ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT
Public Art Proposal

ALEXANDRIA
COMMISSION
FOR THE ARTS

Manhole cover, King Street Gardens Park, Alexandria, VA

Researching, designing and writing this public art plan required thousands of volunteer hours to complete. Thank you to the following from the Public Art Committee for their dedication, hard work, vision and professionalism:

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Manhole covers, Japan

INTRODUCTION

Float Boat, Dale Chihuly, Phipps Conservatory, Pittsburgh, PA

Overview

In the City of Alexandria's 1982 Waterfront Plan, the Torpedo Factory Art Center was established as a cultural anchor and became an important catalyst for revitalizing the waterfront. The Art Center's unique character attracted hundreds of thousands of people annually to the area. Economic opportunities developed; restaurants and shops opened. There was prosperity and growth.

Alexandria must now compete with the growing cultural attractions of nearby communities, including National Harbor, Georgetown, the Capitol Riverfront, Annapolis and Lorton.

Alexandria's Art Policy

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the Public Art Committee embrace the goals stated in the City's 2008 revised *Policy on Acquired Art* to support the current waterfront revitalization effort:

- To integrate art into the City
- To promote public awareness of and interest in art
- To promote Alexandria's cultural heritage
- To foster tourism and encourage economic development
- To enhance the City's reputation as a national leader in the arts
- To provide for future artistic endeavors

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the Public Art Committee took these goals as a mandate and developed this proposal based on them. The overarching concept is to make Alexandria's waterfront an arts destination and cultural anchor by establishing an Art Walk along the Potomac River.

Art on the Waterfront Proposal

Public art, inspired by the confluence of art, culture, history and nature, would be highlighted throughout the waterfront. The aim is to have public art pieces set at regular intervals along one continuous walking path. This Art Walk pathway would straddle the Potomac River unifying the waterfront experience for residents and visitors by connecting City Parks and helping to establish and to reinforce existing cultural areas.

In 2008 and 2009, an ad hoc committee under the Public Art Committee created a concept presentation called *Art on the Waterfront* that explored the potential of an Art Walk along the Potomac. After obtaining approval by the Public Art Committee and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, members of the group went out to the community to share their ideas and to listen and learn from others. This proposal builds on the *Art on the Waterfront* presentation and the 2010 *Waterfront Concept Plan*, fulfilling the City's request to the Public Art Committee to provide a vision and a design framework for public art on the waterfront.

Art along the waterfront must work for Alexandria. Public art succeeds when it creates a sense of place and complements its environment and culture. Examples of public art pictured in this proposal come from all corners of the world and are meant to show the possibilities for integrating art along the waterfront.

Goals and Objectives

The purpose of this proposal is twofold: to help the City develop a comprehensive, long-range plan for public art on the waterfront; and to give guidance to the public, arts administrators and artists contributing to the Art Walk.

THE ART WALK PATH

Alleyway behind the Athenaeum, Alexandria, VA

The history of the land and physical changes the waterfront has undergone tell one thing; the Potomac River and wildlife tell another. The people who worked and lived on the land; the commerce and industry, all have stories. All these tales are entwined and will help inspire the public art along the Art Walk.

The Art Walk pathway will measure a mile and a half, winding through Alexandria's waterfront from Tide Lock to Pomander parks, shadowing the Potomac shoreline.

Concepts:

- Unify Alexandria's waterfront experience by establishing a continuous walking path along the Potomac River with a wide variety of public art inspired by Alexandria's rich history, culture and natural beauty
- Restore the "living shoreline" to improve water quality, to provide shoreline access to wildlife, and add diversity of plant species
- Encourage economic development and foster tourism by highlighting Alexandria's waterfront as a cultural anchor

Central Park, Frederick Law Olmstead, New York, NY

Recommendations:

- Establish a winding path that flows in harmony with the natural shoreline of the Potomac River
- Inscribe directly on the Art Walk pathway historical quotations describing Alexandria (lettering should be in the same typeface)
- Pave the Art Walk with a warm, golden-hued, exposed aggregate concrete
- Incorporate additional paving materials that are native to the Potomac River, as well as ballast stones symbolically transplanted from ports throughout the world
- Add where appropriate (to reflect the planning concepts and recommendations outlined in this proposal) glass, oyster shells, coral, fish bones, colored stones, etc. as aggregate to the paving material
- Incorporate in-pavement lighting on the Art Walk pathway (powered by solar collectors from the public art project proposed for Tide Lock Park near the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station)
- For pedestrian safety, keep the bike path and Art Walk separate
- Make the path ADA compliant

Alley pavers in Old Town, Alexandria, VA

Exposed aggregate concrete

Historical references:

- Ballast stones: When sailing vessels took on cargo, it was at times necessary to sail to a port with light or empty hulls. To keep from being too top-heavy at sea and vulnerable to capsizing in high winds, ships carried stones in their hulls as counterweight. These ballast stones were then left behind to make room for the cargo being exported. Alexandria's early cobblestone streets are paved with some of these discarded ballast stones transported from around the world.

Cobblestones, Prince Street

Confluence Project, Maya Lin, Columbia River, OR and WA

"…we…traveled a hilly road that frequently gave us a view of the river Potomack (sic) and reached Alexandria at 11 o'clock, while the horses were bathing, we took a walk through the town." [Baron Alexander Von Humboldt's Visit to Washington, D.C., Herman R. Friis, 1804]

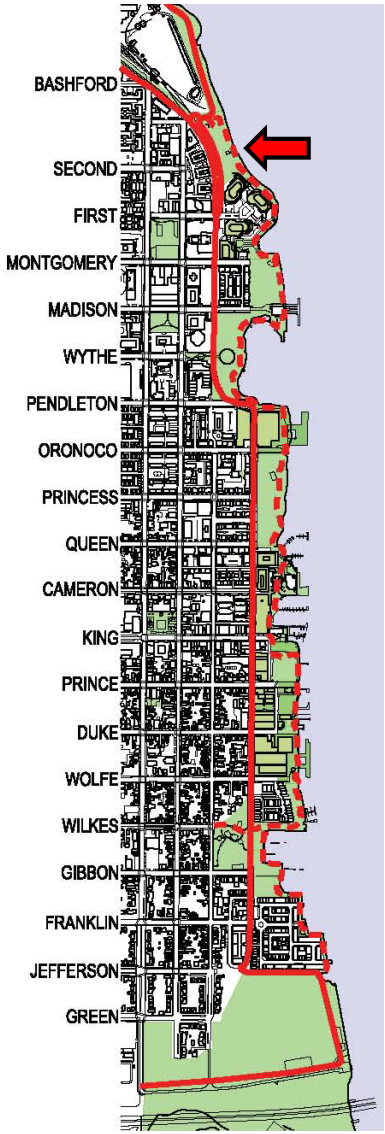
TIDE LOCK PARK (north)

Privately owned property with public access

In Alexandria's early years, the City paid a lamplighter to walk the streets at dusk and, one by one, hand light the public oil lamps. In 1851, the Alexandria Gas Light Company became the source of illumination. Today, electricity is generated with the use of coal at the nearby Mirant power plant. Alternative energy sources, like solar and wind, may power the lighting of the future. The inspiration for the light-sculpture garden proposed for Tide Lock (north) is to be taken from Alexandria's streetlights.

Concepts:

- Establish this park as a gateway to the Art Walk, beginning the pathway at the north end and moving southward, following the Potomac shoreline
- Work with the owners of Canal Center Plaza and the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station to build a private/public collaboration on a public art project inspired by the light of Alexandria's historic streetlamps
- Establish a cultural anchor on the northern end of the Art Walk by tying park activities into nearby cultural facilities, such as MetroStage



Light display, Roppongi Hills, Tokyo, Japan

Interactive light sculpture, London, England

Holmberg Footbridge leading to Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga, TN
(© Ross Glass and Aluminum, LLC)

Recommendations:

- Commission and install a Light-Sculpture Garden in the park, inspired by the lighting fixtures from Alexandria's history
- Include solar collectors in the Light-Sculpture Garden to power the in-pavement lighting alongside the Art Walk pathway
- Create and install signage giving an overview of the Art Walk
- Include signage to distinguish the Art Walk from the bike path
- Increase outdoor seating

"During Alexandria's first half-century…Your path would be lit only by the meager light from your own lantern and by the kindness of strangers – candles or oil lamps in the windows of the wakeful and in the taverns that you passed." [Diane Riker, August 22, 2010]

In Alexandria, the lamplighter "goes round at dusk with a light ladder in (his) hands by which (he) ascend(s) the lamp post and set(s) fire to the lamps…tenaciously fixed on top of a high post, out of reach, so that disorderly persons may not have it in their power to extinguish them." [From Sketches of History, Life, and Manners in the United States by Ann Royall, 1826]

Franklin lamp

"The (gas) light is steady and brilliant. Large numbers of our citizens turned out to see the 'lighting up' – and all were pleased to see the success exhibited." [Alexandria Gazette, Oct. 20, 1851]

Historical references:

- Alexandria utilized a variety of energy sources and lighting devices to illuminate its streets after sunset, each lending its own special magic to the night.
- The lighting theme for Tide Lock Park (north) lends itself to the limelight of the nearby MetroStage. MetroStage is an award winning theater dedicated to producing contemporary American plays and musicals. The theater premieres new works by Washington area and regional playwrights drawing its audiences from the Washington metropolitan area and beyond. (For more information, see addendum page 61.)

Streetlights on King Street, Alexandria, VA

Urban Light, Chris Burden, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA

Proposed locations at Tide Lock Park north:

1. Establish this park as a gateway to the Art Walk, beginning the pathway at the north end and moving southward, following the Potomac River shoreline
2. Work with the owners of Canal Center Plaza and the Mirant Power Plant to build a private/public collaboration as an alternative energy/public art project
3. Establish a cultural anchor on the northern end of the Art Walk by tying park activities into nearby cultural facilities, such as MetroStage
4. Commission and install a Light-Sculpture Garden in the park, inspired by the lighting fixtures and energy sources utilized throughout Alexandria's history
5. Include solar collectors in the Light-Sculpture Garden to power the in-pavement lighting alongside the Art Walk pathway
6. Create and install signage giving an overview of the Art Walk
7. Include signage to distinguish the Art Walk from the bike path
8. Increase outdoor seating

TIDE LOCK PARK (middle)

Promenade Classique

Tisara Photography Privately owned property with public access

The underlying theme for Tide Lock Park (middle) is remembrance and the importance of learning from the past. The existing public art piece *Promenade Classique* expresses these ideas beautifully.

Concept:

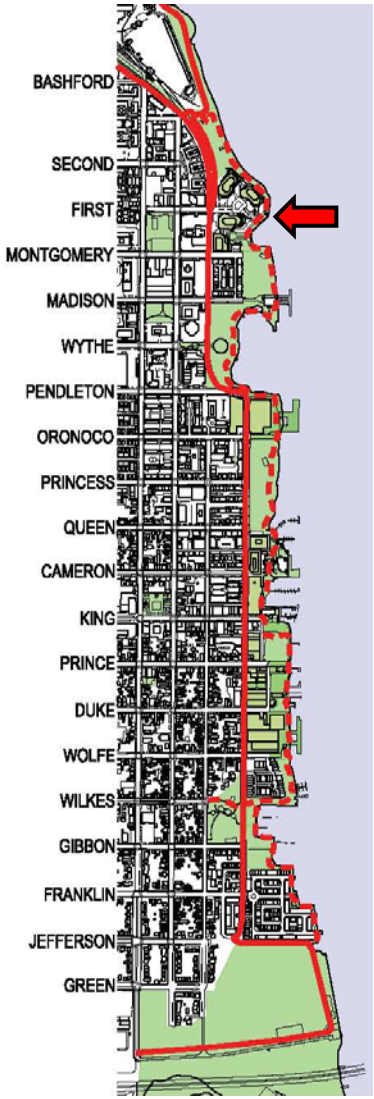
- Integrate *Promenade Classique* into the Art Walk

Recommendations:

- Continue Art Walk south along the Potomac River and through this successfully completed public art project
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Increase summer concerts and recitals in amphitheater
- Publicize events
- Incorporate consistent signage and lighting

General information:

Completed in 1988, *Promenade Classique* was designed by landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg in collaboration with French artists Anne and Patrick Poirier. Commissioned by Savage Fogarty, the series of fountains and terraces combined with classically-inspired sculpture creates a "promenade" overlooking and leading the pedestrian to the Potomac River.



Detail, *Promenade Classique*
Tisara Photography

Detail, *Promenade Classique*
Tisara Photography

Detail, *Promenade Classique*
Tisara Photography

TIDE LOCK PARK (south)

The Tide Lock

Privately owned property with public access

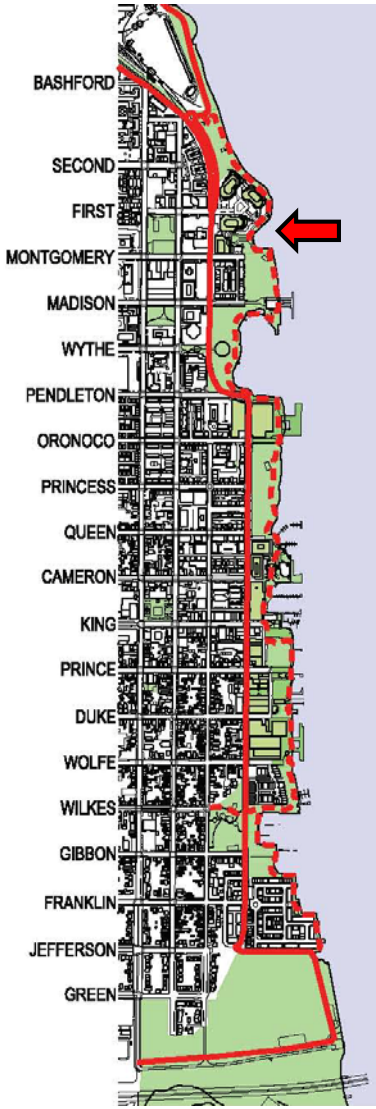
During the first half of the 19th century, the Alexandria Canal was part of a complex transportation system that utilized significant technology for its day. The canal system used waterways – natural and manmade -- to float goods and materials from the American interior to the port of Alexandria where sailing vessels then transported them around the world. Unfortunately, with the advent of rail transport, Alexandria's canal soon became obsolete. Proposed public art at Tide Lock Park (south) is to celebrate the engineering and physics employed by the Alexandria Canal.

