

Stories Shape Reality

by For Freedoms

in collaboration with

Bryonn Bain, Marcus Manganni, Jared Owens, and Jamel Shabazz

New Brooklyn Facility, Borough Based Jails Program

Conceptual Design Presentation

NYC Percent for Art Program

Project Site

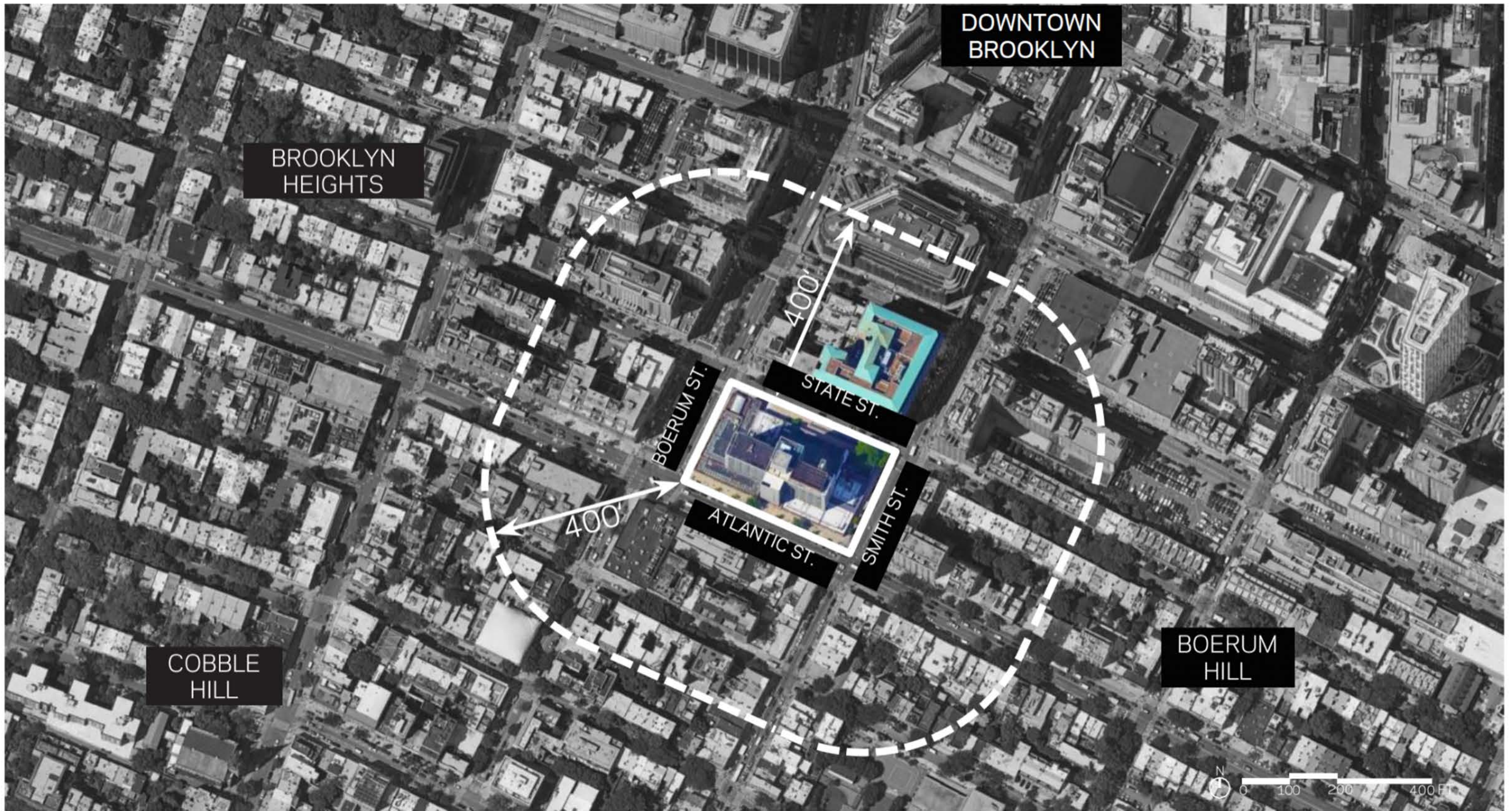
New Brooklyn Facility

275 Atlantic Avenue

Borough Based Jails Program







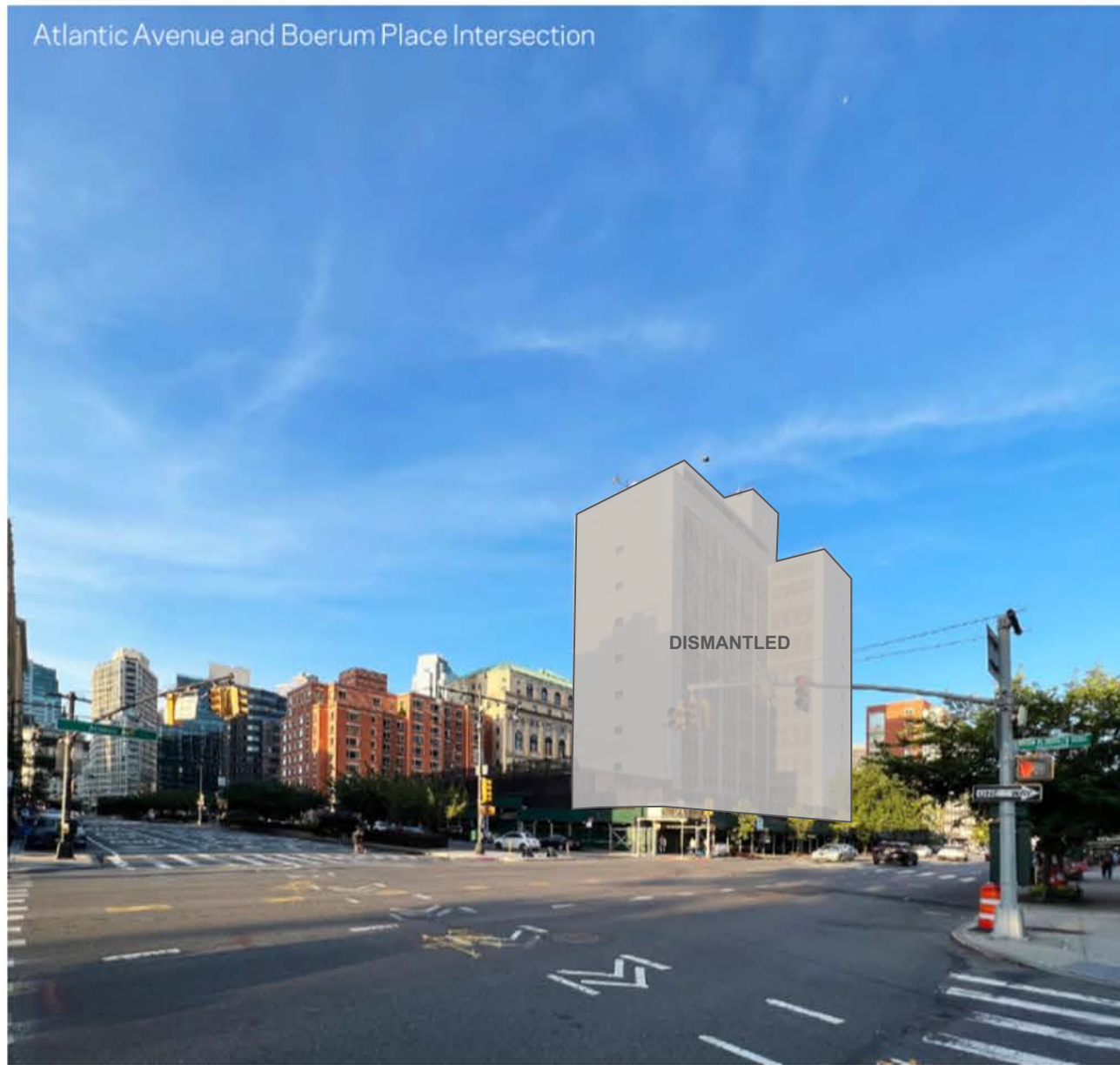
State and Smith Street Intersection



State Street and Boerum Place Intersection



Atlantic Avenue and Boerum Place Intersection



Atlantic Avenue and Smith Intersection



Atlantic Avenue Looking West



Smith Street Looking North

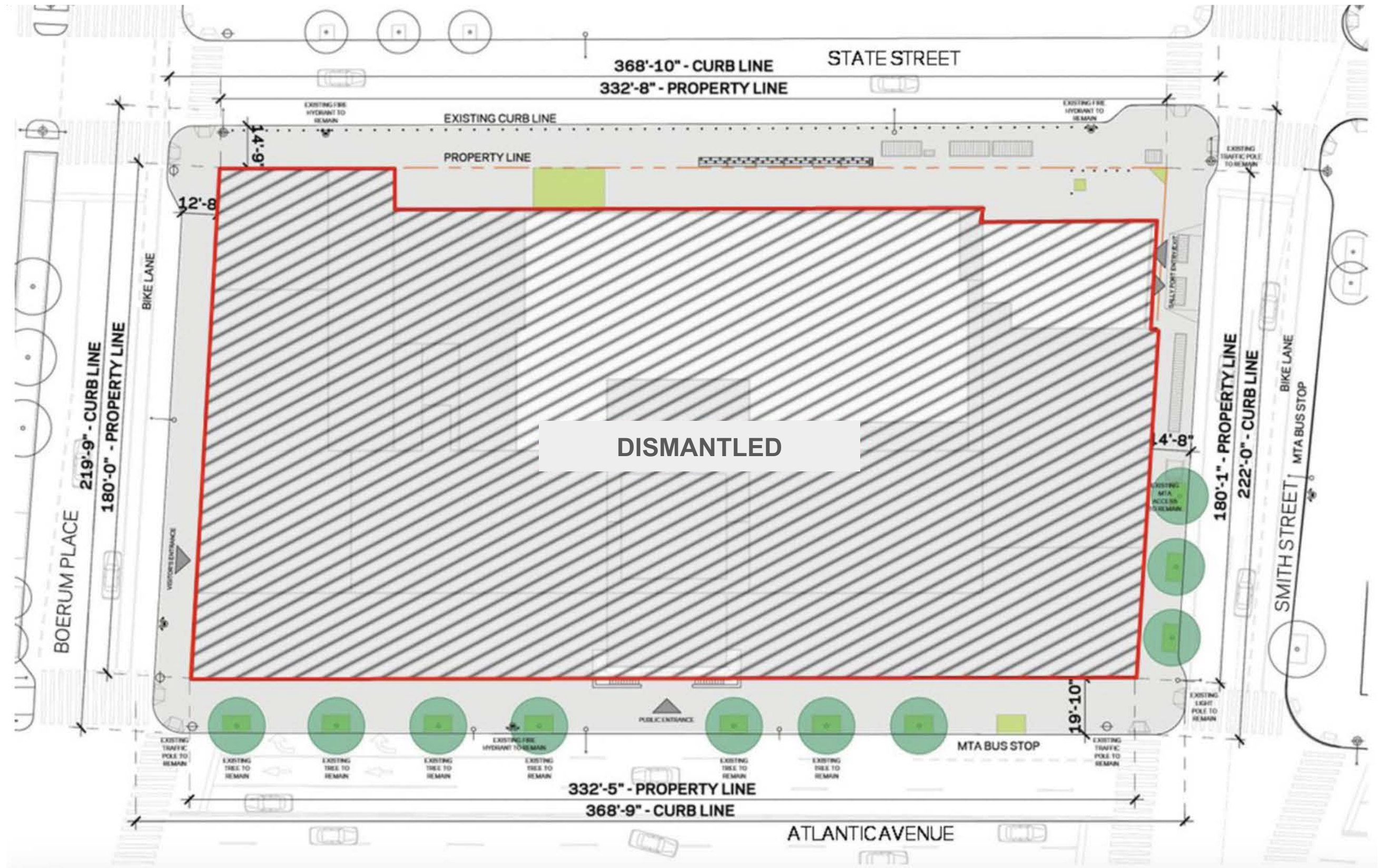


Smith Street Looking South



Atlantic Avenue Looking East







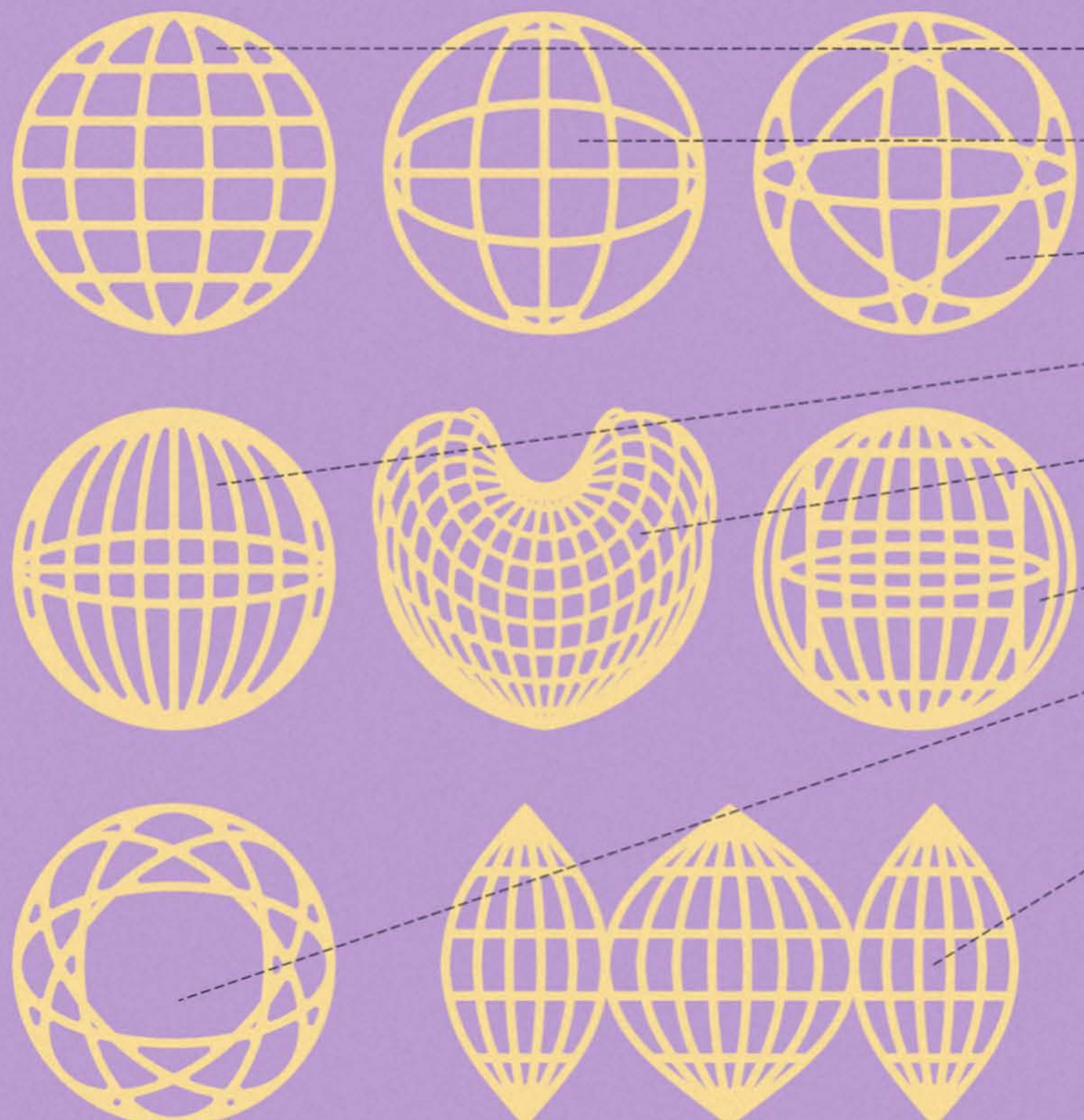


Previous Work

For Freedoms

For Freedoms is an artist-led organization that centers art as a catalyst for creative civic engagement, discourse, and direct action. Founded in 2016 by a coalition of artists including Hank Willis Thomas, Eric Gottesman, Michelle Woo, and Wyatt Gallery, For Freedoms is dedicated to fostering an environment of listening, healing, and justice through a wide range of creative activations. For Freedoms works closely with a variety of artists, organizations, institutions, and brands to expand what participation in a democracy looks like and reshape conversations about politics.

