



COUNCIL MINUTES

May 19, 2011

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 19, 2011 at 7:41a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Scott Smith
Alex Finter
Christopher Glover
Dina Higgins
Dennis Kavanaugh
Dave Richins
Scott Somers

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Linda Crocker

1. Hear a presentation and discuss the Central Mesa Light Rail Extension update.

Wulf Grote, Director of Planning and Development for METRO, introduced METRO Public Art Administrator MB Finnerty and John Kane, an architect representing Architekton, who were prepared to address the Council.

Mr. Grote reported that since August 2010, METRO and its consultant team have been working on the design of the Central Mesa Light Rail Transit Extension. He explained that in April of this year, the 30% design milestone was completed. Mr. Grote noted that METRO and City staff have been reviewing the design submittal and added that METRO was also updating its cost estimate.

Mr. Grote commented that METRO has been working on its environmental assessment document and explained that once the agency receives environmental clearance (i.e., pre-award authority) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), it can begin the real estate acquisition process and utility relocations.

Mr. Grote further reported that in the fall, it was anticipated that the 60% design milestone would be completed. He stated that at that time, METRO will develop a schedule and cost estimate that would become the basis of the agency's discussions with the FTA regarding the Project Construction Grant Agreement (PCGA). He remarked that it was also anticipated that sometime

in November, METRO would submit its PCGA to the FTA and added that he was hopeful that METRO would receive the grant agreement from the Federal government in the spring of 2012.

Mr. Kane displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and reported that the architectural concepts for the four light rail stations were inspired through researching Mesa's history, existing community elements, soliciting community input and working with City staff.

Ms. Finnerty noted that the art component began with a working design group that identified what was important about each of the stations, their unique character and possible design concepts. She stated that there was a nationwide call for artists and explained that the artist selection process was conducted by a Regional Rail Arts Committee, comprised of professional artists from Mesa and the region, Station Art Review Committees, including stakeholders around each station, and community review at various design milestones.

Mr. Kane reported that the light rail stations have been conceived as a kit of parts (See Page 4 of Attachment 1), which include various components (i.e., weather, seating, creating comfort for the users, and way finding) that can be arranged in a myriad of configurations to relate to the specific context of each station location. He explained that with respect to Mesa's light rail stations, the consultants are creating an additional component that will bring a unique identity to those stations. Mr. Kane advised that the consultants are currently evaluating three unique canopies that could be integrated into the system that would add shade at the entryways and ticket vending machines. He displayed schematic drawings of three canopy options that are being evaluated for cost, constructability and durability. (See Pages 5 through 7 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Kane reported that each light rail station will have a concept/theme that will generate ideas for configuration of the components and the art associated with it. He noted that regarding the Alma School Road Station, the theme is "Emergence" and stated that the area will be transformed once light rail comes to this area of the community. Mr. Kane displayed a series of drawings depicting the architecture concept of the Alma School Road Station. (See Pages 9 and 10 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Finnerty commented that the artists working on this project were charged with creating a unifying theme throughout Mesa's rail stations. She indicated that regarding the Alma School Road Station, the artist's theme was "New growth, old roots" and displayed examples of the art concept, which includes glass and metalwork. (See Pages 11 and 12 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Kane remarked that the Country Club Station was conceived as the "Threshold" or the entry to the downtown area, and said that the two lanes on either side of Main Street would narrow to a single lane in each direction. (See Pages 14 and 15 of Attachment 1) He noted that at that point of transition, the station is being designed with landscaping and art to create "a sense of arrival and entering a new zone."

Ms. Finnerty advised that the artist that was selected for the Country Club Station creates large abstract pieces and works from organic ideas. She said that his criteria was to create a large landmark piece of art that would also have "a great night presence." (See Pages 16 and 17 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Kane further remarked that the theme for the Center Street Station is “Nexus,” which brings together culture from the Mesa Arts Center, retail, history and government at the center of downtown. (See Pages 18 through 20 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Finnerty advised that the artist’s concept for the Center Street Station would be a beacon or landmark that uses light. She highlighted a series of conceptual sketches that the artist has created for other communities. (See Pages 21 through 23 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Kane explained that the Mesa Drive Station theme is titled “The Commons,” and noted that its purpose is to link City parks, the LDS Temple and also serve as another threshold from the east coming into the downtown. (See Pages 24 through 26 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Finnerty noted that the artist’s concept for the Mesa Drive Station is a continuation of the parks and a storytelling of the history of Mesa. She said that the artist intends to collect stories from Mesa residents and create a children’s storybook illustration concept. (See Pages 27 through 29 of Attachment 1) Ms. Finnerty added that the artist would also create massive screens with themes that are derived through community input. (See Page 30 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Finnerty further reported that at the 60% design milestone, the station art and architecture would be integrated for all four stations; a recommendation will have been made with respect to the canopy options; and landscaping and traction power substation art concepts will have been completed.

Mr. Grote briefly highlighted the upcoming public meetings with respect to the Central Mesa Light Rail Transit Extension project. (See Page 32 of Attachment 1)

Responding to a question from Mayor Smith, Mr. Grote clarified that the project would integrate the street lighting system in downtown Mesa with the overhead catenaries system.

Mayor Smith thanked everyone for the presentation.

2. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

Councilwoman Higgins: American Public Gas Association Conference; Mesa Community College Graduation Ceremony

Councilmember Kavanaugh: Arizona Supreme Court Commission on Technology meeting; Valley Metro Board of Directors meeting

Mayor Smith: Mesa Express Library Grand Opening; Mayor’s Youth Committee Graduation Ceremony; Mesa United Way Awards Luncheon; Smith Junior High School Awards Assembly

3. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, May 26, 2011, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

4. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:11 a.m.

SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 19th day of May 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

pag
(attachment – 1)



