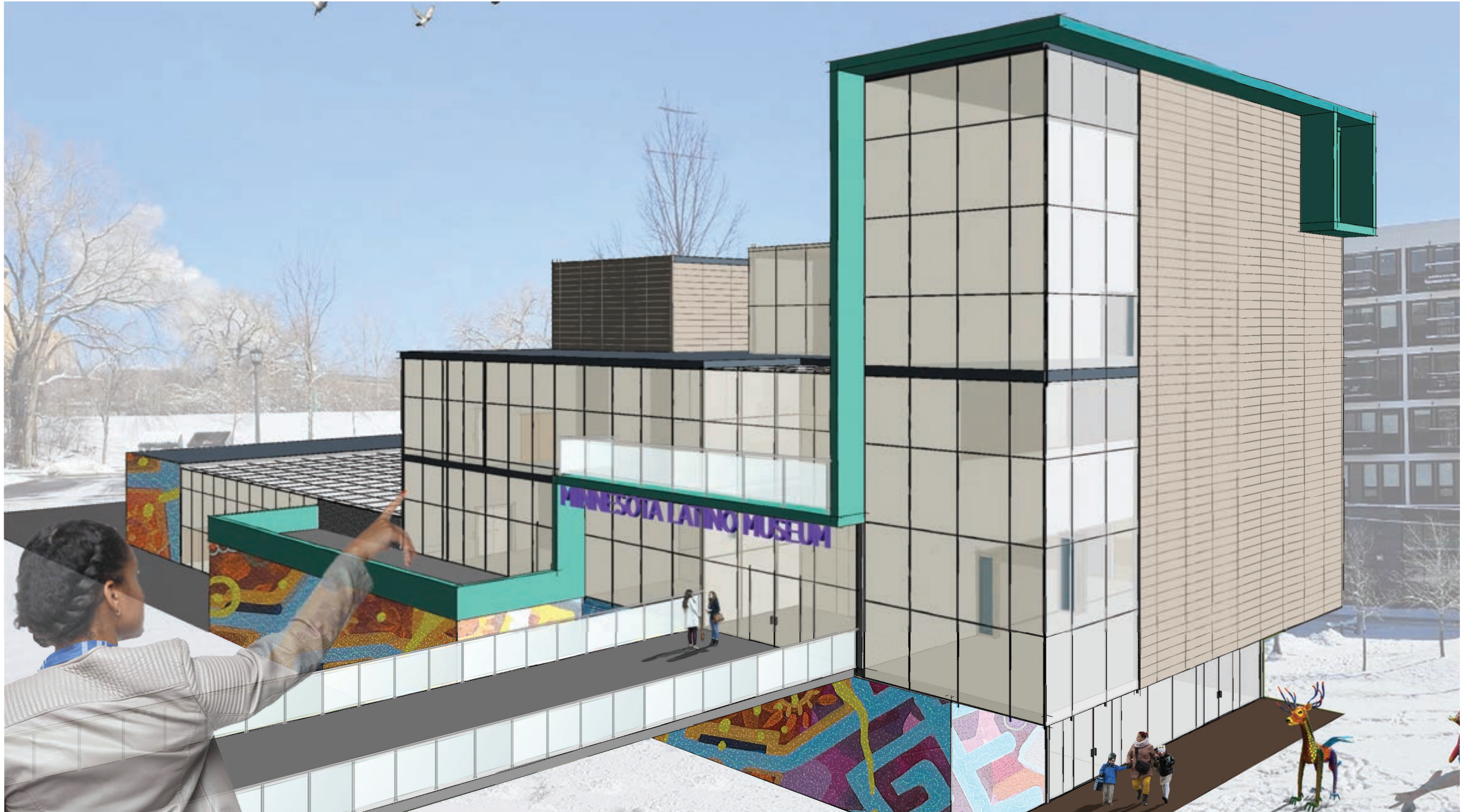


MINNESOTA LATINO MUSEUM

An Initiative of (Neo)Muralismos de México



4RM+ULA



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The Minnesota Latino Museum (MLM) will be the first museum focused on the arts, history, and cultural heritage of 400,000+ Minnesotans of Mexican and Latin American heritage.

Mexican and Latino arts and culture are the central focus of the Museum — we will present engaging exhibits featuring local, national, and international artists. A permanent exhibition about Minnesota Latinos will include a key focus on the history of Saint Paul’s West Side. Additional spaces include the outdoor Sculpture Park, a community market, a performance space, a 4-season green space, and an artist residency space.

Led by “(Neo)Muralismos de México” (NMM), a Saint Paul-based nonprofit, the Museum will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the Saint Paul neighborhood where the first Mexican immigrants established a Latino barrio in our state over a century ago. The Museum enjoys the full support of the City of Saint Paul, and it will be located at **Harriet Island Regional Park**, which is managed by the City’s Parks & Recreation Department.

HISTORY & PROJECT INFORMATION

LATINO CULTURE & COMMUNITIES IN MINNESOTA

A BRIEF HISTORY



Arts and culture have been central to the story of Latino migration to Minnesota from the very beginning. The first documented migration of an individual from Latin America to Minnesota was an artist — the Mexican immigrant Luis Garzón, starting in 1886. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, incoming groups of Mexicans, Mexican Americans, and other Latino migrants would arrive and seek employment in three main industries: the agricultural beet farms, the railroad, and the meatpacking plants. Many of these migrants were seasonal workers at first, but eventually chose to stay and raise their families right here in Minnesota. It was in the vibrant working class neighborhood of the West Side Flats, on the west side of the Mississippi River in the state's capital city of Saint Paul, where Mexican migrants created the first Latino barrio in Minnesota. Old photos of the neighborhood show Mexican processions with mariachi bands and painted banners of the Virgen de Guadalupe. Another early Mexican community included the East Side of Saint Paul, in what is now "Swede Hollow Park." In the northwest Minnesota city of Crookston, Mexican migrant workers have powered the sugar beet industry for over a century.

Latino communities in Minnesota were relatively small in the early days — the 1930 census reported 3,626 Mexicans living in the state at that time, about 0.1% of the population. Over the next 60 years, Minnesota's Latino population grew at a steady rate of about 62% per decade. In the 1950s and 1960s, the City of Saint Paul forcibly displaced over 2,000 people from the West Side Flats to make way for an industrial park, and many of those residents resettled on higher grounds on the West Side, around what is now César Chávez Street. After the displacement, some West Siders began calling the Flats "Old Mexico" to honor their old cultural neighborhood. A sudden shift in the 1990s led to an explosion of Latino migration to Minnesota — that decade, the state's Latino population nearly tripled. Since 2000, our community has grown at a regular rate of about 57% annually.

Today, Minnesota Latinos number around 400,000, about 6% of the state. We remain a rapidly growing community — while the state's overall population has doubled over the past century, Minnesota's Latino community has grown by more than 100 times. And we continue to grow — Latinos represent 10% of Minnesota's children. In Minnesota, Mexicans represent the largest immigrant community by nationality. Mexicans also make up two-thirds (66%) of all Minnesota Latinos. In addition to Mexicans, Minnesota has seen large influxes of Latinos from Puerto Rico, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, and other Latin American nations.



LATINO CULTURE & COMMUNITIES IN MINNESOTA

A BRIEF HISTORY: CONTINUED

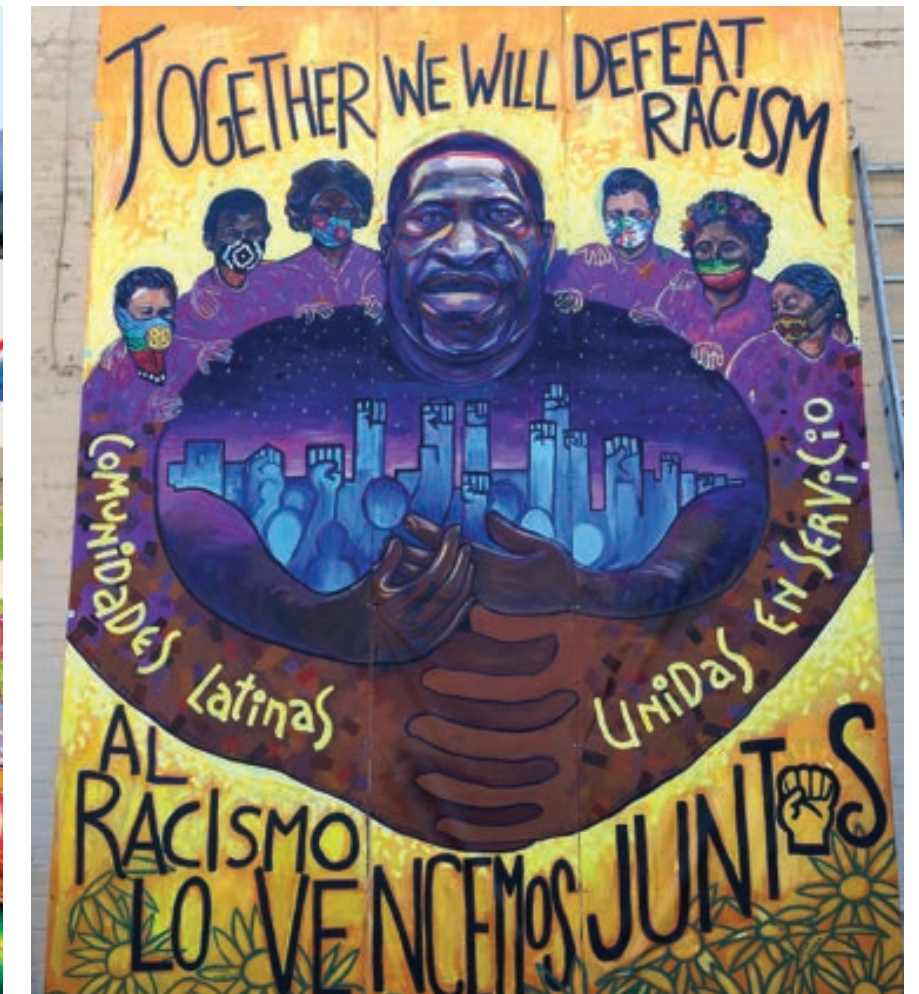


Before the Latino migration boom of the 1990s, Minnesota cities like Worthington (southwest region) experienced depopulation trends and withering local economies. Then, starting in the 1990s, Mexican and Central American migrants brought new life to these rural cities, and jump started local economies. According to the last census, Latinos made up 41% of Worthington’s population in 2020. Similar trends have occurred around the state — Latinos account for 17% of the population of Austin, MN (southwest region); and 24% of Willmar, MN. The Twin Cities Metro Area also saw large influxes of Latino immigrants. For over three decades, the East Lake Street Cultural Corridor in Minneapolis has been a central economic and cultural hub for Minnesota Latinos — a vibrant space where small businesses, artists, and community organizations share cultural traditions and uplift the community.

Today, the West Side cultural corridor (“Distrito del Sol”) in Saint Paul, which sits above and overlooks the old Flats neighborhood, is the only officially-designated Latino cultural district in the state. It is a vibrant community that includes many of the descendants of the first Mexican migrants who settled in the Flats, as well as many new Latino families from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. With each wave of Latino migration to Minnesota, and in each corner of the state where Latinos have built community, residents celebrate our rich cultural traditions and create vibrant new art forms. Latino artists have infused their imagination into every corner of the state.

Following the legacy of Garzón 140 years ago, there has been an explosion in Minnesota of glowing Latino music, visual art, poetry, and theatre scene. Several Latino cultural spaces paved the way for our work today— from CreArte, Mira Gallery, Art Trujillo and Electric Machete Studios, Latino artists in Minnesota have curated hundreds of exhibitions showcasing the work of emerging and well-established artists, often without financial support.

The Minnesota Latino Museum project will be located on Harriet Island Regional Park in the old West Side Flats neighborhood of Saint Paul, and will serve as a restorative justice project for Mexican residents displaced in the 1960s. The location will offer a space for all Minnesotans to learn about the history of our cultural community in the state, and to engage with contemporary Latino arts and cultural practices.



MINNESOTA LATINO MUSEUM

PROJECT INFORMATION



The Minnesota Latino Museum will be the first museum focused on the arts, history, and cultural heritage of 400,000+ Minnesotans of Mexican and Latin American heritage. Led by (Neo) Muralismos de México (NMM), a St Paul-based nonprofit, the Museum will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the Saint Paul neighborhood where the first Mexican immigrants established a Latino barrio in the state over a century ago.

The Minnesota Latino Museum will be the first Latino museum in Minnesota, the first in the Upper Midwest, and one of only around 25 Latino-focused museums in the entire United States.

CURATORIAL FOCUS

True to our community roots, the Minnesota Latino Museum will provide a space for Latino communities to celebrate our amazing cultural heritage, with three interconnected areas of focus:

1 - Arts & Culture. Two spacious art galleries with rotating art exhibits will present the work of local Minnesota-based Mexican and Latino artists, as well as national and international visiting artists. Our public programming will focus on community-engaged activities, always involving families in the celebration of our culture. Live music, folk art, poetry sessions, dance classes, and more will form part of our community programming. The museum will also include an outdoor Sculpture Park & Mural Garden, where we will celebrate and uplift our rich public art history, and offer outdoor performance activities.

