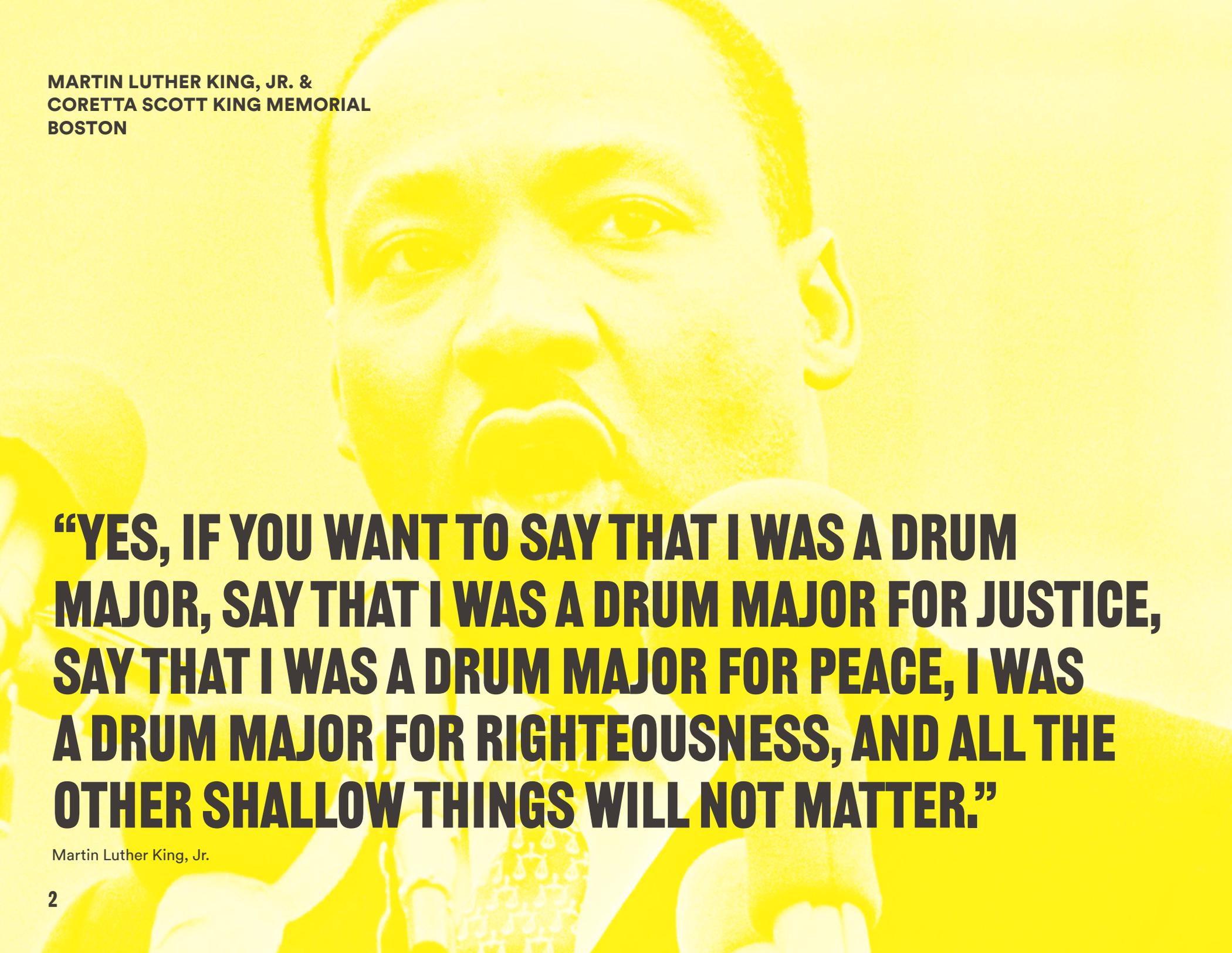




# THE RIPPLE EFFECTS

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. & CORETTA SCOTT KING MEMORIAL**  
RESONANCE OF VOICES, HISTORY, LOVE AND ACTION

WODICZKO + BONDER / MARYANN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS, WITH WALTER HOOD



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. &  
CORETTA SCOTT KING MEMORIAL  
BOSTON

**“YES, IF YOU WANT TO SAY THAT I WAS A DRUM MAJOR, SAY THAT I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE, SAY THAT I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR PEACE, I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THE OTHER SHALLOW THINGS WILL NOT MATTER.”**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

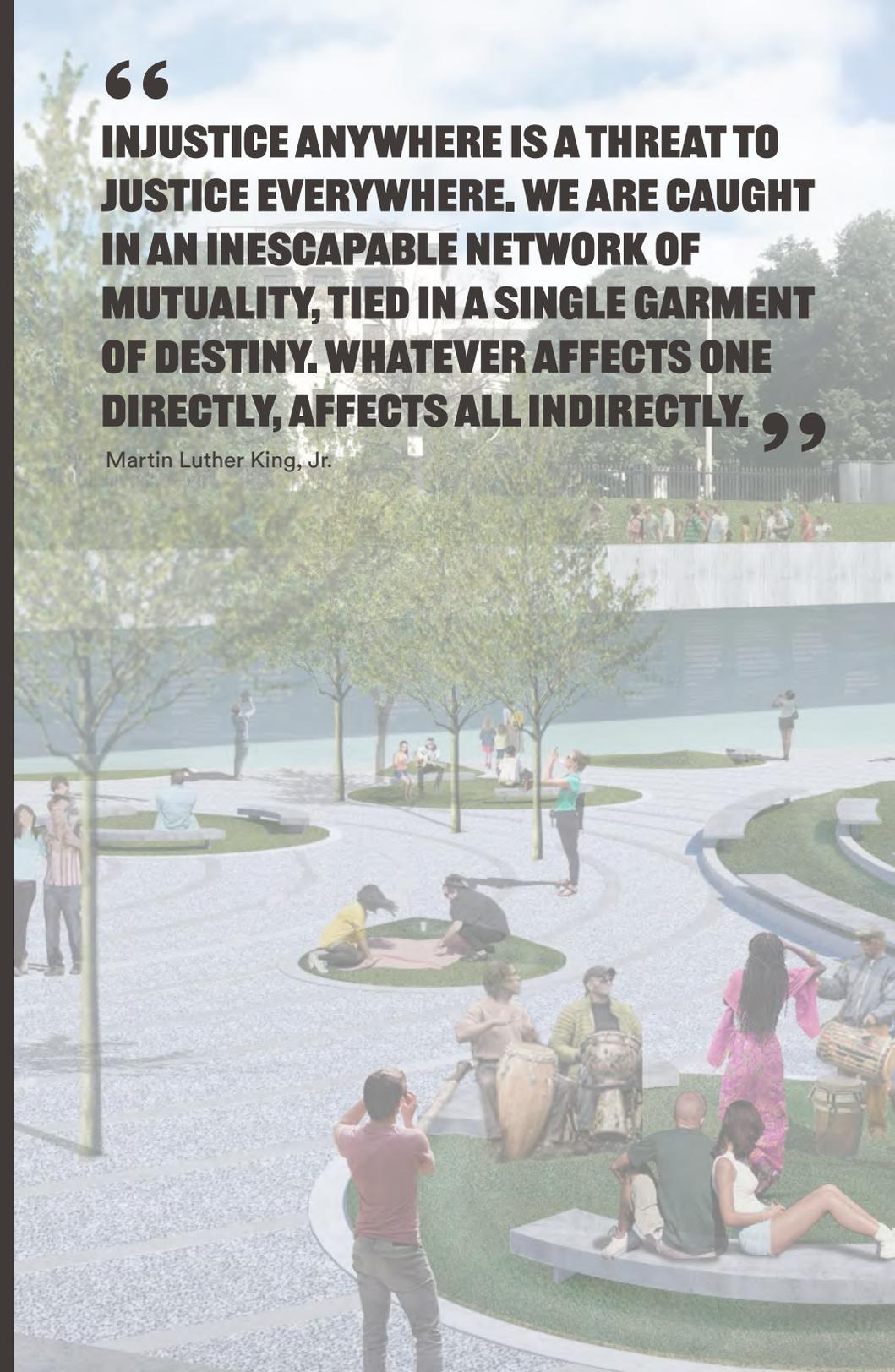
“  
**INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO  
JUSTICE EVERYWHERE. WE ARE CAUGHT  
IN AN INESCAPABLE NETWORK OF  
MUTUALITY, TIED IN A SINGLE GARMENT  
OF DESTINY. WHATEVER AFFECTS ONE  
DIRECTLY, AFFECTS ALL INDIRECTLY.**”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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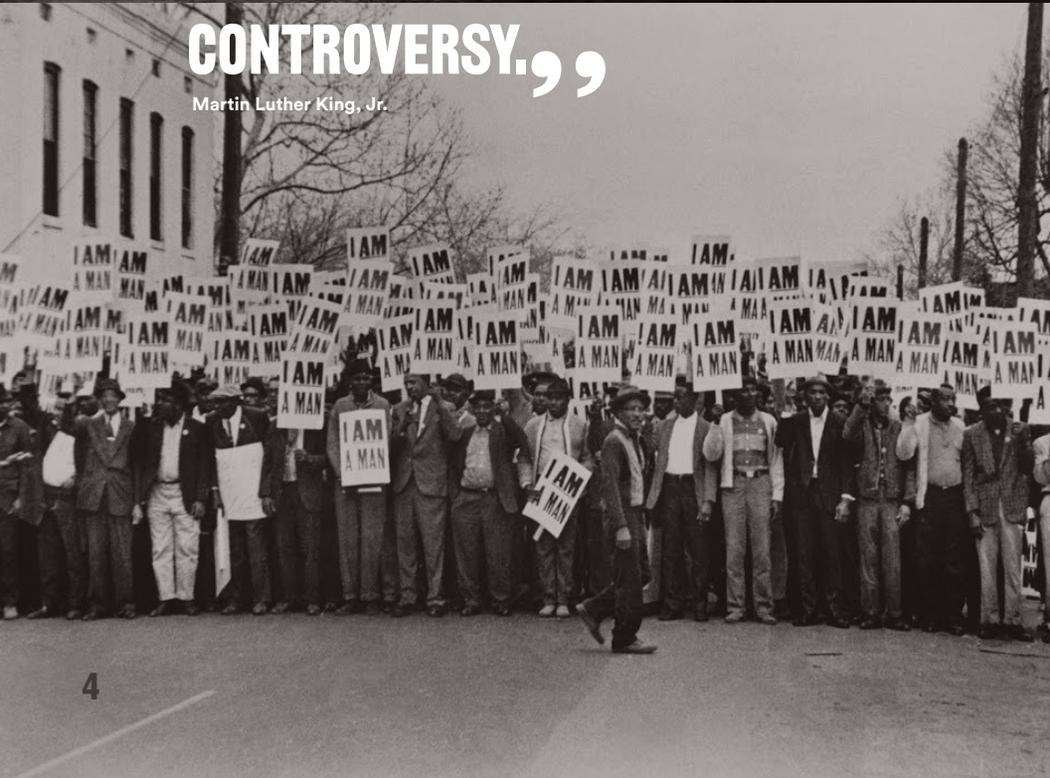
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## APPROACH

“THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF A MAN IS NOT WHERE HE STANDS IN MOMENTS OF COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE, BUT WHERE HE STANDS AT TIMES OF CHALLENGE AND CONTROVERSY.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Monuments and memorials are our ethical, social, and political companions. Their historic destiny is to preserve the memory of the past, while providing conditions for building a better future. As we renew our commitment to continue the struggle for human and civil rights in the 21st century – in the face of repeated historic traumas, massive human injustices such as present-day mass incarceration, continued oppression and violence against women, LGBTQ communities, minorities, and immigrants – we understand the Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King Memorial (MLK/CSK Memorial) in Boston as a genuine call for action and proactive engagement for future generations.

