



## Water Table

Jerome W. Haferd

E. 107th Bobby Wagner Walk  
Permanent Public Artwork

15 April 2024  
PDC Conceptual Design Package

\*Note : Design (especially engravings/etchings) will be impacted  
by community contributions and is subject to change. Etchings shown are placeholder.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION : WATER TABLE



**Water Table** celebrates the water's edge as a place of gathering, celebration, and repair. This permanent artwork will image the archaeology and everyday water stories of El Barrio / East Harlem, while re-surfacing an archaeological trace of the original Harlem Creek which once flowed into the East River at this location, and now lies buried.

The Water Table is a design language for the landscape and a community engagement concept and public infrastructure. The piece is designed to inscribe and activate a crescent-shaped micro-plaza that will embrace the entire esplanade for the purposes of gathering and everyday ritual at the water's edge.

The artwork consists of three major elements : The groundwork of precast "strands", the precast "altar" which the strands flow across, and the crescent shaped screen made of CNC-cut steel elements.

The Water Table's steel and precast concrete design weaves our collective histories into a gathering space and collective statement that resonates not only our human, indigenous relationship to the Water, but also celebrates the diasporas and peoples that gather and have gathered at this specific site and continue to do so today. The Water Table also is an act of joy, abundance, and community, and will serve as a playful and vibrant representation of the revitalization of this Waterfront, displaying "etched" contributions by numerous cultural and community actors from East Harlem.



