Omaha Public Library
Central Library

Call for Public Artwork
April 25th - June 9th

AMPLIFY ARTS

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW

Apply to this call for public artwork anytime between Monday, Thursday April 25th and Sunday, June 9th at 11:59pm

Apply at:

- www.amplifyarts.org
- www.omahacentrallibrary.org

AMPLIFY ARTS

ABOUT

AMPLIFY ARTS

OPL'S CENTRAL LIBRARY

- A central hub for creativity, collaboration, and education.
- Located at the intersection of 72nd and Dodge and scheduled to open in 2026.
- OPL and the City of Omaha partnered with Omaha Public Library Foundation, Heritage Omaha, and Do Space to make the new Central Library possible.

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OPL'S CENTRAL LIBRARY

- The Central Library is an important financial and cultural investment in literacy, digital equity, and community.

- The building itself is designed with accessibility in mind and includes spaces to learn, spaces to gather, and spaces to create for people of all ages.

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RENDERINGS AND FLOOR PLANS

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INTERIOR SPACES

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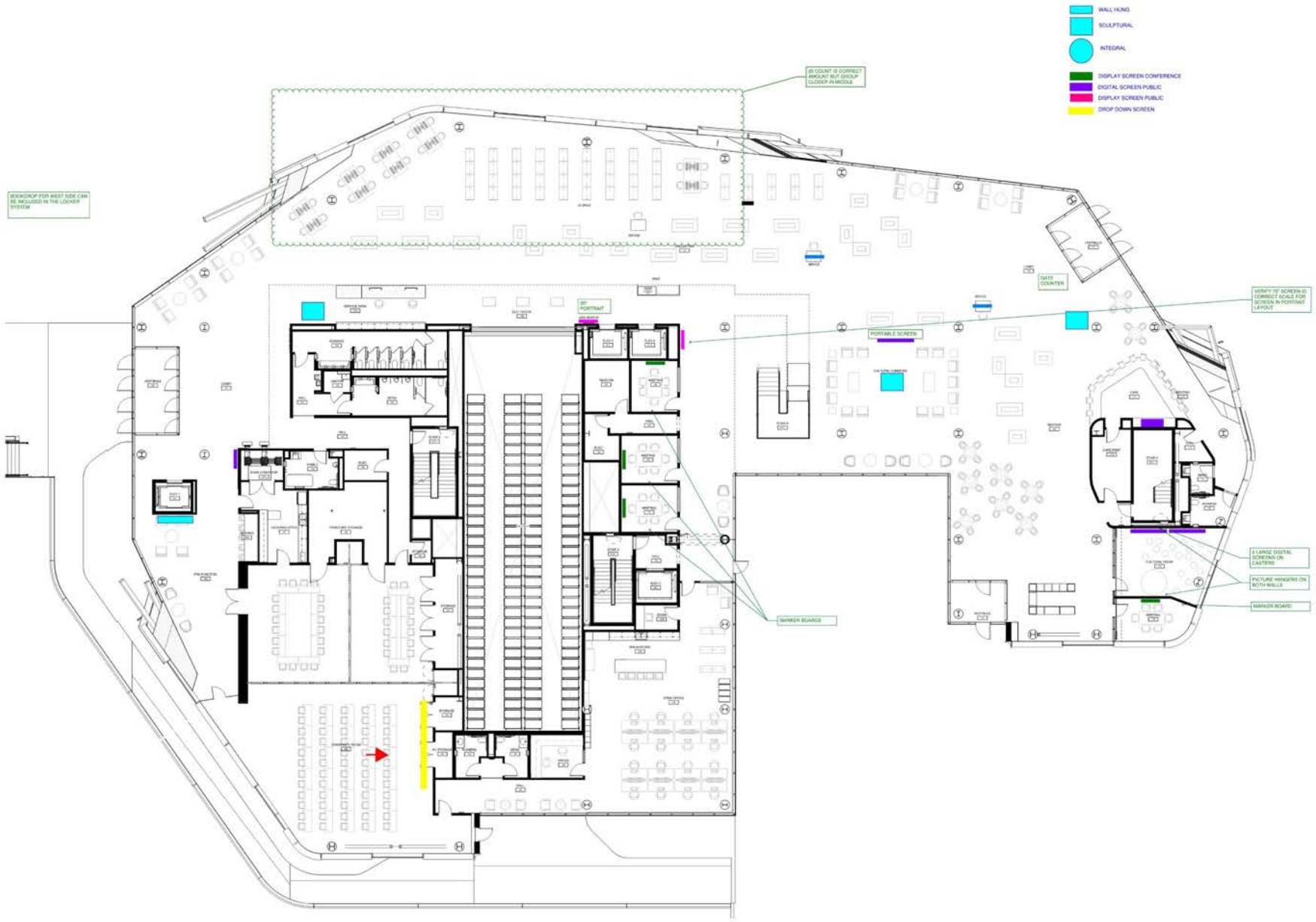
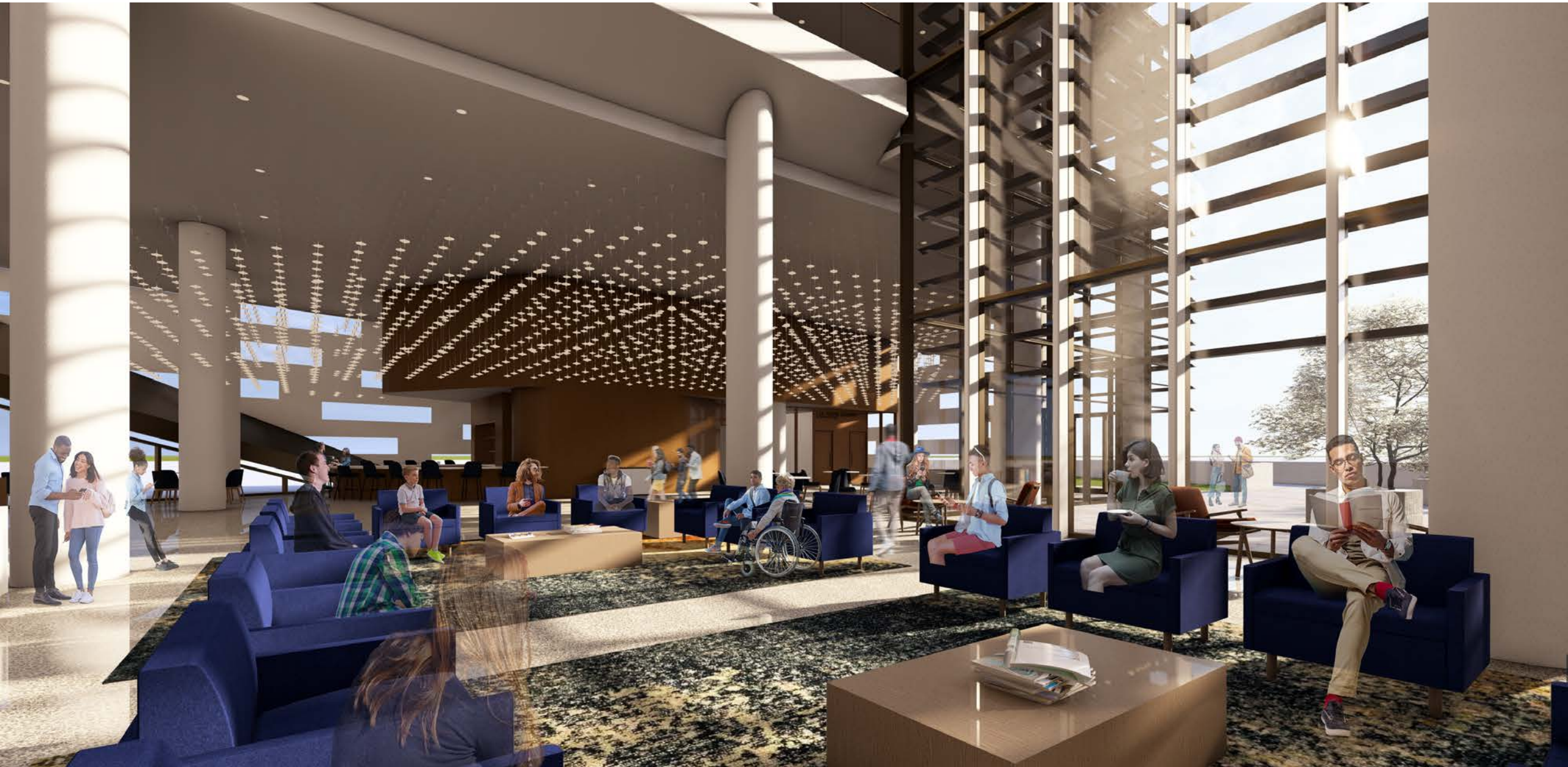
New Central Library I First Floor Plan