Concept:

- Integrate the Tide Lock with the Art Walk

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk south along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Remove the existing wooden span over the canal and replace it with an artistically engineered footbridge inspired by the gears and pulleys of the original locks
- Celebrate the buoyancy of objects on water and Alexandria's historic connection with glassmaking by adding a glass public art piece to the Tide Lock pool
- Establish consistent signage and lighting



Existing footbridge

Canary Wharf Footbridge, London, England

Rolling Bridge, Thomas Heatherwick, London

Painshill Park footbridge, Surrey, England

"May this important work succeed and prosper – may it more than realize our warmest hopes and may it RESTORE and PERPETUATE the TRADE and PROSPERITY of ALEXANDRIA." [On the Opening of the Alexandria Canal, Alexandria Gazette, 1843]

Historical references:

- Alexandria Canal, Tide Lock and holding basin: Barges started from a terminal in Georgetown and then carried across the Potomac River on an aqueduct near the current Key Bridge. They then ran along the west side of the Virginia shore, then crossed Four Mile Run on another aqueduct, and entered Alexandria. They descended to the Potomac by means of three lift locks, lowering barges to the river at low tide. The entire canal system was about seven miles long. Today, the original Tide Lock No. 4 is protected beneath an accurate reconstruction. After the canal closed, landfill covered the tide lock. Archaeologists re-exposed and restored the tide lock as part of the Transpotomac Canal Center development in the 1980s. (For more information, see addendum page 62.)

Yves Tinguely

- Alexandria Glasswork Factories: In its industrial heyday, Alexandria supported four glass factories: Virginia Glass, Old Dominion Glass Company, Belle Pre Bottle Company and Alexandria Glass. The one documented order that exists is from 1902 when Robert Portner Brewing Company contracted with Old Dominion, Virginia and Belle Pre to produce 1,500,000 bottles. Portner's product line included Tivoli ("I lov[e] it," backwards) branded lager, soda and malt extract. (For more information, see addendum page 62.)

Walla Wallas, Dale Chihuly, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO

On the Edge, Alison Sigethy, Anacostia River, Washington, DC

Proposed locations at Tide Lock Park south:

1. Celebrate Alexandria's historic glass factories by incorporating glass at the site
2. Remove the existing wooden span over the canal and replace it with an artistically engineered footbridge
3. Add to the Tide Lock pool a public art piece that incorporates glasswork inspired by Alexandria's four historic glass factories

Tide Lock Park South

RIVERGATE CITY PARK

Privately owned property with public access

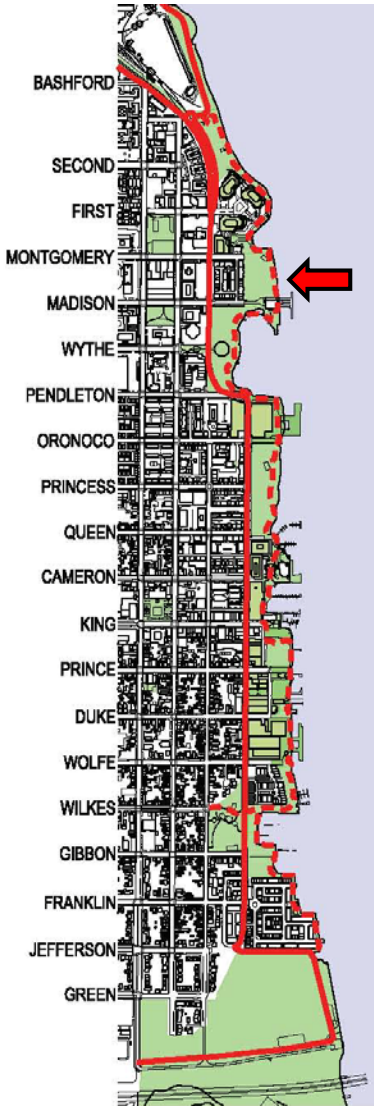
By the late 19th Century, the Alexandria Canal was abandoned, dismantled and filled in. Over a dozen stone blocks were relocated to Rivergate City Park, Ft Ward Park and sites further downriver. The idea for public art at Rivergate City Park is to reuse the canal stones in a meaningful way that will keep them together and safe.

Concepts:

- Repurpose the original stone blocks used in the construction of the Tide Lock
- Emphasize place making on the sweeping lawn of Rivergate City Park

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Commission and install public art that incorporates the original stone blocks used in the construction of the Tide Lock by "returning" them to the earth as land art
- Place artistic seating in conversational arrangements with views toward the river
- Extend the Art Walk between the Dee Campbell Rowing Center and the river (the boathouse is owned and maintained by the Alexandria City Public Schools)



Armchair Theatre, National Theatre, London, England

Artist's Chair, Saori Ide, San Francisco, CA

General information:
Rivergate City Park lies at the eastern end of Madison Street and north of Oronoco Bay Park. Although owned by the Rivergate Homeowners Association, there is permanent public access to the waterfront park area. East of the pathway is maintained by the City with annual contributions from the Association towards maintenance cost.

"The Old Alexandria Canal is fast disappearing. The outlet locks down below the railroad bridge are gradually being filled up while all along in the vicinity of the double bridge the banks have been plowed down and seeded." [Alexandria Gazette, 1890]

Historical references:

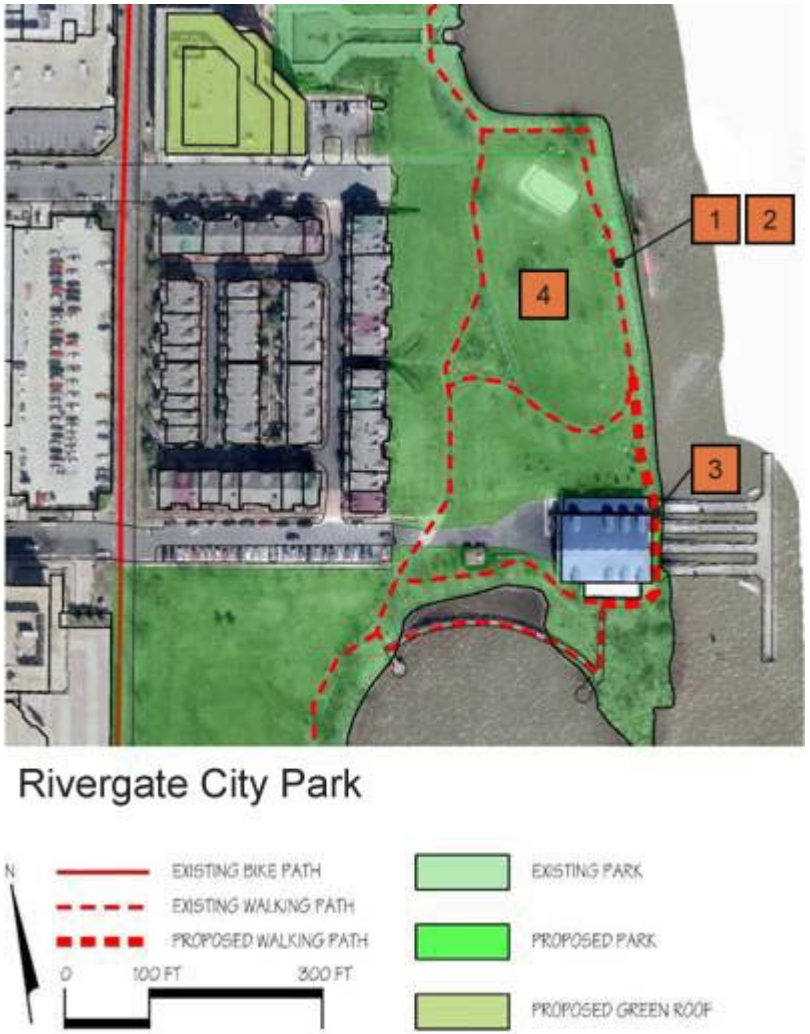
- Tide Lock Stones: Large stones used in the construction of the Alexandria Canal are located at Rivergate City Park, Ft. Ward Park and other locations along the river.

Land art, *Wave Field*, Maya Lin, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Land art, *Longo*, Beverly Pepper, Cassino, Italy

Proposed locations at Rivergate City Park:

1. Commission and install public art that incorporates the original stones used in construction of the Tide Lock
2. Emphasize place making on the sweeping, landscaped lawn to the river
3. Extend the Art Walk between the Dee Campbell Rowing Center and the river (the boathouse is owned and maintained by the Alexandria City Public Schools)
4. Place artistic seating in conversational arrangements with views toward the river



ORONOCO BAY PARK

City owned property

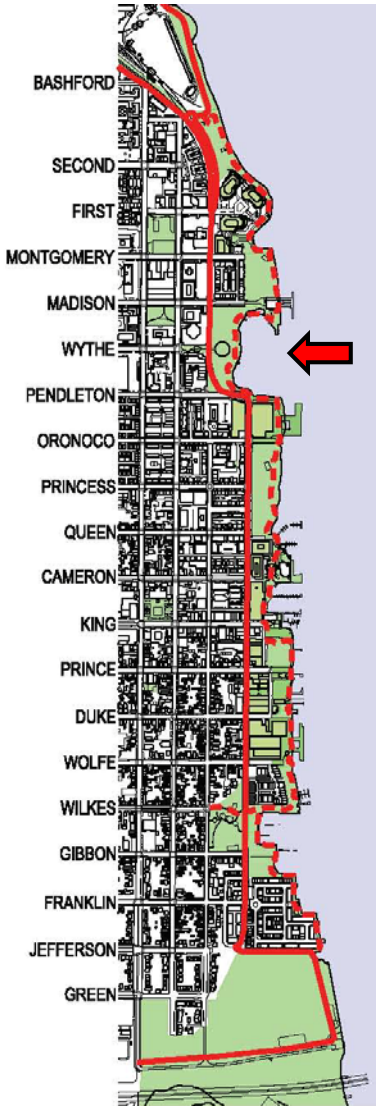
Oronoco Bay Park is an idyllic park that has become the gathering place for civic and musical events like the annual Alexandria Birthday Celebration. This was not always the case. In recent years, Alexandria has made great strides in repairing the ecological damage caused by 150 years of heavy industrialization at this site. To celebrate improving the health of the environment and making a place for the stage arts, public art at Oronoco Bay Park is to be inspired by nature and the performing arts.

Concepts:

- Establish a cultural anchor that emphasizes the performing arts, allowing for the annual Alexandria Birthday Celebration and other large outdoor events
- Continue to resolve environmental issues and celebrate the improving ecological health of Oronoco Bay Park

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Restore Ralph's Gutt with ivy growing around the lower edge of the lot, as well as wetlands to the south side of the park to allow the river tides to flow in and out
- Reintroduce a "living shoreline" at the water's edge



WaterFire, Providence, RI

Conceptual image of Boxcar Theater

BosmaDance, Alexandria, VA

- Commission and install public art that contributes to the ecological restoration of Ralph's Gutt and the cleansing of the groundwater
- Design and install a permanent outdoor amphitheater, set into the landscape as land art and oriented parallel to the river with the stage facing south
- Re-contour the whole site to accommodate the new features
- Collaborate with the owners of the Sheet Metal Workers Building and United Way Building on public/private public art projects that include an "Art Wall" along the garage walls and in a redesigned Wythe Street entrance corridor
- Install Boxcar Theater (movable stage/production/storage unit on the existing railroad spur)
- Place a gateway sculpture at the Wythe Street entrance to the park

Land Art, *Waccabuc Amphitheatre*, Beverly Pepper, Waccabuc, NY

- Erect a bridge over the restored Ralph's Gutt
- Continue boardwalk along edge of bay
- Add public art to the jetties and to the avian sanctuary for perching and nesting in the original marsh

General information:

Oronoco Bay Park is located on the Potomac River between Madison and Pendleton Streets. Entry is from either Madison or Pendleton Streets or at the Wythe Street Plaza. The plaza entrance is approximately at the center of the park, located between the Sheet Metal Workers of America building and the United Way building. (See addendum page 63 for more information.)

"In its halcyon days, the citizens of Alexandria were a play going people, and would flock to the old Theatre on Cameron Street in crowds." [Alexandria Gazette, November 9, 1863]

"Thomas Graffort, age 79… states that he perfectly remembers that there was a great quantity of Ivy growing round the lower edge of the lot along the (Ralph's) Gutt…" [From deposition taken in 1790, Prince William County, Virginia, Land Causes, 1789-1793]

Historical references:

- A gut is a narrow passage, as a channel of water or a defile between hills. In colonial times a "gutt" was "a channel worn by a current of water." Ralph's Gutt extended from Oronoco Bay southwest across Oronoco Street. It was named in colonial times probably after Ralph Platt, an early settler in the Alexandria area who purchased his land in 1686 and probably moved here shortly afterward with his young son and the young orphan son of his late sister. They grew tobacco and raised cattle and hogs. (See addendum page 64 for more information.)

Amphisculpture, Beverly Pepper, Bedminster, NJ

Ecological issues:

In the City's more recent history, the Oronoco Bay area was heavily industrialized, with uses that included oil refining and meat rendering. Ecological problems, such as arsenic in the bay's mud, sewer outfall at the foot of Pendleton Street, and creosote seeping into the Potomac River just south of West's Point, are still being addressed. (See addendum page 63 for more information.)

