

**NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Gateway and Heritage Markers
Concept Master Plan**

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and the Portland Office of Transportation
Portland, Oregon



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Section One: Executive Summary

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Master Plan supports the ongoing efforts of area residents and business owners to enhance the unique identity of Portland's inner northeast neighborhoods.

The Concept Master Plan project aims to fulfill the goals of long standing community plans including the Albina Community Plan (1993), Eliot Neighborhood Plan (1993), Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Transportation Project (1998), and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Action Plan (2006).

Intended to encourage economic and civic vitality along the boulevard corridor north of Broadway, these plans include the following goals:

- Identification of a “gateway” into northeast Portland neighborhoods to strengthen the area’s distinctive identity
- Enhancement of the pedestrian experience along the boulevard
- Celebration of the area’s diverse architectural and cultural heritage
- Involvement by a diversity of stakeholders in the decision-making process

In support of these goals the Portland Development Commission (PDC), in partnership with the Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT), has worked with community participants to develop a Concept Master Plan for redevelopment of a gateway site at the convergence of NE Grand Ave. and NE Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd. and for the creation of a series of heritage markers located north along the boulevard.

A competitive selection process involving PDC staff and community representatives identified



NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.corridor



The Gateway Site; looking northwest

a multi-disciplinary consultant team to assist the community in creation of the Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Master Plan. Guided by a Stakeholder Advisory Group, the team conducted a variety of community outreach efforts including a series of three public open house events. Public input collected at these events, along with additional comments received through the project website and distributed comment cards, helped to shape the final Concept Master Plan.

The purpose of the Concept Master Planning process was to confirm standing community goals, gather current public input to guide the ongoing process, assess current site conditions and provide a direction for the next phase of work by



The Gateway Site; property outlined above is currently owned by the Portland Office of Transportation.

establishing desired functions for the gateway site and heritage markers.

Through the review and critique of multiple concept alternatives, community participants identified the primary functions of the gateway and heritage markers as:

- The creation of a clear “threshold”, announcing arrival to a unique district of Portland and the emphasis of this distinct character along the boulevard
- The preservation, interpretation and celebration of a broad and inclusive history of the area’s cultural communities



Proposed improvements at the Gateway Site
 (Aerial photo used in rendering by Bruce Forster
 Photography, 2008)

Additional community recommendations included:

- Recognize multiple audiences (visitors, residents, businesses)
- Talk about the future as well as the past
- Focus on local stories/neighborhoods, with reference to Dr. King as a secondary layer
- Focus on elements that educate
- Incorporate the ability to add, change or access additional information
- Emphasize way-finding benefits
- Emphasize visibility of components
- Use materials that are high quality, durable and easily maintained

CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

The final Concept Master Plan provides a strong transition between the predominately commercial areas of the Lloyd and Convention Center Districts, and the well established neighborhoods and business districts of N/NE Portland.

Gateway Site

Three primary components establish the gateway site: beacon, landform, and plaza. Approaching the site moving north along Grand Avenue, a sculptural entry beacon sits on axis with Grand, clearly marking the approaching gateway site. As the roadway enters the gateway site to converge with NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, strong landforms rise on either side, emphasizing a sense of passage and transition. Balancing the green landforms, a small plaza occupies the eastern edge of the site. Here area residents can sit for lunch while visitors discover the stories of area communities told at the base of the entry sculpture. A grove of shade trees occupies the northern edge of the plaza, providing shade, seasonal interest and a backdrop for the entry beacon.

Heritage Markers

In addition to improvements at the gateway site, a series of heritage markers are integrated into the boulevard streetscape. These markers complement improvements at the gateway site and extend the stories of the neighborhoods north along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

The Concept Master Plan depicts a system including two types of heritage markers. Tall columns placed sequentially along the boulevard display large historic images. Lit at night, these markers have a scale and presence relevant at vehicular speeds. A series of smaller in-ground plaque markers complement the columns, providing information and directions at a pedestrian scale. The markers are located to correspond with points of historic interest in the surrounding community corridor.

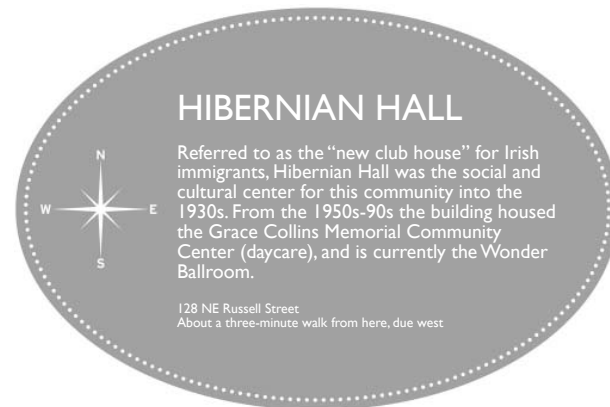
This system of heritage markers encourages the community to honor individuals, cultural and historical events, or topics of significance to the inner northeast neighborhoods of Portland. The markers also serve as a wayfinding device while enhancing the pedestrian experience of the boulevard.

As envisioned through the public process, the final Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Master Plan focuses on the preservation of the area's rich and culturally diverse history to enhance community image, promote a vibrant business district, improve the pedestrian experience along the boulevard, attract visitors and educate residents, both old and new, as to the struggles and achievements of the diverse communities that have historically called this area home.

The final Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Master Plan Report will serve as the foundation for ongoing work as PDC continues to secure funding for the final design and construction of this important community project.



Lighting transforms tall column markers into historic beacons along the boulevard at night



Sidewalk markers provide additional information as well as directions to points of historic significance in the neighborhoods bordering the boulevard

Section Two : Introduction

PURPOSE

The Concept Master Plan lays a foundation for the design and development of a gateway to Portland's inner NE neighborhoods that will establish itself as both a distinct landmark and a source of civic pride. In addition, the project includes the development of a series of heritage markers along NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, using the street to tell the stories of communities historically surrounding the boulevard.

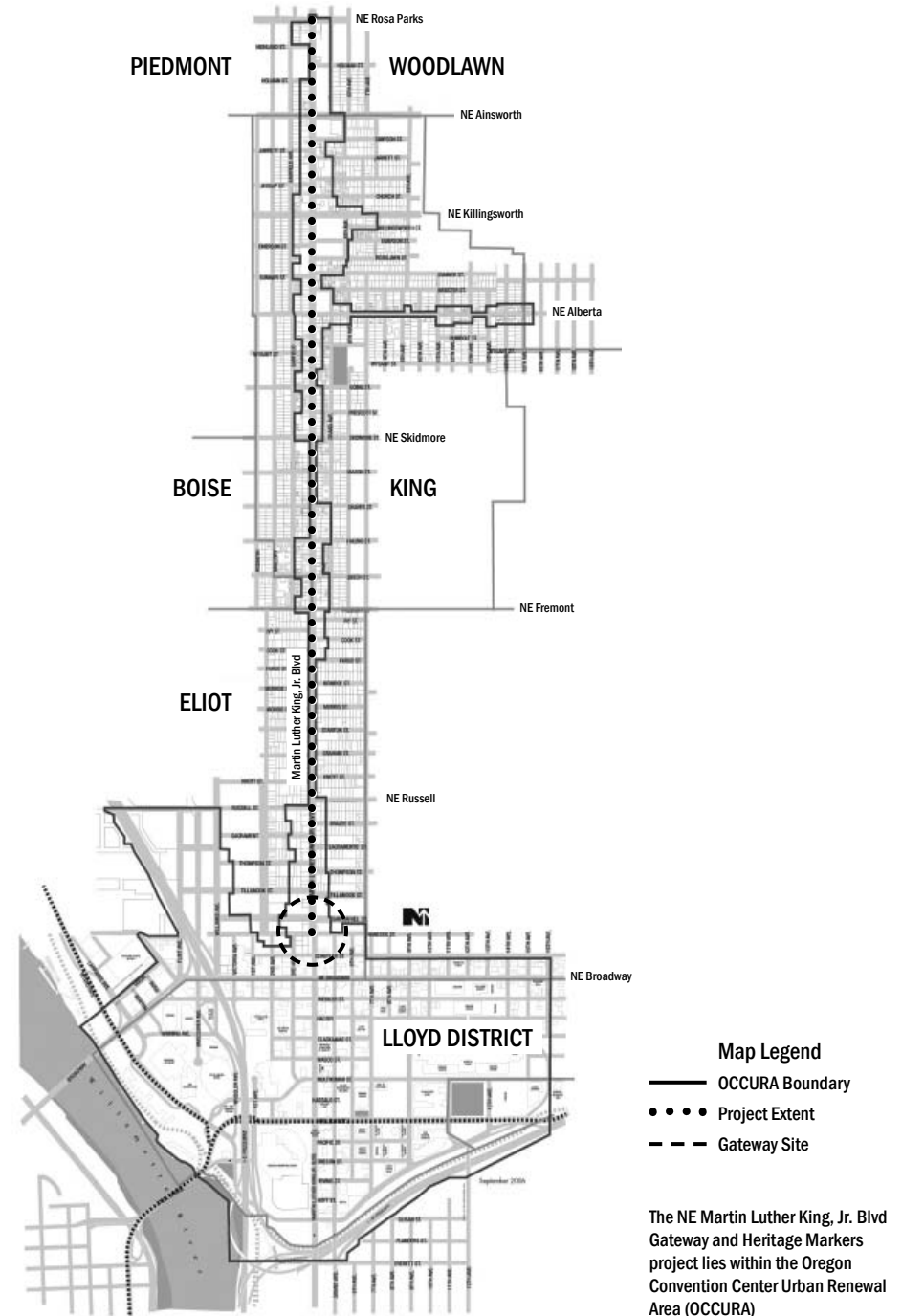
The Concept Master Plan Report updates site analysis information, identifies technical challenges, clarifies current community goals and provides direction on the function and programming for both the gateway site and heritage markers. The report also includes a broad overview of area history and source references as an introduction to this area's rich and diverse history.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The gateway site flanks NE Grand Ave. as it converges with NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. at NE Hancock St. The larger of two parcels is triangular-shaped, approximately 15,500 square feet, bound by NE Schuyler Street, NE Hancock Street and NE Grand Avenue and is owned by the City of Portland's Office of Transportation.

The project area also includes the streetscape of NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard extending from the gateway site north to Rosa Parks Avenue. This section of the boulevard intersects the current neighborhoods of Piedmont, Woodlawn, King, Boise, and Eliot.

Ongoing work on this community project is funded through the PDC Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Area (OCCURA).



Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
corridor looking north



Market on NE Martin Luther King,
Jr. Blvd



Should others outside the OCCURA wish to continue the heritage markers, other resources will need to be identified.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The origin of the Gateway and Heritage Marker Concept Master Plan can be found in previous community planning efforts begun over a decade ago by area residents and business owners. These planning documents include The Albina Community Plan (1993), Eliot Neighborhood Plan (1993), Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Transportation Project (1998), and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Action Plan (2006).

Albina Community Plan (1993)

Adopted by the Portland City Council in July of 1993, The Albina Community Plan represented a comprehensive effort by citizens of NE Portland in collaboration with the Portland Bureau of Planning to chart the future development of their communities. Included in this comprehensive plan were the following goals and action items:

- Reinforce Albina's identity...celebrate its special diverse architectural and cultural character
- Provide opportunities for people outside of the district to experience the positive characteristics of the Albina Community
- Strengthen the Albina Community's sense of place through the promotion of its art, history and culture
- Identity and protect the Albina Community's significant historic districts, ensembles, sites and structures and other features
- Develop district and neighborhood gateways that mark the entrances in the Albina Community Plan area
- Develop a unified streetscape plan for NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

- Improve the appearance of the boulevard and enhance the experience of pedestrians

Eliot Neighborhood Plan (1993)

Adopted in 1993 the Eliot Neighborhood plan suggested the development of a park as a gateway at or near the area bounded by NE Hancock, NE Broadway, NE King and NE Grand including a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While a park was not established at the gateway site at this time, a memorial sculpture of Dr. King was commissioned and installed at the Convention Center plaza in 1998.

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Transportation Project Report (1998)

Issued in April, 1998 by the Portland Development Commission, the Portland Office of Transportation, Metro and the Oregon Department of Transportation, this report engaged hundreds of local residents, business owners, property owners, and developers in identifying right of way improvements that would benefit area neighborhoods and businesses. Design recommendations supported by the report include:

- The creation of gateways that enhance the distinctive identity of NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
- Support of elements contributing to a pedestrian-friendly environment

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Strategy Update and Action Plan (2006)

Developed by the Portland Development Commission in partnership with the Bureau of Planning, Bureau of Development Services and the Portland Office of Transportation this action plan was approved by the Commission in June, 2006.



Highway traffic safety signs currently at the Gateway Site

Goals, strategies and actions supported by the plan include:

- Develop a corridor that promotes local wealth creation, engages and benefits a diverse group of stakeholders and creates a livable and functional main street
- Practice broad, inclusive public involvement
- Highlight the image and market on NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
- Implement goal in the Albina Community Plan of creating a gateway into inner northeast neighborhoods north of Broadway

The development of a gateway site and heritage markers along the Boulevard serves a number of community planning goals. NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd continues to function as a major arterial thoroughfare moving north and southbound traffic. Despite its Main Street designation, it is not perceived as a pedestrian friendly boulevard. The installation of the gateway and heritage markers will improve the streetscape and help emphasize NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd's role as a historic center of the community and as a vital corridor to work, shop, and recreate.

Gateway Site looking northwest - traffic signs and temporary art



Section Three: Background

Union Avenue once served as a major streetcar route during the 1920s and 1930s. The streetcar lines were replaced by public buses in 1948.

THE STUDY AREA

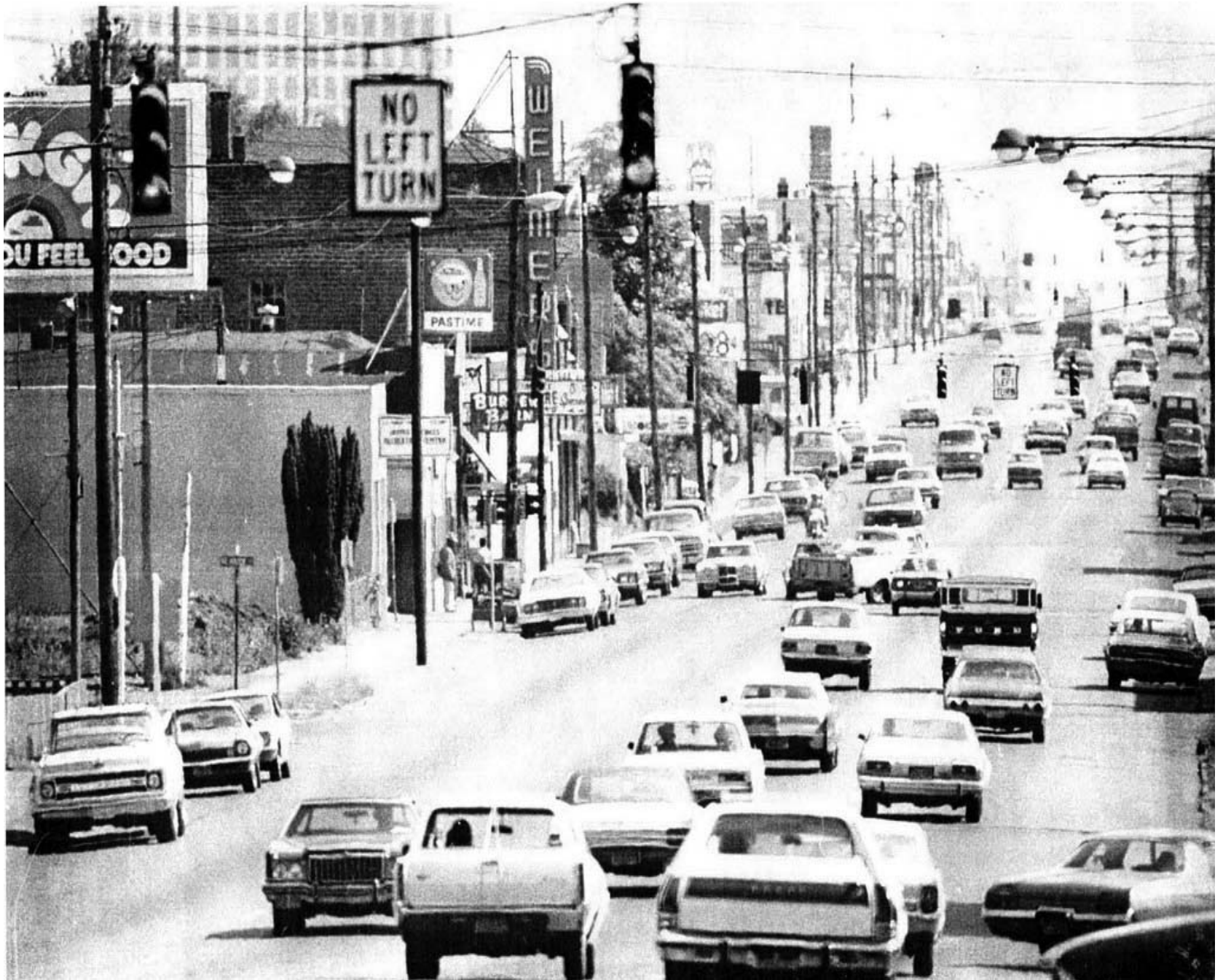
The project area resides within the Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Area, located northeast of downtown Portland, and within the Albina Community Plan area. Beginning with the gateway site at the convergence of NE Grand Ave. and NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, the study area extends north along the boulevard to Rosa Parks Way.

Bisecting the Albina Community, this section of the boulevard encompasses a rich past. Originally part of state highway 99E, the street formed one small segment of the west coast's most important avenue of north-south mobility and commerce, the Pacific Highway. With the construction of Interstate 5 in the late 1960's, traffic flow was diverted from US 99E and the highway was ultimately decommissioned in the late 1980's. Called Union Avenue at the time, the street continued to serve as a major route of local and regional commerce.

In 1989 the name of the street was changed from Union Avenue to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to honor the well-known civil rights leader. Regional planners began urging the city to consider transitioning the street from its highway status to a main street in 1997, although the street continues to carry a high volume of traffic, currently carrying roughly 28,000 cars a day. NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard continues to maintain its relevance to regional commerce with Metro's 2040 Growth Concept designating the boulevard from Northeast Broadway Street to Northeast Columbia Boulevard as a regional center ripe for development.



Union Avenue looking south, shown here in 1975, was renamed Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in 1989 in honor of this civil rights leader. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.



As NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. continues to evolve, communities in the surrounding corridor continue to work to enhance the street's identity, function and character.

COMMUNITY HISTORY

NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd cuts a straight line north-south through the Albina Community. Originally the land of the Clackamas, Multnomah and Clatskanie people, the area underwent intense change with the introduction of settlements such as the City of Albina platted in 1872.

Since that time, this area has continued to serve as the home for diverse communities facing frequent and often dramatic change. People migrating to this area have often been drawn by economic opportunity as well as seeking political and/or religious freedom.

Historically the area has served as home to numerous communities including Native American, Irish, Scandinavian, African American, German Russian, and Eastern European. Each group created strong centers of community through their churches, businesses, and neighborhoods.

Historic events have both challenged and galvanized these communities. World War II, the Great Depression, the Vanport flood, and the Civil Rights Movement all shaped these communities. Both national and local heroes arose as well contributing to these communities finding a strong civic voice.

Contemporary events have continued to bring change to the Albina Community. Construction of the Memorial Coliseum in 1956 took place in what was once the oldest part of the well-established African American community. In the 1960's the construction of Interstate 5 again fractured neighborhoods. An anticipated expansion of Emmanuel Hospital that was never fully realized, as well as the construction of the

Fremont Bridge ramps to Interstate 5 in the 1970's resulted in the demolition of countless residences and businesses significant to the remaining African American community.

