

# Dorothea Dix Park Cultural Interpretation Plan

Kickoff meeting December 6, 2022

#### **CIP Consultant team**

Cloud Gehshan (Lead)
Project Management
& Conceptual Direction

Brocade Studio
Interpretive Planning & Facilitation

Public Participation Partners
Public Engagement





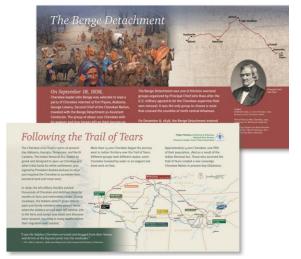


























#### **BROCADE** STUDIO













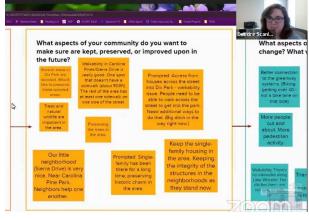












#### What is a Cultural interpretation Plan—and why?

The Master Plan, adopted by City Council in 2019, presented a strong need for interpreting the site's history and landscape.

#### **Core Principles**

- Open Up and Connect
- Build From What Is There
- Offer Something For

#### **Master Plan Themes**

- Wellness and Play
- Gardens and Ecology
- History and Reflection
- Arts and Culture
- Food and Community
- Park Support

#### Master Plan Core Principle: Build from what is there

- The natural and human history found at Dix Park are not challenges to overcome or to erase. But rather resources to embrace and shape the future of the park.
- Honor the legacy of Dorothea Dix by creating park spaces and programs that support wellness
- Bring meaning and relevance to the site's complex layers of history through new park elements

#### **Master Plan Theme: History & Reflection**

- Traditional Interpretations: Exhibits, Markers, Memorials
- Landscape Heritage: Restored Ecosystems Reflect Historical Wild and Agricultural landscapes
- Partners: Local Organizations Invited to Create Storytelling Opportunities and Unique Programming
- Program: Tours, Oral Histories, Lectures, and Performances

#### **Cultural interpretation Plan Purpose & Goals**

- Develop site-specific, culturally-responsive approaches for highlighting moments in Dix Park history
- Elevate historical and cultural consciousness by highlighting underlying meaning and underrepresented voices
- Center equity, focus, accessibility, and respect in engagement efforts
- Create a decision-making framework and strategy for implementation

#### What is in a Cultural Interpretation Plan?

#### **Storytelling**

Whose stories and perspectives? Who are we connecting with?

#### **Place**

Where do these stories or opportunities belong?

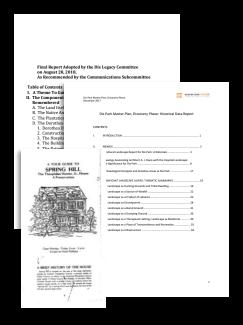
#### **Conceptual strategy**

How can we realize these stories and opportunities in the park?

#### Implementation strategy

When do we do this and how?

#### **Storytelling: learn & listen**



Legacy Committee Community Committee CIP Task Force Dix Park Staff Leadership Committee Mental Health & history
Native American voices
Dix Park Cemetery
Segregation
Civil war era at Dix Hosp.
Education in parks



**Collected** research

Discussions with Dix Park groups

Discussions with experts

Workshops

#### **Storytelling Workshops**



Narratives – Perspectives & Sensitivities – Experiences – Opportunities

#### **Storytelling: organize & strategize**

Connect the past with the present

Uplift underrepresented voices

Facilitate ways to tell and experience multi-faceted histories

Identify opportunities for ongoing partnerships

Indigenous	Civil War &	Colonization	Mental health	Burial	Slavery & unpaid	Spring Hill
history	Union occupation		& healing	grounds	labor	Plantation
Dorothea Dix Hospital	Landscape destruction and restoration	Restorative justice	Healing & connection through nature	Community voices & knowledge	Indigenous culture today	Ecology

#### **Place**

Placement, prominence & usage

Existing interpretation and programs

Infrastructure, staffing & resources



Target audience desires & needs

Physical Assets & opportunities

Future development

## **Conceptual strategy**

Permanent exhibit	Temporary exhibit	Signage	Environmental enhancement	Program
Event	Handheld/ digital	Interactive/ participatory	Community art	Commissioned art

### **Conceptual strategy with public engagement**







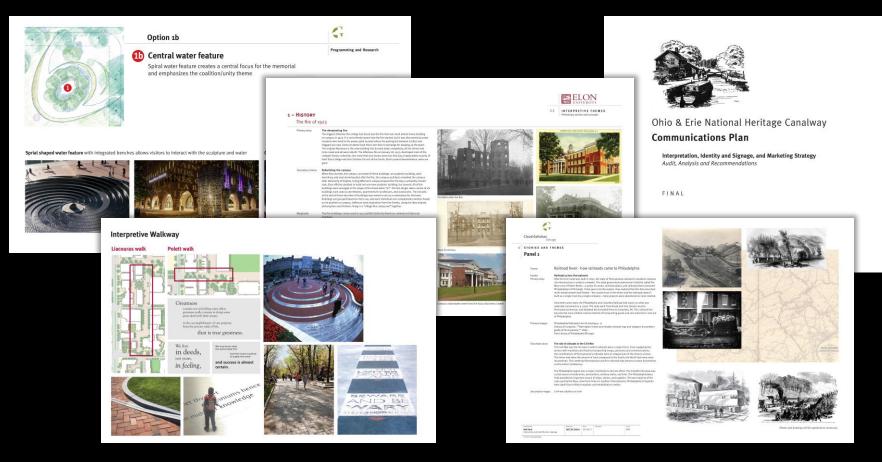








#### Implementation strategy



# Deliver an implementation strategy that is specific & achievable

Create a decision-making framework

Work within the resources you have/will have

Identify who will initiate, help create, own and maintain

Coordinate with other projects, programs and initiatives in the park

Identify "quick wins" and suggest phasing plans

Present a range of size, temporary, pilot & permanent projects

Discuss realistic budgets, maintenance requirements & lifespan

#### **Process**

**Project Launch** December identify the project goals, stakeholders, major themes, and opportunities

Research & Storytelling Workshops January—July 2023 Learn from collected research, experts and workshop groups

Interpretive Strategy Development August–December 2023 Organize and prioritize information; strategize how it could be expressed

Outreach/Conceptual Workshops January–February 2024 Determine preferences for interpretation projects and programs

**Plan Formulation** *March–July* 2024 *Organize ideas into distinct projects with parameters for implementation*  **Community Committee** 

Legacy Committee

**CIPTF** 

# Questions?