

Cape Charles Community Art Walk

Master Plan

Cape Charles, VA

January, 2014

DRAFT
PLEASE NOTE - THIS DOCUMENT
WILL BE SENT TO AN EDITOR
PRIOR TO FINALIZATION.



Vision

Cape Charles will be recognized as an arts and cultural destination. Through a variety of performing and visual arts, the town's history, small-town character, cultural destinations, and harbor-side setting come to life. Creative wayfinding encourages pedestrians to discover the many assets of Cape Charles. Art Walk events, supported by local businesses, engage citizens and visitors of all ages while enhancing local commerce and creating a sense of cultural identity.

Cape Charles Community Art Walk Master Plan

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What is an Art Walk?



An Art Walk is...

A celebration of the culture and commerce of a community and the work of its local artists. It is a free event that occurs on a regular basis, such as the first Friday of every month, where local art galleries, museums, businesses, restaurants, and bars collaborate with area artists to display their work. Other activities include live music, dancing, street performers, food and drink, and children's entertainment. Art walks provide an opportunity for citizens to engage in and support the local arts while creating a sense of community culture and identity.





Elements of a Successful Art Walk

A successful art walk is the result of the collaboration and coordination of a number of elements. Engaged businesses, a network of public spaces, live/work artist rental opportunities, and creative wayfinding are all elements of a successful art walk.

Engaged Businesses - Local businesses provide the private infrastructure for an art walk. They are the backbone that supports the event by opening their doors to both artists and onlookers. In turn, art walk participants engage with these organizations and build relationships, which enhances commerce and creates a sense of community.

Network of Spaces - Public spaces create a second layer of support for the art walk. Strategically planned, this network of spaces provides designated areas where entertainers and artists can display their work. Once designated, or created, they add depth to the streetscape environment and can be used as an art walk or other event space.

Live/Work Artist Rental Opportunities - If the local businesses and network of spaces are the backbone to an art walk, then the local artists are its heart. Without artists there is no art walk. Providing spaces where artists can both live and work invites creativity and culture into the community and creates a sense of identity. An art walk, as a result, endorses and supports these local artists.

Creative Wayfinding - Creative wayfinding is also a critical element. It provides consistent, visual cues and direction to help guide participants through the art walk. Wayfinding can be both informative and artistic. Developing the wayfinding elements can generate excitement and promote the inaugural

Introduction

Background

Location & History

The Town of Cape Charles is located in Northampton County on Virginia's Eastern Shore. It sits on a peninsula, bordered by the Chesapeake Bay to the west, King's Creek to the north, and Old Plantation Creek to the southeast. The town has a rich history with numerous natural resources and recreational opportunities.

Cape Charles was laid out in 1884 to serve as the southern rail terminus along the eastern shore and as a transfer point to Norfolk, where barges and ferries completed their journey across the Bay. The town flourished for many years until the 1950s when many of the steamers and ferries moved service to the Kiptopeke Terminal seven miles south. However, freight passage continues to this day and is one of the few such operations in the United States.

The town that grew up around the harbor and railroad yards retains much of its architectural integrity. The town plan consisted of 27 blocks, formed by six north-south streets named for fruits and seven east-west streets named for Virginia statesmen. The most defining feature of the town is the large central block designated as a park, from which four wide streets terminate at the midpoint of each side of the park forming a modified cross axis for convenient park access and town circulation. No other such town plan is known to exist in Virginia. It was designated in 1989 as a National Historic District. The district encompasses nearly all of the town as originally laid out as well as the Sea Cottage Addition, an area to the west of the original town plan that was developed in 1911. The integrity and uniqueness of the town's physical plan, along with the intact architectural fabric, make it one of the best preserved towns of the period in Virginia.

Artist Community

Over the past 15-20 years, Cape Charles has been experiencing a rebirth. The town's cultural elements and beautiful scenery, combined with a laid back, small town atmosphere, encouraged an artist community to blossom. Arts Enter, a non-profit organization, was incorporated in 1997. Its mission is "to encourage and promote education, interest, and appreciation for the fine and performing arts through quality instruction and training and to create positive artistic experiences by providing a safe and professional environment for an under-served and geographically isolated community." Its Board of Directors represent the cultural, educational, and business diversities of the community.

