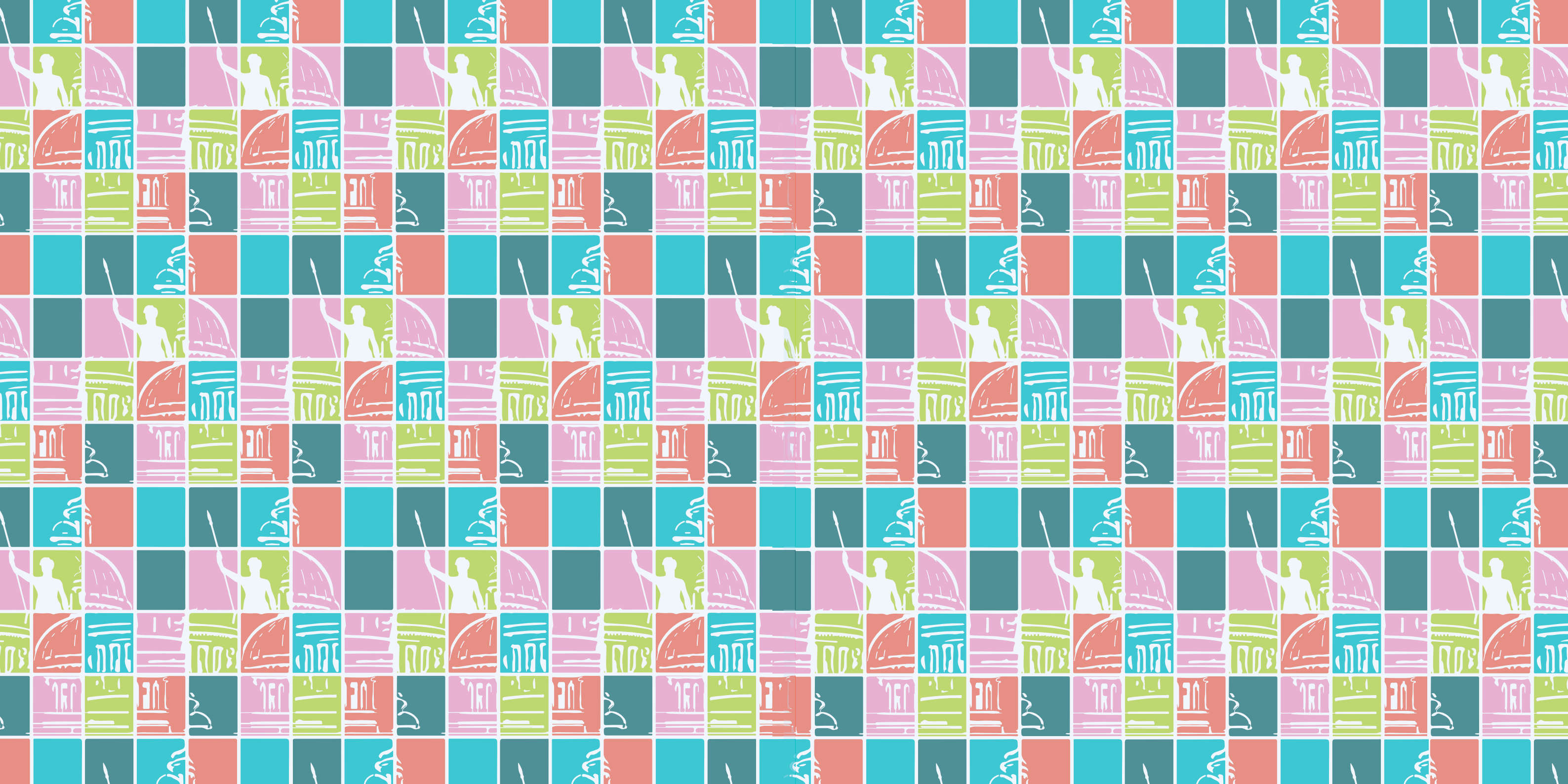


MY STATE HOUSE

community
revisoning
project
2021-2022

An initiative of the
**Rhode Island State House
Restoration Society**





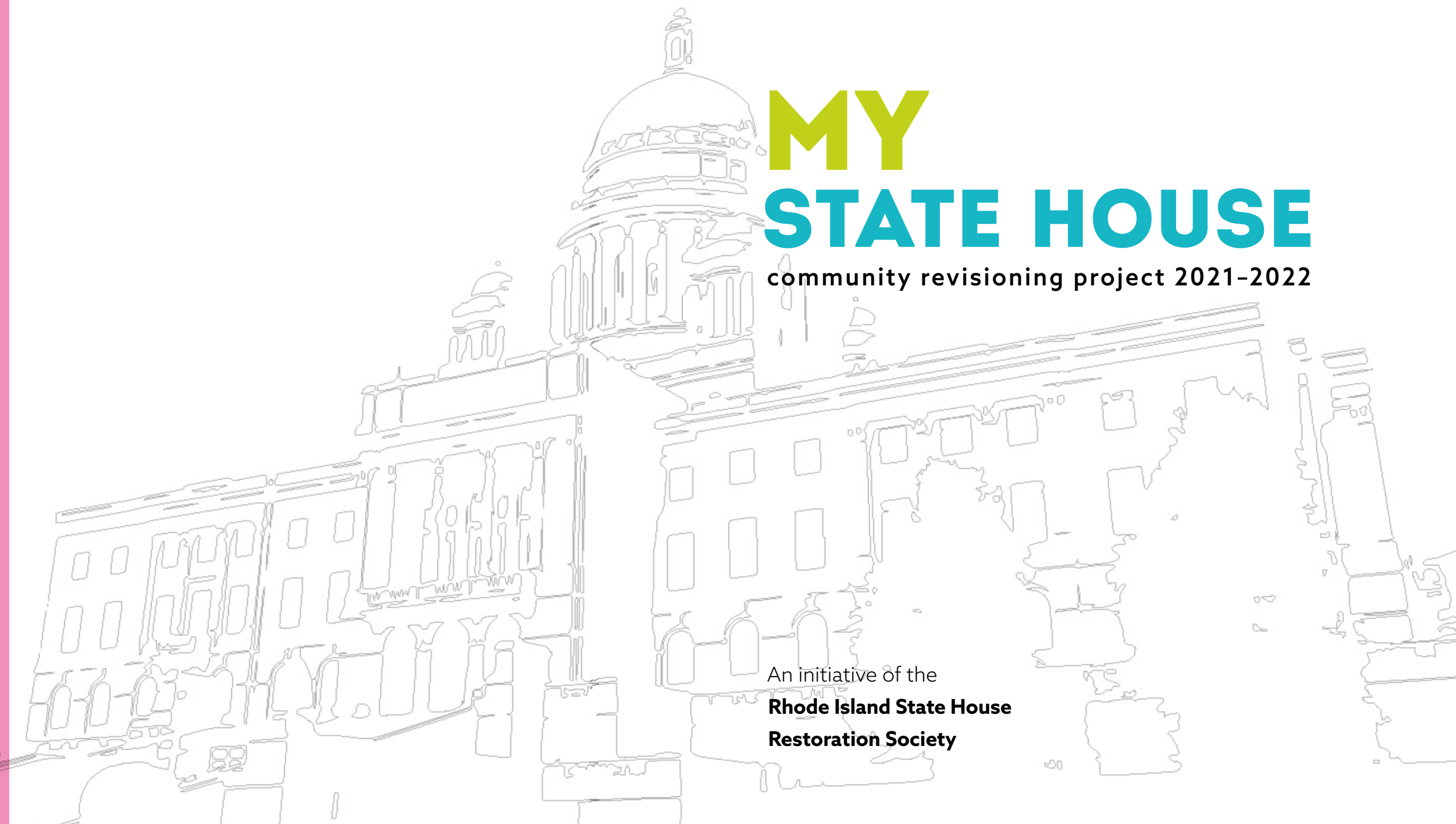


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Cover image by:
Jiayi Wang, *Germination*

Book design by:
Jen Long,
Pivotal Design, LLC.



MY STATE HOUSE

community revisioning project 2021-2022

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Left:
Jiayi Wang, *Germination*
Collage, 2022



INTRODUCTION



“Skyscrapers and state capitols are America’s unique contributions to monumental architecture,” according to Henry-Russell Hitchcock, one of the foremost historians of American architecture. Conceived as “temples to democracy,” American state capitols were “a means of expressing the spirit of liberty,” he wrote. They were intentionally designed and constructed to give the appearance of permanence, solidity, and grandeur.

Since the turn of the last century, when most statehouses were constructed, our political and civic culture has transformed radically. The electorate has expanded and the elected representatives and government staff who work in these buildings are a much more diverse group. New technologies like email, social media, and Zoom have begun to change the way that business is conducted inside statehouses and the way that the public engages with them.

My State House was born from a sense that the Rhode Island State House and its park-like grounds have the capacity to serve Rhode Islanders more directly, and to become energizing and celebratory places of connection and community. It was shaped by a commitment to participatory design, the practice of including community members and stakeholders as thought partners in the design process, from start to finish. Unlike most design competitions, which begin with a brief that is written by one group of “experts” then circulated to another group of “experts,” *My State House* purposefully engaged community members in order to give them a voice at the table.

The participatory mapping phase launched in summer 2021, when Covid-19 had loosened its grip on the state a bit, but life was still far from normal. This made it more difficult to gather community reflections about the State House as mapping had to take place outdoors and socially distanced – but we persevered, and the 300+ community-made maps are a lasting legacy of the project, an archive of Rhode Islanders’ hopes and dreams for this important site, and a record, sometimes, of their frustration at not feeling welcome in this space.

During one mapping session, a Central Falls elder in a wheelchair rolled up to the table and made a map that simply says, “Where would I find the wheelchair entrance?” while another 35-year-old Warwick resident wrote in very small letters in the top corner of a map, “I didn’t know it was open to the public. I’ve never been inside.” During another, a Black teenager named Jayden said, “I always thought it was, like, state property, like you couldn’t walk on – like if you did, it was like, jail time,” and later, “Everything about it just screams, ‘You can’t come’...unless you’re verified, unless you’re like a big

dog, like you’re making decisions for the state.”

The maps became the basis of an international design competition that invited artists, architects, designers, and community members to propose a concept based on one or more community suggestions. From these submissions, a jury selected six finalists who were given an honorarium to develop their concepts more fully. While we don’t expect that the more radical propositions

in the final proposals will come to fruition, we hope that the inclusive and creative spirit of the maps and proposals will shape our future State House in some way.

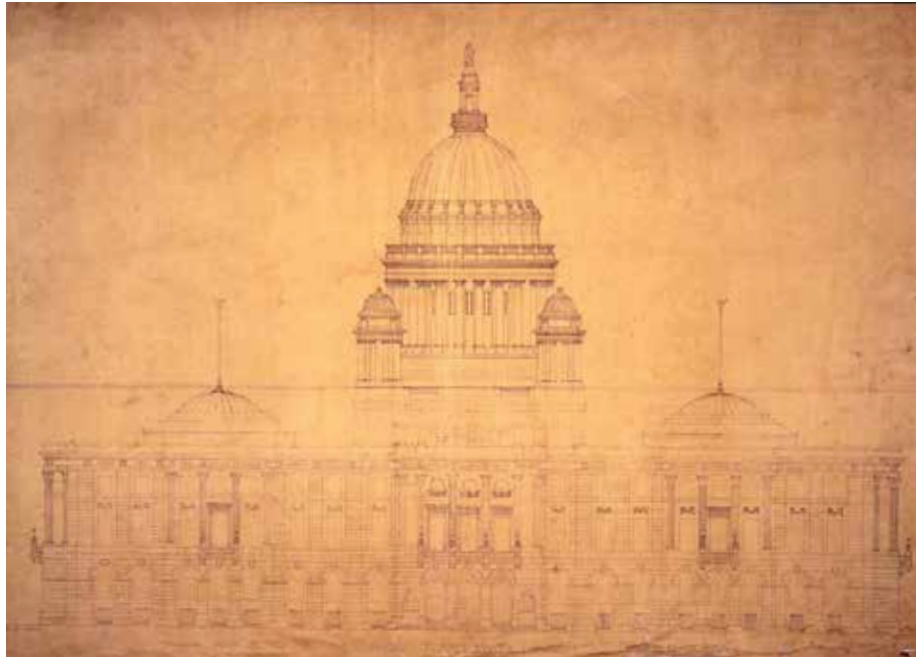
Providence has a history of enacting big changes based on visionary proposals: consider the Interface: Providence proposal of 1974, created by RISD professor Gerald Howes and his graduate students, which called for the restoration of the city’s historic salt

cove, and laid the seeds for the uncovering of the rivers in the 1990s (shout-out: Rhode Island Council for the Humanities published Interface, and also served as this project’s first sponsor). Will *My State House* catalyze changes in future master plans, or in the policies that govern community members’ use of the State House and its grounds? We don’t yet know, but we hope so.



RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE

“McKim, Mead and White were the winners of a nation-wide competition to design a new statehouse for Rhode Island.”



The Rhode Island State House was designed by the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White, and completed in 1904. It is the seat of Rhode Island state government, housing the legislative chambers for the General Assembly and the offices of Rhode Island’s Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Treasurer. Before the present State House was built, the legislature rotated between five smaller statehouses located across

the state. All five still stand in their original locations: Providence, Newport, East Greenwich, Kingston, and Bristol.

McKim, Mead and White were the winners of a nation-wide competition to design a new statehouse for Rhode Island. The firm was already well known locally, having designed the Newport and Narragansett Pier casinos and several significant residences around the state. Other important commissions include

the Boston Public Library, several buildings at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and later, the original Pennsylvania Station in New York City (since destroyed). The Rhode Island State House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and is the only statehouse designed by McKim, Mead and White.

Rhode Island was the richest state per capita at the turn of the 20th century. The State House reflects

this wealth in its building materials, its scale, and even in its electric lighting; it was one of the first major public buildings to have electricity. The State House also boasts the fourth largest self-supported marble dome in the world, following those of St. Peter’s Basilica, the Minnesota State Capitol, and the Taj Mahal.

The State House has four active floors of office and meeting space, and below those, several underground levels that serve chiefly as storage areas. Its daily occupancy ranges from an average of 150 people from July through December when the legislature is in recess, to thousands on busy legislative days. Public spaces include the rotunda, the State Library, the Governor’s State Room, and the House and Senate Galleries. Of those, only the State Library is regularly used as a meeting and work space by the general public.



