

# Bridging The Divide

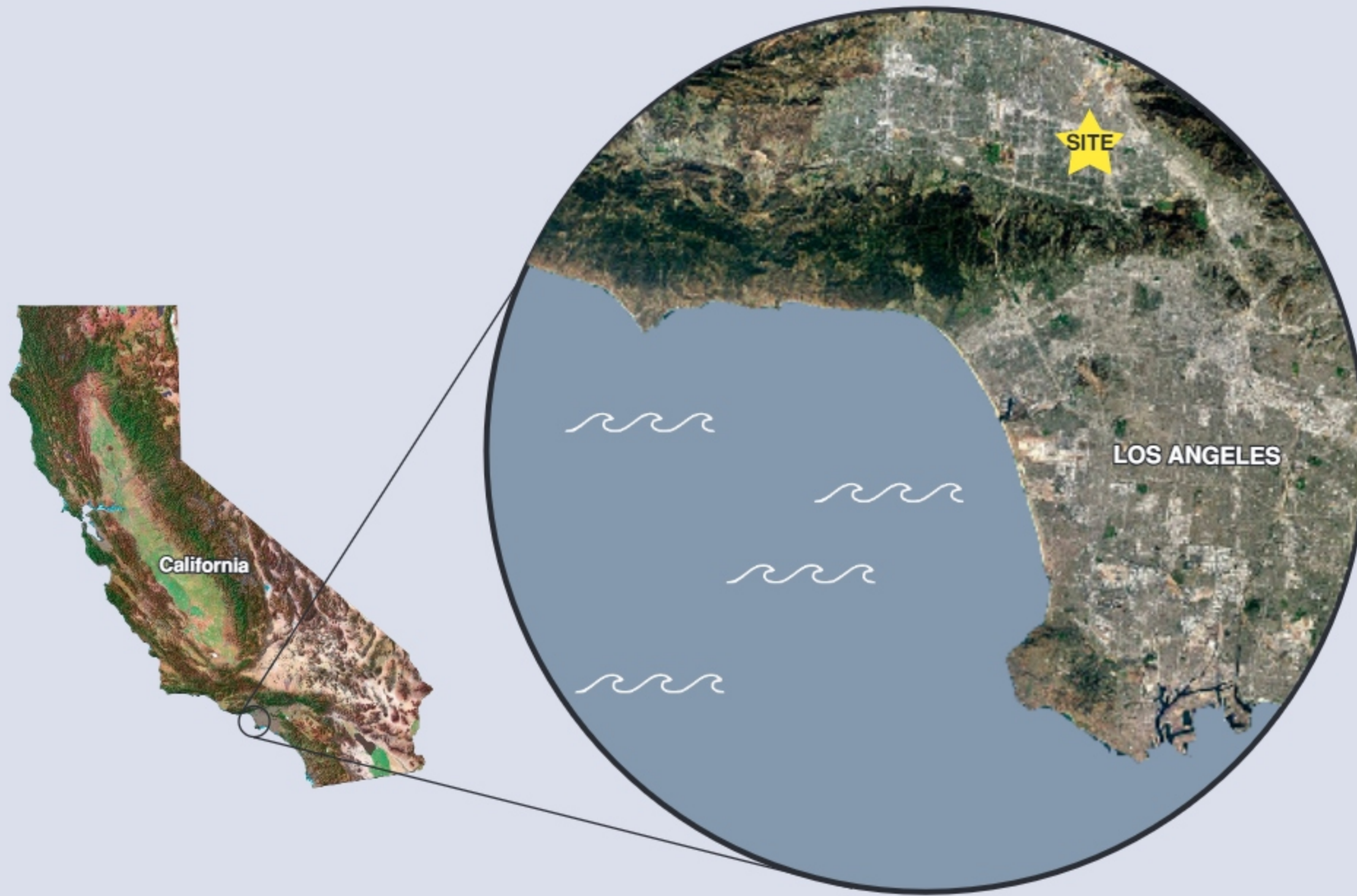
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UCLA - LD6 - Final Booklet - 2025

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# Site Location



## San Fernando Valley

San Fernando Valley Population: 1.75 Million

Area: 260 square miles

County: Los Angeles

Climate: Warm, Dry Summers and Mild, Wetter Winters

Elevation: 500' - 1,200'

Original Inhabitants: The Tongva People

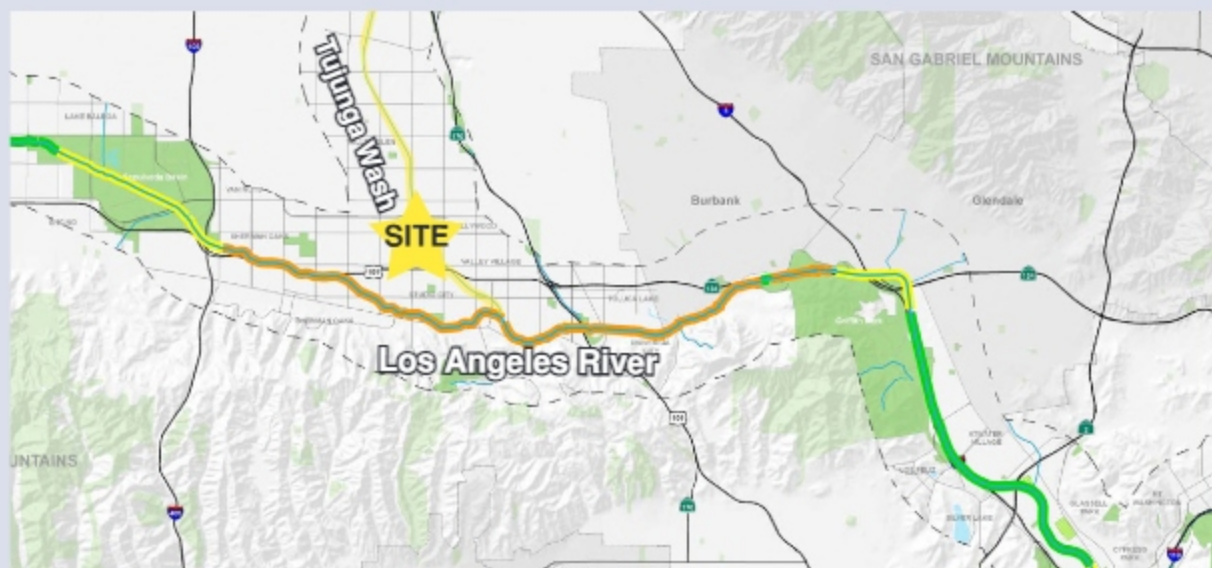
Median House Value: \$915,000

Median Rent: \$2,200/month - 1 BR

Average Income: \$90,000/year

## CONTEXT DIAGRAM

## WATERWAYS MAP



- Great Wall of LA
- Commercial
- Residential
- Educational
- Radio Towers/Open Space



The Great Wall of Los Angeles is one of the longest murals in the world. It was painted in the summers starting in 1974 and ending in the summer of '84 and tells a chronological history of the people of California starting with Indigenous peoples and ending in the 1950s. Many of the images are of immigrants, workers, women, and other marginalized groups. It was designed and led by renowned Chicana artist Judith F. Baca and executed by hundreds of community youth and artists, many of whom were from local juvenile justice programs. Youth were hired through government jobs programs like the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). The project combined art with social work, education, and mentorship. It taught participants creative skills while connecting them deeper to their cultural heritage.

