

FINAL BOARDS

MAKING PLACE : TAKOMA LANGLEY CROSSROADS GREEN ISLES

Final Report | Spring 2025



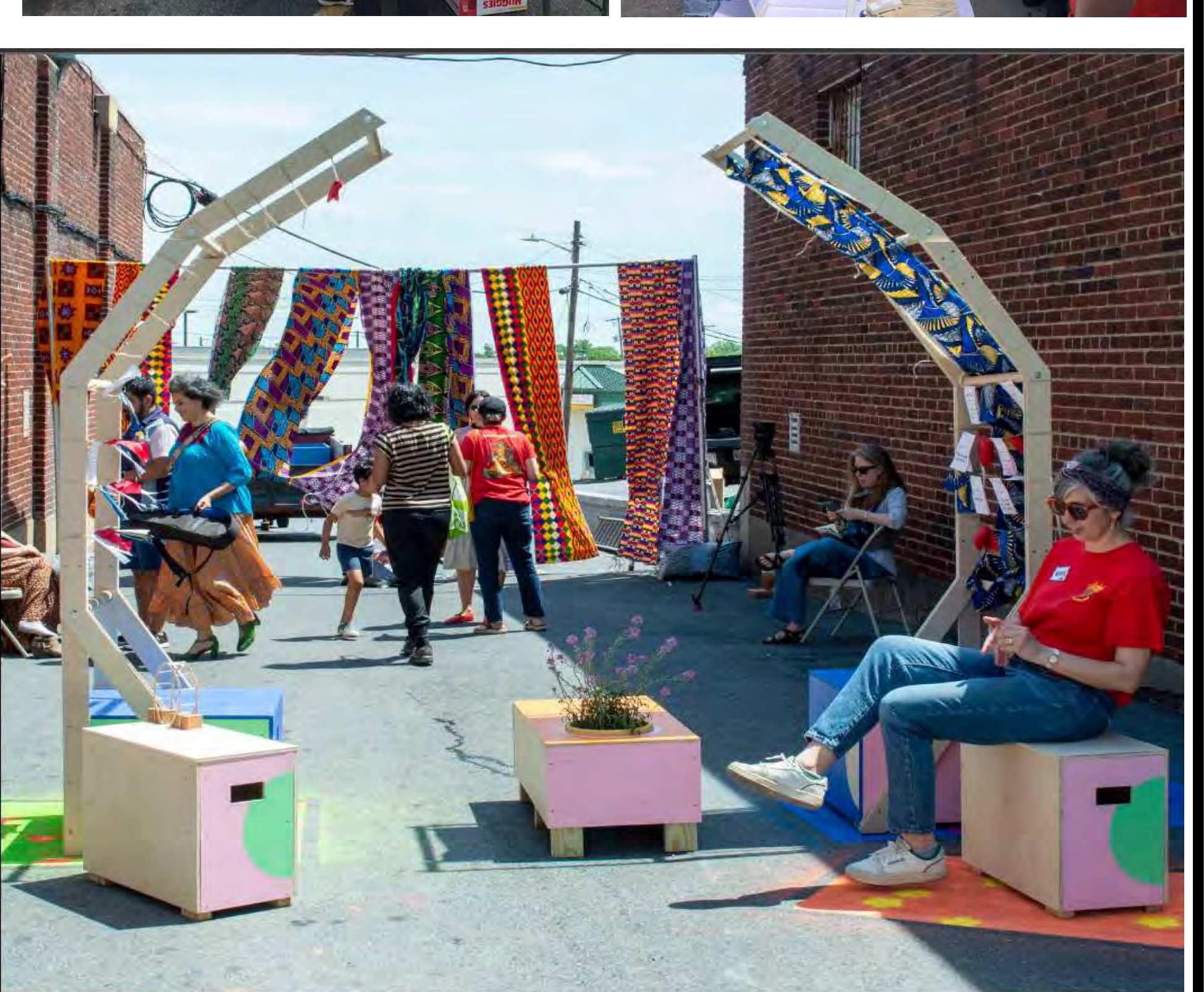
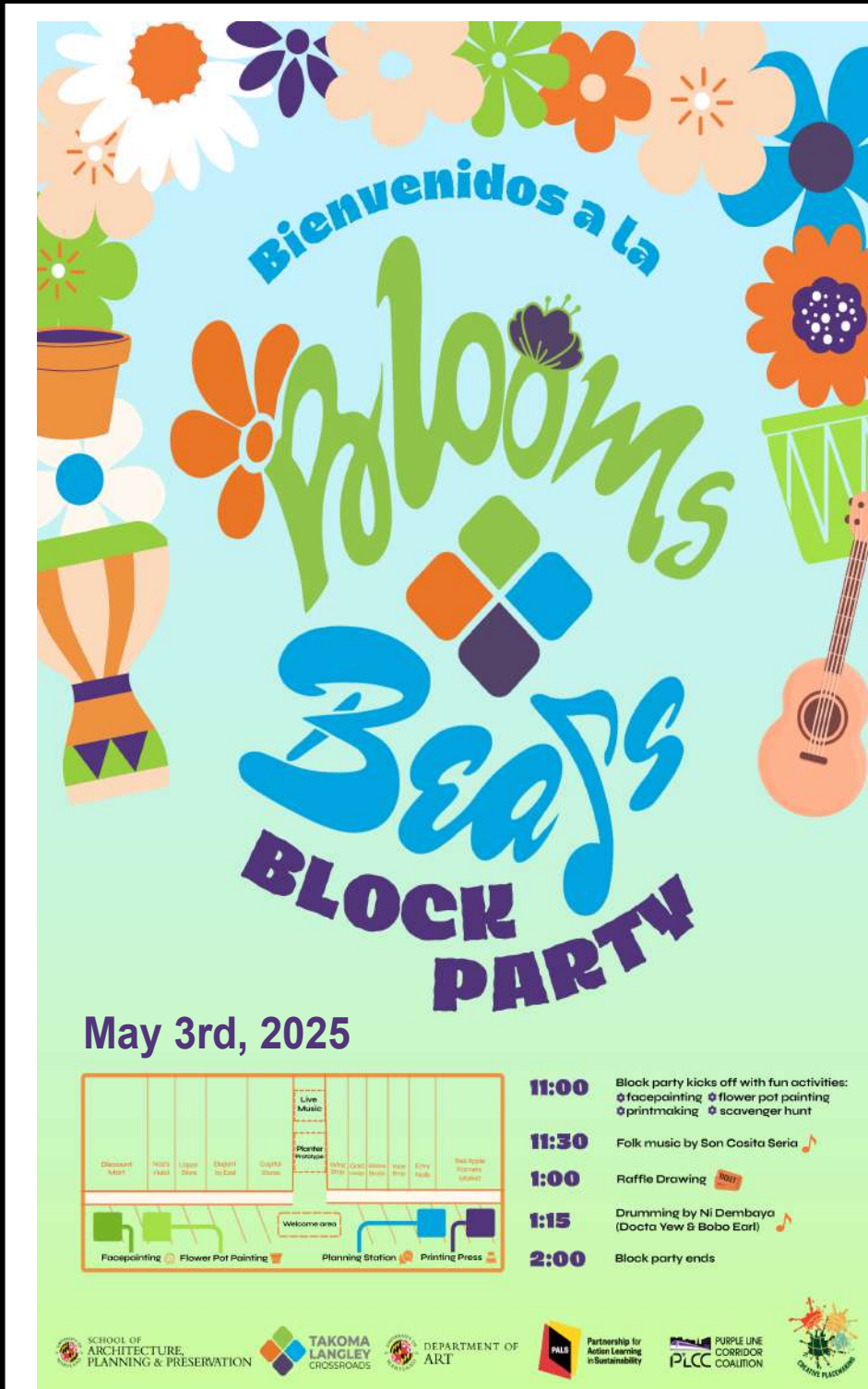
Prepared by UMD CRPM Architecture studio (ARCH408)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Jaden Adjei, Matthew Cienfuegos, Haruna
Maeyama



Process



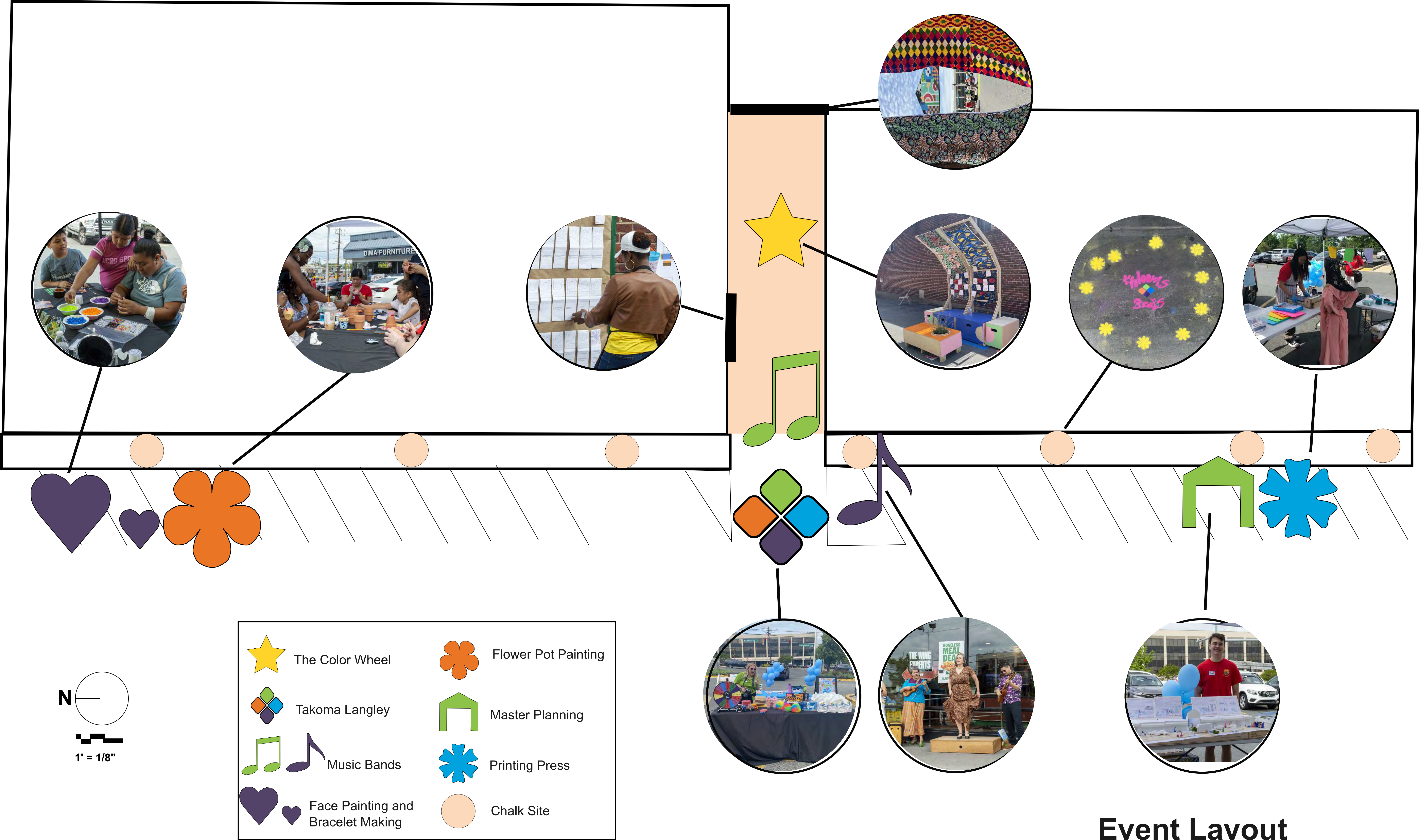
Event

Photo Board

The Color Wheel

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May 9, 2025





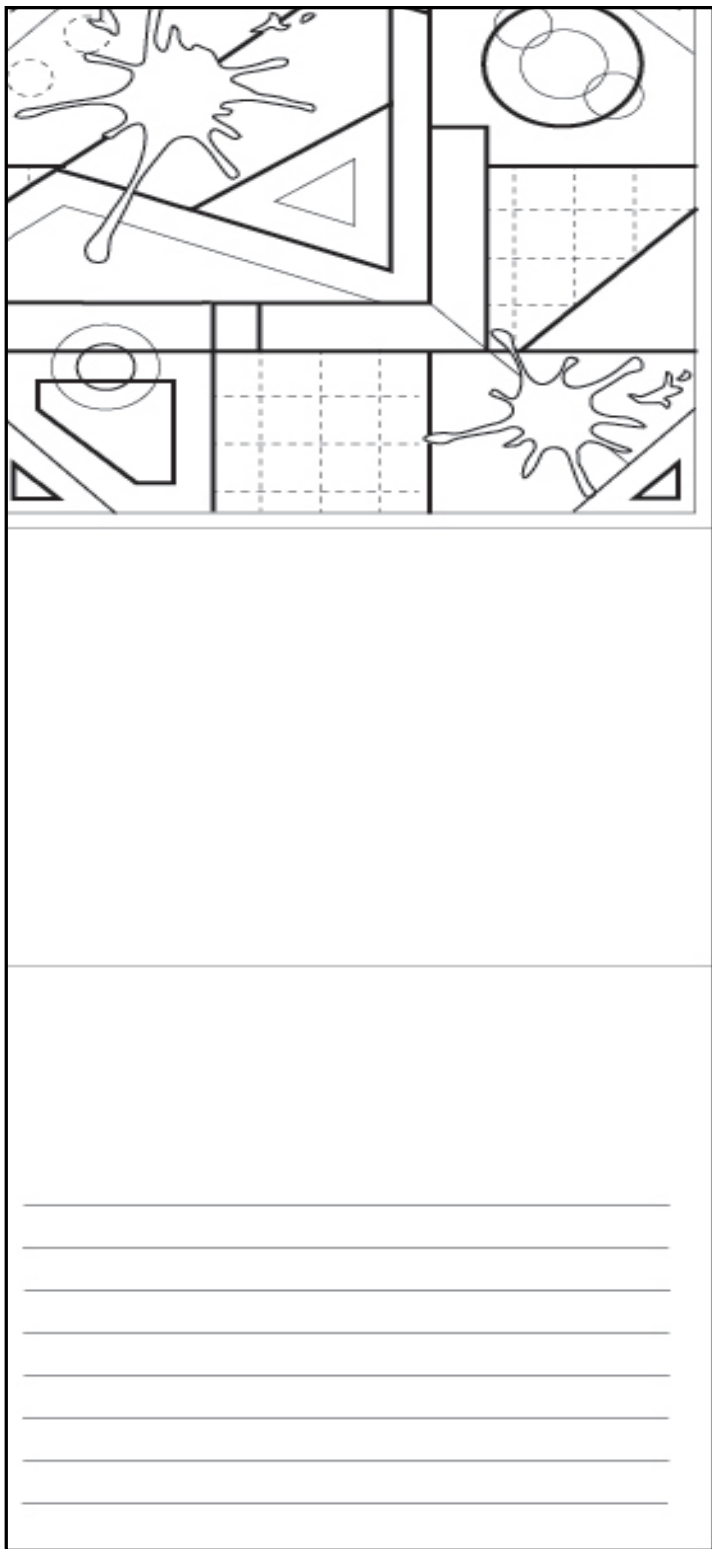
Event Layout

The Color Wheel

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Community Interaction with Color Wheel

To further engage the community, informational cards were offered to patrons who would visit the prototype. The card offered opportunities for creativity in a design pattern that could be colored, which was mainly focused towards children & young adults. The main focus of the card was for participants to answer the questions attached. Questions varied through each card, asking what about the shopping center brings them joy, what is most important to them about the space, and what they would be curious about for the Takoma Langley Crossroads’ future. From there, they could place their answers on the Color Wheel. Reception was mainly positive, as many used the card to celebrate aspects such as the space’s cultural significance & importance of community. They found the idea exciting as it allowed for community members to share their opinions and ideas. There were also many discussions about focusing on creating family-oriented spaces on the site. Business owners and customers alike liked the idea of the color wheel’s implementation, which raised another important question about whether the idea could be a reality.



Color Wheel Engagement Interaction Photos



Prototype Engagement Responses

What is most important to me here is build a community in which everyone is welcome

This place matters to me because of the culture

What brings me joy here is sharing the space with other and music

The most important thing here is the fun & the activities

Im curious how this space can change with sitting?

This place matters to me because it is fun

What brings me joy here is the connection, energy, and sense of belonging

What is most important to me here is that we are a community of different colors & a spectrum of life

I am curious about the people around the area, decorations, and the activities

Reflection

Creating and sustaining family-oriented spaces that encourage interaction is essential in fostering a sense of belonging and community. These spaces serve as more than just physical locations, becoming sites of shared memories, support, and cultural exchange. It’s equally important to recognize the often unheard voices of the community members who regularly occupy these spaces. Their experiences, needs, and histories should inform how these environments evolve. Another important lesson is understanding the cultural significance of spaces and what that means for both business owners alongside local customers as the Purple Line construction continues.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Color Wheel

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Trivia Card

Final Version



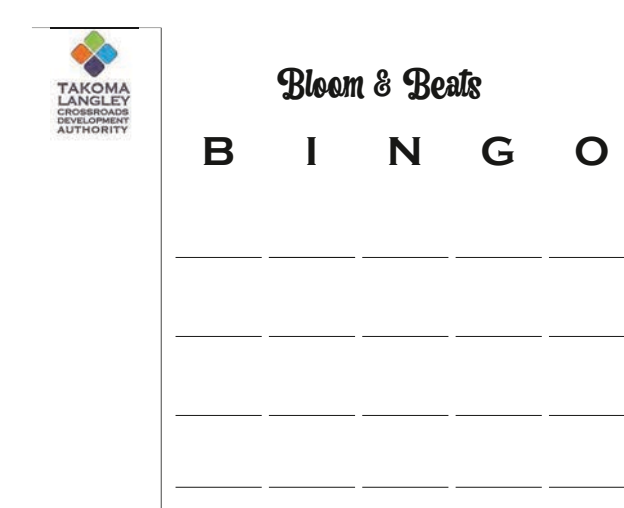
Prizes



Trivia Card Overview

Drafts

First Iteration



Second Revisions



Fabric Shakers

Event Business Engagment

Initially, people were hesitant about the scavenger hunt and activities attached, but through multiple interactions people became more comfortable with exploration. The trivia cards were then handed out to people as they walk by, more incentive to visit businesses alongside the activities. This also gave incentive to customers to find other businesses & have conversations with staff. With the scavenger hunt, businesses were also encouraged to interact with community members. Some owners such as San Alejo & WIngstop provided food for volunteers and people walking by. Baleadas Express and AD Blades & Braids set up shop outside and offered hair braiding and refreshments to those walking by. To highlight the busineeses who contributed, artwork and murals celebrating the event were put in front of the businesses.

Business Interaction Photos



Art Studio Chalking and Murals Photos



Reflection

One key takeaway was the vital relationship between the community and local businesses, many of which are small and family-oriented. These businesses are woven into the social and cultural fabric of the neighborhood. Highlighting and supporting them not only preserves local identity but also builds trust and pride within the community. Another takeaway is the importance role that art played with business interaction. Art plays a powerful role in this dynamic, offering a creative and accessible way to foster connection. Whether through murals, installations, or community-led projects, art invited participation and dialogue, turning everyday spaces into platforms for shared meaning.



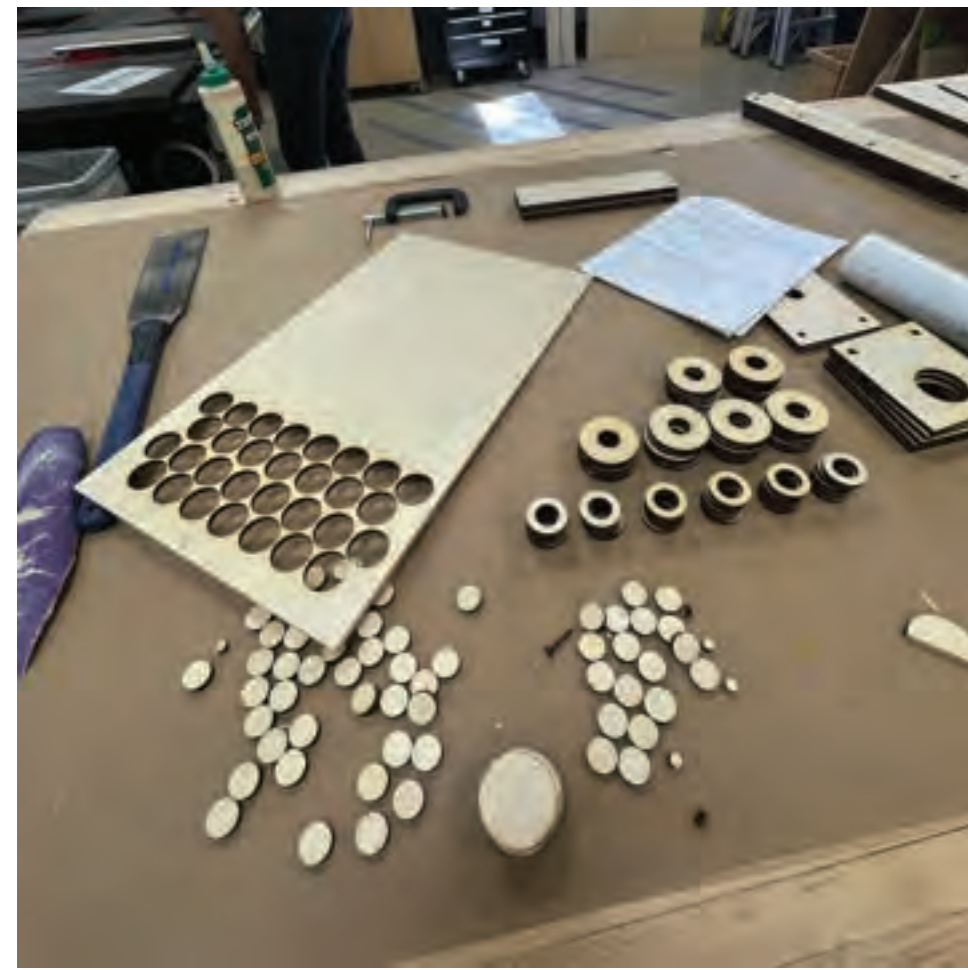
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

The Color Wheel

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Got all materials, and lasercut them following the instructions.



Assembled the cut pieces to create two printers,



Training session done by artist/printer, Heather McMordie. We made the final adjustments to the printers.



At the event, the printing press grabbed attention from children to elderly, they enjoyed creating their prints!

