

# SPOKANE RIVERFRONT PARK

## ARTS MASTER PLAN | SPRING 2018





Spokane Riverfront Park Art Master Plan  
prepared by Meejin Yoon with Höweler Yoon Architecture

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# 01. INTRODUCTION

The Riverfront Park Art Master Plan outlines a plan for the existing and future artwork in and around Riverfront Park.

Its foundation and direction is derived from local history, context, and community. The plan accounts for the existing uses of the park and also builds off and strengthens the current plans for its redevelopment.

The plan accounts for the existing artwork and proposes locations for future artwork. The proposed locations provide a wide variety of environments around the park that should inspire an equally wide variety of artistic responses. The proposed locations will also help encourage visitors to travel deeper into and explore more areas of the park.

The Art Master Plan also proposes a new art signage strategy that will help identify, unify, and brand the existing and future artwork in and around the park.





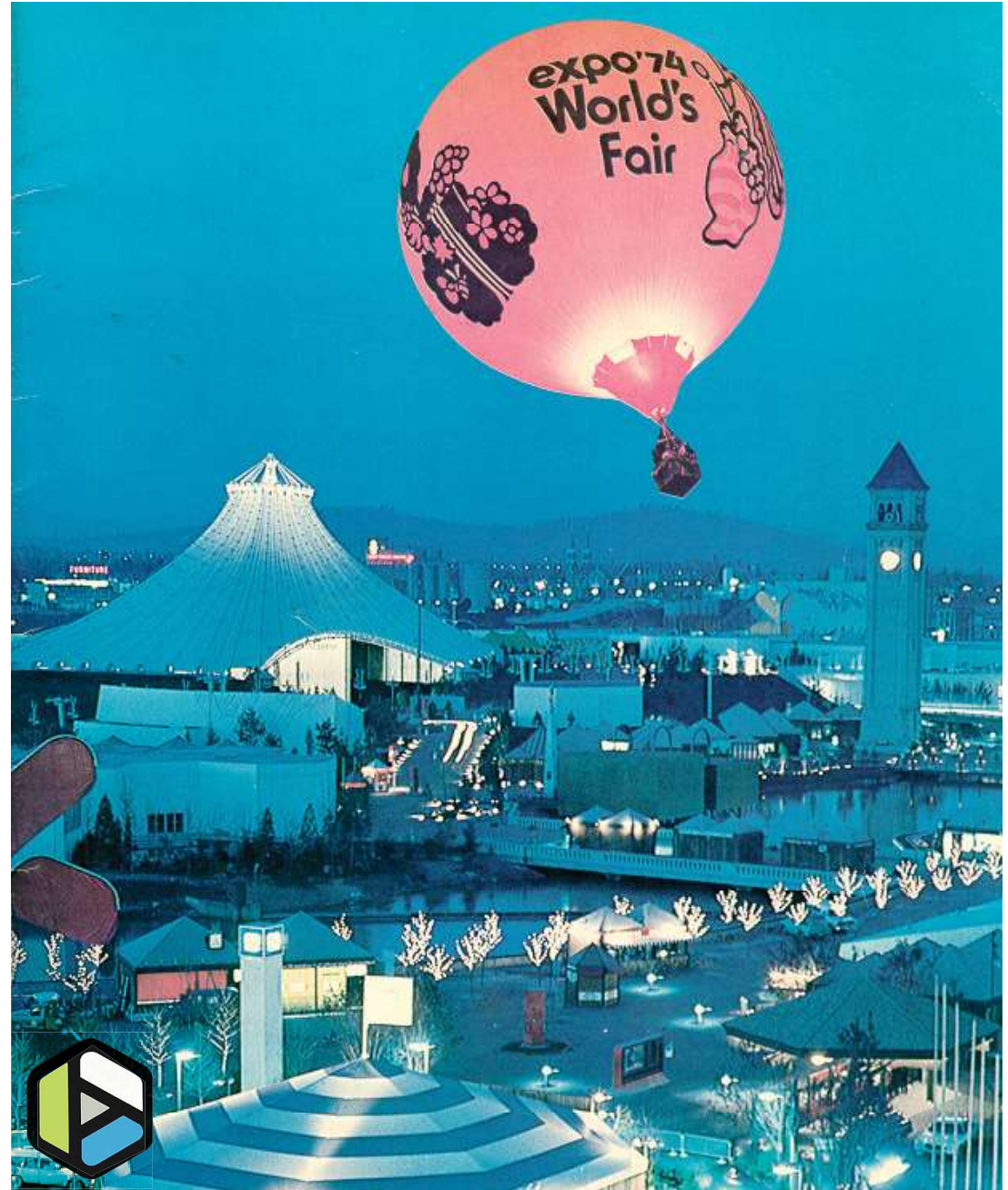
AERIAL VIEW FROM GOOGLE EARTH



## 02. HISTORY

When looking at Riverfront Park in its current state, it is important to remember the history of the site. Before settlers came, the Falls were a place of great significance for the Spokane Tribe, one that was intensely spiritual while also providing sustenance. Eventually, frontiersmen landed near the Falls and the city developed. Land was filled in, changing the shape of the river, and by mid-century Havermale Island was covered with railroad tracks, warehouses, and became a prominent industrial area for the city. The area was dramatically changed when the industrial uses were replaced by parks, walkways, and open area. Only the Clocktower on Havermale Island, which was originally part of the Great Northern Railroad depot, remains of the industrial era. The transformation of the area enabled it to serve as the primary location for Expo '74.

Any analysis of the Riverfront Park must acknowledge the profound impact that the Expo '74 had on the site. Expo '74 was the first environmentally themed world's fair, a reflection of the local values and cultures that still exist today. Within a three-year period, the area was dramatically altered from an industrial zone to the heavily contoured and trafficked grounds for the fair. There are a number of structures of the Expo that still exist today. Often these structures have been dutifully repurposed to remain useful to the changing needs of the current users. The footbridges and North Washington Street tunnel still stand and are used as circulation for both pedestrian and vehicle traffic, respectively. The Pavilion, which is visible from almost everywhere in the park, serves as an anchor for the area.







## 03. EXISTING CONTEXT



Located in the heart of downtown, Spokane Riverfront Park provides a destination for visitors wanting to experience a range of activities and landscapes. The park is heavily programmed with gathering spaces and areas of interest for all ages. In addition, there are a number of large tranquil green spaces providing quiet areas where visitors can relax and enjoy their surroundings.

The various areas of the park are easily accessible via a number of bridges allowing visitors easy entry to Riverfront Park. The number of access and exit points also allow for the park to serve as a hub visitors can use to pass through and to access any of the surrounding areas. The community and city recognize an opportunity to draw more people into the center of the park from its highly active perimeter.

The park is tied to its close connection to the Spokane River, and provides a range of experiences of the water. On the southern side, where the water



is controlled to generate electricity, the water is calm and offers interesting reflections of either the downtown urban edge or of Havermale Island. In contrast, the Upper Falls has a combination of rock formations and cascading falls, providing a picturesque views of the water. In addition, visitors can use the footbridges to walk out over and across the falls to experience the majesty and power of the water which is especially impactful during the spring, run-off season.

