

Cultural Heritage and Healing Garden

Conceptual Design Presentation

Context + Visioning

- Project Goals
- Site History
- Community Engagement
- Experience Needs
- Site Analysis
- Design Parameters

The Hill

- Overview
- Precedents
- Site Plan
- Experiential Views
- Planting Palette
- Circulation
- Experiential Zones

The Grove

- Overview
- Precedents
- Site Plan
- Experiential Views
- Planting Palette
- Circulation
- Experiential Zones

contemplate, honor, acknowledge



深思、尊重、認同

center those most impacted



集中關注受影響最大的人

respect history and present needs



尊重歷史和現在的需求







Chinese Burial Grounds
(1891 - 1928)

華人墓地
(1891 - 1928)



Morrison Building - Multnomah County Ownership
(1961)

Morrison Building - 摩特諾瑪縣 (Multnomah) 所有
(1961)

"The way we can honor our ancestors is by telling their stories. We came here with a lot of ingenuity and contributed to Oregon history. We need to acknowledge that history and celebrate what we have become."

What we heard from Community during the first round of engagement

- Tell the history authentically
- Provide spaces for gathering, contemplation, also places to conduct rituals and heal
- This space should be intergenerational, welcoming to all ages and abilities
- Engage the senses: visual, auditory, smell
- There is interest in including culturally significant plants into the design and specifically identified the Three Friends of Winter (which are pine, bamboo and plum) as well as wintersweet, osmanthus, and cedar.
- Community expressed a desire to have some form of gathering space at the site for events like group art therapy, learning activities and the Qing Ming festival
- Community desires space for meditation and prayer
- It is important to include Chinese elements in the design without being tokenizing.
- A formal apology from Multnomah County is desired

Learning

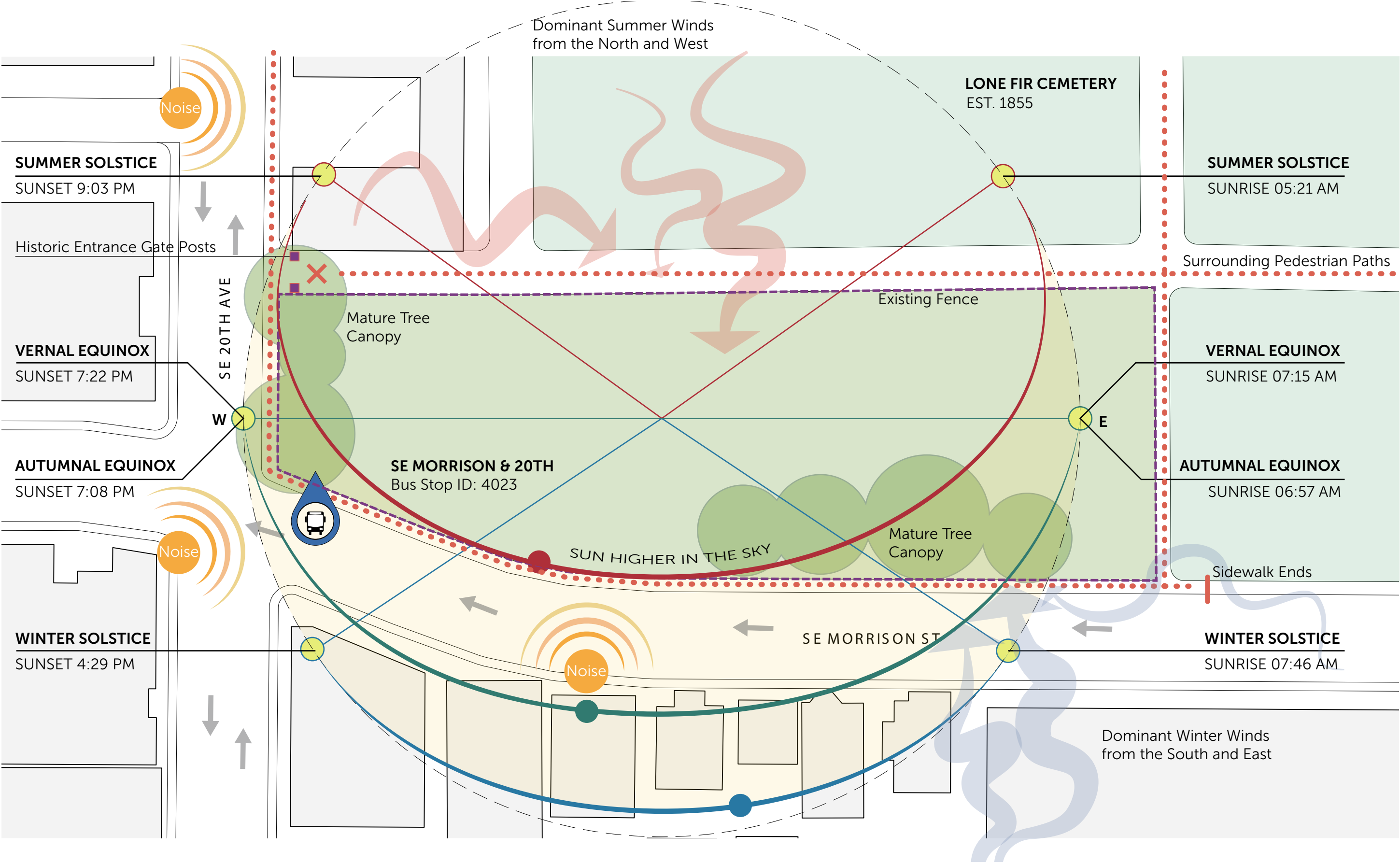
Presenting truth in public space provides an opportunity for advancing justice through the recognition of past harms. Narrating challenging histories directly and honestly validates the experiences of marginalized communities and can spread empathy and compassion

Reflection

Acknowledging one’s own role in the history of the site and of the broader context is an important step towards processing. Reflection holds space for grief, joy, anger, gratitude, and any number of emotions.

