

2023 MERIT AWARD

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LYCEUM

A traveling fellowship in Architecture

Old Town Mall



THE BALTIMOREAN RENAISSANCE

LF-11476

PROJECT SUMMARY

The proposal for Old Town Mall, Baltimore, focuses primarily on empowering the city's young talent and the black community by revitalizing the art scene. By leveraging the area's historical significance and recognizing the untapped potential within the community, this project aims to create a vibrant and inclusive space that celebrates artistic expression, fosters collaboration and uplifts the cultural heritage of the black community.

Objectives

1. CULTIVATING EMERGING TALENT

Dedicated spaces for events such as art galleries or performances will be established to provide emerging artists with platforms to showcase their work and gain exposure.

2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

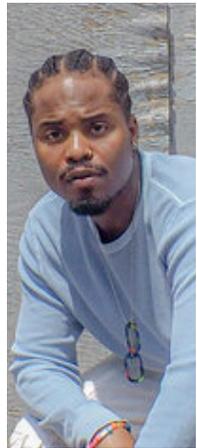
Central to the vision is active community participation. Workshops, maker spaces, and cultural events that encourage dialogue, creativity and collaboration will foster a sense

of pride and ownership among residents.

3. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

This project aims to provide opportunities for locals to open their own businesses by renovating existing buildings in Old Town Mall. By nurturing a sustainable local economy, the creation of job opportunities will foster financial independence in the Black Butterfly.





AL ROGERS JR
Musician & Founder of Swoozy Foundation



D WATKINS
Author & Founder of BMORE Writers Project



LADY BRION
Artist & Member of Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle



MECCA VERDELL
Poet & Performer



THE SPHINX CLUB
One of the first African-American owned night clubs famous for the jazz scene



LBS
Group aiming to improve conditions of Black people in Baltimore



ARCH SOCIAL CLUB
One of the oldest organizations reflecting Baltimore's history of movie theatres and music venues



BWBB
Initiative training Black women in renovation skills in Baltimore.

CULTURAL HISTORY, ARTS, AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Baltimore's rich history and vibrant community has long made it a hub for creativity and artistic expression. More specifically, the black community in Baltimore has played a pivotal role in shaping the city's arts scene, all while grappling with countless systemic barriers, pervasive inequalities, and limited opportunities. Despite these obstacles, the community has left an indelible mark on the city's map. Baltimoreans have significant heritage and experiences showcased in important institutions like the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture. As well, notable individuals such as Frederick Douglass, Billie Holiday, and Thurgood Marshall have left an enduring legacy in their respective fields, greatly influencing the core of Baltimore's identity today.

While the city is blessed with extraordinary characters and culture, its rising black artists often find themselves confined within limited circles, hindering their exposure and potential growth. The entertainment landscape that once packed Baltimore's theatres and dance halls no longer exists, and there are a plethora of social and activist groups that are eager for it to be revitalised.

THE VISION

The issue calls for the creation of inclusive platforms and initiatives that provide opportunities for young black artists to showcase their original works and achieve a larger recognition. By creating an environment that encourages collaboration and innovation, the city can foster the development of its aspiring musicians, visual artists, film producers, and performers.

The proposal envisions Old Town Mall as a vibrant space where Baltimoreans can celebrate their black identity. It emphasizes the importance of providing essential amenities such as a grocery store and food court, while also revitalizing buildings to support local businesses. The introduction of communal green spaces will seamlessly integrate with the city's art scene, hosting concerts, performances, art galleries, and workshops. Additionally, maker spaces will offer collaborative environments for learning and exploration, empowering the community with valuable skills. These initiatives will meet the needs of residents, foster local entrepreneurship, and fabricate an enchanting world for individuals striving to make a name for themselves.

PROCESS STATEMENT

“People feel like their neighbourhoods have been abandoned – abandoned by the federal government, by the local government, and by the wealthier neighbours who have moved out.”

“[There is] a need for more fresh produce, and a resurgence of the entertainment scene that once packed the theatres and dance halls. They miss the music and the vibrancy.”

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROPOSAL

Maker spaces will offer all inhabitants, no matter their financial situation, the opportunity of exerting their own artistic prowess. The availability of communal tools and professional aid will help expose Baltimore’s rising artists and give citizens creative autonomy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL

Citizens of Baltimore have a right to take part in the discussion in the early stages of the design. To ensure Old Town Mall’s renaissance is congruent with Baltimore, locals, artists, and social groups, like LBS, BWBB, and Arch Social Club, will be called upon to discuss how to integrate the values of their heritage in new spaces. The implementation of artistic and social spaces will also be considered based on the desires and needs of the community.

