# I-579 CAP Park

Final Design to Art Commission

Plans | References | Precedents

# Prepared by

- LaQuatra Bonci Associates
- Office of Public Art

# Design Consultant

• Communion LLC - Lake Byrd

### Artist Team

- Dr. Kimberly C. Ellis
- Amir Rashidd, CW
- Jann Rosen-Queralt

### Site Key Plan



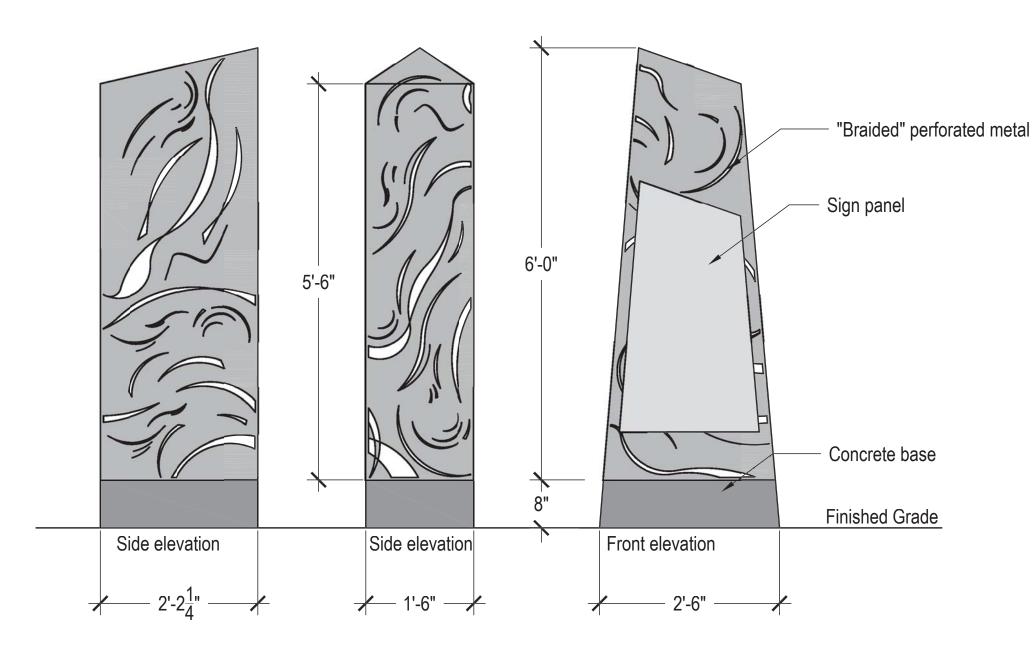
### Site Improvements Plan - Rendering

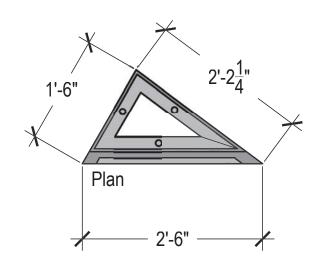




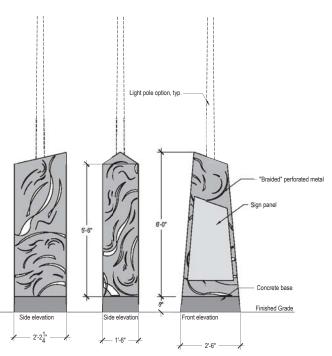


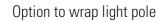
### Design Enhancements keisha signage













### Design Enhancements keisha signage













#### Design Enhancements KEISHA SIGNAGE

#### Welcome Sign 1

Hi! I'm Keisha! I'm your tour guide! Welcome to the park! There is so much to see and do here! We play games, listen to music, eat yummy food and learn a lot! I love it! Want to learn more about the Know any good games we can play? history of this park and where I live? Well, come on!

#### Welcome Sign 2

Hi! I'm Keisha! I'm your tour guide! Welcome to the park! Do you know how special it is for you to be standing right here at the Wylie Avenue entrance? This was the main business corridor of the Historic Hill District neighborhood. Want to learn more? Let's start right here!

#### Welcome Sign 3

Hi! I'm Keisha! I'm your tour guide! Welcome to the park! The area surrounding this park has been a hub of transportation for hundreds of years! This area has seen horses and carriages, train stations, automobiles, bicycles, skateboards and many footpaths. Up ahead is a mosaic artwork by Pittsburgh artist Virgil Cantini that was saved from a tunnel under this park. What patterns can industrial waste and even suspended you see in the mosaics?

#### Welcome Sign 4

Hi! I'm Keisha! I'm your tour guide! Welcome to the park! You're headed toward the garden classroom, a perfect place for you to sit, enjoy the gardens, learn about the native plants, play some instruments and learn something new! Ready to get started? Follow me!

#### **Explanatory Sign 1**

Education

This garden is for learning! Do you want to hear a story? Learn about the plants in the garden? Can you play an instrument?

#### **Explanatory Sign 2**

What's a Rain Garden?

Well, a rain garden takes in the storm water from hard surfaces like rooftops, sidewalks, and parking lots, then filters the water, naturally, as it goes back into the soil and the plans. This process even improves the water that goes into our storm drains!

#### **Explanatory Sign 3**

Water Flow

our feet? Pittsburgh has what's called an "Aquifer," also known as the "Wisconsin Glacial Flow." You can't see it but it's a storehouse of water for us and super important to the city's river ecosystem! The water from the river and precipitation lifetime! What do you want to do? seeps into our rocks, through all the dirt and sand, then it gets purified of bacteria, Explanatory Sign 7 matter. Wow!

#### **Explanatory Sign 4**

Did you know that Pittsburgh's hills are made of what once were rotting plants in swamps that became bituminous coal, between layers of sedimentary rock? Yep! traveling at night on the Underground They were formed over millions of years and all of those layers together produced gourd" and the North Star to Freedom? chemical and physical changes such as

heat, oxygen, lower moisture levels and an increase in what's called, "carbon value."

#### **Explanatory Sign 5**

Performing Arts / Stage

I love to sing, dance, recite poetry and listen to music! This might be my favorite section of the park. Do you like the performing arts? Show me what you can do onstage or right here in the grass!

#### **Explanatory Sign 6**

Sankofa

Did you know that the Sankofa bird is a big part of this park? Look at the colored concrete or go up in a tall building and look down and then you will see it! The word "Sankofa" is an Akan word from a country called "Ghana," in West Africa, Did you know there is water right beneath and it means to go back in order to move Pittsburgh) forward. My grandfather says we should always remember our past so we can see clearly into the future. I like that this park honors the past and welcomes the future! I have plenty of things I want to do in my

The North Star is amazing!

Did you know that the North Star is also called "Polaris" and is the brightest star in the constellation Ursa Minor, which is also known as "The Little Dipper?" It's super close to the North Celestial Pole, so you can get to the North if you follow it! Did you know that during slavery, the people Railroad would "follow the drinking

For many years, the Anti-Slavery Society of Pittsburgh created safe houses and spaces to make sure the enslaved remained free above the Mason-Dixon Line and, later, on their way to Canada. But many of the people ended up staying right here in Pittsburgh and created communities in the Historic Hill District.

#### **Explanatory Sign 8 - Legend of places**

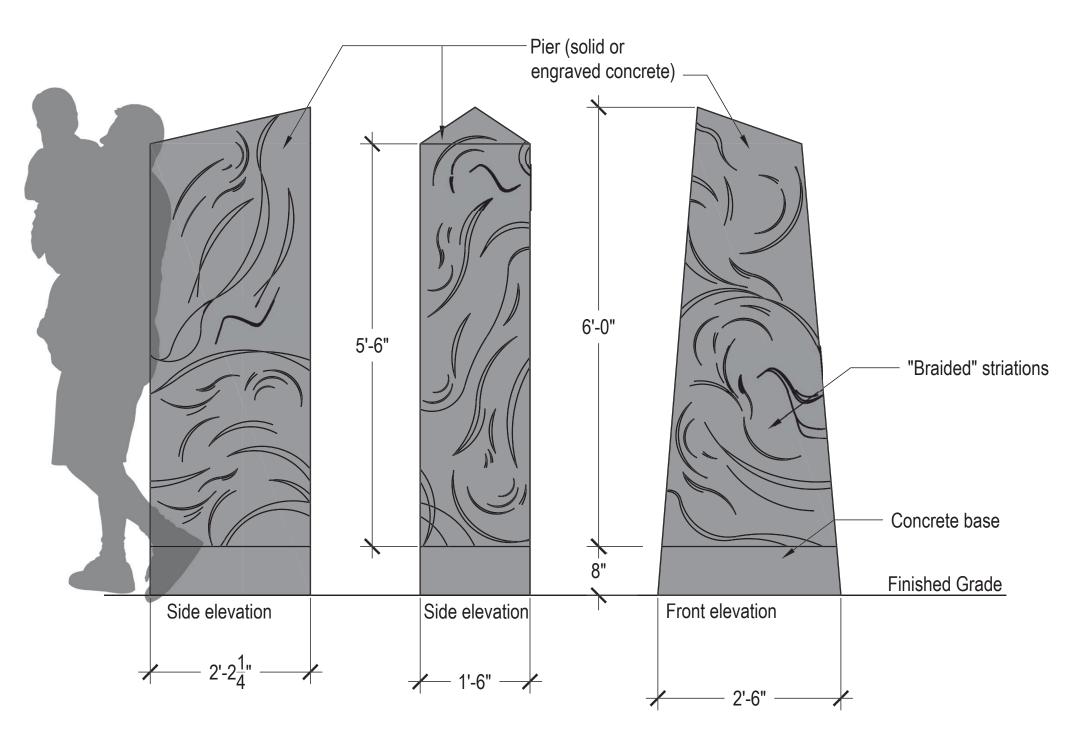
Hi! I'm Keisha! I'm your tour guide! Here are some other great places for you to visit just up the street in the Historic Hill District! Ready?! Let's Go!