2 - Social & Cultural History. We will tell the story of our community in Minnesota — where we came from, who we are, where we are going. A special focus will be the history of Mexican communities on the West Side Flats — the arrival of our community to this location over a century ago, as well as space for remembrance and healing from the trauma of being forcibly displaced from this neighborhood in the 1960s. We will also represent stories from around Minnesota — the development of small businesses on Lake St in Minneapolis; and the cultural traditions of Worthington, Austin, Red Wing, etc.

3 - Nature, Agriculture, and our Culinary Traditions. On the banks of the Mississippi River, Harriet Island Regional Park is the best location for our museum in Minnesota. Today, we know these sacred waters connect us to the Gulf of Mexico, and to our homelands in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Long before the arrival of Europeans, indigenous trade-routes along the Mississippi and its many tributaries facilitated the arrival of Mesoamerican food crops to the region — corn, beans, squash. The museum will include a gardening spaces and a green-house, with interactive exhibits about medicinal plants, food crops, culturally-specific flowers and plants, etc.



MINNESOTA LATINO MUSEUM

PROJECT INFORMATION: CONTINUED



COMMUNITY NEED

Over 400,000 Latinos live in Minnesota. Since 2000, our community has grown by almost 3 times (288%), compared to the 16% growth rate of the state overall. Today, Latinos represent 10% of Minnesota's children. Mexicans are the largest immigrant community in Minnesota by nationality

Nationally, Latinos are the largest racial or ethnic minority, representing around 69 million people. The US ranks fifth in the world in terms of total number of native Spanish speakers — 42 million, almost as many as Spain. 43 million people of Mexican heritage live in the United States, a quarter of all Mexicans worldwide. By 2060, the US Census estimates that Latinos will become a quarter of all Americans.

And yet, Latinos are falling drastically behind in terms of museum and cultural representation. While the Institute for Museum and Library Services estimates a total of 35,000 museums nationally, only about 25 (less than 0.1%) focus on Latinos. A 2017 study by the National Endowment for the Arts reported that Latinos rank at the bottom in most indicators of arts access.

In Minnesota, Latinos are the lowest-funded demographic in terms of arts and culture. There is currently no Museum or Cultural Center in MN focused on our community. Established cultural institutions too often ignore us — Mia, for example, has galleries dedicated to every region in the world, except Latin America.

Through our community engagement work since 2015, we have received input from hundreds of artists, community participants, cultural leaders, and allies. Time and time again, the number-one request has been to open a permanent cultural space where we can share our arts, cultural heritage, and history. In conversations with scholars, we have learned that this request dates back more than 25 years.

A NONPROFIT CULTURAL LEADER

NMM is leading the Minnesota Latino Museum effort, and we will build on our success and partnerships:

- In 2022, we led the creation of the first-ever Day of the Dead Altar (Ofrenda) at the State Capitol. Governor Walz issued a state proclamation celebrating our work and recognizing Day of the Dead in Minnesota. Through our leadership, MN became the first state in the US to officially recognize Day of the Dead.
- NMM's Executive Director Aaron Johnson-Ortiz previously worked at CLUES (2019-2021), where he founded and directed the Arts & Cultural Engagement department. Under his leadership, the department became the largest Latino-focused arts program or organization in the state.



MINNESOTA LATINO MUSEUM

PROJECT INFORMATION: CONTINUED



- In 2020, we co-founded the Mexican Cultural Arts Alliance (MCAA), the only national coalition of Mexican-led cultural organizations. Through MCAA, we receive weekly support from established institutions, including the National Museum of Mexican Art (Chicago, IL), the first Latino museum in the US, as well as Arte Américas (Fresno, CA), Latino Cultural Arts Center (Denver, CO), etc.
- We are also active members of the Minnesota Latino Leadership Alliance (MiLLA). Through MiLLA, we maintain active collaborations with Minnesota Latino organizations, including the Minnesota Council of Latino Affairs, HACER MN, COPAL, Minnesota Immigrant Movement, LatinoLEAD, LEDC, etc.
- We also maintain active partnerships with arts organizations around the state, including Austin Area Arts (Austin); Anderson Center at Tower View (Red Wing); Worthington International Festival (Worthington); etc.

THE BEST LOCATION IN MINNESOTA

On the banks of the Mississippi River, Harriet Island Regional Park is the ideal location for the Minnesota Latino Museum. We are grateful for the support and collaboration of the City of Saint Paul on this project:

- By reclaiming space for our community in the historic West Side Flats, the Museum will provide a space for community healing from the displacement of Mexican residents in the 1960s from this neighborhood.
- Harriet Island is the most publicly-accessible and family-friendly space in the historic West Side Flats.
- The park's many existing amenities amplify our mission — the only Mexican American Veterans Memorial in Minnesota, an outdoor performance stage, a Pavilion for special events, 500 parking spots, bike paths connected to the entire Twin Cities, a second outdoor stage at Raspberry Island, etc.
- The park is the only location in Saint Paul that is both part of the West Side and also part of the Downtown Cultural District. This makes it the best location in the state for the Minnesota Latino Museum:
 - The West Side is the only Latino-focused cultural district in Minnesota.
 - The Downtown Cultural District hosts many of MN's most prominent museums, including the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Minnesota Children's Museum, the Minnesota Museum of American Art, etc.
 - Currently, there are no cultural spaces or museums on the west bank of the river. The Minnesota Latino Museum will tie West Side communities to the downtown museum district, and vice versa.
 - The location within the Downtown Cultural District ensures adequate annual funding from the City.



MINNESOTA LATINO MUSEUM

PROJECT INFORMATION: CONTINUED



PROJECT TIMELINE

- 2015-2027: Ongoing community engagement with artists, partners, community participants, and leaders.
- 2023: Identify site; secure site control with City of Saint Paul; meet with project partners and architects.
- 2024: Secure state appropriation; secure private foundation investment. Pro forma.
- 2025: Finalize design with community input. Site studies and preparation, construction begins.
- 2026: Finalize engagement with architects and planners. Construction continues.
- 2027: Construction ends. Ribbon-cutting ceremony, community celebration, and opening exhibit.

Square footage: **25,000 Square Foot approximately in building construction.**

The design of the Museum has four (4) features: a sculpture park and mural garden, the museum building, a four-season green space, and artists residences.

SCULPTURE PARK AND MURAL GARDEN (PLACITA)

- Outdoors. It will be located at the west of the Museum Building

MUSEUM BUILDING. 16,500 Square Feet approximately.

- Core of the Minnesota Latino Museum
- 4-stories tall
- Galleries and Exhibits
- Performance Space
- Workshops/Classrooms
- Cafe/Dining
- Administration/Offices

FOUR-SEASON GREEN SPACE. 6,000 Square Feet approximately.

- Enclosed space
- Medicinal and Cultural food/herbs
- Culinary Education

ARTISTS RESIDENCES. 2,600 Square Feet approximately.

- Private Rooms for Artists
- Communal Kitchen and Living Artist Working Space

The Museum will also be the home-base of a strong “mobile museum” — a pop-up exhibits trailer that will deliver cultural and educational activities around the state; and will build upon our existing partnerships in Minneapolis and in Greater Minnesota locations including Red Wing, Austin, Worthington, Duluth, etc.



PROJECT CONTEXT MAP

HARRIET ISLAND REGIONAL PARK



LOCATION

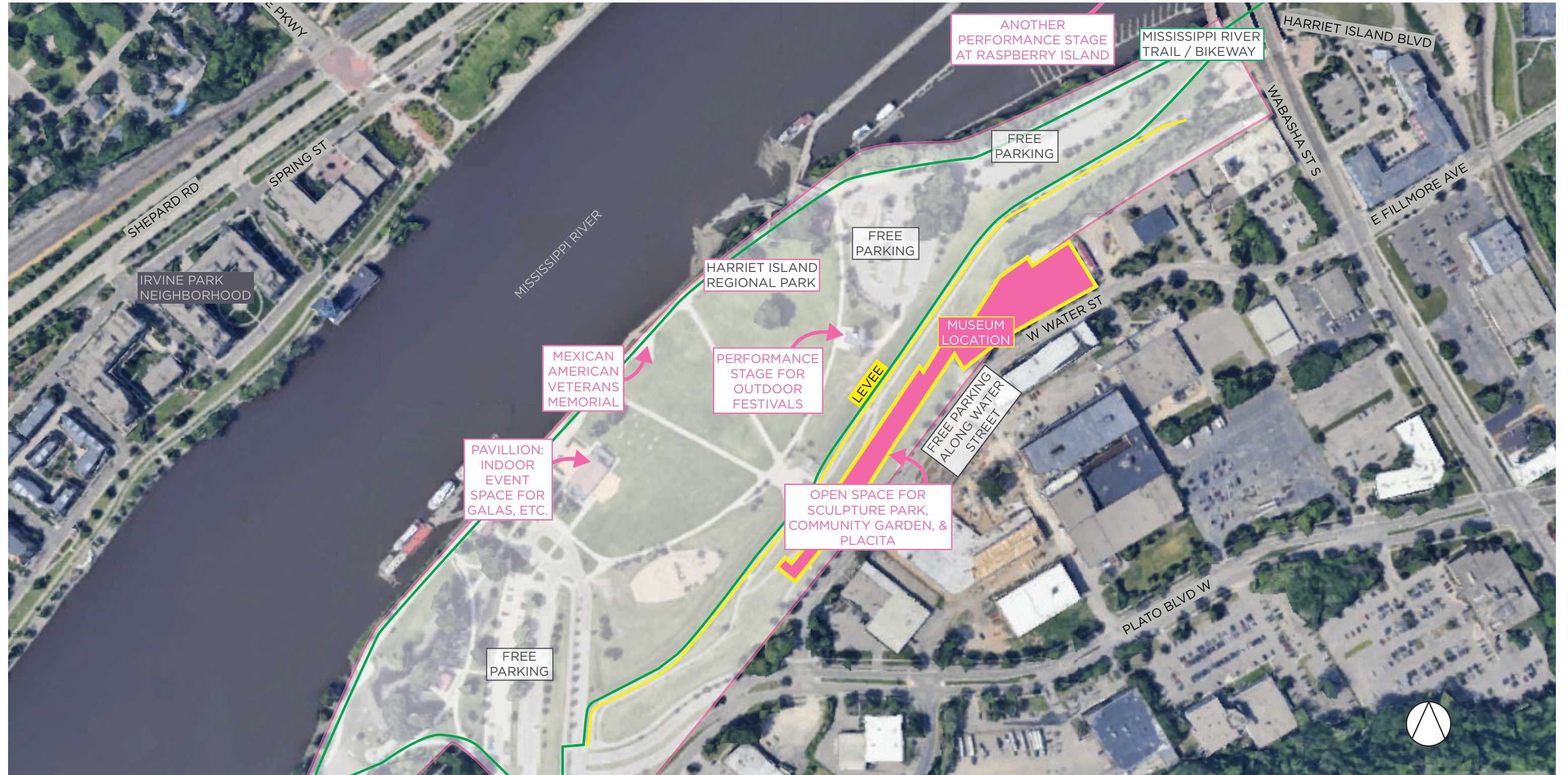
The Minnesota Latino Museum will sit at Harriet Island Regional Park, behind the levee created for the Mississippi River. This location is significant because it is where the first Mexican migrant workers established in Saint Paul. The Museum has views of the River and Downtown area.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

LOCATION

The proposed site sits along W Water St, which is accessible by Wabasha St S. Adjacent to the project site is a levee for the Mississippi River. This levee is crowned with a pedestrian and cyclist path, which run through Harriet Island Regional Park. These trails have the potential to connect to a Museum entrance. Also in close proximity to the project site are apartments, industrial and commercial spaces, and a public charter high school.



PROCESS

DEVELOPING THE DESIGN CONCEPT

The process started in January 2024 to develop the Pre-Schematic design concept. This effort is a collaboration between 4RM+ULA Architects and (Neo) Muralismos de Mexico. During 2 months, they met frequently to discuss the vision and mission of the Minnesota Latino Museum.

During this period, they engaged community artists to receive input about the project regarding their hopes and dreams.

DESIGN CONCEPT PROCESS

Precedents:

Since the very early stages of the Minnesota Latino Museum's creation, 4RM+ULA and (Neo)Muralismos referenced architectural precedents from Pre-Columbian Latin America that influenced the building's design. These precedents can be found in the Appendix.

