

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2025 **AGENDA ITEM:** V.a.
PROJECT NAME: PADDOCK PARK
ACTION ITEM: Approve Project Outline for the Paddock Park Public Art Project, 100 W. Belknap Street, 76102 (Council District 9, Commissioners Adler and Hogg)

**PADDOCK PARK
PUBLIC ART PROJECT OUTLINE**



PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND APPROACH

Paddock Park sits at the top of the bluff with its commanding view of the Trinity River and the historic Tarrant County Courthouse. This one-acre park is the primary northern gateway to downtown Fort Worth. Acquired in 1917 as part of landscape architect George Kessler’s plan, the park is one-third owned by Tarrant County, and two-thirds owned by the City of Fort Worth.

In 2020, Downtown Fort Worth Initiatives, Inc. (DFWI), guided by a steering committee composed of City staff and community stakeholders, selected design and planning consultant MIG to conduct feasibility studies and prepare design and construction documents for the restoration of Heritage Plaza. MIG has completed 30% design for both Heritage and Paddock Parks and the adjacent streets. Throughout all design phases DFWI and City staff are co-managing the project. Once all approvals have been made and full funding is in place, City staff will manage the construction phase.

To ensure integration of public art into the fabric of park improvements, artist team Legge Lewis Legge (LLL) was selected to create a Heritage Park Public Art Master Plan through a process facilitated by Fort Worth Public Art (FWPA) staff that involved MIG, DFWI, and City representatives. LLL has worked collaboratively with the project design team and done extensive research to identify outdoor locations and thematic approaches for public art. The resulting Heritage Park & Paddock Park Public Art Master Plan was endorsed by the Park & Recreation Advisory Board in January 2023 and was adopted by the Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) in March 2023. The Master Plan notes that Paddock Park “carries with it the added symbolic context of the courthouse being the center of political and judicial life, and its location up-slope from Heritage Park Plaza places it within the symbolic settlement area that the original fort defended.”

As stated in the master plan, Paddock Park’s prominent location and its proximity to the Trinity River and historic courthouse make it an ideal location for a permanent, “iconic” public art project sculpture addressing Native American

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heritage. As such, the public art process will include a Curatorial Panel and a Project Core Team (PCT). The PCT will include members of the Heritage Park Steering committee and other cultural organizations.

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

For iconic artworks, the *Fort Worth Public Art Master Plan Update (2017)*, recommends that a curatorial panel be engaged to nominate artists uniquely suited to this project. This pool of artists will be reviewed by the Artist Selection panel, who will select finalists. The artist finalists will then create proposals that will be presented to the Artist Selection Panel, who will recommend a project artist to move forward. This approach was successfully employed for the Pioneer Tower project, and having those curatorial connections enabled FWPA to contract with artists with the required unique skillsets.

CURATORIAL PANEL SELECTION

Public Art staff will reach out to local and national arts professionals for assistance in identifying curators with Native American art expertise. Credentials and a letter of interest from the identified curators will be presented to the Artist Selection Panel, who will recommend 3-5 curators for the Curatorial Panel. The recommendations will be presented to the Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) for approval. Approved members of the Curatorial Panel will be offered an honorarium from the project budget.

ARTIST POOL SELECTION

The Curatorial Panel will meet with the PCT to discuss the goals and context of the public art project and collectively identify a pool of artists for consideration. The Curatorial Panel shall select approximately 6-8 artists with suitable experience and craftsmanship who can create artwork addressing Native American heritage.

ARTIST SELECTION MEETING ONE

FWPA staff shall present the pool of 6-10 artists selected by the Curatorial Panel for consideration by the Artist Selection Panel. Artists will be contacted prior to being considered, to ascertain their interest and availability. Advisors and other PCT members will be invited to participate in the meeting. The Artist Selection Panel shall recommend 3 - 5 artist finalists to create conceptual proposals. The recommendations will be presented to the FWAC for approval.

FINALIST ORIENTATION

Artist finalists will enter into a Proposal Agreement and participate in an on-site orientation for the project and meet with the PCT for contextual and cultural input. They will be provided with detailed information about the park and surrounding areas, including the public art masterplan for the area and conceptual designs for improvements.

ARTIST SELECTION PART TWO

The artist finalists shall individually present their conceptual proposals to the Artist Selection Panel. Advisors and other PCT members will be invited to participate in the meeting. After discussion, the panel will recommend one artist and one alternate for the project. Upon the FWAC’s approval of the panel’s recommendation, a Design Contract will be executed with the selected artist.