Process

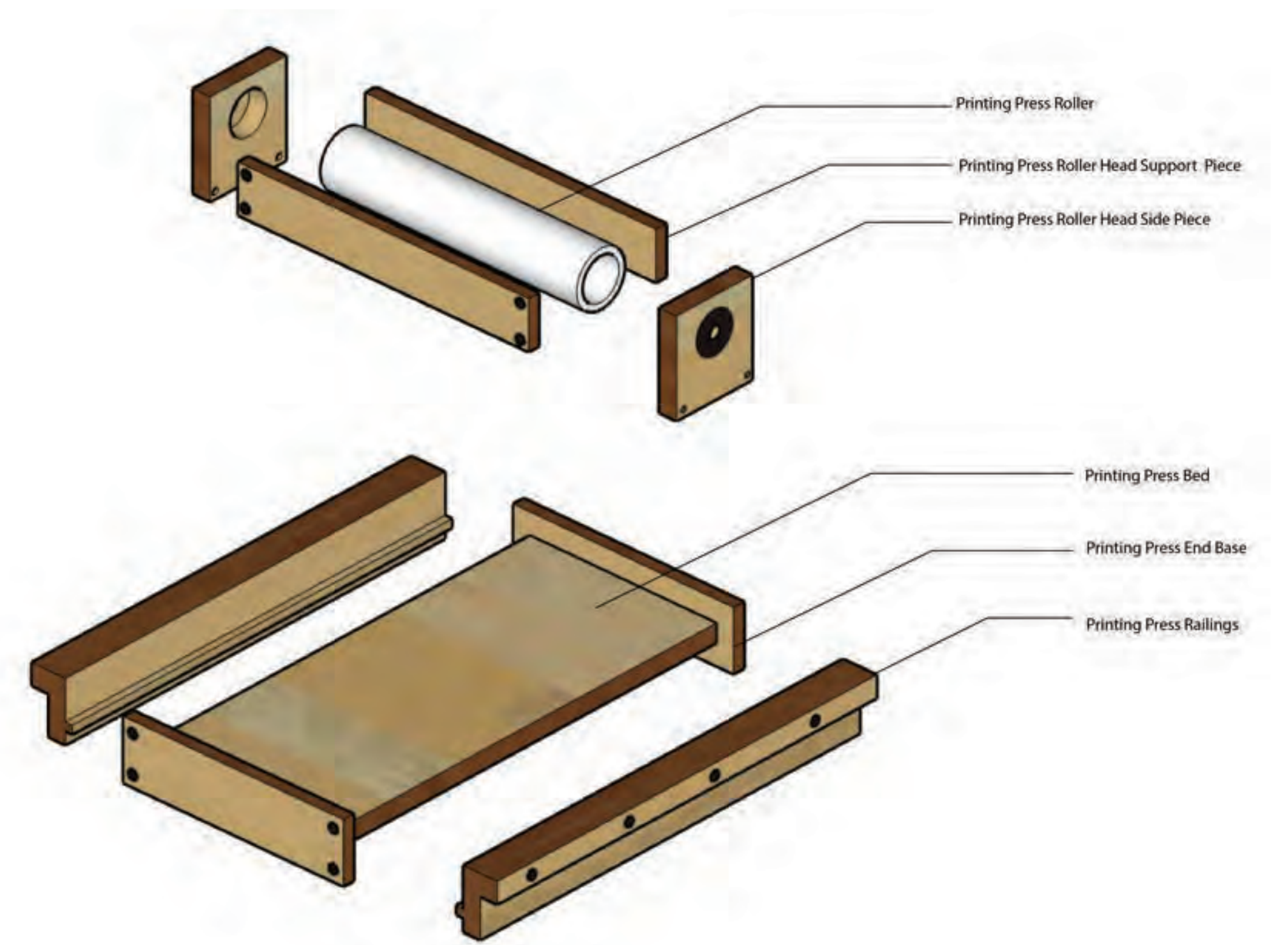
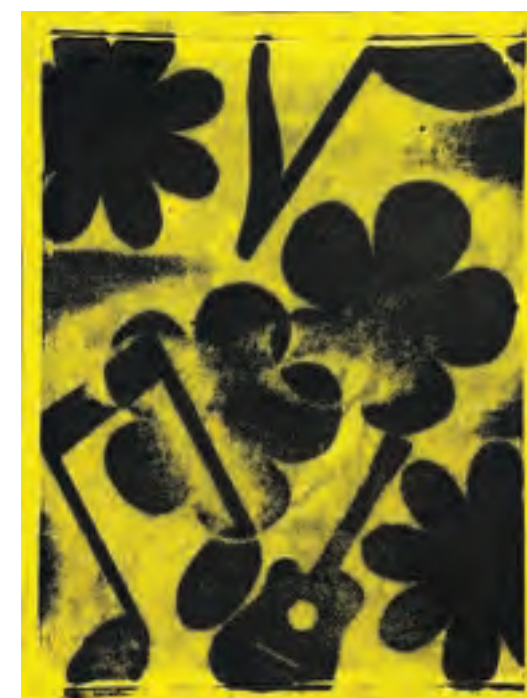


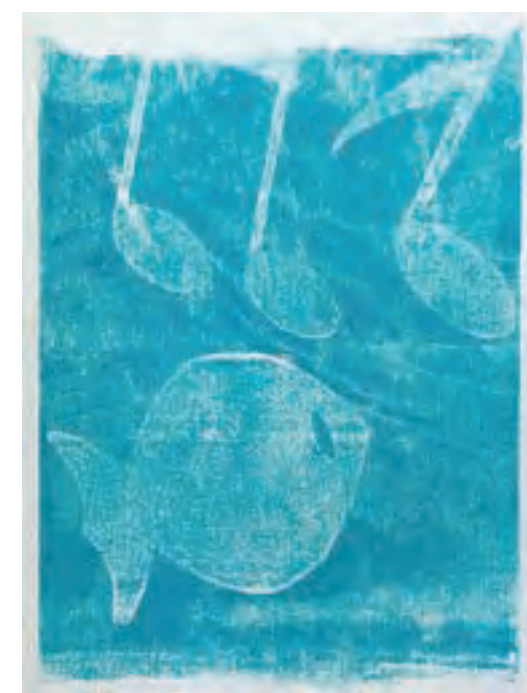
Diagram of Priting Press



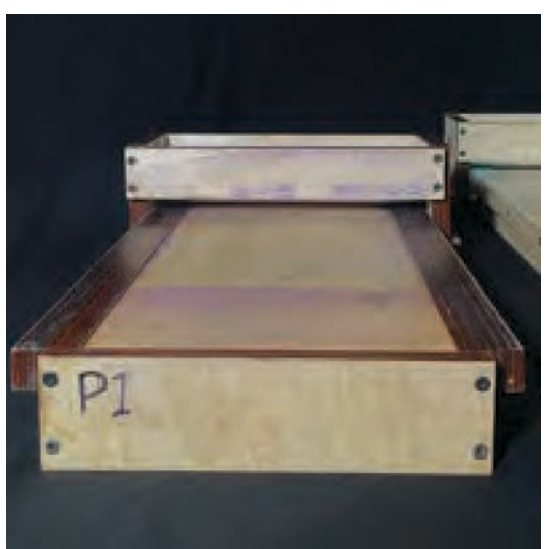
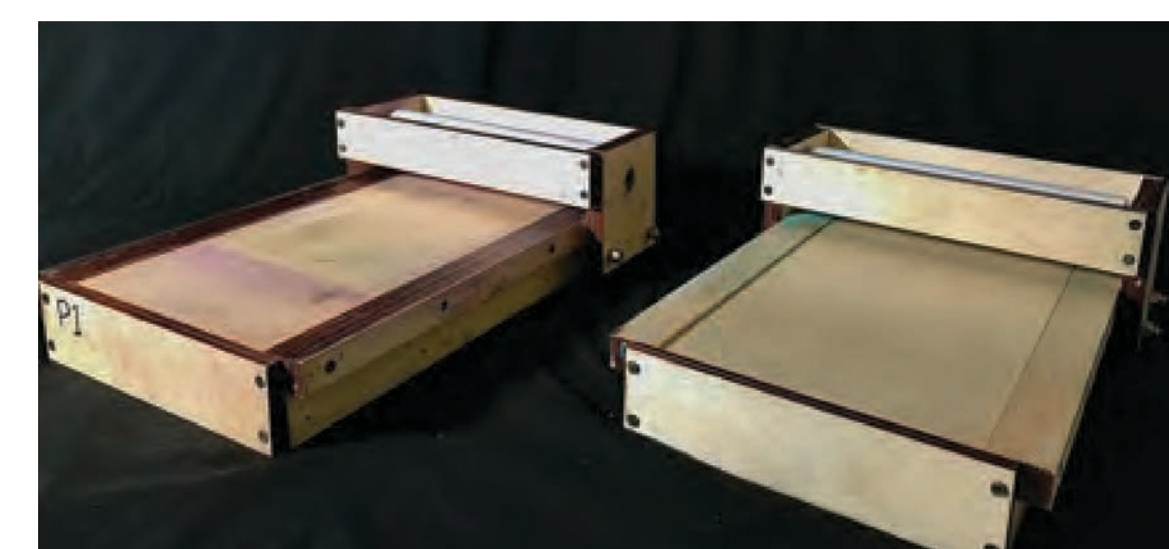
Press Print



Ghost Print



Prints on Board



Pictures of Priting Press

Printing Press

The Color Wheel

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MASTERPLAN TEAM

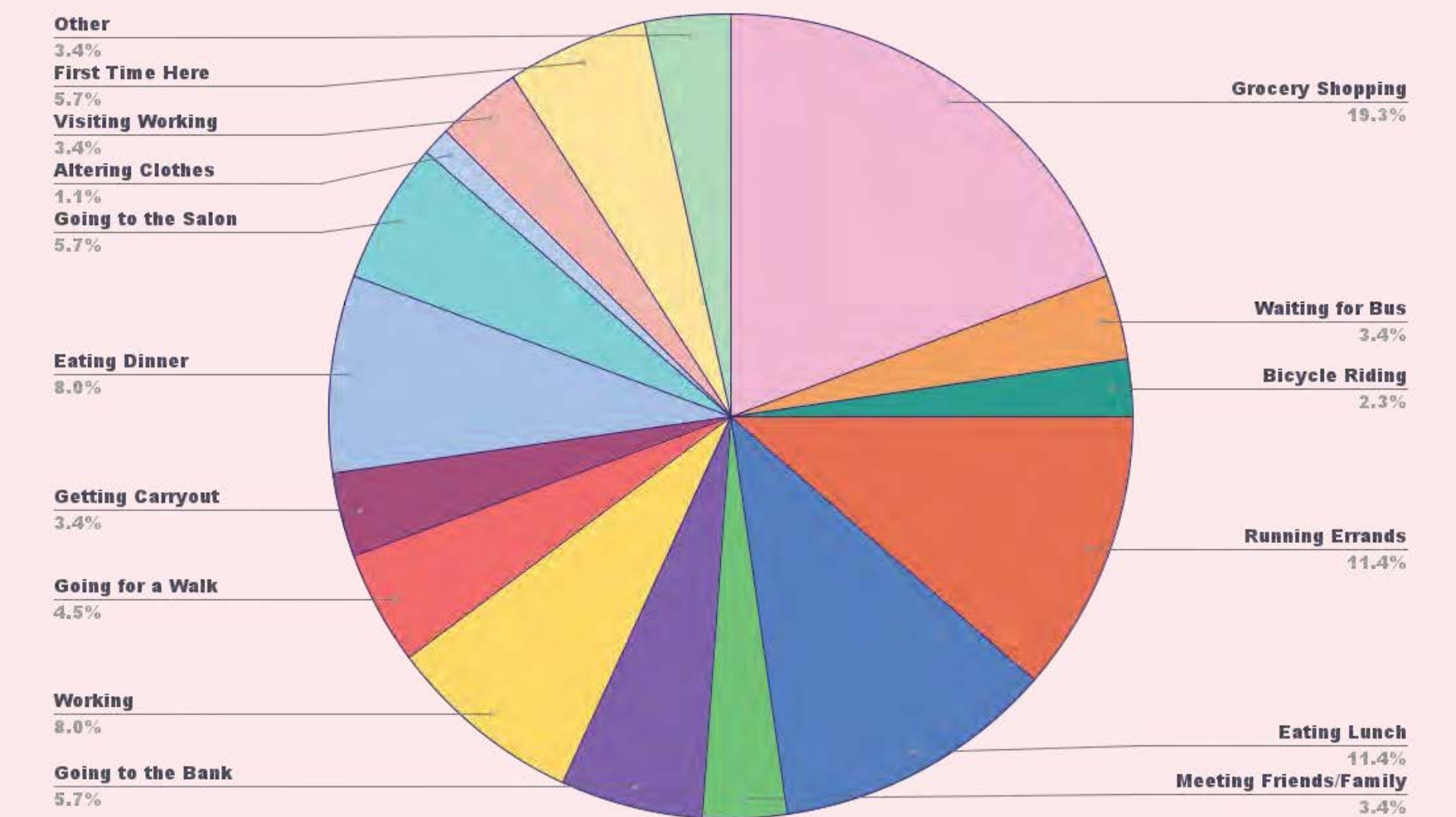
Conell Brandner, Daniel Cosby, Michelle
Seneviratne, Seta Whitney

Activity Board 1

What Do You Do at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads?
¿Qué Hace en Takoma/Langley Crossroads?

Grocery Shopping Comprar Comestibles	Waiting for the Bus Esperar el Autobús	Bicycle Riding Andar en Bici	Run Errands Hacer Mandados	Eating Lunch Almorzar	Did we miss something? ¿Nos faltó Algo? Write it on a post-it! (Escribelo en una post-it!) ↓ My bank is here Wants to widen car entrance
Meeting Friends/Family Salir con Amigos/Familia	Going to the Bank Ir al Banco	Working Trabajar	Going for a Walk Salir a Caminar	Getting Carryout Conseguir Comida Para Llevar	
Eating Dinner Comer	Going to the Hair/Nail Salon Ir al Salón	Altering Clothes Alterar la Ropa	Visiting Working Friends/Family Visitar a Familiares/Amigos	This Is My First Time Here! (Esta Es Mi Primera Vez Aquí!)	

Place a sticker on the activities that match your answer!
¡Pon una etiqueta en las actividades que coinciden con tu respuesta!



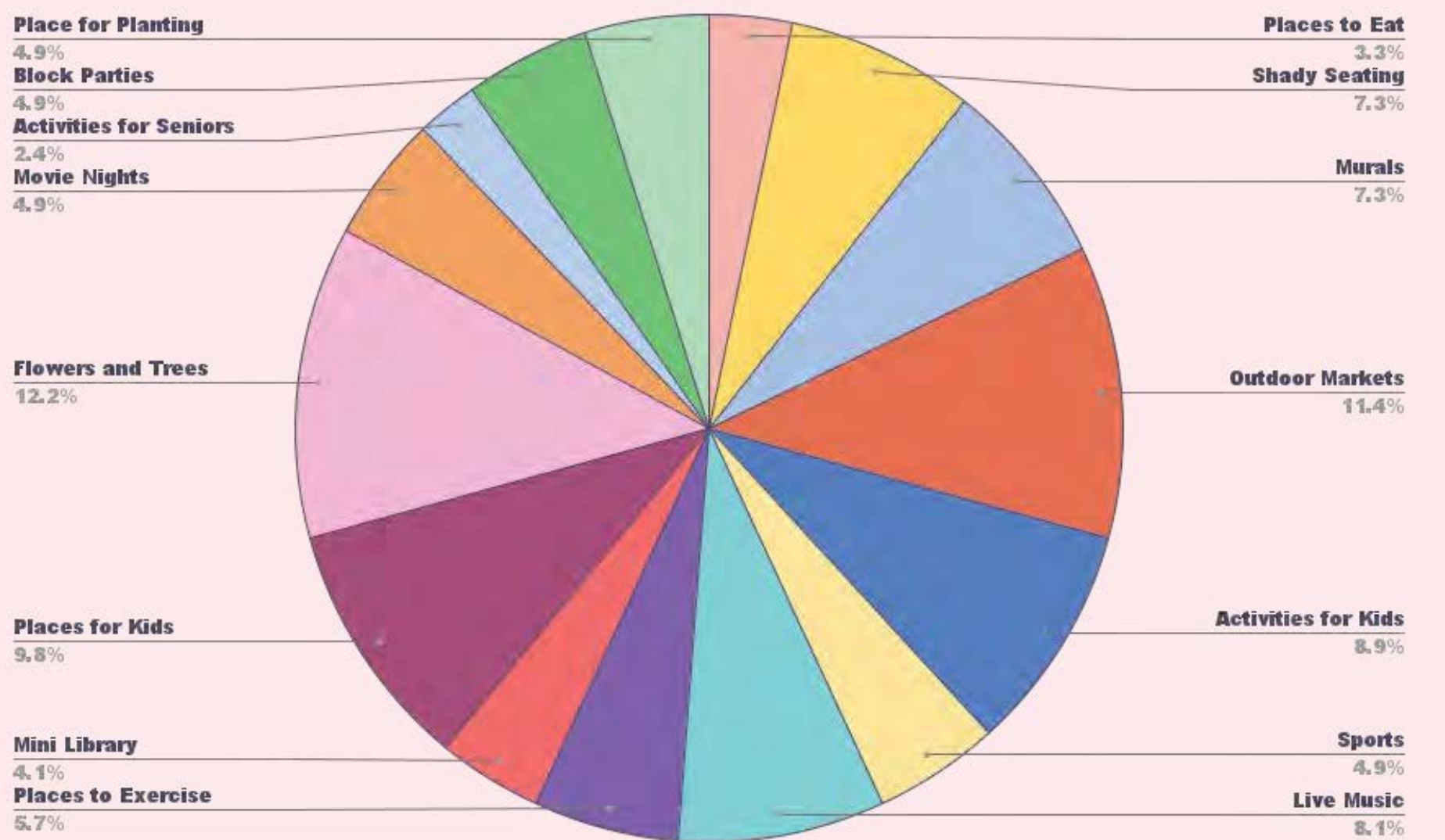
According to the data from the Bloom and Beats event, the most common activity at Takoma/Langley Crossroads is grocery shopping, followed by running errands and eating lunch. This suggests that many people visit the shopping center for essential needs and quick meals. There is also a notable presence of people working or going to the bank, showing that the site serves both customers and employees. Social and leisure activities like meeting friends, walking, or visiting salons were less frequent, highlighting the area's more functional use. This data suggests a need to add more opportunities for social engagement and relaxation to increase the site's appeal and encourage longer stays.

Activity Board 2

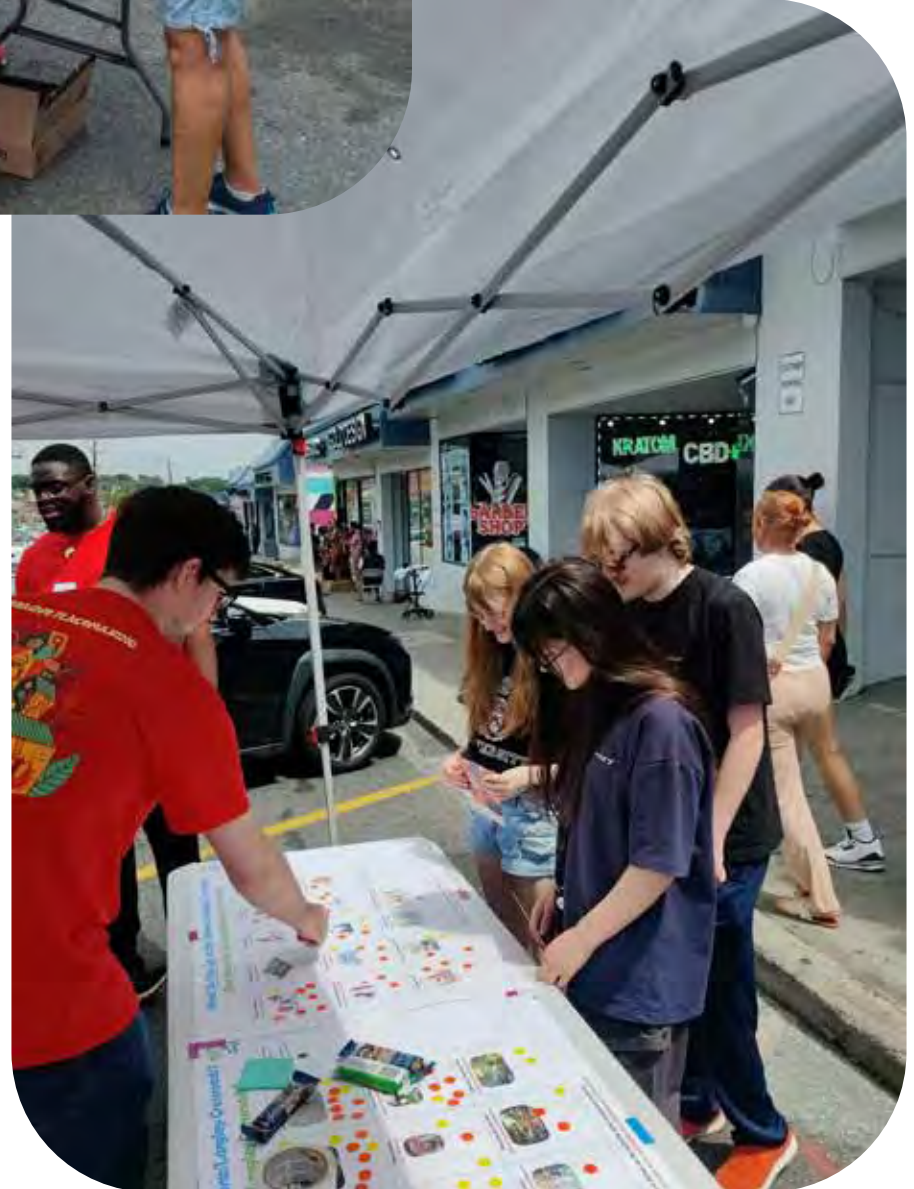
What Would You Like to See at Takoma/Langley Crossroads?
¿Qué Le Gustaría Ver en Takom/Langley Crossroads?

