



PEACE CORPS COMMEMORATIVE
at Peace Corps Park

NCMAC
FEBRUARY 11, 2020

AGENCY

National Park Service

CLIENT

Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation

Roger K. Lewis, FAIA, President (Tunisia 1964-66): Architect; Professor Emeritus of Architecture, University of Maryland

Bonnie Gottlieb, Vice President & Secretary/Treasurer (Ivory Coast 1972-74): Senior Vice President of Nareit; Attorney

Tony Barclay, PhD (Kenya 1968-70): Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University; former Chairman, National Peace Corps Association

Carrie Hessler-Radelet (Western Samoa 1981-84): President & CEO, PCI Global; former Director of the Peace Corps

Aaron Williams (Dominican Republic 1967-70): Senior Advisor Emeritus, RTI International, former Director of the Peace Corps

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

Jefferey 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.

Mowry Studio

Zahner Architectural Metals

Mayer of Munich Glass

Cutting Edge Granite

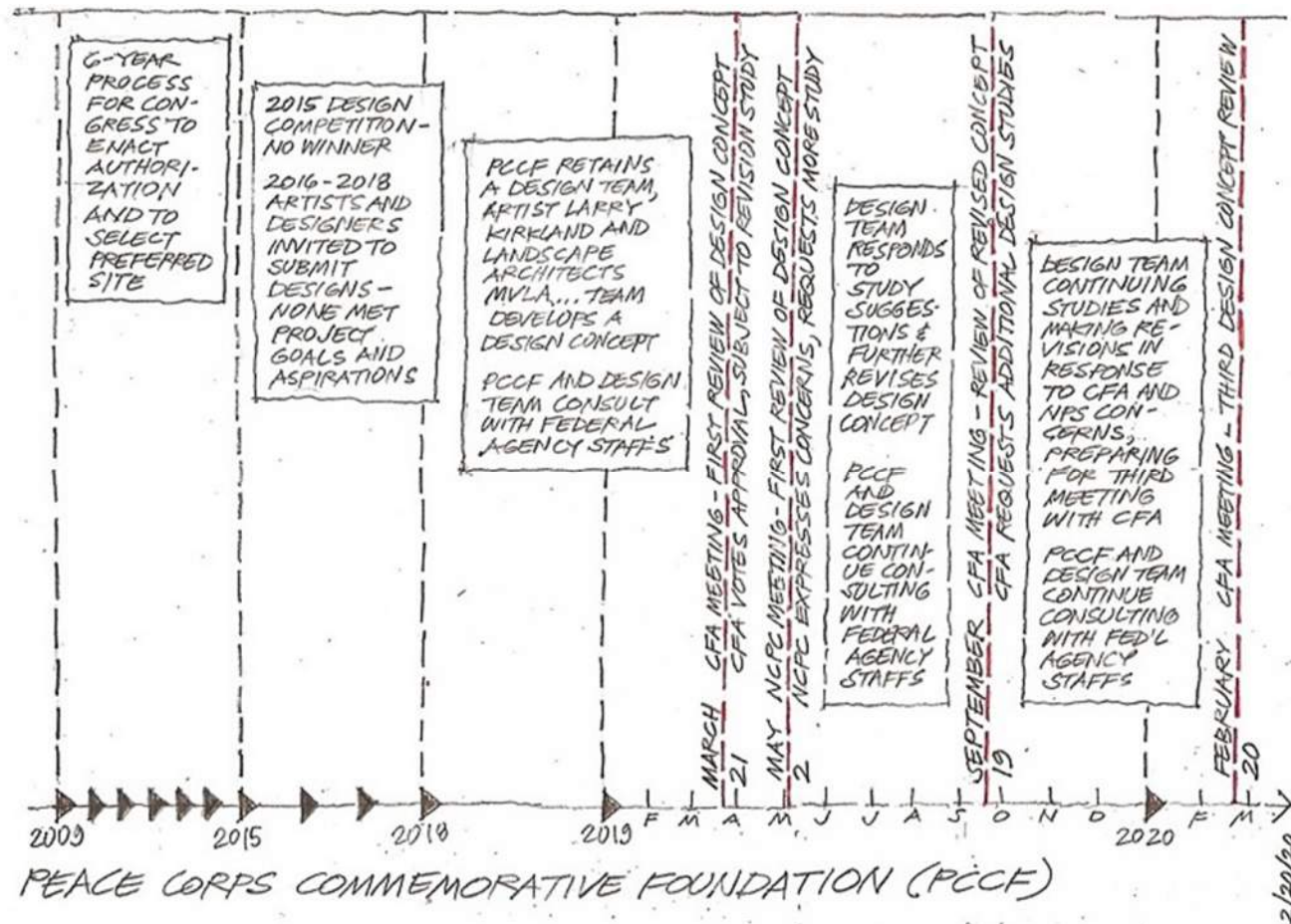
SGF Scultura

Martin/Martin, Structural Engineers

AECOM

Environmental Analysis & Section 106 Historic Preservation Consultant

PEACE CORPS TIMELINE



CONCEPT DESIGN UPDATE

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the refined concept design for the Peace Corps Memorial on September 19, 2019. The Commission expressed general support for artistic ambition and potential.

With this submission, the design team provides an update to the conceptual design.

Process Summary:

- 2009 - 2015 Authorization/Site Selection: 6-year process
- 2015 Design Competition: no submission met project goals
- 2015 - 2018: Open Competition and Invited Design Proposals
- FALL 2018: Artist, Larry Kirkland and Michael Vergason Landscape Architects (MVLA) chosen to develop design concept
- CFA Review 1, March 2019, Concept Design Approval, subject to revisions
- NCPC Review 1, May 2019, requests more study
- CFA Review 2, September 2019, requests additional design studies
- CFA Review 3, February 2020

Americans and people of the world, interacting in mutual respect and trust, can create a better and more peaceful world.





PURPOSE AND PROCESS

Building the Peace Corps commemorative will be a symbolic reaffirmation of America's historic generosity; of our commitment to helping others, both at home and abroad; and of our shared humanity in the face of daunting national and global challenges.

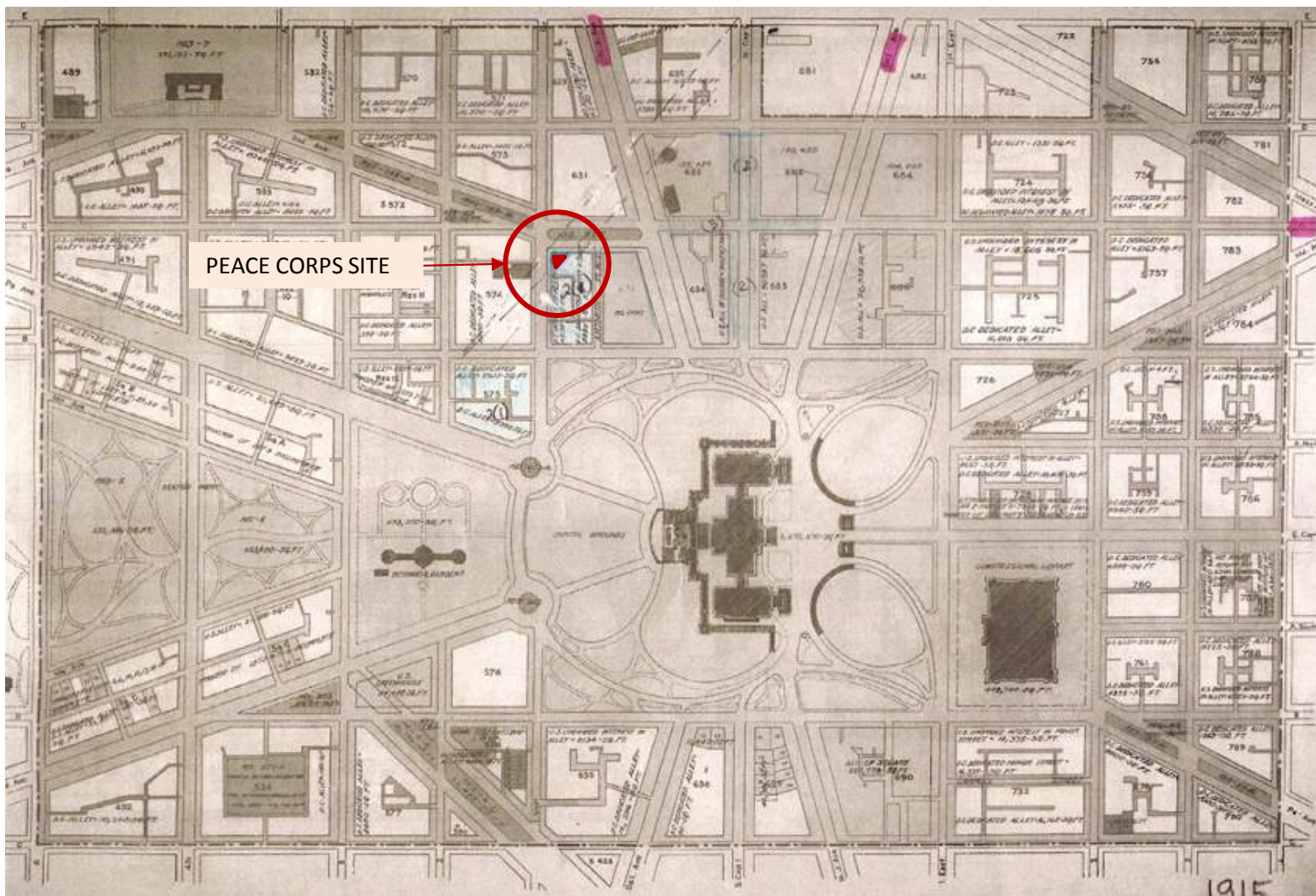
Goals:

- Honor and celebrate those attributes of the American ethos that motivated the creation of the Peace Corps in 1961
- Acknowledge the "better angels of our nature"
- Remind us of the value of working, teaching and learning alongside people in mutual respect and trust
- Communicate to all that America's outstretched hand, reaching voluntarily around the world, can thereby enhance mutual understanding and promote peace

