

# **LINCOLN CENTER - THE WEST PROJECT**

## **PUBLIC DESIGN COMMISSION: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REVIEW**

**April 28, 2025**

**Damrosch Park and east side of Amsterdam Avenue,  
between W. 62nd and 65th Street, New York, NY**



**Lincoln Center**

**HOOD**

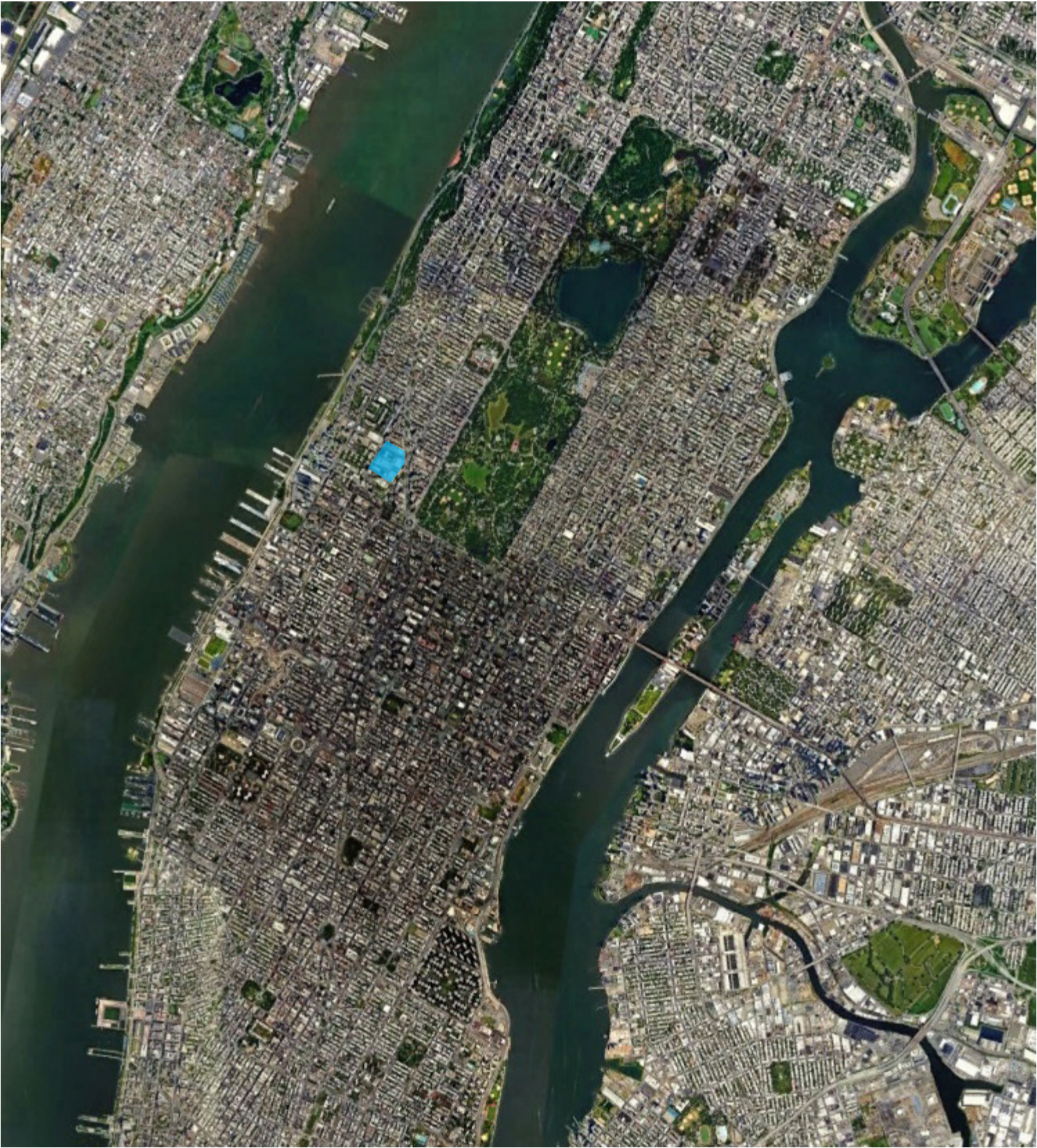
**WEISS / MANFREDI**





# SITE LOCATION AND ORIENTATION

Borough Context



Neighborhood Context





# NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT: NEARBY PARKS

280 ACRES



RIVERSIDE PARK  
PATHS  
LOOKOUTS  
BEACH  
WATER ACCESS  
SHADE STRUCTURES  
SEATING

1.3 ACRES



WEST END PARK  
PLAYGROUND  
GARDENS  
SCULPTURE  
SEATING  
TREES

1 ACRE



SAMUEL N  
BENNERSON II  
PLAYGROUND  
  
BASKETBALL  
PLAYGROUND  
TREES  
SEATING

3 ACRES



DAMROSCH PARK  
*PERFORMANCES*  
*ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING*  
*TREES*

0.3 ACRES



DANTE PARK  
TREE GROVE  
SEATING  
SCULPTURE

843 ACRES



CENTRAL PARK  
TRAILS  
KICKBALL FIELD  
SOFTBALL FIELD  
PLAYGROUND  
TRAILS  
UMPIRE ROCK  
CAROUSEL  
RESTROOMS  
LOUNGING ROCK



# NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT: TRANSIT



- Nearby Subway Stops**
- MTA Bus Stops on/near Lincoln Center Campus**
- Designated Bike Lanes near Lincoln Center Campus**
- Walking Paths to Nearby Parks**



## VISION AND GOALS

- + **Physically transform Lincoln Center's Amsterdam Avenue side by removing the fortress-like wall** to welcome communities approaching from the west
- + **Create state-of-the-art performance areas in Damrosch Park** that meet artists' and audiences needs
- + **Establish a vibrant community park that better serves close neighbors**, including residents of New York City Housing Authority campuses at Amsterdam Houses and Addition, and students at LaGuardia High School of Music and Performing Arts and the five high schools at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex
- + **Celebrate the history and public memory** of San Juan Hill and historic Lincoln Square
- + **Respect architecture and landscape architecture** iconic to Lincoln Center campus







**Let us know  
how we did!**

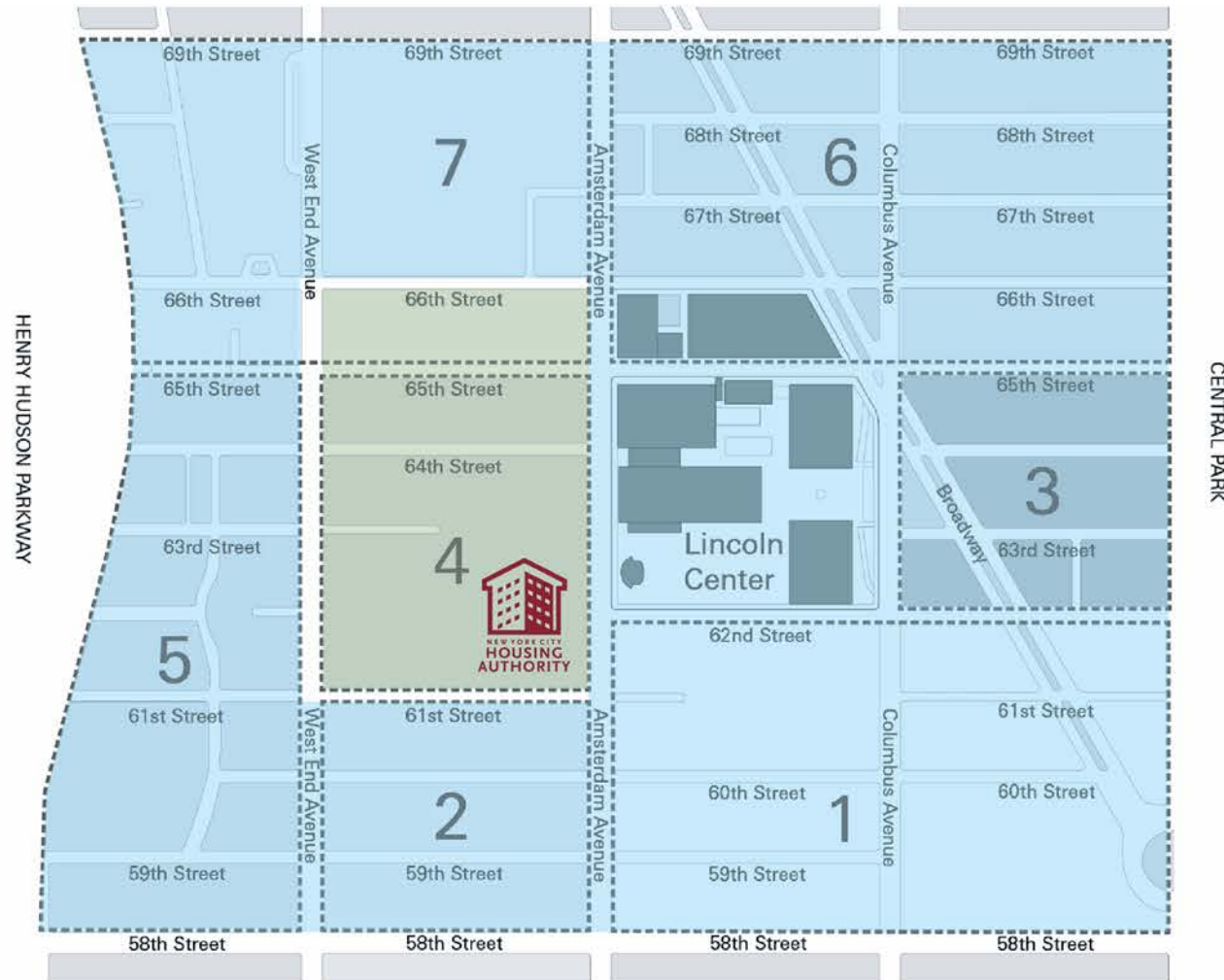
Please fill in the feedback sheets, thank you!

**PARTICIPATORY PROCESS**



# STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

*Within 10 minute walk of the Lincoln Center campus*



## WEST + EAST SIDE NEIGHBORS

- Hudson Guild's Amsterdam Center
- Lighthouse Guild
- Manhattan Together / Amsterdam Together
- Positive Influence Basketball & Creative Arts Program
- West End Secondary School
- Heschel School
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- NYCHA Harborview Terrace
- Congregation Habonim
- PS/IS 191 – The Riverside School for Makers and Artists
- Lincoln Square Synagogue
- Project Open at Lincoln Towers
- Lincoln Towers
- MLK Jr. Educational Campus
- Lincoln Square BID
- Fordham University
- St. Paul the Apostle Church
- Mount Sinai West
- New York Institute of Technology
- New York Society for Ethical Culture
- Redeemer Presbyterian
- West Side YMCA
- Good Shepherd-Faith Presbyterian Church
- Liberty Church Upper West Side
- Christ and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Landmark West!

## PRIMARY: NYCHA + HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- NYCHA Amsterdam Houses
- NYCHA Amsterdam Addition
- Goddard Riverside Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center (LSNC)
- Manhattan Hunter Science High School
- The High School for Law, Advocacy and Community Justice
- The High School for Arts and Technology
- The Urban Assembly Media High School
- The Special Music High School
- LaGuardia High School



# METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT + TIMELINE

June 2023 - Present

JUNE 2023  
ENGAGEMENT KICK-OFF

INTERVIEWS

SURVEY #1

NOV 2023  
PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS

FOCUS GROUPS

WORKSHOPS

MAR 2024  
DESIGN TEAM ANNOUNCED

SURVEY #2

WORKSHOPS

POP-UP ACTIVITIES + COMMUNITY EVENTS

6200+  
Interactions



3500+  
Survey  
Responses



500+  
Workshop  
Participants







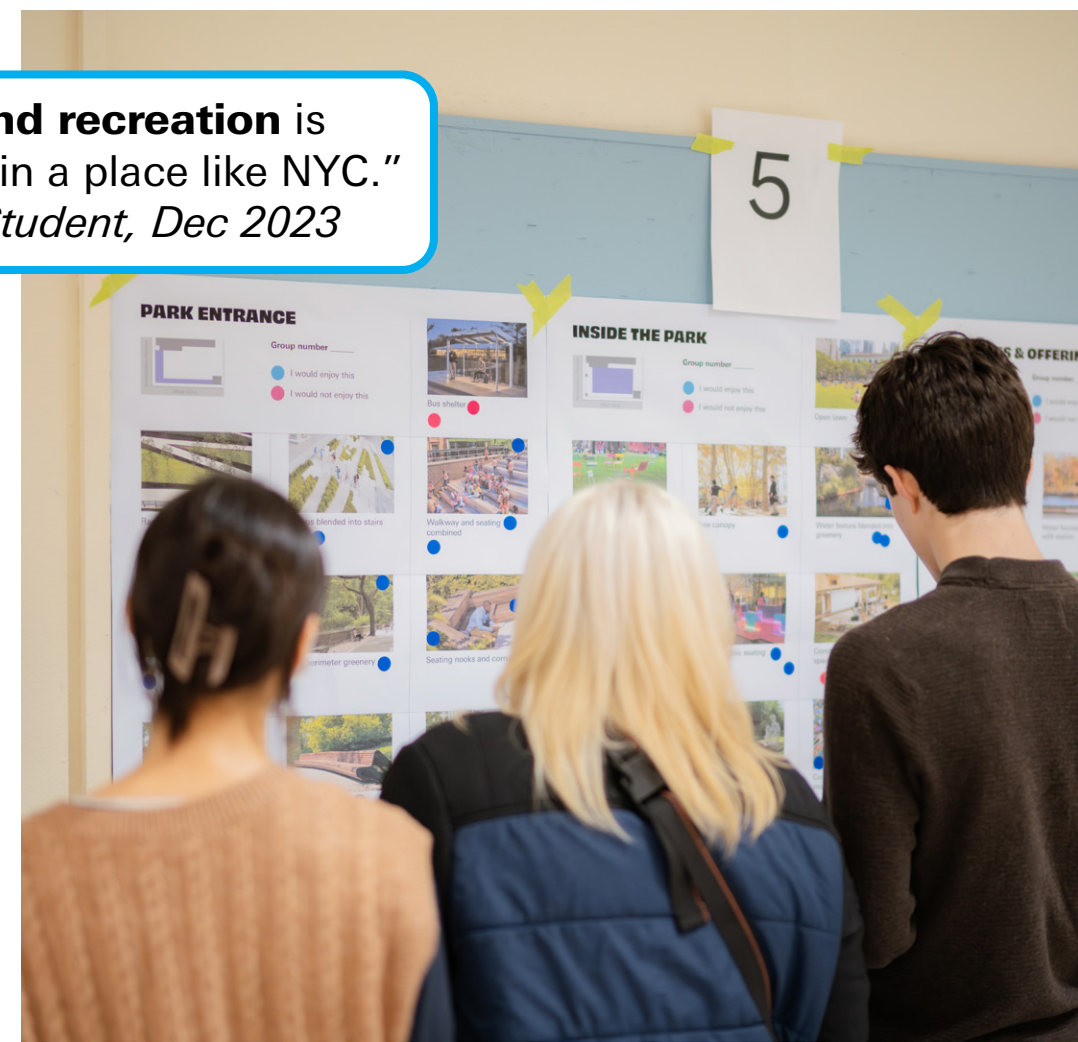
“We should also be talking about equity. **Is there a way that we can create a modern bandshell?**”  
— NYCHA Resident, Dec 2023