Downspout planter system, Buster Simpson Seattle, WA

Water cleansing sculpture*, Flowforms*, John Wilkes, UK

Proposed locations at Oronoco Bay Park:

1. Restore the natural shoreline and Ralph's Gutt
2. Commission and install public art that contributes to the ecological restoration of Ralph's Gutt and the cleansing of the groundwater
3. Collaborate with the owners of the Sheet Metal Workers Building and United Way Building on public/private public art projects that include an "Art Wall" along the garage walls and in a redesigned Wythe Street entrance corridor
4. Install Boxcar Theater (movable stage/production/storage unit on existing railroad spur)
5. Design and install a permanent outdoor amphitheater, sculpted from the riverside landscape and oriented parallel to the river and with the stage area facing south
6. Place a gateway sculpture at Wythe Street park entrance
7. Place a bridge over the restored Ralph's Gutt
8. Continue boardwalk along edge of bay
9. Add public art to the jetties and to the avian sanctuary for perching and nesting in the original marsh

ROBINSON TERMINAL (north)

Private property

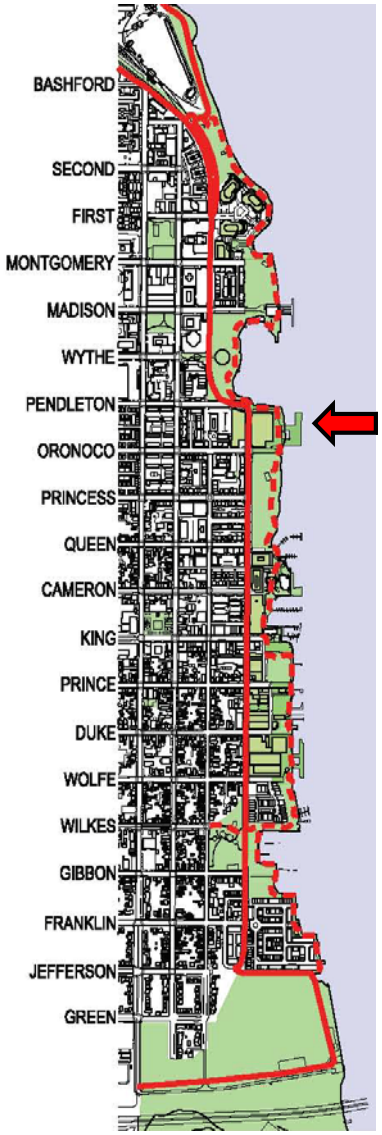
The theme for proposed public art at the Robinson Terminal is to parallel that of Oronoco Bay Park. Inspiration is found in nature and the performing arts.

Concepts:

- Work with the developers of the Robinson Terminal site to establish public/private collaborations on public art projects
- Emphasize the performing arts and return to nature

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Encourage mixed-use development that includes a performing arts center (including a black box theater, practice studios and wardrobe facilities for music, dance and theater productions, as well as providing space for administrative offices for arts organizations)
- Emphasize the Potomac River and water in the design of the site
- Encourage the installation of a café overlooking the Potomac River as part of the mixed-use development of the site
- Maintain dock access for historic vessels and private boats



Signature Theatre and Shirlington Library, Arlington, VA

Waterfront Art Center, Scandinavia

Fountain, WET Design, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, NY

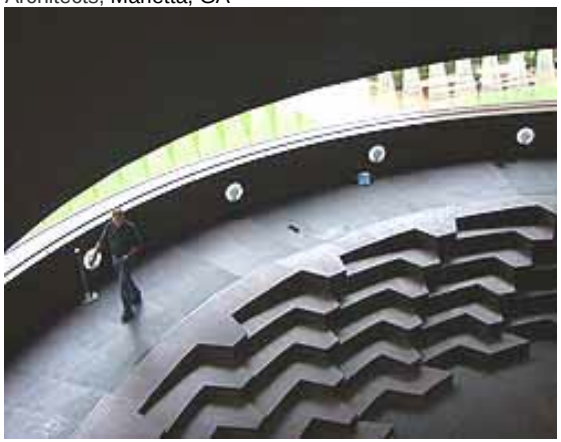
- Add stepped seating in the new retaining wall that extends from Pendleton Street along the Oronoco Bay shoreline
- Place a water feature on the dock overlooking the river
- Keep biking and walking paths separate

"…It is to the advantage of every city to furnish places of amusement, and none, are as attractive as the theater." [Alexandria Gazette, October 13, 1859; T. Michael Miller, editor, "Alexandria and Its Improvements" Pen Portraits of Alexandria, Virginia, 1739-1900]

General information:

Robinson Terminal Warehouse Corporation has been actively involved in the warehousing business since 1939. The terminal has two deep water berths on the Potomac River with drafts of 22 feet. The terminal is also serviced by Norfolk Southern, and can handle up to seventeen railcars at one time. They are experienced in handling various commodities and products, most recently concentrating on forest products. The terminal is one of the largest handlers of newsprint on the East Coast and the only working port in Alexandria and the surrounding Washington D.C. Metropolitan area.

The Murray Arts Center (84,400 sq. ft.), Randall-Paulson Architects, Marietta, GA



Stepped seating, Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007, Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen, London, England

WEST'S POINT

City owned property

In 1732, a tobacco warehouse was constructed on the shore of the Potomac on land owned by Hugh West. From this simple structure, the City of Alexandria grew. Proposed public art at West's Point is to celebrate the origins of Alexandria.

Concept:

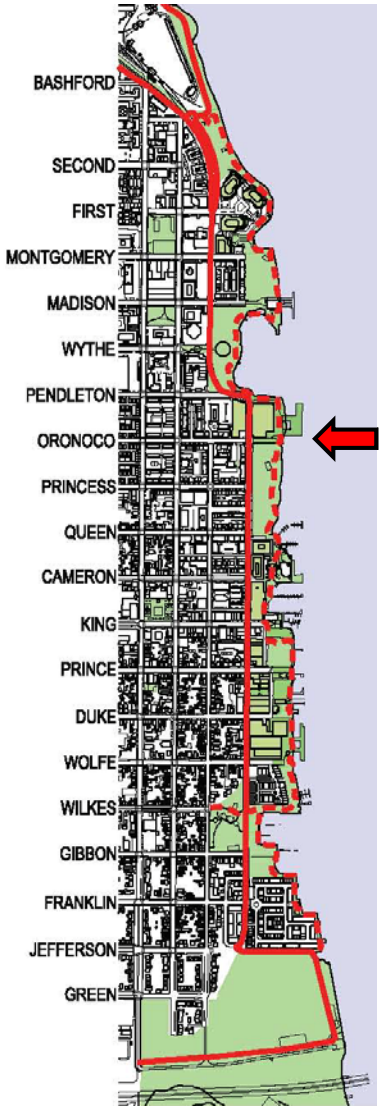
- Celebrate Alexandria's beginnings

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Commission and install public art that is inspired by Alexandria's first colonial structure, a tobacco inspection warehouse built in 1732
- Install artist-designed seating on the jetty

General information:

West's Point Park is located at the eastern end of Oronoco Street on the Potomac River between Robinson Terminal North and Founders Park. This property was deeded over to the City by Robinson Terminal in 1986. Oronoco Street was named after a type of Tobacco grown in early Virginia.



Franklin Court, Robert Venturi, Philadelphia, PA

Curing tobacco leaves

Riven clapboards

"Early utilitarian structures showed no concern for fashion. The first tobacco warehouse was a simple forty- or sixty-foot square, probably ten feet high inside, framed with hewn timbers and sided with rough, riven clapboards. It was erected in 1732 by area resident John Summers and two of his slaves." [Alexandria Archaeology Looks Back at 250 Years of Alexandria History, Office of Historic Alexandria]

Historical references:

- 1732 Tobacco Warehouse: Passed in 1730, the Virginia Inspection Acts revolutionized tobacco regulation and became a permanent feature of trade until the War for Independence. The Inspection Acts established public warehouses with official inspectors and required planters to transport every hogshead of tobacco in the colony to a warehouse for inspection. The inspectors were empowered to break open each hogshead, remove and burn any trash, and issue tobacco notes to the owner specifying the weight and kind of tobacco. (See addendum page 64 for more information.)

Ecological issues:

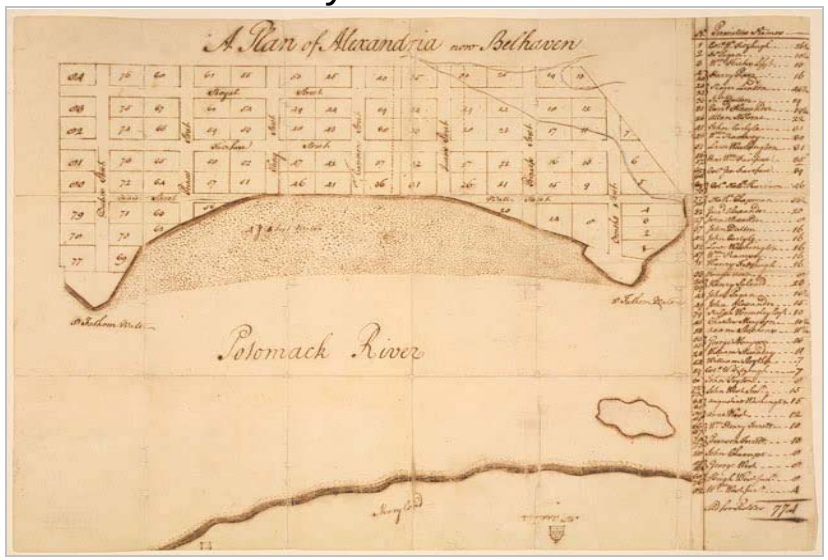
The City of Alexandria has installed a containment boom to control the discharge of an oily substance that has been found in the Potomac River near the Oronoco Street storm sewer outfall. The City is working with other governmental agencies to protect the environment and ensure that no residents or businesses are affected.

Proposed locations at West's Point:

1. Celebrate Alexandria's origins as a city at this site
2. Commission and install public art that is inspired by Alexandria's first colonial structure, a tobacco inspection warehouse built in 1732
3. Install artist-designed seating on the jetty

West's Point

The Crescent Bay



A Plan of Alexandria, now Belhaven, Plat from 1749

Alexandria was established along a bay on the Virginia side of the Potomac River by Scottish traders in the 1730s. The original bay arced southward from West's Point to Point Lumley. Acknowledgement of Alexandria's former crescent bay is to be the inspiration for proposed public art at West's Point, Point Lumley and sites along the Potomac.

Concept:

- Indicate the location of colonial Alexandria's primal shoreline

Recommendation:

- Where possible, suggest with public art the outline of Alexandria's original crescent bay

Historical references:

- The crescent-shaped bay upon which Alexandria was founded offered proximity to the Potomac, but consisted largely of shallows and mud flats bounded by thirty-foot bluffs. The first citizens of Alexandria industriously altered the natural landscape to remove these impediments to fit their economic needs and concept of livability. [Alexandria Archaeology Looks Back at 250 Years of Alexandria History, Office of Historic Alexandria]

"The town is built upon an arc of this bay; at one extremity of which is a wharf; at the other a dock for building ships, with water sufficiently deep to launch a vessel of any rate or magnitude." [Travels through the Middle Settlements in North-America, Archdeacon Andrew Burnaby, 1775]

11 Minute Line, Maya Lin, Wanas Foundation, Sweden

11 Minute Line, Detail

FOUNDERS PARK

City owned property

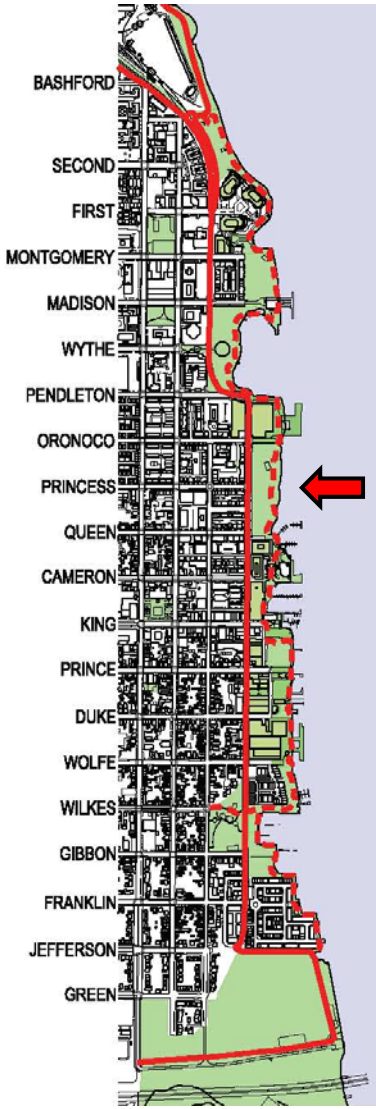
Every spring from the mid 1800s to the early 1900s, in what is now Founders Park, temporary tenements were erected along the wharves to house businesses dedicated to the salting, packing, selling and eating of fish. What became known as Fishtown was lively, loud, malodorous, and sometimes dangerous.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

Concepts:

- Celebrate Fishtown, a seasonal African American enclave associated with the 19th 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

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.

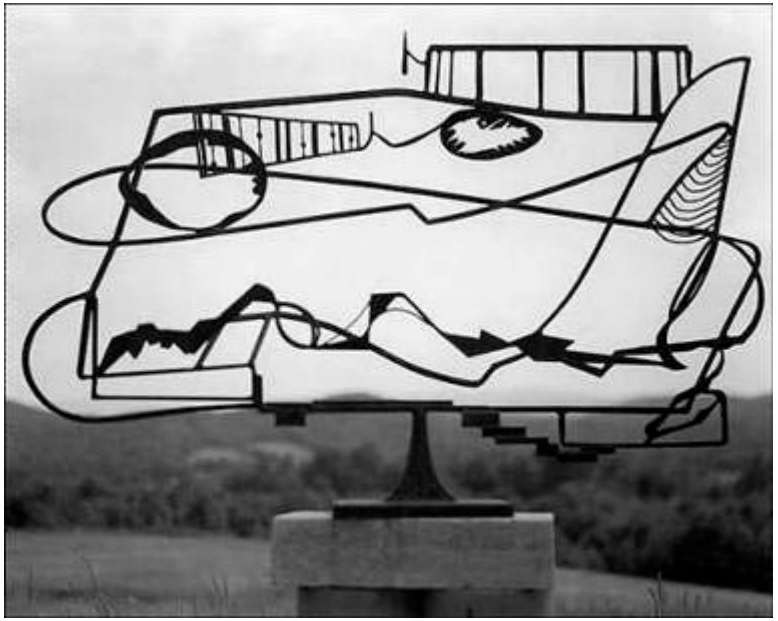
"From a quiet, almost deserted suburb, Fishtown springs in a few days to be a mart full of business and fish. The change which early in March comes over the waterside of this city, ranging between Princess and Oronoko (sic) Streets, is as great as that which visits the fields and the forests. [Alexandria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

Proposed locations at Founders Park:

1. Celebrate Fishtown, a seasonal African American enclave associated with the 19th 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

CITY MARINA

City owned property

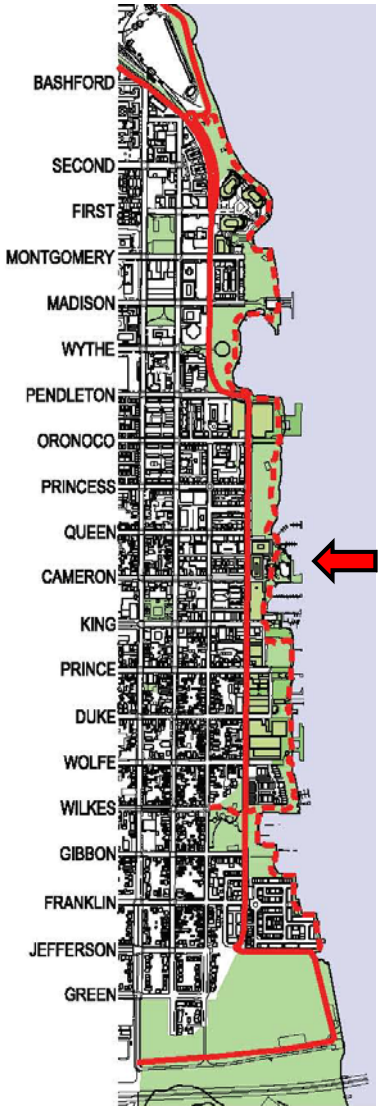
The redesign of the piers at City Marina will offer an opportunity to incorporate artistic design elements that tie into the Art Walk esthetic.