Central Mesa Light Rail Transit Extension

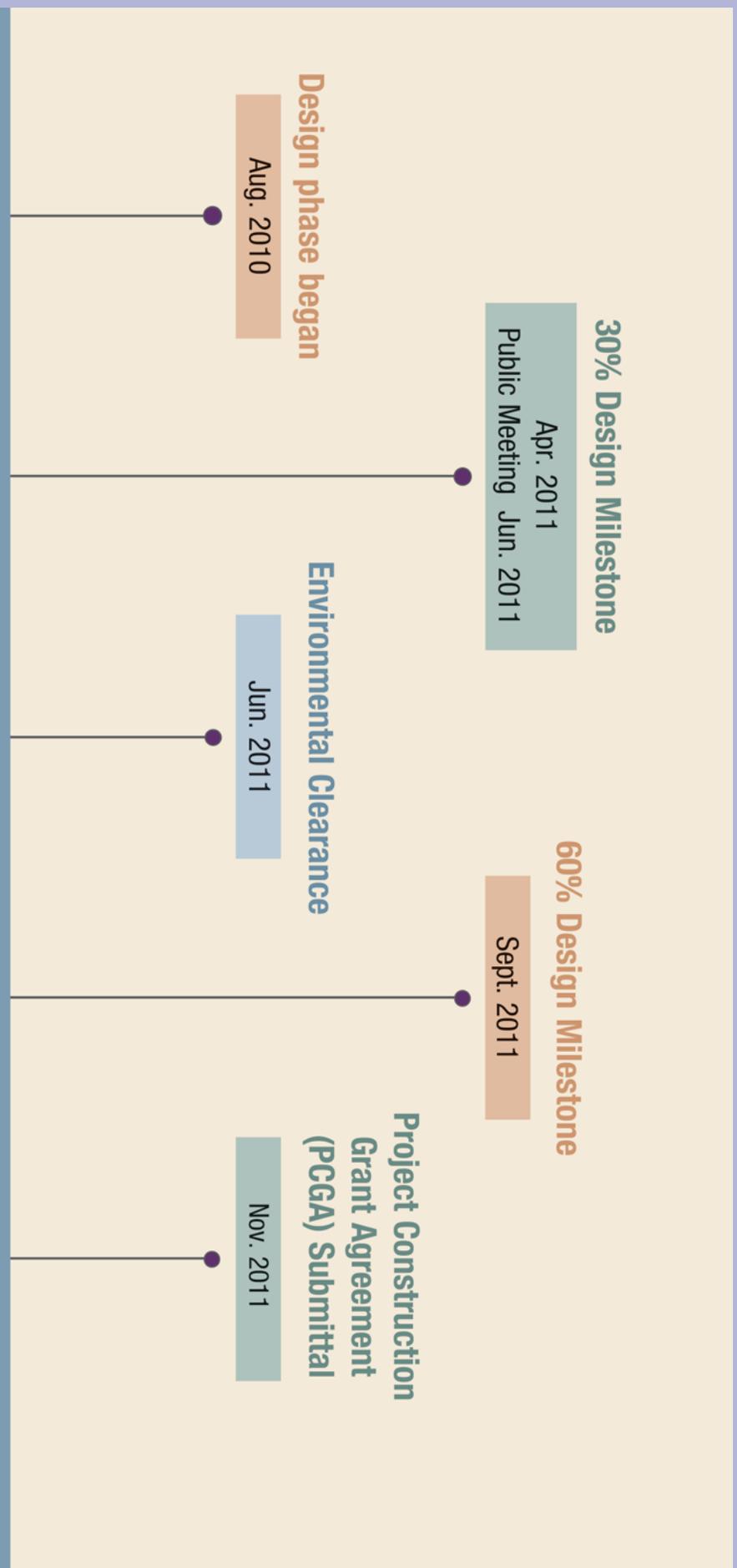
Art and Architecture Concepts

Mesa City Council

May 19, 2011



2011 Project Milestones



*Dates are approximate.

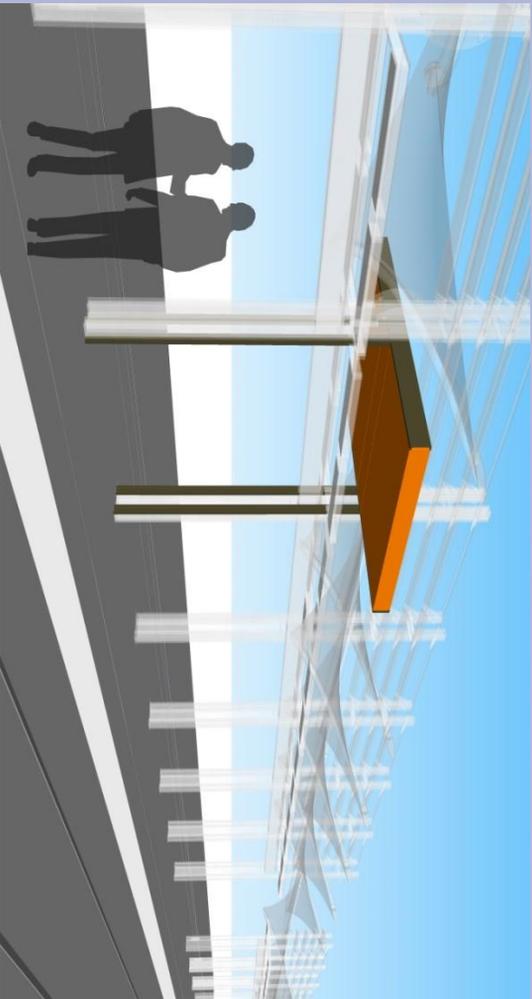


Process

- **Architecture**
 - Inspired through research of Mesa history and existing community elements
 - Utilized community input
- **Art**
 - Nationwide call for artists
 - Regional Rail Arts Committee
 - Station Art Review Committees
 - Community review at design milestones