“Desire to have clear access to pathways, tables, and public restrooms within close walking proximity from the bus stop area.”  
— Workshop Participant, Mar 2023



“**A place for rest and recreation** is important especially in a place like NYC.”  
— High School Student, Dec 2023







W. 63 ST.  
ONE-WAY

PIZZERIA  
PIZZERIA · LA GREY'S · RESTAURANT

7up LUNCH  
LUNCHEONETTE

HISTORIC CONTEXT



# LEGACIES OF SAN JUAN HILL

In the first half of the twentieth century—prior to Lincoln Center’s construction—the neighborhood was a diverse, largely working-class community known as San Juan Hill.





## LEGACIES OF SAN JUAN HILL

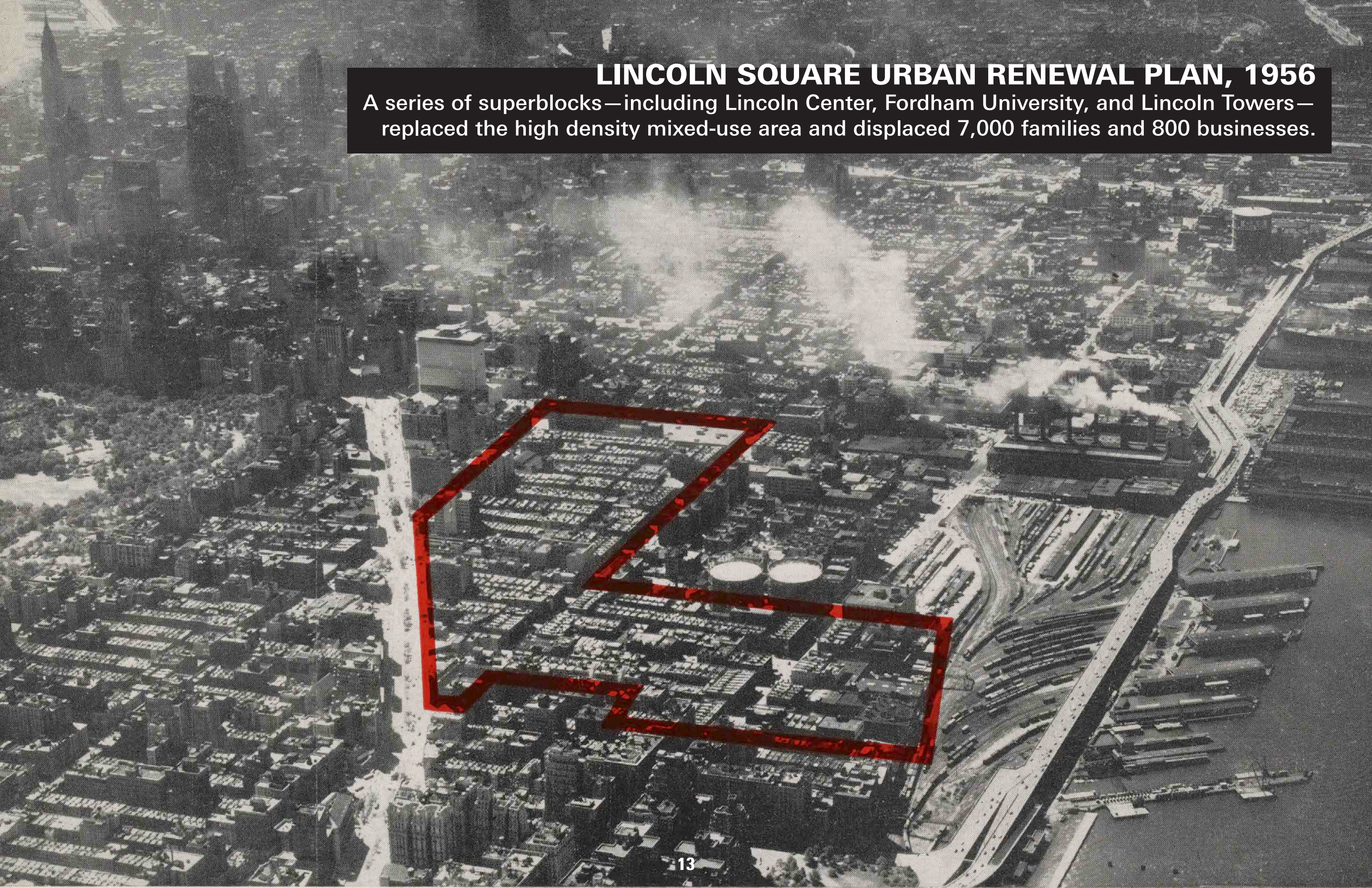
The neighborhood was a hub of cultural innovation; and its residents made significant contributions in music and art, journalism, social work, and other fields that still resonate today.





## LINCOLN SQUARE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN, 1956

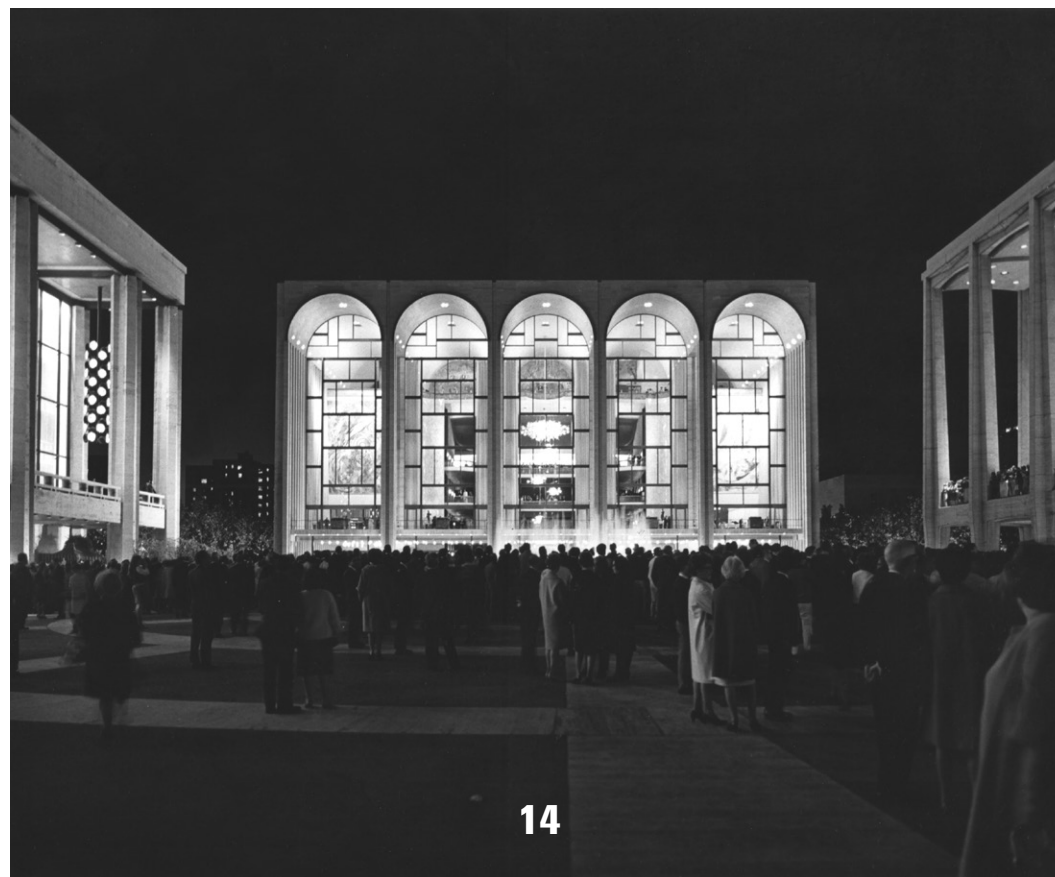
A series of superblocks—including Lincoln Center, Fordham University, and Lincoln Towers—replaced the high density mixed-use area and displaced 7,000 families and 800 businesses.





# MODERNISM AT LINCOLN CENTER

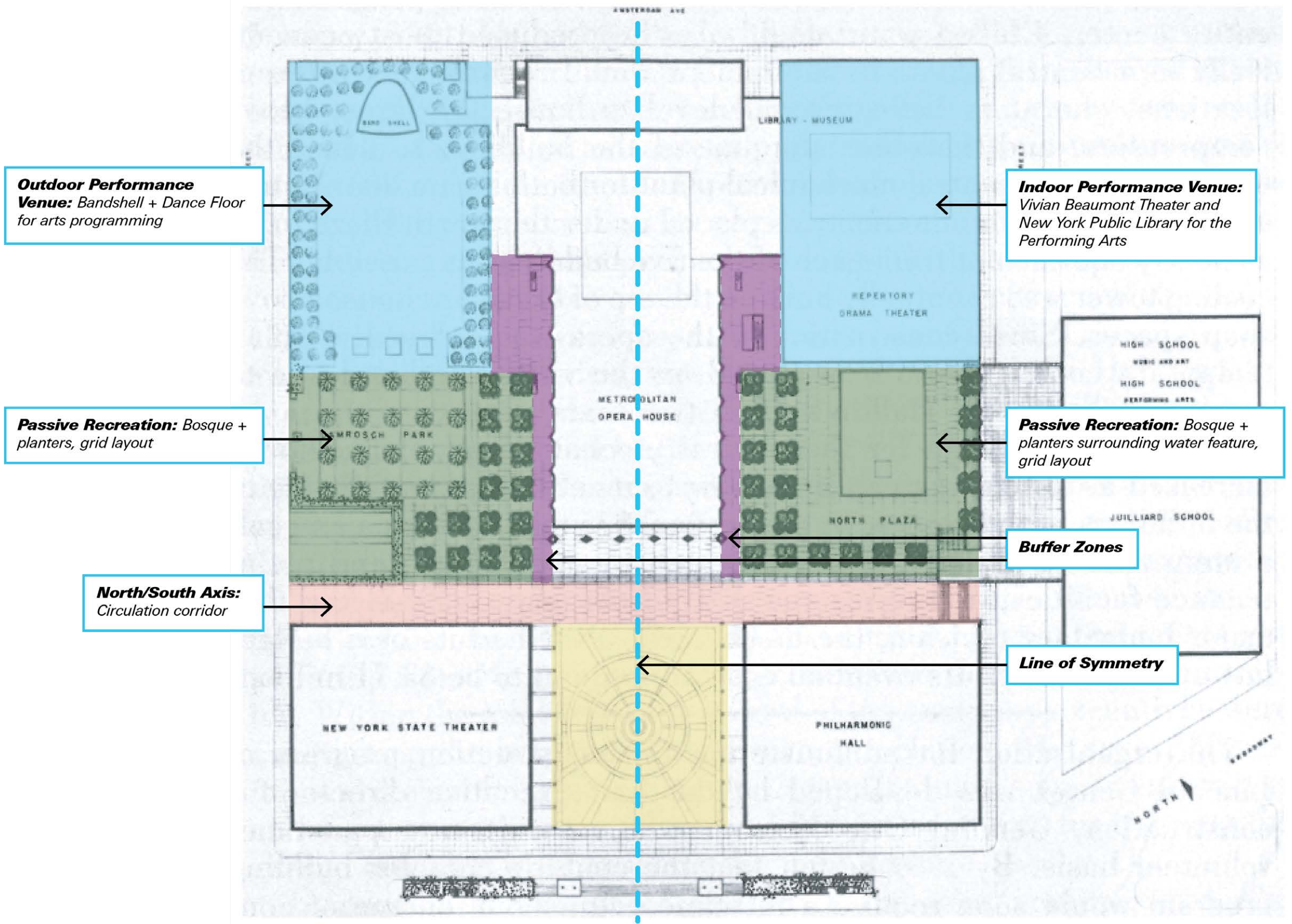
Strong geometric forms echoed in both the architecture and landscape. Important balance of void and massing/form in the interplay between landscape and architecture across the Lincoln Center campus.