Concepts:

- Improve pedestrian flow from Founders Park to Torpedo Plaza
- Incorporating public art in all aspects of the City Marina and adjacent areas
- From multiple points of view, find inspiration for public art in the Federal Army's occupation of Alexandria during the Civil War

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Work with Realco Project Management Services to redesign the first floor of the Food Court as open space for an indoor market or visitor orientation center
- Recognize the occupation of Federal troops in Alexandria and the death of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, the first conspicuous casualty of the Civil War
- Place artist-designed outdoor screens in front of trash receptacles at the rear of Chart House Restaurant and Food Court



Mooring Ball and potential piece of public art

Eastern Market, Washington, DC

Artistic outdoor screen, DeYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA

General information:
The City owns the Food Court property with a long term lease with Realco Project Management Services.

City Marina is close to parks, the bike path, quaint restaurants, shops, and historic sites. For boating enthusiasts, the marina is a three mile cruise from Washington DC and Maryland. In addition to affording a spectacular view of the Potomac River, the City Marina has overnight boat slips plus additional short-term docking space on sea walls and adjacent areas. The City Marina offers docking for pleasure boats and commercial vessels. For boaters who wish to stay overnight, restroom and shower facilities are available.

"Excuse me but I cannot talk (unexpected sobbing). I will make no apology, gentlemen, for my weakness but I knew Ellsworth well, and held him in great regard." [Abraham Lincoln after hearing of Elmer Ellsworth's death, 1861]

Historical references:

- Colonel Elmer Ellsworth (1837-1861) was the first officer to die in the Civil War. He was twenty-four-years-old and a personal friend of President Lincoln, who appeared to be the Union's most promising officer. To the North, he was a symbol of patriotism, and America's foremost parade-ground soldier; to the South he was a symbol of arrogance and Northern aggression. (See addendum page 65 for more information.)

Proposed locations at City Marina:

1. Improve pedestrian flow from Founders Park to Torpedo Plaza
2. Incorporate public art in all aspects of the City Marina and adjacent areas
3. From multiple points of view, find inspiration for public art in the first day of the Federal Army's occupation of Alexandria during the Civil War
4. Work with Realco Project Management Services, to redesign the first floor of the Food Court as open space for an indoor market or visitor orientation center
5. Place artist-designed outdoor screens in front of trash receptacles at the rear of Chart House Restaurant and Food Court

City Marina

TORPEDO PLAZA & MARINA PARK

City owned property

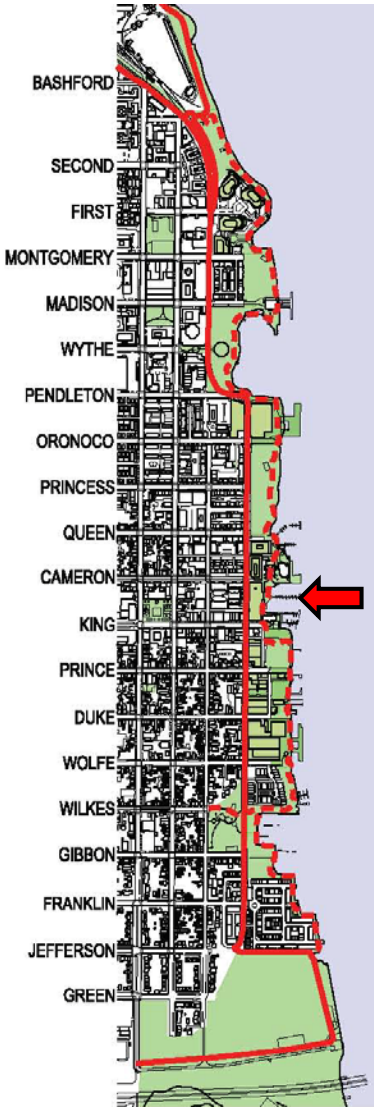
The proposed public art at Torpedo Plaza is to celebrate the transformation of the Torpedo Factory from a munitions plant into an art center.

Concepts:

- Integrate the Torpedo Factory Art Center with the Art Walk (see Torpedo Factory Art Center below)
- Encourage the installation of permanent and temporary public art pieces in and around the Torpedo Factory Art Center

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Commission and install public art that contrasts the original purpose of the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station with that of the Torpedo Factory Art Center today
- Collaborate with the owners of 201 North Union Street and place a large vertical public art piece at the street-front plaza at the foot of Cameron Street
- Install artist-designed tables and conversational seating
- Install sculptural benches and sunshades



Seascape Canopies, Searsport, ME

Jamey Turner and his Glass Harps, Alexandria, VA

Fences, DeYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA

- Commission more food carts and add vendors for seasonal foods such as hot chestnuts, pretzels and ice cream
- Encourage outdoor performers
- Integrate technology, such as a digitized announcement board, to promote Art Walk events
- Remove the gazebo and replace it with a small artist sculpted carousel
- Install an artist-designed gated screen, to hide river debris near Old Dominion Yacht Club
- Enhance alleyways from Torpedo Plaza to Union Street, and from the dock area to King Street, with artistic lighting
- Restore original pier in front of Torpedo Factory; widen pier for public circulation to provide views of the Torpedo Factory from the water

Commission more food carts

General information:
The Torpedo Plaza and City Marina are located behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The dock allows for a wonderful vantage point to see the Potomac River, with views far south beyond the Wilson Bridge and north past the Washington Channel. Visitors find plenty of benches for resting, eating lunch or watching the boats come and go. The Potomac Riverboat Company offers the public river tours up and down the Potomac and as well as a water taxi services between Alexandria and National Harbor.

"…and they shall beat their swords into plowshares…"
[Isaiah 2:4]

Historical references:
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station: On November 12, 1918, the U.S. Navy began constructing a torpedo factory in Alexandria, named the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station. Over the next five years it was responsible for the manufacture and maintenance of torpedoes and subsequently served as a munitions storage area until World War II. As the demand for weapons dramatically increased during the war, it resumed production activity and the factory was substantially expanded with ten new buildings. Mark XIV torpedoes were manufactured in the factory in 1945, two of which are on display at the Art Center.

After World War II, production ceased and the building was used throughout the 1950s and 1960s by the Smithsonian institution who stored art and Paleontological items and by Congress who stored documents. In 1969, the President of The Art League, Marian Van Landingham proposed to adapt the building for studios for working artists and following the approval of the Alexandria Bicentennial Commission, the factory complex was purchased by the City of Alexandria from the Federal Government. Large-scale renovation began in the May of 1974 and the redevelopment team worked arduously through the summer, enabling the new center to formally open on September 15, 1974. From 1982 to 1983, the building underwent further renovation in compliance with the City's waterfront development plan and was entirely gutted and rebuilt with a new ventilation system and central heating. It formally reopened on May 20, 1983.

Mark XIV torpedo

Torpedo Factory Art Center

City owned property

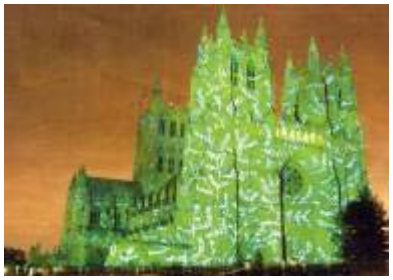
The Torpedo Factory Art Center was critical to the success of the 1982 Waterfront Plan and will be just as vital to the Art Walk.

Concept:

- Emphasize the Art Center as the central cultural anchor of the Art Walk
- Integrate the Art Center into the Art Walk

Recommendations:

- Encourage temporary public art exhibitions on Torpedo Plaza
- Reinforce the Art Center roof with a structural deck and install a rooftop sculpture garden and café; also add fourth-floor elevator access and bring the fire stair to code
- Make the Art Center building more innovative and dynamic by having temporary artistic displays on the waterfront façade, for example projecting light shows and hanging sculptures
- Incorporate the smokestack into a public art project
- Install Art Deco inspired stainless steel lettering on the waterfront façade to replace existing Art Center signage



Projected light, Washington Cathedral, Gerry Hofstetter, Washington, DC

Projected light, Omni William Penn Hotel, Lucette de Rugy, Pittsburgh, PA

Smokestack, Leipzig, Germany

Artist concept for sculpted banners

Artist-designed paving, *Blue Carpet,* Thomas Heatherwick, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK

The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

Roof Garden Café, the Met

- Commission and install artist-designed stainless steel banners on the waterfront façade
- Install Art Deco inspired glass and metal awnings over the Art Center's waterfront entrances
- Replace the existing Torpedo Plaza deck with an artist-designed deck
- Implement the interior design consultant Cooper Carry's renovation for the Art Center's interior waterfront entranceway

General information:

The Torpedo Factory Art Center is the highlight of Alexandria's Potomac River waterfront, attracting approximately 500,000 visitors annually. There are 82 artists' studios, six galleries, two workshops, The Art League Gallery and school, and the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. The Art Center has working studios for more than 165 visual artists who produce artwork in a wide variety of media, including painting, ceramics, photography, jewelry, stained-glass, fiber, printmaking and sculpture. The artists allow the public to join them in their studios and observe their creative processes. Visitors are encouraged to ask questions and may purchase the artists' original work. Interested individuals may sign up for art classes with The Art League School.

The Art Center building is owned by the City. Realco Project Management Services leases the air-rights to the two outdoor brick plazas adjacent to the waterfront entrances of the Art Center.

Rooftop sculpture garden, Shaw Center for the Arts, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA

Temporary holiday façade, Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, Paris, France

KING STREET PARK

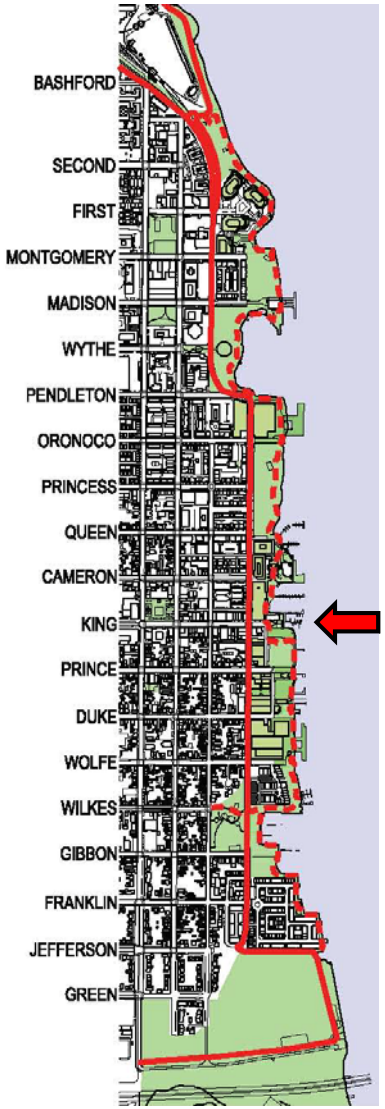
King Street Park is located at the intersection of Alexandria's two most alluring sights: the Potomac River and King Street. Public art placed here will become the symbol of Alexandria.

Concepts:

- Give weight to the importance of where King Street meets the Potomac River
- Work with the Old Dominion Boat Club to build private/public collaborations for public art projects
- Combine Waterfront Park, King Street Park, and Point Lumley into one continuous park along the river as suggested in the *Waterfront Concept Plan*

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River



Vertical Garden, Patrick Blanc, Madrid, Spain

The iconic *Pumpkin*, Yayoi Kusama Naoshima, Japan

Reflecting pool, Les Quatre Vents, Frank Cabot, La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada

- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Extend a new pier from King Street out over the Potomac River as suggested in the *Waterfront Concept Plan*
- Place an iconic sculpture at the terminus of King Street that symbolically represents Alexandria, possibly a six-foot-tall statue inspired by Alexandria's oldest artifact, the 13,000-year-old Clovis Point
- Find inspiration for public art from artifacts found in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum collection
- Combine Waterfront Park, King Street Park, Point Lumley and the adjacent City owned buildings into one continuous park along the river as suggested in the *Waterfront Concept Plan*
- Install a reflecting pool
- Install a wall garden along the fences
- Install artist-designed benches along Art Walk

"Alexandria you would scarcely know; so much has it increased since you was (sic) there…What were the Commons are now all inclosed (sic) and many good houses placed on them." [George Washington in letter to David Humphreys, 1797]

Historical references:

- The Alexandria Archaeology Museum has an extraordinary collection of well preserved artifacts, excavated from more than 150 archaeological sites in the City. Containing over 2,000,000 items collected since 1965, the collection's breadth and depth make it one of the foremost for use in comparative studies in historic and urban archaeology.

