

# Waterfront Plan Public Realm

A vibrant waterfront scene featuring a wooden building with a red roof and dormer windows on the left, situated on a pier over water. A paved walkway runs along the water, with a metal railing in the foreground. A group of people, including a woman with two children, are walking along the path. The background is filled with lush green trees and a clear blue sky. A large tree trunk is visible on the right side of the frame.

**Parks and Open Space  
Marina**

**History and Art in the Public Realm**

# The Waterfront Public Realm: Existing Parks



*Founders Park*



*Oronoco Bay Park*



*Rivergate Park*



*Daingerfield Island*



# The Waterfront Public Realm: Public Spaces



*Ford's Landing Boardwalk*



*Tide Lock Park  
– Canal Center*



*City Dock - Marina*



# The Waterfront Public Realm: Opportunity Areas



*Robinson Terminal South,  
Cummings/Turner, and Dandy Lots*



*Foot of King Street*



*Robinson Terminal North*



# The Waterfront Public Realm: Opportunity Areas



Barriers to continuous waterfront access

# Community Goals for the Public Realm

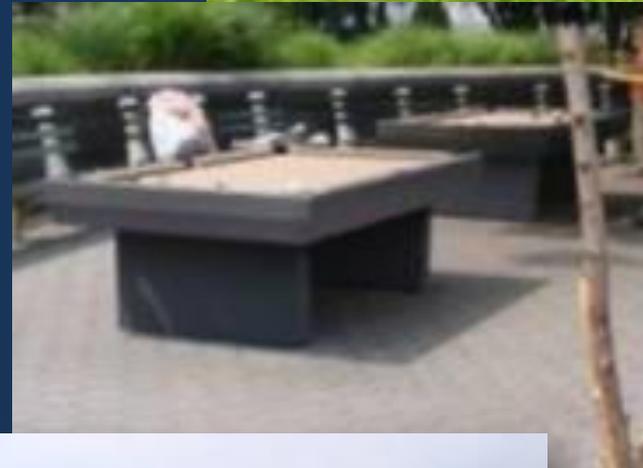


# Opportunities for the Public Realm



**Battery Park City**

# Opportunities for the Public Realm



**Battery Park City**

# Opportunities for the Public Realm



**Bryant Park**

# Opportunities for the Public Realm



**Bryant Park**

# Plan for Public Realm Comes From Public Input

- Increase the **amount** of public space
- Add to the **variety** of public spaces
  - Activities, events and programming
- Increase the **quality** of the public spaces
  - design, materials, and maintenance
- Better connections between public spaces and to the water
- Do this in a way that's uniquely Alexandrian



