# PEACE CORPS COMMEMORATIVE PARK

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS October 17, 2024



## **CONTENTS**

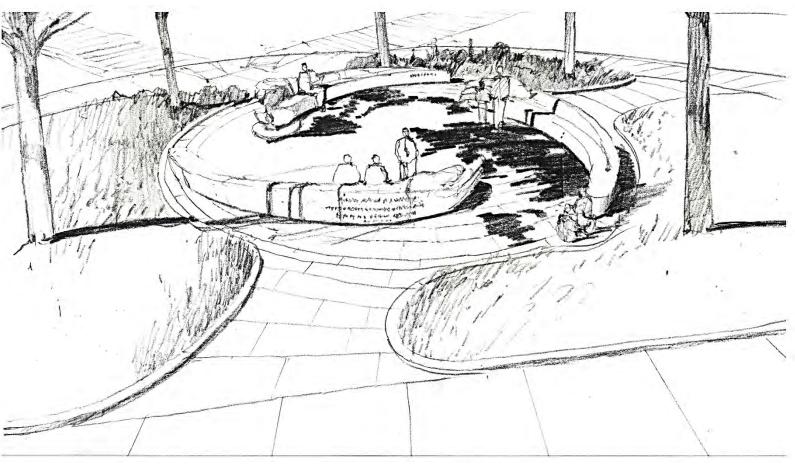
- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTIONS
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERRENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE



### **OVERVIEW**

This submission is for FINAL approval with updates and details to the approved conceptual design for the Peace Corps Commemorative Park.

The package refines the development of an evocative central gathering place in an urban park-setting with three sculptural hand benches, a world map, and robust park planting dedicated to the Peace Corps ideals.



CONCEPT SKETCH

#### **ABOUT**

The Peace Corps
Commemorative is
dedicated to the American
ideals implicit in the words
of Sargent Shriver:
"transcending boundaries
of culture and
language...on the common
ground of service to human
welfare and human
dignity...to live and work
with, and to learn from,
peoples in need around the
world, in the cause of
mutual understanding and
peace."

The Peace Corps
Commemorative honors
the nation's historic ideals
and experience: promoting
peace, prosperity and social
justice through direct
outreach and human-tohuman interaction. This
Commemorative will enrich
and more fully tell
America's story by creating
a place of retreat in
Washington DC.









### **SITE**

The Peace Corps Commemorative site is a small parcel (.6 acres) located in a prominent location adjacent to the Capitol Grounds.

The design contributes to the city with:

- an inviting place to gather with a national commemorative work that welcomes visitors of all ages, genders, ethnicities and nationalities,
- a park-setting for contemplation and inspiration on the way between the National Gallery of Art and Union Station,
- a visually open site that connects to the Capitol Grounds with views toward the U.S. Capitol, Taft Park, and the National Mall,
- day and night interest for pedestrians and passing vehicle traffic.







Existing Site. 1. View North, 2. View South, 3. Southeast towards Capitol Grounds.



Site Context. Peace Corps site is a 5-minute walk to the Capitol and an 8-min walk to Union Station.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

In November 2021, the design team presented the site layout and revised design concept. The Commission commended the proposal particularly citing the configuration of the central plaza, the refinement of the sculptural bench-hands that frame it, and the thoughtful study of the world map at the center of the composition. The Commission expressed enthusiasm for the landscape design featuring a central ring of trees and seasonal plantings around the plaza, and they requested more information about details such as surface drainage as the design is developed. The project was approved for Concept Design.

#### 2021 Commission requested:

- Further refinement to ensure that the map displays minimize distortion and clarify joint pattern of latitude and longitudinal lines.
- More information on inscriptions on the stone bench-hands.
- Specification and details of the stone elements including technical details.
- Final documentation of landscape, lighting, and signage.



#### **DESIGN UPDATE**

The team returns with refinements to all elements that address the recommendations of the Commission in the Final Conceptual Approval as summarized below:

#### 2024 Submission Summary:

- The Pierce polar projection displays the land areas with the least possible distortion while paving joints have been randomize to avoid reading as latitude and longitude lines.
- The content, location, typography and details of inscriptions have been refined.
- Details of the stone elements include joints in the hand benches and specifications of the selected stones is provided.
- Final documentation for landscape, lighting and signage are included.
   Plantings in the stormwater basins have been simplified to address NPS concerns for maintenance.



## **CONTENTS**

- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTIONS
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE



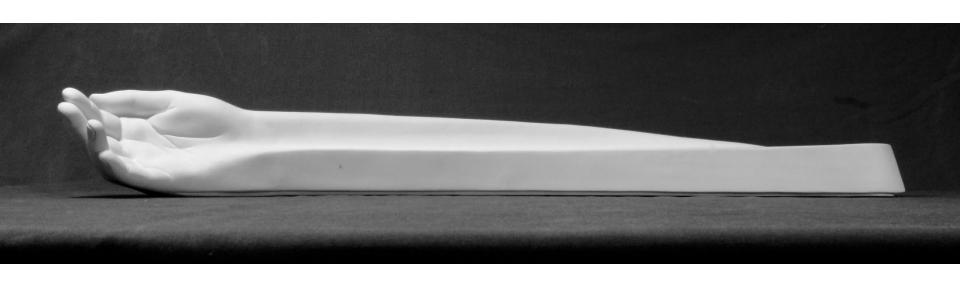
## HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION FROM ABSTRACT TO MORE REALISTIC







The National Capital Planning Commission in 2022 noted that they would like to see some exploration of a more abstract hand in the benches. The first concept of the hand, shown in these 2019 renderings had more abstract hand forms. The design team had explored abstract approaches that lacked realistic details and decided with the Commission of Fine Arts that realistic representation is the preferred direction. The November 2021 CFA report stated that the Commission "recommended subtly differentiating each hand in size and physical character." which necessitates realistic rather than abstract delineation.



The CFA review of November 2021 recommended that the bench hands be refined and have three subtly different hand positions. This refinement was accomplished in the three plaster models. The hand gestures almost suggest that the hands are in motion as if they are reaching out.

## **THREE HAND POSITIONS**

The concept for the sculpted hands is to convey reaching out of one person to another. This is the essence of the meaning and message of the Peace Corps park. Each of the gestures is unique and is meant to capture the hand in motion greeting another person.











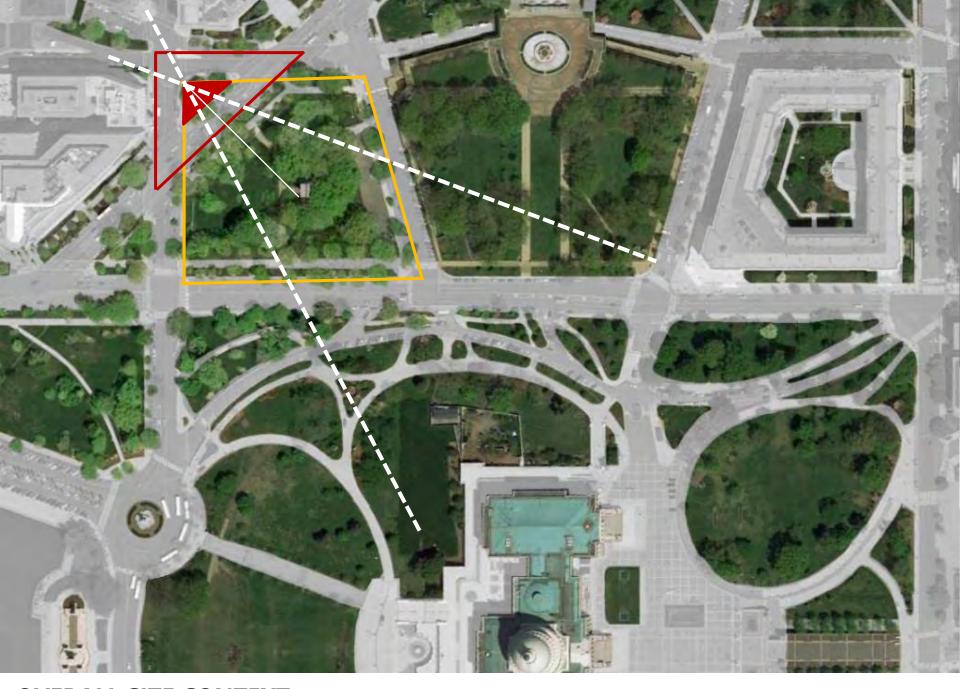
Silver Cloud granite is a figured stone with variations from white to light and darker gray is proposed for the benches. The movement of the variations across the benches abstracts the form. The Commission of Fine Arts approved the refined sculptural hand benches at the 2021 presentation.

