

# MEMORIAL GARDEN



# AFRICAN ANCESTORS MEMORIAL GARDEN

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The African Ancestors Memorial Garden, a collection of gardens and artistic installations that sprawls across the IAAM grounds, will be free and open to the public. The museum will be raised to provide room for these dynamic land linguistics and to commemorate the sacred location of Gadsden's Wharf. It will include a series of outdoor features that give visitors the opportunity to honor and commemorate African ancestors and reflect on the historic significance of Gadsden's Wharf.

Lauded historian and Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. dubbed this space "ground zero of the African American experience," while Lonnie Bunch, the director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture calls it "one of the most sacred sites of African American history in the western hemisphere."

The Memorial Garden will link Charleston to a growing network of global sites of memory interconnected by the history of slavery and its legacies.



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Layout*

# TIDE TRIBUTE

The International African American Museum's (IAAM) most unique and defining feature is its location at the historic site of Gadsden's Wharf.

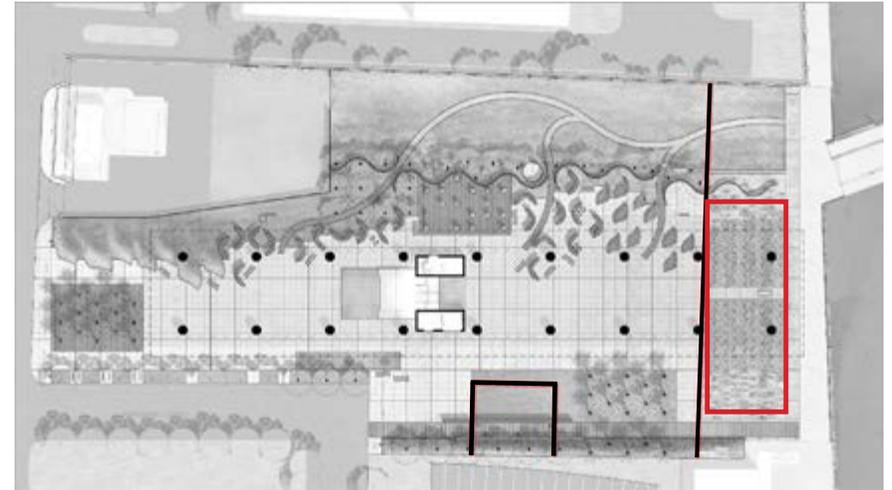
The Transatlantic Slave Trade carried hundreds of thousands of enslaved Africans across many miles of ocean, through the perilous Middle Passage, and into the calm waters of Charleston's Harbor. Many of these voyages ended at Gadsden's Wharf, where men, women and children disembarked ships and entered this country.

The IAAM will harness the power of place to commemorate their lives, and the lives of many more who did not survive those deadly voyages.

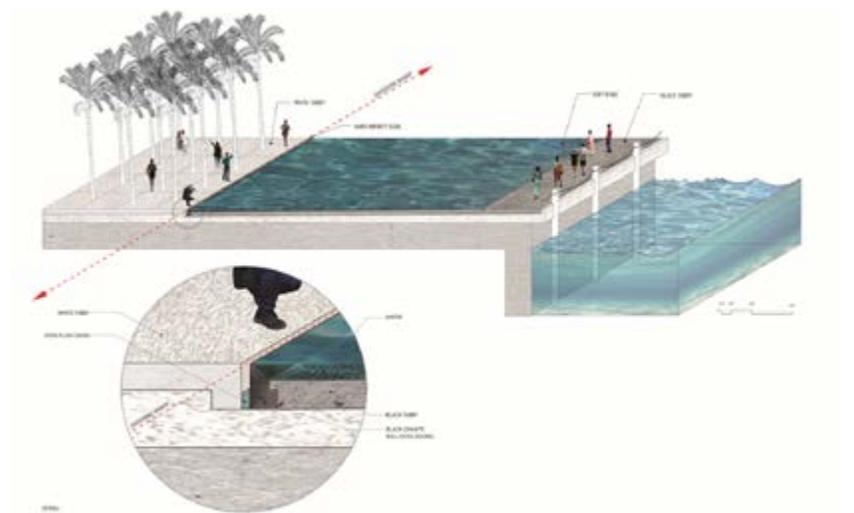
Out of respect for the hallowed ground of Gadsden's Wharf, the IAAM will be raised by pillars, and the land will be honored and accentuated by a number of land linguistics, microclimates and sculptures. Celebrated artist, designer and educator Walter Hood is directing the design of the museum's exterior elements, which will collectively comprise the African Ancestors Memorial Garden.

One of the most impactful features of the Memorial Garden will be the Tide Tribute.

As visitors approach the IAAM from the harbor boardwalk, they will be met by the Tide Tribute, a shallow pool of water that fills and empties hourly, reminiscent of the ebb and flow of the ocean.