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CURRENT PUBLIC ART BUDGET

The *Public Art Plan for the 2022 Bond Program*, adopted by City Council on November 29, 2022, set aside \$1,330,500 to incorporate public art in Heritage Park and Paddock Park. The Paddock Park project budget is \$700,000. This project is included in the *FY 2025 Public Art Annual Work Plan*, adopted by City Council on November 12, 2024.

TIMELINE (TBD)

Curatorial Panel Selection	March/April 2025
Selected Curatorial Panel Approved by FWAC	April 21, 2025
Artist Selection Panel Meeting #1	July 2025
Selected Artist Finalists Approved by FWAC	July 21, 2025
Artist Finalist Orientation	August 2025
Artist Selection Panel Meeting #2 (Proposals)	October 2025
Selected Artist Approved by FWAC	November 17, 2025

PROJECT CORE TEAM (PCT) (Not yet invited)

1. TBD, Wichita Nation Appointee
2. Diana Parton, Caddo Nation Citizen and UTA Native American Advisory Board (or Caddo Nation Appointee)
3. Marjeanna Burge, Comanche Nation Citizen, Former TCC Adjunct Faculty (or Comanche Nation Appointee)
4. Wendi Sierra (or Les Riding In), TCU Native American Nations and Communities Liaison
5. Joshua Arce, Partnership with Native Americans
6. Kristen Camareno, Tarrant County Representative, HPSC Technical Committee Member
7. Randy Hutcheson, Community Design Center, HPSC Technical Committee Member
8. Kate Beck, Tarrant Regional Water District, HPSC Technical Committee Member

HPSC – Heritage Park Steering Committee

ARTIST SELECTION PANEL – VOTING MEMBERS (Not yet invited)

1. Elizabeth Beck, Council Member, District 9
2. Maggie Adler, FWAC Chair and Independent Curator
3. Libby Tilley Hogg, FWAC Vice Chair and Independent Public Relations and Art Consulting
4. Andrea or Murray Legge, Artist, Heritage & Paddock Park Master Plan Artist
5. TBD, Local Artist/Arts Professional
6. TBD, Project Core Team Member Representing the Native American community
7. TBD, Project Core Team Member Representing the Native American community
8. Kristin Camareno, Tarrant County, PCT and HPSC Technical Committee Member
9. Randy Hutcheson, Community Design Center, PCT and HPSC Technical Committee Member

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ARTIST SELECTION PANEL ADVISORS *(Non-voting)*

1. Eva Bonilla, Park & Recreation Advisory Board Member, District 9
2. Fernando Costa, Heritage Park Steering Committee Chair
3. Other Project Core Team Members
4. Other Heritage Park Steering Committee Members
5. DFWI and City Staff Members

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2025 **AGENDA ITEM:** VI.a.
PROJECT NAME: EUGENE MCCRAY COMMUNITY CENTER
ACTION ITEM: Approve Selection Panel’s Recommendation of Artist Jeremy Biggers and Alternate Eliana Miranda for Eugene McCray Community Center, 4932 Wilbarger Street, 76119 (Council District 11, Commissioner Brooks)

PROJECT SUMMARY

- September 16, 2024 – The FWAC approved the Project Outline for a Conceptual Design Proposal process for a mural for the Eugene McCray Community Center’s west exterior wall.
- October 17, 2024 – The panel selected three finalists: Jeremy Biggers, Carlos Don Juan, and Eliana Miranda.
- November 11, 2024 - Artists were placed under Conceptual Proposals Agreements.
- November 12, 2024 – Artists met with City staff and Project Core team for preliminary design input.
- January 30, 2025 – The Selection panel and Core Team met and reviewed three proposals and recommended one artist and one alternate for the project.

SELECTION SUMMARY

Each artist had thirty minutes to discuss their past work and present their Conceptual Design Proposal, addressing the project’s goals. Following the conclusion of all artists’ presentations, the panel found it challenging to select an artist, as each proposal uniquely and exceptionally met the artwork goals.

The panel noted that Biggers’ approach was impactful and emphasized the legacy and history of the surrounding area. Powell stated that Eliana Miranda’s approach was also community-driven, highlighting the diverse and evolving community. Panelists appreciated Don Juan’s message of nature and his expertise in mural processes.

A single round of voting resulted in Jeremy Biggers as the recommended project artist and Eliana Miranda as the alternate.