During the 70s and 80s, when the wall was painted, Los Angeles was undergoing significant social and political transformation. The mural's creation was deeply rooted in the civil rights, Chicano, feminist, and anti-war movements of the era, which sought to challenge mainstream historical narratives. Each section of the mural was carefully researched and storyboarded before being transferred to the wall. It was a revolutionary act of storytelling and a landmark in the history of public art. Plans are in the works to continue the narrative where it left off. Sections will be added on the opposite side of the wash and will depict events and people from the 1960s and into the 21st century. Some sections were even exhibited as works in progress at LACMA last year (2024). The goal for the city is to complete the addition, adding another half mile of murals, by the 2028 Olympics. Luckily, this time around, painters will have the ability to work inside on large boards that will then be affixed to the concrete wall.

# Site Timeline

Massacres of native peoples



Great Wall of LA is created



Great Wall of LA is refurbished



San Fernando Mission is established



San Fernando electric railway links Hollywood to North Hollywood



Girard Development of Woodland Hills - SF Valley begins to urbanize



Race riots in LA



Metro rail orange line will link North Hollywood and Reseda



1797

1864

1874

1925

1978

1992

2011

2031

Pre-1700s

1869

1911

1913

1938

1960

1994

2026



The Tongva People inhabited the land for thousands of years



Los Angeles River is converted to concrete canals



Flood causes widespread destruction



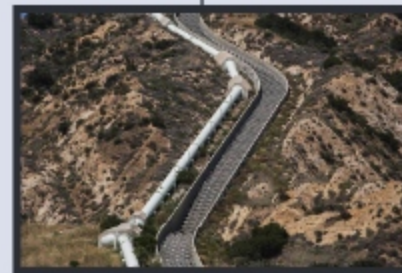
Northridge earthquake - Magnitude 6.7



Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing under construction



San Fernando Valley Homestead Association converts half the valley into cattle ranches and farms



LA Aqueduct opens



Interstate system is built

# Site Inventory

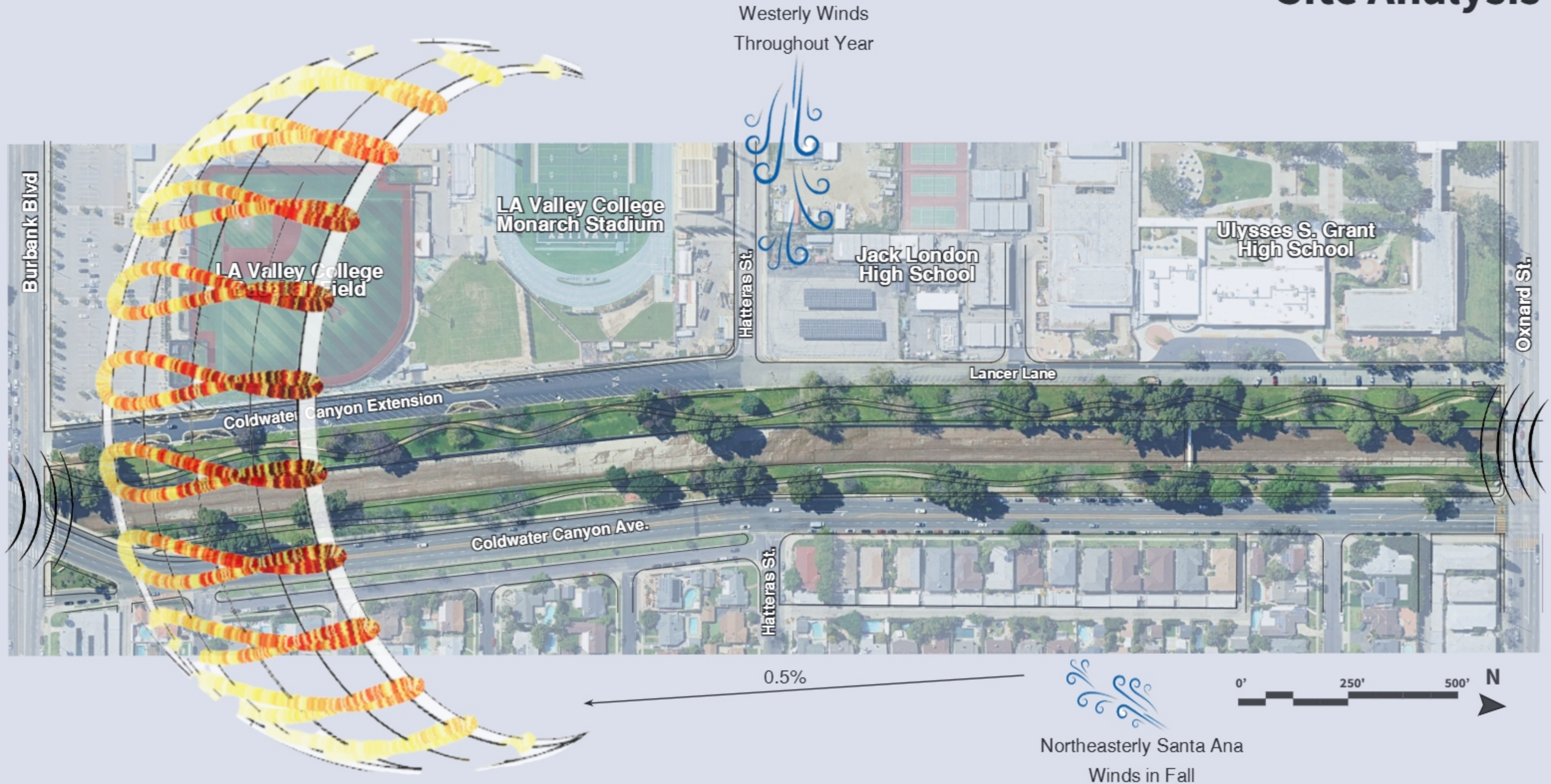


**LEGEND:**

- |   |                       |   |                 |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| ① | Bench                 | ⑦ | Utility Pipe    |
| ② | Bioretention Basin    | ⑧ | Bus Stop        |
| ③ | Picnic Area           | ⑨ | Parking         |
| ④ | Utilities             | ⑩ | Entrance        |
| ⑤ | Light for Mural       | ⑪ | Parkway Planter |
| ⑥ | New Pedestrian Bridge | ⑫ | Slope           |