# 1969 UNIFIED CAMPUS COMPOSITION

Character-defining features of the Lincoln Center campus



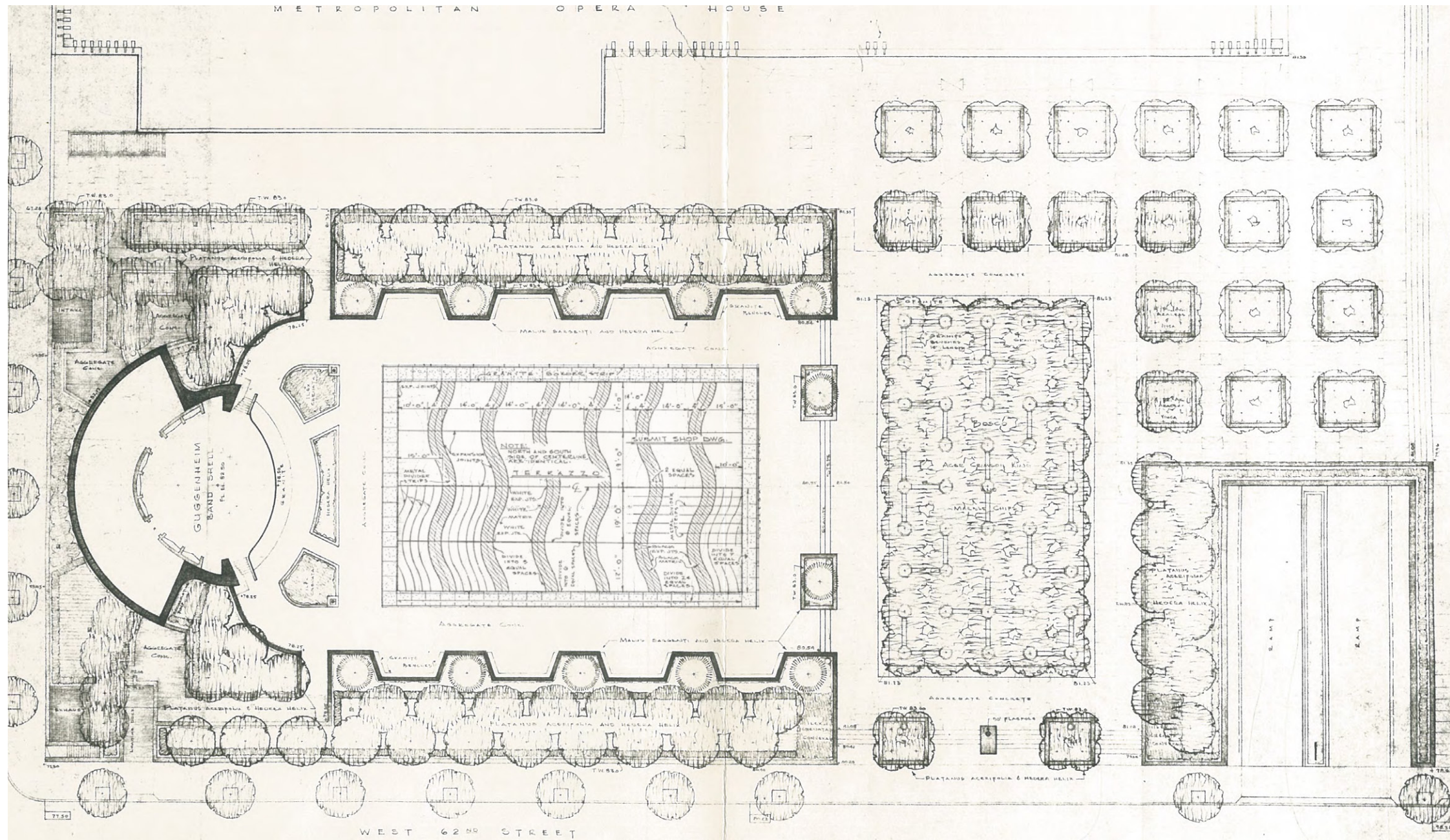
CA. 1962 SITE PLAN (LC: The Building of an Institution, p141)



# A MODERNIST PERFORMANCE PARK

Landscape architect Dan Kiley's influence is visible in the design of Damrosch Park. The Park's design by architects Eggers and Higgins and the Bandshell's dramatic sculptural form **represent a contrast to the other buildings on campus**, which are more rigid in their architectural expression.

The Park's design is experienced through the understory of tree canopies and the main stage is flanked by two major tree bosques that frame performances at Damrosch Park.



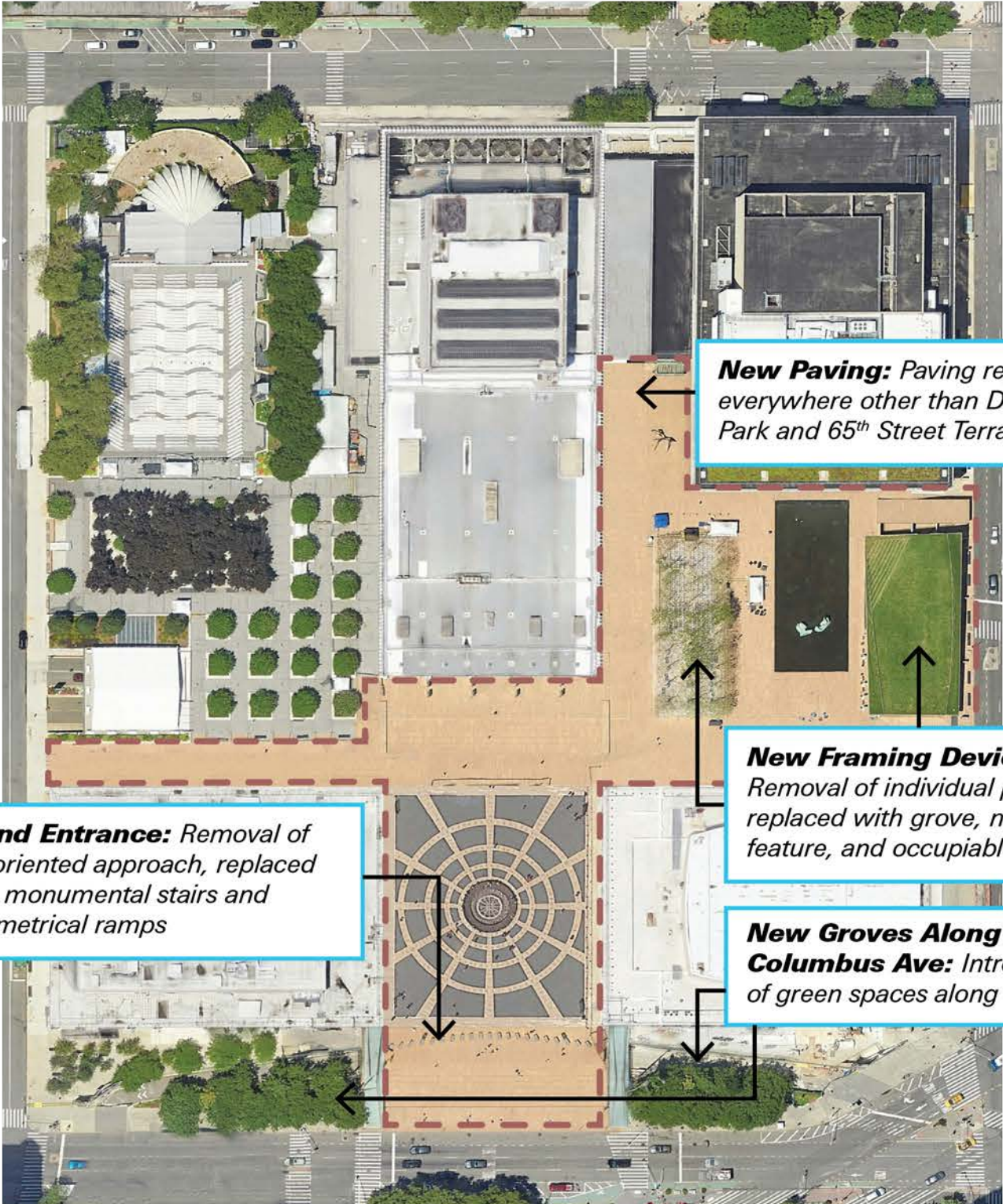


# CHANGES OVER TIME

Evolution of the Lincoln Center Campus



2006 Aerial

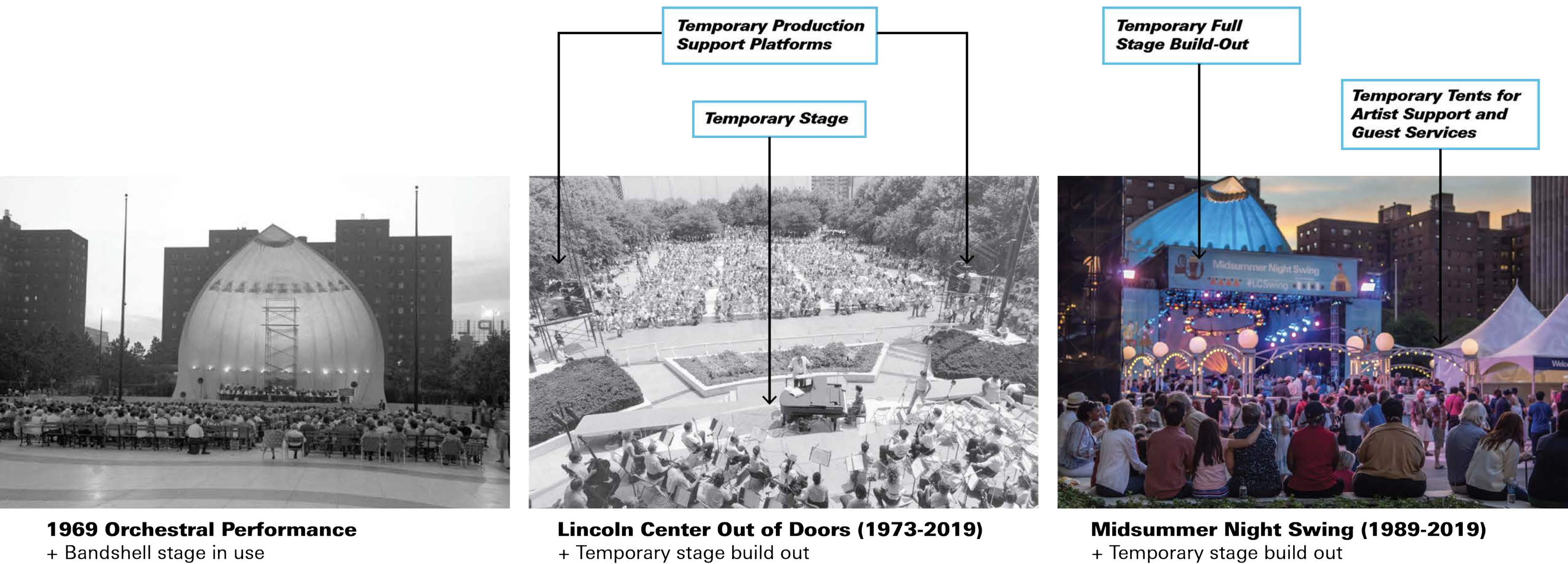


2023 Aerial



# CULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Evolution of programming and use of space





For those approaching from Amsterdam Avenue, the **Lincoln Center campus seemingly turns its back to its closest neighbors**—with a high wall at Damrosch Park.



**13 Feet Tall**

**55 Feet Tall**

**7 Feet Tall**





**EXISTING CONDITIONS**



# FREE SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Temporary conditions limit passive use of the Park April through September





# BIG APPLE CIRCUS

Temporary infrastructure closes off Park October through February





# APPROACH FROM 62<sup>ND</sup> STREET ALONG AMSTERDAM AVENUE

No visibility or direct access into Damrosch Park from the street

“The wall feels like a barrier separating the complex from the NYCHA buildings. **It literally looks like Lincoln Center is turning its back on anywhere west of the Amsterdam Ave wall.**”

—Workshop Participant, Nov 2023





# GARAGE ENTRANCES ALONG AMSTERDAM AVENUE

Message of exclusion facing residents to the west of Lincoln Center



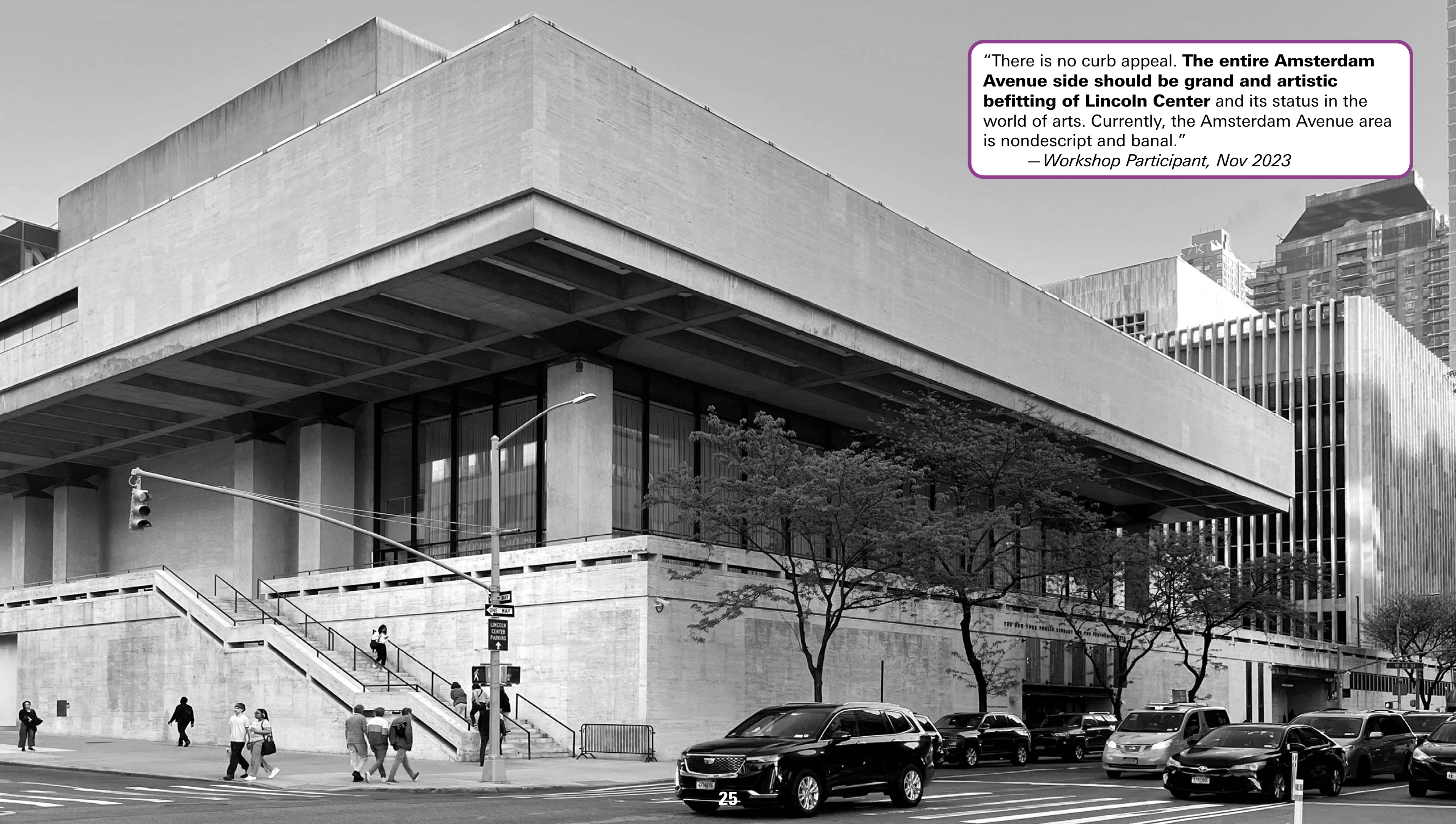


# APPROACH FROM 65<sup>TH</sup> STREET ALONG AMSTERDAM AVENUE

20' tall wall with limited transparency

"There is no curb appeal. **The entire Amsterdam Avenue side should be grand and artistic befitting of Lincoln Center** and its status in the world of arts. Currently, the Amsterdam Avenue area is nondescript and banal."