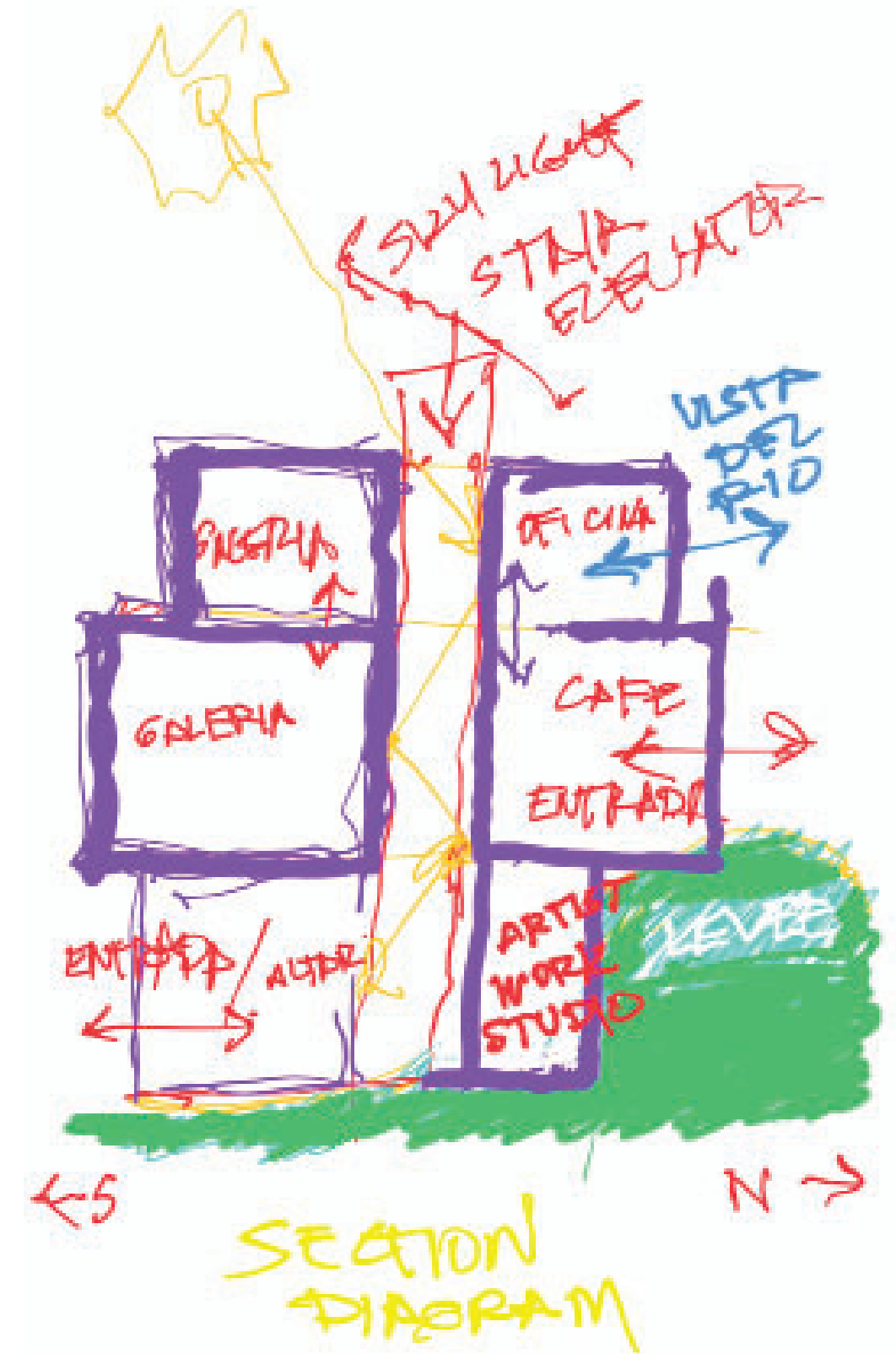
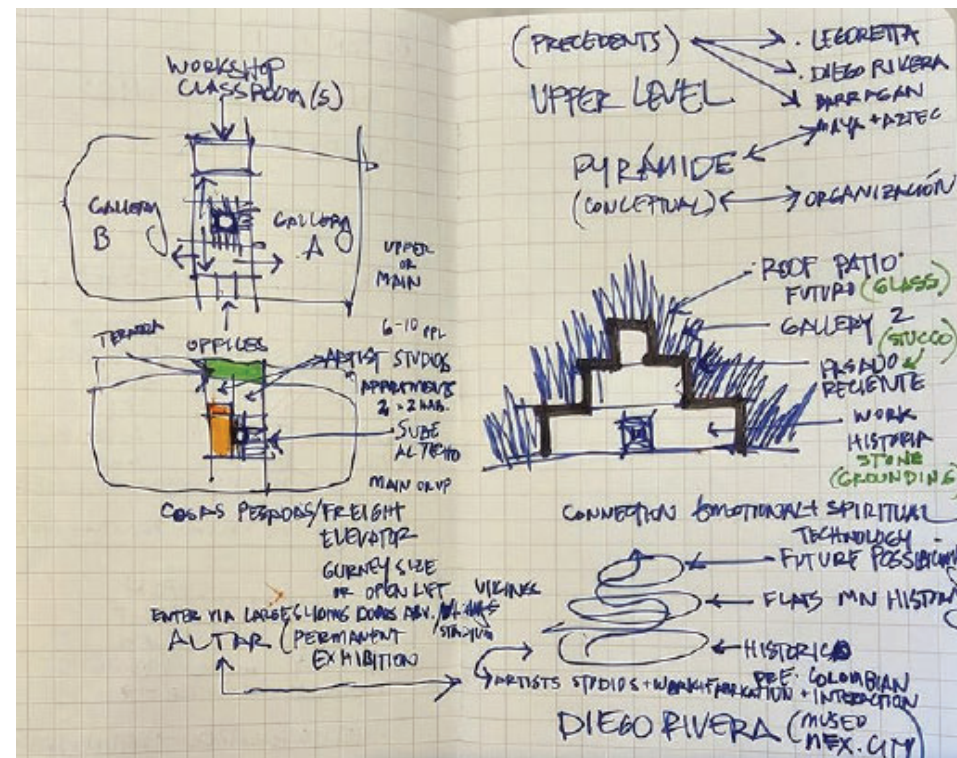
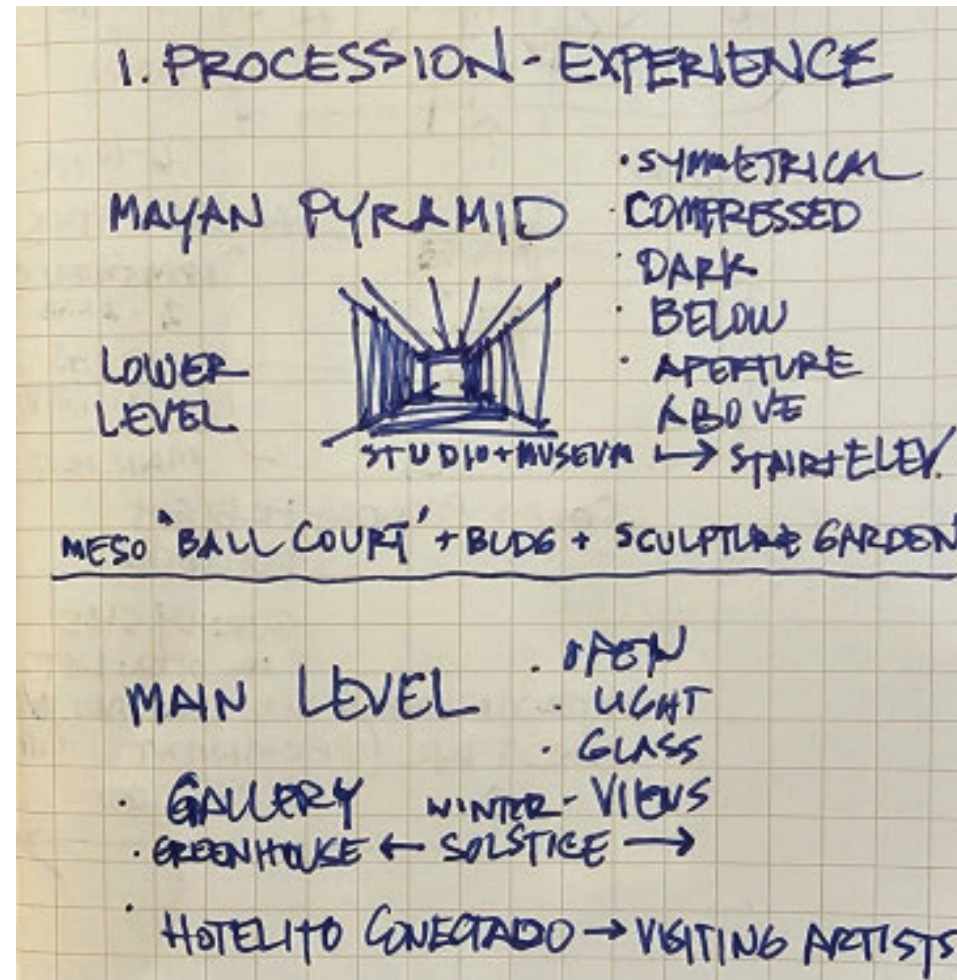
Precedent examples included Tenochtitlan (bridge concept), Kukulcan at Chichen Itza (serpent's head and body), and the Ball Courts at Tikal (outdoor plaza space).

In addition to seeking inspiration from artistic history, it was important that the Museum integrates agricultural and horticultural traditions such as medicinal herbs, indigenous flora, and crops that grew abundantly before the colonial era in Mexico and Latin America.

While developing the ideas further, these precedents and inspiration stood at the forefront of the design choices. It's imperative that the Museum honors and exhibits a visual and symbolic connection to the rich histories of the Pre-Columbian world, allowing a contemporary building to stay true to its ancestral roots.

Sketches:

Concept sketches were created by James Garrett Jr., in collaboration with (Neo)Muralismos de Mexico. They served as the preliminary basis for the Minnesota Latino Museum design process.



PROCESS

DEVELOPING THE DESIGN CONCEPT CONTINUED:



Bubble Diagrams:

Preliminary bubble diagrams built off of the concept sketches, allowing the design team to think about the physical space in terms of square footage, program adjacencies, and how the Museum relates to the site. Please refer to the next few pages for the series of bubble diagrams.

Physical Model:

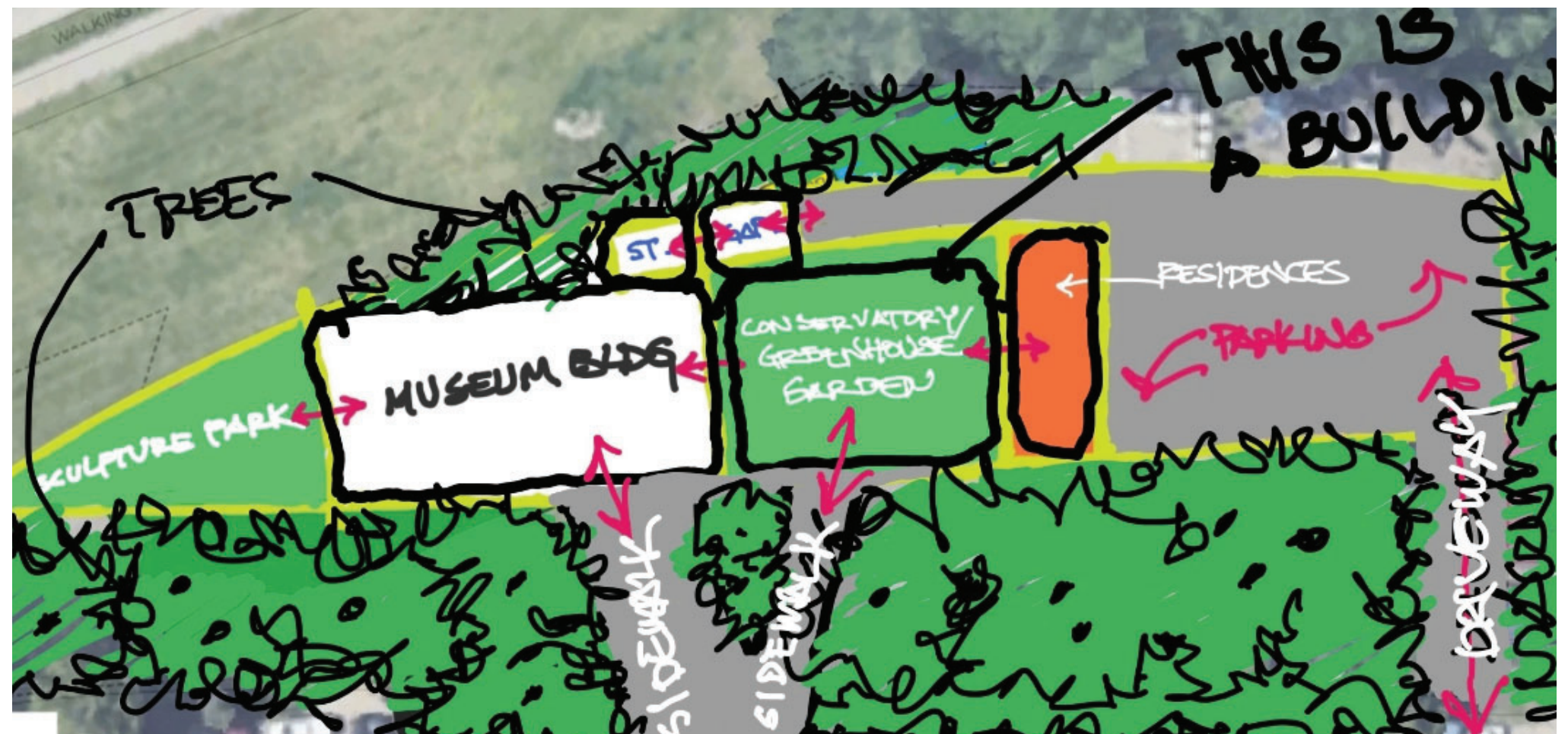
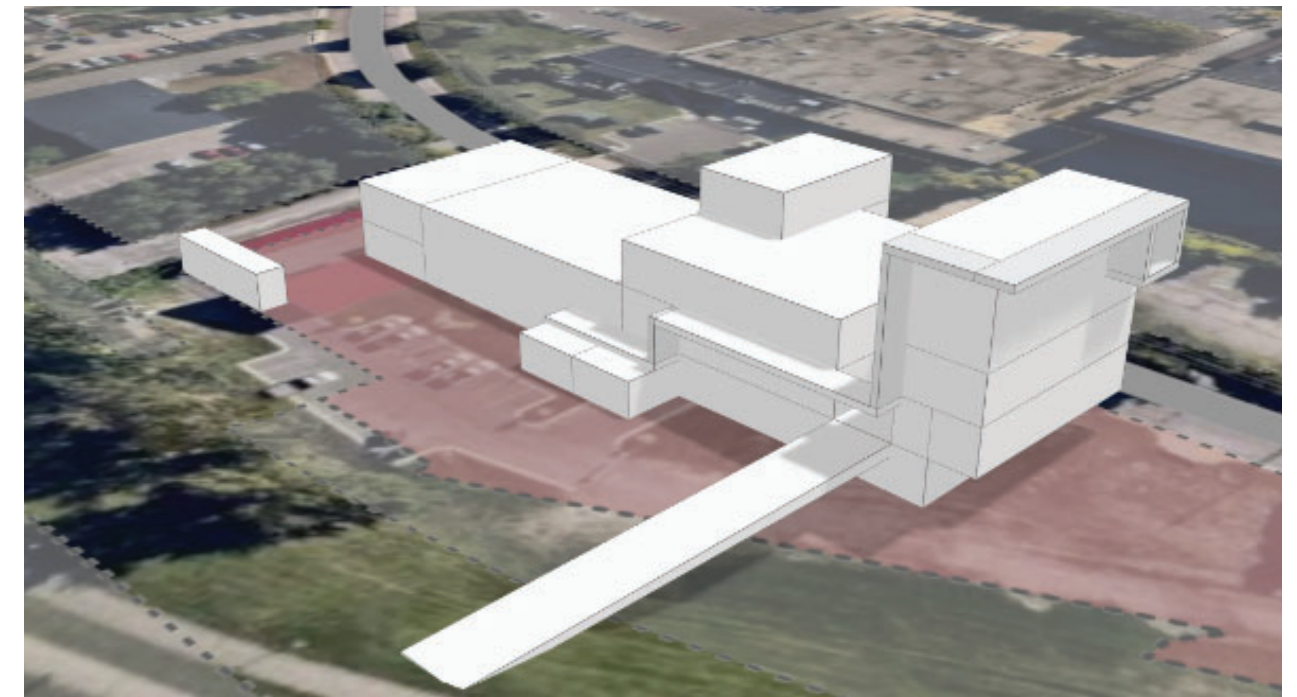
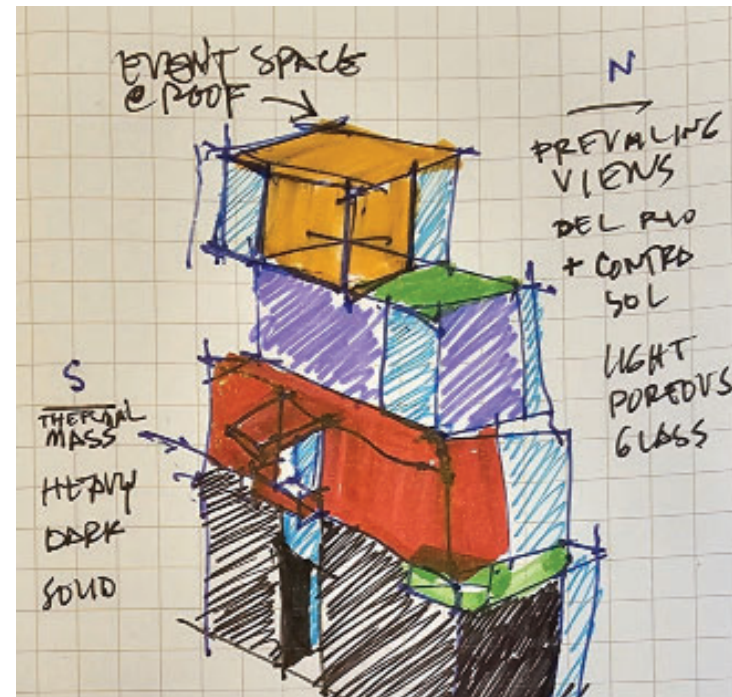
The physical model allowed the design team to visualize the bubble diagrams in 3-dimensions. Alterations to the physical model were reflected in the bubble diagrams.

Digital 3-D Modeling and Fit Plans:

3-D modeling was a strategy used to refine both the bubble diagrams and physical model so that the Museum could begin to look like a building instead of a generic massing. Generating fit plans allowed the design team to understand how the building would operate functionally.

Rendering Creation:

Once the design team and (Neo)Muralismos were satisfied with the 3-D modeling, the rendering process started. Renderings were fine-tuned in Photoshop to include people, sculptures, and signage.



INITIAL PROGRAMMING

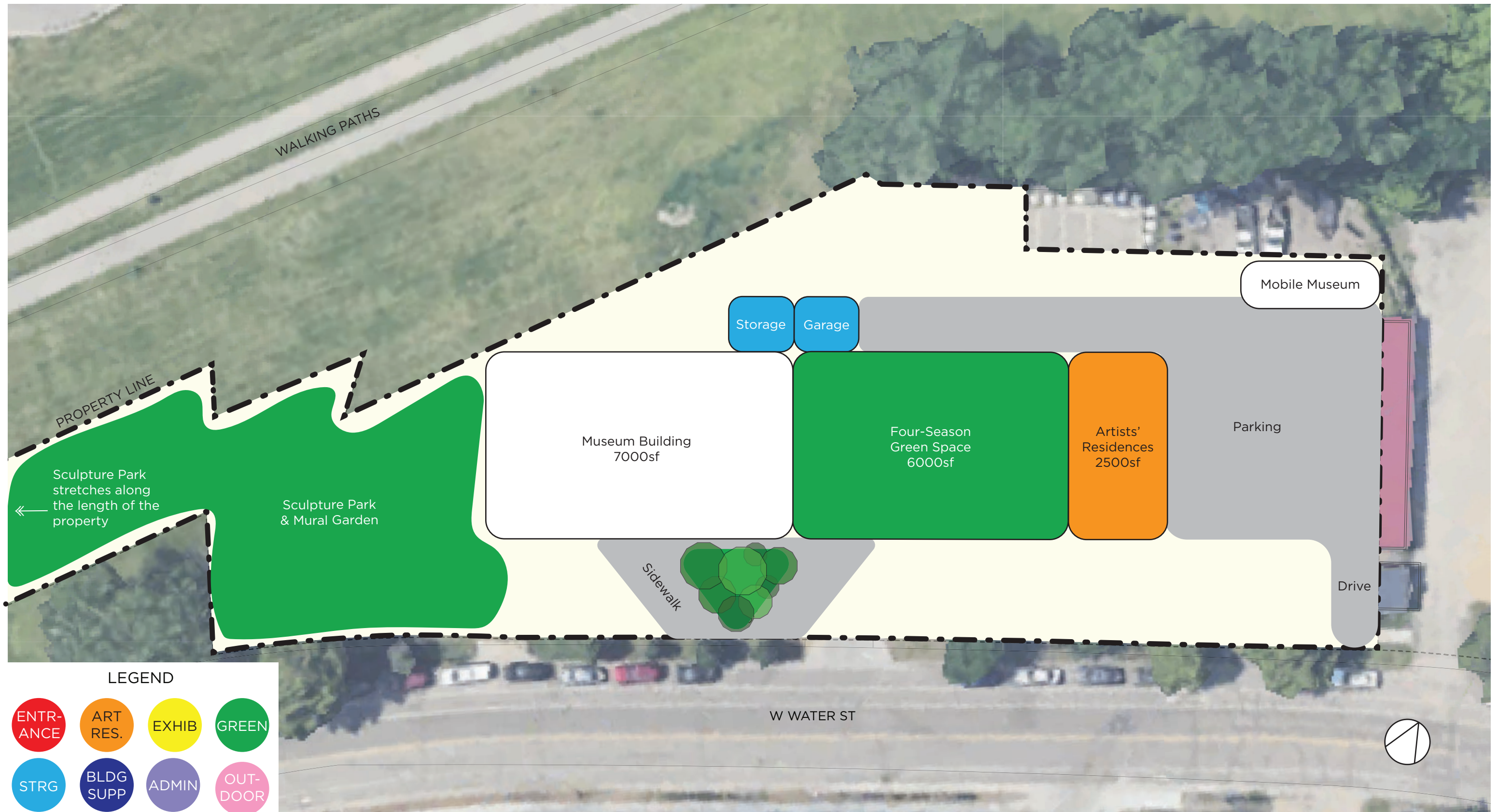


DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL PROGRAMMING

The earliest design iteration includes three floor levels. The lower level has direct access to W Water Street and the Sculpture Park. The main level acts as the second floor, but its positioning in relation to the Mississippi River levee allows Harriet Island Regional Park's guests to enter the Museum from a bridge connecting the levee to the main entrance. The upper level is only accessible from the inside of the building.

INITIAL PROGRAMMING						
Museum Building		Four Season Green Space		Artist Residences		
	SPACE NAME	TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE	SPACE NAME	TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE	SPACE NAME	TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE
LOWER LEVEL	Theater + Event + Perform	1450	Four Season Green Space	7000	Bedrooms + Bathrooms	1200
	Workshop	600				
	Food Court	1400				
	Storage	700				
	Garage	500				
	MAIN LEVEL	Terrace	1500			
Main Exhibit 1		1800				
Main Exhibit 2		1300				
Café/Gifts		300				
Office		450				
Reception/Lobby		400				
UPPER LEVEL	Classroom	900				
	Terrace	2000				
	Kitchen	700				
TOTAL	14000		700		1200	
GRAND TOTAL APPROX. SQUARE FOOTAGE		15,900				

PRELIMINARY BUBBLE DIAGRAM - SITE



LEGEND

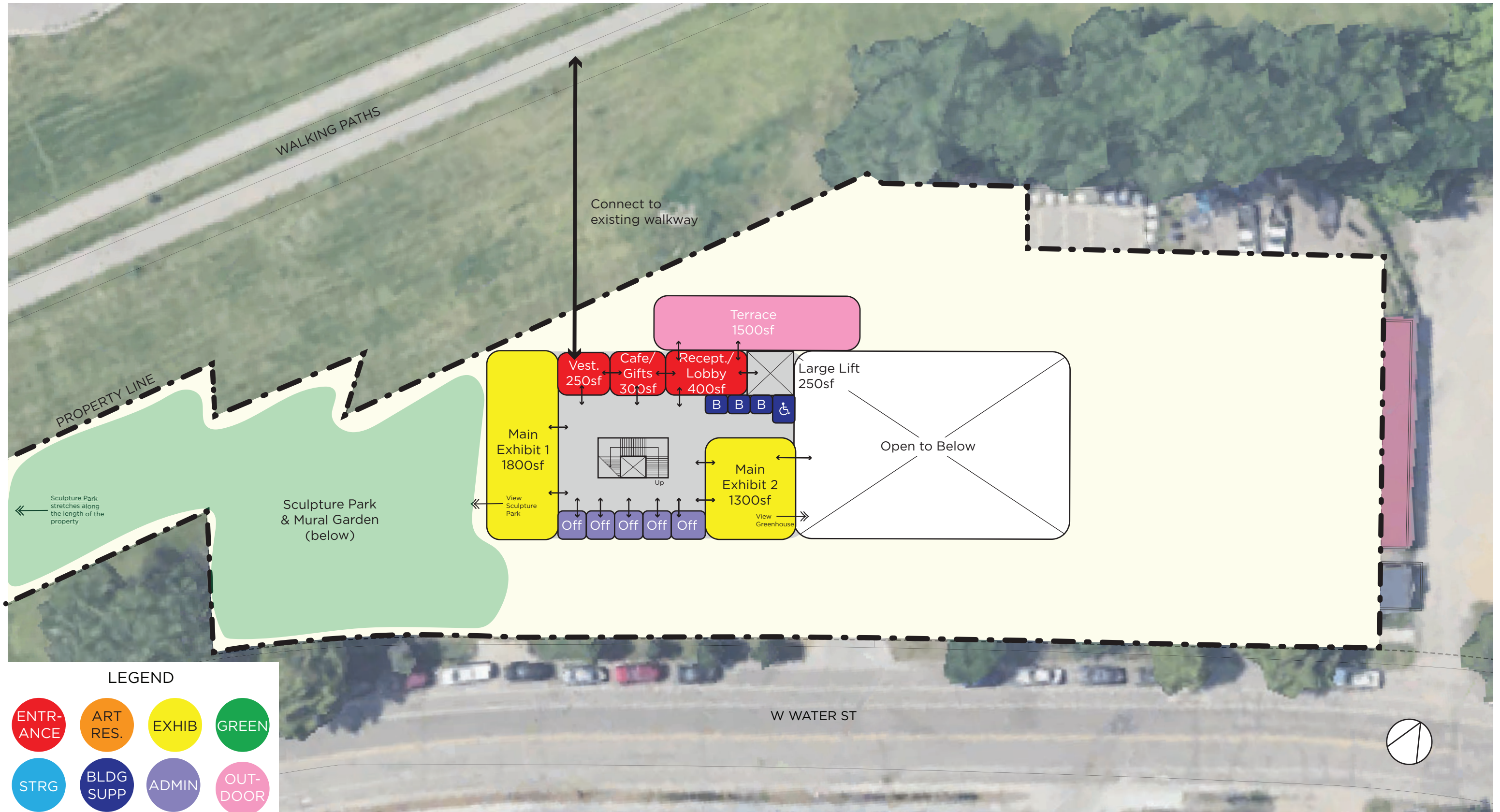
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ANCE
- ART
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- EXHIB
- GREEN
- STRG
- BLDG
SUPP
- ADMIN
- OUT-
DOOR