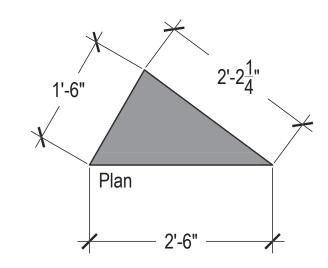
Freedom Corner - 1900 Crawford & Centre Ave St. Benedict the Moor Church Miller School - Miller Street Labor Lyceum Bethel AME Church (marker in Downtown Martin Delany's House - Arthur Street Martin Delany's office - Downtown Pittsburgh Irene Kaufmann Center New Granada Theater / Knights of Pythian Wylie Avenue - Former Business / Jazz Corridor Jeron X. Grayson Center (formerly Ozanam) The Crawford Grille August Wilson Park - Cassat & Cliff Streets (just off Bedford Avenue)

August Wilson House - 1727 Bedford

Avenue



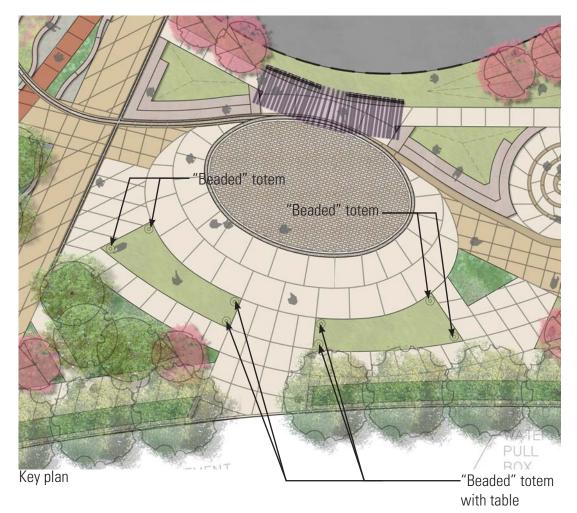






Design Enhancements totems

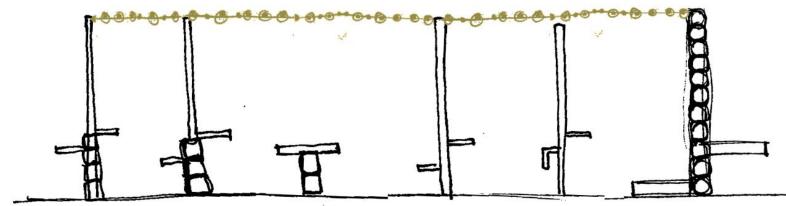
## Design Enhancements totems



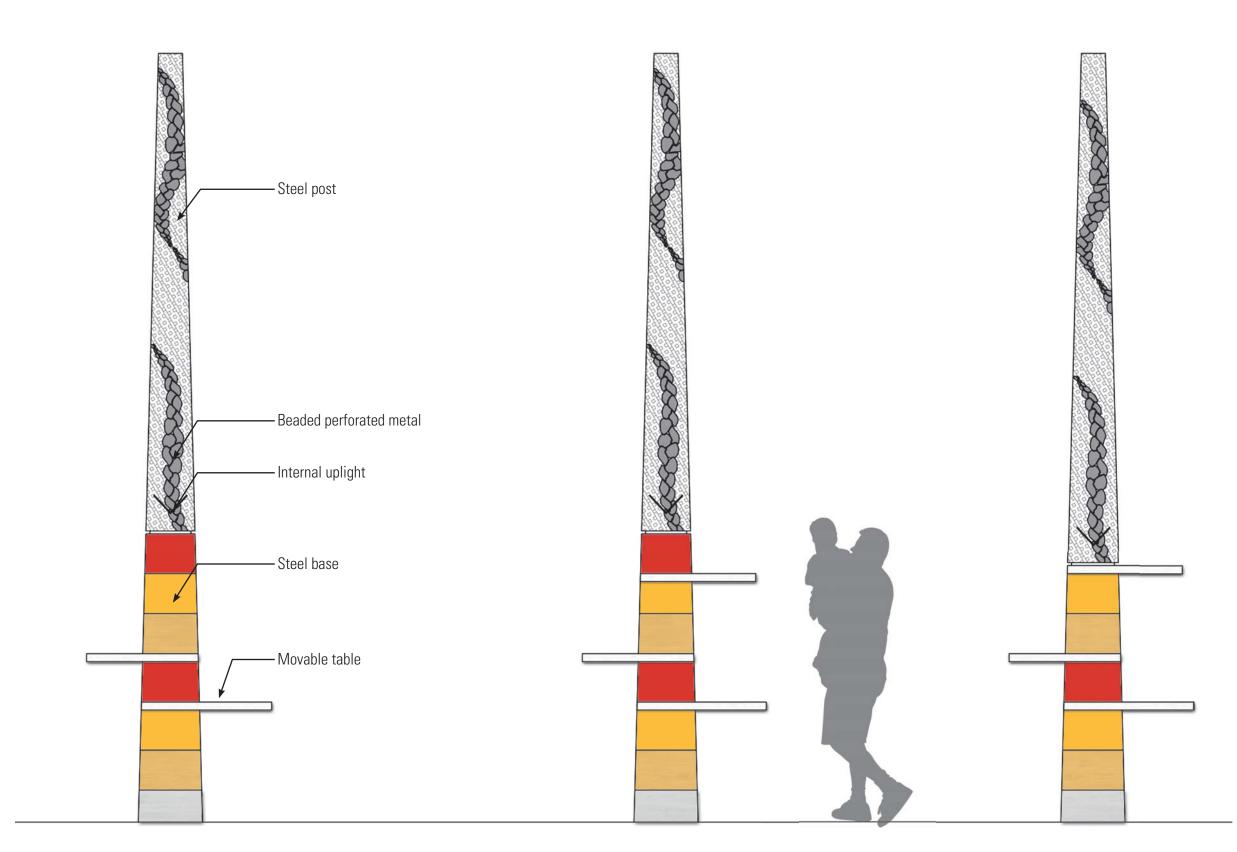
#### **Totem Element - Description**

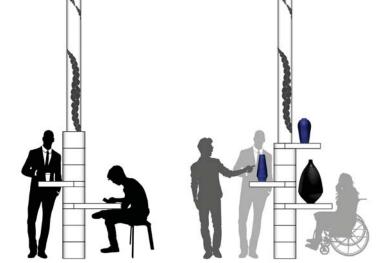
"Beads and Braids" Concept

The beads and braids concept is a contiguous representation of Keisha, and the playfulness of the park. This concept is translated in several expresssions throughout the park, specifically, the totem. "Beaded and braided" totems are seen with horizontal elements at table, counter/laptop, and bar/standing height.