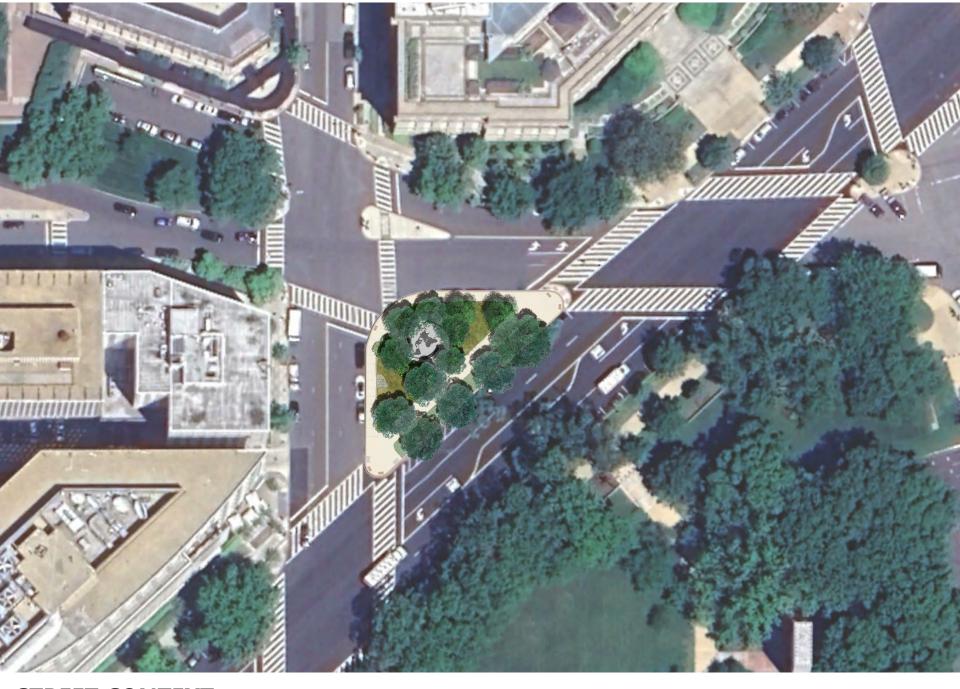


## **CONTENTS**

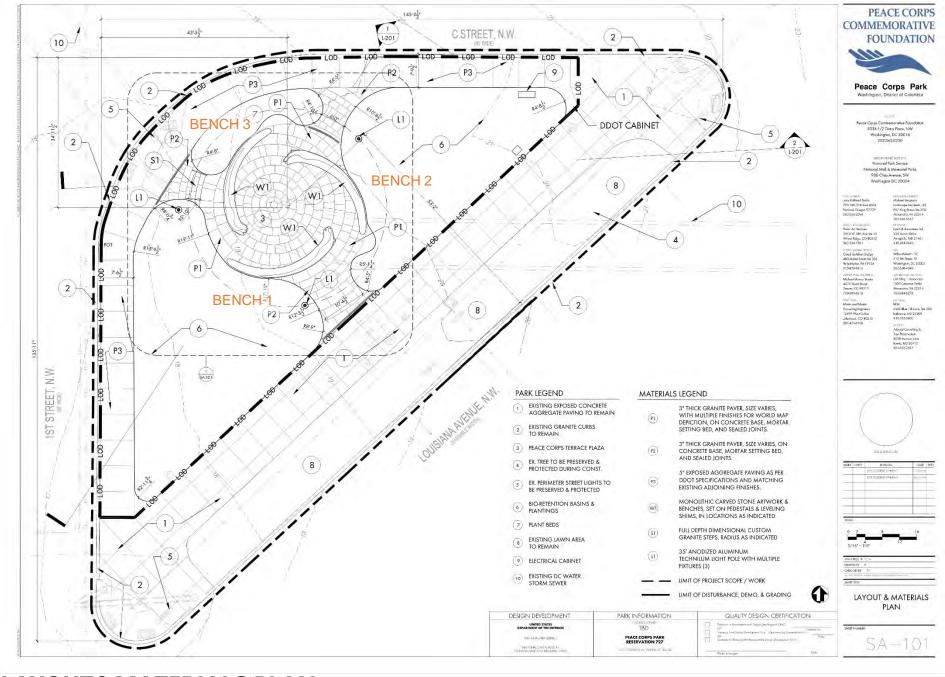
- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTIONS
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERRENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE



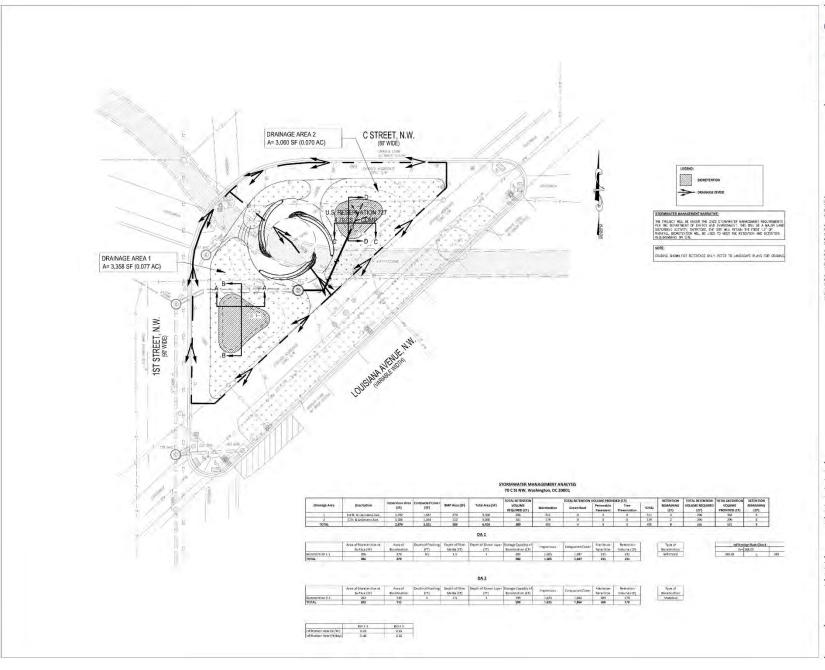




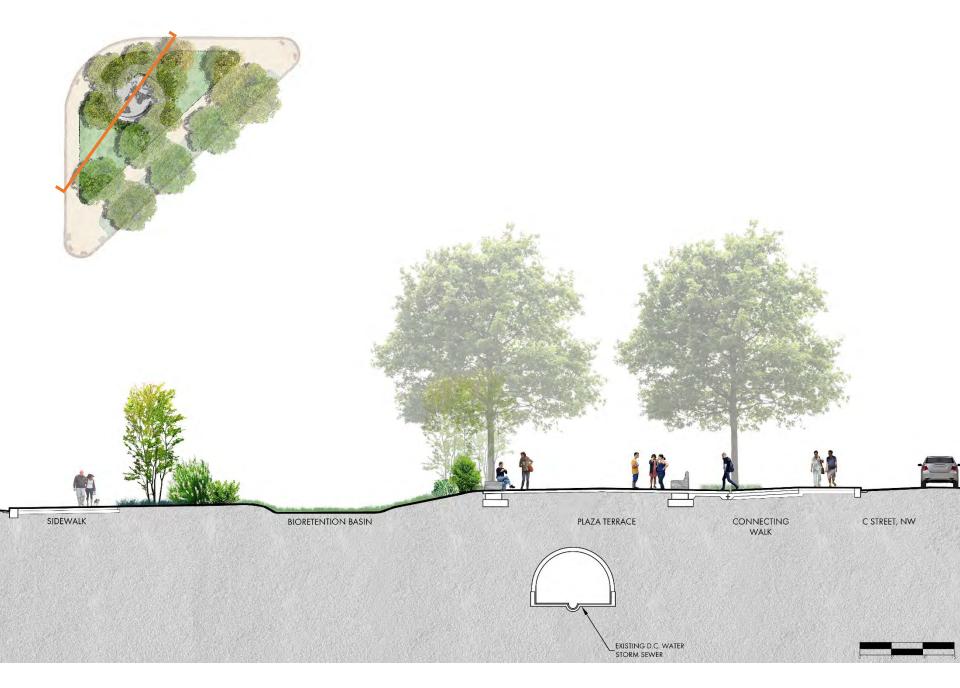




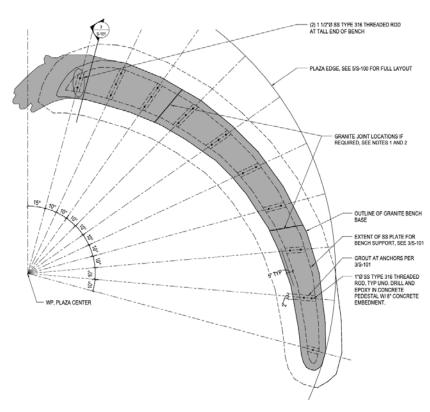




MANAGEMENT PLAN TROUBLE CIV-701

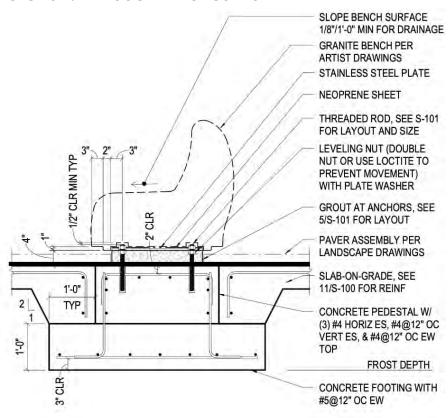


#### **PLAN: BENCH SUPPORT**



NOTE: Structural fins elevate bench 1" above grade to allow continuous drainage flow

#### **SECTION: THROUGH BENCH SUPPORT**



## **CONTENTS**

- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTIONS
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERRENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE



## **BENCH GRANITE**

Each of the Hand Benches will be carved from three blocks of Silver Cloud Granite from the State of Georgia.