The legacy of environmentalism is prevalent in a number of ways. Visitors can use the pedestrian bridges to walk over the falls to gain a better appreciation of both the picturesque natural beauty, as well as the awesome power of the water. There is sustainable energy production to be witnessed at the hydroelectric plant which produces energy for the city. There are a range of serene environments around the park where visitors can take a minute to reflect on their surroundings.



### EVENTS

The park has both intimate places as well as large open spaces to host large gatherings and events. From Bloomsday to Hoopfest to Pig Out in the Park, the park is capable of a wide variety of uses in a number of different areas around the park. There are several bowl-shaped fields that serve as a natural amphitheater for performances or audience-based gatherings, and the flatter areas can be used for active gatherings. This range of spaces allows the park to be used in a variety of ways without being limited to a single function.

In addition to the Pavilion, which is a large gathering space, there are also a number of smaller permanent gathering spaces where groups can come together and spend time in the park. There are a number of covered shelters where visitors can soak in their surroundings.







GARCO CONSTRUCTION, NAC ARCHITECTURE, BERGER PARTNERSHIP, THEVERYMANY

## EXISTING STRUCTURES

The Pavilion is the most prominent remaining structure from Expo '74 and is currently home to public spaces and programs where the community gathers. The Pavilion is an impressive structure that serves as an anchor or reference point for visitors to the park. Its presence can be felt from almost every vantage point. A major renovation of the Pavilion building is currently planned to restore and enhance the structure, and will soon be implemented as part of the park redevelopment. This renovation will dramatically increase the quality of the space and enable a more flexible

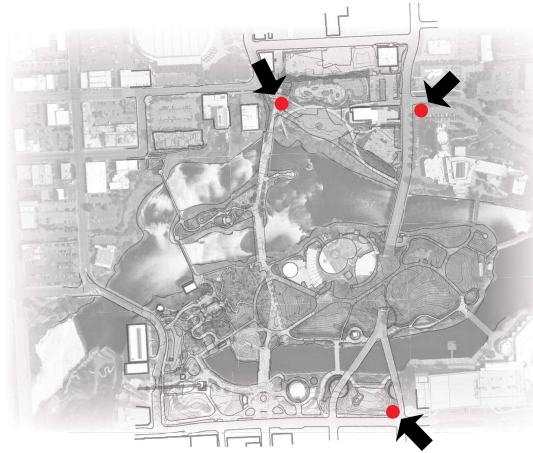
gathering area that is more connected to its surroundings. This will significantly increase the traffic to and from the Pavilion.

The Art Plan acknowledges that the Pavilion is itself a structural work of art that will certainly be enhanced with its renovation. The intent of the Art Plan is to let the Pavilion stand on its own and give it space to breathe independent of future art locations.

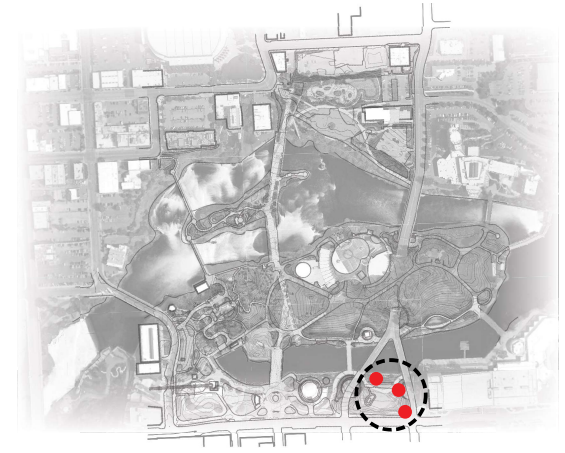


## BUTTERFLIES

Other prominent structures of Expo '74 are the Expo Butterflies. Currently there is one existing Butterfly at the northern entrance to the Park. If more Butterflies can be restored we recommend two different strategies for their deployment. The first would be to use restored or reconstructed butterflies to mark the prominent entries to the park, similar to how butterflies were used during the Expo. This would utilize the butterflies as a designation of the park's limits and create an identity strategy for the park. The alternative strategy is to congregate the butterflies into one area of the park where their impact and scale would be heightened by the clustering.



DESIGNATE PARK ENTRIES



CONGREGATION





## EXISTING ART

The park already has a large amount of artwork, and the artwork is also widely varied in its forms, themes, and contexts. From whimsical to spiritual, modern to historical, interactive to only viewable from a distance, this variety is part of what the community appreciates.

One common thread is how many of the pieces celebrate the local history and context of the area. Whether it is the Corten steel sculptural runners celebrating Bloomsday, a contemplative spiral of poetry about the Spokane Falls and the Spokane Tribe's heritage, or a whimsical trash eating goat that has become a mainstay in the minds of visitors. The existing art has taken on its own meaning and history.

A majority of existing artwork is along the southern bank where the park is dense with programming, while the rest of the artwork is more sporadically distributed through the park.

In addition, the Centennial Trail which runs up and down the river from the park, has a number of pieces of artwork that could be conceptually connected to help unify the branding across the larger area rather than just within the park itself.