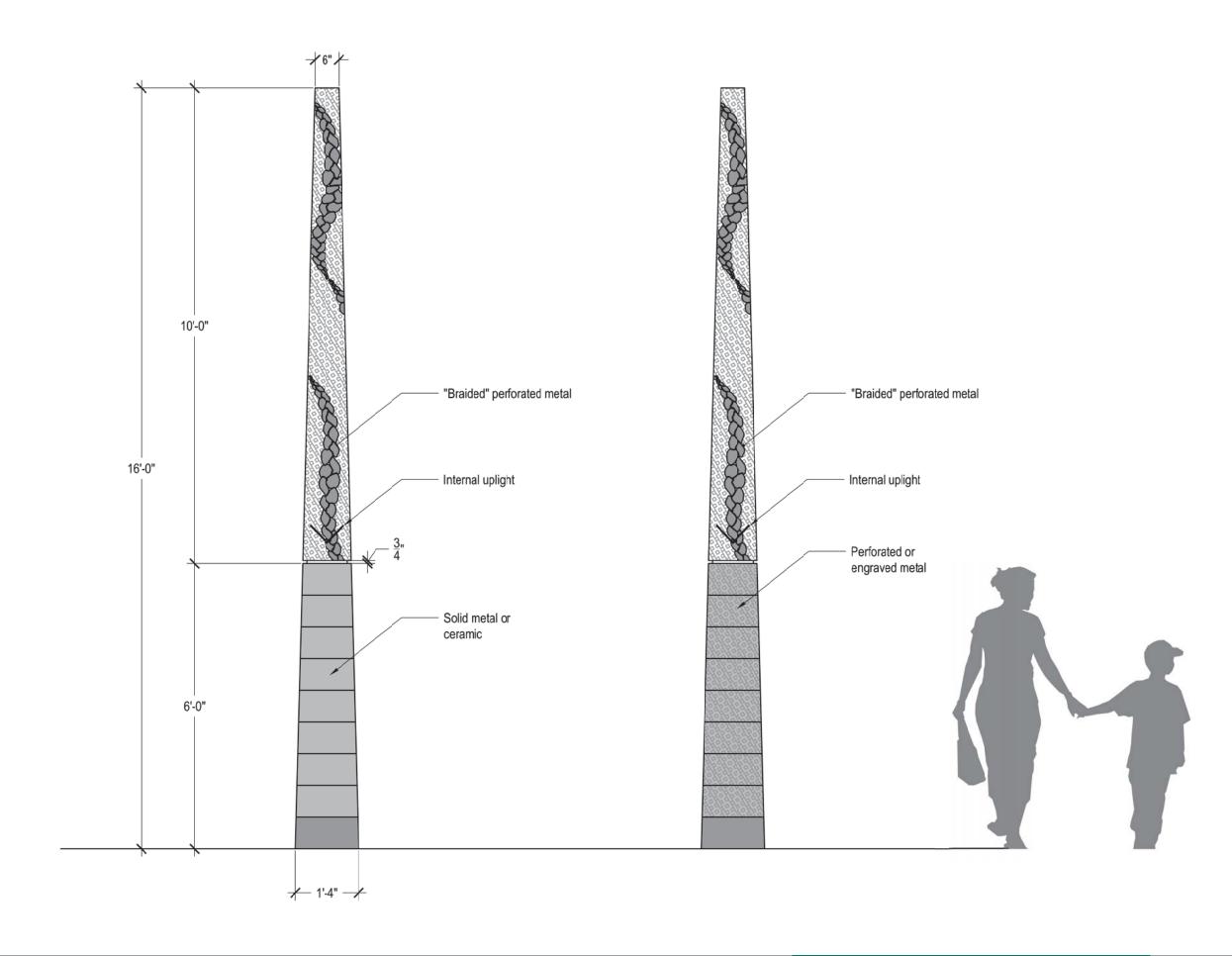




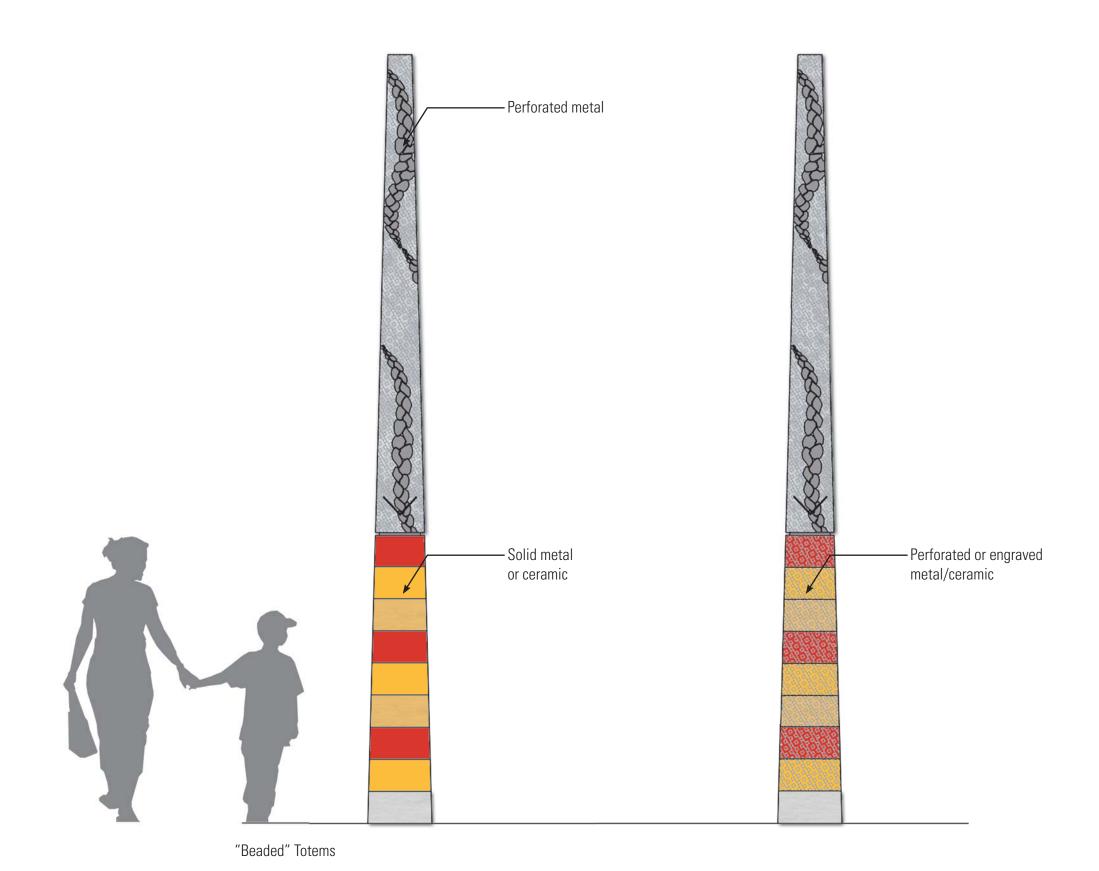


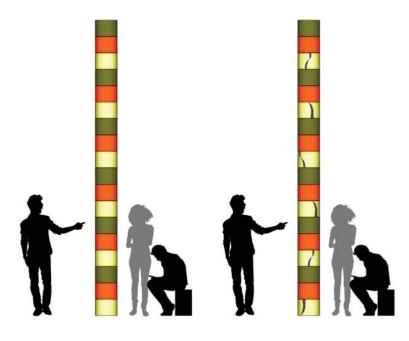
Precedent Sketchs from Lake

"Beaded" Totem with Table



"Beaded" Totem





Precedent Sketchs from Lake

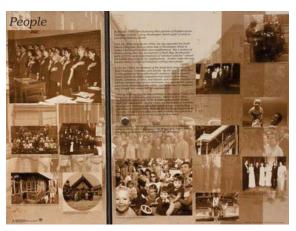


# Design Enhancements story walls





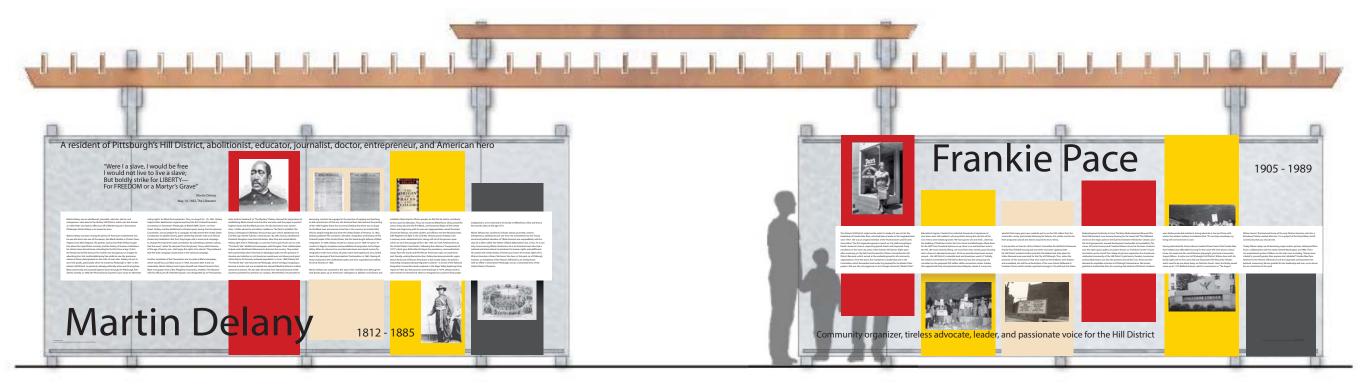




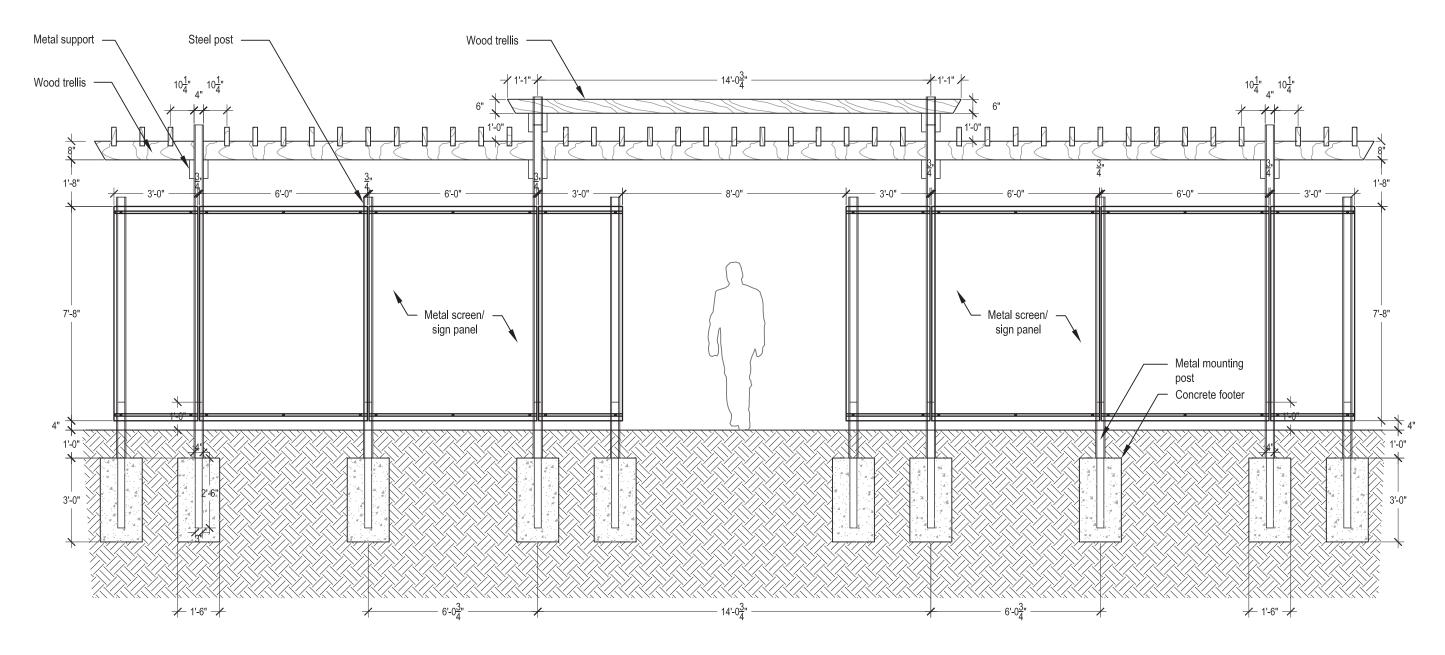






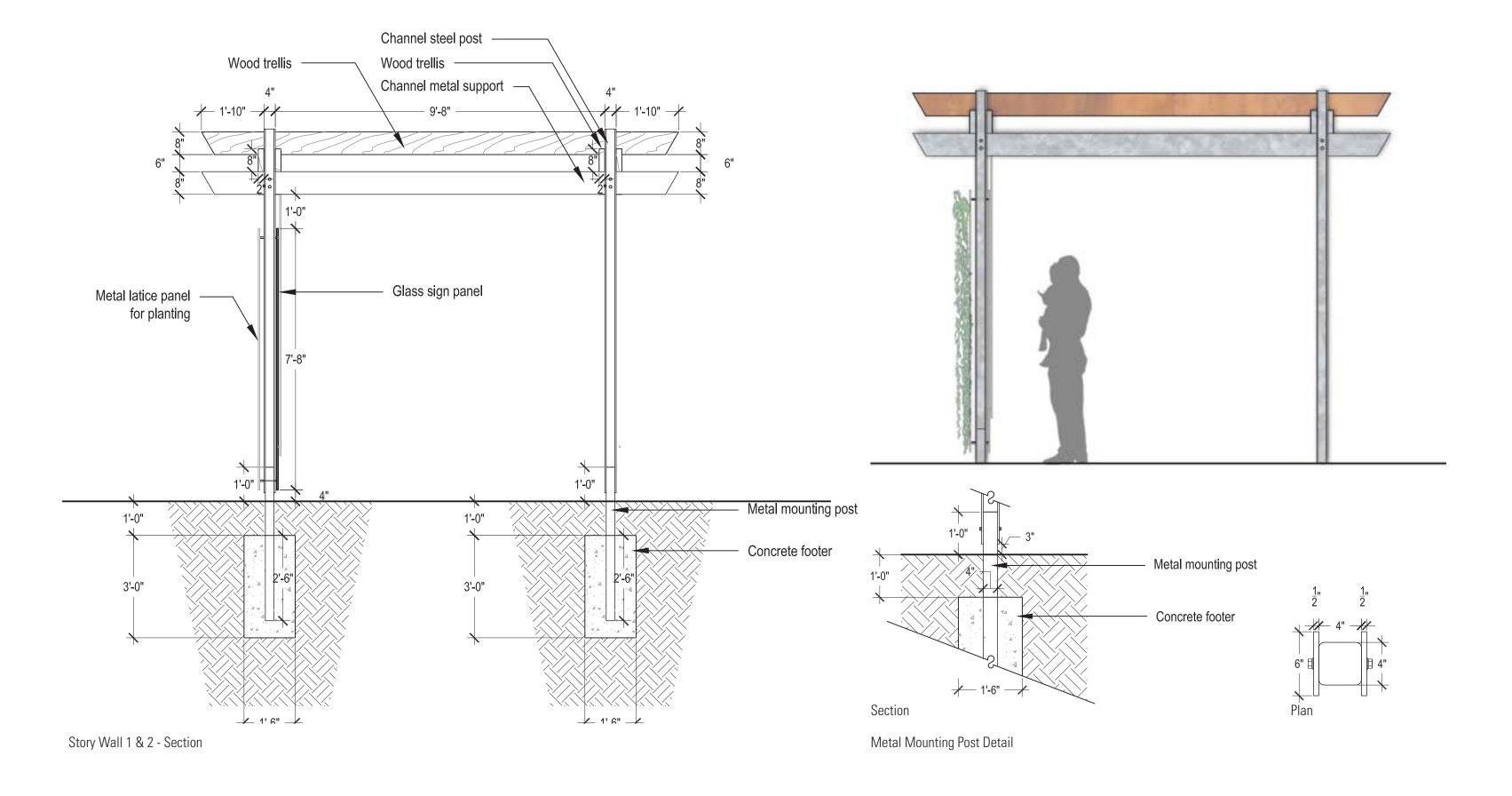


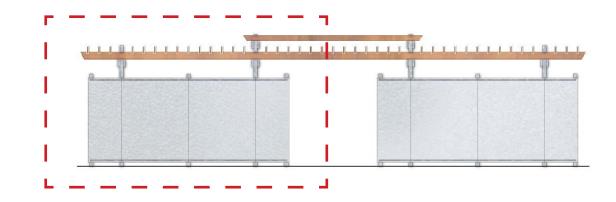
Story Wall 1 & 2 - Elevation

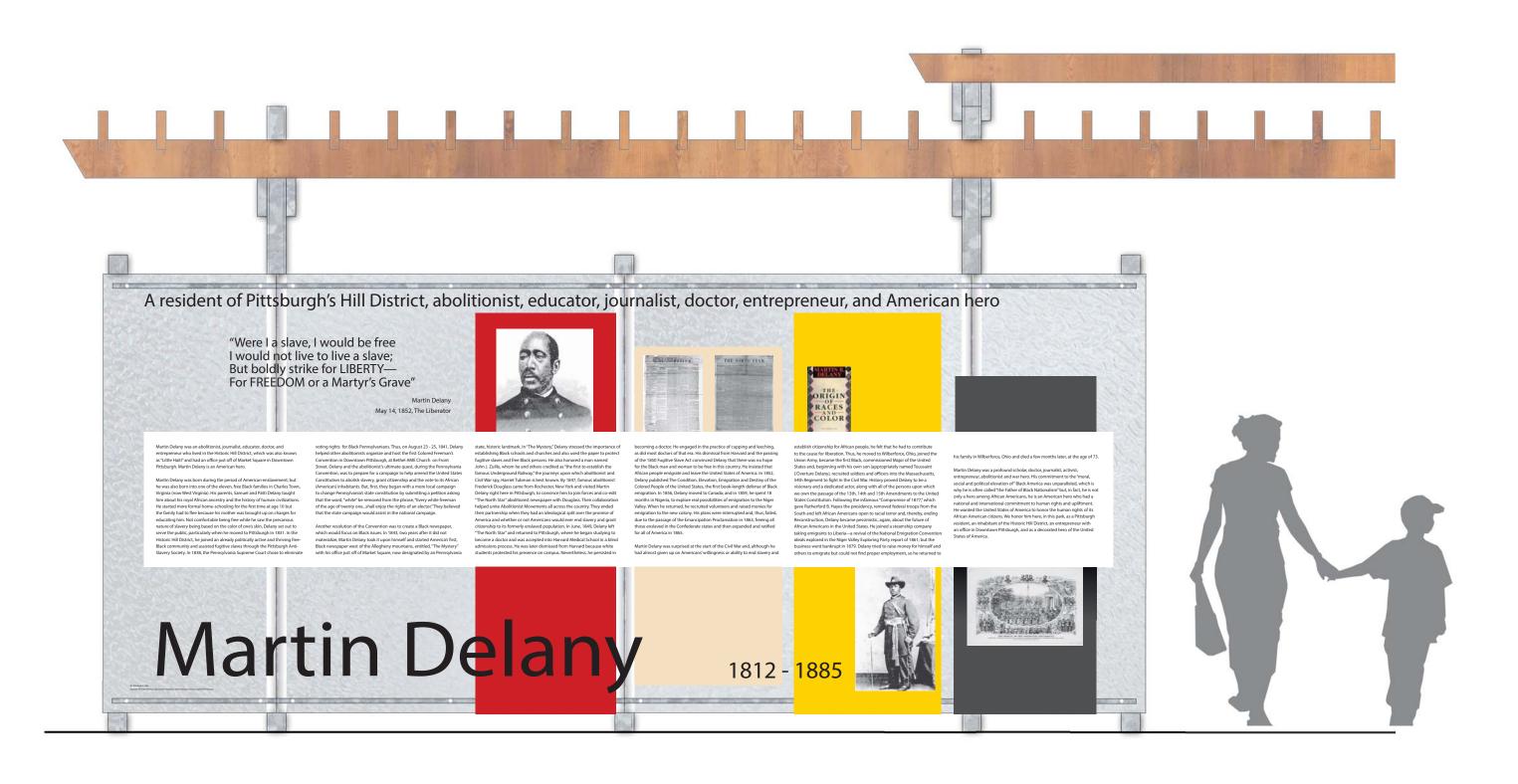


Story Wall 1 & 2 - Elevation

# Design Enhancements story walls







#### Martin Delany 1812 - 1885

Martin Delany was an abolitionist, journalist, educator, doctor, and entrepreneur who lived in the Historic Hill District, which was also known as "Little Haiti" and had an office just off of Market Square in Downtown Pittsburgh. Martin Delany is an American hero.

Martin Delany was born during the period of American enslavement; but he was also born into one of the eleven, free Black families in Charles Town, Virginia (now West Virginia). His parents, Samuel and Patti Delany taught him about his royal African ancestry and the history of human civilizations. He started more formal home-schooling for the first time at age 10 but the family had to flee because his mother was brought up on charges for educating him. Not comfortable being free while he saw the precarious nature of slavery being based on the color of one's skin, Delany set out to serve the public, particularly when he moved to Pittsburgh in 1831. In the Historic Hill District, he joined an already politically active and thriving free-Black community and assisted fugitive slaves through the Pittsburgh Anti-Slavery Society. In 1838, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court chose to eliminate voting rights for Black Pennsylvanians. Thus, on August 23 - 25, 1841, Delany helped other abolitionists organize and host the first Colored Freeman's Convention in Downtown Pittsburgh, at Bethel AME Church on Front Street. Delany and the abolitionist's ultimate quest, during the Pennsylvania Convention, was to prepare for a campaign to help amend the United States Constitution to abolish slavery, grant citizenship and the vote to its African (American) inhabitants. But, first, they began with a more local campaign to change Pennsylvania's state constitution by submitting a petition asking that the word, "white" be removed from the phrase, "Every white freeman of the age of twenty one...shall enjoy the rights of an elector." They

believed that the state campaign would assist in the national campaign.

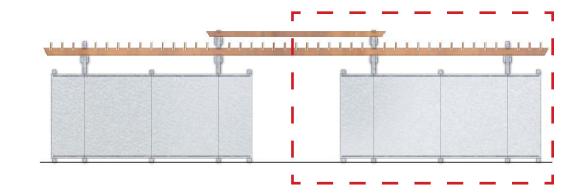