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - Tide Tribute*



*Tide Tribute Plans*

In the eighteenth century, British abolitionists published the now-famous diagram pictured below, which depicts cross-sections of the Brookes slave ship with hundreds of enslaved Africans lying on their backs in incredibly and inhumanely close proximity to one another.

The Brookes was permitted to carry about 450 slaves. To achieve maximum capacity of its human cargo, the Brookes diagram reflects the space allocated for each man (6' x 1'4"), woman (5'10" x 1'4") and child (5' x 1'2").

Historic documents show that even these scant dimensions were not honored, as the Brookes carried as many as 609 enslaved Africans during one voyage across the middle passage.

Brookes figures will cover the Tide Tribute's floor, each figure representative of a man, woman or child who laid side by side in the bellies of ships that were once anchored just steps away in the harbor. As the depth of the water changes, Brookes figures will be masked and revealed in relief. When the Tide Tribute is full, the Brookes figures will be covered in several inches of water. When it empties, the water will only fill the relief, leaving pools of water in the shape of those men, women and children whom the Tribute honors (see next page).

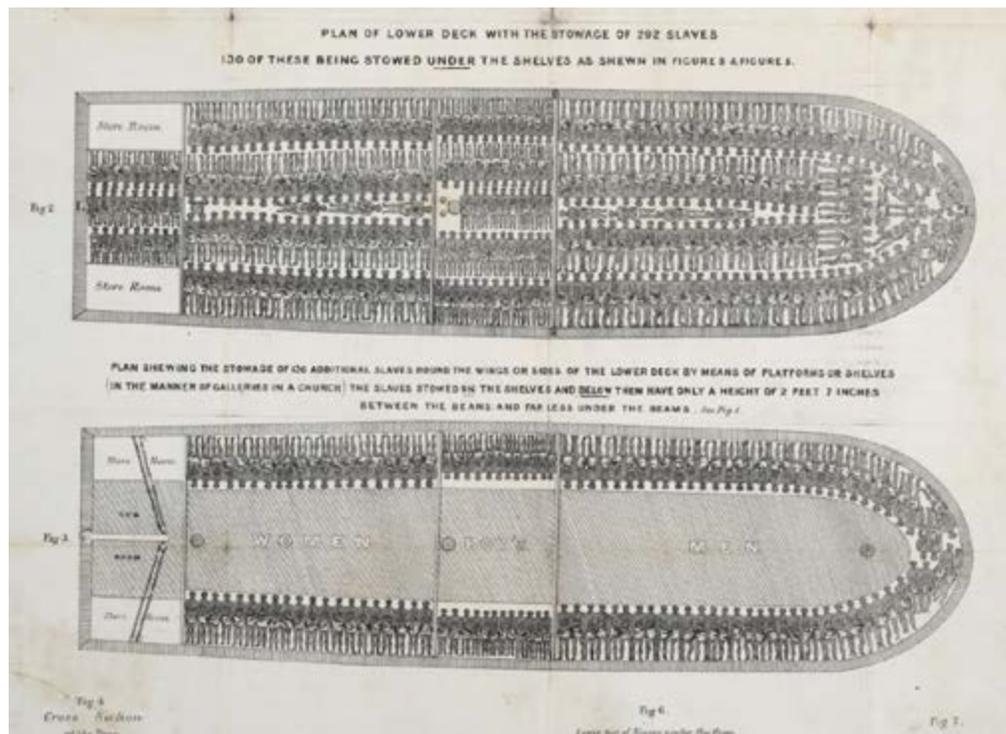


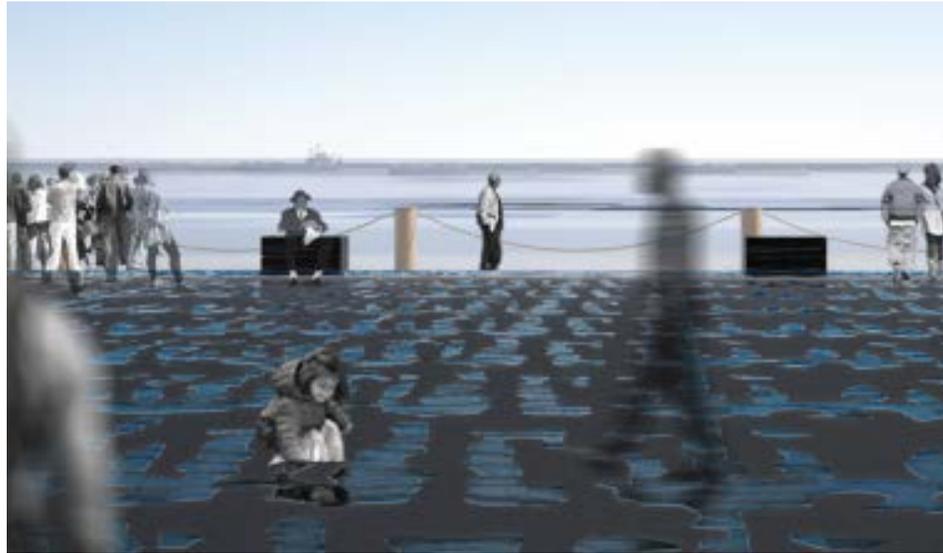
Diagram of Brookes Slave Ship Stowage of Enslaved Africans



Example of Brookes Figure Relief

A walkway will carry guests through the middle of the Tide Tribute, inviting them into this emotional experience. Here, visitors will reflect on the courage and the fate of those men, women and children embodied in the Brookes figures.