New Central Library I Cafe Lighting Installation

New Central Library I Cafe Lighting Installation



New Central Library I Facade

New Central Library I Feature Stair

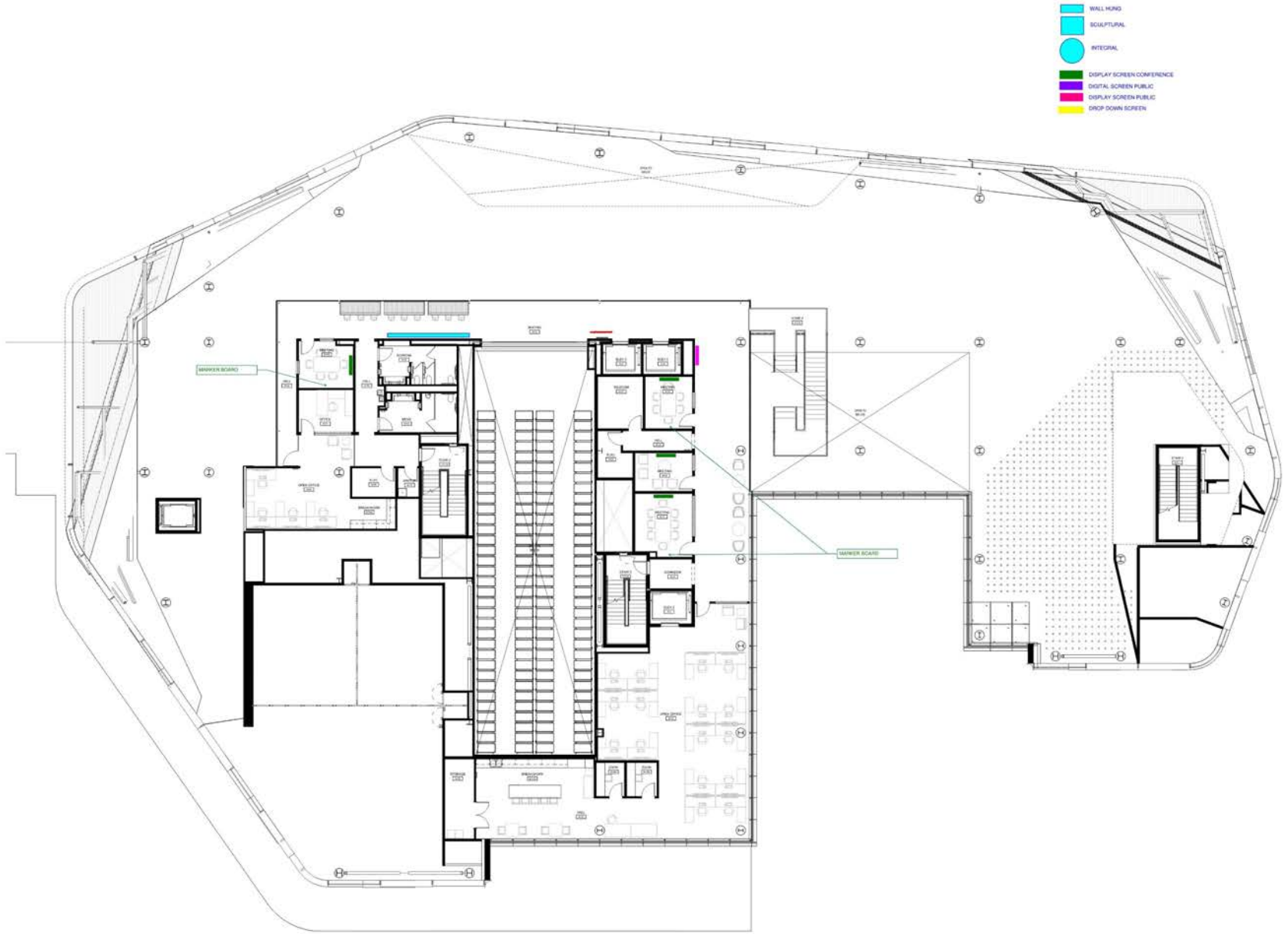
New Central Library I Pre-function Space