Silver Cloud is a very dense granite (compressive strength: 42,668 Psi ), with low water absorption (0.14%).



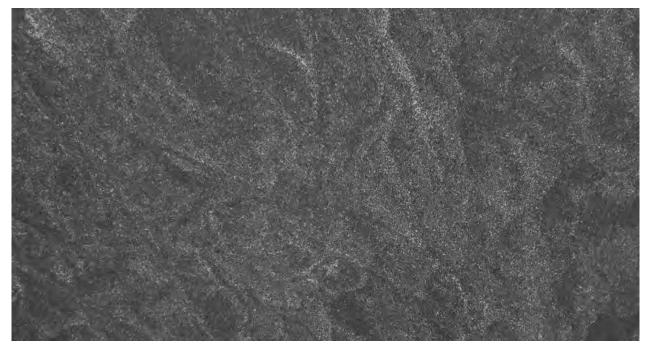


## **MAP GRANITE**

The World Map is created with Virginia Mist Granite from State of Virginia.

Virginia Mist is a very dense granite (compressive strength: 24,100 Psi ), with low water absorption (0.21%).











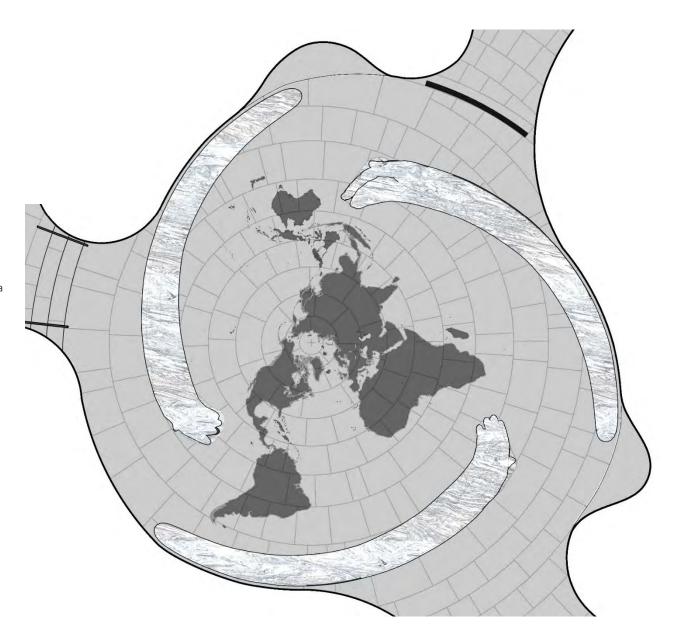
Bench mockup section from Quarra ( Note: the correct height of the bench is not represented in this mockup)

### **POLAR WORLD MAP**

The Polar World map was selected with the help of cartographers connected to National Geographic Society.

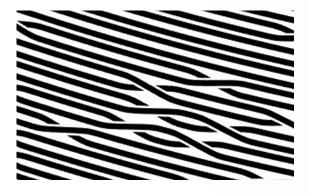
The design team wanted the most accurate and detailed map. We feel the Polar World map presents the best option to diminish distortion. The joint pattern of the paving has been arranged to avoid looking like longitude and latitude lines by offsetting all radial head joints in the paving. Graphics are meant to layer more meaning to Peace Corps Park.

The bas relief surface of the map paving is to provide a safe walking surface but also a skateboard deterrent.



## TYPICAL LAND PAVING PATTERN

The land masses in the plaza map are made from concentric rings of one quarter inch high honed Virginia Mist. These lines are separated by one eighth inch grooves to provide the necessary friction coefficient for safe a walking surface. In random location these lines cross over. This intersection symbolizes the important personal interactions the Peace Corps volunteers make during their service abroad.





## PLAZA SEA PAVING PATTERN INSPIRATION

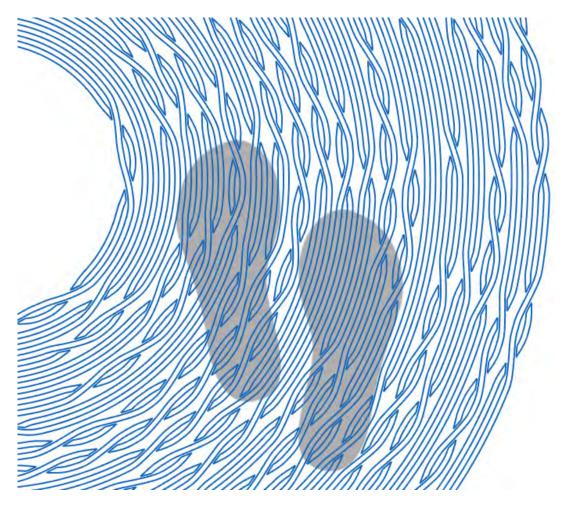
This wood panel has a texture created by an adz chisel. Creating a similar but softer pattern in the water portions of the plaza map esthetically recalls the surface of the seas.



## TYPICAL SEA PAVING PATTERN



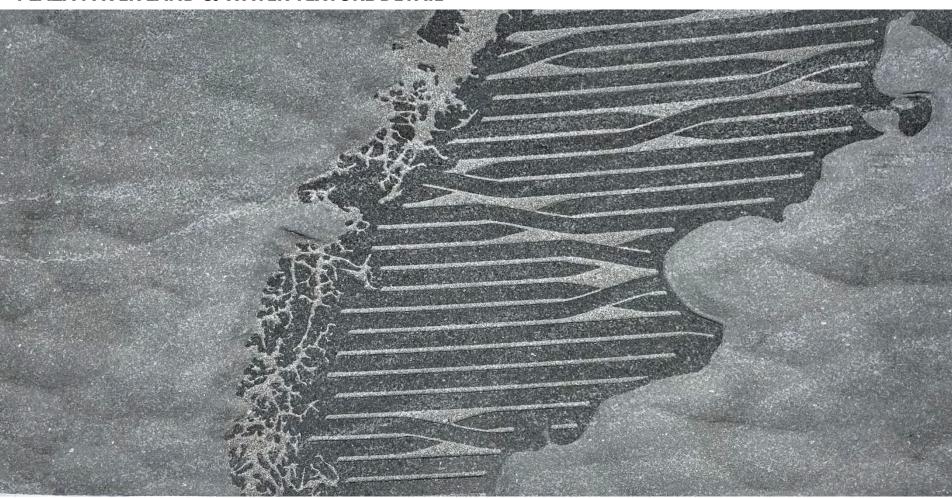
## PLAZA PAVING PATTERN SCALE COMPARISONS





The shoe print shows the scale of the land and water textures.

## PLAZA PAVER LAND & WATER TEXTURE DETAIL



The proposed textured surface is an accessible interpretive aesthetics of the sea on the plaza map and provides an experience of feeling the texture.

## **CONTENTS**

- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTIONS
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERRENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE



#### **INSCRIPTION FONT**

The font that the Benson father and son letter carvers have developed is a sans serif type with a slight flare to the end strokes of each letter. It is designed for commemorative spaces and is meant to convey honorific seriousness. It is clearly legible and is carved by hand to have the distinctive "V" chiseled into the granite. The "V" captures light and shadow much better than a "U" shaped machined letter.

#### **Nicholas Benson, Letter Carver**

Mr. Benson has carved many commemoratives in the Washington D.C., including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

## ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ





Hand carved V chiseled letters at the American Veterans Disabled For Life Memorial by Nicholas Benson

BENCH 1 (facing Louisiana Ave)

## ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU. ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY.

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
PEACE CORPS – FOUNDED 1961

Bench back quote at Louisiana Avenue Entrance

BENCH 1 (facing plaza)

BE NOT AFRAID TO SEEK PEACE, EVEN IF YOUR VOICE MAY BE SMALL.

**ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF, PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA, 2006-18** 

BENCH 2 (facing plaza)

IT IS IN YOUR HANDS TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL WHO LIVE IN IT.

NELSON ROLIHAHLA MANDELA, PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1994-99

BENCH 3 (facing plaza)

PEACE IS OUR CALLING. PEACEMAKING IS OUR SKILL. THE WORLD NEEDS PEACE. PEACE NEEDS YOU.

R. SARGENT SHRIVER, FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS, 1961-66

Bench quotes facing plaza and world map



Louisiana Avenue entrance.



BENCH 2



BENCH 1



BENCH 3

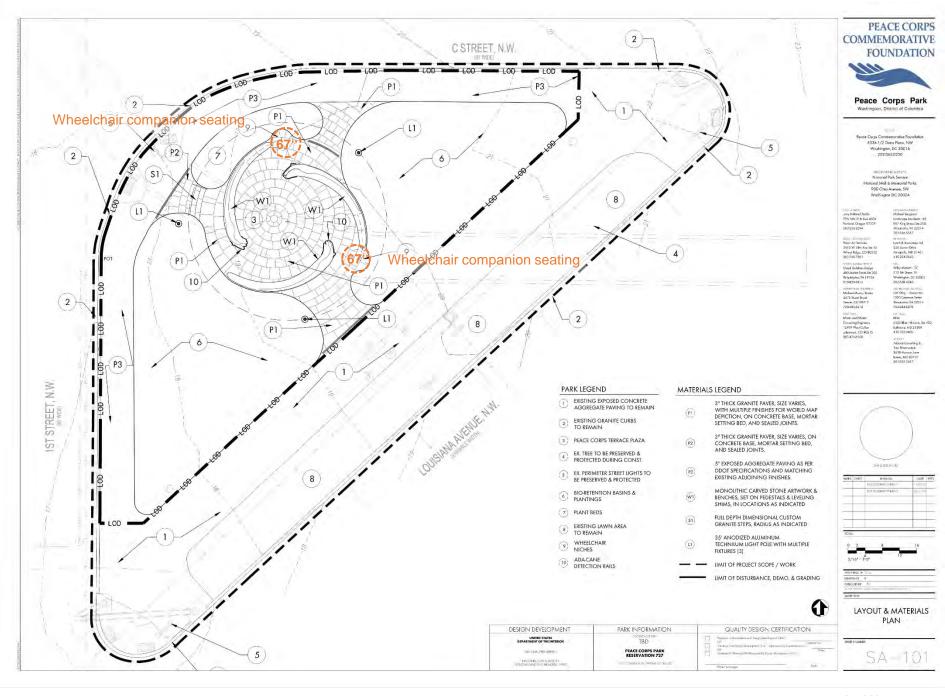


Bench end inscription. (view of bench 2)

# **CONTENTS**

- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTION
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERRENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE





### **OPTION A BIRD'S EYE**

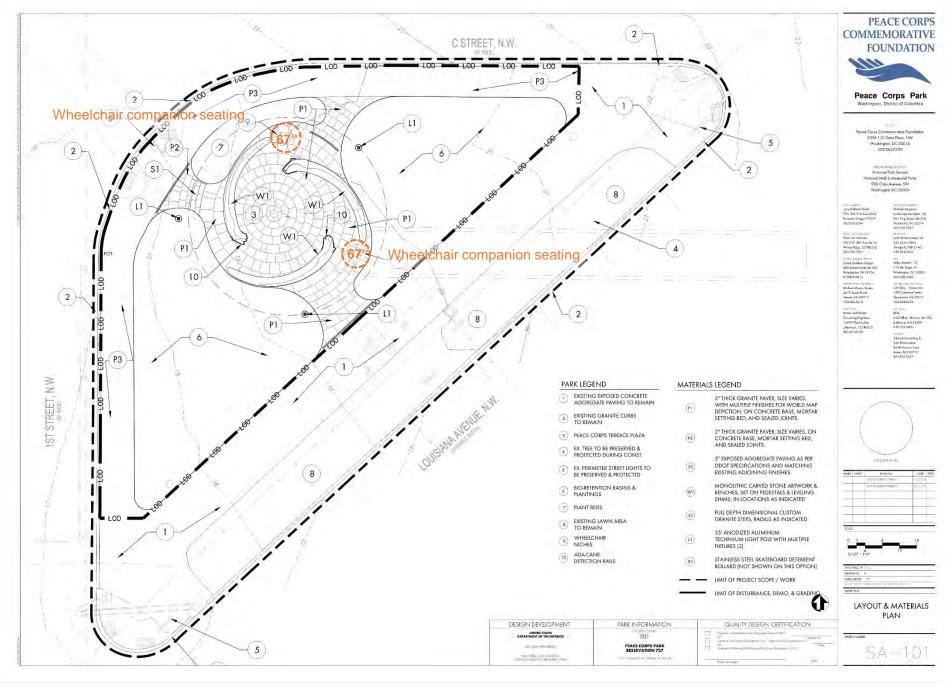


OPTION A Maintains the current plaza paving design configuration but adds smaller reverse curves to the companion seating areas with the outer edge of the Plaza. This option extends the plaza paving and texture out into these niches.

# **OPTION A EYE LEVEL**



Option A from Louisiana Avenue entrance.



#### **OPTION B BIRD'S EYE - PREFERRED OPTION**



OPTION B reduces the radius of the entry stem walks so they meet with the outer radius of the wheelchair companion seating areas but extends this radius further to meet the edge of the plaza at the back of the benches without the need of a reverse curve. This configuration completely absorbs the niches entirely into the plaza geometry. The plaza paving and texture also continues out into the wheelchair spaces.

#### **OPTION B EYE LEVEL - PREFERRED OPTION**



Option B from Louisiana Avenue entrance.

Note: OPTION B expands the paving at each entry, which in turn increases the area of paving available for skateboarders to potentially gather up greater speed to jump and grind the edges of the bench. This Option also adds additional Impervious paving to the design.

# **OPTION B DETAIL VIEW**

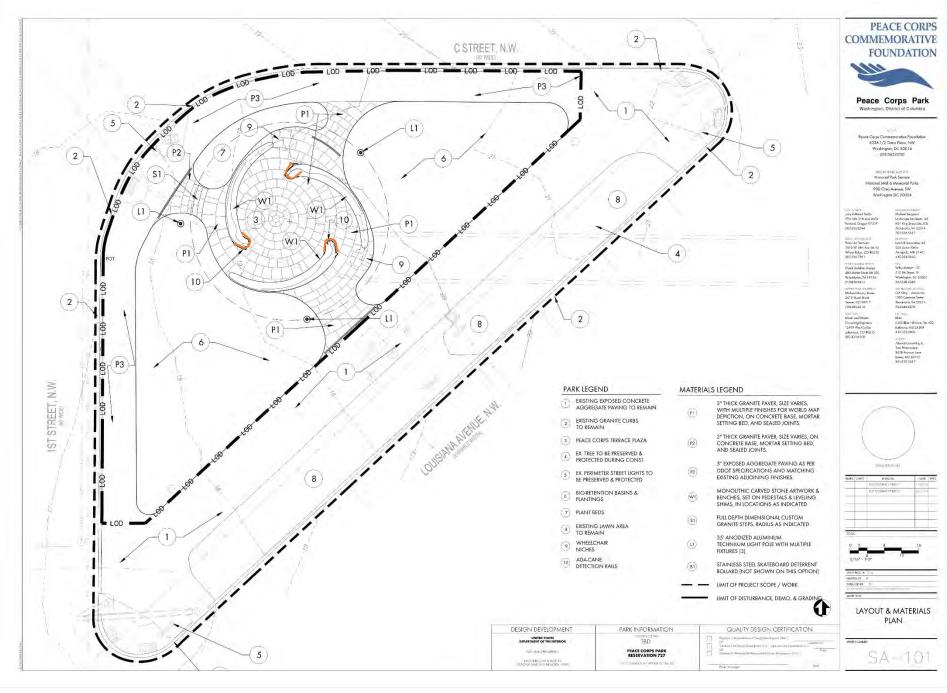


Option B view of bench 2.