The Tide Tribute will be bordered by the actual historic line of Gadsden's Wharf, conveying the fluid nature of past, present and future.



*Brookes Figures in Relief in the Tide Tribute*



*Tide Tribute*

# GADSDEN'S WHARF LINE

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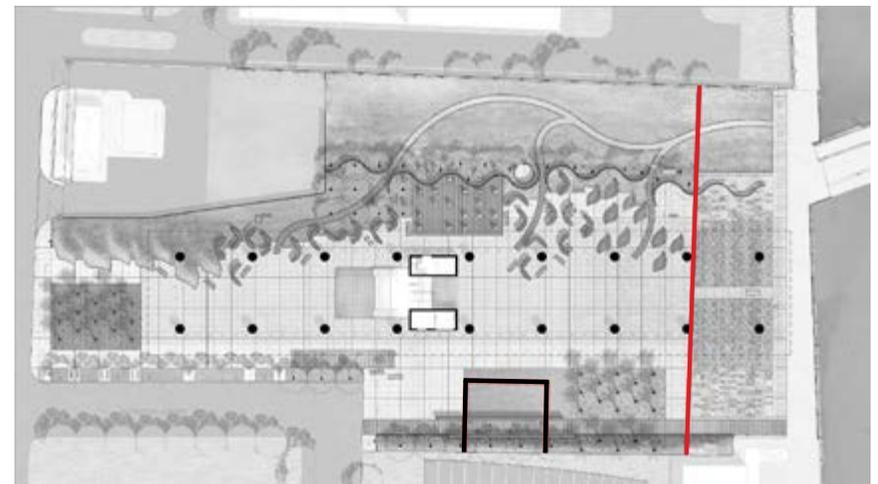
The Tide Tribute will be bordered by the historic line of Gadsden's Wharf.

The water memorial will extend along the eastern edge of the museum, the area closest to the harbor. Guests can interact with the Tide Tribute by walking through the Tidal Path, which carries visitors through the emotional installation. As they travel through the memorial and approach the museum's entrance, they will cross over the Gadsden's Wharf Line, demarcating the historic line of the wharf with a 24-inch wide stainless steel band that extends nearly 200 feet, cutting through the museum's property on a slight diagonal path.

Gadsden's Wharf Line will reflect the sun's natural light as water lightly flows across the hard infinity edge and into a hidden drain. The water that fills and drains from the Tidal Tribute will be recycled in this manner.



*Gadsden's Wharf Line Diagram*



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - Gadsden's Wharf Line*

# THE WAREHOUSE

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Perhaps one of the most moving and historically significant features of the African Ancestors Memorial Garden will be The Warehouse, which will be composed of a number of distinct elements, including the two Granite Mirrors, five Kneeling Statues, the Warehouse Frame, and the Boardwalk.

When enslaved Africans arrived in Charleston, they were often transported to holding areas or storehouses where men, women and children would remain until they were sold.

Over the course of the winter of 1806-1807, hundreds of enslaved Africans were being held in a warehouse at Gadsden's Wharf. There, they awaited the slave market, where they would be auctioned off to the highest bidder. In less than three months, upwards of 700 enslaved Africans died in that warehouse as a result of the harsh weather, close confinement, insufficient food and scant clothing, meeting inhumane and tragic early deaths.

The Warehouse and its carefully designed elements will commemorate those lost lives and give visitors a place to pay homage to their memories as well as to the countless other lives lost to the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The Warehouse Frame, delineated with brick pavers, will outline the historic location of the warehouse. The Frame will encompass a grassy area on the southern side of the museum, where children or families might sit on a breezy day. It will also encompass portions of the Granite Mirrors and the Boardwalk, illustrating the interconnectivity of this group of elements.

The Boardwalk is a long wooden path that stretches along the southernmost border of the African Ancestors Memorial Garden, ushering guests through The Warehouse and the Palm Grove, over The Gadsden's Wharf Line and through the Tide Tribute toward the harbor.

A segment of the Boardwalk will be encapsulated in the Warehouse Frame, leading visitors through the heart of the Warehouse, directly between the Granite Mirrors.

Two rectangular blocks of polished black granite will comprise the Granite Mirrors, which will stand on either side of the Boardwalk. The granite will be buffed to a shine, allowing the stones to function as dark mirrors. As guests move between the Mirrors, they will meet their own reflections as well as those of the Kneeling Statues that are positioned between the Mirrors



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - The Warehouse*

on the section of the Boardwalk that travels between the granite walls.