PHASE 1 Community Mapping

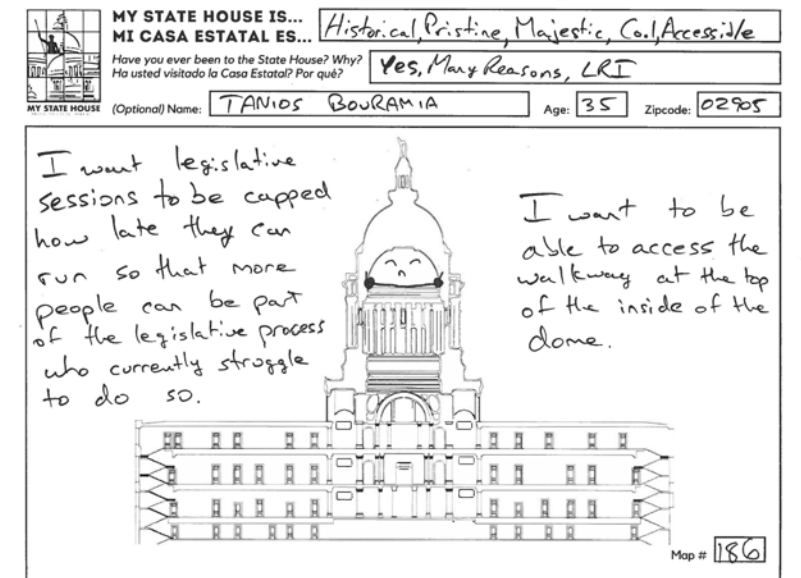
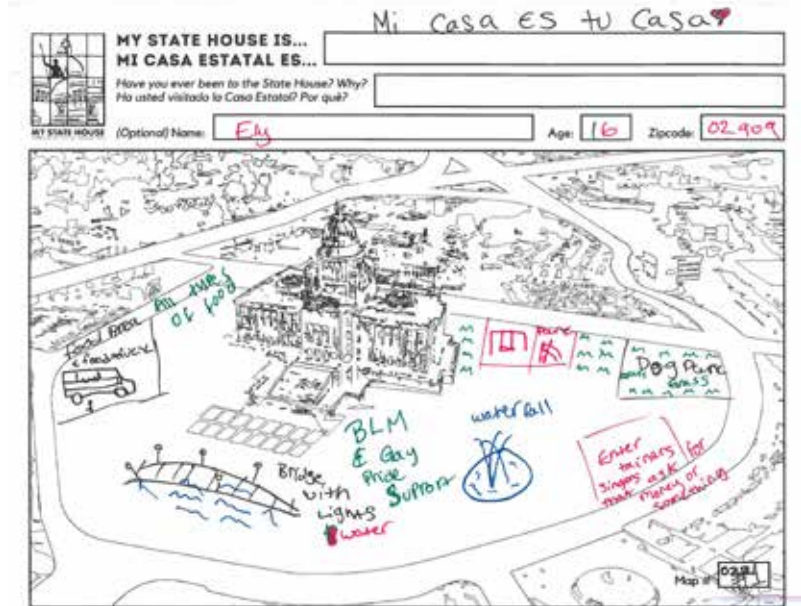
From June through September 2021, project coordinators attended approximately 30 events throughout Rhode Island where they invited community members to propose changes that would make the State House and its grounds more inviting and more accessible for a range of community uses. Participants captured their ideas on one of six maps of the building's interior and exterior spaces.

In all, over 300 maps were collected at festivals, farmers' markets, neighborhood meetings, and in classrooms. Map-makers ranged in age from 4 to 74, and lived in over 30 different zip codes. All of their maps have been scanned and are available to view in a dedicated online album.

Scan the QR code to see all the community maps!



“How would you make the State House yours?”



PHASE 2 Open Call

“How would you make the State House more welcoming, accessible and more of a shared public commons?”

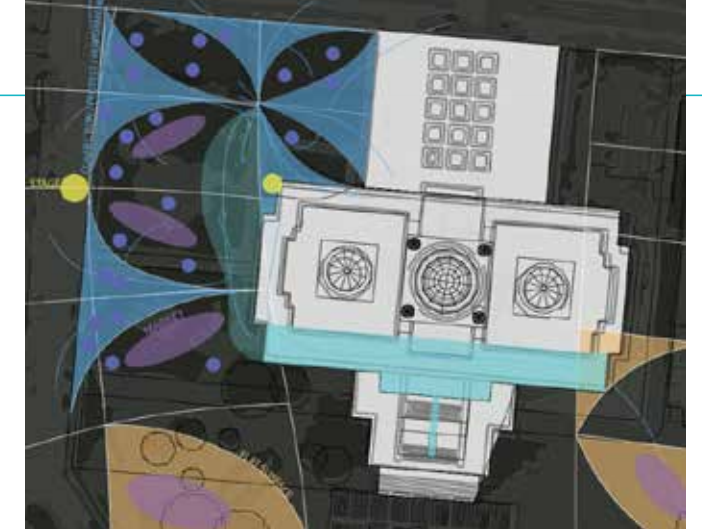


With the community maps collected and cataloged, the second phase of the project invited artists, activists, architects, landscape architects, futurists and community members to participate in a design ideas competition to reimagine the State House of the future by submitting design concepts based on one or more of the community-made maps.

Twenty-four individuals and groups, ranging from local students to professional design firms to international teams, submitted concepts. Their interventions included dramatic changes to the landscape, the use of virtual and augmented reality, and more straightforward alterations such as creating formal park space and adding water features.

Submissions were anonymously reviewed by a jury composed of a local artist activist, a Smith Hill community leader, and the project curators. The jury selected six finalists to receive an honorarium to develop their proposals more fully.

Right:
Submissions from
the Open Call



PHASE 2 Exhibition



The final project phase was an exhibition in the Lower Level Gallery of the State House which took place in the summer of 2022. The exhibition brought together a selection of the community maps and the final proposals from the six finalists. During the run of the exhibition, members of the public were invited to vote via ballot for a People's Choice winner and the project jury awarded a Jury Prize.

People's Choice Award:

Back to the Future, JLY Designs

Jury Prize:

Underground Hope, Cerberus Studios

Man Hu

is a graduate student at Rhode Island School of Design. She received her five-year BArch from Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology in China, and received an MS in advanced architectural design from the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University. Hu has a life-long passion and curiosity for the possibilities and boundaries of architecture.

Baishu Lu

is a graduate student in the Department of Interior Architecture at Rhode Island School of Design. She received her five-year professional degree in Architecture from Beijing University of Technology. Having grown up in a city with a rich cultural heritage, Lu is interested in exploring design strategies that mediate between aesthetic and functional demands.

Jiayi Wang

is from Suzhou, China. She holds a BFA in Product Design from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, and a Master of Design in Adaptive Reuse from the Department of Interior Architecture at Rhode Island School of Design. Focusing on domestic space, Wang is interested in the process of transforming traditional buildings into contemporary designs.

TL Studio

is a design oriented, full-service landscape architecture firm based in Providence, Rhode Island. Founded by Tom Lee in 2012, TLS produces a diverse body of work ranging from private gardens to institutional and public spaces. Their goal is to establish landscape as the link between site, architecture and the environment. They aim to create simple, memorable landscapes that express a sense of place and connectivity to local history, culture, and ecology.

JLY Designs

is the work of Jocelyn Yokow, a Rhode Island resident and a 2022 graduate of Rhode Island School of Design's Interior Architecture MA in Adaptive Reuse program. She approaches design with the goal of facilitating welcoming, comfortable, and healing experiences. Ms. Yokow will be working for a design firm out of their Cambridge, MA office and she hopes to continue to pursue specialty projects such as the *My State House* project.

Cerberus Studios

is the nomadic, collaborative architectural studio based in Naucalpan, México. Consisting of Jose Luis Perez Villesca, Rebeca Nolasco Ortiz, and Martha Itzel López Cruz, graduate students at ESIA (the Higher School of Engineering and Architecture) in México City, Cerberus recently participated in design competitions for a missile base memorial in Slovakia and the revitalization of a Warsaw neighborhood.

Man Hu

The Third Chamber

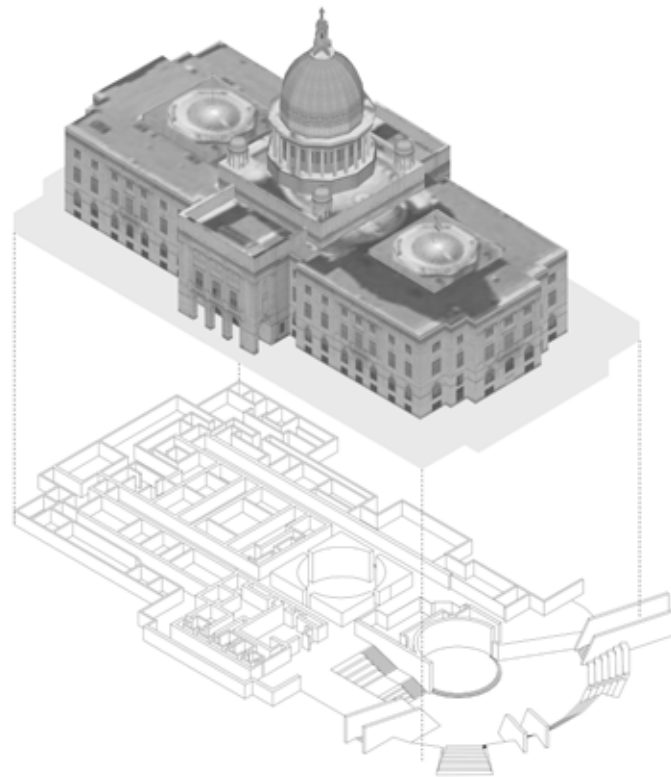
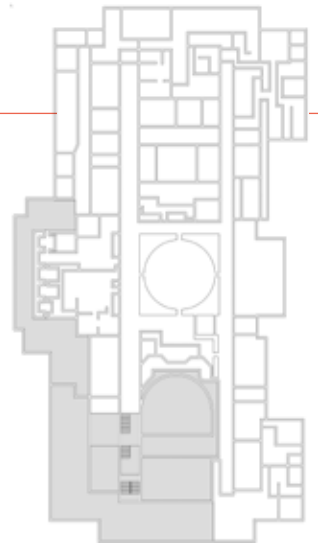
The seat of state government, the Rhode Island State House is a symbolic building—a stately sculpture of power. Many people don't realize that the State House is open to the public; its imposing symmetry, thick walls, and commanding presence deter people from approaching it.

This proposal creates a new public space within the State House

— a Third Chamber to complement the House of Representatives and Senate chambers. It is not intended to be a political space, but a public living room that accommodates a wide range of activities. Approachable from the street, with multiple gathering areas, the Third Chamber will foster community engagement and encourage connection.

This intervention transforms the lower levels of the east end of the State House, which are currently largely vacant, into a community resource. To increase public access, the proposal removes part of the building envelope so that people can enter directly from ground level. From there, stairs open in all directions, providing access to the Chamber

which includes an open area with a stage. The stairs also serve as seats to observe activities on the stage, or simply to rest. The upper floor contains a small museum with a history of the State House, a reading room, and a café.



Baishu Lu

Alternative Path-Way

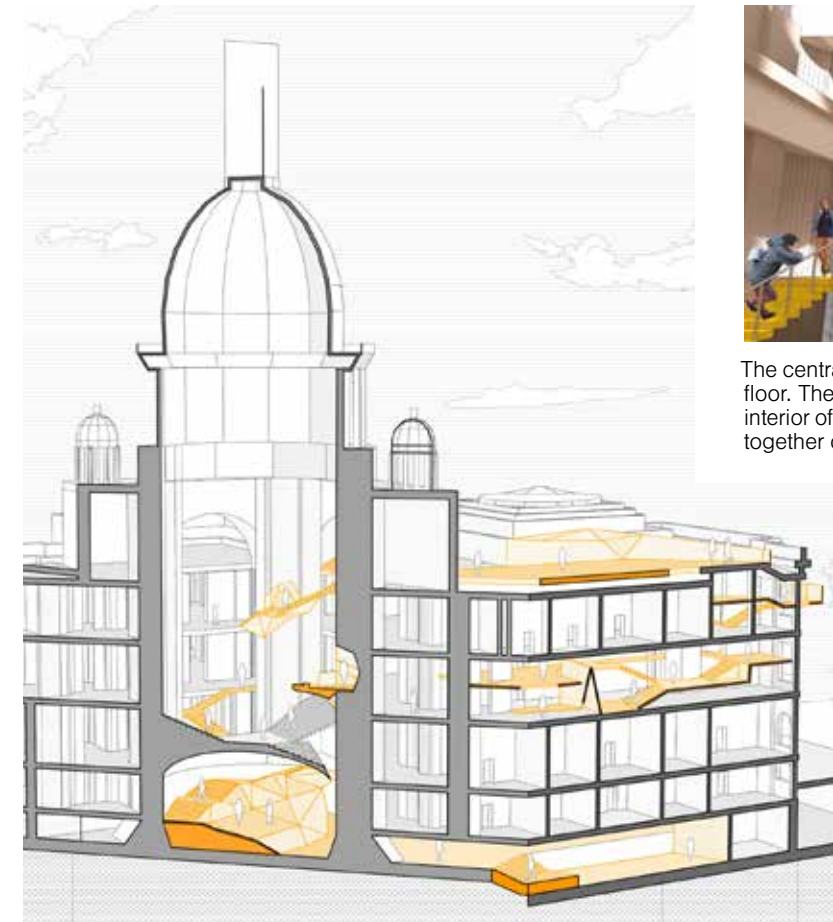
As it exists today, the Rhode Island State House is a static, outdated symbol of power and hierarchy. To disrupt this, and to allow citizens better access to decision making processes, the main idea of my proposed design intervention is to give the building an alternative pathway. In contrast to the old linear circulation and the siloed offices, the State House of the 21st century incorporates a dynamic and multi-

directional circulation system, and working and socializing spaces that enhance communication within. Visitors and residents are invited to wander through the building to witness policymaking and get involved in the legislative process. The collaborative and innovative working environment encourages staff and politicians to stay current and consider public opinion during policymaking.

The alternative pathway includes four elements linked by a wayfinding system: the Ground Level Entrance; the Central Staircase; Alternative Working Spaces; and the Rooftop Addition.



