the result of a partnership between the AfroVillage, TriMet, the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, PSU's Center for Public Interest Design, and numerous Black-owned organizations. All these partners are now working together to find the ideal site and make this vision a reality.



### TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

During the pilot year, the trains and the plaza will be activated with a focus on 4 core themes: Food, Health, Hygiene, & Lifestyle. Every three months, the Joy Plaza will test out different types of services and amenities related to one of these themes, working closely with Black and Brown organizations and other underserved communities. The lessons learned from the pilot phase will then inform the more permanent vision and amenities that will ensure the plaza will be an active, safe and joyful hub for our communities.





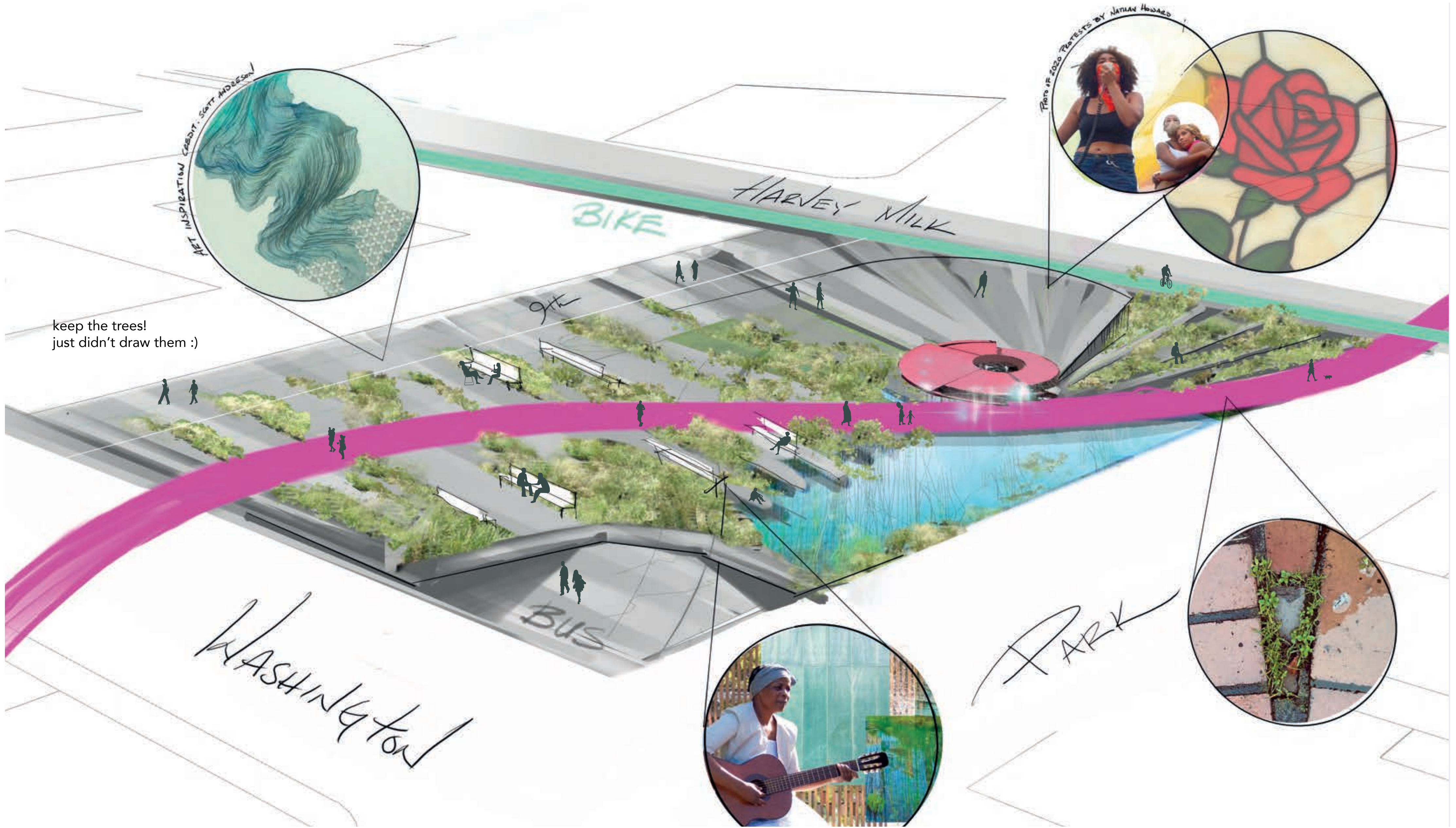
## BACK TO SQUARE ONE: RETHINKING O'BRYANT SQUARE