Another resolution of the Convention was to create a Black newspaper, which would focus on Black issues. In 1843, two years after it did not materialize, Martin Delany took it upon himself and started America's first, Black newspaper west of the Allegheny mountains, entitled, "The Mystery" with his office just off of Market Square, now designated by an Pennsylvania state, historic landmark. In "The Mystery," Delany stressed the importance of establishing Black schools and churches and also used the paper to protect fugitive slaves and free Black persons. He also honored a man named John J. Zuille, whom he and others credited as "the first to establish the famous Underground Railway," the journeys upon which abolitionist and Civil War spy, Harriet Tubman is best known. By 1847, famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass came from Rochester, New York and visited Martin Delany right here in Pittsburgh, to convince him to join forces and co-edit "The North Star" abolitionist newspaper with Douglass. Their collaboration helped unite Abolitionist Movements all across the country. They ended their partnership when they had an ideological split over the promise of America and whether or not Americans would ever end slavery and grant citizenship to its formerly enslaved population. In June, 1849, Delany left "The North Star" and returned to Pittsburgh, where he began studying to become a doctor and was accepted into Harvard Medical School in a blind admissions process. He was later dismissed from Harvard because white students protested his presence on campus. Nevertheless, he persisted in becoming a doctor. He engaged in the practice of cupping and leeching, as did most doctors of that era. His dismissal from Harvard and the passing of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act convinced Americans in the United States. He joined a

Delany that there was no hope for the Black man and woman to be free in this country. He insisted that African people emigrate and leave the United States of America. In 1852, Delany published The Condition, Elevation, Emigration and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States, the first book-length defense of Black emigration. In 1856, Delany moved to Canada; and in 1859, he spent 18 months in Nigeria, to explore real possibilities of emigration to the Niger Valley. When he returned, he recruited volunteers and raised monies for emigration to the new colony. His plans were interrupted and, thus, failed, due to the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, freeing all those enslaved in the Confederate states and then expanded and ratified for all of America in 1865.

Martin Delany was surprised at the start of the Civil War and, although he had almost given up on Americans' willingness or ability to end slavery and establish citizenship for African people, he felt that he had to contribute to the cause for liberation. Thus, he moved to Wilberforce, Ohio, joined the Union Army, became the first Black, commissioned Major of the United States and, beginning with his own son (appropriately named Toussaint L'Overture Delany), recruited soldiers and officers into the Massachusetts, 54th Regiment to fight in the Civil War. History proved Delany to be a visionary and a dedicated actor, along with all of the persons upon which we own the passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution. Following the infamous "Compromise of 1877," which gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency, removed federal troops from the South and left African Americans open to racial terror and, thereby, ending Reconstruction, Delany became pessimistic, again, about the future of African