Since founding, For Freedoms has collaborated with over 1,000 artists on over 750 activations including public art installations, billboard campaigns, exhibitions, town halls, and events across all 50 states.



INSIST ON THE FUTURE.

PROVOKE BIGGER QUESTIONS.

PRESENT NUANCED STORIES.

NOURISH JOY.

LISTEN UNTIL WE HEAR.

BRIDGE BINARIES.

BE VISIONARY, NOT REACTIONARY.

PLAY AN INFINITE GAME.

Our Values



FOR FREEDOMS 2022
FREE TO SHARE, DUPLICATE, CREATE,
DISTRIBUTE, INSPIRE, AND LOVE



TIME Mag Cover “Who Gets to Be American?”
 For Freedoms (Hank Willis Thomas, Emily Shur, Eric Gottesman, and Wyatt Gallery)
 “Freedom of Worship” 2018.



For Freedoms (Hank Willis Thomas, Emily Shur, Eric Gottesman, and Wyatt Gallery), “They Are US Is Them”, Queens, NY. 2020.
 Mural by Blazay, Daniel Bonilla, Jason Jarosz, Nancy Hollinghurst, and Darin Roberts
 Photograph by Ines Leong

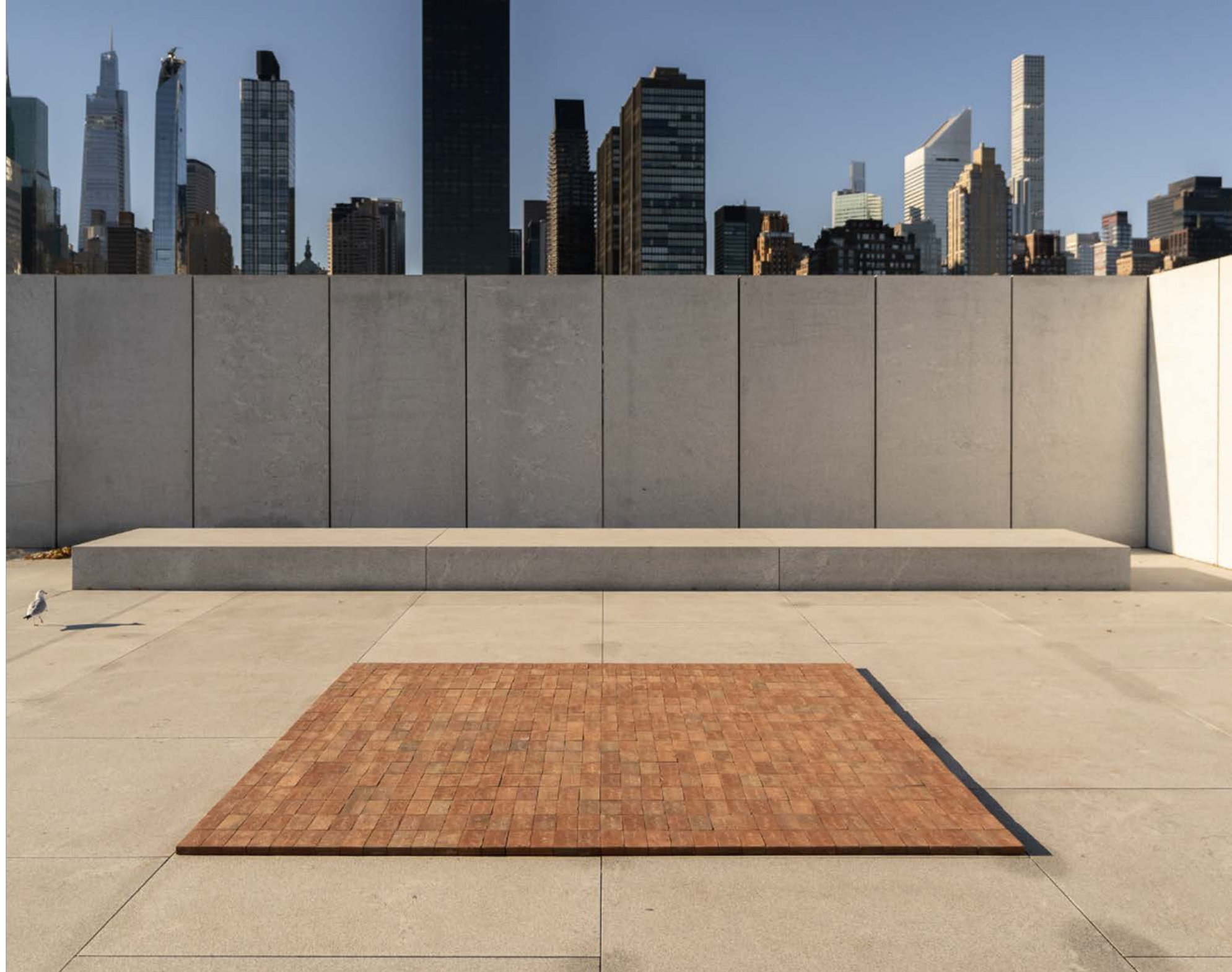
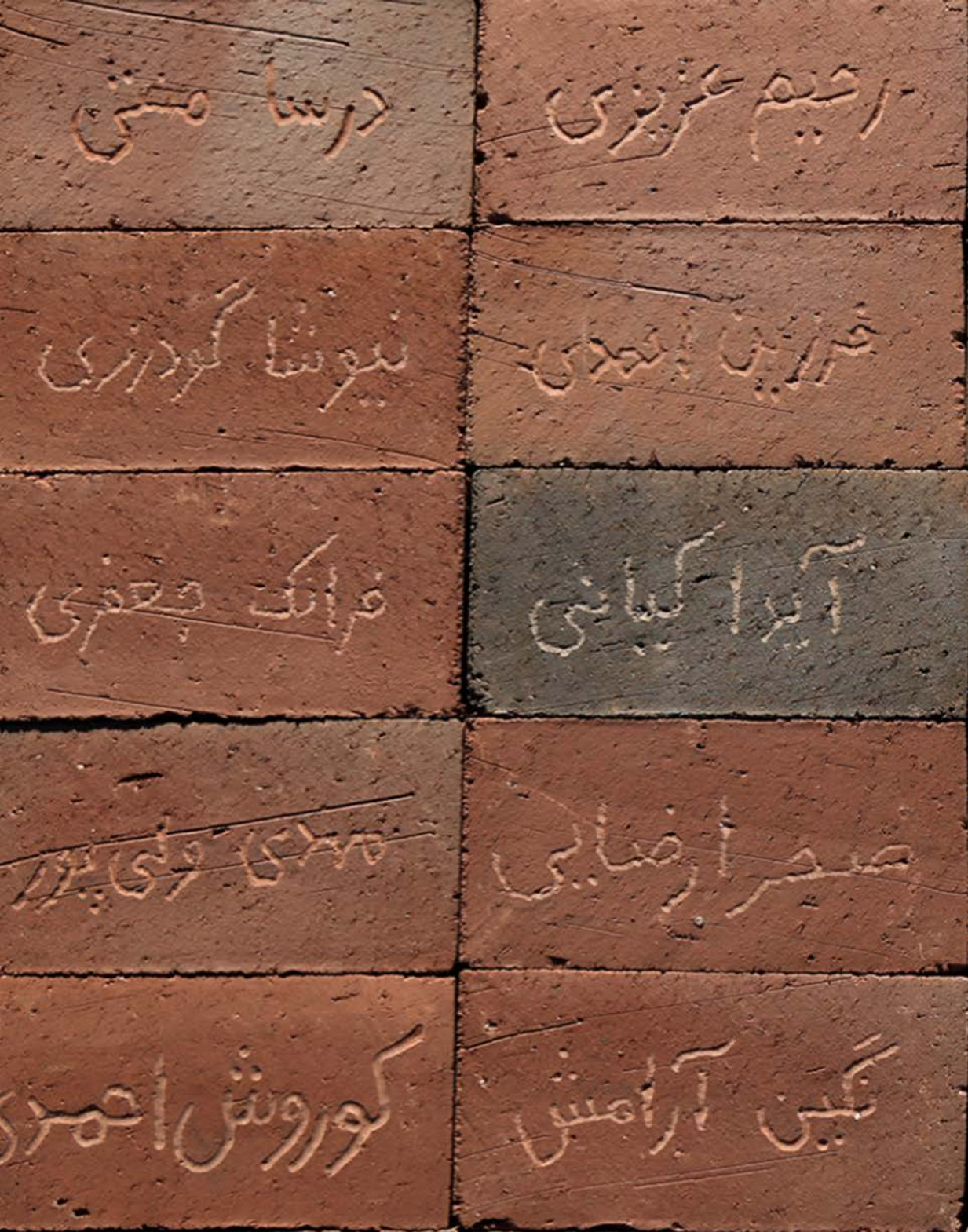


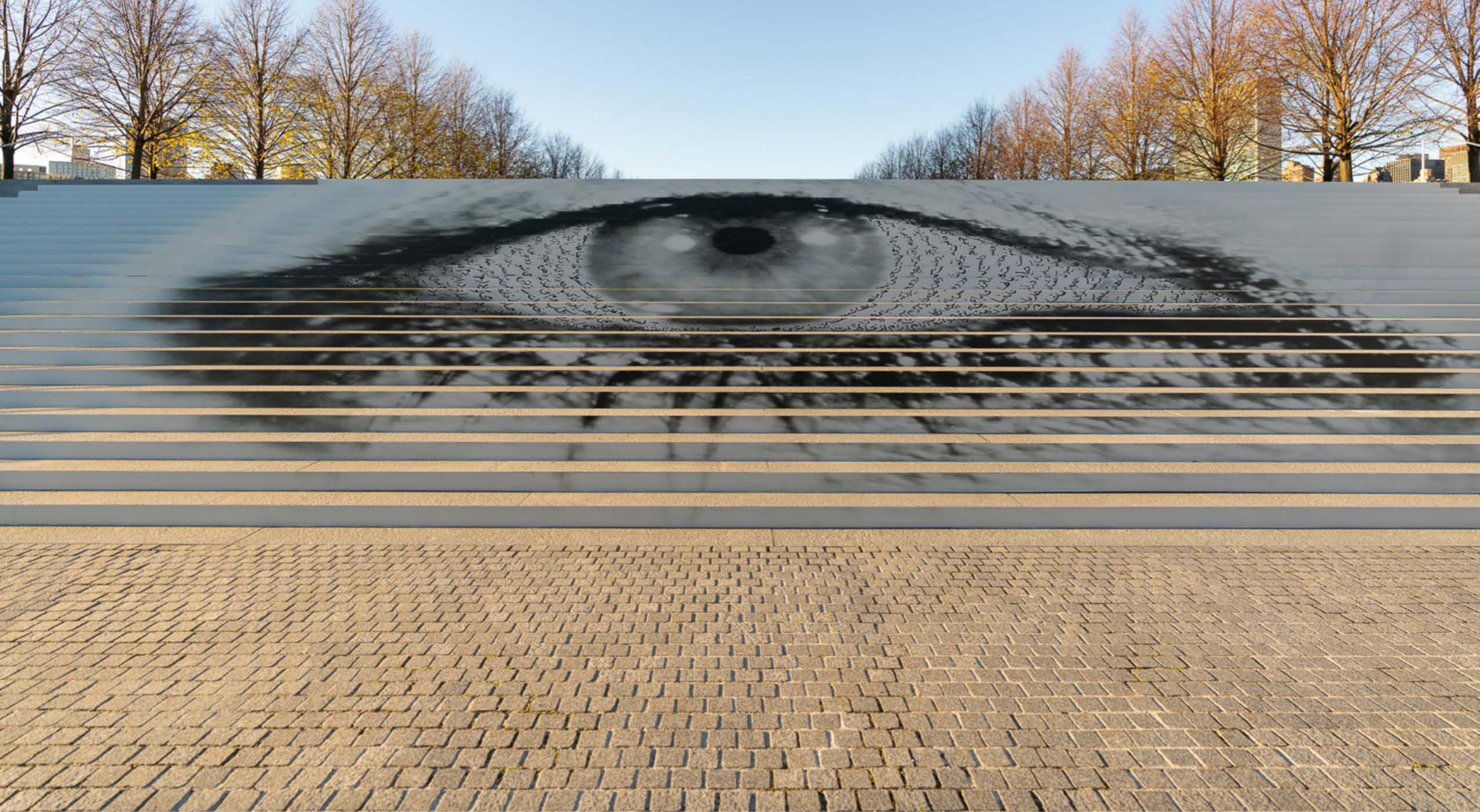
















On this project, For Freedoms is being represented by Eric Gottesman and Claudia Peña.