Today, this area is again in transition. An increase of White and Latino residents, as well as an influx of new young entrepreneurs, has seen a corresponding decrease in the once vibrant African American community. While home ownership has risen and crime is abating, a subsequent increase in the price of area property and rents has forced many longtime residents and businesses to relocate once again.

An area of frequent transition, the resulting history embedded in the North/Northeast neighborhoods intersected by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard is a rich and diverse one. The ongoing challenge for area communities focuses on how best to preserve this rich history while guiding future community development.



Platted in 1872, the original town site of Albina became home to a succession of Polish, Irish, Scandinavian, German-Russian and African American communities.



The 1960s brought activities of the Civil Rights Movement to the Portland such as this 1963 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) march in the Albina neighborhood.



"The Flooded City Undaunted"; this 1948 photo depicts a Rose Festival float following the flood that decimated the largely African-American community living in Vanport.

PROJECT CONTEXT

The Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Plan intersects five Portland neighborhoods: Eliot, Boise, King, Piedmont and Woodlawn. While the project lies within the Albina Community Plan area, it is also strongly influenced by, and has the potential to impact, a larger community context.

South of the gateway site are both the Oregon Convention Center and Lloyd District. A landmark gateway site and improved pedestrian experience supports the attraction of visitors from these major centers into the business corridor surrounding NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

In addition, the gateway site and heritage markers will have a strong historical connection to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial, “The Dream”, located at the Oregon Convention Center. Building on the civic pride surrounding this installation, it is hoped that the gateway project can attract people north across Broadway Avenue to explore the community that was home not only to the local Civil Rights Movement, but to communities that continue to pursue his ideals of social and economic equality for all.

To the north of the current project area the neighborhoods of Eliot, Boise, King, Woodlawn, and Piedmont all hold similarly rich and diverse histories to be told. The northern extension of the boulevard also leads to the Delta Park area, the historic home of Native People along the Lower Columbia River, and later the site of the war-time housing development of Vanport.

Major intersections along the boulevard also provide important east-west connections linking the corridor to the thriving business districts along

Williams and Mississippi to the west and Alberta to the east. These primary intersections also provide surrounding neighborhoods with freeway access to Interstate 5 to the west.

Institutions such as Portland Community College and Legacy Hospital provide key employment and educational opportunities in the area.

CURRENT PROJECT BOUNDARY

The Gateway and Heritage Markers Project begins at the convergence of NE Grand Avenue and NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard at NE Hancock and extends along the boulevard north to Rosa Parks Way.

Current planning for the project is funded through the Portland Development Commission’s Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Area (OCCURA). Tax increment financing within such Urban Renewal Areas (URAs) provide funds that may then be re-invested in the URA that generated them. The current OCCURA, which includes the gateway site and NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. as it continues north of Broadway, terminates at the boulevard’s intersection with Rosa Parks Way.

MASTER PLAN PROCESS

To assist the community in developing a Concept Master Plan, a multidisciplinary consultant team was identified through a competitive selection process. Managed by the Portland Development Commission, this process included representatives of public agencies, area business owners and community representatives, including citizens involved in previous community planning .

Following selection of the consultant team, a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) was created to guide the planning process. Including area citizens, business owners, and neighborhood representatives this committee was charged with an active advisory role, providing the consultant team and PDC with critical feedback throughout the process.

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was also assembled representing agencies and individuals to provide key technical information and review of ongoing Master Plan work. The TAG was charged with identifying technical issues and opportunities that might impact implementation of alternatives.

Planning progressed in three phases:

- Phase I - Research
- Phase II - Concept Alternatives
- Phase III - Master Plan Refinement

The initial Research phase included the review of previous planning documentation, extensive site analysis, research of the area history, and the exploration of ideas relevant to the “gateway” and “marker” components.

Following public review of Phase I work, the team developed three conceptual alternatives for both the gateway site and heritage markers. Each alternative presented unique elements and functions, providing a variety of options for public input. (See Appendix B for concept alternatives)

The concept alternatives were also reviewed with visiting professor Craig Barton, Chair of the Department of Architecture & Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia. With broad experience in issues of cultural preservation and their interpretation through urban design,

Beginning at the convergence of NE Grand Ave. and NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. the project continues to Rosa Parks Way, intersecting five inner Northeast neighborhoods along the boulevard corridor.



Craig Barton brought to the team insights on assisting communities in the preservation and interpretation of their significant cultural resources.

Based on subsequent work sessions, on-going public feedback and technical advisory review, a refined Concept Master Plan was developed and presented for final public comment.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

As an extension of ongoing community planning efforts that began over a decade ago, the Concept Master Plan relied on an interactive public process to confirm community goals, clarify the desired function of the gateway site and heritage markers, and build public awareness of current efforts.

In addition to active community participation on the SAG Committee, community outreach included three public events, one held during each of the critical planning phases. Through presentations, interactive work-sessions and open house displays,

community members were engaged to review project research, critique the concept alternatives and guide the refinement of the final Concept Master Plan.

An iterative review process was used, in which the team's work was first reviewed by the SAG Committee, with feedback incorporated and work refined as necessary for presentation at the Public Events. Public comments were then gathered and summarized for consideration by the SAG Committee as project refinement continued. This iterative process ensured inclusion, accountability and a lively community dialogue throughout the planning process.

Additional public outreach during the project included participation in community events such as the City Hall Takeover, a community celebration of NE Portland businesses, civic groups and artists, as well as the annual Good in the Neighborhood event, an annual multicultural music and food festival held in N/NE Portland.

The public was further engaged through the distribution of project mailers to area residents, the display of project posters at area businesses to raise project awareness, and the display of project materials at area businesses to garner feedback. Public comment cards were distributed at public events and an interactive PDC project website was maintained to collect additional community input. (See Appendix C)



Interactive charrettes engaged community members in critiquing concept alternatives.



Community members participated in a series of three public events including presentations, working session and open house displays.

Section Four : Research

HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS

The history of the inner North and Northeast neighborhoods intersected by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard is a rich and diverse one. The people who migrated to this area often shared a common desire for personal and political freedom and economic opportunity. They were also divided at times by racial and ethnic prejudices as they struggled to find common ground. Historically the area was home to Native American, Irish, Scandinavian, African American, German Russian, and Eastern European communities. Each group established strong ties to the area and built a sense of community pride through their neighborhoods, churches, community centers, schools, and businesses. Significant human and natural events such as exploration and the fur trade, westward migration, world wars and civil wars, the Great Depression, the Vanport flood, and the Civil Rights Movement shaped all of these communities over time.

The Clackamas, Multnomah, and Clatskanie people—connected by language to the Upper Chinookan—were the original inhabitants of the land that became the city of Albina. With a rich economy based on fishing, hunting, and gathering roots and other plant foods, the region's Native residents thrived for thousands of years. Living in cedar plank homes, these indigenous people traveled rivers by cedar log canoes, inhabiting the land that is now Portland, the Delta Park area, and Sauvie Island. Non-native explorers and settlers arrived by sea and overland, and brought diseases that decimated, but did not eliminate the native people. Settlers took most of the Native's ancestral lands through legislation like the Donation Land



Originally the site of the Eliot Grade School, the Knott Street Community Center opened in 1950. In the late 1960s, the local community successfully lobbied to name the center after Matt Dishman, the first African-American Multnomah County sheriff and police officer in the city of Portland.



Albina residents protest in 1973 during the proposed expansion of Emanuel Hospital.



Consecration of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, June 10, 1928

Union Pacific boiler shop crew,
circa 1894



Albina railcar shop for Union
Pacific, circa 1900



Claim Act of 1850. In fact, a donation land claim provided the land for the industrial city of Albina, annexed by Portland in 1891, which is the site for much of the area history included in the Gateway and Heritage Marker Concept Master Plan.

Industrialization swept across the United States in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, fundamentally altering the cultural and economic fabric of the country. Steamships facilitated both commercial trade with, and the migration of new settlers to, the young metropolis of Portland. Businessmen and politicians founded the city of Albina on the east banks of the Willamette River to serve as the center for their railroad and industrial enterprises. Once Portland became a western terminus for the Transcontinental Railroad, the need for skilled and semi-skilled workers in the Albina rail yards grew dramatically. Albina's population swelled from 143 in 1880 to over 3,000

eight years later. Immigrants from China, Ireland, Poland, Germany and the Scandinavian countries, as well as Germans from Russia flocked to the city of Albina to fill jobs with the railroad, and other industrial jobs of the developing region.

Passenger travel by rail also increased during the late nineteenth century. Despite the existence of "Exclusionary Laws" in the Oregon State Constitution, clauses that prohibited Blacks from moving to the state, African Americans still found work as porters, cooks, and wait staff on passenger railcars. Many African American men were actively recruited from North and South Carolina to staff the restaurant, barber shop, and other service jobs at the grand Portland Hotel, which opened in downtown Portland in 1890.

These primary places of employment for African Americans provided enough economic stability to have their families join them in Portland

and served as the foundation of Portland's African American community although the exclusionary laws remained part of the Oregon Constitution until 1926.

New workers arriving needed housing and small commercial businesses to supply their basic needs. Modest single-family dwellings, apartment houses for single working men, and commercial buildings were constructed from the low land along the riverfront to the bluff overlooking the Willamette River and the rail yards, and beyond to the flat "prairie" that stretched to the east. As new immigrants arrived in the area, they populated these new "streetcar suburbs" and brought their native languages, cultures, and customs with them. In the early twentieth century, many languages could be heard along then Union Avenue. Volga Germans from Russia were so prevalent in the stretch between Fremont and Shaver and Williams and 15th Streets that it was called "Little Russia." Neighborhood grocery stores were abundant and carried traditional foods for their German Russian, Polish, and Scandinavian patrons.

The built environment tells much of the history of the north and northeast neighborhoods along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Fraternal lodges provided social space for immigrant populations to gather and share their native language, music, and dance as they reveled in tradition and adopted new customs. When those populations moved on, the same buildings served similar purposes for new groups that followed.

Churches were the spiritual center of these communities and also served as social centers for both newcomers and long-time residents. By the mid-twentieth century, discriminatory real estate and banking practices had restricted African Americans to the Albina area and many African American churches and their pastors found themselves standing at the heart of the Civil Rights Movement as the city's Black citizens fought for access to equality in government,



Portland Hotel, 1890-1951

housing, education, and employment. Schools have also always held a prominent place in the area, educating generations of neighborhood children, and sometimes conducting night classes to teach English to immigrants, or providing other adult education courses.

World War II served as the catalyst for a second mass migration to Portland. Edgar Kaiser recruited tens of thousands of workers from around the country to work at the Swan Island and Vancouver shipyards. In support of the shipyards, housing developments were built in and around Portland, the largest being Vanport. Portland's historically small African American population soared from a few thousand to more than twenty thousand as workers responded to Kaiser's call. A vibrant jazz and nightclub scene developed in the old Albina area along Williams and Vancouver



Waiters at the Portland Hotel Dining Room



The Kaiser shipyards at Swan Island; 1942-1945



Vanport, constructed in 1943, was home to roughly 40,000 people.

Avenues between Russell and Broadway. Mirroring a national history of discriminatory housing practices, most of Portland's Black workers were forced to reside in Vanport during the war, and remain there until May of 1948 when the flooding Columbia River wiped out Vanport forever. In the aftermath of the flood, African American residents were steered into housing within the old Albina city boundaries and largely confined there through the practice of red-lining by banks, real estate firms, and insurance companies.



Signs such as this at a North Portland diner, 1943, became common during the war years.



The community was destroyed May 30, 1948 when a dike broke on the Columbia River



Existing Gateway Site

The history of NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard—previously named Margaretta Street and Union Avenue—is also the history of a street. The boulevard has long functioned as a central route for the movement of people and goods, linking diverse communities even as modes of transportation changed over time. Early foot trails gave way to dirt roads, which in turn became streetcar lines with paved sidewalks. With the advent of the automobile came paved roadways and state highways. The street coupled with ferries served as the link between Oregon and Washington until the Interstate Bridge spanned the Columbia River in 1917. While the boulevard’s commerce

changed significantly with the construction of Interstate Ave. and the Minnesota Freeway (I-5), it continues to serve as a major arterial street.

Even recent changes to the street and surrounding neighborhoods in the 1980s, 1990s, and the early years of the 21st century, reflect the historical patterns of the area. Immigrants seeking a better life and opportunity continue to settle in the area, individuals and families resettle here from other parts of the country, and renovated and newly constructed commercial centers provide the necessary services for these new residents. They will form a new chapter in the rich and varied history that is North and Northeast Portland.



Mural along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd



Commercial building facades along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd

SITE ANALYSIS

Gateway Site

Site analysis research was conducted to update technical information and to inform the ongoing design process for both the gateway site and the heritage markers to be placed along NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

The primary 15,500 square foot gateway site is a triangular lot owned by the City of Portland's Office of Transportation. The site is bound by NE Schuyler Street, NE Hancock Street and NE Grand Avenue and is located in the Eliot neighborhood.

The site is zoned EXd (Central Employment with a design overlay). This zone implements the Central Employment map designation of the Comprehensive Plan. The zone allows mixed-uses and is intended for areas in the center of the City that have predominantly light industrial and commercial development.

Currently the site is landscaped with temporary vegetation and artistic elements that have become weathered and vandalized throughout the years. Current site conditions are primarily vegetated with adjacent streets crowned to drain stormwater to in-road drains along NE Grand and NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The site is bound on one side by NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., a high traffic volume corridor, while the other sides are surrounded by commercial development and surface parking lots.

Existing site elements to remain include a utility corridor accommodating an electrical tower and accompanying power lines, a series of traffic safety signs marking the s-curve on NE Grand Avenue and an existing billboard located directly behind the site, clearly visible on approach along NE Grand Avenue from the south. Additional site challenges include restricted pedestrian crossings due to unsafe conditions created by high traffic volumes and limited visibility.



Gateway site looking north;
Photo courtesy of Bruce Forster Photography, 2008

Site analysis diagrams illustrate existing conditions as well as opportunities for enhanced pedestrian crossings at the gateway site.

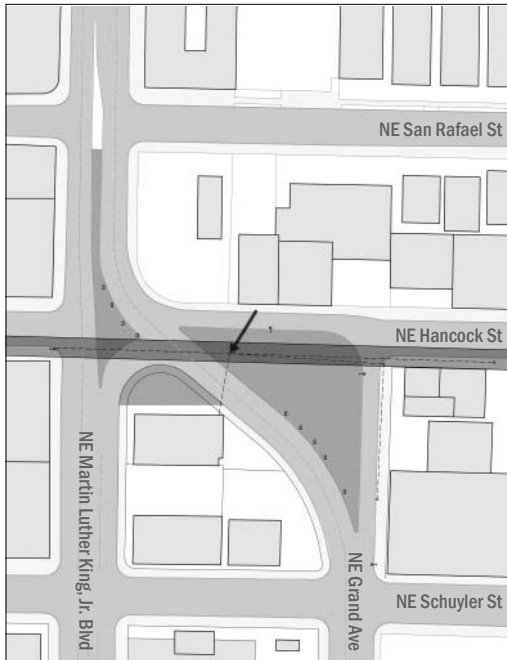


Figure 1: Existing powerline and easement

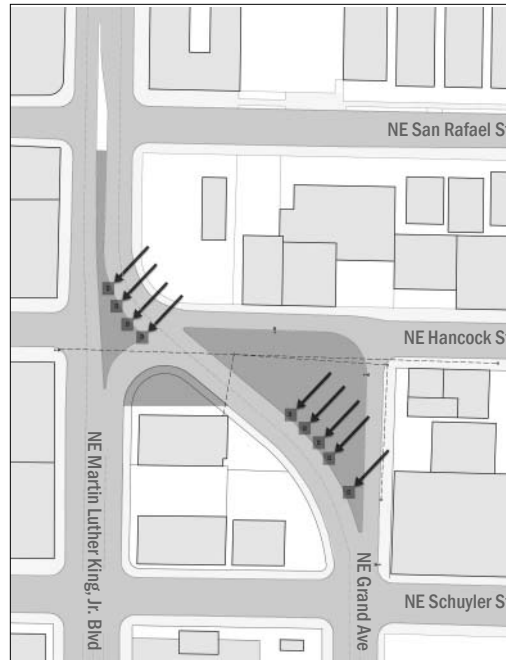


Figure 2: Existing traffic safety signs

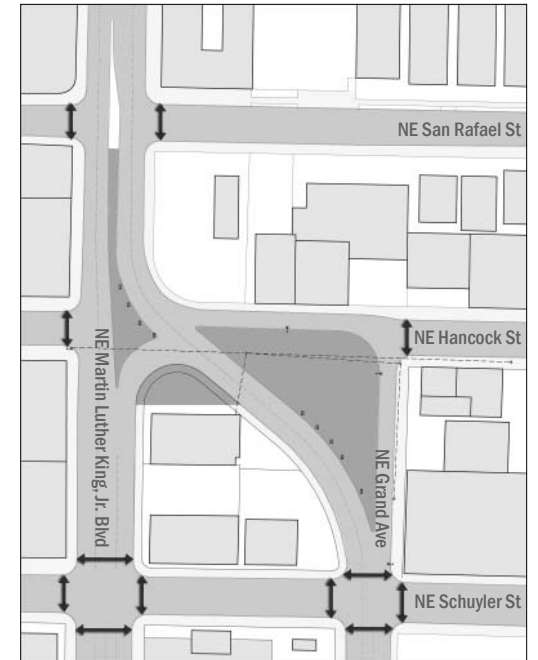


Figure 3: Existing PDOT approved crossing locations

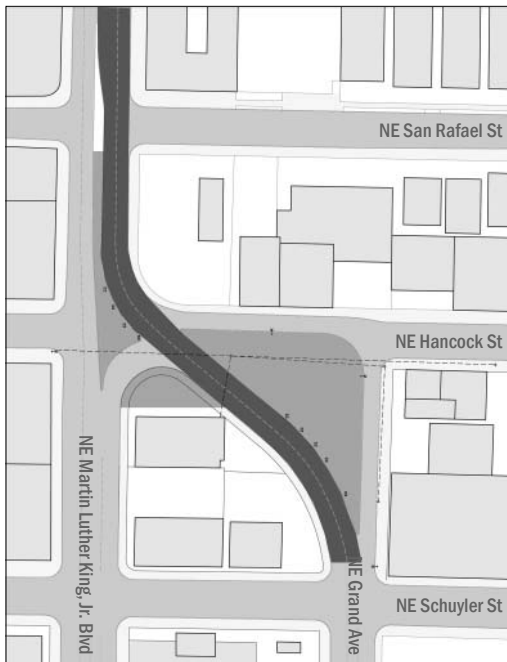


Figure 4: Existing PDOT designated no crossing zone



Figure 5: Proposed road closure

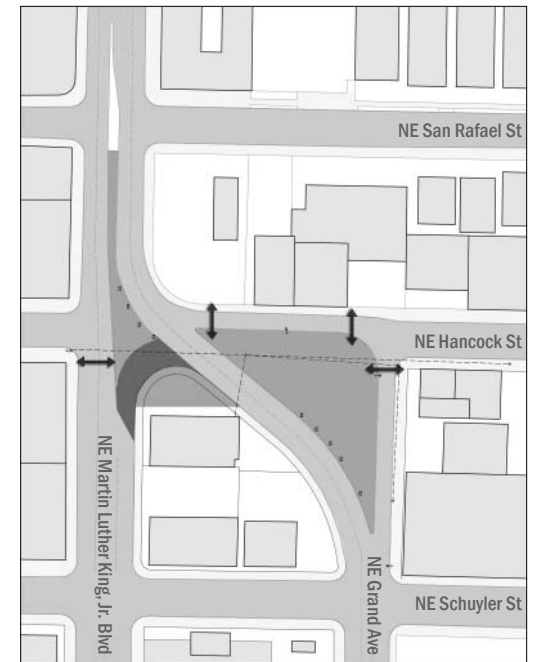


Figure 6: Proposed crossing locations

Opportunities for improving the pedestrian environment immediately surrounding the site were also examined. Closure of a minor road spur linking northbound Grand Avenue to southbound Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. could provide an additional pedestrian crossing opportunity on the boulevard (figure 6, pg. 30). The use of specialty paving at NE Hancock Street and NE Grand Avenue immediately adjacent to the site's north and east edge could slow traffic and visually tie these streets to the gateway site improvements. Sidewalk enhancements in this area, including curb cuts and street trees, could also further enhance the pedestrian experience along the site's northeastern edge (figure bottom right, this page).