Participation and Healing

Healing demands action. Restoring the ability to practice customary rituals is an essential aspect of this project. Opportunities to meaningfully engage with the site in multiple ways will provide a platform for healing.



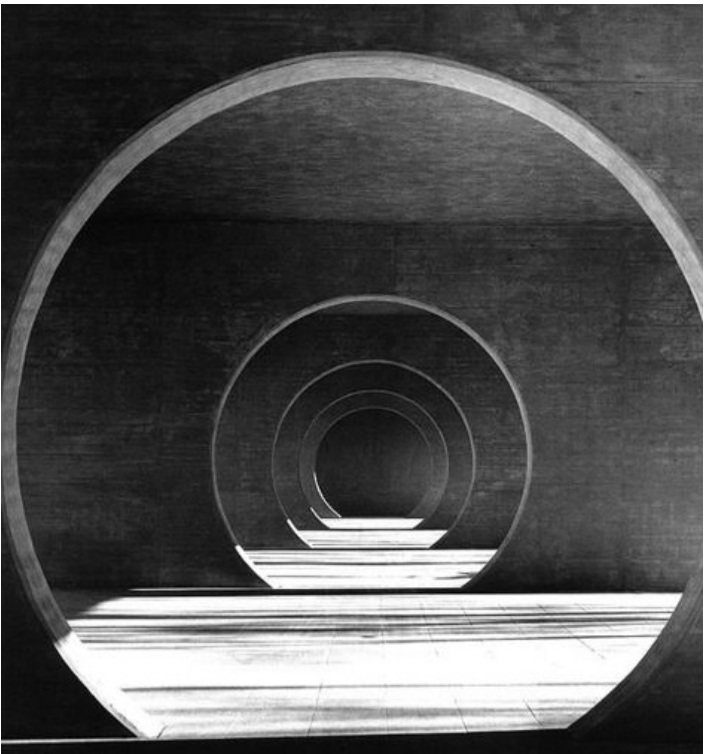
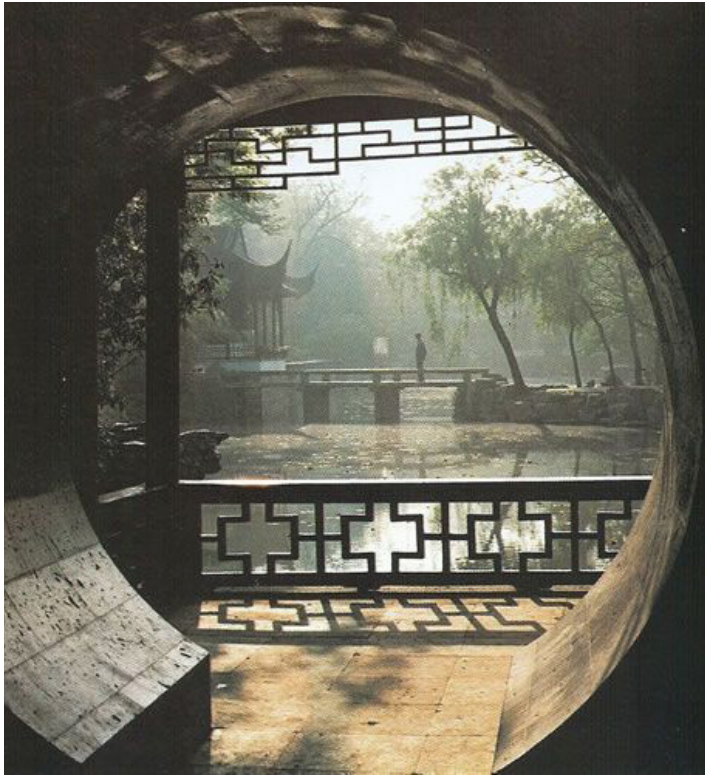
The Hill

This concept centers **solidarity** and **unity**. The idea is organized around a single monumental earthwork which blankets the site of the historic Chinese burial ground. This landscape has endured a deep trauma and is currently in a liminal and scarred state. Sculpting a hill of fertile soil across this space is **an act of care and hope**. At the foot of the hill is placed a set of nested rooms, an angled room and within it, a circular room. These forms provide protection from the surrounding streetscape and become **a symbol of the experience of marginalization**, the feelings that accompany living within a culture that doesn't accept or welcome you. These rooms hold space for both the Chinese transnational experience and the experience of living with mental illness. The outer room offers an opportunity to orient the visitor and narratively interpret the history of Lone Fir, the Hawthorne asylum and the Chinese burial ground. The inner room provides a sanctuary for reflection, with an **oculus** pointed toward the sky and two **moongates** which are aligned with the historic altar.