# Site Analysis



**Average Summer High:** 90 degrees F  
**Average Winter Low:** 46 degrees F  
**Average Rainfall:** 14"/year  
**USDA Plant Hardiness Zone:** 10a

# Site Constraints



## LEGEND:

- |   |                               |   |                            |
|---|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| ① | Water Pipe                    | ⑨ | Lack of Bioretention       |
| ② | Circulation Along Busy Road   | ⑩ | Canal Bottom is Not Pretty |
| ③ | Mural Is Far Away From Viewer | ⑪ | Standard Chain-link Fences |
| ④ | Dated Sign                    | ⑫ | Bland Retention Basins     |
| ⑤ | Noisy Road                    | ⑬ | Turf                       |
| ⑥ | Picnic Area Lacks Shade       | ⑭ | Dated Benches              |
| ⑦ | Lack of Planted Parkway       | ⑮ | Fenced Off Utilities       |
| ⑧ | Trees Are Not Pruned/Leaning  | ⑯ | Heat Island                |



④



⑭



①

⑪



⑧

# Site Opportunities



## LEGEND:



- |   |                              |   |  |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|
| ① | Easy Access                  | ⑨ | Adjacent to Schools                    |
| ② | Mature Trees/Lots of Shade   | ⑩ | Shaded Parking                         |
| ③ | Quiet Areas                  | ⑪ | One Mile Long Path                     |
| ④ | Roadside Bioretention Basins | ⑫ | More Art                               |
| ⑤ | New Bridge                   | ⑬ | Space for More Programming/Gathering   |
| ⑥ | Native Plants                | ⑭ | Room for Mural Expansion               |
| ⑦ | Viewing Platform             | ⑮ | Space for Class IV Separated Bike Lane |
| ⑧ | Planted Parkway              | ⑯ | Shade Structures                       |



# Case Study: Smale Riverfront Park

Cincinnati, OH

Completed in 2015

### SUCCESSES:

- Strong Integration with Urban Context
- Flood-Resilient Design
- Unique Children's River Play Area
- High-Quality Materials and Detailing
- Economic and Social Catalyst
- Diverse Programmatic Spaces

### SHORTCOMINGS:

- Limited Shade and Climate Comfort
- Maintenance Challenges
- Accessibility and Equity Issues
- Ecological Limitations
- Commercial Overtones



# Case Study: Olympic Sculpture Park

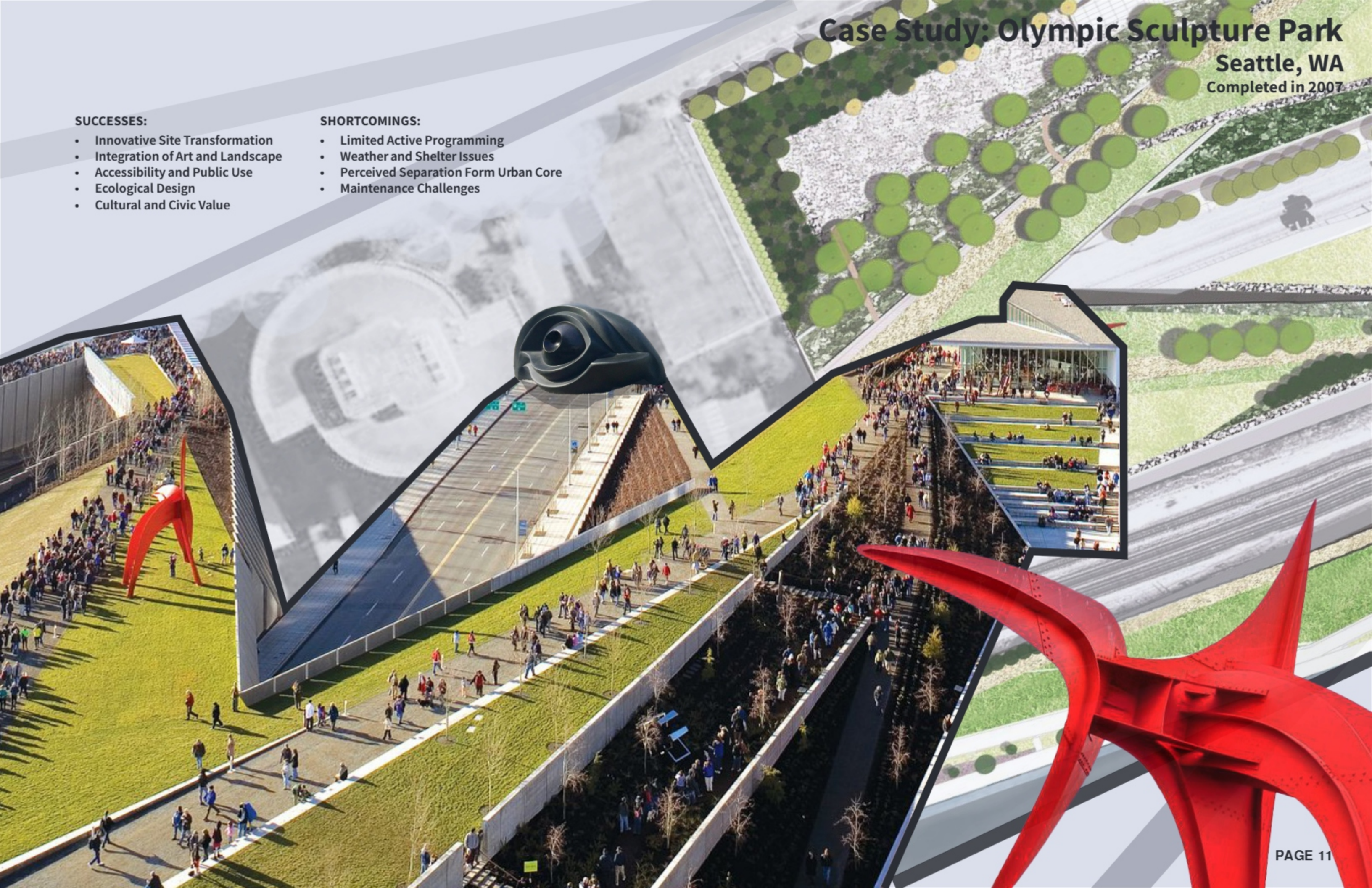
Seattle, WA  
Completed in 2007

## SUCCESSES:

- Innovative Site Transformation
- Integration of Art and Landscape
- Accessibility and Public Use
- Ecological Design
- Cultural and Civic Value

## SHORTCOMINGS:

- Limited Active Programming
- Weather and Shelter Issues
- Perceived Separation Form Urban Core
- Maintenance Challenges



