

Cascades Project Summary of Community Ideas to Honor Local History August 2017

North American Properties is committed to honoring the history of the Tallahassee community in the development at Cascades Park. As a part of this initiative, NAP invited community feedback to determine what stories the community would like to highlight in a historical plaza - a major feature of the project - as well as how those stories should be told.

Below are lists filled with notes, comments and summaries of the ideas, topics and recommendations recorded during small-group discussions with the NAP team during the June 15th Community Ideas Session and received via email from the community.

Note: The information contained in this document has not been vetted for factualness, historical accuracy or feasibility. This document serves only as a repository for ideas and does not necessarily represent what will be incorporated into the final design of the development.

Additional information on the project can be found at cascadesproject.com

Summary of Ideas Discussed and Submitted

Historical Subjects to Highlight:

- General history of Cascades Park
- Civil Rights History
 - Tell the story of the old jail and the part it played in Tallahassee and Florida's Civil rights story
 - Obtain a copy of the radio address given in March of 1960 by Governor LeRoy Collins related to the bus boycotts and lunch counter sit-ins and somehow make that recording accessible within the historical elements of the new development.
 - Highlight that, during the Tallahassee jail-in, baseball legend Jackie Robinson (who was born in nearby Cairo, GA) sent journals for the students to record their thoughts and experiences while in jail.
 - Tell the stories of the individuals involved in the movement:
 - Patricia Stephens Due, Henry Steele, CK Steele, etc.
 - Consider using past and current clips of their voices to tell the stories
 - Incorporate Patricia Stephens Due's letters from inside the jail
 - Preserve and tell the story of the "hanging tree" located on the project site (Note: historical reports indicate no hangings actually took place at the tree)
 - Markers for lynchings that did take place to "tell the names"
 - Labor groups @ the jail (manual labor of the jailed)
- First Electric/Water/Health and the stories of those who ran these items
 - Leon County Health Unit and local public health
 - Health checks
 - Basic care

- Life-health lessons, classes, and information
- Holistic local healthcare, interracial staff
- Possibly treatment of a rare form of polio at the health building in the 1950s
 - Waterworks – former municipal water facility built in 1904
- Show how this was the hub of the city and the path to the rest of the city
- Tallahassee Curb Market 1890s-1960s – resurrect that tradition
- Highlight the “four corners of history” represented at the intersection of S. Gadsden and E. Gaines, including Civil Rights (former jail), community health (county health unit), municipal water services (Waterworks), and education (represented by the historic Caroline Brevard Grammar School)
- Meridian marker and real estate history
- Lafayette Land Grant and housing and how city real estate for the state was divided
- Show the elements of making the city
- Local government history
- This site is in close proximity to the Hernando DeSoto historical site so include that story along with a story about the Apalachee Indians that once lived here
- Tell the story of the Old Fort Park
- Include information about the early (1940's plus) years of Centennial Field and the Leon High School band halftime shows on the football field.
- Show former recreation and sports uses including baseball field, FSU football, folk games
- Incorporate a timeline of photos & maps that depict the history of the City of Tallahassee
- Smokey Hollow
- Include personal, local stories
- History of Cascades as the site for the State Capitol
- Native American history relevant to the site
- Incorporate an element with the upcoming 200-year celebration of Tallahassee and Leon County in seven years

Architecture/Design Elements to Incorporate:

- Preserve or re-create and incorporate the Art Deco/Art Moderne style architecture and/or other significant design elements of the buildings on the site
- Preserve and incorporate the tower portion of the Firestone into parcel's redesign
- Highlight the Works Progress Administration era associated with the art deco architecture and describe the construction and use of the buildings
- Incorporate the historical architecture pieces with the new natural environment including pecan groves
- Use pieces of façade for decoration/integration into plaza
- Incorporate the black stained glass that adorns the Firestone tower into the plaza or hotel lobby
- Let the architecture be something uniquely Tallahassee and that reflects the architectural style here – not South or Central Florida
- Save and incorporate the trees on the site

Ways to tell the Historical Stories:

- **Incorporate “hands-on” and interactive exhibits and make the plaza immersive**
 - Jail bar replicas that visitors can engage with or stand behind to have their picture made
 - Tell the jail story from the experiences of prisoners
 - Civil Rights era bus replica
 - Create a free-standing jail cell or some other visual marker to accentuate the fact that Tallahassee's "jail-in" was the first in the country
 - Underground experience/exhibit, possibly with Plexiglas on top
 - Re-create venues from the time period: Kiosks @ Woolworths, State theater, McRory's (Civil Rights march); like connection at Birmingham
 - Visually achieve personal reflection – presented onsite or at the monument (like World of Coke) For example, “What does injustice mean to you? Or justice?”
 - A permanent exhibit of interior and exterior rooms and façade details could also have video and audio descriptions and stories. Create miniatures of the current building using 3-D printing technology and videos using computer aided design software
 - Text a number at each station in an exhibit and get a question or quiz you can respond to
 - Tell the stories by describing the elements of the making of the city
 - Have meditative and reflective areas; seating, white noise, water
 - Have literal representation (like Smokey Hollow spirit houses, Cascades Fountain)
 - Incorporate a tall structure to represent the industrial aspect of the land
 - Tell story from the perspective of people who served the area to bring the health unit, water service, etc.

- **Recreate the Curb Market**
 - A tin roofed shelter with produce stalls could be built (and, as there are no grocery stores close by, maybe sell produce there on certain days which would benefit those living in the apartments)
 - Incorporate kiosks for historic plaza vendors

- **Incorporate technology**
 - Incorporate video, texting, built-in audio and/or personal cell phones as A/V devices, and use narrators to help tell the history of the area
 - GPS activated digital interaction
 - Google supported history ‘pin’
 - QR codes and apps connected to plaza website
 - Reenactments, dramatizations
 - Audio memories: hearing a story, hearing a voice, kiosks/bollards, push a button to hear sounds, sound wands
 - Project images onto buildings
 - Incorporate virtual reality

- **Focus on individuals**

- Follow an individual's story throughout the plaza
- Letters from leaders
- Scenes/faces in walls
- Sculptures/busts of significant people
- Quotes, names, dates on plaques
- Photographs on anodized metal
- Statue of a young, confident Patricia Stephens Due with her trademark sunglasses (perhaps after the famous photo of her leading the protests at the State Theatre)
- Rev. Steele arrest records, enlarged for exhibit, students/activists involved

Additional suggestions/considerations:

- Tallahassee visitor room with a video room showing highlights of Tallahassee that would serve as a one-stop-shop for Tallahassee services and questions
- Performing spaces
- Account for traffic
- Make plaza for a diverse audience, age, background, race, visitors
- Monument that changes with the sunlight
- Use lights in an intriguing way and make the plaza well lit
- Water feature
- Segways
- Element that runs through the plaza
- Make the plaza changeable - may change based on what's happening at the time
- Appropriate scale in large plaza
- Garden/outdoor experience within other buildings
- "Culture" southern, African Americans in NFL, 1930s/40s aesthetic
- Daycare/summer camp facility
- Public library
- Community Room/Benefit/Meeting Room
- Gym
- Condos with first floor retail
- Make this plaza a path to the rest of the city
- Large, multi-story condo units and hotel with 1st floor retail
- Incorporate mixed-use office space and low cost restaurant/cafe on park entrance

Sources of inspiration mentioned:

- City Museum in St. Louis
- Vietnam Veterans Dog Tag Memorial in Chicago
- Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham
- Thorne Miniatures Rooms exhibit at the Chicago Art Institute
- Alys Beach, FL
- National World War II Museum
- The World of Coke