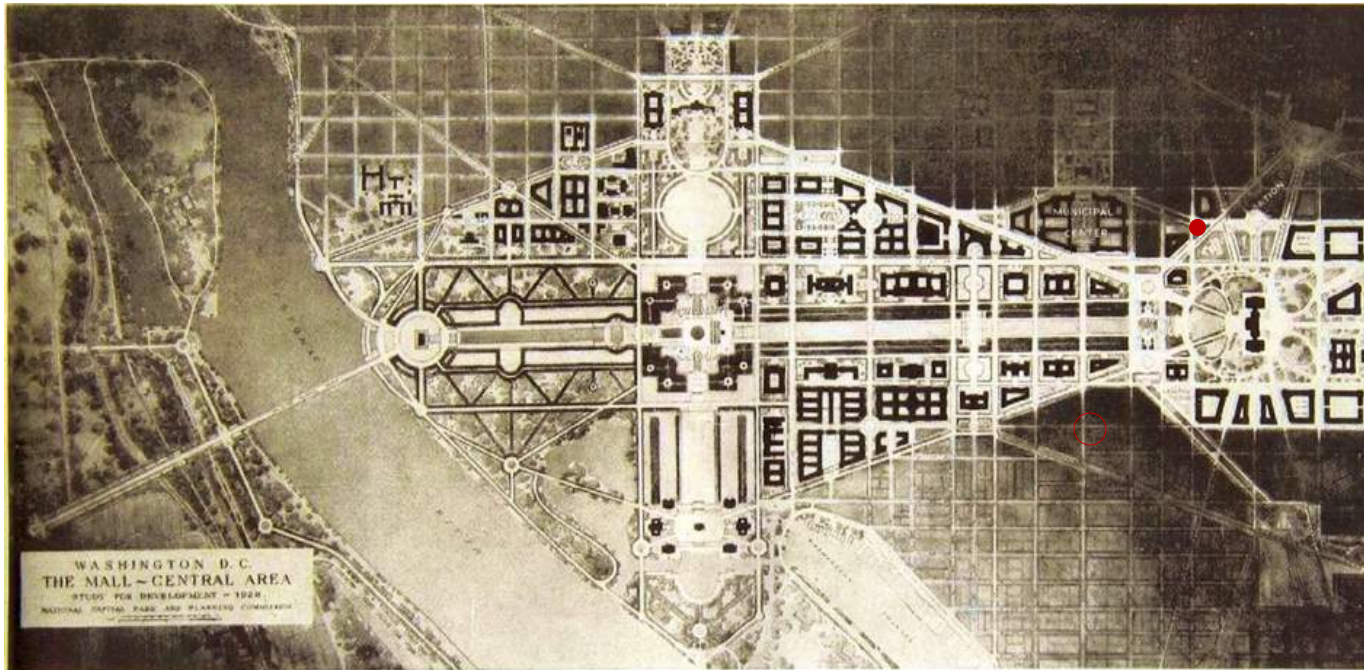
VALUES AND SPIRIT

The Peace Corps commemorative seeks to capture the values of the Peace Corps with a design that:

- Brings people together in a central gathering place in the spirit of helping interested countries from around the world meet their need for trained men and women,
- Provides context with a world map without national and political boundaries that shares the organization's reach around the globe,
- Offers a place to pause with sculptural bench seating in the shape of hands, capturing the human connection and need for mutual purpose,
- Offers an experiential setting that is different throughout the day and year using sunlight and night lighting that passes through a sculptural glass pergola reflecting the diversity of experiences and places that Americans share in their service,
- Welcomes the neighborhood and connects to the Capitol Grounds as a distinctive, memorable, and uplifting destination and contribution to the city,
- Captures the spirit of generosity, hope, respect, and peace with a setting that embodies the values of striving for better understanding of other peoples.



1915 - 1916 Plan, Louisiana Avenue does not appear until later.



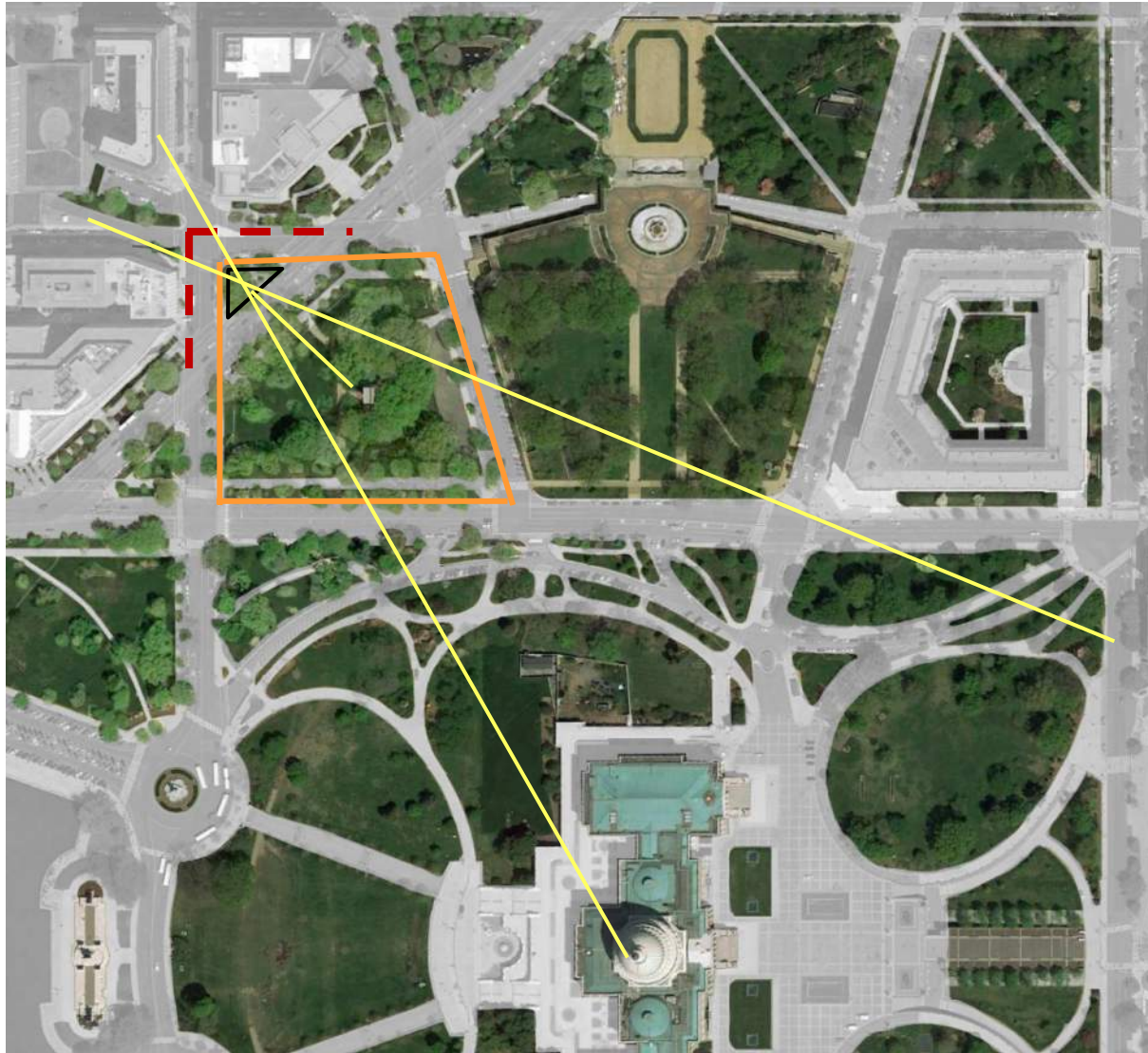
BACKGROUND HISTORY

1915. The 1915-1916 map shows existing avenues, streets and built-up blocks surrounding the Capitol Building Grounds, along with an alternate alignment for the diagonal avenue radiating southwest from Union Station. The map shows the avenue cutting across Square 633's northwest corner, where the Peace Corps Commemorative site (Reservation 727) eventually would exist. Row houses and shops occupied the west half of Square 633 as well as blocks to the west.

1928. The NCPC 1928 plan of the Mall and D.C. central area is an elaboration of the 1902 McMillan Plan. It shows Louisiana Avenue—with its essentially finalized alignment—cutting off the northwest corner of Square 633, the northwest corner of the Capitol Grounds rectangle, and showing for the first time the Reservation 727 triangle bounded by 1st and C Streets.



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

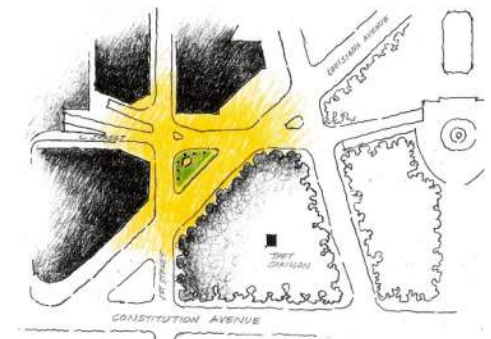


Site Setting

- Site Building Frame ———
- Site Landscape Connection ———
- Sight - Lines ———

SETTING

The Peace Corps Commemorative holds a pivotal position in the context of the neighborhood. The small site is framed by large buildings including the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO headquarters building on the west, and the Jones Day law offices on the north as shown by the *Site Building Frame*. The *Site Landscape Connection* shows the triangular site's connection to the western corner of the Capitol Grounds. The yellow *Sight-lines* reveal what is visible from the site.





Summer view looking southeast from within the site and across Louisiana Avenue towards the woodland of the Capitol Grounds.



Spring view looking southeast from within the site to Taft Park and the Carillon visible across Louisiana Avenue.



Winter view looking north at site along Louisiana Avenue sidewalk and across site to C Street, NW.



Summer view looking north across site to C Street, NW.



Summer view looking east towards site across C and 1st Streets, NW, with Capitol in the distance.