## JEROME HAFERD STUDIO, PREVIOUS PUBLIC WORKS



Tropical Rotisserie, 2020  
w/ Felix, Dexter Ciprian



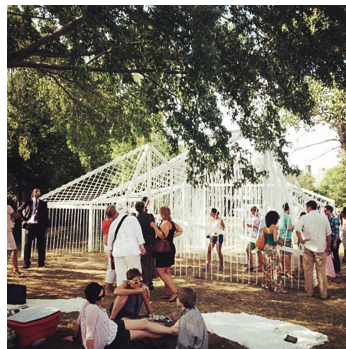
Sankofa, Harlem, 2023



Drum Arbor, Harlem, 2021



Caesura, Harlem, 2015



Curtain, Astoria, 2012



Migrate, Harlem, 2020-21



## JEROME HAFERD STUDIO, PREVIOUS PUBLIC WORKS



**Sankofa**, Jerome Haferd, 2023

NAME: East River

PROJECT: Water Table / 107th BWW Esplanade

JEROME HAFERD STUDIO

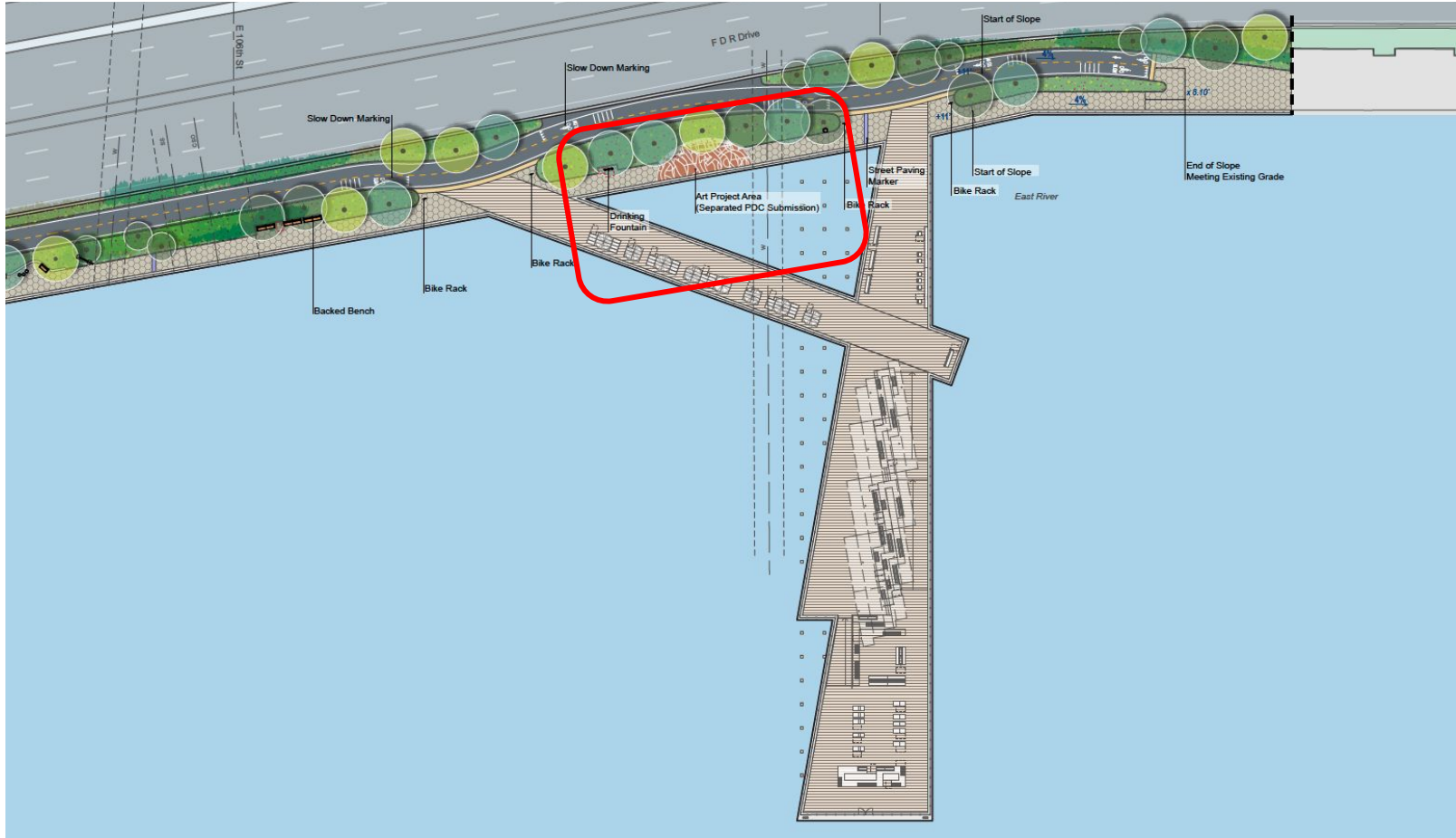
TITLE: Previous Public Works

SCALE: NTS

DATE: 01/30/2024