PRELIMINARY BUBBLE DIAGRAM - LOWER LEVEL



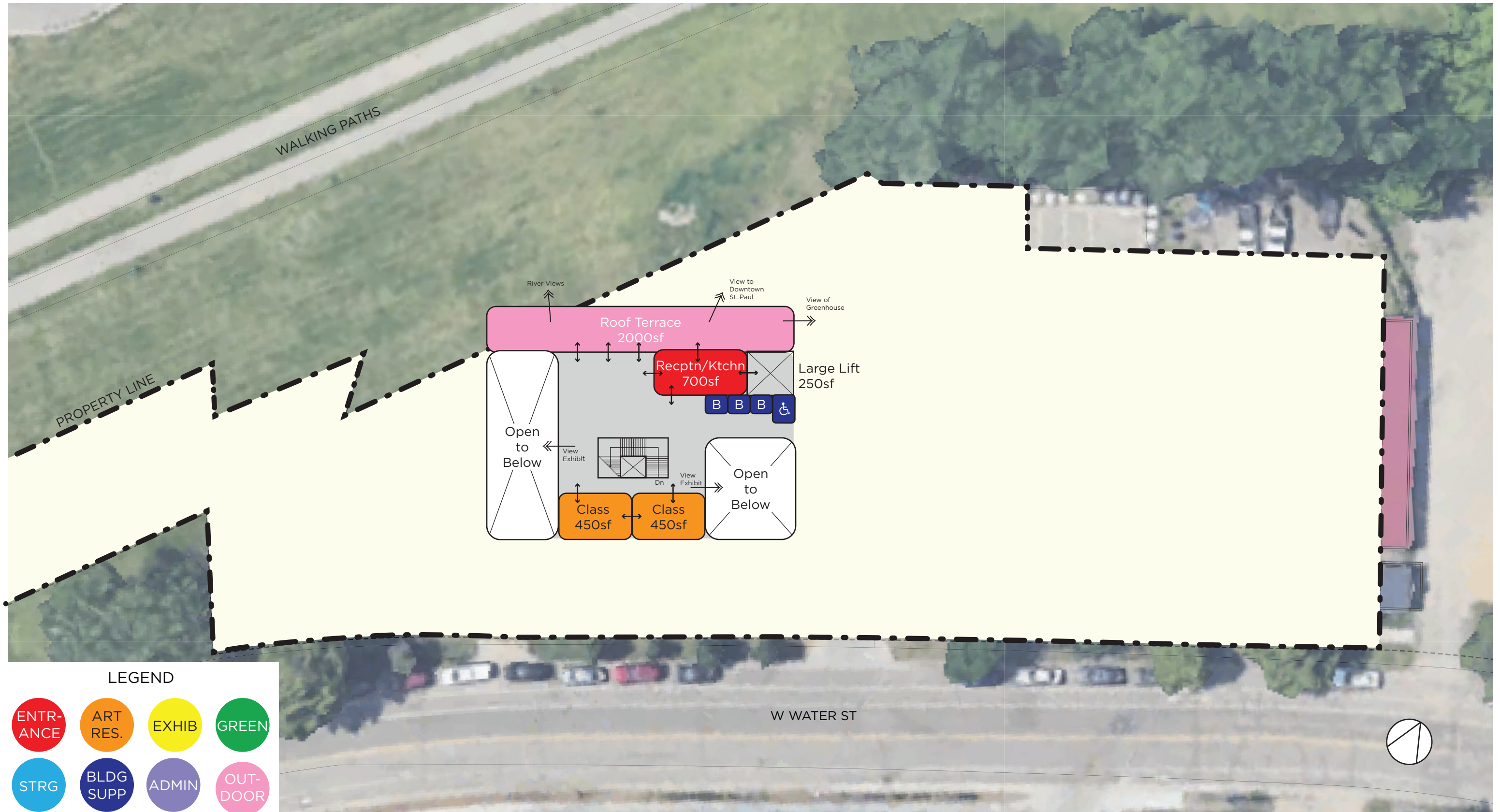
PRELIMINARY BUBBLE DIAGRAM - MAIN LEVEL



LEGEND

- ENTR-
ANCE
- ART
RES.
- EXHIB
- GREEN
- STRG
- BLDG
SUPP
- ADMIN
- OUT-
DOOR

PRELIMINARY DIAGRAM - UPPER LEVEL



LEGEND

- ENTR-
ANCE
- ART
RES.
- EXHIB
- GREEN
- STRG
- BLDG
SUPP
- ADMIN
- OUT-
DOOR

REFINED PROGRAMMING

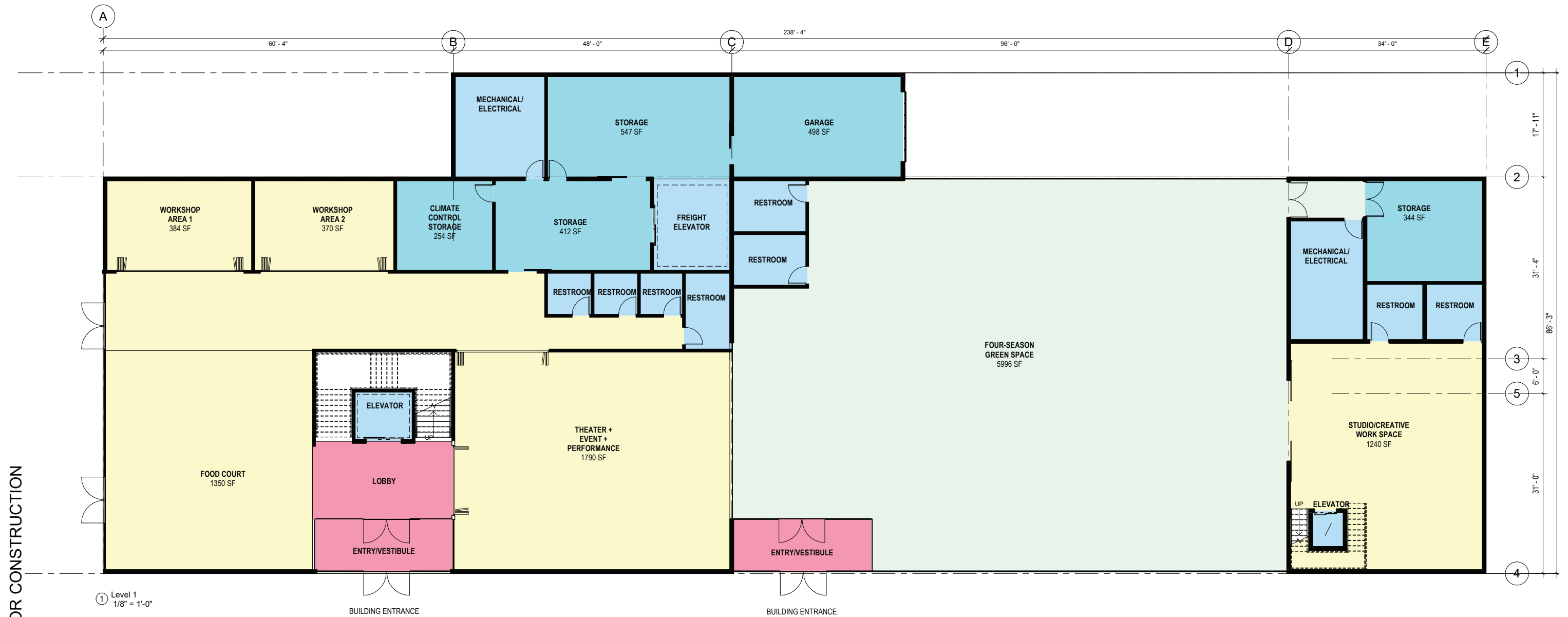


DEVELOPMENT OF REFINED PROGRAMMING

During the design process, the architects and (Neo)Muralismos' Board Members decided that additional space was needed to accommodate a permanent Collections exhibit. The Remaining program remains relatively unchanged.

REFINED PROGRAMMING						
Museum Building			Four Season Green Space		Artist Residences	
	SPACE NAME	TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE	SPACE NAME	TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE	SPACE NAME	TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE
LEVEL 1	Theater+Event+Perform	1790	Four Season Green Space	5996	Storage	344
	Workshop Spaces	754			Studio	1240
	Food Court	1350				
	Storages	959				
	Garage	498				
LEVEL 2	Terrace	1325			Terrace	204
	Main Exhibit 1	1454			Bedrooms + Bathrooms	902
	Main Exhibit 2	1568				
	Café/Gifts	377				
	Office	563				
	Reception/Lobby	537				
LEVEL 3	Classroom	730				
	Flexible Space/Open Floor	2400				
	Kitchen	385				
	Reception/Lobby	375				
LEVEL 4	Collections Exhibit	1454				
TOTAL	16519		5996		2690	
GRAND TOTAL APPROX. SQUARE FOOTAGE		25,205				

FIT PLAN - LEVEL 1



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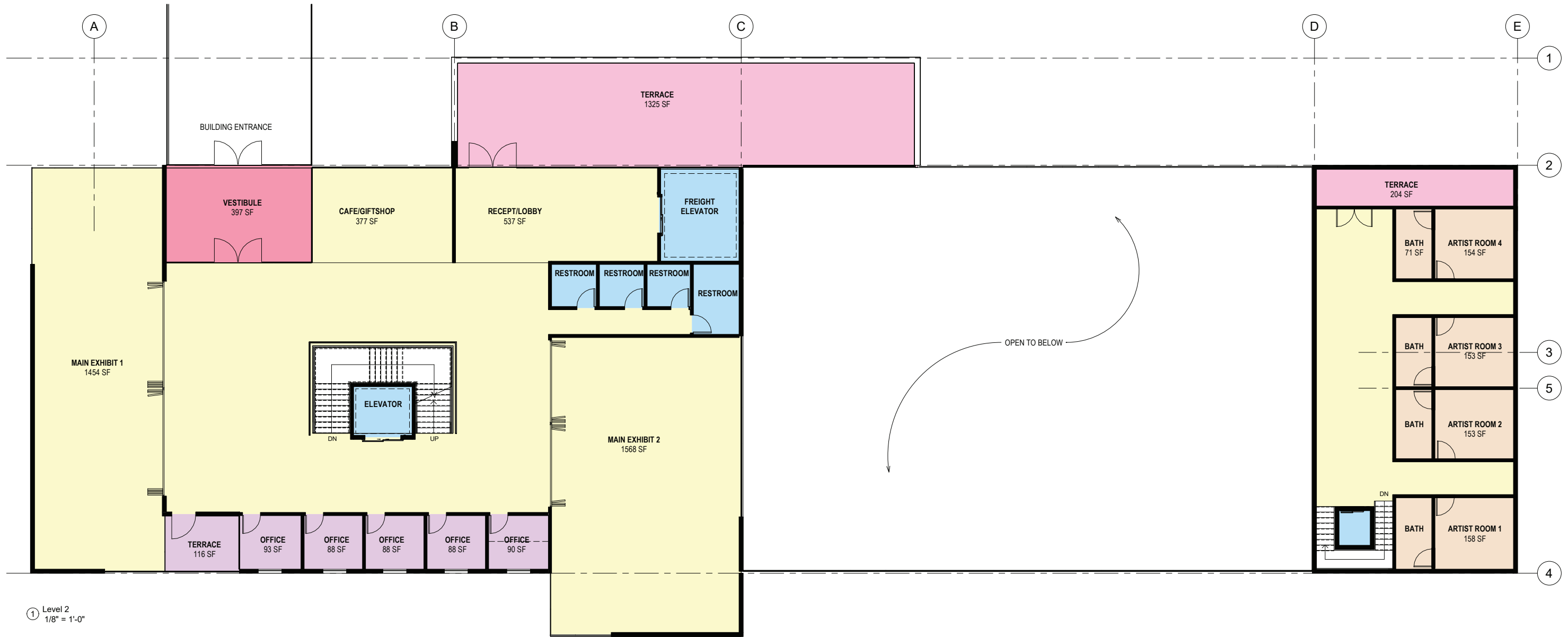
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LEGEND