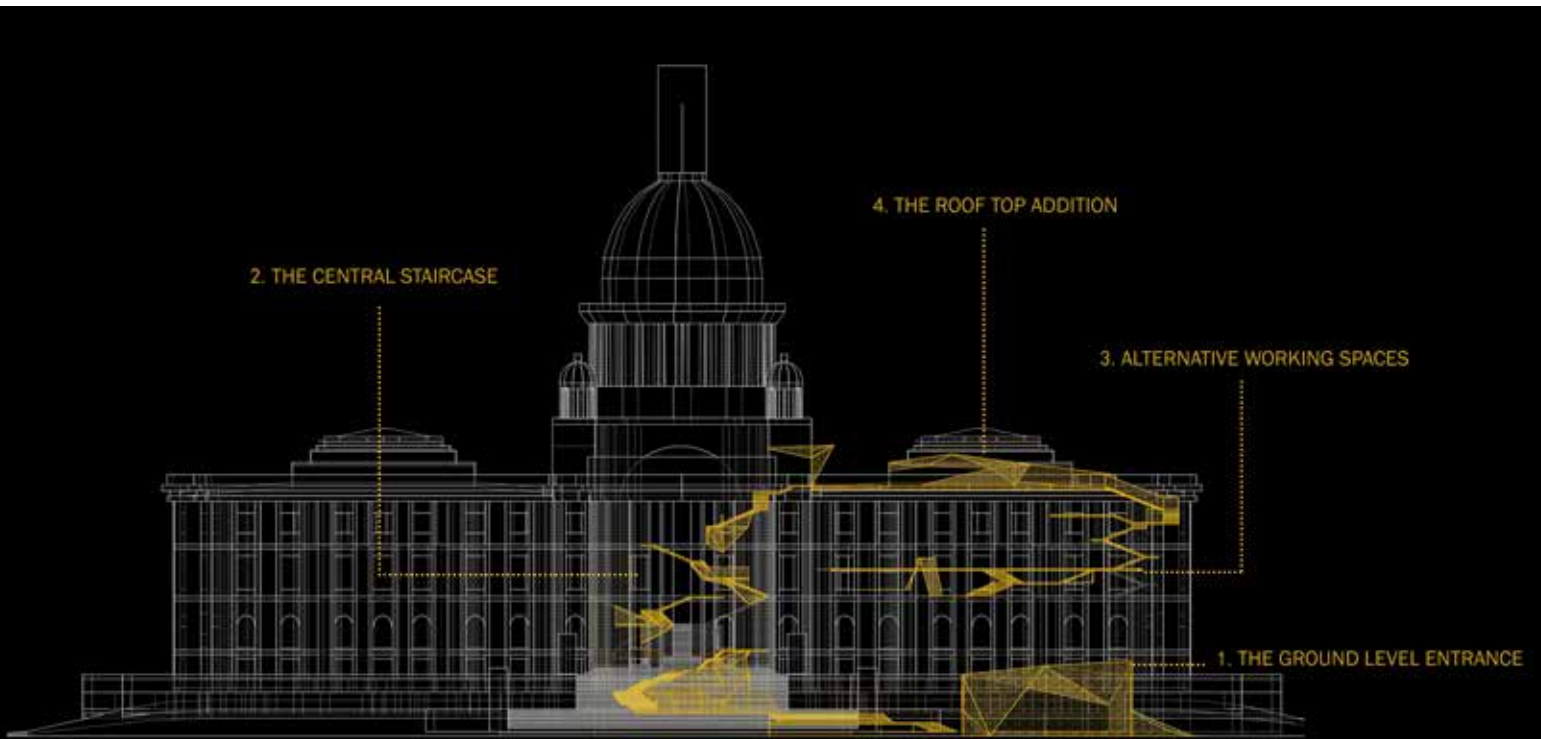
In order to increase the accessibility at the entrance, a street level entrance is created on the city side. The entrance in the south is created by breaking through the wall of the terrace to welcome people from the train station and city center.



The central staircase builds multi-directional connections between each floor. The upper staircase provides a close view of the painting on the interior of the dome, and it provides common spaces for people to come together on the expanded stairs.



The reopened rooftop provides citizens an alternative view of the city and the statue of the Independent Man on top of the dome. It connects the alternative workplaces and the central dome to finish this new circulation.



Jiayi Wang

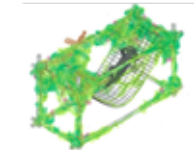
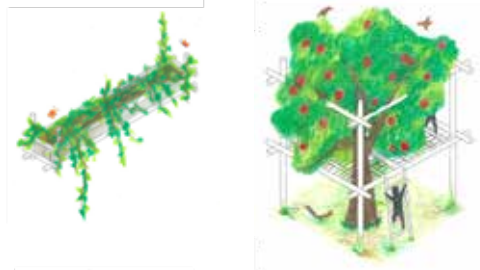
Germination: De-center Humanity's Place

The Rhode Island State House is a classically inspired marble building that sits imposingly on Native land. The desire to keep this historic building “seemingly perfect” freezes it in the 19th century, separates it from the surrounding neighborhoods, and renders it lifeless. Instead of striving for austere perfection, my proposal aims to embrace imperfection and foster diversity. By harnessing the power of nature, my intervention deconstructs the architectural

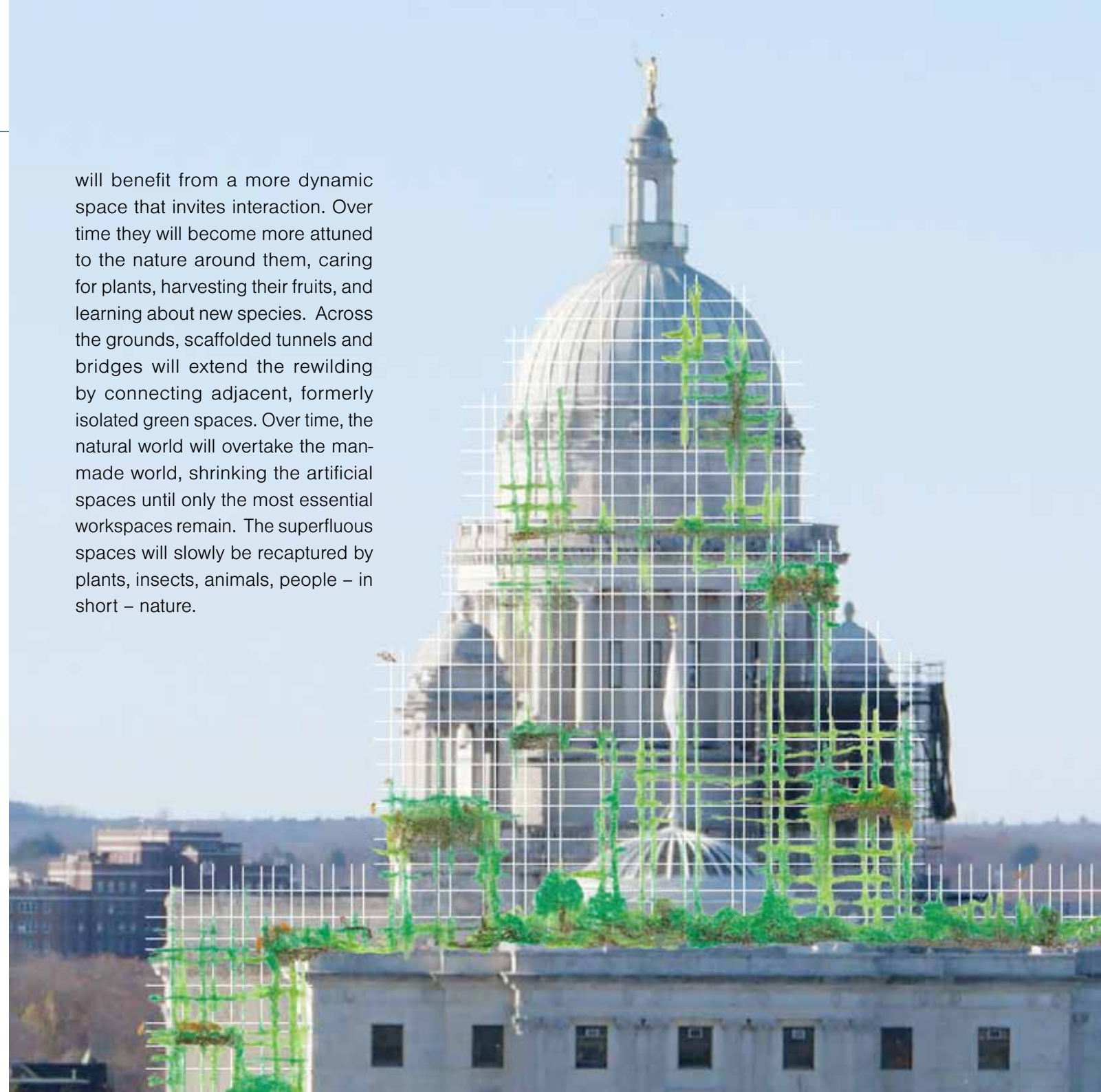
power of the State House and uses the resilience of the natural world to remake it into a living, breathing building that represents the full diversity of the people to whom it belongs.

I propose to create a well-balanced rewilding that will transform the building. Scaffolding on the building's exterior will support growth on the facade, roof, and eventually inside the building itself. Elected officials and members of the public

will benefit from a more dynamic space that invites interaction. Over time they will become more attuned to the nature around them, caring for plants, harvesting their fruits, and learning about new species. Across the grounds, scaffolded tunnels and bridges will extend the rewilding by connecting adjacent, formerly isolated green spaces. Over time, the natural world will overtake the man-made world, shrinking the artificial spaces until only the most essential workspaces remain. The superfluous spaces will slowly be recaptured by plants, insects, animals, people – in short – nature.



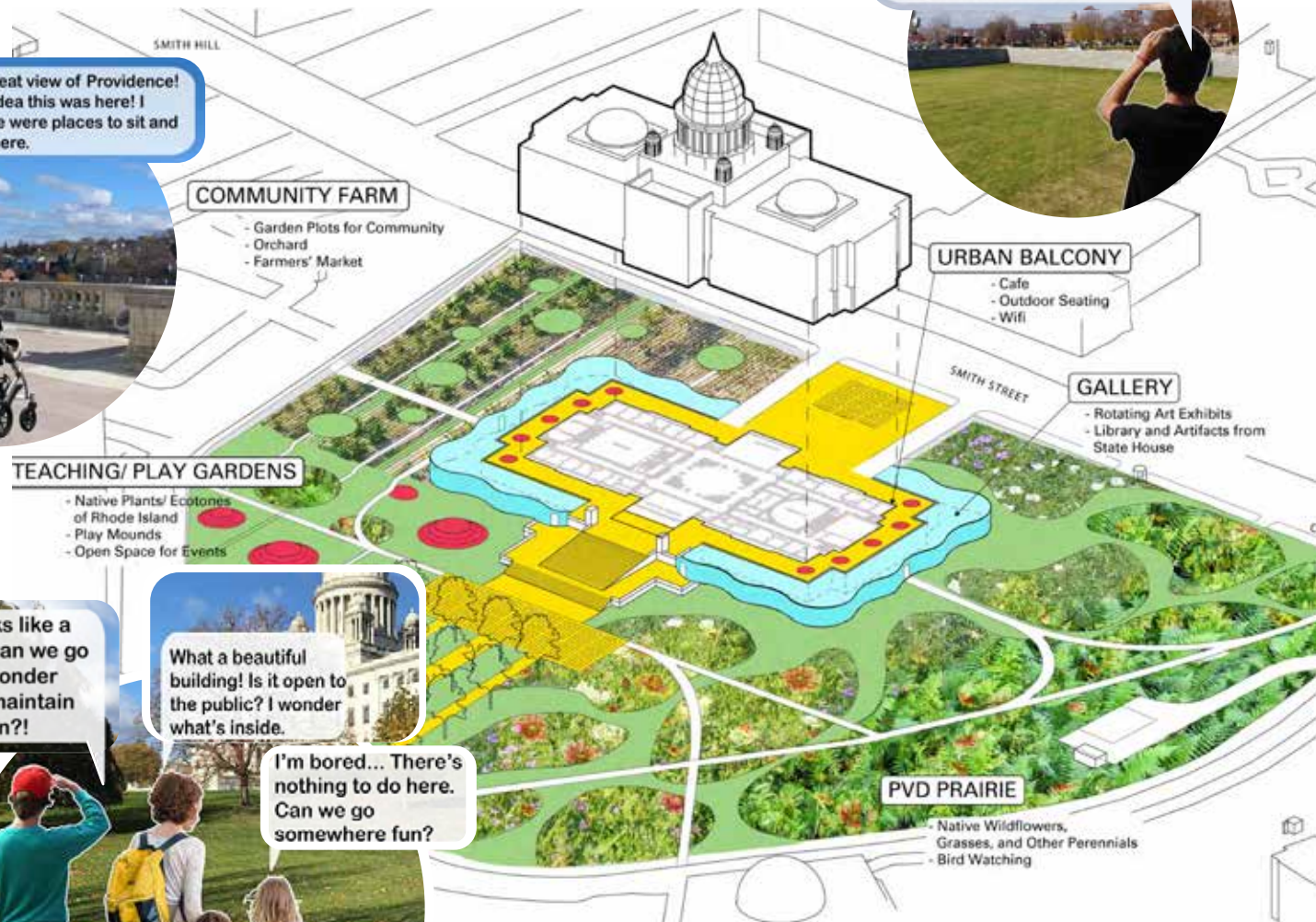
Nurturing fruit-bearing trees that provide sustenance in return for care: this is a deliberate metaphor for the way Rhode Islanders should interact with the State House – contributing where they can and reaping the benefits of their contribution over time. Community agriculture will also be a feature of the new State House site, inviting community gardening alongside the rewilding.



My State House

Monumental, authoritative and aloof, the State House belongs to the people, yet it is less than welcoming. Its facade inspires awe and guards the government like a fortress. The vast grounds are not often used by

the people of Providence and lack vital neighborhood connections.



City Balcony
The upper terraces are reimagined as urban balconies, activated with a mix of movable and fixed seating, seasonal planters, and free Wi-Fi service.

Urban Farm
The west side is envisioned as a social and productive landscape to attract residents of Smith Hill and other neighborhoods cut off by the highway.



State House Gallery
A transparent public gallery that respects the historic building and conveys a new attitude of openness and invitation will wrap around the massive marble base.

Urban Meadows
The resource-intensive lawn will be replaced by a more productive and ecological landscape that will enrich city life.