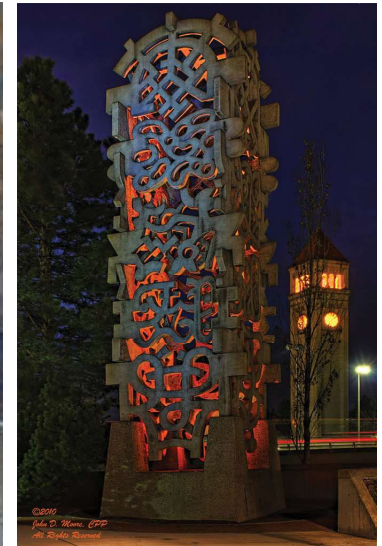
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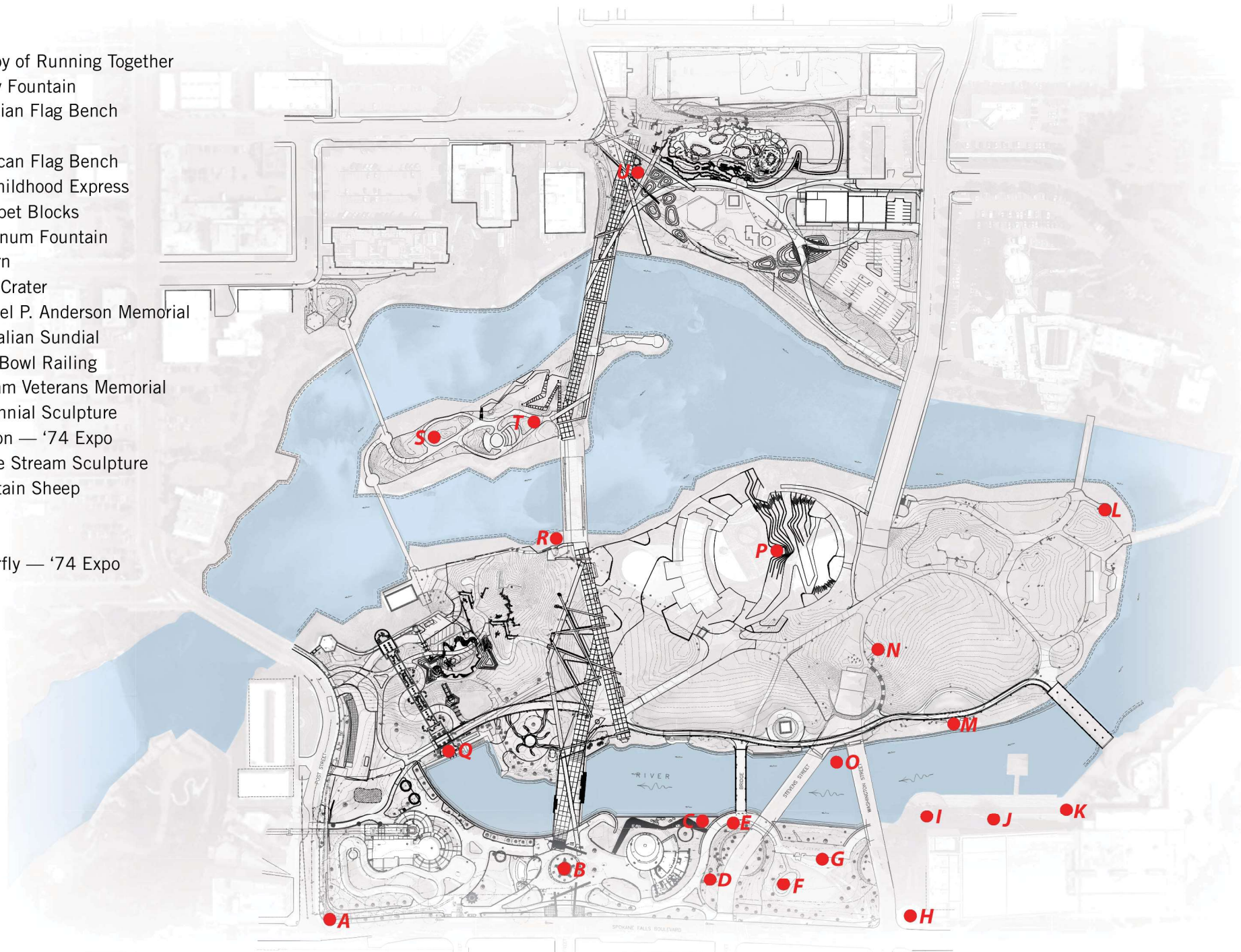
D



I



- A** The Joy of Running Together
- B** Rotary Fountain
- C** Canadian Flag Bench
- D** Goat
- E** American Flag Bench
- F** The Childhood Express
- G** Alphabet Blocks
- H** Aluminum Fountain
- I** Lantern
- J** Moon Crater
- K** Michael P. Anderson Memorial
- L** Australian Sundial
- M** Lilac Bowl Railing
- N** Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- O** Centennial Sculpture
- P** Pavilion — '74 Expo
- Q** Theme Stream Sculpture
- R** Mountain Sheep
- S** Totem
- T** Totem
- U** Butterfly — '74 Expo





## 04. PARK MASTER PLAN

The park is undergoing a massive redevelopment to establish it as a natural and cultural landscape for the community for decades to come. This redevelopment consists of a range of improvements and new features, including a Skate Ribbon and SkyRide on the southern edge of the park. Also, a Regional Playground on the north bank will improve existing facilities such as the Loeff Carrousel facility, and the aging infrastructure on the Howard Street South Channel Bridge. The comprehensive landscape design overhaul will greatly improve the public space and grounds.

The Park Masterplan prepared by the Berger Partnership is centered around the idea of

“bringing people to the center” and is intended to draw people to the Falls, and to the Pavilion. The plan introduces a central plaza capable of hosting large and small events. Part of the plan calls for a major renovation of the circulation pathways, and this is most evident in the new primary pathway along the north-south axis which travels through Riverfront Park. In addition to the central artery, secondary paths extend outward to different areas of the park.

The prior Light and Sound Study by Digital Kitchen proposed a series of interventions ranging in scale and amplitude from smaller interactive pieces to larger interventions that would be visible

from other parts of the park, and all the proposals make use of the central design direction of being “Powered by the River.” The Art Plan is flexible and accommodates a number of the proposed concepts. If the selected concept is more of a destination in and of itself, the installation can occupy one of the proposed locations for future art within the Art Plan. If the selected concept is more of a circulation pathway, the Art Plan can locate that concept along one of the proposed pathways, while also informing future artwork locations.

01



02



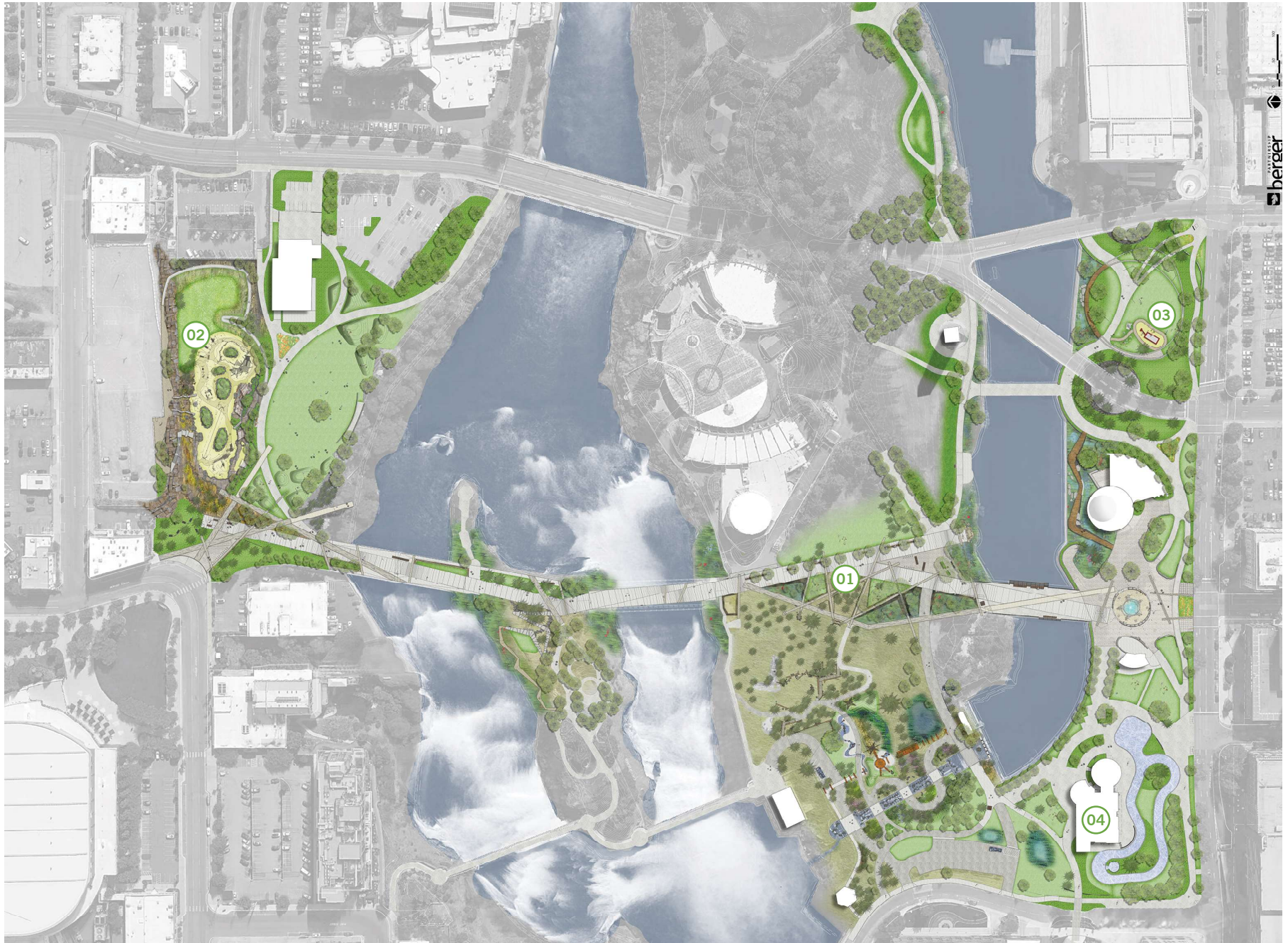
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04