Places to Eat Lugares Para Comer	Shady Seating Areas Zonas Para Sentarse Con Sombra	Murals Murales	Outdoor Markets Mercado al Aire Libre	Activities for Kids Actividades Para Niños	Did we miss something? ¿Nos faltó Algo? Write it on a post-it! (Escribelo en una post-it!) ↓
Sports Deportes	Live Music Música en Vivo	Places to Exercise Lugares Para Hacer Ejercicio	Mini Library Mini Biblioteca	Places for Kids to Play Lugares Para que los Niños Jueguen	
Flowers and Trees Flores y Árboles	Movie Nights Noches de Cine	Activities for Seniors Actividades para Personas Mayores	Block Parties Like This! Fiestas de Barrio Como Esta!	A Place for Planting Things Un Lugar para Plantar Cosas	

Place a sticker on the activities that match your answer!
¡Pon una etiqueta en las actividades que coinciden con tu respuesta!



Community members most frequently expressed their interest in seeing more flowers and trees, outdoor markets, and spaces for kids. Shady seating, murals, and live music were also popular, indicating the community's desire for comfort, visual interest, and entertainment. The high interest in kid-friendly and family-oriented spaces suggests that the community values inclusive, multi-generational spaces. Overall, the data gathered from the event supports the need for creating a more vibrant, welcoming, and green environment that encourages people to gather, relax and return more often.



Community Input: Activity Boards

The Color Wheel

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"Blocking off the alleyway could work since it is not as used, but blocking off the main entrance would not work since it gets a lot of traffic." - Officers

Configurations from the Community:

Mural Spot



Transformation of a single parking space into a small seating area on a ground mural. The planters allow for a buffer between the seating area and parking lot.

Pocket Park



Blocking off the main entrance and adding a small green space with trees for creating a barrier between the street and people. The benches with the planter create a welcoming space for people to sit, pause, and interact with the environment.

Green Corridor



Blocking off the main entrance and reimagining the parking lot as a green space with trees and benches. Creates a pedestrian-friendly zone and allows for plenty of seating space.

Shaded Seating



Setting up benches near trees allows for extra shade and a quiet spot for resting or conversation.

Benches Around a Tree

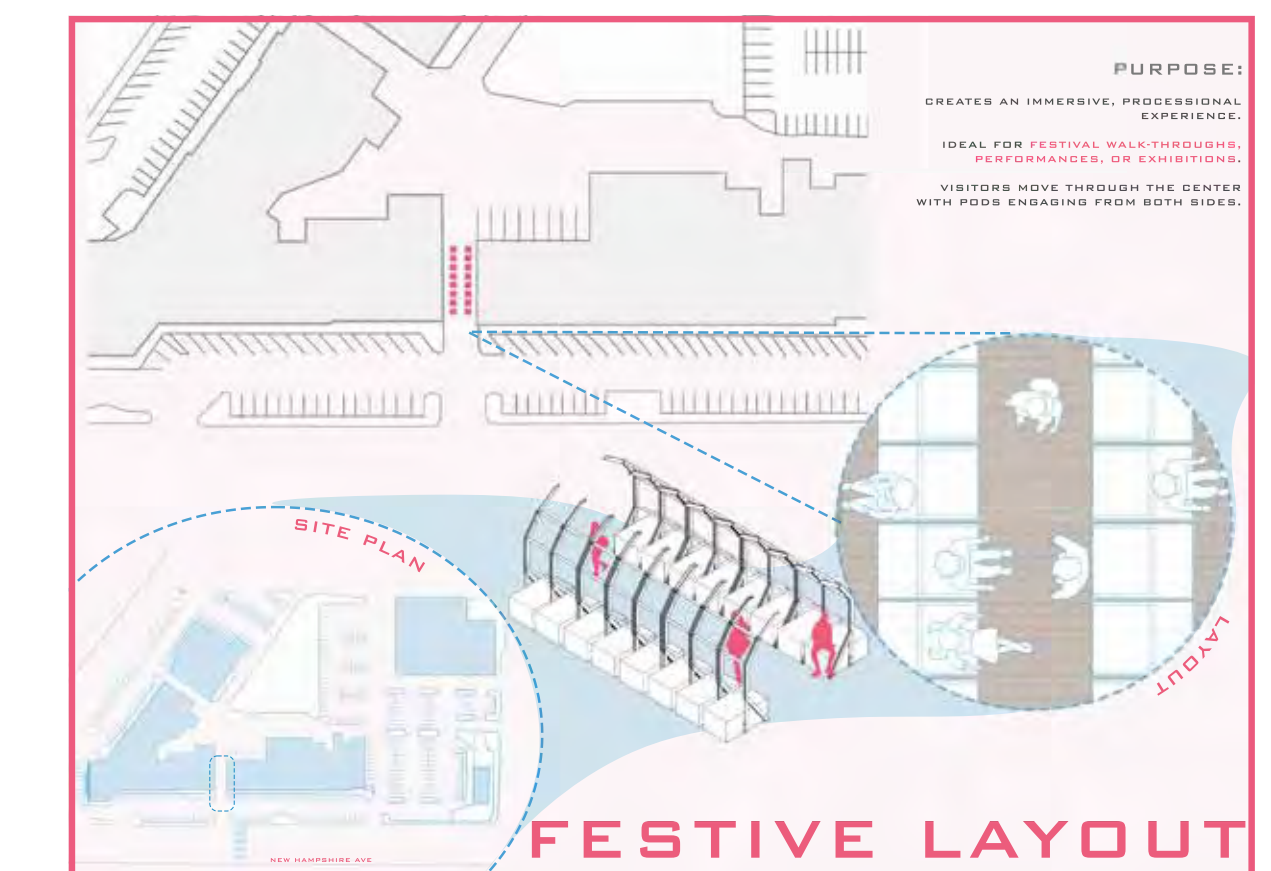
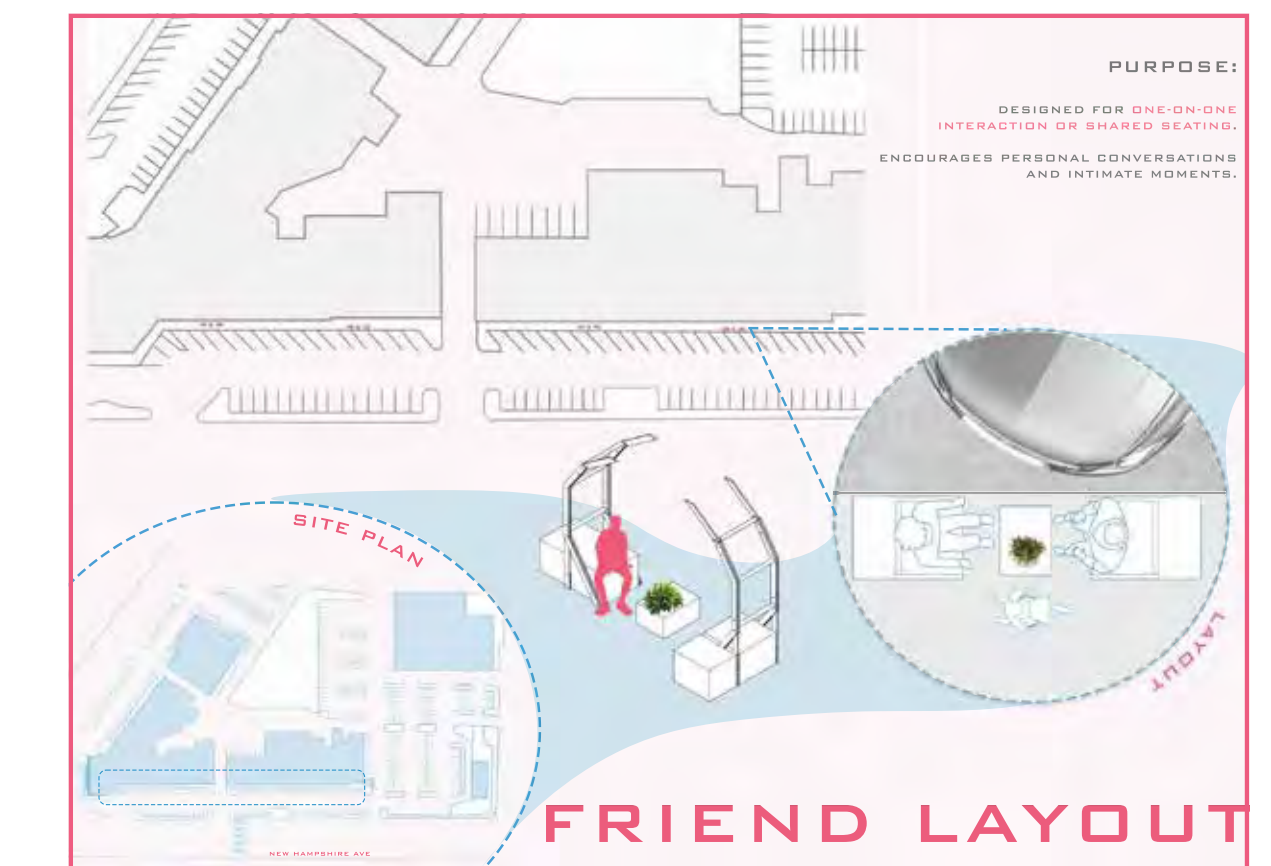
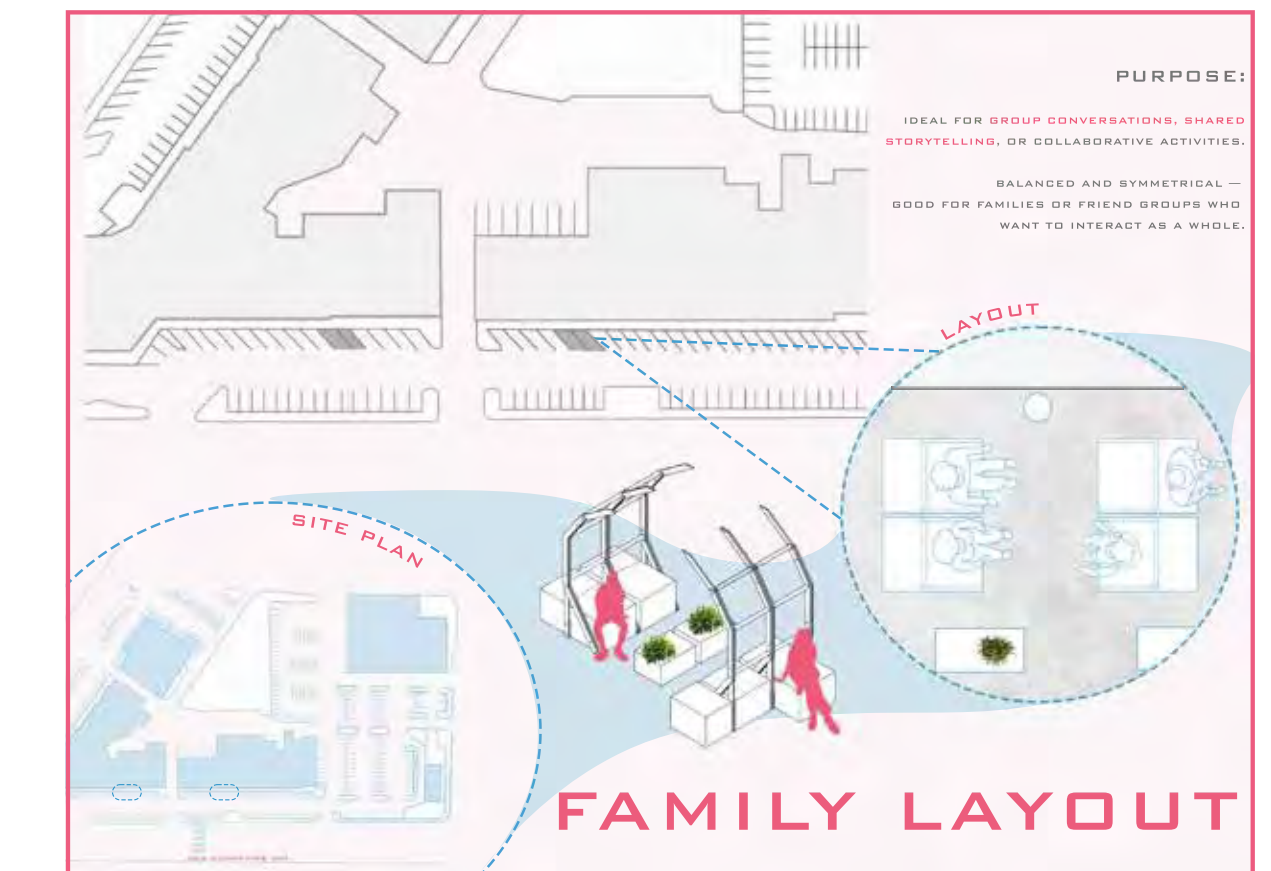
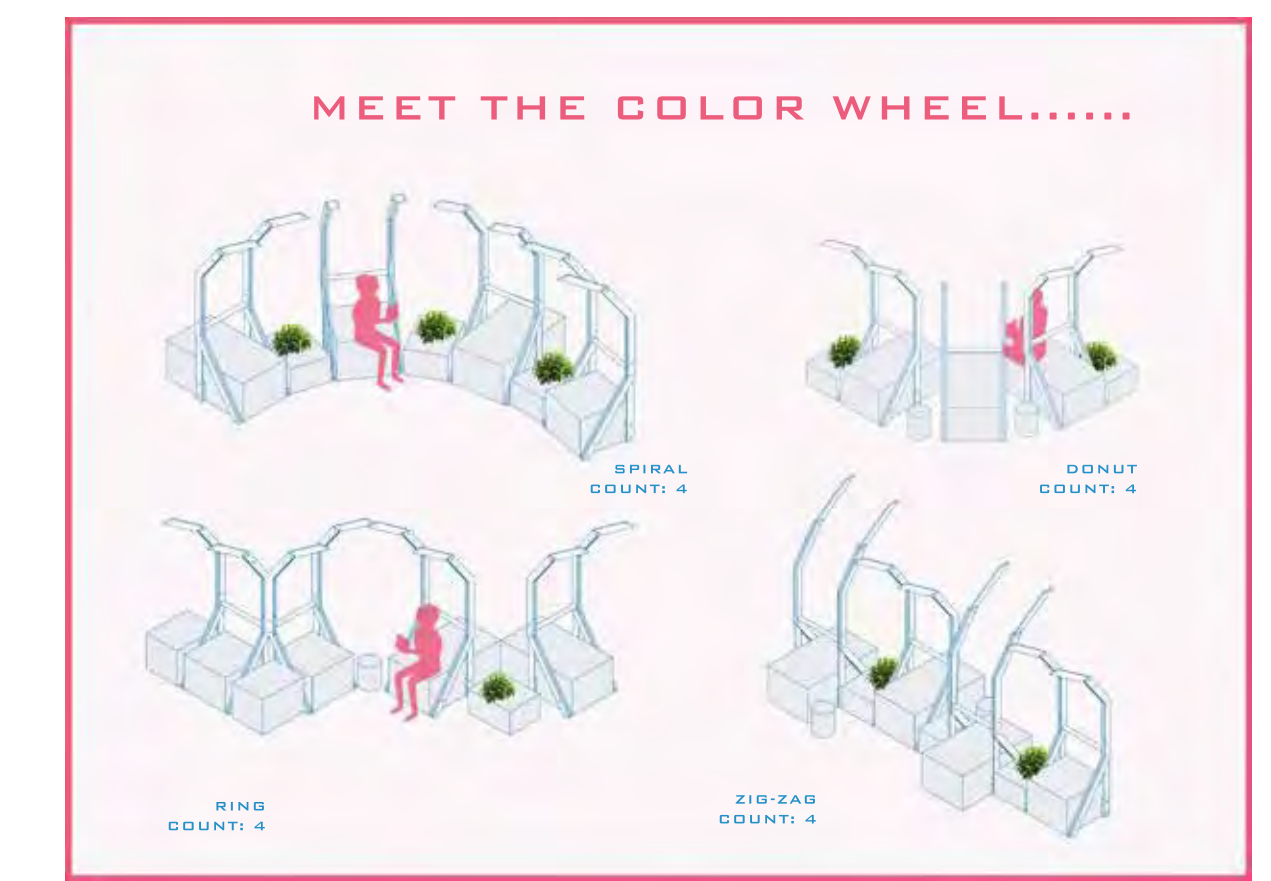


Four benches facing each other with a tree in the center. Creates an intimate gathering space.

Quotes:

"The sidewalks on either side of the parking lot are too thin"

"If the main entrance to the parking lot was widened, it would be less congested"



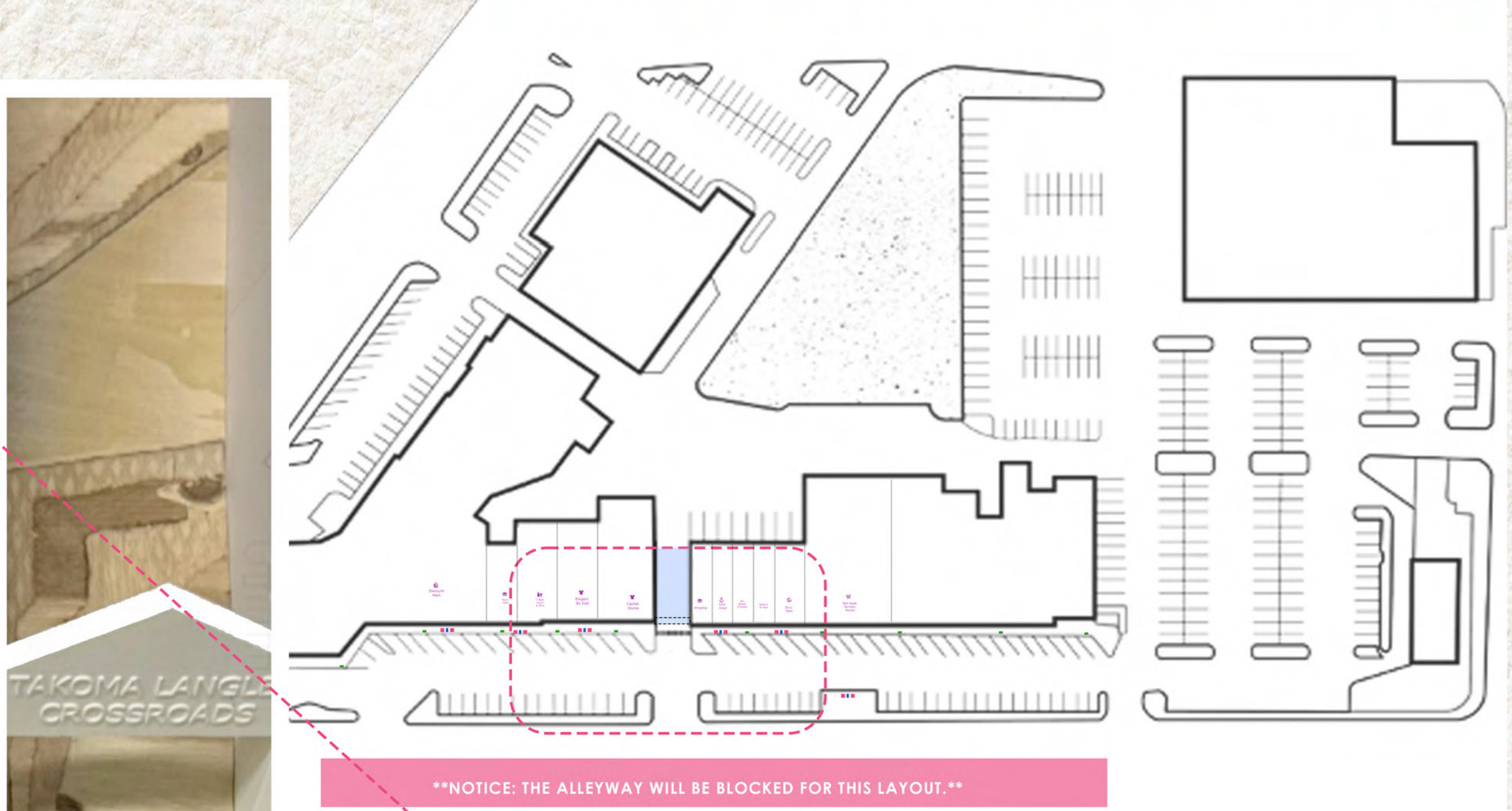
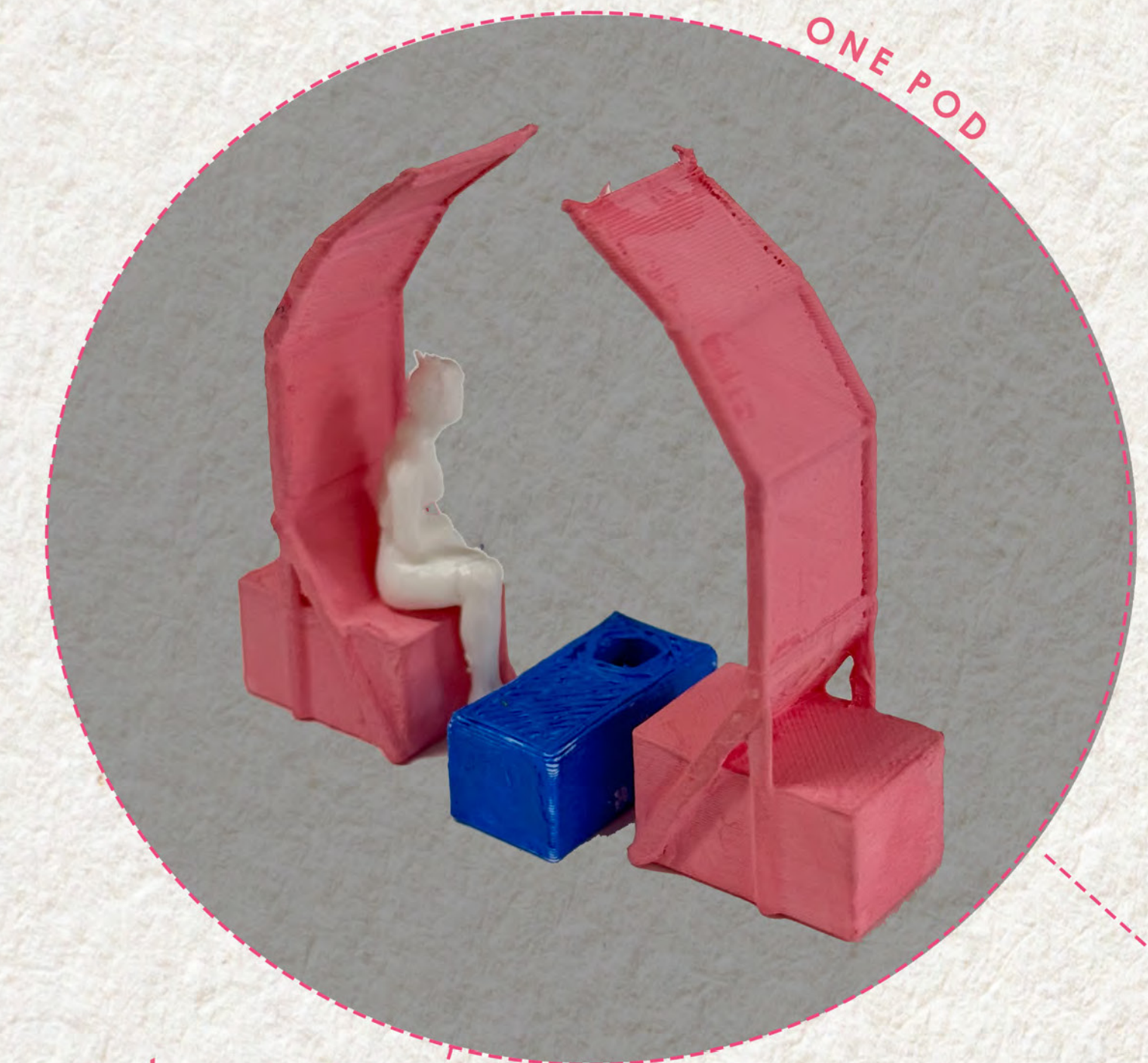
Community Input: Site Model

The Color Wheel

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FAMILY LAYOUT

GATHER IN CIRCLES — CONNECT, LAUGH, AND SHARE THE COLOR WHEEL WAY.