— Workshop Participant, Nov 2023



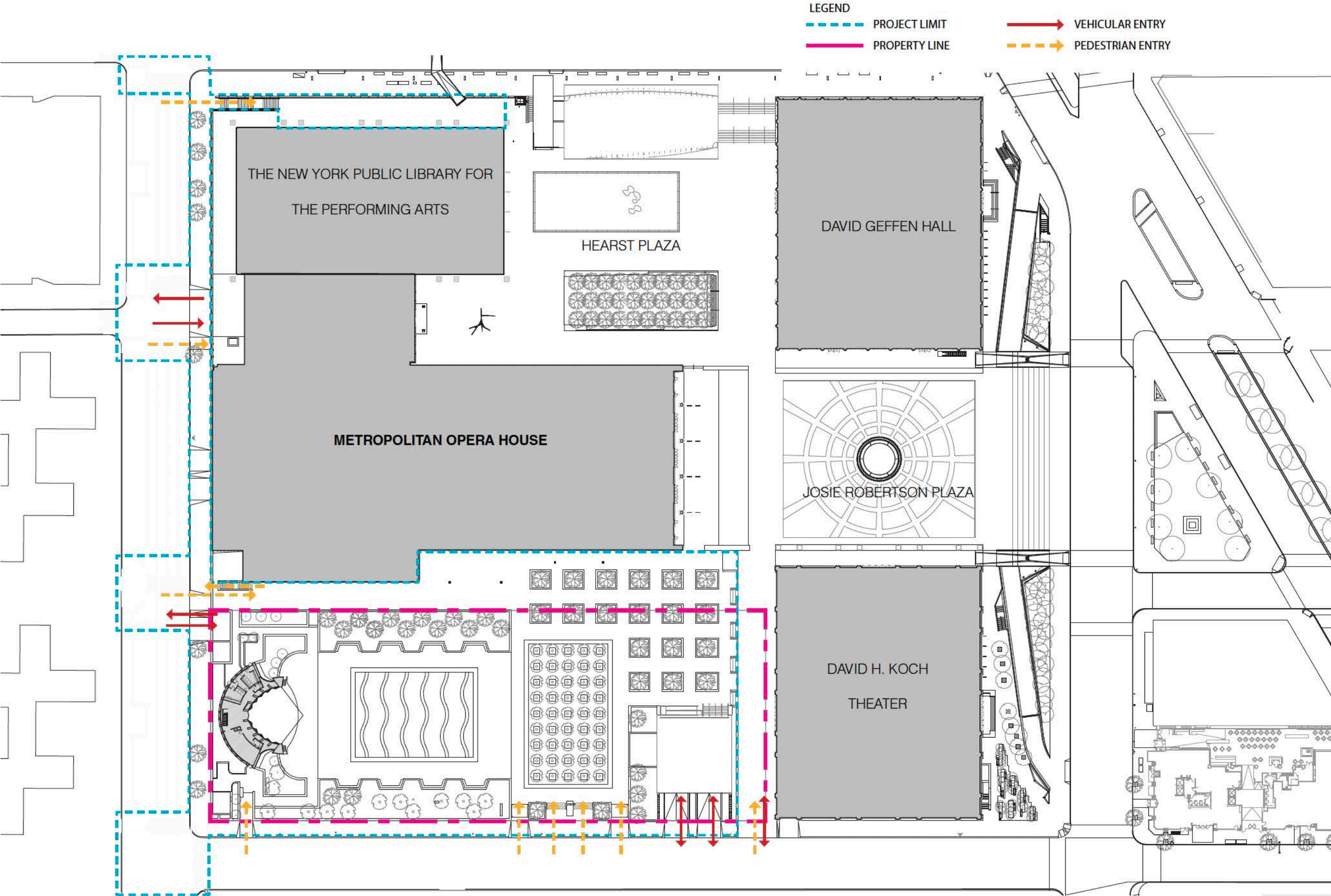




**THE TRANSFORMATION: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS**



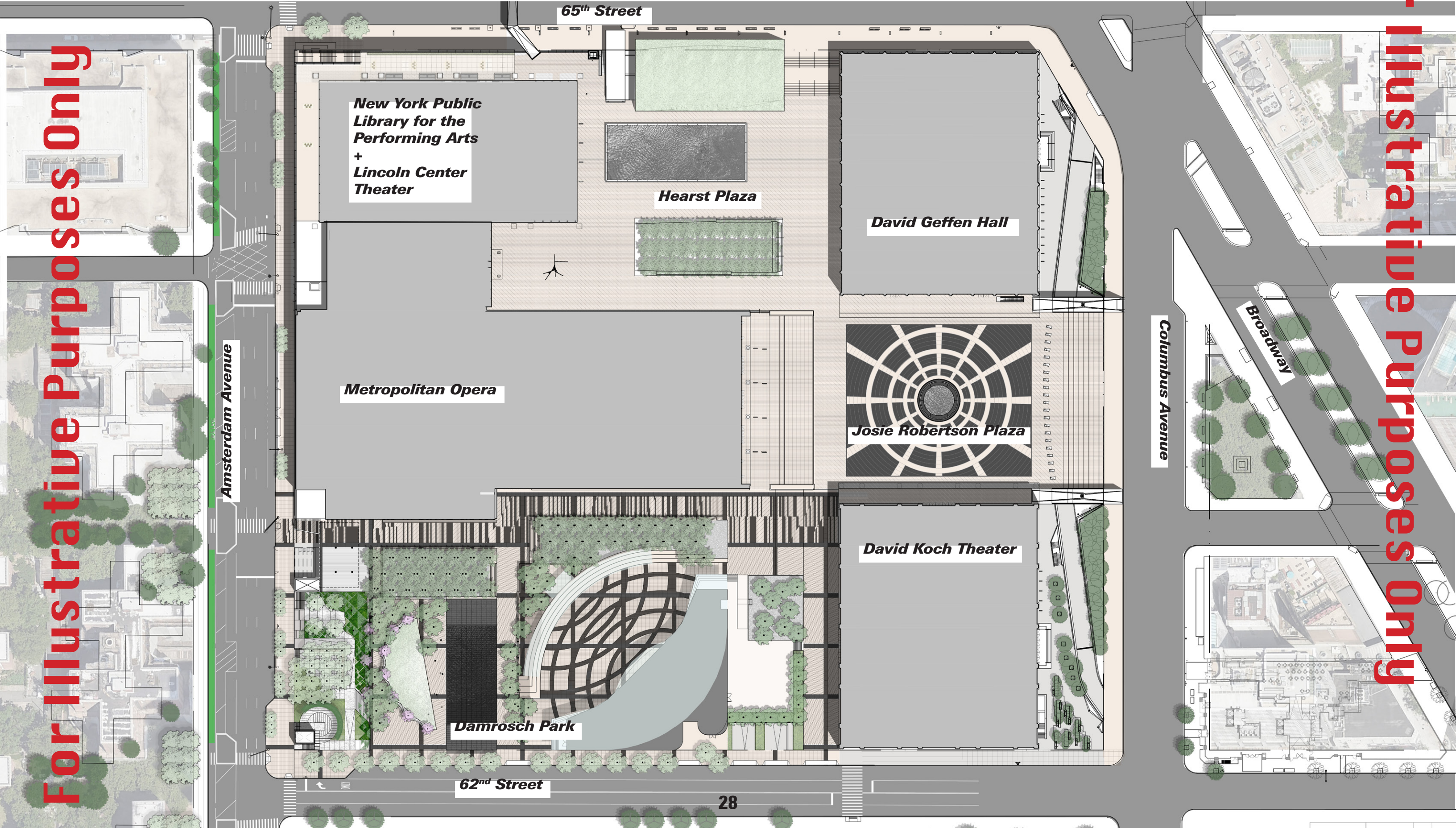
# EXISTING CAMPUS SITE PLAN





# PROPOSED CAMPUS SITE PLAN

A new, inviting Amsterdam Avenue entrance for all and a new world-class outdoor performance park



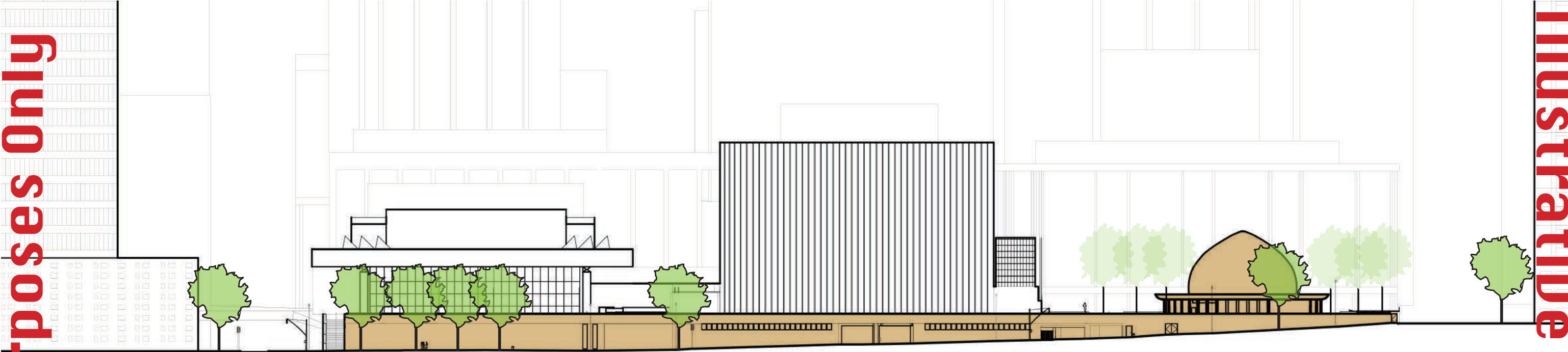
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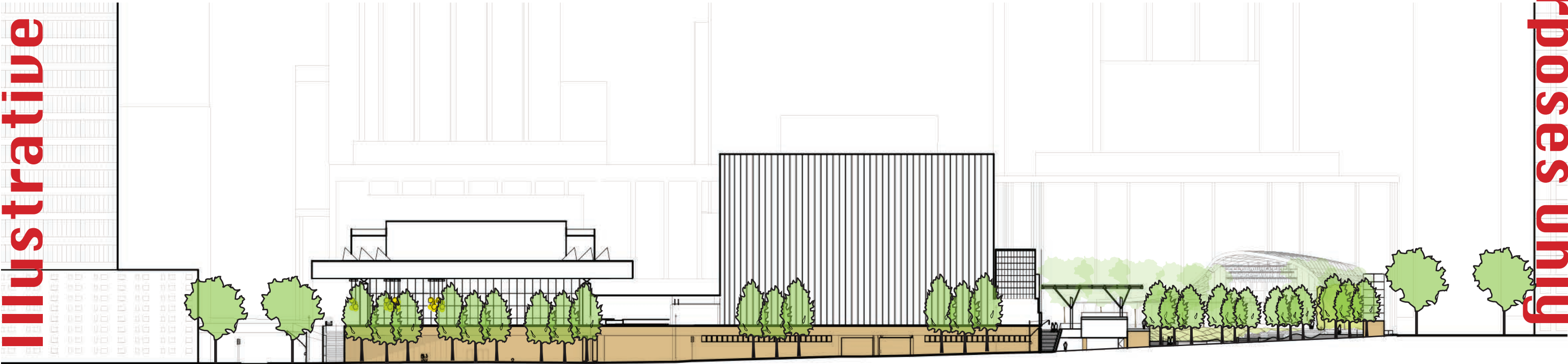


# GREENING OF AMSTERDAM AVENUE

Removes the wall at Damrosch Park to create a porous streetscape; introduces greater activation along the superblock