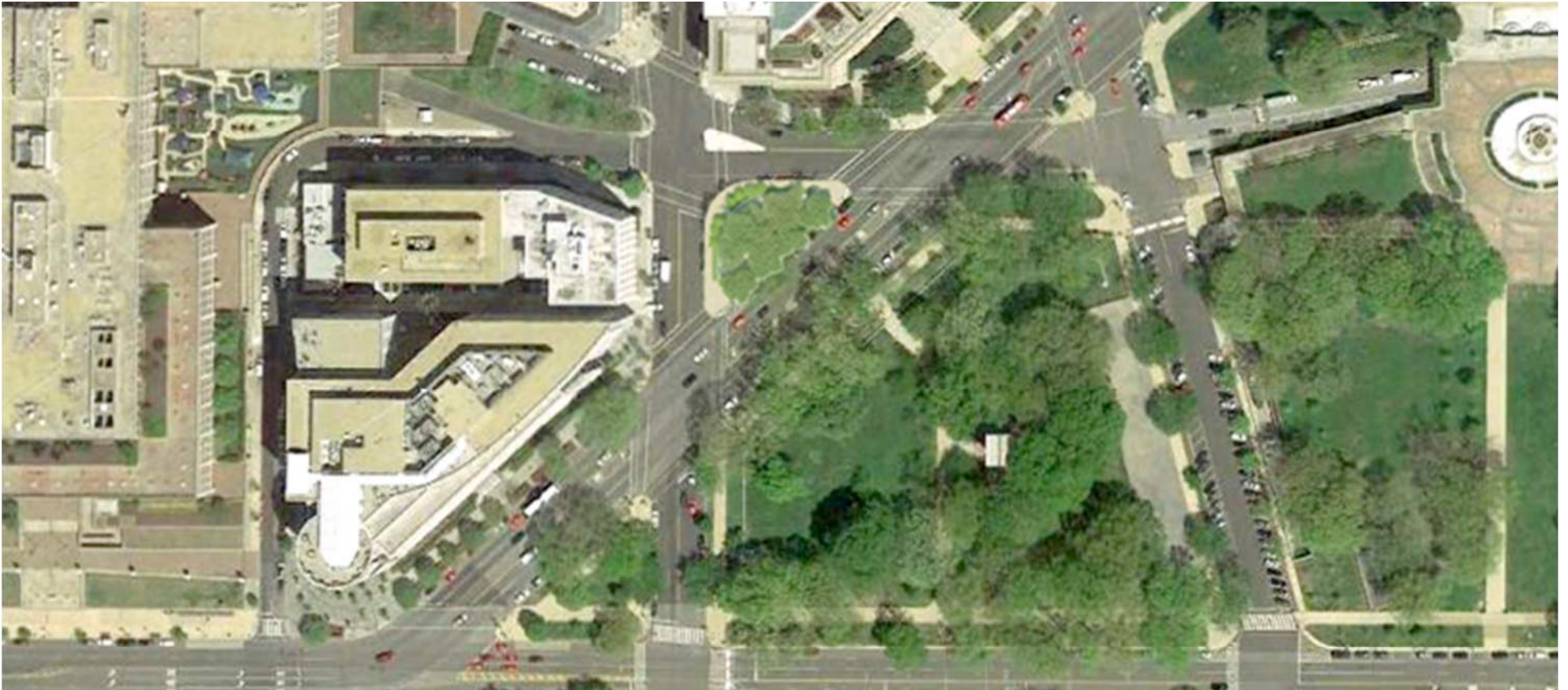


Winter view looking southeast towards site at intersection of C and 1st Streets with Robert Taft Memorial Carillon and the Capitol in distance .

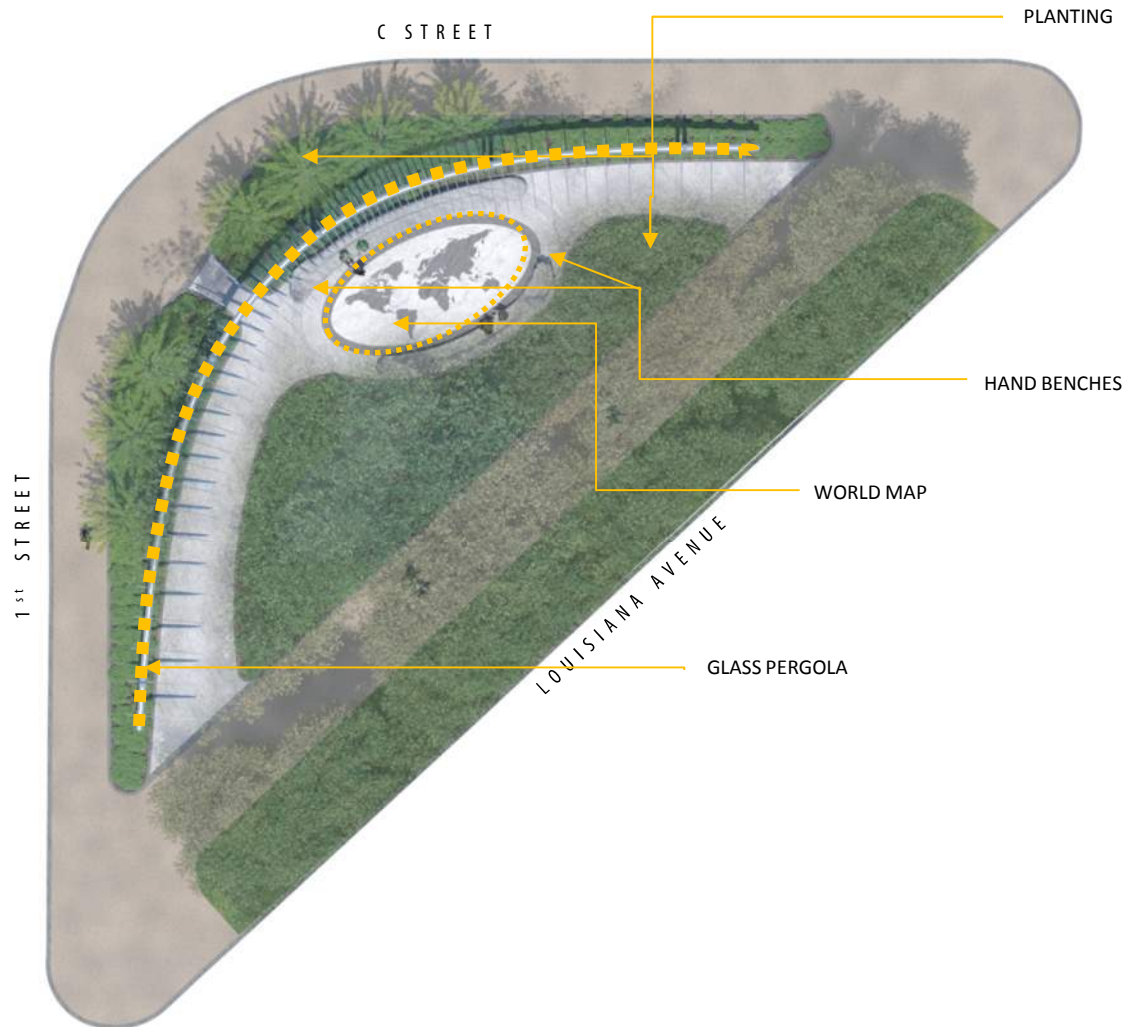
CONTEXT

The site is adjacent to the woodland of the Capitol Grounds with views to the Taft Memorial in the fall, winter. During the winter and spring months, there is a filtered view to the dome of Capitol.

The site acts as a threshold from the west to the Capitol Grounds from the tunnel exit at 1st and C Streets. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic around the site offer views through and across the site.



Refined Concept Design.



February 2020

DESIGN CONCEPT UPDATE

The design team has the following refinements to the design:

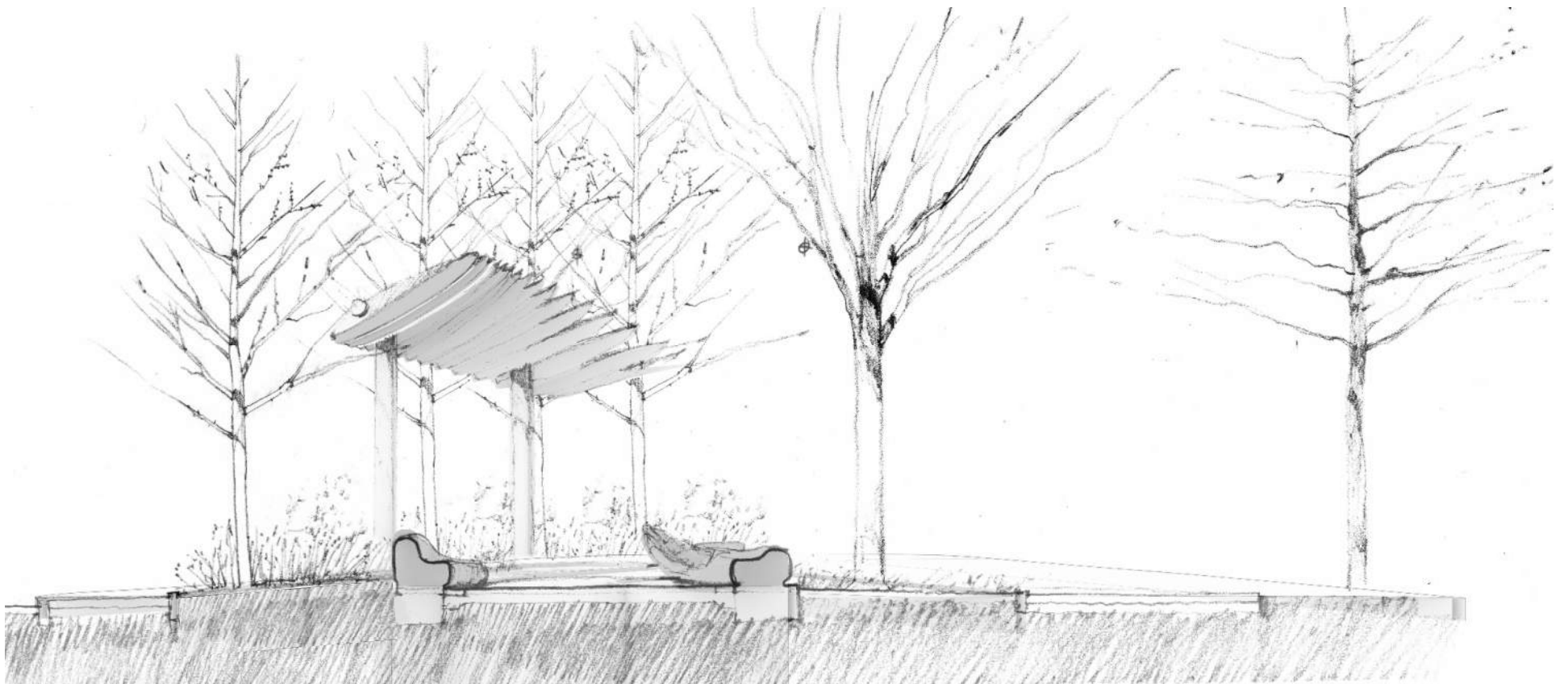
Concept. Clarifies the message of outreach towards and engagement with the world by unifying the alignment of the benches, pergola, and paths into a compositional whole.