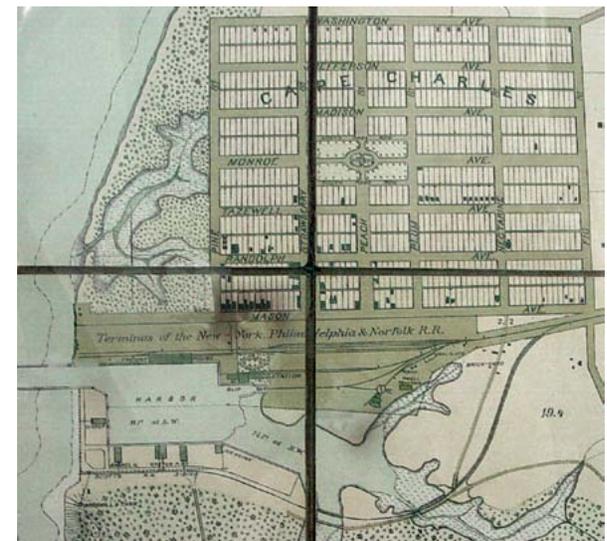
Arts Enter offered their first arts and music education programs in the old Cape Charles High School, courtesy of the town, and a temporary dance studio was established on Mason Ave, thanks to the generosity of Chesapeake Properties. The organization's early productions were held in the Palace Theatre through a rental agreement. Constructed in 1941, the The Palace Theatre was considered one of the finest theatres on the east coast, and is the only remaining Historic Theatre on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

In 1998, Arts Enter purchased the theatre, establishing a central location for the visual and performing arts. This facility is now the heart of culture, entertainment, and instruction in the region. More recently, Arts Enter opened the Stage Door Gallery. The gallery features rotating exhibits from local artists and is host to other events and activities.

Arts Enter performance attendance and program participants have continued to grow to over 8,600

attendees for performances, and over 3,500 participants in youth programs each year. Exciting programs are planned for the Palace Theatre each season, along with an impressive list of class activities in dance, painting, pottery, music, and drama.

In the spring of 2012, the town and Arts Enter partnered to apply for a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant, called *Our Town*. The purpose of the grant is to fund "creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core." Cape Charles was awarded the grant to develop a Community Art Walk. The development of this Art Walk Master Plan, along with the creation of several artist competitions and other events, are funded, in part, through the Our Town grant.



Purpose of This Document

The Art Walk Master Plan will serve as the foundation for the development of the Cape Charles Art Walk. It builds on existing community plans, including the Comprehensive Plan, Harbor Master Plan, Harbor Area Architectural Design Standards, and the Community Trail Master Plan.

With input from stakeholders and the general public, this document identifies five key activity areas within the town, where the main art walk events will take place. The key activity areas form a walkable network of public spaces that, on certain days of the year, will act as a canvas for the performing and visual arts. These public art displays, entertainment, and activities will foster citizen engagement with the arts while creating a sense of culture and strengthening the local business community. Within each activity area, specific infrastructure improvements are identified that will enhance the art walk experience.

This document will be a component of the Arts Conceptual Master Plan, a plan that will detail a variety of events, venues, and competitions to bring the arts alive in Cape Charles. It will also function as an amendment to the Cape Charles Community Trail Master Plan.

Project Goals

During the preliminary stages of this project the following goals were identified:

Promote Cape Charles as an Arts and Cultural Destination

Build on the identity of Cape Charles as an arts and cultural destination, inspired by the small-town, harbor side setting. Animate these locations and this art walk by encouraging, coordinating, and hosting arts activities.

Consensus Building and Engagement

Engage all stakeholders to create a vision for the Cape Charles Art Walk - an engaging pathway with public art, entertainment, activities, and interesting wayfinding signage. Through creative asset mapping, explore the potential of currently under- utilized cultural assets related to the arts.

Identification of Alignment Opportunities

Build on the recommendations of other community plans to evaluate and determine the route for the town-wide art walk. Identify key activity areas that will support a successful art walk and offer a variety of venue opportunities. Recommend specific physical improvements that are needed to enhance each activity area.

Creative Wayfinding and Supporting Elements

Explore ideas for creative directional and informative signage and other supporting elements to showcase Cape Charles's cultural and historical qualities in unique ways.

Partners

A successful art walk requires the collaboration of a variety of organizations. This collaboration has already begun between the primary partners listed below. These partners will be involved in coordinating the events, engaging the citizens and businesses, and providing volunteer support during events. The secondary partners listed below can be approached to help support specific art walk events and activities.

Primary Partners

- Arts Enter Cape Charles
- Cape Charles Business Association
- Citizens for Central Park
- Town of Cape Charles

Secondary Partners

- Bay Bloomers and Master Gardeners Club
- Bay Creek
- Bay Shore Concrete
- Cape Charles Rotary
- Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel
- Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore
- Cape Charles Yacht Club
- Developers
- Eastern Shore Art League
- Eastern Shore Community College
- Eastern Shore Community Foundation
- Eastern Shore Tourism
- Friends of the Cape Charles Library
- Local artists and musicians
- New Roots Youth Garden
- Northampton County Chamber of Commerce
- Preservation Virginia
- The Bed and Breakfast Association
- Virginia Universities, particularly in Hampton Roads

Setting the Stage

Existing Cultural Elements

The Town of Cape Charles offers numerous cultural elements that set the stage for a vibrant and unique arts experience for both artists and spectators. When linked together, these elements offer an exciting network of spaces for a variety of different artistic platforms and exhibitions.