Eric Gottesman is a founder of For Freedoms and an artist whose work addresses nationalism, migration, structural violence, history, and intimate relations. His projects question accepted notions of power and, by engaging communities in critical self-reflection and creative expression, propose models for repair.

Claudia Peña, Executive Director of For Freedoms, serves on the faculty at UCLA School of Law and in that school's Gender Studies Department. She is also the founding Co-Director of the Center for Justice at UCLA, home of the Prison Education Program, which creates innovative courses that enable faculty and students to learn from and alongside currently incarcerated participants.





<http://www.facebook.com/groups/57811868232/>

THE INNU ONLINE PICTURE ARCHIVE BEGAN IN 2008 AS AN ONLINE SPACE WHERE PICTURES OF AND BY INNU PEOPLE COULD BE STORED AND SHARED AMONG COMMUNITY MEMBERS. THESE ARE SELECTED IMAGES AND THE CONVERSATIONS THEY INSPIRED.

Before children go to sleep, we grandparents tell stories:
places where we were and all the spiritual things that happened. — BEN (APATET) ANDREW





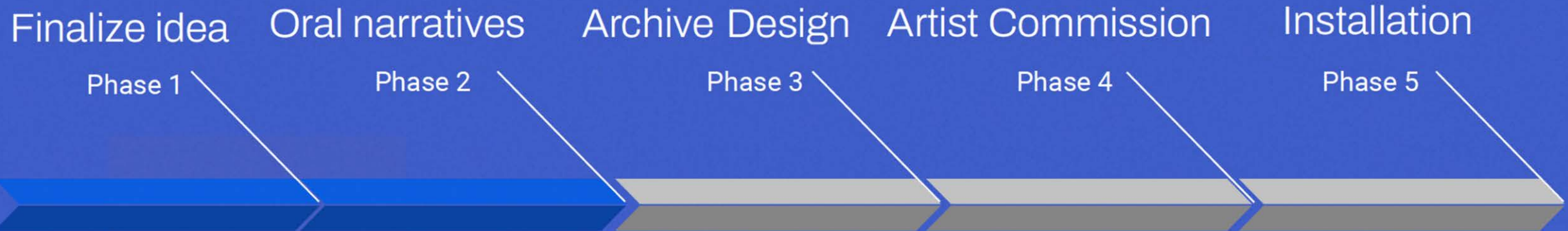
Selected Proposal

NYC Percent for Art Program

December 2023



Words Shape Reality: An Oral History Archive



 **FORFREEDOMS**

Stories Shape Reality

Conceptual Design

STORIES Shape REALITY

An oral history archive and public art series to deepen understanding and healing through the voices, memories, and perspectives of people and communities.

Oral History Archive

Jails are full of STORIES we need to hear.

For Freedoms proposes to build an ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE of 50 stories by people impacted by the Brooklyn Facility Borough Based Jail.

Oral History Archive

Everyone should hear these stories, so the archive will be available ONLINE as well as physically IN-PERSON at the jail.

ARTWORKS that interpret the archive will be installed INSIDE and OUTSIDE the jail.

Why oral history?

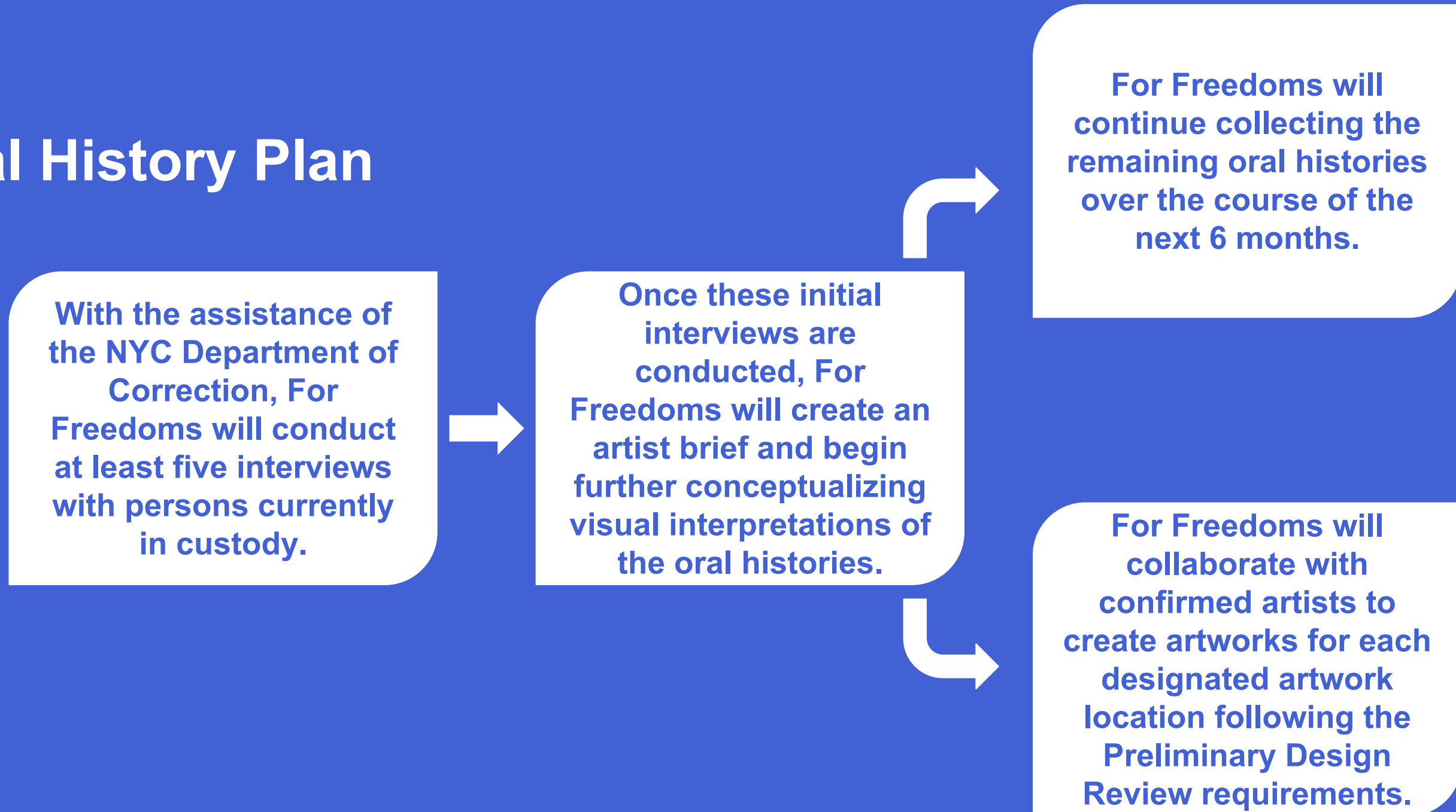
A field of study for understanding and healing, oral history is a method of gathering, preserving, and interpreting the voices, memories, and perspectives of people and communities. Historically, many indigenous peoples had a tradition of passing on information orally from one generation to the next. An oral history interview is generally a one-on-one conversation in which the interviewer records the exchange in audio or video format. Recordings of the interview are transcribed, summarized, indexed, and archived.

Who are we planning to interview?

As part of the public art commission at BBJ Brooklyn Facility, we plan to collect 50 oral histories from:

- 25 persons in custody
- 10 facility staff
- 10 family members of persons in custody
- 5 BBJ Brooklyn Facility neighbors and community members

Oral History Plan



Creative Process

The site-specific public art will be designed based on the oral histories where the idea of stories shape reality' is at the forefront of this project. Each collaborating artist will create a piece interpreting the oral narratives into visual representations of the stories that align with their studio practice, such as poetry, sculpture, painting, etc.

Artwork Locations & Collaborating Artists

1. Public Plaza Embedded Poem — Bryonn Bain
2. Public Lobby Artwork — Jared Owens
3. Staff Entrance Artwork — Jamel Shabazz
4. Contact Visiting Artwork — For Freedoms
5. Central Program Area Artwork — Marcus Manganni
6. Oral History Archive — For Freedoms

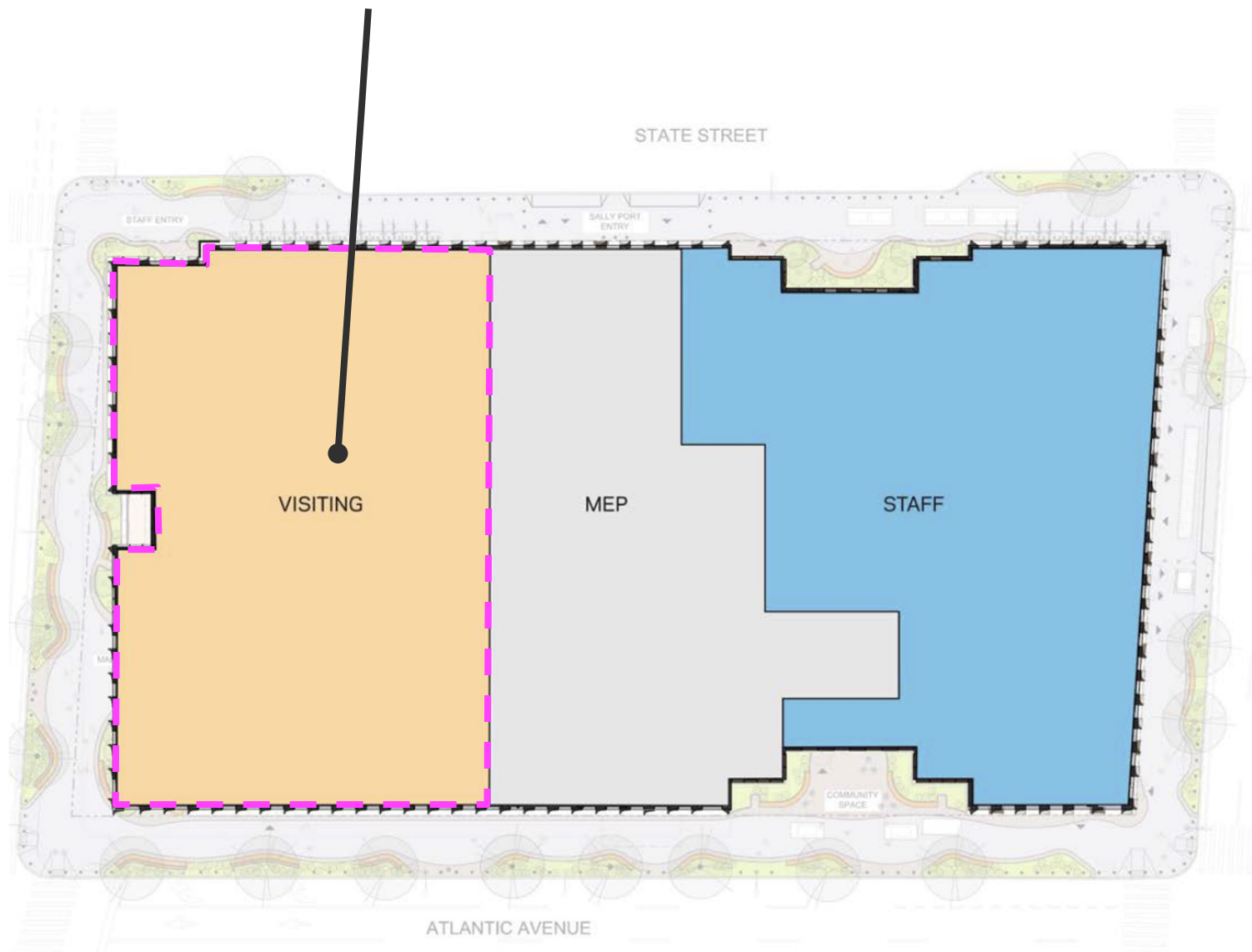
The site plan illustrates the layout of the ARTWORK SITE, bounded by STATE STREET to the north, BOERUM PLACE to the west, SMITH STREET to the east, and ATLANTIC AVENUE to the south. The building footprint is divided into several functional areas: a blue-shaded STAFF area in the northwest, a large grey-shaded BACK OF HOUSE area in the center, a yellow-shaded COMMUNITY SPACE in the southeast, and a pink-shaded PUBLIC LOBBY and PUBLIC PLAZA in the southwest. Key entrances include the STAFF ENTRY, SALLY PORT ENTRY, and MAIN ENTRY. The plan also shows various landscaping elements such as PLANTING, SE-1 STEEL EDGING, SUP-1, SUP-2 STONE UNIT PAVERS, CURB EXTENSION, and SUBWAY VENTS. A sidewalk area with a removable slab is located near the community space. The site is adjacent to a parking lot on the west and south sides.