Sculptural benches. Reduces the size and increases the abstraction of the two hand benches. Lowers the eastern bench back to open the gathering space to the Louisiana Street side of the site in an asymmetrical composition. Reduces the bench distance across the central space from 22' to 17'.

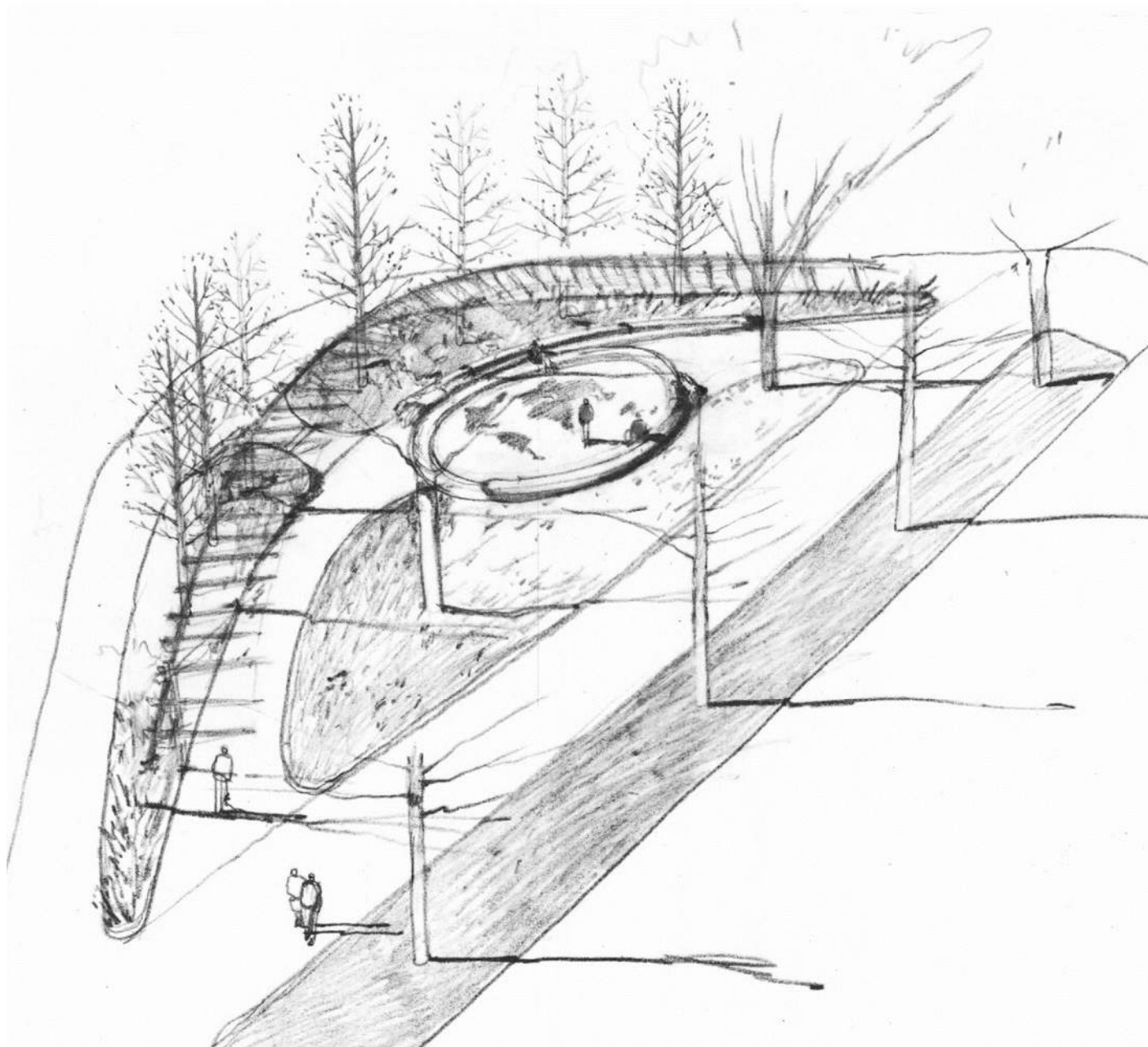
Pergola. Moves the pergola from the site perimeter to frame and shade the entry paths and central gathering space. Studied the scale and spacing of the glass leaves to optimize shade and color reflection. Reduces the scale of the metal and glass leaves. Columns increase from single to double columns.

Planting. Immerses the gathering place in a planted park setting that is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ the remainder of the triangular site. Develops the planting strategy to consider the seasonal experience of the site. Introduces trees on 1st and C Streets.

Paths. Improves the geometry of the paths and the central space with more fluid site layout. Pathways leading to the world map represent a journey in microcosm, reminding visitors that seeking and achieving peace and understanding are varied.



Section study through central gathering place in park-setting.



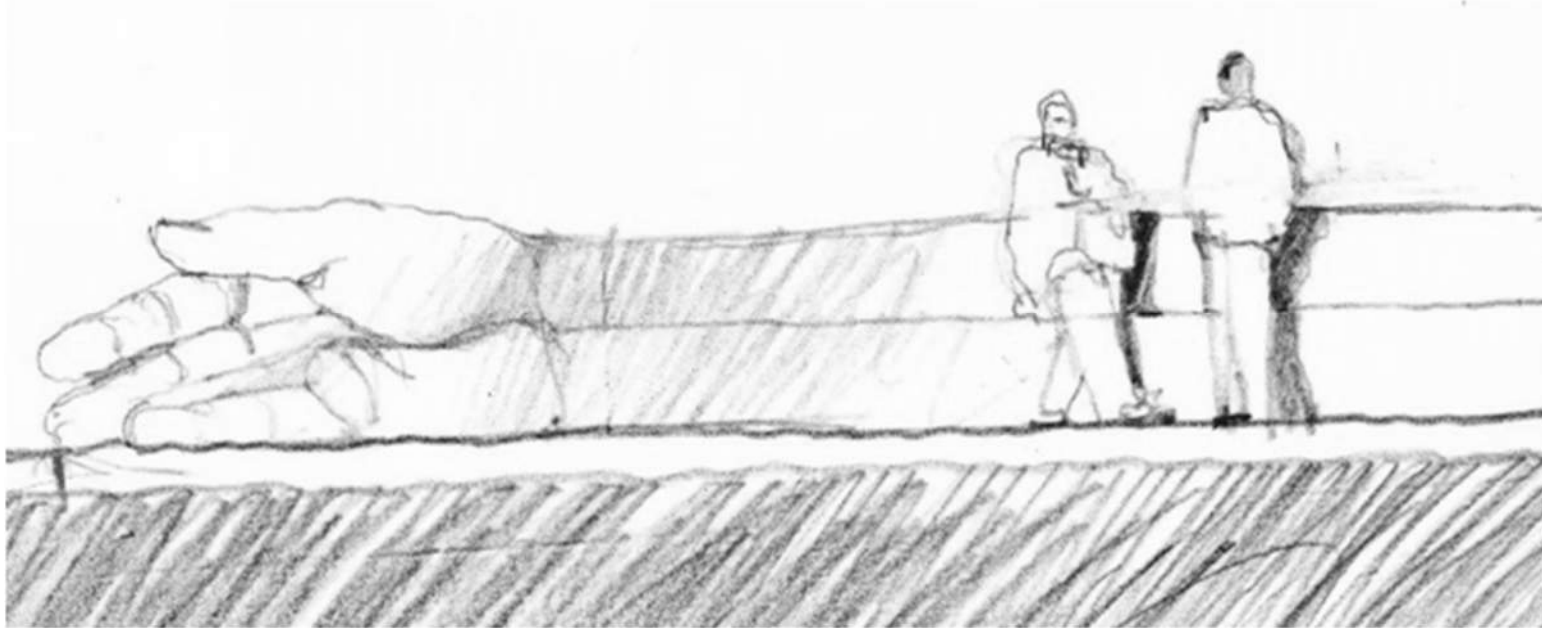
Birds-eye view of concept design refinement.