- ENTRANCE
- EXHIB + PUBLIC
- GREEN
- STORAGE
- SUPPORT

PROJECT NAME
(NEO) MURALISMOS DE MINNESOTA - MINNESOTA LATINO MUSEUM
 PRESCHMATIC DESIGN LEVEL 1

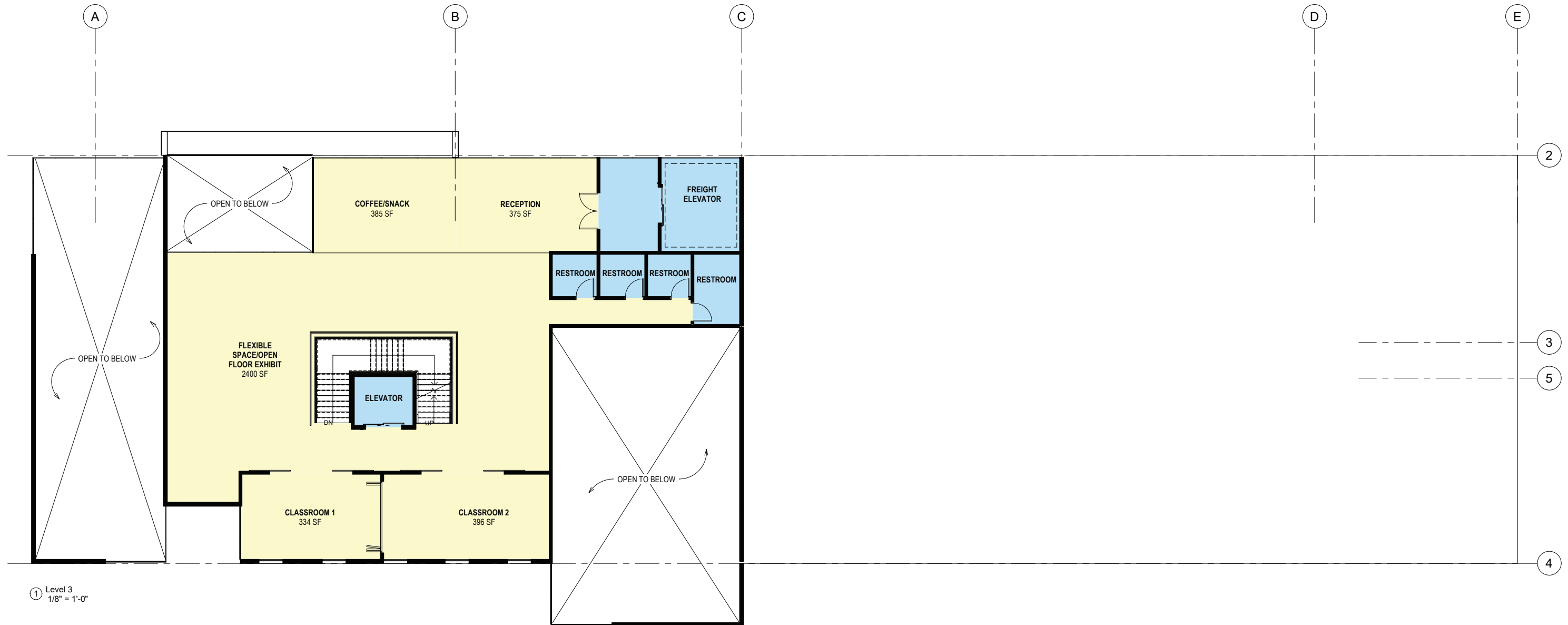
FIT PLAN - LEVEL 2



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FIT PLAN - LEVEL 3



① Level 3
1/8" = 1'-0"

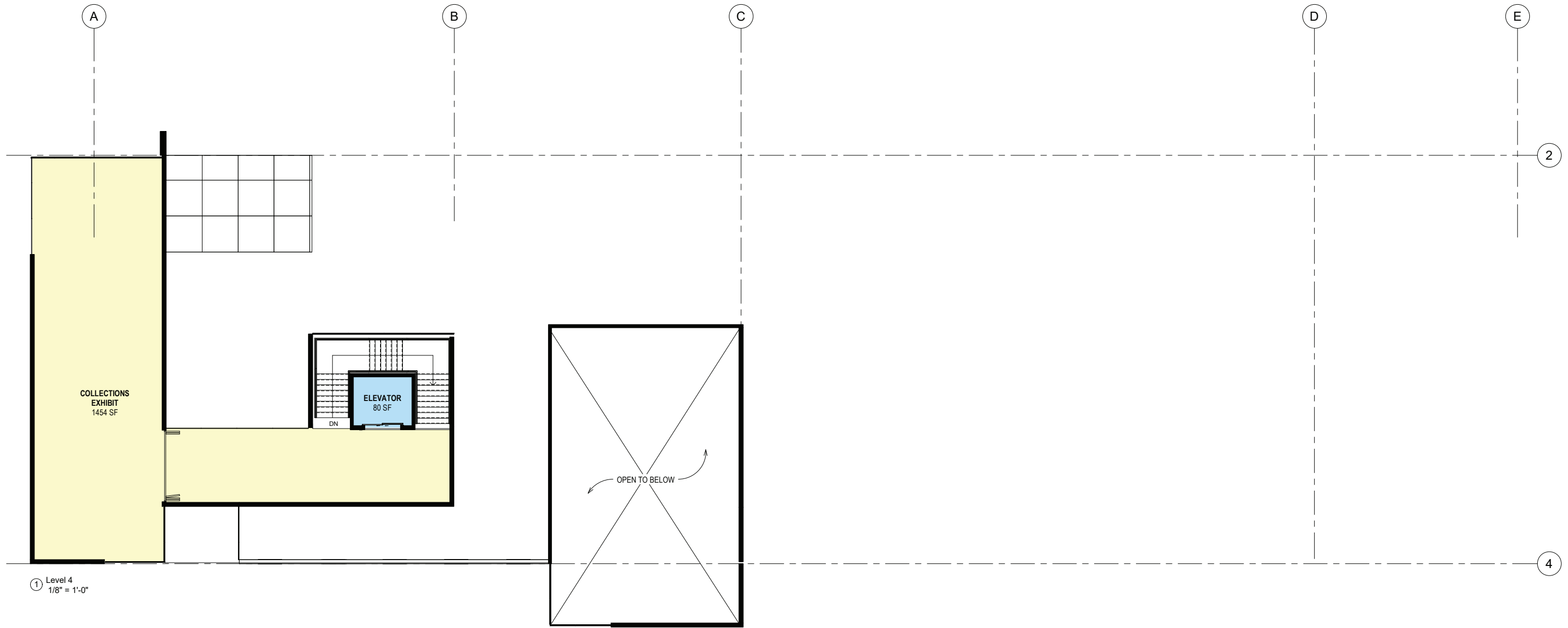
LEGEND

- EXHIB + PUBLIC
- SUPPORT

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FIT PLAN - LEVEL 4



① Level 4
1/8" = 1'-0"

LEGEND

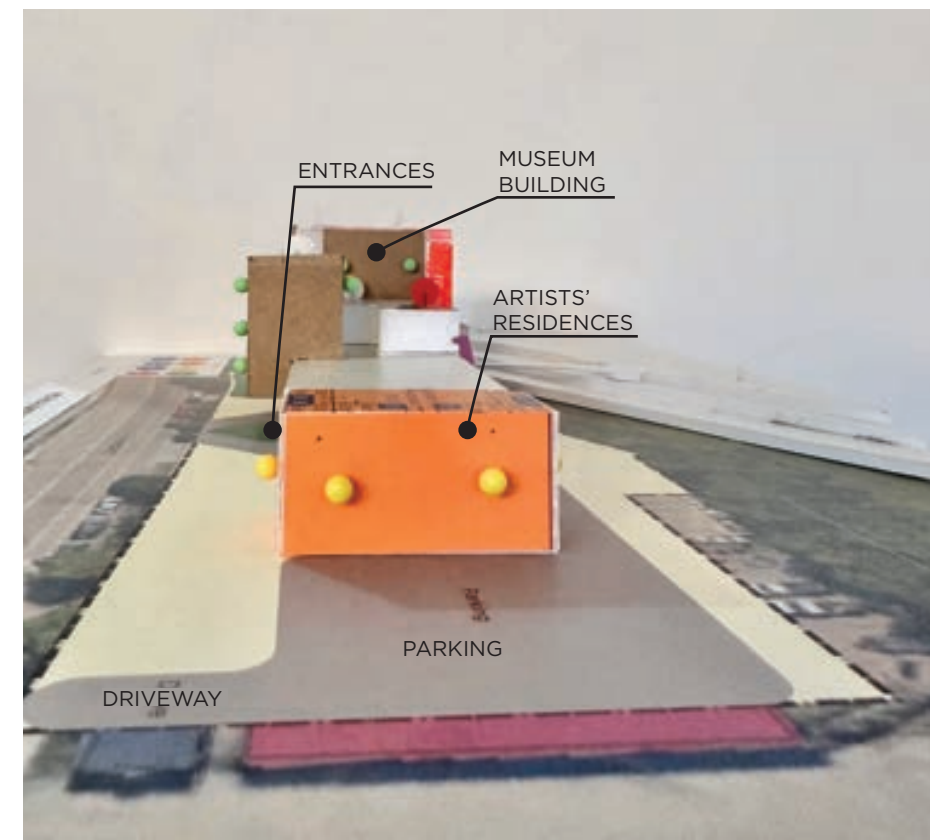
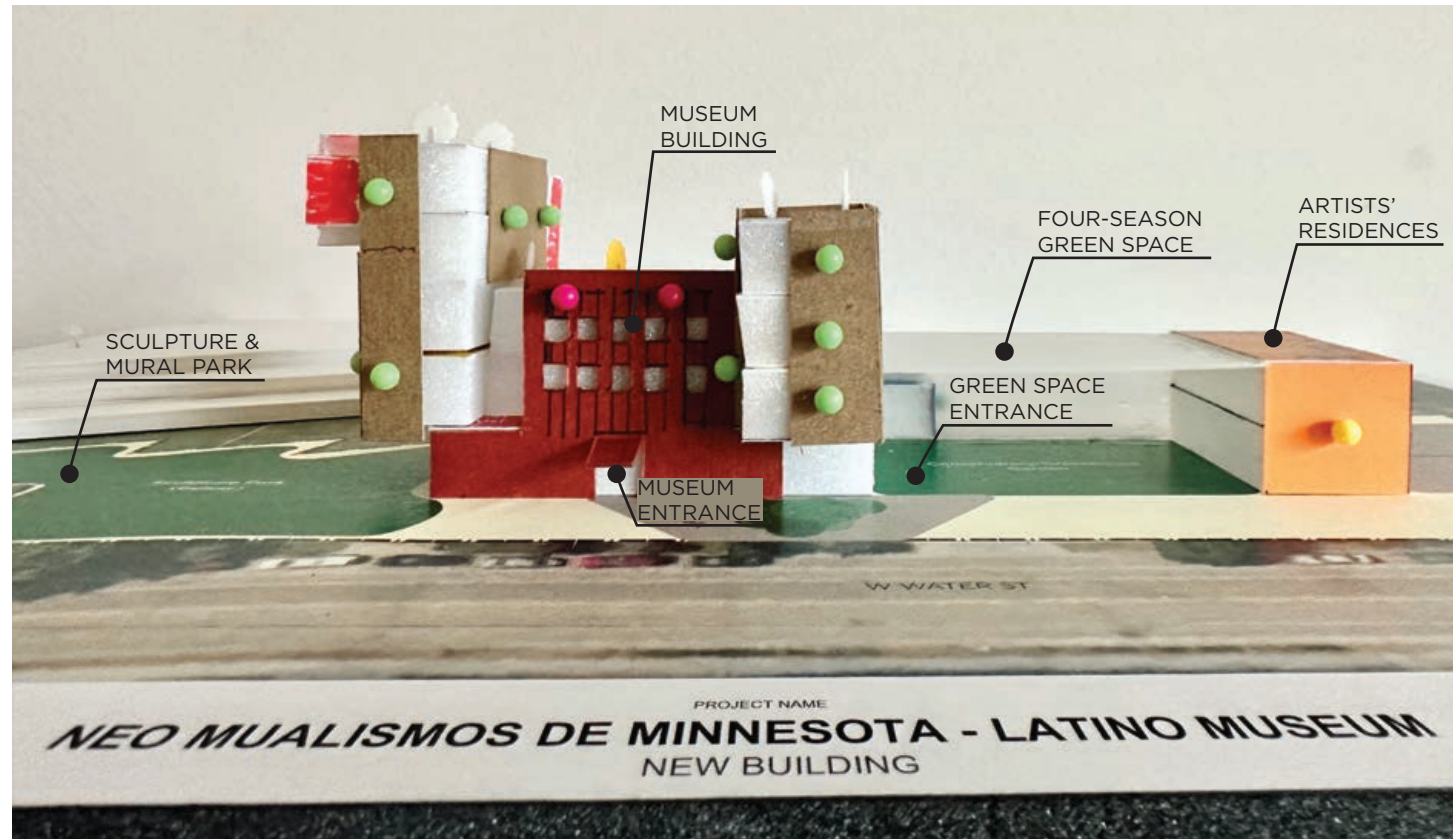
- EXHIB + PUBLIC
- SUPPORT