The five Kneeling Statues, childlike structures cast in molds of concrete, will evoke the spirit of those enslaved Africans who died during the winter of 1806-1807, as well as the hundreds of thousands of lives lost throughout the course of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Guests will interact with these statues as they pass through the Granite Mirrors, offering an opportunity for reflection.

Together, these elements of the Warehouse will deliver a personal, intimate and emotional experience for each person who visits the African Ancestors Memorial Garden.



*The Warehouse*

# STELE TERRACE

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One of the most deliberate and artistic features of the African Ancestors Memorial Garden will be the Stele Terrace. A stele is a stone or slab that sits upright, often featuring inscribed or sculpted surfaces. Steles are often used as monuments or commemorative tablets. They have a long history across a number of cultures: In ancient Greece and Rome, steles were used to communicate government notices or as boundary markers along property lines; in Egypt, they published laws and decrees, recorded the honors of rulers and marked sacred territories; in China, they can be found at most historical sites, including tombs and temples.

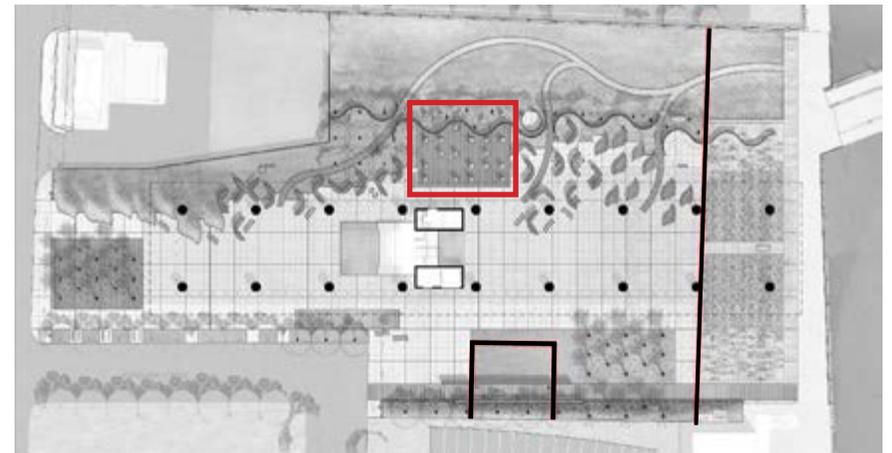
Here, in the Garden, the Stele Terrace will feature about 25 of these structures, some emerging from a wooden deck and others interspersed past the Serpentine Wall that borders it among the foliage. Each stele will be unique, ranging in height from 40 to 72 inches.

This space invites guests to individualize their experiences. Some might see the steles as representative of those who came ashore on the sacred site of Gadsden's Wharf, or as tributes to the lives that were lost on the arduous voyages of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Others might interact with them as altars, leaving small tokens to commemorate their trips, or pausing to reflect near them.

For all, the Stele Terrace will be a meaningful and impactful space as they meander through the emotional land linguistics of the African American Memorial Garden.



*Example of Stele Structures*



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - Stele Terrace*

# SWEETGRASS FIELD

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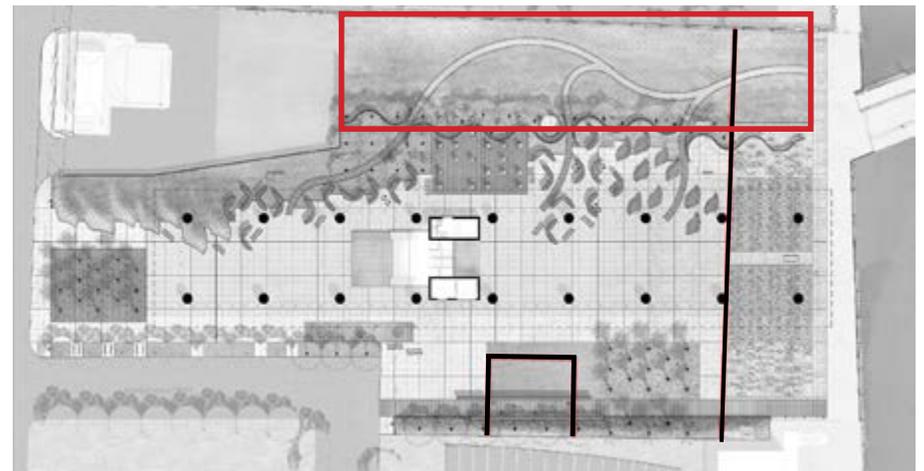
The Sweetgrass Field will extend along the northern border of the African Ancestors Memorial Garden, creating soft movement and delivering a signature Lowcountry greeting with waist-high sweetgrass.

A winding path will direct guests through the field and allow visitors to enter through the Lowcountry Gardens, the Oasis or the Live Oak Grove.

Separated from the other elements of the African Ancestors Memorial Garden by the Serpentine Wall, the field will be a beautiful, secluded place to take a stroll as part of a visit to the International African American Museum.