FIRM/GROUP NAME: ZGF

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS: Christopher Almeida, Kimberly Bandy, Shannon Leahy, Nolan Lienhart, Morgan Maiolie, Sakshi Nanda, Allison Rouse, David Staczek, Jerome Unterreiner, Zachariah Petett

### NORTH TO SOUTH, PAST TO PRESENT, YOUR EXPERIENCE TO MINE

When the fences come down, the park can stretch out, take a breath, link arms with the city again. The old park is gone and the future may ask different things of us. What will we knit together? Plants with our urban hardscape. Rest with city life. The voice of our community in protest and celebration. Our past and our present: we'll repair the bronze fountain and the old plaza bricks because we can build a new world without throwing away the old. Our concept for O'Bryant celebrates the ways in which people's movement knits together the city. It bends down to ease the passageway for wheels and feet along the green loop and curves up to create a threshold for those who arrive by bus. We can connect to bikes across the square. For all those who arrive here on their journey, O'Bryant is a place to pause. You can grab a cup of coffee while your kids and dog play. Listen to a street musician after your job training at New Avenues for Youth. You don't need any special purpose to be here and every kind of person comes through. In that way, we hope O'Bryant knits all of us.



keep the trees!  
just didn't draw them :)

Photo by 2008 Photo by Alan Howard

PARK

### TEMPORARY ACTIVATION

We want to know two things: do people like the way the site is designed for them to move through and do people feel they belong? The best way to know if they like the design, we think, is to build the path and the plants. An early installation could have lush pollinator plants to bring life and softness to the square. A bright path can cut through that honors freedom of movement through this space. There's an opportunity to make the pathway pink with LGBTQ+ community involvement to speak to the history of the Pink Triangle. At night, the path can glow, illuminating sails above, and projected light on buildings surrounding O'Bryant could teach us its history as we plan its future.

To explore design and programming that invites a variety of communities, we recommend small interventions that will speak to a range of community members (chess boards? food? a sound machine that plays rushing water inside the old fountain and write "keep me?" on it?). On temporary walls and installations, covered in blackboard paint, we can pose the questions to those who pause here:

"I feel I belong here because \_\_\_\_\_."  
"I feel I don't belong here because \_\_\_\_\_."

And we can all find out how we feel here, together.