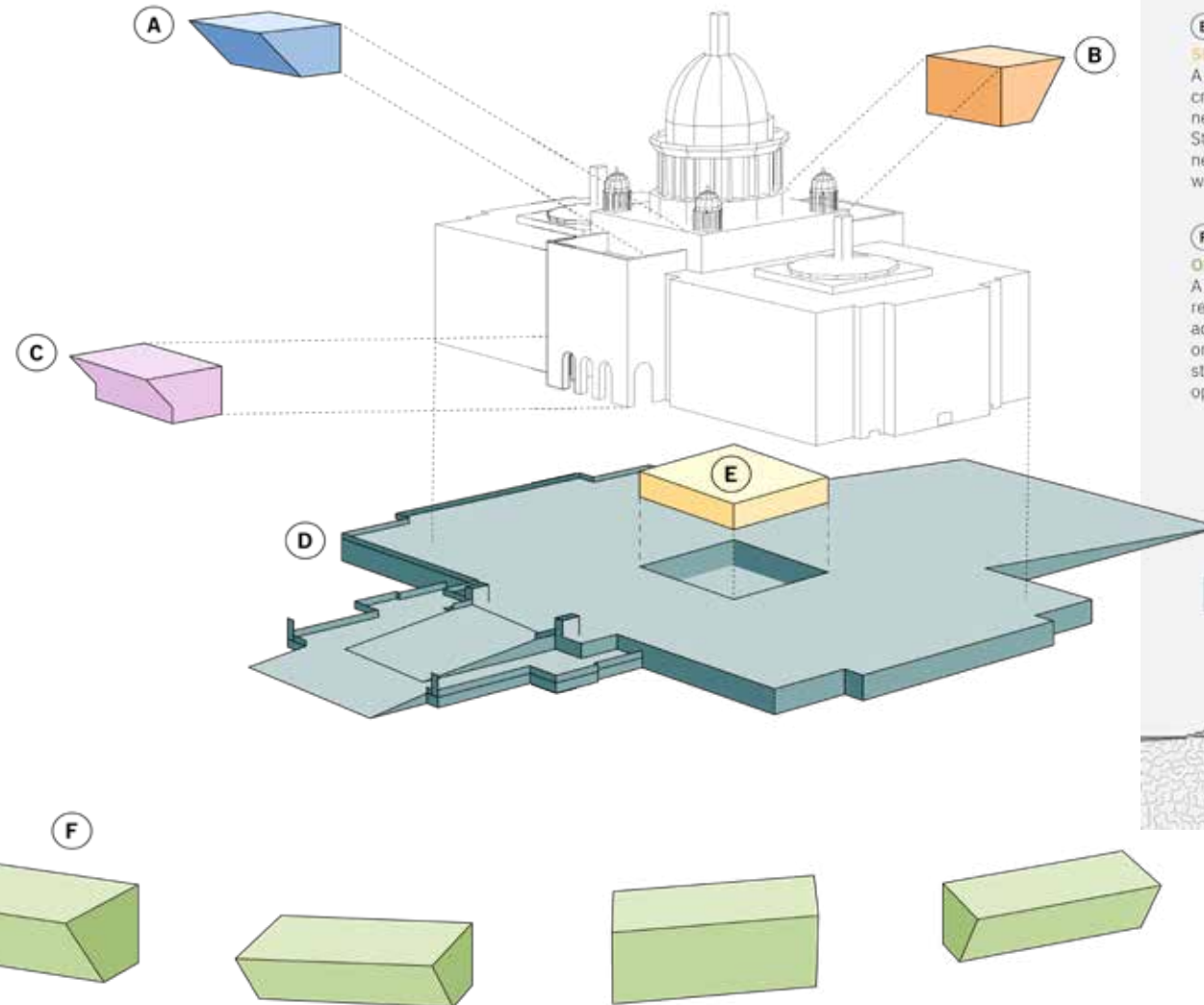


Back to the Future

In the late 1800s, the state of Rhode Island strove to represent its effective, powerful, and centralized government in a single building. Bringing these original ideals into the 21st century, the Rhode Island State House can support multiple activities while reflecting the aspirations of the state's residents. By enhancing and magnifying existing spaces intended for public use – the entry, café, museum, gift shop, constituent services, and grounds

– the site will encourage people to interact with and participate in their government, illustrate the balance of power between the government and the people, and allow all who live in Rhode Island to experience

our shared history. A renovated basement space, a new system of access, and reimagined grounds will provide ample programming space to engage the state and local community.



A
RESTAURANT + CAFE.
Restaurant and cafe space, with views of the city skyline, will draw residents to the Rhode Island State House and allow organic interactions with their elected officials.

B
CLASSROOM + DAYCARE.
A classroom and daycare will allow school programs to have a home base within the State House - the space will have a focus on environment and sustainability issues.

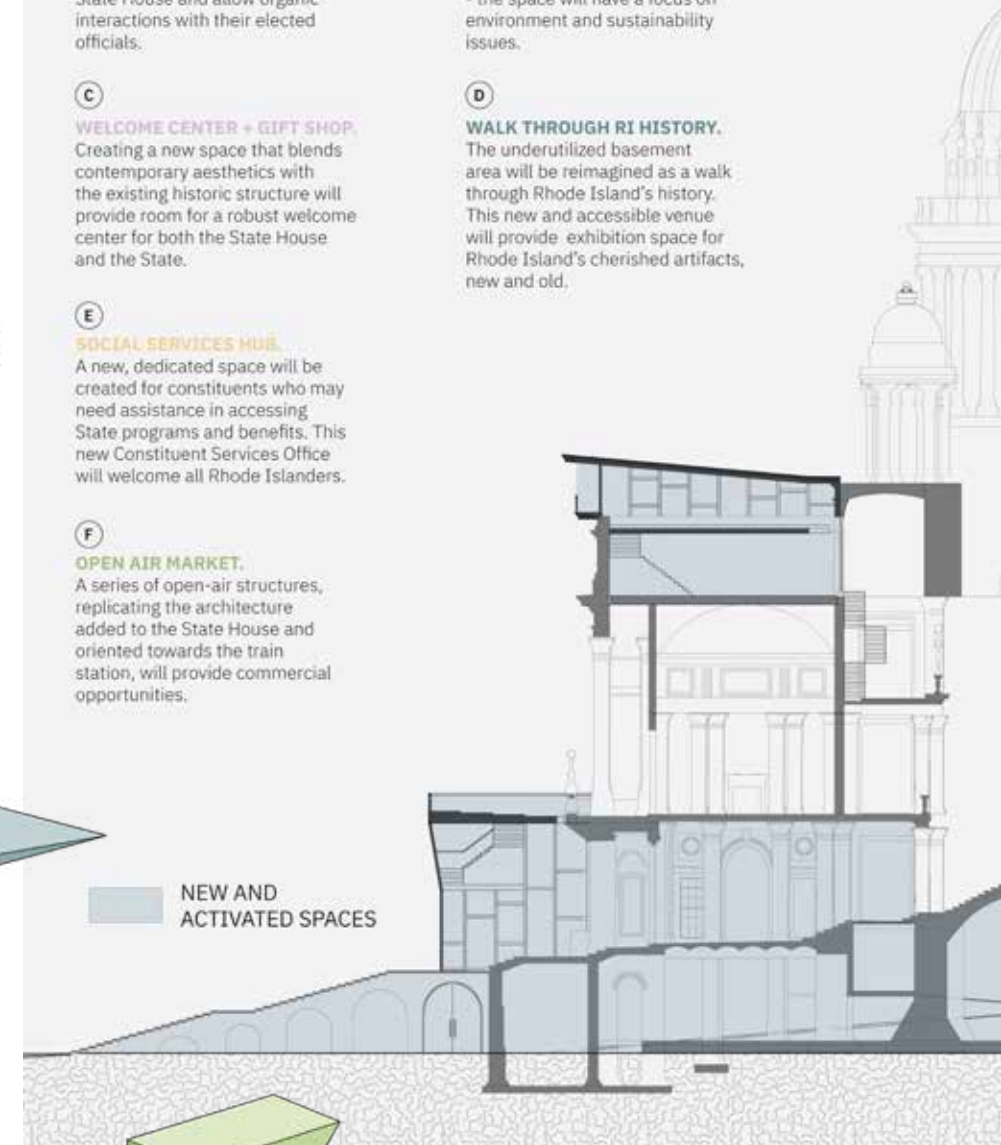
C
WELCOME CENTER + GIFT SHOP.
Creating a new space that blends contemporary aesthetics with the existing historic structure will provide room for a robust welcome center for both the State House and the State.

D
WALK THROUGH RI HISTORY.
The underutilized basement area will be reimagined as a walk through Rhode Island's history. This new and accessible venue will provide exhibition space for Rhode Island's cherished artifacts, new and old.

E
SOCIAL SERVICES HUB.
A new, dedicated space will be created for constituents who may need assistance in accessing State programs and benefits. This new Constituent Services Office will welcome all Rhode Islanders.

F
OPEN AIR MARKET.
A series of open-air structures, replicating the architecture added to the State House and oriented towards the train station, will provide commercial opportunities.

NEW AND ACTIVATED SPACES

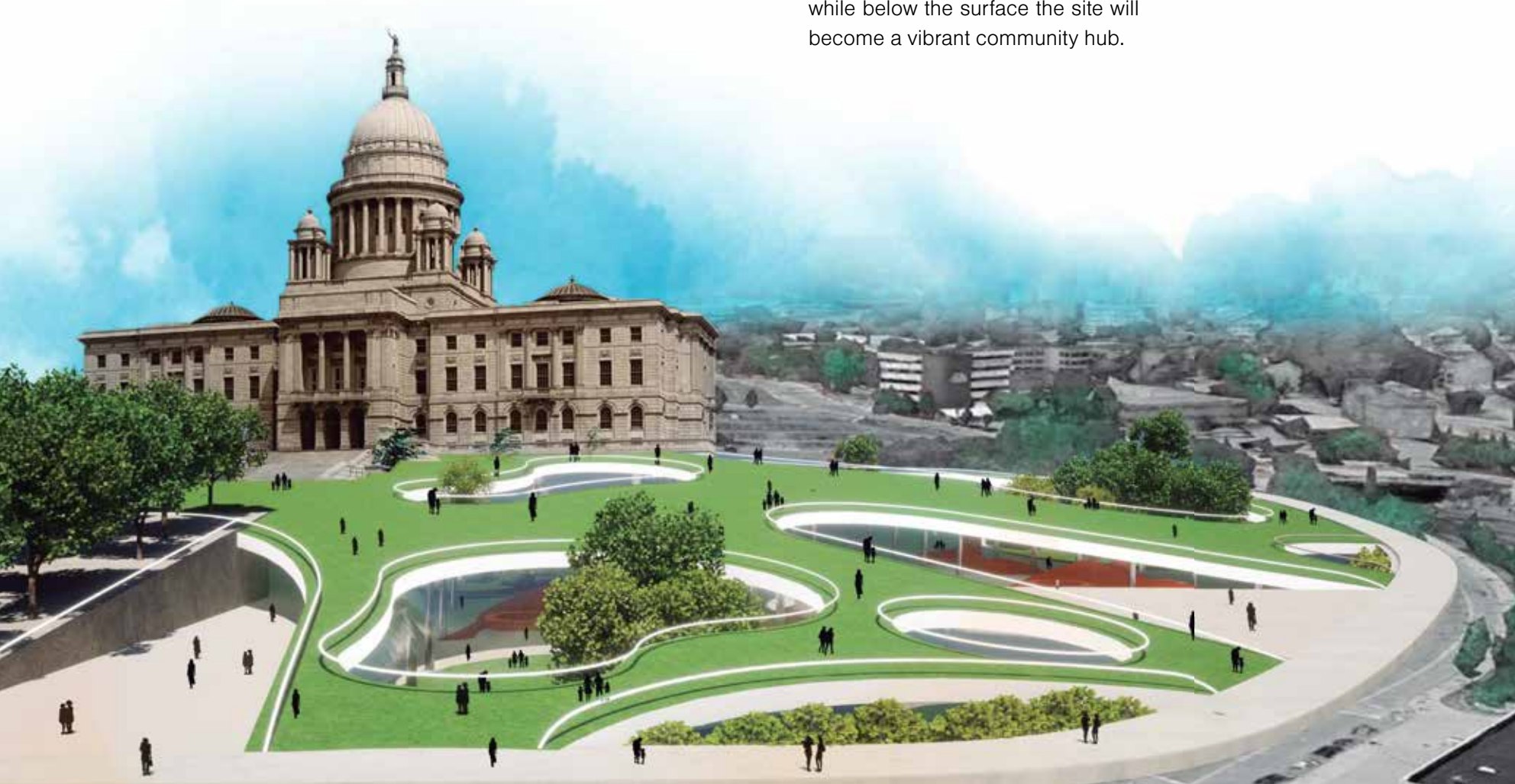


Underground Hope

This intervention seeks to highlight the historical, architectural, and social value that the State House has accrued over time, while transforming it into a true community resource. Respecting its neoclassical architecture as

well as its important role as the seat of state government were two principal considerations.

Underground Hope proposes new community-driven ecosystems developed beneath a living roof. Sightlines and views of the State House will remain undisturbed while below the surface the site will become a vibrant community hub.



Underground Hope relocates existing trees and plants new trees in the new below-grade ecosystem.



The Agora is an open space for artists, musicians, and performers.



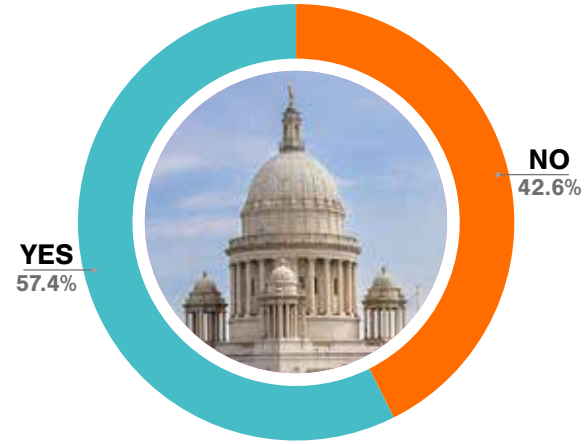
Revenue from the commercial areas will be used to maintain and support Underground Hope.