Articulating an approach to this project requires facing various artistic, design, site, historical, ethical, and social questions, such as: How can any of these sites in the Boston Common be meaningfully transformed into the Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King Memorial? How can their voices, alongside other significant voices, be welcomed into a new kind of public space? How might our proposals contribute to redefine the physical, political, and cultural landscape in Boston? How can this project establish significant ethico-political dialogues with other sites of memory and struggle elsewhere in the world? How can we help frame collective and spontaneous acts of remembrance, as well as demand proactive engagement toward building a better world?

We envision a Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King Memorial that addresses the unique relationship the Kings had with Boston, the seminal place in where they found themselves as individ-

uals. as a couple, and as partners in an unprecedented journey in American and world History. In this vein, we propose a project not only to celebrate their lives and accomplishments, but to invite present and future generations to grapple with the fundamental lesson articulated by Coretta King: **“Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation.”**

Indeed, as new generations of Bostonians and visitors, including new immigrants, will be invited to make of this memorial part of their own inherited and newly created identity, we have challenged ourselves to make our proposal address the political dimension of the long continuing struggle for freedom and civil rights, in Boston, in the U.S., and in the world.

Our proposal thus envisages the creation of a public space and forum for engagement, nested in the Boston Common, that will invite reflection and interconnections, at multiple levels and scales of interaction, in order to foster learning, conversation, debate and action. We believe this should be a public space where the Kings’ call to action will be heard, heeded, debated and acted upon; a space that will welcome civic celebrations and public assembly; and a space that will become a new ground for contemporary activism. As we continue the struggle against the three evils that King spoke about and fought against -poverty, racism, militarism- we hope that this memorial will serve as an affirmation of life, love, fellowship and community, embodying a welcoming message, in and from Boston, for generations to come.

**“NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME, NOT TOMORROW, NOT SOME MORE CONVENIENT SEASON. IT IS TODAY THAT OUR BEST WORK CAN BE DONE AND NOT SOME FUTURE DAY OR FUTURE YEAR. IT IS TODAY THAT WE FIT OURSELVES FOR THE GREATER USEFULNESS OF TOMORROW. TODAY IS THE SEED TIME, NOW ARE THE HOURS OF WORK, AND TOMORROW COMES THE HARVEST AND THE PLAYTIME.”**

W. E. B. Du Bois

ONE IS ASTONISHED IN THE STUDY OF HISTORY AT THE RECURRENCE OF THE IDEA THAT EVIL MUST BE FORGOTTEN, DISTORTED, SKIMMED OVER. WE MUST NOT REMEMBER THAT DANIEL WEBSTER GOT DRUNK BUT ONLY THAT HE WAS A SPLENDID CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER. WE MUST FORGET THAT GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS A SLAVE OWNER . . . AND SIMPLY REMEMBER THE THINGS WE REGARD AS CREDITABLE AND INSPIRING. THE DIFFICULTY, OF COURSE, WITH THIS PHILOSOPHY IS THAT HISTORY LOSES ITS VALUE AS AN INCENTIVE AND EXAMPLE; IT PAINTS PERFECT MAN AND NOBLE NATIONS, BUT IT DOES NOT TELL THE TRUTH.

Gary Younge

## HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF VOICES

“YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE HELPED LEAD ALL OUR GREAT MOVEMENTS. HOW INSPIRING TO SEE IT AGAIN IN SO MANY SMART, FEARLESS STUDENTS STANDING UP FOR THEIR RIGHT TO BE SAFE; MARCHING AND ORGANIZING TO REMAKE THE WORLD AS IT SHOULD BE. WE’VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. AND WE’VE GOT YOUR BACKS.

AS AMERICANS, WE RESPECT HUMAN DIGNITY, EVEN WHEN WE’RE THREATENED, WHICH IS WHY [WE] CONDEMN THE PERSECUTION OF WOMEN, OR RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, OR PEOPLE WHO ARE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, OR TRANSGENDER. WE DO THESE THINGS NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY’RE RIGHT, BUT BECAUSE THEY MAKE US SAFER.”

Barack Obama

**“I’M NO LONGER ACCEPTING THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE... I’M CHANGING THE THINGS I CANNOT ACCEPT.”**

Angela Davis

“I WANT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THEY MATTER, THAT THEY BELONG. SO DON’T BE AFRAID. YOU HEAR ME, YOUNG PEOPLE? DON’T BE AFRAID. BE FOCUSED. BE DETERMINED. BE HOPEFUL. BE EMPOWERED. EMPOWER YOURSELF WITH A GOOD EDUCATION. THEN GET OUT THERE AND USE THAT EDUCATION TO BUILD A COUNTRY WORTHY OF YOUR BOUNDLESS PROMISE. LEAD BY EXAMPLE WITH HOPE; NEVER FEAR.”

Michelle Obama

“NO NATION CAN NOW SHUT ITSELF UP FROM THE SURROUNDING WORLD, AND TROT ROUND IN THE SAME OLD PATH OF ITS FATHERS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. THE TIME WAS WHEN SUCH COULD BE DONE. LONG ESTABLISHED CUSTOMS OF HURTFUL CHARACTER COULD FORMERLY FENCE THEMSELVES IN, AND DO THEIR EVIL WORK WITH SOCIAL IMPUNITY. KNOWLEDGE WAS THEN CONFINED AND ENJOYED BY THE PRIVILEGED FEW, AND THE MULTITUDE WALKED ON IN MENTAL DARKNESS. BUT A CHANGE HAS NOW COME OVER THE AFFAIRS OF MANKIND. WALLED CITIES AND EMPIRES HAVE BECOME UNFASHIONABLE. THE ARM OF COMMERCE HAS BORNE AWAY THE GATES OF THE STRONG CITY. INTELLIGENCE IS PENETRATING THE DARKEST CORNERS OF THE GLOBE. IT MAKES ITS PATHWAY OVER AND UNDER THE SEA, AS WELL AS ON THE EARTH. WIND, STEAM, AND LIGHTNING ARE ITS CHARTERED AGENTS. OCEANS NO LONGER DIVIDE, BUT LINK NATIONS TOGETHER. FROM BOSTON TO LONDON IS NOW A HOLIDAY EXCURSION. SPACE IS COMPARATIVELY ANNIHILATED. THOUGHTS EXPRESSED ON ONE SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC, ARE DISTINCTLY HEARD ON THE OTHER. THE FAR OFF AND ALMOST FABULOUS PACIFIC ROLLS IN GRANDEUR AT OUR FEET. THE CELESTIAL EMPIRE, THE MYSTERY OF AGES, IS BEING SOLVED. THE FIAT OF THE ALMIGHTY, “LET THERE BE LIGHT,” HAS NOT YET SPENT ITS FORCE. NO ABUSE, NO OUTRAGE WHETHER IN TASTE, SPORT OR AVARICE, CAN NOW HIDE ITSELF FROM THE ALL-PERVADING LIGHT. THE IRON SHOE, AND CRIPPLED FOOT OF CHINA MUST BE SEEN, IN CONTRAST WITH NATURE. AFRICA MUST RISE AND PUT ON HER YET UNWOVEN GARMENT. “ETHIOPIA SHALL STRETCH OUT HER HAND UNTO GOD.” IN THE FERVENT ASPIRATIONS OF WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, I SAY, AND LET EVERY HEART JOIN IN SAYING IT.”

Frederick Douglass

**“IF THERE IS NO STRUGGLE, THERE IS NO PROGRESS. POWER CONCEDES NOTHING WITHOUT A DEMAND. IT NEVER DID AND IT NEVER WILL.”**

**“IT IS FROM NUMBERLESS DIVERSE ACTS OF COURAGE AND BELIEF THAT HUMAN HISTORY IS SHAPED. EACH TIME A MAN STANDS UP FOR AN IDEAL, OR ACTS TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF OTHERS, OR STRIKES OUT AGAINST INJUSTICE, HE SENDS FORTH A TINY RIPPLE OF HOPE, AND CROSSING EACH OTHER FROM A MILLION DIFFERENT CENTERS OF ENERGY AND DARING, THOSE RIPPLES BUILD A CURRENT THAT CAN SWEEP DOWN THE MIGHTIEST WALLS OF OPPRESSION AND RESISTANCE.”**

Robert Kennedy, University of Cape Town, South Africa,  
“Day of Affirmation” Speech June 6th, 1966

## THE RIPPLE EFFECTS

Martin Luther King and Coretta King have hoped that their prophetic commitment, powerful words, and calls for action, will not only reach the hearts and minds of great number of people to whom they spoke, but also that these people, in turn, will further spread and disseminate such words among their families, immediate social circles and beyond and turning these words into deeds in larger world and through generations.

The great civil rights movement inspired and led by the Kings, was not only a direct result of the public power of their moral and social philosophy, their words and calls for action, but was also the creation of a “ripple effect” of their ideas, voice and commitment.

Such ripples extend to all aspects of humanity including ripples of voice, love, non-violence, fellowship, community, justice, and action.