STRUCTURE:

EACH PAIR OF PODS IS EITHER FACING EACH OTHER OR PLACED SIDE-BY-SIDE.

MUST CLEARLY SHOW POD ORIENTATION AND BACK SUPPORT PANELS.

PURPOSE:

DESIGNED FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTION OR SHARED SEATING.

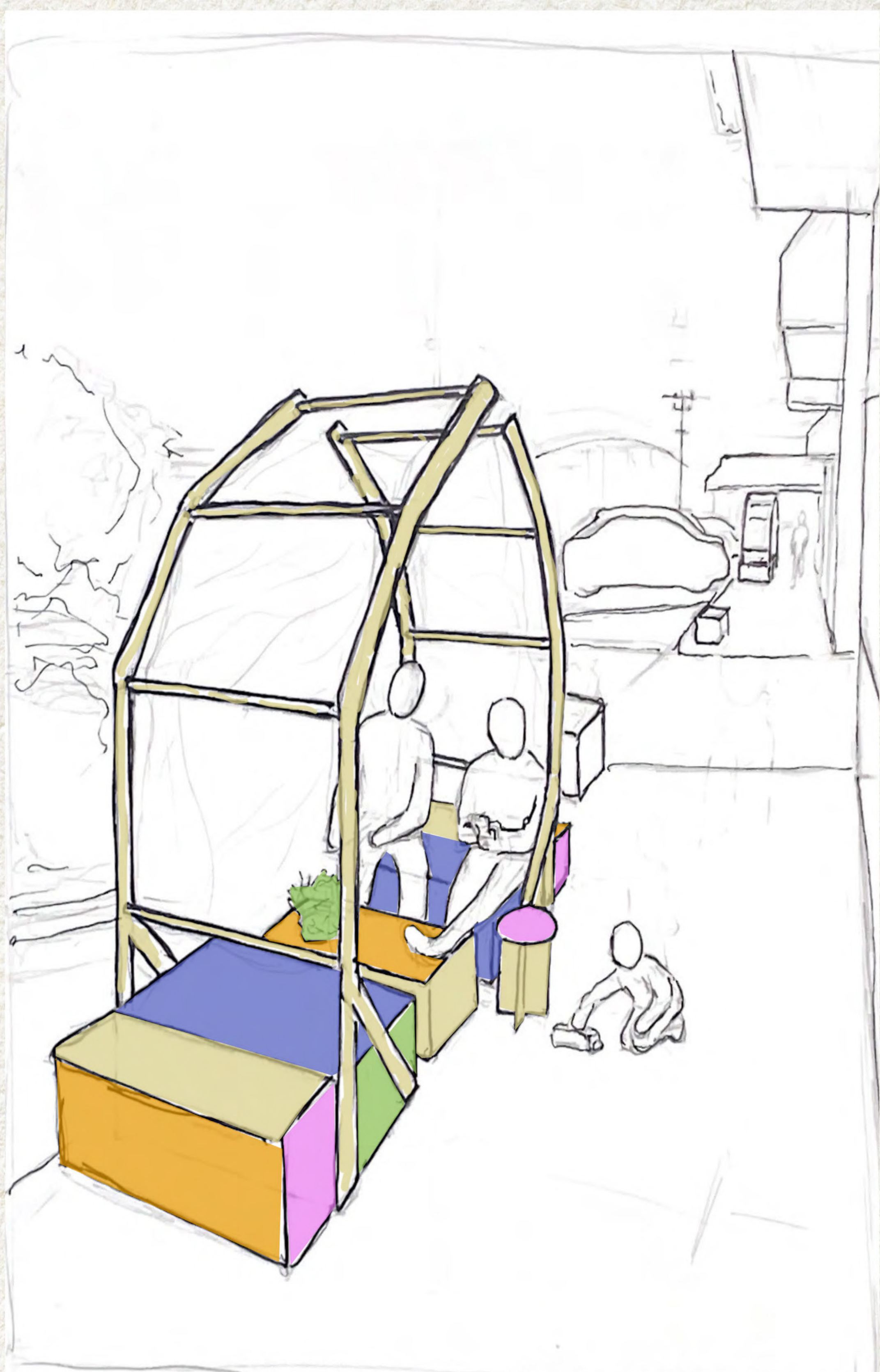
ENCOURAGES PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS AND INTIMATE MOMENTS.

DESIGN NOTES:

PAIRS CAN BE SCATTERED OR GRIDDED, BUT SHOULD FEEL CONNECTED.

SHOW BACK PANELS CLEARLY — USEFUL FOR GRAPHIC, SIGNAGE, OR STORYTELLING PURPOSES.

IDEAL FOR AREAS WHERE USERS WANT A MORE CASUAL OR SEMI-PRIVATE EXPERIENCE.



LAYOUT BOARD-2

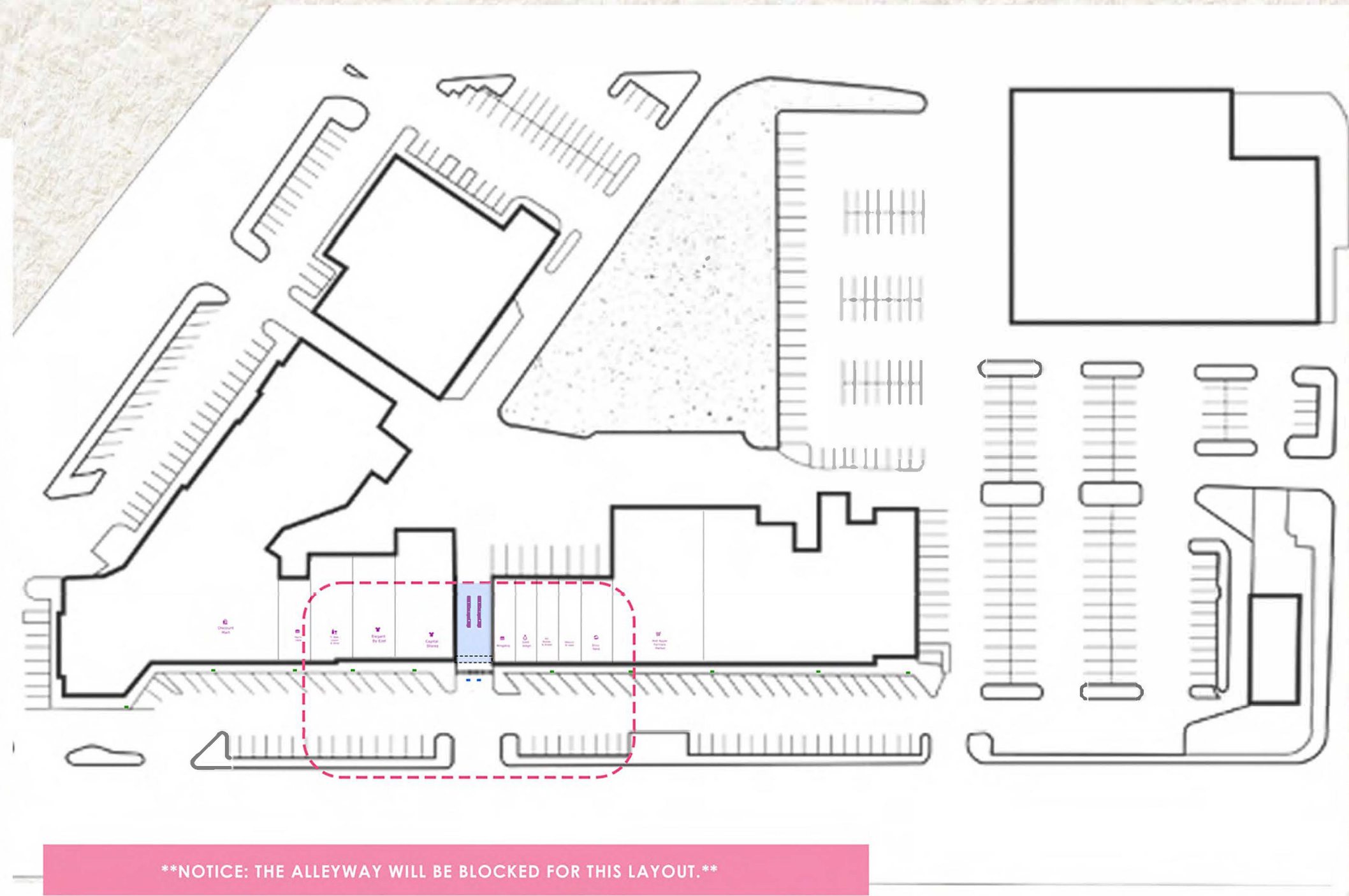
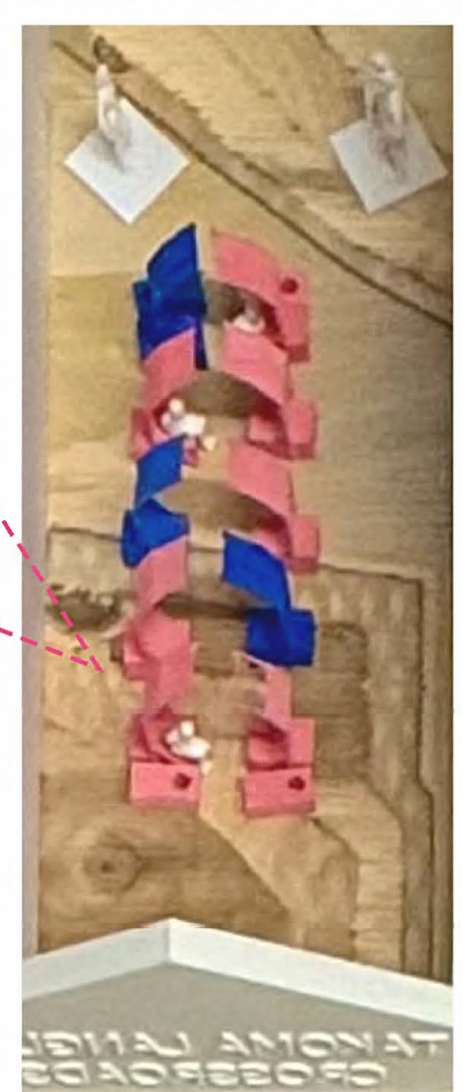
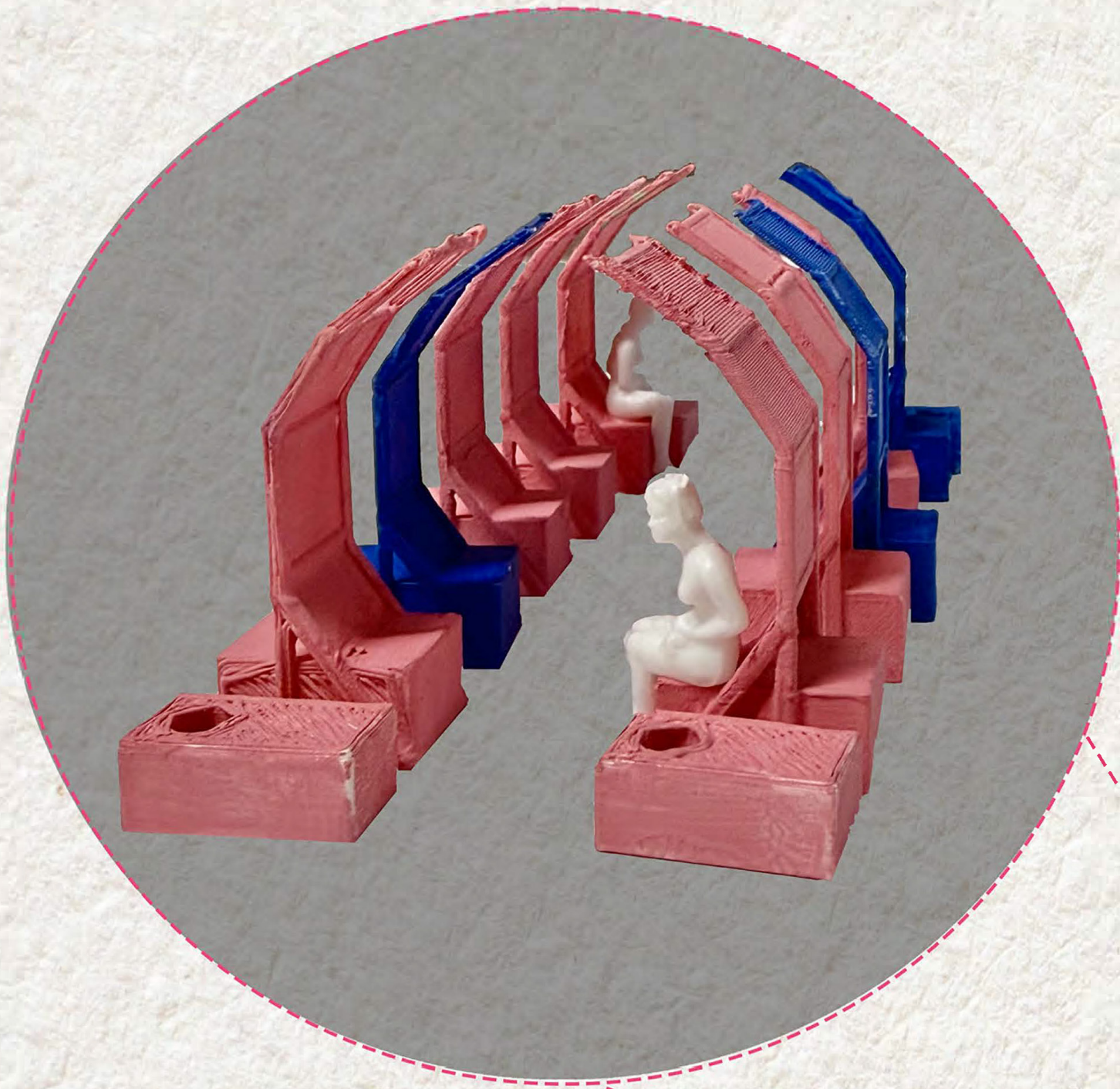
The Color Wheel

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LOUNGE LAYOUT

STEP INTO THE COLOR WHEEL TUNNEL — WHERE THE CELEBRATION FLOWS THROUGH!



CONCEPT:

A LINEAR, ARCH-LIKE LAYOUT INSPIRED BY OPEN-AIR MARKETS, ENCOURAGING WALK-THROUGH INTERACTION AND CASUAL GATHERING.

SETUP:

12 COLOR WHEEL BENCHES ARRANGED IN 6 FACING PAIRS, FORMING 6 WALKABLE ARCHES.

EACH BENCH IS 3 FT WIDE, 7.5 FT TALL, AND SEATS 2 PEOPLE COMFORTABLY.

COLOR WHEEL TABLES AND STOOLS ARE PLACED AT EACH END TO DEFINE BOUNDARIES AND BLOCK ALLEY ENTRANCES.

EXPERIENCE:

VISITORS CAN WALK THROUGH, REST, AND INTERACT—JUST LIKE BROWSING A COLORFUL, PEOPLE-FRIENDLY MARKETPLACE.



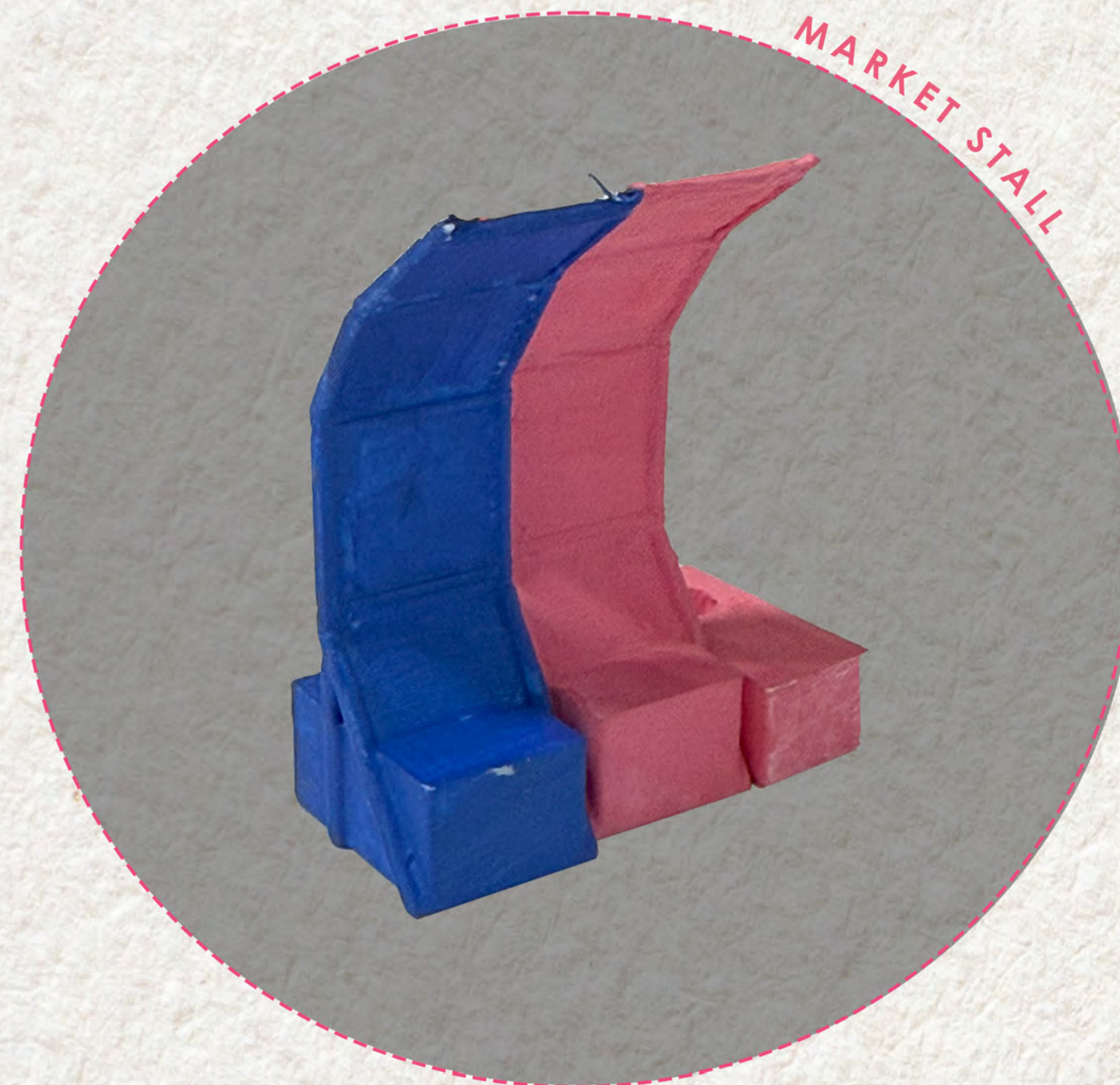
LAYOUT BOARD-1

The Color Wheel

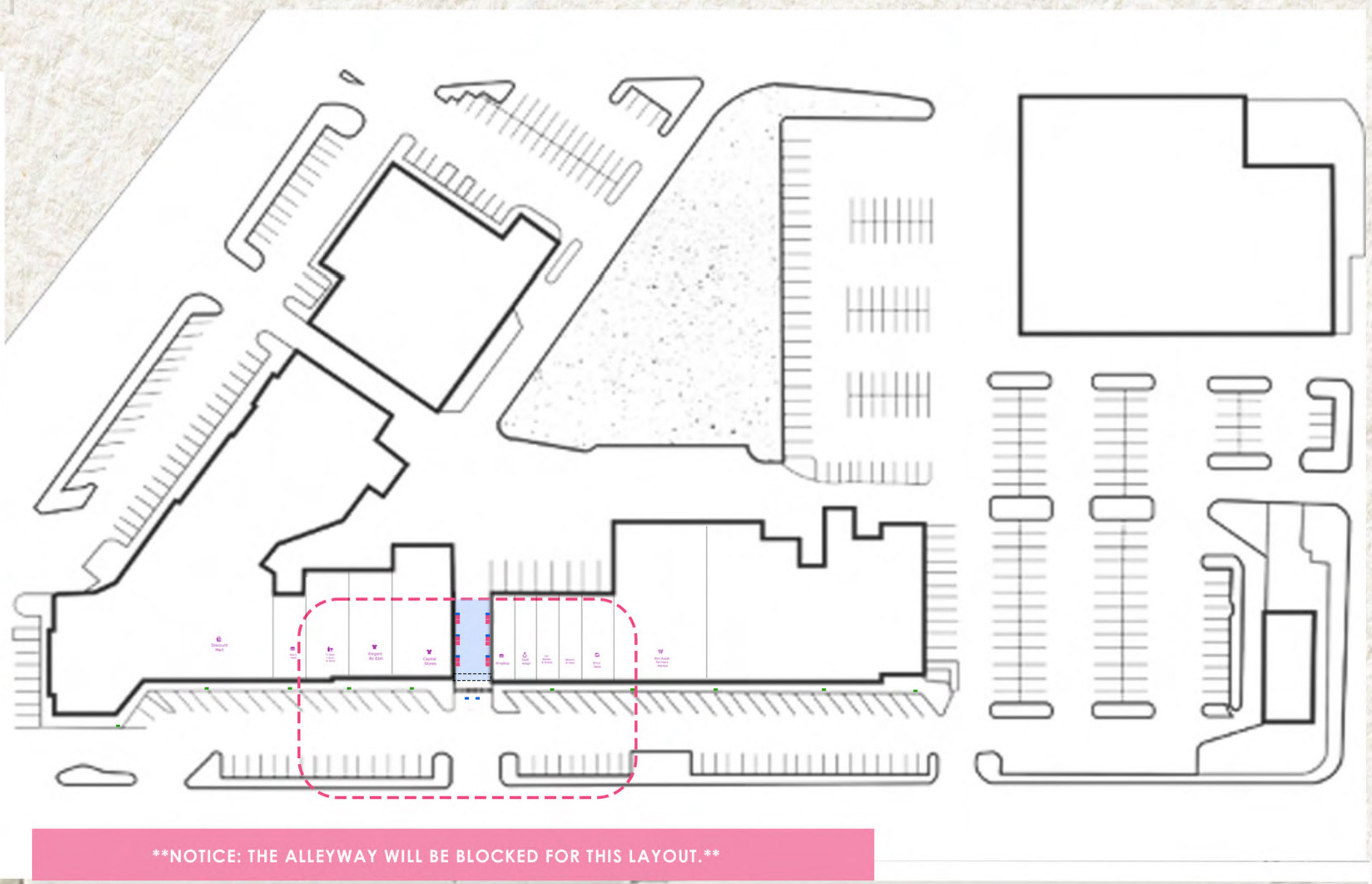
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MARKET LAYOUT

COLOR WHEELS POP UP LIKE STALLS — SIT, SHOP, AND STAY A WHILE.