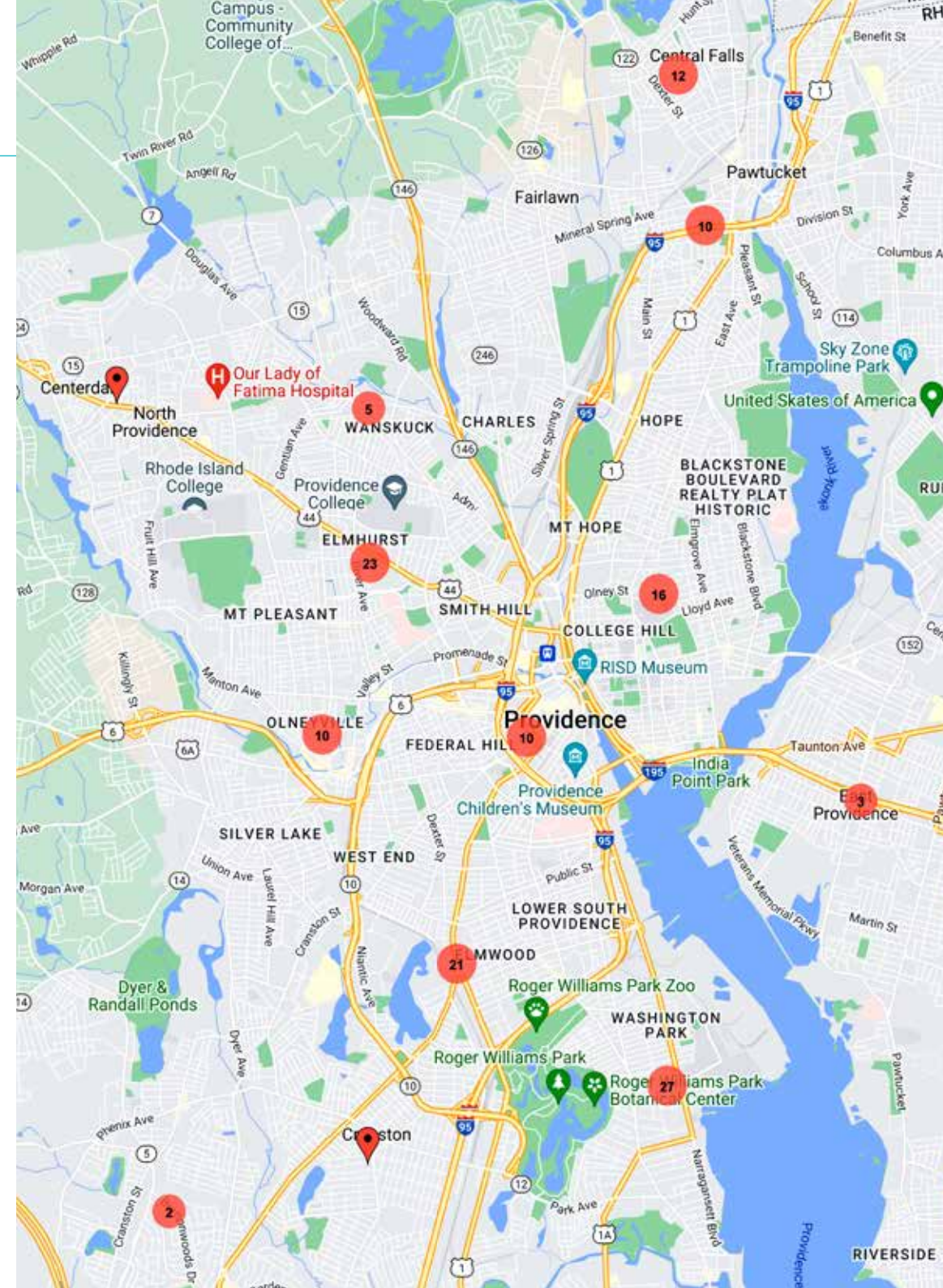
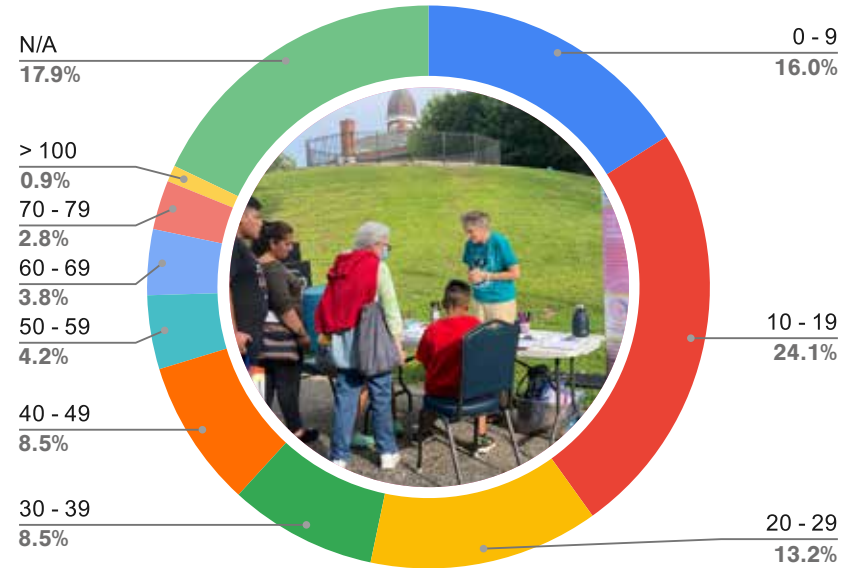
Scan the QR code for a virtual tour of Underground Hope!

COMMUNITY MAPPING

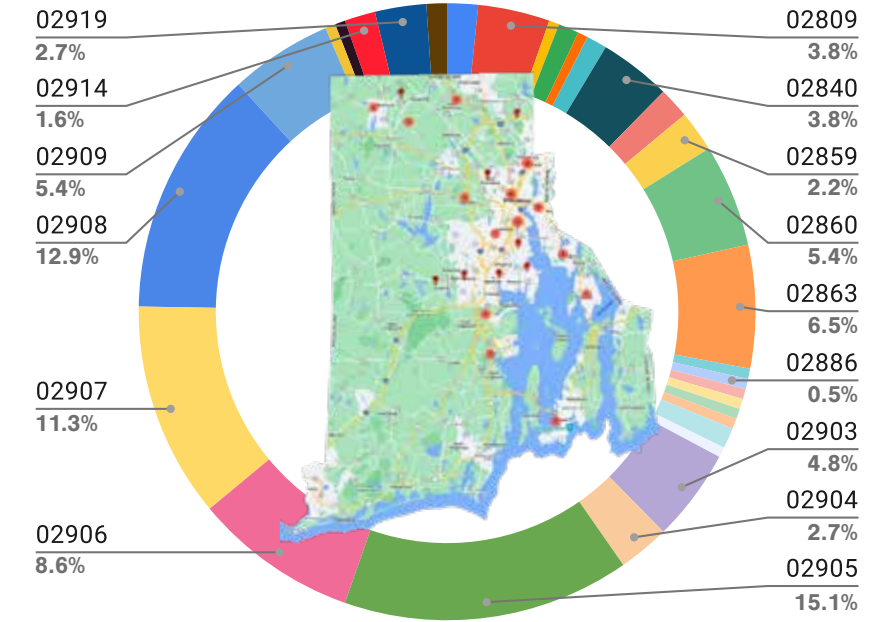
Participants who have visited the State House



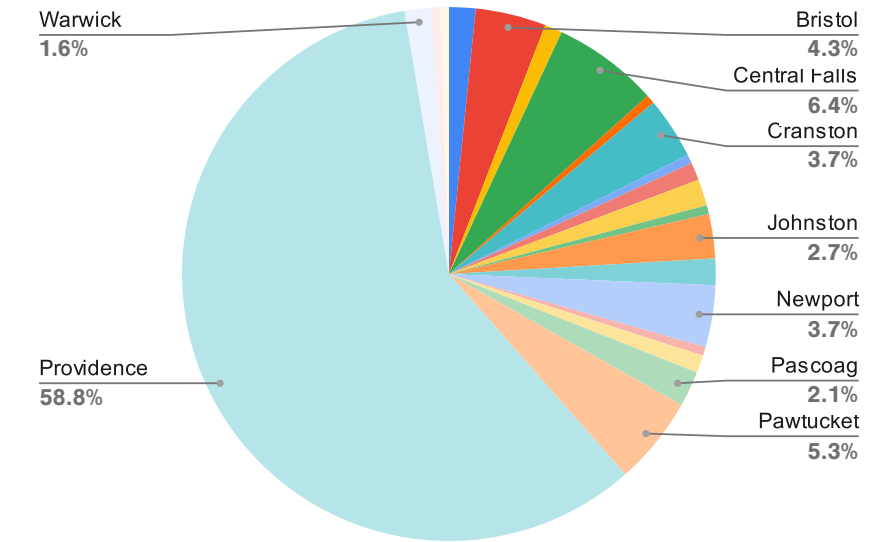
Participation by Age Group



Participation by Zip Code



Participation by City/Town



COMMUNITY MAPPING Quotes

I didn't know it was open to the public. I've never been inside.

~35 year-old Warwick Resident

They should add a mural that represents Rhode Island and Providence as a whole, something that signifies us.

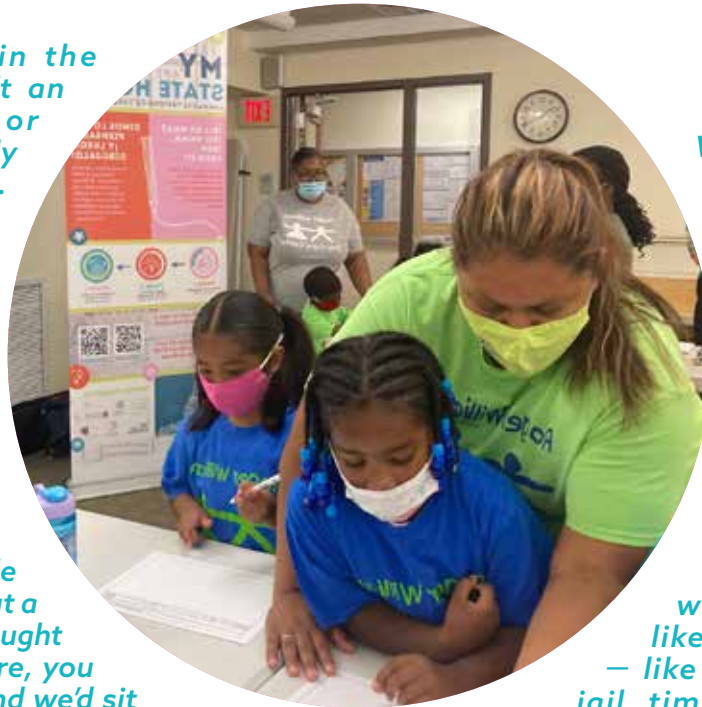
~Jayden, Sophomore at Charette Charter High School

It's not welcoming in the fact that if you aren't an able-bodied citizen, or younger, then you really don't have access to it.

~Resident of Smith Hill neighborhood

When I was a kid we used to slide down the hill, you know, in the snow and the boys used to play football and all that other stuff. And every once in a blue moon we'd do a little picnic and we'd go and put a blanket down and we thought that we went somewhere, you know, we were kids... and we'd sit out on the lawn... on the weekends, not during the week. During the week you didn't feel like you was really supposed to be on that lawn, but on the weekends you could sneak down there and do it.

~Resident of Smith Hill neighborhood



When you have such an elegant building like the State House, it kind of just sits there and collects dust, except for the Governor being there and those who are establishing laws.

~Teen student at Charette Charter High School

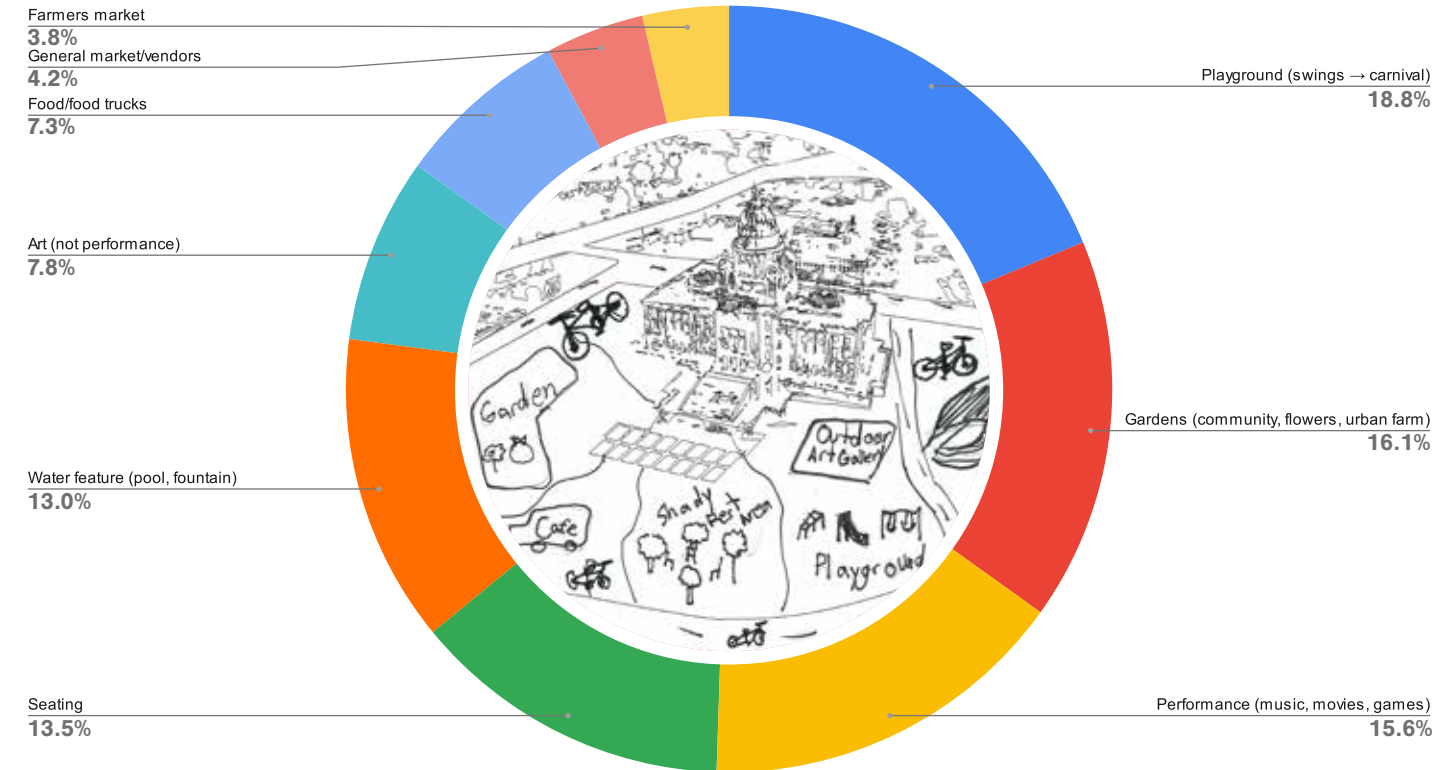
I always thought it was, like, state property, like you couldn't walk on — like if you did, it was like, jail time... Everything about it just screams, 'You can't come' unless you're verified, unless you're like a big dog, like you're making decisions for the state.

~Jayden, Sophomore at Charette Charter High School

"I think we have a really pretty State House, I do. Is it inviting? I don't know if it's inviting. I think it might be a little imposing on a lot of people."