**VOICE  
LOVE  
NON-VIOLENCE  
FELLOWSHIP  
COMMUNITY  
JUSTICE  
ACTION**

# THE MEMORIAL HISTORIC GEOGRAPHY / CONTEXT

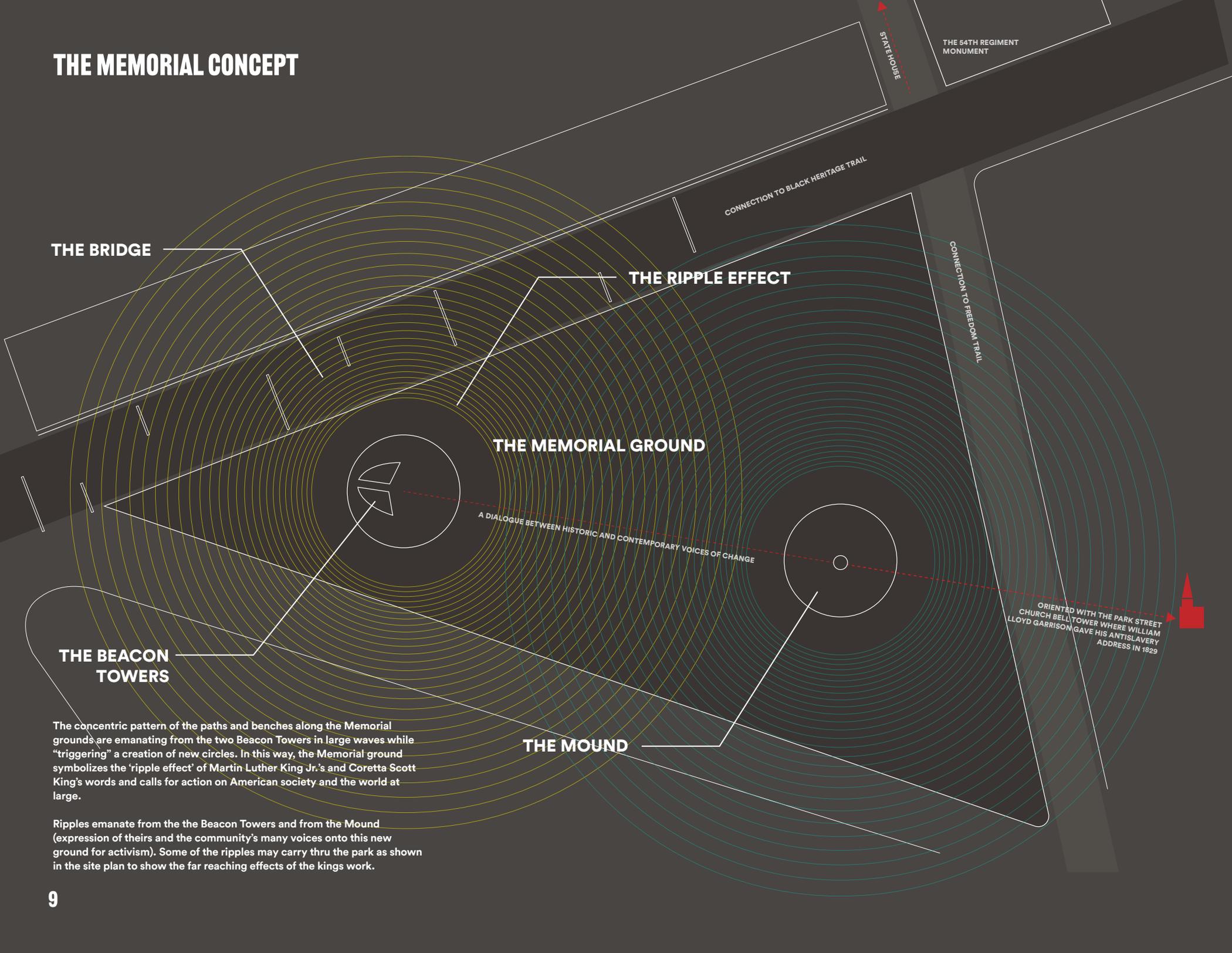
- Black Heritage Trail Landmarks
- Black Heritage Trail
- Freedom Trail
- 1965 March
- Selected Site

“  
FREEDOM IS NEVER  
REALLY WON, YOU EARN  
IT AND WIN IT IN EVERY  
GENERATION.”

Coretta Scott King

After many studies for all three sites, we decided to locate our proposal in close proximity to the 54th Regiment/Shaw Memorial, the State House and the Freedom Trail. We envision a constant dialogue between this site for remembrance, this site for action, and those other significant sites in Boston.

# THE MEMORIAL CONCEPT



## THE BRIDGE

## THE RIPPLE EFFECT

## THE MEMORIAL GROUND

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY VOICES OF CHANGE

## THE BEACON TOWERS

The concentric pattern of the paths and benches along the Memorial grounds are emanating from the two Beacon Towers in large waves while “triggering” a creation of new circles. In this way, the Memorial ground symbolizes the ‘ripple effect’ of Martin Luther King Jr.’s and Coretta Scott King’s words and calls for action on American society and the world at large.

## THE MOUND

Ripples emanate from the the Beacon Towers and from the Mound (expression of theirs and the community’s many voices onto this new ground for activism). Some of the ripples may carry thru the park as shown in the site plan to show the far reaching effects of the kings work.

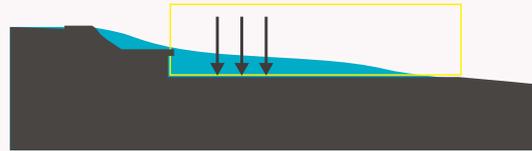
# SITE CONCEPT / SECTION

This proposal's design proceeds through two fundamental, complementary gestures: exposure and immersion, which together create a layered, in-depth experience through which visitors will discover, interpret, contemplate, debate, and act. The proposal transforms the ground of the site in the Boston Common, in order to anchor new meanings, stories, and memories, new ripples, in which visitors will find themselves immersed.

## SITE TRANSFORMATIONS



ORIGINAL SITE SECTION

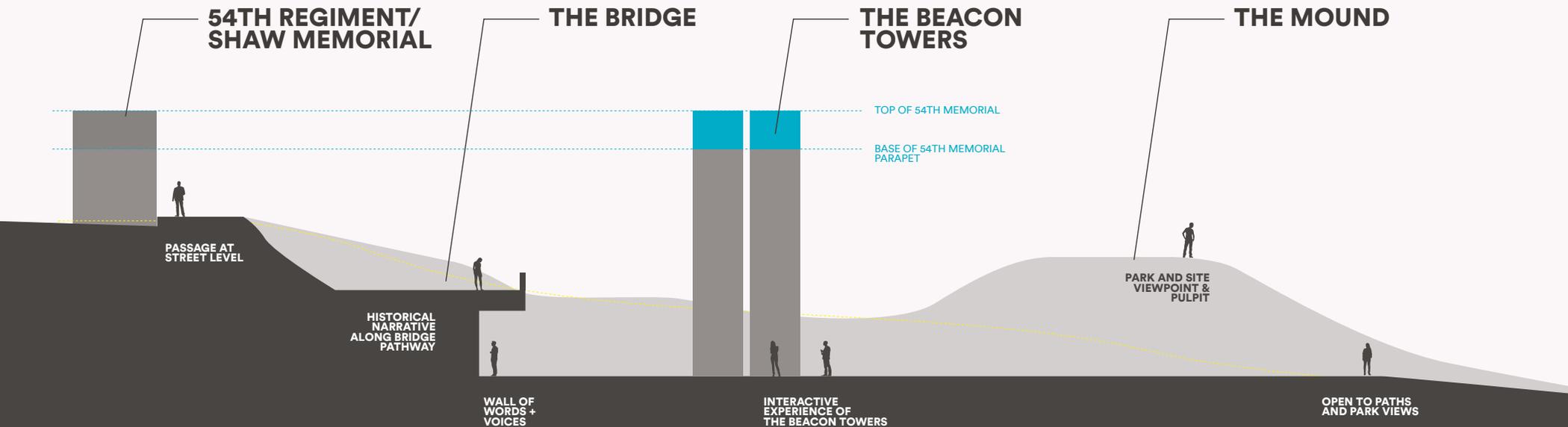


**EXCAVATION** Cutting into the site, revealing a virtual space for public occupation, education, activism and assembly.



**ELEVATING** Building up the site to create a mound, a virtual mountain top, creating a natural pulpit for speaking, a space for gathering and vantage point to view the park.

## SITE ACTIVATIONS



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION



The project has embraced the historic and unique task of creating a monument not to a single hero but to a partnership of two extraordinary people. It is designed as a living thing that must be continually reanimated and repurposed by the people who engage with it.

The ultimate goal of the design scheme is to activate a complex public space in order to inspire learning, dialogue, and activism now and later. It is not only a symbolic ground for public gatherings, cultural activity, individual and group reflection and discussion but also a socially engaging interactive media environment.

The proposal uses the Common to embed this dual monument in a deep history of activism, signaled by the memorial to Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, and to carry that meaning and purpose into the future.

The triangular site organized by a mound on the east side is reached by stairs and ramps, and a conjoined pair of sound-light towers, the Beacon Towers, on the west side. The Beacon Towers manifest in a clear form the dual subject of the monument, the partnership of Martin Luther King, Jr and Coretta Scott King. The mutual vibrations of their bells evoke the interplay of these two lives and voices that inspired and shaped each other.

The Beacon Towers are designed to combine symbolism with action. They symbolize the continuing presence and inspiration and impact of the Kings' moral and social leadership, while at the same time — through the sounds of bells and the pulses of light-monitoring — they continually inform the visitors on the current state of the emancipation process, globally, nationally, and in Boston. (Please see the separate description of the workings of the Memorial responsive media system).

Emanating from the Beacon Towers, in the surface texture of the Memorial Ground, are

ripples that evoke the “ripple effect” of the words, actions and leadership of The Kings. The ripples expand across the site and intersect with the ripples coming from the mound that rises above. These ripples and cyphers are expressions of the community's many voices on this new ground for activism. From this ground, The Mound creates a journey “to the mountaintop” culminating in a platform from which to view the paired Beacon Towers and the State House, and to bring into being a public community of engaged visitors. The space at the top can be used for Debates, for speaking to the public, for conversation as well as for contemplation. A grove of trees will be planted to create shade and another kind of environment. The edge of the mound towards the Memorial Ground is designed as an amphitheater with seating areas.

Two richly evocative paths traverse the site and connect it beyond the Common to a broad temporal horizon that stretches from the deep origins of the Kings' struggle to the unfinished work of the future. One is the Freedom Trail that is redirected here to the top of the mound. The other is an elevated walkway or bridge leading from the 54th Memorial across the Common past the bell Beacon Towers rising from below.

While the site is visually unified by the ripples that connect the bell Beacon Towers to the mound, within that framework are distinct zones intended to activate the experience on the ground by creating a variety of scales and experiences of human interaction.

The bridge provides the opportunity to embed in the ground a chronology of moving oratory beginning with abolitionism in the 19th century and leading to the struggles for justice and equality in the 21st century. In this way the Kings' lives are set into a larger story that remains unfinished. Below the

bridge, a glass wall offers a more intimate and self-reflective encounter with written and spoken texts that teach and inspire. The reflective surface of the glass allows for the visitor to see themselves layered onto and within the context of the words., and in the company of 'others'.....inviting then a personal call to action for each individual who interacts with this glass wall. From the two Beacon Towers an open plaza allows a communal experience of the bells and the ripples of speech emanating from them, while on top of the mound a deliberately empty platform encourages visitors to look outward over the site and the city and inward toward each other in discussion, debate, and compact.

In this way the mutually engaged lives of the two Kings provide both inspiration and model for the mutual engagement of visitors to this memorial. The main idea here is to make the example of the Kings a catalyst for an ongoing process of transformation, in which the monument is continually defined and redefined. Monitoring the emancipation process in Boston, nationally, and in the world, it encourages and inspires experiences, resolutions, and actions of the people who visit it.