The Clovis Point

General information:

The Old Dominion Boat Club is a private club, organized in July, 1880 to combine physical fitness and sport with a social atmosphere. In 1921, the Club purchased the property known as the Old Alexandria-Washington Ferry Company at the foot of King Street. After a fire destroyed the ferry building in March 1922, it was decided that as soon as the insurance was paid, a new Club would be built on the site. [From *History of the Early Days at the Old Dominion Boat Club* by Ray Cobean - ODBC Club Historian]

Reina Mariana (monumental sculpture), Manolo Valdés, New York, NY

WATERFRONT PARK

City owned property

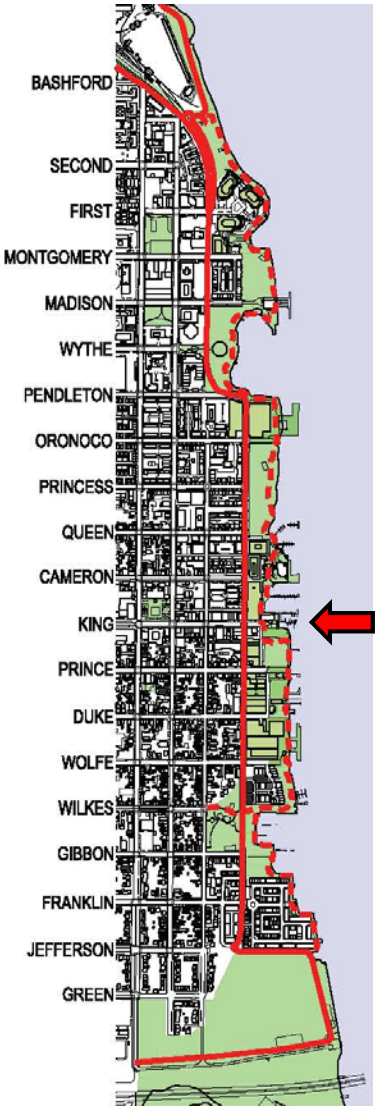
By relocating the Old Dominion Boat Club's parking lot and making changes to Prince Street, three waterfront parks can be joined, allowing greater public access to the Potomac River from King Street. The inspiration for proposed public art at Waterfront Park is to be the family.

Concepts:

- Combine Waterfront Park, King Street Park, and Point Lumley into one continuous park along the river
- Celebrate family life at Waterfront Park
- Place public art pieces among the trees

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Move the Old Dominion Boat Club's parking lot away from the river to allow Waterfront Park to be joined with King Street Park as suggested in the Waterfront Concept Plan
- Conclude Prince Street at the Strand to allow Waterfront Park to be joined with Point Lumley



Spiral of Trees, Beverly Pepper, Barcelona, Spain

Outdoor chess board, Boston, MA

Jim Henson Puppets

- Commission and install a glass public art piece inspired by the historic Reed's Ice House
- Install sculptures placed among trees
- Enhance family use with seating in conversation groups
- Install artist-designed benches under trees
- Install tables with built-in game boards
- Establish puppet shows, storytelling and summer painting workshops

General information:

Waterfront Park is known for its summertime night concerts, as well as many other small festivals and events. The park is primarily an open turf area bordered on the north and south by several large evergreens that are used in Christmas/wintertime displays. The park benefits from an in-ground irrigation system.

Other amenities include a chess table, benches and a very large 18th century cannon that the children climb on. There is on site parking, area lighting and boat dock. The 19th Century Schooner Alexandria was docked here in recent years before being lost at sea in 1996.

The schooner Alexandria

Historical references:

- The Alexandria was a 125-foot three-masted schooner with four headsails. She was acquired in 1984 by the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. The foundation kept her as a live museum docked at Waterfront Park and the ship was sailed as a goodwill ambassador for the City of Alexandria. After being sold, she sank off Cape Hatteras, NC, on December 6, 1996.

"There is no better evidence of the sound and healthy condition of society – and of the taste and refinement of a community – than the attention that is paid by it to education, literature, and culture of the fine arts." [Manuscripts of an Old Bachelor: Reminiscences of Alexandria in the 1830's, T. Michael Miller]

Proposed locations at Waterfront Park:

1. Combine Waterfront Park, King Street Park, and Point Lumley into one continuous park along the river
2. Enhance family use with seating in conversation groups
3. Install artist-designed benches under trees. Install tables with built-in game boards
4. Install sculptures placed among trees
5. Conclude Prince Street at the Strand to allow more park space
6. Establish puppet shows, storytelling, summer painting workshops

Waterfront Park

THE STRAND

Private and City owned properties

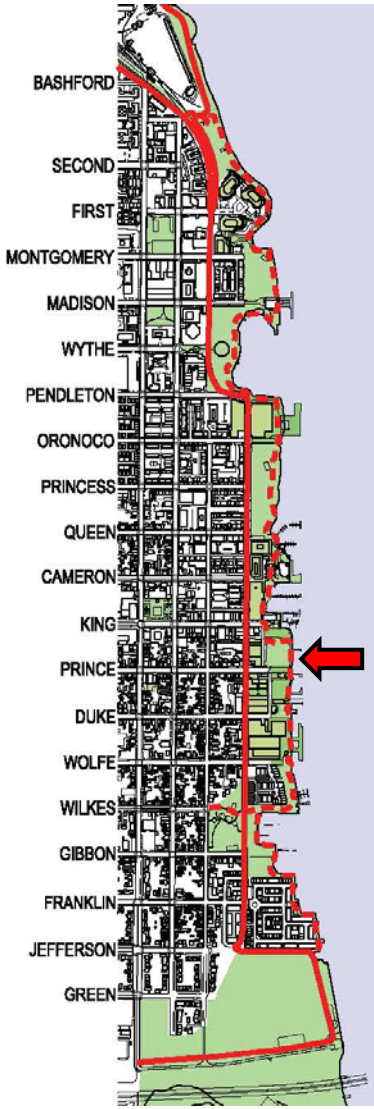
Through much of Alexandria's history, the Strand was the heart of the waterfront. Establishing a cultural anchor and giving people a feel for waterfront history is to be the inspiration for the proposed public art at the Strand.

Concept:

- Establish a cultural anchor on the Strand with access to the Art Walk
- Promote the Strand as a place where "strands" of history, art and culture intertwine
- Celebrate the lives of those who lived and worked on the waterfront

Recommendations:

- Provide space on the Strand for The Art League School, Alexandria Seaport Foundation and Historic Alexandria History Center and Museum Shop (see addendum pages 66-69)
- Include the Athenaeum as part of the newly established cultural anchor on the Strand (see addendum page 70)



theartleague

ALEXANDRIA SEAPORT FOUNDATION

Historic Alexandria
History Center & Museum Shop

ATHENAEUM

- Commission and install a public art piece that acknowledges the role enslaved Africans played in developing the waterfront
- Commission and install public art pieces that are inspired by the history of the Strand

General information:

The Strand is a two block stretch of road that runs between South Union Street and the Potomac River, terminating at the foot of King and Dukes Streets. The Stand abuts the parks of King Street, Waterside and Point Lumley.

By definition a strand is a horizontal strip of land adjoining water that lies between the tide-marks. A strand is also a pattern forming a unity within a larger structural whole like "a strand of logic or hair." The Art Walk conceptually incorporates the Strand as the latter, as a convergence of art, culture, history and nature.

"(Union Street) and the Strand were alive with boats from early in the morning until late in the evening and the water was filled with everything that could float in the way of planks, barrels, fords of wood, broom corn, etc., which had drifted from the wharves and stores while anxious storekeepers encased in rubber suits were wading about in their stores endeavoring to move perishable goods to places of safety." [Alexandria Gazette, June 3, 1889]

"…There had been a fire and it had burned over a section at one time the busiest in Alexandria's history – the space on the Strand from Duke to Prince Streets." [Alexandria Gazette, June 3, 1897]

Historical references:

- The Strand: Throughout its history, the Strand was mostly made up of wharfs and warehouses. Fires were common, causing great damage and loss of property and life. Ironically, the addition of fire completes the four classical elements making up the phases of matter – wind (sails), water (river) and earth (land).
- Slavery: Enslaved Africans should be credited for helping to shape much of Old Town Alexandria. They graded the bluff overlooking the Potomac River, built roads and wharves to expand Alexandria's trade, and constructed brick and frame houses which can still be seen today.

Slaves worked in many Alexandria businesses including potteries, sugar refineries and shipyards. They also provided service in homes and taverns. Some worked for their owners, and others hired out. Most slaves lived in their owners' homes or outbuildings; others lived at their place of employment or in independent households of free blacks.

Coal Wharf, circa 1864, photo by Matthew Brady, Alexandria, VA

Proposed locations on the Strand:

1. Establish a cultural anchor on the Strand with access to the Art Walk
2. Commission and install a public art piece that depicts the role of the slave in Alexandria's development
3. Provide space on the Strand for The Art League School, Alexandria Seaport Foundation and Historic Alexandria History Center and Museum Shop

The Strand

POINT LUMLEY

City owned property

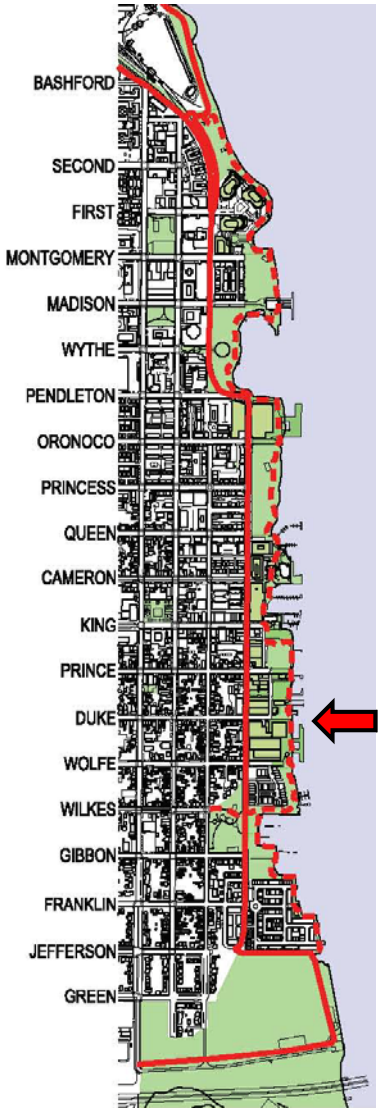
Alexandria was founded because of its potential as a seaport. The proposed public art in Point Lumley is to be inspired by Alexandria's maritime history.

Concepts:

- Recognize the port of Alexandria and its rich seafaring traditions in this park
- Recognize that George Washington's cargo-hauling brig *Farmer* was docked near here
- Combine Waterfront Park, King Street Park, and Point Lumley into one continuous park along the river

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting



Joie de Vivre, Aristides Demetrios, castings available, Montecito, CA

Fountain, Bergen, Norway

Joyous Resonances, Aristides Demetrios, castings available, Montecito, CA

- Construct at Point Lumley a public art piece that represents the masts, sails and riggings of George Washington's brig
- Create a public art piece, with the advice of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, where participants "learn the ropes" on the mast and riggings of the public art piece
- Establish a sculpture garden at Point Lumley
- Frame view of Wilson Bridge highlighted with "picture frame" sculpture
- Provide arbors for shade
- Install sculptures and artist-designed benches on jetty

General information:

Point Lumley Park is located at the foot of Duke Street on the Potomac River. It was formerly owned by Robinson Terminal and was deeded over to the City in 1986.

There are several benches for sitting and taking in the beautiful view of the river and nearby boat docks. At Point Lumley Park, people walk their dogs, sunbathe, river watch, read, boat and stroll from park to park along the river.

In April, 1775, Philip Curtis, the captain of George Washington's brig Farmer, arrived at Mount Vernon from a voyage that carried 4,000 bushels of "Indian Corn" to Lisbon and returned with 3,000 bushels of salt from the Turks Islands in the Caribbean. [The Diaries of George Washington, Vol. 3, Donald Jackson, ed., University Press of Virginia, 1978]

Historical references:

- A brig is a large sailing vessel with two square-rigged masts. George Washington's cargo-hauling brig *Farmer* was docked near Point Lumley.
- The idiom "learning the ropes" comes from the days of sailing ships when new recruits had to learn how to tie knots and which rope hauled up which sail. After mastering these basic skills sailors had "learned the ropes."

Cargo-carrying brig Pilgrim, photo by Donny Mac

Proposed locations at Point Lumley:

1. Combine Waterfront Park, King Street Park and Point Lumley into one continuous park along the river
2. Construct at Point Lumley a public art piece that represents the masts, sails and riggings of George Washington's brig
3. Create a public art piece, with the advice of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, where participants "learn the ropes" on the mast and riggings of the public art piece

Point Lumley

ROBINSON TERMINAL (south)

Private property with no public access

Robinson Terminal is the last in a long line of working waterfront warehouses and wharves that proliferated on the Strand. As the waterfront is developed, the feel of Alexandria's historic waterfront must not be lost.

Concept:

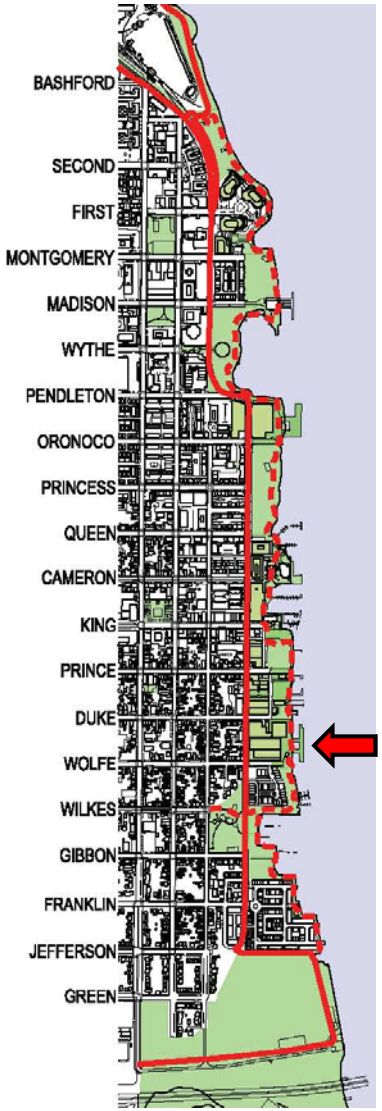
- Find ways to incorporate areas in and around Robison Terminal as part of the Cultural Anchor being established on the Strand

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the Potomac River
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Establish public/private collaborations for public art installations at Robinson Terminal
- Place public art on the waterfront dock of Robinson Terminal
- Celebrate Robinson Terminal's place among the historic warehouses and wharves of the Strand

General information:

(For general information on Robinson Terminal north see above on page 21.)