# TO AND THROUGH



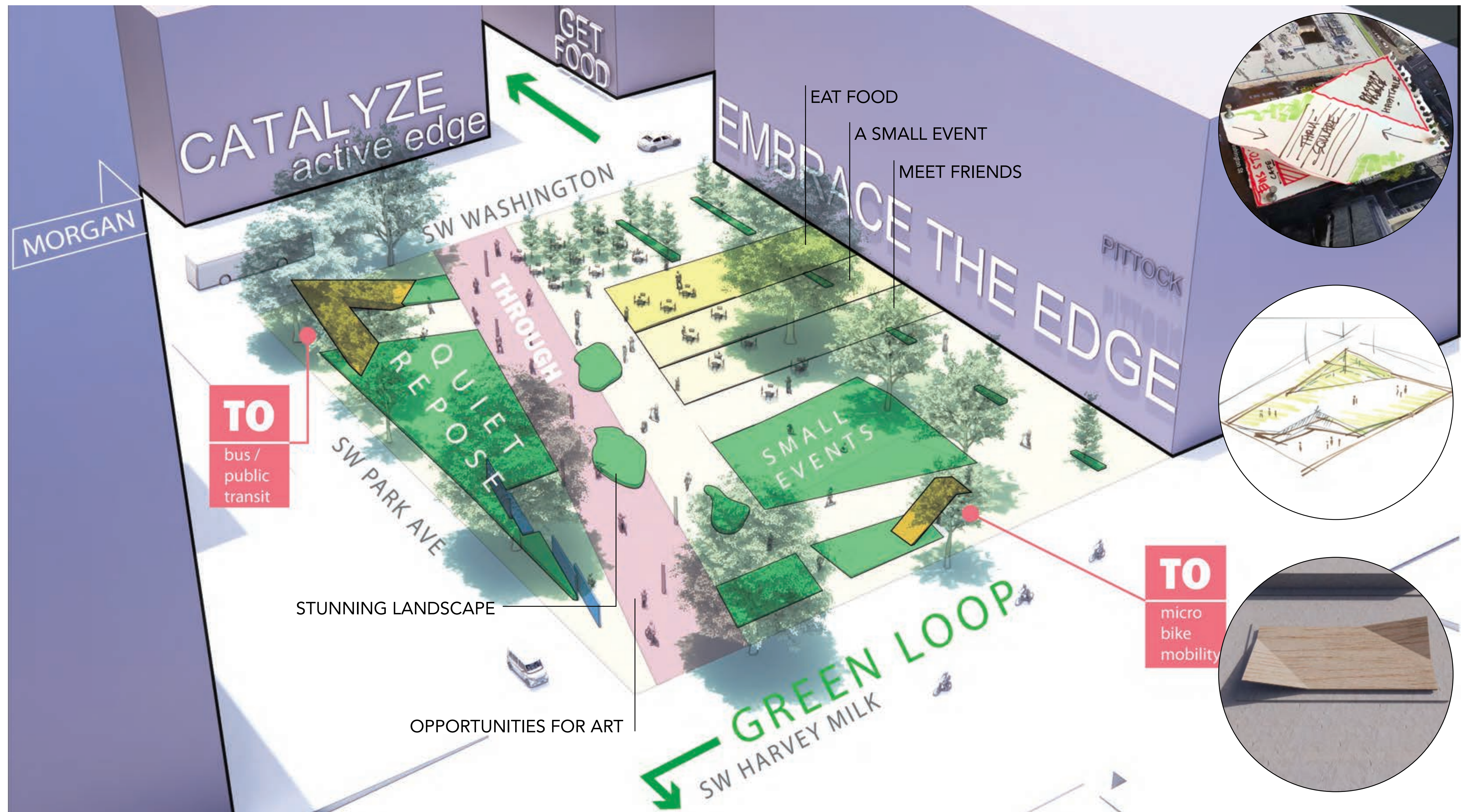
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### "FINAL" CONDITION

This is a place of transit, of movement and of change. Square One, like the city itself is in a period of rapid evolution, with much being asked of it, little time and less money provided to realize these ambitions. We propose a simple response to those opportunities, which can succeed over time – both in the immediate, and with the benefit of new layers of **HISTORY**. Square One should be developed in such a way as to knit the various forces around it into a dynamic place of activity, respite, play and contemplation. It should facilitate a shift in the green loop, welcome people arriving to downtown on transit, bike, and foot, and unite the north and south park blocks. Whether pausing to appreciate a performance, or enjoy a meal; arriving to protest injustice or let your kids play beneath mature trees, Square One will become a place **TO BE** in the heart of the city. For those visiting the for whom an old tree is novel, an enthusiastic local falling deeper in love with Portland, or a pollinator searching for work in the city, this block must be a beautiful place to pass **THROUGH**.



### FIRST EVOLUTION

What if the big idea is created through multiple interim activation options, orchestrated into a space you want to be? Individually, or in tandem, conversations should be had with a variety of potential partners in order to generate and knit together many pieces, into a greater whole. Through a collaborative process, Square One can be a place to experiment, and develop new infrastructures, relationships and traditions.

The square will continue to be a place for making **MEMORIES** within the city.