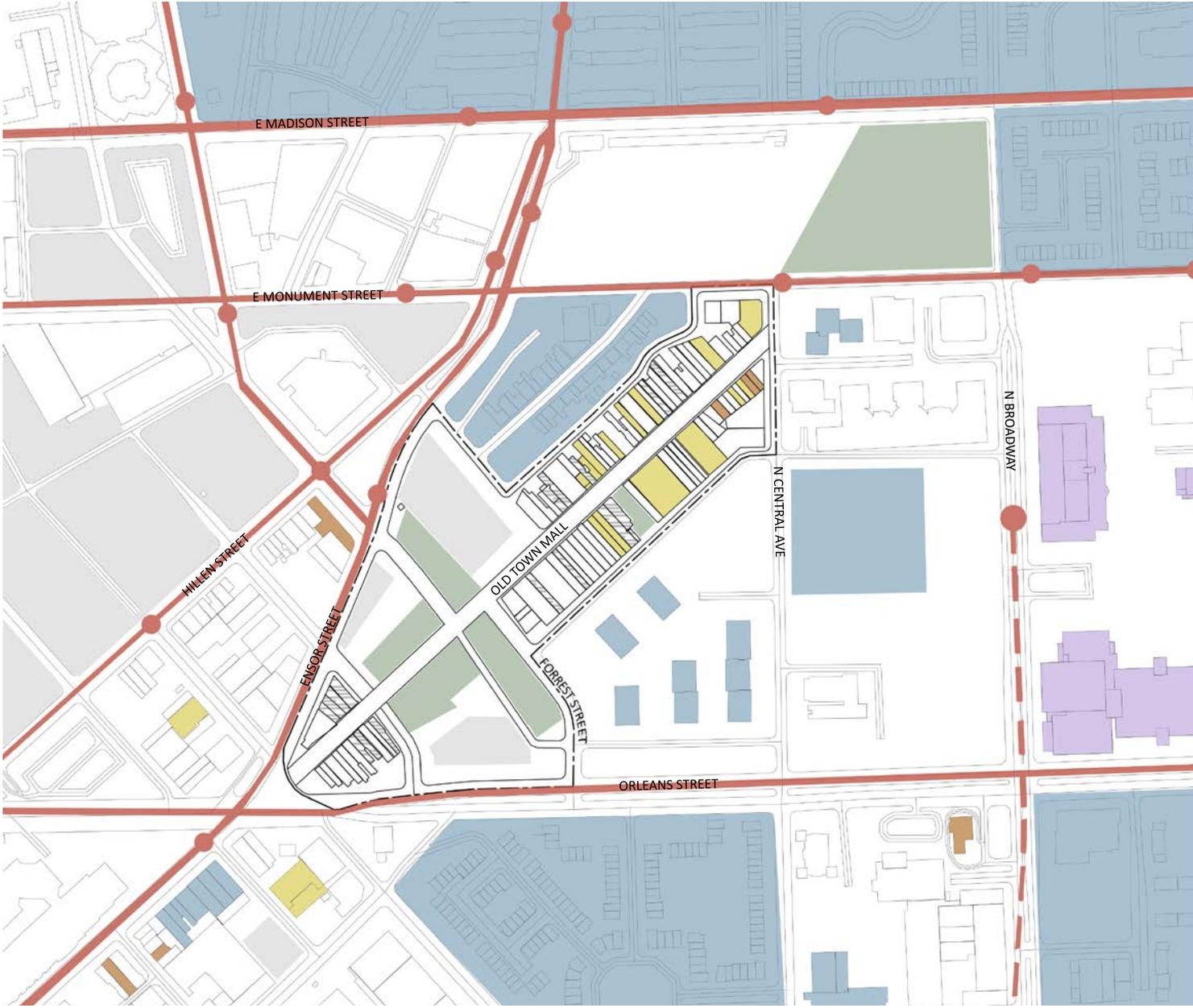
COMMUNITY IMPACT

The process is hoped to have a transformative community impact by fostering a sense of creativity, collaboration, and empowerment among residents of all backgrounds.