The Core Team suggests that as Biggers moves into the final design phase, it is essential his mural convey the community center purpose as an evolving hub that serves all community members. The mural should be inclusive and reflective of the community’s diverse population in order to resonate with everyone.

The panel voted by paper ballot with the following outcome:

<u>Ballot #1 Results:</u>	<u>Votes</u>
Jeremy Biggers	3
Carlos Donjuan	0
Eliana Miranda	2

ARTIST SELECTION PANEL

Perry Williams appointed on behalf of CM Jeanette Martinez, CD 11
 Dr. Jennifer Brooks, FW Art Commissioner
 Lucretia Powell, Elected Core Team Member
 Krysta Diaz, EMCC Supervisor

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Adam Werner, Amon Carter Museum of American Art

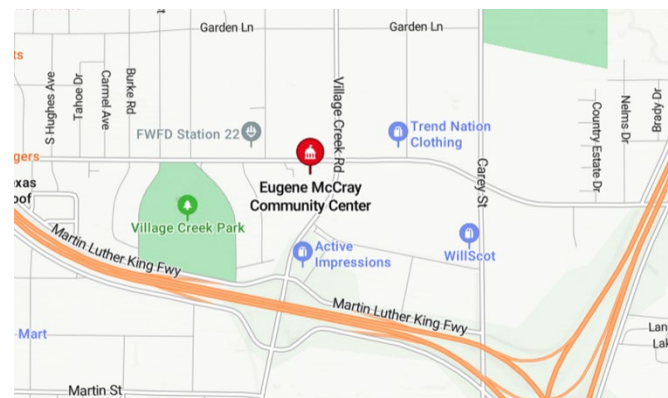
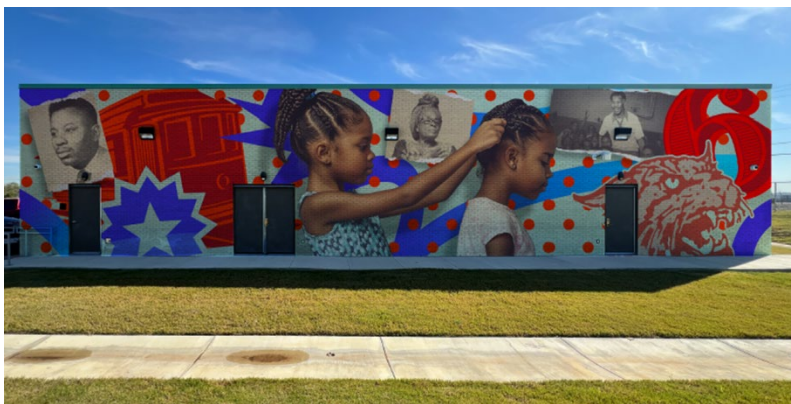
ADVISORS

Eric Lopez, District Superintendent, PARD
 *Greg Hughes, PARD Board Member
 Rachel Arellano, District 11 Director

PROJECT CORE TEAM MEMBERS

Regina Thomas, Fairhaven Neighborhood
 Perry Williams, Village Creek Neighborhood
 Norma Garcia-Lopez
 Betty Lemons, Fairhaven Neighborhood
 *Indicates those who were not in attendance