*Sweetgrass Field*

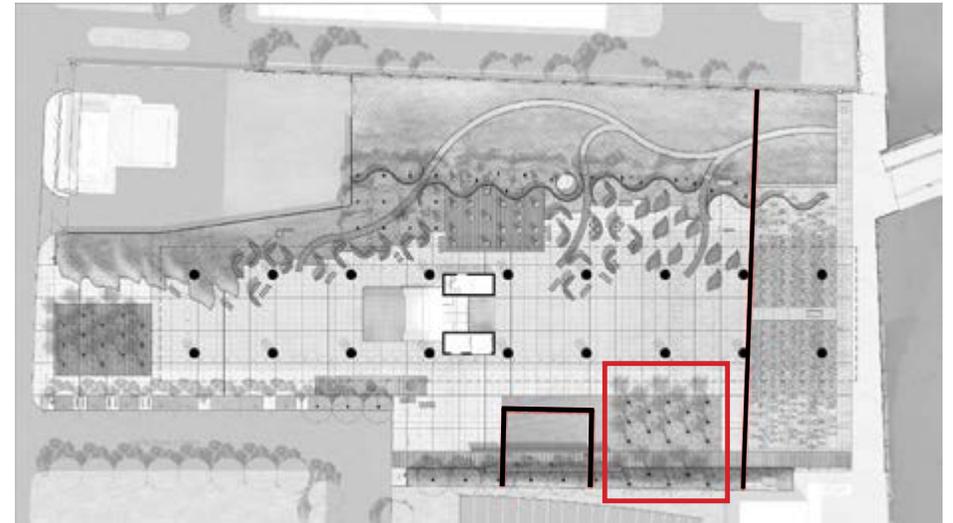


*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - Sweetgrass Field*

# PALM GROVE

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The International African American Museum's landscape architect, Walter Hood, is carefully selecting the flora that surrounds the museum, including the collection of palm trees in the Palm Grove, which will deliver the signature Southern look of the Lowcountry and of South Carolina. Visitors can stroll past this grove on the boardwalk that lines the southernmost side of the African Ancestors Memorial Garden, or seek out some shade under the palm fronds on a warm summer day.



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - Palm Grove*



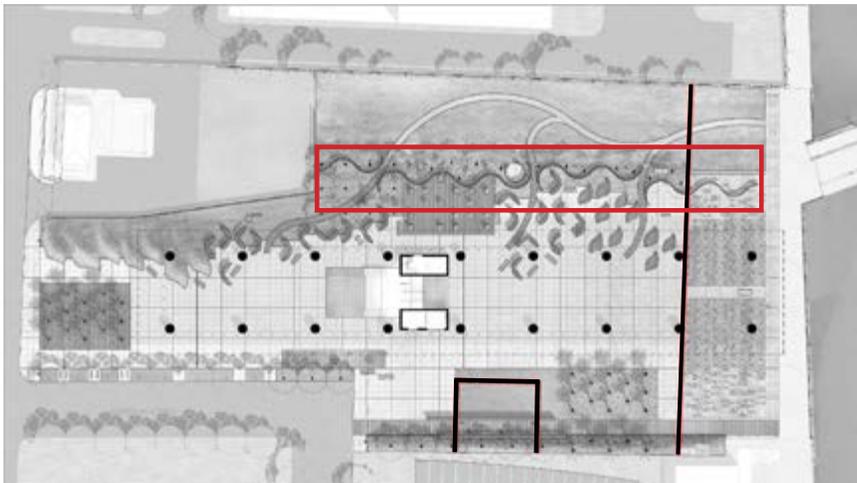
*African Ancestors Memorial Garden - Palm Grove*

# SERPENTINE FACADE

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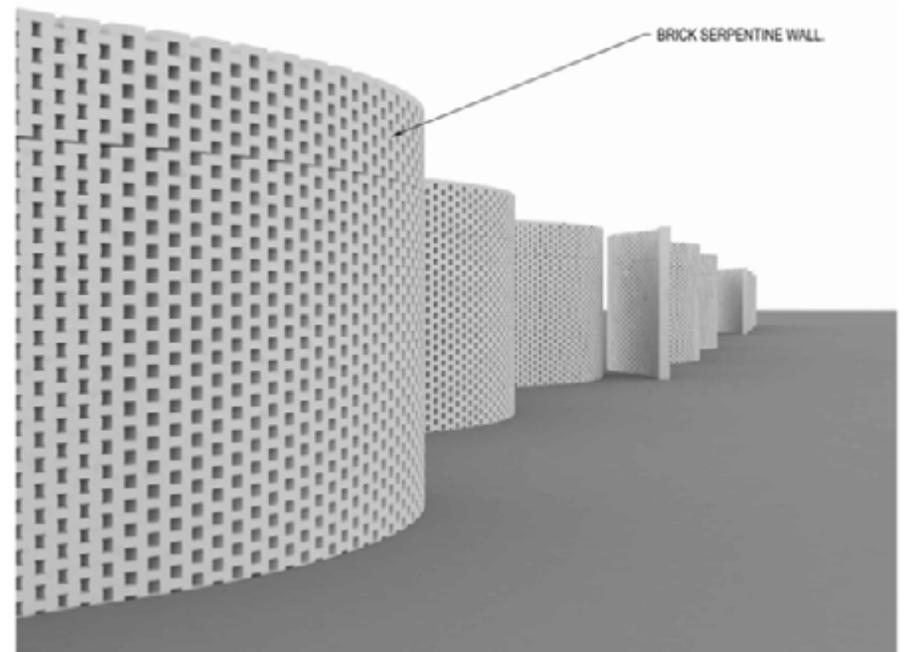
The northern border of the African Ancestors Memorial Garden will be delineated by the Serpentine Façade, constructed with beautiful, light-colored bricks, reminiscent of Charleston’s defining architecture. Broken into four winding walls, each segment of the façade will feature a dynamic mixture of positive and negative space, producing a pattern that gives a nod to the sweetgrass basket weavings found in the Lowcountry.