- STRUCTURE:**
- 2 COLOR WHEEL BENCHES BACK-TO-BACK, FACING AWAY FROM THE ALLEY WALL.
 - 1 COLOR WHEEL TABLE + STOOL IN FRONT (AISLE SIDE).
 - BENCH ARCHES USED AS RACKS TO HANG CLOTHES OR GOODS.
- PURPOSE:**
- CREATES MODULAR, SELF-CONTAINED MARKET STALLS FOR VENDORS.
 - ARCHES SUPPORT VERTICAL DISPLAY, INCREASING VISIBILITY.
 - TABLES OFFER A SURFACE FOR SELLING, SHOWCASING, OR SITTING.
- DESIGN NOTES:**
- ALIGN STALLS ALONG ALLEY WALL WITH CLEAR AISLE ACCESS.
 - SPACE STALLS ~3-4 FT APART.
 - ARCHES SUPPORT HOOKS, HANGERS, OR SIGNAGE FOR FLEXIBLE USE



LAYOUT BOARD-3

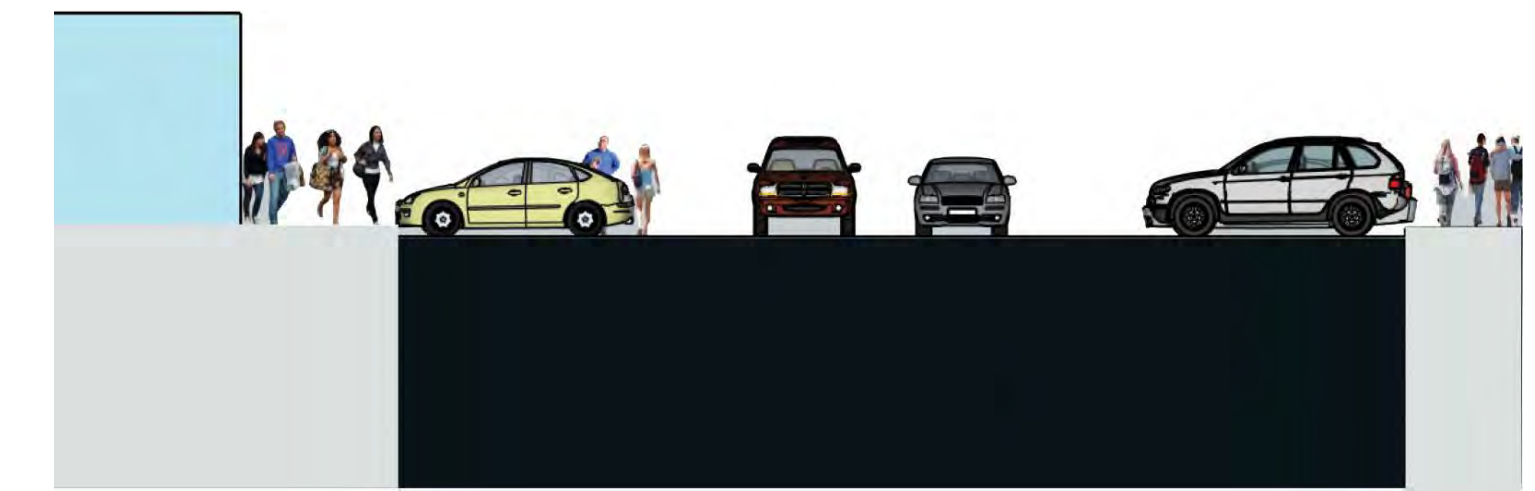
The Color Wheel

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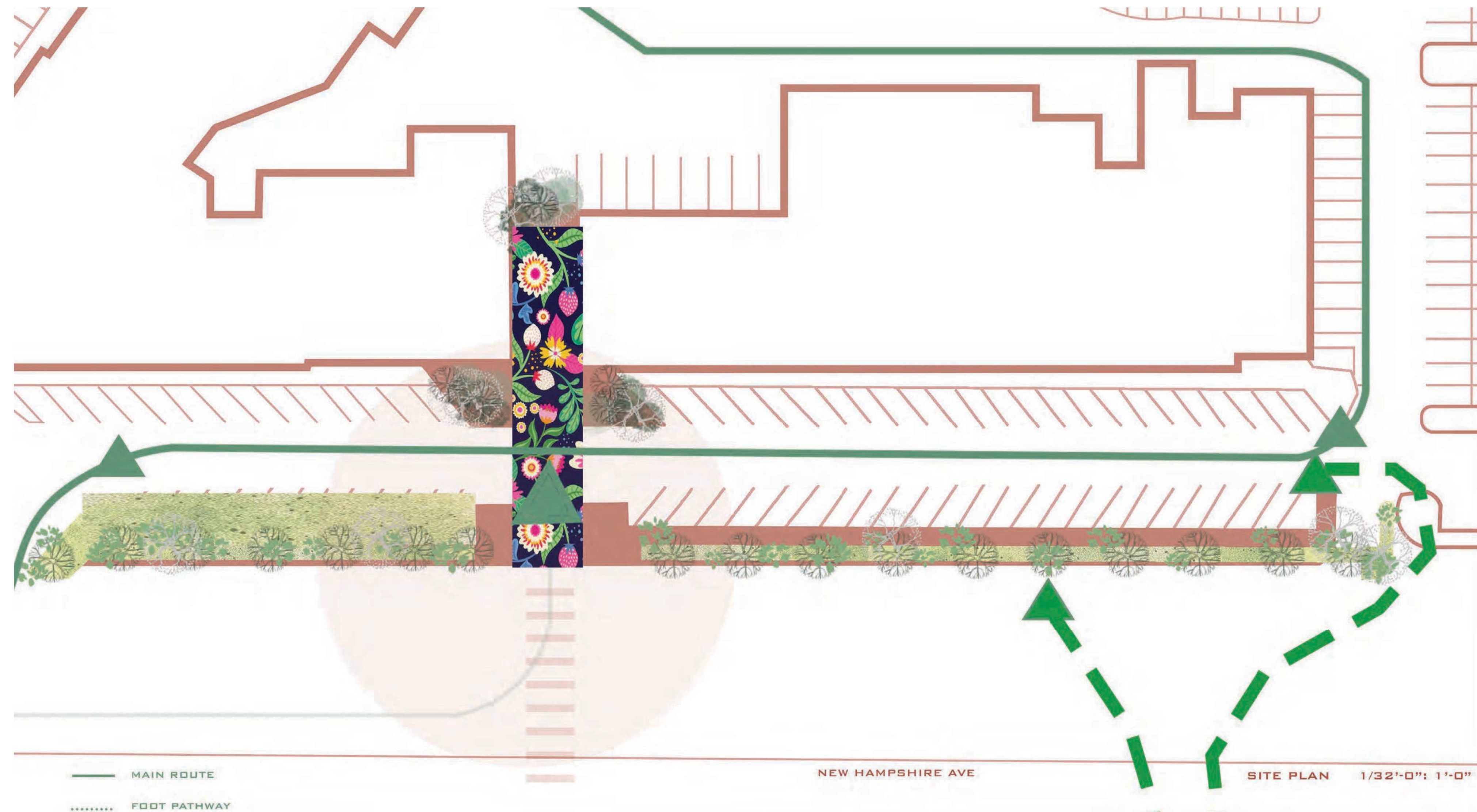
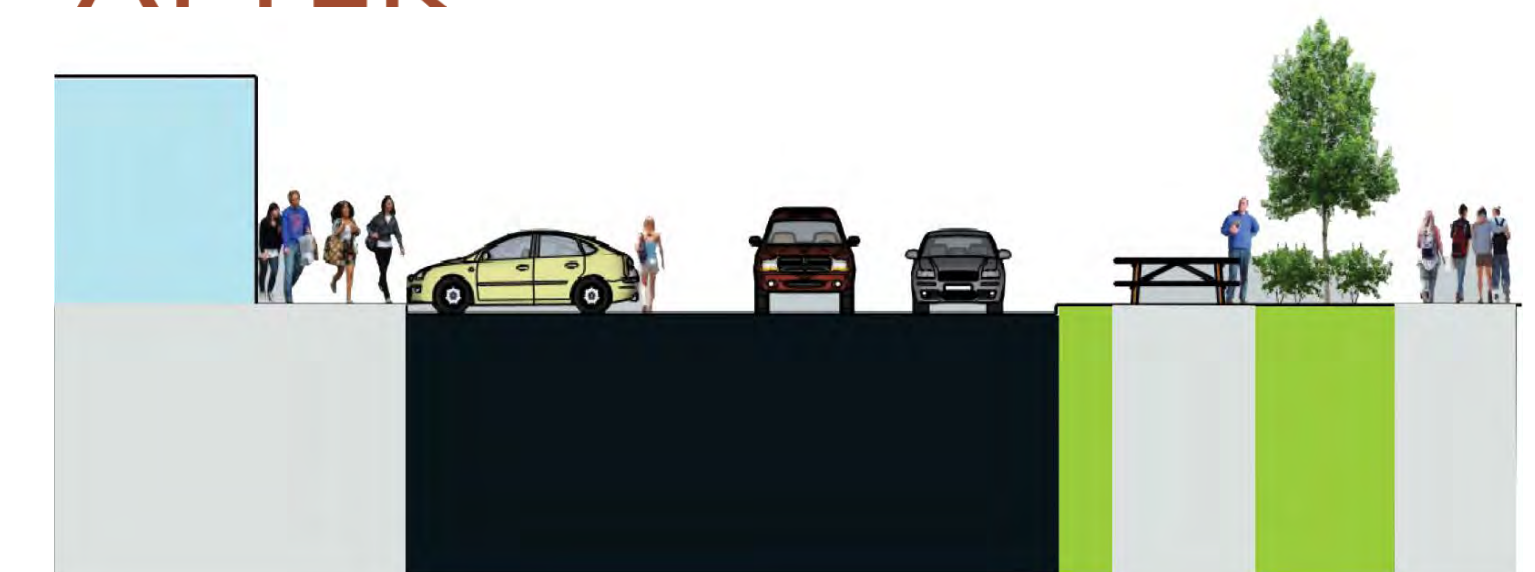


PROPOSAL

BEFORE



AFTER



TIME LINE: 1-3 YEARS

PHASE 1) LOOKS AT THE ALLEYWAY AND MAKING THE SPACE A PERMANENT PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY. WHILE DEVELOPING IT INTO A FINAL PROJECT WITH LIGHTING, SEATING, AND ACTIVITY. THE GOAL IS TO FULLY COMPLETE THE SPACE AND MAKE THE SPACE A UNIQUE SEATING AND ACTIVITY AREA FOR THE SHOPPING CENTER. THE SITE WILL LOOK FOR BUYING SIX SETS OF THE PIECES MADE. WHERE THE PIECES WILL BE USED IN THE ALLEYWAY AND THE SIDEWALK OUTSIDE OF STORES. THIS PHASE WILL SEE THE PIECES BE USED AS SETTING UP SPACES FOR SEATING AND ALLOW SPACES FOR STALLS FOR FUTURE EVENTS AND MARKETS ON THE SITE.

KEY CHANGES:

- ALLEYWAY CLOSED FROM CAR TRAFFIC
- LIGHTING AND SEATING IS SET UP IN THE ALLEYWAY
- BUYING 6 SETS OF THE PIECES TO SPREAD ACROSS THE SHOPPING CENTER AND ALLEYWAY

TIME LINE: 4-9 YEARS

PHASE 2) LOOKS AT CLOSING THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND TURNING IT INTO A PEDESTRIAN CROSS AND SPACE. THE GOAL IS TO SEPARATE THE SHOPPING CENTER FROM THE HIGHWAY AND GETTING BARRIERS SET UP TO MAKE THE SHOPPING CENTER MORE PEOPLE FRIENDLY ATTRACTING PEOPLE FROM THE PURPLE LINE TO ATTRACT TO THE SPACE AS ADDITIONAL GREENERY AND 6 MORE SETS OF THE PIECES TO OCCUPY THE SPACE AND ACT AS A GATEWAY TO THE SITE.

KEY CHANGES:

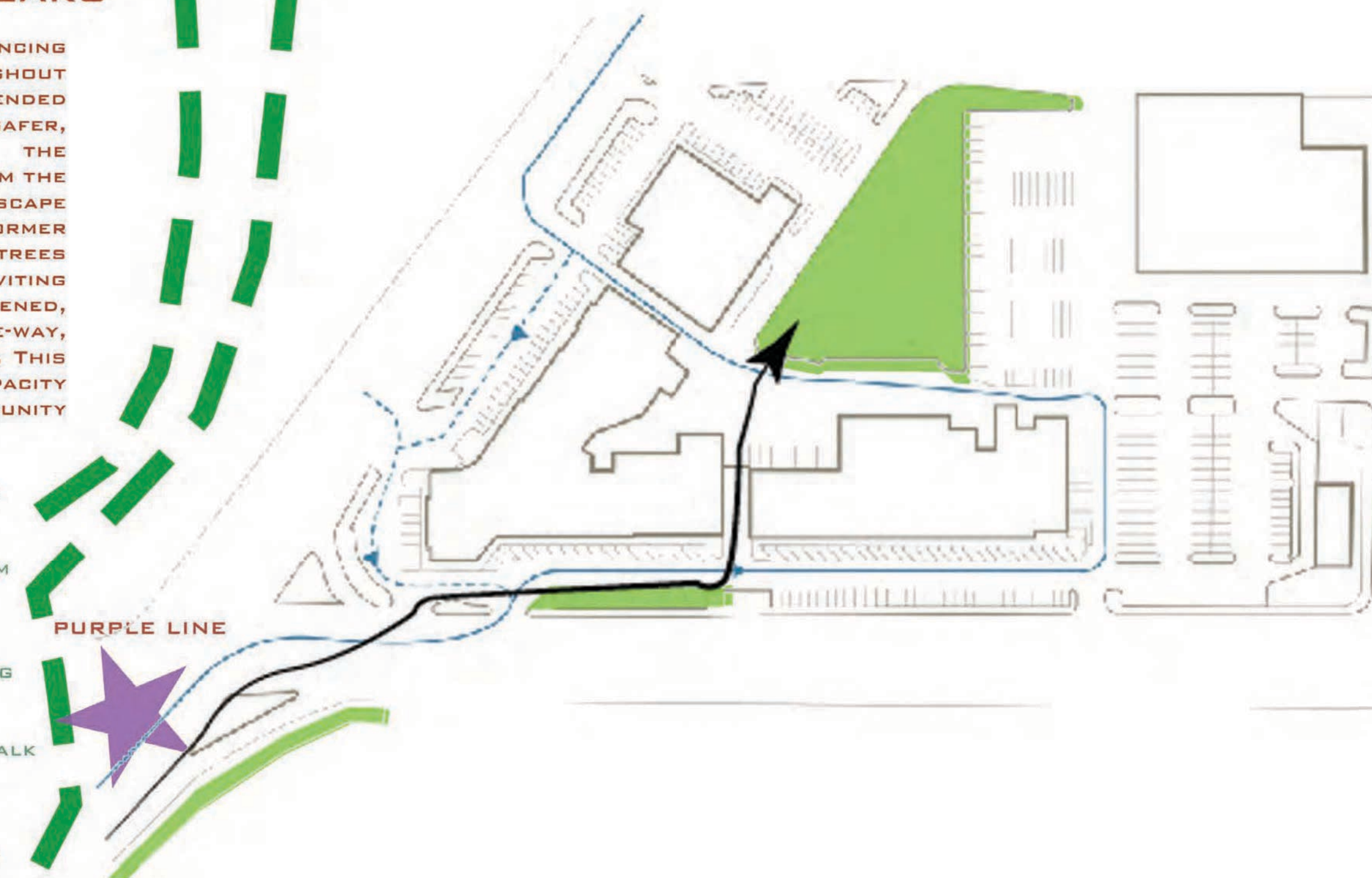
- THE MAIN ENTRANCE IN FRONT OF THE ALLEYWAY IS CLOSED TO CAR TRAFFIC.
- THE SPACE IS ELEVATED AND TURN TO A PART OF THE

TIME LINE: 10-25 YEARS

PHASE 3) FOCUSES ON ENHANCING GREENERY AND WALKABILITY THROUGHOUT THE SITE. THE PEDESTRIAN PATH IS EXTENDED FROM THE MAIN STREET TO CREATE A SAFER, MORE COMFORTABLE ROUTE FOR THE INCREASED FOOT TRAFFIC EXPECTED FROM THE PURPLE LINE. PERMANENT LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS ARE MADE ALONG THE FORMER ALLEYWAY, INCLUDING NEW GRASS AND TREES TO ESTABLISH A GREENER, MORE INVITING ENVIRONMENT. THE SIDEWALK IS WIDENED, AND TRAFFIC IS CONVERTED TO ONE-WAY, ALLOWING SPACE FOR ANGLED PARKING. THIS MAINTAINS THE ORIGINAL PARKING CAPACITY WHILE ALSO CREATING SPACE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

KEY CHANGES:

- SIDEWALK EXTENDED FROM MAIN STREET.
- GREEN BUFFER WITH TREES AND GRASS ADDED FOR SHADE AND SEPARATION FROM TRAFFIC.
- DIRECT CONNECTION CREATED BETWEEN WALKWAY AND NEW COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE.
- NEW LIGHTING, SIGNAGE, AND A CROSSWALK ADDED FOR SAFETY AND CLARITY.
- ANGLED PARKING AND ONE-WAY TRAFFIC HELP FREE SPACE FOR PEDESTRIANS AND COMMUNITY USE.



Master Plan Final Phase

The Color Wheel

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PROTOTYPE TEAM

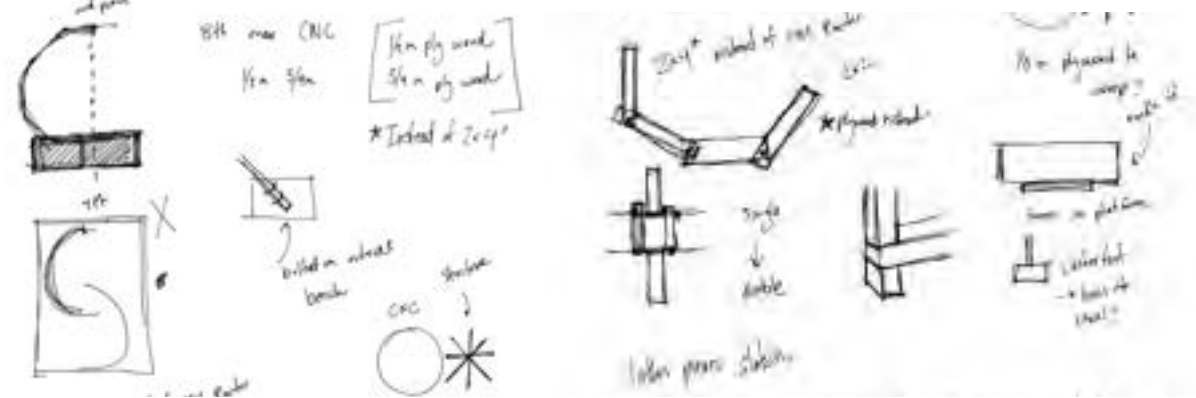
Bai Za Hei, Matthew Kilby, Ozkar Monzalvo,
Abby Smith, Christine Tan



FARRIS CUSTOM CARPENTRY



MARTY KOELSCH



We consulted with woodworking experts to refine our construction approach. Marty in the wood shop advised on connecting components, especially the arched piece, while Ted at Ferris Custom Carpentry provided CNC cutting insights and helped with our bench assembly plan.



CNC MACHINE

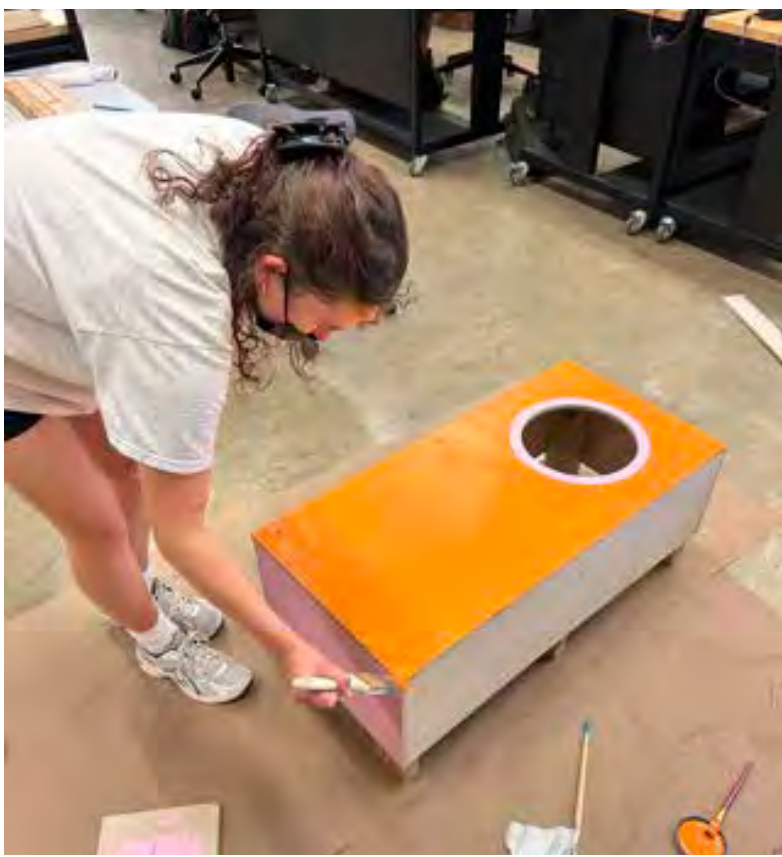


TRANSPORTING PIECES



PROCESS SKETCHES

We encountered a setback when the CNC machine in the architecture building broke down. Fortunately, we were able to use the CNC machine in the Art Department. Brandon assisted us by preparing the files, setting up the machine, and helping cut all the pieces.