All street and sidewalk improvements will require thorough review with City agencies, area residents and local businesses to assess potential impacts on business and neighborhood circulation.

Heritage Markers

The heritage markers are envisioned to be placed within the city's right-of-way along NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard unless other arrangements are agreed upon. The right-of-way zone includes the curb, furnishing zone, sidewalk and building frontage. The term "furnishing zone" refers to the area between the back of the curb and the sidewalk where streetscape furnishings such as benches, lights, and signs are located.

Described by community stakeholders as having a "messy vitality", the present streetscape of NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard has a high degree of visual elements already present including a wide variety of signage, lighting, transit stops and street furnishings. The new heritage markers will need to be integrated with, and able to visually compete with, these existing elements.

In addition, on-street parking combined with existing street trees present restricted sight lines in some areas when viewing the heritage markers



Gateway site looking north;
Photo courtesy of Bruce Forster
Photography, 2008



Areas highlighted in figure
(bottom right) were proposed for
the addition of specialty paving
and sidewalk enhancements.

Visibility of the heritage markers will need to compete with existing streetscape elements such as lights, signage and street trees.



Major east-west connections intersecting NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd are highlighted



NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd

NE Grand Ave

Gateway Site

- NE Weidler
- NE Broadway
- NE Schuyler
- NE Hancock
- NE San Rafael
- NE Tillamook
- NE Thompson
- NE Sacramento
- NE Brazee
- NE Russell
- NE Knott
- NE Graham
- NE Stanton
- NE Morris
- NE Monroe
- NE Fargo
- NE Cook
- NE Ivy
- NE Fremont
- NE Beech
- NE Failing
- NE Shawer

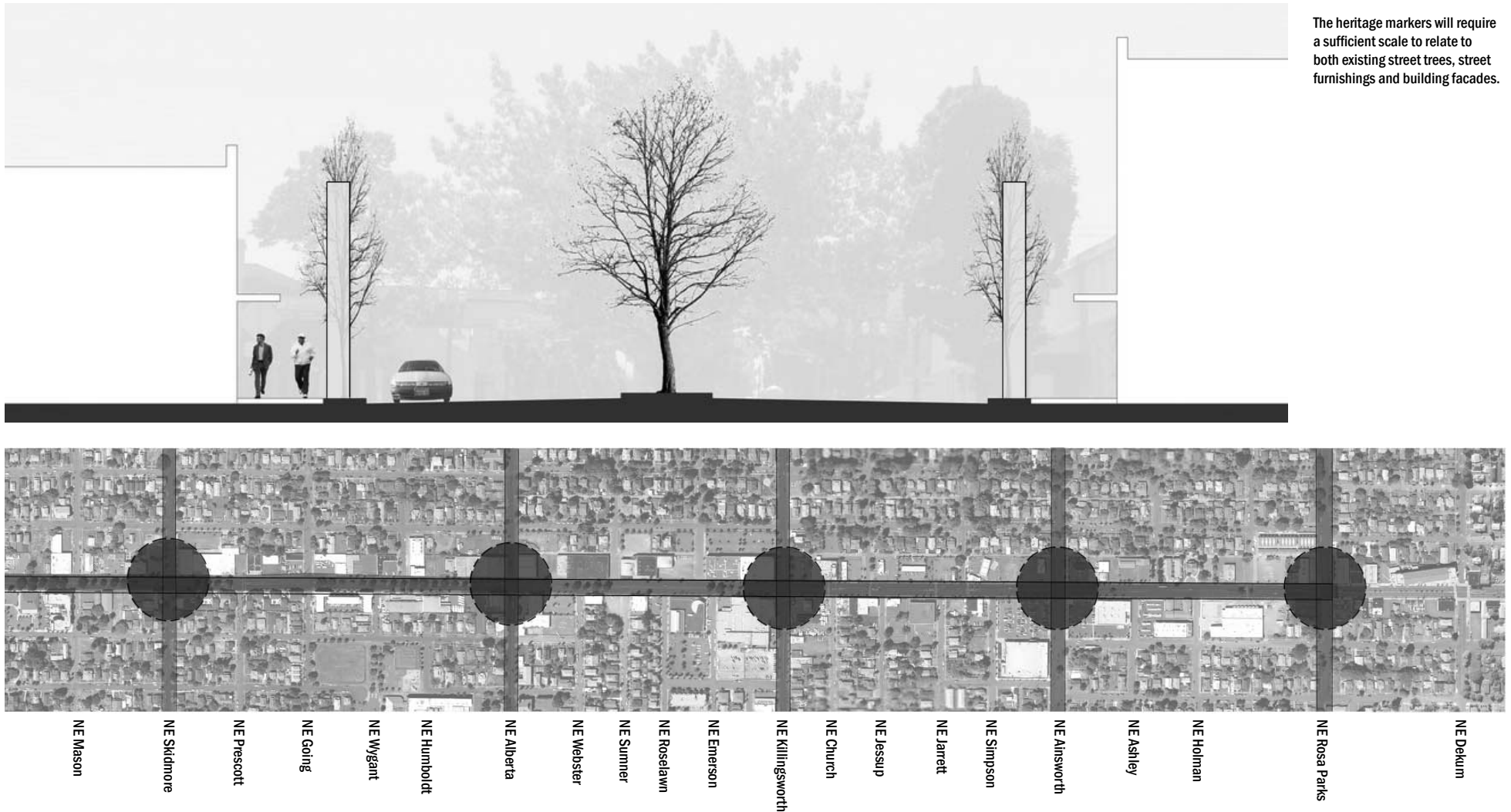
from passing cars. Where street trees are densely clustered along the boulevard, clear sightlines are limited to a zone between roughly 6 to 12 feet high (see image upper right, pg 32) when trees are in full leaf. The location of heritage markers will need to take advantage of openings in the current location and spacing of street trees on the boulevard

Based on the project's scope, markers will begin near the gateway site and extend to Rosa Parks Way, a distance of over 37 blocks. Given this

distance, as well as the high speed and volume of traffic on the boulevard, the legibility of markers from both the vehicular and pedestrian perspective must be considered. Legibility from passing vehicles will require a location, frequency and scale able to achieve a sense of continuity along the extent of the project area. Many people however are also likely to experience smaller segments of the streetscape as they go about their daily excursions. Therefore the location of the heritage markers must also be

accessible and frequent enough to engage people moving within a more limited area, possibly by bike or on foot.

A final consideration in the placement of the markers is their proximity to major east-west intersections along the boulevard. These active hubs offer opportunities to not only engage additional people as they cross NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., but also to highlight the history and stories that connect the greater community as a whole.

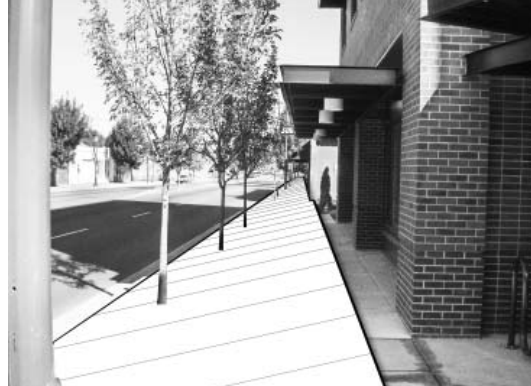


The heritage markers will require a sufficient scale to relate to both existing street trees, street furnishings and building facades.

Site analysis of the boulevard right-of-way examined three primary locations for the installation of markers; the furnishing zone (FZ), the primary sidewalk zone and sidewalk extensions (such as curb bulb-outs). Each zone offers unique opportunities and constraints.



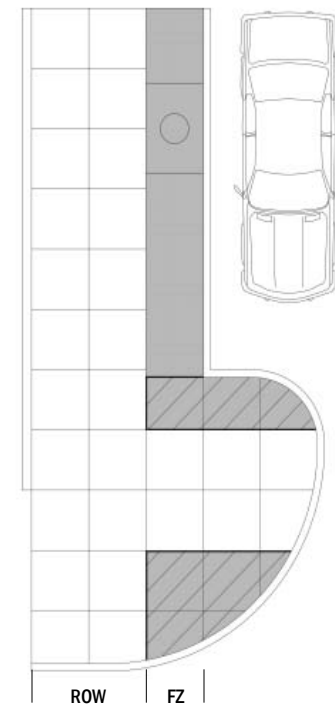
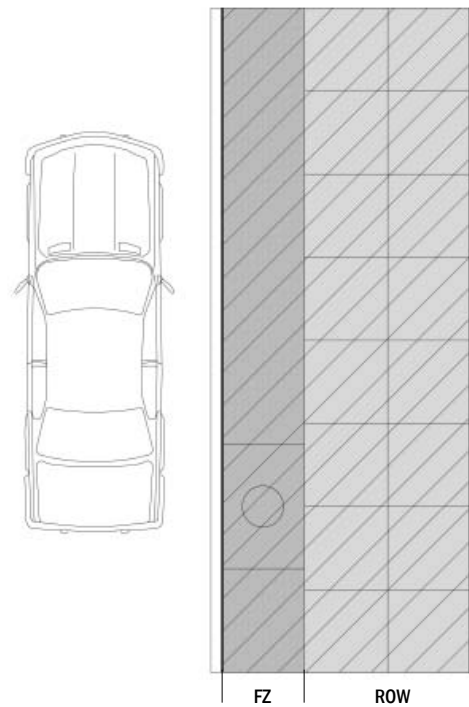
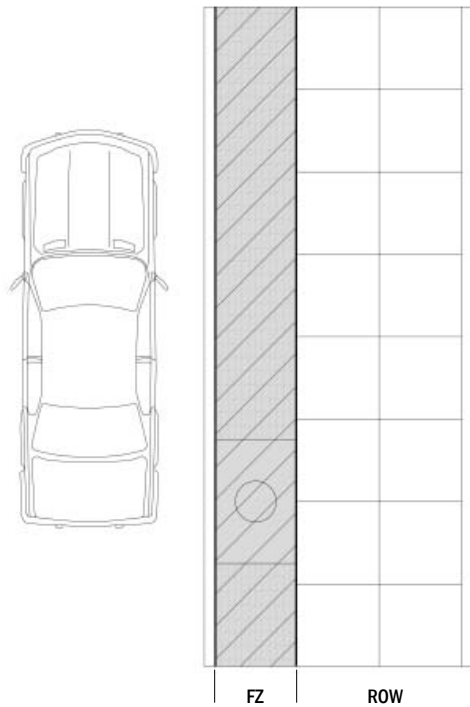
The furnishing zone (FZ), from the back of the curb to the sidewalk, allows for the installation of both horizontal and vertical pieces but these must integrate with other street furnishings including street trees.



Extending the area into the primary sidewalk would require pieces to be two-dimensional and not disruptive to pedestrian traffic.



Installation in areas such as curb bulb-outs may be three dimensional but these occur only sporadically along the boulevard and objects can not disrupt traffic or pedestrian views at intersections.



GATEWAY AND MARKER TYPOLOGIES

To assist community participants as well as the design team to envision the broadest possibilities for interpreting the project components of “gateway” and “marker”, the team compiled an overview of typologies. Exploring how people have used physical form to record important people, places, events and ideas, this overview incorporated imagery of monuments, memorials, gateways and historic markers (see pgs. 36 and 37 for examples of images presented).

Typologies explored included monuments and memorials of ancient time such as the Egyptian pyramids and the Taj Mahal. Commemorating culturally significant individuals, these gestures where of a grand scale built to display power and inspire awe.

Smaller yet equally powerful monuments have also payed tribute to collective citizens rather than to individuals. Such is the case at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. Here it is the every day individual, the soldier, that is remembered and visitors are welcomed into the site to pay tribute on a personal level.

In paying tribute to citizens, these monuments often use a physical manifestation, such as statuary in the commemoration. Many contemporary works have seen instead the use of “absence” as a way of remembering. This is seen in the Oklahoma City National Memorial where empty chairs represent those lost, as well as in the temporary light installation marking the site where lives were lost in the World Trade Center bombing.

The creation of spontaneous and/or temporary events by the public is another form of commermoration seen in such events as the AIDS Memorial Quilt installation in Washington, D.C. or the spontaneous shrine to Princess Diana amassed at the gates of Kensington Palace after her death.

In capturing significant and yet at times abstract ideas such as the celebration of “the state” by

America’s Statue of Liberty these monuments have become icons not only of people and places but of the ideals they hold most dear.

Gateways are another intervention that has not only marked boundaries and places of entry, but have become signifiers of important cultural ideals. France’s Eiffel Tower is one such example, originating as a gateway to the 1889 World Exposition, but over time becoming a landmark and icon representing a French culture bound by common ideals.

Gateways have often been seen as announcements of arrival and are celebratory in nature. Often distinctive in character they have taken many forms from the scale of the ancient gates of China to the modest stone gates marking Portland’s Laurelhurst neighborhood. Often conceived as overhead arches, a sense of “gateway” has also been created using a series of objects, singular landmarks and other interventions that function to mark passage.

Often smaller in scale and serial in nature, markers have illustrated a similar diversity of form used to convey meaning. Historically markers have been used for a variety of functions including way-finding, education and remembrance. By identifying

significant people, places, or events markers have also contributed to the telling the story of communities and projecting the values they hold signifant.

This exploration of typologies was presented to participants at the first Public Open House event of the Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Master Plan. In addition to illustrating a breadth of function and design, the research assisted participants in framing critical project questions such as, “what will resonate in Portland”, “what makes our story unique and specific to place”, and “how do we want this project to function”?



Vietnam Veterans Memorial - Washington D.C.



Eiffel Tower - Paris, France



The Great Light Way, 1914-1930s - SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, OR



Vietnam Veterans Memorial - Washington D.C.



Oklahoma City National Memorial - Oklahoma City, OK



Lighted Gateways - Omaha, NB



Tribute in Light, 2004 - New York, NY



Collins Traffic Circle - Portland, OR



The Gates, 2005 - New York, NY



Laurelhurst Neighborhood Gateways - Portland, OR



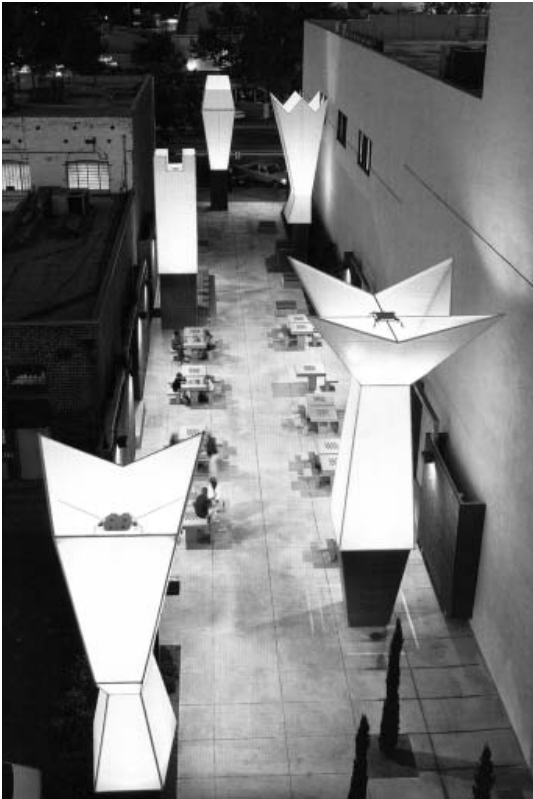
Tanner Creek Sidewalk Marker - Pearl District, Portland, OR



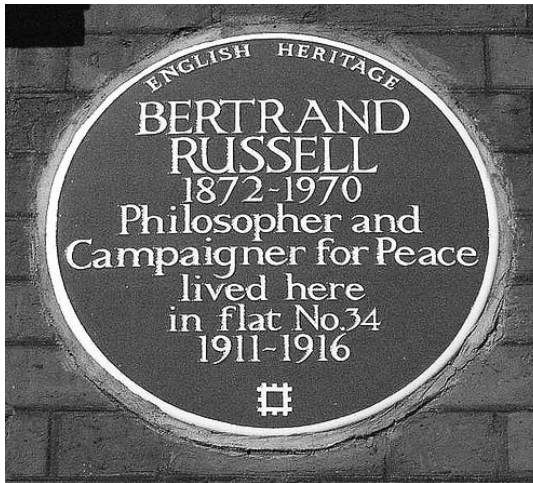
Lighting and Interpretive Signage - Eastbank Esplanade, Portland, OR



LAX Airport Entry Road - Los Angeles, CA



Chess Park - Glandale, CA



Historical Marker - London, England



"The Dream" - Convention Center Plaza, Portland, OR

Section Five : Concept Master Plan

DESIGN

Layers of history, commerce, and community, wrap around the proposed gateway site to this unique district. Stories overlap and combine in the corridor bordering NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard as it moves north. The gateway becomes a threshold into one of Portland's most richly diverse cultural districts while the boulevard becomes a line marking the intersection of different people, places, cultures and events across time.

Residents, business owners, developers and neighborhood representations worked with PDC and the consultants to craft a Concept Master Plan to not only preserve this heritage but to build upon it in securing a vibrant future for the communities of Portland's inner northeast neighborhoods.

CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES

To assist community participants in defining the desired functions as well as the story to be told through the Gateway and Heritage Markers project, a series of concept alternatives were developed allowing participants to compare and contrast a variety of different ideas (see Appendix B for Concept Alternatives).

Through the review and critique of these concept alternatives, community participants identified the desired function of the gateway and heritage markers as follows:

- The creation of a clear "threshold", announcing arrival to a unique district of Portland and the emphasis of this character along the boulevard

- The preservation, interpretation and celebration of a broad and inclusive history of area communities

Additional community recommendations included:

- Recognize multiple audiences (visitors, residents, businesses)
- Address the future as well as the past
- Focus on local stories/neighborhoods, with reference to Dr. King as a secondary layer
- Focus on elements that educate
- Incorporate interactive elements (ability to add, change, or access additional information)
- Recognize potential wayfinding benefits
- Emphasize the visibility of components
- Use materials that are high quality, durable and easily maintained

The Concept Master Plan incorporates these community recommendations and set a strong direction for the final design and implementation of the NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Gateway and Heritage Markers project.

CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

Gateway Site

The site selected for the gateway location provides a clear transition between the predominately commercial areas of the Lloyd District and the well established neighborhoods and vibrant business districts of North/Northeast Portland.

Strong Threshold

The Concept Master Plan for the gateway site relies on a pair of strong landforms flanking either side of NE Grand as it merges with NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to create a clear threshold and gateway as drivers head north into the Albina Community. Entry signs announce the

transition from one district to another. Landscaping emphasizes the forms while softening the entry and providing seasonal interest.