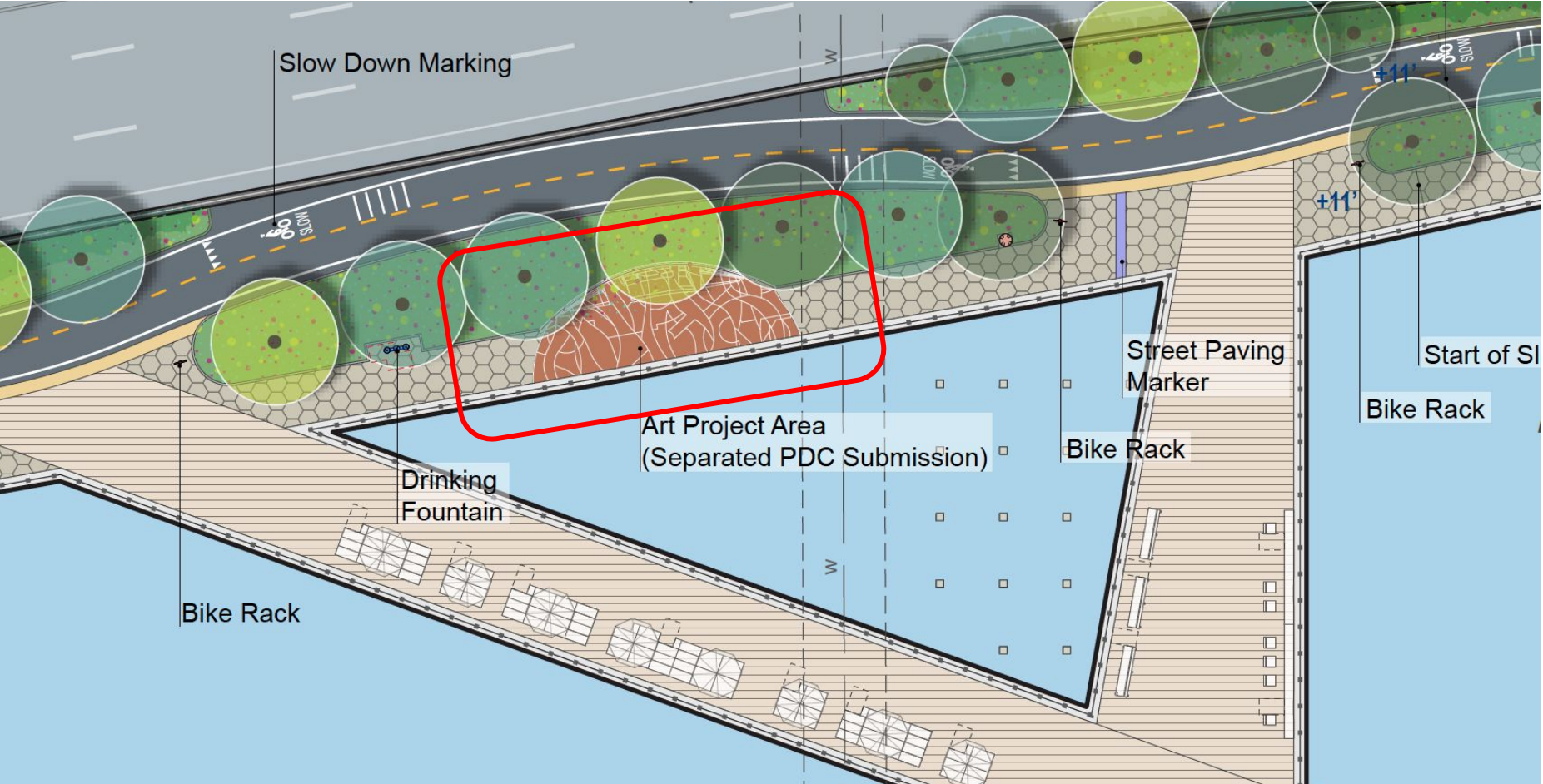


# 107th Street / BWW Site Plan from Stantec showing Artwork location (Jan 2024)



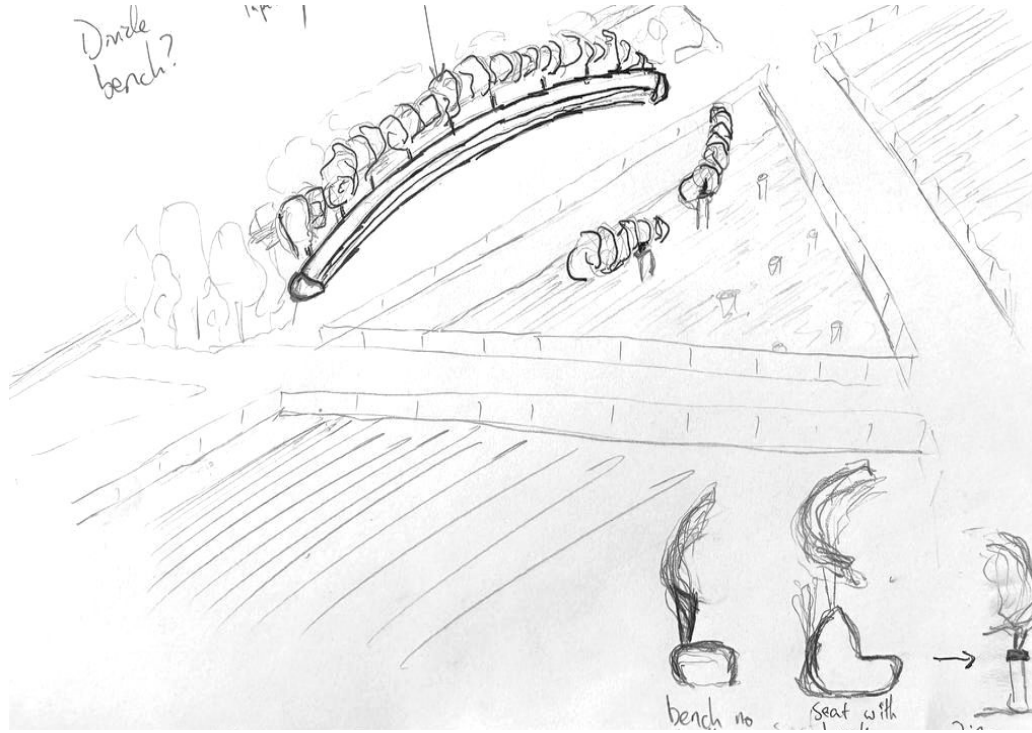


**SITE PLAN - ZOOM (from Stantec/Marvel , January 2024)**





## CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



**Water Table**, process sketches

The **half circle (crescent)** helps define a public plaza or “micro-plaza”  
Incorporating a table / altar for folks to gather, relax, “just be”  
Integrate motifs and voices into the piece that reflect the community