~Resident of Smith Hill neighborhood

COMMUNITY MAPPING Common Themes



I think they should add temporary art around [the State House] and in the green space, they should make a garden, and I feel like they should open the three front doors because we went yesterday and they told us that they closed them a long time ago, after 9/11 I think it was.

~Sanara, Sophomore at Charette Charter High School

I wrote on my map that the big space should be used for different types of activities, like there should be a cookout space, an activity space for football, soccer and grass sports, and a big children's area so if children come they can go over there while the adults are on the other side - and multiple food trucks with different types of food.

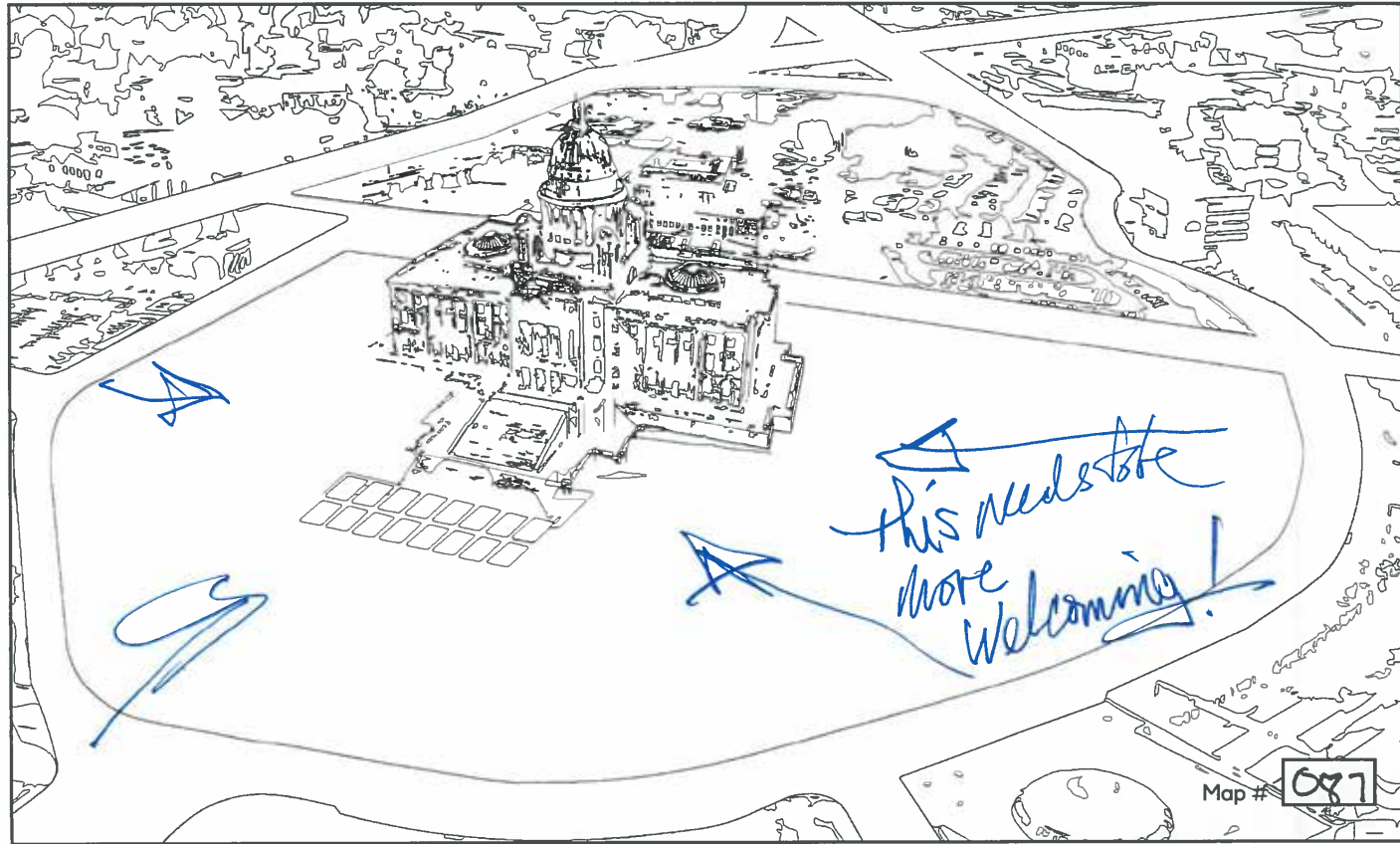
~Jayden, Sophomore at Charette Charter High School

COMMUNITY MAPPING

MY STATE HOUSE IS... MI CASA ESTATAL ES...

Have you ever been to the State House? Why?
 Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué?

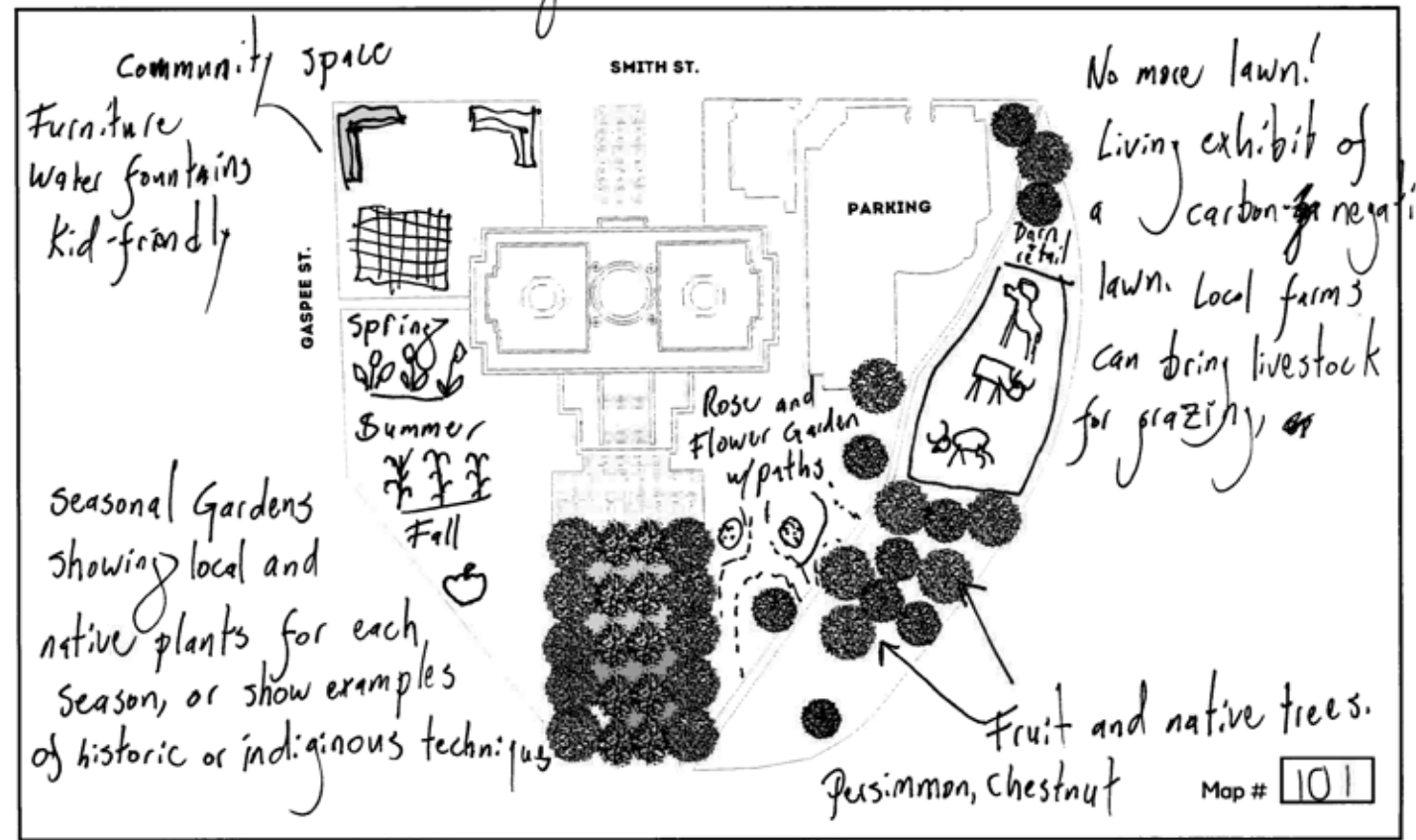
(Optional) Name: Age: Zipcode:



MY STATE HOUSE IS... MI CASA ESTATAL ES...

Have you ever been to the State House? Why?
 Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué?

(Optional) Name: Age: Zipcode:



COMMUNITY MAPPING

MY STATE HOUSE IS... MI CASA ESTATAL ES... a place to support local artists/businesses/entertainment

Have you ever been to the State House? Why? / Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué? No

(Optional) Name: KAYLYNUE PORTER Age: 17 Zipcode: 02886

Map # 272

Hand-drawn map of the State House with various community suggestions in blue ink:

- Lighting
- ANIMALS!
- Places for small business owners to promote their handmade products
- Art Display! Place for local artists to show their work
- Colorful plants/flowers to add color to the state house all white
- Farmers Market
- Live Music
- Picnic Tables

MY STATE HOUSE IS... MI CASA ESTATAL ES...

Have you ever been to the State House? Why? / Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué? Yes, for protests, hearings, and school projects

(Optional) Name: Maryann Age: 44 Zipcode: 02905

Map #

Hand-drawn map of the State House with various community suggestions in green ink:

- fruit trees
- solar panel paving
- walking path
- edible garden - decorative & educational, and for food
- outdoor classroom gathering space
- Something to honor include Narragansett & Wampanoag peoples
- rotating exhibit space for innovations, news, science, art, history, etc.

COMMUNITY MAPPING



MY STATE HOUSE IS... **Fun zone / state fun house**
 MI CASA ESTATAL ES...

Have you ever been to the State House? Why? **yes outside of it**
 Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué?

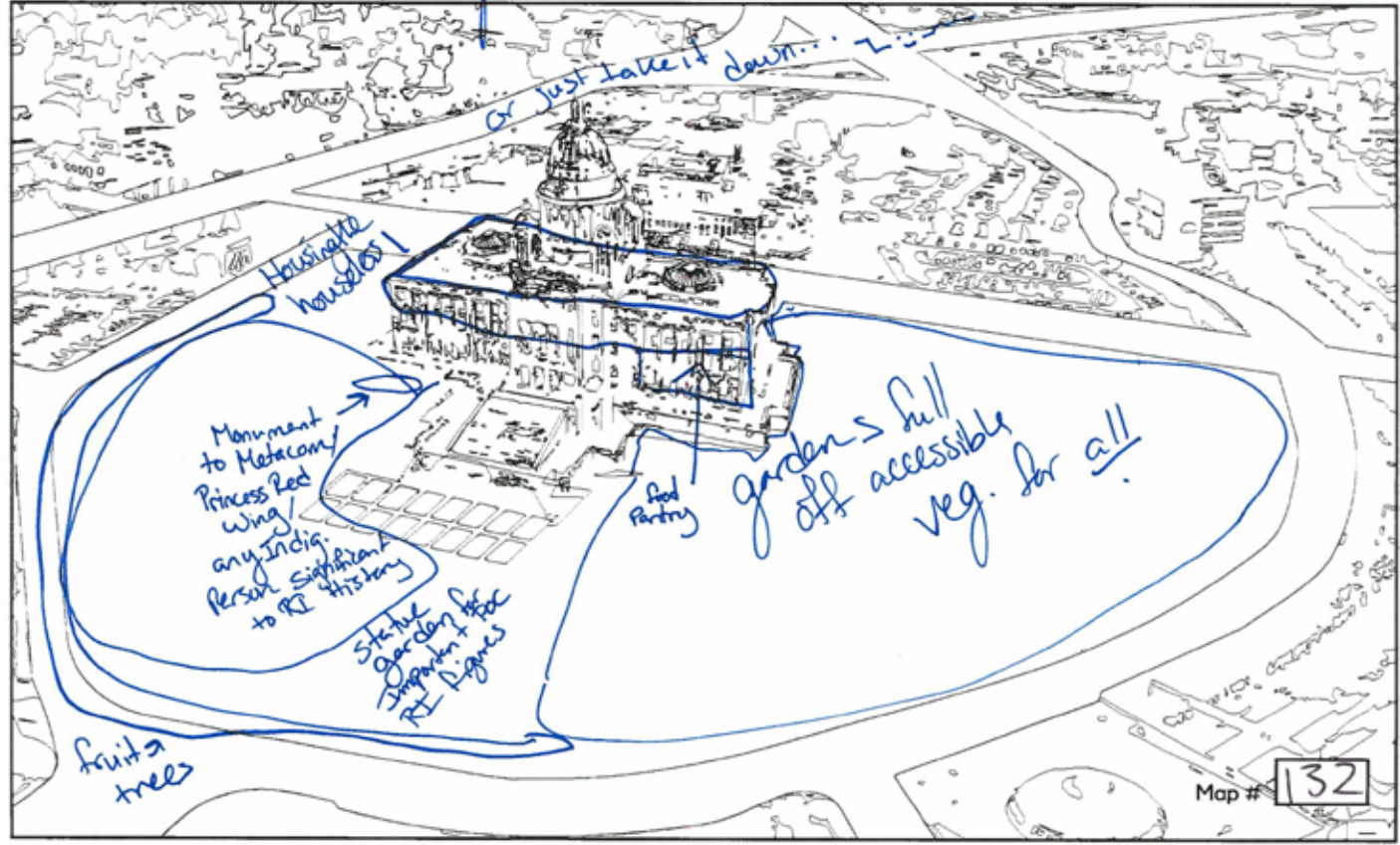
(Optional) Name: **Alyssa M. Johnson** Age: **9** Zipcode: **02905**



MY STATE HOUSE IS... **Accessible**
 MI CASA ESTATAL ES...

Have you ever been to the State House? Why? **I've catered inside & been to many protests**
 Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué?

(Optional) Name: **Haley** Age: **27** Zipcode:



COMMUNITY MAPPING



MY STATE HOUSE IS... **Handicap Accessible**
 MI CASA ESTATAL ES...

Have you ever been to the State House? Why? **No - UNKNOWN**
 Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué?