Gathering Space

Balancing these landforms is a small plaza along the site's eastern edge. Recognizing that the gateway site is not a primary gathering space within the neighborhood given its adjacency to high traffic volumes and distance from current community amenities, the design nonetheless accommodates small groups of people for events as well as the occasional lunchtime visitor. The plaza incorporates specialty paving, seating and lighting and remains open to NE Grand to ensure clear visibility and safety.

North Star Entry Sculpture

Located within the plaza, the "North Star" entry sculpture serves as a visual beacon aligned with vehicular traffic northbound on the long axis of NE Grand Avenue. Rich with symbolism, the North Star has historically been used by many cultures as a wayfinding device. Within the context of the gateway, it is used to reference the story of migration familiar to many of the cultures and communities that have come live in the neighborhoods of Albina. The sculpture itself is an abstraction of the night sky wrapping around this point in time and space with the North Star continuing to serve as a guiding light.

Immigrant Map

A map at the base of the North Star Entry Sculpture is one example of how this modest plaza space can help tell the story of the many immigrant groups who have made their homes here and the others yet to come. Depicting relative bearings from around the globe, this map places Albina metaphorically at the center indicating how diverse communities have come from all over the world to make this place their home.



Proposed Gateway Site improvements looking north

LEGEND

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Gathering Space | 5. Large Vegetated Landform |
| 2. Plaza Seating | 6. Small Vegetated Landform |
| 3. North Star Sculpture and Immigrant Map | 7. Tree Grove |
| 4. Storm Water Swale | 8. Neighborhood Entry/Exit Signage |

Tree Grove

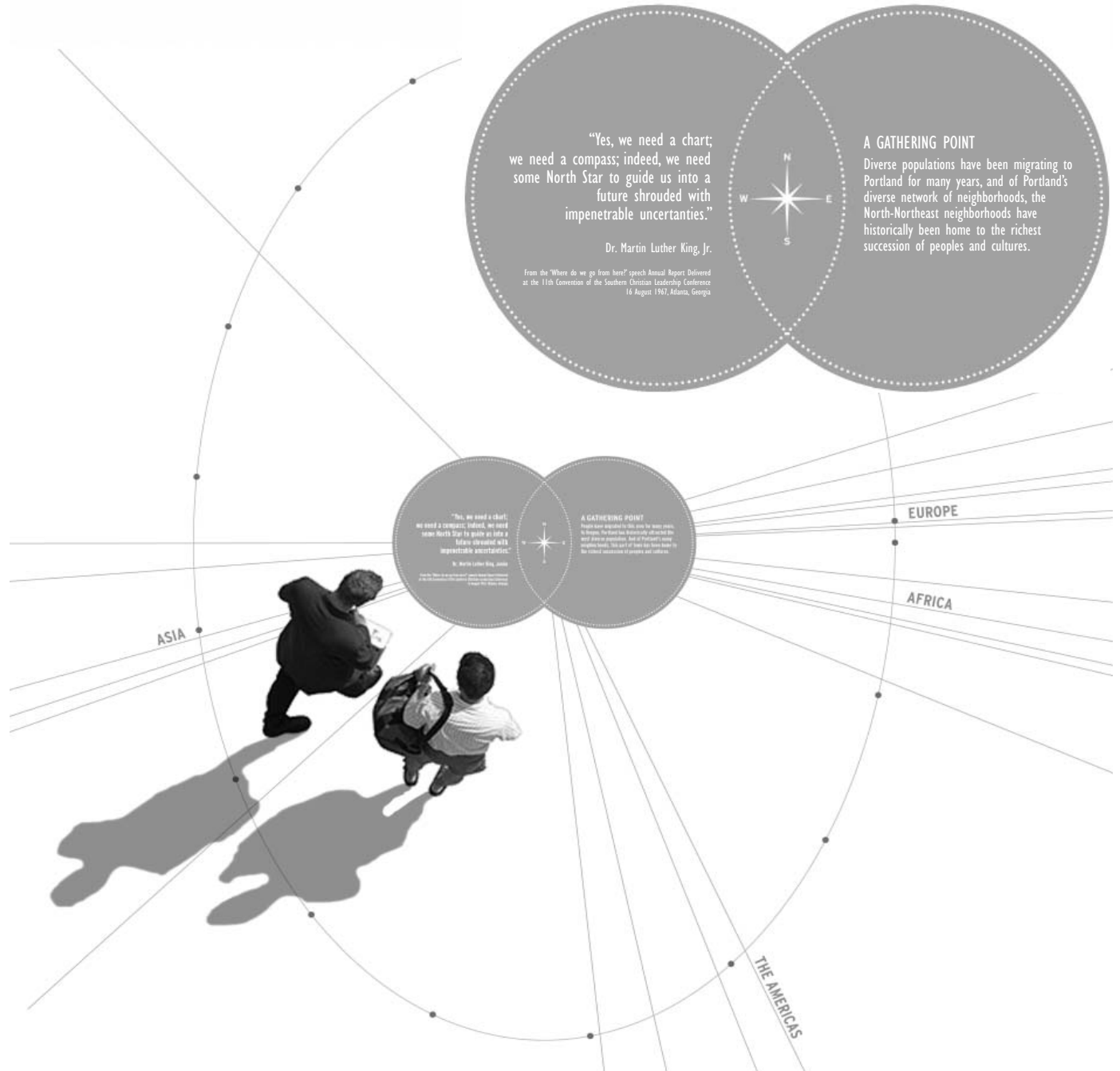
At the north end of the plaza is a grove of shade trees providing a backdrop to the North Star Sculpture as well as bringing shade and seasonal interest to the plaza.

Stormwater Swale

A vegetated swale integrating native plants is used to manage and cleanse storm water runoff from the plaza area. The swale also creates a barrier to deter dangerous mid-block pedestrian crossings along the east edge of the site.



The North Star Sculpture represents the concept of a sculptural beacon, illuminated at night to mark entry into the Northeast neighborhoods.



Interpretive engravings at sculpture’s base could provide information about Northeast Portland’s rich immigrant history

Heritage Markers

The heritage markers are seen as a complement to the gateway site improvements. Depicting historic images and information these markers are integrated into the streetscape of the boulevard, extending the stories of the neighborhoods along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

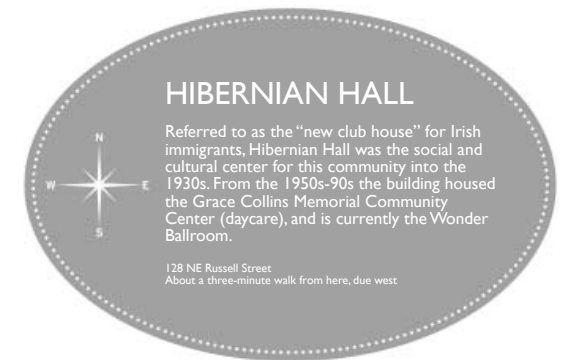
The Concept Master Plan envisions a two tiered system of markers, illustrating the history of the neighborhoods in two distinct ways, yet both depicting an inclusive view of history from pre-settlement to the present.

The primary markers on the boulevard are large vertical markers. Distributed equally along the length of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard every few blocks, these markers use large scale pictures to tell the history of surrounding neighborhoods. Each marker illustrates a

general theme relevant to the history of the area. Examples of these themes might include: architecture, people, commerce, or immigration. Text is used to interpret the images and provide stories relating to the historic theme of the marker. In the evening, the markers could be lighted to create a dramatic atmosphere along the boulevard.

In addition to the tall markers, a series of smaller, two-dimensional markers embedded in the sidewalk are also distributed along the length of the boulevard to Rosa Parks Way. These markers are placed due east or west of locations of historic community importance (see mapping, pg. 45 for examples). Easily read by passing pedestrians, each marker is made of durable, vandal-resistant materials, and is inscribed with a description of, and directions to, a particular person, place, or event of historic

community importance. While the gathering and final selection of historic content will be included in the next phase of work, the Concept Master Plan includes a preliminary list of historic people, places and events to serve as a starting point for generating a strong community dialogue.



Large vertical markers are shown during both night and day



Sidewalk markers allow pedestrians to easily access historic information about their community.

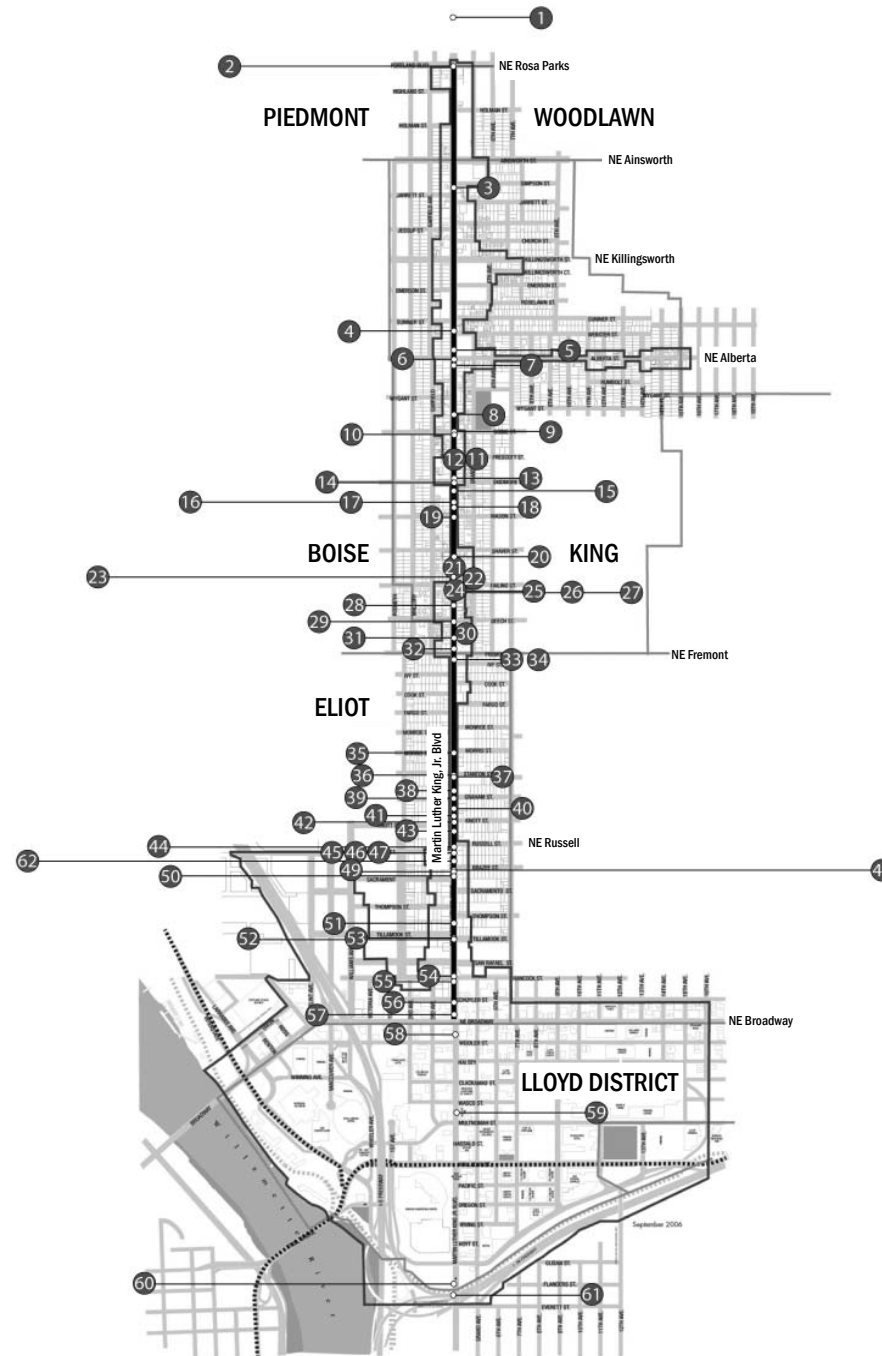
HISTORIC CONTENT

Community goals supported by the Gateway and Heritage Marker Concept Master Plan include:

- building on the civic pride of residents
- integrating the unique identity of adjacent neighborhoods
- celebrating local heroes, history, every-day citizens and their stories
- enhancing the pedestrian experience
- increasing the educational value for residents and visitors

While the gathering and final selection of historic content will be included in the next phase of work, the Concept Master Plan includes a preliminary list of historic people, places and events to serve as a starting point for generating a strong community dialogue. See Appendix A for Neighborhood People and Places Legend.

Neighborhood People and Places Map; see Appendix B for Legend



Appendices

Appendix A

NEIGHBORHOOD PEOPLE AND PLACES LEGEND

1. Woodlawn District: Bordered by Ainsworth St, Columbia Blvd, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and 22nd St.

A small village, Woodlawn became a regular overnight stop on the railroad linking Portland and Vancouver. With no bridge over the Columbia River until 1917, rail travelers stopped in Woodlawn overnight before taking the Columbia River Ferry. Rail station built 1888.

2. Peninsula Park: 700 N Portland Blvd

Previously used as a roadhouse and racetrack for quarter-mile horse racing, this park was built as part of Portland's City Beautiful Movement. The park is home to the sunken rose gardens and gazebo that have been the site of many Rose Festival events. Built 1912.

3. Bethel AME Church: 5828 NE 8th (currently)

Bethel AME is one of the oldest African American churches in the city. First located on NW 10th, then for many years on N. Larrabee, the church has been located at 5828 NE 8th since 1959. A. Phillip Randolph of the Pullman Porters Union spoke in the original location. 1929.

4. Vann and Vann Funeral Home: 5211 N Williams

First African American funeral home in Portland. C. Don Vann and Roberta Vann both held funeral director's licenses and provided important service to African American community at a time when many other funeral homes would not provide those services.

5. Bow and Arrow Culture Club: 5048 NE 10th

The Bow and Arrow Culture Club offered a

place for Indians to dance, drum, and gather in community. 1970's.

6. Mallory Avenue Christian Church

Housed the NE YWCA for many years after the Williams Ave Branch was closed and sold, despite community objections. Oral histories on this topic available at PSU.

7. St. Andrews Catholic Church: NE 8th and Alberta

German immigrants were the first parishioners at St. Andrews, and they were followed by Irish immigrants. The church operates a legal clinic that serves low-income clients and was involved in social justice issues in the 1960s-80s. Established 1929.

8. King Neighborhood Facility: NE 6th and Going

The King Neighborhood Facility has served as meeting place for the N/NE neighborhoods. Founded 1970's.

9. Highland United Christian Church

Highland United Church of Christ housed Head Start, War on Poverty programs and the George Jackson Memorial Free Breakfast Program. 1970's.

10. Maxey's Grocery and Barber Shop: 4601-03 N Williams

Charles Maxey left Texas to come work in the Portland shipyards. He opened Maxey's Barber Shop and then Better Buy Grocery. Maxey was an activist in the NAACP and the Urban League and was a founding member of the Portland chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi. Arrived 1943.

11. Edna Robertson Residence: Grand and Prescott

Edna Robertson worked for the Model Cities Program. She became the first coordinator for the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, and the director of King Neighborhood Facility and in

those positions fought for economic development, public safety, and an end to discrimination in inner N/NE neighborhoods. Arrived in the 1950's.

12. Log Front Tavern: NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and Prescott

One of numerous taverns along then Union Avenue where German immigrants and descendants gathered regularly.

13. Second German Congregational Church: NE 8th and Skidmore (early on NE Mallory)

One of the churches built by the German Russian immigrants that settled in this area of N/NE Portland. This area became known as "Little Russia." The church was the center of the religious and social lives of those early immigrants. Late 19th and early 20th centuries.

14. Norwegian Danish Methodist Episcopal: N Vancouver and Skidmore

One of the hallmark church buildings of the Scandinavian immigrant population in NE Portland. Today it is the home of First Zion AME. Established 1909.

15. Maranatha Church of God: 4222 NE 12th

Two of this church's pastors were also widely known and respected civic leaders, the Rev. Wendell Wallace (1960's-70's) and Rev. John Garlington (1979-80's).

16. Finnish Congregational Church: N Mason and Albina

This church served the Finnish immigrant community. Early 20th century.

17. Geneva's (formerly): 4228 N Williams

Geneva's restaurant and nightclub was owned and operated by Paul and Geneva Knauls. The club featured live music, an annual Ebony fashion show, was a regular stop for many of the 1970s-80s.

Portland Trailblazers, and was a cultural icon. It was leveled by fire in the 1980's.

18. Allen Temple CME: 4236 NE 8th

Begun at the site of the Second German Congregational Church, Allen Temple has been an important religious institution in the African American community. 1949.

19. German Brethren Evangelical Church: NE Garfield and Mason

One of the churches built by the German Russian immigrants that settled in this area of N/NE Portland. This area became known as "Little Russia." The church was the center of the religious and social lives of those early immigrants. Late 19th and early 20th centuries.

20. Otto and Verdell Rutherford Residence: 833 NE Shaver

Verdell and Otto Rutherford were leaders in Oregon's Civil Rights Movement. They ran much of the campaign for the Public Accommodations Law out of their home on NE Shaver. 1950's.

21. Repp Brothers Meat and Groceries: NE Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd and Failing

Typical small commercial business that provided the necessities of the surrounding neighborhood, many of them owned by German Russian immigrants. 1899.

22. Weimer's Hardware and Furniture: 3942 NE Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd (now Hankins Hardware and Heritage Bldg)

The Weimer family owned and operated a hardware and furniture store for many years. The upstairs ballroom in furniture store was closed due to anti-German sentiment during WWII. 1910's.

23. Polish Library Building Association: 3832 N Interstate

The Polonia, Polish immigrants, joined the

National Polish Alliance in 1911 and soon began construction on the Polish Hall, which housed meetings, dinners, dances, and the multi-lingual holdings of the library. Built in 1900s.

24. Black Panthers: 3819 NE Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd

The Portland branch of the Black Panther Party established the Fred Hampton Free Clinic, ran a free breakfast program out of Highland Church, and had their headquarters at this location. Clinic established 1969.

25. St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed Church: NE 8th and Failing

One of the churches built by the German Russian immigrants that settled in this area of N/NE Portland. This area became known as "Little Russia." The church was the center of the religious and social lives of those early immigrants. 1904.

26. Lehl and Popp Groceries: NE 10th and Failing

Typical small commercial business that provided the necessities of the surrounding neighborhood, many of them owned by German Russian immigrants. 1910's.

27. Danewolf Groceries and Meats: NE 13th and Failing

Typical small commercial business that provided the necessities of the surrounding neighborhood, many of them owned by German Russian immigrants. 1919.

28. Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church: 3138 N Vancouver

Founded by Dr. O.B. Williams, Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church grew from one rented room in a Mason's hall on Russell Street into the established congregation of today on N. Vancouver Ave. 1945.

29. George Repp Residence: 386 Beech St

George Repp, a German Russian, owned a local grocery store and meat market. He was one of the principle organizer of the Volga Relief Society. Early 20th century.

30. Trupp Shoe Repair: 3619 NE Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd and Beech (SW corner)

Typical small commercial business that provided the necessities of the surrounding neighborhood, many of them owned by German Russian immigrants. 1910's.

31. House of Sound Records: 2628 N Williams

A locally run business and cultural institution that sold "the best of HI-Fi Records". Once owned by Jefferson High School and NFL football legend Mel Renfro and Cliff Walker.

32. Free Evangelical Brethren Church: 3605 NE Mallory

One of the churches built by the German Russian immigrants that settled in this area of N/NE Portland. This area became known as "Little Russia." The church was the center of the religious and social lives of those early immigrants. Late 19th and early 20th centuries.

33. Albina Head Start: NE 7th and Fremont

The local center for the federal Head Start Program, Albina Head Start works with the city's low-income families to provide access to education and development skills for infants and children. Established 1965.

34. Zion Congregational Church: NE 8th and Fremont

One of the churches built by the German Russian immigrants that settled in this area of N/NE Portland. This area became known as "Little Russia." The church was the center of the religious and social lives of those early immigrants. Late 19th and early 20th centuries.