**Sankofa**, Jerome Haferd, Harlem, 2023  
(previous work)



## CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



**“Everyone gathers at the water”**

The Water’s Edge is about :

**GATHERING**

**PROCESS**

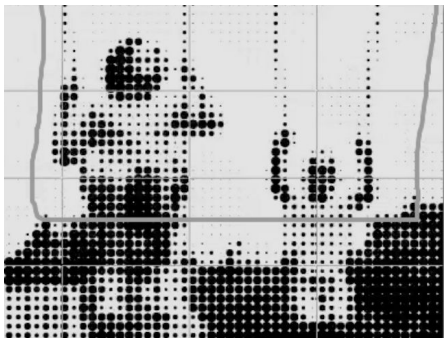
**REPAIR**

**CELEBRATION**

**All Nations Pow Wow / Gathering, Water Ceremony, Randall's Island, 2022**



## CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



**“Everyone gathers at the water”**

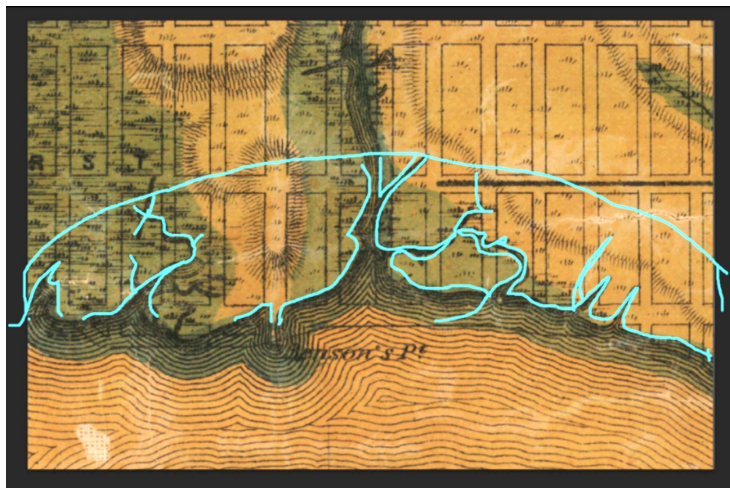
The Water Table

**PLACE FOR LIBATION, EDUCATION,  
“JUST BE”**

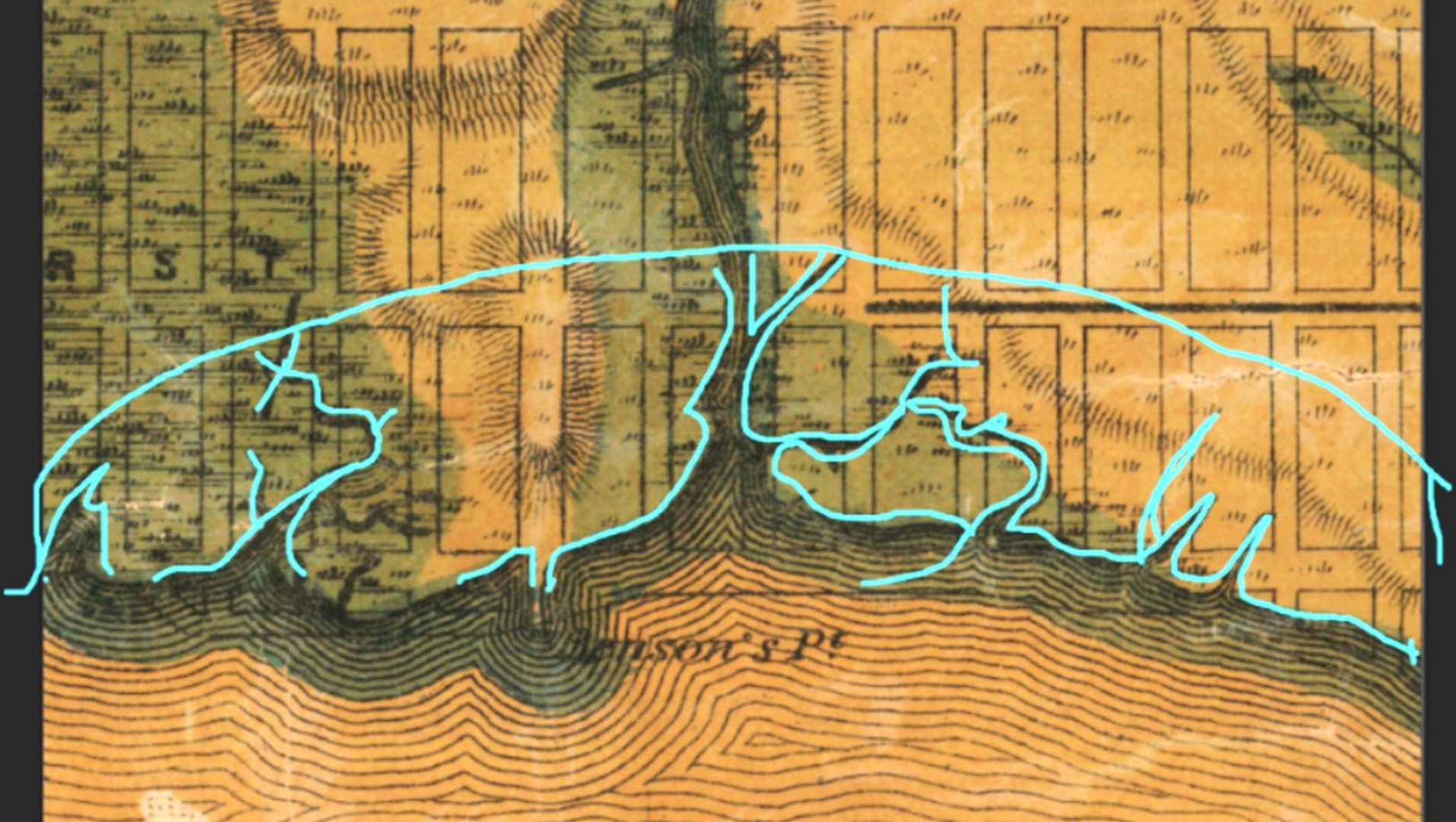
**IMAGES LOCAL HISTORIES**

**EVERYDAY WATER STORIES**

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF HARLEM CREEK**

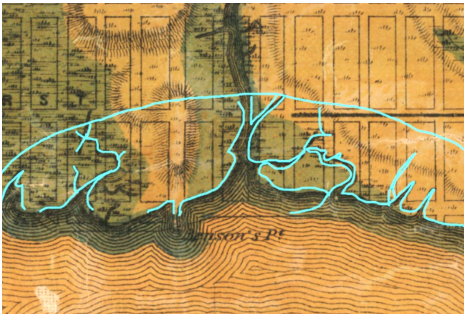
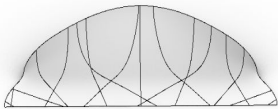
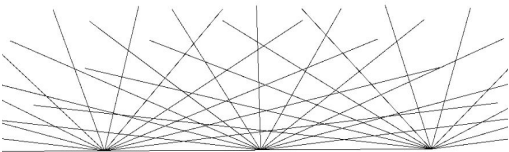
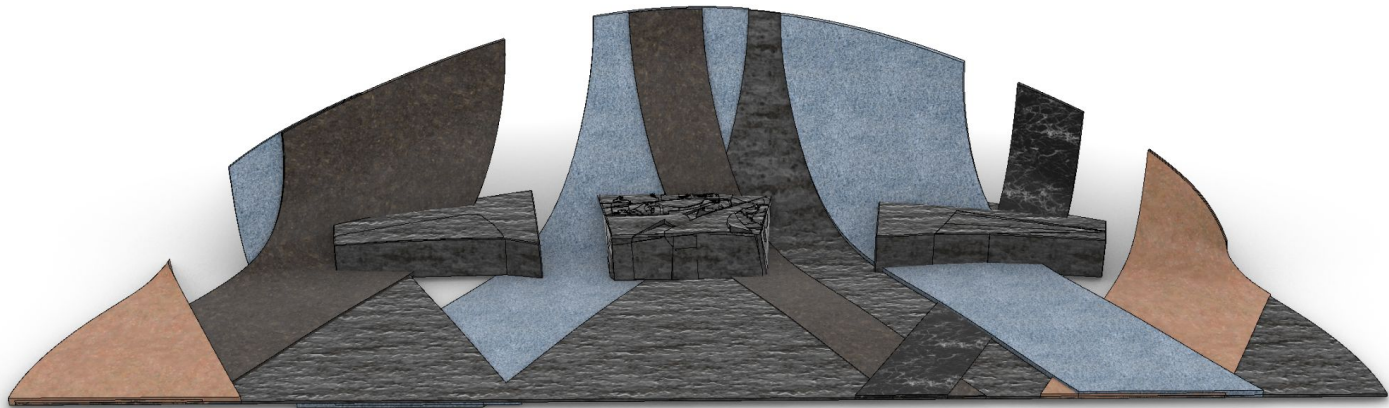


**Harlem Creek Archival Images,** Viele Map and NYPL archival images





CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



Beadwork on Woman's Legging

This woman's cloth legging is decorated with beadwork with little diamond design similar to what would have been done in ribbonwork. It was more common to decorate the leggings with ribbonwork. This was made about 1970.