FORM, MEANINGS, MESSAGES

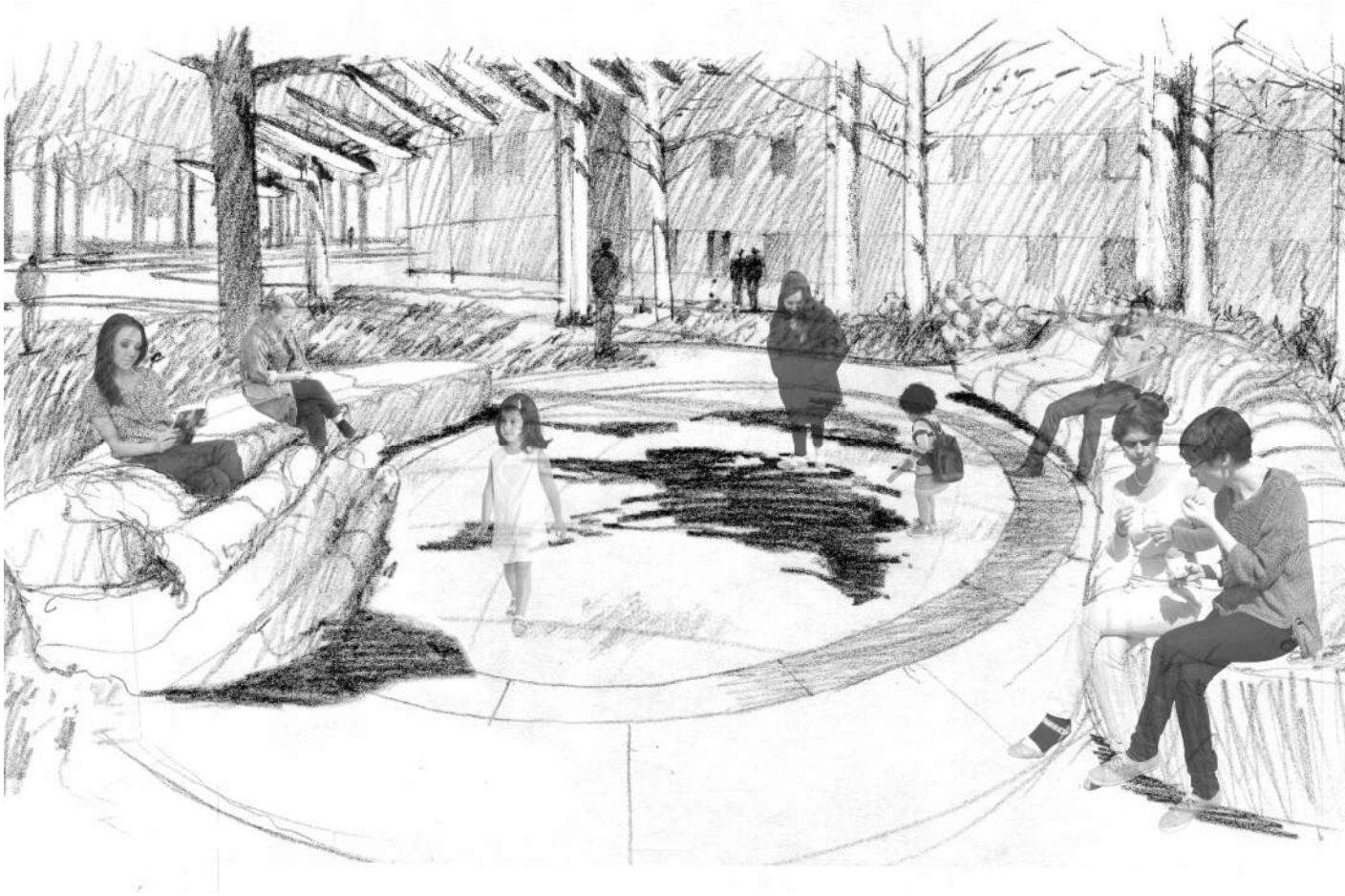
Site Strategy. Create a welcoming commemorative park that connects to the Capitol Grounds in character with a small gathering place at the center. Develop site with open and filtered views to surrounding streets.

World Map, Sculptures. Create a memorable, intimate, contemplative park space for people visiting individually or in groups, to gather, relax, talk, think or just eat lunch. The world map without political boundaries connotes our shared humanity, transcending barriers between peoples to achieve mutual understanding and peace. Outstretched hand/arm/benches sculpted in granite frame and embrace the ellipse and map; outreaching hands connote at once giving and receiving, teaching and learning from others.

Pergola. Visually porous colonnade and seemingly floating pergola embrace the central space and suggest connectivity and engagement with the world; projecting pergola leaves further suggest outreach and symbolize many becoming one, unity coexisting with diversity – “e pluribus unum”; glass colors – blues, greens, violets – symbolize sky, ocean, earth. Colonnade and pergola landmark the park at the urban scale, imparting memorable, celebratory aesthetic charisma within the much larger, surrounding cityscape.



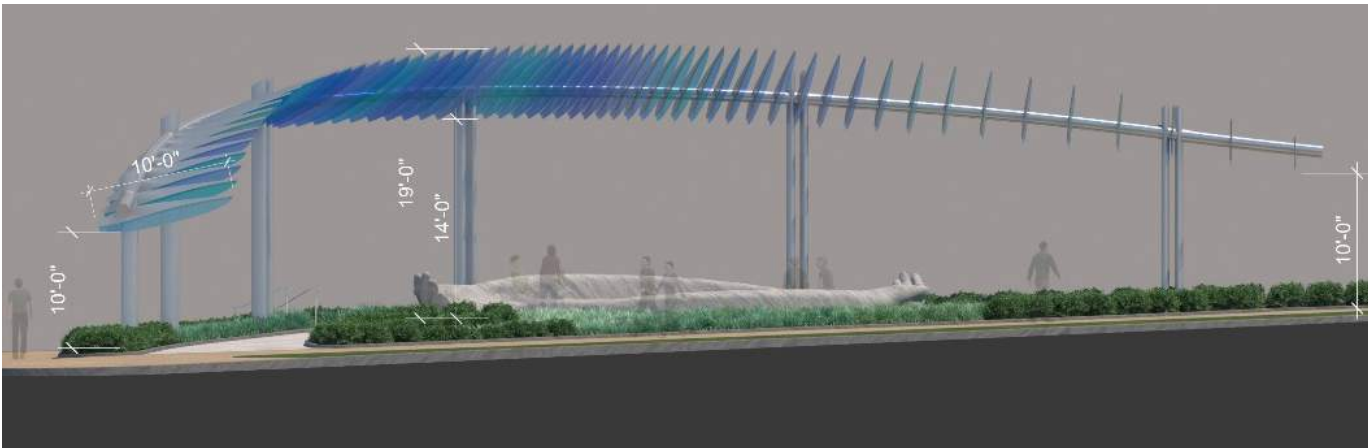
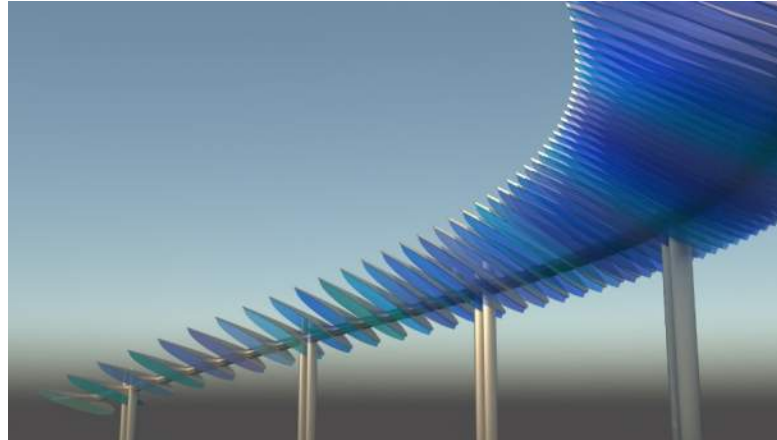
Bench references and studies.