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1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

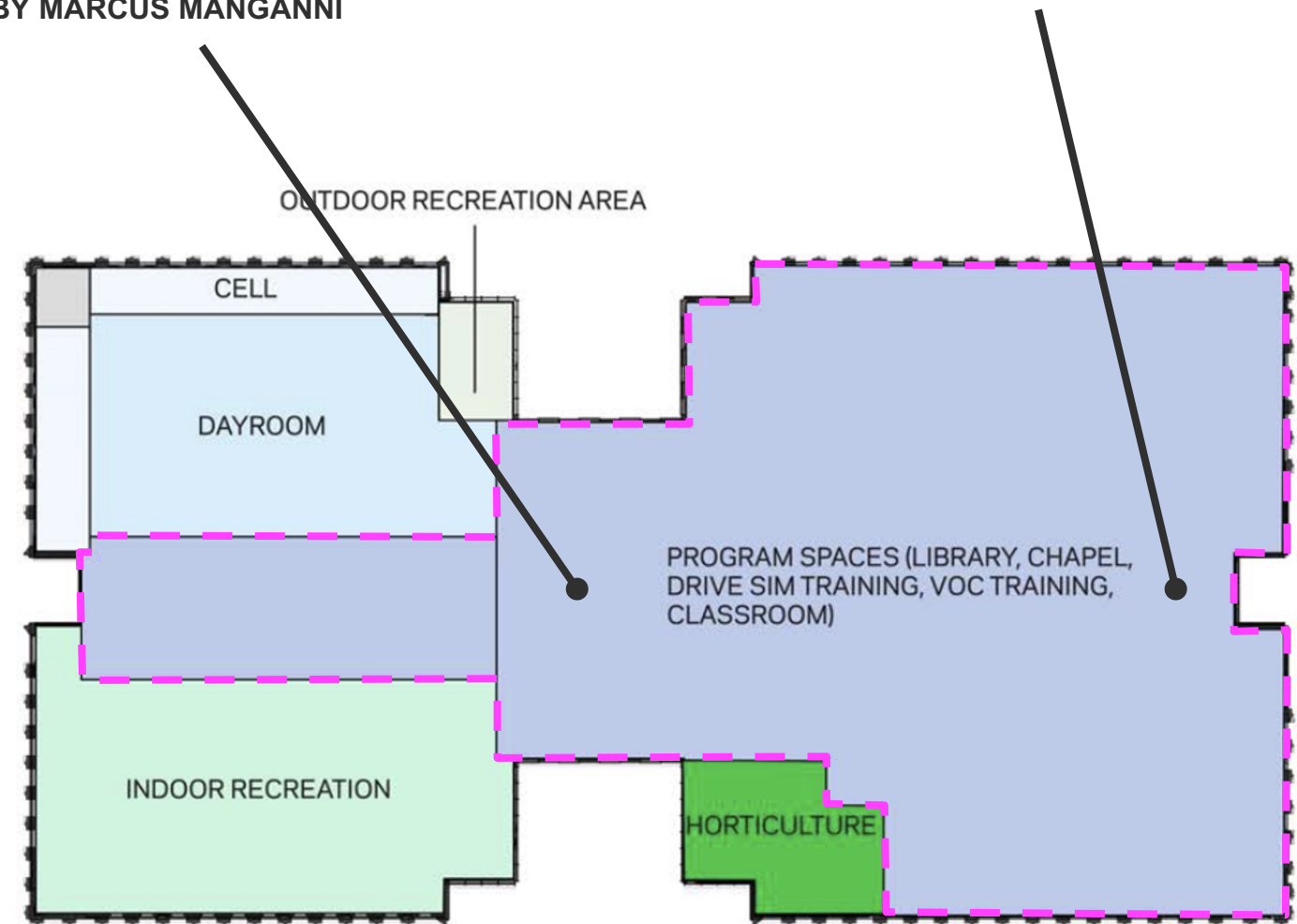
4. CONTACT VISITING ARTWORK
BY FOR FREEDOMS



LEVEL 4 PLAN

5. CENTRAL PROGRAM
AREA ARTWORK
BY MARCUS MANGANNI

6. ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE
BY FOR FREEDOMS

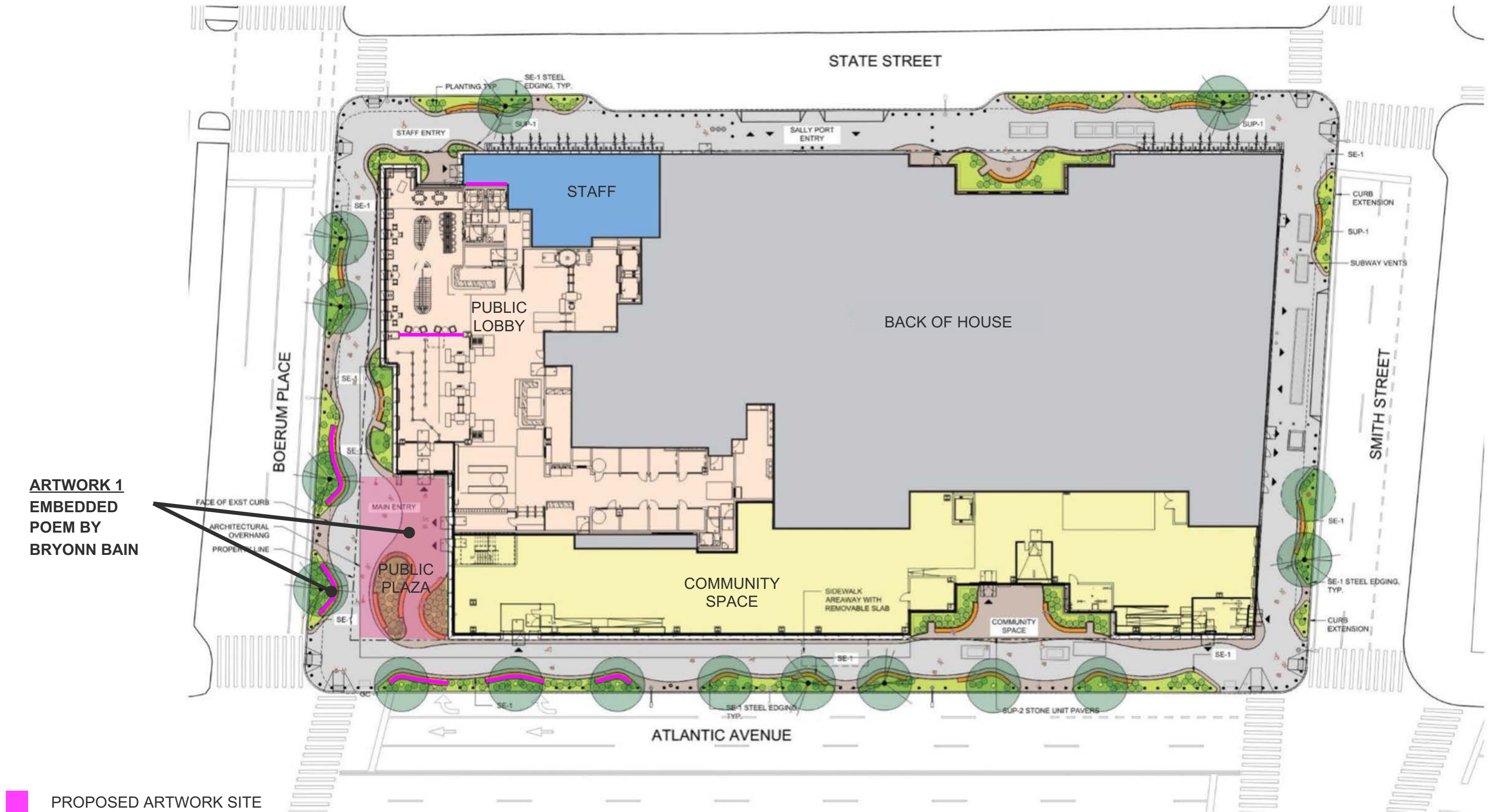


LEVEL 14 PLAN

■ PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE

Artwork 1

Embedded Poem by Bryonn Bain



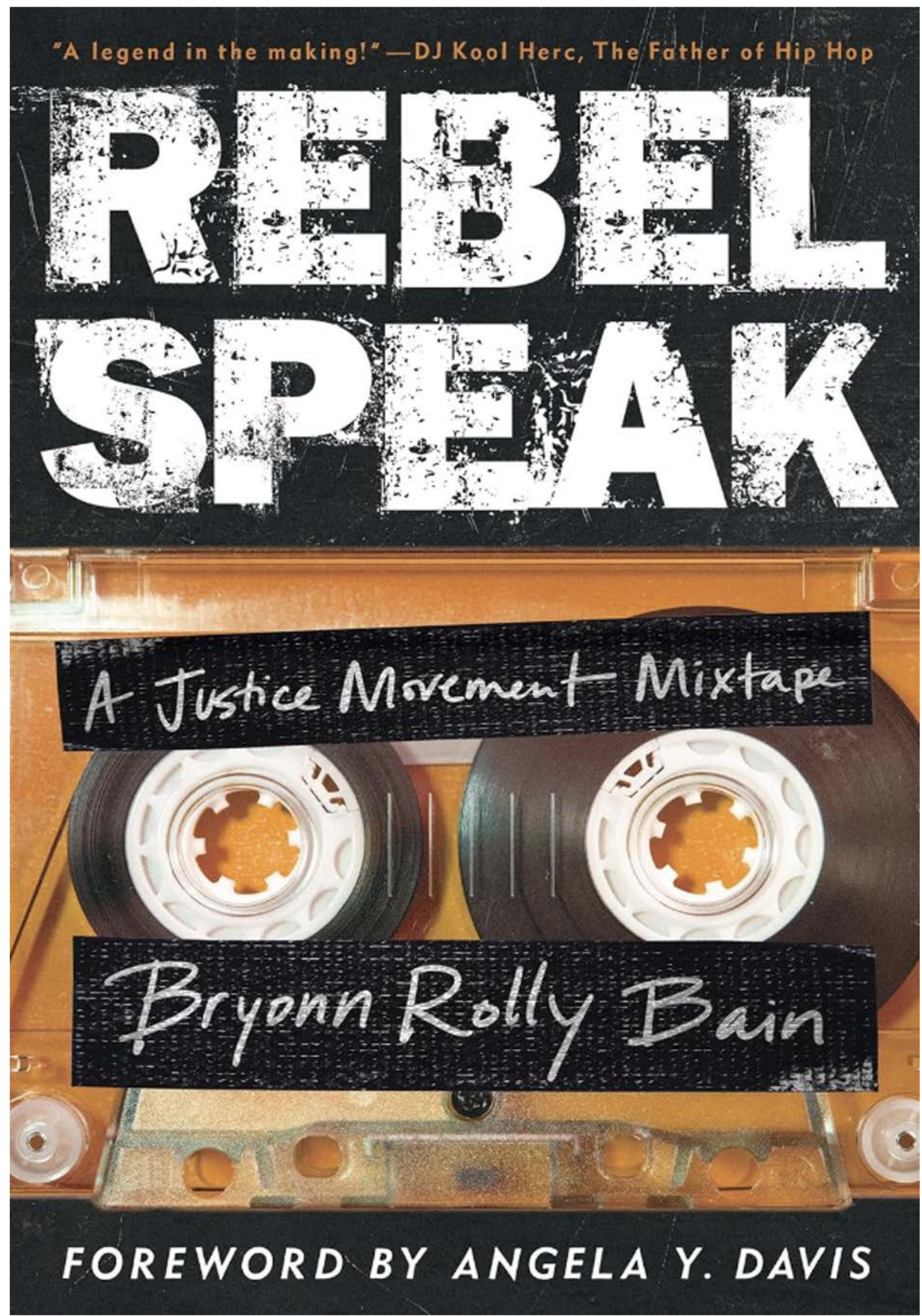
Bryonn Bain is a writer, actor, and hip-hop theater maker, Bain has alchemized his experiences into his role as an educator, activist and artist, regularly performing and lecturing on the prison crisis at colleges and correctional facilities nationwide.