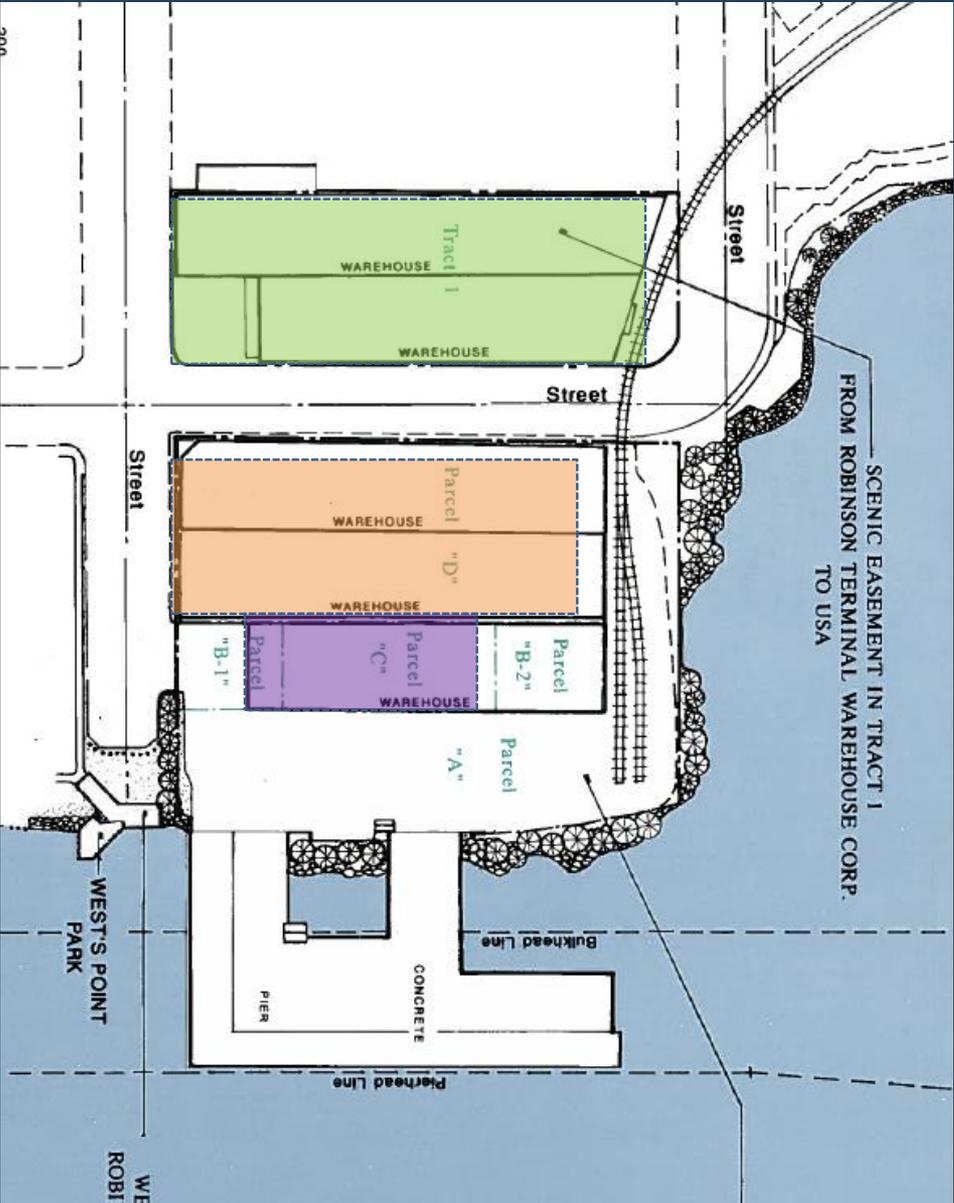
**Oronoco Bay  
Park**

**Rivergate  
Park**

**Tidelock  
Park**



# Public Realm at Robinson Terminal North





**Torpedo  
Plaza**

**Thompsons  
Alley**

**Founders  
Park**

# King Street at the Waterfront



# At the heart of the waterfront...



...a new gateway

# Fitzgerald Square

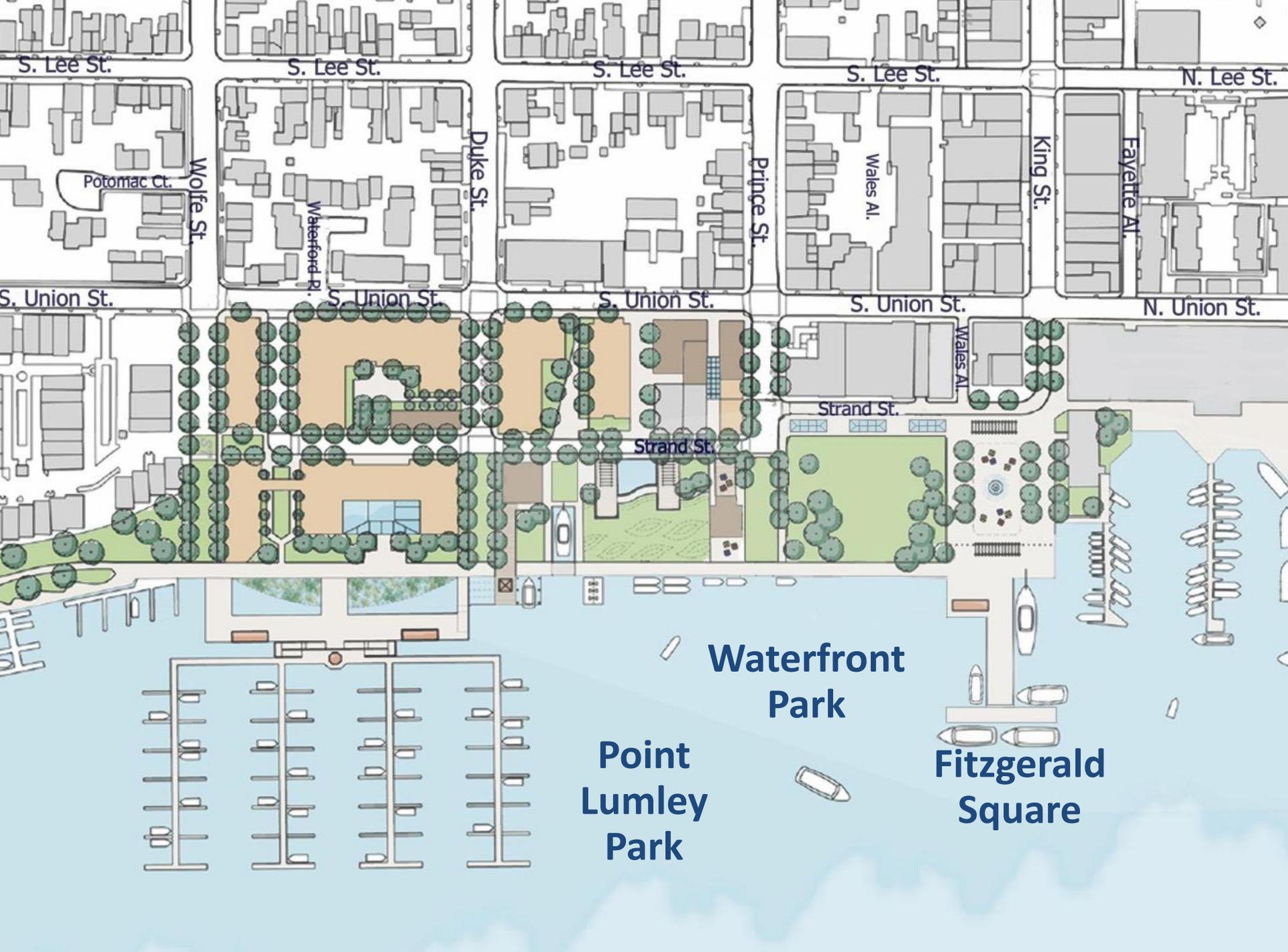


# Fitzgerald Square



# Fitzgerald Square





**Waterfront  
Park**

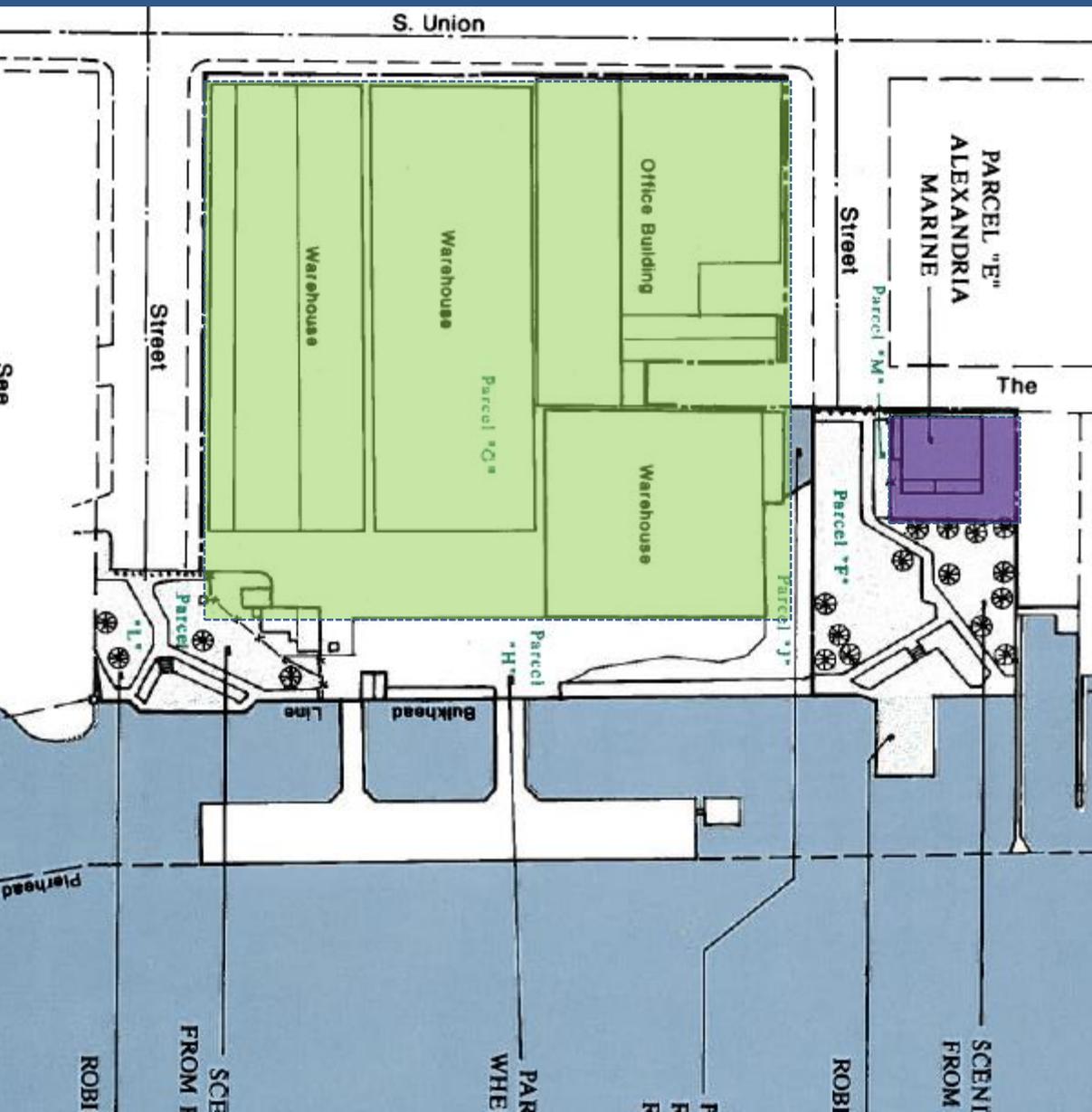
**Point  
Lumley  
Park**

**Fitzgerald  
Square**

# The Beachcomber



# Public Realm at Robinson Terminal South



# Public Space Statements

## **Foot of King Street/Pier**

- Where King Street meets the river, there should be a large public plaza that acts as a gateway to the City from the river and offers a variety of activities for residents and visitors.
- A plan should include a new pier extending from near the foot of King Street for water taxis, permanent or visiting ships of character, and for people to walk along.

# Public Realm Statements

## **Parks and Public Spaces**

- There should be continuous public access to the shoreline from Daingerfield Island to Jones Point Park.
- There should be a net increase in parks and public spaces along the waterfront.
- Parks and public spaces should provide additional small-scale activities for families and children.
- Each park and public space should evoke Alexandria's history in multiple ways.
- Artists should participate in the design of major and minor park elements.
- The public realm surrounding the Food Court and Chart House should be improved.

# Public Realm Statements

## **Maintenance**

- The waterfront should have a higher level of maintenance than it receives today, including the enhanced ability to remove water-borne debris.
- The storage of park maintenance equipment should be accommodated.