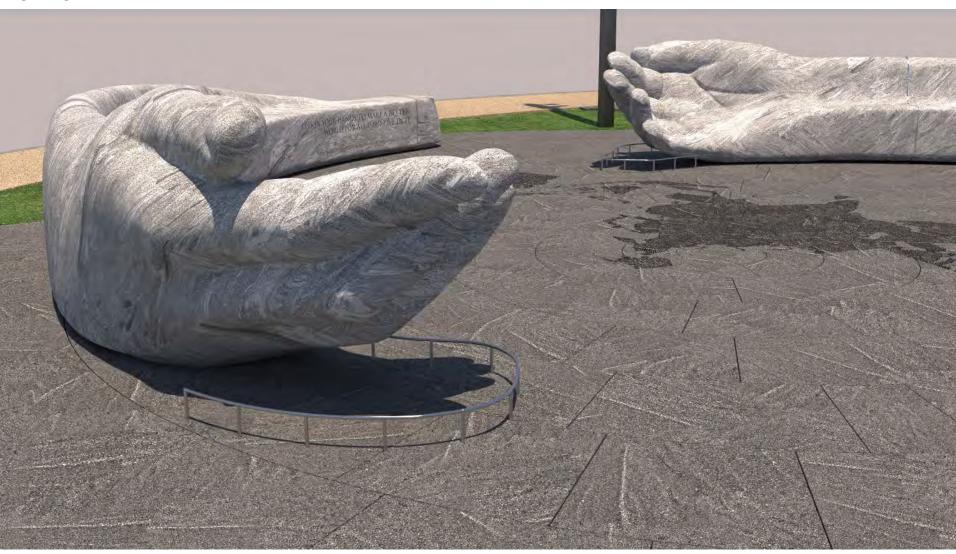
### WHEELCHAIR SEATING



Option B view of bench 2.

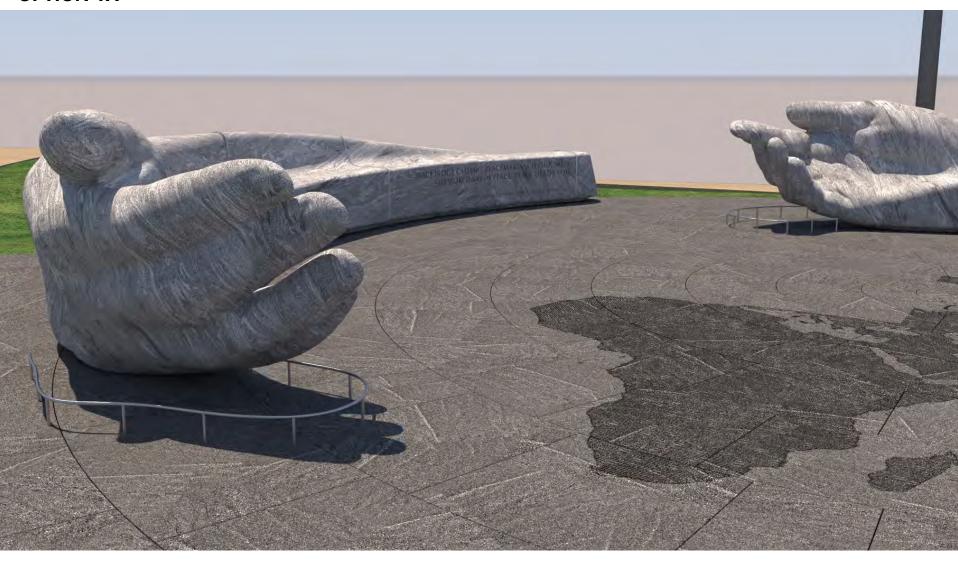


# **OPTION 1A**



OPTION 1A provides a 1/2" diameter stainless steel rail mounted on 1/4" stainless steel dowels at the ADA recommended height of 4" above the plaza pavement. (view of bench 2)

# **OPTION 1A**

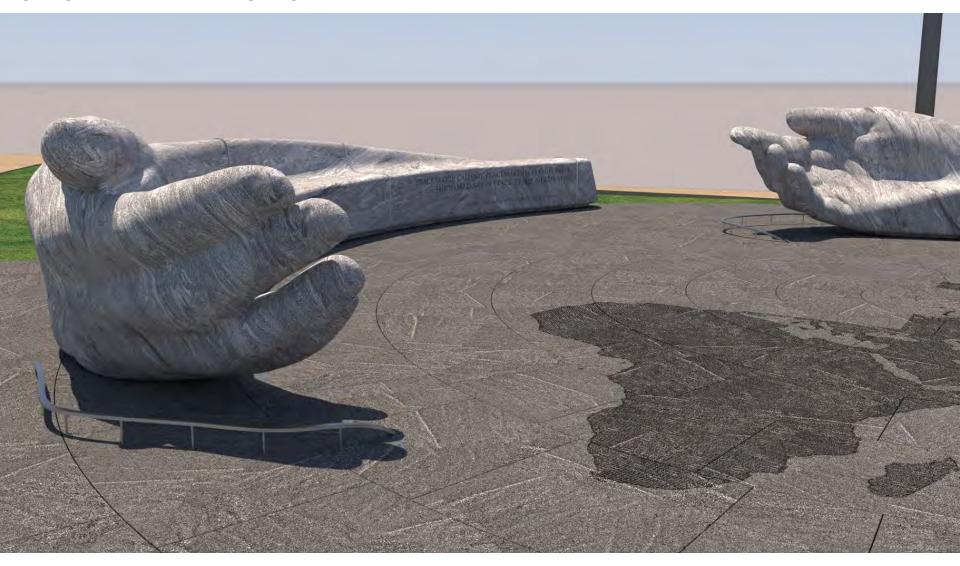


### **OPTION 1B - PREFERRED OPTION**



OPTION 1B uses the 1" x 1/2" stainless bar only in the area required by ADA, eliminating any rail in front of the hand and by sloping the rail into the plaza surface. (view of bench 2)

# **OPTION 1B - PREFERRED OPTION**





Option 2 provides raised pavers matching the plaza material and configured as stepped topography. ( view of bench 2 )



The first two increments of the cane detection are 3/4" each and followed by ten 1/4" steps for a total of 4". (Option 2 view of bench 3)

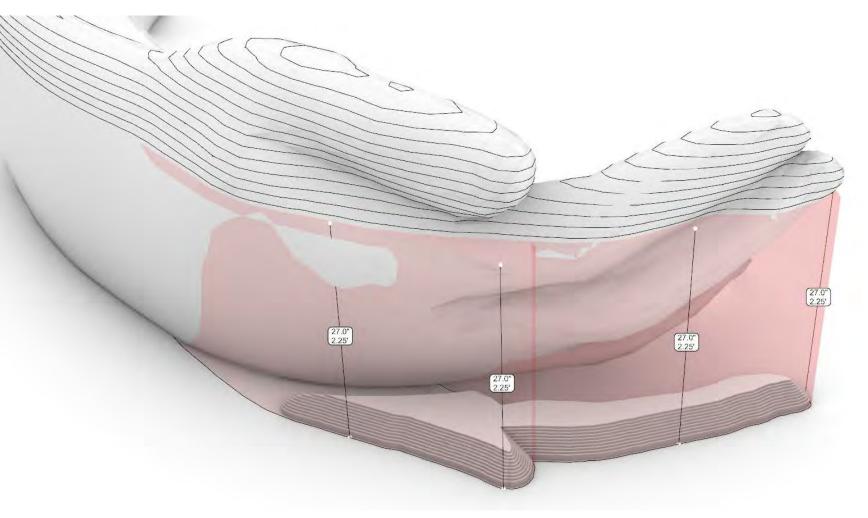


Option 2 view of bench 3



Option 2 view of bench 1

### **OPTION 2 DIAGRAM**



Consistent with ADA recommendation, cane protection is a projection of the contour line of the hand at 27" above the paving.

# **CONTENTS**

- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTION
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERRENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE

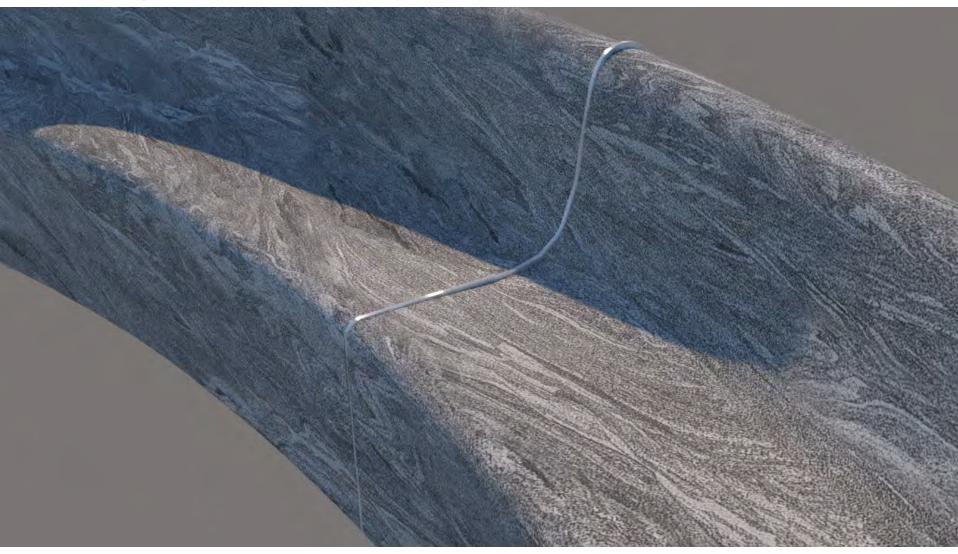


# **STONE JOINT / SKATEBOARD DETERRENTS**



Each bench is divided into three stone blocks.