steamship company taking emigrants to Liberia---a revival of the National Emigration Convention ideals explored in the Niger Valley Exploring Party report of 1861; but the business went bankrupt in 1879. Delany tried to raise money for himself and others to emigrate but could not find proper employment, so he returned to his family in Wilberforce, Ohio and died a few months later, at the age of 73.

Martin Delany was a profound scholar, doctor, journalist, activist, entrepreneur, abolitionist and war hero. His commitment to the "moral, social and political elevation of" Black America was unparalleled, which is why he is often called "the Father of Black Nationalism" but, in fact, he is not only a hero among African Americans, he is an American hero who had a national and international commitment to human rights and upliftment. He wanted the United States of America to honor the human rights of its African American citizens. We honor him here, in this park, as a Pittsburgh resident, an inhabitant of the Historic Hill District, an entrepreneur with an office in Downtown Pittsburgh, and as a decorated hero of the United States of America.





#### Frankie Pace 1905 - 1989

The Historic Hill District might not be what it is today if it was not for the leadership of Frankie Mae Pace, who had been a leader in the neighborhood since 1937. She was an original member of the "Homeowners and Tenants Association," the first organized group to march on City Hall during Mayor David Lawrence's tenure, requesting paved streets and improved living conditions in the inner city areas of the Hill. Eight years after marching on City Hall, Frankie Pace formed the Citizens Committee for Hill District Renewal, which served as the umbrella group for all community organizations. Over the years, she maintained a leadership role in the Committee, which formulated and wrote the proposal for the Model Cities project. She was the only layperson in the Chicago University "Model Cities" Education Program. Frankie Pace collected thousands of signatures of one-time Lower Hill residents, whose protests during the erection of the Civic Arena were initially ignored. Pace would encourage Hill residents to value their neighborhood, stating, "We have got to see and think...what has the building of Chatham Center, the Civic Arena and Washington Plaza done for the Hill? From Crawford Avenue on up, there is no real business area in the Hill...We must climb by lifting...we must have clean streets, good housing, and a chance to develop businesses. All of our priorities have been turned around---the Hill District is valuable land and downtown wants it." Initially, the Citizen's Committee for Hill District Renewal was the only group not

consulted on the proposed \$20 million dollar Convention Center. Frankie Pace agreed with then-Pennsylvania House Majority Leader K. Leroy Irvis, who felt that many good uses could be put to use for \$20 million than the Convention Center, particularly following the failures of a similar sum for the then-proposed Cultural Arts District around the Civic Arena.