35. Immaculate Heart Church: 2910 N Williams

Founded as St. Mary's by Irish Catholic immigrants who came to work as laborers for the railroads, the church became an important parish for African American Catholics and the name was changed to Immaculate Heart. Founded 1819.

36. NAACP

The NAACP strives for the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons the end to racial hatred and racial discrimination. The Portland chapter of the NAACP is the oldest continually chartered chapter west of the Mississippi River. Founded 1913.

37. Ebenezer German Congregational Church: NE 7th and Stanton

One of the churches built by the German Russian immigrants that settled in this area of N/NE Portland. This area became known as "Little Russia." The church was the center of the religious and social lives of those early immigrants. Late 19th and early 20th centuries.

38. Cox Funeral Home: 2736 NE Rodney

Provided important service to African American community at a time when many other funeral homes would not provide those services.

39. Blessed Martin Day Nursery: 2805 N Williams

Operated by Immaculate Heart Church, the nursery provided daycare during the years of World War II.

40. Mayfield and Jureta Webb Residence: 2807 NE 8th

Mayfield and Jureta Webb came to Portland in the mid 1950s. He completed his law degree at the Northwest School of Law and served as NAACP president. War on Poverty leader, and a founder of the Albina Corporation. Jureta worked as a nurse and activist. Arrived 1955.

41. Matt Dishman Community Center

Named for Vanport Sheriff, and then Multnomah County Sheriff's Officer, Matt Dishman, this facility has served the youth and adult population of the surrounding neighborhoods for over five decades. Originally, called the Knott Street Community Center. Home of the Knott Street Boxing Club, which has produced nationally recognized boxers, several members are in the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. 1950's - present.

42. Emanuel Hospital: 2801 N Gantenbein

Founded by the Lutheran Church, Emanuel Hospital is today Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center. In the 1960's an expansion plan resulted in the demolition of 188 houses and businesses. That process, preceded by the massive relocation and demolition of African American-owned homes and businesses for the Memorial Coliseum and the Minnesota Freeway (I-5), left many neighborhood residents embittered. Hospital founded 1912, expansion plan 1960's.

43. St. Phillips Episcopal Church

The church of the Rev. Lee Owen Stone, a respected clergyman of Portland's African American community. He was on the board of the Urban League of Portland and fought for reform in the trade unions during WWII. A daycare was named in his honor that is still in existence today.

44. White Eagle Saloon: 836 N Russell

Serving as a meeting places for Polish immigrants arriving in the area, the Bialy Orzel (White Eagle) drew instant recognition with Polish railroad workers and other laborers by its white eagle on a red background that is a symbol of Poland. 1890s.

45. Hibernian Hall: 128 NE Russell

Referred to as the "new club house" for Irish immigrants, Hibernian Hall was the social and cultural center for the community into the 1930s. From the 1950s-90s the building housed the Grace

Collins Memorial Community Center (daycare), and currently is the Wonder Ballroom. Built 1914.

46. Urban League of Portland: 2525 N Williams (currently)

The local affiliate of the National Urban League, which is the nation's oldest and largest community-based organizations devoted to ensuring equality and access by African Americans to the economic and social mainstream of America. Founded 1945.

47. Mary Beehan McCarthy Residence: NE Russell and Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd

Mary Beehan McCarthy continued to own and operate the Weidler Butcher Market after the death of her husband. She raised their children in the home located directly behind the market, which faced Victoria Street. Early 20th century.

48. E.D. and Beatrice Cannady Residence: 2516 NE 26th Ave

E.D. and Beatrice Cannady were the owners and editors of The Advocate newspaper. E.D. worked at the Portland Hotel for many years. Beatrice actively worked for better "race relations" and hosted many interracial teas at their home in Irvington. 1903 - 1933.

49. Woodmen of the World: adjacent to 128 NE Russell (now Toro Bravo)

Part of the national fraternal organization founded to provide insurance to workers working in the woods. Founded 1890.

50. St. Stanislaus Church: 3916 N Interstate

Established at the request of Polish immigrants for a church that would hold Mass in their native language, St. Stanislaus remains at the religious and cultural center of the Polish community in the Portland metropolitan area. Established 1907.

51. Cotton Club (formerly): 2125 N. Vancouver

The nightclub was owned and operated by Paul

and Geneva Knauls and was the venue for a wide variety of entertainment, from jazz and blues, to comedy, exotic dancers, and female impersonators. The club hosted many of the nation's top Black musicians and celebrities.

52. Portland American Indian Center: 611 N Tillamook (now at 5135 NE Columbia Blvd)

Formed by urban Indians as a place to nurture Indian culture, they strove to incorporate traditions from the many tribal members who gathered there. The PAIC organized the first modern Pow Wow in the area in 1969. Originally formed 1959.

53. Williams Avenue YWCA : 6 N Tillamook

Portland's African-American women organize to meet the needs of black women and girls. Closed in an unpopular move by the Portland YWCA, the building now houses the Billy Webb Elks Club and continues as a hub for social activities in the Black community. YWCA closed in 1950's.

54. Dean's Barber Shop/Beauty Salon: 213-15 NE Hancock

Husband and wife team Benjamin Dean and Mary Rose opened Rose's Beauty Salon in their home and later opened and operated Dean's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop. The business is still owned and operated by the family.

55. Allen and Louisa Flowers & Sons Residences: 1745, 1803, and 1811 NE 1st

These three homes were built by and for one of Portland's earliest Black families, the Flowers. Today one of the houses is home to longtime Elliot Neighborhood resident and activist, Pauline Bradford.

56. Mt. Olivet Baptist Church: NE 1st and Schuyler (currently at 8501 N Chautauqua)

First African American church financed and constructed in Portland. The site of nationally

known lecturers and movement leaders--A. Philip Randolph, Marcus Garvey, and Addie Hunton--and the church of Rev. John Jackson, a local leader in the Civil Rights Movement. 1921.

57. Dude Ranch: 240 N Broadway

At the height of its popularity, The Dude Ranch was considered "the hottest Black and Tan supper club west of the Mississippi," and hosted many of the biggest names in jazz and blues of the era. 1940's.

58. Weidler Butcher Market: NE 1st and Weidler

The Weidler Butcher Market was the first meat market and one of the first businesses in the area. Early 20th century.

59. Johan Poulsen - Inman Poulsen Lumber: NE 11th and Multnomah (approx)

Johan Poulsen was of the partners in the Inman-Poulsen Lumber Company, a significant lumber products business that operated near the present-day Ross Island Bridge. Poulson built a Queen Anne home that showcased beautiful woodwork where Double Tree Hotel and part of Lloyd Center now stand. Early 20th century.

60. Golden West Hotel

The Golden West Hotel was the only accommodations that allowed African American guests until the Public Accommodation Law passed in 1953. Owned by W.D. Allen, the Golden West was considered the "largest and best equipped hostelry for colored people west of Chicago." 1906-1930.

61. Norse Hall: NE 11th and Everett

The Norse Hall quickly became the center of social activities for the Norwegian and other Scandinavian communities around the city of Portland. With space for meetings, a library, and a dance ballroom the Norse Hall provided the space for a diverse set

of needs of the immigrant generation and their descendents today. Built 1928.

62. Albina Rail Yards: Historically located at west end of N Russell along the banks of the Willamette River

The city of Albina developed along with the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, and later the Union Pacific Railroad. The Albina Rail Yards, provided work for many immigrant laborers and African Americans. Those workers became the residents of many of the surrounding neighborhoods. Late 19th and early 20th centuries.

***Delta Park Area: N Denver Ave and Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd**

9,000 years ago the area now called Delta Park were traditional ceremonial grounds for Indians from across the region. The annual Rose Pow Wow and Encampment is still held in this location. The area also housed Vanport before it was destroyed by flood waters in 1948.

***Lower Willamette River**

The land along lower Willamette/surrounding area has been home to the Chinook, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Clatskanie People for at least 9,000 years.

**Entry not located on Neighborhood People and Places map.*

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END

Appendix B

CONCEPT MASTER PLAN ALTERNATIVES

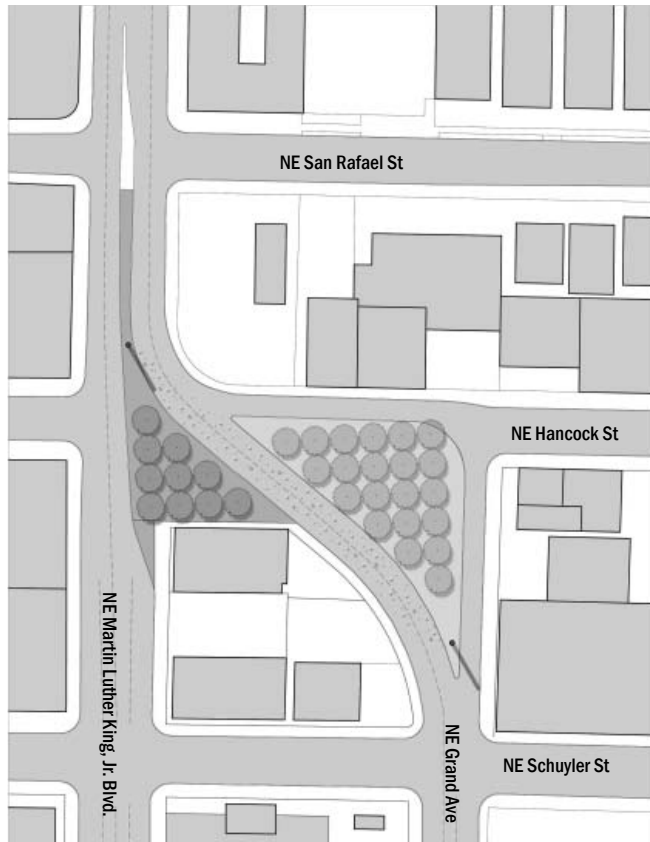
Concept Alternatives were generated to help community participants explore a range of programmatic, thematic and aesthetic options for development of both the gateway site and the heritage markers. These Concept Alternatives were presented at the second Public Open House event where community members worked in small teams to review and analysis each alternative. The alternatives presented were as follows:

GATEWAY CONCEPT A - NORTH STAR

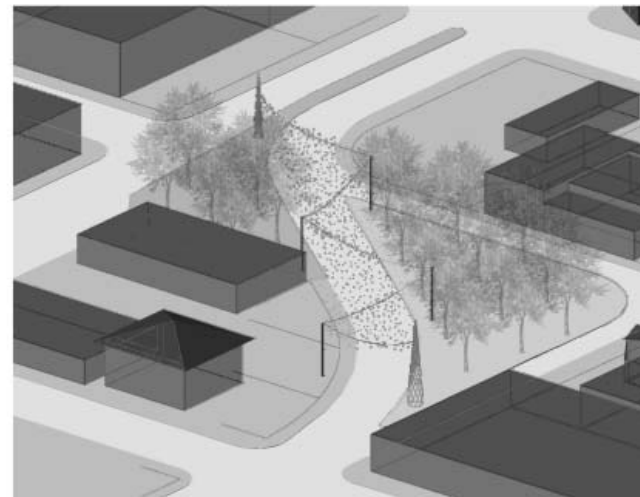
This Gateway Site alternative uses the imagery of the North Star as a conceptual beginning. The North Star has long served as a means of navigation and appears in the folklore of diverse cultures throughout history. Referenced in stories of the Underground Railroad in the American South, the North Star also appears in stories of the migration of individuals and cultures from across the seas.

The North Star alternative includes a matched pair of lighted sculptures that project skyward and are linked by a canopy of small lights that span the

boulevard. Aligned with Grand Avenue moving north and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard traveling south, the tall columns rise above a small community plaza. Shaded by a grove of trees, the plaza provides space for gathering as well as allowing visitors to approach the base of the sculpture where historical information is shared. By day the grove marks the threshold into the neighborhoods of inner N/NE Portland, bringing a sense of age and permanence to the site as the grove matures. By night the North Star alternative serves as a beacon seen both entering and exiting the district.



Plan view



Aerial view

GATEWAY CONCEPT B - LAND GATE

Land Gate creates a landform at the gateway site that speaks to the link between words and ideals, ideals and actions. The landform with its subsurface layers revealing the words of Martin Luther King Jr., symbolizes how his ideals created a moral foundation for his actions. The scale and substance of the Gateway Site alternative speaks to a sense of permanence; of an enduring foundation that stands the test of time.

Land Gate is a single landform bisected by NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The land form is “cut back” on either side of the boulevard as

it passes through the Gateway Site, revealing the words of Dr. King inscribed on stone planes. The remainder of the land form is vegetated to create a strong sense of green in contrast with the Gateway Site’s surroundings. This alternative emphasizes the sense of passage from the driver’s perspective on the boulevard.



Plan view



Elevation looking northwest

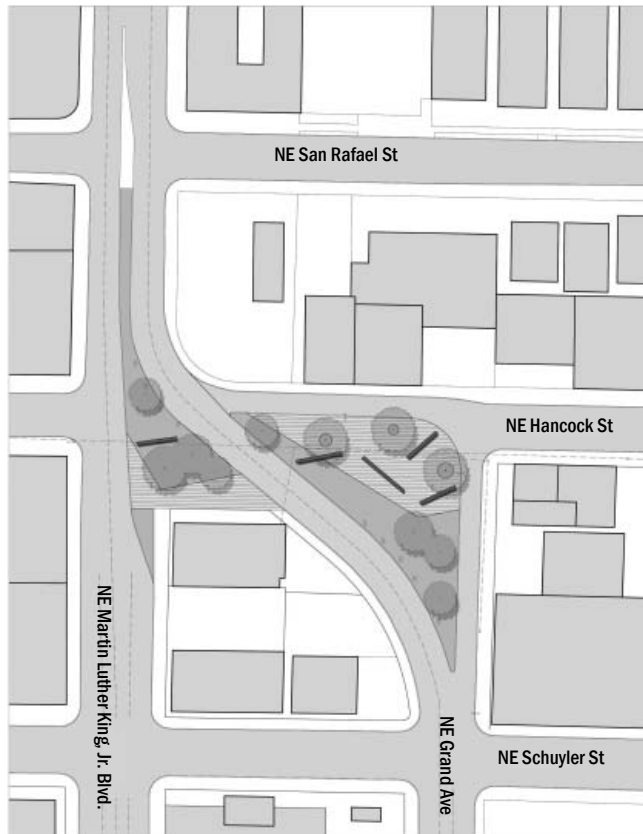


Elevation looking northeast

GATEWAY CONCEPT C - MEMORY GATE
Memory Gate focuses on the past and future events of the Albina Neighborhood to create a site that reflects on the ideals of Martin Luther King Jr. as lived out in the everyday lives of the N/NE communities. This Gateway Site alternative consists of a series of walls used to list the names, dates, and descriptions of major events in the history of the inner N/NE neighborhoods. The walls are scattered as distinct pieces across the site, but their composition creates a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts, much as the long

overlaid histories of many communities has given this district a unique and resilient character.

The walls are a “living memorial”; by creating openings within its surface each wall can accept future additions as the community identifies people and events they wish to honor. Light is used to symbolize the individuals and events that have shaped the Albina Neighborhood. As each new name or event is added to a wall, a new light will emerge signaling the event. The walls are situated in a plaza that balances vegetation with open plaza for small gatherings.



Plan view



Elevation looking northwest

MARKER CONCEPT A - LEAFLETS

Despite their fleeting nature, the posting of leaflets as a form of urban communication has been used by countless communities in the exchange of neighborhood information. These Heritage Markers take the form of columns, 20 feet in

height, placed one every three blocks on alternating sides of the street. Covered with permanent page size panels, “leaflets”, carrying historical information these columns portray a variety of themes, stories and events important to the neighborhoods of inner N/NE Portland.



View at street level

NE Russell St

NE Fremont St

NE Skidmore St

NE Alberta St

NE Killingsworth St

NE Ainsworth St

NE Rosa Parks Way



Possible leaflet locations

MARKER CONCEPT B - STORY BENCH

This series of Heritage Markers relies on historical images along the boulevard to create a pictorial story of the rich history and diverse communities of the inner north/northeast Portland neighborhoods. Taking the form of horizontal benches, these “story benches” are located

frequently and randomly along either side of the boulevard as space allows. At night, these lighted Heritage Markers create bars of graphics seen both by vehicles and pedestrians moving along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.



View at street level



View of bench in evening

NE Russell St

NE Fremont St

NE Skidmore St

NE Alberta St

NE Killingsworth St

NE Ainsworth St

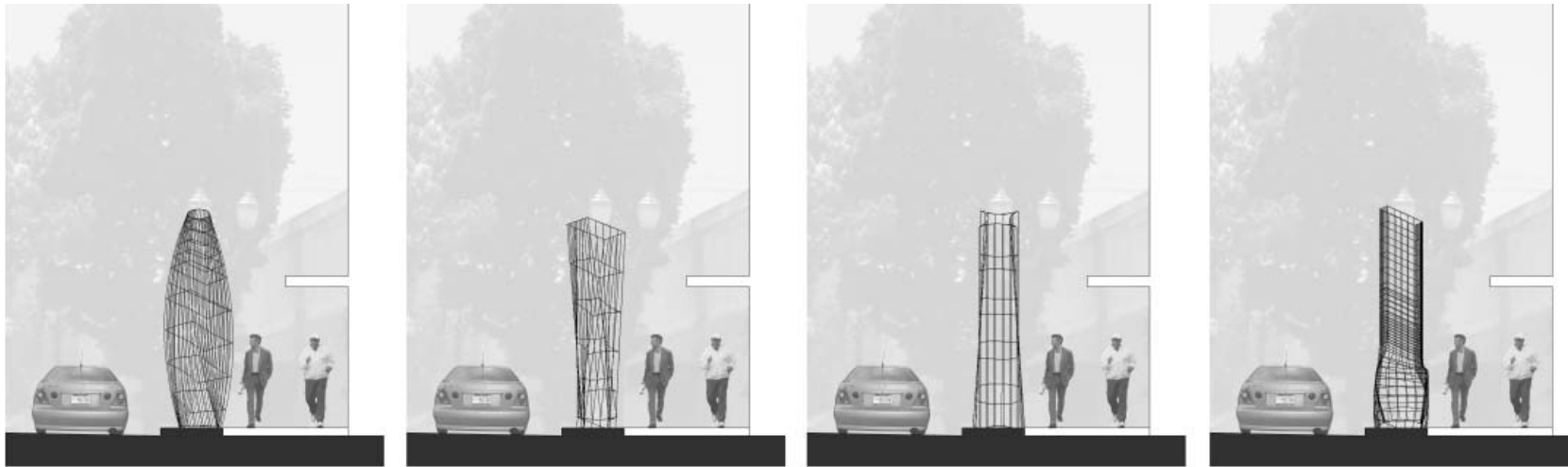
NE Rosa Parks Way



Possible story bench locations

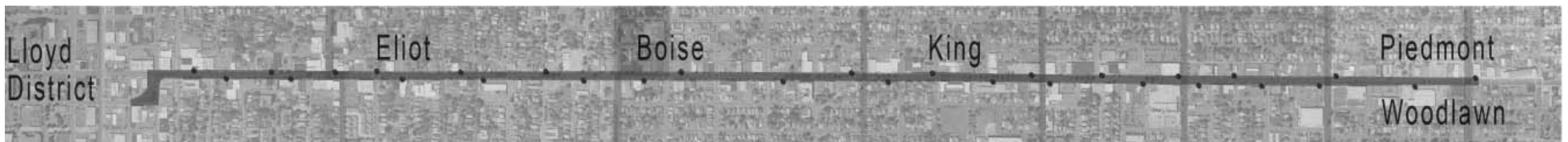
MARKER CONCEPT C - CHANGING ICONS
 Located at the primary intersections along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, these Heritage Markers are larger in scale and highlight streets that connect communities on the boulevard to the greater city east and west. The shape of these Heritage Markers alters slightly at each location, providing

unique way-finding sculptures that also carry themes and stories of historical significance to the north/northeast Portland neighborhoods.