# Harbor and Marina

- Increase capacity for people to arrive by boat
- Encourage tourism, commuting, and leisure travel by boat
- Increase connections to the water
- Historic character of waterfront: boats, piers, wharves, and water-related activity including commerce
- Separate commercial and pleasure boats where possible
- Existing marina in need of repair, outdated, inefficient
- Work toward new, financially-sustainable marina

# Harbor and Marina



Former design for harbor and marina area



# Harbor and Marina



Current design for harbor and marina area

# The water in waterfront



# Public Realm Statements

## **Marina, Piers, and Shoreline**

- A plan should include options for expanding docking locations for commercial boats (water taxis and tour boats) as well as permanent or visiting ships of character.
- A plan should include the option of a new pleasure boat marina with the potential for private operation.
- Pleasure and commercial boat activities should be generally separated, with commercial boating activity north of King Street (primarily the Torpedo Factory/Chart House area) and pleasure boat marina activities south of King Street (primarily at Robinson Terminal South).

(continued)

# Public Realm Statements

## **Marina, Piers, and Shoreline (continued)**

- A plan should include repairing failing bulkheads.
- Where possible, rip-rap should be replaced with a more natural shoreline treatment.

# History and Art in the Public Realm

## **Marina, Piers, and Shoreline (continued)**

- A plan should include repairing failing bulkheads.
- Where possible, rip-rap should be replaced with a more natural shoreline treatment.

## ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT Public Art Proposal



ALEXANDRIA  
COMMISSION  
FOR THE ARTS

# Art in the Public Realm

## FOUNDERS PARK



City owned property

Every spring from the mid 1800s to the early 1900s, in what is now Founders Park, temporary tenements were erected along the wharves to house businesses dedicated to the salting, packing, selling and eating of fish. What became known as Fishtown was lively, loud, malodorous, and sometimes dangerous. Fishtown is to be the inspiration for proposed public art at Founders Park.

### Concepts:

- Celebrate Fishtown, a seasonal African American enclave associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> Century fish trade
- Find inspiration for public art from the lives of Alexandria's founders

### Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Commission and install public art projects inspired by Fishtown
- Commission and install public art inspired by the cultural and economic importance of shad and herring to the area
- Portray history: make the park home base for roving performers who make Alexandria's history and cultural heritage come alive
- Add to existing gardens: beds of perennial plantings, trees, and flowers; consider installing a maze garden and trellis for shade
- Frame views of the Maryland shoreline with permanent and temporary sculptures



Garden Maze, Hakone Open Air Museum, Hakone, Japan



Covered trellis, Hakone Gardens, Saratoga, CA



Floating Land, Elizabeth Poole, Queensland, Australia

# Art in the Public Realm

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE  
2010.12.13

## General information:

Owned by the City, Founders Park is primarily a passive park with a volleyball court and dog park. Since 1978, Founders Park Community Association, a 501(c)3 organization, has been working to protect, preserve, and improve the park.

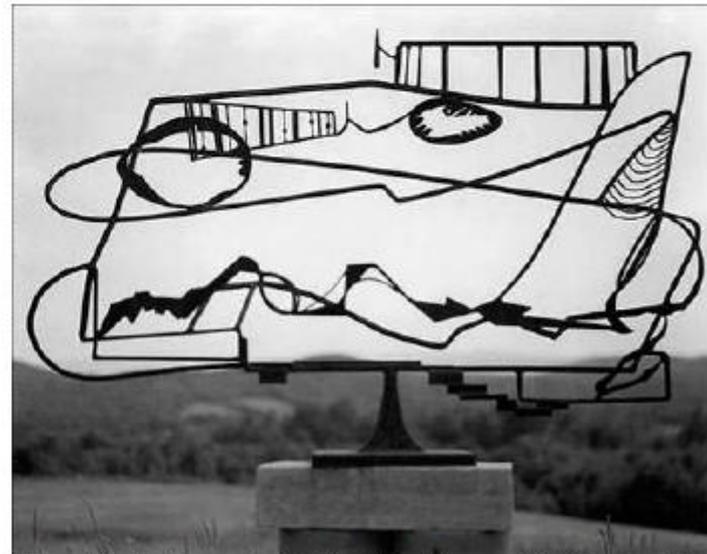
*"From a quiet, almost deserted suburb, Fishtown springs in a few days to be a mart full of business and fish. The change which early in March comes over the waterside of this city, ranging between Princess and Oronoko (sic) Streets, is as great as that which visits the fields and the forests. [Alexandria Gazette, April 19, 1860]*