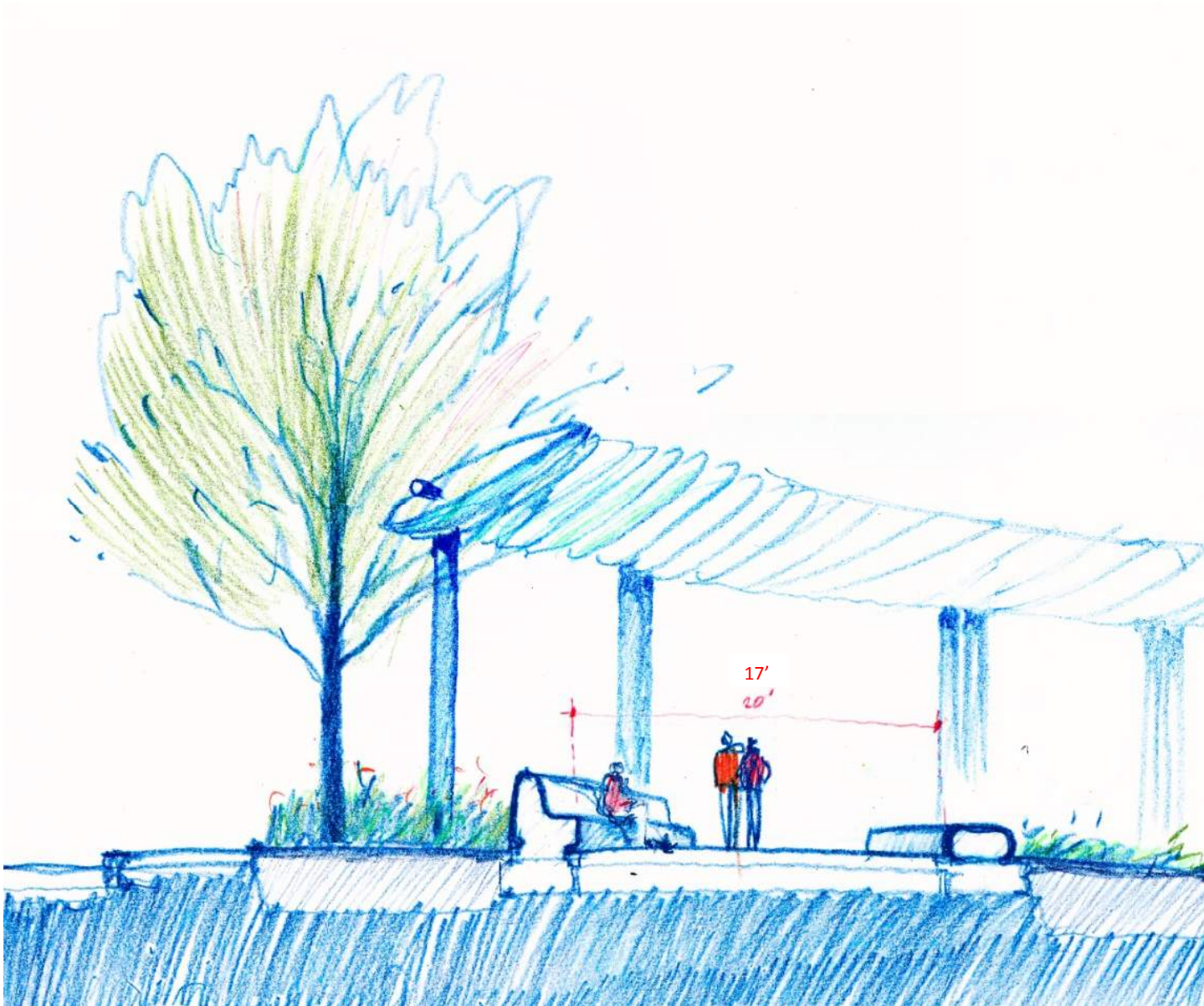
Revised Concept Study Perspective

BENCHES/WORLD MAP

- The central gathering place is 17' across and is at times a sacred, intimate space for contemplation and inspiration; at times an informal space for relaxing or eating lunch; and sometimes a gathering space for small groups of visitors to meet, talk and learn. The location of trees and glass pergola optimize shade and comfort in the warm months and allow sun to permeate the space in the colder months.
- Sculpted granite benches define, frame and embrace the multi-purpose elliptical space; the hands emerge from the bench ends symbolizing America's voluntary outreach and generosity, expressing giving and receiving, teaching and learning. The hands are abstracted and draw visitors into the site.
- Inscribed on the elliptical granite plaza is a map of the world without political or national boundaries showing that we all share the same planet. It symbolizes the Peace Corps idea: transcending barriers between peoples through mutual understanding is the way to achieve peace.



Pergola glass leaf opacity, colors, and dimensions.

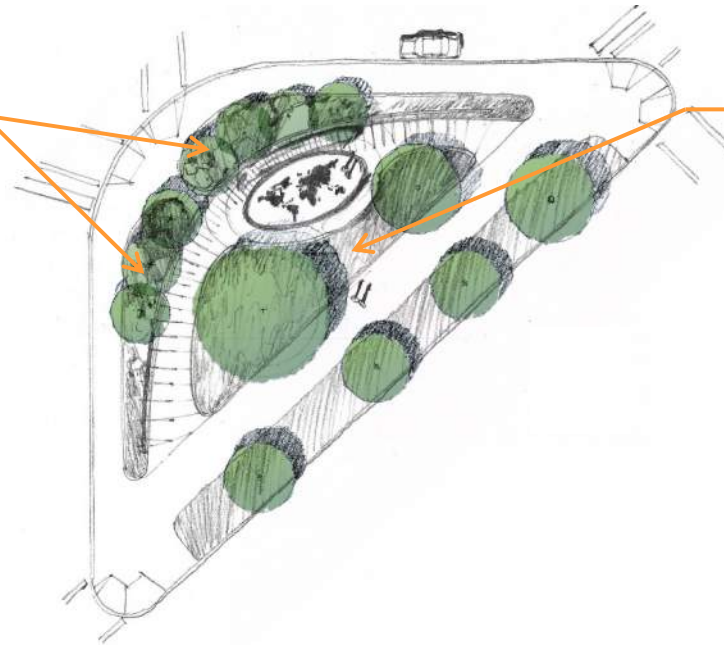


Revised Concept Sketch Section

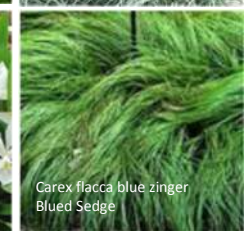
GLASS PERGOLA

- Embracing and arching over the curved pathways and world map at the center of the site, the pergola represents outreach toward and engagement with the world, symbolizing America's admirable ideals and values inherent in the Peace Corps idea and mission.
- Each canopy leaf is unique: varying glass colors represent sky, sea and earth; each leaf's position and vertical orientation differs from other leaves; and leaves are more closely spaced, intensifying the color and rotation upward above the central gathering space.
- Although leaves are individually unique, they are nevertheless similar and together form an aesthetically unified canopy composition symbolizing "e pluribus unum," the ideal, peaceful coexistence of diversity and unity.
- Sunlight illuminates and shines through the glass portion of each leaf; colorful, rhythmic shadow patterns are cast on the pathways and ellipse; and the canopy helps shade pathways and the space during sunny days.
- Lighting is integrated into the pergola structure of the glass leaves.

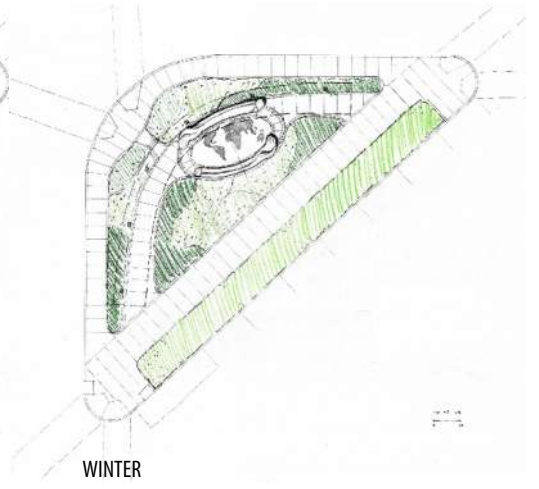
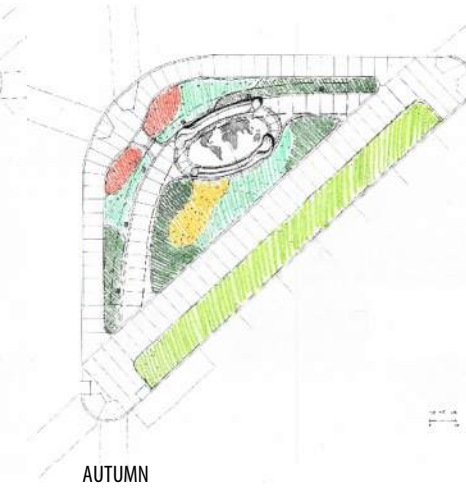
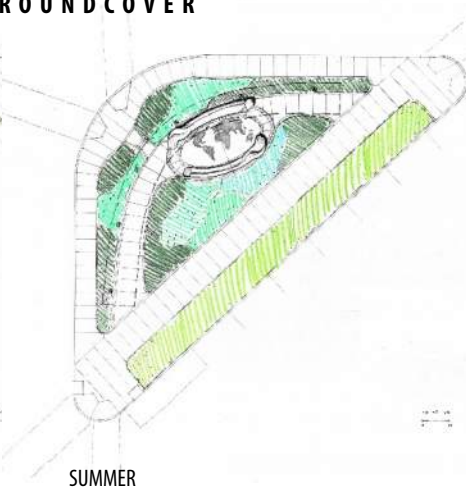
PLANTING: 18" - 36"

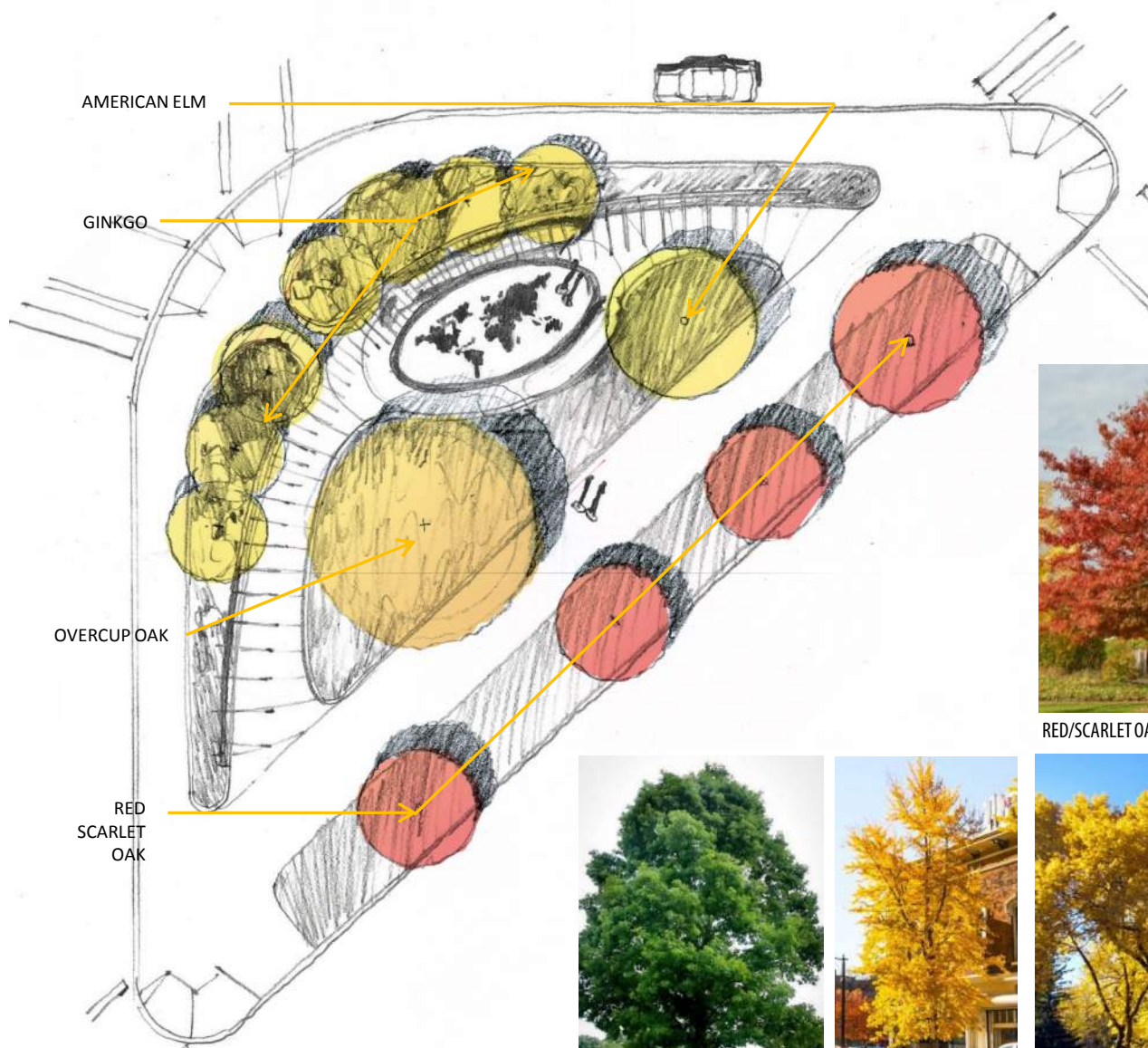


PLANTING: 9" - 18"



PLANTING STRATEGY-GROUNDCOVER





**PLANTING STRATEGY -
SHADE TREES**



OVERCUP OAK



GINKGO



AMERICAN ELM



RED/SCARLET OAK

PLANTING PALETTE

The planting strategy reinforces the park setting of the site context. On Louisiana Avenue, two shade trees, an Overcup Oak and American Elm, give the site a majestic presence along the street connecting it to the planting of the Capitol Grounds.