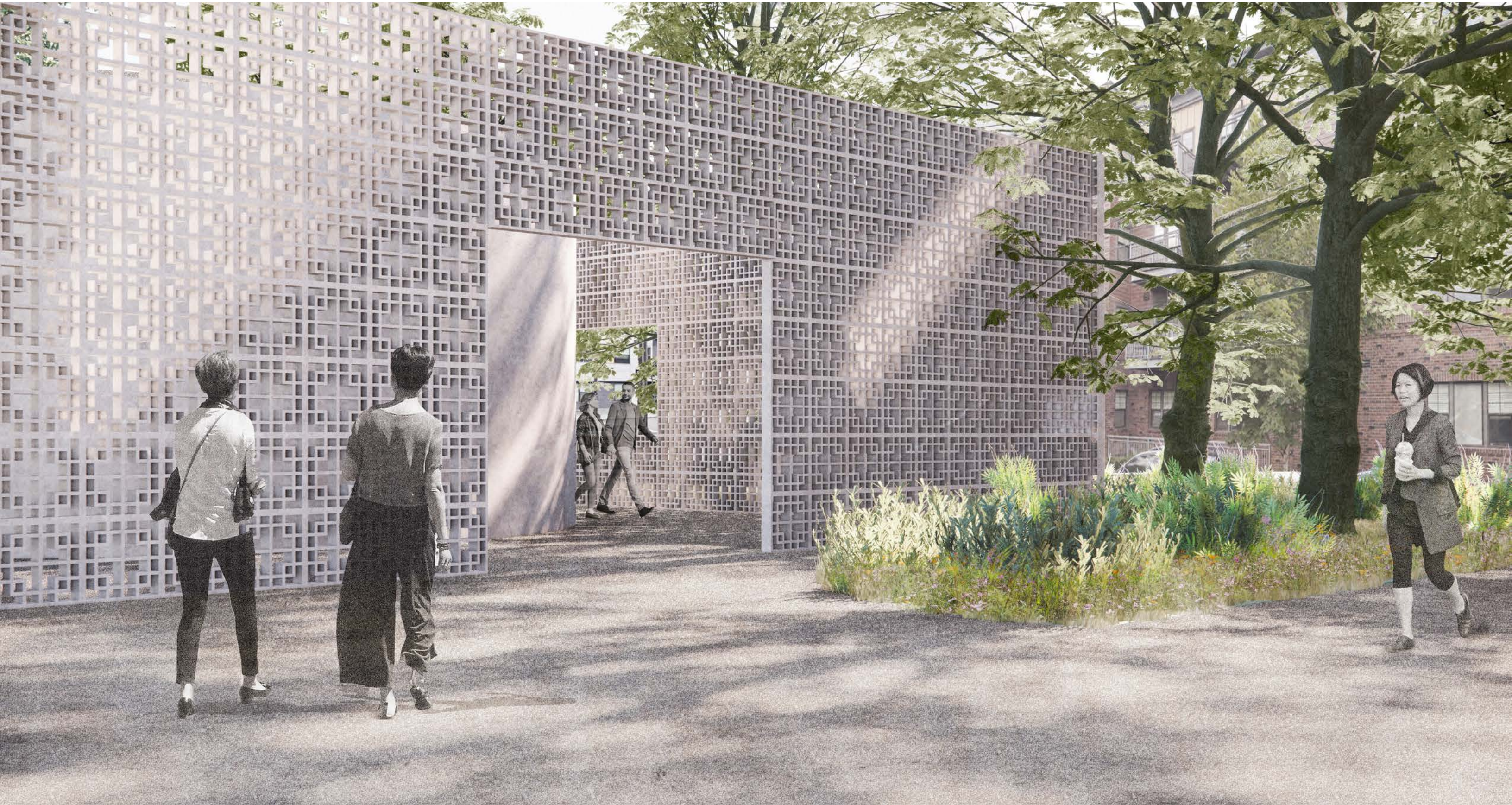
As the visitor looks through the moongates, they see a hillside planted with a **native savanna meadowscape**, the same plant community which occupied the site pre-colonization. An important aspect of healing is **acknowledging and owning the harms that you have perpetuated**. The Chinese community, while marginalized and systemically disadvantaged in the United States, were not the First People in Oregon and contributed to a colonizing force that displaced Native Peoples and advantaged the dominant culture which still exists today. This idea proposes **relationship building between the Chinese and Indigenous communities** to care for the native meadow through tending and the application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

A path leads the visitor along the south side of the Hill where berms are planted with Chinese culturally significant plants which visitors are invited to interact with. As the visitor heads east along the trail towards the site of the historic altar **a new monument reveals itself within**