## CONCEPT - COMMUNITY ETCHINGS (DETAIL)



**STEEL - CNC WATERJET CUT**



**PRECAST PANELS - CNC RUBBER MOLD**



**ALTAR PRECEDENT - WOMEN'S TABLE (MAYA LIN, NEW HAVEN)**



**AERIAL VIEW**





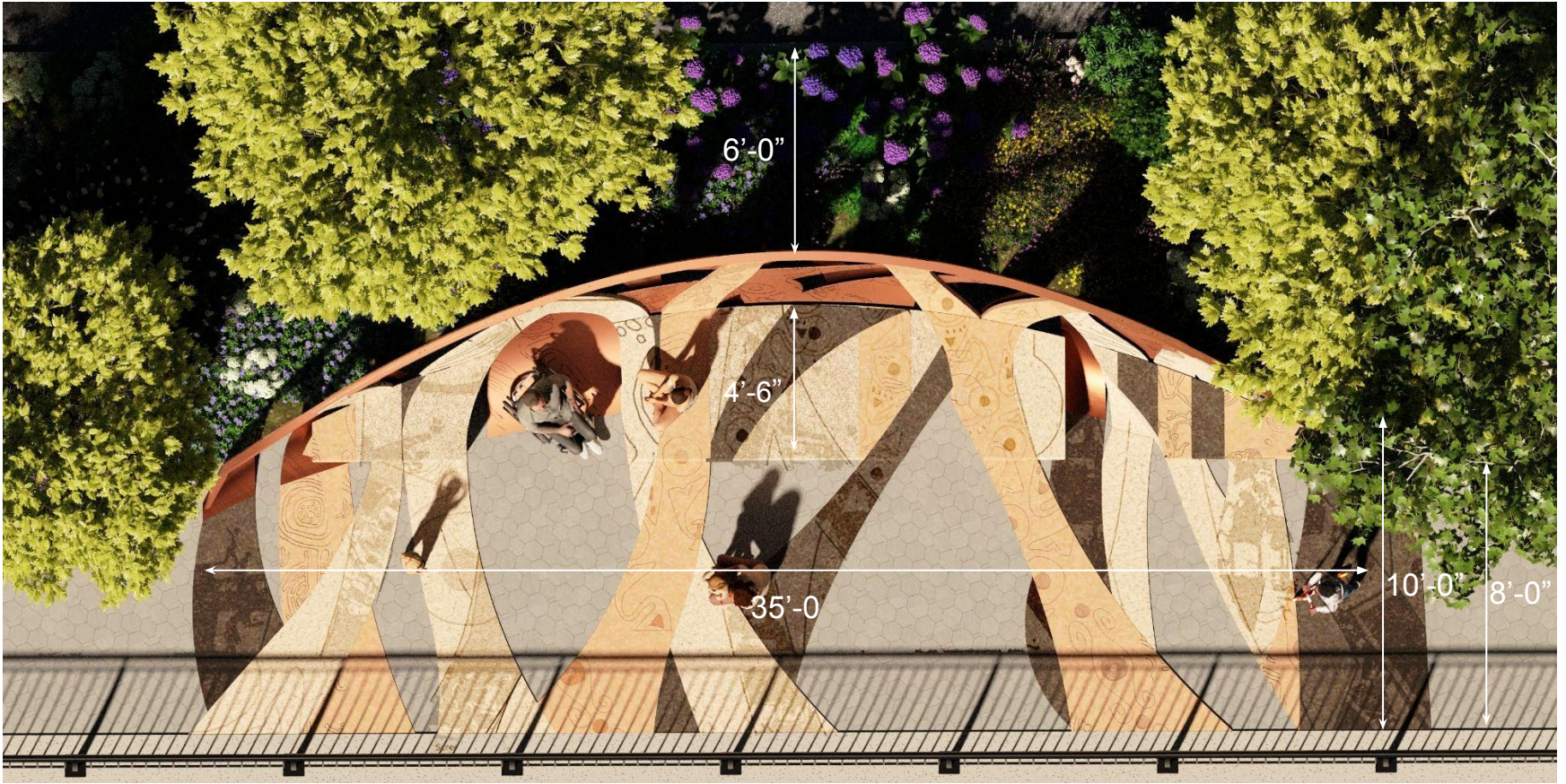
WATER TABLE - PERSPECTIVE, FRONT VIEW



\*Note : Design (especially engravings/etchings) will be impacted by community contributions and is subject to change. Etchings shown are placeholder.



WATER TABLE - TOP (PLAN) VIEW





WATER TABLE, PERSPECTIVE VIEW ALONG ESPLANADE W/ NOTES





**WATER TABLE, PERSPECTIVE VIEW ALONG ESPLANADE W/ NOTES**



**.18" steel arch  
Box form  
(semi-concealed) w/  
Tenemec paint**

**Custom precast  
GFRC panel**

**.5" / .25" alum or steel  
fins w/ Tenemec paint  
With .5" steel baseplate**

**"Altar"  
Custom GFRC precast  
Panel facing (~3" thick)**

**Custom Precast GFRC  
Concrete Inlay pavers  
(max dim ~3'-0", max  
deviation +/- 1/4")**



# MAINTENANCE



## Painted metal elements -

Additional Tenemec (or equivalent) paint matching the color used for the steel screen elements will be provided to NYCParks and kept in reserve for touch-ups as needed.

## Vandalism (graffiti) -

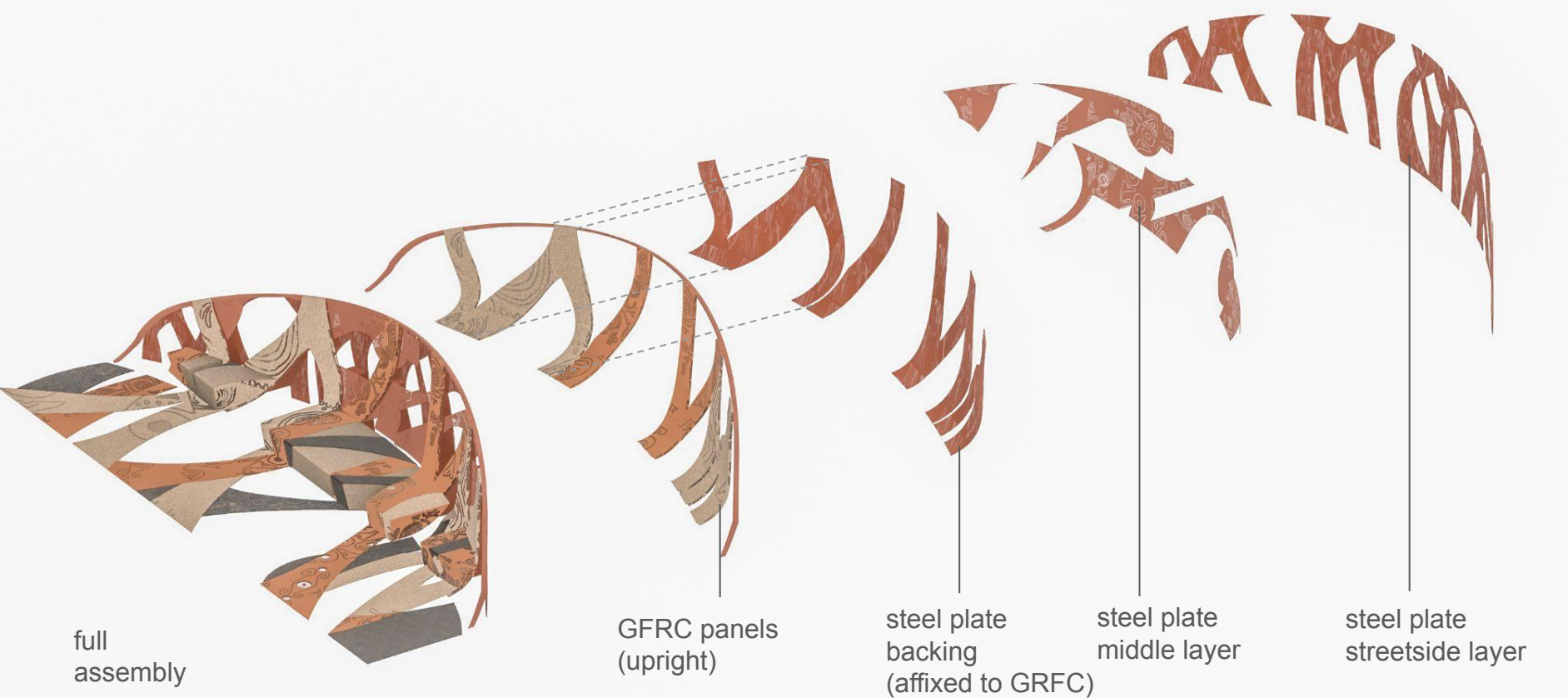
at present, graffiti-resistant coating is not recommended for the structure. However, Arts & Antiquities recommend assessment after install to see if graffiti becomes a chronic issue.

**Ground GFRC / precast pavers** - Fabricators with experience on this stretch of waterfront assure that GFRC precast concrete panels will be sized and possess high strength to resist breakage from chipping, snowplowing, or regular everyday use.