In her position as Director of the Citizen's Committee for Hill District Renewal, Frankie Pace fielded housing, job and other economic opportunities for Hill District residents before and after the federal, state and city plans for Urban Redevelopment were initially executed for the City of Pittsburgh from 1945-46. Thus, when the promises of "the Renaissance" that were made to Lower Hill residents were broken and unrealized. she led the orchestration of the now. historic billboard at the corner of Centre Avenue and Crawford Street, carried a pointed message to City Hall and the first Urban Redevelopment Authority in the United States to have "No More Redevelopment Beyond This Point! We Demand: Low Income Housing for the Lower Hill." This billboard served as the major point in the fault line between Hill District Citizens and the local government, around demolitions, affordable housing, community development and public accountability. That protest space was the basis of what is now the public art project known as "Freedom Corner," just two blocks up the street! The collage of pictures represents the storied and celebrated community of the Hill District's

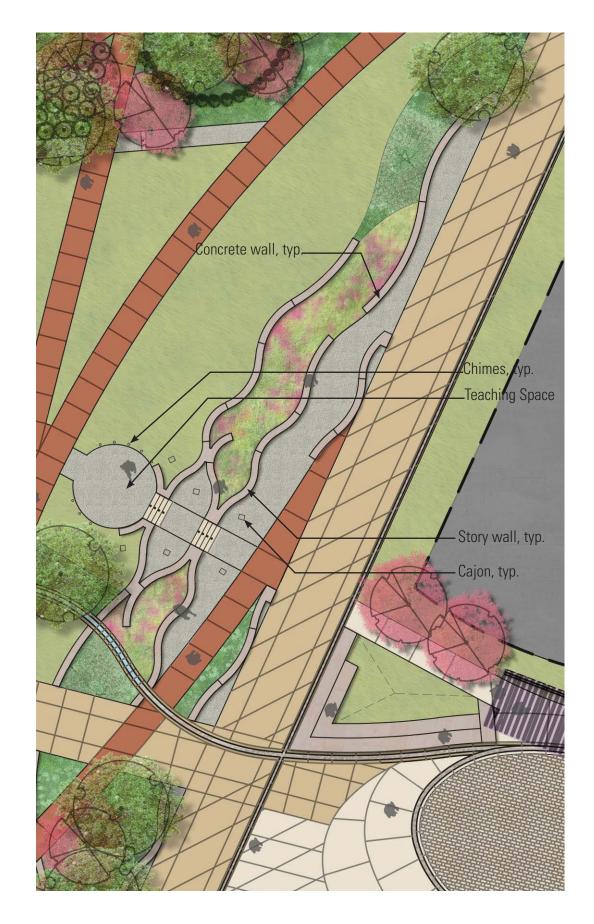
jazz bands, theaters, businesses and baseball teams; but also the protests around the Civic Arena and the demand for equitable inclusion in Pittsburgh's Renaissance. We remain grateful to Frankie Mae Pace for ensuring that Historic Hill District residents were better protected and had a strong advocate in her and her co-workers. Indeed, she believed that, "If I can help somebody, my living will not have been in vain." Frankie Mae Pace believed in the Historic Hill District and she organized well to protect her beloved community. We are grateful for her leadership and love, so we honor her as a local hero in this park.

Having advocated for homes above Crawford Street meant that Frankie Mae Pace helped save affordable housing for the Lower Hill. One person whose home she saved was the world famous playwright, poet and screenwriter, August Wilson. A native son to Pittsburgh's Hill District, Wilson lived with his family right here in the Lower Hill and frequented the Rhuumba Theater, which used to be one block away, on Fullerton Street. Later, the family would move up to 1727 Bedford Avenue, which is now known as "The August Wilson House," the boyhood home of the only African American who has a Broadway Theater named after him. It is a project of the Daisy Wilson Artist Community that you should visit.

Today, Wilson's plays are all becoming major motion picture, Hollywood films from a collaboration with his estate, Denzel Washington and HBO. There are inspirational quotes of Wilson on the stair risers including, "Always have a belief in yourself greater than anyone else's disbelief." The Historic Hill District is filled with persons who have made history since the 19th century and embodied this narrative.

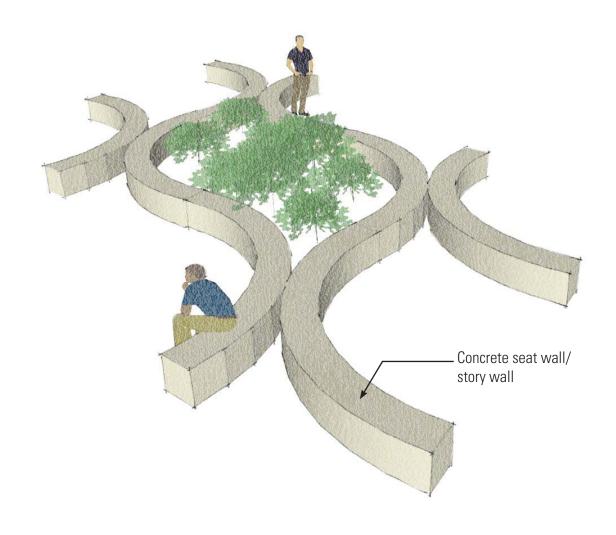


# Design Enhancements the garden classroom



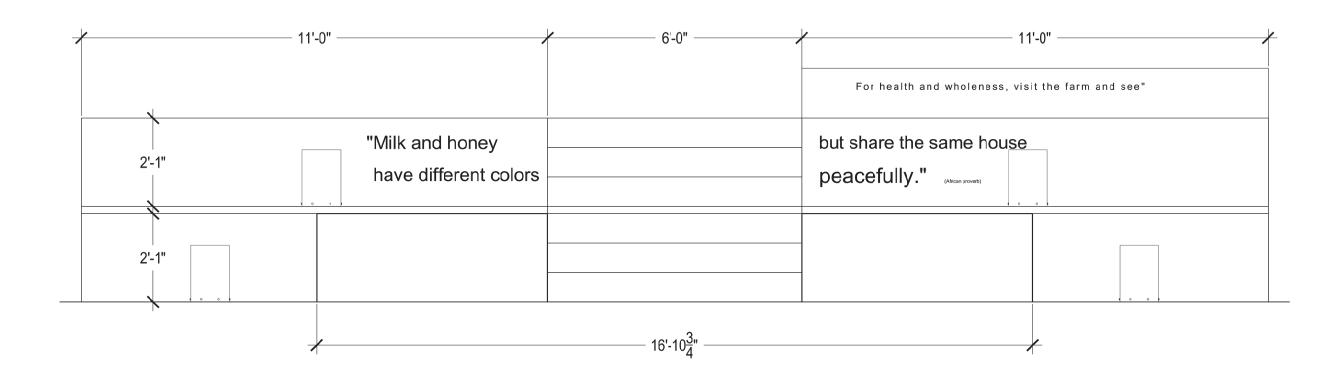


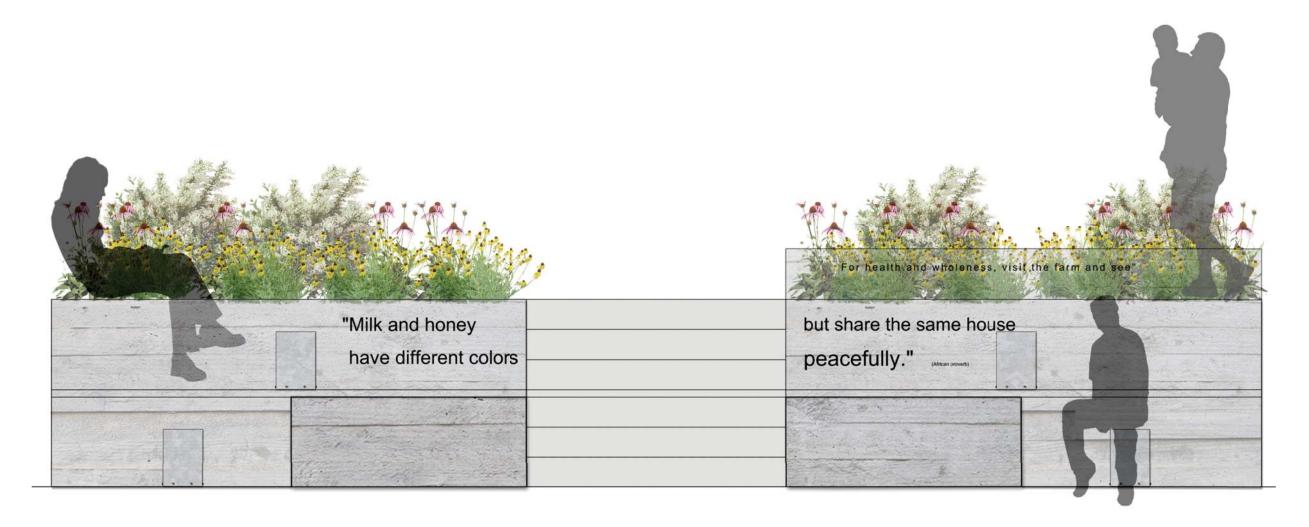




chimes

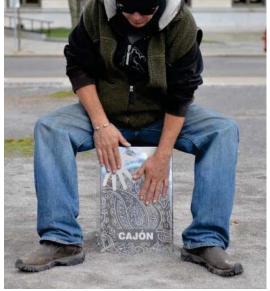
### Design Enhancements the garden classroom