Mesa Canopy – Option 1



Platform View



Entryway View



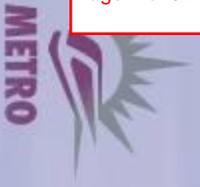
Mesa Canopy – Option 2



Platform View



Entryway View



Mesa Canopy – Option 3



Platform View



Entryway View



Alma School Road Station Theme

EMERGENCY



Alma School Road Architecture Concept



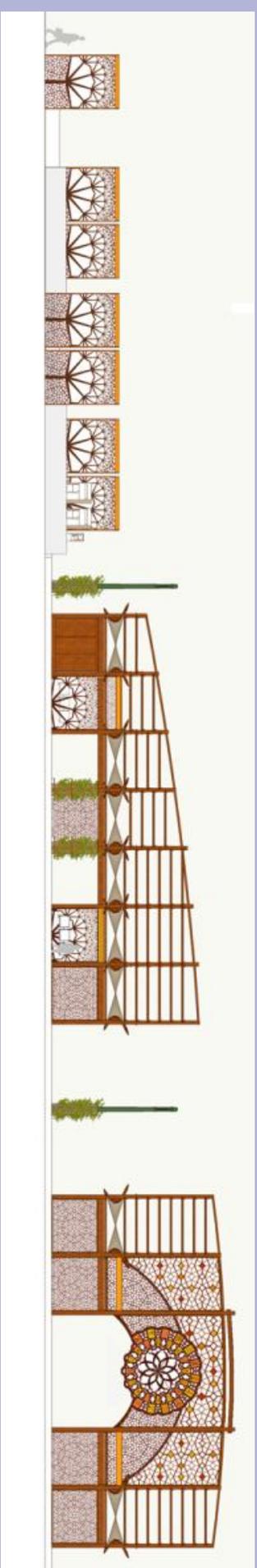