PAINTING BENCHES



COLOR MOCK-UP

INITIAL SKETCHES

We chose vibrant colors inspired by the Takoma Langley logo and mural. The half-circle design represents how individual pieces come together and can be rearranged to form full circles in various orientations, emphasizing flexibility and unity.

ADVICE

1.

CNC CUTTING

3.

SHOP DRAWINGS

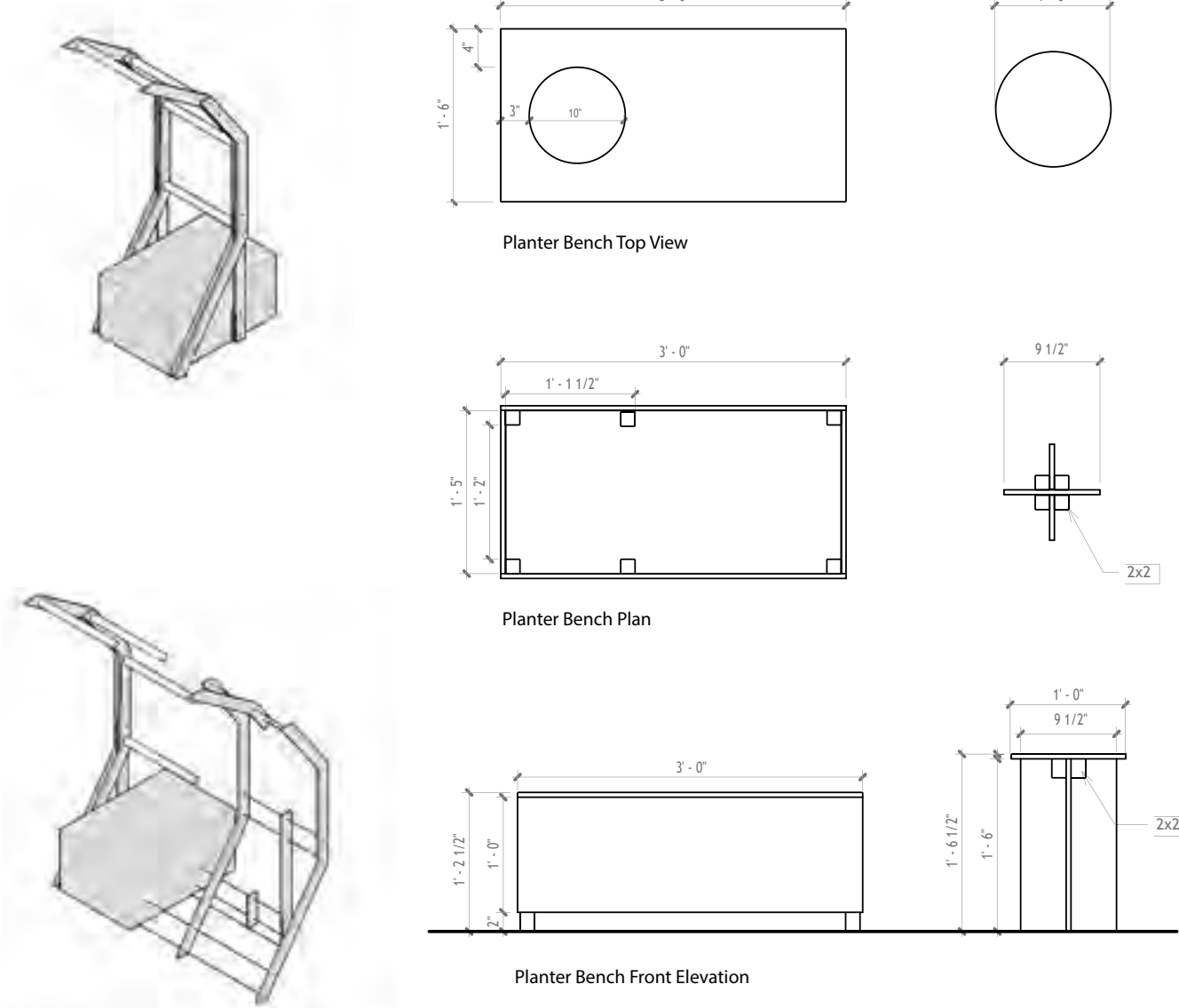
Starting with a 3D model, we created detailed shop drawings for each piece of the prototype. These drawings provided precise dimensions for each component and served as a visual reference during the building process.

BUILDING

We began assembly by carefully measuring and aligning the pieces and legs to fit securely inside the bench structure. Holes were drilled, and each section was screwed together.

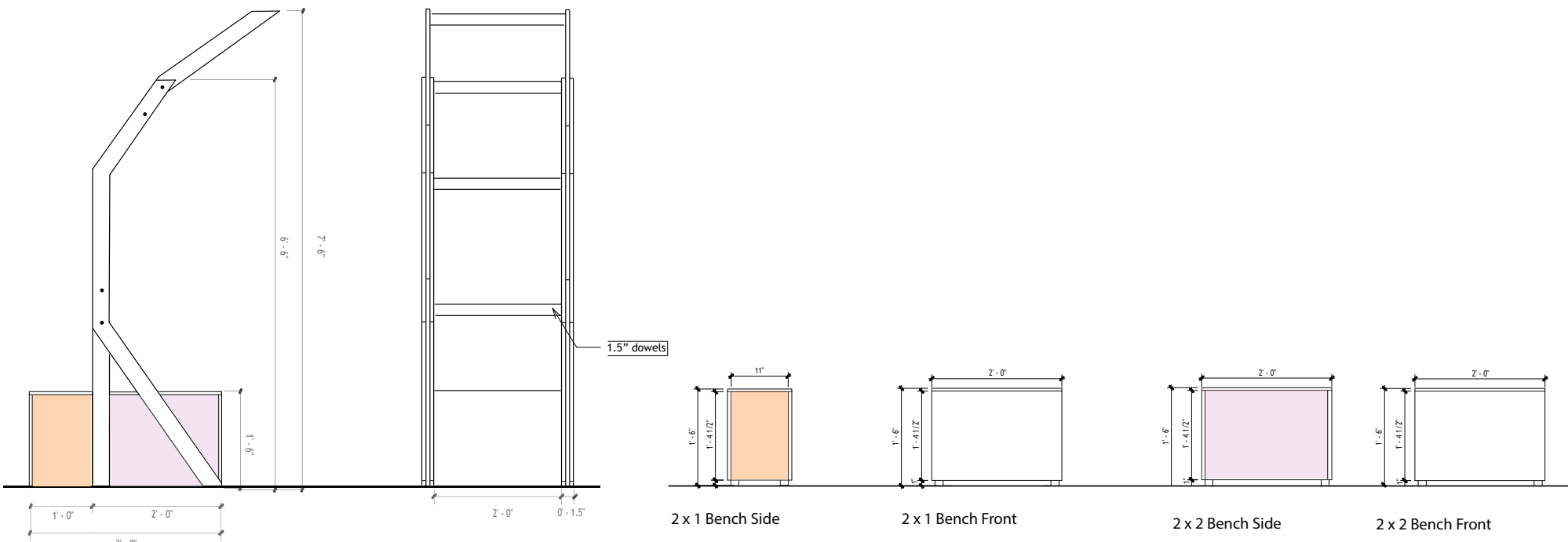
PAINTING

5.



3D MODEL

TABLE & STOOL DIMENSIONS



PROTOTYPE DIMENSIONS



CONNECTION SKETCHES



Prototype Process

The Color Wheel

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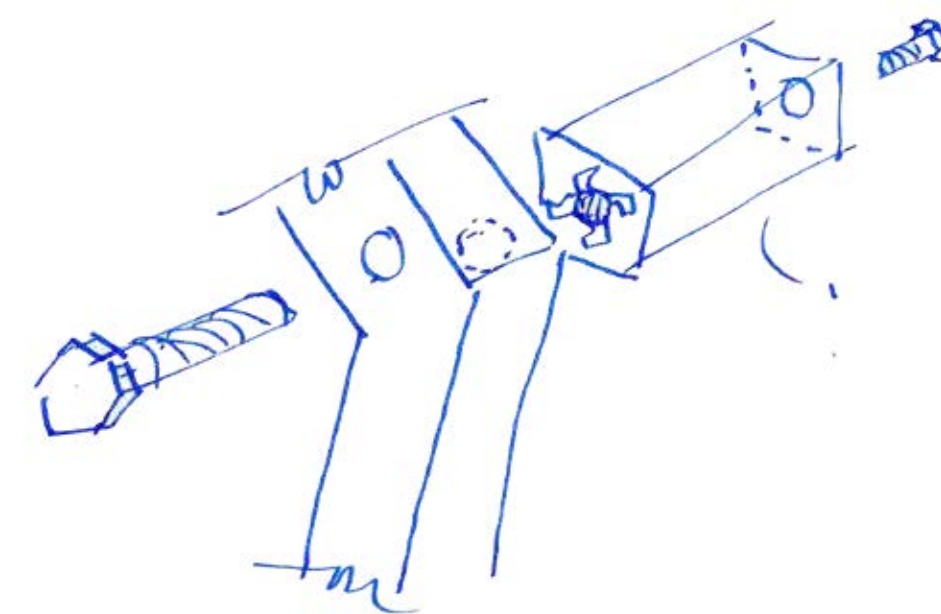


#1 DOWELS

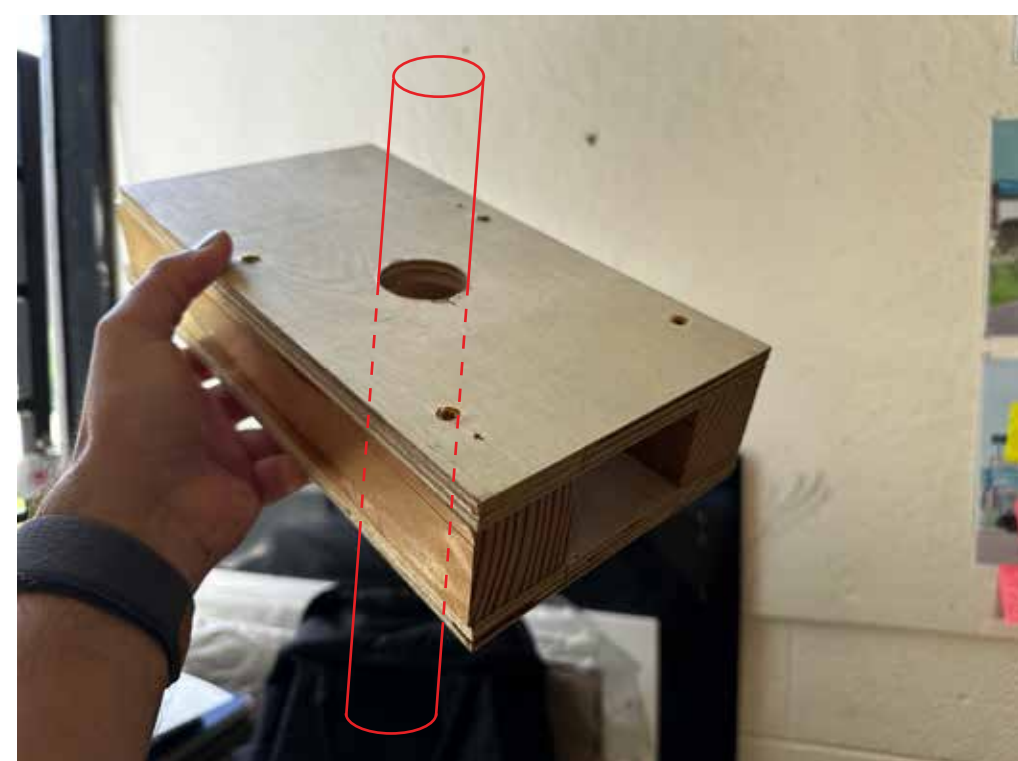


Early in the project we had **proposed to use square dowels**, but we soon learned that the edges of **the square dowels would compete with the lines of the arching wings**. We placed circular dowels instead so that the dowels look planar and this way **allow the wings to be the central focus of attention**.

So we learned that using circular dowels looks better for our design. However, this decision drove us into a unique problem seen in #2.



#2 WOOD DRILLING JIG

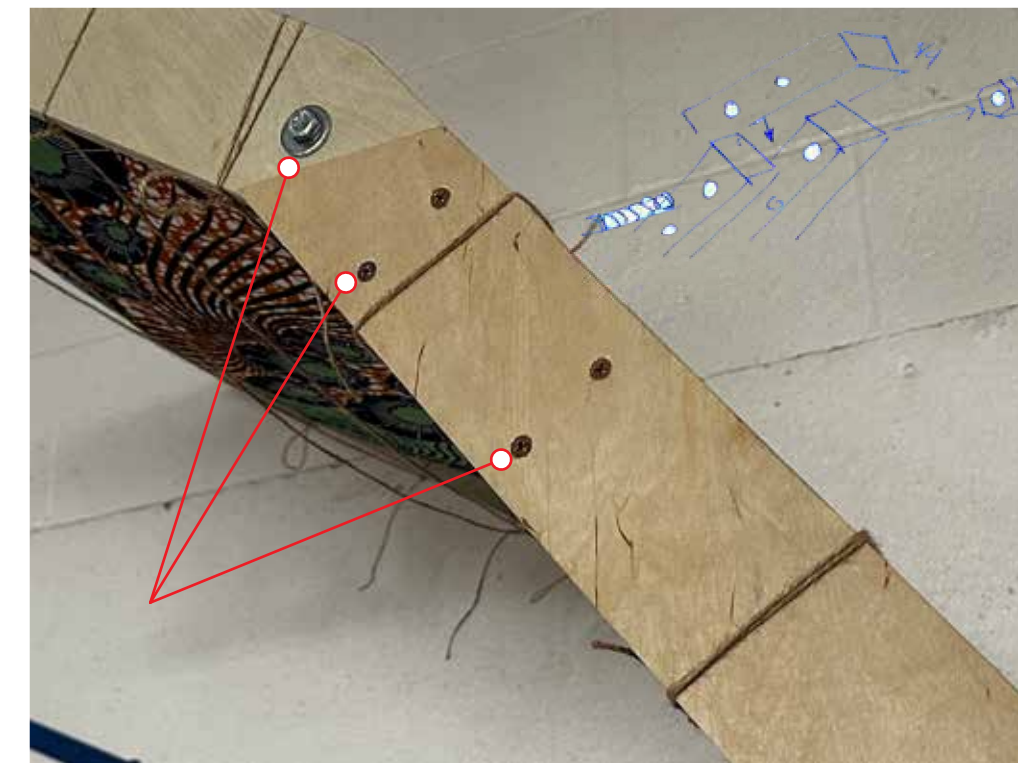


Drilling holes into the center of a circle was very challenging because we needed to use a drill press and have the holes be perpendicular to the edge of the dowel.

To solve this, **we built a jig** that would allow us to insert a circular dowel through two horizontal planes, allowing us to hold still the dowel perfectly vertical while drilling a hole at the end of the dowel. Most of the results were OK except a few dowels had holes offset from their center point. **Then we ran into a more serious problem. The metal pieces were not adhering to the wood.** We did not give the glue enough time to bond and it left us with an unresolved problem. We ended up adding glue between the wood dowels and the wood arches.

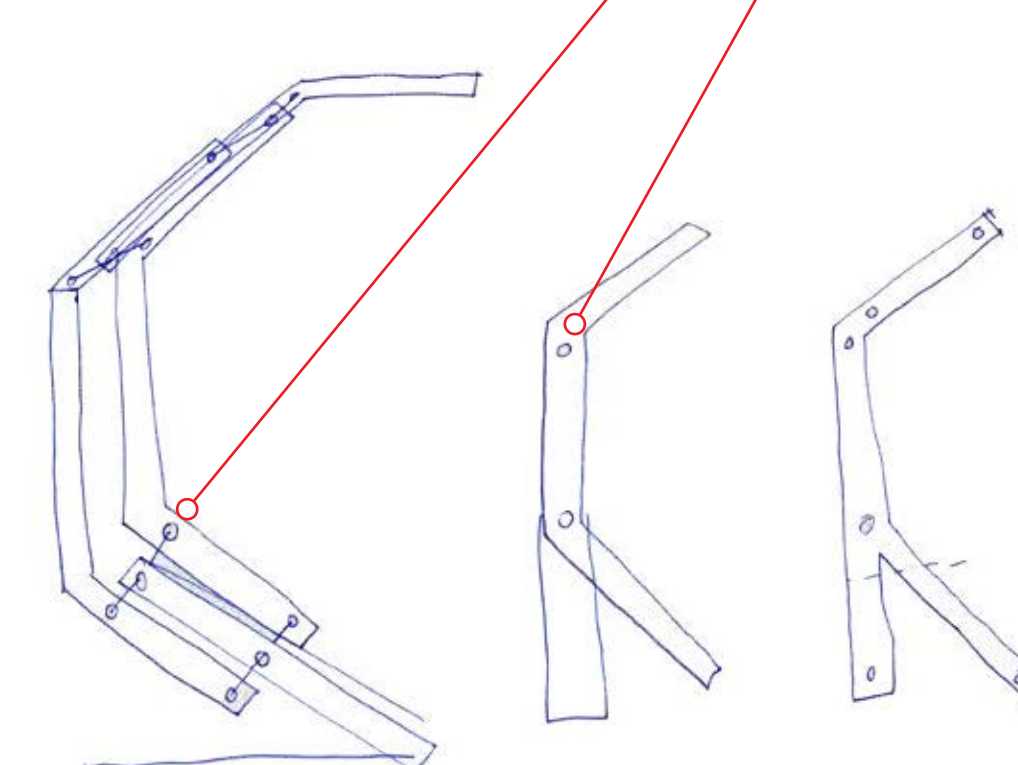
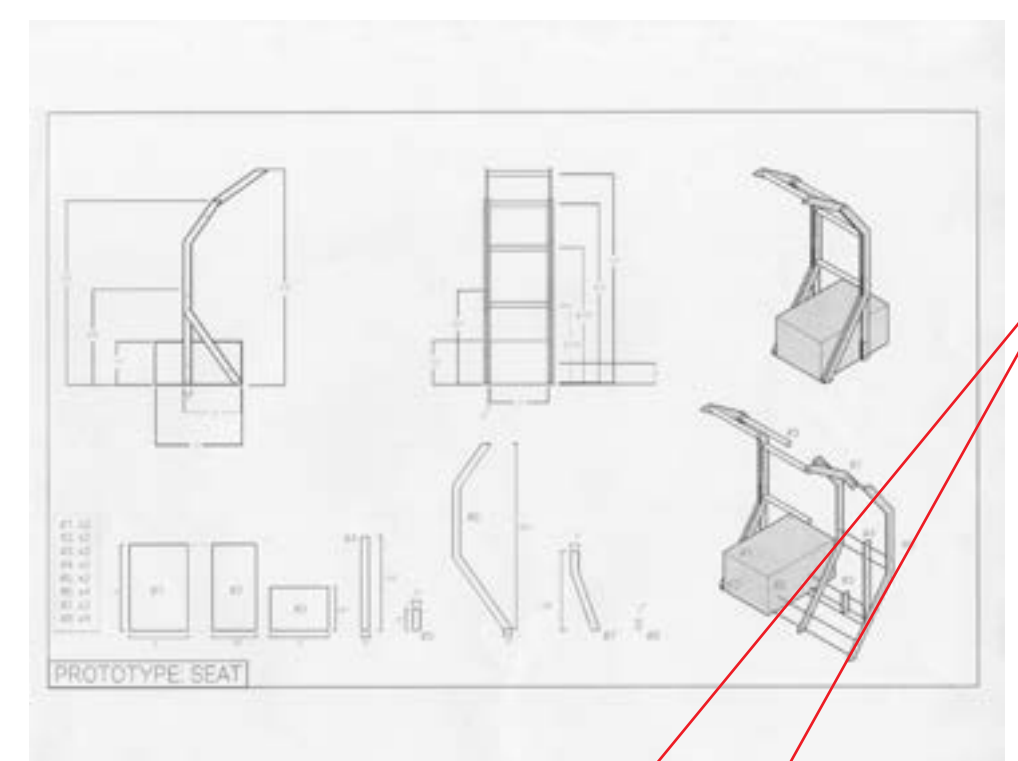


#3 SCREWS or BOLTS



The **aesthetics and safety of our prototype were important issues**. We believed using screws would make the arches look downgraded. Instead we wanted to have the entire arch assembled **using nuts and bolts for aesthetic reasons and to be able to take it apart and reassemble the parts again**. Unfortunately, we did not make a decision in time, and this brought 2 end results. First, the holes were not perforated during the CNC cutting process, and second, the screws were not ordered in time. So the consequent solution was to align the arch pieces the best we could and adhere them using 4 screws on both sides at the attached pieces. It did not look bad until we inevitably had to use screws to attach the dowels to the arches, which led us to issue #4.