# Case Study: Waterfront Park

San Diego, CA

Completed in 2014

## SUCCESSES:

- Adaptive Reuse of Civic Land
- Iconic Water Feature
- Flexible Lawn and Event Space
- Minimalist/Contemporary Design
- Low Maintenance Planting
- Unique and Large Tot Lot

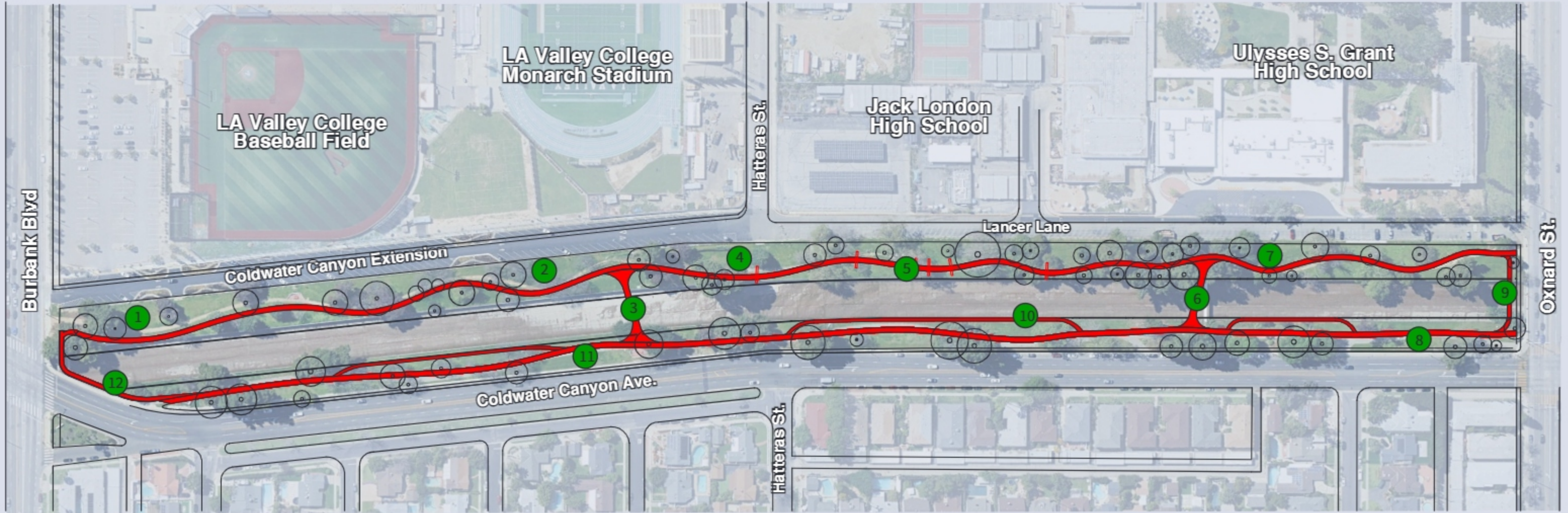
## SHORTCOMINGS:

- Limited Shade
- Hard Edges
- Water Feature Maintenance Issues
- Caters to Downtown Residents
- Very Flat



# Design Alternative 1: Low Budget

## "Fitness Mile"



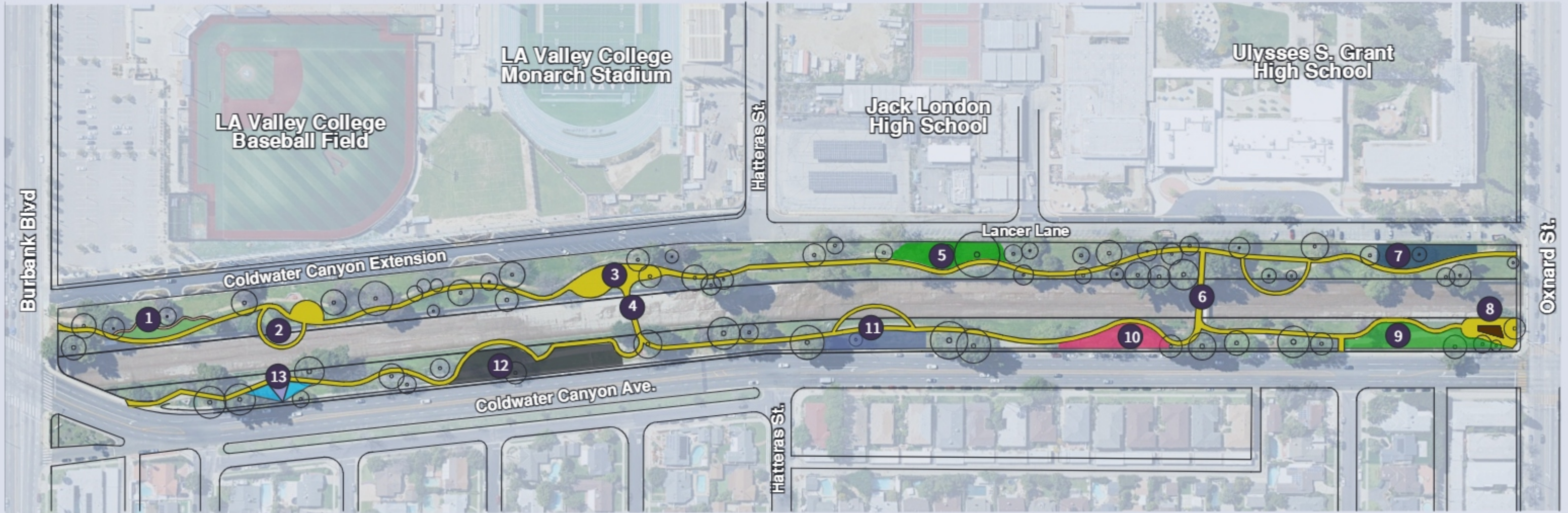
**LEGEND:**

- |   |                    |    |  |
|---|--------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Shaded Picnic Area | 9  | New Pedestrian Bridge                      |
| 2 | Outdoor Classroom  | 10 | Viewing Sidewalk (Canal Wall As Guardrail) |
| 3 | Existing Bridge    | 11 | Shop                                       |
| 4 | Outdoor Gym        | 12 | One Mile Continuous Path Loop              |
| 5 | Arches             |    |  |
| 6 | New Bridge         |    |  |
| 7 | Vegetable Garden   |    |  |
| 8 | Fitness Stations   |    |  |