Alma School Road Architecture Concept





Alma School Road Art Concept



METRO

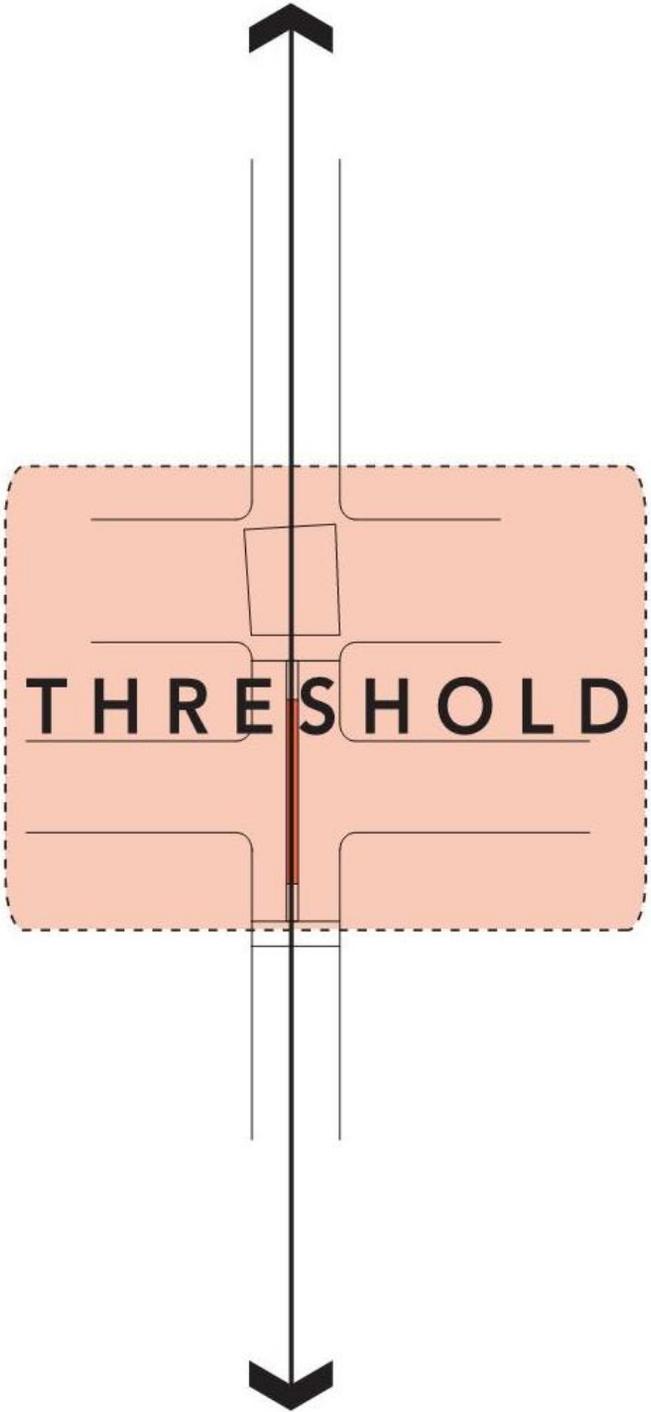


Alma School Road Art Concept



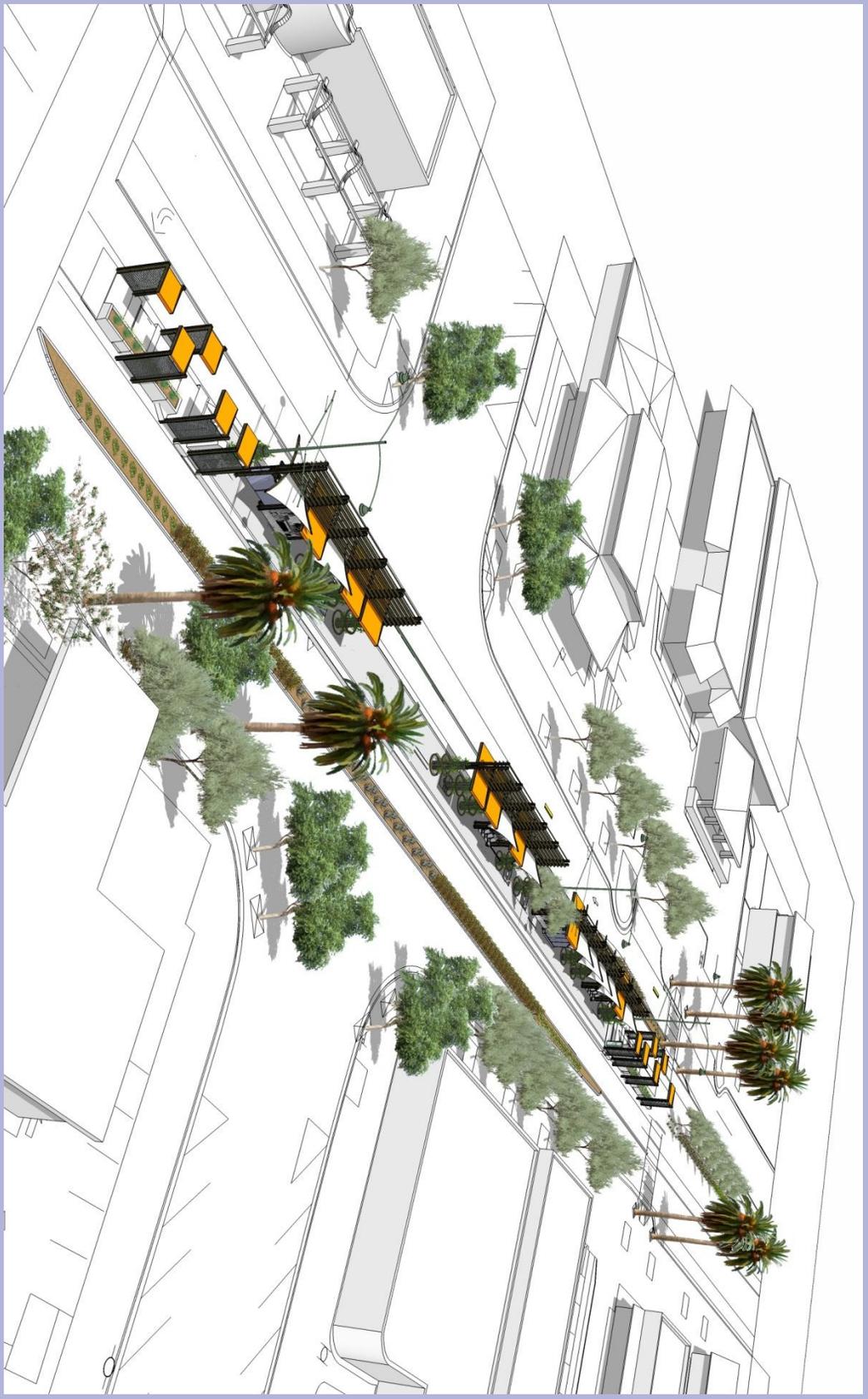


Country Club Drive Station Theme





Country Club Drive Architecture Concept



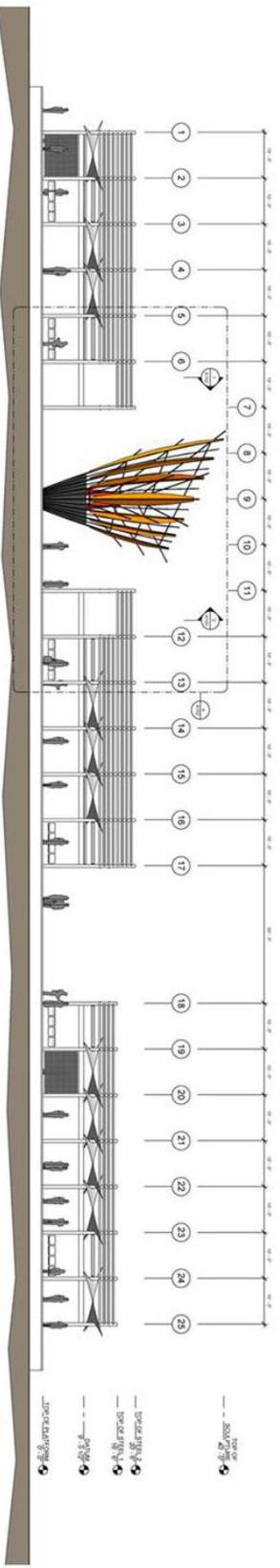
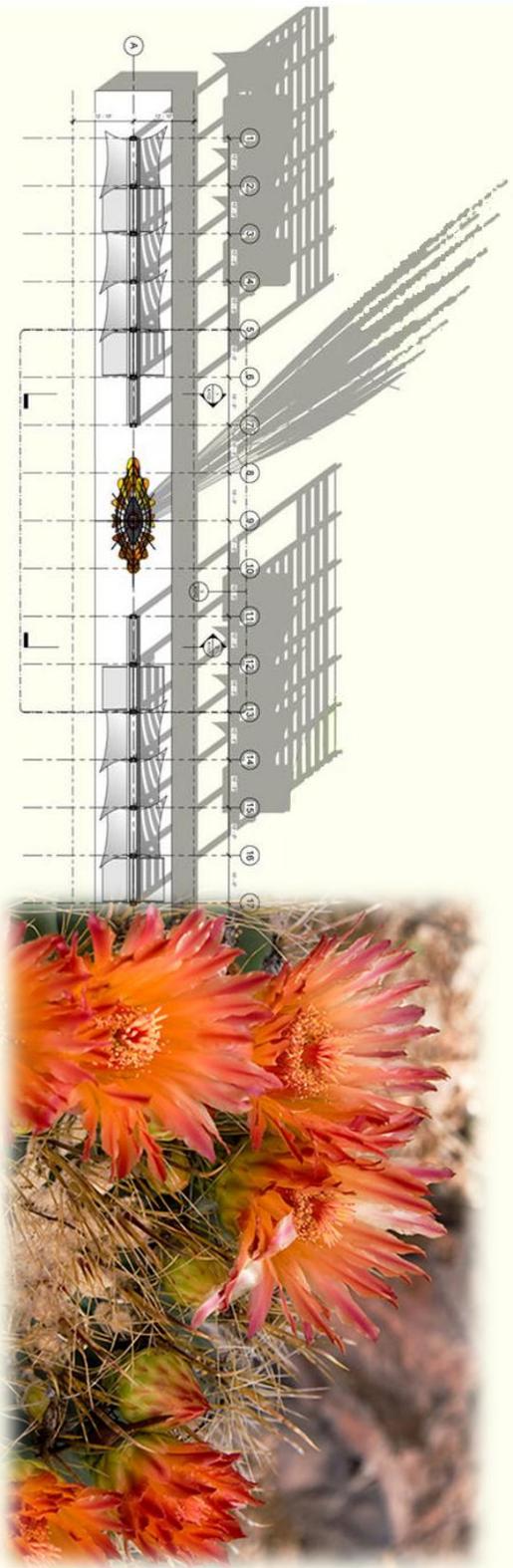