## 05. ART PLAN

The Art Plan for Riverfront Park capitalizes on the diversity of artworks, the expansiveness of the landscape, the dramatic relationships between the city and the Falls, and the activities of the visitors.

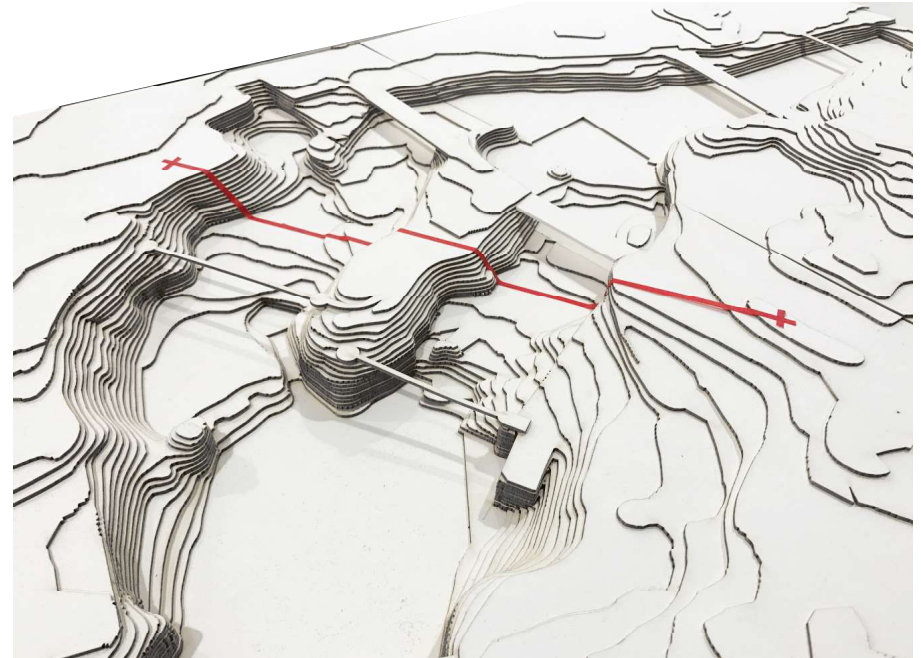
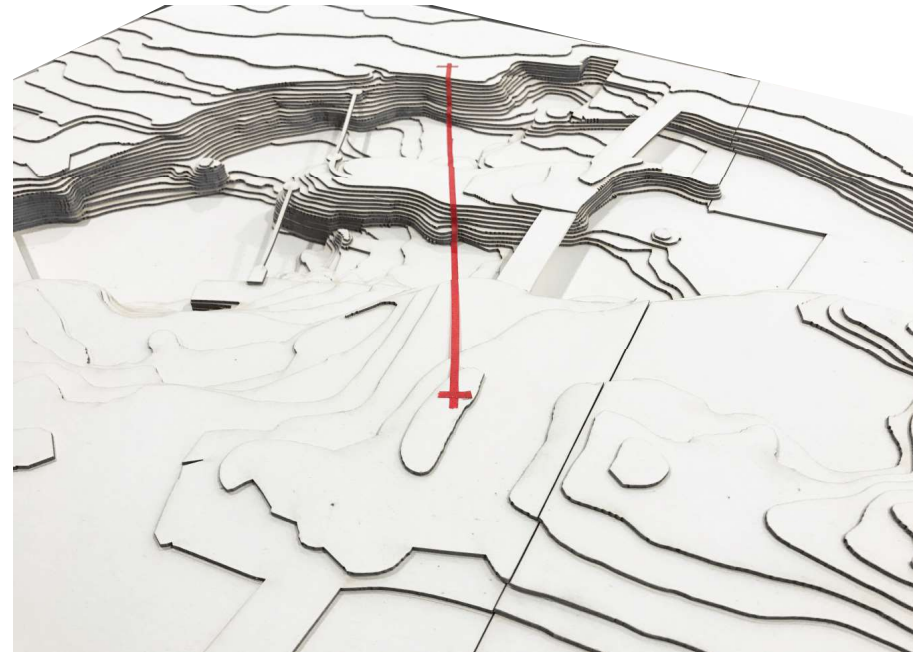
The Art Plan builds off the existing art locations and park redevelopment to designate new locations for future art works.

The future art locations are sited on Havermale Island, snx<sup>W</sup> mene, and the northern bank along the main north-south thoroughfare in order to take advantage of the foot traffic that the new central artery pathway will bring. The strategy does not compete with the areas of existing dense programming and existing artwork.

The future art locations build off the Master Plan by extending its secondary linear pathways into vectors which identify the proposed pathways for future artworks. The proposed locations were selected based on the views to and from the locations, to achieve a balance of density of art, and provide a variety of local and environmental contexts.

The designated locations are not calling for any specific types of artwork, rather they are providing a wide variety of types of locations in order to provide enough variation for various types and sizes of future art.

The selection locations are intended to complement planned or existing uses for the sites, and strengthen or provide new opportunities and relationships at the proposed locations.







The future art locations were selected in order to achieve the following criteria:

- 01.** To encourage exploration and increase use of the park than is currently being activated and utilized.
- 02.** To provide a wide range and variety of locations, environments, and contexts for future art.
- 03.** To be sensitive to and supportive of the existing or planned uses of the existing and future areas.
- 04.** To comply with existing regulations and codes regarding restrictions and usages.
- 05.** To take advantage of the local context and surroundings.
- 06.** To build off of the existing context and future development to strengthen the overall park design.