EXISTING



PROPOSED

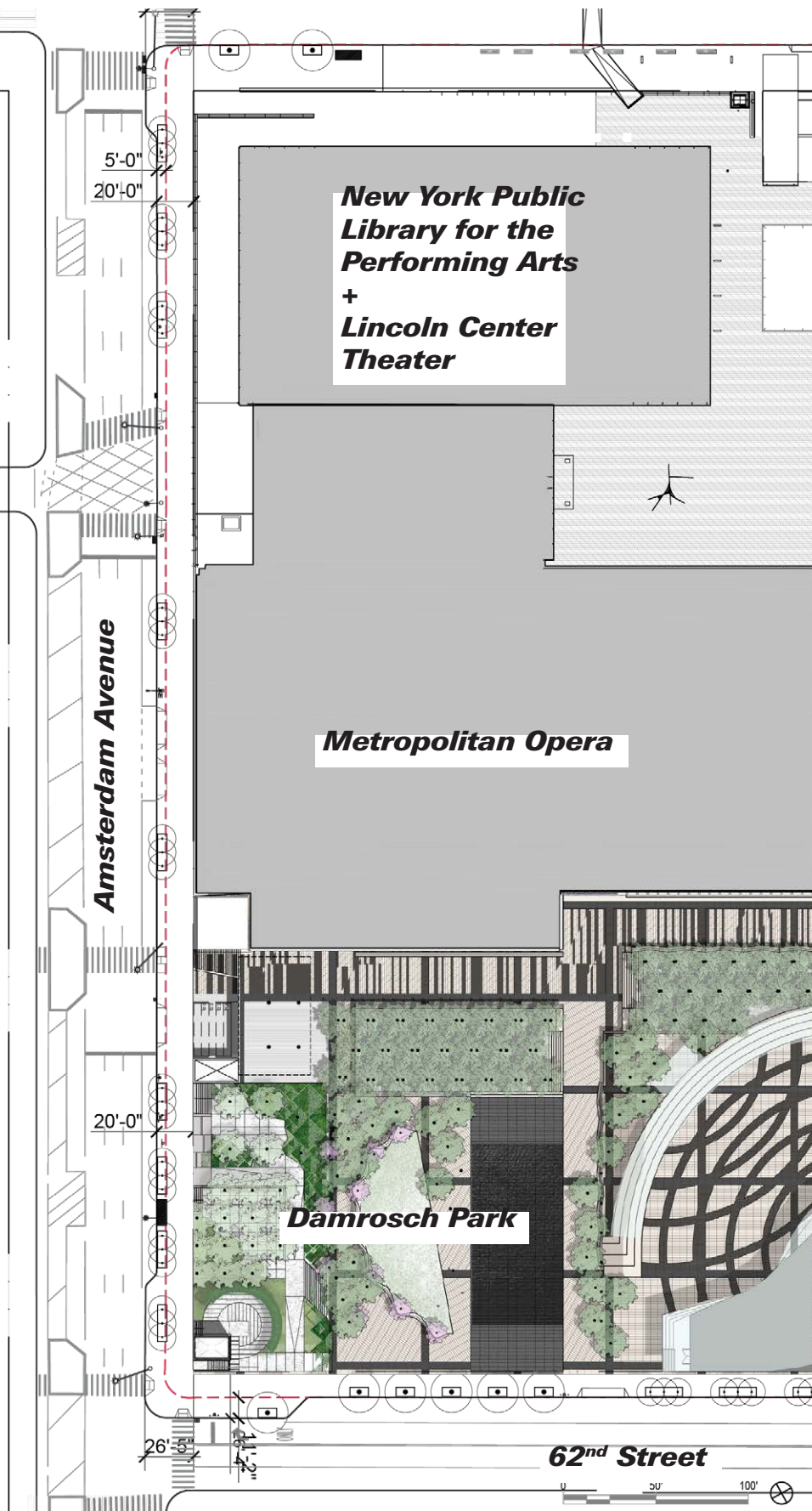
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# PROPOSED STREETScape SCOPE

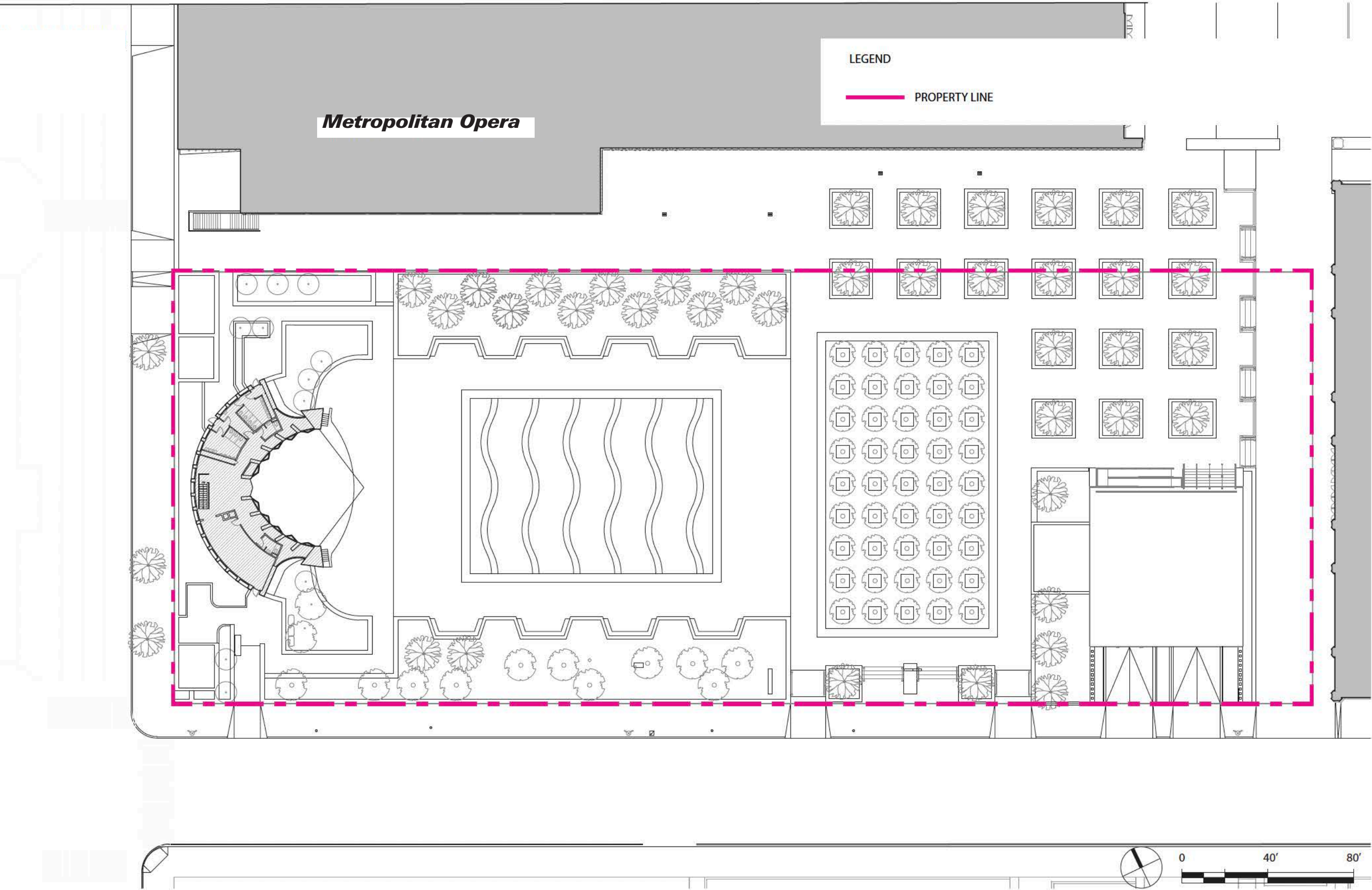
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- + **5' expansion of sidewalk** between 62<sup>nd</sup> St and 65<sup>th</sup> St on east side of Amsterdam Ave; 13' bulb-outs at 62<sup>nd</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> corners
- + **New street trees along sidewalk edge**
- + **New street furniture along sidewalk edge** including benches, lighting, wayfinding signage, improved bus stop, etc.
- + **Paving to match Lincoln Center superblock**
- + Crosswalks, light poles, traffic lights on Amsterdam Avenue to remain

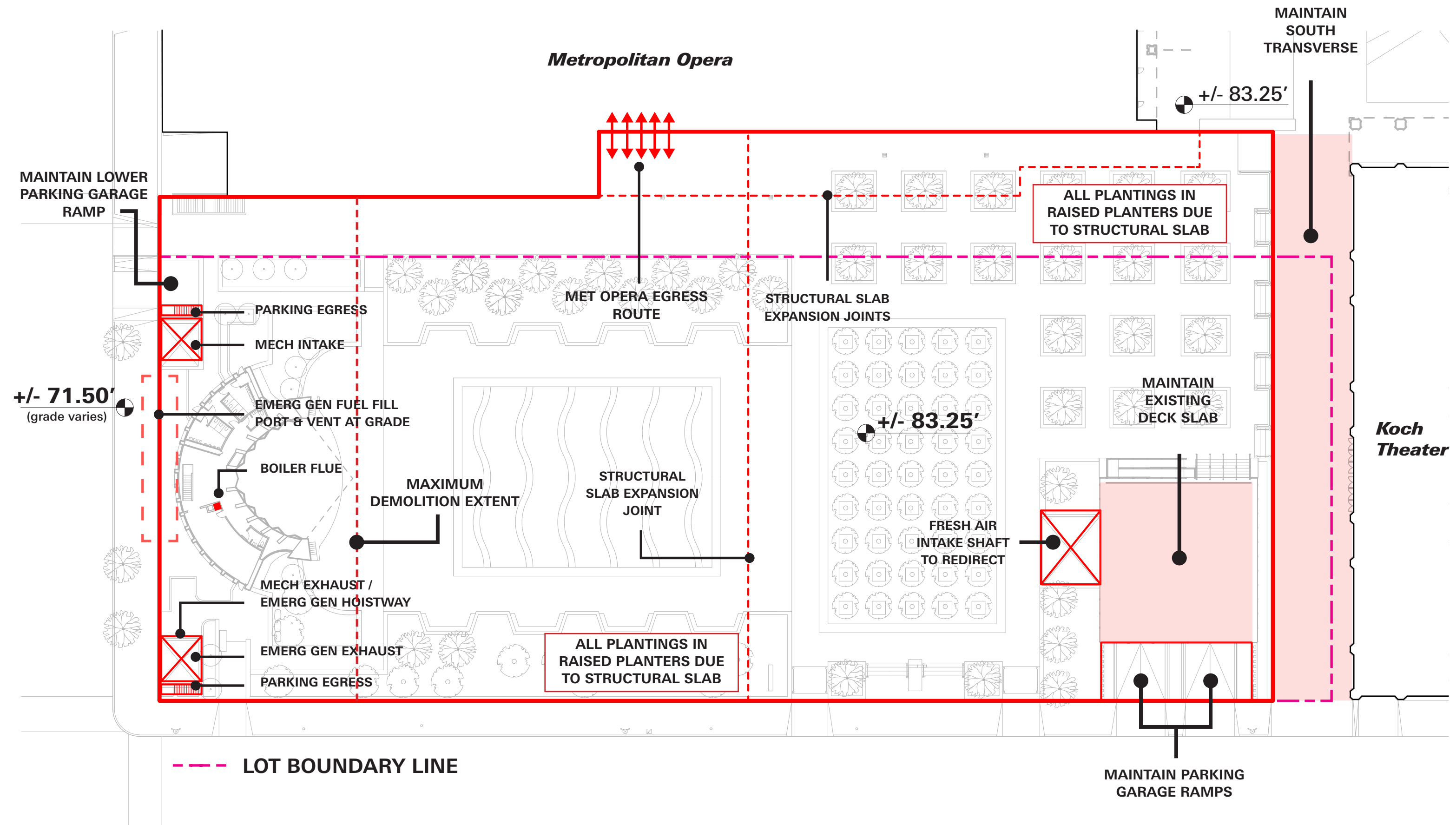


# EXISTING DAMROSCH SITE PLAN





# DAMROSCH PARK SITE CONSTRAINTS

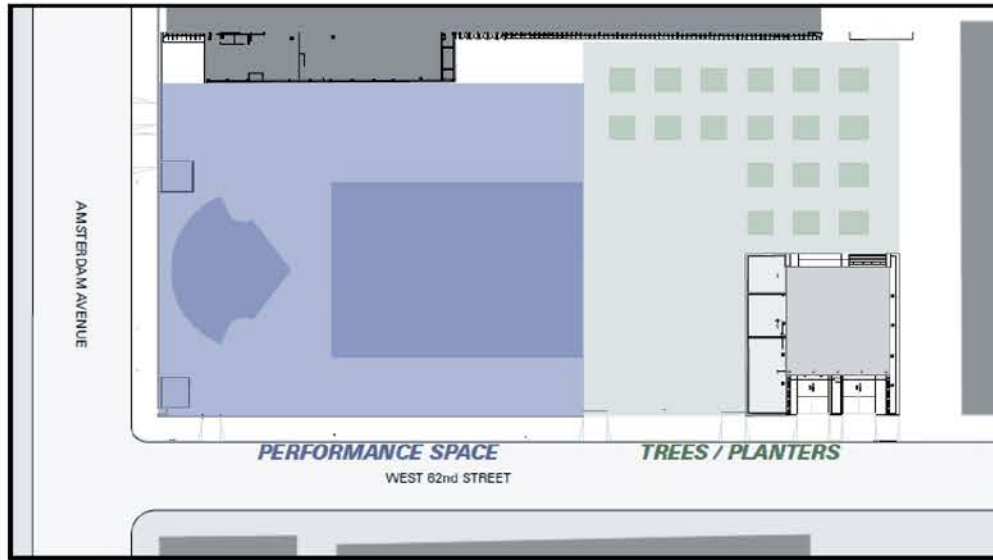


SCALE - 1" = 40'-0"  
AT 11" X 17"



# PLANNING PHASE CONCLUSIONS

Today's Damrosch Park falls short on serving as both a site for recreation and a performance park