CONTEXT ANALYSIS PLAN

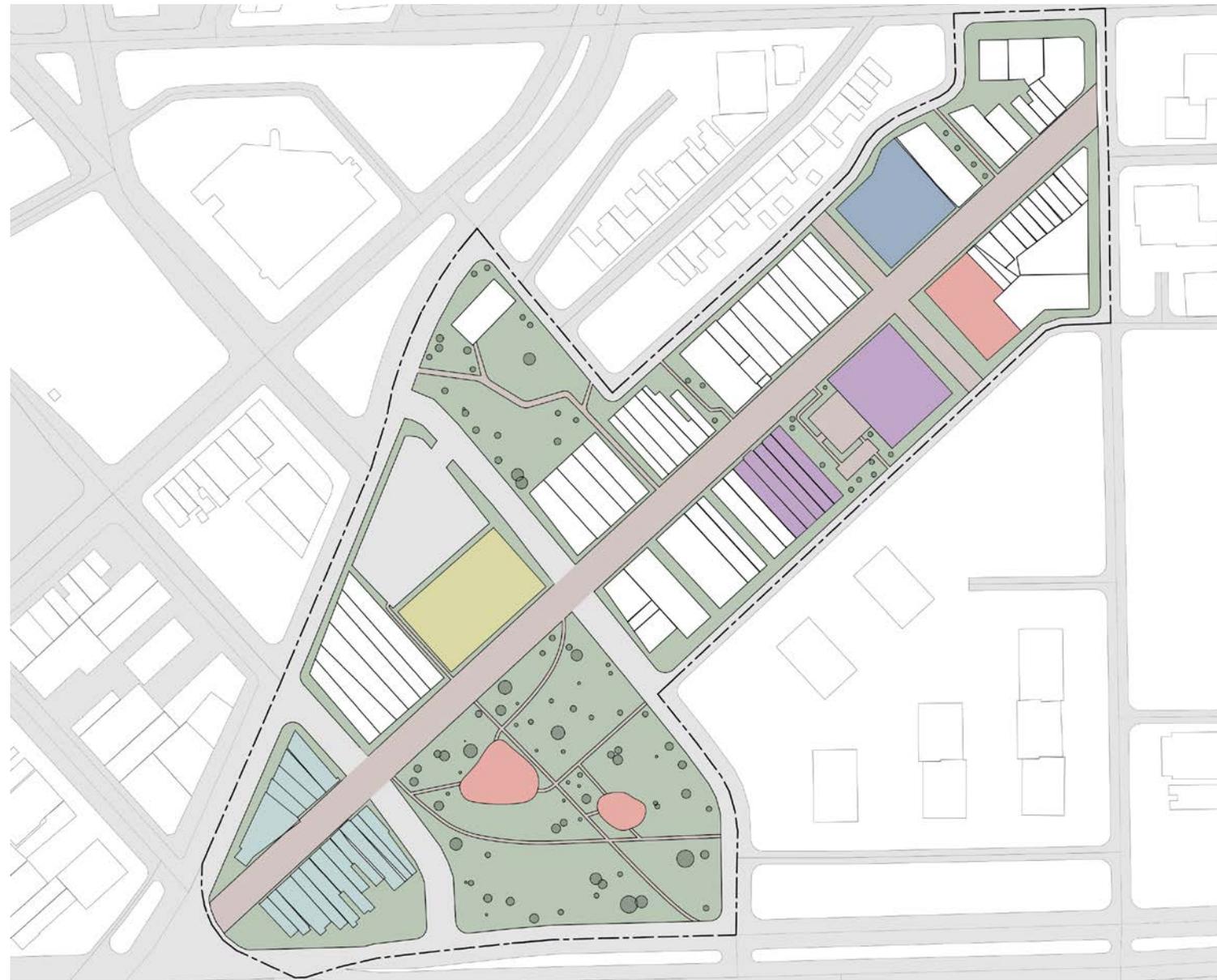
- LEGEND**
- Green Spaces
 - Existing Businesses
 - Residential Areas
 - Food Related Shops
 - Surface Parking
 - Bus
 - Schools
 - Metro
 - Old Town Mall Site
 - Buildings in Critical Disrepair



SITE PLAN

LEGEND

- Green Spaces
- Grocery Store
- Performance Venue
- Maker Spaces
- Food Court
- Cultural Center
- Pedestrian Road
- Vehicular Road
- Old Town Mall Site