Country Club Drive Architecture Concept



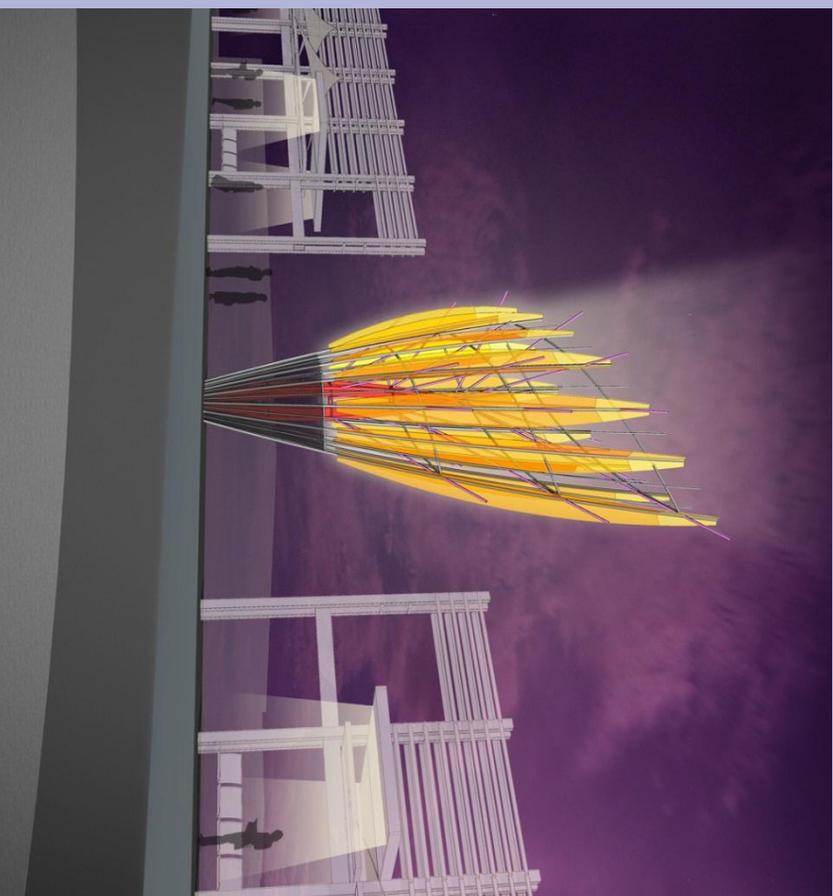


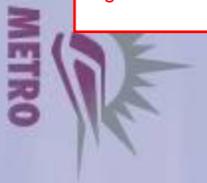
Country Club Drive Art Concept



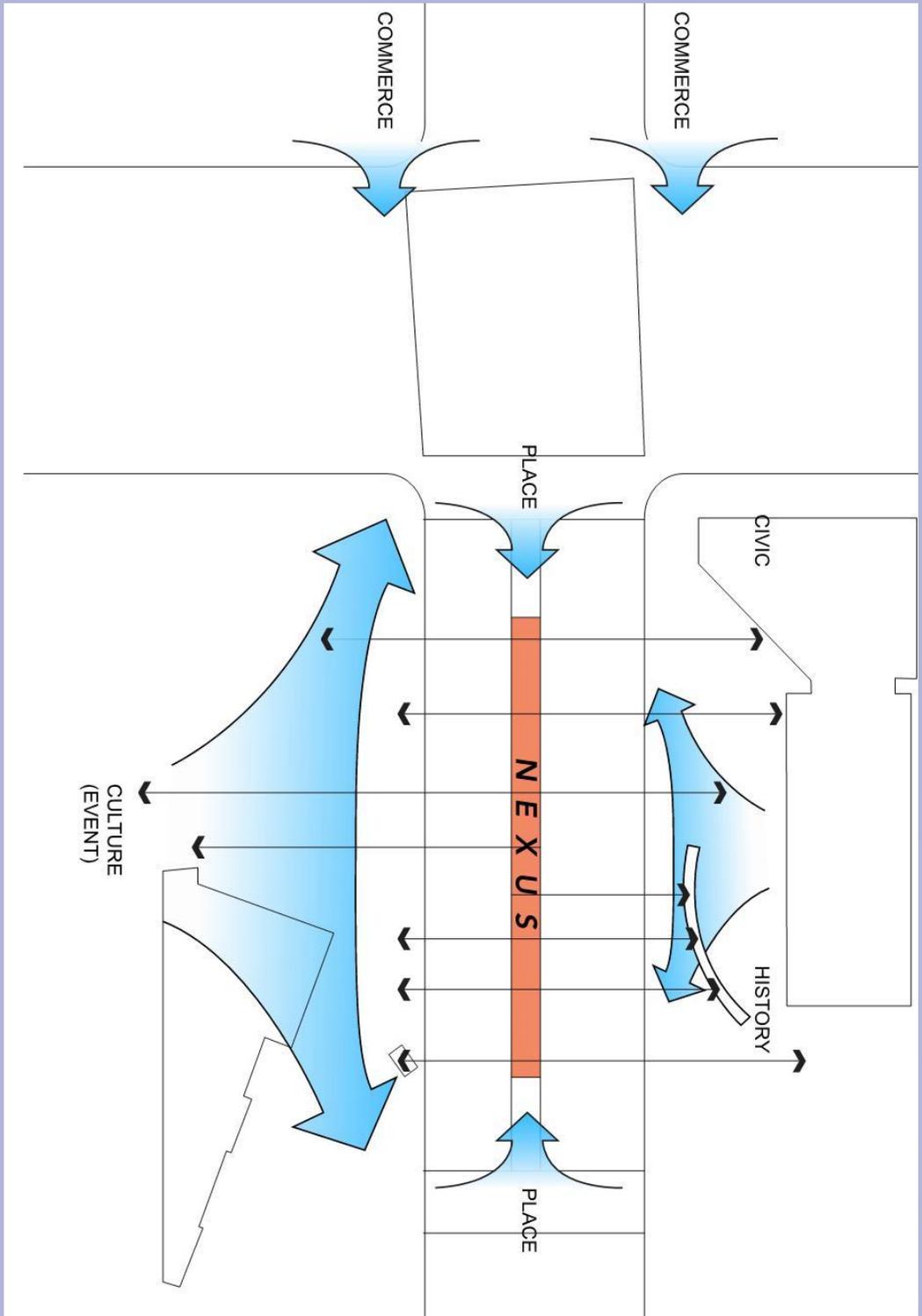


Country Club Drive Art Concept



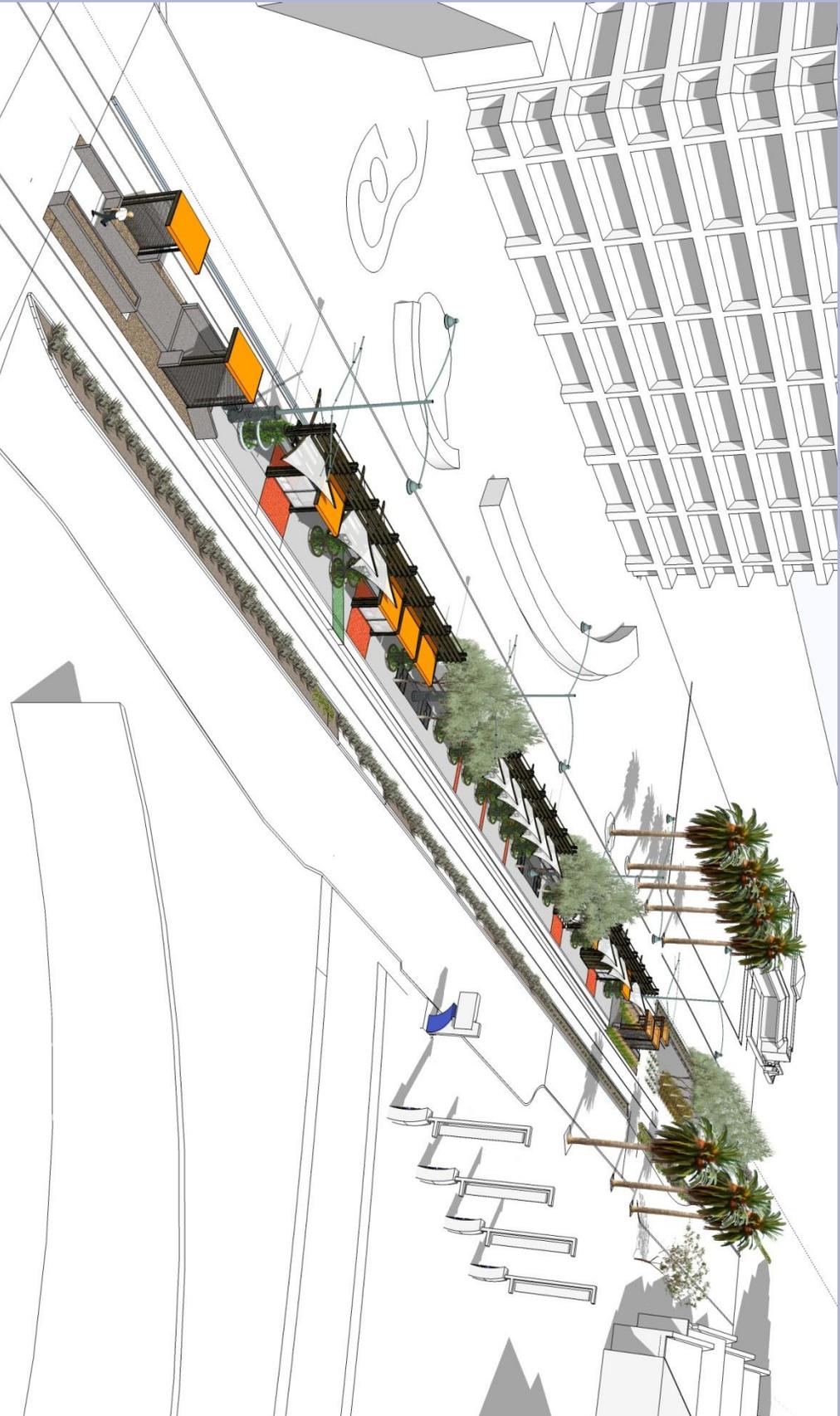