On the northern side of the pierced wall, the Sweetgrass field – full of soft, waist-high grass – will calmly sway in the wind, and on the southern side, visitors will explore a number of gardens and groves, including the Stele Terrace, the Live Oak Grove, the Oasis and the Lowcountry Gardens.



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - Serpentine Façade*

The negative space in the Serpentine Façade will cast beautiful shadows on either side as the sun rises and falls over the African Ancestors Memorial Garden.



*Serpentine Façade Diagram*

# LOWCOUNTRY GARDEN

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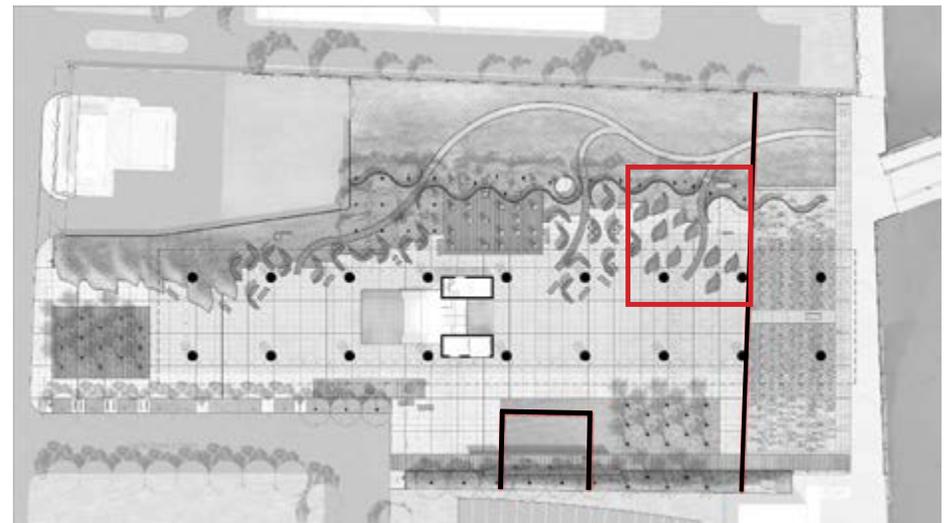
Guests will enjoy the distinct feel and flora of the Lowcountry in this garden. Located at the museum's northeast entrance, with a soothing view of the Tide Tribute, the Lowcountry Garden will provide a beautiful oasis to walk or sit and enjoy the calming ambiance of the African Ancestors Memorial Garden.

The Garden will feature a series of Teardrop Pods, teardrop-shaped storm water planters in a number of variations. The Pods, filled with local plant varieties that thrive in heavily watered conditions, will offer comfortable seating for guests. They will also serve as a functional solution to South Carolina's rainy season, as they collect water during showers and storms.

This open-air space provides soothing views of the Serpentine Wall, which leads out to the Sweetgrass Field. The wall, which curls along the museum's northern side, will be made of light bricks in a pattern that allows guests to see through to the billowing sweetgrass from the Lowcountry Garden. This tranquil space will be a welcome space for visitors to walk through or sit and reflect.