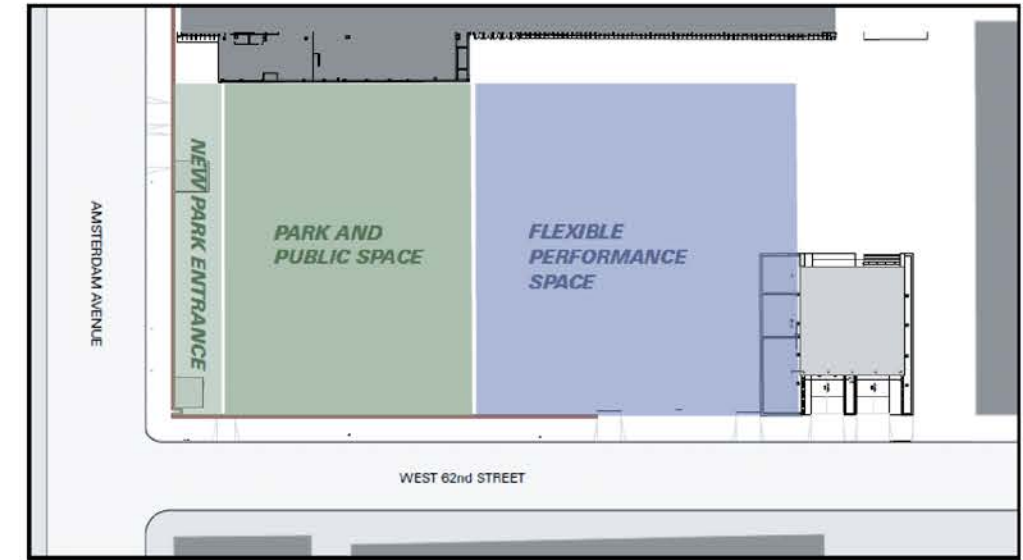
## EXISTING SITE PLAN

- *Turns its back to Amsterdam Avenue*
- *Limited simultaneous performance + park use*
- *Limited seating*
- *Limited shade*
- *Limited accessibility for support spaces*
- *Infrastructure beyond useful life*
- *Unwelcoming/inaccessible open expanse of concrete plaza*



## SHIFT PERFORMANCE AREA

- *Eliminates need for the Wall*
- *Shifts performances closer to other Lincoln Center venues*
- *Allows simultaneous park and performance uses*
- *Tightens area for secure event mode*



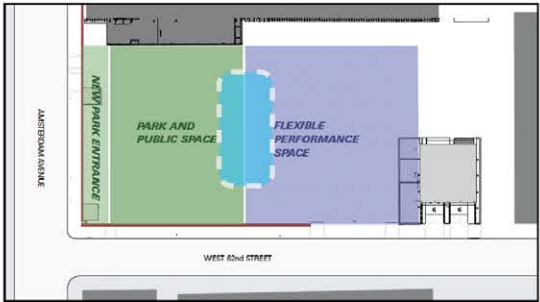
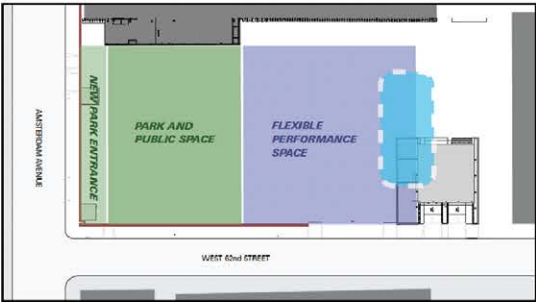
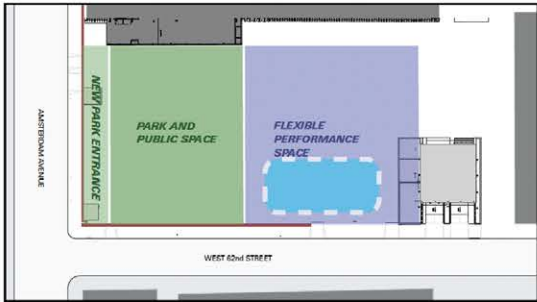
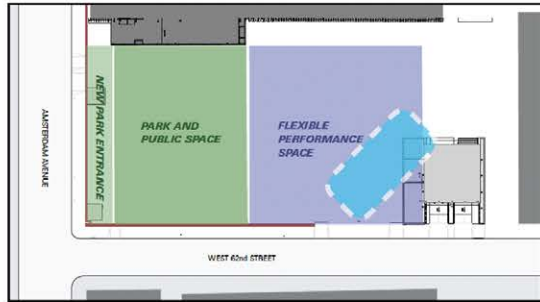
## BRING THE PARK TO THE STREET

- *Direct connection between Amsterdam Avenue and recreation area*
- *Visual openness and message of welcome*
- *Entire park can be used by the public*



# PROPOSED PERFORMANCE VENUE LOCATION + ORIENTATION

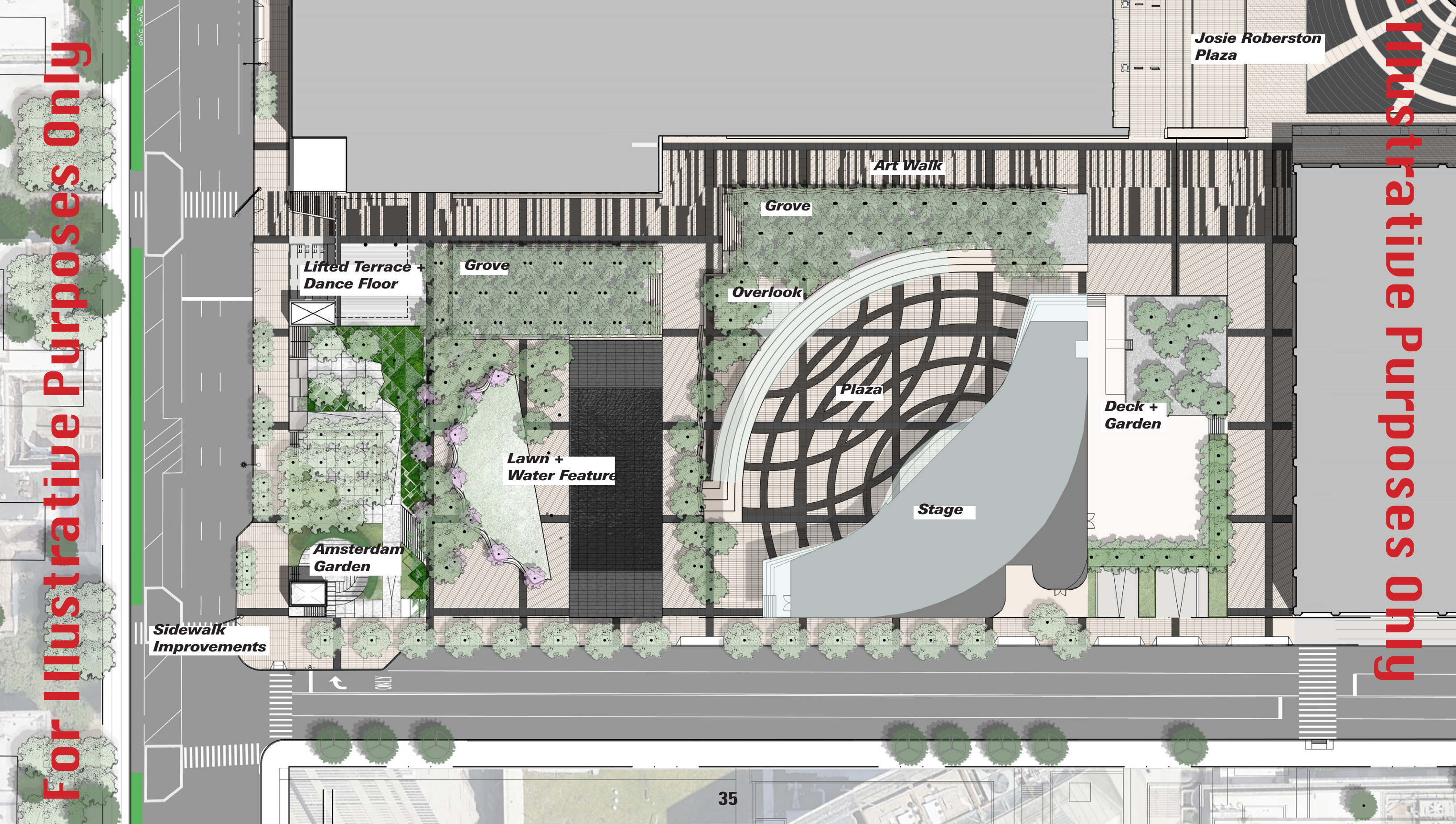
Create a new performance venue that will meet contemporary artist/audience needs and accessibility needs

|   | CENTER STAGE   | EAST STAGE  | SOUTH STAGE   | SOUTHEAST STAGE   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|   |  |  |  |  |
| Simultaneous Park and Performance uses                      | ✗  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |
| Eliminate Barriers from Amsterdam Ave + 62 <sup>nd</sup> St | ✓  | ✓   | ✗   | ✓   |
| Relationship to Josie Robertson Plaza                       | ✗  | ✗   | ✓   | ✓   |
| Accessible/Improved Support Spaces                          | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |
| Acoustics + Sound Mitigation                                | ✓  | ✗   | ✗   | ✓   |
| Solar Exposure + Heat Mitigation on Stage                   | ✗  | ✗   | ✓   | ✓   |



# PROPOSED DAMROSCH PARK SCOPE

Replaces the uninviting concrete expanse of Damrosch Park with flexible spaces for recreation and performance

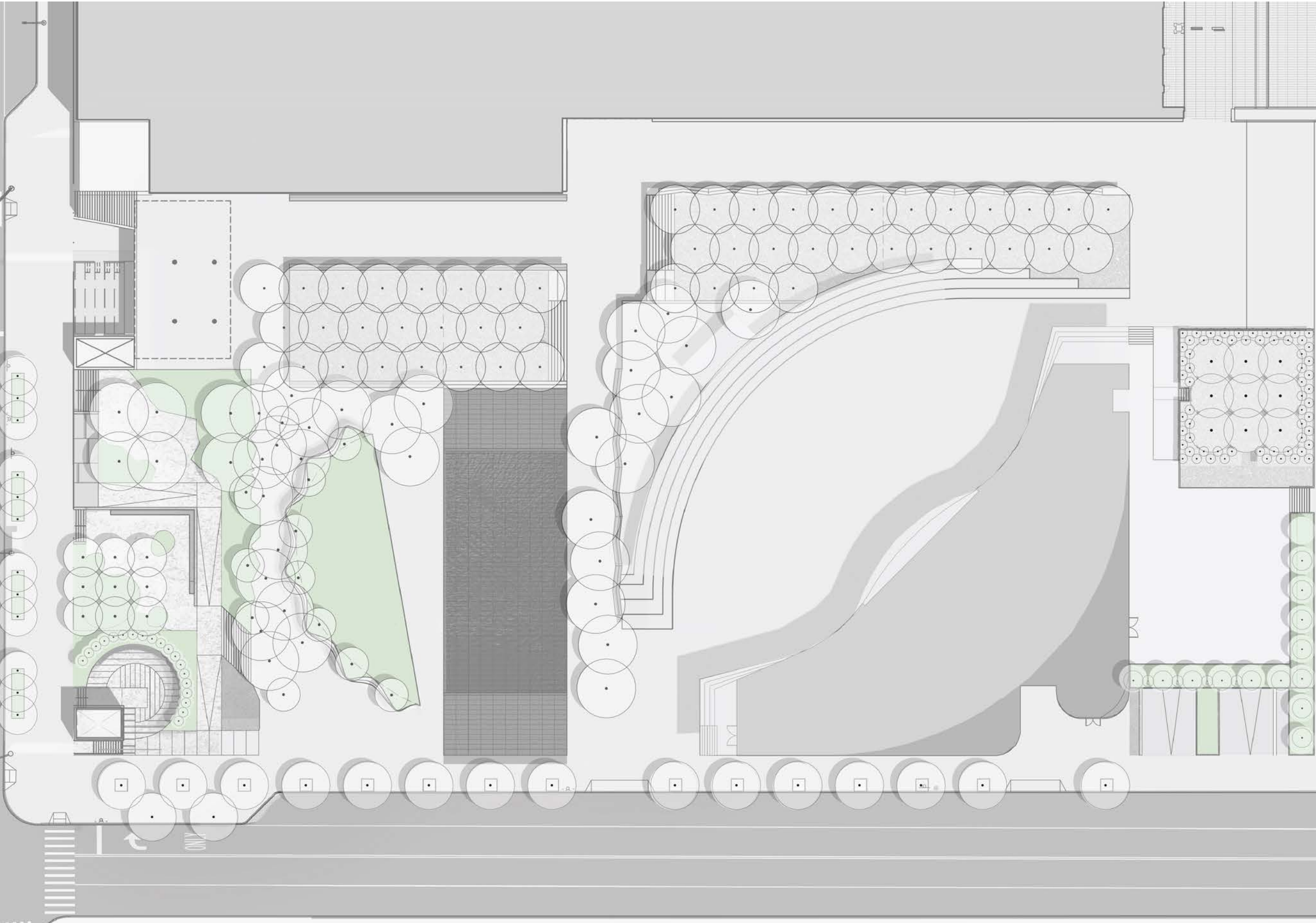




# PROPOSED DAMROSCH PARK SCOPE

Replaces the uninviting concrete expanse of Damrosch Park with flexible spaces for recreation and performance