Center Street Station Theme





Center Street Architecture Concept



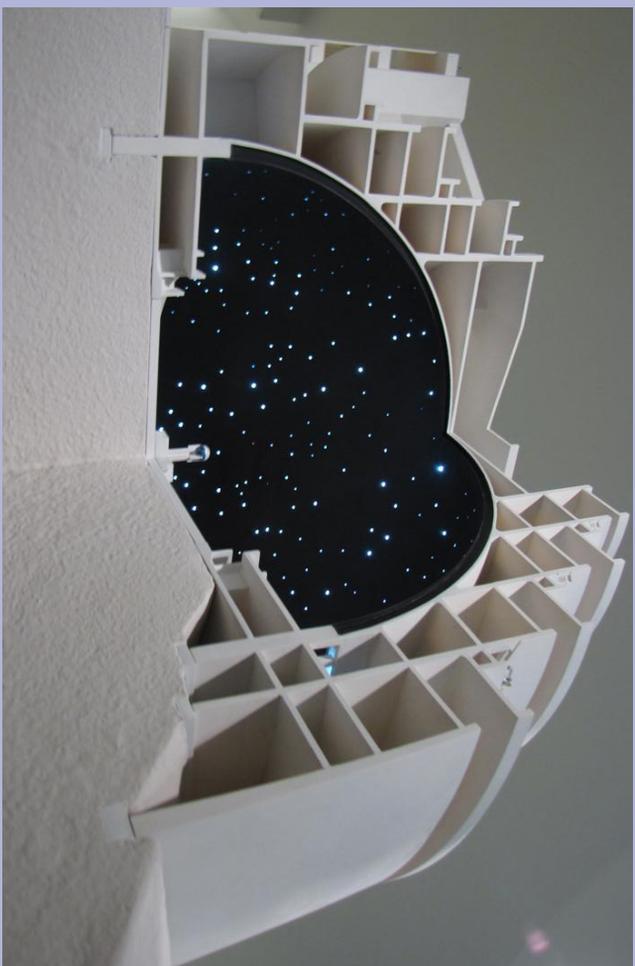


Center Street Architecture Concept





Center Street Art Concept



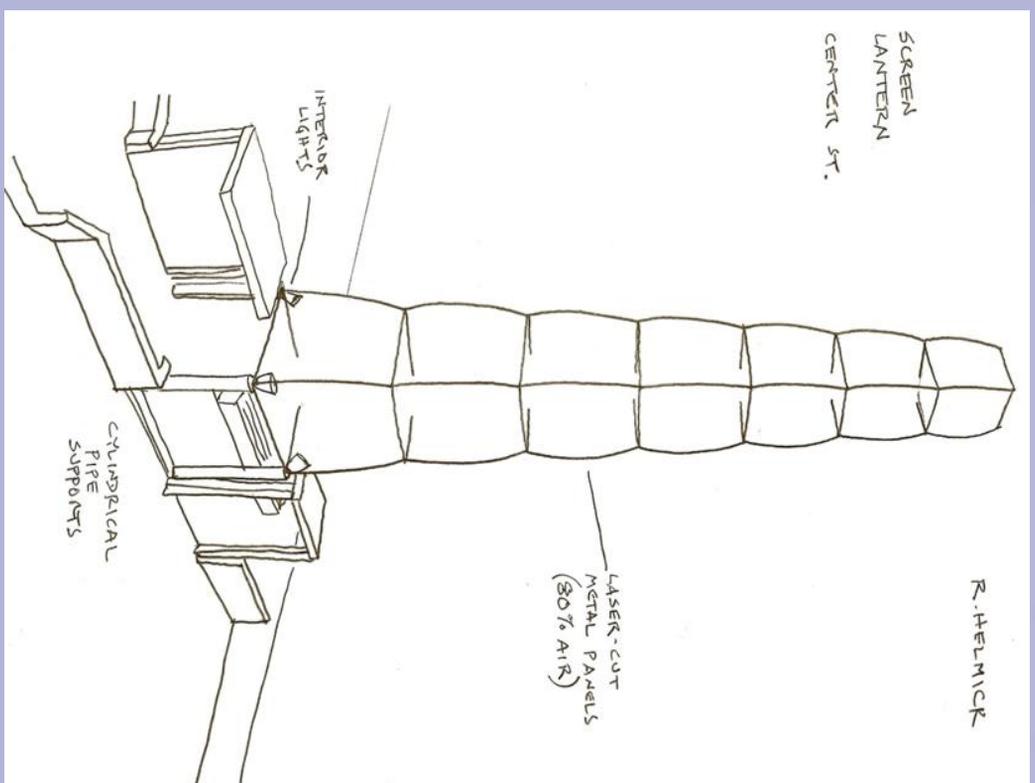
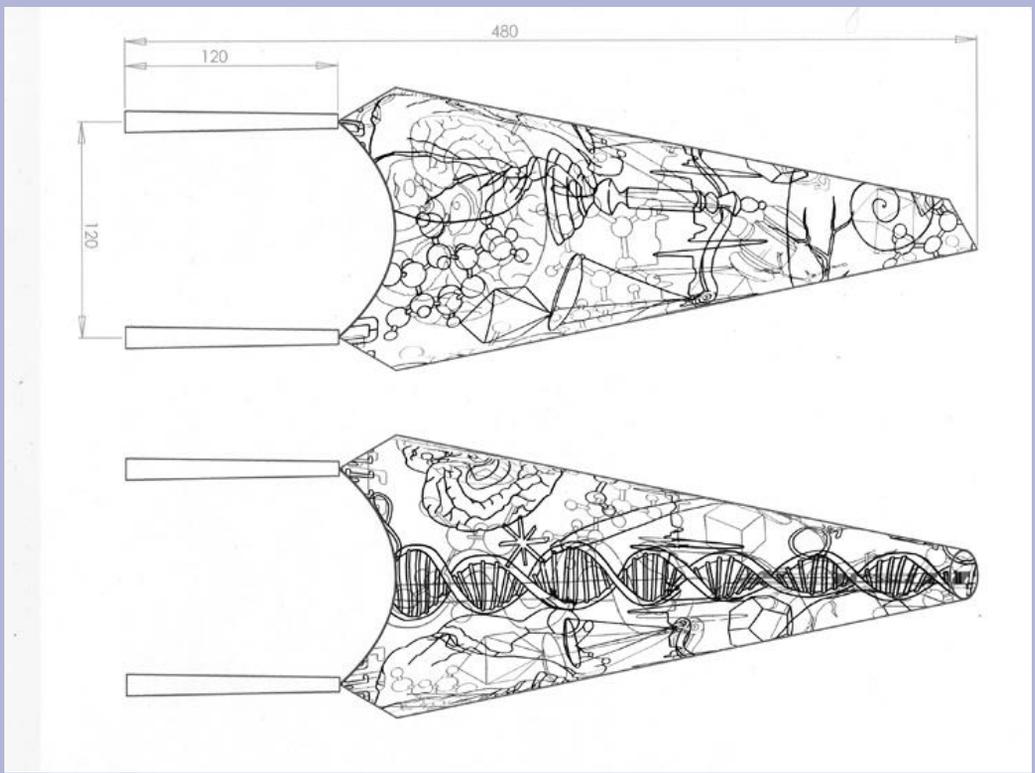