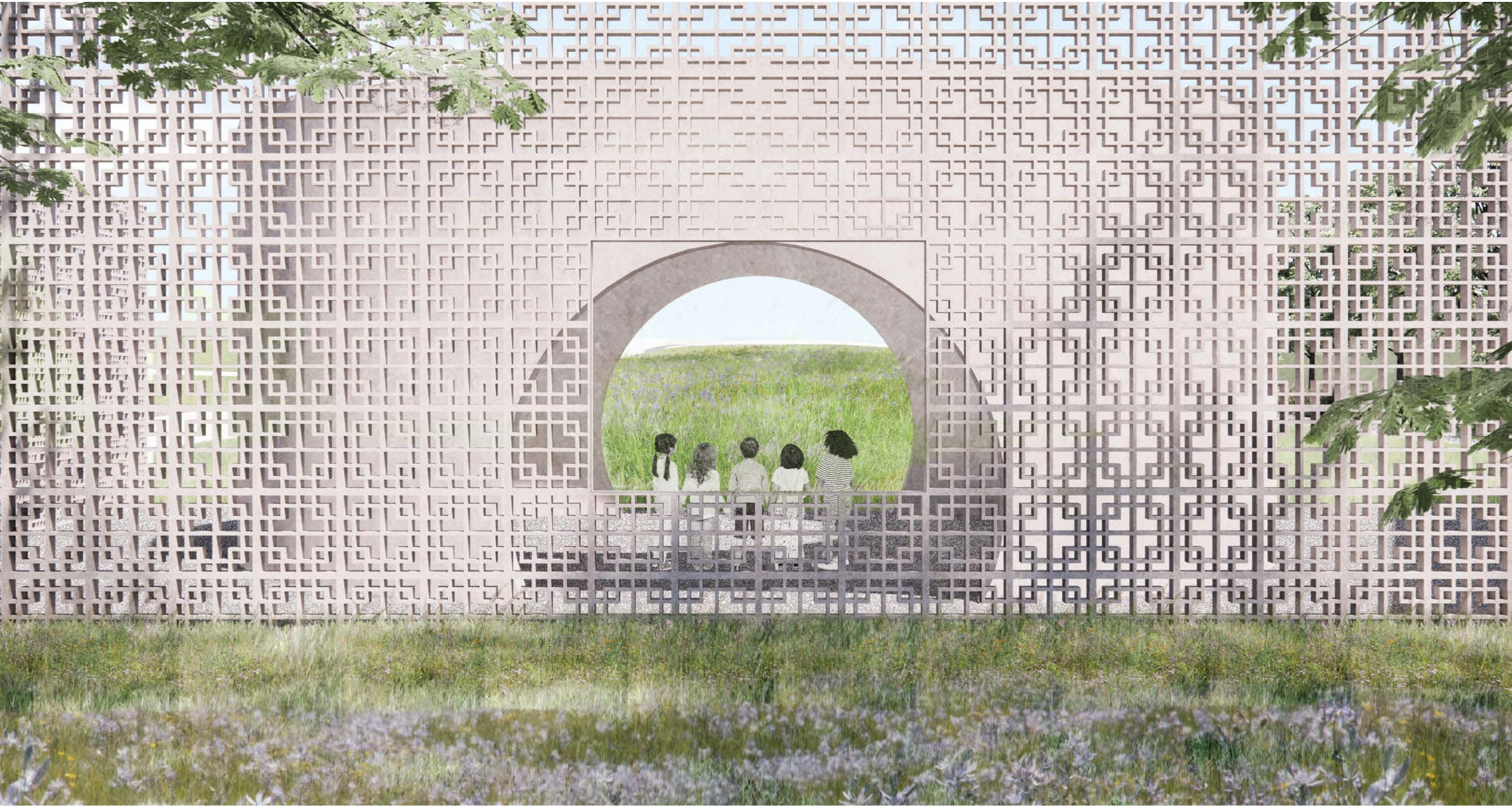
the side of the hill. This monument has an omnidirectional form to hold the Qi of all visitors who enter the space and is built with limestone, similar to that of the headstones that once occupied the site. On the wall of the monument are **inscribed the names of those who we know were buried there** in the same Traditional Chinese characters which are written in the CCBA burial ledgers. There are blank areas left to hold space for those who remain unknown. At the center of the monument is a new altar where visitors are invited to leave offerings. This altar has the inscription "*We honor you as though you were present*" in Traditional Chinese. There is no Latin script within the monument. Looking east, you are aligned with the historic altar which, if uncovered, is lifted to grade and artfully reassembled, held by a low arching wall which defines the easternmost portion of the space.