#### INTERIM ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

1. Sculptural gateways to the park and city
2. A diagonal pathway connecting the Park Block network with reused plaza bricks
3. Landscape as art
4. Sound reactive light pylons
5. Water / green wall
6. Green Loop activation
7. Mobility hub



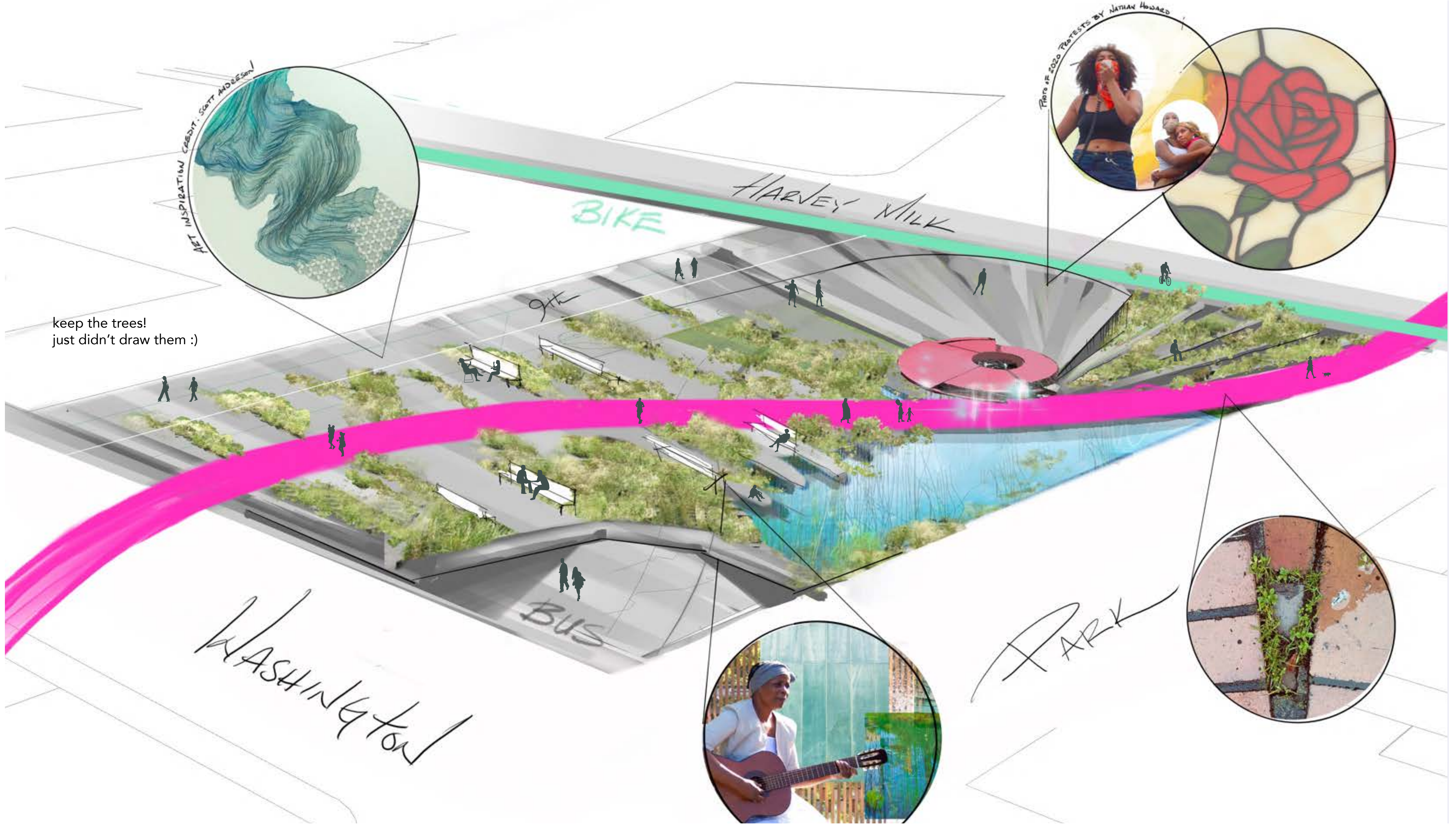
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