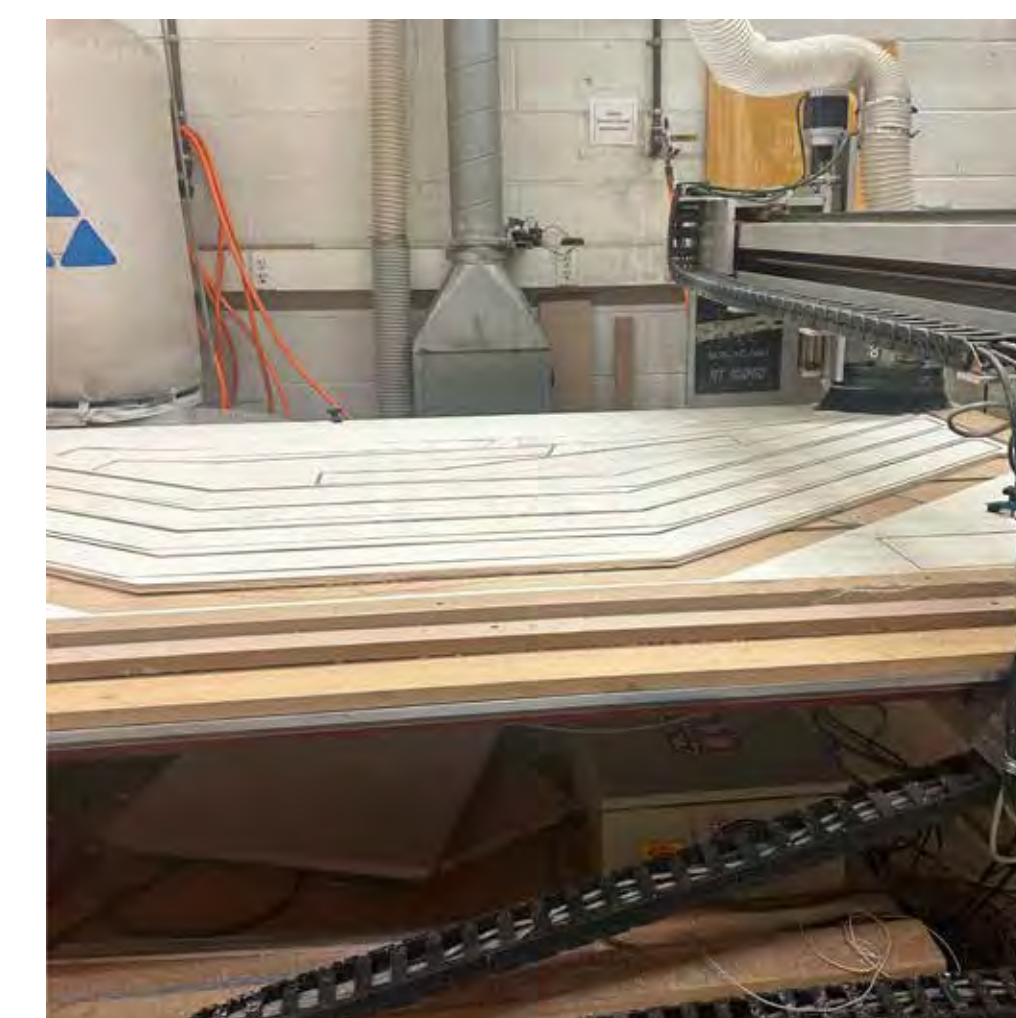
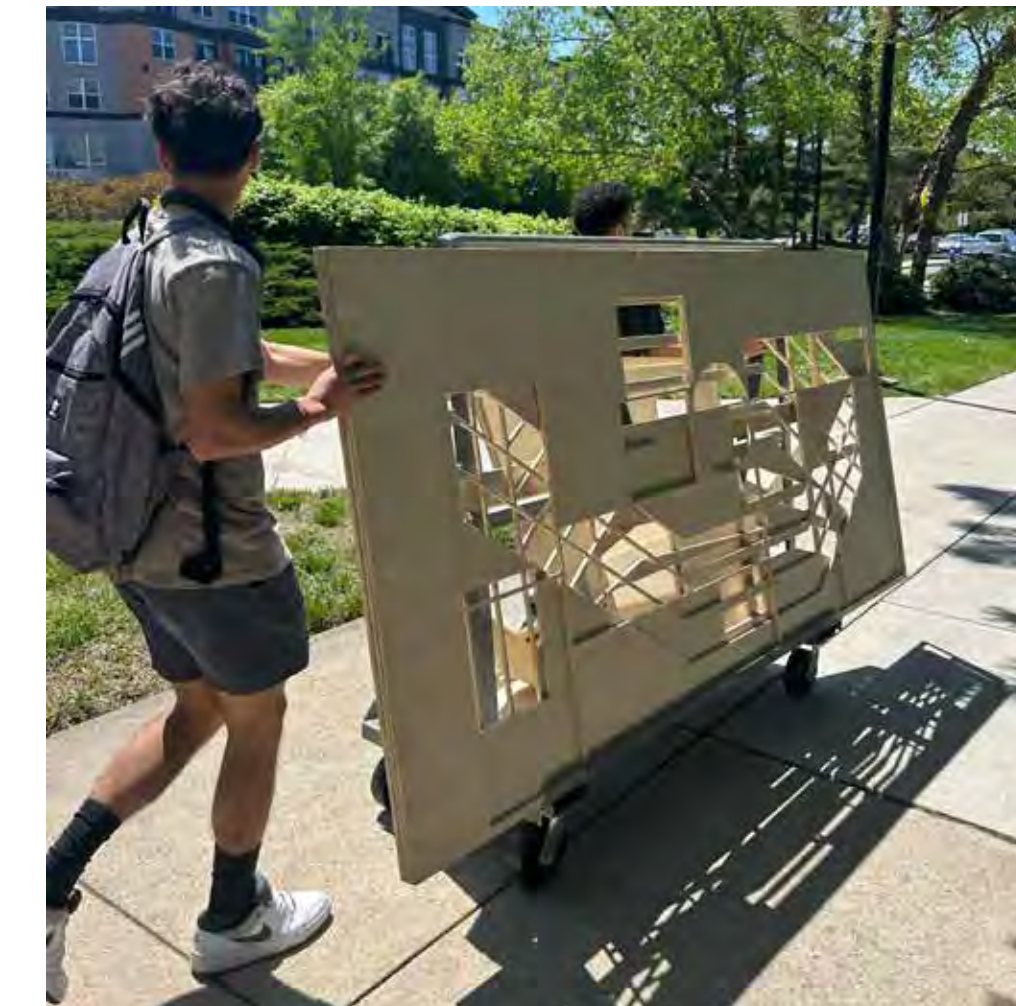
#4 HOLE LOCATIONS



The attention to making the holes on the arches was clear in the preliminary designs. **Special care was given to the location of the holes as you can see in the hand drawings**. It was clear that the arches were to be attached using nuts and bolts. **However, the holes were not integrated into the file given to the CNC machine to have that part executed**. This brought problems at the time of assembling the arches; however, we did our best to put them together.

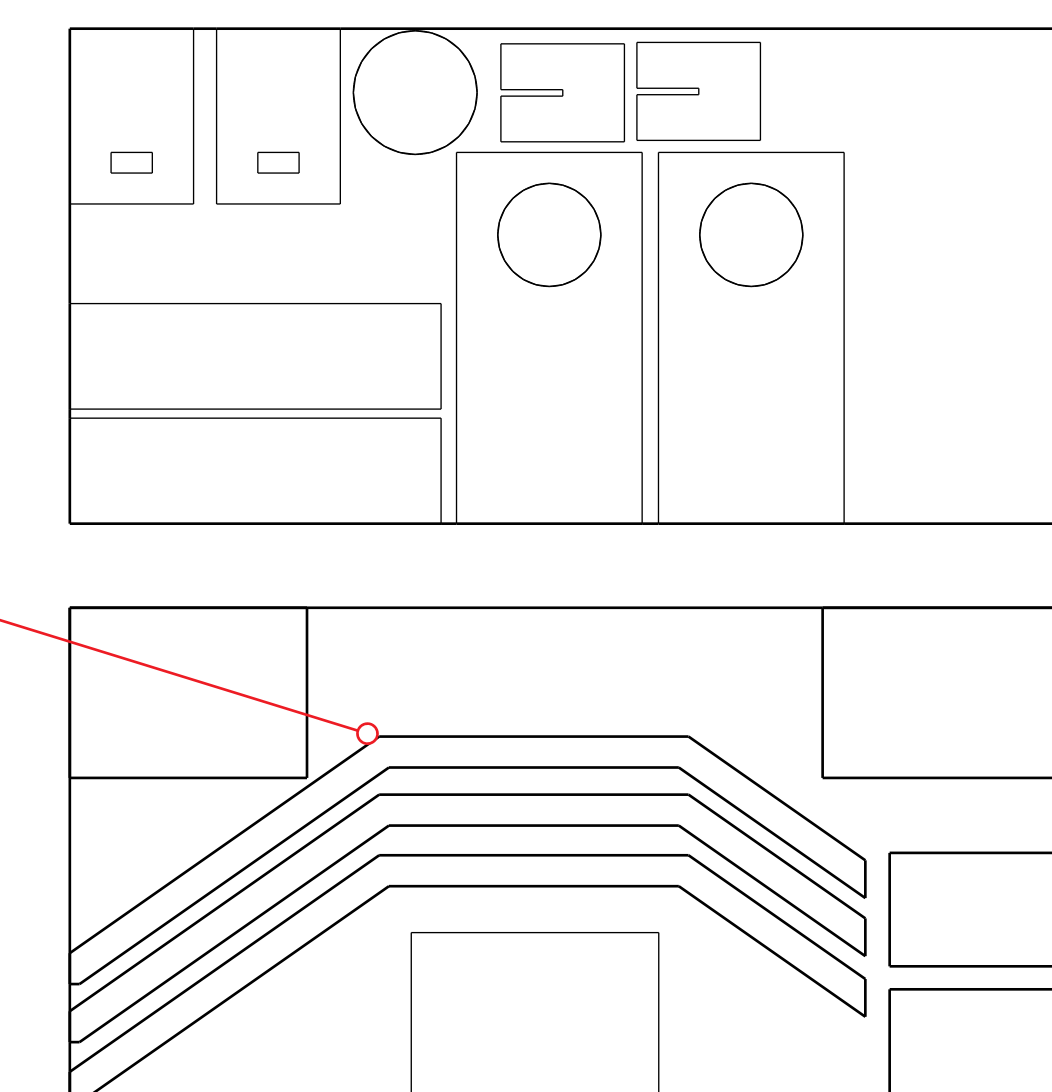
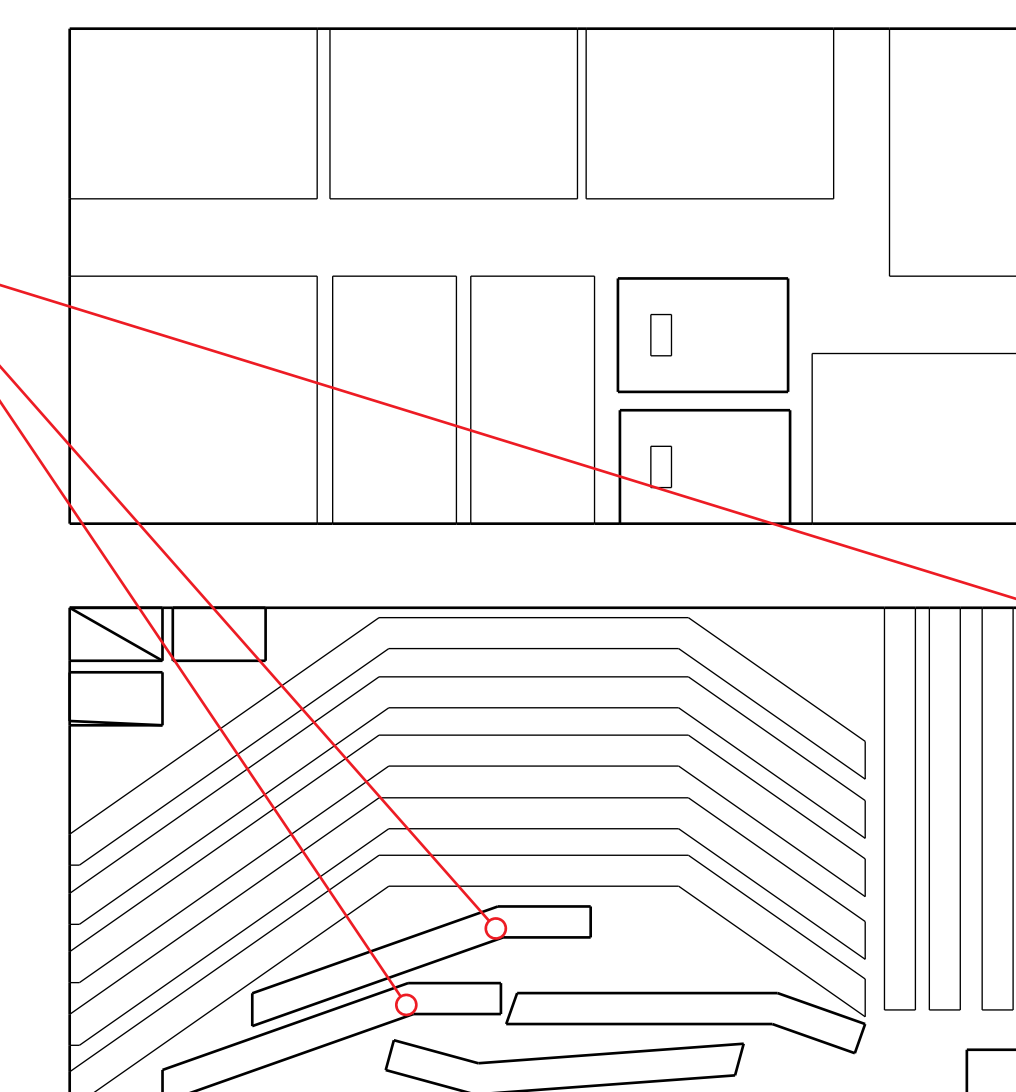
Lesson learned here is to decide early on in our choice of hardware and work more closely with each other if changes are made.

#5 CNC WOOD CUTTING MACHINE BREAKDOWN



Our biggest struggle was the surprise we received when we were told that **the CNC wood cutting machine broke down and that there was no hope of having it ready in time**. We thought about cutting the wood pieces ourselves by hand, but we did not feel confident cutting the angles of the arches. Also, we thought of paying a wood shop to cut our material for us.

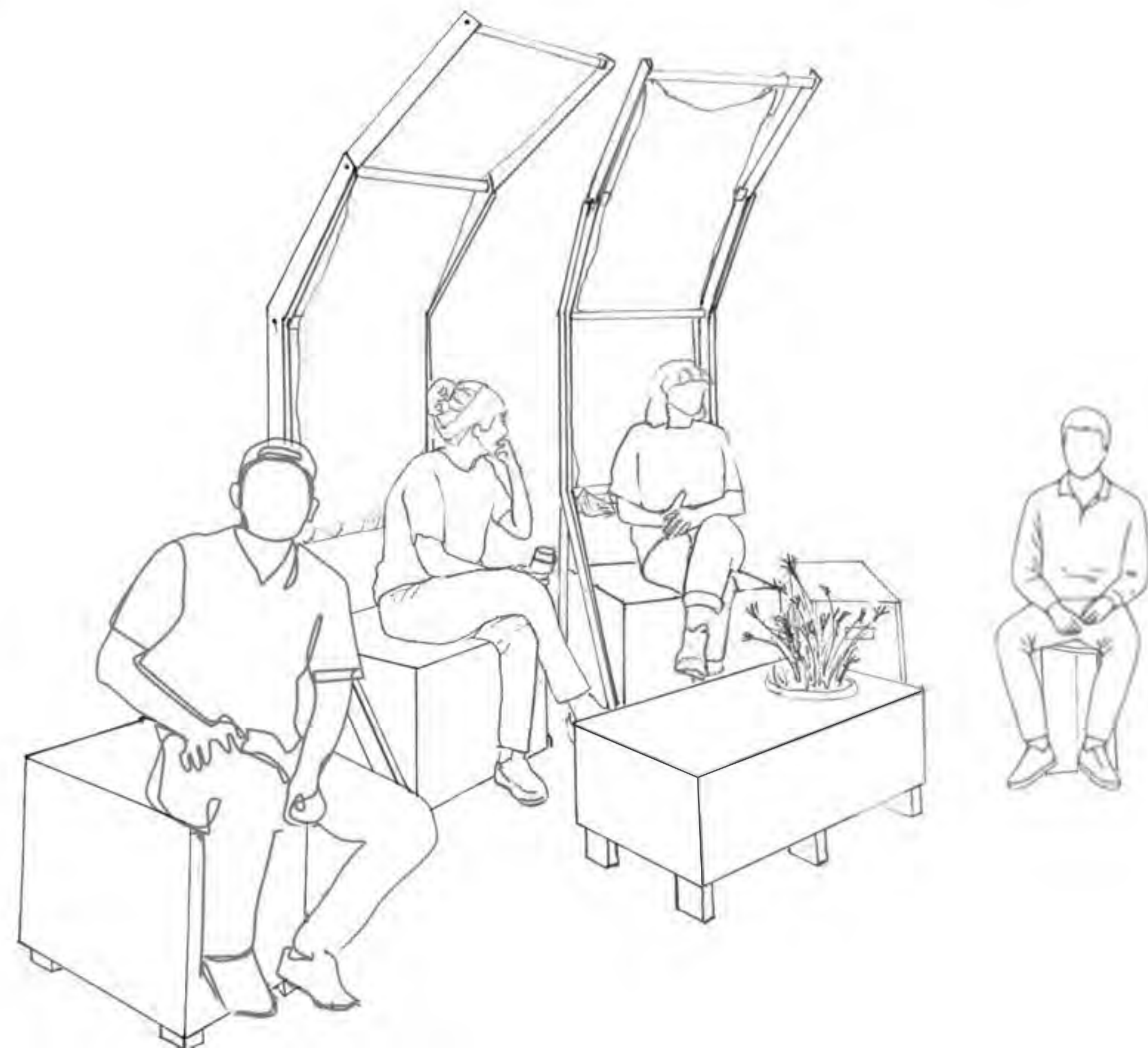
We reached out to the Art Department to ask permission to use their CNC. **Luckily they granted us access and a technician helped us all along the process, and our prototype was executed**. We learned that we must have plans to counteract these kinds of worst-case scenario situations.



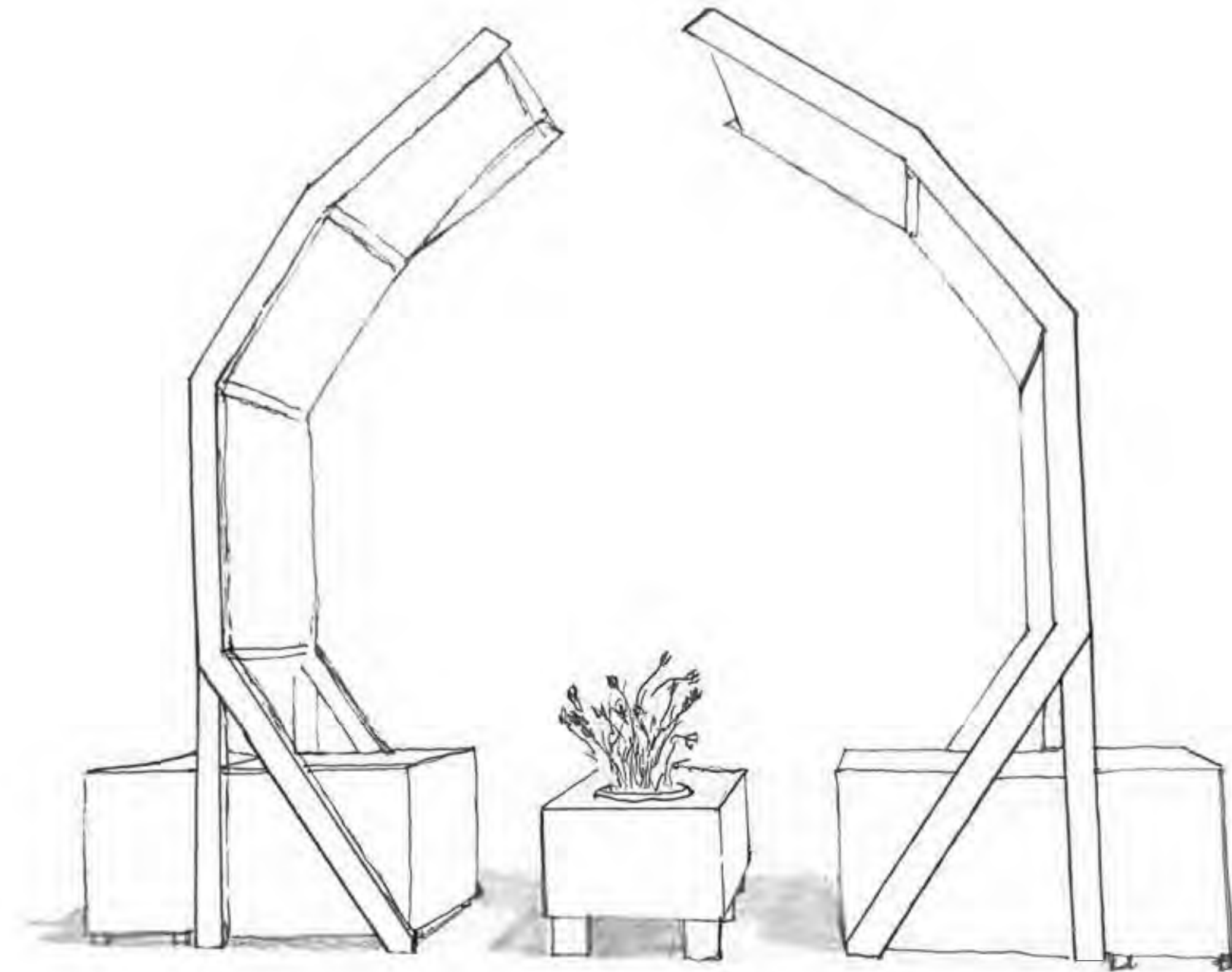
LESSONS LEARNED

The Color Wheel

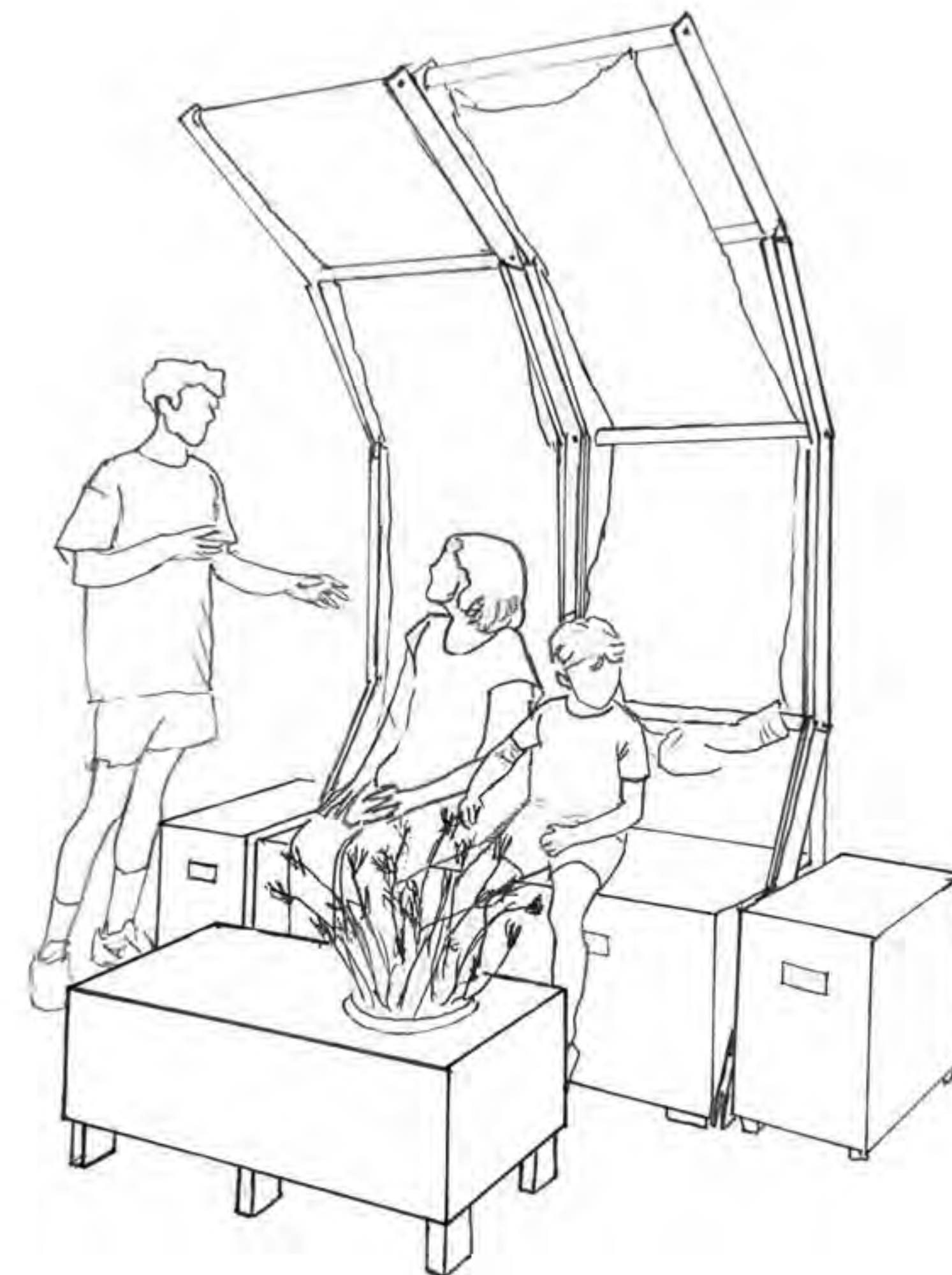
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Perspective 01