**“Altar” and screen GFRC pavers** will have a semi-polish surface treatment which is easy to clean.

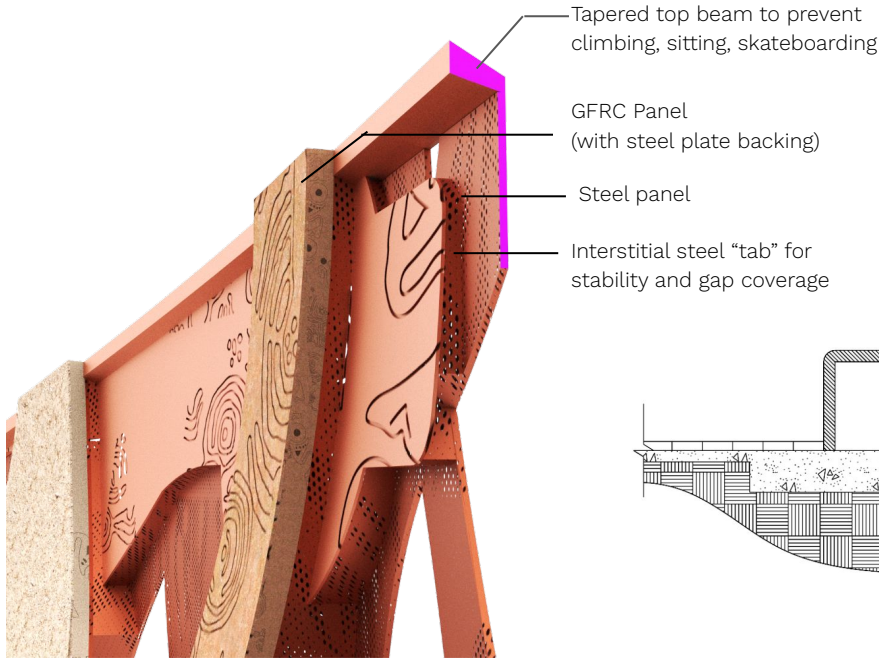
More details on the maintenance plan will be shared during the submission for Preliminary Review.

WATER TABLE - CONCEPT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

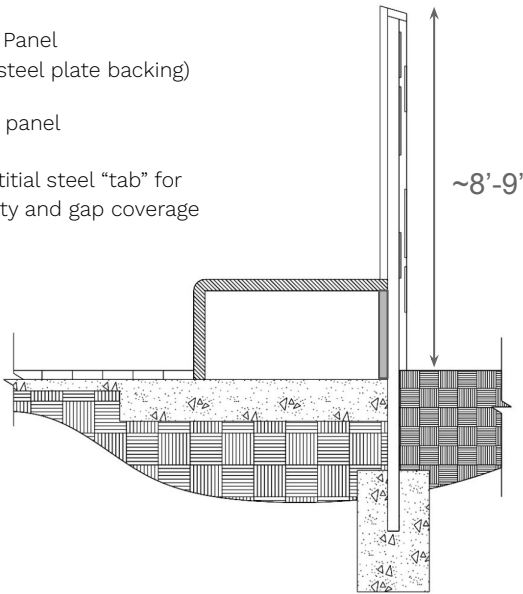




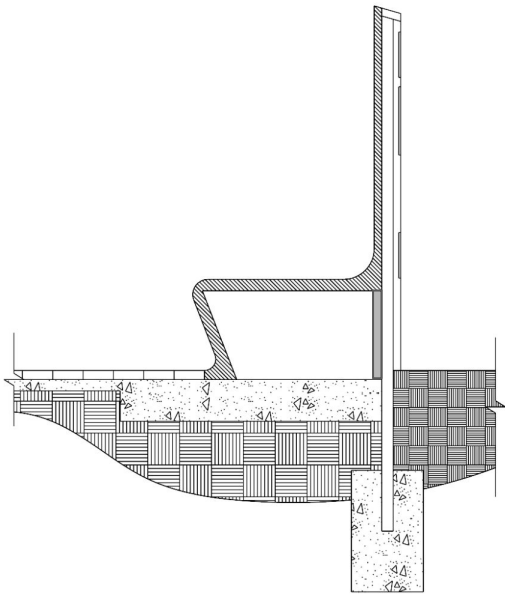
CONCEPTUAL PHASE SECTIONS - PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Detail section  
perspective



