HISTORICAL CONTEXT

PROPOSAL

My proposal is to respond to this current entropic condition, and to intact the ruins of the Knoxville Heritage site, by creating a place that celebrates the curving honesty of what is there. I am re-imagining the six buildings that are currently largely in disuse as well as the interstitial spaces that they form.

A new facility for Knox Heritage, the local not-for-profit historic preservation society, will front the Broadway edge of the site. This facility will include a large event space, an archive, a gallery, market stalls and an outdoor courtyard. Preservation of the existing structures is fundamental to the life of buildings over time is something that is crucial to the project. I want to give them a better physical presence in Knoxville in an area of the city that is currently undergoing rejuvenation. A small café and bar is moving in next door, further activating this block as a revived urban area, day and night.

A community cooperative workshop will address Jennings Ave, and the adjacent industrial neighborhood. Given the nature of the site and its history fitting in with the salvage program at Knox Heritage, the shop will promote the act of re-using and re-framing material with a history, a microcosm of what I am intending to accomplish with the entire site.

A flower shop and greenhouse nursery will face onto Tyson St. and Old Gray Cemetery, linking the landscape interventions on site with the beautiful cemetery grounds.

These three active arms each in their own way address the passage of time and cycles of birth, decay, and new life. They surround the internal courtyard, a place for the community to come together and celebrate the scape that is at the heart of this dialogue with entropy that I am engaging. Finally a public park and bus shelter serve as the sign and entry point for the entire block, beginning a sequence of park spaces that follow the topography of the site, re-introducing permeable surfaces and nature to a site that currently lacks both, at the same time that it reintroduces visitors to the history and character of the site.

Knox Heritage Salvage

Cooperative Workshop

Greenhouse Nursery

Post-Industrial Park

1953 – Pre Highway

1968 – Post Highway

IMAGE DENSITY AND LAND USE

2020 DENSITY AND LAND USE

HISTORICAL FOOTPRINTS (1950-1953)

CURRENT USE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

SITE PARTI

Gently rolling terrain shaded by old gnarly trees marks Old gray as a unique and meditative park space marked by history and time, a reminder of the fragility and beauty of life.

OLD GRAY CEMETERY

Small and pedestrian friendly, Tyson street is a pleasant threshold to Old Gray from the north

TYSON STREET

The existing slope is terraced to hold raised beds for outdoor growing, extending the program of the greenhouse into the public landscape

GREENHOUSE AND FLOWER SHOP

Small access way cutting through south side of block, crossed with cobbled reclaimed surfaces

STONE STREET

A post-industrial outdoor room that fosters a unique atmosphere for both formal and informal events. The concrete floor is removed and historical footprints inform various permeable ground surfaces including gravel, water and grasses.

RUIN GARDEN

Small rock garden with a pool surrounded by a half wall and Little Bluestem grass

SUNKEN COURT

A public square for large or more formal events anchored by a ramp and amphitheater on the north east corner at the intersection of Broadway and Central, which mediate between the levels of the street and the park. A greenwall is constructed along the Broadway edge creating a lush edge to buffer the noise of the street. The ground cover is mostly a patch work semi-permeable gravels as well as reclaimed cobbled material from on site and elsewhere. Little Bluestem is used to highlight the site's current wild nature and reflect a return to natural processes of growth.

PUBLIC COURTYARD

A new bus shelter, widened sidewalk and arcade foster a more pedestrian atmosphere along Broadway

N. BROADWAY

SECTION CC 3/32" = 1'