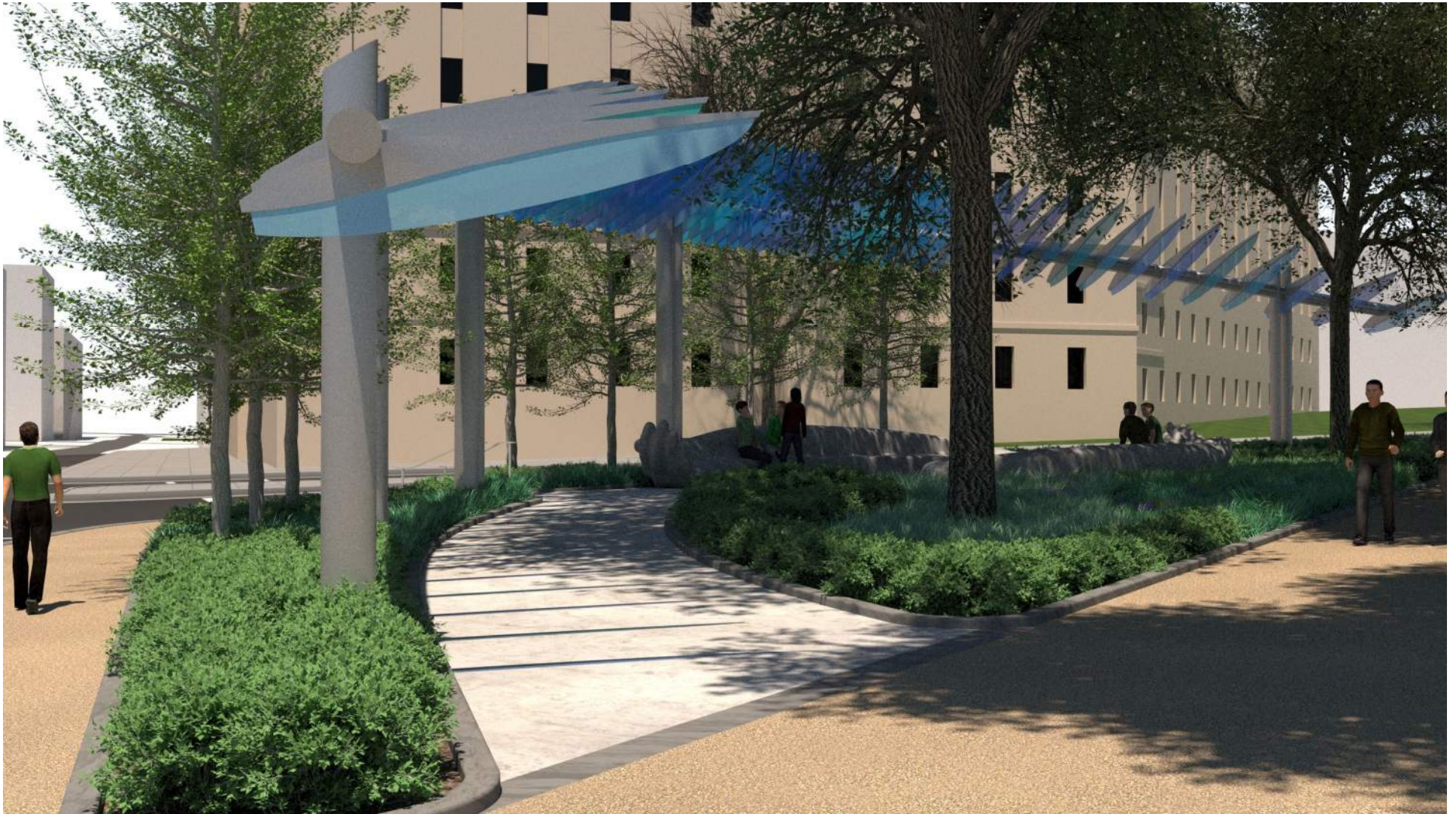
A veil of planting surrounds the central gathering place, separating it from the bustle of the busy perimeter streets. A line of Ginkgo trees complements the geometry of the pergola along C and 1st Streets, providing a filtered screen from the traffic. The ground plane planting strategy includes a matrix of riparian perennial plants to ensure that the project presents a strong park- frontage for pedestrians and those passing by in vehicles.

DOEE stormwater regulations require 1.2" rainfall to be retained from the pervious areas of the project. (This project does not fall within the Anacostia River Watershed jurisdiction). With the site's small size, planting areas will be required for stormwater management.

A consistent ground plane palette is separated into two planting zones. The beds along 1st and C Streets are 18"-36" in height with riparian groundcovers and shrubs. The broader bed fronting Louisiana Avenue is lower at 9"-18" opening the site to the street.



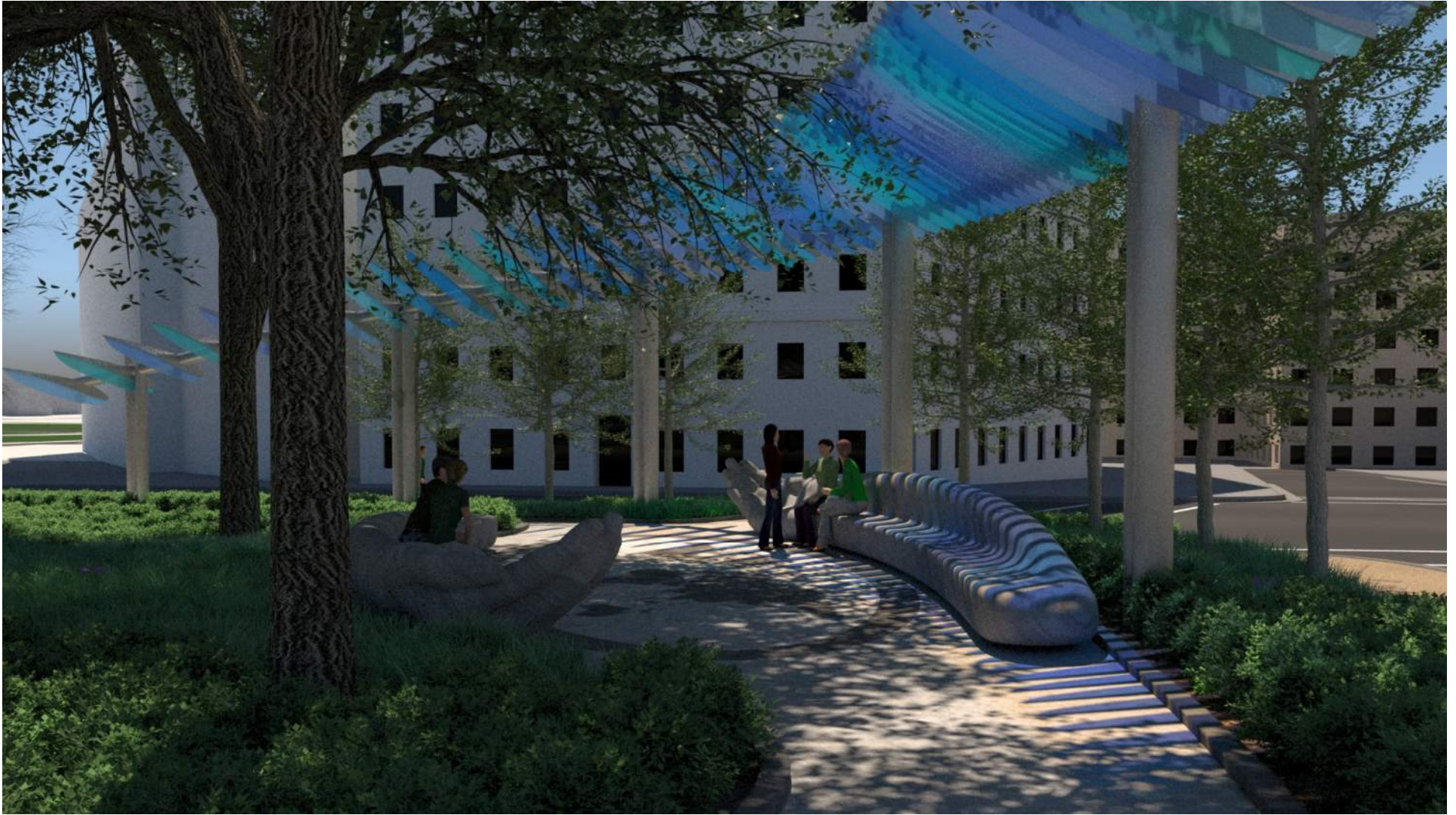
Winter. View at path from corner of 1st Street and Louisiana Ave., closest to the Mall.