Bromus carinatus
California Brome Grass



Carex tumulicola
Foothill Sedge



Clarkia amoena
Farewell-to-spring



Elymus glaucus
Blue Wildrye



Hieracium albiflorum
White Hawkweed



Sanicula bipinnatifida
Purple Sanicle



Olsynium douglasii
Grass-widows



Vicia americana
American Vetch



Agoseris grandiflora
Large-flowered Agoseris



Pyrola Picta
White-vein pyrola



Campanula scouleri
Scouler's Bellflower



Clematis ligusticifolia
Western Clematis



Collinsia grandiflora
Large Blue-eyed Mary



Cypripedium montanum
Mountain Lady-slipper



Delphinium nuttallii
Nuttall's Larkspur



Osmanthus fragrans
Sweet osmanthus



Chimonanthus praecox
Wintersweet



Thuja plicata
Western red cedar



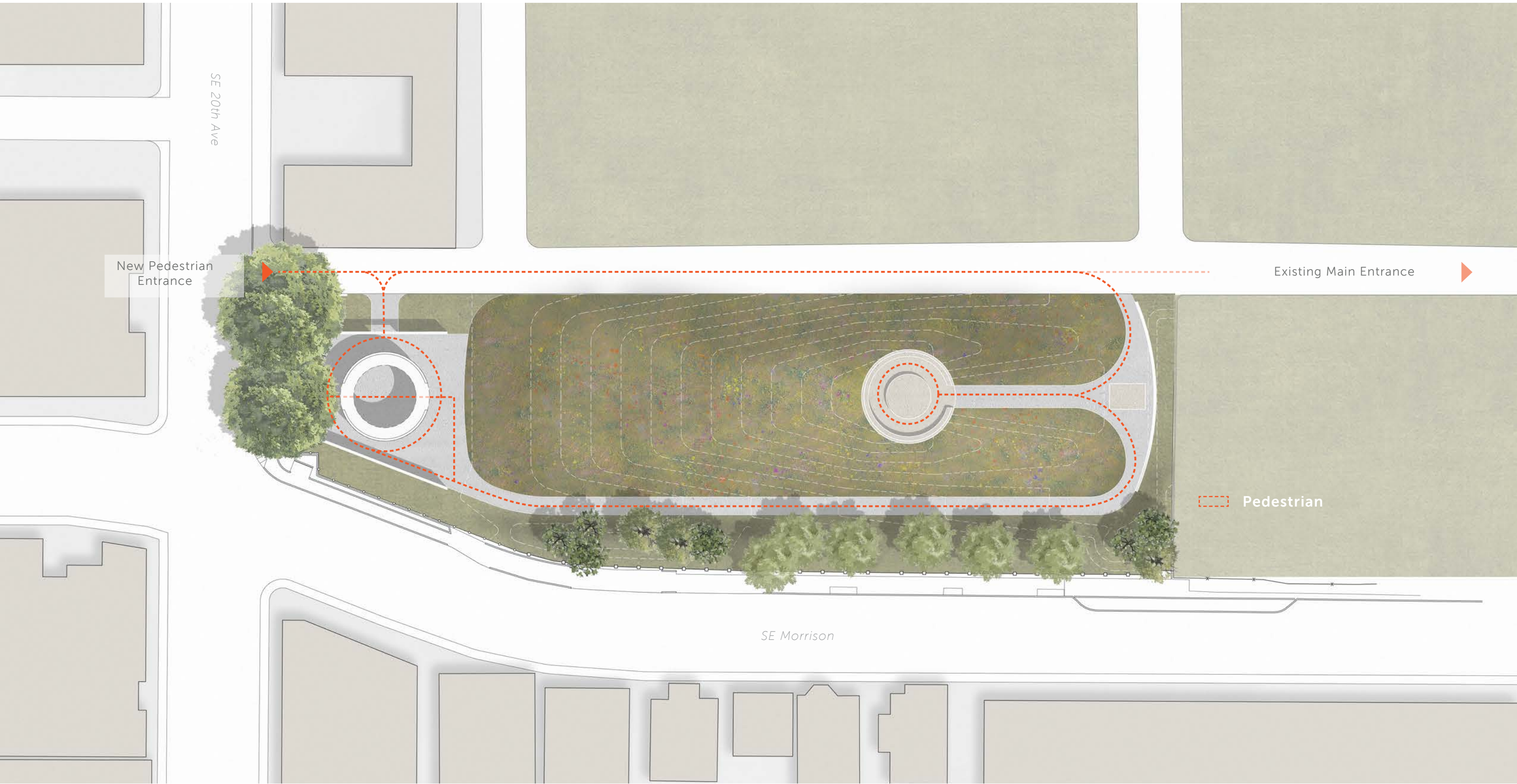
Prunus mume 'Kobai'
Chinese plum

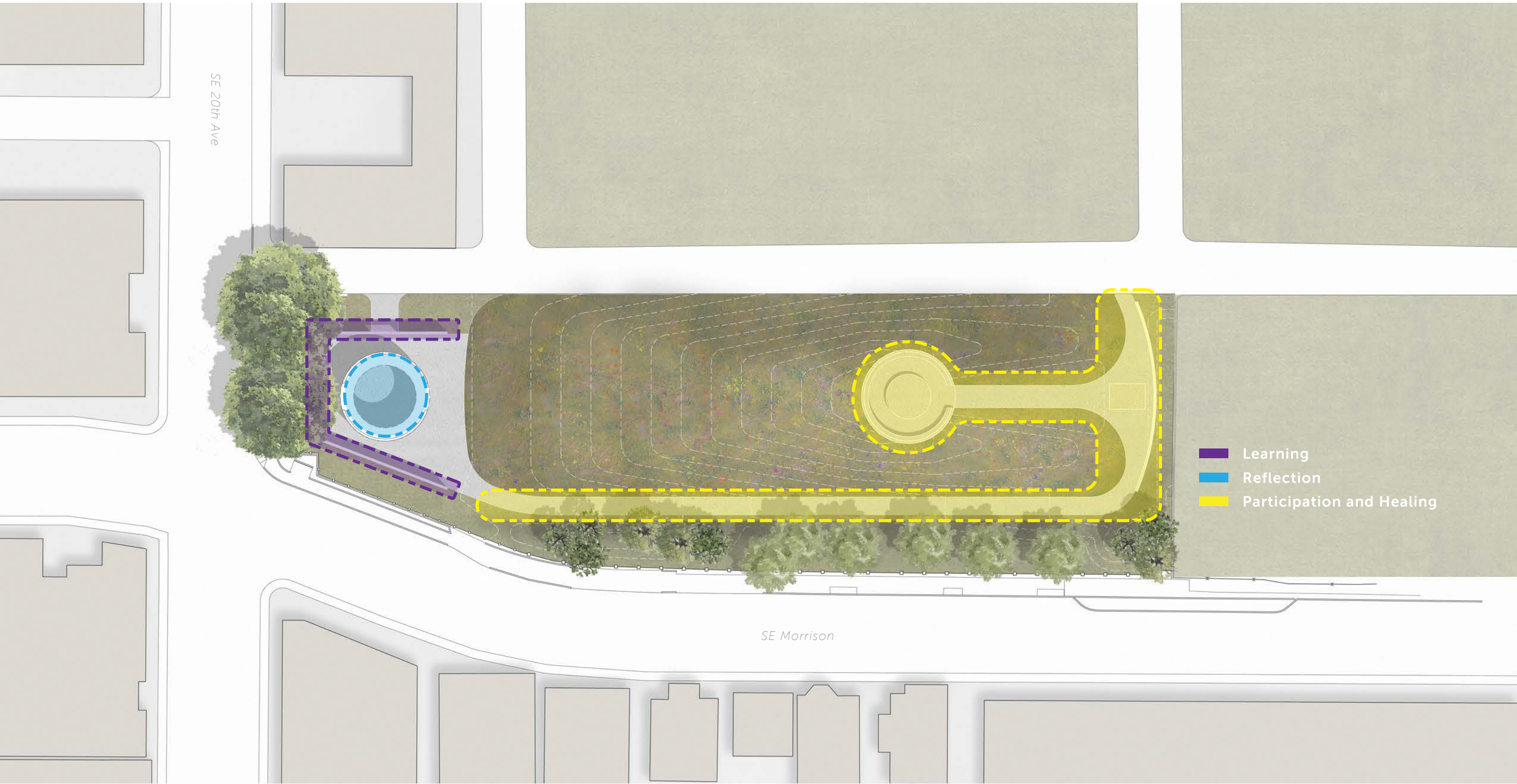


Chrysanthemum sp.
Chrysanthemum



Pinus thunbergii
Black pine





The Grove

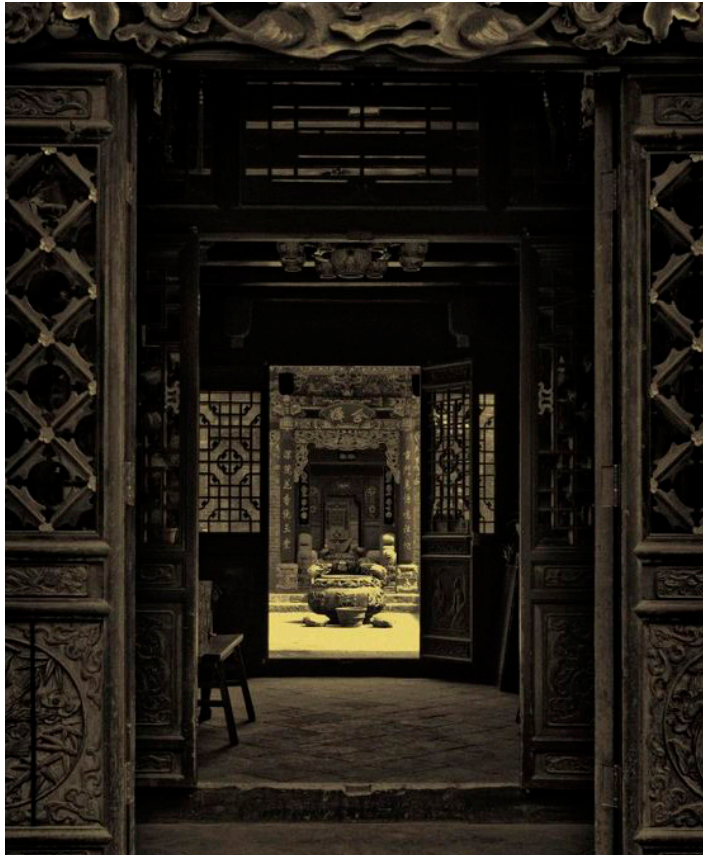