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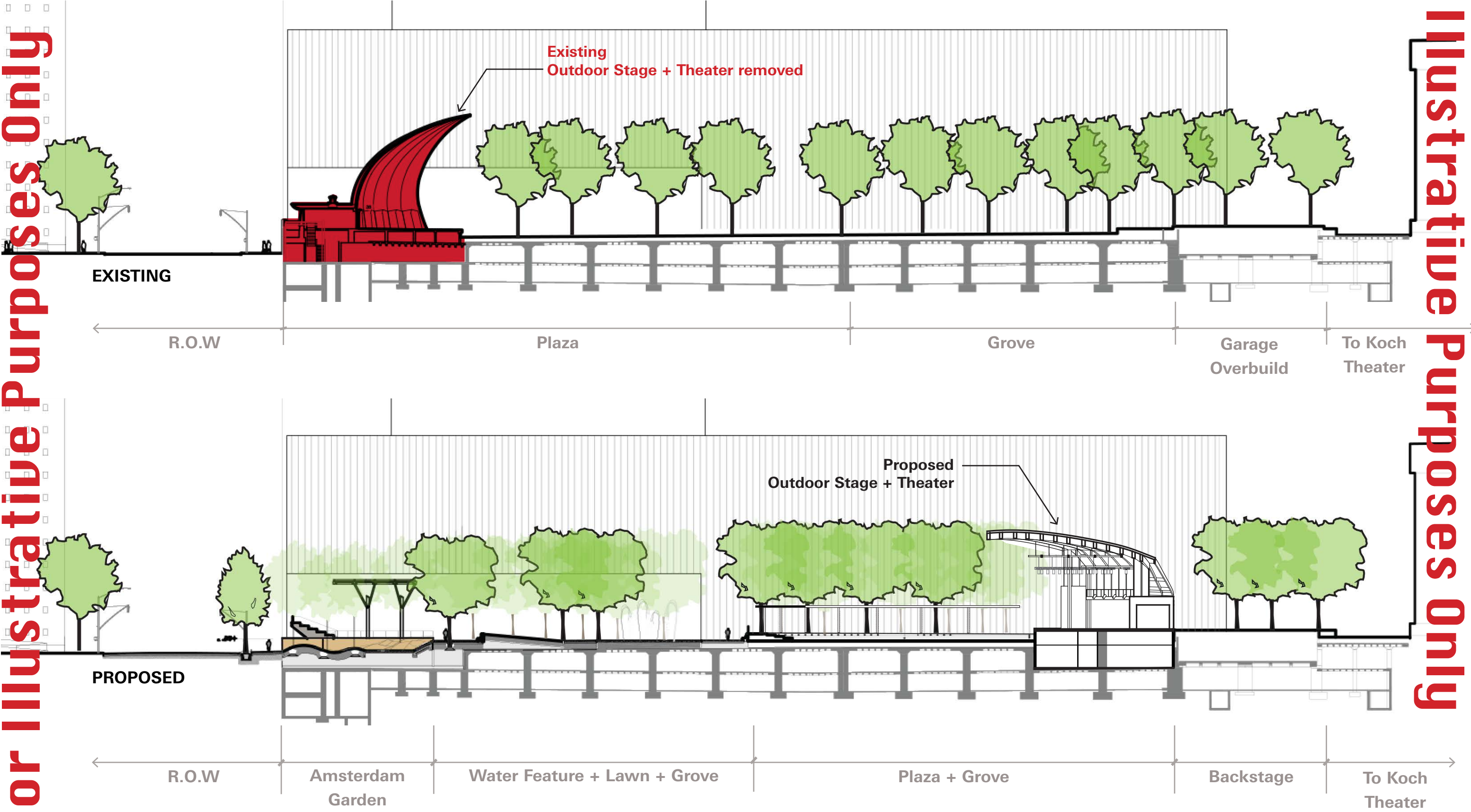


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# BRINGING THE PARK TO THE STREET

Removes the wall at Damrosch Park; opens the entire park to Amsterdam Avenue



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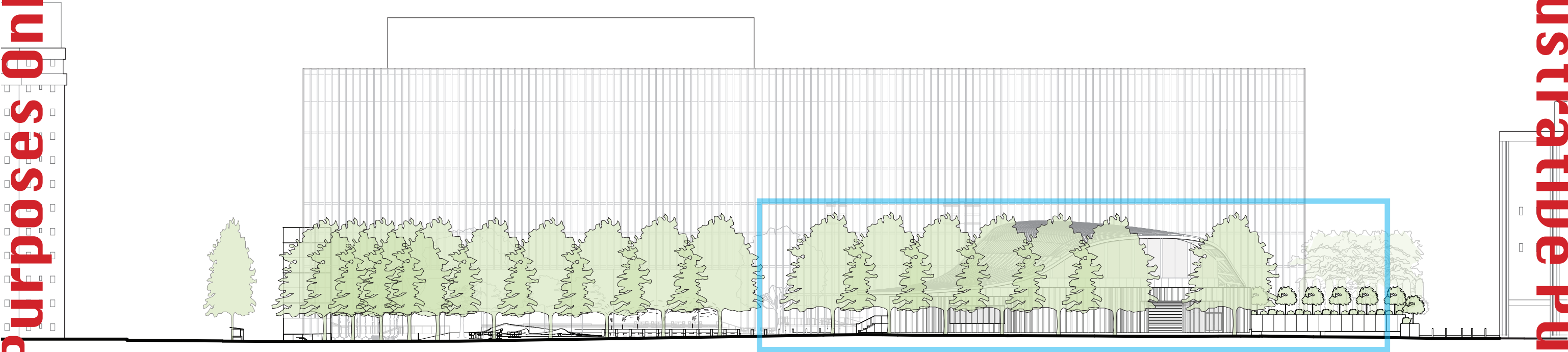


# NEW FACADE ON 62<sup>ND</sup> STREET

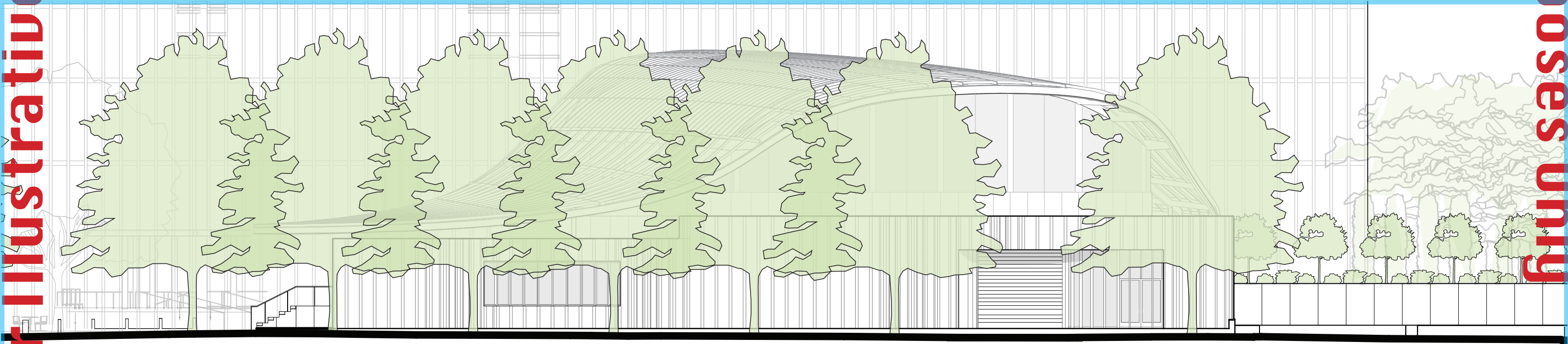
Removes the wall at Damrosch Park; introduces undulating facade near Koch Theater