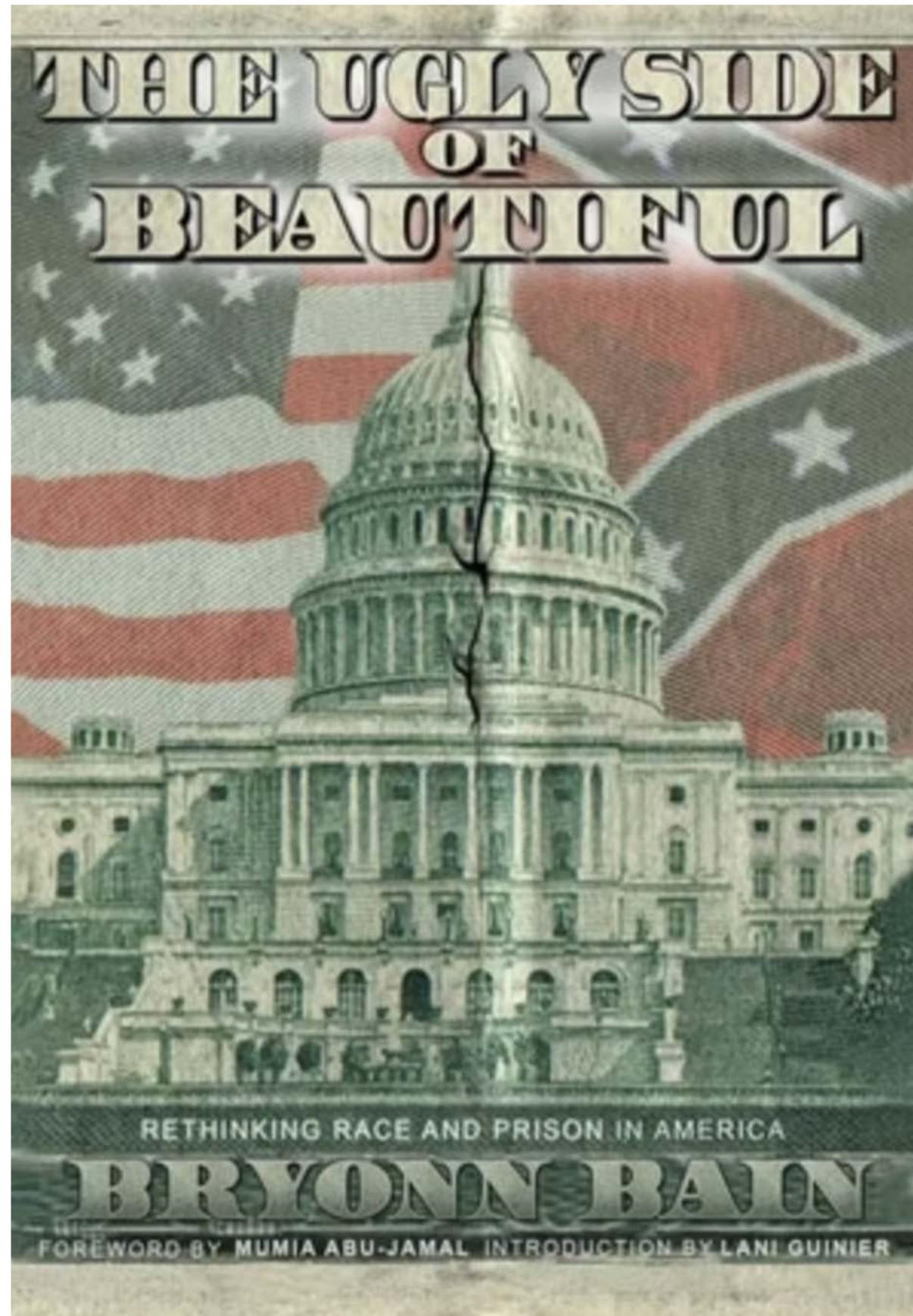


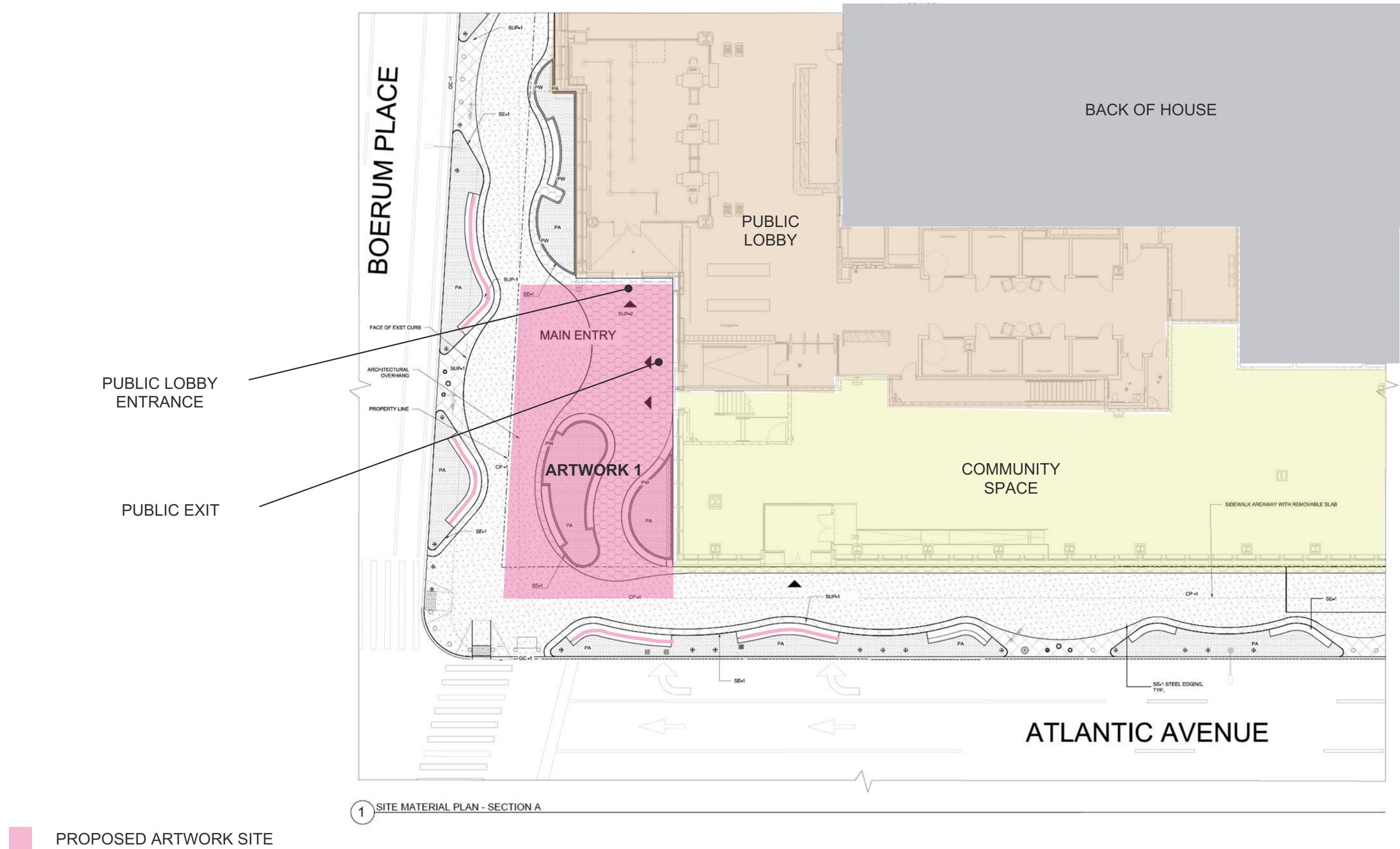


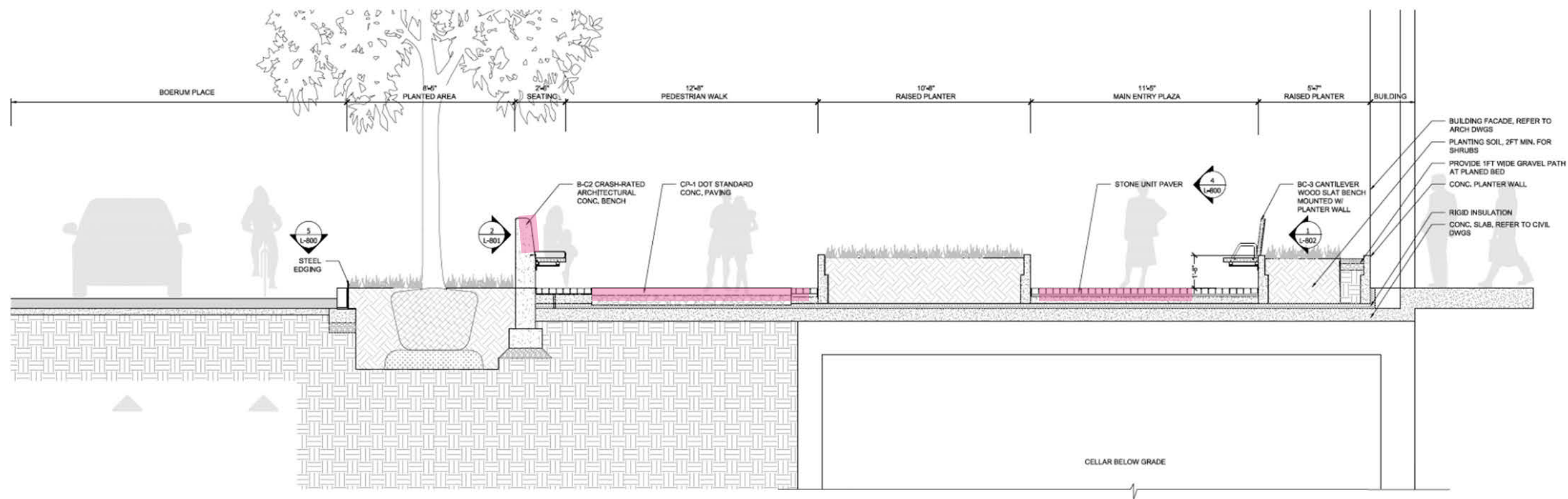
BRYONN BAIN, "LYRICS FROM LOCKDOWN"
AT APOLLO THEATRE, HARLEM, NY, 2021
PHOTOGRAPH BY ZAKI SMITH











1 BOERUM PLACE PLAZA - SOUTH

PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE



PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE



PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE

Artwork 2

Lobby Artwork by Jared Owens

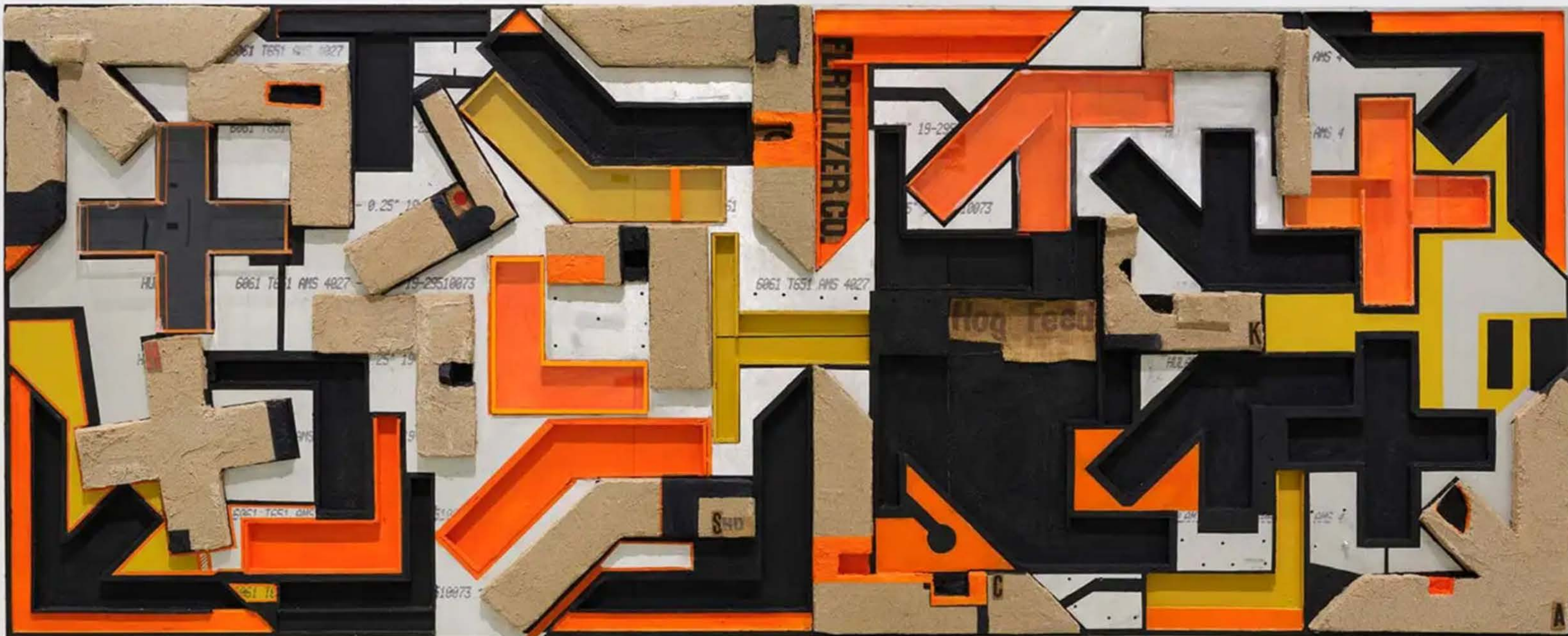
Jared Owens is a self-taught, multidisciplinary artist who works in painting, sculpture, and installation, using materials and references culled from penal matter.

During more than 18 years of incarceration, he discovered his passion for art, using it as a transformative tool for self-expression and rehabilitation. His practice focuses on bringing awareness to the plight of nearly 2.5 million people enmeshed in the American carceral state.















PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE

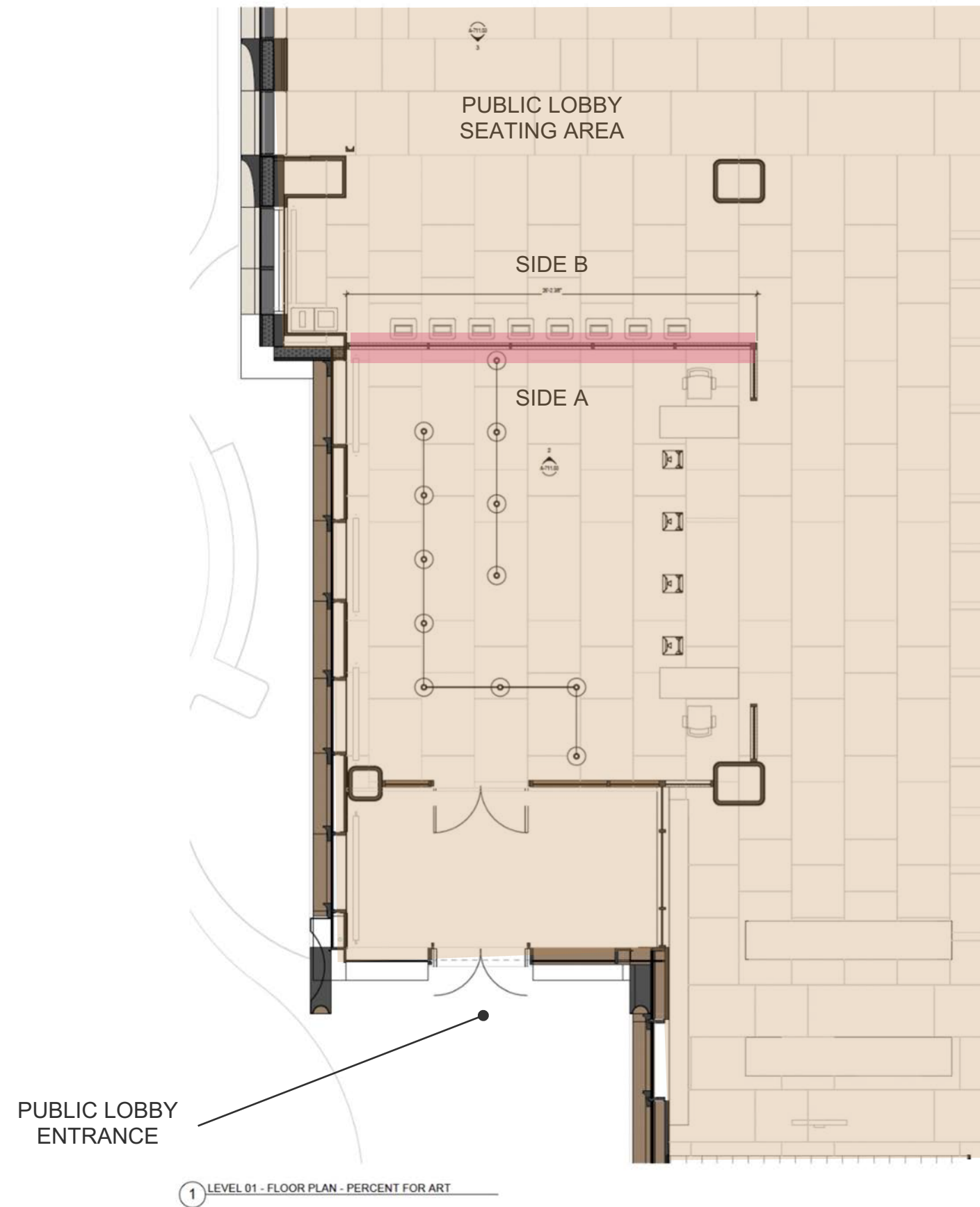
Conceptual Design Review
May 20, 2024
DDC/DOC/DCLA%