Center Street Art Concept



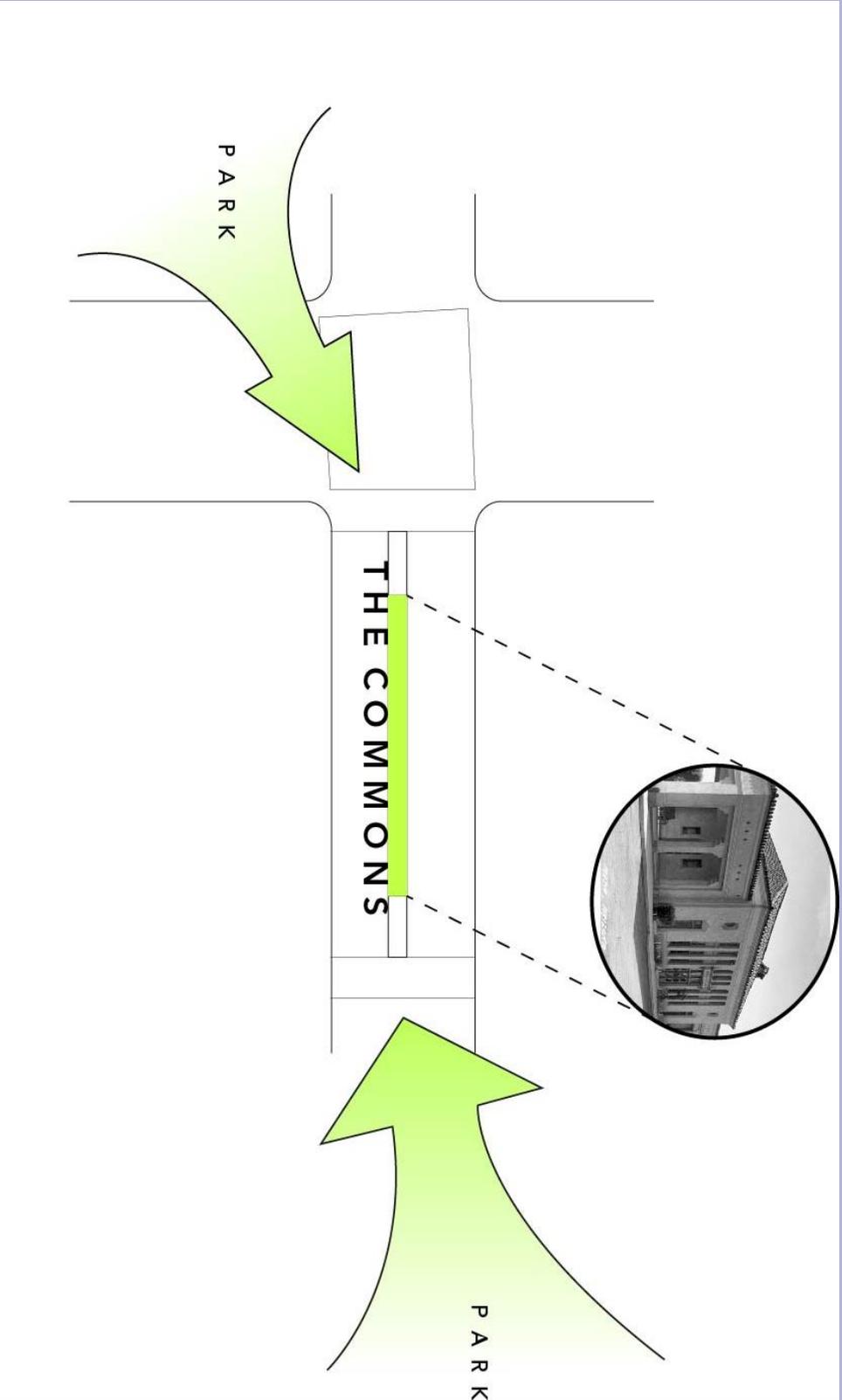


Center Street Art Concept





Mesa Drive Station Theme





Mesa Drive Architecture Concept





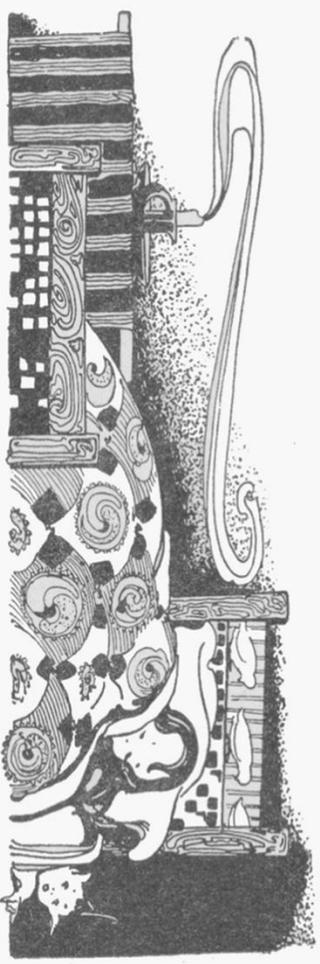
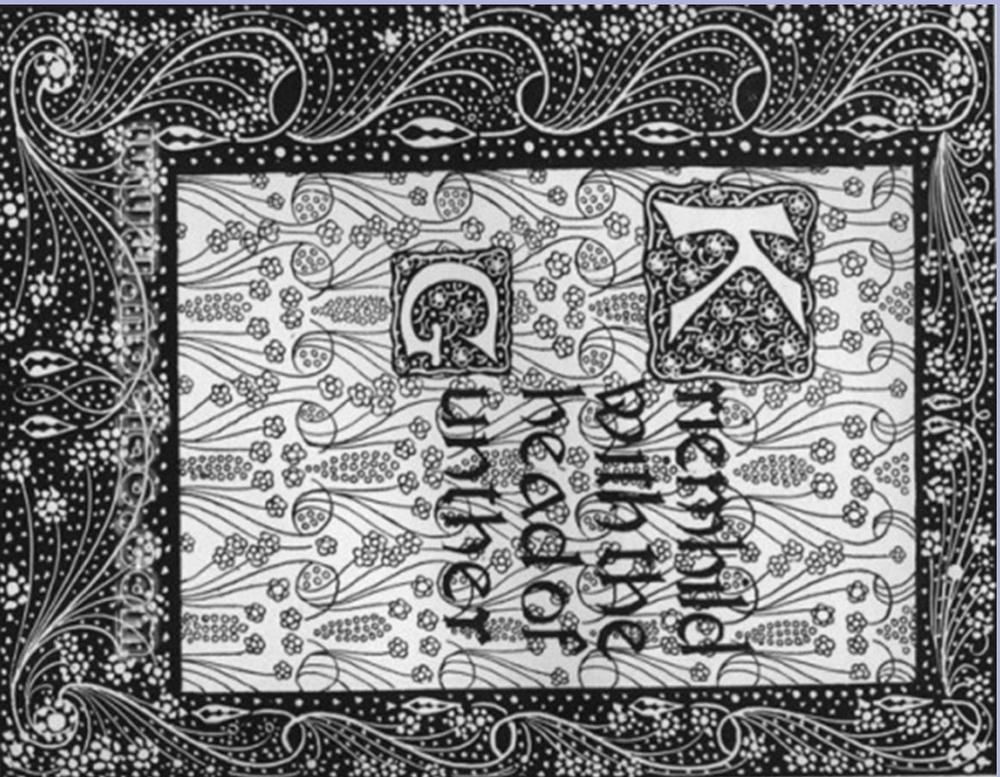
Mesa Drive Architecture Concept





Mesa Drive Art Concept

Use Mesa's strong ties to
children and family to tell the
stories of the town.



BED IN SUMMER

In winter I get up at night,
And dress by yellow candle light.
In summer quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