New Central Library I Pre-function Space

New Central Library I Community Room

New Central Library I Community Room

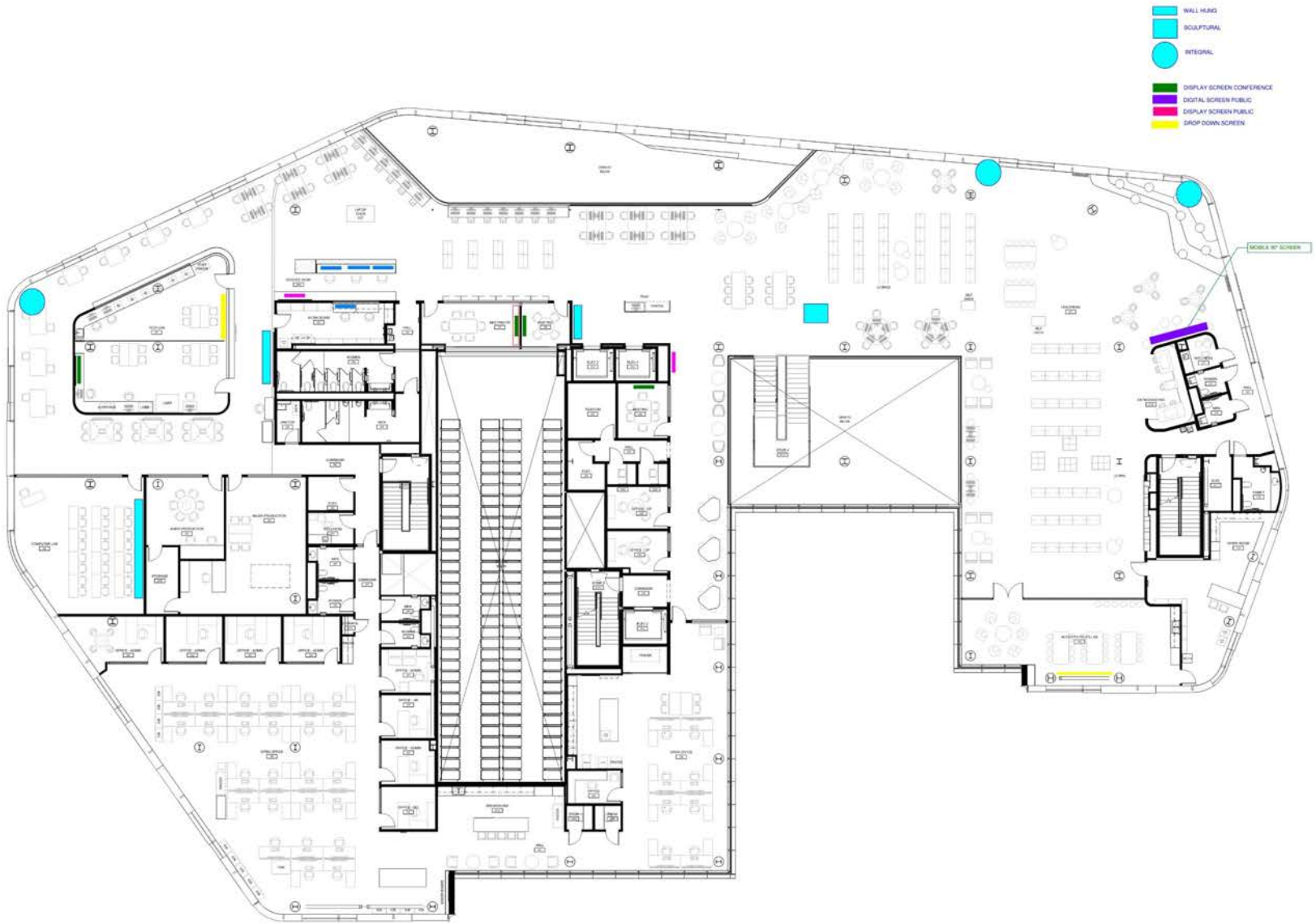
New Central Library I Mezzanine Floor Plan



New Central Library I Mezzanine

New Central Library I Conference Rooms

New Central Library I Second Floor Plan



New Central Library I Feature Stair

New Central Library I Children's Department