MY STATE HOUSE

(Optional) Name: **Peter Lizotte** Age: **58** Zipcode: **02863**

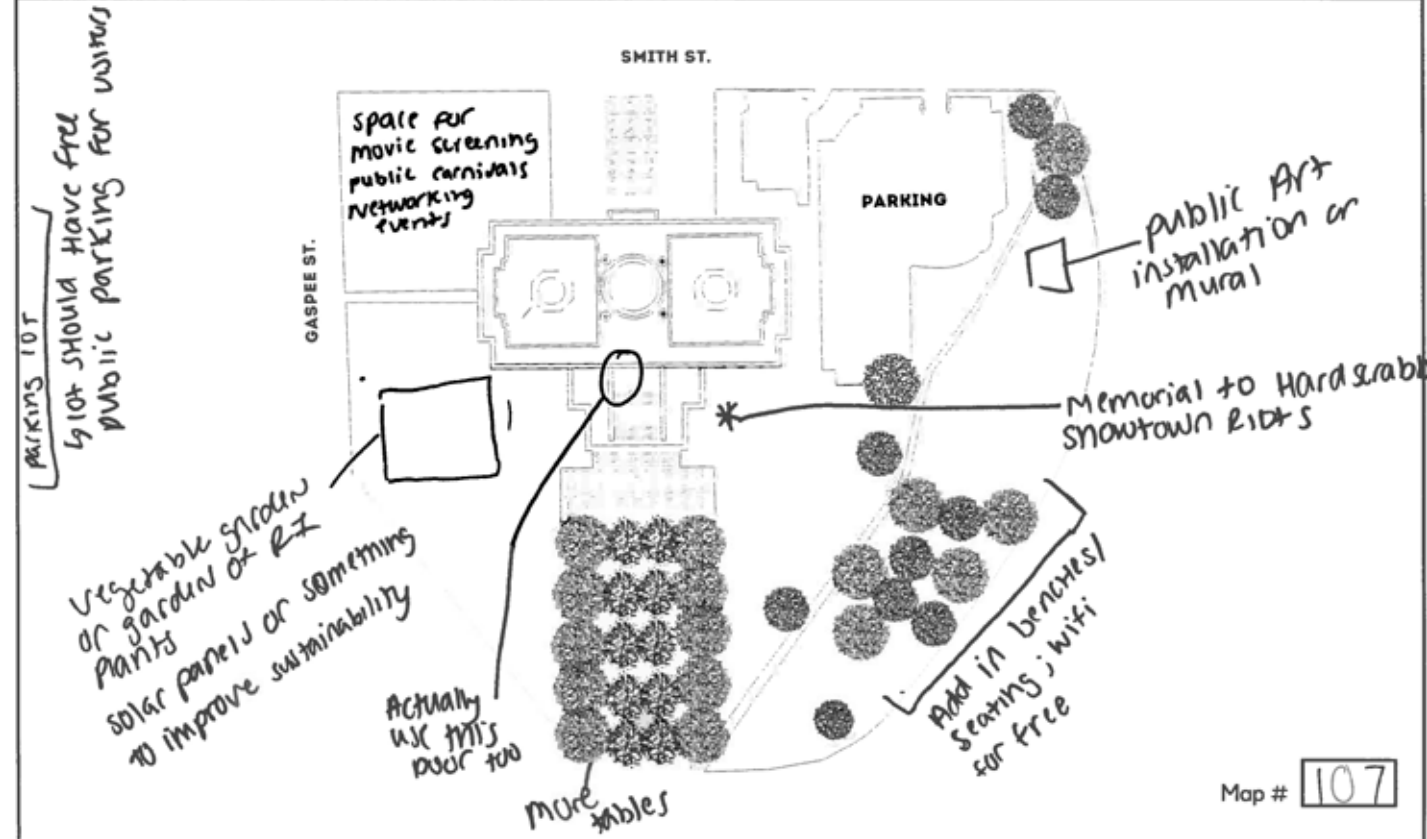


MY STATE HOUSE IS... **welcoming; a dynamic public event space**
 MI CASA ESTATAL ES...

Have you ever been to the State House? Why? **yes**
 Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué?

MY STATE HOUSE

(Optional) Name: **Arianna** Age: **25** Zipcode: **02919**



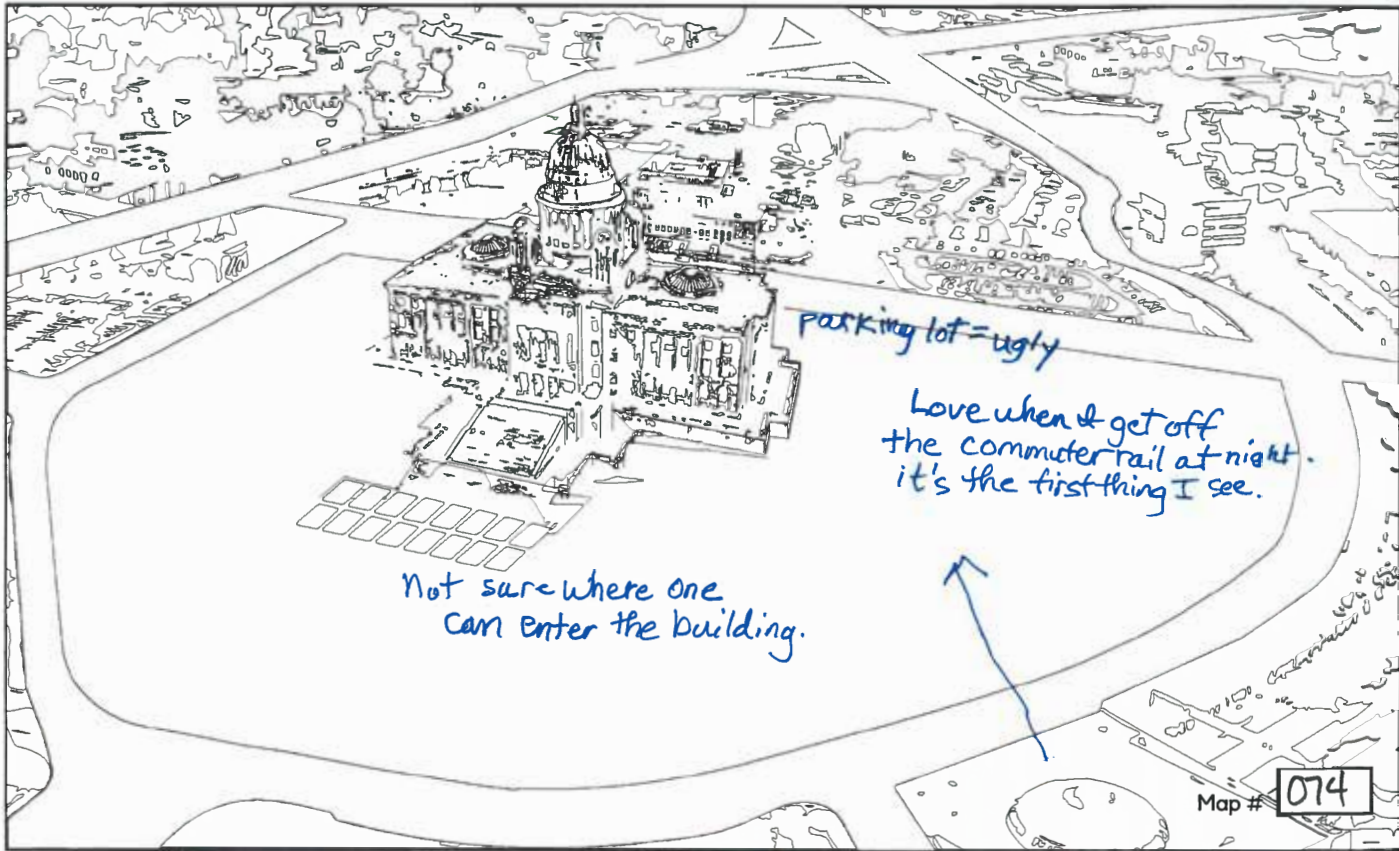
COMMUNITY MAPPING



MY STATE HOUSE IS... **palatial.**
 MI CASA ESTATAL ES...

Have you ever been to the State House? Why?
 Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué?
Yes, a long time ago.

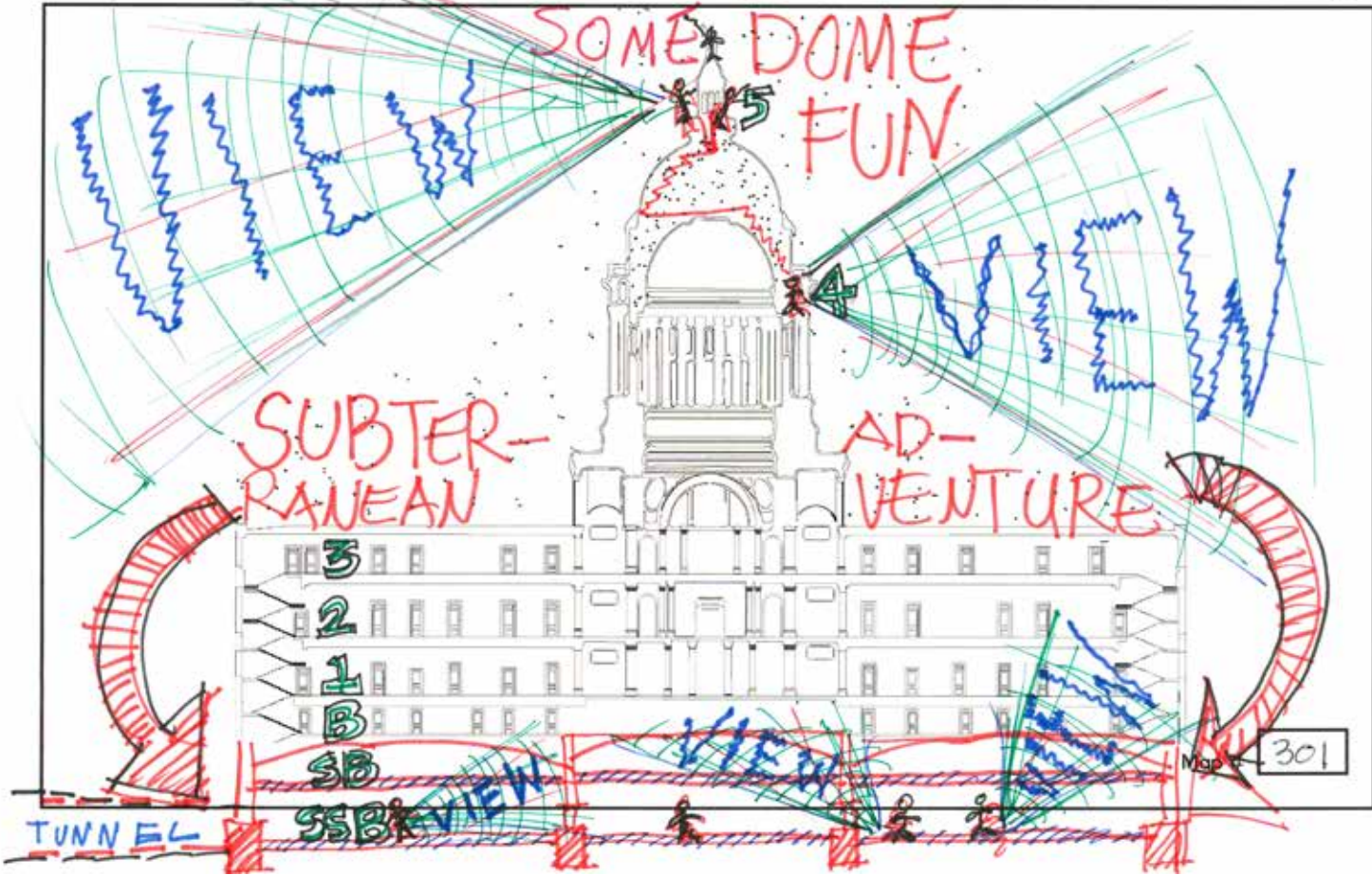
MY STATE HOUSE (Optional) Name: **Barbara** Age: **74** Zipcode: **02903**



MY STATE HOUSE IS... **AN ADVENTURE FOR SPELUNKERS & CLIMBERS**
 MI CASA ESTATAL ES...

Have you ever been to the State House? Why?
 Ha usted visitado la Casa Estatal? Por qué?
YES

MY STATE HOUSE (Optional) Name: Age: **65** Zipcode: **02860**



CONTRIBUTORS PAGE

Project Curators



Marisa Angell Brown is Associate Director of the Center for Complexity at Rhode Island School of Design. She is an art historian, educator and curator whose work focuses on the intersections between art, design and community, with a special interest in preservation, social practice art and participatory design.



Lane Sparkman is Associate Director of Education and Public Programs for the Rhode Island Department of State. She curates exhibitions and creates and leads educational programs to connect Rhode Islanders with their state's rich history and to help them engage with their government.



Hanna Leatherman is a museum educator and creative placemaker passionate about reimagining America's anchor institutions through critical inquiry and community dialogue. A 2021 graduate of Brown University's MA in Public Humanities, she now serves as Learning and Engagement specialist at the Art Bridges Foundation.



Dan Mangano holds Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Fine Arts Degrees from Rhode Island School of Design, and is currently a Master of Science in Historic Preservation candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. Dan's interest and design practice aim to answer the questions around how we can make the built environment a more just place that works for everyone.

Participatory Mapping & Design Leads



Althea A. Graves serves on numerous boards, committees, and commissions throughout Central Providence, most notably the Providence Community Library, Smith Hill Advocacy and Resource Partnerships (SHARP), Community Action Partnership (CAPP RI), One Neighborhood Builders and the Providence Community Health Center (PCHC). She is an outspoken supporter of healthy, inclusive, and equitable health services, education, and housing. She is committed to urban planning focusing on delivering programs that meet the concerns and challenges facing the City of Providence and its residents.



Jordan Seaberry is a painter, organizer, legislative advocate and educator. Jordan serves as Co-Director of the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture, a national arts advocacy nonprofit, and as Chairman of the Providence Board of Canvassers, overseeing the city's elections. He teaches and maintains a painting studio in Providence, RI.