# Design Alternative 2: Medium Budget

## “Pathway Through The Ages”



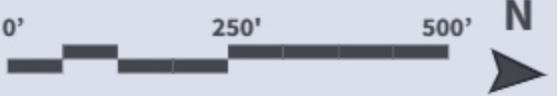
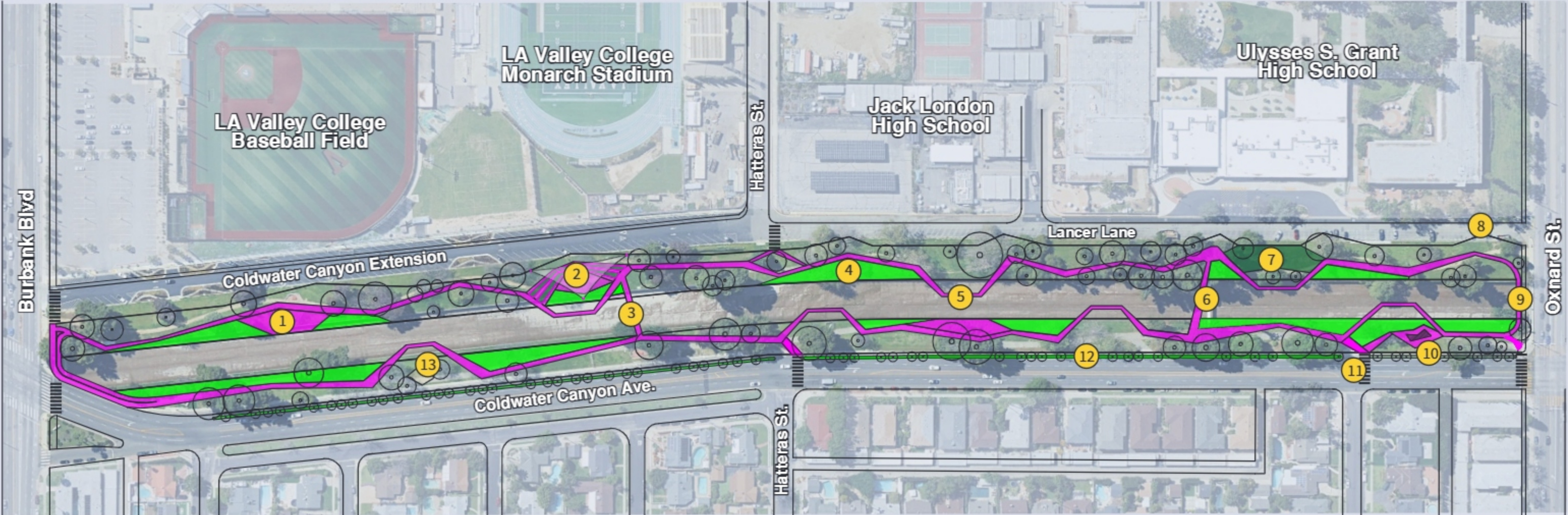
### LEGEND:

- |   |                          |    |  |
|---|--------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Native Plant Garden      | 9  | Hippie Hill                              |
| 2 | Viewing Loop             | 10 | Flower Garden                            |
| 3 | Shipwreck Play Structure | 11 | Back To The Future                       |
| 4 | Existing Bridge          | 12 | Roller Skate Area                        |
| 5 | Roaring 20s              | 13 | Futuristic LED Sculpture & Water Feature |
| 6 | New Bridge               |    |  |
| 7 | Olympic Village          |    |  |
| 8 | Shop                     |    |  |



# Design Alternative 3: High Budget

## "The Living Edge"



**LEGEND:**

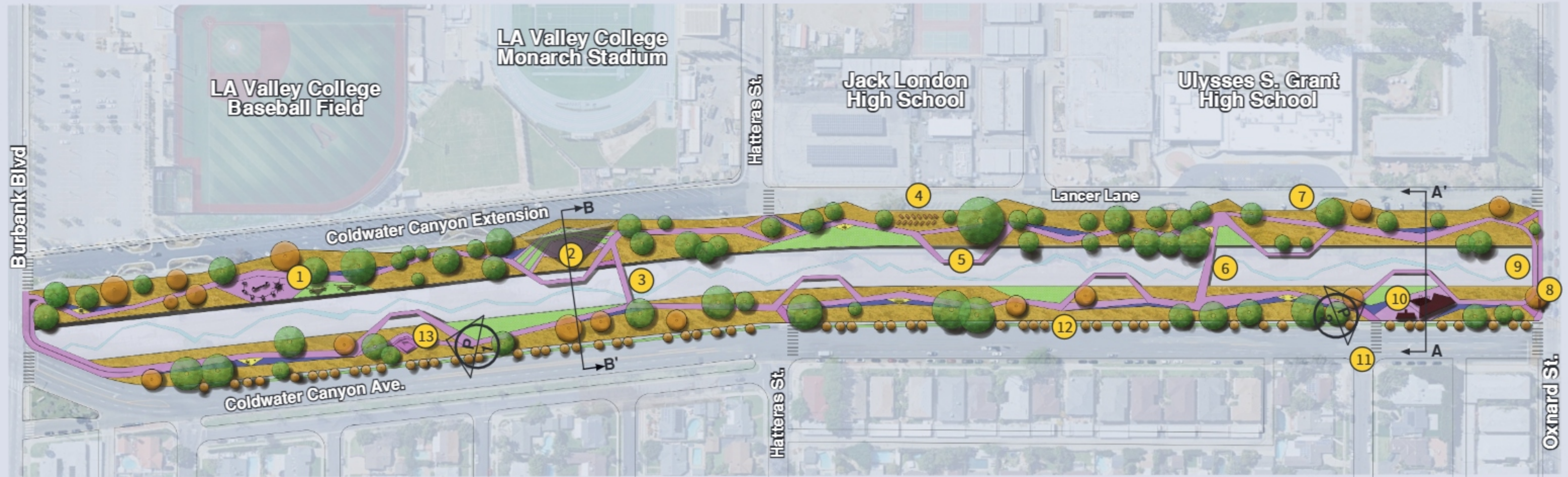
- ① Tot Lot
- ② Outdoor Classroom
- ③ Existing Bridge
- ④ Infiltration Basins
- ⑤ Viewing Ramps
- ⑥ New Bridge
- ⑦ Turf
- ⑧ Park Extensions/Reduced Parking
- ⑨ Separate Pedestrian Bridge
- ⑩ Cafe
- ⑪ New Crosswalks
- ⑫ Class IV Bike Lane
- ⑬ Large Interactive Sculpture



## BIG IDEA: Bridging The Divide

This park is divided by a canal much like the communities of LA have been divided for decades. The creation of these murals brought together people from different backgrounds who wouldn't have interacted otherwise. This modern park design is meant to connect the surrounding communities by offering a mix of program elements that appeal to a wide variety of users.