View to The Memorial Ground, The Beacon Towers, The Mound and The Bridge, with State House in background



Aerial View from the South



View from 54th Regiment/Shaw Memorial



Section looking at the Wall of Words and the Bridge



Evening view (The Beacon Towers and ripples)



Section looking at the Mound

0' 5' 15' 30' 50'



**View of Wall of Words and the Bridge above towards The Mound**

The proposal reveals a 'hidden' ground beneath the surface of Common's designated site in order to anchor new memories into a city and national narrative, itself a fragment of a global historical formation.

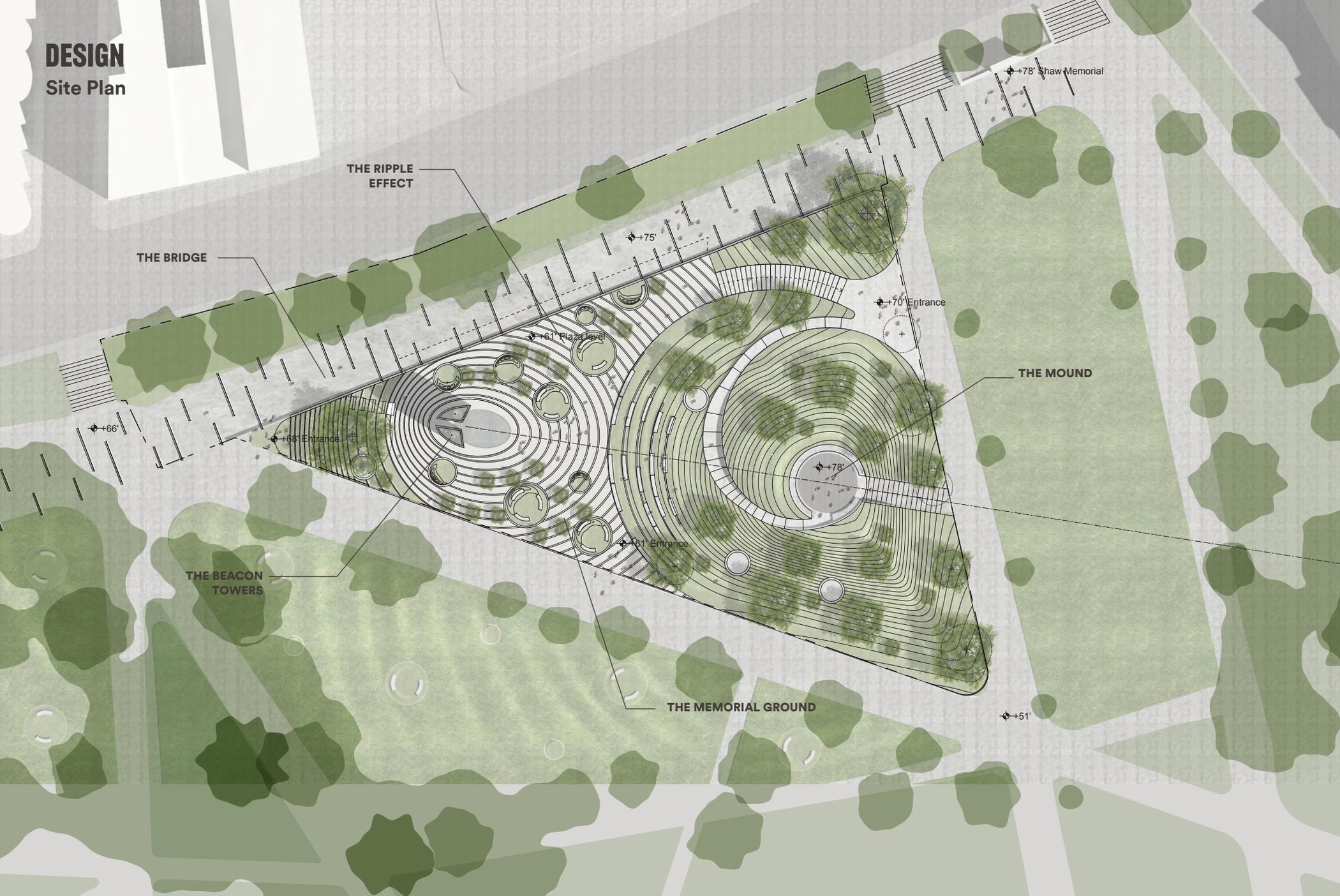


**View from The Mound, looking back at The Beacon Towers**

The proposal transforms the topography of the site in order to create a new ground for activism, a mound for contemplation and speech, and small grove of trees as symbolic reference to the cultivation of new life and memory.

# DESIGN

## Site Plan

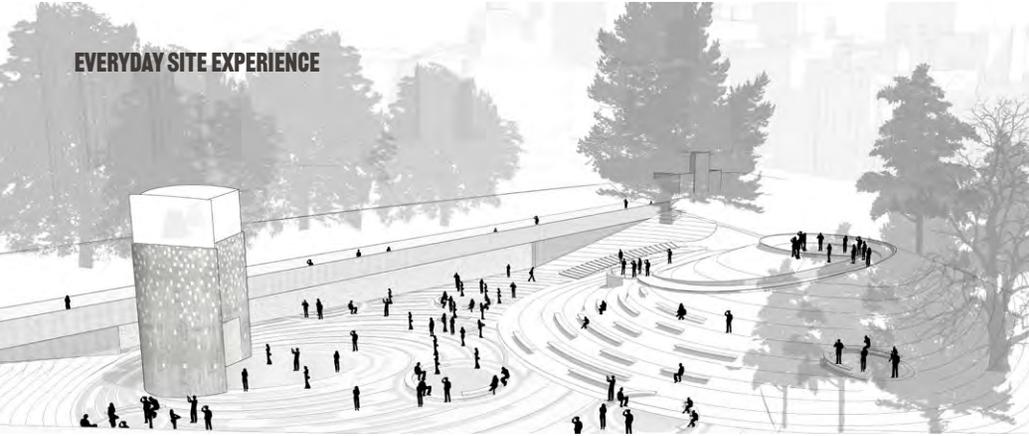


# THE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIFE

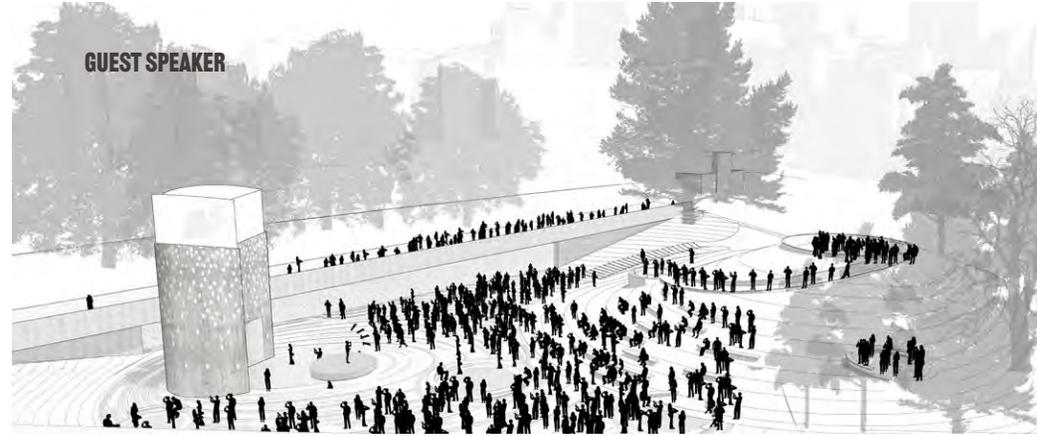
## PROGRAMMING + ACTIVATION

The proposal provides a rich new environment for memory of those who struggled and those who are committed to continue the struggle for civil rights in years to come.

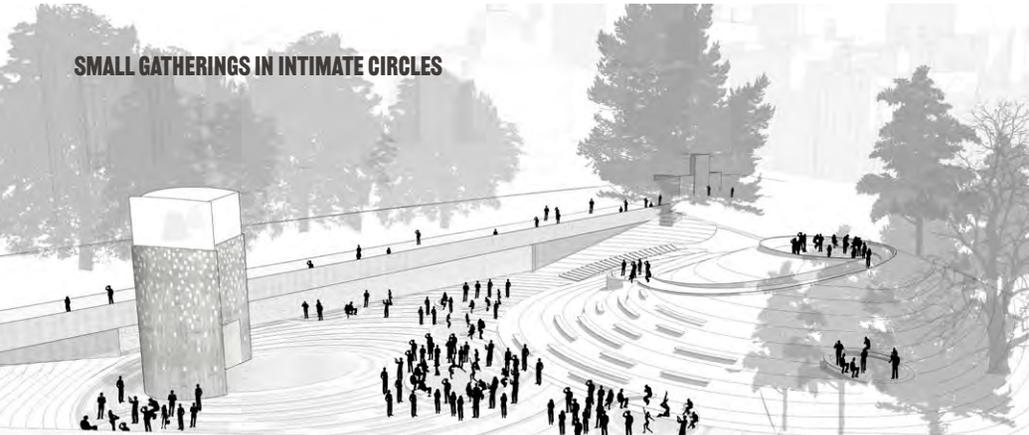
EVERYDAY SITE EXPERIENCE



GUEST SPEAKER



SMALL GATHERINGS IN INTIMATE CIRCLES



SPEAKER WITH SCREEN PROJECTION



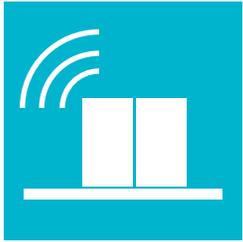
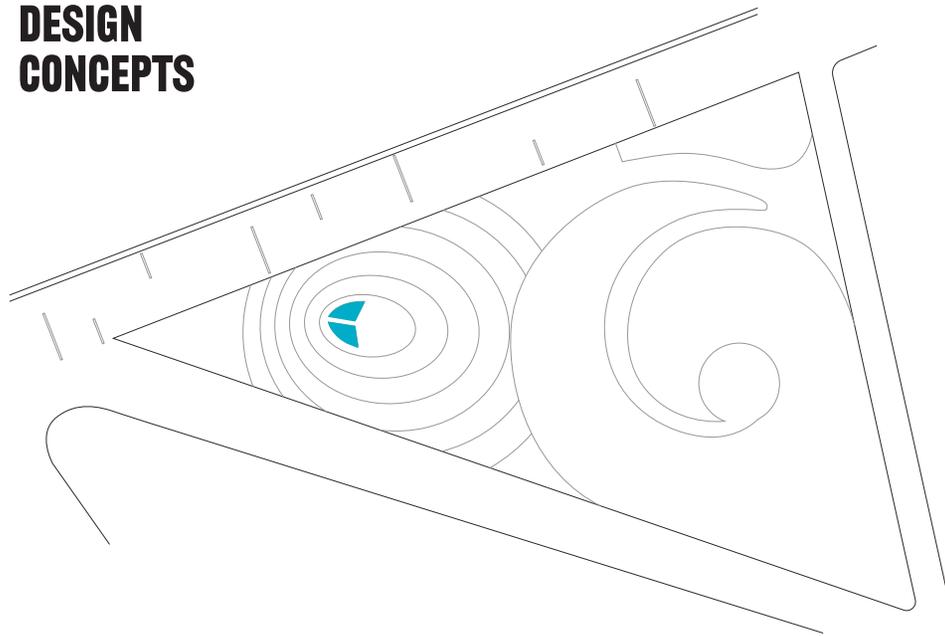
AMPHITHEATER + PERFORMANCE