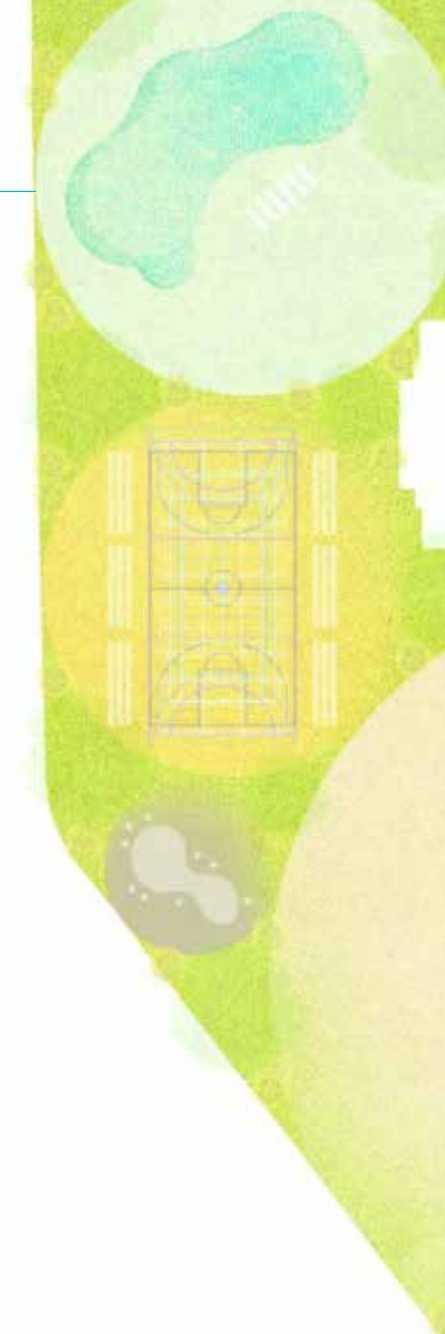
Curatorial Assistant



Julia Zimring is an arts advocate and public historian from Los Angeles, California. She received her BA in Peace and Conflict Studies from UC Berkeley and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage at Brown University.

Photography Credits

Photography courtesy of Karen Philippi, Warren Jagger, the Rhode Island State Archives, and others.



ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE

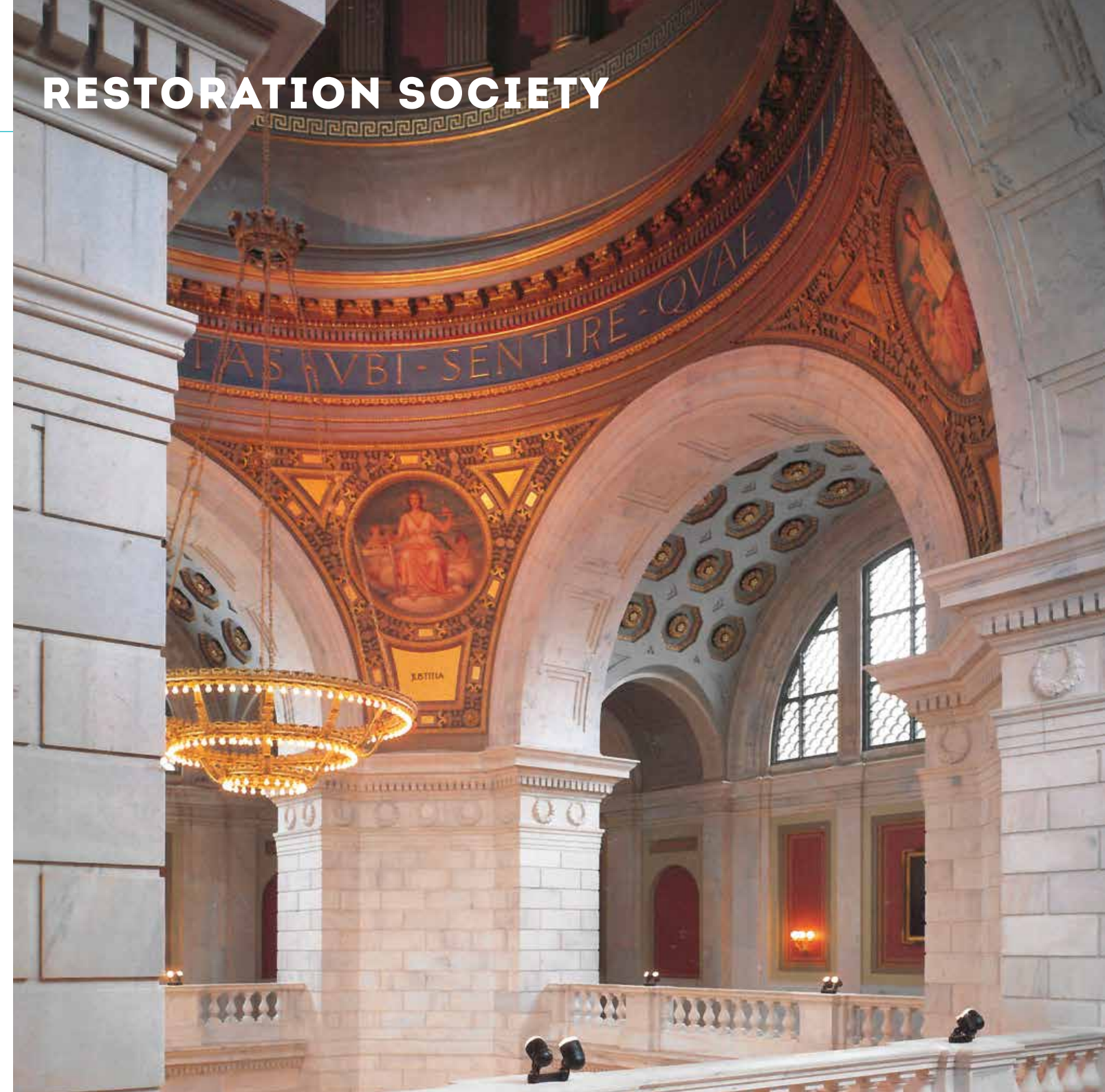
The Society was created to support the “restoration, preservation, interpretation, betterment and benefit of the Rhode Island State House.”

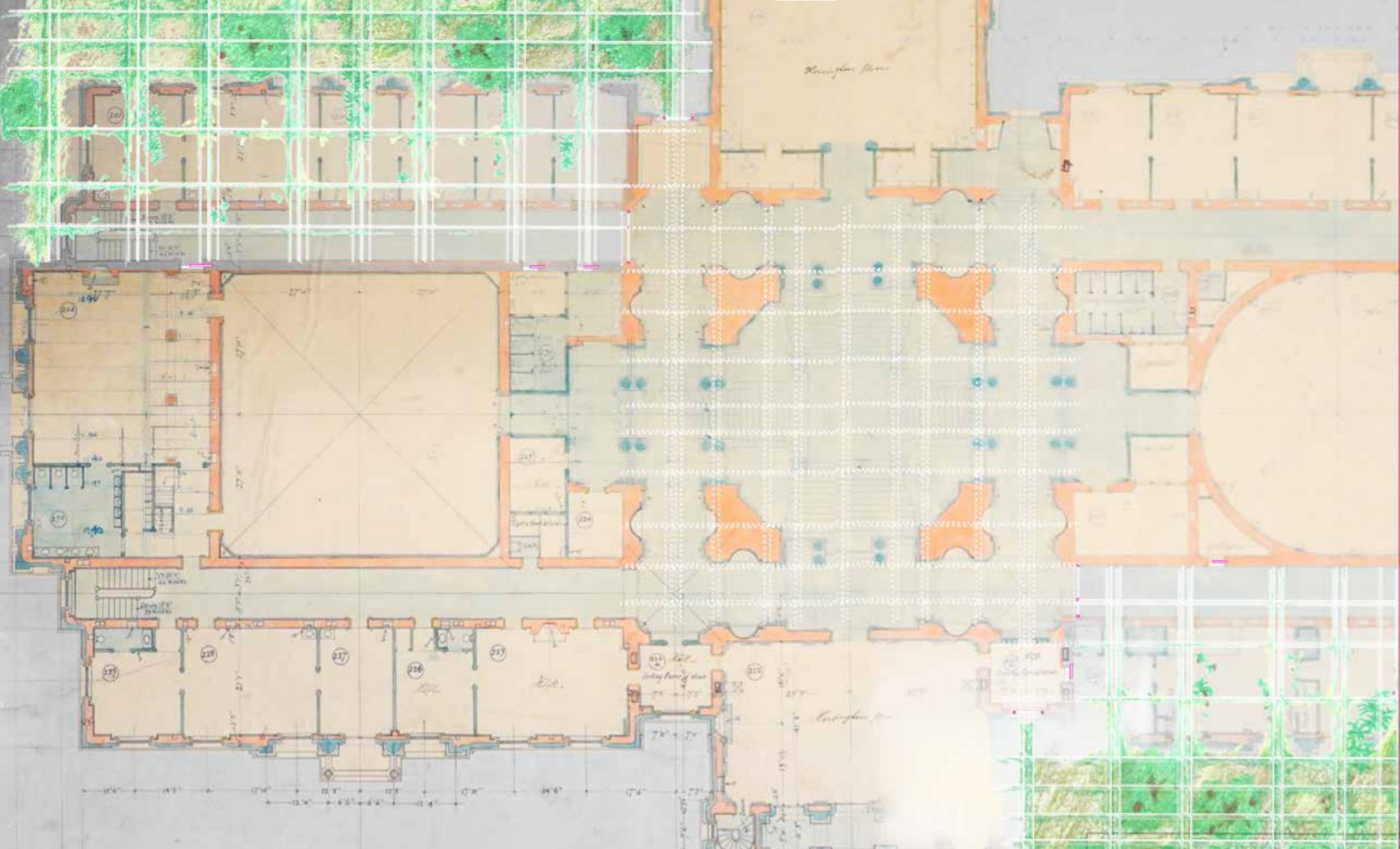
The Rhode Island State House Restoration Society was originally established through a 1992 Executive Order by then-Governor Bruce Sundlun as a non-profit organization with no political affiliation. The Society was created to support the “restoration, preservation, interpretation, betterment and benefit of the Rhode Island State House.” The Society solicits and accepts charitable contributions from individuals, estates, corporations, and foundations, with the proceeds of such gift income to be used exclusively for the special attention to and support of restoring and preserving the building’s architectural character and its collections. Society members are “civic-minded individuals who have an interest in historical and architectural restoration and preservation” and are appointed by the Governor of Rhode Island.

Since its inception, the Society has raised funds to undertake major and minor projects within the building, including projects as large as the restoration of the magnificent State Reception Room and as small as repairing to working order the original three clocks located in the House and Senate legislative chambers and the State Library. Most recently, the Society worked closely with legislative and gubernatorial leadership and a team of architects, contractors, and specialists within state government on a significant project to do much needed repairs, upgrades, and restorations to both legislative chambers and to the third-floor public galleries. Where necessary, research was done regarding historical features at the time of the building’s original construction to ensure period-correctness and adherence to the schemes intended by McKim, Mead and White.

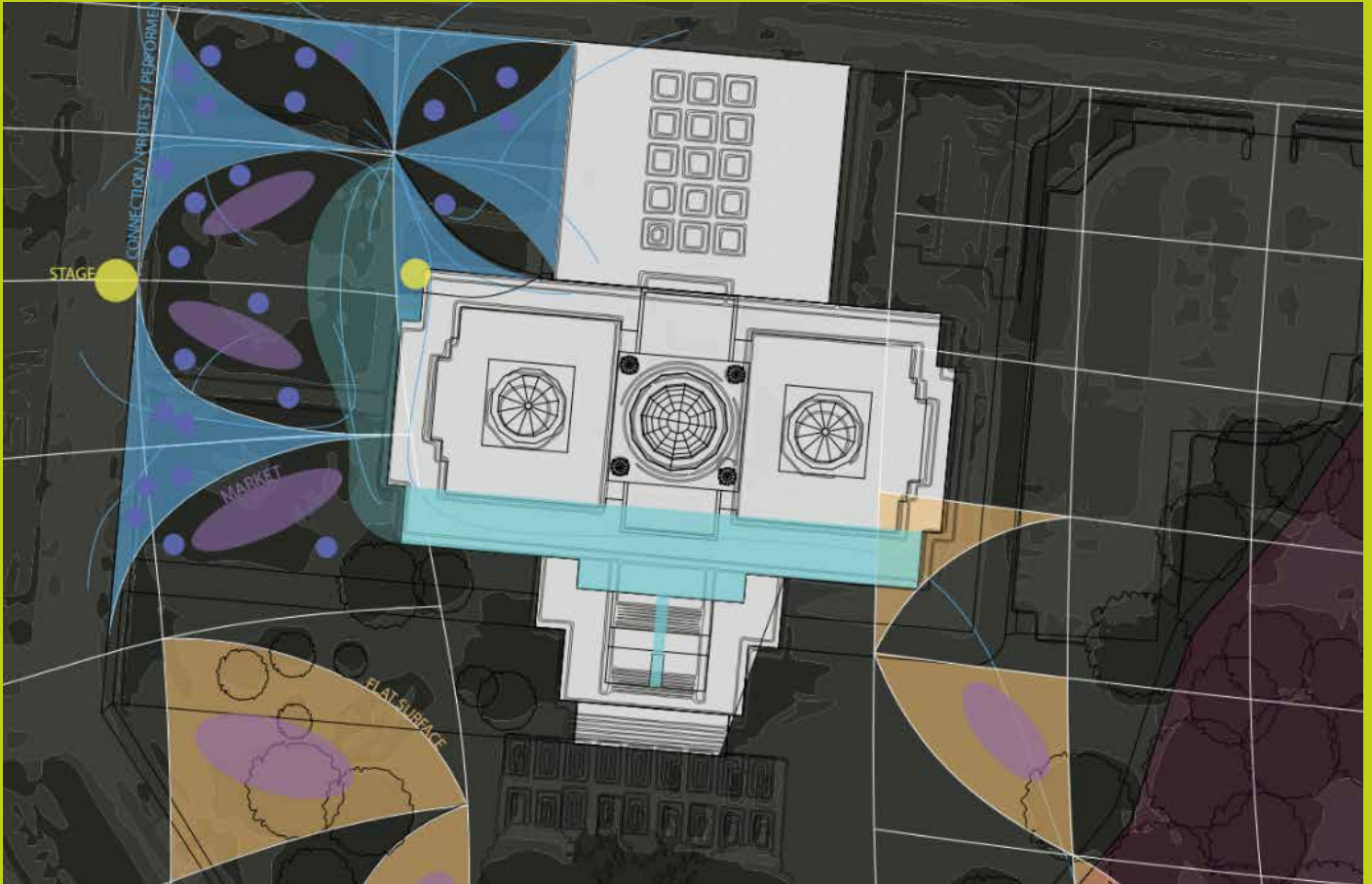
For additional information visit ristatehouse.org.

RESTORATION SOCIETY





Funding for **My State House** was provided in part by a grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, through the Rhode Island Culture, Humanities, and Arts Recovery Grant (RI CHARG) program. This program was made possible thanks to the National Endowment for the Humanities, via funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



My State House is a community research project and national ideas competition intended to catalyze creative conversations about the role statehouses might play in the civic and social life of today's cities. While it takes the Rhode Island State House as its site of inquiry, the project has relevance beyond the borders of the country's smallest state.

What should the statehouse of the 22nd century look like?

What spaces should it contain, to serve what kinds of activities?