View at street level

NE Russell St
 NE Fremont St
 NE Skidmore St
 NE Alberta St
 NE Killingsworth St
 NE Ainsworth St
 NE Rosa Parks Way



Possible icon locations

Appendix C

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public input was collected throughout the planning process through comment cards, website entries, and participation at public events. Do to the extent of comments submitted the following entries represent a summary of all comments received.

Public Open House #1

Comment Cards

Question #1: What do you think is the most important theme to be reflected along NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.?

- Melding of neighborhoods over time, not only reflecting the last 40 years.
- Introduction of a gateway into the neighborhood encompassing peace and harmony.
- Diversity, cultural understanding
- History
- Historical timeline; significant first events regarding culture
- Diversity and pedestrian amenities because it is a major road through the neighborhood area.
- Lights, archway, walking markers, old photos, story tellers.
- Neighborhood history.
- Color and diversity. Be sure to check the reports from the Soul of Portland marketing project. Their outreach was very effective.

Question #2: Are there areas along the boulevard that hold particular historical or cultural significance for the community?

- Volga Germans churches and historical business that existed here from 1880-1960

- Gladys McCoy Park, significant neighborhood historical presence acknowledged.
- African American experience; buildings that are on the street and in neighborhoods.
- Eliot neighborhood, an area that still holds a few special places that are unique in the black experience.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Rosa Parks intersection; main intersections are interesting.
- The center of the blvd. Re-do the trolley
- Contact and get ideas from Roslyn Hill and Adrienne Cruz

Question #3: What would you like to see included in the Gateway project:

- A full reflection and history of the neighborhoods not only the last 40 years
- Continuous structural monuments that grow upward versus banners or ground markers.
- Walking tour of historical value and cultural peace and tolerance. Overhead and under foot directional aids.
- Maps
- As much historical and guidance for visitors and citizens.
- Love the old downtown 3rd Street arches. Put something on the West side of the gateway triangle.
- Lights! Bright! Being able to see from one marker to the next.
- Use color! Metal materials. Lots of design elements. More is more. Have a design charrette.

Question #4: What does “Heritage Marker” mean to you? To your community?

- Retrospective appreciation of heritage-pride.
- “Heritage Markers” that identify the historical use of an area, people, businesses etc. that have been in this area.

- Knowledge for visitors and youth.
- An educational tool for both youth and visitors.
- I like the idea of markers on buildings. Something like the East Bank Esplanade. Make them visible from the street. Unique to the area.
- Remove the median and put in light rail or the trolley down the middle of the street or build out major curb bumps and islands.

Question #5: Additional Comments

- Before Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. was Union Ave. There’s a huge history there.
- Please maximize opportunities to educate future generations about the contributions of the many people that have lived and worked here.
- Each neighborhood should have signage to introduce visitors to interesting projects.
- I like the idea of working with business owners and students. Give attention to individual neighborhoods. Love the way finding idea
- Bring in color with City Repair intersections
- Clear out the overgrown unfriendly bushes and have something more inviting and manicured (like the park area across from Bridges Cafe)
- Fund it soon! Don’t let it sit to do this again in ten years.
- Talk occurred for five years last time and all the money was spent before actually implementing any gateway development
- The marketing of materials (of the Soul of Portland) were terrific but temporary. Build the hardscape first. Fund whatever is designed within two years while the ideas are still fresh.

Discussion period

- Do not close off nearby connector streets that people use to access the neighborhoods. That would force more traffic on to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
- Maintain the pedestrian connection at the site.

- Consider “way markers” with continuity for pedestrians, especially visitors coming from the Convention Center.
- Make sure businesses on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. are on the SAG.
- The area currently is not bike or pedestrian friendly. Can improvements be incorporated with this project?
- Is there a budget? Where did the funds come from? How much is available to implement this project?
- Who is the design team? Who do they work for?
- What is the decision-making process? Who makes the final decision?
- Is the city looking at placing heritage markers in other parts of the city?

Public Open House #2

Small Group Work Sessions

Related to Content:

- Broad History: Reflect the fullest breadth of history; include diversity of all communities over time
- Multiple Audiences: Should be for both tourists (interest/education/way-finding) and residents (pride/ education/landmark)
- Timeframe: Address future as well as past
- Gateway: Acknowledge neighborhoods; secondary layer reference Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Heritage Markers: Primarily historical content; current neighborhoods as secondary layer

Related to Function:

- Heritage Markers should be an educational tool for visitors and residents
- Way-finding: Heritage Markers should serve as a way-finding device

- Primarily Pass-By: vehicular, pedestrian, but not for community gathering
- Interactive: Changing or adding information, interactive, ability to access additional information

Related to Characteristics:

- Visibility: Should see Gateway Site elements from afar, see from one Heritage Marker to another; incorporate lighting
- Durability: Elements must age well, consider maintenance and durability
- Physical Characteristics: Columns for impact with walls for content; balance green and plaza

Related to Process:

- Implementation: Project should be of high quality, not allowed to languish, continued public involvement

Comment Card Summary

Gateway Concepts

1. Which gateway concept best creates a feeling of entering a unique set of neighborhoods?
 - Combine concepts A and C. Remove the fairy lights in A because of maintenance issues
 - The Memory Gate goes through what is a clear transition point. Walls stop the eye and form a passage
 - Memory Gate but no reason why the “stars” (from concept A) over the roadway couldn’t be included as it will do a better job at night marking the gate
 - One that represents the diverse ethnic background of the Albina neighborhood
 - Gateway concept C, the Memory Gate, feels the best because it’s a better way to reflect

the history about the many people past and present in the neighborhood

- North Star concept is my choice
- I like the lights from A, the phrase from B(Life begins to end) and the gathering space from C
- Combine A and C and remove firefly lights. No to B. Put lights in both towers (concept A) as it will create a connection between both ends of the gateway
- I liked elements of each concept. The height of the North Star concept provides good visibility from north and south and the convention center. Trees are good to add and the open block wall is good as well. Combine A and C. The towers are important
- All of the concepts work but North Star and the Wall concepts are dramatic. Movement is primary and community information secondary. Be sure to have a maintenance plan

2. Should the Gateway Concept include places for individuals and communities to gather or should it be a place you experience while passing by?

- Wall information for tourists, conference goes from convention center
- Definitely experience in passing. It’s not a great space for gathering; there’s lots of traffic and the space is small. It’s at the lower boundary where there isn’t too much concentration of people to gather. Not friendly for gathering
- Too much traffic and too little room for “gathering” Also don’t want to create a “camping” space for homeless or drug user. Space should be very open to outside eye
- Difficult place for people to gather given the traffic/noise/pollution unless the traffic is limited
- Most definitely. It seems that the area was one of Portland’s first places for people who settled early on to gather. Only by experiencing it will it be understood

- This is a pass through site
- This is a site to experience passing by
- This should be a gathering space. But as it is, no one wants to sit on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. with traffic, noise and odors. If benches and trees were added and traffic modifications made, it would make it easier to sit and chat at the location.
- Consider community bulletin boards, more trees and use of solar power
- Both, but mostly a pass through site
- This is not a gathering space. Maintain a balance of greenery and plaza

Heritage Markers

3. One of the goals of the Heritage Markers is to tell the history and stories of the surrounding neighborhoods. How can that history best be told?

- Abstract markers that differ will assist in locating area neighborhoods; high visibility
- Entire history (from Albina to current day) should be told, include people events and place especially links to historic locations and remaining places
- Like the concept of portraying local heroes (past and present) to tell a broader story of an ethnic group
- Yes, all these examples are great. Should be inclusive to all ages
- I don't like the bench. I prefer the leaflet concept. Perhaps it would be possible to incorporate changing icons at major intersections
- Should be places of historical significance
- All three ideas. Walking tours, gathering spaces, geographic sites. Many of us are hungry for history and don't have access to the stories. Make it easy to learn our history
- Flexible so that the content of the markers can be swapped out
- Columns are best. Scale of changing object

4. Should the Historic Markers focus on identifying current neighborhood boundaries or on displaying historical information?

- Yes, both (change information each year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Birthday Holiday)
- Historical information
- Not an either or choice. Memory gate concept should list neighborhood names to link with markers along the street.
- Historical information should be the focus
- The history is significant to the boundaries of how they seem to have developed the neighborhood.
- Historical information as it better represents the variety of populations that live and have lived in the neighborhood.
- Display historical information
- Both but identify neighborhoods "loosely" (i.e. a sign in the middle of the area, not indicating specific borders as this could be divisive)
- Concentrate on historical information but tell people what neighborhood they are in
- Both but don't mark the neighborhood boundaries because they may change
- Both are good. Allow for changing information.

5. Additional Comments?

- Nice project. Would be a good use of that odd little space
- Include old/new neighbors names and history because communities of color seem to be left out. I feel African Americans settled here and were held to this area for so long
- Please approach Albina Community Bank about an ongoing maintenance agreement. A sign giving them credit would be nice
- Be careful about using too much metal in the project
- Martin Luther King, Jr. already has a space. This project should be about the neighborhoods

and Portland folks

- The street is named for Martin Luther King, Jr. What more honors does he need? Did he ever visit Portland?
- I think the trend is moving toward making Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. a pedestrian, biking public transportation boulevard rather than a trucking/drag strip throughway

Public Open House #3

Summary of Public Comment on the Mapping of Neighborhood People and Places

1. This list of historic people, places and events is no doubt incomplete. Are there additional ones that should be explored?

- Vessels; homeware specialty store featuring ethnic homeware. NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and Morris. Owned by Phyllis Gaines
- Albina Homestead School; Germans attended to learn English (photos available). Near Fremont
- #33 was originally Dr. Uhle's office
- #17 – date is 1986
- #51 – address is 2125 N. Vancouver Ave
- James Brooks; resident, was president of the Urban League. Residence on NE 11th between Knott and Brazee
- Raven Creamery; NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd 2 blocks south of Fremont
- Zion Lutheran Church and School; was located at Rodney and Ivy, is now Morning Star Baptist
- Roslyn Hill's first gallery; off NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and Thompson
- Morning Star Church; Rodney and Ivy
- Steen's Coffee Shop; owned by Ron Steen, located at NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and Russell
- Native Americans and other immigrants

- The “old” Fred Meyer; NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and Killingsworth, was a community meeting place
- Pharmacy, Dry Cleaner, Cafe; Williams and Russell near the Urban League Building. Gathering place for African American community 1950’s and 60’s. This area included well known businesses such as Paul’s Paradise, Lou’s Men Shop, the Flamingo. Demolished in the 1970’s during the expansion of Emmanuel Hospital

Additional Comments

1. Related to the Gateway Site

- Don’t close any of the streets including the small turn back. These streets are part of the area’s history and are known by area residents. You can’t manipulate history or change history to tell about history. You must respect the existing patterns.
- Look at ways to reduce speed of drivers headed north on NE Grand through the s-curve. Numerous wrecks occur at the corner of the Albina Bank.
- Use materials that are durable and vandal resistant
- With regard to ongoing maintenance team with the Albina Corner Apartments Reach Volunteer Program.
- Consider improving adjacent sidewalks surrounding Gateway site. On sidewalks where the spur leaves Grand and continues straight there are no curb cuts and you must enter the roadway to continue. This needs to be part of the improvement of the site.

2. Related to Heritage Markers

- Sidewalk markers seem like a durable idea.
- Like the combination of two types – one makes bigger impact on street and cars, the other good for walkers

Appendix D

MEETING NOTES

Stakeholder Advisory Group

Project: Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Master Plan
Date: 10.16.07
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Subject: Stakeholder Advisory Group #1
Location: Irvington Village Covenant
By: Melinda Graham
Attendees: Paul Knauls Sr., Citizen-At-Large; Daina Hamer, MLK Advisory; Sam Morgan, PCC; Gloria McMurtry, NNEBA Irene Bowers, PDC; Sara King, PDC; Joanne Daunt, PDC; Joleen Jensen-Classen, PDC; Jonathan Beaver, 2.ink Studio; Melinda Graham, 2.ink Studio; Janice Dilg, Consulting Historian; Harold Williams Sr., CH2A; Harold Williams Two, CH2A; James Harrison, James M. Harrison Art & Design Studio

WELCOME/INTROS/INITIAL THOUGHTS

Irene Bowers welcomed the group and opened introductions with the question, “what do you think of when you hear the word *Gateway*”. Core themes brought forward by the group included:

- Gateway as denoting a transition from one thing to another, a shift in how you perceive a place.
- Images of entry, arrival, a literal gateway or arch such as the one marking Portland’s China Town District that denotes passing through and into a distinct neighborhood.
- A structure, physical element, but needs to be

“universal”, capable of celebrating the “stop-over” nature the neighborhood has had for many diverse communities all capable of, and rising to, the ideals that Martin Luther King Jr. put forward for everyone.

- A symbol when we first come in, a chance to tell local stories using a National character that symbolizes commonality. The gateway and markers as a beginning to defining a unique district where communities have persevered, have shared trials and tribulations but also celebrations.
- Themes of movement seen both literally, in the movement of the street, traffic, pedestrians, but also figuratively in the migration of people and communities throughout the history of the area.
- Gateway as a powerful and hopeful symbol for the community, creation of a “living gateway” that people can be a part of, one that reaches into the past but also reaches into the future as a contemporary, optimistic symbol of what the neighborhood has been as well as what it hopes to become
- Gateway as a portal, passage, transcendence to a higher awareness.
- Opportunity for public art to be brought to the community rather than asking the community to seek out art. Use of art as a poetic way to relay ideas
- Gateway as a time based piece, a landmark representing the face of this community, a space changing over time.
- Ongoing change at the gateway site could serve as a way of building awareness, a sense of anticipation in what may come next (similar to the affect of RACC’s In Situ program)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The extent of the primary gateway site was reviewed. The slight expansion of the site to include the small parcel of land immediately

north of the WelPland Building was noted. PDC will provide the Design Team with property line information. The physical nature of the site was also discussed, noting the extensive overhead utilities and traffic signage that is likely to remain. While the alignment of the primary travel lanes of Grand and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd are seen as “givens”, the group discussed the potential for modest improvement of the surrounding secondary streets, NE Schulyer St. and NE Hancock St., to improve the pedestrian environment and connect the site to the surrounding neighborhood context.

The extension of Heritage Markers north along the boulevard was also discussed with Portland Blvd noted as the northern extent currently under consideration. The nature and location of the markers is still to be determined and will be a product of the design and public process. SAG members encouraged the Design Team to give equal consideration to the Markers while developing the Gateway site.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Design Team reviewed the preliminary goals put forth in the RFP. These initial goals have been developed through previous planning efforts such as The Albina Community Plan, The Eliot Neighborhood Plan, The N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Transportation Project, and The Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Strategy Update and Action Plan. Preliminary goals include:

- Creation of a gateway to the N/NE Portland communities announcing arrival into a distinct district with a rich and diverse heritage
- Commemorate the life and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Create a series of Markers that capture the history, stories, and character of the communities connected by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

- Enhance the pedestrian environment and build continuity along the boulevard while celebrating the distinct neighborhoods linked by the street.

These preliminary goals will be reviewed and refined during the public process for the Gateway and Heritage Marker project.

PUBLIC PROCESS

The public process will include on-going SAG meetings and a series of three Public Open House events to seek input and guidance from the community. In addition, the Design Team will conduct individual and small group interviews to collect specific stories from the neighborhoods. A mentorship component is also underway to involve area youth through job shadowing and participation in project events. The intent of the public process is to engage the greatest breadth of the community possible. The SAG was encouraged to consider community members appropriate for the Design Team to contact regarding neighborhood histories and personal stories. SAG members were encouraged to contact Irene Bowers directly.

DESIGN PROCESS

The iterative nature of the design process was emphasized. Design phases will include the collection of site data and community stories, the generation of unique design alternatives and the final refinement of one conceptual master plan scheme. The SAG team emphasized the importance of staying open to all ideas in the early phase to ensure the team's ability to fully explore all opportunities.

END

Project: Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Plan
 Date: 11.08.07
 Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm
 Subject: Stakeholder Advisory Group #2
 Location: Irvington Village Covenant
 By: Melinda Graham
 Attendees: Paul Knauls Sr., Citizen-At-Large; Daina Hamer, MLK Advisory; Eric Wentland, Business Owner; Gloria McMurtry, NNEBA; Allen Folz, Piedmont Neighborhood; John Tyler, Vanport PAC; Teri Karren-Keith, Albina Community Bank Irene Bowers, PDC; Joanne Daunt, PDC; Joleen Jensen-Classen, PDC; Jonathan Beaver, 2.ink Studio; Melinda Graham, 2.ink Studio; Janice Dilg, Consulting Historian; James Harrison, James M. Harrison Art & Design Studio; Paul Mort, the Felt Hat

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Jolene Jensen-Classen welcomed the group and led introductions for new SAG members joining the process. Irene Bowers updated the Advisory Group regarding the withdrawal of CH2A from the process due to conflicts with work previously committed to by the firm. Team members noted their gratitude for the efforts and feedback already contributed by both Mr. Williams Sr. and Mr. Williams Two.

OPEN HOUSE LOGISTICS

Ideas regarding venues, date and format for the Public Open House were solicited from the SAG. Venues suggested:

- Meeting space at the Lutheran Church

- Albina Bank Reception room
- Portland Community College cafeteria and auditorium

Date:

The 1st or 2nd week of December was considered but the SAG felt it best to postpone the first Public Open House until after the holiday season to avoid competing events and allow time to publicize.

Format:

- Commemorate the life and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Staging the Open House on a weekend afternoon with time slots assigned to specific Neighborhoods for comment
- Inclusion of a social time prior to the formal presentations to “get to know folks”
- In general it was felt that giving people something concrete to respond to as well as tailoring the Open House dependent on the materials to be presented were important considerations.

Announcement:

The SAG considered ways for “getting the word out” including via their own neighborhood email networks, through the Neighborhood Associations, by asking local businesses to display announcements, and involving local news sources to announce the event. The Committee noted the importance of people feeling they have had the chance to truly contribute. It was felt that six months seemed short for a project of such importance, but PDC and the Design Team noted that they are committed to doing what it takes to get the process right, thus the extension of the schedule.

PRELIMINARY OPEN HOUSE CONTENT

The Design Team presented a preview of their work to date, noting that the team was still in the “information gathering/brainstorming phase”.

Current work has been focused in three primary areas; community history and stories, studying the evolution of how people use monuments to mark events, and understanding the specific physical characteristics of the project site.

History: Jan Dilg presented a brief overview of the approach to historical data collected. Her presentation focused on approaches to understanding and organizing diverse histories: thematic, chronological, events/eras and biographical. As an example, impacts of the Albina Railyard as related to migration and commerce were discussed, noting how this laid the foundation for establishment of a strong African American community that later formed the basis of Portland's Civil Rights Movement. The presentation closed with a request for input as to the best sources for understanding local players and impacts of the Civil Rights Movement.

Monuments: James Harrison then presented a discussion of the Evolution of Monuments, illustrating historical efforts to commemorate individuals and events through the creation of physical space and forms. Specific examples related to Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement were also reviewed. This discussion closed with questions such as, "what will resonate in Portland", "what makes our story unique and specific to place", "how do we want this monument to function"?