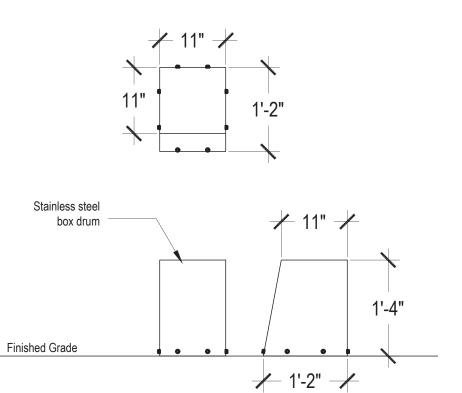




# Design Enhancements the garden classroom



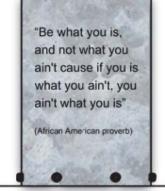








plan



elevation

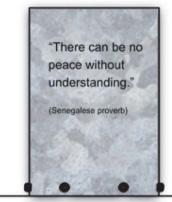
2. Bi Nka Bi



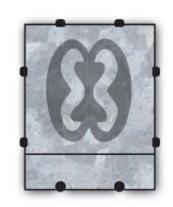
"A fight between grasshoppers is a joy to the crow." (Lesotho proverb)

3. Gye Nyame



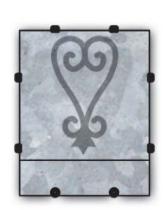


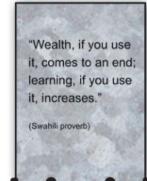
4. Nkonsonkonson





5. Sankofa



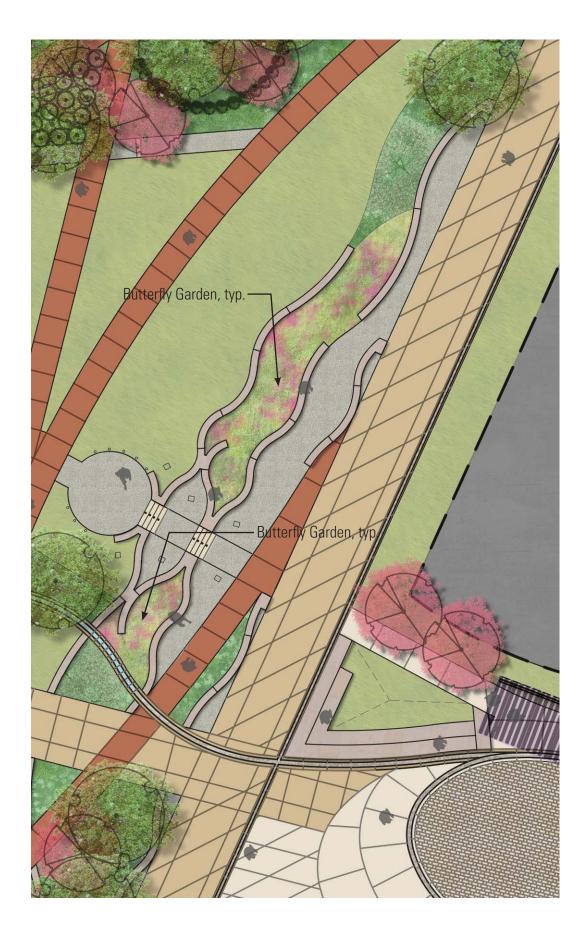


6. Adinkrahene



"Show me your friend and I will show you your character." (African proverb)

# Design Enhancements Pollinator Garden/Butterfly Farm



Plant List

Scientific Name	Common Name
Trees	
Taxodium distichum	Bald Cypress
Ornamental Trees	
Asimina triloba	Pawpaw
Shrubs	
Buddleja davidii (invasive??)	Butterfly Bush
Ceonanthus americanus	New Jersey Tea
Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'	Annabelle Hydrangea
Lantana camara	Lantana
Salvia greggii	Autumn Sage
Perennials	
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed
Aster x fritkarti 'Monch'	Frikart's Aster
Borago officinalis (Native??)	Borage
Dianthus caryophyllus	Carnation
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel
Hemerocalis 'Baja'	Baja Daylily
Hemerocalis 'Black Eyed Stella'	Black Eyed Stella Daylily
Hemerocalis 'Stella D'Oro'	Stella D'Oro Daylily
Hemerocallis ' Happy Returns'	Happy Returns Daylily
Hemerocallis 'Pardon Me'	Pardon Me Daylily
Hemerocallis 'Rosy Returns'	Rosy Returns Daylily
Hibiscus moscheutos 'Ruby Dot'	Ruby Dot Hibiscus
Iris siberica 'Caesar's Brother'	Caesar's Brother Siberian Iris
Monarda didyma	Bee Balm
Oenothera biennis	Evening Primrose
Phacelia grandiflora	Largeflower Phacelia
Phlox paniculata	Garden Phlox
Rudbeckia fulgida speciosa 'Goldstrum'	Black Eyed Susan
Salvia greggii	Autumn Sage
Salvia splendens	Scarlet Sage
Silphium perfoliatum	Cup Plant



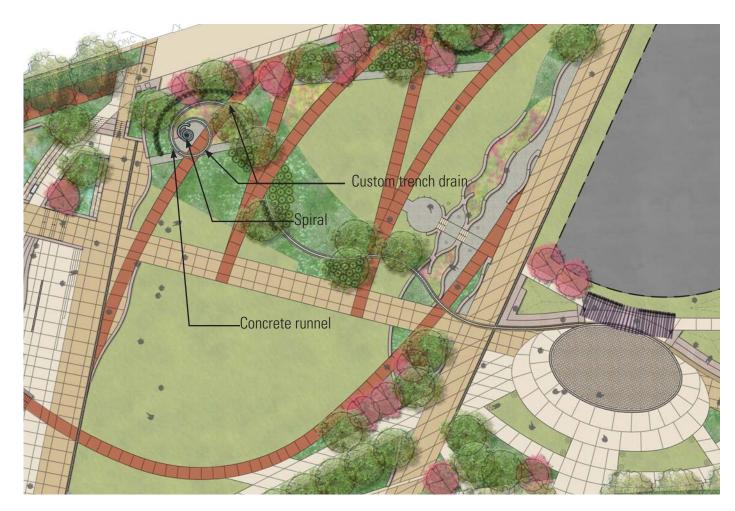


#### **Water Element - Description**

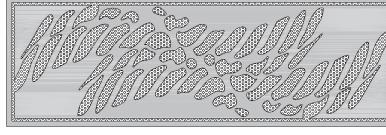
References are made to the past, present and future. Life's essentials, water and light would be layered with history creating a narrative throughout the park. Topography and geology of the vicinity, such elements as streams and rivers, coal seams, storm water/sewer systems and human development were the starting points of design. It is important that park goers experience both the visible and invisible, which make up the environment. Understanding how water has framed the history of the Hill District and is a finite natural resource is imperative. For example, many streams and creek paths that are no longer day-lighted run under the neighborhood. Dwellings were built along these and contemporary roads follow them. They were key to the abolitionist activity of the Underground Railroad, the settlements during the Great Migration and those African Americans who worked the rivers of Pittsburgh.

Design and detailing of the storm water and raingarden systems in the park were inspired by:

- Fossil impressions made millions of years ago when Pittsburgh was under water
- Mythology from constellations in the night sky such as the North Star, also known as the Drinking Gourd and Mami Wata, (Mother Water) the African spirit, who represents the sacred nature of water and the potential for good fortune. One of her most striking characteristics is her voluminous hair, often curly or in braids.
- Networks/systems such as train tracks and routes, root systems which visually reference growth and filtration, as well as cross roads
- Maps representing Pittsburgh's topography, hydrology, settlement trends, the Underground Railroad in addition to the Greenprint Plan by Walter Hood



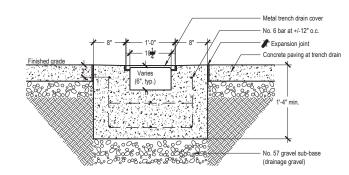
Artist Trench Cover "Braids"