This concept centers **resilience** and **strength**. The idea is organized around the planting of a grove of ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), a culturally significant and strikingly beautiful tree. The ginkgo tree is a sacred plant in Chinese culture where it holds esoteric meaning for Daoists, Confucianists and Buddhists. It's wood was used by ancient Chinese shamans as media upon which they would carve messages to communicate with the spirit world. It is an exceptionally long lived tree, with some individuals currently living over 3,500 years. As a species it is among the oldest of all living things, being traced back over 200 million years in the fossil record. This plant has wisdom, memory and perspective.

The site is entered through the historic gates on SE 20th Avenue, where the visitor encounters a nested set of elegantly tiled walls, the outer one angled and the inner one curved. These forms represent the experience of marginalized individuals and hold space for both the Chinese and mental illness communities. The **green tiles echo celadon ceramics**, a historic Chinese craft

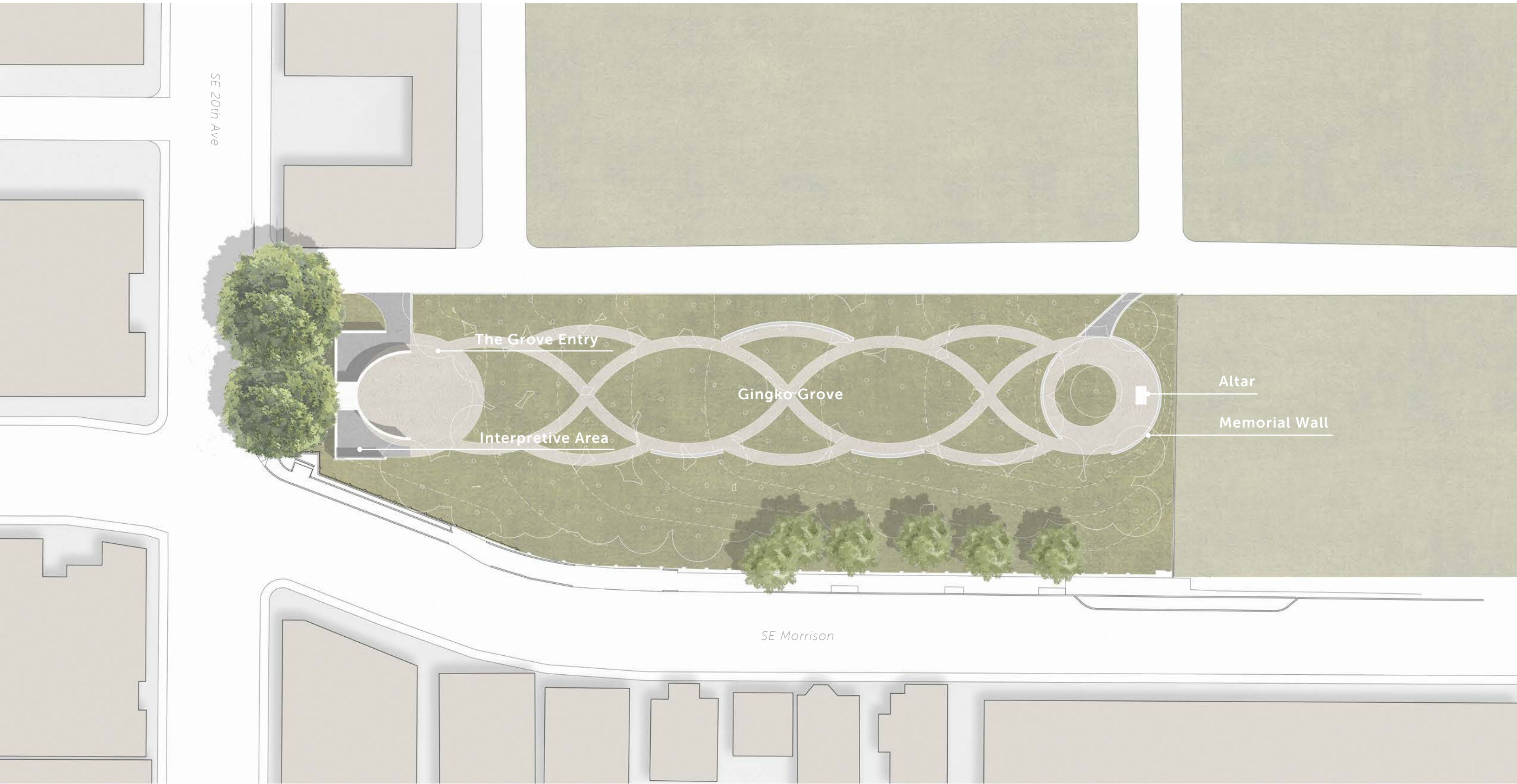
which was brought to the United States in the late 1800's with the first waves of immigration. These ceramics were used widely for rice bowls and tea cups, and Community would bring these pieces to the historic Chinese burial ground and leave them there as offerings for ancestors. Within these tiled walls are nested windows of breeze block and voids in the tile pattern, **offering views into the space and imbuing the form with transparency**. This entry area provides an opportunity for orientation, narration and learning. Thoughtfully integrated interpretive will tell the history of Lone Fir, the Hawthorne asylum and the Chinese burial ground. As you move through the thresholds towards the Grove, the narrative content will focus on the immediate site's specific history.