## Historical references:

- Fishtown developed in the mid nineteenth century and occupied what is today Founders Park. As fishing season began each spring, throngs of fishmongers rented wood to build shacks along the wharves, dismantling them at the end of the season and returning the wood. Since "hired" wood could not be cut, a plank was left out; thus, windows were 15 feet long and 1 foot tall. These temporary tenements housed a variety of businesses dedicated to salting, packing, selling, and eating fish. (See addendum page 65 for more information.)
- Shad and herring were the fish of choice at Fishtown. Both fish are anadromous, fish that live mostly in the ocean but breed in fresh water. Young fish swim from the fresh water of the Potomac, where they are born, and make their way to the Chesapeake Bay and then to the seas beyond. Because their spawning patterns were predictable they were easily caught. They were overfished and their population greatly declined. In the 1980's, Virginia instituted restrictions on shad and herring fishing that continues today. (See addendum page 65 for more information.)



School of Fish (wind indicators), Buster Simpson, Edmonds, WA



Hudson River Landscape, David Smith, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY

# Art in the Public Realm

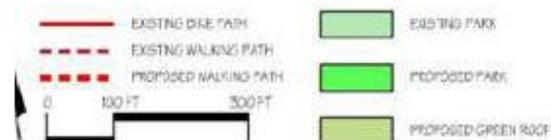
## PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE 2010.12.13

### Proposed locations at Founders Park:

1. Celebrate Fishtown, a seasonal African American enclave associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> Century fish trade
2. Find inspiration for public art from the lives of Alexandria's founders
3. Commission and install public art projects inspired by Fishtown
4. Commission and install public art inspired by the cultural and economic importance of Shad and Herring to the area
5. Portray history: make the park home base for roving performers who make Alexandria's history and cultural heritage come alive
6. Add to existing gardens: beds of perennial plantings, trees, and flowers; consider installing a maze
7. Place permanent and temporary sculpture, perhaps view-framing



Founders Park



# Art in the Public Realm



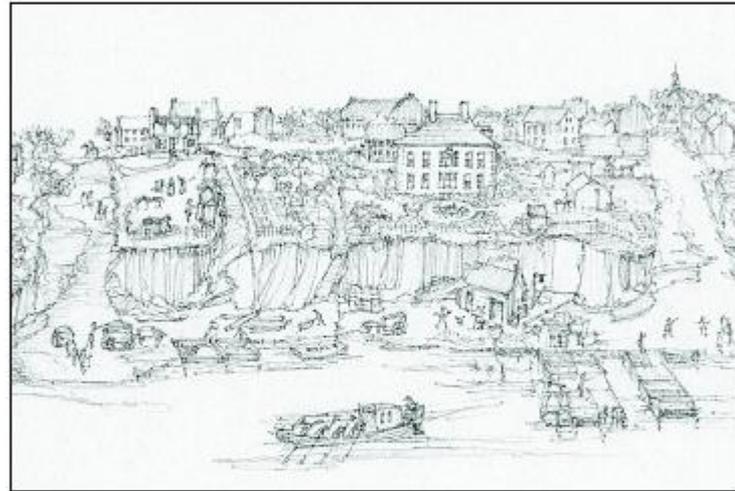
Public art, inspired by the confluence of art, culture, history and nature



# History in the Public Realm

## Alexandria Waterfront History Plan

### *Alexandria, a Living History*



Alexandria Waterfront with Carlyle House circa 1764

*Drawing by Elizabeth Luallen based on research conducted by City of Alexandria/Office of Historic Alexandria, Archaeology staff and volunteers*