*Lowcountry Garden and Teardrop Pods*



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - Lowcountry Garden*

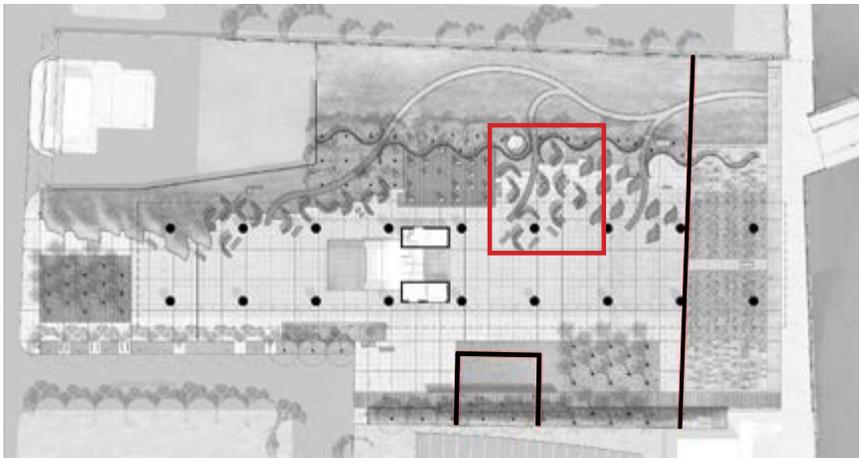
# THE OASIS

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Nestled between the Stele Terrace and the Lowcountry Gardens, The Oasis will provide a quiet, private haven for guests to sit alone or in groups. The Oasis will feature a number of enclaves, created by cast aluminum frames draped in the Lowcountry's signature Spanish moss. There will be Hassocks, modern block seating for individuals, and Convertible Benches, which can be configured in groups of one, two or four and positioned alone or facing each other, providing visitors with a variety of seating options to relax, reflect or read.



*The Oasis*



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - The Oasis*



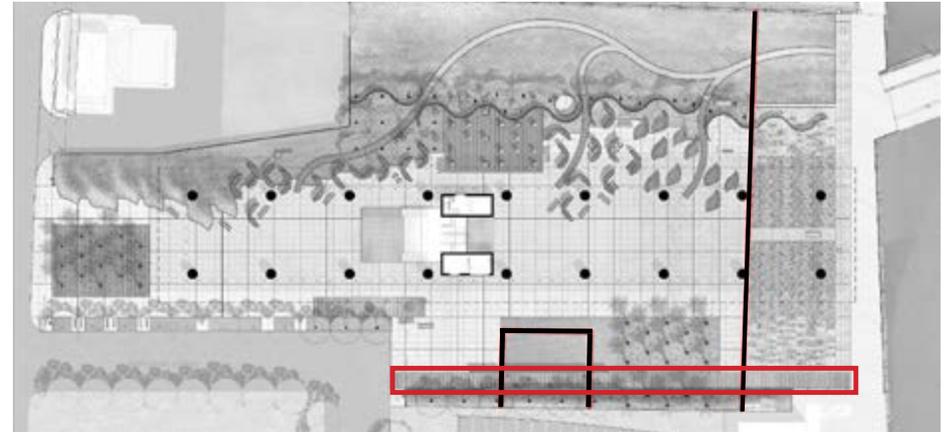
*The Oasis*

# THE BOARDWALK

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The Boardwalk is a long wooden path that stretches along the southernmost border of the African Ancestors Memorial Garden, ushering guests through The Warehouse and the Palm Grove, over the Gadsden's Wharf Line that marks the historic border of the wharf and through the Tide Tribute toward the harbor.

A segment of the Boardwalk will be encapsulated in the Warehouse Frame, leading visitors through the heart of the Warehouse, directly between the Granite Mirrors.

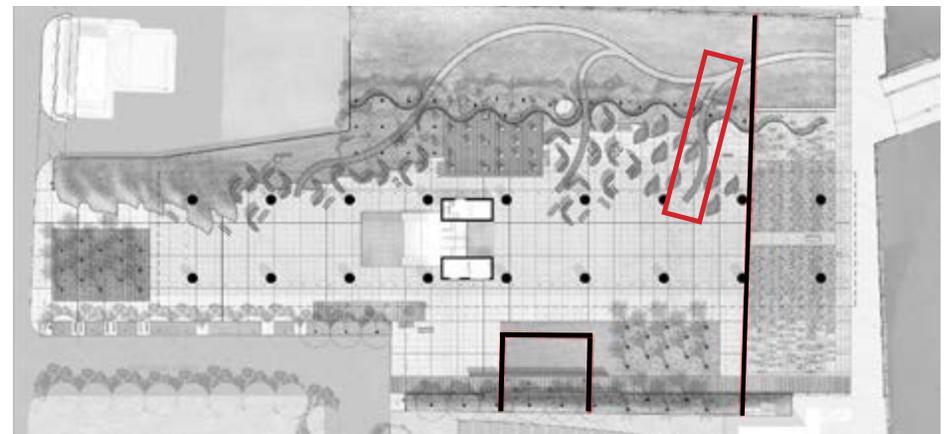


*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - The Boardwalk*

# THE EAST BOARDWALK

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As guests walk toward the museum grounds from the Harbor, they can enter the African Ancestors Memorial Garden through the East Boardwalk. This path carries guests past the Gadsden's Wharf line, through the Serpentine Façade that lines the Garden's perimeter, and into the Lowcountry Garden. There, guests can enjoy the distinct feel and flora of the Lowcountry. Teardrop Pods, storm water planters filled with local plant varieties, will provide comfortable seating.