NYC Percent for Art Program
New Brooklyn Facility Borough Based Jails
Program

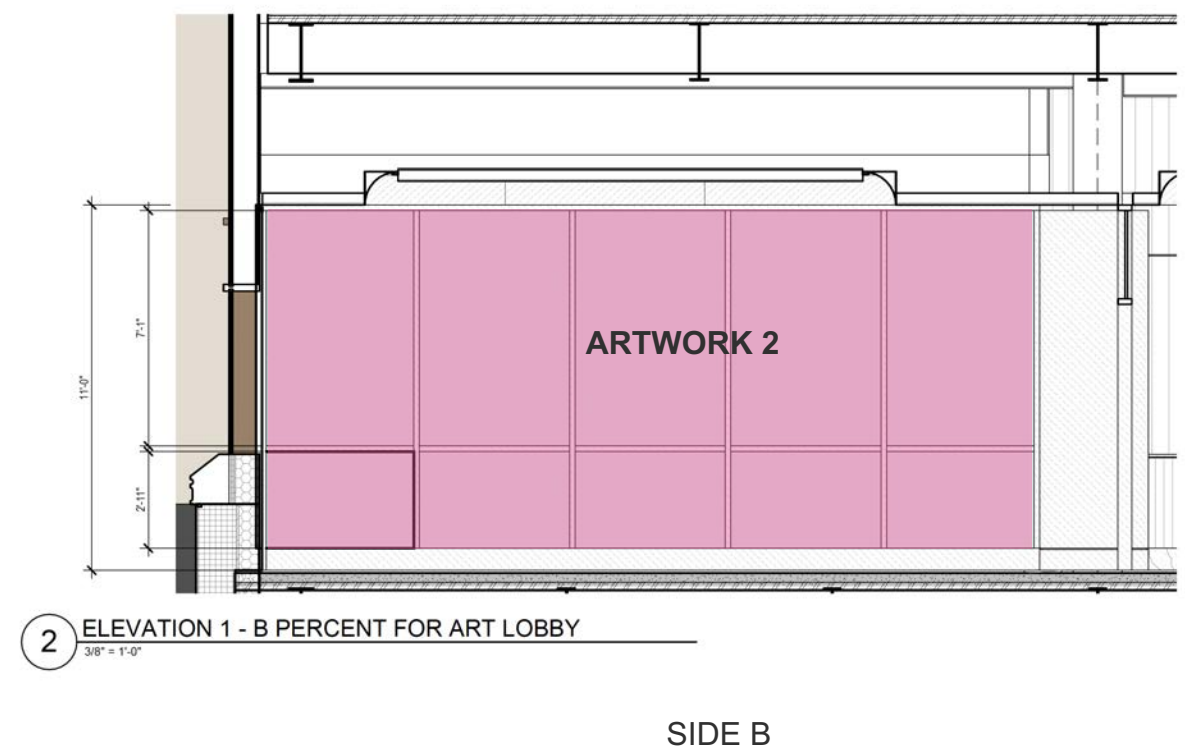
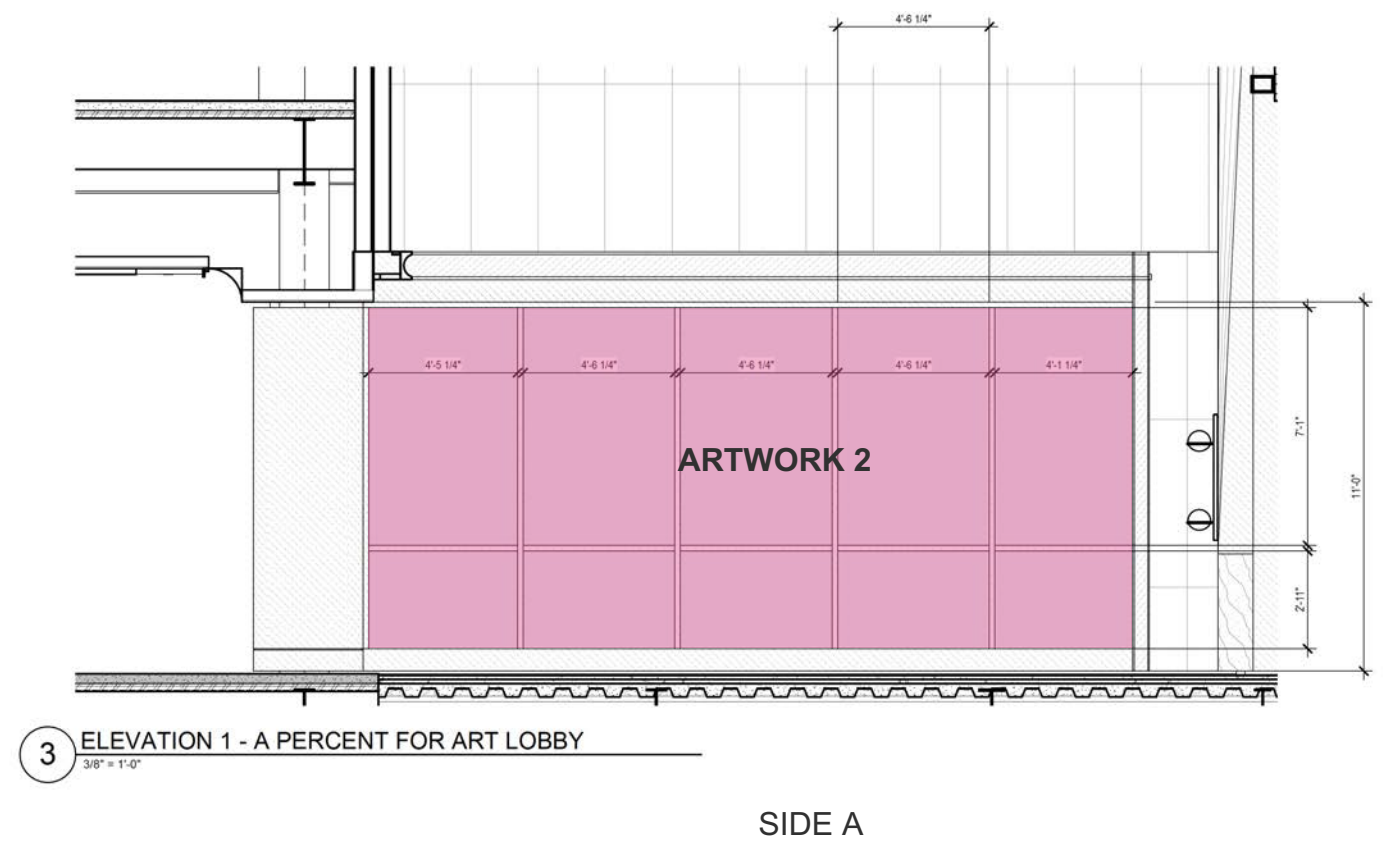
Artwork Location 2
Public Lobby
Rendering, Looking North



PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE



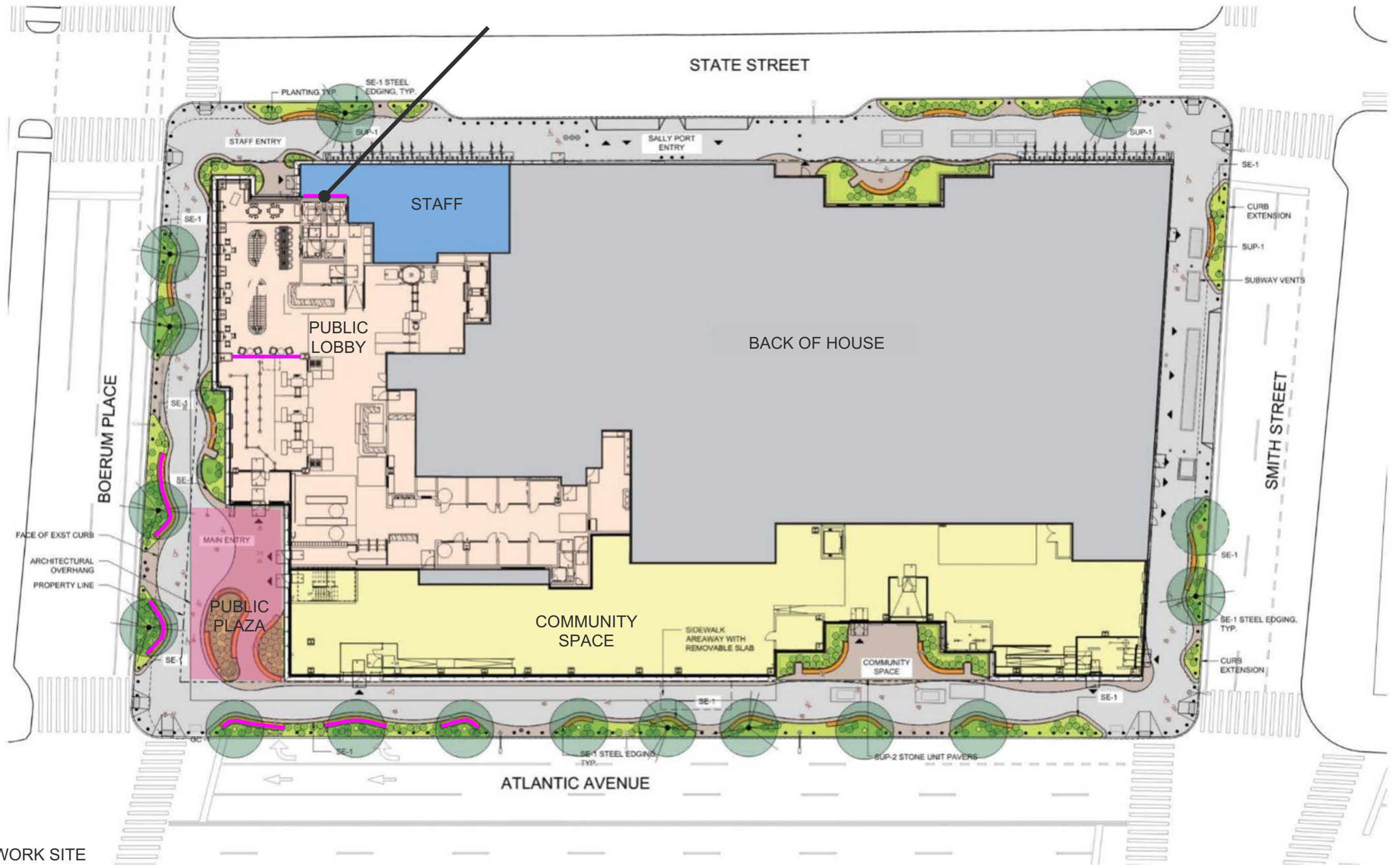
PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE



Artwork 3

Staff Entrance Artwork by Jamel Shabazz

3. STAFF ENTRANCE ARTWORK BY JAMEL SHABAZZ

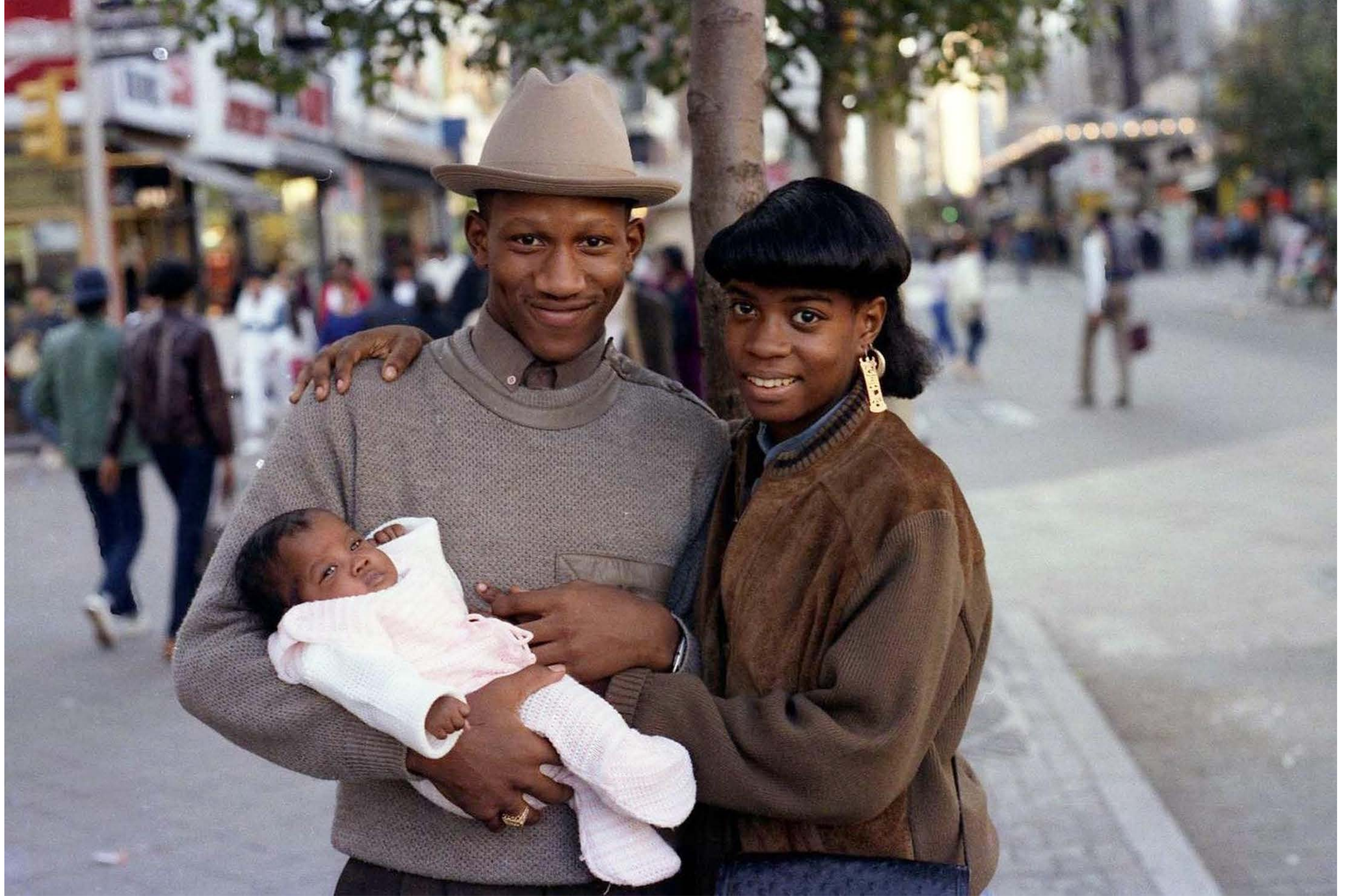


Jamel Shabazz is a photographer known for his work in documenting urban life in New York City. He served as a NYC corrections officer from 1983-2003.

Through analog film and digital photography, his iconic images showcases the cultural vibrancy of the city's Black and Brown communities, dismantling negative stereotypes of communities that are often painted as dangerous or decaying.