Site: Jonathan Beaver reviewed physical characteristics of the site as they relate to the implementation of both markers and the gateway concept. He noted the high degree of visual elements already present on the boulevard as well as illustrating the restricted sight lines present. The legibility of markers from both the vehicular and pedestrian perspective was reviewed noting the general frequency and scale required to achieve a sense on continuity along the street. Characteristics of the gateway site were also discussed including the challenges of existing

utilities, signage and adjacent traffic volumes that are likely to remain. Opportunities for extending the impact of the gateway site into adjacent secondary streets were also discussed.

SAG FEEDBACK

- "What happened since the 1970s photo"? – The group discussed the sense of vibrancy, traffic, and people in the photo, expressing that it seems that "sense of life" seems more subdued now.
- Is "continuity" necessarily needed or good – perhaps there is something of greater value in the diversity of the streetscape. Concern that a focus on "cohesiveness" doesn't move the street toward vibrancy.
- The unique quality of the area has to do with the number of different communities that have called it home; Italians ("Albeena" not Albina), Scandinavians, Germans, Russians, Irish, Blacks, etc. The interest is in why people came and how places shifted with the interests of immigrant groups and how they used the buildings and the spaces.
- Focus should be on the 120 year history of immigrants in transition
- Consider that the gateway site is an entrance but also an exit
- How can you make an impact given visual competition, autocratic nature.
- Is street one long strip of several segments (Broadway-Fremont, Fremont-Alberta, Alberta-Ainsworth, Ainsworth-Rosa Parks and past)
- The understanding of monuments should not be restricted to just built structures; Central Park is a monument.
- The historical review of monuments is good, engaging, but moved too quickly to a focus on Civil Rights memorials. Why the shift in focus? (PDC response – building on the origin of the idea to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King,

- Jr. as noted in the Albina Community Plan)
- The overview of the presentation did not feel like an "invitation to give feedback". Need to be clear on intent; to build enthusiasm for something or to encourage getting involved, which is the focus.
- Open House must provide a means to respond afterward or engage during the discussion.

NEXT STEPS

Closing discussion focused on the need for clarification of the project and associated presentation approach – is it a history of the boulevard or of the Civil Rights movement Members suggested moving the Public Open House to January with an additional SAG Meeting scheduled prior to further refine project approach and discuss associated presentation materials. The SAG emphasized the necessity to allow sufficient time to build interest while also avoiding the extended holiday season

The SAG was encouraged to think of additional community members that should be involved in ongoing conversations and to pass those names along to Irene. Irene Bowers will contact members to establish a subsequent date and time for SAG Meeting #3 following the holiday season.

END

Project:	Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Plan
Date:	01.15.08
Time:	5:30 – 7:00 pm
Location:	Irvington Village Covenant
Subject:	Stakeholder Advisory Group #3
By:	Melinda Graham

Attendees: Paul Knauls Sr., Citizen-At-Large; Daina Hamer, MLK Advisory; Eric Wentland, Property Owner; Gloria McMurtry, NNEBA; Allen Folz, Piedmont Neighborhood Assoc.; John Tyler, Vanport PAC; Teri Karren-Keith, Albina Community Bank; Pauline Bradford, Eliot Neighborhood Assoc.; Sam Morgan, PCC Art Department; Sam Jackson Sr., Citizen-At-Large; Irene Bowers, PDC; Joanne Daunt, PDC; Joleen Jensen-Classen, PDC; Jonathan Beaver, 2.ink Studio; Melinda Graham, 2.ink Studio; Travis Scrivner, 2.ink Studio; Janice Dilg, Consulting Historian; James Harrison, James M. Harrison Art & Design Studio

WELCOME/PROJECT UPDATE

Following an opening welcome by Joleen Jensen-Classen, Irene Bowers updated the Advisory Group regarding the Design Team's ongoing work:

- The project and open house announcement flyers have been completed and distribution to businesses along the boulevard is underway.
- The team continues to work with Troy Hollis at SEI and Daniel Capuia at Jefferson High School to involve area youth in the project.
- The first Public Open House event has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 22nd at OAME (3413 N. Vancouver)

PROJECT GOALS

Irene Bowers reviewed the overall project goals:

- Involve a diversity of stakeholders in the process.
- Create a site that honors the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Redevelop the site as a gateway into the Northeast Portland neighborhoods.
- Implement Heritage Markers at key intersections along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

REVIEW OF UPDATED OPEN HOUSE CONTENT

Melinda Graham summarized the Advisory Group's prior feedback on the draft Open House presentation as follows:

- Clarify the impetus and goals of the project to provide context for the presentation. What is the intent of the project?
- Keep the overview of history broad and inclusive of the many diverse communities that have lived in and around the project site.
- Broaden the discussion of "monuments" to the greatest extent possible to consider wide variety of ideas
- Consider the distinct neighborhood boundaries as well as the location of strong east-west connector streets in discussing the intent and location of potential markers.

The Design Team then presented the updated Open House presentation, reviewed the proposed Open House agenda/format and once again opened up the discussion to the SAG for feedback.

SAG FEEDBACK

- Team needs to also consider areas around the gateway site. Explore the possibility of removing the turn-back lane.
- In creating a "Gateway into Northeast" we need to answer the question "a gateway into what"; series of unique neighborhoods, distinct business district, what?
- Markers could be like those in Boston that tell

people about the history. We need to keep track of this history. Pauline - Mt. Olvin, Elks Club (colored YWCA), Emmaculate Heart

- Recognize that there have been different groups in different times making these places their own but that the experience of the African American community is unique in that this group was forced to one area by the Vanport floods and then kept there by policies such as red-lining that did not allow them to move out into other city neighborhoods.
- It is a gateway to the "communities" of Northeast Portland. Do not make it singular ("community") because this does not recognize the distinct differences that are what actually makes it an interesting area. Perhaps it is a gateway to a "corridor"

In response to Irene Bowers query of "what questions should we ask"?

- Ask how to define the problem – is it a gateway to what? Then ask what direction to take – history, civil rights, neighborhoods, significant events on the street....Ask if it is a corridor, a gateway, a memorial.
- Also need to ask what history we are looking at. How do we define history?
- Consider the use of the term "gateway" – does this lead people in only one direction; is there something more broad?
- Eliminate the idea of the street or boulevard from the questions – this is about the neighborhoods. Recognize that the street is secondary and that the communities are most important.
- This is the first Public Open House. Be conscious of what are too leading of question...."how are Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals reflected in the street", use of the words like "soul of street". Keep it as open as possible.
- Use "commemorate" rather than memorial

- This is the first Public Open House so clarify what things are pretty set such as ideas of “markers”, “gateway” and then keep it open... ask what would you like to see?
- State the givens more clearly and return to basics: What does a gateway mean to you...what, to where?
- Include a board for the Open House that states the basis of the project, shows the extent of the Albina Community Plan efforts and also shows the Gateway project extent. Be clear that the project currently goes to Rosa Parks Blvd. because this is the edge of the OCC Urban Renewal Area. Does not mean that the efforts may some day extend further.
- But also consider how this project connects with other projects (convention center, etc)
- Site commemorating Dr. King (not memorialize), ask what does gateway mean to you. Clarify assumptions and the re-ask the questions.
- This project needs to help new comers understand that the African American community has been here and has a long deep history here – need to find ways to focus on questions that pull that out.
- Break assumptions into Givens and Things that need to be reaffirmed. Once Assumptions are established, ask how would YOU do it, what do YOU picture.

NEXT STEPS

- Review of the Open House format and methods for feedback that will be available.
- Need a first (additional) meeting or email update to SAG regarding feedback on Open House event. Issue this information as well as new information prior to the next SAG meeting to allow for initial comment period (prior to the SAG meeting).
- Followed by a 2nd meeting to review ongoing work of the Design Team prior to the Public Open House #2

- Irene Bowers will contact members to establish a subsequent date and time for SAG Meeting #4 following the first Public Open House event.

END

Project: Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Plan
 Date: 02.20.08
 Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm
 Subject: Stakeholder Advisory Group #4
 Location: Irvington Village Covenant
 By: Melinda Graham
 Attendees: Paul Knauls Sr., Citizen-At-Large; Daina Hamer , MLK Advisory; Eric Wentland, Business Owner; Gloria McMurtry, NNEBA; Allen Folz, Piedmont Neighborhood; John Tyler, Vanport PAC; Teri Karren-Keith, Albina Community Bank; Pauline Bradford, Eliot Neighborhood; Sam Morgan, PCC Art; Sam Jackson Sr., Citizen-At-Large; Irene Bowers, PDC; Joanne Daunt, PDC; Joleen Jensen-Classen, PDC; Jonathan Beaver, 2.ink Studio; Melinda Graham, 2.ink Studio; Travis Scrivner, 2.ink Studio; Janice Dilg, Consulting Historian; James Harrison, James M. Harrison Art & Design Studio

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Joleen Jensen-Classen welcomed the group and led introductions for the benefit of new participants at the meeting. Joining the regular group were Marquis Stoudamire, Citizen-At-Large and Daniel

Capuias, the team’s mentorship coordinator from Jefferson High School.

Irene Bowers updated the Advisory Group regarding the Design Team’s ongoing work:

- The Public Open House #1 was held January 22 at OAME headquarters
- Team has met with the Technical Advisory group
- The date, time and venue has been set for Public Open House #2 and is Saturday, March 8, 10 a.m. to noon, at OAME

CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES

Melinda Graham reviewed the overall project goals:

- Redevelop the site as a gateway into the Northeast Portland neighborhoods.
- Create a site that honors the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Implement Heritage Markers at key intersections along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.
- Involve a diversity of stakeholders in the process.

The team’s recent work has focused on developing Concept ideas for both the gateway site and the historical markers that meet the stated project goals and giving form to and testing the concepts

The Design Team then presented the Concept Alternatives as developed to date for the Open House #2 presentation, reviewed the proposed Open House agenda/format and once again opened up the discussion to the SAG for feedback.

SAG FEEDBACK

- Is there too much “greenery” in some of the schemes – what if it creates too much seclusion that attracts the homeless?
- Response from other SAG member: Don’t make the schemes inhumane just to prevent the homeless from coming. You have to ask yourself what would Martin Luther King, Jr.’s

response be? Make it inviting for the whole community to take pride in.

- Think about more lighting for all of the concepts needs to be a bigger part of the concept
- Closing Hancock at the Gateway site would eliminate parking immediately adjacent but would create a more pedestrian friendly environment. People can walk or bike to the site as well.
- There is only limited use of Hancock right now; the majority of folks enter Irvington along Grand.
- It would be a small concession to Dr. King to close a small piece of road so that people can experience something special. The majority of people may initially experience it from the vehicle but if you can draw them in then the next time they may stop and stay to experience the entire space.
- This is not a place of solitude though with all of the traffic coming to and from work.
- Evenings and weekends are calmer though so maybe there are different experiences at different layers.
- The original idea put the primary emphasis on the vehicular; create something to announce that you are entering the northern part of Portland, a unique area. So it needs to be something big to capture this idea.
- The other piece was history as a second layer, or maybe one that sends you on to the next piece like direction markers sending you to different places within the area.

In response to Irene's question regarding PDC's assumption that the site should be a commemoration to Dr. King:

- This is why the focus on "ideals" works so well. It takes the words and ideals of Dr. King and shows how different communities have struggled for equality and justice by telling the

historic stories of these neighborhoods.

- Dr. King can be referenced and the site and then his ideas reflected in the stories as you move down the street and see the markers.
- This is why it needs to be broader, it needs to recognize other communities both prior to Dr. King and after that have shared in the same struggles and dreams.
- So if there is the gateway done in a way the is recognized regardless of speed (arch you go under by day, lit up by night) but then there is another layer, more pedestrian, more reflective layer that references these ideas on the site.
- When we think of gateway then it is an area you can move around in; this could be an important place to create a space to reflect, pay respect before moving forward along the boulevard.

With regard to the site analysis:

- Need to ask if you are experiencing these things by car or on foot and the answer is both.
- You need to consider where people will be looking and make it as visible as possible.
- Need to consider that there is the statue of Dr. King at the Convention Center – how do I get to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and continue to explore that legacy.
- What about a 5-10' translucent wall with prints/silhouettes that can work both day and night.
- This has been a neighborhood of immigrants – this is where the story is.
- People have long histories here and most kids don't know about past people.

With regard to funding and implementation:

- What worries me most is that there is no funding, no maintenance. We need a reality check. So much design work ends up being totally different for funding and maintenance reasons.

- But at least now there is momentum and there are other developing pushes.
- (Irene) We understand the hurdles and right now we have 1/2 million for construction but ongoing maintenance is still a big question.
- We are looking at the Business Improvement District (BID) taxed for maintenance – the community has to vote on that.
- (SAG) We need to build identity of the neighborhoods into it so that neighborhoods will want to pitch in sponsorship.

END

Project: Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Plan
Date: 05.13.08
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Location: Irvington Village Covenant
Subject: Stakeholder Advisory Group #5
By: Melinda Graham
Attendees: Gloria McMurtry, NNEBA; John Tyler, Vanport PAC; Teri Karren-Keith, Albina Community Bank; Steve Lebwohl, Wildwood; Irene Bowers, PDC; Joanne Daunt, PDC; Sara King, PDC; Jonathan Beaver, 2.ink Studio; Melinda Graham, 2.ink Studio; Janice Dilg, Consulting Historian; James Harrison, James M. Harrison Art & Design Studio

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Sara King offered a brief welcome to the group, thanking the SAG members and the Design Team for their continued efforts on the project. Irene Bowers updated the Advisory Group regarding the Design Team's ongoing work:

- Public Open House #2 was held March 8, 2008 at OAME headquarters. Participants engaged in lively round table discussions regarding three gateway and three historic marker options – see handout for summary of public comment.
- The Design Team and SAG members also recently participated in a work session with Craig Barton, a visiting professor from UVA, who emphasized the importance of keeping the project focused on local events and stories, “making it of this place”.
- The date, time and venue has been set for the final Public Open House and is as follows: Wednesday May 28, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Irvington Village Covenant, Meeting Room
- The next hurdle for the project continues to be developing a strategy for maintenance and upkeep of the project elements.

A brief discussion of how to facilitate the public’s awareness and understanding of the project in the next phase produced the following suggestions:

- Hold an informal public open house/gathering at the adjacent Albina Bank so visitors have the opportunity to hear background on the project and then participate in one of a series of small group tours of the gateway site itself. This may help the general public better understand the proposed concept master plan.
- Create a modest mockup of the heritage marker concept for display at area businesses.

DESIGN REFINEMENTS

Jonathan Beaver reviewed the refinement work for both the Heritage Markers and the Gateway site:

- To bring graphic form to the historical information collected to date, the Design Team is working to assemble a “history

map” which illustrates examples of people, places and events identified through the design and community process to date. This mapping exercise highlighted the opportunity for creation of a secondary layer of modest markers, perhaps inlaid in the sidewalks that could provide general direction (west 3 blocks) to points of historical interest that lie off the boulevard proper. The larger pictorial markers on the boulevard would focus on capturing historic themes, for example commerce, that have played prominent roles in the development of area communities. These markers would be more rhythmic in their placement and lit from within at night.

- Refinement of the Gateway Site, based on input from the second Public Open House workshop exercises, was also presented. The current site plan incorporates a sculptural “beacon” situated in a modest plaza. A grove of trees shades portions of the plaza with adjacent walls providing opportunities for incorporating pedestrian scale text relating historical information. An landform frames the boulevard as it moves through the site.

SAG FEEDBACK

Mapping Historical Data/Heritage Markers:

- With regard to the items currently being “mapped”, where did the information come from? Largely from Jan’s work, from community members at the Open House, or other sources?
- The bulk of the information has come from the historian’s work as a starting point with the community then weighing in and adding items at the Open House events, through word of mouth or via comment cards and the web. Some of Jan’s initial work put her in contact with individuals, such as members of the

Volga German Russian community, that then came to and participated in the Public Open House work sessions as a result.

- Is the addition of lighting to the Historic Markers part of the artistic expression or for illuminating the information?
- Both; lighting the markers gives them a strong visual night time presence, extends the hours in which they communicate both information and continuity along the street.
- Like the black and white nature of the images – how they convey a sense of history. Like the secondary markers that let additional places be denoted in a more modest way. Could make it easier to extend the system in the long run.
- Take care with material selection so that theft of the markers does not happen (pulling bronze inlays from walks, etc).

Gateway Site:

- Are the lines on the plan showing an elevated landform or a depression for gathering stormwater?
- What is shown is an elevated landform intended to emphasize the sense of passing through the site and entering a new district. The crown on the surrounding roads makes it difficult to draw surrounding stormwater to the site, although direct on-site stormwater will be handled within the gateway site itself.
- The landforms seem to create a strong vehicular experience. Is there an opportunity for a walking experience through the elevated pyramids as well?
- Speaking with the Technical Advisory Group eliminated the possibility of adding a sidewalk along the immediate outer edge of the boulevard as it moves north through the site due to concerns for pedestrian safety. The concept plan does integrate new pedestrian

- access on the site's west side across Grand.
- The question of plaza size and function were discussed at some length by the group. Finding a way to illustrate the approximate size of the proposed plaza space in the report was suggested. A need to balance intimacy versus the ability for a large group to gather was also considered. It was noted that the site is a noisy busy space. Ways of using the berm to screen this for the pedestrian was suggested.
- How do we inform people passing in vehicles that that there is something else there, that they should stop and visit/read information?

Technical Advisory Group

Project:	Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Plan
Date:	02.08.08
Time:	2:00 – 4:00 pm
Location:	Portland Development Commission
Subject:	Technical Advisory Group #1
By:	Melinda Graham
Attendees:	Dave Nunamaker, Bureau of Environmental Services; Dan Layden, Portland Office of Transportation; Liza Mickle, Portland Bureau of Planning; Susan Hjorten, Bureau of Environmental Services; Ivy Dunlap, Bureau of Environmental Services; Debbie Bischoff, Portland Planning Bureau; Irene Bowers, PDC; Joanne Daunt, PDC; Jonathan Beaver, 2.ink Studio; Melinda Graham, 2.ink Studio

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Irene Bowers welcomed the group and began introductions. A brief project overview followed noting that the Design Team has completed the first Public Open House event and is now beginning preparation of concept alternatives for the gateway site and heritage markers. Irene clarified the Technical Advisory Group's role as a sounding board for developing ideas with a specific emphasis on helping the team identify elements of the concepts that might be "deal breakers", require specific permits or involve processes with specific time line requirements.

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

2.ink Studio provided a brief overview of the process and work completed to date. The team focused on completed site analysis work and then opened a discussion of technical questions:

What opportunities might be available to extend enhancements to include surrounding street areas (specialty paving, etc)?

- There is the possibility of extending special paving into Hancock however this is still a bit experimental regarding issues of maintenance. The Old Town Festival streets are serving as a working case study. The consent of adjacent property owners would also be needed.
- There is the possibility of closing the small turn-back lane between Grand and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd as it carries very limited volumes, increases distractions on the high volume s curve and closure may have some inherent benefits from a traffic perspective.
- Once more specific proposals are on the table a meeting with PDOT should be conducted.

Does this section of road fall under State or local jurisdiction and how will this impact items such as traffic signage in the final design?

- Highway 99E was decommissioned many years ago so the 99E traffic signage could be removed.
- This area falls under PDOT and all enhancements would need to meet PDOT standards. The yellow and black traffic arrows will likely need to be incorporated and matched to PDOT standards. Dan will work to get applicable information from the PDOT traffic engineers.

What stormwater issues might be present on the site and what would trigger the need for stormwater treatment?

- Development of greater than 500 SF of impervious area on the site would trigger the need for stormwater treatment. Send topo to Dave Nunamaker to determine how water is currently flowing adjacent to the site.
- On site water lines may be covered with a limited amount of fill
- All utilities on the site are part of franchised agreements. Irene to talk with Mary Beth Henry or Ben Walters regarding PPL Electric Utilities role.