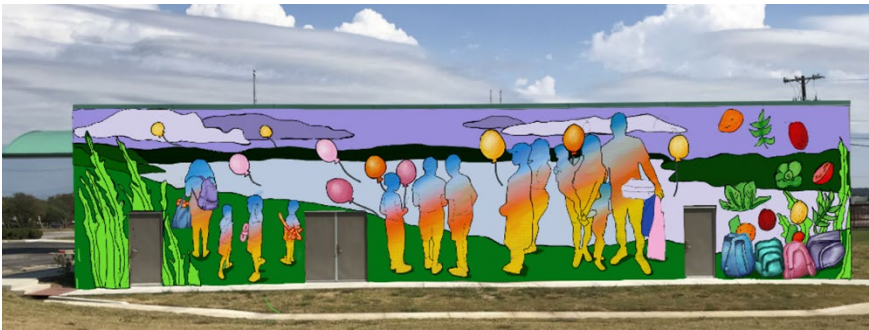
Recommended Artist: Jeremy Biggers



This mural celebrates Fort Worth’s vibrant history, culture, and future. At its heart are two young girls, embodying endless possibilities for the future. One sister, braiding the other's hair, reflects a deep connection to history and tradition—a gesture of care, love, and neighborly compassion. Incorporating vintage photos of local trailblazer Eugene McCray, alongside Dr. Opal Lee—the "Grandmother of Juneteenth", and Dunbar High School's legendary Coach Robert Hughes, honoring those who shaped Fort Worth's legacy. A nod to the past is seen in the streetcar design and number 6, representing the historic streetcar stop that once connected Fort Worth to other North Texas metropolitan areas. The Wildcat/ Panther symbolizes both the Bethune-Cookman University where Eugene McCray attended college, and Fort Worth’s “Panther City” nickname. The artist seeks to intertwine the threads of history, community, and hope, celebrating Fort Worth’s remarkable individuals and stories while inspiring future generations to continue that legacy.

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Alternate Artist: Eliana Miranda



Miranda’s concept for the Eugene McCray Center mural reflects what the community center represents to residents as a vibrant place that brings families together and offers resources. Miranda’s mural concept seeks to help elevate the aspirations of the center by looking into the future of the neighborhood. That future begins with a community that teaches its children about its core values and creates an environment where everyone is welcome. It is a celebration of its significance of everyone’s lives.

The artist was inspired by a mural by Aaron Douglas, an artist from the Harlem Renaissance art movement that flourished in 1920s New York. Miranda sees the history of Eugene McCray Center as a symbolic representation of resilience. Situated in a food desert, the center serves as a vital resource, providing food to the community, after-school care for working families, and senior programs that inspire and unite. These resources provide a stable foundation for families and children, enabling them to thrive without obstacles.

Project Manager Michelle Gonzales is available to answer any questions.

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2025 **AGENDA ITEM:** VI.b.
PROJECT NAME: VIETNAM MEMORIAL REVISED DESIGN
ACTION ITEM: Endorse Vietnam Memorial Revised Design for Veteran’s Park, 4120 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth 76107 (All Council Districts)

PROJECT SUMMARY

- In September 2019, representatives of the Tarrant County Vietnam War Era Memorial (TCVWEM) Committee approached the Park and Recreation Department about placing a commemorative memorial in Veterans Memorial Park, honoring more than 220 local fallen service members who died in the Vietnam war or later as a result of injuries or suicide.
- Assistant Park and Recreation Department Director Sandra Youngblood asked FWPA staff to act in an advisory capacity.
- November 19, 2019, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held at Veterans Memorial Park and an artwork design concept was announced. More than 150 people attended.
- TCVWEM stakeholders engaged local artist Michael Pavlovsky to revise and refine the artwork design concept and landscape architect Nick Nelson of Pacheco Koch to develop an ADA accessible plaza with benches and interpretive plaques joining other military monuments in the park.
- November 15, 2021, the Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) approved the Gifts & Loans Review Panel recommendation to endorse the artwork design concept for the memorial contingent on the submission of a Revised Design substantially consistent with the proposed artwork design concept.
- October 27, 2021, Parks Advisory Board endorsed the site.
- On December 19, 2024, members of the TCVWEM Foundation Board presented the commemorative memorial and artwork design concept to Council Member Macy Hill who expressed her support and recommended a presentation to City Council.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will present the Project to City Council at a work session on March 4, 2025. A Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is expected to go to City Council on March 11, 2025, authorizing the donors to proceed with preliminary site planning. A future M&C for construction and the donation of the memorial to the City will require proof that all funds have been raised.
- The fundraising goal is currently set at \$355,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