MARCH OR PROTEST ON BRIDGE



## DESIGN CONCEPTS



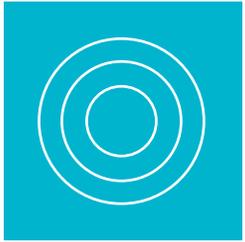
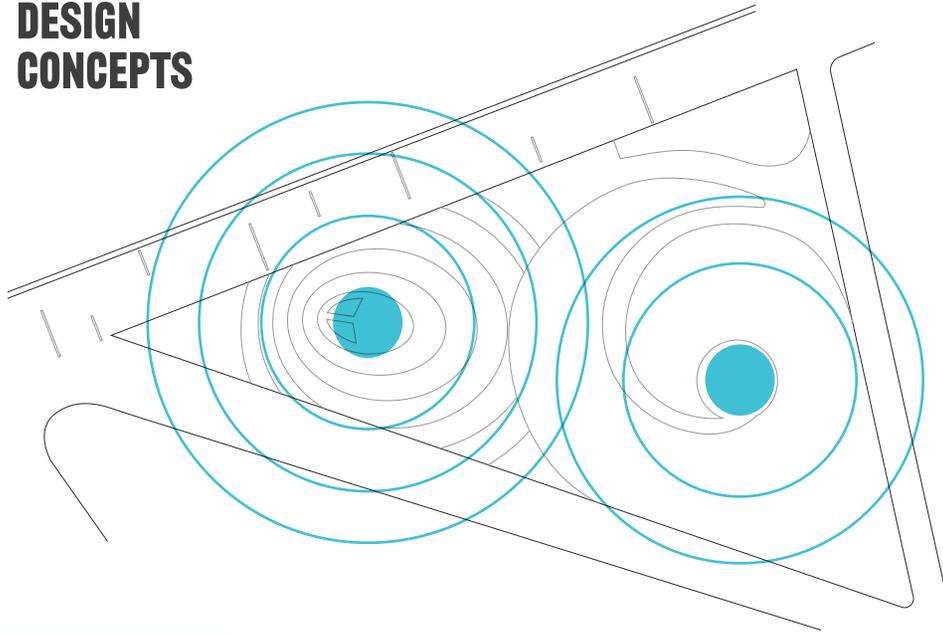
# 1. THE BEACON TOWERS

Clockwise: Plan Diagram, View of The Beacon Towers from The Mound, View of the Beacon Towers from above.

**THE MEMORY OF A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TWO EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE.** The project has embraced the historic and unique task of creating a monument not to a single hero but to two extraordinary people. The key symbolic element of the Memorial, the two standing side by side Beacon Towers, manifest in a clear form the dual subject of the monument, the partnership of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King.



## DESIGN CONCEPTS

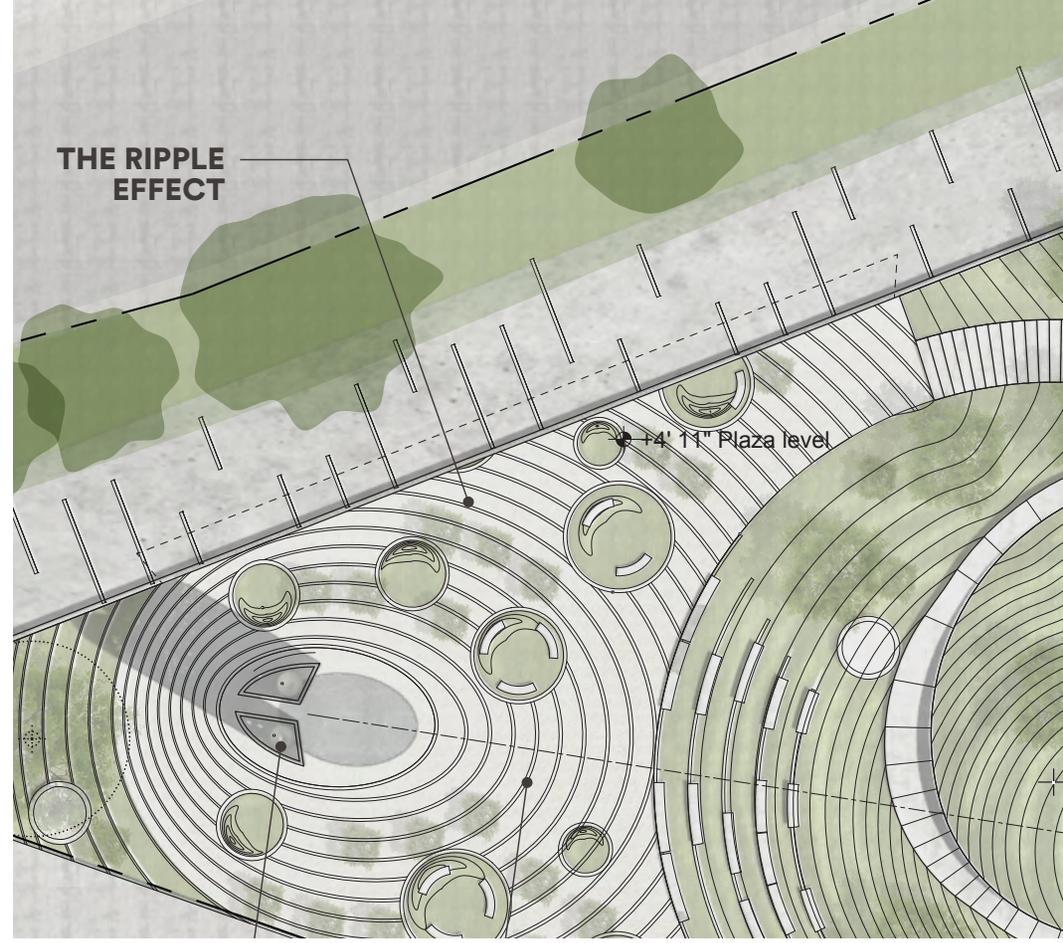


## 2. THE RIPPLE EFFECT

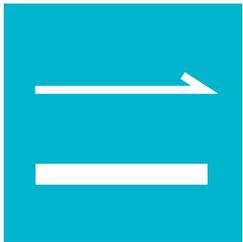
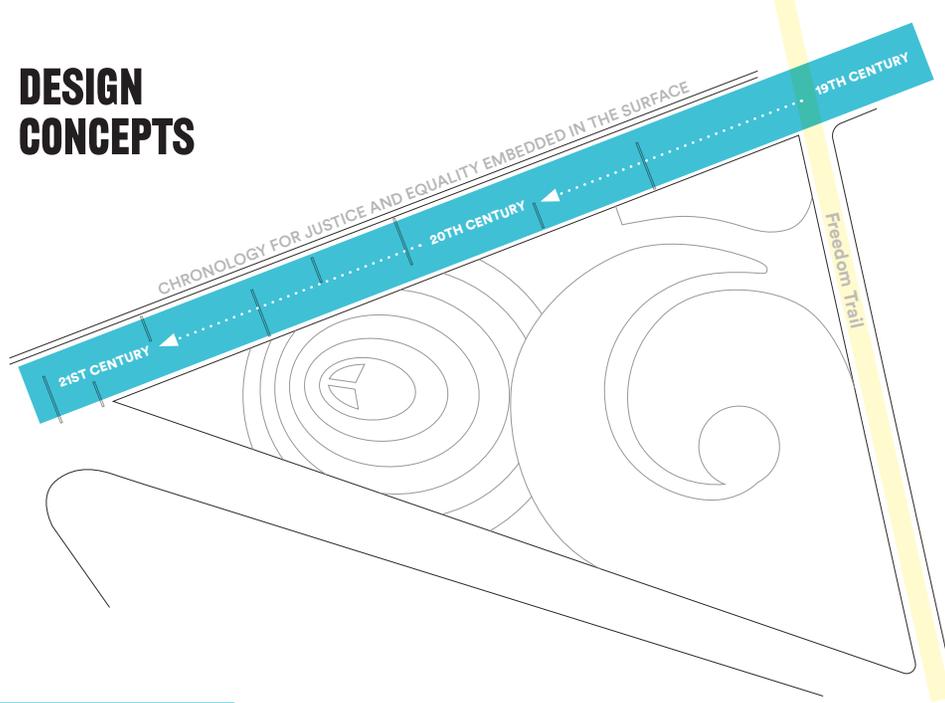
Clockwise: Plan Diagram, View of ripples from above, View of the ripples from south.

Emanating from the Beacon Towers, in the surface texture of the Memorial Ground, are ripples that evoke the “ripple effect” of the words, actions and leadership of The Kings. The ripples expand across the site and intersect with the ripples coming from the mound that rises above. These ripples and cyphers are expressions of the community’s many voices on this new ground for activism. From this ground, The Mound creates a journey “to the mountaintop” culminating in a platform from which to view the paired towers and the State House, and to bring into being a public community of engaged visitors.

While the site is visually unified by the ripples that connect the bell towers to the mound, within that framework are distinct zones intended to activate the experience on the ground by creating a variety of scales and experiences of human interaction.



# DESIGN CONCEPTS



## 3. THE BRIDGE

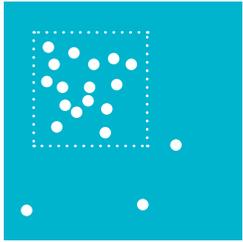
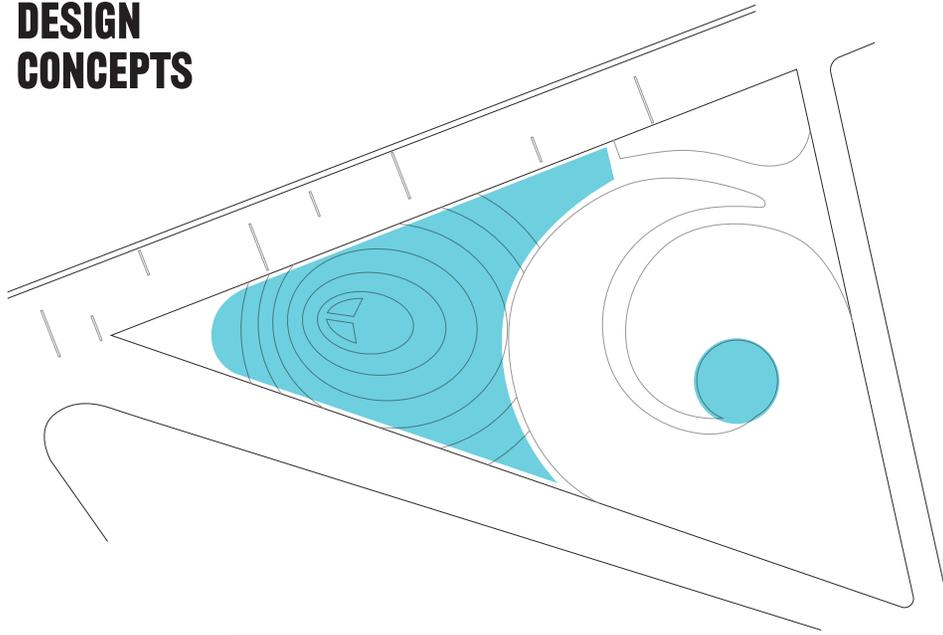
Clockwise: Plan Diagram, View of The Bridge from below, View of The Bridge from the 54th Regiment Memorial.