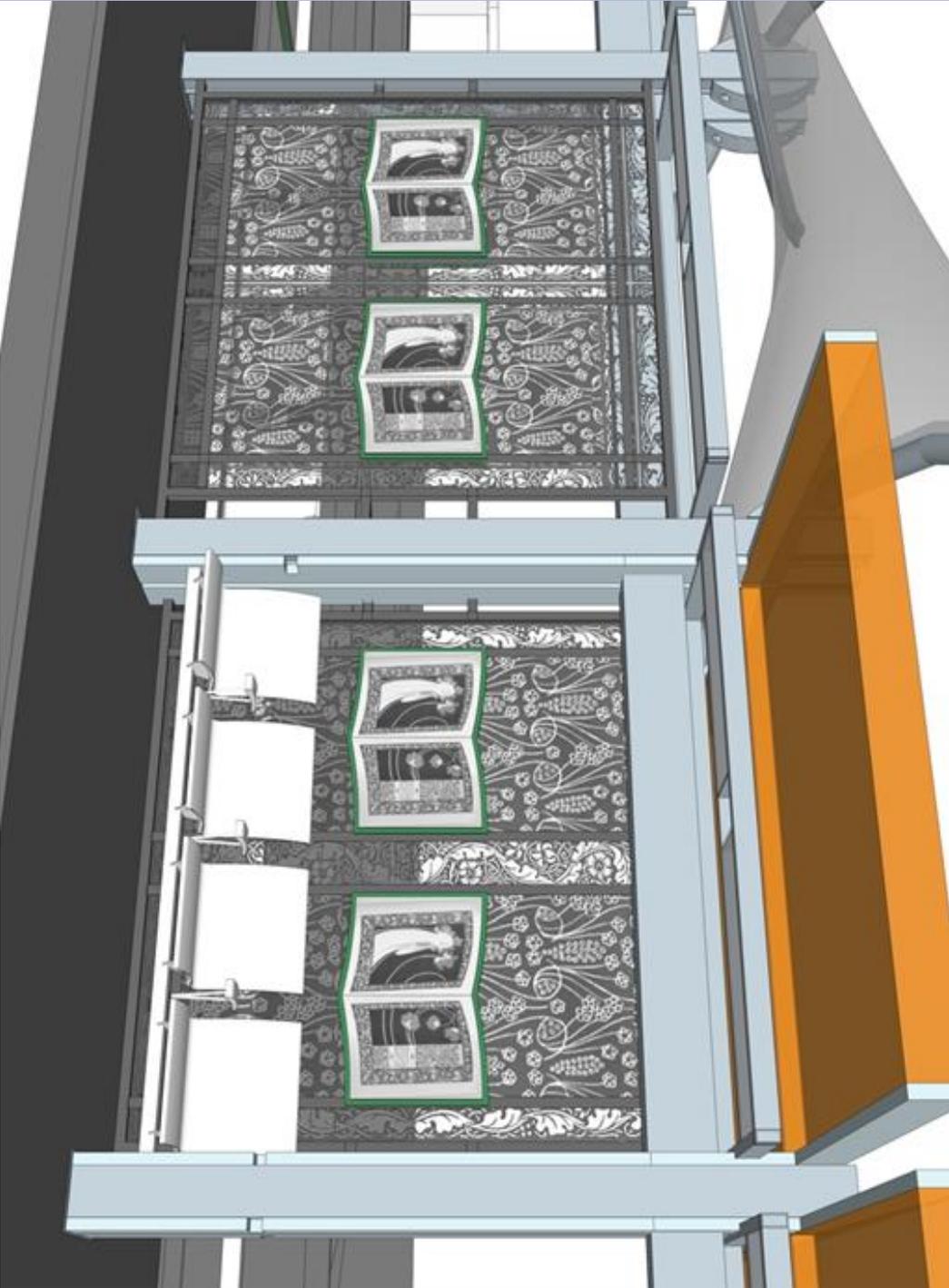


Mesa Drive Art Concept





Mesa Drive Art Concept





Mesa Drive Art Concept





Next Steps Art & Architecture

- **60% review process**
- **Station art and architecture integrated**
- **Recommendation on Mesa canopy**
- **Landscaping**
- **Traction power substation art concepts**



Public Involvement

- **Community Working Group**
 - **May 19, 2011**
- **Presentation to community/advisory groups**
 - **May-June 2011**
- **Public meeting**
 - **June 9, 2011**
 - **6pm**
 - **East Valley Institute of Technology**