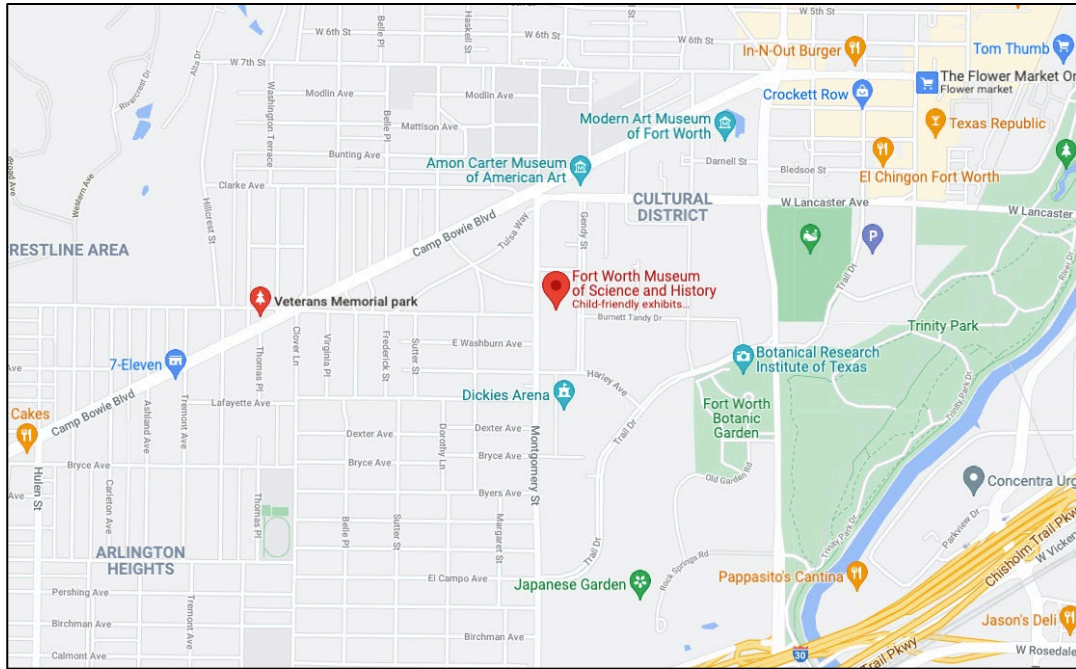
Staff recommends that the FWAC endorse the Revised Design. Public Art Collection Manager Jenny Conn will continue to act as staff liaison on the project.

NEXT STEPS

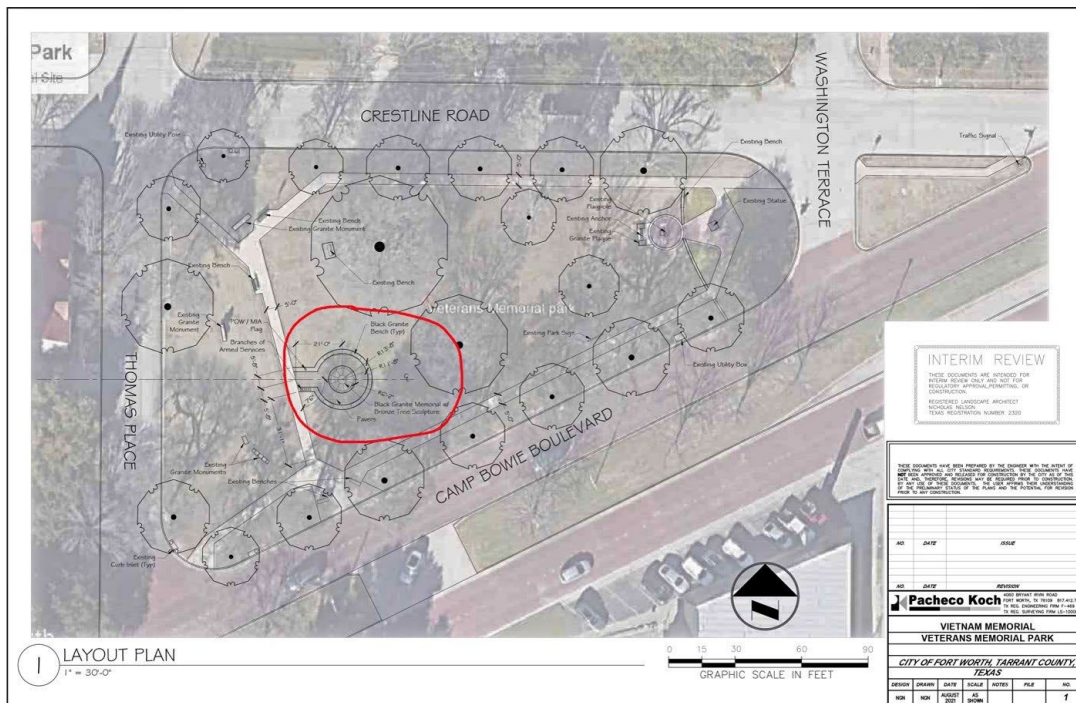
The FWAC’s endorsement of the Revised Design will be included in information presented to City Council in March, 2025, as the City Council considers agreements allowing the donors to proceed with preliminary site planning. Any significant future revisions to the Revised Design for the artwork will be presented to the FWAC prior to a future M&C authorizing construction of the memorial, as it is anticipated that the artwork portion of the memorial will be considered by the FWAC for accessioning into the FWPA Collection at a future date.