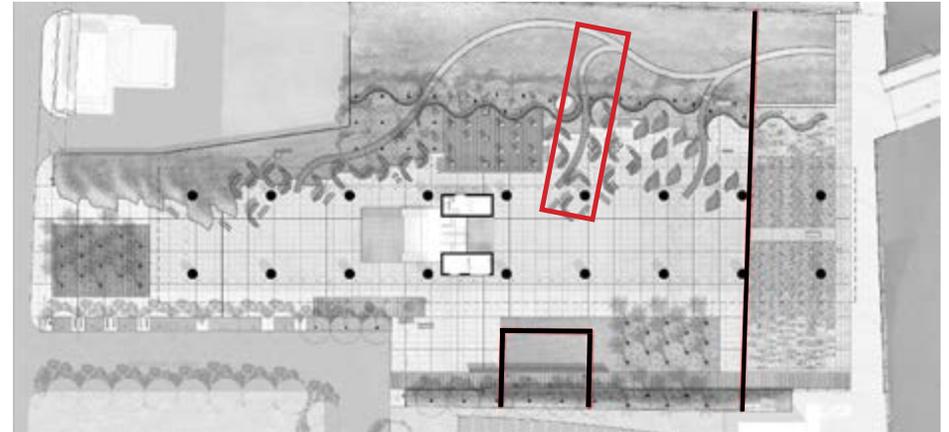


*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - The East Boardwalk*

# THE CENTRAL BOARDWALK

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Visitors may walk over the Central Boardwalk to access the African Ancestors Memorial Gardens through The Oasis, which is nestled between the Stele Terrace and the Lowcountry Gardens. The Oasis will provide a quiet, private haven for guests to sit alone or in groups. The Oasis will feature a number of enclaves, created by cast aluminum frames draped in the Lowcountry's signature Spanish moss.

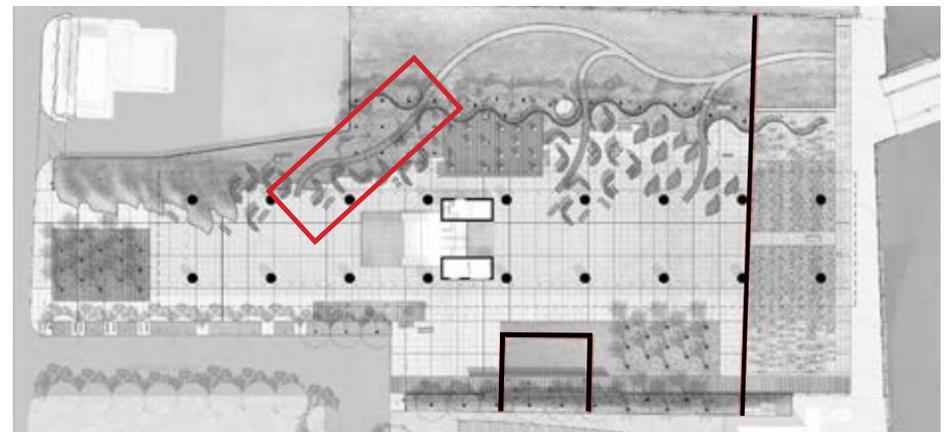


*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - The Central Boardwalk*

# THE WEST BOARDWALK

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If guests are looking for a shady entrance to the African Ancestors Memorial Garden, they can walk along the West Boardwalk. This path traverses the Live Oak Grove. Here, young oaks will be planted, maturing along with the museum over the coming years, providing a beautiful canopy and welcome shade on the museum's grounds.



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - The East Boardwalk*

# TEARDROP PODS

The Lowcountry Gardens will feature a series of Teardrop Pods – teardrop-shaped storm water planters in a number of variations. The planters, filled with local plant species that thrive in heavily watered conditions, will offer comfortable seating for guests. They will also serve as a functional solution to South Carolina’s rainy season, as they collect water during showers and storms.

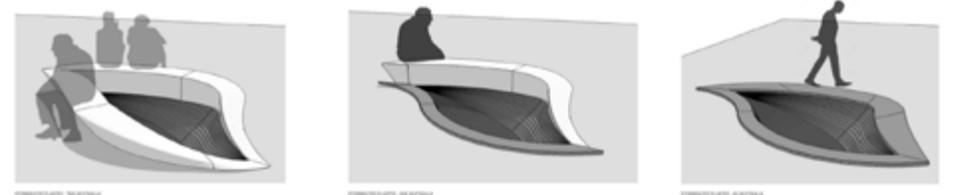
Interspersed throughout the Lowcountry Gardens, the Teardrop Pods offer calming views of the Tide Tribute as it fills and empties throughout the day and the Serpentine Wall, which looks out through a geometric pattern of bricks to the Sweetgrass Fields, where the Lowcountry’s trademark sweetgrass billows gently in the wind.



*Teardrop Pods*



*African Ancestors Memorial Garden Blueprint - Teardrop Pods*



*Variations of Teardrop Pods*