# **STONE JOINT / SKATEBOARD DETERRENTS**



The 3/8" stainless steel plates are flush with the stone on vertical surfaces and raised 1/2" on the horizontal to provide a skateboard deterrent of riding along the seat surface and benchback.

#### **ADDITONAL SKATEBOARD DETERRENT DETAIL – BENCH 1**



We recommend adding a third 3/8" stainless steel plate at the end of each bench as additional skateboard deterrent. (view of bench 1)

#### **ADDITONAL SKATEBOARD DETERRENT DETAIL – BENCH 2**



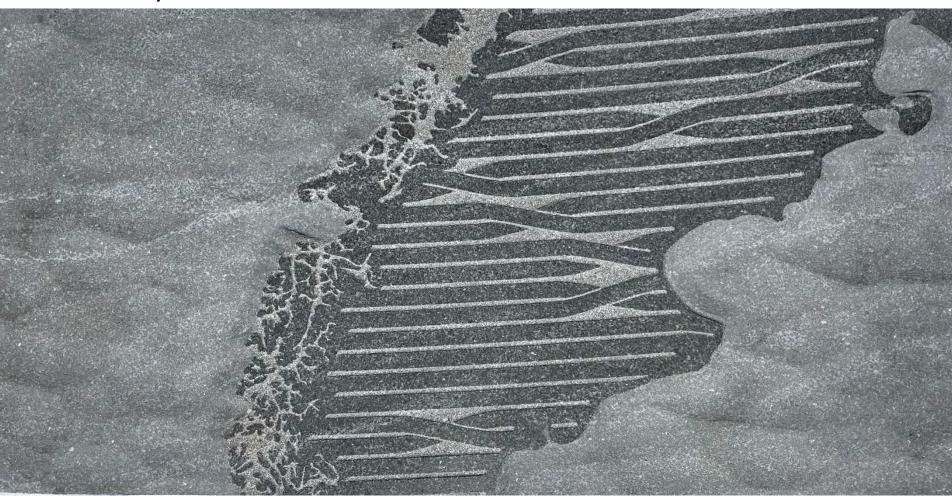
View of bench 2

#### **ADDITONAL SKATEBOARD DETERRENT DETAIL – BENCH 3**



View of bench 3

# **PLAZA PAVING / SKATEBOARD DETERRENTS**



The low relief of 3/16" vertical difference between trough and crest is unwelcome to the skateboarders.

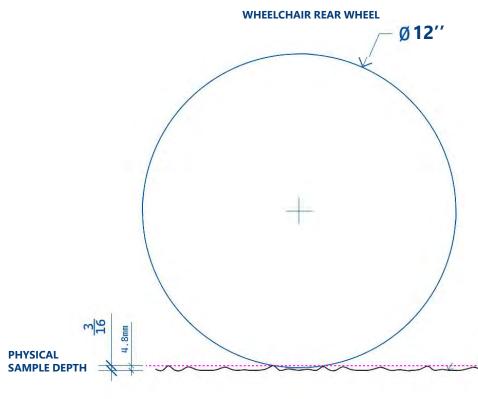






Wheelchair test.

Skateboard test.



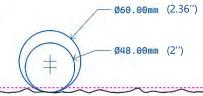
The section below cutting through the ocean paving illustrates the difference between wheelchairs and skateboards moving across the plaza.

The troughs of the rippling surface are small enough to entrap the wheels of a skateboard, disrupting movement due to the wheel falling into the trough.

Conversely a 12-inch wheel of a wheelchair is large enough to bridge these troughs without getting caught, providing little or no resistance or discomfort.

Empirical testing confirms these observations.

#### **SKATEBOARD WHEEL RANGE**



**PLAZA OCEAN RIPLE SURFACE** 



The plaza paving provides a safe walking surface as well as a reasonable skateboard deterrent.

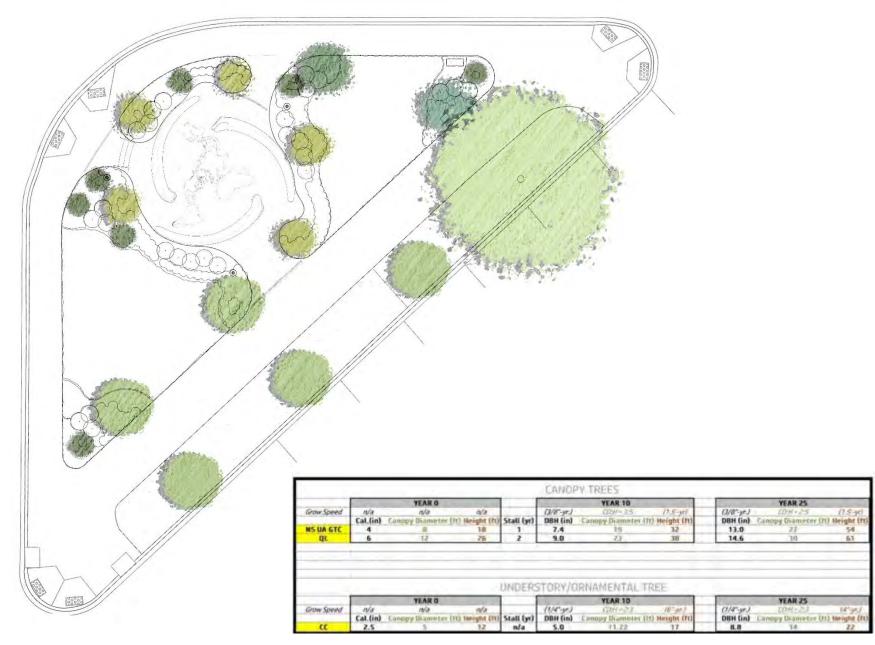
# **CONTENTS**

- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTION
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERRENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE















'Vanilla Spice' Summersweet Clethra alnifolia 'Caleb



' 'Henry Garnet' Dwarf Virginia Sweetspire Itea virginiana 'Henry Garnet'



'Otto Luyken Cherry Laurel Prunus laurocerasus 'Otto Luyken'



Gro-Low Sumac
Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'



Blue Zinger Sedge Carex flacca 'Blue Zinger'



Blue Eyed Grass Sisyrinchium nashii 'Suwannee'