New Central Library I Children's Department

New Central Library I Children's Department

New Central Library I Children's Department

New Central Library I Do Space

New Central Library I Third Floor Plan

New Central Library I Quiet Reading

EXTERIOR SPACES

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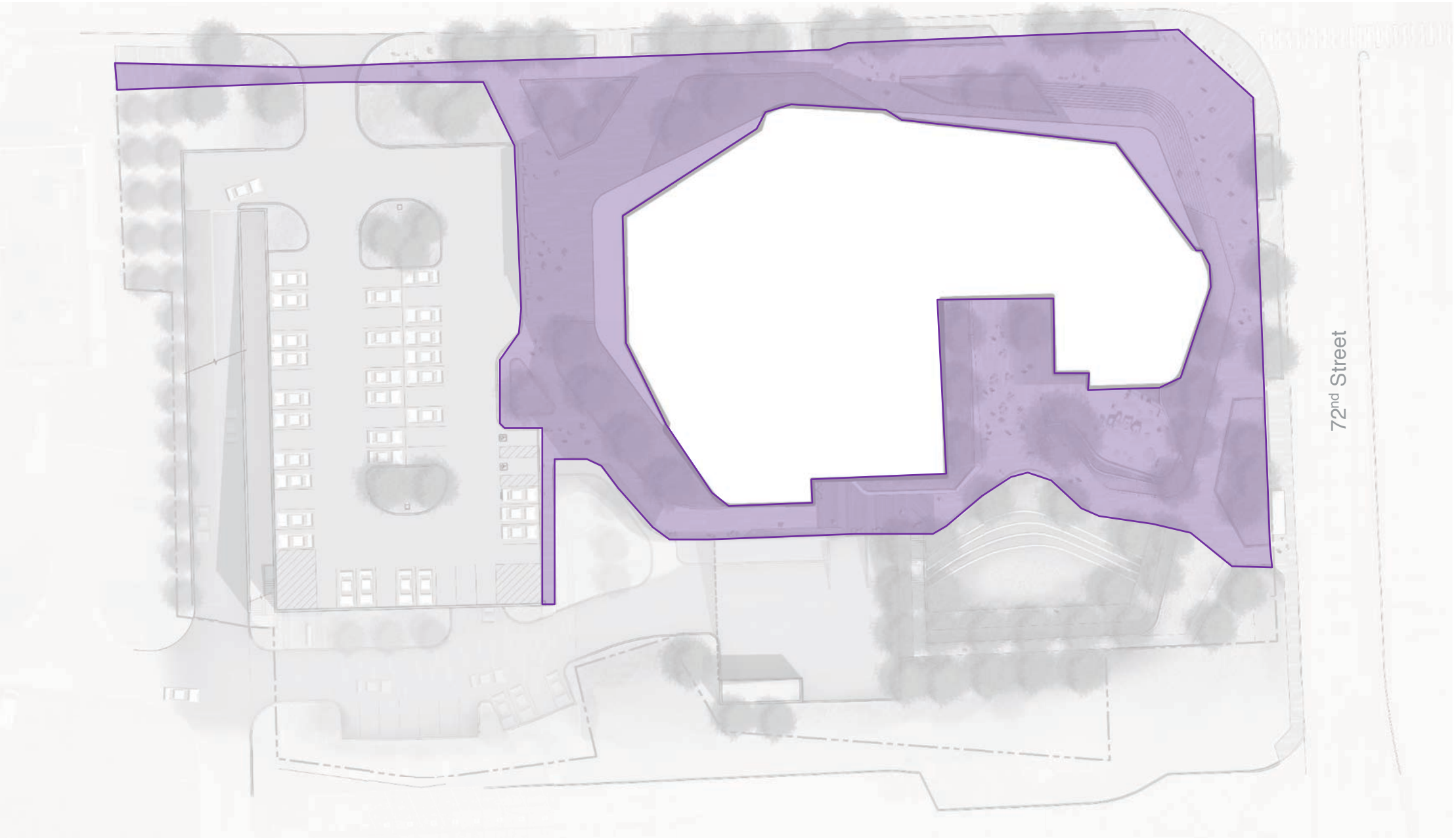
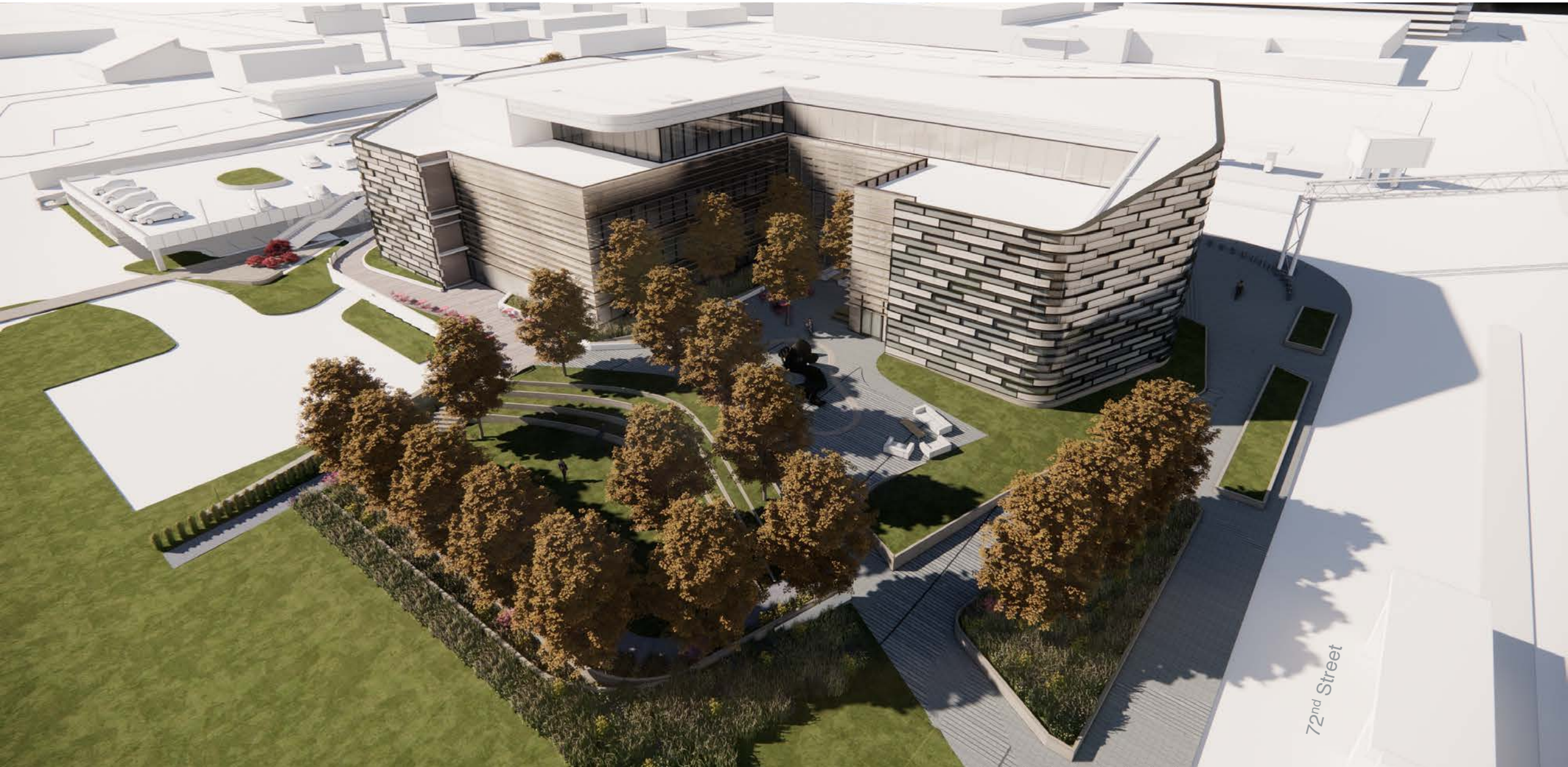
Art Engagement I Pavement