*At Alexandria...the Potomac rolls its majestic stream with sublimity and grandeur, sixty-gun ships may lie before the town, which stands upon its lofty banks, commanding, to a great extent, the flatter shore of Maryland. This town is rapidly on the increase, and ... cannot fail of becoming one of the first cities of the new world. The Marquis de Chastellux. Travels in North America, Vol. III, 1780-1782.*

A Publication of Alexandria Archaeology  
Office of Historic Alexandria  
City of Alexandria, Virginia  
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# History in the Public Realm

A waterfront for today's Alexandria,  
grounded by our heritage



Working Seaport

Gateway

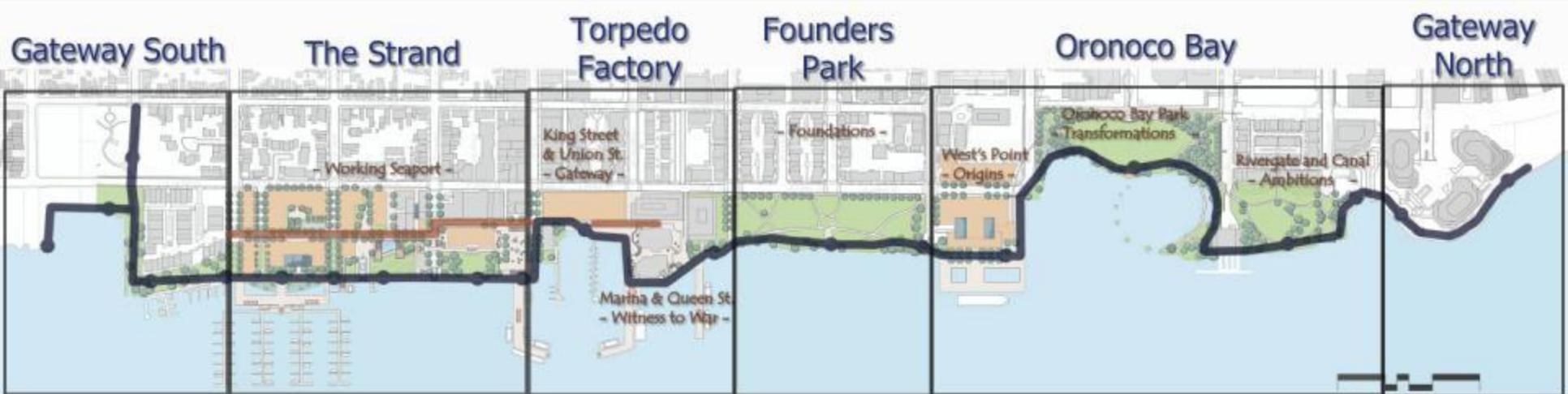
Witness to War

Foundations

Origins

Transformations

Ambitions



# Evoking the historic shoreline



# Public Realm Statements

## History and Art in the Public Realm

- A plan should adopt the document “*Alexandria Waterfront History Plan: Alexandria, A Living History*” in total and should include the History Plan recommendations.
- History should inform every aspect of the design of public spaces and private redevelopment along the waterfront.
- All historic buildings in the plan area should be preserved and restored to active use, preferably for uses that welcome the public.

(continued)

# Public Realm Statements

## **History and Art in the Public Realm (continued)**

- A plan should adopt the document “*Alexandria Waterfront Public Art Proposal*” in total and should include the public Art Plan recommendations.
- A plan should adopt the Art Walk concept and public art should be a prominent feature of the public realm.
- There should be flexible space for performing arts along the waterfront.

(continued)

# Public Realm Statements

## **History and Art in the Public Realm (continued)**

- A plan should support the retention, expansion and establishment of museums, cultural and educational institutions, and related elements (such as historic ships) in the waterfront area, including the history/cultural anchor concepts described by the History and Art Plans.