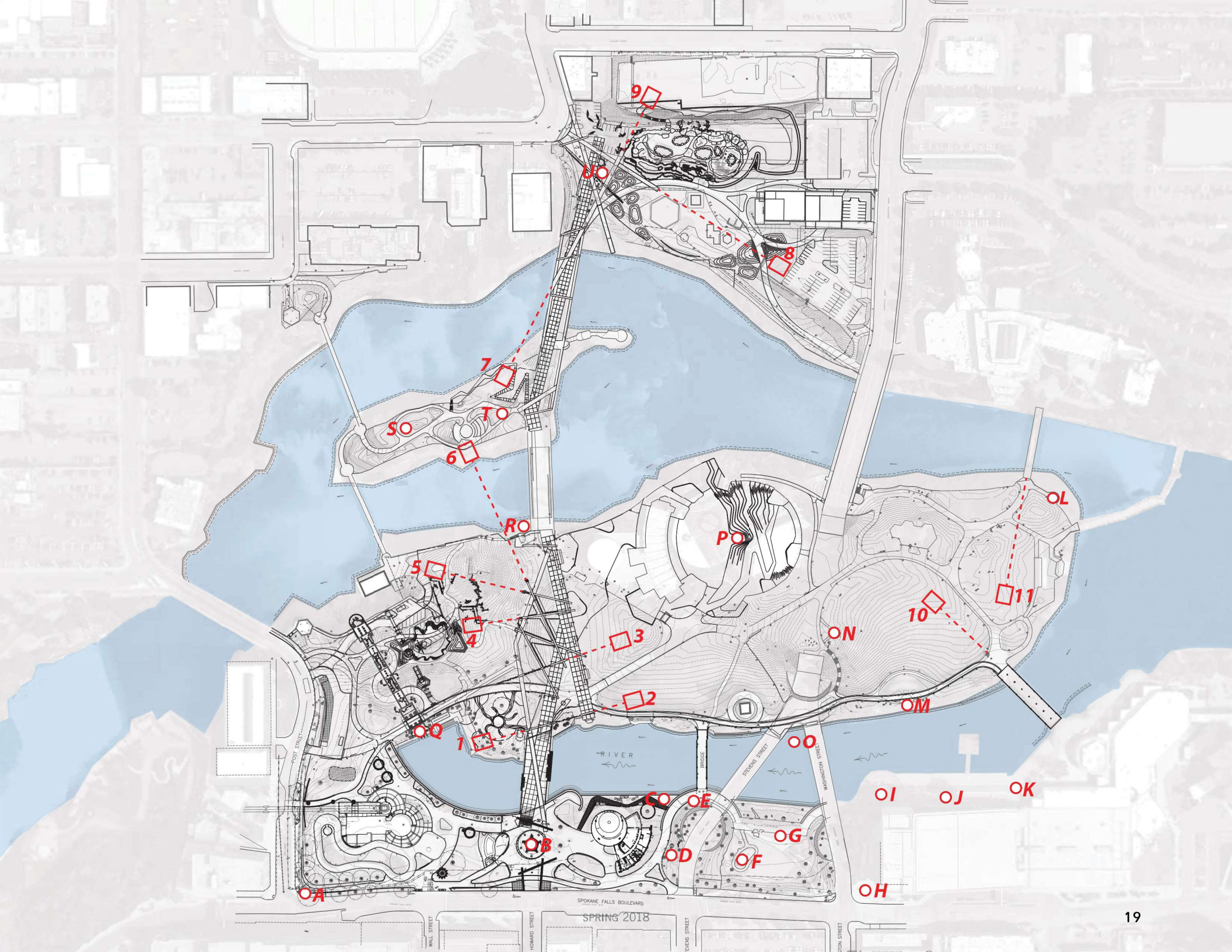


**A** The Joy of Running Together  
**B** Rotary Fountain  
**C** Canadian Flag Bench  
**D** Goat  
**E** American Flag Bench  
**F** The Childhood Express  
**G** Alphabet Blocks  
**H** Aluminum Fountain  
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**R** Mountain Sheep  
**S** Totem  
**T** Totem  
**U** Butterfly — '74 Expo

**1** South Havermale Island West  
**2** South Havermale Island East  
**3** Havermale Promenade  
**4** Upper Conservation Area  
**5** Lower Conservation Area  
**6** South snx<sup>W</sup> mene  
**7** North snx<sup>W</sup> mene  
**8** North Shore  
**9** Upper North Shore  
**10** Upper Lilac Bowl  
**11** East Havermale

 EXISTING ARTWORK  
 POTENTIAL ARTWORK LOCATIONS





## 06. FUTURE SITES 01 – 06

- 01.** SOUTH HAVERMALE ISLAND WEST  
Just west of the new North Howard Street Bridge this site provides high visibility from the south shore and should help draw visitors in to Havermale from the south shore. This location is also very near the calm water and power-generating dam.
- 02.** SOUTH HAVERMALE ISLAND EAST  
At the edge of the clocktower bowl just off the promenade this location will have excellent views up where one can see the Pavilion above the trees as well as toward the south shore where the newly renovated carousel building will sit. This area also serves as an informal gathering area for visitors with the nearby concrete steps down to the water.
- 03.** HAVERMALE PROMENADE  
This location rests between the Pavilion and the promenade near major circulation routes through the area resulting in what should be a heavily trafficked area by pedestrians.
- 04.** UPPER CONSERVATION AREA  
This location within the conservation area has a different quality of landscape compared to the other locations off the promenade. The circulation pathway loops around the location providing omnidirectional viewing. The site itself also has beautiful views looking down over the conservation area and across the river to snx<sup>W</sup> mene.
- 05.** LOWER CONSERVATION AREA  
Located near the stone markers along the path to the suspension footbridges over the Falls, this location provides a connection to the river while being surrounded by the conservation area's more natural feeling landscape.
- 06.** SOUTH SNX<sup>W</sup> MENE  
Serving as the backdrop for visitors looking north from Havermale Island toward the Falls and snx<sup>W</sup> mene. Seeing the artwork on snx<sup>W</sup> mene from Havermale will also encourage visitors to go deeper into the park. Up close this location has dramatic views back toward Havermale and its conservation area.