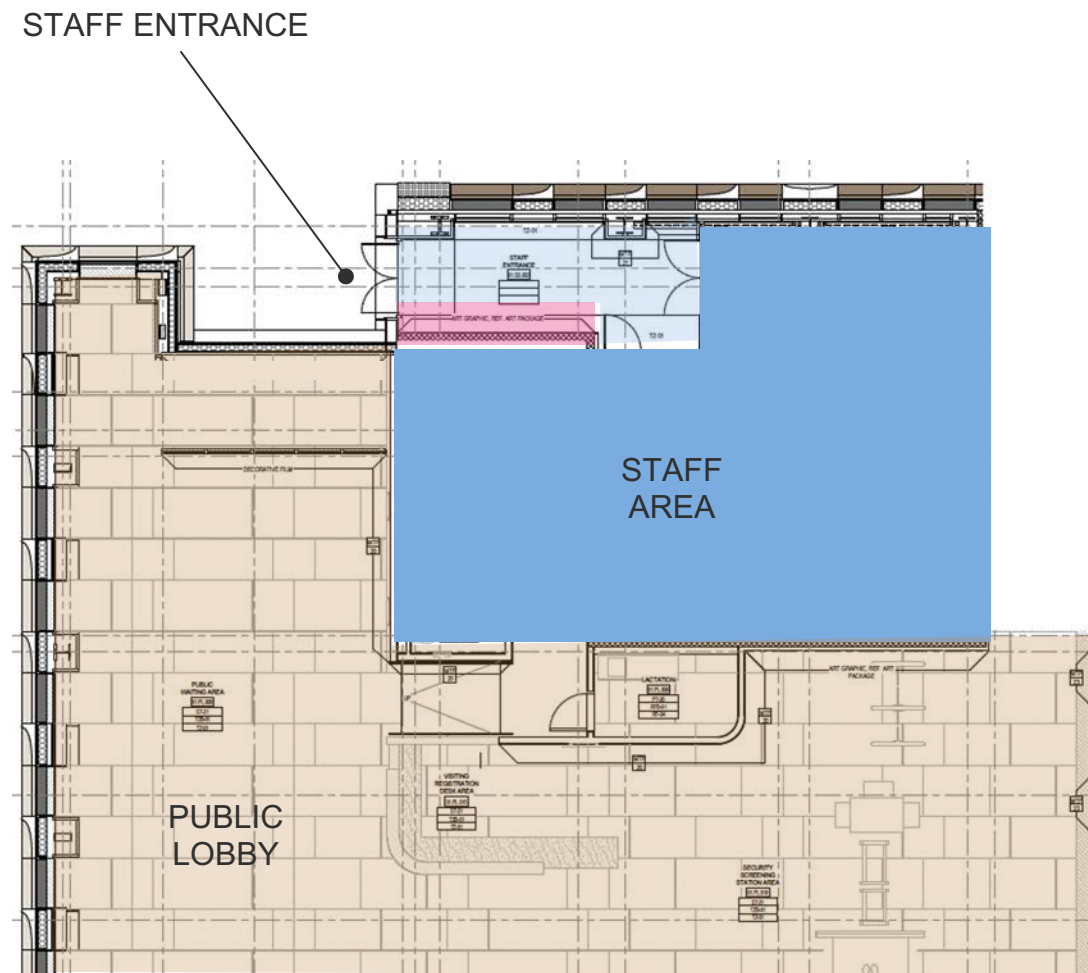




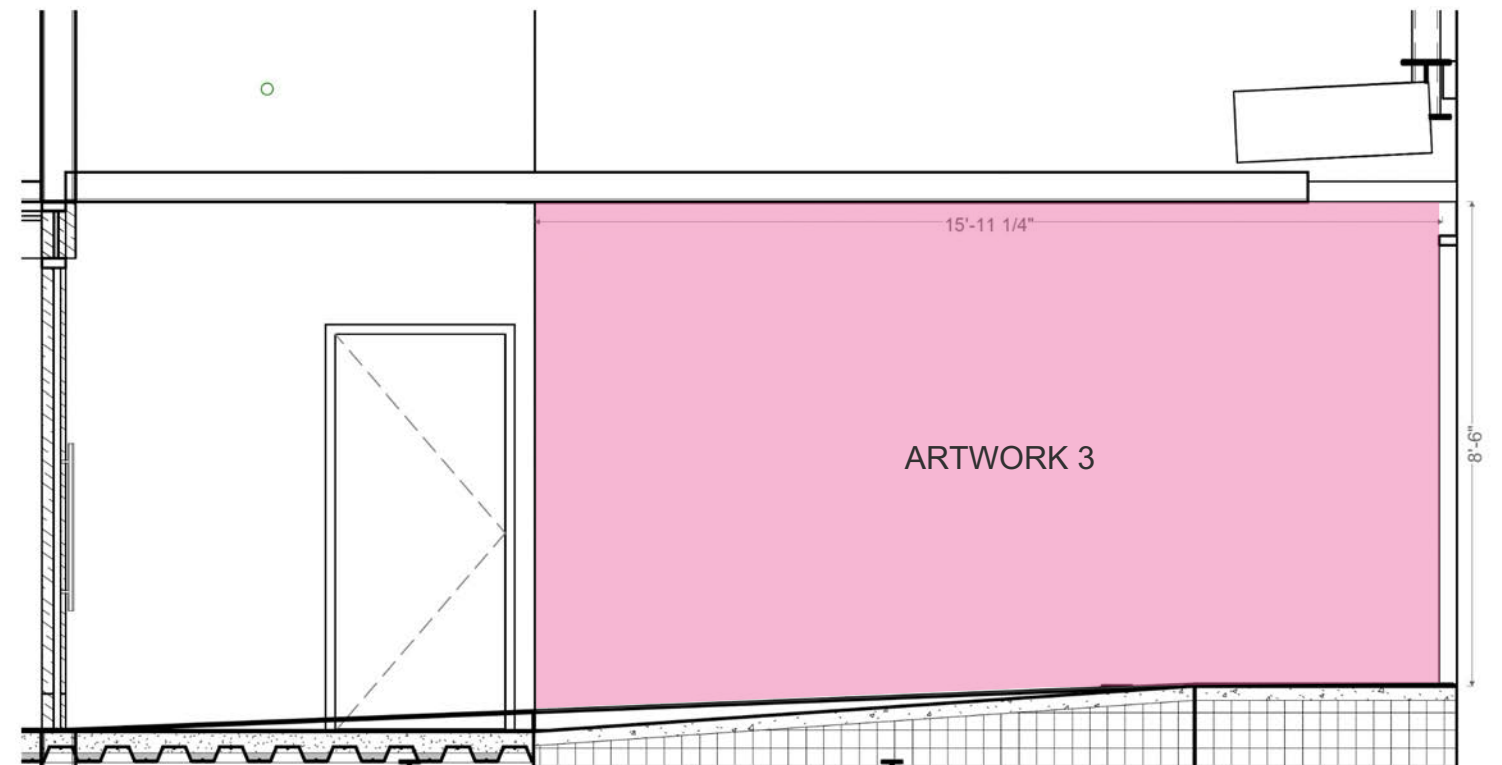








STAFF ENTRANCE PLAN



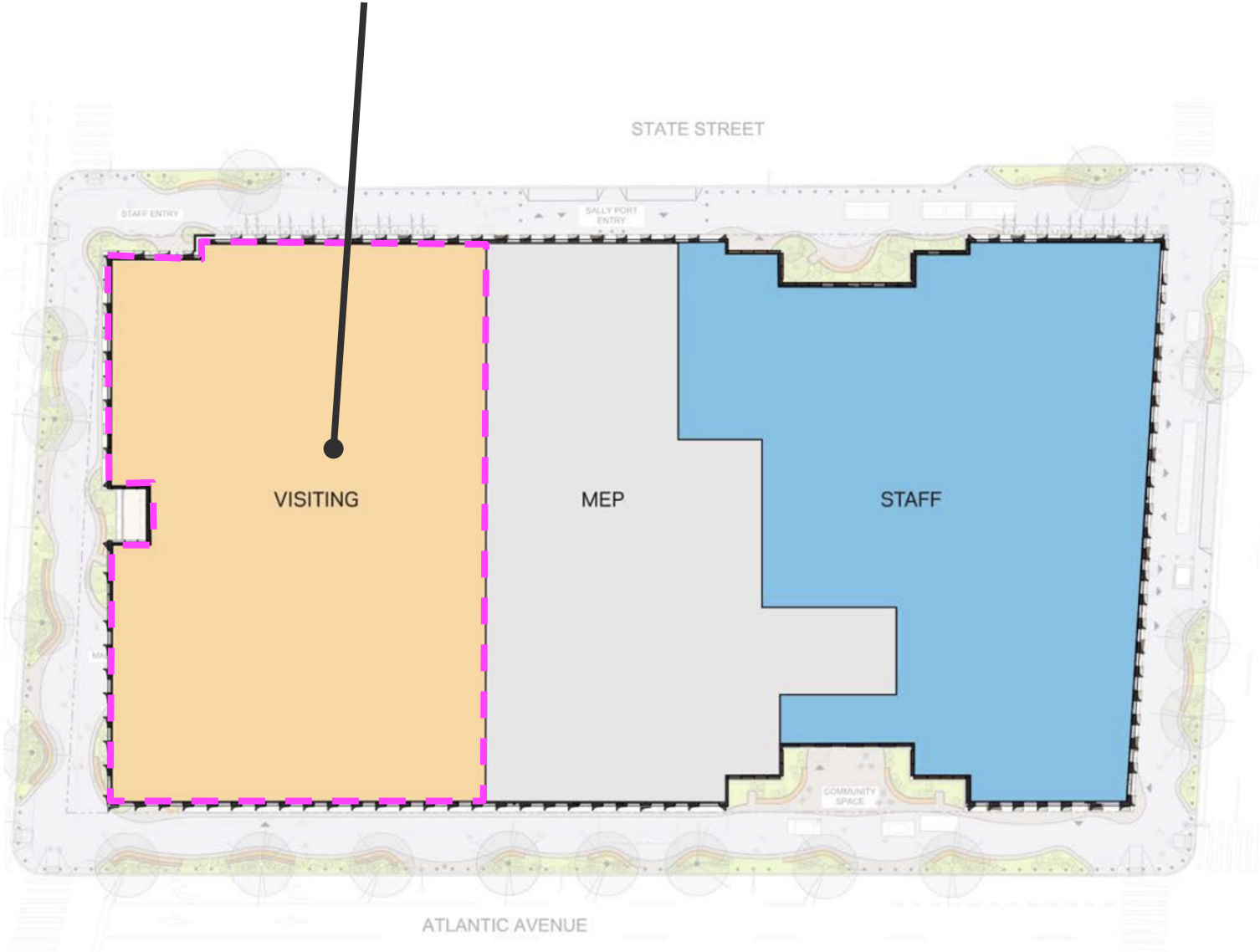
STAFF ENTANCE ELEVATION

PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE

Artwork 4

Contact Visiting Room Artwork by For Freedoms

4. CONTACT VISITING ARTWORK
BY FOR FREEDOMS

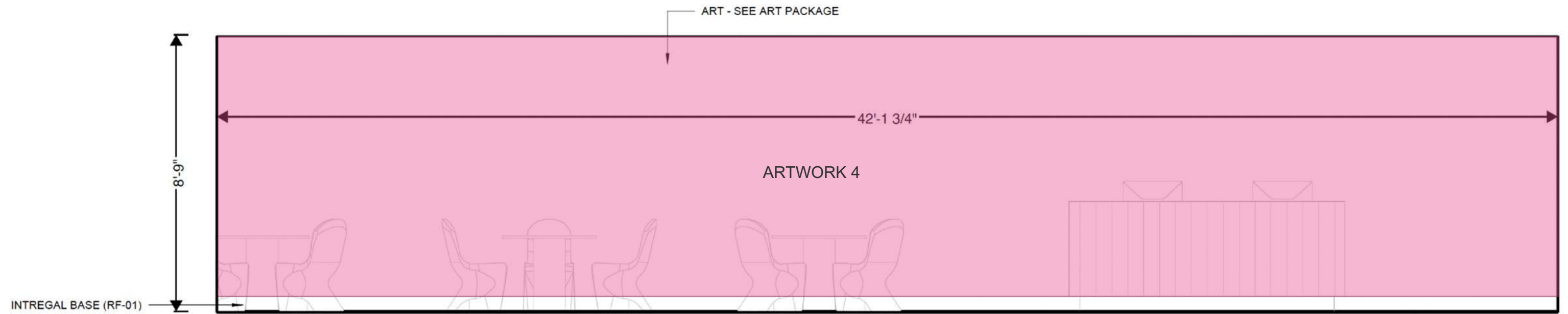


LEVEL 4 PLAN

 PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE



 PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE



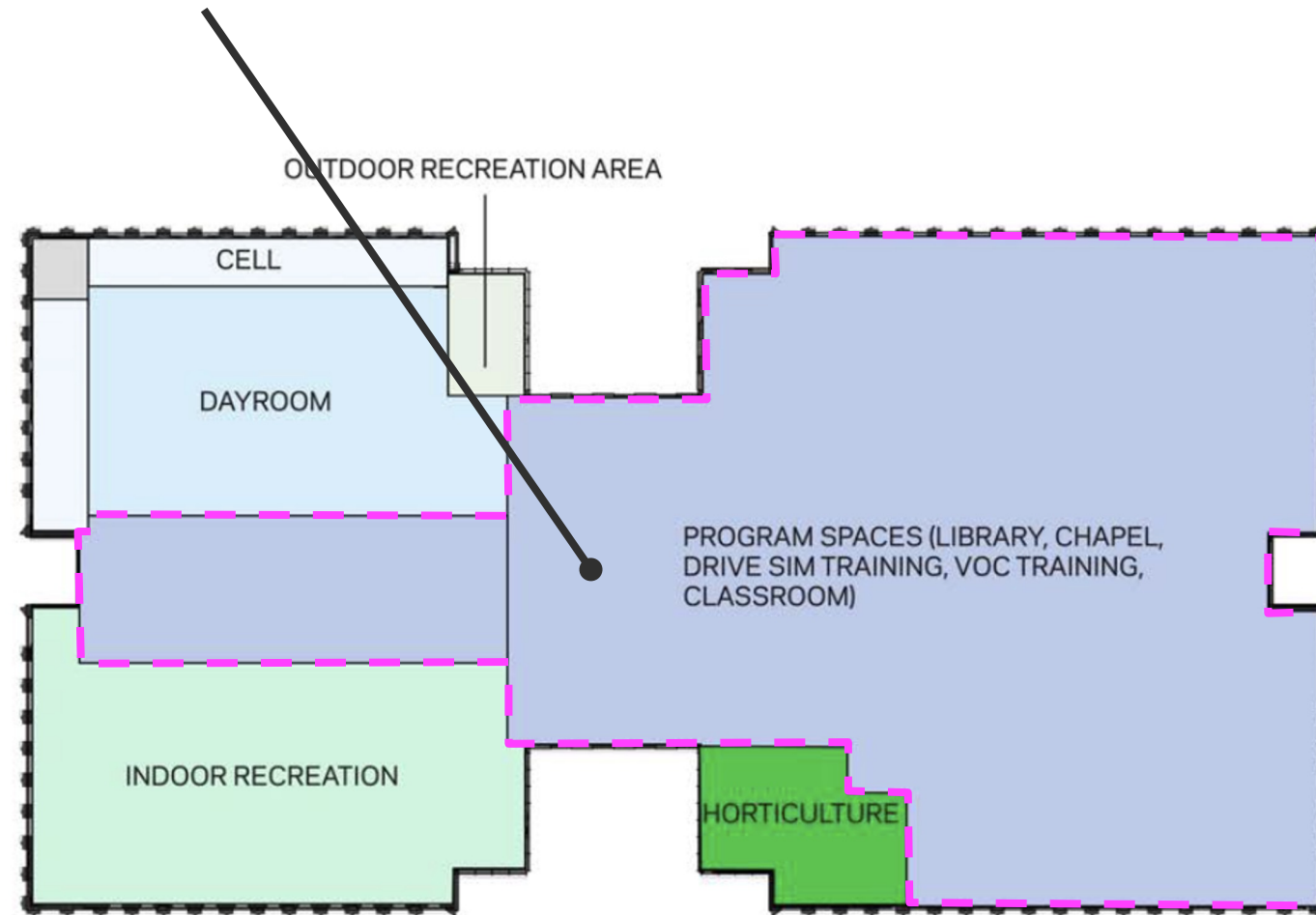
2 INTERIOR ELEVATION - VISITING CONTACT - SOUTH

PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE

Artwork 5

Central Program Area Artwork by Marcus Manganni

5. CENTRAL PROGRAM
AREA ARTWORK
BY MARCUS MANGANNI

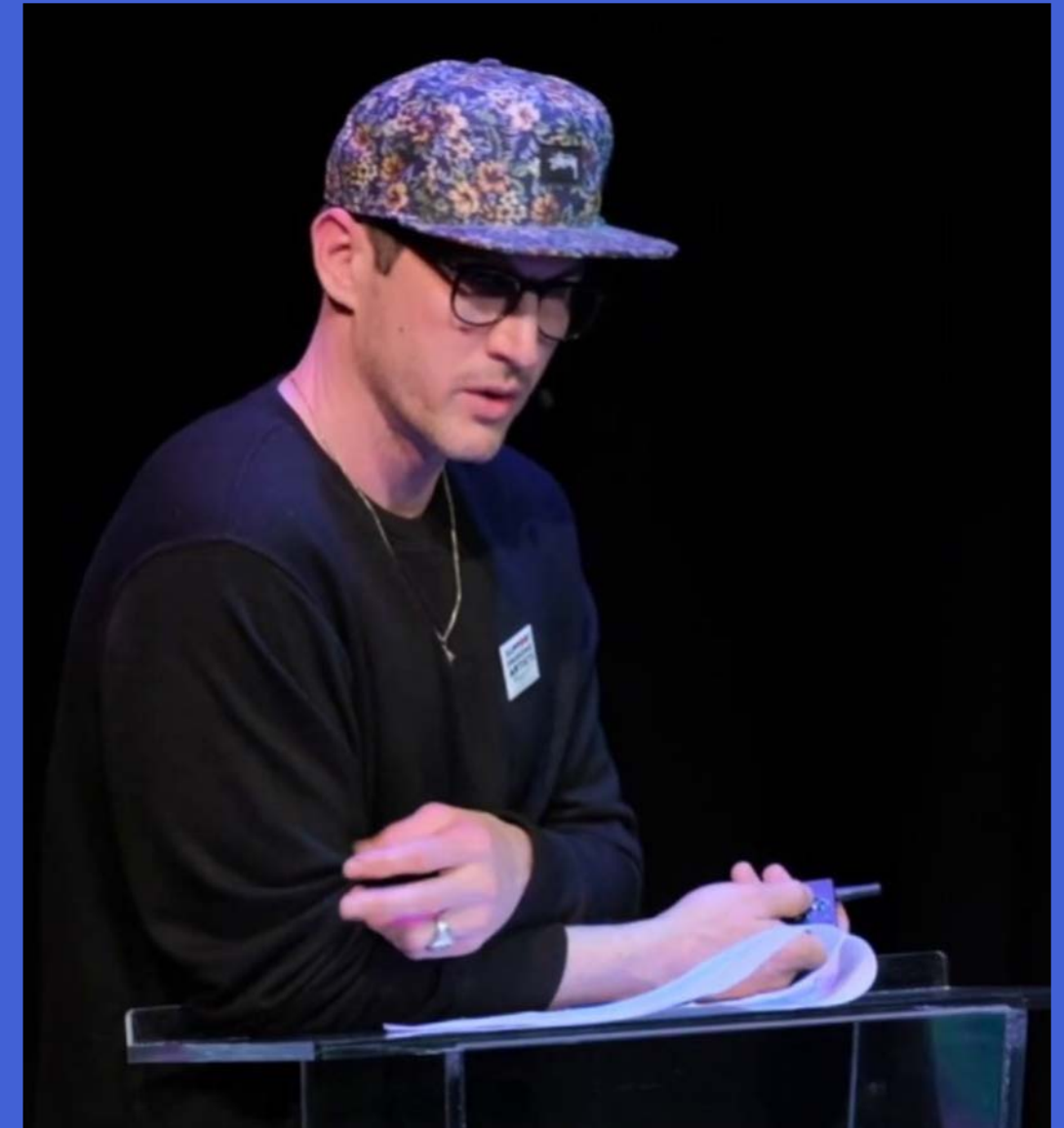


LEVEL 14 PLAN

 PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE

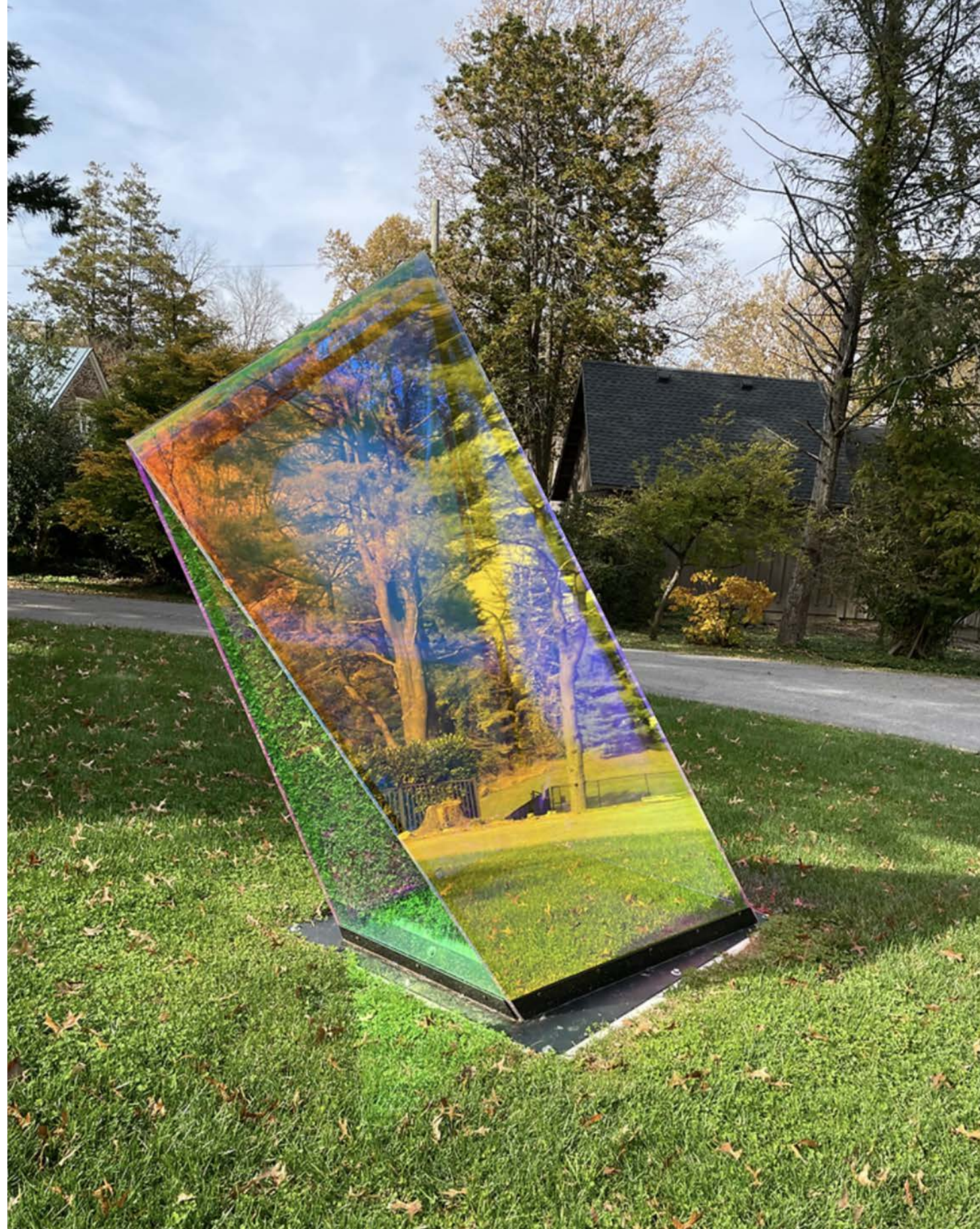
Marcus Manganni is a New York based sculptor and installation artist whose work confronts mass incarceration.

Light became both the primary medium and subject of Manganni's work during his time in federal solitary confinement. Utilizing the natural light from his cell window, he experimented with what little materials he had and created reflective structures placed throughout his cell allowing him to explore and liberate his physical and social confinement. Manganni has installed permanent sculptures in both public and private spaces worldwide.







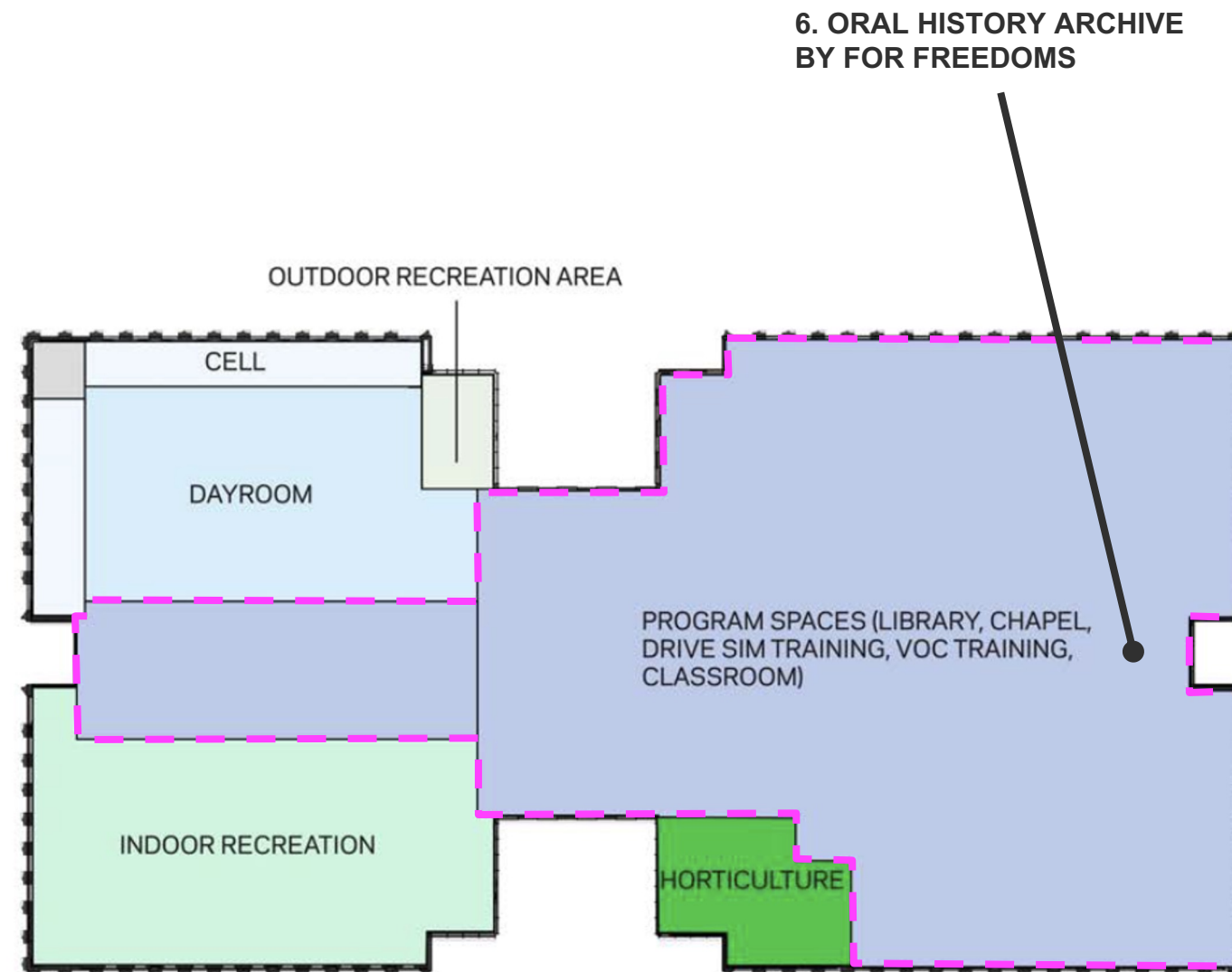






Artwork 6

Oral History Archive by For Freedoms



6. ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE
BY FOR FREEDOMS

LEVEL 14 PLAN

 PROPOSED ARTWORK SITE



Thank You