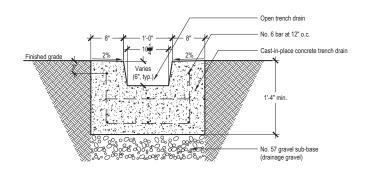


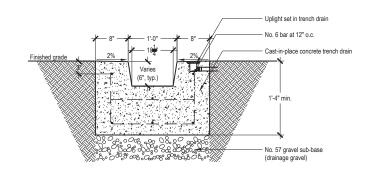


Standard Trench Cover

Trench Drain Details



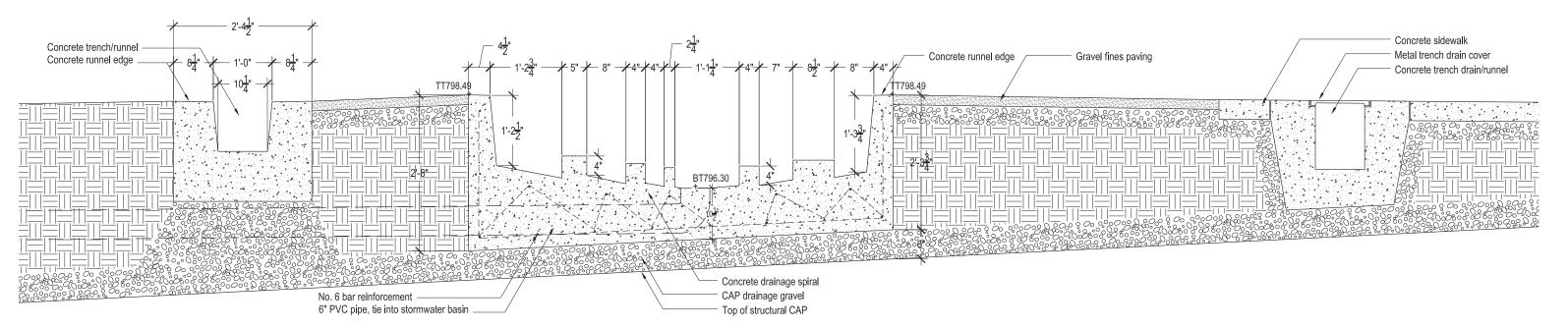


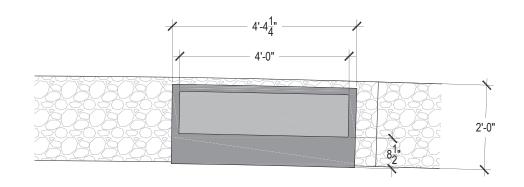


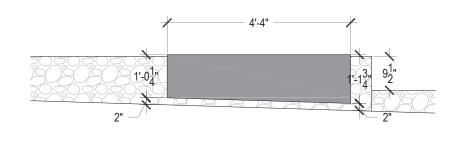
Inspiration for Spiral

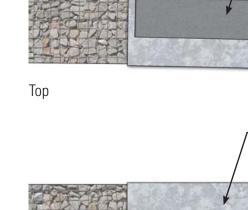


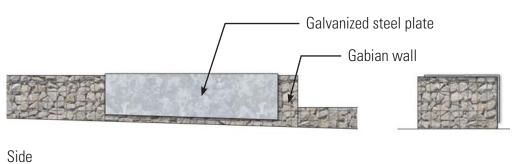
Spiral Detail



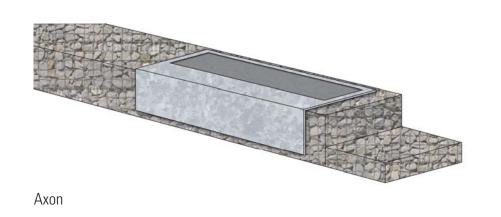








- 1 of 5 Artistic etching (see images on right)



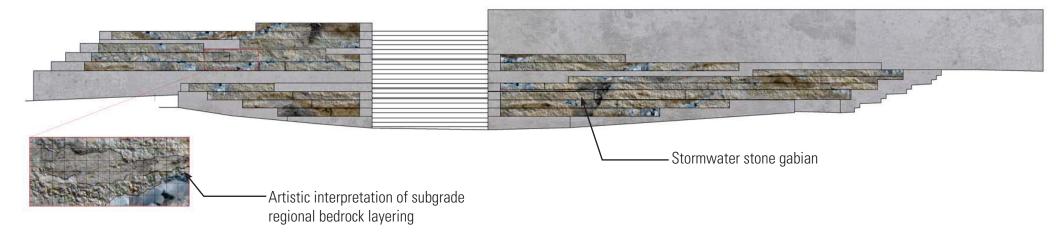






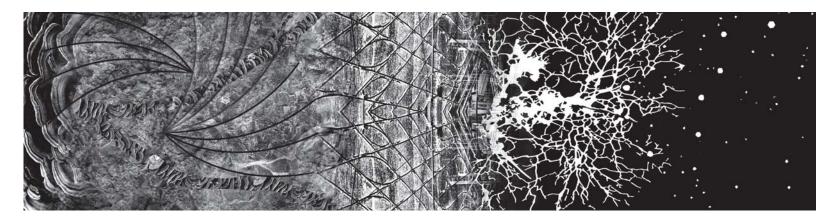


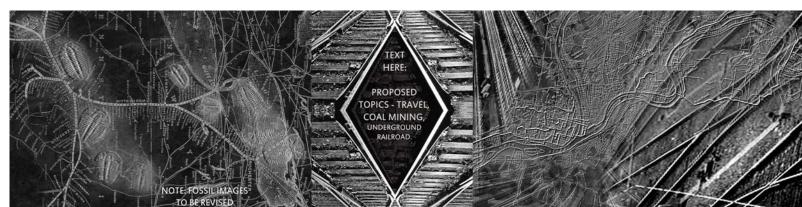




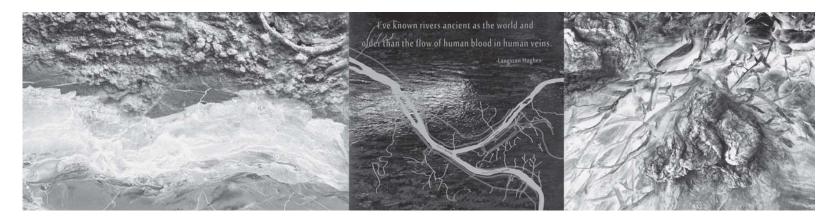








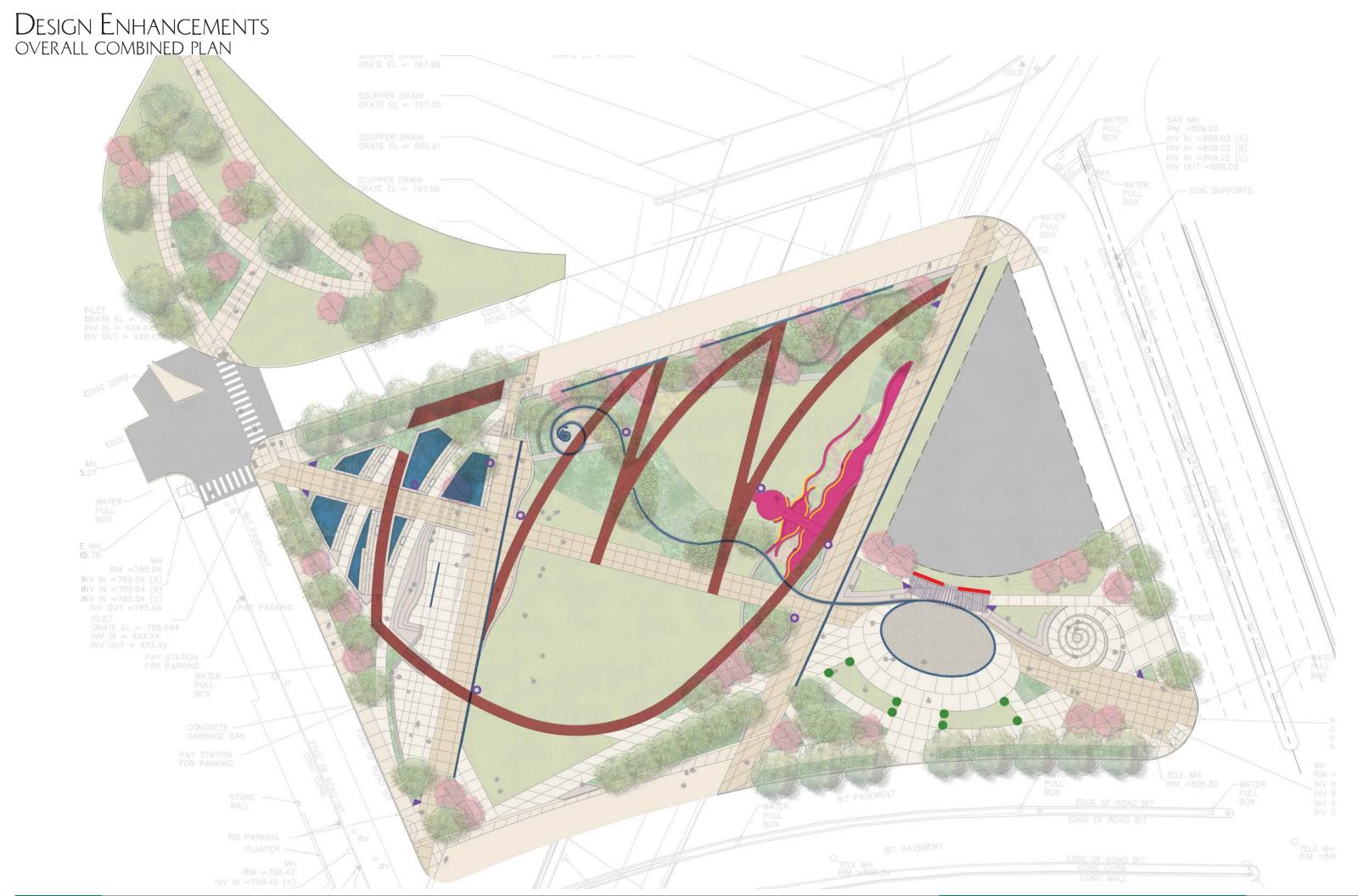






#### Meaning of the symbolism of the Sankofa Bird





### Site Improvements Plan - Rendering