**WOOD &
METAL**

o u t d o o r
a c t i v i t y
s p a c e

**TEXT
ILES**

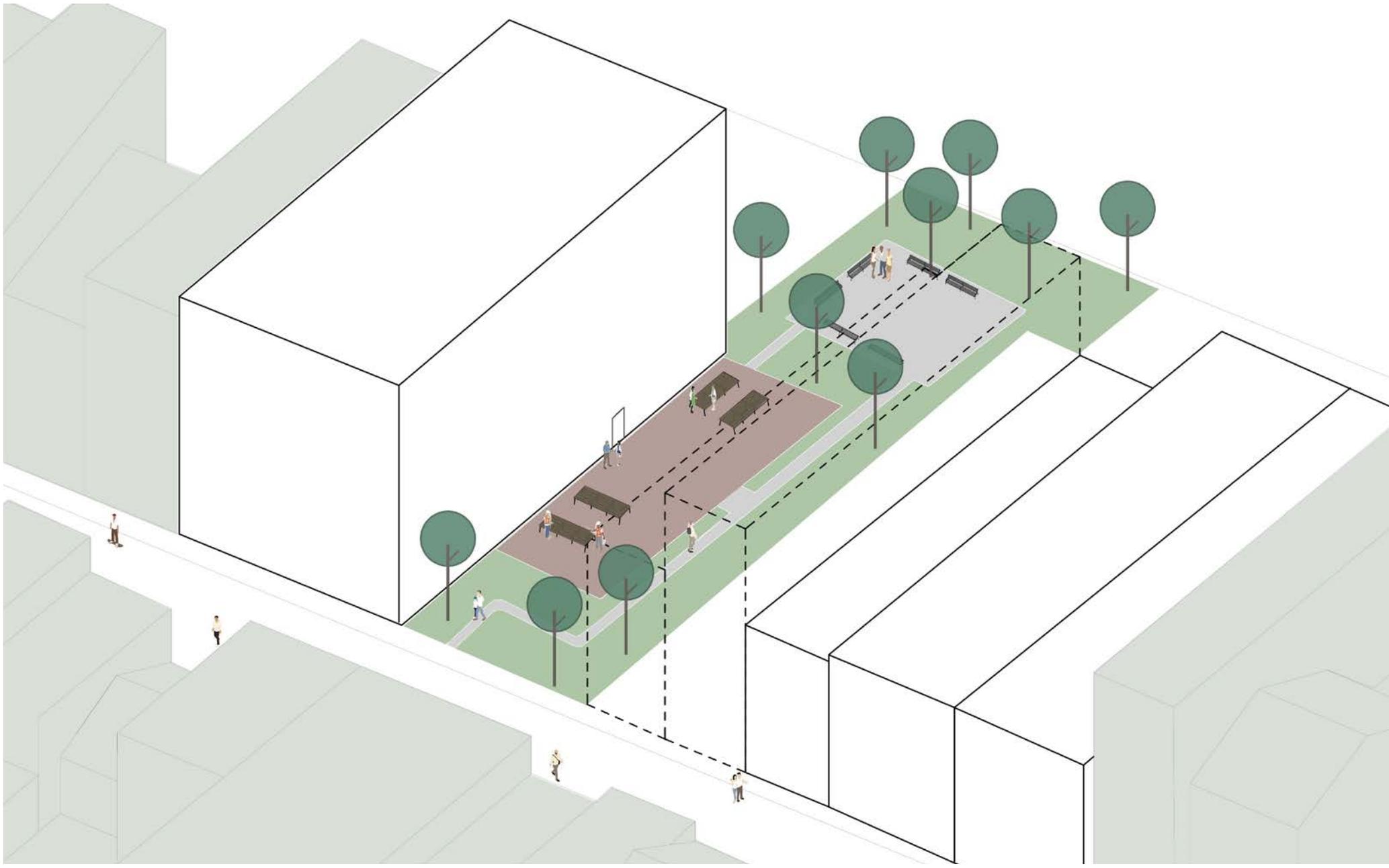
ceramics

PRINTS

mech
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**ELECTR
ONICS**

MAKER SPACES - PROGRAMMATIC DIAGRAM



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SPACE - AXONOMETRIC



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



MAKER SPACE - EXTERIOR VIEW



MAKER SPACE - INTERIOR VIEW