Two richly evocative paths traverse the site and connect it beyond the Common to a broad temporal horizon that stretches from the deep origins of the Kings' struggle to the unfinished work of the future. One is the Freedom Trail that is redirected here to the top of the mound. The other is an elevated walkway or bridge leading from the 54th Memorial across the Common past the bell towers rising from below. The bridge provides the opportunity to embed in the ground a chronology of moving oratory beginning with abolitionism in the 19th century and leading to the struggles for justice and equality in the 21st century. In this way the Kings' lives are set into a larger story that remains unfinished.

Below the bridge, a glass wall offers a more intimate and self-reflective encounter with written and spoken texts that teach and inspire. The reflective surface of the glass allows for the visitor to see themselves layered onto and within the context of the words., and in the company of 'others'.



## DESIGN CONCEPTS



## 4. THE MEMORIAL GROUND

Clockwise: Plan Diagram, View of The Beacon Towers from The Mound, View of the Beacon Towers from above.

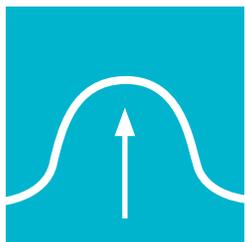
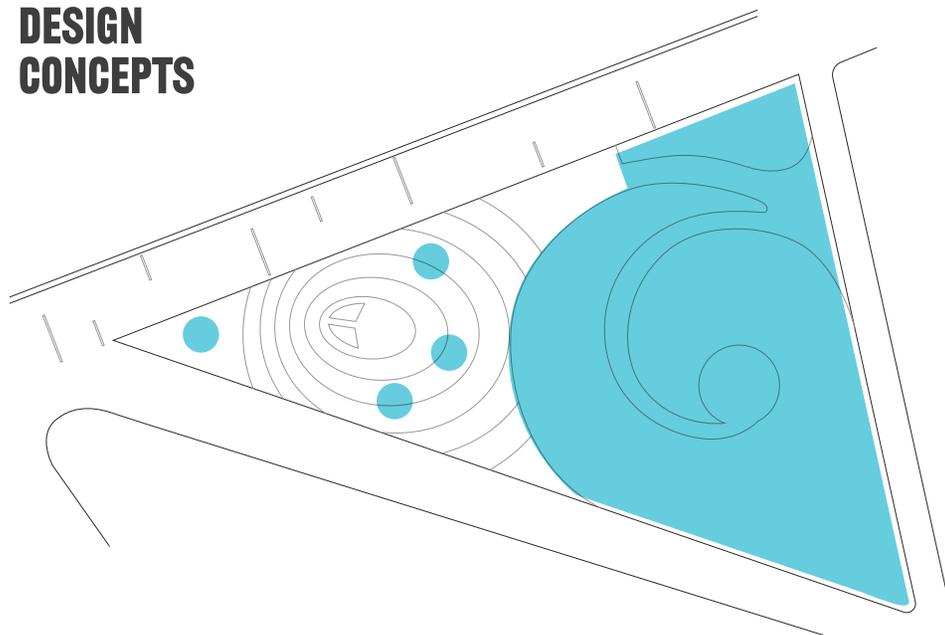
From the Beacon Towers an open plaza allows a communal experience of the bells and the ripples of speech emanating from them, while on top of the mound a deliberately empty platform encourages visitors to look outward over the site and the city and inward toward each other in discussion, debate, and compact.

The spoken words MLK and CK will broadcast by a series of loud speakers installed along the recessed glazed wall of the Memorial.

The cyphers represent fellowship and community interaction that emanate their own ripples. These are designed as places of small group dialog and discourse with in the larger field of activism.



## DESIGN CONCEPTS



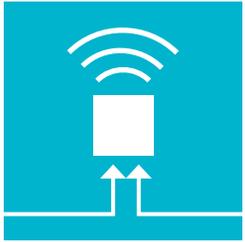
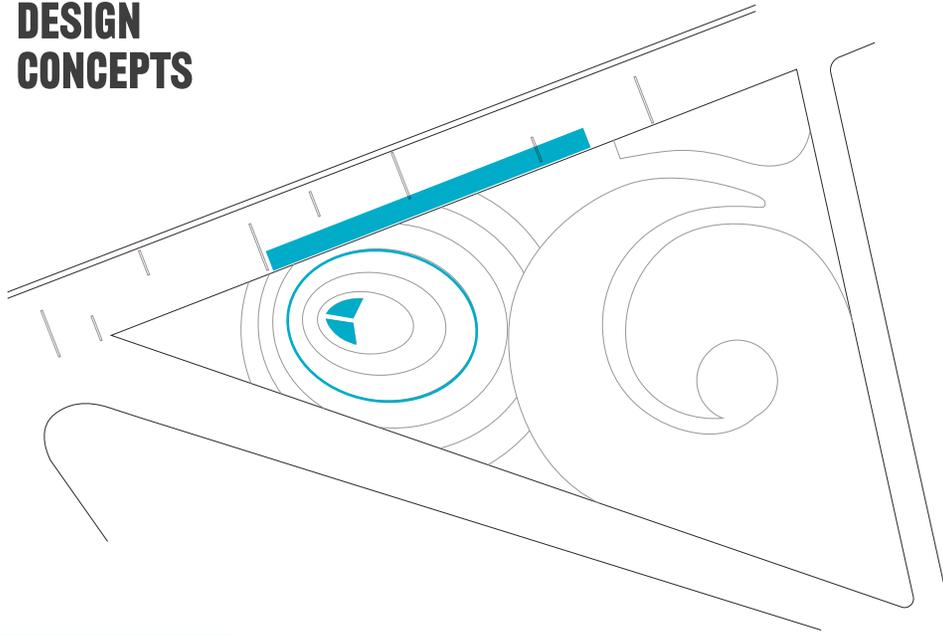
## 5. THE MOUND

Clockwise: Plan Diagram, View of The Mound from above, View of The Mound from the 54th Regiment Memorial.

The transformation of the site creates a new kind of experience in relation to the ground of the common, and new spatial definition of the area of Freedom trail and the Mall. As visitors move about the site, the mound creates a journey “to the mountaintop” culminating in a space from which to view the paired Beacon Towers and the State House, and to bring into being a public community of engaged visitors. The space at the top can be used for Debates, for speaking to the public, for conversation as well as for contemplation. A grove of trees will be planted to create shade and another kind of environment. The edge of the mound towards the Memorial Ground is designed as an amphitheater with seating areas.



## DESIGN CONCEPTS



## 6. THE RESPONSIVE MEMORIAL

Clockwise: Plan Diagram, View to Beacon Towers, The Bridge

The Beacon Towers will be equipped with a dynamic lighting and sonic system activated by the significant emancipatory events and achievements in Boston, US, and globally. Their interface will be algorithmically selecting from the media such events well simultaneously with the influx of information received from social support organizations in greater Boston and Roxbury. The Beacon Towers will emit synchronized pulses of light in three different colors and sounds of bell in three different tones. Such sound and light pulses will respond to the unfolding events that greatly contribute to the decrease of poverty, racial inequality, violence and war.

The lighting system of concentric pattern of the paths and benches along the Memorial grounds will be activated by the visitors' spoken statements, recorded in the testimonial media zones embedded in the ground-level section of the Beacons-Beacon Towers.



# THE RESPONSIVE MEMORIAL

The Memorial is a socially engaging interactive media environment and an open-air ground for public gatherings, cultural activity and events as well as individual and group reflection and discussion.

## THE BEACON TOWERS

The Beacon Towers --which symbolize the continuing presence and of MLK and CSK legacy --will be equipped with a dynamic lighting and sonic system in their upper sections. The lighting and sonic system of the Towers will be activated to the significant emancipatory events and achievements in Boston, US, and globally.

The Beacon Towers will emit synchronized pulses of light in three different colors and sounds of bell in three different tones. Such sound and light pulses will respond to the unfolding events that greatly contribute to the decrease of poverty (red light pulse / bells at higher sound frequency), racial inequality (blue light pulse / bells at medium sound frequency), violence and war (yellow light pulse / bell at lowest sound frequency).

## RIPPLE EFFECTS

The lighting system of concentric pattern of the paths and benches along the Memorial grounds --symbolizing the "ripple effect" of MLKing and CSKing words and calls for action --will be activated by the visitors' spoken statements, recorded in the testimonial media zones embedded in the ground-level section of the Beacon Towers.

## WALL OF WORDS

The spoken words MLK and CK will broadcast by a series of loud speakers installed along the recessed glazed wall of the Memorial.

## INDIVIDUAL ENGAGEMENT

An important part of the sonic and light system will be the Mobile Phone application to offer to the visitors the real-time access to the information on the events and developments that trigger the dynamic workings of such system.

dynamic workings of such system.