Are there specific issues or criteria related to site lines that the team should account for?

- If NE Hancock were closed it would alleviate both current and future site line concerns by reducing the number of lanes feeding into the s curve. It would also open up greater opportunities for developing the gateway site as an entrance to the neighborhoods.
- In addition to site lines, care should be taken in developing anything that would be too distracting to drivers such as flashing lights.

What opportunities are there for improving pedestrian circulation?

- No pedestrian crossings can be allowed in the s-curve.
- The only possibility may be a HOC signal at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd to the bulb out if the turn-back lane were closed.
- Crossing at Schuyler (to the south) is not a good idea as cars are often shifting lanes unexpectedly here. Pedestrian traffic should not be attracted to the northwest side of the gateway site.
- It may be good to get additional feedback from CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) at the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

What assumptions should be made regarding maintenance?

- There are no PDOT resources currently available for maintenance of the site or markers.
- Consider a partnership with NNEBA such as that done in the Lloyd District or creation of a BID (Business Improvement District) similar to what is currently being done for the streetcar.
- If sufficient street stormwater was brought into the site a partnership with BES may be able to address specific stormwater related items four times a year. There may also be additional grant or other financial opportunities such as the “1% for Green” program available. Would need to show that the project is going above and beyond the requirements of the stormwater manual. Also important to show how the stormwater feature aspect is providing multiple benefits.

What about overhead structures crossing the roadway?

- Minimum 17’ clearance drawn as a box from the back of the curb out and up.

What specific criteria should be considered in design and placement of the heritage markers?

- Maintain a minimum 6p clear path of travel for ADA (prefer 7-8’ on this street).
- 4’ is typical for the furnishing zone – most elements would be occur within this zone
- Within the sidewalk area there are concerns with items such as pavers. Needs to remain as a flat smooth surface for ADA.
- Interventions are fine at major intersections as long as they do not interfere with the signals, curb ramps and clearances.
- A continuous row of bollards along the boulevard may be a concern as cars can easily hit them.
- With regard to lighted arches would need to consider how it interacts with items on the street such as signals, trees, lights, etc.
- Night Sky criteria should also be explored.
- Given the boulevards consistent accident history there will need to be an agreements regarding the introduction of lighting or other “big moves” regarding both maintenance and liability.

NEXT STEPS

The group offered the following ideas on additional groups/individuals that may be included in the on-going process:

- Landmarks Commission (Richard Engelmann)
- Art De Muro – Venerable Properties and Chair of Landmarks Commission
- Linda Dodds and Bob Hadlow – historian at ODOT
- Linda Stout – historical review of Union Avenue

Irene closed the meeting with a discussion of schedule. The TAG will meet again prior to Public Open House #2 – date and time TBA.

END

Project:	Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Plan
Date:	02.26.08
Time:	3:30 – 5:00 pm
Location:	Portland Development Commission
Subject:	Technical Advisory Group #2
By:	Melinda Graham
Attendees:	Dave Nunamaker, Bureau of Environmental Services; Dan Layden, Portland Office of Transportation; Liza Mickle, Portland Bureau of Planning; Ivy Dunlap, Bureau of Environmental Services; Debbie Bischoff, Portland Planning Bureau; Susan Hjorten, Bureau of Environmental Services; Irene Bowers, PDC; Jonathan Beaver, 2.ink Studio; Melinda Graham, 2.ink Studio

WELCOME

Irene Bowers welcomed the group and gave a quick update on the project including the following logistics for the second Public Open House: Saturday / March 8 / 10 a.m. / OAME

CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES

2.ink Studio presented current work on concept alternatives for the gateway site and heritage markers. In summary:

GATEWAY CONCEPT A

- Building on the metaphor of the North Star as a celestial means of navigation, including its role in the Underground Railroad, this concept consists of a matched pair of lighted sculptures that project skyward. Aligned with Grand Avenue moving north and Martin

Luther King Jr. Blvd. traveling south, the columns rise above a grove of trees forming the ground plane.

GATEWAY CONCEPT B

- This creates a landform at the gateway site that references the link between words and ideals, ideals and actions. The landform with its subsurface layers revealing the words of Dr. King symbolizes how his ideals create a moral foundation for his actions. The scale and substance of the single landform bisected by NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd speaks to a sense of permanence.

GATEWAY CONCEPT C

- Building on the idea that the individuals of north/northeast Portland have lived out the words of Dr. King through their everyday lives, this concept consists of a series of physical walls used to list the names, dates, and descriptions of major events in the history of the inner north/northeast neighborhoods. Each wall has multiple lit glass block elements, each signifying an important person or event. The walls become a “living memorial” as each new name or event that is added, creates a new light within the walls.

MARKER CONCEPT A

- Referencing the posting of leaflets on neighborhood telephone poles as a form of urban communication, these markers take the form of columns, 20 feet in height, placed one per block on alternating blocks within the 4 foot wide furnishing zone. Covered with page size panels, “leaflets”, carrying historical information these columns can portray a variety of themes, stories, and events important to the neighborhoods of inner north/northeast Portland.

MARKER CONCEPT B

- Beginning with the concept of the soap box as a traditional form of street-side discourse, these smaller bollard style markers reference the boxes and podiums historically used to “take the floor” in the exchange of ideas. Located in pairs at each intersection along the boulevard, these lit bollards mark the intersections, depicting historical information and neighborhood identity as appropriate. The form and placement of these bollards is still being explored.

MARKER CONCEPT C

- Located just off the primary intersections on Martin Luther King Blvd. (connecting east-west), these arching markers bridge the boulevard. These arches carry images of people and events that resonate with the history of the N/NE communities.

Following the presentation of concepts the team opened the floor for feedback, including personal impressions as well as feedback on specific technical aspects of the concepts.

TAG FEEDBACK

- Clarify Gateway Concept #1; what is the reference to the North Star and the Underground Railroad and how will it be conveyed on the site? Team should clearly present the concept statements at the Open House as well as consider if/how this layer of information might be conveyed on the actual site itself if built.
- The potential for the leaflet columns to convey not only historical information but also significant contemporary people and events is positive as is their form.
- The visual reference seen in Gateway Concept #1 to other column forms in the district, such as the spires at the Convention Center,

is positive. Caution should be made however to place them in a location on the gateway site where they are less likely to be hit by errant cars. Also the team needs to consider intense wind loads and the expense of necessary footings. Perhaps pull sculptures deeper into the site or incorporate elements that guard the poles from direct impact.

- Gateway Concept #2 raises the concern that the inclusion of words on the walls might prove distracting and dangerous for drivers. The group discussed the inclusion of words as a large scale graphic application rather than as text intended to be read as a sentence. Also is the possibility of keeping any text very large.
- Are we inviting people to come up close to the wall on foot to read – this would be dangerous in this location on the high traffic curve. No, there would need to be two layers of text; one set large and facing the vehicular traffic, the other smaller and more information intensive on the back side of the form oriented to the pedestrian friendly zone.
- Gateway Concept C is positive in that it connects people across generation by including historical and contemporary.
- Concept C is very positive but does it raise a safety concern with regard to creating hiding places? Reducing the number and height of walls, as well as exploring possibility of “transparent” material for walls, is currently being explored. The symbolism of walls, for keeping in or keeping out, is softened by breaking walls up into segments; can further soften with surrounding landscape treatment. Use wall concept to turn the “gated community” perspective on its head, i.e. walls become welcoming and celebratory by adding celebration of contemporary people and events as well.
- Perhaps there is an opportunity to use diverse trees not typically used adjacent to streets such

as evergreens. Perhaps varied tree selection is another layer that reflects historical diversity of the communities.

- Need to ask and understand how the R.O.W. elements such as the traffic arrows will be incorporated. Start showing on the drawings so you can assess realities of it. Dan will explore whether these are a State or City sign standard.
- The team should be careful to not “celebrate the utility box”, i.e. draw undue attention to utilities by attempting to screen or hide them. Utilities become part of the visual clutter that people just filter out.
- The current art work on the site has been successful because it occupies the middle visual zone and has an almost directional sense to it in the shape of the pieces, seen going into the curve.
- The idea of using large-scale images if very good but the archway near major intersections on the boulevard is problematic on a number of levels. Perhaps the idea of pictures as a graphic can be translated to the column forms.
- Not as fond of the leaflet columns because they are too similar to what is on Alberta. Perhaps use images instead of “leaflets”. There is a very successful graphic at the end of the light rail (Expo stop) where images are incorporated. Images also seem less likely to be tagged – particularly if they depict contemporary people and places.
- The arch concept necessitates a very long span to extend across the entire boulevard. Does not seem like enough impact for the time, effort and money it would take. Archway markers would need to be > 70’ from the traffic signals at the major intersections putting them almost mid-block. Even then there would likely need to be a column touching down at the median. The anchoring columns on either side of the boulevard would need to be greater than the 4 feet available in the furnishing zone

(would need to be a very “beefy” column). Perhaps explore a column form on either side that implies arching, current shape is also unappealing; cold, hard, too linear, scary

- Marker Concept A – like how the form is fractured; can see how you could incorporate the ability to exchange panels as new material was added
- Archway markers with pictures big enough to be seen by cars might become distracting; images are over 17’ in the air. Perhaps explore the idea of single “beefy” columns at or near major intersections. Be aware that locating objects at these intersections will be challenging however given the traffic signals, light poles, curb ramps, mass transit elements, etc.
- Once the next round of concept work is complete the Design Team should meet with additional Portland Office of Transportation folks to get additional feedback; Dan will follow-up
- Ivy made a final note that the GIS mapping of water lines and additional information provided by BES at the first meeting should be considered diagrammatic only as a number of factors influences where the lines actual location currently resides.
- No schemes, even the landform, preclude treatment of stormwater on the site. Team should consider treating runoff from adjacent streets even if the site is developed as primarily pervious softscape.

NEXT STEPS

- The team reviewed the schedule noting that the next TAG meeting was anticipated to follow Public Open House #2. Irene Bowers will contact the group to establish the next date and time.

END

Project: Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Plan
Date: 05.09.08
Time: 1:30 – 2:45 pm
Location: Portland Development Commission
Subject: Technical Advisory Group #3
By: Melinda Graham
Attendees: Dave Nunamaker, Bureau of Environmental Services; Dan Layden, Portland Office of Transportation; Liza Mickle, Portland Bureau of Planning; Debbie Bischoff, Portland Planning Bureau; Irene Bowers, PDC; Joanne Daunt, PDC; Jonathan Beaver, 2.ink Studio

WELCOME

Joanne Daunt welcomed the group and gave a quick update on the project.

CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES

2.ink Studio presented current work on both the gateway concept and ideas for the heritage marker. In summary:

Recap of Second Public Open House

- The design team presented three schemes for both the gateway and the heritage markers and has incorporated feedback from the public on those schemes in refining the new concept.

Gateway Revised Concept

- The revised scheme combines the preferred elements from the previous three schemes. A landform on each side of the road creates a sense of entry into the neighborhood with

opportunities for signage at both directions of travel. The 'North Star' sculpture sits on axis with Grand Avenue creating a beacon with lighting. Surrounding the 'North Star' sculpture is a small plaza (30'x100'+/-) with space for a small seating area, trees, and ground level map of the neighborhood or historic information. The scheme calls for eliminating the turn around on the west side of the 'S' curve.

Markers Revised Concept

- The revised scheme looks at interpreting the neighborhood history in two ways: the first is with a series of taller monuments that would be placed every 2-4 blocks and would prominently display historic images of the neighborhoods and would be based on larger themes of commerce, immigration, etc. The markers would be lit to create a strong presence in the evening hours and help create a strong identity for the street. The secondary markers would be small, pedestrian-scaled, in-grade monuments that would relate specifically to people and places and would be placed to mark events either due east or west of MLK Jr. Blvd. Each marker would be cast in bronze or other durable material and would give a direction and distance to the historic event.

Following the presentation of concepts the team opened the floor for feedback, including personal impressions as well as feedback on specific technical aspects of the concepts.

TAG FEEDBACK

- Try to incorporate recycled materials into the final concepts.
- Please remind the group of the origins of the 'North Star' concept.
- Don't worry about addressing the turn-around

- closure at this time. It can probably be done.
- Need to address maintenance. PDC is currently working on this issue.
 - Markers in furnishing zone will need to address the potential of being hit by cars, vandal resistance, etc.
 - It is possible to tap into existing power sources on the street. It may be possible to handle lighting with solar panels and LED lights.
 - Team should consider treating runoff from the plaza space on the east side of the Gateway site, to help preclude pedestrian crossing midblock on Grand.
 - Reviewers asked to receive the compiled historic information – information will be sent from the design team via PDC.

NEXT STEPS

- This is the final TAG meeting. The next public open house will be on May 28, 2008.

END

Project: Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Gateway and Heritage Markers Concept Plan

Date: 04.24.08

Time: 9:30 – 12:00 pm

Location: Heritage Building, 3934 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Subject: Working Session w/ Craig Barton, University of Virginia

By: Melinda Graham

Attendees: Eric Wentland, Property Owner; Teri Karren-Keith, Albina Community Bank; Pauline Bradford, Eliot Neighborhood Assoc.; Marquis Stoudamire, Citizen-At-Large; Steve Lebowohl, Citizen-At-Large; Marian de Bardelaben, Citizen-At-Large; Irene Bowers, PDC; Joanne Daunt, PDC; Joleen Jensen-Classen, PDC; Estee Segal, PDC; Sara King, PDC; Jonathan Beaver, 2.ink Studio; Melinda Graham, 2.ink Studio; Janice Dilg, Consulting Historian; James Harrison, James M. Harrison Art & Design Studio

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

The Design Team and PDC Core Team were joined by Craig Barton, Chair of the Architecture and Landscape Architecture Department at the University of Virginia. Mr. Barton has been extensively involved in projects working with African American communities to preserve and interpret their significant cultural resources and to utilize them to stimulate community development.

Irene Bowers led introductions followed by a team overview of the project work to date.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The following topics were addressed in a general discussion with Craig Barton.

- Critical elements to consider: What is the story / Who is your audience / What is the content
- Story: what is intriguing in this project is that similar circumstances have brought a variety of migrant communities to the area, often overlapping each other. What they did as

individuals, as communities, what held them together (their institutions) and what made them different is the richest content. Even current newcomers to the area are repeating the same cycle; buying in, building community, creating a voice and then likely moving on and the cycle will continue again.

- Audience: there may be multiple audiences here: old timers – feel need to capture their stories; new comers – can learn from the history and stories; visitors – stories strengthen identity and experience of the neighborhood
- Content: consider backing off the formal design and focus on where the Markers would go. Sort historical information by people, place, and events, and layer the locations up to create a “content map” of sorts.
- Mapping: locating the Markers relative to the actual location of historic events, architecture, etc allows people to better connect with the information, making the Markers more relevant than if more arbitrarily placed.
- Mapping: also map pragmatic information such as locations where Markers could be more easily integrated (vacant lots to be developed), locations marking important connections out into the surrounding neighborhood (major intersections, bus stops)
- Consider reaching out beyond the corridor through the use of maps and images to tie into larger local/national fabric. What was happening concurrently in the larger context.
- The ability for contemporary information to be added to the Marker system also helps increase relevancy to the present audience. Create a strong infrastructure (framework) of monuments that allow for a few interventions over time without disrupting the overall strength of the Markers.
- Honor the ideals of Dr. King by identifying community leaders that in their service to their community carried out these ideals –

even if before they were articulated by Dr. King. Focus not so strictly on Dr. King the man, but keep focus on the strengths of the neighborhoods and what they did.

CONVERSATION WITH STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY MEMBERS

Several Stakeholder Advisory Group members joined the group and conversation continued.

- Critical elements to consider: What is the story / Who is your audience / What is the content
- N-NE Portland has an explosive history, dedicated, rich history and people don’t want it to get lost, wiped away.
- It serves as an education for all people – it is American history. It is the story of immigrants in Oregon.
- The history is seen in location of important places (Elks Lodge, Flowers Building – contact Kathy Hopper). Focus also on the important people – the people are what make the places and events. Look to the institutions they created (churches, fraternal organizations, community centers, best barber or butch, etc)
- Question – how do we, or should we, try to tell local history, African Americans in the NW states, or history of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. Can all of this be done successfully?
- These types of efforts are successful when you talk about what happened locally. Keep the connection intimate to the corridor and neighborhoods and identify signature or seminal events occurring in PDX at the time to make connections, then national if relevant.
- Consider how the story might be told. As a pod cast of the story being told by those that stood witness – you want to get a rhythm of how the neighborhood felt. Again, i.d. the community leaders. Approach it as a “community history” project, a story about American life and

culture, how each of us connects to the past. Tell the stories complete with inaccuracies and conflicts! These stories “fill-in” historical gaps versus “re-writing” history.

- Process: think visually about it. Take all records that allow you to talk about the corridor, i.d. strong intersections, don’t focus on chronology (this is not how the pieces will be experienced) but rather just start adding things (barbershop, etc.) This creates an infrastructure, an architecture that will hold the stories. Stay away from chronology, each piece must stand on its own AND send out tentacles into the surrounding context.
- Methods to convey information: see, transmit, allude (to things outside your view corridor). Some information is visual, some is text based, translation of oral stories, pod casts.
- Consider a combination of analog and digital information with one leading to the other (as a teaser). Give options to variety of individuals that may interact with the pieces.
- This can be considered as a system that grows over time as each new building takes on a kiosk for example. Think of it as a photo album that digitally changes. But understand that these systems must be managed.
- Question – could a change in pavement be considered in the roadway at the Gateway site for emphasis? Will review with the TAG.
- Next steps may include community wide meetings to record oral histories, to build content. Think strategically over the next phase and incorporate “history harvests” where community members come together to share stories. Consider videography, scanning documents...builds both content and constituency (interest and advocacy). May need to reach beyond current people in the neighborhood as well to gather old stories.

END

Appendix E

SOURCES

Archives, Historical Societies, and Libraries

All-Ireland Cultural Society of Oregon
Mike Flanigan mflaniga@standard.com
P.O. Box 3411
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 286-4812
<http://hometown.aol.com/aicsoregon/myhomepage/club.html>

Source of history of Irish in Albina area, held anniversary of Irish Potato Famine and Irish heritage in Oregon at Hibernian Hall in 1997.

City of Portland, Stanley Parr Archives & Records Center
9360 N Columbia Blvd
Portland, OR 97203
phone: 503-823-4631

Extensive collections of photographs, maps, and documents relating to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, built environment of surrounding area, and people of the area. (see bibliography and photo list)

Norse Hall, Sons of Norway
111 N.E. 11th
Portland, OR 97232
503-236-3401

<http://www.norsehall.org/>
Small library with historical documents and photographs. Long-time members have recollections of area and Scandinavian community in NE Portland.

Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 222-1741

Extensive collection of documents and photographs of neighborhoods, streets, buildings, people, and events. (see bibliography and photo list)

Scandinavian Heritage Foundation
8800 SW Oleson Road
Portland, OR 97223
(503) 977-0275
shf@mindspring.com
<http://www.scanheritage.org/NewWebPage/titlepage.html>
Source of history of Scandinavian immigrants in the Portland area.

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church & Polish Library Building Association
Church:
3916 N. Interstate Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97227
(503) 281-7532
Library:
3832 N. Interstate Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97227
503-287-4077
plba@portlandpolonia.org
<http://www.ststanislauspx.com/>
Source of history of Polish immigrants in the Portland area.

The Volga Germans in Portland
Steve Schreiber, webmaster and historian
volga.germans@gmail.com
<http://www.volgagermans.net/portland/indexhtml>
This site offers history of German Russians who came to Portland around the turn of the 20th century and settled in neighborhoods along MLK, and photographs and maps of the community, plus links to other resources in the Portland area.

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