# Final Illustrative Plan "Bridging The Divide"



### Inspiration Imagery:

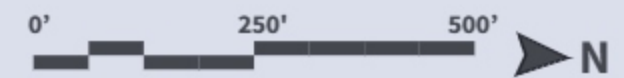


Los Angeles Federal Courthouse - Studio-MLA

### LEGEND:

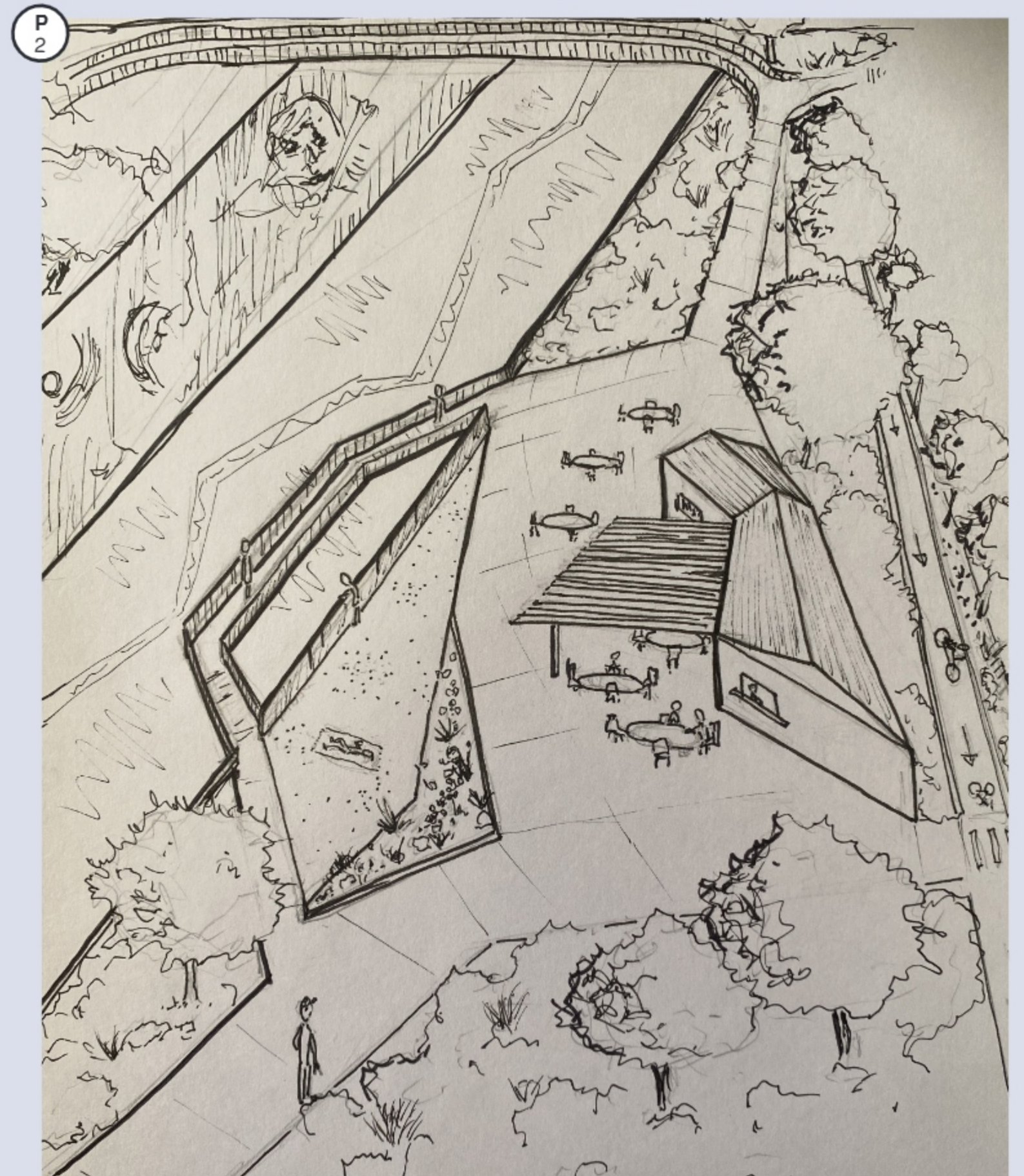
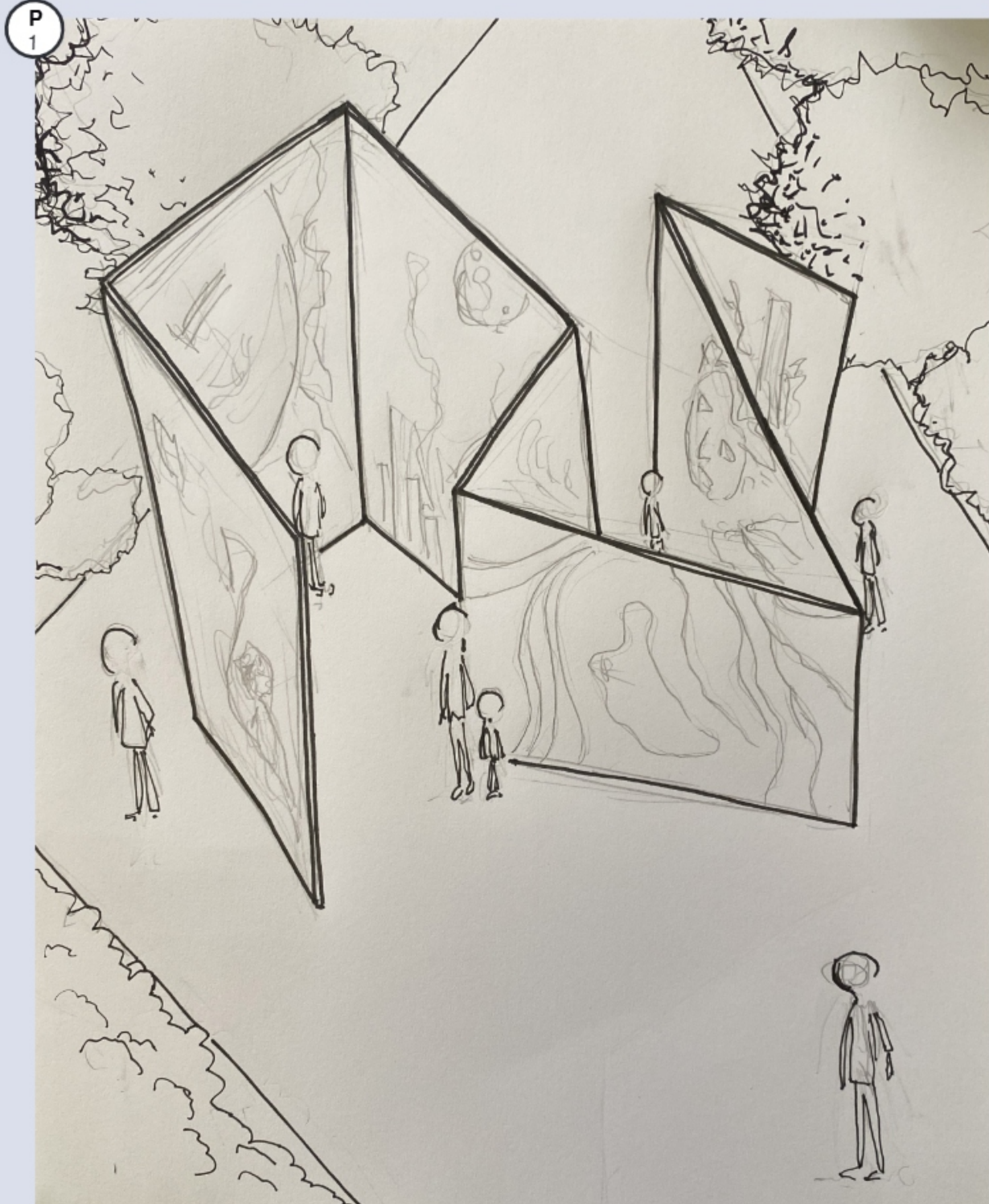
- Native Plants (Low)
- Turf
- Concrete Path
- Bioswale
- Fitness Station
- Building/Structure
- Existing Tree
- New Tree