As you look out into the grove, the ginkgo trees create a canopy connecting the site with the sky and providing shelter for the visitor. This canopy transforms with the seasons, turning vibrantly yellow in unison and dropping leaves together in a single coordinated event. The visitor is invited to experience the space and

reflect on it's history through an intertwined sequence of pathways. These paths provide an opportunity for meditative walk within the grove, with places to sit in quietude, rest and reflect. As the visitor continues to walk east they encounter the historic altar site. If the historic altar is uncovered, it will be respectfully centered in this space. If not, it will be thoughtfully honored and a new space for offerings will be creating. The visitor will have the opportunity to interact, practice ritual and leave offerings to honor ancestors. To the east of the altar is a curving wall which focuses Qi on the ritual space. This wall provides an opportunity for recognition of the individuals buried at Block 14, through the **inscription of the names we know** in the same Traditional Chinese characters which are written in the CCBA burial ledgers. There are blank areas left to hold space for those who remain unknown. This area offers an opportunity for Community to gather, participate, reflect and heal.



















Osmanthus fragrans
Sweet osmanthus



Chimonanthus praecox
Wintersweet



Thuja plicata
Western red cedar



Prunus mume 'Kobai'
Chinese plum



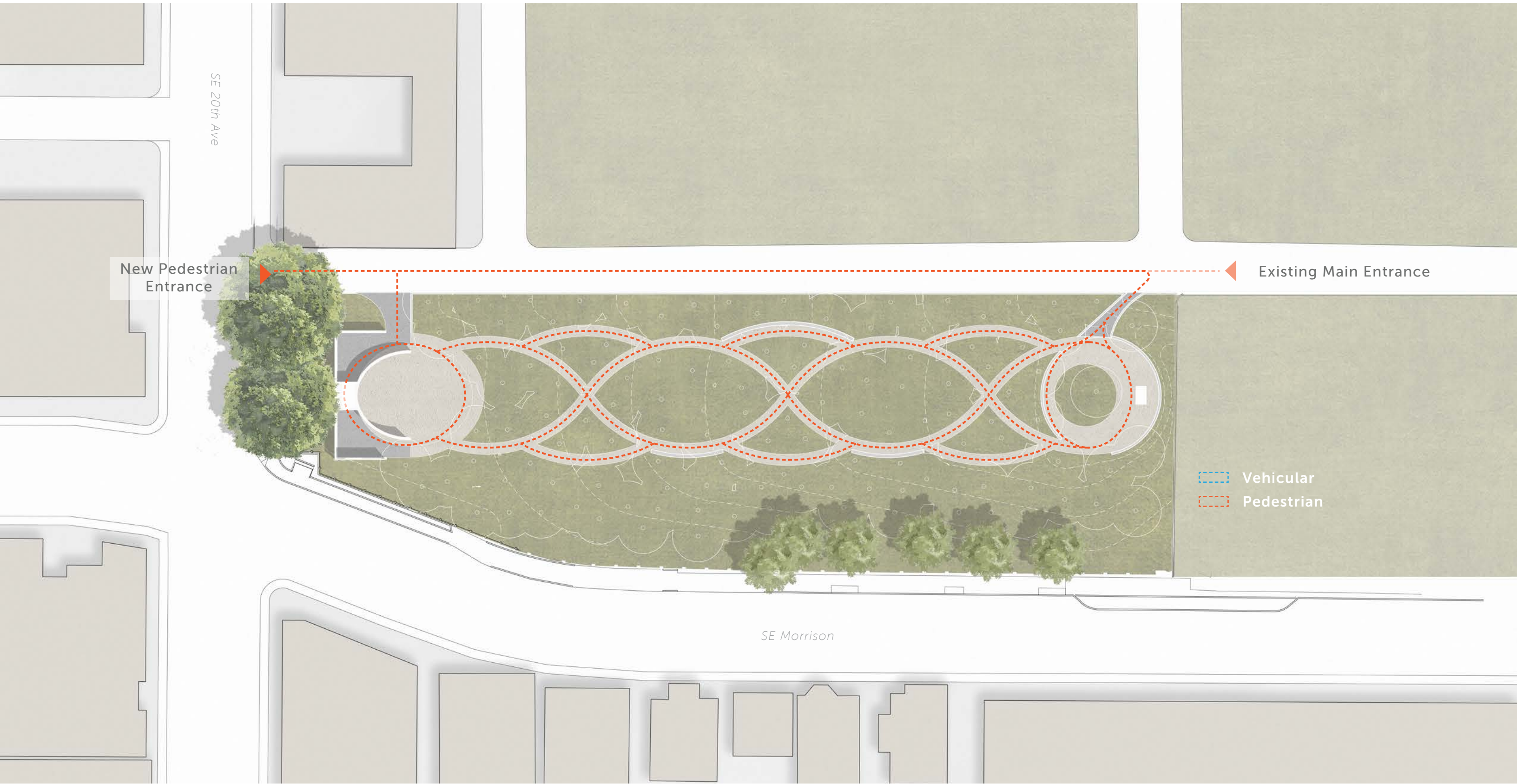
Chrysanthemum sp.
Chrysanthemum

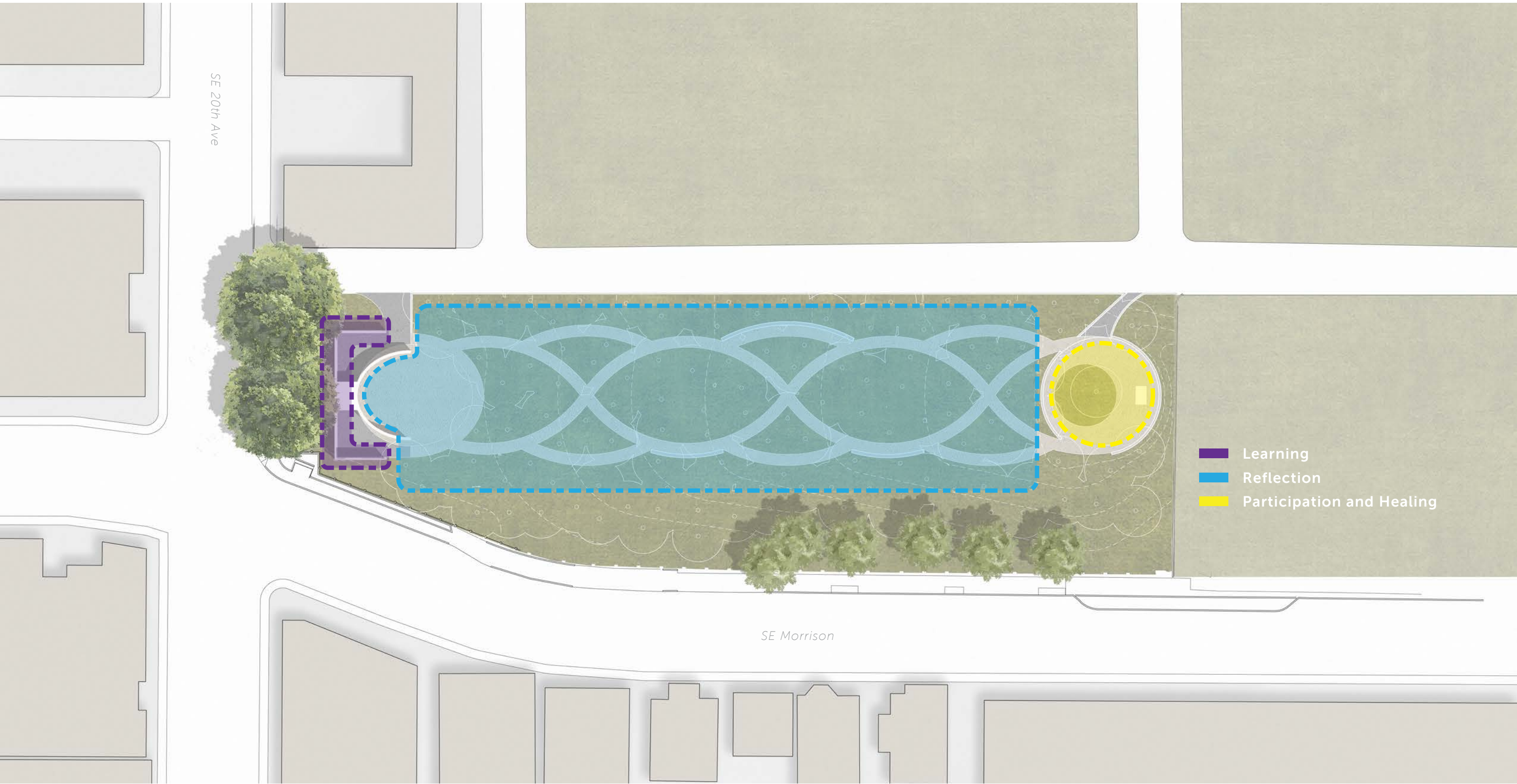


Pinus thunbergii
Black pine



Ginkgo biloba
Ginkgo





Thank you!