Section showing steel  
back panel



Section showing steel +  
GFRC back panel

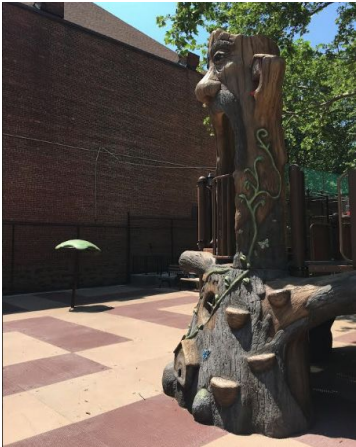


**WATER TABLE - PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM BIKE PATH**

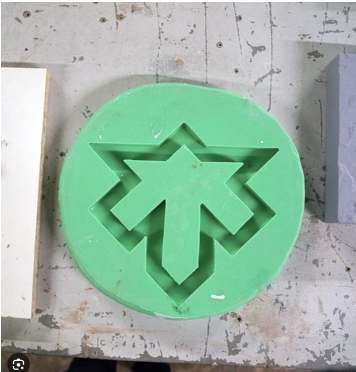




PRECAST / GFRC EXAMPLES



NAME: East River



PROJECT: Water Table / 107th BWW Esplanade



JEROME HAFERD STUDIO



TITLE: Construction Notes

SCALE: NTS

DATE: 01/30/2024

## **APPENDIX -**

### **Additional Process Drawings and Supplemental Material**



WATER TABLE - ADDITIONAL VIEWS, REAR



**SPACER / PROPOSED GAP CLOSE DETAIL**

**SPACER / PROPOSED GAP CLOSE DETAIL**

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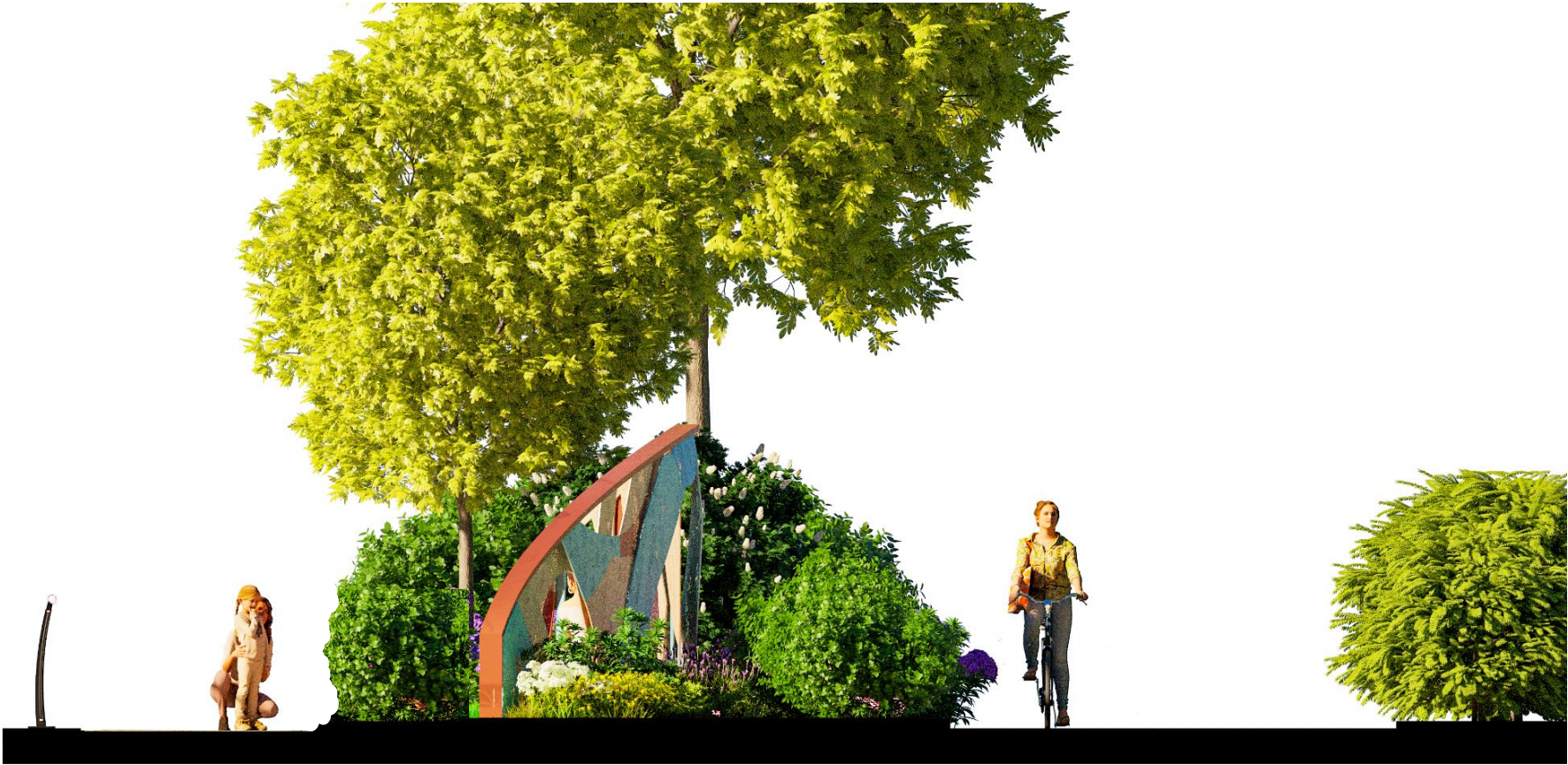




WATER TABLE - ALTERNATE STRAND VARIATION STUDY “CRISS-CROSS”



**SIDE VIEW / SECTION (OUTDATED DESIGN SHOWN)**



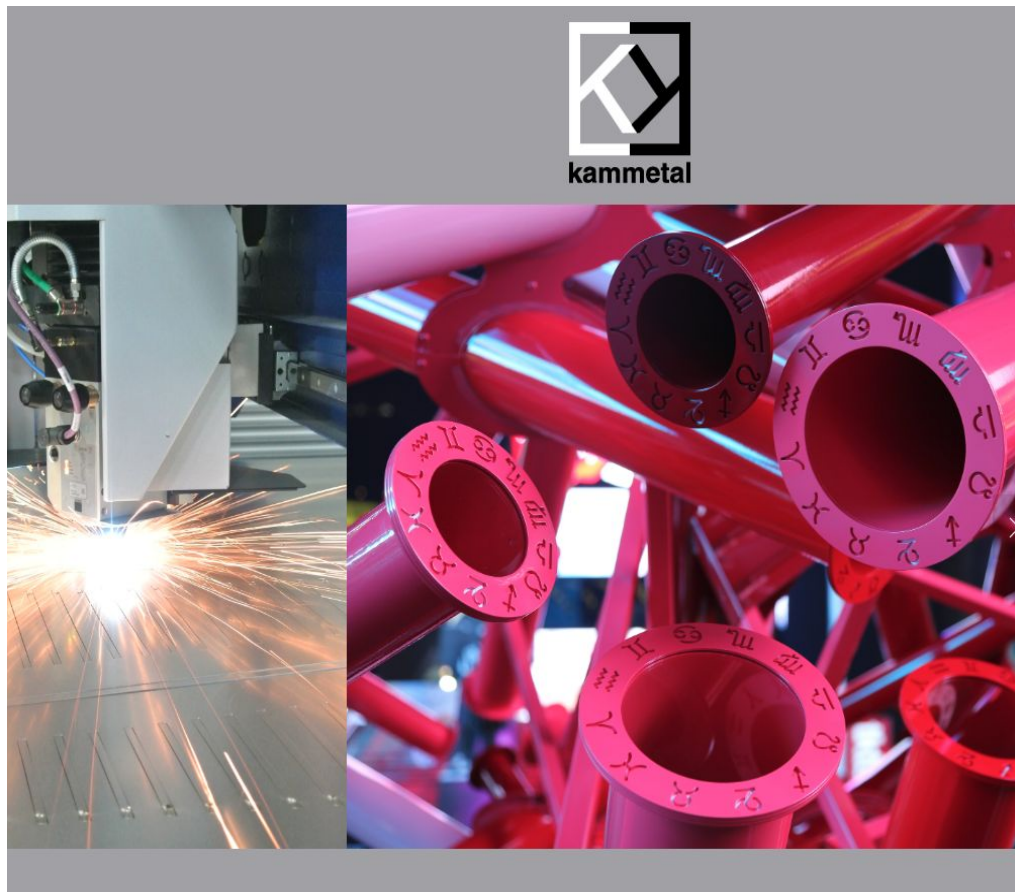
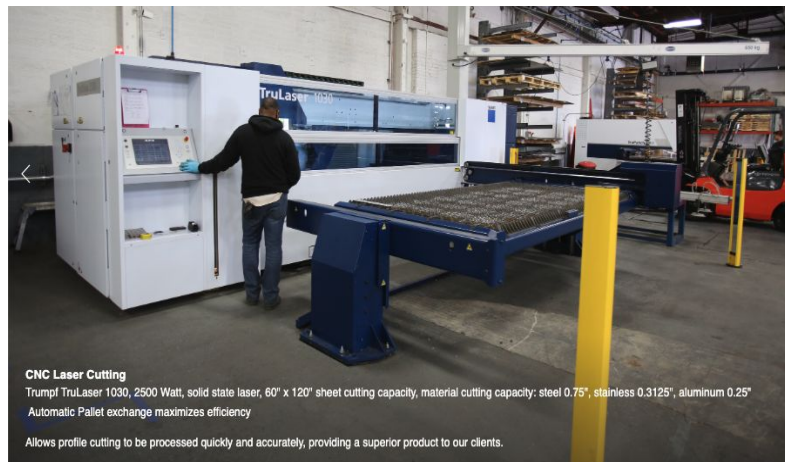