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PROPOSED STREET ELEVATION

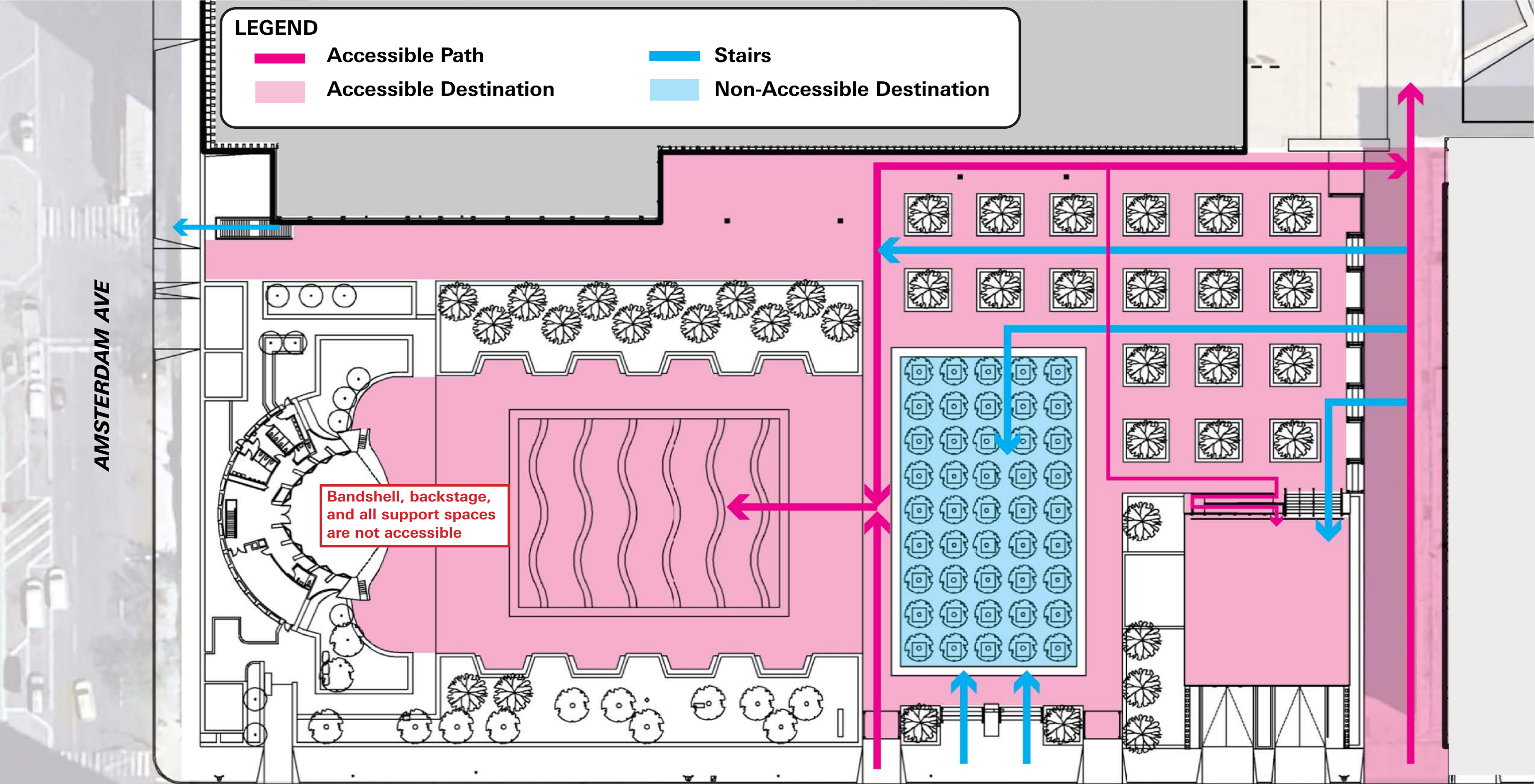


PROPOSED CLOSE-UP OF THEATER FACADE



# CURRENT SITE ACCESS + CIRCULATION

No access from Amsterdam Avenue, very limited daily use by community



Bandshell, backstage,  
and all support spaces  
are not accessible

AMSTERDAM AVE

62<sup>ND</sup> STREET

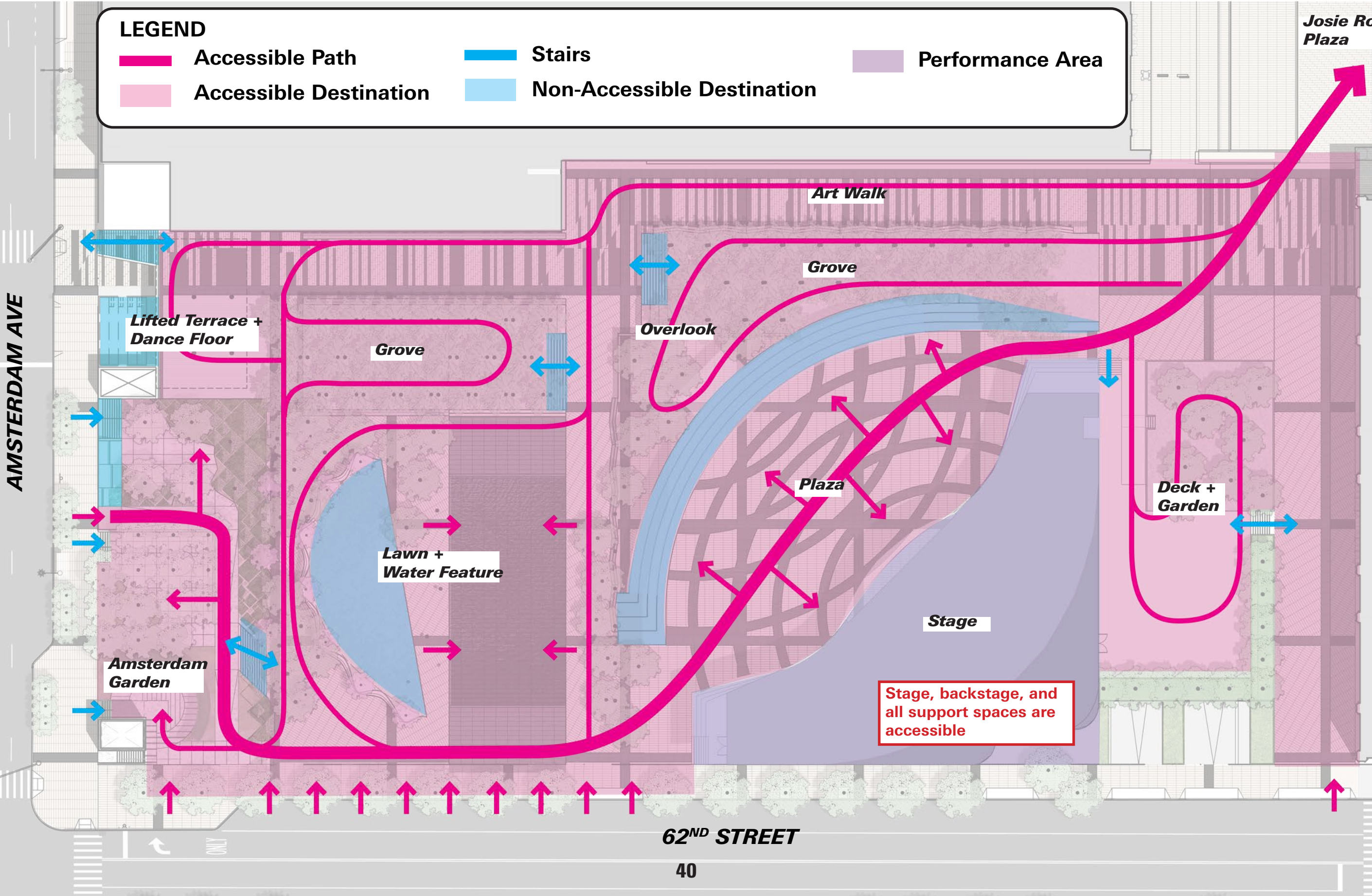


# DAILY SITE ACCESS + CIRCULATION

East/west circulation through entire site

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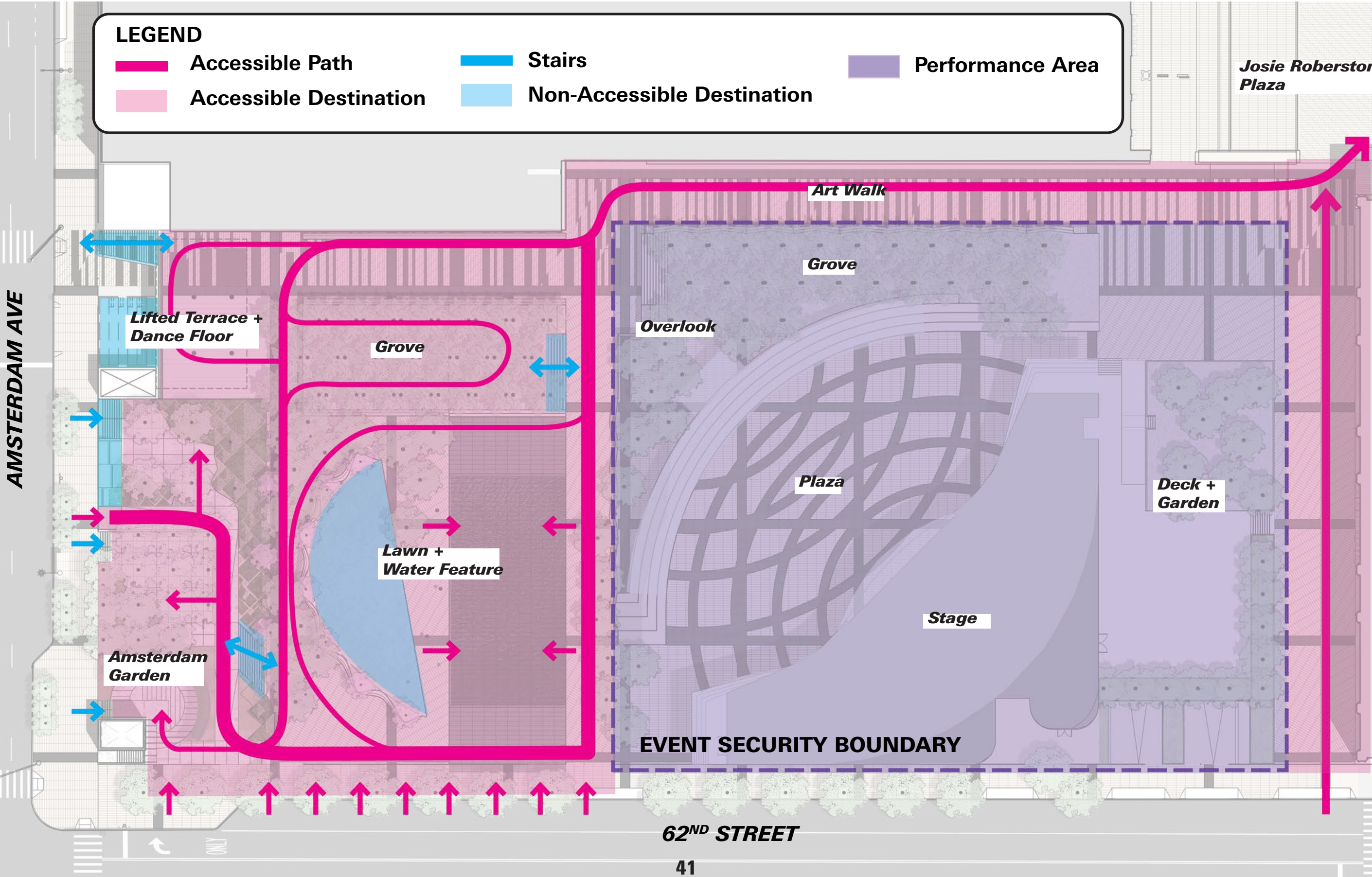


# EVENT SITE ACCESS + CIRCULATION

Park stays open to the public

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# MATERIAL + PLANTING PALETTE

## PAVING



## BUILDING MATERIALS



## DAMROSCH PARK WALLS AND BENCHES



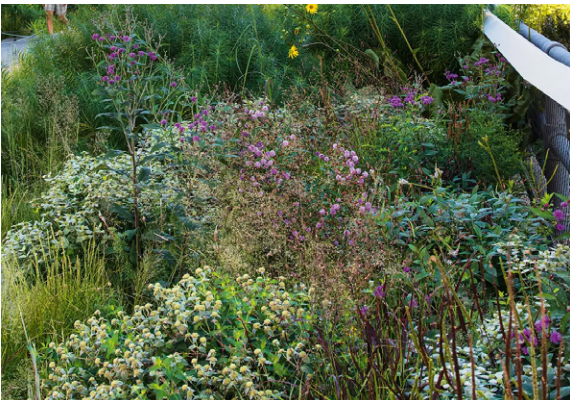
## GROVE TREES



## GARDEN TREES

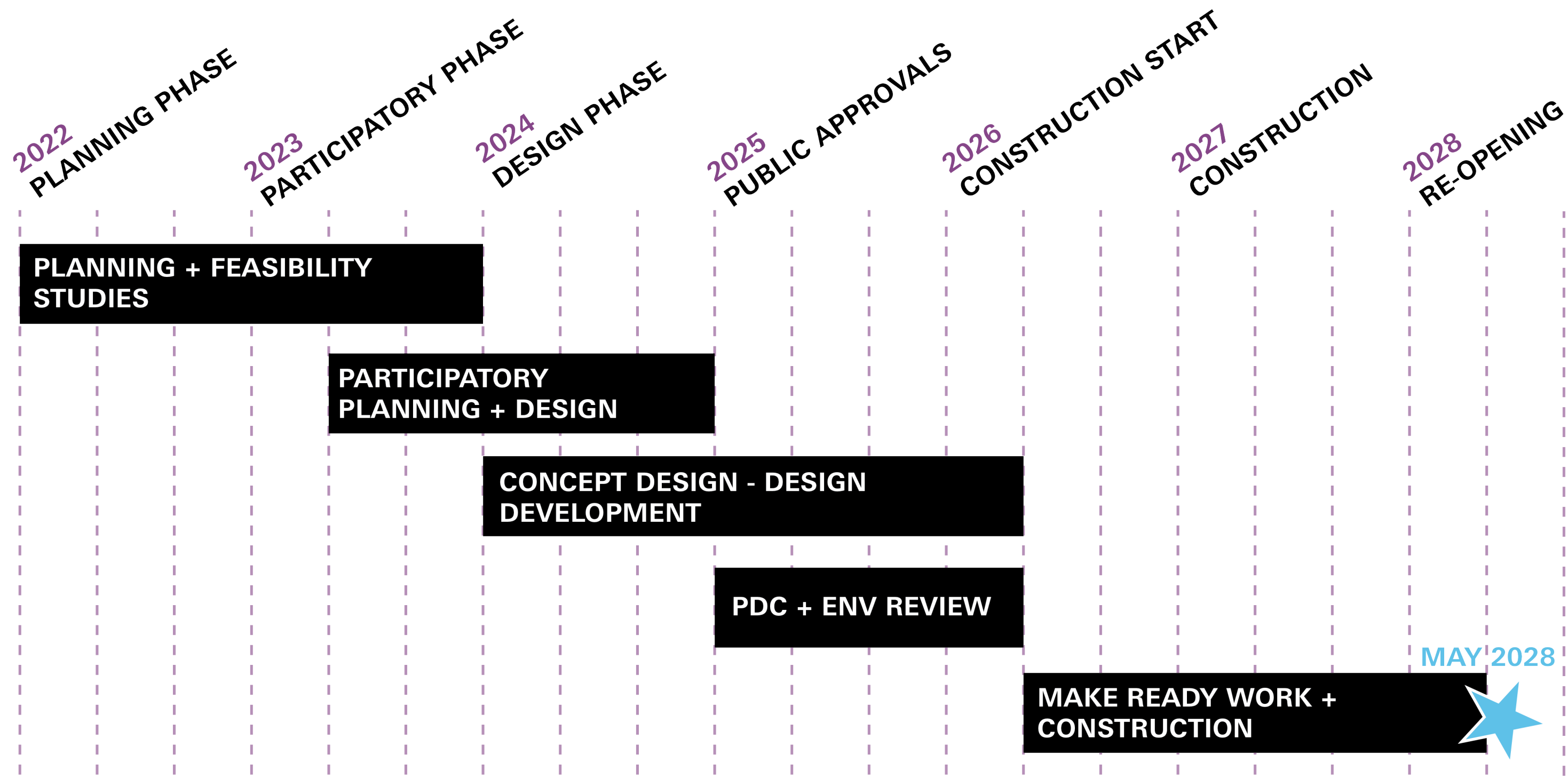


## GARDEN PLANT CHARACTER



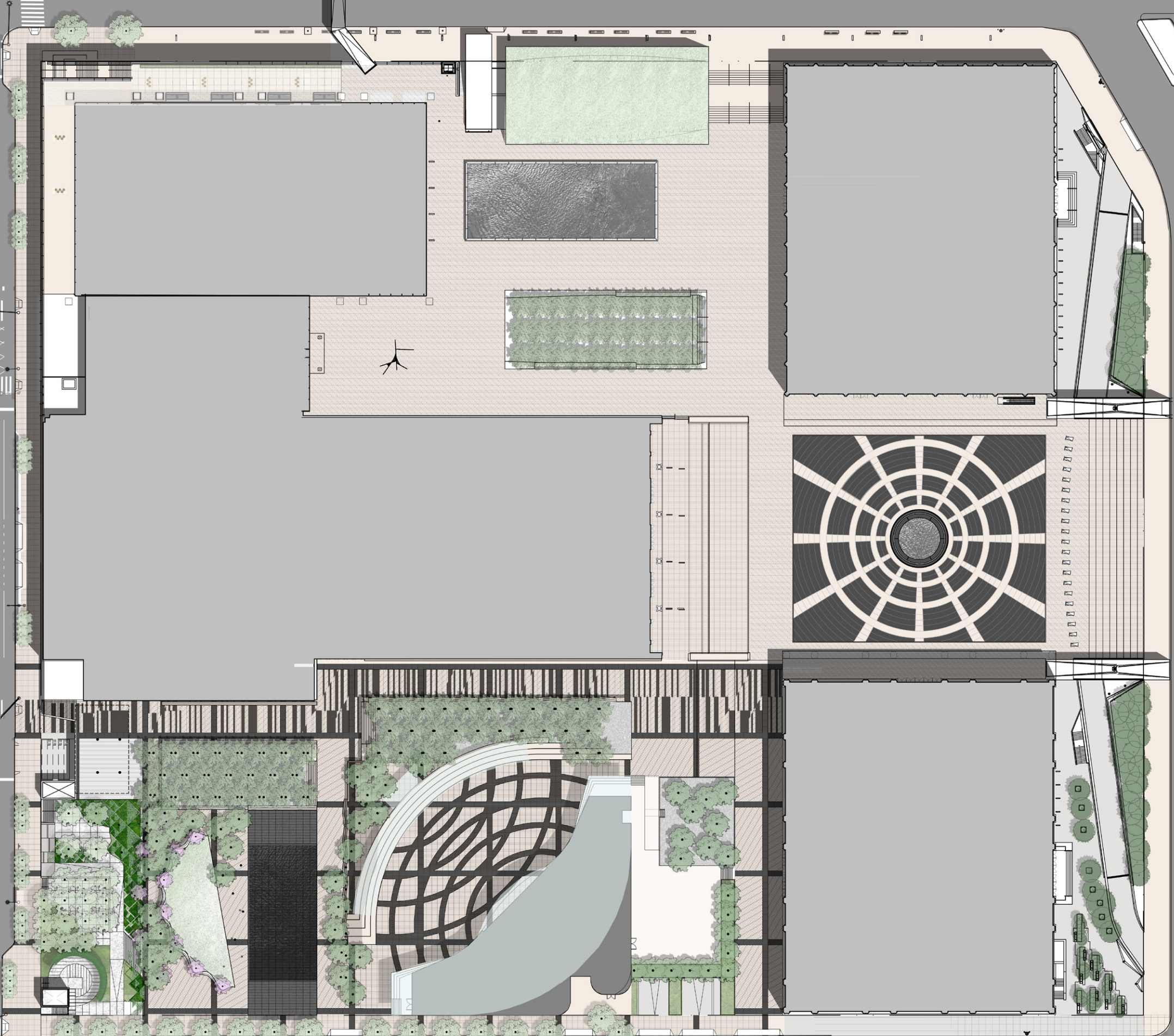


# WORKING CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE





THANK YOU!



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