Nine Muses, Carlos Dorrien, Hamilton, NJ

Eagle, Alexander Calder, Seattle, WA

Black Sun, Noguchi, Seattle, WA

Proposed locations at Robinson Terminal south:

1. Work with the owners of Robinson Terminal to allow public access along the shoreline
2. Establish public/private collaborations for public art installations at Robinson Terminal

Robinson Terminal South

ROBERDEAU PARK

City owned property

In the late 18th century, Daniel Roberdeau started his distillery business here. In the mid 19th century, Smith and Perkins Locomotive Works began building railway locomotives and cars. The inspiration for the proposed public art at Roberdeau Park will reflect its industrial past.

Concept:

- Celebrate Alexandria's industrial past at Roberdeau Park

Recommendations:

- Continue Art Walk along river
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Place sculpture reflecting the industrial history of the site
- Place view-framing sculptures

General information:

Roberdeau Park is located at the foot of Wolfe Street, on the shore of the Potomac River. The park is used by visitors for sitting and

Massimo Ghiotti, Turin, Italy

Industry, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Jeff De Boer, Calgary, Canada

watching life on the river. It has a wonderful view looking south toward Wilson Bridge, the boating marina, Harborside townhouses and the next-door neighbor park, Shipyard Park. In 1986, the owners of Robinson Terminal deeded the property over to the City.

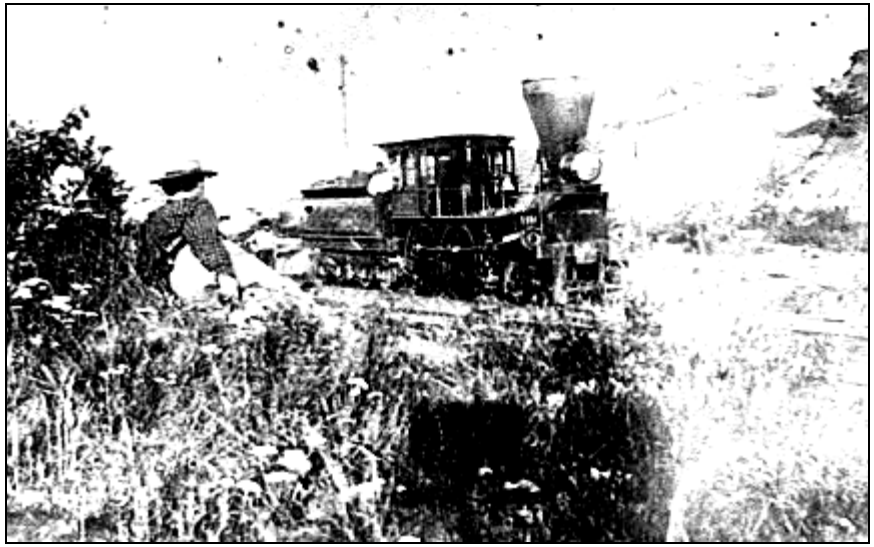
Historical references:

- In 1774, Daniel Roberdeau established a wharf and large distillery business on the waterfront, known for its Alexandria Rum. During the Revolutionary War, he served with distinction as a brigadier general in the Continental Army.

"…At the time of our visit, we saw three powerful freight engines destined for the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, one of which, the most finished specimen of workmanship we ever saw…" [Virginia Locomotive and Car Works located at Wolfe and Union Streets, Alexandria Gazette, December 1, 1852]

- Industry: In the mid nineteenth century, Alexandria was home to the Smith and Perkins Locomotive Works (also known as Virginia Locomotive and Car Works). Located on the south side of Wolfe at Union Street, the factory covered 51,500 feet of ground fronting the Potomac River. The company manufactured engines for the Manassas Gap Railroad, Baltimore and Ohio, and Hudson Valley Railroads. Indeed, all the cars utilized on the Manassas Gap Railroad and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad were constructed at this establishment. [William F. Smith and T. Michael Miller, *A Seaport Saga: A Portrait of Old Alexandria, Virginia*]

  Smith & Perkins built coal-burning locomotives, at the rate of three per month, for railroads that included the Baltimore & Ohio, Pennsylvania Central, Manassas Gap and Hudson River companies.



Orange and Alexandria Railroad locomotive, mid 1800's, stereoscope

From the Lyceum's model train collection, Alexandria, VA

Proposed locations at Roberdeau Park:

1. Celebrate Alexandria's industrial past at this Park
2. Place sculpture reflecting industrial history of the site
3. Place view-framing sculptures

Roberdeau Park

Shipyard Park/Harborside City Park

Privately owned property with public access

The Potomac River is a freshwater tidal estuary with a complex ecosystem. The proposed public art at Shipyard Park is to be inspired by the life cohabitating along the water's edge.

Concept:

- Celebrate the flora and fauna of the Potomac River at Shipyard Park

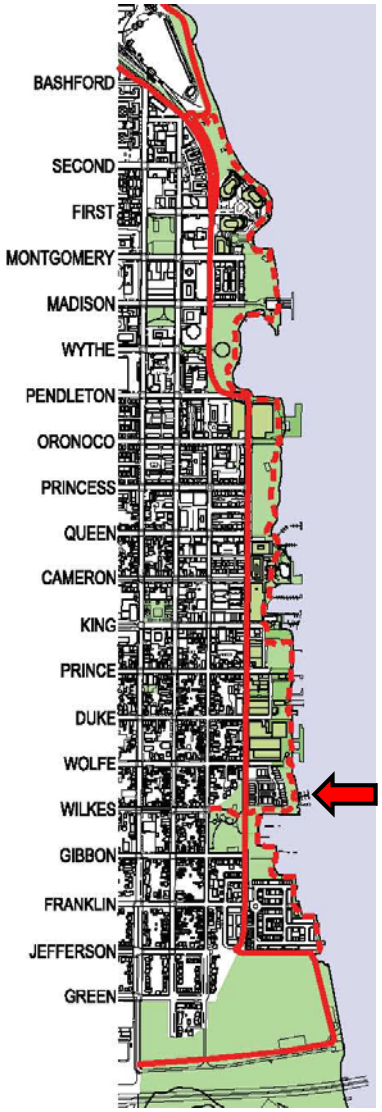
Recommendations:

- Continue Art Walk along river
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Place sculptures inspired by indigenous flora and fauna

"…it aboundeth in all manner of fish….And as for deer, buffaloes, bears, turkeys, the woods do swarm with them and the soil is exceedingly fertile." [Journal of Captain Henry Fleet, log entry while anchored six miles south of Great Falls, 1632]

General information:

Shipyard Park is located at the foot of Wilkes Street. It was the old VEPCO easement that is now owned and maintained by the Harborside Condominium Home Owners Association with permanent public access along the shoreline and to the public wharf.



Make Way for Ducklings, Nancy Schön, Boston, MA

Stacked turtles, Mackinac Island, MI

Proposed locations at Shipyard/Harborside City Park:

1. Celebrate the flora and fauna of the Potomac River at this park
2. Place sculptures inspired by indigenous flora and fauna

Shipyard Park / Harborside City Park

WILKES STREET TUNNEL

City owned property

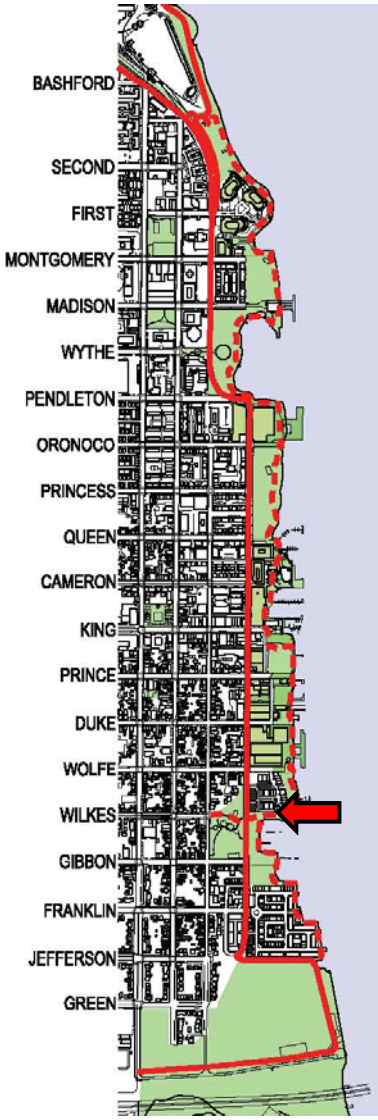
Historically, the railway industry has been important to the culture and economy of Alexandria's waterfront. Wilkes Street Tunnel is a remnant of that era. Temporary artwork in and around the tunnel is to be inspired by things associated with the railroad.

Concept:

- Integrate the Wilkes Street Tunnel into the Art Walk

Recommendations:

- Continue Art Walk
- Install site-appropriate lighting embedded in the pavement (like Lumenyte, flexible fiber optic cable)
- Install an auditory installation of train noises and railway workers' voices utilizing the tunnel acoustics
- Install temporary sculptures in and around the tunnel entrances
- Install signage that tells the history of the tunnel



Lighting imbedded in pavement

Underground Railroad Monument, Cameron Armstrong, Oberlin, OH

High Line Park, James Corner, New York, NY

General information:
The Wilkes Street Tunnel is about 380 feet long and open to the public as a lighted walkway and bike path. Access is from Union and Royal Streets. In 1975, rail operations ceased in the tunnel. In the 1980's, it was converted for use as part of the bike trail that connects to the Mount Vernon Trail.

"On May 6, 1851, the first locomotive belched smoke and cinders and the shrill sound of its whistle could be heard as it chugged down Union Street to the Wilkes Street tunnel." [A Seaport Saga: A Portrait of Old Alexandria, Virginia, William F. Smith and T. Michael Miller]

Historical references:

- The Wilkes Street tunnel went into service May 6, 1851 and was part of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad's mainline to Richmond. Several railroads that linked Alexandria to western Virginia used the tunnel to move passengers, mail and freight in and out of the industrialized area along the Potomac River waterfront in the 1850's. The rail line also linked the waterfront to the Alexandria Canal, which connected to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Alexandria's railroads were important to the City's role as a distribution center for Union troops and supplies during the Civil War.

Proposed locations at Wilkes Street Tunnel:

1. Site-appropriate lighting embedded in pavement (like Lumenyte, flexible fiber optic cable)
2. Temporary sculpture and art exhibition site
3. Auditory installations utilizing the tunnel acoustics
4. Historic markers-historic railroad tunnel

WINDMILL HILL PARK

City owned property

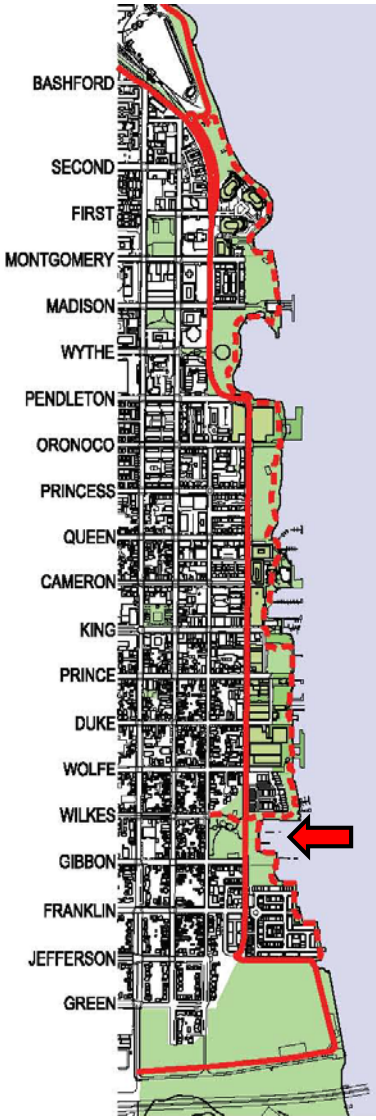
Through most of its history, Windmill Hill was the location where Alexandria's large outdoor civic gatherings were held just as Oronoco Bay Park is today. Since being deeded to the City in 1945, Windmill Hill has been designated as a park and playground. In this vein, proposed public art at Windmill Hill Park derives inspiration from the esthetics of children's playthings.

Concept:

- Incorporate public art as amendments to the existing Windmill Hill Park Plan

Recommendations:

- Continue the Art Walk along the river
- Continue in-pavement lighting
- Commission and install artist-designed playground equipment
- Commission and install a public art piece that is inspired by John R. Remington's 1843 windmill



Innovative Playground, David Rockwell, New York, NY

Concept for colored and textured paving on Union Street

OZmill, Tim Upham, Loveland, CO

- Visually unite the divided park by adding texture and color to the pavement of Union Street
- Install a footbridge over the canal between lower Windmill Hill Park and Pomander Park
- Install artist-designed benches

General information:
Windmill Hill Park, or Lee Street Park as it is still known to the local residents, is located at 501 South Union Street consisting of a sand volley ball court, a basketball court and an upper and lower open turf area where pick-up soccer games are played. The park's name comes from the wind-powered water mill that occupied the sandy bluff of Miller's Cliffs in 1843. First established as a park in 1945, Windmill Hill Park sits on a marshland that was filled in during the 19th century. The park was initially selected for a children's playground, as a result of a citywide open space study. On the northern end of the park resides an upper and lower playground, the upper playground or tot lot is for chlldren ages four to eight. The lower playground is designed for older children. Windmill Hill Park, until recently was called Potomac View Park, most likely because the park has a wonderful view of the river. City Council changed the name because of historical factors, one being that there once was a windmill located here.

"…the Windmill, on Miller's Cliffs, will soon be finished and put into operation." [Alexandria Gazette, July 11, 1843]

Historical references:
In 1843, the Alexandria Gazette reported that John R. Remington built a water pumping windmill on the 500 block of Lee Street. "The whole affair is something new in these parts and is well worth looking at." How long the windmill remained in operation is not known.

"…the windmill creaked and groaned, creating an eerie music in the otherwise silent landscape." [THE FARMER'S WIFE: Images from the Land of Corn & Soybeans]

Grasshopper Bridge, Ed Carpenter, Phoenix, AZ

"In an age of childhood obesity and children tethered to electronic consoles, playgrounds have rarely been more important." [Unpacking Imagination, David Rockwell, New York Times, September 25, 2010]

(See addendum page 71 for more information.)