- 1 Tot Lot/Picnic Area
- 2 Outdoor Classroom
- 3 Existing Bridge
- 4 Community Garden
- 5 Viewing Ramps
- 6 New Bridge
- 7 Park Extensions/Reduced Pavement
- 8 Relocated Bus Stop
- 9 Separated Pedestrian Bridge
- 10 Cafe/Restrooms
- 11 New Crosswalk
- 12 Class IV Bike Lane
- 13 Large Interactive Mural Sculpture
- 14 Low Flow Channel

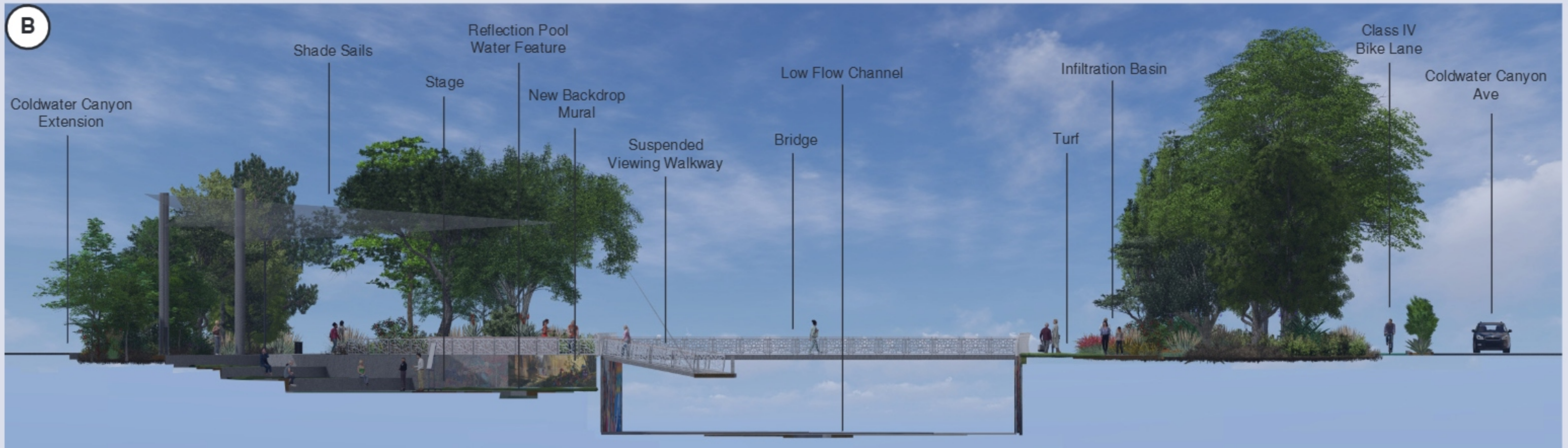
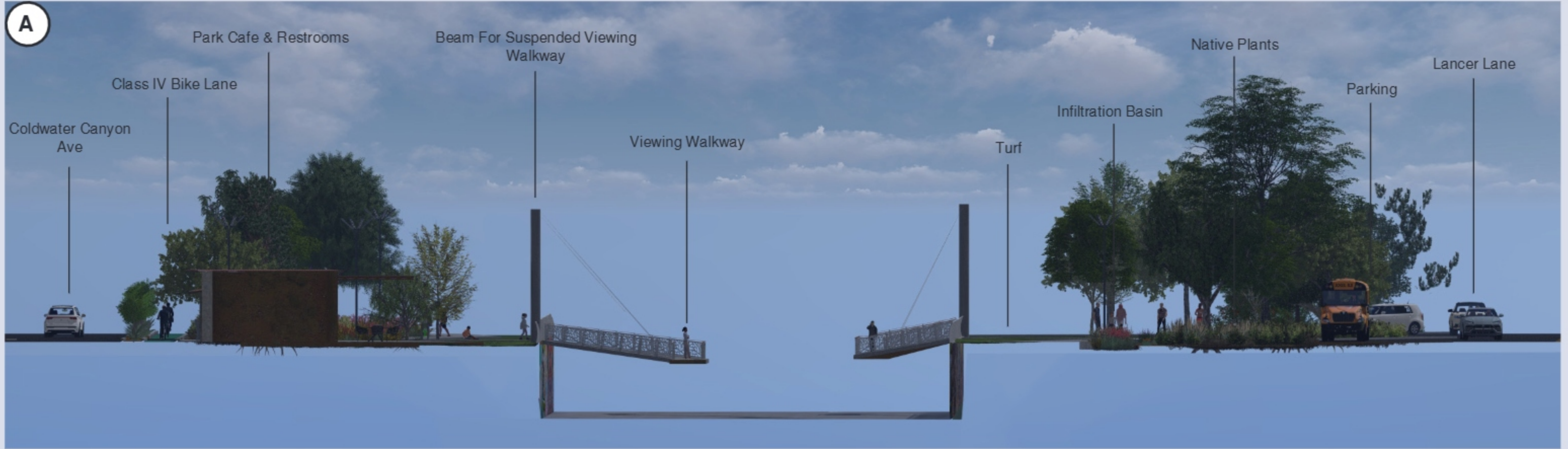


Seattle Olympic Sculpture Park - WEISS/MANFREDI

# Perspective Sketches



# Section/Elevations



Notice the separated pedestrian bridge for park users that runs parallel to the Oxnard Street vehicular bridge. This feature is on both ends of the park, creating a safe 1-mile continuous loop for runners, families, and others. The bus stop was relocated slightly east for ease of access. A new modern park monument is on the corner. Native plants are plentiful. Most existing trees remain and many trees have been added.