Siberian Squill Scilla siberica



Snowdrops Galanthus elwesii

GROUNDCOVERS

### SPRING

### SUMMER

### FALL

### WINTER











Siberian Squill



Blue Eyed Grass



' 'Henry Garnet' Dwarf Virginia Sweetspire



Snowdrops



'Otto Luyken' Cherry Laurel



'Henry Garnet' Dwarf Virginia Sweetspire



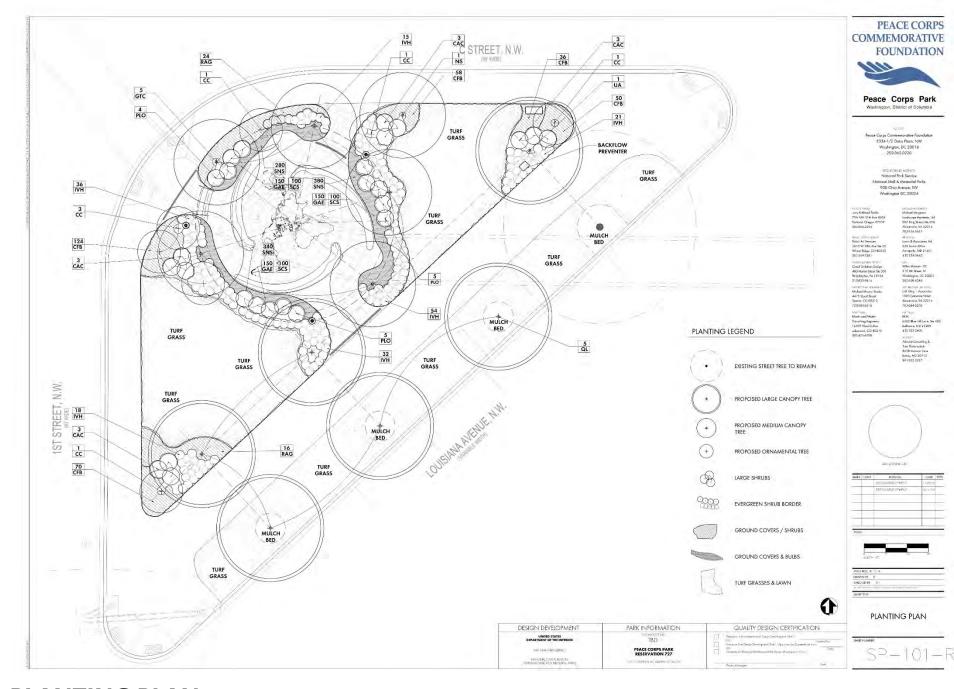
'Vanilla Spice' Summersweet



'Otto Luyken' Cherry Laurel



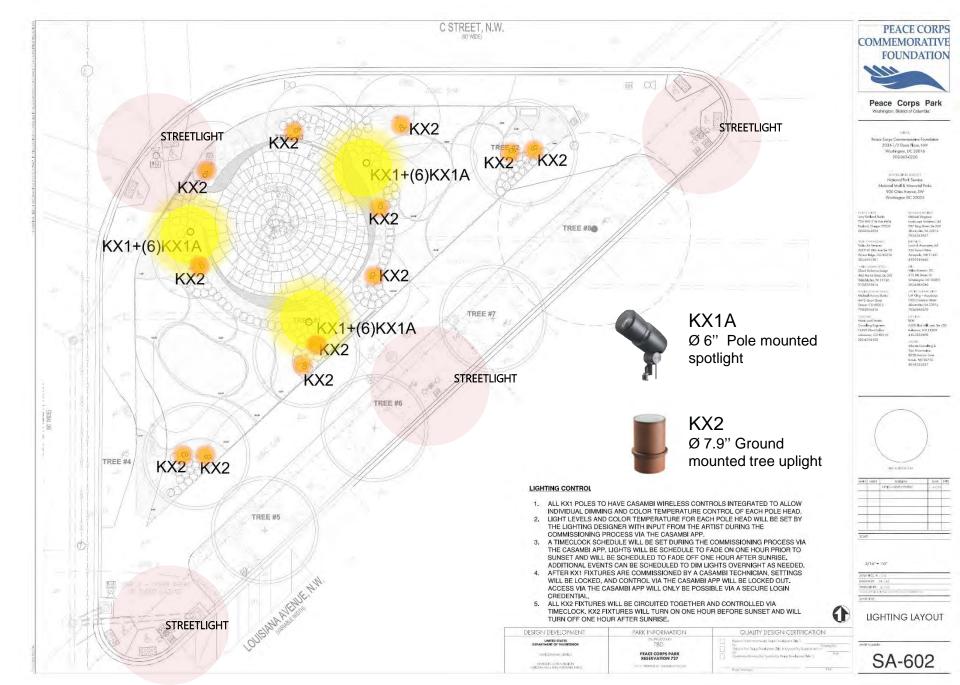
'Vanilla Spice' Summersweet



# **CONTENTS**

- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTION
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERRENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE

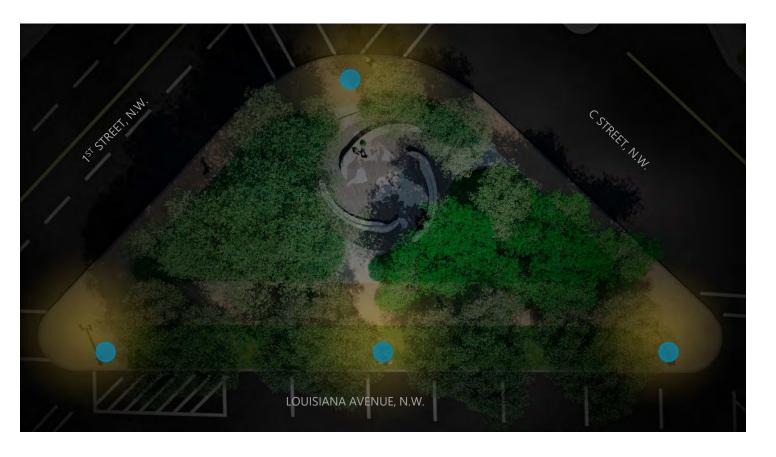




# EXISTING STREET LIGHTS

CM Kling developed a lighting concept that highlights the central space with its inscriptions, benches, map and the tree canopy.

The existing context with four Washington globes fixtures creates an ambient light background for the site at night.

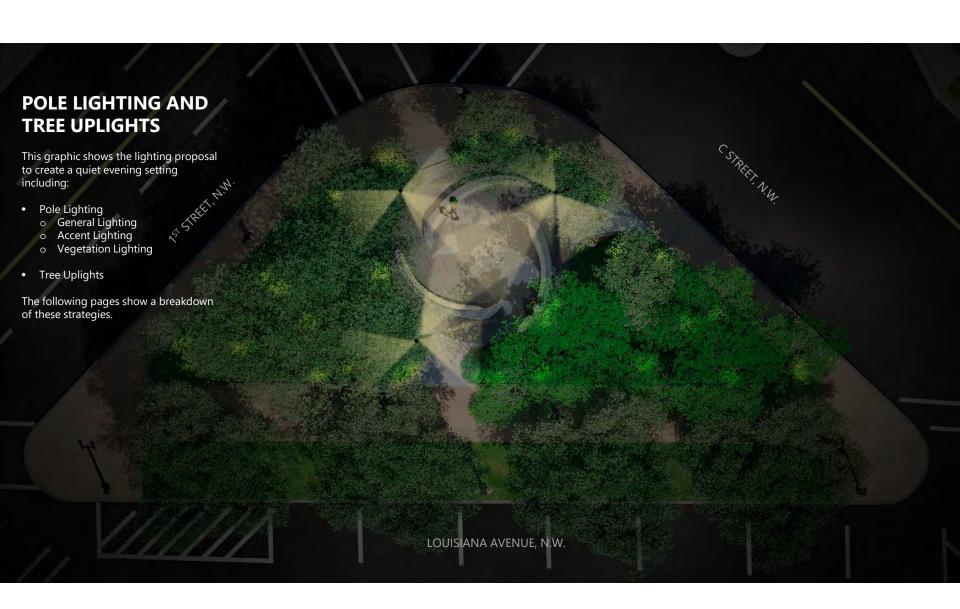








1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, N.W. LOUISIANA AVENUE, N.W. C STREET, N.W.



### **AMBIENT AREA LIGHT**

- 1 GENERAL LIGHTING POLES
- Use of general lighting to create ambient luminescence.
- Surrounding space, sculptural hands, and people are visible from every point of view.
- Cooler CCT on stone, paving, and sculpture to highlight materials.
- Entries illuminated as well.
- Multiple layers of light all come from single point with poles having multiple heads that have varying aiming angles, beam distributions
- Glare control devices to be added to pole heads



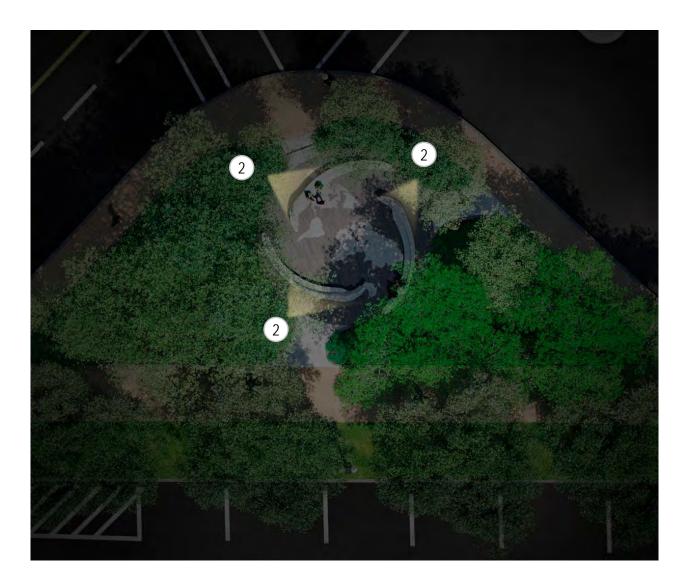


# **AMBIENT TEXT ON OUTSIDE**

- 2 ACCENT LIGHTING POLES
- Use of accent lighting in order to focus visitor's eyes towards the message mapping along the exterior part of benches creating "focal glow" on the text area