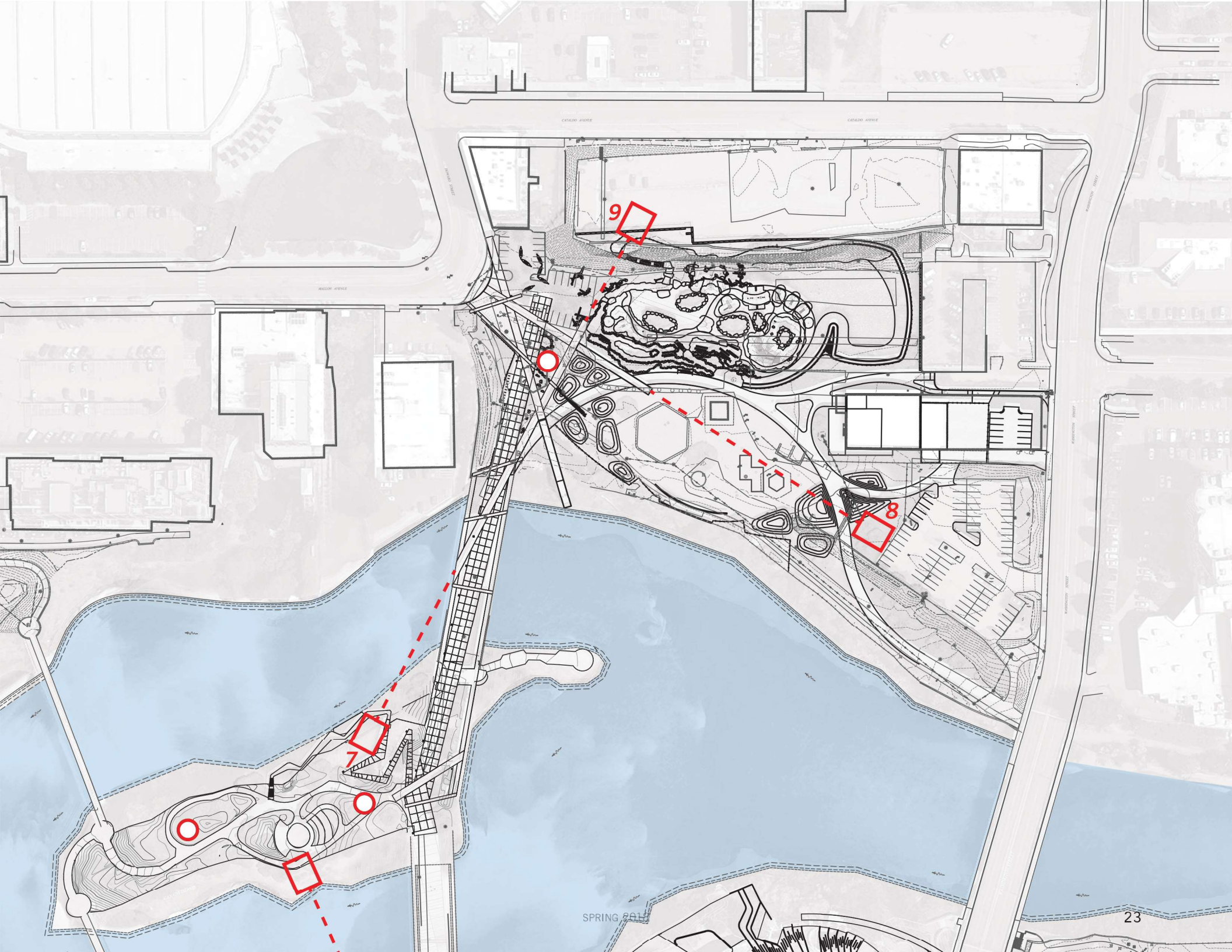




## 06. FUTURE SITES 07 – 09

- 07.** NORTH SNX<sup>W</sup> MENE  
More so than any other proposed location, this site has dramatic views of the most active part of the northern river. This site also will be highly visible from the north shore, helping to encourage visitors deeper into the park from the northern more commercial side.
- 08.** NORTH SHORE  
This location is more isolated from the park providing a more solitary environment. The site also serves as an informal entry point to the park for the circulation path and parking area just off Washington Street.
- 09.** UPPER NORTH SHORE  
The highest location of the park on the bluff overlook, this location provides an elevated view of the overall park and serves as a threshold between the city to the north and the park to the south.





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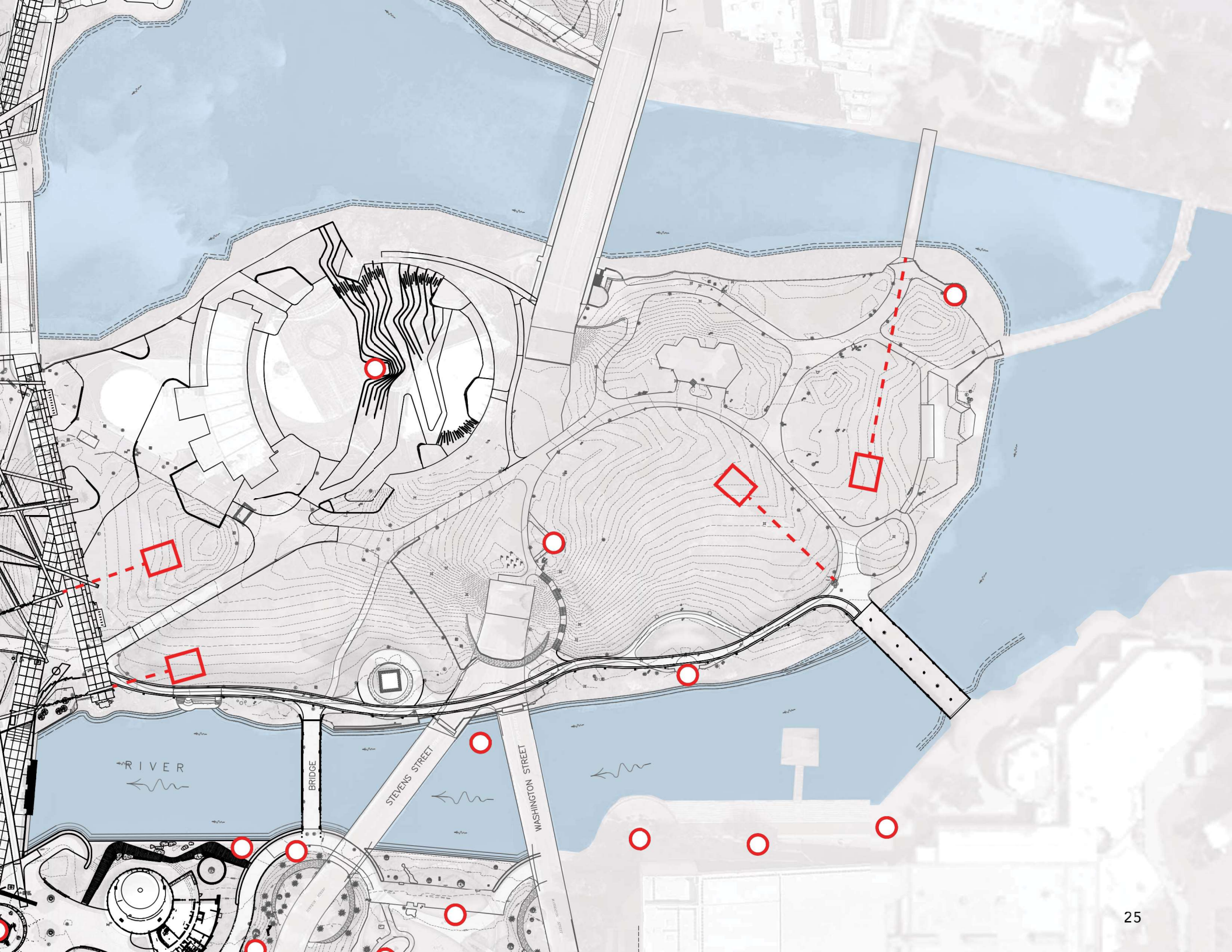
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SPRING 201

## 06. FUTURE SITES 10 – 11

10. UPPER LILAC BOWL  
Nestled up on a hill below the line of trees, this location sits within the large field of grass and has great views down toward the bowl and to the serene southern water, and the northern side of the Performing Arts Center and Convention Center. This area will transform from very serene and calm to energized and highly occupied.
11. EASTERN HAVERMALE  
Located between the two footbridges on the eastern side of Havermale Island, this location provides a flat field that is both serene and relatively isolated from the rest of the park and artwork. This location also provides views to the east up the Spokane River.