Summer. View shows how the glass pergola and trees together help to transition the scale from the buildings of the surrounding urban context to the more shaded comfort at the center of the Commemorative Park.



Winter. View of path at C Street and Louisiana Ave. shows the welcoming, park-setting.



Summer. View at path from C Street and Louisiana Ave. shows how the dappled light from the trees intersect with the light reflections of the glass leaves.



Winter. View looking east across site from Louisiana Avenue. Two granite benches, sculpted to depict outstretched human hands, surround the plaza.



Summer. View from Louisiana Ave. The hand benches symbolize those attributes of the American ethos inherent in the Peace Corps idea and the Peace Corps volunteer service.



Winter. View of central gathering space with world map and sculptural hand benches.



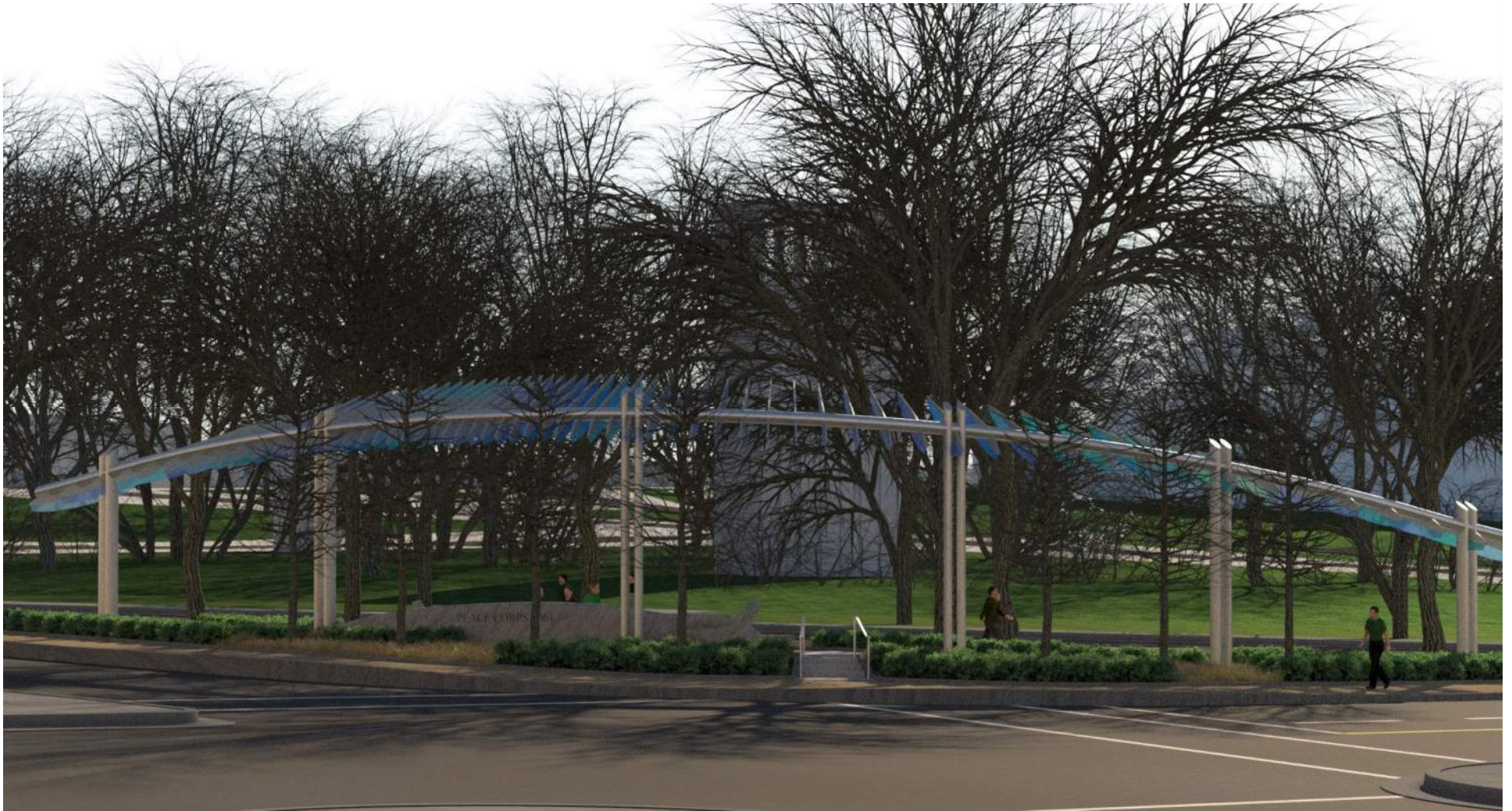
Summer. Visitors will be able to stroll, gather, and relax in the shade of the trees and pergola in the park. This artful composition will encourage visitors to enter the site and become a part of this unified ensemble.



Winter. View looking northwest to the site.



Summer. Evergreen ground covers and deciduous shade trees occupy the park space between the curved pathways and Louisiana Avenue sidewalk.



Winter. Approach from the west, looking east from the tunnel at C Street.



Summer. Ginkgo trees complement the alignment of the pergola providing a veil between the gathering space and the street.



Context view looking northeast on Louisiana Avenue toward Union Station.



Context view looking west on 1st Street.



Context view looking east on C Street.



Context view looking southwest on Louisiana Avenue towards the Mall.



Context view looking south on 1st Street.



NIGHT LIGHT

The site is part of an active, well-lit urban corridor.
The proposal will enrich the night-time experience of the place.





Night view looking southwest from Louisiana Avenue and C Street corner.



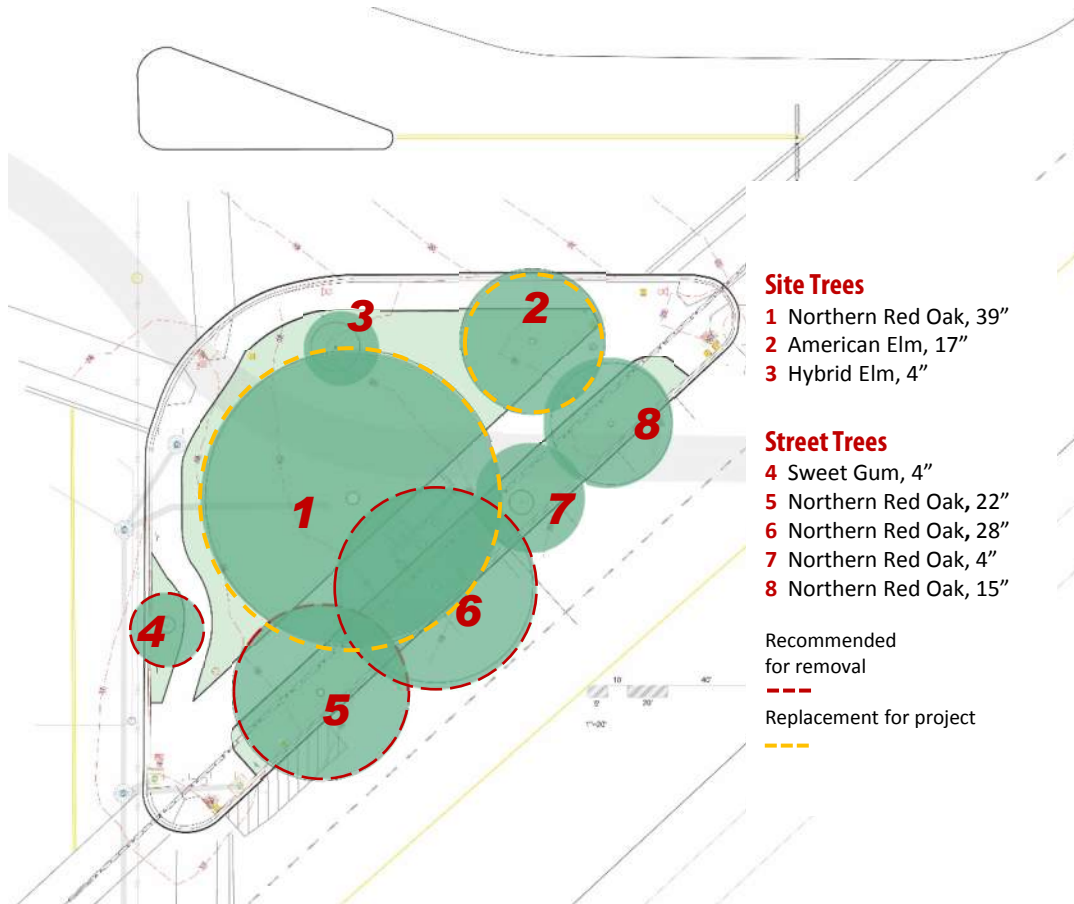
Night view looking northeast from Louisiana Avenue and 1st Street corner.



Night view looking southwest from Louisiana Avenue and C Street.



APPENDIX



EXISTING SITE TREES

Tim Zastrow with *Bartlett Tree Experts* assessed the existing trees over the course of three years with two arborist reports and an update in June 2019. The reports considered the current health and condition of the eight trees on the Peace Corps site with the following key findings:

- Five trees are found to be in *Fair to Good* condition
- Three are recommended for *removal*
- The post-mature condition of the primary tree on the site, the Northern Red Oak (1), is in decline and will not survive with or without disturbance.
- The healthy American Elm (2) is without a central leader and recognized as having an unusual growth habit, with awkward low branching.
- The young Hybrid Elm (3) can be transplanted on the site.
- Proposed design will replace Northern Red Oak (1) and the American Elm (2) and potentially relocate the Hybrid Elm (3).

EXISTING TREES



1 Northern Red Oak, 39"

- Fair to good condition
- 60-75 years old
- Post Mature
- Trunk cavity
- Terminal decline likely, with or without disturbance



2 American Elm, 17"

- Fair to good condition
- 20-25 years old
- Unusual growth habit
- Low branching canopy (6' to 7')



3 Hybrid Elm, 4"

- Good condition
- 8 years old
- Easily moved