Perspective 02



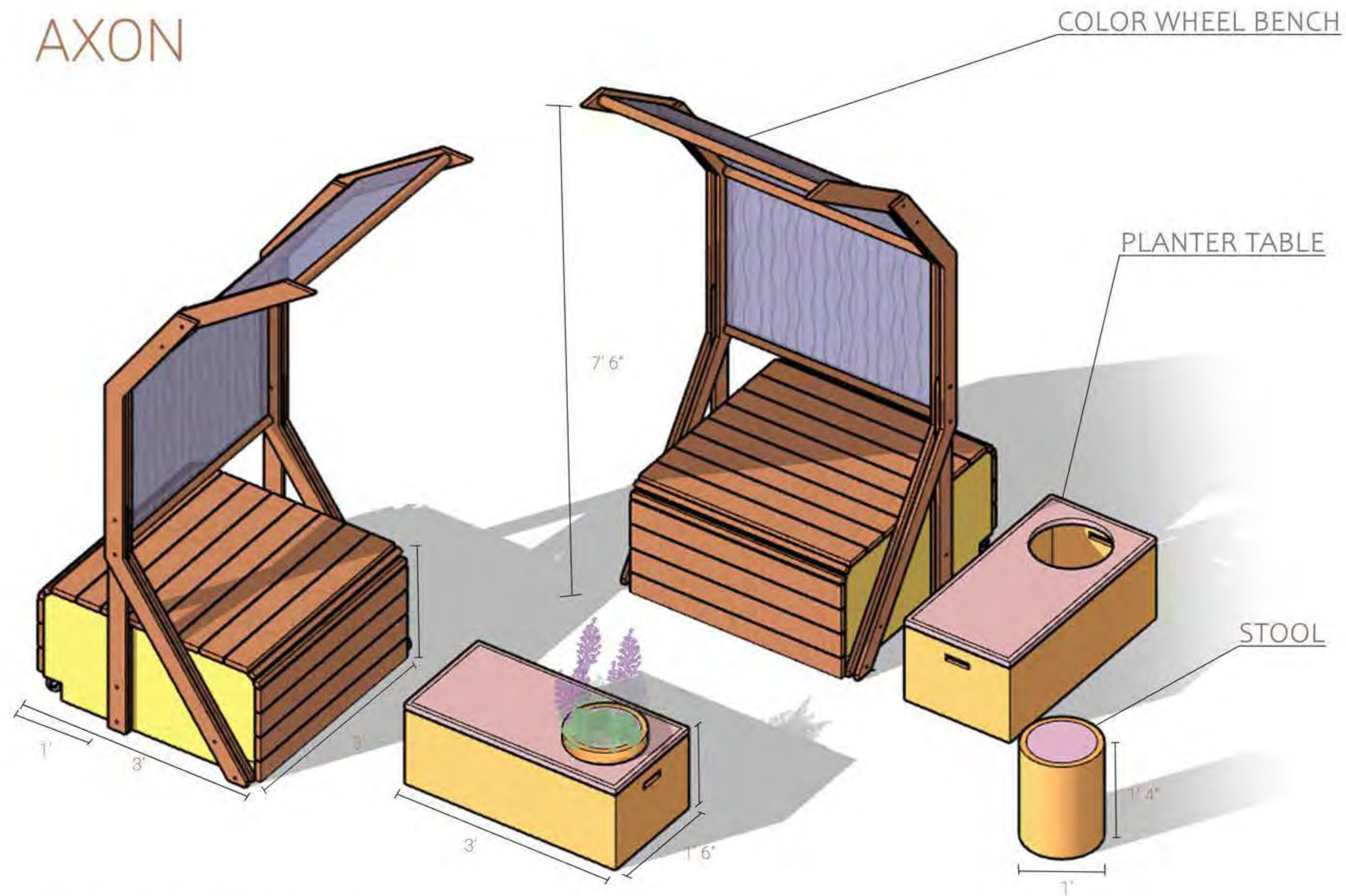
Perspective 03

Prototype Perseptive

The Color Wheel

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May 9, 2025

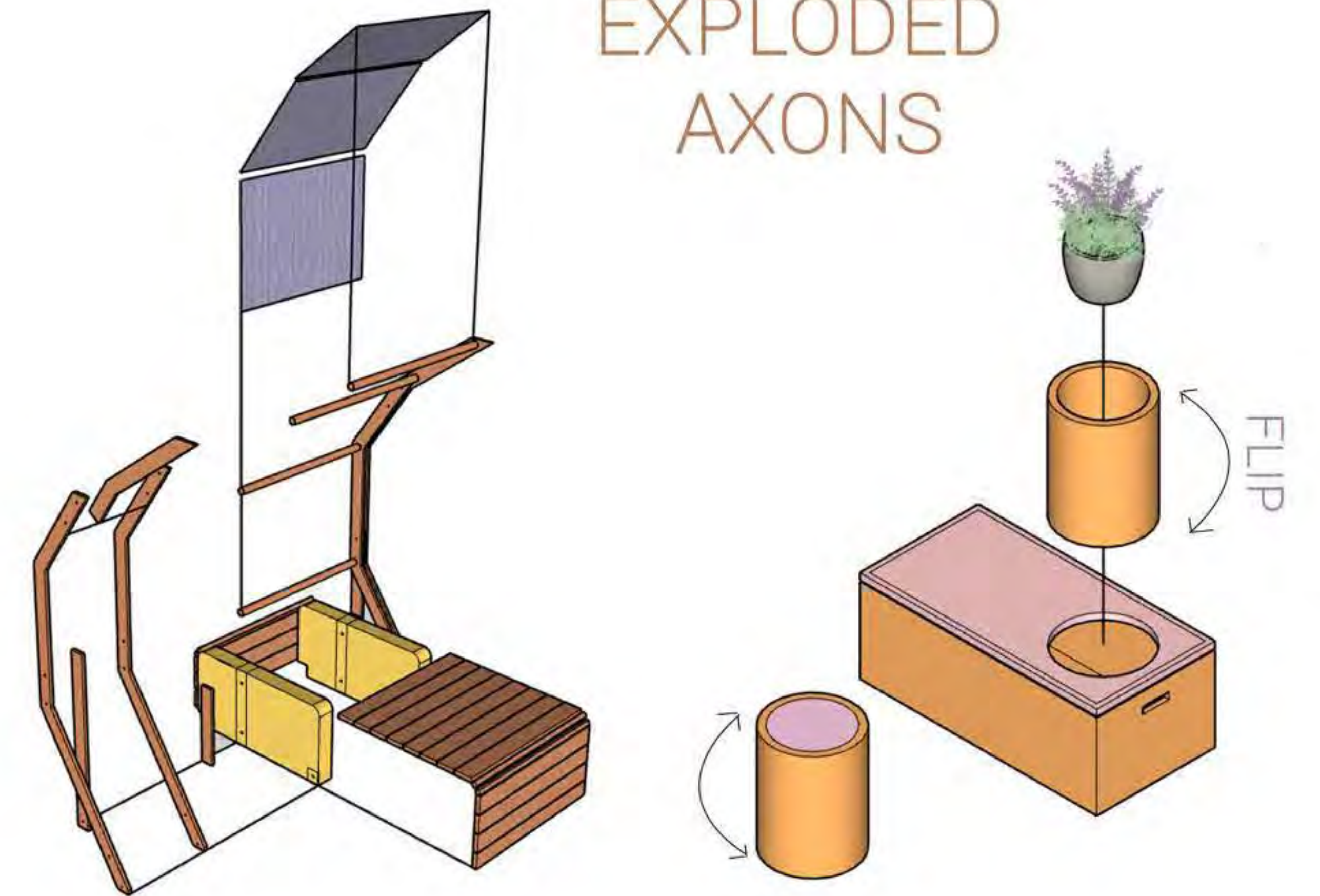
AXON



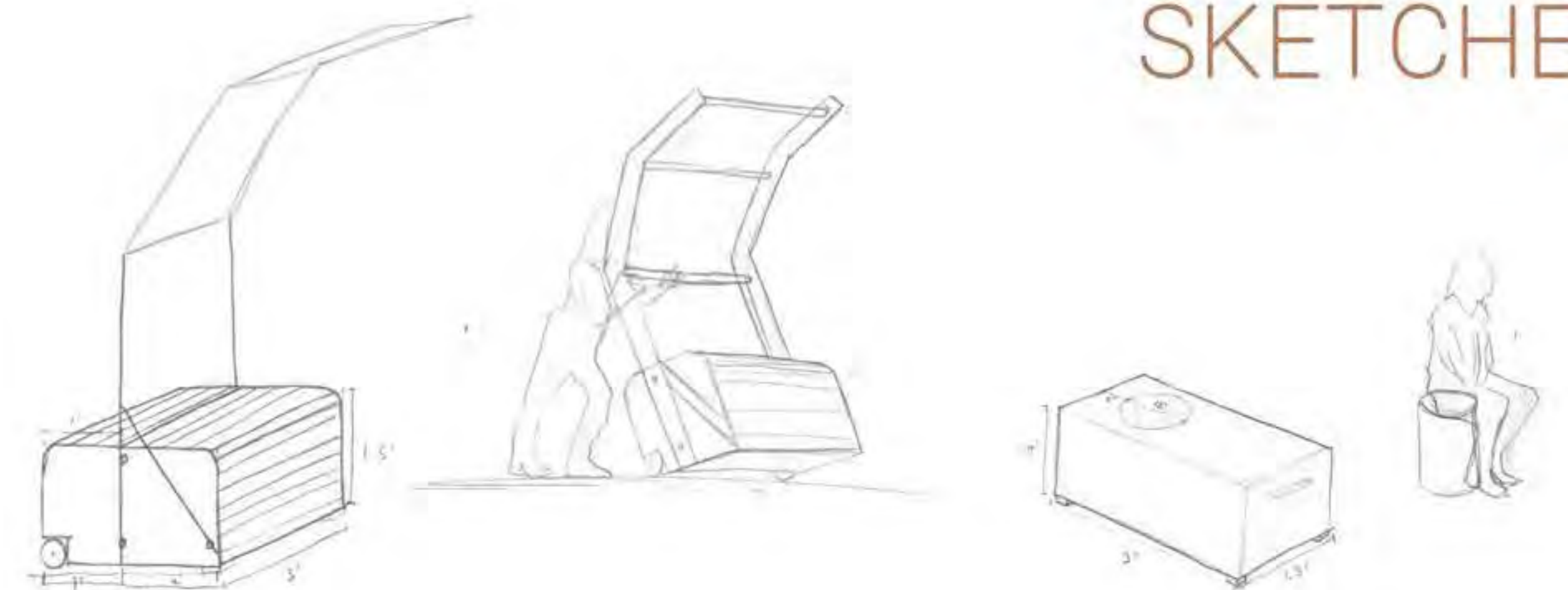
ELEVATIONS



EXPLODED AXONS



SKETCHES



FINAL DESIGN

The Color Wheel

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PROTOTYPE IN ALLEY



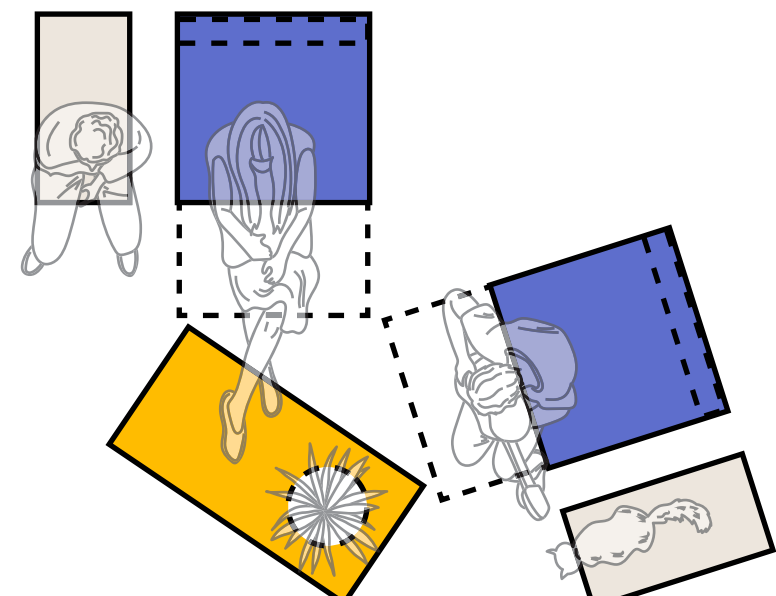
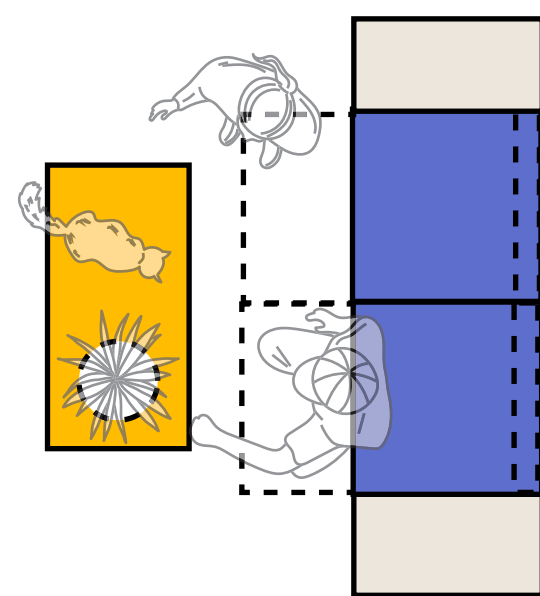
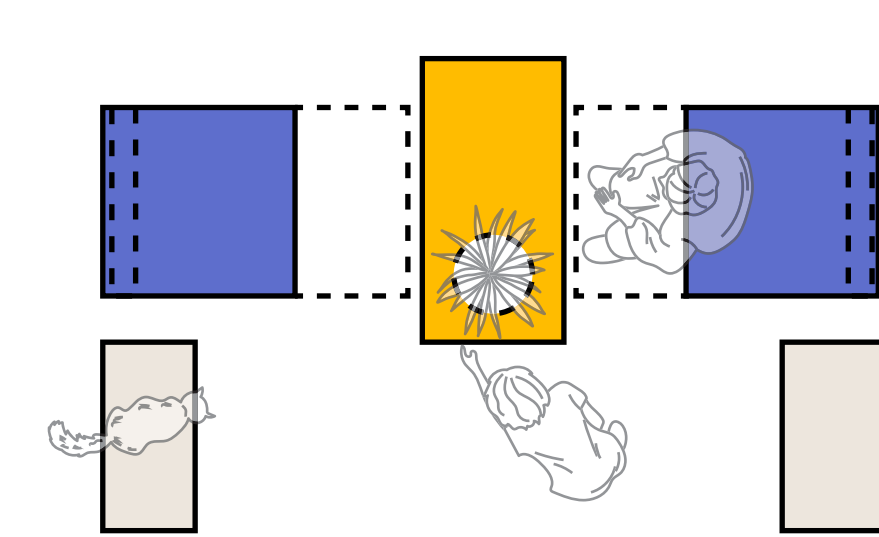
OPTION 1



OPTION 2



OPTION 3



⊖ CONFIGURATION PLANS
1" = 1' 0"



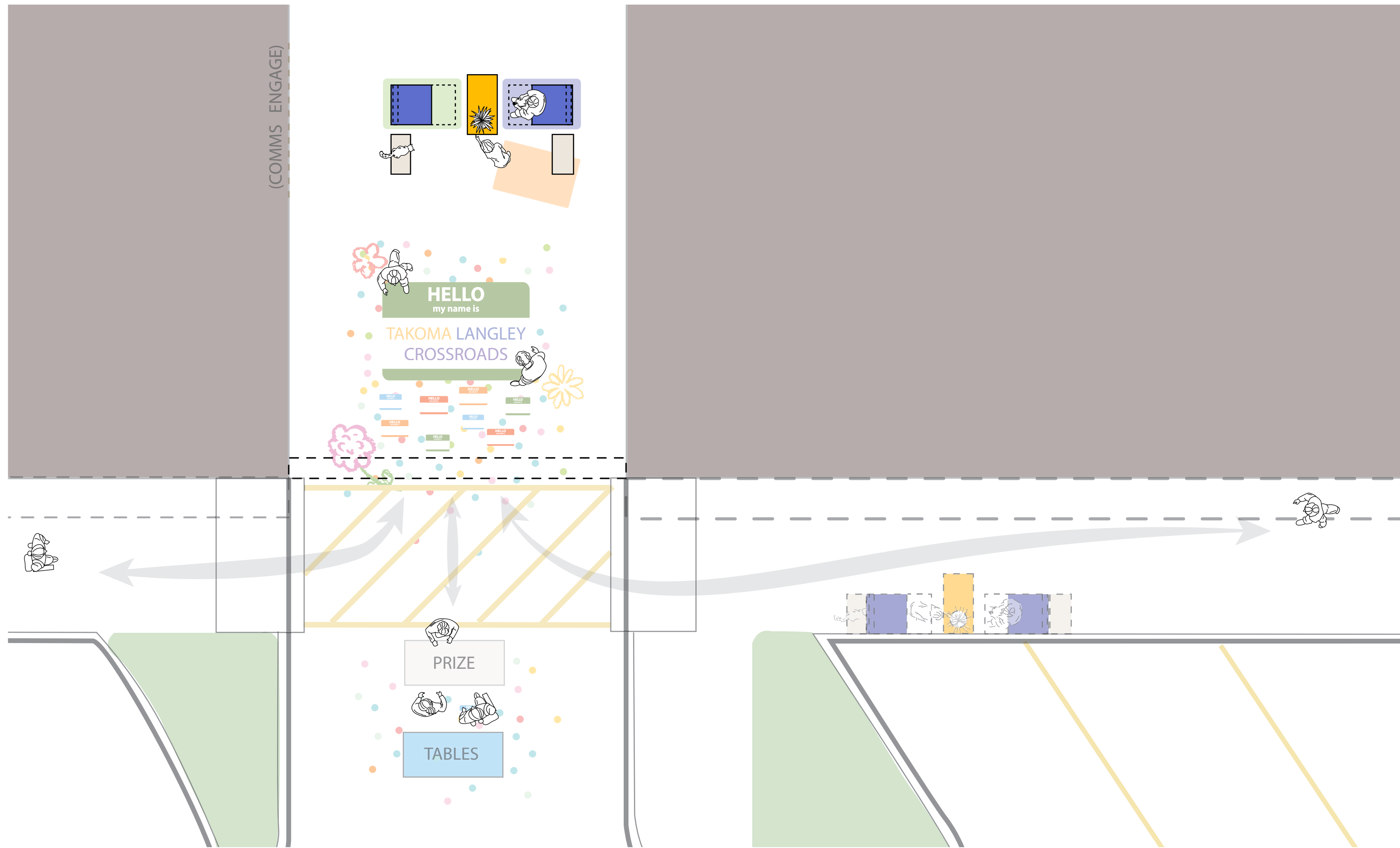
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



SIDEWALK CONFIGURATION



SIDEWALK USAGE



⊖ PROTOTYPE PLACEMENT IN PLAN
1/2" = 1' 0"

Lessons learned about the Prototype through "Blooms and Beats" Event:

- Transportation:** manually adjusting positions is pretty simple (2 person job min), but transportation by car requires space
- Configurations:** there are multiple, and one that we improvised at the end to fit the event. The prototype is adaptable.
- Location:** People were less likely to interact with the prototype in the alley, but when placed on the sidewalk, people were more likely to look at and interact with it. The alley can be deep and more secluded, while the sidewalk is open.
- Community Engagement:** Most people didn't know they were allowed to sit on the Prototype. But those that did used it as a shady refuge, seating for watching performances, and even used the seats as a table to fill out our question slips.

Prototype at the Event *The Color Wheel*

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