## INTERACTIVE, EDUCATIONAL INPUT

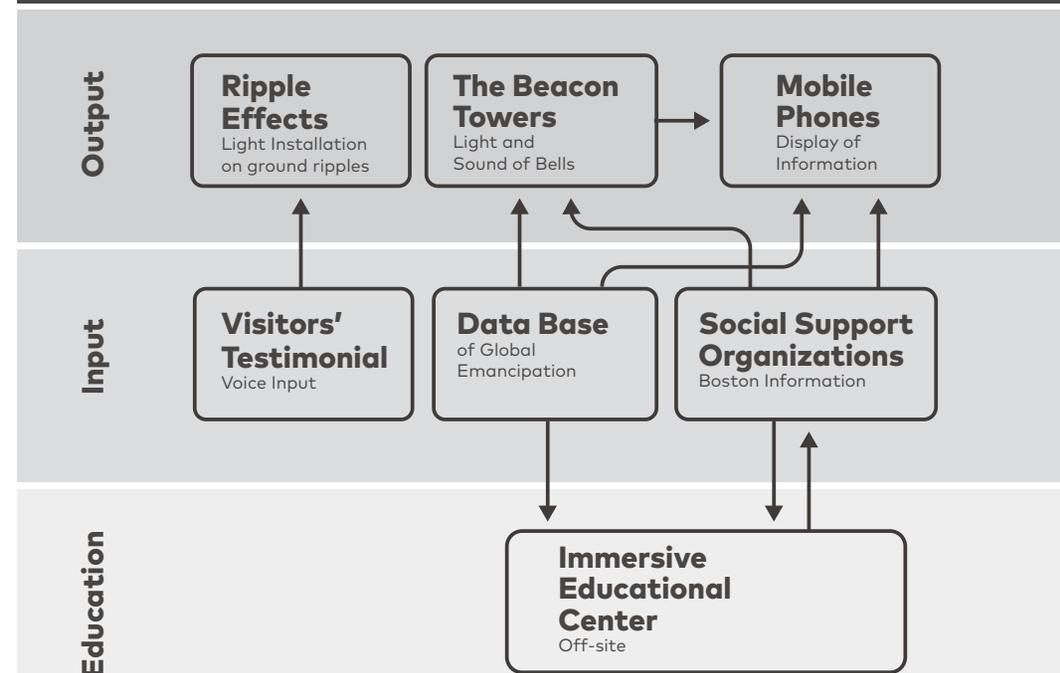
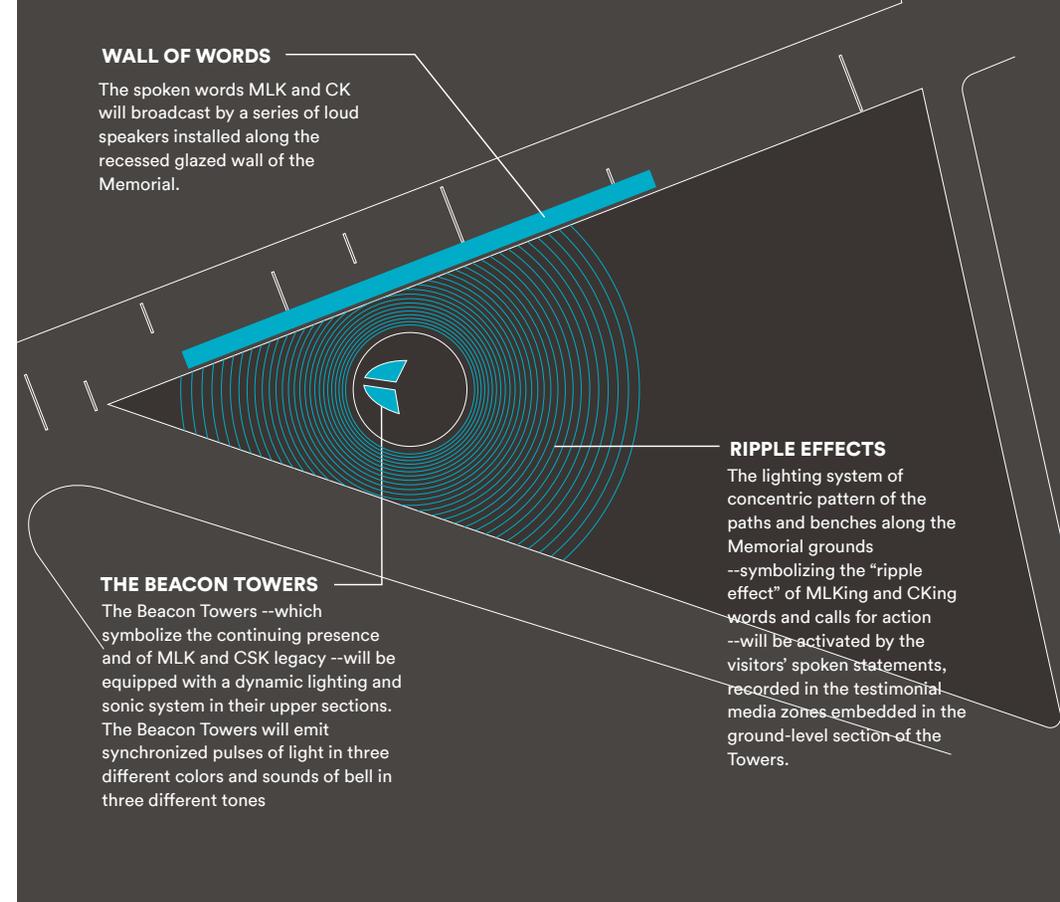
The input to the lighting and sonic system will be generated by especially designed interface algorithmically selecting from media major emancipatory events in the US and globally, as well as by the influx of information received from social support organizations in greater Boston and Roxbury.

The triggers for the sonic and lighting system of the Beacon Towers and in the rings pattern of the Memorial ground will be connected with the continuing work of immersive educational workshop focused on building the larger understanding of the complexity of emancipatory process in the world in the greater Boston area and in their own district and family life.

The understanding of the process coding and recoding of the responsive system that activates the bell sounds and pulses of light of the MLKing/CKing memorial as well as in-depth learning of the unfolding Boston American and global events that through various social agencies and special interface algorithm trigger the entire system --will become an integral part of the participatory workshop and its socially engaging pedagogies.

## PERFORMANCE

In addition, the artistic installations and performances as well as immersive virtual environment and augmented reality media projects will help young people in developing their imagination of the conditions of life and work of MLKing as well as a chance to construct concrete vision of socially desirable transformation of their own neighbourhoods and Boston toward racism free, poverty free and violence free city. The theme of the "ripple effect" of MLKing/CKing work and words, one of the narrative strategies of the Memorial will be a "light motive" of the immersive educational experience in Dudley Square.



# THE RESPONSIVE MEDIA SYSTEM OF MARTIN LUTHER KING AND CORETTA KING BEACON TOWERS

## THE KEY TO READ PULSES OF LIGHT AND THE SOUNDS OF BELLS:

### Longer Yellow Pulses of Light / Longer Sounds of Bells at Lower Frequency

Major step (cultural artistic educational project toward world peace and the decrease of social conflict and violence (cultural, artistic educational initiative or completed project, legal act etc.)

### Longer Blue Pulses of Light / Longer Sounds of Bells at Medium Frequency:

Major step toward racial, and cultural equality, and access to education, and employment (cultural, artistic educational initiative or completed project, legal act etc.)

### Longer Red pulses of Light / Longer Sound of Bells at Higher Frequency:

Major step toward decrease and ultimately elimination of poverty (cultural, artistic educational initiative or completed project, legal act etc.)

### Series of Shorter Flashes of Blue Light/ Shorter Sounds Bells at Medium Frequency

Major Boston community step toward racial, and cultural equality, and access to education, and employment (cultural, artistic educational initiative or completed project, legal act etc.)

### Series of Shorter Flashes of Reed Light: Shorter Sounds Bells at Higher Frequency

Major Boston community step toward decrease of poverty (cultural, artistic educational initiative or completed project, legal act etc.)

### Continuing Low Intensity White Light / No sounds of Bells:

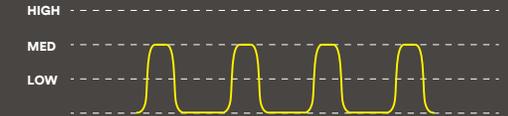
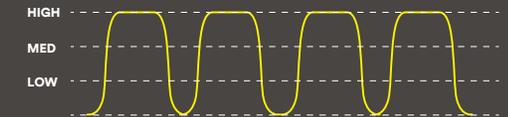
Lack of major steps in any of the above issues

The specific information on the substance of the emancipatory events that are triggering the dynamic workings of the illumination system on the Beacon Towers, will be displayed in a real time on visitor's mobile phones thanks to the accessible application and Barcode graphic displays along the ground of the memorial.

## LIGHT SEQUENCE



## BELL SOUND SEQUENCE



The brightness and level of light and sonic system will adjust to overall light and sound situation in the area during the day and during the night.

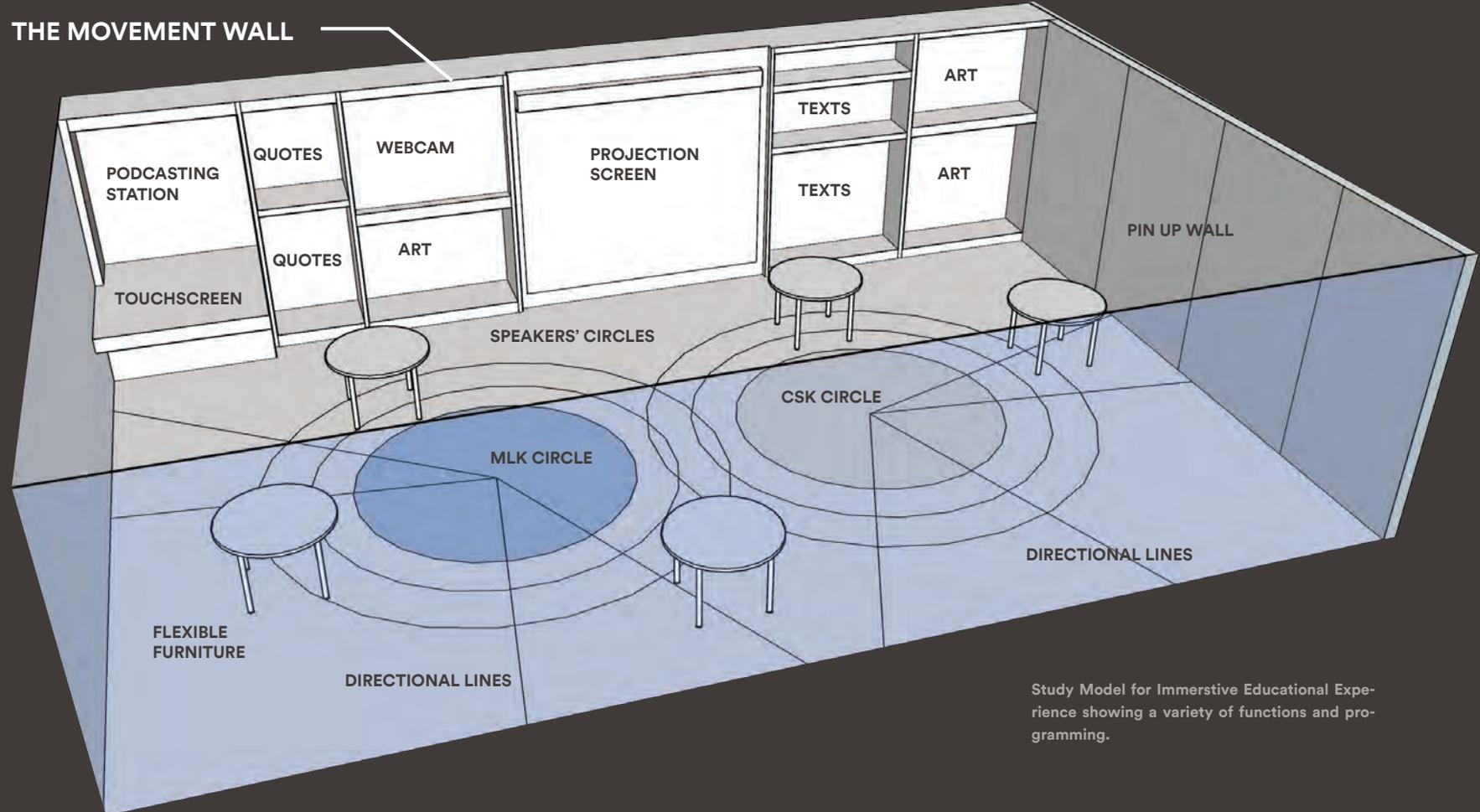
# IMMERSIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ripple Effect is the hub for 21st Century activism, education, expression, and community organization for Bostonians. Visitors experience the voices, influence, love, and action of MLK and CSK, leaving charged to become activists in their community by interacting with its dynamic elements.