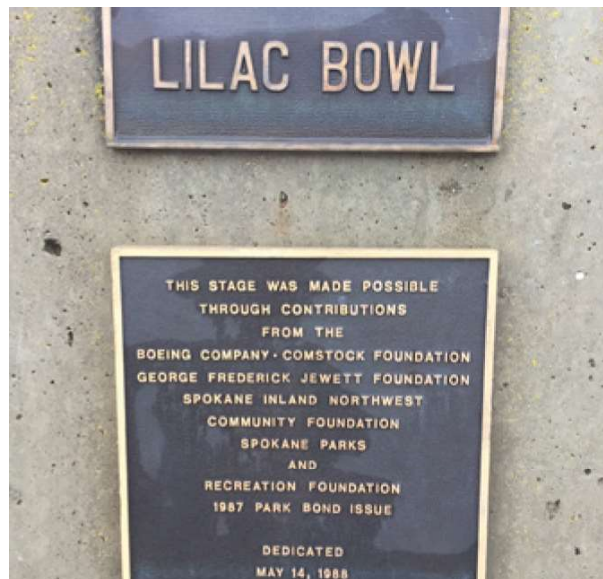




## 07. ART SIGNAGE IDENTITY

Within and around the park where there are existing art markers, the signage is widely varied. The signage varies in form, location, materials, information, etc. This can lead to a sense of confusion for visitors regarding what is and what is not considered artwork, and how important or not important each piece is.

The Art Plan proposes a consistent form of art markers. These art identifiers provide a number of functionalities. At their most basic level, they provide information about the art piece so that visitors can be more informed about the artwork they are experiencing. The art markers help create a unified identification system for the diverse artworks. It is also our intent that the art markers enable the visitors to learn more about both the artwork, and the surrounding area and landscape.



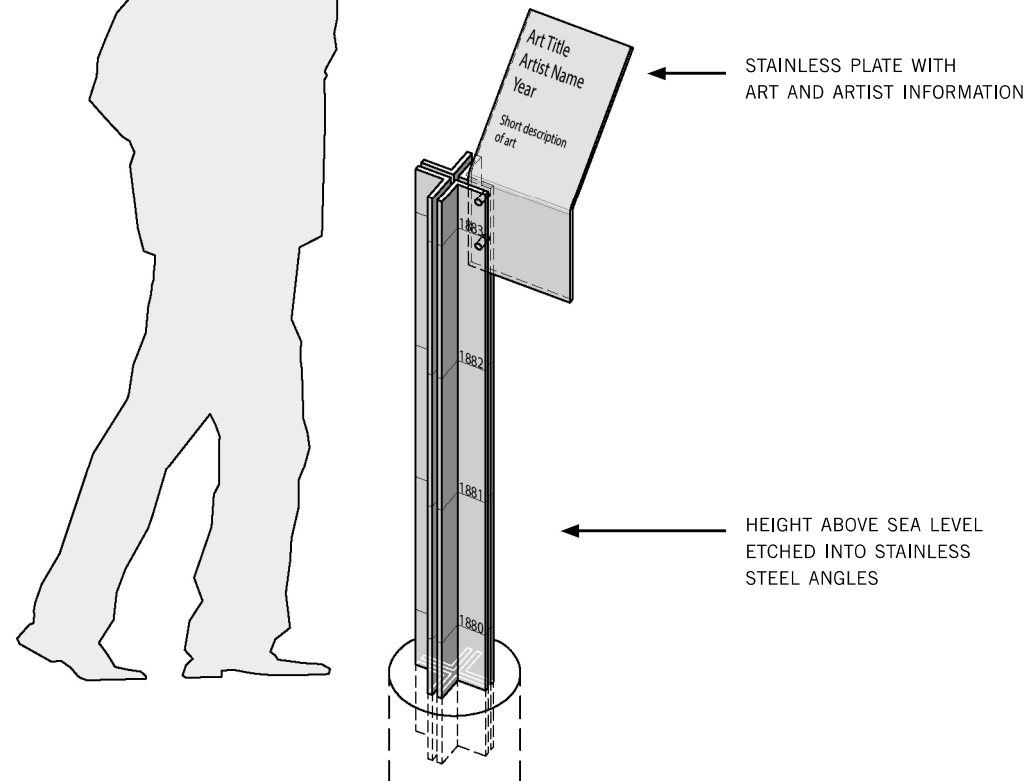


Inspired by surveying instruments that were used to help measure and understand topographic variation, the art markers introduce a series of vertical elements that provide an elevation level above sea level to allow the visitor to understand the topography of landscape, falls, and artworks.

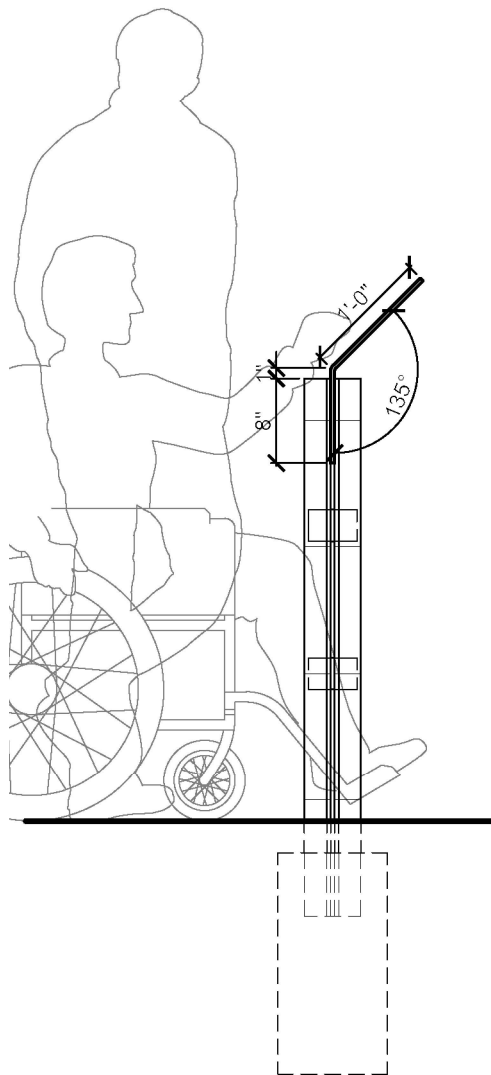


The art makers consist of a cruciform post that supports a simple bent plate. The posts and plates provide structural strength while remaining relatively neutral in their design aesthetic. The signs will be of uniform size and style, and the plates will display relevant information about the art; such as the title, artist, year, brief art piece summary, and potentially a QR code or other device that users can scan to easily access more information about the artwork.