Proposed locations at Windmill Hill Park:

1. Commission and install a public art piece that is inspired by John R. Remington's 1843 windmill
2. Commission and install innovative playgrounds
3. Unite park by adding texture and color to the pavement of Union Street that bisects the park
4. Footbridge over canal between lower Windmill Hill Park and Pomander Park
5. Install artist-designed benches

Windmill Hill Park

POMANDER PARK

City owned property

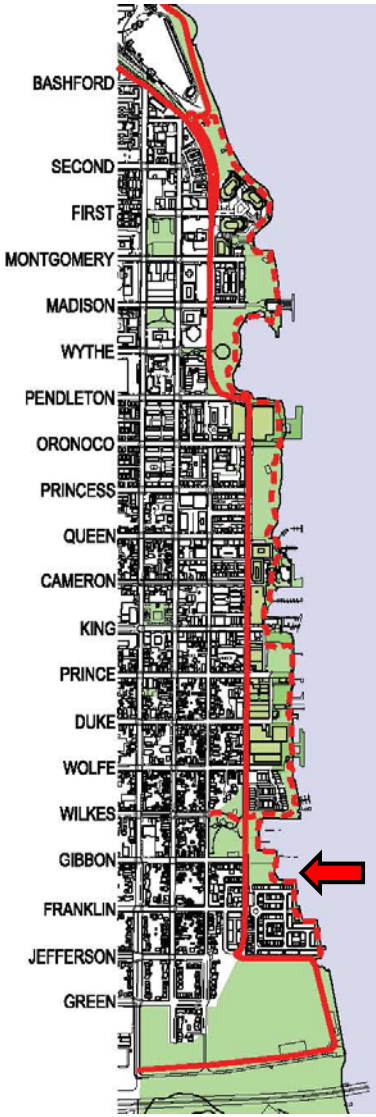
Pomander Park is the proposed southern gateway to the Art Walk. The park will mirror the northern gateway at Tide Lock Park and also find inspiration for public art from Alexandria's historic streetlamps, creating symmetry with light-sculpture gardens at both ends of the Art Walk.

Concepts:

- Establish Pomander Park as a gateway to the Art Walk, beginning the pathway at the south end and moving northward, following the Potomac River shoreline
- Celebrate the dog at this park

Recommendations:

- Conclude and begin the Art Walk (reestablish connection with the bike path)
- Continue in-pavement lighting



Urban Light, Chris Burden, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA

Balloon Dog, Jeff Koons, Versailles, France

Puppy, Jeff Koons, Bilbao, Spain

- Commission and install a Light-Sculpture Garden in the park, inspired by the lighting fixtures from throughout Alexandria's history
- Include solar collectors (or possibly use the proposed windmill at Windmill Hill Park) to power the Light-Sculpture Garden and in-pavement lighting set into the Art Walk pathway
- Create and install signage giving an overview of the Art Walk
- Include signage to distinguish the Art Walk from the bike path
- Commission and install public art that celebrates the dog
- Install dog drinking fountain
- Install a sculptural footbridge connecting Windmill Hill Park to Pomander Park

General information:

Pomander Park is located at 600 South Union Street, adjacent to Windmill Hill Park. The park is very popular with dog owners and walkers, who represent the greatest users of the park.

Detail, *Portrait of a Lady Holding a Pomander*, Pieter Pourbus

Historical reference:

"By definition, a pomander is a perfume carried with one, often in the form of a ball on a chain, used to mollify bad smells or ward off pestilence. Ironically for an ardent dog park, Pomander Park is named after a smelly thing at the end of a chain." [Anonymous]

Proposed locations at Pomander Park:

1. Conclude and begin the Art Walk (reestablish connection with the bike path)
2. Place signage giving an overview of the Art Walk
3. Install a sculptural footbridge connecting Windmill Hill Park to Pomander Park
4. Place temporary art in reclaimed stream
5. Place sculptures celebrating the dog
6. Install dog drinking fountain
7. Commission and install a Light-Sculpture Garden in the park, inspired by the lighting fixtures from throughout Alexandria's history

Pomander Park

STRATEGIES FOR ACQUIRING PUBLIC ART

STRATEGIES FOR ACQUIRING PUBLIC ART

There are a variety of ways the City of Alexandria can obtain public art for the Art Walk. For example:

- Individuals and businesses may directly contribute funds, materials and art to the City's tax-deductible Arts Commission Donation Account.
- City Council may adopt the Public Art Funding Policy proposed by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts (ACA). For the last year, the ACA and the City's Office of the Arts have been working with the arts and business communities, developers, and various City staff members to craft a policy where public art funding can be tied to a percentage of new construction projects from the private sector as well as the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- City Council can establish a new staff position responsible for applying for grants and managing public art projects.
- Grants for public art programs can come from federal and state sources. For example, certain National Endowment for the Arts grants are specifically geared to municipalities.
- Grants supporting public art may come from private foundations and corporate giving programs.
- Public art may be funded by establishing an annual fundraising event or drive.
- The City may receive long-term loans of public art pieces from museum collections. For example, under certain conditions, the Smithsonian Affiliations program will arrange for the loan of artwork from the museum collections of the Smithsonian Institution.
- Endowments and trusts may sponsor specific public art venues, like the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.
- Temporary public art may be solicited from artists for temporary sculpture shows on the waterfront.
- Where appropriate, existing public art may be relocated from other parts of the City to the waterfront.

Cloudgate, Anish Kapoor, Millennium Park, Chicago, IL

ADDENDA

TIDE LOCK PARK (north)

Founded in 1984 as American Showcase Theatre Company, Inc., MetroStage is the oldest professional theater in Northern Virginia. From its inception until 1996, the theater operated out of a series of converted storefronts on Duke Street, until redevelopment in the area required their demolition. In July 2001, the theater re-opened at 1201 North Royal Street in north Old Town Alexandria. The expanded 130-seat facility put MetroStage back on the theater map in Washington with its season of plays and musicals, in addition to its FirstStage series of staged readings and Cabaret series. The theater attracts playwrights, directors, designers, and actors from across the country, and continues to showcase the best of contemporary theater with its productions.

MetroStage's opening came about through Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin's commitment to finding a new home for the theater, which required a major $450,000 fundraising effort. Today, MetroStage is once again a significant member of the Washington theater community, drawing its audiences from the Washington metropolitan area and beyond.

MetroStage's new theater is a converted lumber warehouse, the former home of Alexandria's Smoot Lumber Company. Board member and architect Skip Maginniss converted the 35-year-old, 4000 square foot building into a modern, 130-seat Theater with a stunning glass entrance and a floating staircase leading to theater offices. The 30-foot high warehouse offers an interior volume that lends an expansive, dramatic feel to the space. Yet to maintain the intimate theater environment for which MetroStage has become recognized, seats on risers wrapping around a "thrust" stage keep the audience in close proximity to the actors. The unique theater space provides an added artistic challenge for set designers, and tables and chairs in the front row contribute to an intimate "cabaret" feeling for certain musicals. The location offers on-site and street parking and is convenient to many local restaurants and shops for before - or after - theater enjoyment.

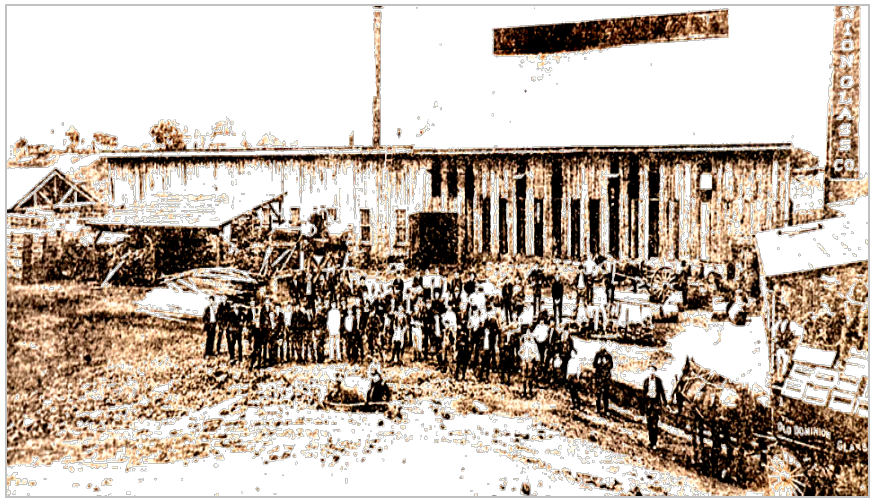
ROOMS, a Rock Romance, with Natascia Diaz and Doug Kreeger

The 130-seat MetroStage auditorium

TIDE LOCK PARK (south)

Alexandria Canal and Tide Lock and holding basin, the only locally remaining portions of the Alexandria Canal, are significant physical representations of an economic rebirth for the City of Alexandria during the middle of the 19th century. The Canal was in operation from 1843-1886, except for the era of the Civil War. The artificial waterways were used to move goods and materials to and from sea going ships; these goods were transported by canal barges up and down the canal which were controlled by huge wooden locks.

Excavation and restoration of the Tide Lock of the Alexandria Canal in Alexandria



The Old Dominion glass factory operated at North Fairfax and Montgomery Street from 1901-1925 in Alexandria

Alexandria Glasswork Factories: Virginia Glass, first opened in 1894, was in the 1800 block of Duke Street. Glassblowers from Virginia Glass left to found the Old Dominion at North Fairfax and Montgomery Street in 1901. In 1902, the Belle Pre Bottle Company of Delaware opened their factory at Henry and Madison. Alexandria Glass was founded in 1905 in the 1100 block of North Henry on a lot leased from Belle Pre. Alexandria's bottle companies produced bottles for milk, medicine, beer and spirits.

ORONOCO BAY PARK

Oronoco Bay Park was once known as “Texaco Bay” and before that it was owned by John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company. The City acquired the property in the early 1980's, changed its name to Oronoco Bay Park, and developed the park into its present design.

Historically, the Alexandria area was inhabited by Indians when Captain John Smith sailed up the Potomac in the mid 17th Century. The park today is famous for the annual “Red Cross Waterfront Festival” which is the largest Red Cross fund raiser in the United States. The park also has many other festivals and is often rented to out to private concerns for their events as well

In May 2000, the City entered Virginia's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) to clean up the outfall from the Alexandria Town Gas site located at the eastern end of Oronoco Street.

Site history:

- Since 1975, oily wastes have been intermittently discharging into the Potomac River along Alexandria's waterfront at Founder's Park at the Oronoco Outfall Site. The source of the contamination and waste is a former manufactured gas plant (MGP) facility located two blocks from the waterfront at the corner of Lee and Oronoco Streets. The plant was owned and operated by the City during 79 years of its 95-year existence, which spanned from 1851 to 1946.
- Over the last 25 years, the City has taken numerous measures to prevent further discharges of plant-related wastes into the river. However, the extent and complexity of the problem has made the development of an effective and lasting solution a difficult challenge.
- In the late 1970’s the site was redeveloped into a commercial office townhouse complex.
- In 1999, the City received letters from USEPA and the US Coast Guard notifying the City that it must immediately address the issue of ongoing releases into the Potomac River. The City applied and was accepted into the VRP in May 2000.
- Interim corrective actions to date:
- Installation and operation of the floating oil containment boom with additional oil absorbent booms installed and replaced periodically on the interior to collect contaminants.
- The City has installed and is currently operating a free product removal system that includes recovery wells installed in the source area. The removal of free product from the subsurface will make future remedial efforts more efficient.
- The City successfully completed the relining of the Oronoco Street storm sewer in 2006. The relining has reduced the amount of oily substances infiltrating the pipe and subsequently reduced the amount of impacted material being discharged to the Potomac River.

The City’s environmental consultant, Marshall Miller and Associates, completed a biotreatability bench scale study for the Oronoco Outfall in the summer of 2008. The study was conducted to determine the mixture of air and nutrients needed to effectively reduce subsurface contamination levels along the storm sewer outfall. The study proved successful in that levels of contamination were shown to be significantly reduced via biodegradation after treatment. Before bioremediation can be employed full scale along the outfall, a field pilot study is necessary to develop design parameters for full scale implementation and to determine how field conditions will affect treatability.

In early 2009, Marshall Miller began work on a biosparging pilot study. This study will inject the mixture determined in the biotreatability study to the subsurface along a small section of the outfall. The results will be used to determine how biosparging technology could be applied to the overall Oronoco Outfall to reduce and eventually eliminate migration of contaminates into the Potomac River. The study is expected to be completed by the summer of 2009.

The City continues to operate its interim measures including the floating oil containment boom and the free product recovery system. Marshall Miller will also be rehabilitating some of the recovery wells in an effort to restore their free product capture capacity. This work is scheduled to be completed prior to the end of 2009.

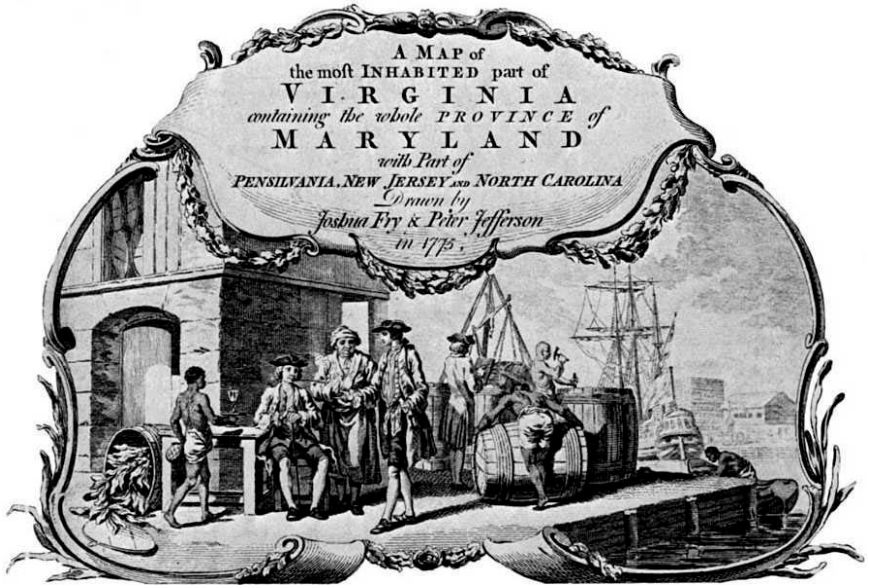
WEST'S POINT

Alexandria Founders**:** In 1669, the Scotsman John Alexander purchased land which included the future site of Alexandria for 'Six thousand pounds of Tobacco and Cask'. The adjacent land was cleared and farmed as early as the 1720s by John Summers and Gabriel Adams. In 1732, Hugh West (the namesake of West's Point) established tobacco warehouses two miles north of Hunting Creek. To facilitate shipping, Scottish and English merchants who owned

real estate at Cameron, a small hamlet four miles west, petitioned the Virginia General Assembly in the fall of 1748 to establish a town at West's Hunting Creek Warehouse. In the spring of 1749, a site was selected. John West, Fairfax County surveyor, laid out 60 acres (by tradition, assisted by 17-year-old George Washington), and lots were auctioned off July 13 and 14, 1749.