## THE MOVEMENT WALL

The Movement Wall (as in the Civil Rights Movement) anchors the space, providing the knowledge sharing vital to the life of the Center. The Wall invites visitors to share their stories at a Podcasting / Storytelling station (Example: <https://icavcu.org/events/estman-richmond> ) surrounded

by a library of MLK / CSK books and texts curated with a Bostonian focus. Groups assemble to view curated films on the large projection screen, with smaller screens highlighting videos and “Do you have a Dream” pledges from the Black Youth Project and MLK / CSK quotes. Artistic expressions created in the space fill shelves in the wall, fully saturated by vibrant colors inspired by African American patchwork quilts. Visitors are free to scroll through present and past emancipatory events causing the light and sound effects in the Beacon Towers on an explanatory touchscreen and panels in the Wall. LED lights in the wall shift in concert with the Beacon Towers, further connecting the space to the Memorial via webcam.



Study Model for Immersive Educational Experience showing a variety of functions and programming.

# IMMERSIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

## INTERACTIVE FLOOR DESIGN

The space contains an interactive graphic of two rippling effect circles, noting the lives of MLK and CSK. Light colors and portable furniture follow the rings, with audio spotlight speakers above for lectures, public conversations, and community gatherings. Lines extend from the centers of both circles, in the geographical direction of impact locations around the world of MLK and CSK. Visitors stand at the center of the circles and rotate toward Selma, Montgomery, Atlanta, London, India, and Memphis, with etchings noting miles from Dudley Square.

## IMMERSIVE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Diverse groups engage in workshops in the space to code, re-code the responsive system, and maintain app development, monitoring their smartphone app to note moments of emancipatory change. These workshops, scheduled and run by Bostonian social support organizations, begin collaboration in forums

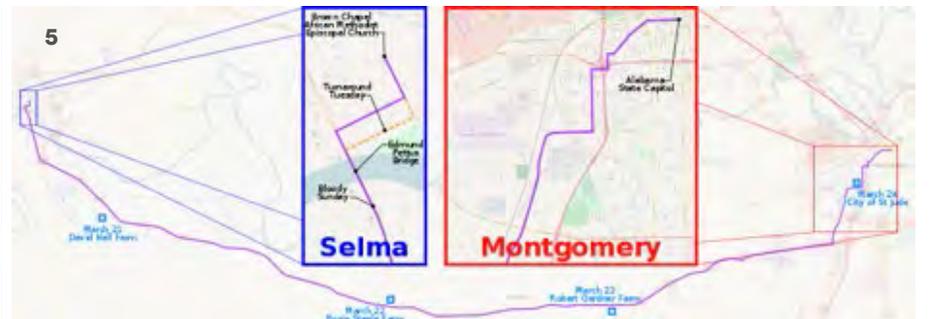
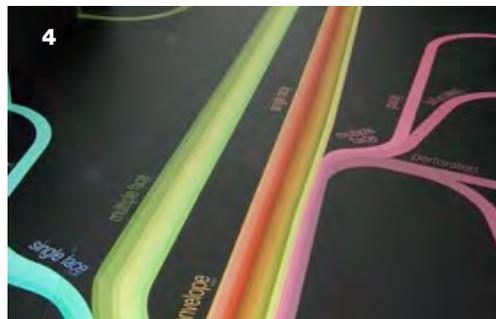
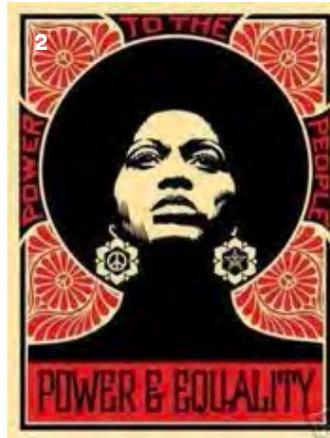
on the dedicated website for the MLK / CSK Memorial. Local schoolteachers and higher educators access the site to provide volunteer and internship programs to aid development.

Further workshops, titled “Ripple Effects” include art installations and performances for youth, coordinated by the hub’s host/manager. A calendar of installations and performances, as well as videos of these events, simulcasts on mobile platforms. Workshops include Virtual and Augmented Reality lessons to reinterpret past moments of Boston’s Civil Rights events, and those of MLK and CSK. Imagine members of the Black Youth Project creating immersive “marches with MLK and CSK” with the space’s hosts, experienced by visitors.

School groups listen to the database of MLK and CSK spoken words, writing their responses, projected on the walls of the Beacon Towers. Teachers receive access codes to use upon their return to their local schools to further the learning experience.

**“THERE’S THIS BIG DEBATE THAT GOES ON IN AMERICA ABOUT WHAT RIGHTS ARE: CIVIL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, WHAT THEY ARE? IT’S AN ARTIFICIAL DEBATE. BECAUSE EVERYBODY HAS RIGHTS. EVERYBODY HAS RIGHTS - I DON’T CARE WHO YOU ARE, WHAT YOU DO, WHERE YOU COME FROM, HOW YOU WERE BORN, WHAT YOUR RACE OR CREED OR COLOR IS. YOU HAVE RIGHTS. EVERYBODY’S GOT RIGHTS.”**

JULIAN BOND



Examples of posters (1,2), Films (3), Floor Graphics (4,5)



**“  
FREEDOM IS NEVER REALLY WON,  
YOU EARN IT AND WIN IT IN EVERY  
GENERATION. ”**

Coretta Scott King

**“  
I BELIEVE THAT UNARMED TRUTH AND  
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE WILL HAVE THE  
FINAL WORD IN REALITY. ”**

Martin Luther King Jr.

## TEAM + CREDITS

We are well aware through our combined past experiences that such project can only be realized through collaborative engagement and genuine dialogue and we are looking forward for receiving an opportunity to join you in this process.

Wodiczko + Bonder / Maryann Thompson Architects with Walter Hood, is an artistic and design partnership with a combined experience that ranges from temporary work such as design of participatory projections on monument and communicative urban equipment to design of residential, cultural and civic buildings, institutes, museums, memorials, landscapes and commemorative public spaces. Our work is based on a profound commitment to the advancement of democratic vitality and cultural and pedagogical value of public space through the creation of new transformative and communicative art, architecture, landscape and design.

Our team is led by artist Krzysztof Wodiczko, architect Julian Bonder, and architect Maryann Thompson, along with Walter Hood, as principals. We have included in our team scholars and experts on various fields. We have welcomed to our team: Thomas Long (Idea Collective) as Director of Content Design and Marcyliena Morgan (Professor in the Department of African and African American Studies & Executive Director

of the Hip-hop Archive, Harvard University) for content conversations and Community Outreach. We also count with advice from Professor Kirk Savage (William Dietrich II Professor, at Pittsburgh University), who is acclaimed expert on Architecture, History and Monuments, Allen Sayegh (Invivia) as consultant for Media and Elgin Cleckley (M-Phatic Design) to work with us on Roxbury Classroom. During this process we had also many other conversations, interviews and visits (including a visit by Julian Bonder to the King Center in Atlanta) with scholars, activists and thinkers.

As a team, we are ready to develop and realize an artistic and design project that fully embodies public hopes, commitment and aspirations. Materials included in this presentation attempt to demonstrate that as award-winning firms with notable combined experience in designing and building critical and political art projects, memorial projects, public spaces and institutional buildings that engage the public domain, Wodiczko + Bonder/ Maryann Thompson Architects along with Walter Hood can offer a unique perspective and creative approach to the creation of a Memorial to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s and Coretta Scott King's lives, legacy, works, and words.

## Wodiczko + Bonder & Maryann Thompson Architects with Walter Hood, Landscape Architect

### TEAM PRINCIPALS

**Maryann Thompson** (Maryann Thompson Architects)

**Julian Bonder** (Wodiczko + Bonder)

**Krzysztof Wodiczko** (Wodiczko + Bonder)

**Walter Hood**, Landscape Architect

### ADVISORS

**Thomas Long** – *Director for Content Design Design*

Five College Associate Professor of Architecture and Design; Owner, Creative Director of Idea Collective

**Marcyliena Morgan** - *African American Culture - Senior Advisor for Community Outreach*

Professor in the Department of African and African American Studies & Executive Director of the Hip-hop Archive, Harvard University

**Kirk Savage** – *Senior Advisor on Monuments, Content & History*

William Dietrich II Professor, University of Pittsburgh

**Elgin Cleckley** – *Roxbury Classroom - Interactive Environments (M-pathic design)*

**Allen Sayegh** – *Media (Invivia)*

*Book and Presentation design*

**Thomas Long** (Idea Collective)

*Movie*

**Benjamin Naishtat**, Filmmaker

*Sound*

**Jeanette Fligler**, Electroacoustic Composer

### CONVERSATIONS

**Vince Brown** (Charles Warren Professor of History and Professor of African and African American Studies, Harvard University)

**Williams Julius Wilson** (Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor, Harvard University)

**Barbara Henderson** (King Center, Atlanta)

**Reverend Jonathan Walton** (Plummer Prof. of Christian Morals, Harvard Faculty of Arts & Sciences Prof. of Religion & Society, Harvard Divinity School)

**Reverend Burns Standfield** (Pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church. South Boston)

**Danielle Allen** (James Bryant Conant University Professor, and Director of Harvard's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University)

**Elizabeth Thomas** (Writer)

### DESIGN COLLABORATORS

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Andrew Kotleski  
Sidney Ciarini  
Dana Moore

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## CONCLUSION

Our proposal seeks to illuminate questions and to welcome the presence of others, by making 'room' in Boston's Public Space for echoes and ripples coming from the Kings' voices to be heard in humane an environment created for reflection and dialogue. We see this Memorial as active, responsive and emotionally useful to both present and future generations in the continuing struggle toward the world free from war, organized violence, racial and religious conflict, and free from genocides and injustices. In line with such approach our proposal envisages a participatory and social Memorial, that will become an active agent for culture and dialogue.

Memorial, Memento, Monument, like "Monitor", or a guide, suggest not only commemoration, but also be aware, to mind and remind, warn, advise, and call for action. While addressing a plurality of publics and generations, the MLK-CSK Memorial will become a vessel for evocation and thinking, for democratic and pedagogic discourses, demanding responsibility and eliciting "response-ability" vis a vis the past and the future. Its ethics, esthetics and politics attempt to articulate questioning, discursive, interrogative, pedagogic and emotional potentials. As an affirmation of life, an affirmation of love, fellowship and community, the Martin Luther King Jr. & Coretta Scott King Memorial will become a place from which to engage in action towards a better world.

“  
**THE QUESTIONS WHICH ONE  
ASKS ONESELF BEGIN, AT LEAST,  
TO ILLUMINATE THE WORLD,  
AND BECOME ONE'S KEY TO THE  
EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS.**”

James A. Baldwin