## Perspective Park Entrance On Oxnard St



The buildings match the rest of the park: contemporary architecture with a California aesthetic. One of seven suspended viewing walkways is in the center of this image. They allow park guests to view the murals up close. It is ADA accessible and drops down 2'6". The Class IV bike lane along Coldwater Canyon Ave is visible here. Additionally, there are triangular infiltration basins along the pathways throughout the park, seen with Pink Muhlenbergia Grass.

## Perspective Park Cafe & Restrooms



Pictured is a large immersive sculpture inspired by artist, Richard Serra, with the art of Kent Monkman on its faces. Monkman is a Cree Native American artist who paints large scale oil paintings. His work explores themes of colonization, loss, and resilience. They are often recast historical narratives featuring Monkman's alter ego character. A strong two-spirit figure, often in red. Users can walk in the nooks and experience the power and color of the art on all sides.

## Perspective Mural Sculpture



This is the tot lot and picnic area. There are grills and modern picnic tables for the public. The playground is shaded by shade sails. Tall trees are planted to the west side to provide additional shade. The view is the focus here. Plenty of benches are placed for parents. One of the suspension viewing walkways is off in the distance and adds a dimensional aspect to the view.

## Perspective Playground & Picnic Area



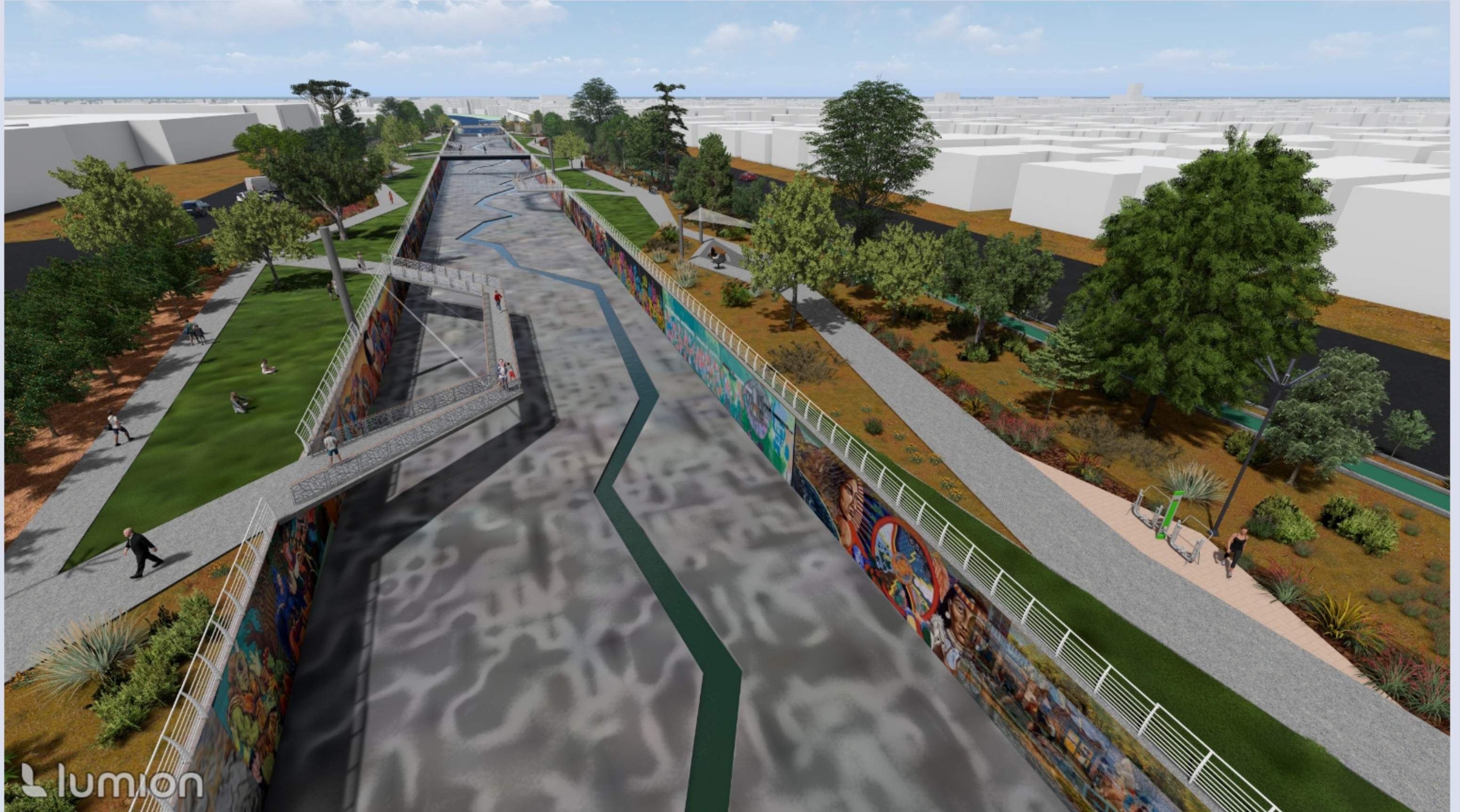
Raised planter beds are full of vegetables. A citrus orchard is behind it. The oranges are ripe and ready to pick. To the right, there is one of numerous triangular/trapezoidal turf areas meant for people to lounge, view the murals, do yoga, picnic, read, or relax. Ample parking is to the left on Lancer Lane. A variety of native plants is planted in the orange areas.

# Perspective Community Garden/Orchard



On the bottom right side, one of eight fitness stations can be seen. This makes the park a very active place, drawing in young people. They can view the murals while they work out and can run or walk between stations. The stations are evenly dispersed on both sides of the park. In the center, one additional shaded picnic area is included so that both sides of the park have areas of respite from the valley heat.

## Perspective Fitness Station



A large outdoor classroom has been included to accommodate for the demands of the adjacent educational institutions. It can easily double as a space for any kind of community event, performance, concert, or meeting. It is recessed for acoustic reasons. There is a geometric reflective water feature behind the stage. The back wall behind the stage (not seen) has new murals to act as a backdrop. Plantings screen the area from the road and three large shade sails drape the space. This all creates sort of outdoor room.

## Perspective Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheater



# Final Plan View

“Bridging The Divide”

The low flow basin down the center further accentuates the tectonic nature of the design and alludes to the long history of earthquakes in The Valley. The park has been slightly expanded on the west side, reducing paved surfaces. A majority of the park is native plants. The program elements are spread throughout to encourage interaction and movement. This design emphasizes the murals and brings the front and center. This park is meant to bring the community together, just as Judy Baca did decades ago in creating these beautiful murals.



LINK TO VIDEO OF 3D RENDERING: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiqZDm243KU&t=60s>