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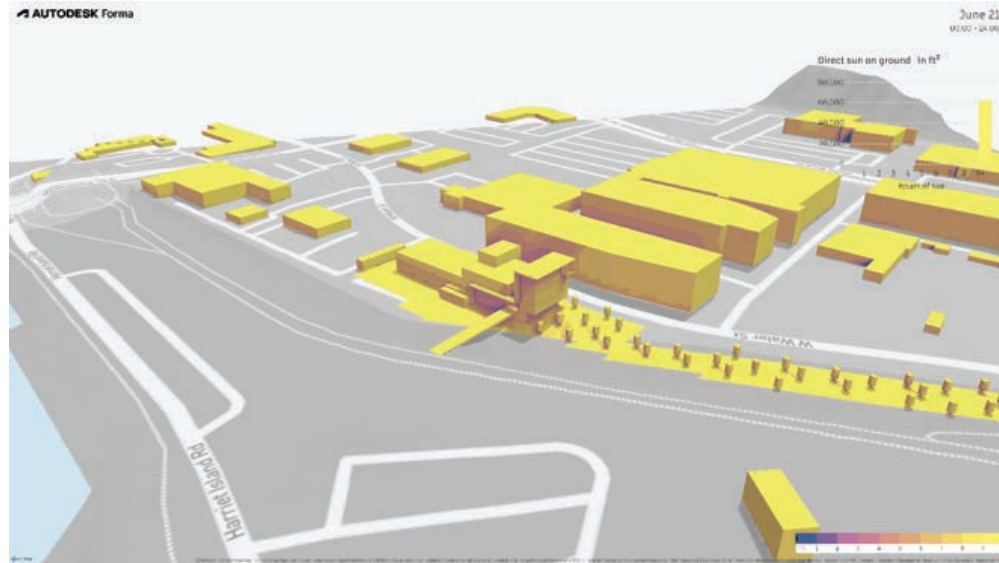
PHYSICAL MODEL