**EVENING PERSPECTIVE SHOWING POSSIBLE GROUND UPLIGHTING (TBD) - OUTDATED DESIGN SHOWN**





## FABRICATION - CNC STEEL LASER / WATERJET





## FABRICATION - GFRC COLOR PALETTE



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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

### Open to All and Inclusive!

Some Potential Collaborators in our community :

Central Park East

RSA Academy

Metropolitan Hospital

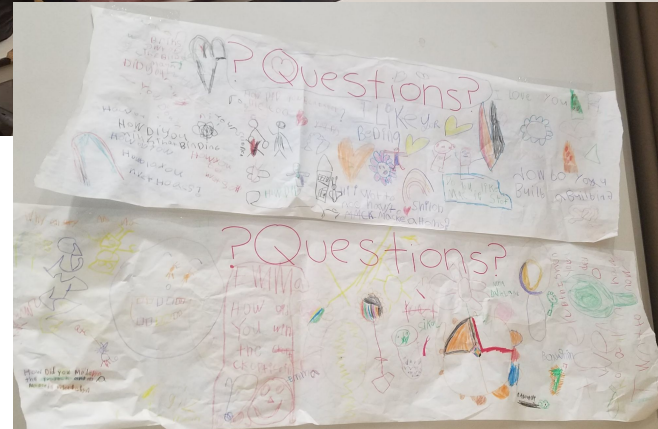
Manhattan East School for Arts & Academics

Museo El Barrio / PS109 ArtSpace

Friends of East River Esplanade

Union Settlement

East Harlem Preservation





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

### DRAFT STRATEGY / TIMELINE :

3 - 4 sessions during Spring / Summer 2024

led / facilitated by Jerome Haferd, with option for submission of content via email (schools, teacher-led drawing session)

6pm-730pm

Locations TBC :

Schools / Dream Academy, Hospital, 345 Artspace



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

### DRAFT

#### Community Contribution Prompt : Example ways to Participate / Contribute :

Share your Water (or other) Story :

Make / Contribute a **Drawing**

Express / Write some **Words**

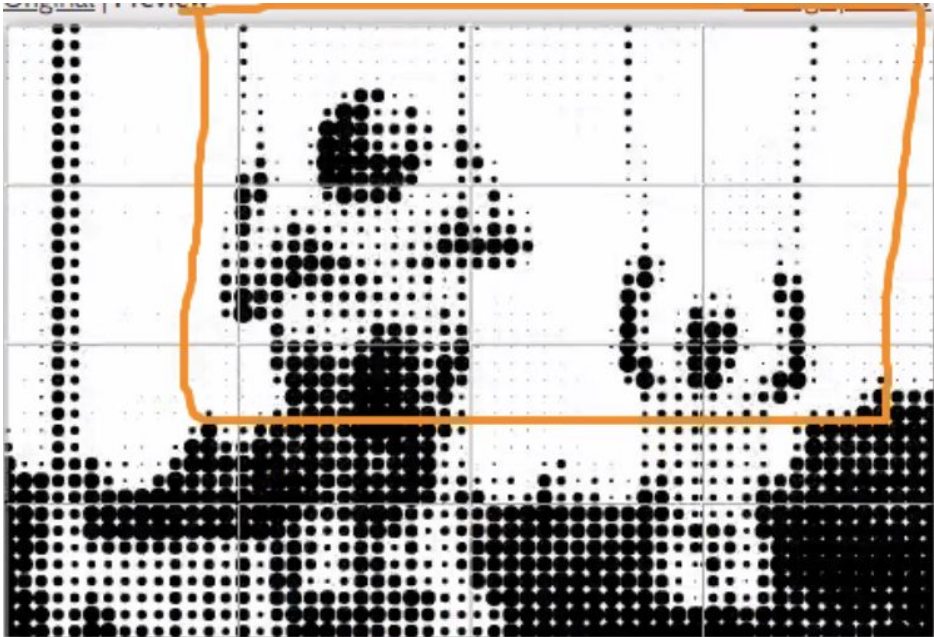
Share an **Image / Photograph**

Make a **Collage** or  
**Something Else** with Supplies (Provided)!

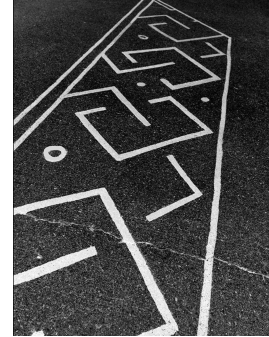
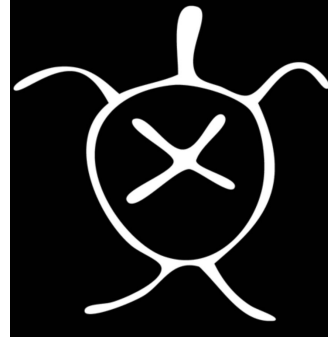
(remote / email submission TBC), submissions will be selected, digitized,  
and composed by Jerome Haferd team



EXAMPLE DIGITIZED “ETCHING” EXAMPLE



## EXAMPLE ETCHING EXAMPLES



**Taino Water Symbols, MÚKARO BORRERO, Taino Confederation / Community member**