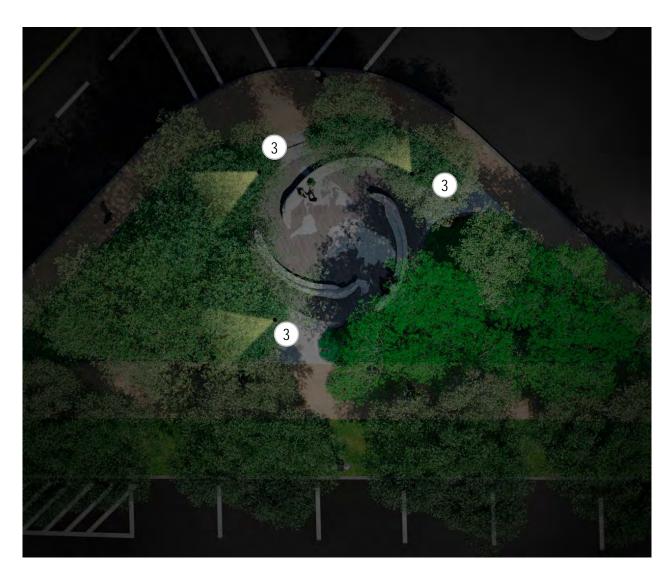


# **AMBIENT TREE MOONLIGHT**



 Moonlighting, floodlights mounted on poles between vegetation to get shadow play



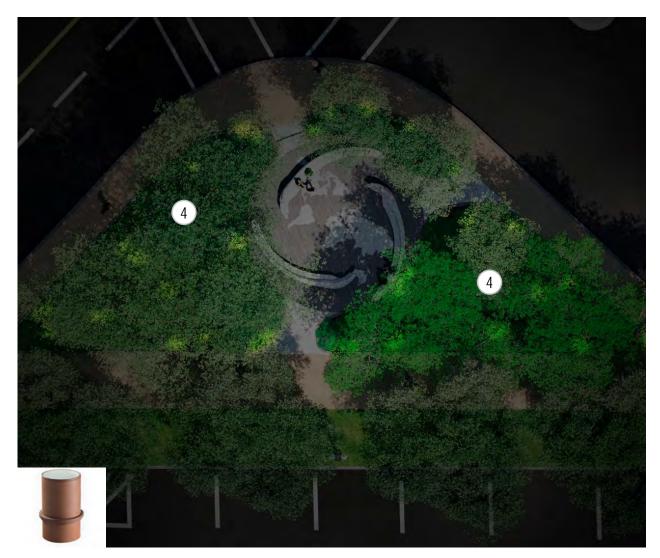


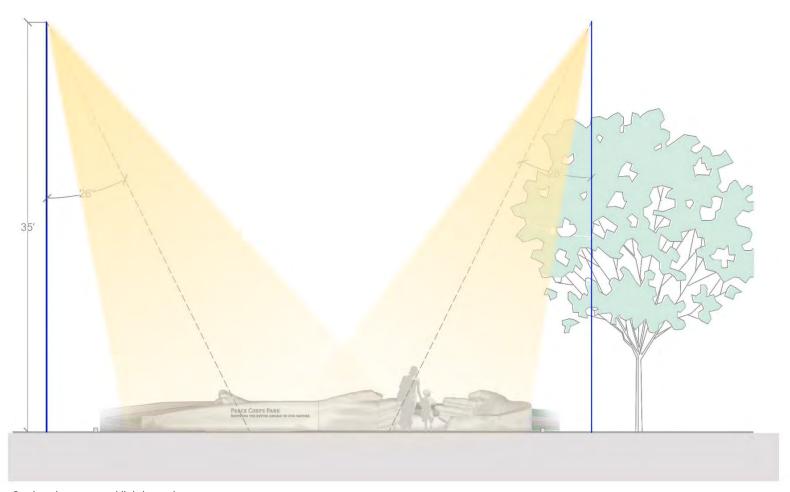
### **ACCENT TREE UPLIGHTS**



- Tree uplights mounted on the ground will complement the general illumination by lighting the underside of the tree canopy layer.
- Warmer CCT for planting and any uplighting to be set at level to be compatible for nesting birds.
- The bronze finish allows this tree uplight which has a portion above the ground, similar to a small bollard, to hide within its surrounding nature but also clear shrub height so lighting is not trapped under short planting.







Section view – general lighting poles

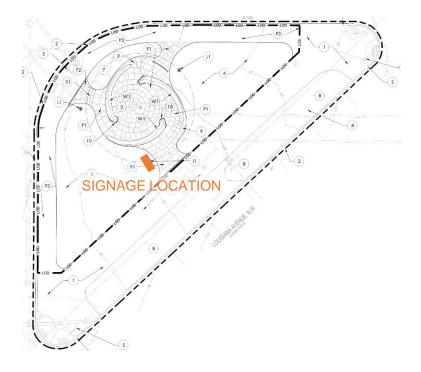
# **CONTENTS**

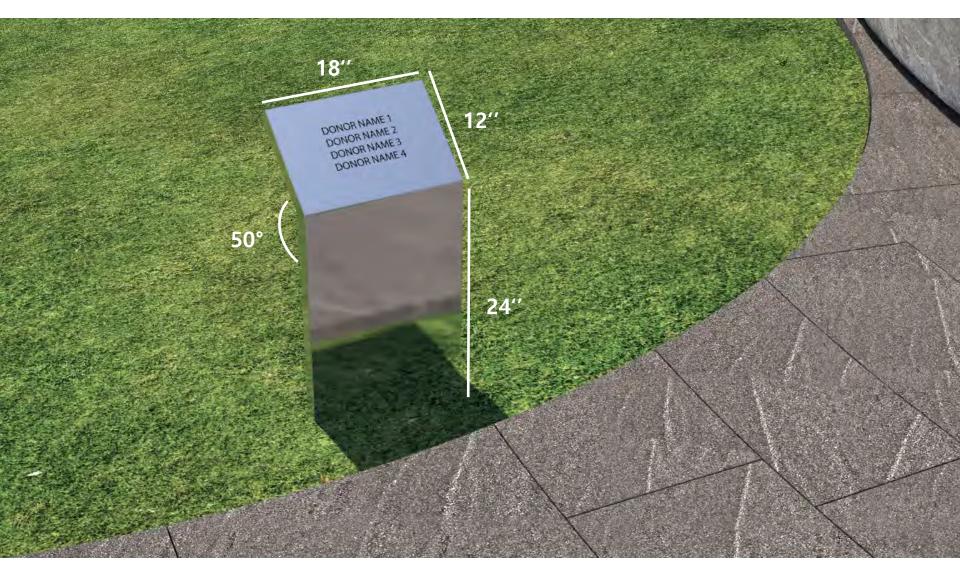
- INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND
- HAND DESIGN EVOLUTION
- SITE UPDATE
- DETAILS
  - MATERIALS
  - INSCRIPTION
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - SKATEBOARD DETERRENT
  - PLANTING
  - LIGHTING
  - SIGNAGE





Donor recognition signage at Louisiana Avenue entrance.





Signs at Louisiana Avenue entrance are made from brushed stainless steel. The donor sign will be removed after ten years.

#### **AGENCY**

#### **National Park Service**

#### CLIENT

### **Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation (PCCF)**

Roger K. Lewis, FAIA (Tunisia 1964-66) President and Chairman, PCF Architect, Professor Emeritus of Architecture, University of Maryland RLewis@PeaceCorpsCommemorative.org

**Tony Barclay**, PhD (Kenya 1968-70) Vice President, PCF Former CEO of DAI, former Chairman, National Peace Corps Association

**Bonnie S. Gottlieb**, Esq. (Ivory Coast 1972-74) Secretary, PCF Former Senior Vice President, Industry Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, Nareit

### **Richard Swarttz**

Treasurer, PCF
CFO and Administrative Officer, Lead for America
Former CFO, Volunteer Florida
Former CFO, United Way
Former CFO, The Peace Corps
Board Member: America's Service Commission

### Mark L. Rosenberg, Esq.

General Counsel, PCF Partner, Cogent Law Group Former Attorney 'Of Counsel', Bregman, Berbert, Schwartz & Gilday, LLC

**Hon. Sam Farr** (Colombia 1963-65) U.S. Representative, California's Central Coast 1993-2017 Janet Greig (India 1966-68) Chair, Board of Trustees, The Bergstrom Foundation Director Emeritus, National Peace Corps Association

Carrie Hessler-Radelet (Western Samoa 1981-84)
President, Global Communities
Former Director, The Peace Corps

**Hon. Joseph Kennedy III** (Dominican Republic 2004-06) U.S. Representative, Massachusetts 4th District 2013-2021

Founder, Groundwork Project

**Scott Nichols** (Morocco 1970-71) Senior Vice President for Development & Alumni Relations, Boston University Former Associate Dean for Advancement, Harvard University Law School

**Aaron Williams** (Dominican Republic 1967-70) Senior Advisor Emeritus, RTI International Former Director, The Peace Corps

### Jeffrey M. Zell, CRE

President and CEO, JM Zell Partners, Ltd Advisory Board & Council Member, Kuhn Real Estate Center & Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University

#### **DESIGN AND FABRICATION TEAM**

Larry Kirkland Artist

Michael Vergason Landscape Architects. Ltd. Landscape Architects

**Mowry Studio** Architect

**SGF Scultura** Stone

**Quarra Stone Company** Stone

Martin and Martin Structural Engineers

Wiles Mensch Civil Engineer

**Cloud Gehshan** Environmental Graphics

**CM Cling** Lighting

### **AECOM**

Environmental Analysis & Section 106 Historic Preservation Consultant