Oronoco tobacco: There were two major kinds of tobacco present in the Chesapeake colonies; Oronoco and *Sweetscented*. Each was distinguished by its different thickness, texture, and shape of the leaf. The Oronoco leaf was bulkier, coarser, and had a sharper look like a fox's ear. The *Sweetscented* leaf was rounder and had finer fibers. Oronoco, which was grown all around the Bay, was stronger in flavor, while *Sweetscented*, which was grown on the banks of the James, York, Rappahannock, and Potomac rivers, had a milder taste. *Sweetscented* was considered the best in the world and as a result it brought a better price than Oronoco. However, Oronoco, which was thought to be too strong for the Englishmen, was in great demand in the rest of Europe. For that reason Oronoco, although inferior by English standards, came to have a much wider market than the *Sweetscented*, and was usually more profitable to planters.

Hogshead: A barrel called a hogshead was used to ship tobacco to England. A hogshead was one type of container made by a cooper. By law, it was 48" tall and 30" across the head (either end.) It held 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of tobacco. Numbers burned into the side of the barrel indicated the weight of the barrel alone (tare weight), the weight of both the barrel and the tobacco (gross weight), and the weight of the tobacco only (net weight.)



Detail, *A Map of the most Inhabited part of Virginia,* Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, 1773

FOUNDERS PARK

Fishtown: Workers may have lived in the Berg, an African-American neighborhood just west of Fishtown settled by blacks during and after the Civil War. Fishing increased in importance after Alexandria's manufacturing fortunes declined starting in the 1830s. Fishing and slave-trading became the City's two major commercial activities. During the antebellum period, the 150 or so fisheries along the Potomac made the Alexandria wharves a key source of employment for African-Americans—who also provided most of the labor used to manufacture the rope, bricks, and ships necessary to support Alexandria's standing as a major east coast port. Some 450 ships used in the shad and herring business hired free African-Americans as dock hands, and many others worked in Fishtown's fish processing plants. African-American bricklayers, carpenters, glaziers, and builders also found jobs in the wharf district.

Shad and Herring: After a time, shad and herring return to fresh water to spawn. They can be easily diverted by manmade obstruction, such as dams or seines strung across the river. When a gravid female is caught, the current fish population is reduced by one adult, but the next generation might be reduced by several hundred. By 1902 Joseph Packard, a frequent visitor to Alexandria, wrote "Fishtown is now passing away, its area bare, its trade gone." In 1906, the chief of the hatching service for the US Fish Commission recommended state laws restricting commercial fishing practices to allow the fish population to recover from over-fishing. Never the less, catches continued to decline, falling severely in the 1970's. In the 1980's, Virginia instituted additional restrictions on shad and herring fishing that continues today.

CITY MARINA

Federal Army Occupation: On May 24, 1861, the day after Virginia officially seceded, Union troops were ordered to cross the Potomac River and seize and control important areas on the Virginia side. As the port of Alexandria was a choice assignment, Colonel Elmer Ellsworth convinced the powers that be to give this mission to him and his Fire Zouaves.

Ellsworth and his troops traveled by steamer to a wharf (at the foot of Cameron Street.) They were met with no resistance. Alexandria's only Confederate troops, a small Virginia militia, were hurriedly leaving town. Ellsworth ordered one company of his soldiers to take and hold the railroad station, while he and a small detachment went off to capture the telegraph office.

While marching through Alexandria, Ellsworth came upon the Marshall House (on the corner of King and Pitt Streets). Ellsworth saw that the inn was flying a large Confederate flag, and ordered that it be immediately taken down. He and four of his men went upstairs and leaning out a window, cut it down. (They) then started back down the stairs. At the landing on the third floor, the innkeeper, James W. Jackson, was waiting with a double-barrel shotgun. As Jackson raised his weapon to fire, Corporal Brownell batted the barrel of Jackson's shotgun aside with the barrel of his musket, to avert the shot. Simultaneously, Jackson fired, hitting Ellsworth (and killing him). Jackson then fired a second shot, barely missing Brownell. At the same time as Jackson's second shot, Brownell fired, striking Jackson (dead). The first two casualties of the war: one for the North and one for the South. [From *Ephraim Elmer Ellsworth* by John Marck]

THE STRAND
The Art League School

Duke Street Annex

Madison Street Annex

New Hampshire Institute of Art, Manchester, NH

Participants in the 2009-2010 SOHO class

Concept:

- Consolidate the two school annexes and provide a home on the Strand for The Art League School and Supply Store

Recommendations:

- Provide for 40,000 square feet of space for art school facility
- Provide space for outdoor sculpture exhibits
- Provide space for SOHO (a Space of Her Own), an award-winning art mentoring program serving low-income at-risk pre-teen girls in Alexandria.
- Include apron space for outdoor demonstrations in painting, ceramics and glass blowing
- Encourage The Art League Supply Store to expand and sell art supplies to the general public
- Design windows to allow views of exhibits and glimpses of class sessions to intrigue Art Walk participants

General information:
Founded in 1954, The Art League, Inc. is a multifaceted, nonprofit 501c(3) visual arts organization that meets its mission through its gallery, fine art school, art supply store, and arts-outreach programs. Partially located in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, it rents additional classroom space for its school facilities on Duke and Madison Streets.

Glassmaking

Membership in their gallery is open to all and provides entry to a fellowship of over 1,000 artists with a wide range of exhibition and education opportunities. Member artists participate in monthly, juried exhibits - juried by noted fine art professionals from throughout the Washington area and beyond. Their engaging exhibition schedule makes The Art League Gallery an intriguing art space for gallery visitors in the DC metropolitan area to view original art of all media by talented artists from throughout Washington and the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Art League School is a non-accredited institution, open to all, that provides instruction to nearly 6,000 students annually. Courses are offered quarterly in virtually all of the fine arts, and a wide variety of crafts, with some of the most talented and well known artists and instructors in the country. Whether for the novice or a skilled professional, courses are offered for every skill level and for every age. Instruction is offered for children as young as five.

The Art League Supply Store, staffed by knowledgeable working artists, provides members and students with exceptional quality, low priced art supplies.

Students throwing pots on the pottery wheel

Paint Alexandria, June 2010, Alexandria, VA

Alexandria Seaport Foundation

Floating office and workshop of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, City Marina

Concept:

- Work with the Alexandria Seaport Foundation to consolidate their facilities and become an integral part of the Art Walk and Historic Waterfront experience

Recommendations:

- Work with the Alexandria Seaport Foundation to help establish along the waterfront a facility similar to the *Center for Wooden Boats* in Seattle, Washington
- Relocate all the Foundation's facilities to Point Lumley and the Strand
- Provide the Foundation with 6,000 square feet of display and working space, plus docking room on the Potomac
- Consult with the Foundation for advice on constructing, on the Strand or at Point Lumley, a public art piece that represents the masts, sails and riggings of George Washington's Brig, *Farmer*
- Consult with the Foundation for advice on creating a program, where participants can "learn the ropes" of the *Farmer*

General information:

The Alexandria Seaport Foundation is a not-for-profit 501c(3), volunteer-based organization. The Foundation offers four programs that serve communities in the Washington, DC metro area:

The Apprentice Program**:** Through the building and use of wooden boats, the Foundation helps young people turn their lives around. Since 1992, the Foundation's focus has been a paid, work-based apprentice program serving DC, Maryland and Virginia. Here, disadvantaged youth from the ages of 17–21 develop the discipline, self confidence, workshop and social skills necessary to find a meaningful place in the regular workforce. If necessary, they also earn their GED using the Foundation's hands-on, contextual curriculum.

Community and Family Boatbuilding: Boat building events are a unique opportunity for any group to participate and build their own Bevin's Skiff rowboat. No experience is necessary. Groups are guided through the process by an expert team of Alexandria Seaport Foundation wooden boat builders. It takes two days to complete a boat and take it on its maiden voyage.

Tuesday Evening Open Shop: Volunteers and visitors are invited to work on the current boat building project and swap stories. The second Tuesday of each month is a potluck dinner at the Seaport Center with a presentation or liars' bench.

Boat Making Classes: The Foundation also offers classes in boatbuilding techniques in lofting, setting up, planking, steam-bending, finishing, metal casting and specific boats.

Historic Alexandria
History Center and Museum Shop

Commercial property with temporary City access

The Historic Alexandria History Center & Museum Store is temporarily located at 101 North Union Street, in the Torpedo Factory Arcade.

Concept:

- Establish a secure home for the Historic Alexandria History Center and Museum Shop

Recommendation:

- Continue to provide the public hands-on exhibitions

General information:

The Historic Alexandria History Center & Museum Store reflects themes from all the Office of Historic Alexandria museums. Discovery Carts give visitors a sneak peek of museums' collections including Friendship Firehouse, Alexandria Archaeology, and the Alexandria Black History Museum. Multiple hands-on activity areas for kids include a Civil War tent, dress-up costumes, and a “please touch” exhibit. The museum shop offers great gift ideas, a wide variety of Alexandria-related merchandise and the very best selections from all the OHA museum stores.

Hands-on exhibitions

The Athenaeum
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

Concept:

- Include the Athenaeum as part of the Art Walk

Recommendation:

- Include the Athenaeum as part of the proposed cultural anchor centered on the Strand and the southern portion of the Art Walk

General information:

The Athenaeum is located at the corner of Prince and Lee Streets. Its significance is threefold: it is a fine example of classical revival architecture, one of only two in the City of Alexandria; it has a long and colorful history of occupation; and it is home to the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association.

The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all forms of art, and to establishing programs that will enrich the cultural life of Northern Virginia and the surrounding metropolitan area. As the primary site for these activities, the NVFAA owns and maintains the historic building called the Athenaeum.

NVFAA programs are open to the public and include:

- Art exhibits, lectures, and demonstrations featuring local and regional artists
- Performing arts events
- Ballet, yoga, and computer classes, as well as other educational programs

WINDMILL HILL PARK

In Manhattan, innovative playground design has become a multimillion dollar industry. David Rockwell, president of the Rockwell Group, an architecture and design firm, proposes an affordable option.

"In an age of constrained government budgets, playgrounds have rarely been a harder sell. Fortunately, the cost of play doesn't have to be prohibitive. In creating the Imagination Playground in Lower Manhattan — a playground with lots of loose parts for children to create their own play spaces — we realized that many of the elements with the greatest value to children were inexpensive and portable. Although traditional playgrounds can easily cost in the millions to build, boxed imagination playgrounds can be put together for under $10,000, land costs not included. The design below is one that my architecture firm has done in collaboration with the New York City Parks Department and KaBoom, a nonprofit organization. But it needn't be the only one out there. There are a lot of ways to build a playground — and a lot of communities in need of one. Let a thousand portable playgrounds bloom." [Unpacking Imagination, David Rockwell, New York Times, September 25, 2010]

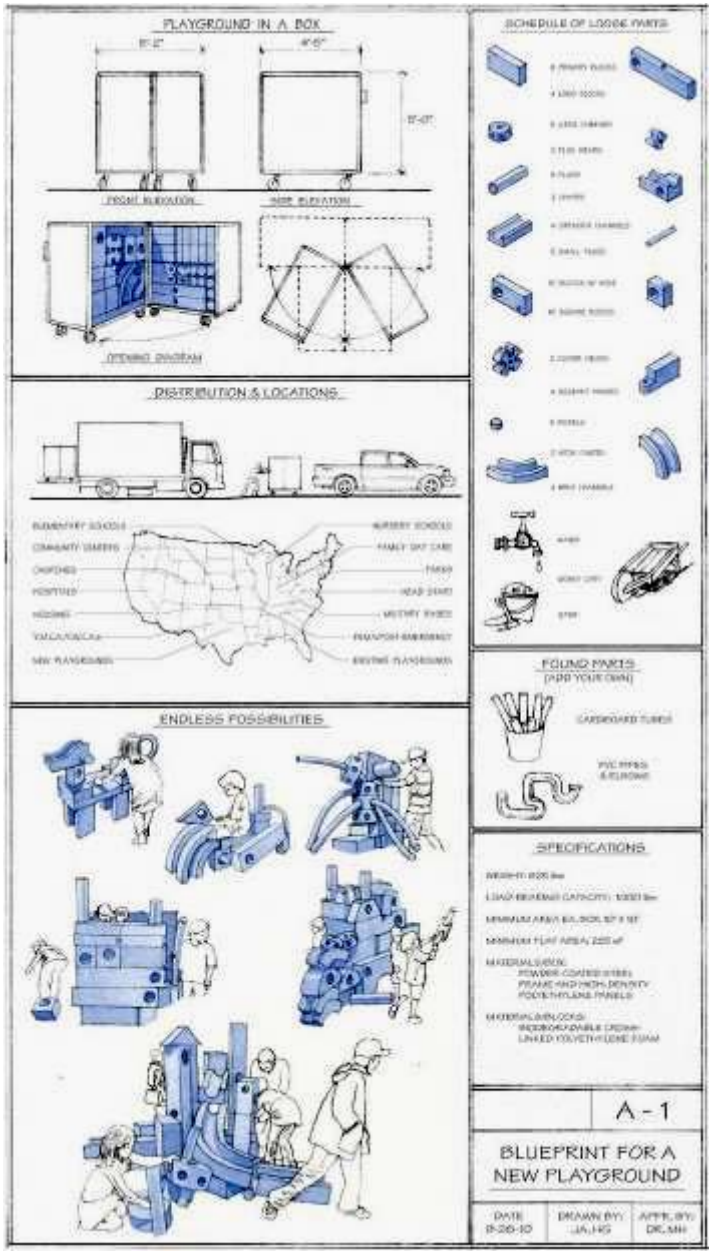


Illustration by Jamie Akers and the Rockwell Group