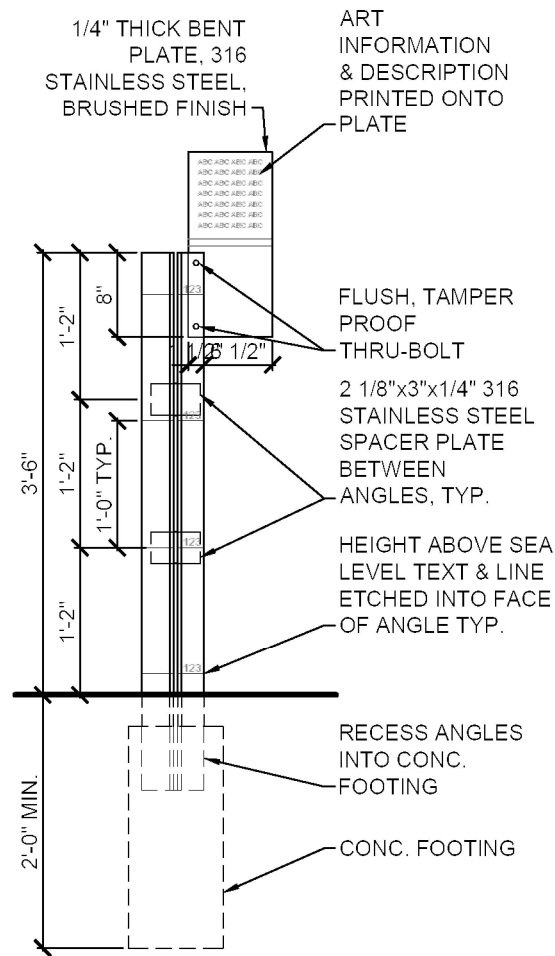
The posts supporting the signs will have a series of 1' lines demarcating the current height above sea level to give users more information about their surroundings. This elevation information will help give users a sense of the surrounding context and better understand the landscape of the park without distracting from the artwork. The intent is that these signs could also be used at other areas outside the park to help unify the public art collection.



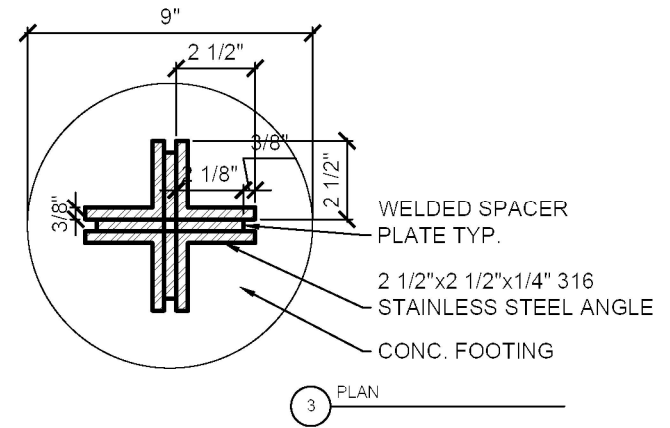




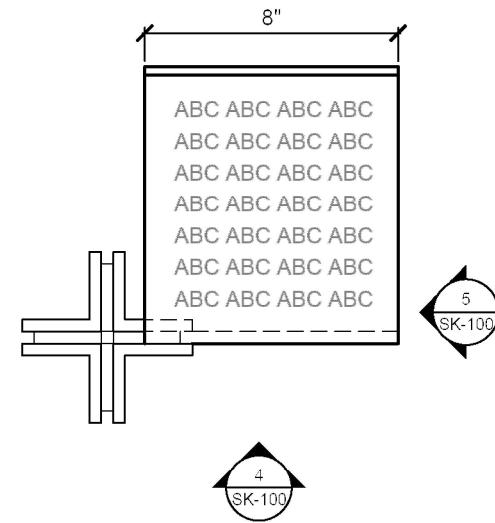
5 ELEVATION



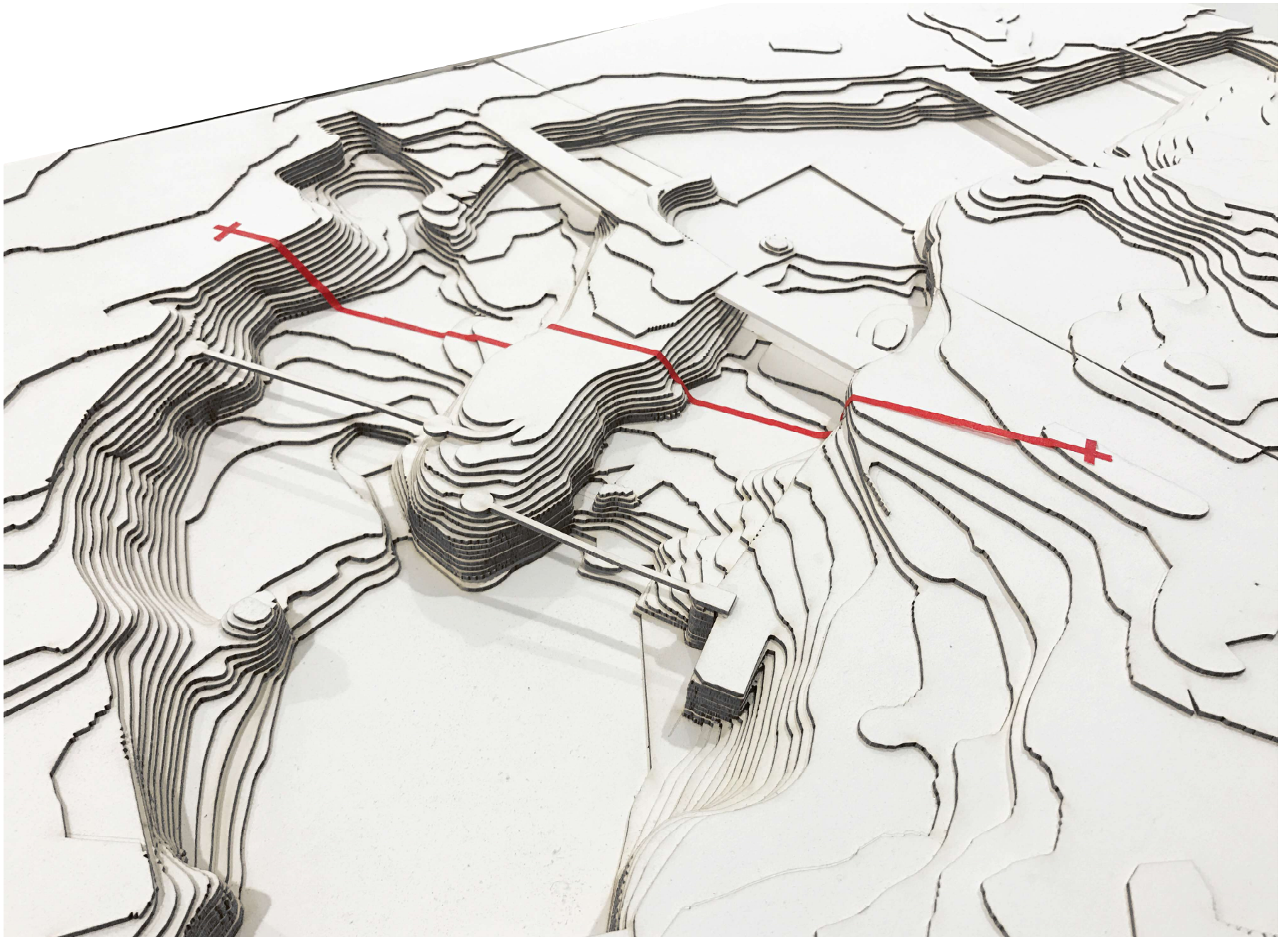
4 ELEVATION



3 PLAN



2 PLAN









HÖWELER+YOON ARCHITECTURE, LLP  
150 LINCOLN ST. 3A BOSTON, MA 02111  
T 617.517.4101 / F 617.517.4102  
[info@hyarchitecture.com](mailto:info@hyarchitecture.com) / [www.howeleryoon.com](http://www.howeleryoon.com)