4RM+ULA



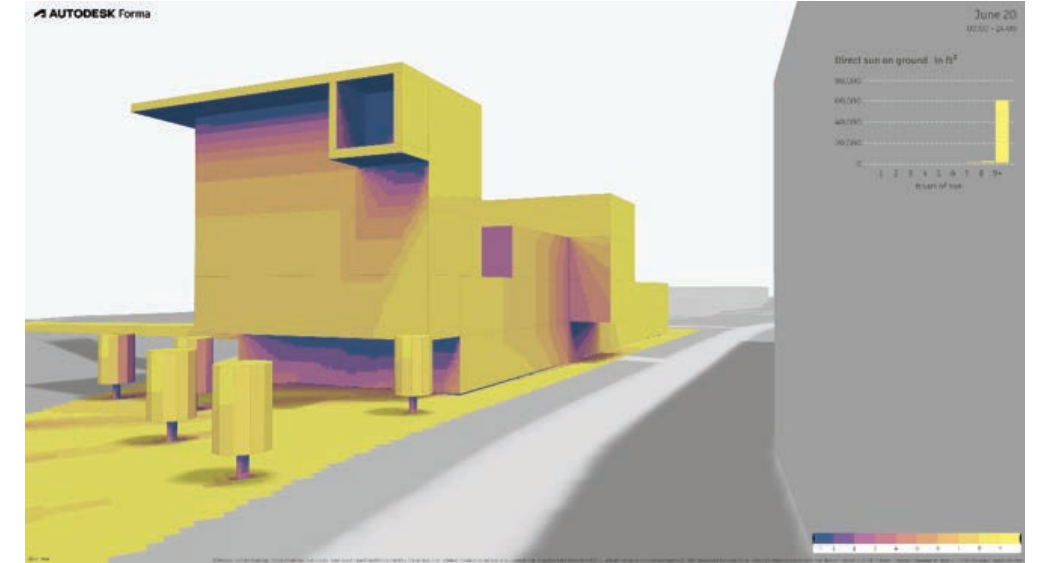
SITE ANALYSIS GRAPHICS - SUN & SHADOWS



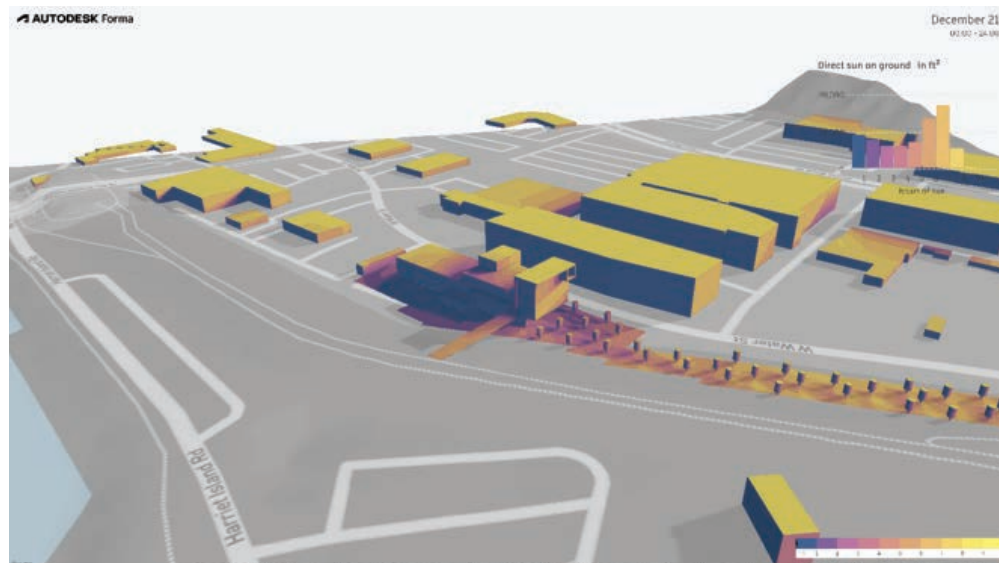
SUMMER SOLSTICE SUN



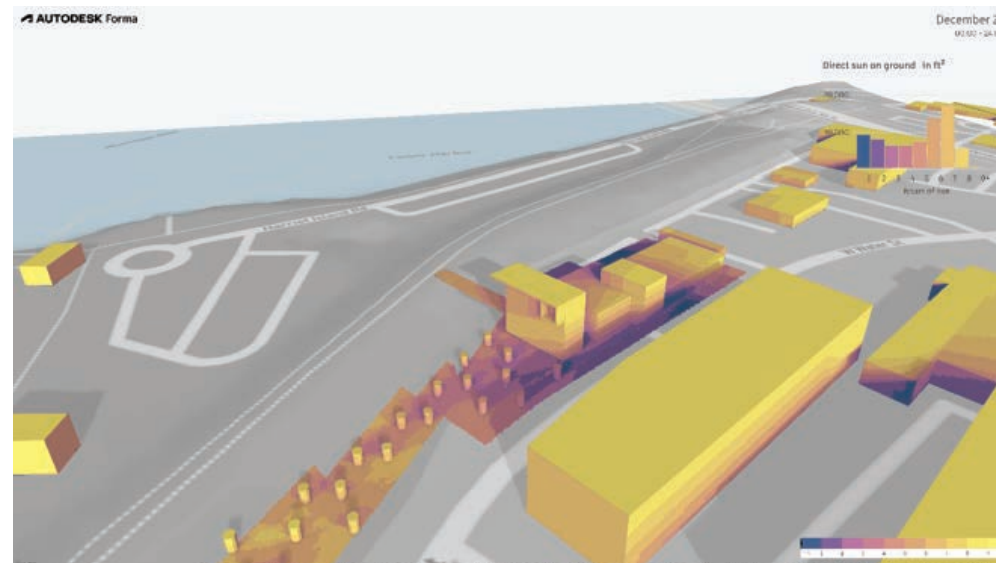
SUMMER SOLSTICE SUN



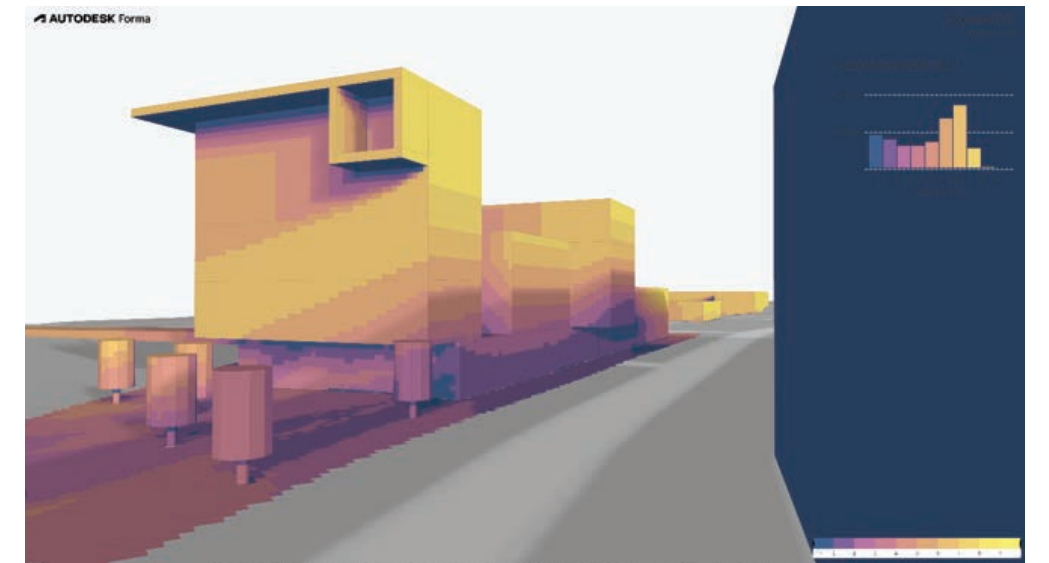
SUMMER SOLSTICE SUN



WINTER SOLSTICE SUN

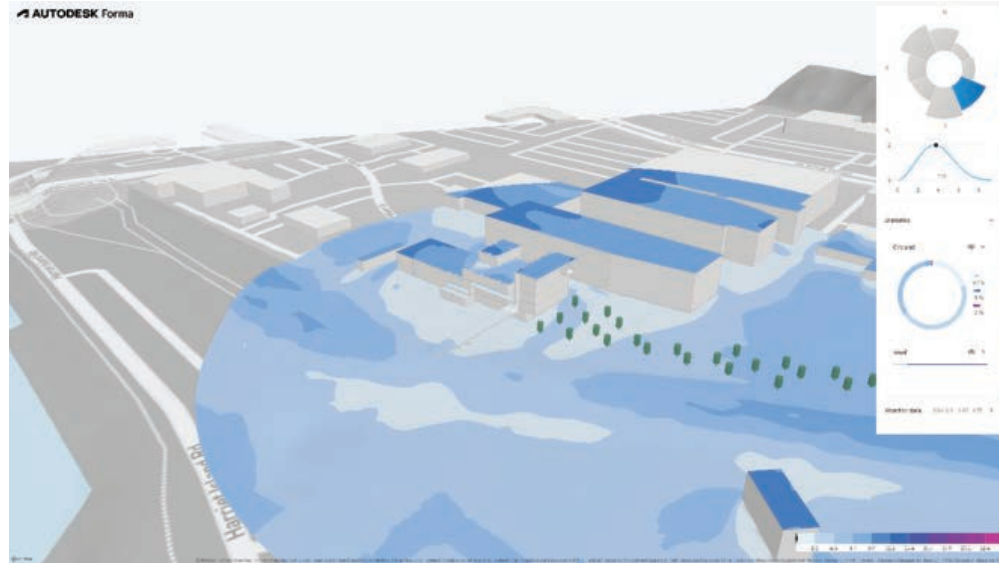


WINTER SOLSTICE SUN

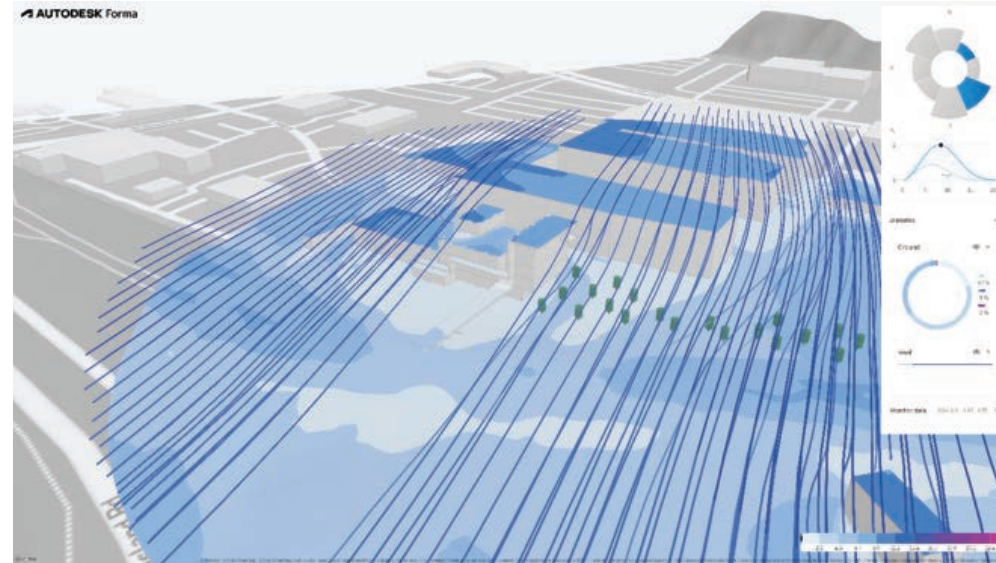


WINTER SOLSTICE SUN

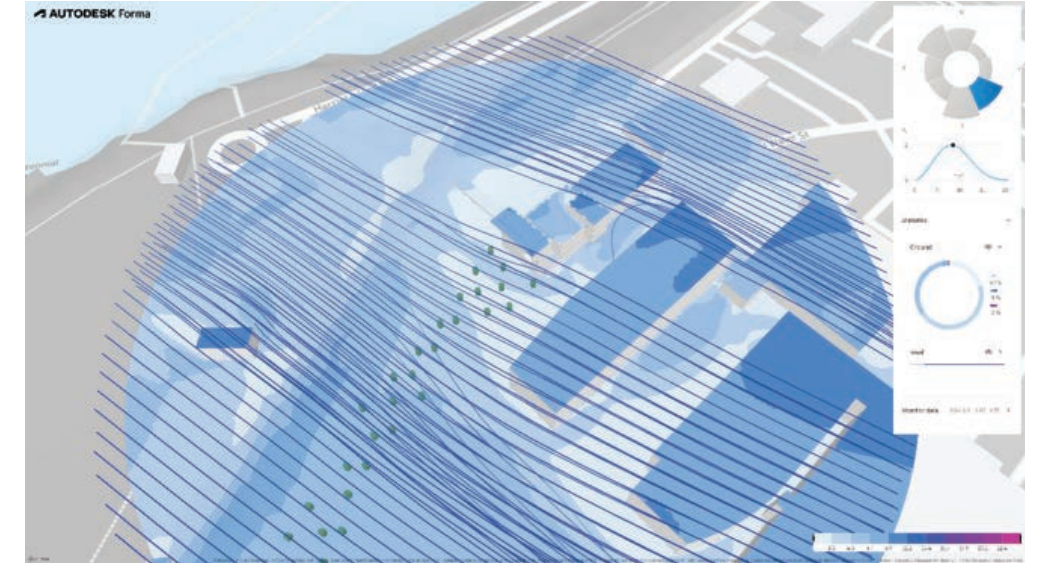
SITE ANALYSIS GRAPHICS - WIND



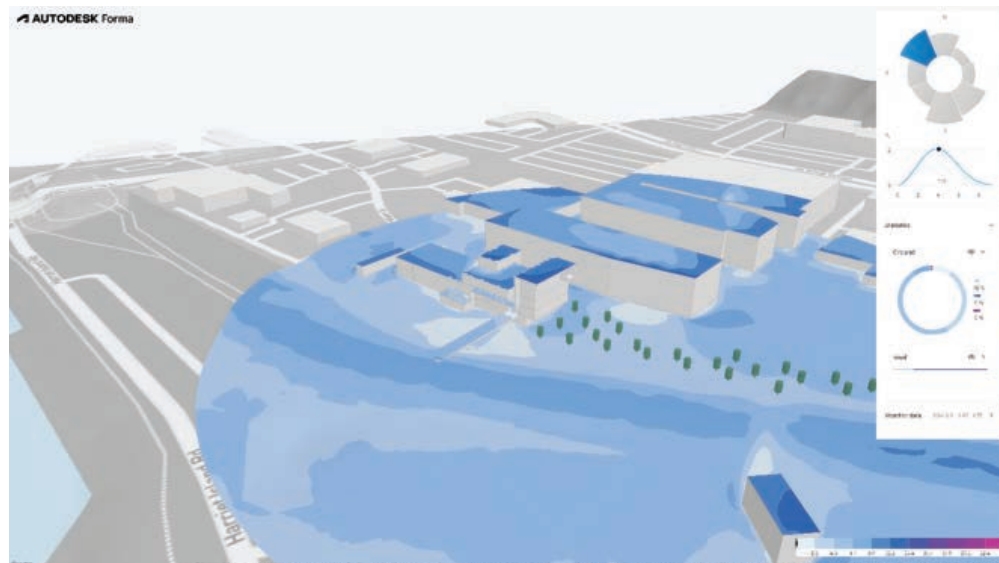
SUMMER WIND



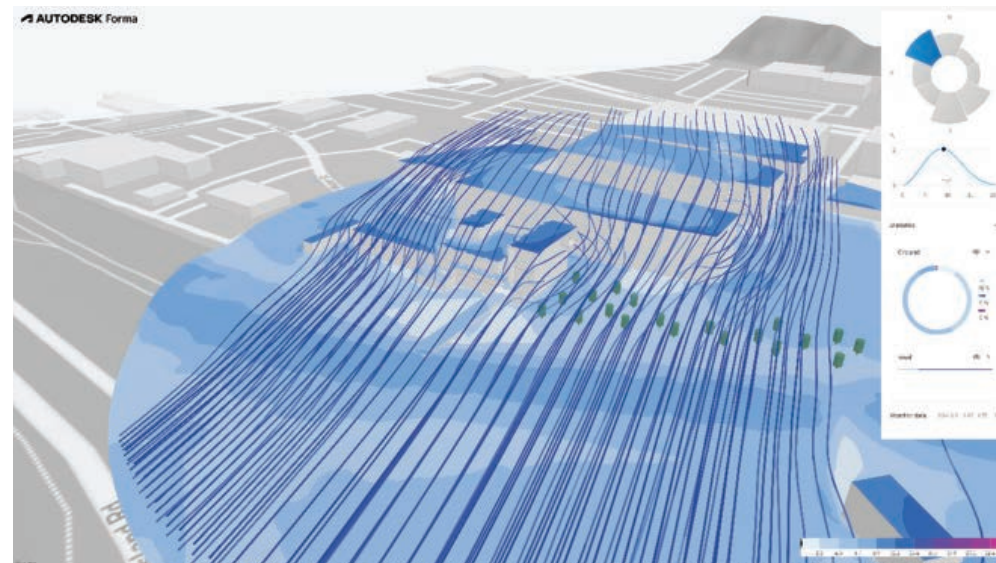
SUMMER WIND (WITH STREAMLINES)



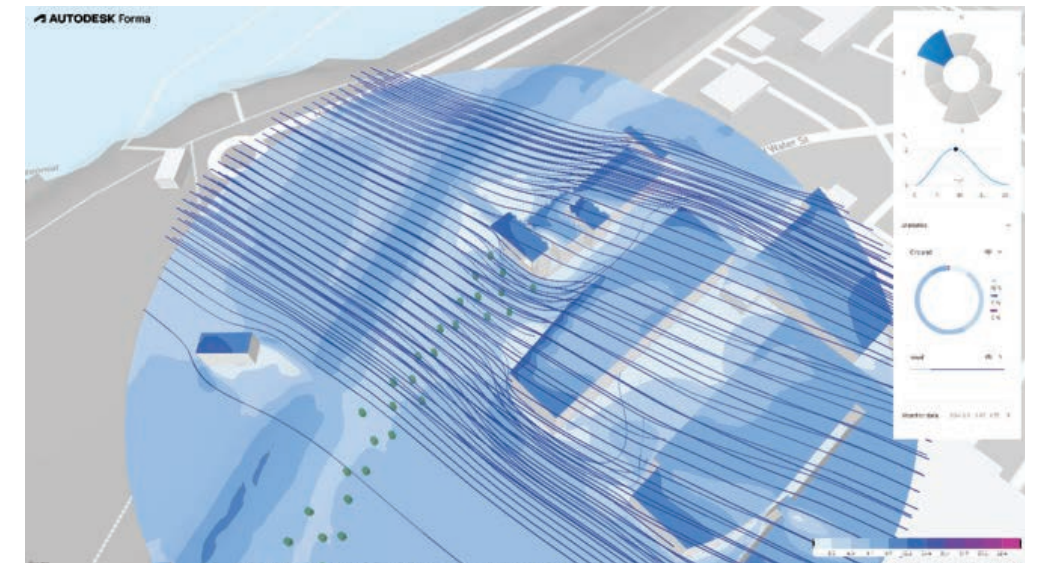
SUMMER WIND (WITH STREAMLINES)



WINTER WIND



WINTER WIND (WITH STREAMLINES)



WINTER WIND (WITH STREAMLINES)

3D IMAGE



4RM+ULA



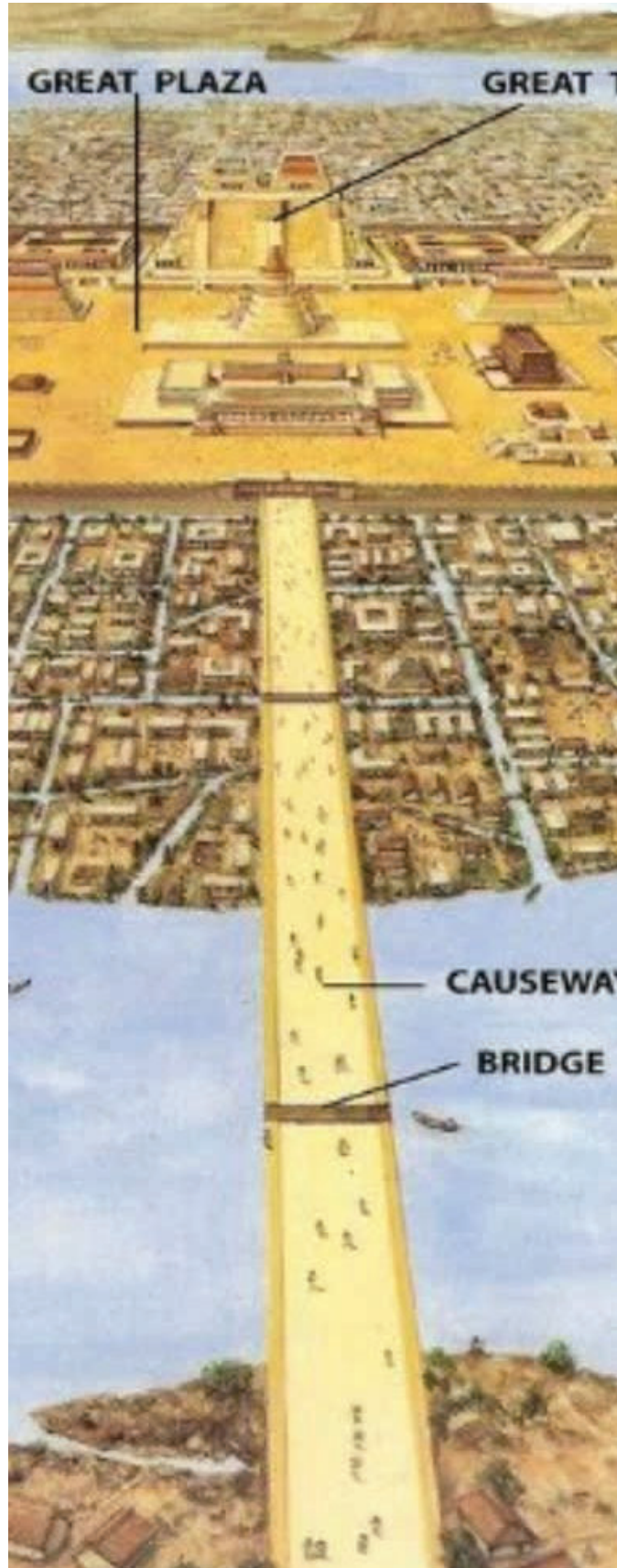
3D IMAGE



4RM+ULA



PRECEDENT - TENOCHTITLAN



TENOCHTITLAN'S proximity to the water and its use of the causeway bridge inspired the design decision of incorporating a walkway from the levee to the Museum. Tenochtitlan was an island, completely surrounded by water. Bridges were necessary in transporting people by land to and from the city. All of Tenochtitlan's business occurred on the island. Similarly, the Minnesota Latino Museum supports many types of programming such as events, galleries, workshops, and classrooms. The bridge from the levee brings people to the museum, where they can participate and engage with a wide range of activities, mimicking the vibrancy of Tenochtitlan,



PRECEDENT - KUKULKAN AT CHICHEN ITZA

KUKULKAN, the serpent deity in Mayan mythology, can be found at Chichen Itza. Kukulkan is known for its presence during the spring and fall equinoxes because the sun casts specific shadows on the pyramid steps that illuminate the body of the snake. This phenomenon shows Kukulkan descending down the pyramid and is a visual spectacle. At the Museum, the ribbon trim that wraps around the southwest and south faces represents the snake's body. The ribbon ends on the south face in a square opening, which symbolizes the serpent's head. In respect to the visual effect at Chichen Itza, the opening lets light into the gallery space during the two equinoxes.



PRECEDENT - BALL COURT AT TIKAL

BALL COURTS were common features of Mesoamerican civilizations, specifically in Aztec and Mayan cultures. The courts feature an alley with sloped sidewalls, and were often located in or near ceremonial spaces because they were used for a ritual ball game. The players used rubber balls and wooden bumpers worn around the waist.

The Ball Courts at Tikal National Park in Guatemala were part of Mayan civilization. Aside from being an athletic field, it supported ceremonies and communal gatherings.

While the Minnesota Latino Museum is not an athletic facility, its outdoor spaces are inspired by Mesoamerican ball courts because of their ceremonial and gathering purposes. Additionally, they are distinctly indigenous to prehispanic civilizations.