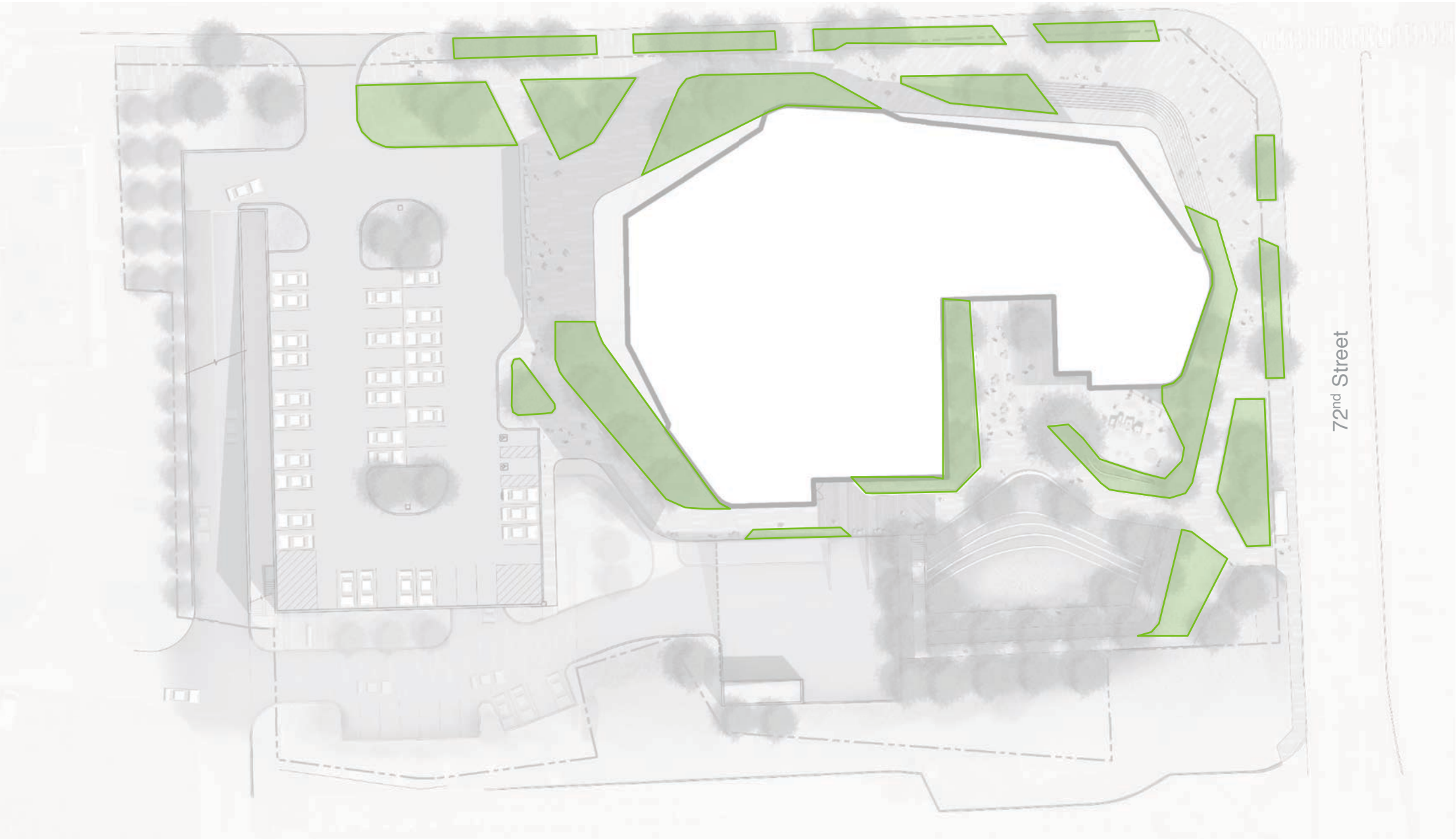


Art Engagement I Pavement

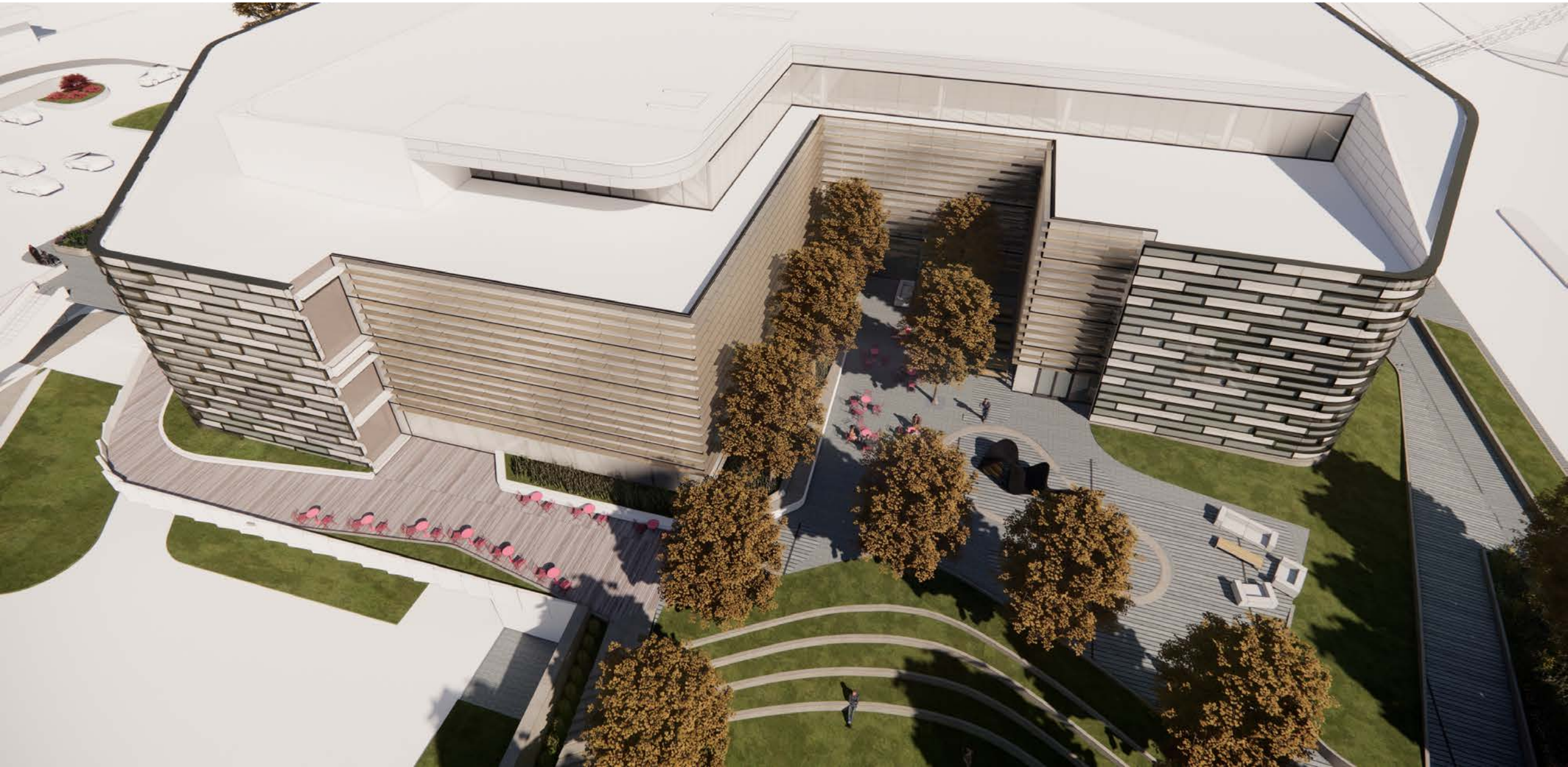
Art Engagement I Pavement



Art Engagement I Landscape



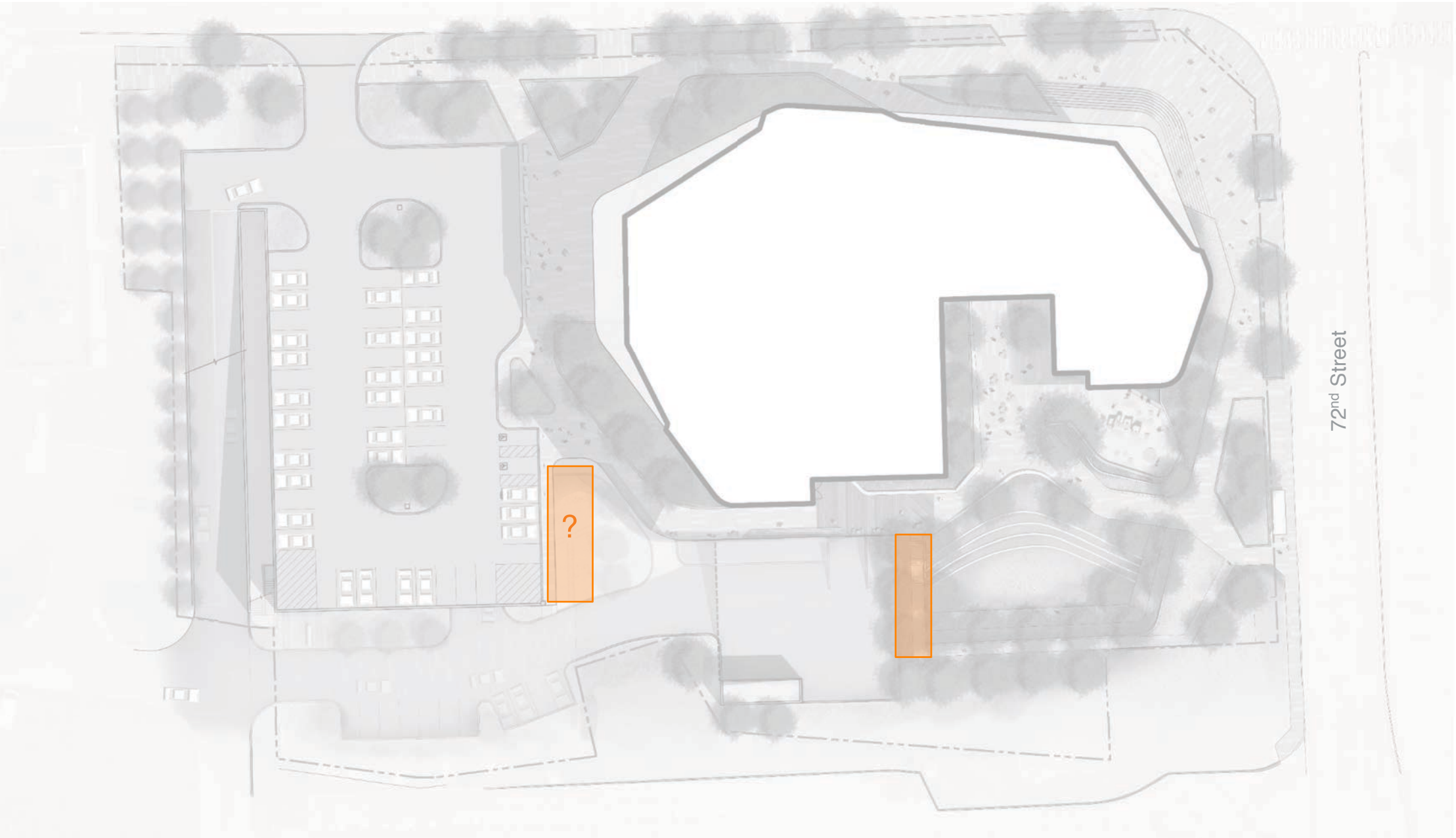
Art Engagement I Landscape



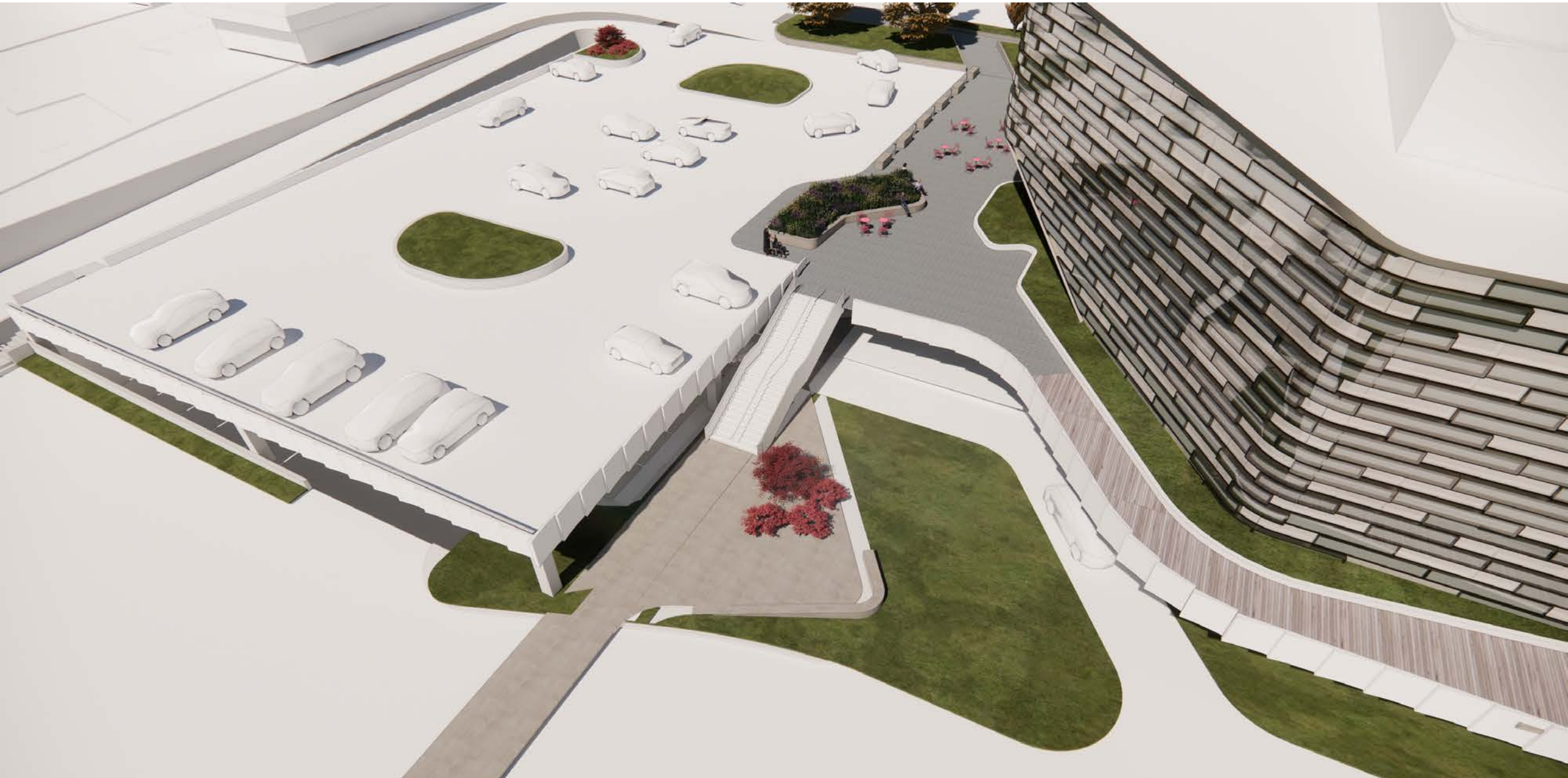
Art Engagement I Landscape

Art Engagement I Landscape

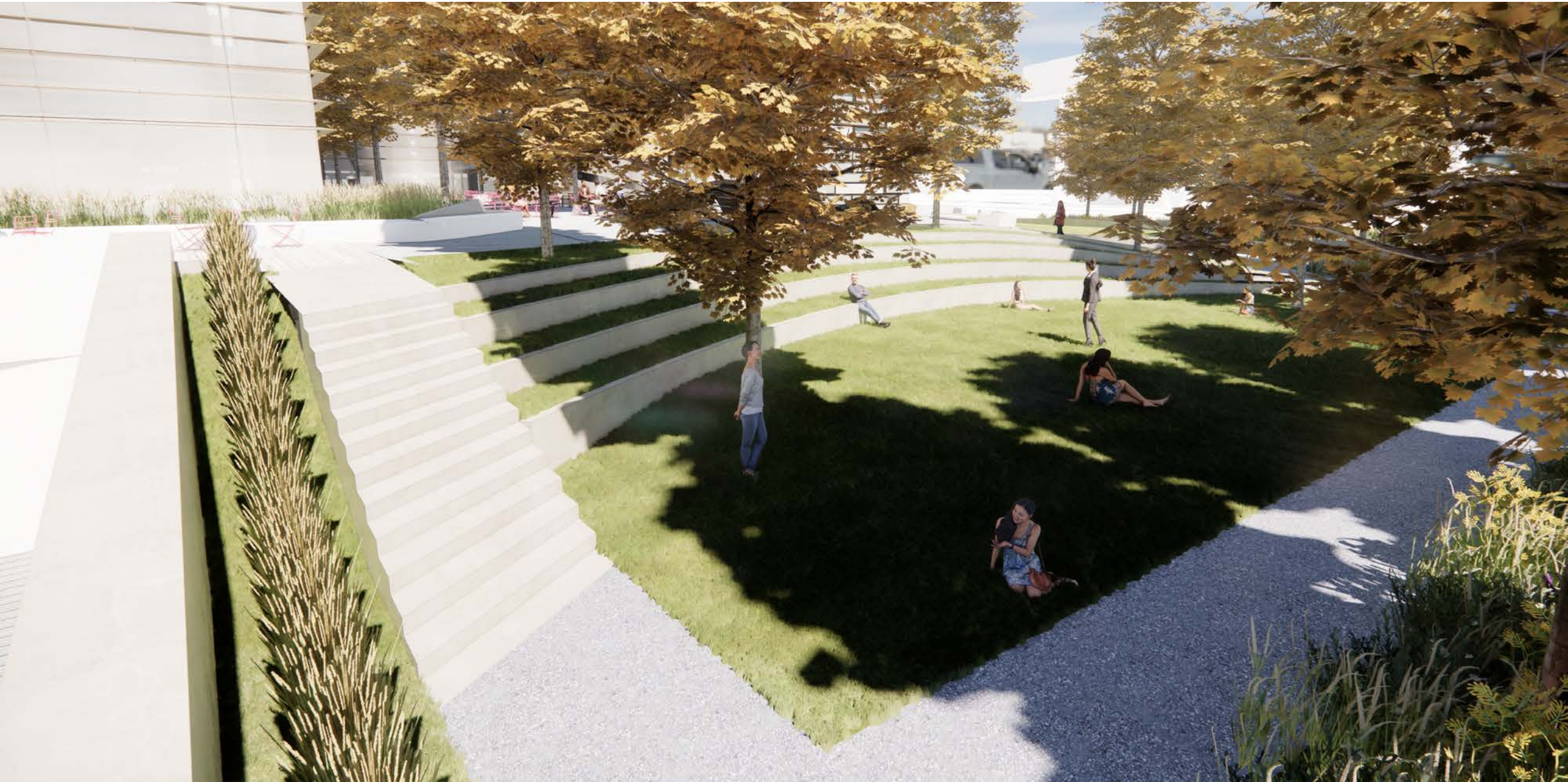
Art Engagement I Staircase



Art Engagement I Staircase



Art Engagement I Staircase



New Central Library I Exterior

New Central Library I Exterior

PUBLIC ARTWORK AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

- Wall Work
- Free-Standing Work
- Integrated Work

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WALL WORK

The Central Library has flat wall surfaces that can accommodate individual works or series. Some examples of Wall Work include:

- Photography
- Printmaking
- Painting
- Fiber art
- Ceramics
- Murals
- Mosaics

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FREE-STANDING WORK

Work that can be experienced in the round. Some examples of Free-Standing Work might include the following in any media:

- Sculpture
- Assemblage
- Installation
- And floor and/or ceiling video projection

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DO space

INTEGRATED WORK

The Central Library has a children's play space and a calming station that includes sound and digital imagery. Integrated Work that enhances these spaces might include:

- Calming sound and/or field recordings
- Calming moving and/or still digital imagery
- Kid-friendly play sculpture and/or soft sculpture

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Swiss
Graphic
Design

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND:

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- This application process has been designed to allow flexibility.
- It gives artists agency in shaping how the Central Library looks, feels, and how it's used.
- Collaboration will play a central role in fully realizing each project and selected applicants will work directly with OPL staff and the building design team.
- An openness to thoughtful dialogue, and reflection is a must!

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BUDGET

Budget Tiers

- Tier 1: $5,000 - $10,000
- Tier 2: $10,000 - $30,000
- Tier 3: $30,000 - $50,000
- Tier 4: $50,000 - $75,000
- Tier 5: $75,000 - $100,000

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ELIGIBILITY

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TO BE ELIGIBLE:

- You must live in the Omaha Metro Area (Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, and Saunders counties in Nebraska, and Pottawattamie, Mills, and Harrison counties in Iowa)
- You must be at least 18 years old
- You must submit a complete application including an Artist Statement, a Project Description, a Budget, a Work Sample, and Works Cited Page.

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COLLABORATIVE GROUPS ARE ELIGIBLE IF:

- At least one member of the group meets the eligibility requirements outlined above.
- The group is not incorporated into a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- Members of the group are committed to working on a deeply collaborative level to advance the goals of the group, rather than those of the individuals within the group

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PLEASE CONSIDER:

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- The selection process is set up to favor applicants who talk about meaningful relationships to libraries as spaces for learning, connection, and community building in their Artist Statement.

- Our goal is to award at least 51% of all opportunities to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, or citizenship status. Applicants who reflect our city's diverse populations, yet remain underrepresented in public artwork collections, such as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color); LGBTQIA+ Identifying People; and Disabled People are strongly encouraged to apply.

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APPLICATION MATERIALS

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FIVE COMPONENTS

- Artist Statement
- Project Description
- Budget Tier
- Work Sample
- Works Cited Page

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ARTIST STATEMENT

- A clear, concise statement that talks about your work and your experience with library spaces
- Narrative written in the first person, or the I/we perspective
- Around 500 words or you can upload upload an audio / video recording of your response (4:00min max)

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ARTIST STATEMENT

Please answer:

- What questions motivate your practice?
- Why do you investigate those questions in your work?
- What is your relationship to libraries as spaces for learning, creative growth, community building, resource sharing, or otherwise?

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ARTIST STATEMENT

Please answer:

- If you have a special connection to any particular branch within the Omaha Public Library system, please talk about it!

- If you don't have a meaningful relationship to libraries as spaces for learning, creative growth, community building, resource sharing, or otherwise, why would you like to have this opportunity now?

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- A clear, concise statement with ideas about work you envision for the new Central Library building
- Narrative written in the first person, or the I/we perspective
- Around 1,000 words or you can upload upload an audio / video recording of your response (8:00min max)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please answer:

- What would you like to make? Do you envision contributing wall work, free-standing work, or integrated work?
- What materials can you envision using to create work for the Omaha Public Library's Central Library building?
- How much interior / exterior space do you envision your work occupying in the library building?

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please answer:

- How do you imagine your work will invite people to engage with Omaha Public Library and the Central Library on a deeper level?
- How do you respond to feedback and incorporate it into your work?

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BUDGET TIER

- Select a budget tier
  - Tier 1: $5,000 - $10,000
  - Tier 2: $10,000 - $30,000
  - Tier 3: $30,000 - $50,000
  - Tier 4: $50,000 - $75,000
  - Tier 5: $75,000 - $100,000

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BUDGET TIER

- Select a budget tier that accurately represents costs associated with the work you envision.
- Think about costs associated with prep work, preliminary research, supplies, labor, and artist and organizer fees.
- There is a budget template linked in the application that will help you estimate costs and select an appropriate budget tier.

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THINK ABOUT:

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- **Artist Fee(s) - 20%**
  Compensation to the artist or artists for time spent researching, designing, conceptualizing, and performing other forms of creative labor associated with developing their work. Please note: All participating and collaborating artists and organizers must be paid.*

- **Fabrication / Production - 20%**
  Can be paid to fabricators or producers hired by the artist / organizer, paid to the artist / organizer who completes their own fabrication or production, or a combination.