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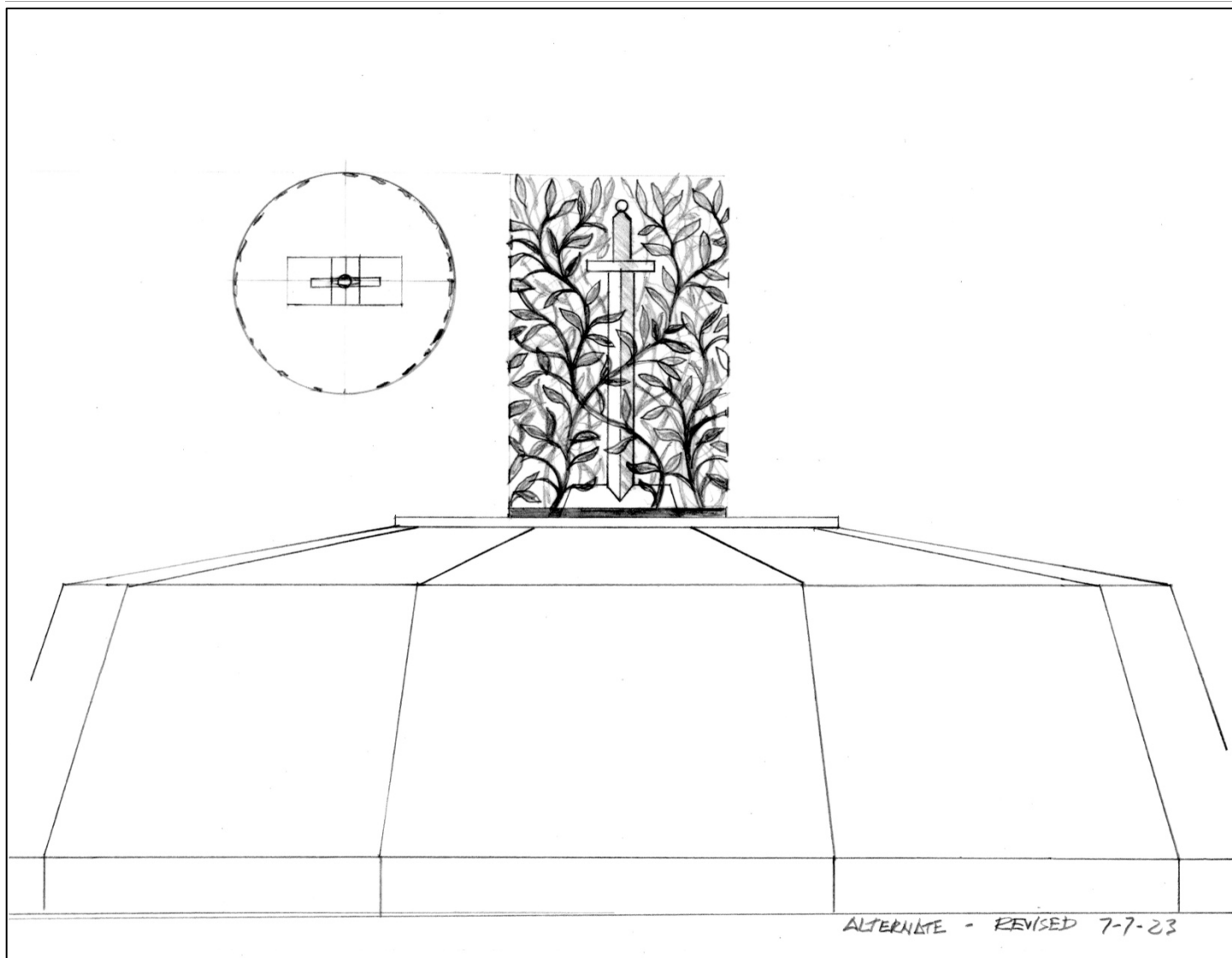
SITE MAP



SITE PLAN



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REVISED FINAL DESIGN

The Revised Design includes elements from the original artwork design concept: the names of the fallen engraved on vertical sides of a low, circular base and a natural element symbolizing life after loss. Changes to the central sculptural element from the representative shape of a tree to a “circular tracery of vines and boulder” include a “classical downward pointing sword resting on a boulder, representing the fallen warriors and the land where they fell.” Materials have changed from bronze to stainless-steel.