- **Project Installation / Execution - 20%**
  Includes all costs associated with site preparation, maintenance, rentals, lighting, community partnerships, etc.

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THINK ABOUT (CONTINUED):

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- **Documentation - 5%**
  Can include costs associated with purchasing photo and/or video equipment to creating documentation, contract fees to hire professional photographers and/or videographers, or a combination.

- **Travel - 5%**
  Includes gas, truck rentals, and all other travel costs associated with the project.

- **Contingency / Miscellaneous - 10%**
  A fund to pay for unforeseen project costs. If not used, can be paid to the artist / organizer.

- **Taxes - 20%**
  General guidance for independent contractors suggests budgeting approximately 20% of any payment over $600 back for taxes.

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IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING STARTED:

Consider establishing an hourly rate as a place to start:

Think of how much you need to make annually to live without financial panic. Then, divide that number by 1,500. As a general rule, artists who work 1,500 hours / year find financial sustainability.

For example, if you need to make $60,000 a year:

- $60,000 / 1,500 = $40 ($40 / hour would be your hourly rate)
- $40 x 8 = $320 ($320 would be your day rate)
- $320 x 5 = $1,600 ($1,600 would be your weekly rate)

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BUDGET

Please keep in mind:

- If selected for an interview, you'll be asked to complete a line item budget with estimated costs that reflect the budget tier you select in your application.

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WORK SAMPLE

- Documentation of past or current work that supports your other application materials
- Consider both the breadth and depth of your sample and feel free to include detail and/or installation images
- Submit up to ten still images of your work, up to two audio and/or video samples, and up to two links to external sites where reviewers can see your work

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WORK SAMPLE

For still images:

- Upload up to ten JPG, TIFF, or PNG files. Files should be sized at a minimum of 1920 pixels on the longest side and no larger than 5.0MB maximum
- Still images might include photographic documentation of static works, including installation shots and detail shots, and photographic documentation of performance or socially engaged work
- When labeling your files, please use this format: Lastname_Firstname_01 (e.g. Doe_Jane_01)

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WORK SAMPLE

For audio and/or video:

- Upload up to two MP3, WAV, AAC, MOV or MP4 files. The combined total running time of audio and video samples should not exceed 5:00 minutes
- Audio and/or video samples might include sound, film, and/or video work, reels, documentation of installation, performance, kinetic sculpture, or socially engaged work
- When labeling your files, please use the following format: Lastname_Firstname_01 (e.g. Doe_Jane_01)

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WORK SAMPLE

For links to external sites:

- Submit up to two links to external sites like your artist website, social media page, Soundcloud, YouTube, and/or Vimeo pages.
- Please make sure these sites are accessible, active, and not password protected.

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WORKS CITED PAGE

- A one page document that tells reviewers more about your work sample(s) including all that apply in the following order:
    - File Name
    - Title of the work
    - Date created
    - Medium and dimensions
    - Names of collaborators (if applicable)

- Please list works in the same order that they appear in your work sample

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WORKS CITED PAGE

Please consider:

- You can also include a short summary (1-2 sentences) of the work for each entry in your Works Cited Page that:
    - Gives context
    - Describes the location(s) of the work
    - Clarifies your role
    - Clarifies your collaborators' roles, if applicable

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QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS APPLICATION?

- Attend an in-person info session at Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture (1516 Cuming St) at May 8th from 6:30pm - 8pm (visit www.amplifyarts.org to register)

- Sign up to meet with Amplify staff on Zoom during Virtual Application Office Hours either May 13th from 6pm - 8pm or May 23 from 11am - 1pm for one-on-one support (visit www.amplifyarts.org to register)

- Email info@amplifyarts.org or message us on Instagram

- *The application is available in English and Spanish

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BEFORE YOU APPLY

- Read through the application a couple of times and reach out to info@amplifyarts.org with any questions.
- Ask someone whose feedback you value to look over your materials and be open to edits.
- Double check your file sizes and consider the sequence of your work sample.

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SELECTION PROCESS

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APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED IN FOUR PHASES:

1. Amplify Arts staff will review to ensure applicants meet eligibility requirements and have submitted a complete application.

2. All eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by an external panel of arts professionals.

3. Top ranking applications will be reviewed by a panel of representatives from Central Library stakeholder groups to be considered for interviews.

4. Applicants selected for interviews will meet with representatives from Central Library stakeholder groups who will make final selections.

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APPLICATION REVIEWS

Reviewers use a 1-5 scoring matrix based on the following criteria:

- The Artist Statement enhances an understanding of the artist's practice and their relationship to libraries as spaces for learning, creative growth, community building, and resource sharing.

- The Project Description describes materially and conceptually rich work that will enhance the physical space of the Central Library.

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APPLICATION REVIEWS

Reviewers use a 1-5 scoring matrix based on the following criteria (continued):

- The Budget tier selected inspires confidence in the artist's capacity to realize their work.
- The Work Sample illustrates a history of past work that inspires confidence in the artist’s capacity to realize new work for Omaha Public Library’s new Central Library building.

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SELECTION TIMELINE

- **June 9; 11:59pm**: Applications Close
- **June 10 - July**: Application Review
- **August**: Initial application status updates will be delivered and interviews (for selected applicants) will be coordinated.
- **September**: Final application status updates will be delivered.

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IF YOU'RE SELECTED FOR AN INTERVIEW:

- You'll use the budget template offered in the application to complete a line item budget with estimated costs that reflect the budget tier you selected in your application.

- You'll also be asked to provide a professional CV or resume that outlines your past projects, exhibitions, collaborations, etc. and two references, ideally people who know you well and with whom you've worked in the past.

- Please update your CV and contact references early in case you are selected for an interview.

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IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SELECTED:

You can anticipate beginning work in September of 2024. Here's a timeline with dates and milestones:

- **September 2024 - December 2024: Contract and Design Phase**
  - You'll research, develop, and refine your proposed work in collaboration with the Central Library design team.

- **January 2025 - December 2025: Production and Installation Planning Phase**
  - You'll focus on the production and fabrication during this phase. You'll also work with the Central Library design team and Amplify Arts staff to plan and consider the logistics of installing your work.

- **January 2026: Installation Phase**
  - You'll work with the Central Library design team and Amplify Arts staff to install your work in the new Central Library building before it opens to the public.

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SELECTED APPLICANTS CAN ALSO EXPECT TO:

- Complete a contract before funds are distributed. All awards in amounts of $600 and more are considered taxable income by the IRS and selected artists will receive a 1099 form for tax purposes.

- Complete a narrative evaluation that describes their experience after their work has been installed.

- Receive recognition via announcements on digital platforms and in press and news outlets. They may be invited to events associated with the Central Library's opening and have the opportunity to engage with the public and talk about their work.

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APPLY AT WWW.AMPLIFYARTS.ORG

OR

WWW.OMAHACENTRALLIBRARY.ORG

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THANK YOU!

OPL'S Central Library Partners:

- Omaha Public Library
- City of Omaha
- Omaha Public Library Foundation
- Heritage Omaha
- Do Space
- HDR
- Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture

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