The Beach



The Railroad Tracks



The Kellogg Building



The Chesapeake Bay



The Palace Theatre



Mason Avenue



The Train Depot



Sunsets



Strawberry Street



Central Park



The Harbor

Art Walk Vision

Cape Charles - a historic, small town where the sun sets on the Chesapeake Bay and sailboats rest in a friendly harbor - will continue to become an arts and cultural destination.

Less than an hour's drive or boat ride from the Hampton Roads area, reachable by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, one of the seven engineering wonders of the modern world, this small town will be a multi-faceted gem. People will know that Cape Charles is the place to escape and create in this harbor of hospitality.

Through workshops hosted by Arts Enter Cape Charles, artists will come here from around the world to create work and engage both the local and tourist community in the artistic process, from conception to presentation.

A town-wide Art Walk, delineated by a creative wayfinding system, will allow pedestrians to discover the town's historical and cultural assets. This pathway will link the vibrant arts district, anchored by the Historic Palace Theatre and the Strawberry Street Plaza, to other landmarks including: the beach, the bay with its legendary sunsets, the unique deep water harbor with regular tall ships visitors, Central Park, Bay Creek Resort and Club (including the marina), and other significant architecture and historical areas. Shopping, dining, and small town culture can be found along the way.

Local developers will benefit by sharing and contributing to this vision. For example, the former Bayshore Market building might become a sustainably-designed adaptive reuse live/work apartment, where artists can rent by the week, month, season, or year, and even display their work in the lobby space. Physical fitness and recreational activities will be a way of life; walking paths, parks, golf courses, and water sports will be accessible by all.

On designated days during the summer months, the town will come alive with arts and culture. Local businesses will feature engaging promotions and stay open late, offer wine and cheese, and feature special guests such as poets, musicians, or artists. Musicians will play in the town's two gazebos and on street corners. A lively farmers market will provide fresh produce from neighboring farms, flowers, and local goods, including offerings from the New Roots Youth Garden. Community gardens will showcase native plants. The pedestrian friendly Strawberry Street Plaza will be lively with puppeteers, music, and children's activities. The Palace Theatre will host open mic nights and maritime-themed movies. The artist leading and participating in the workshops, hosted by Arts Enter, will present their work in a creative way, often using unexpected spaces not usually used for such purposes, such as a public art project on the beach or a poetry reading on a railway car.

The Stage Door Gallery will host a plein air competition which encourages artistic exploration all over town, particularly of the now famous Chesapeake Bay sunsets, harbor scenes, local architecture, street scenes, and the

tall ships - immortalizing the town forever. During the winter months, the Palace will continue to be an arts hub for the town, hosting a full season of events and classes, as well as featuring Live at the Palace Sunday afternoon recording sessions for touring bands and cinema.

The Arts Conceptual Master Plan, developed by the citizens and adopted by Town Council, will outline a realistic action plan to ensure that creative placemaking continues to grow the economy of Cape Charles for years to come. The community will be engaged and will continue to work with the town, and funding sources, to push this plan toward implementation.



Types of Art & Activities

- Music
- Dance
- Film
- Children's Entertainment
- Workshops
- Public art on the beach
- Quick draw painting
- En plein air competitions related to the town's cultural elements
- Live at the Palace recording sessions
- Poetry reading on a railway car
- Local wine & beer tasting
- Farmers market
- Community Gardens
- Puppeteers
- Street Performers



Alignment, Activity Areas, & Supporting Elements

Art Walk Alignment

In 2003, the town began its vision for developing a trail to connect its various destination points including: the deepwater harbor, historic district, business district, beach, town park, and museum. The town recognized the value of trails and began the development of a community wide trail system. Through local, state, and federal funding, the Trail Master Plan was developed and implementation began. Building on the town's inherent historic character, the trail links residents and visitors to the town's many interesting destinations.

This network provides the structural framework for the art walk. While the trail implementation is not complete, most portions follow along existing traversable sidewalks that are only in need of upgrading. As the remaining phases are completed, the Trail Master Plan and Art Walk Master Plan will work together to further enhance Cape Charles's identity as a cultural and recreational destination enlivened by the arts.

Activity Areas

During the planning process, stakeholders identified several key areas for art walk activities. Each of these offer varying opportunities for art displays and performances. During large events they may all have exhibits and activities. Smaller events may focus in one or more areas depending on the theme of the event. A creative wayfinding system will be utilized to identify areas participating in the art walk.

The five identified activity areas are listed in the next column. On the following pages, each area is described in more detail, discussing opportunities and constraints,

along with recommended infrastructure improvements to enhance the art walk experience.

Gateway

The primary gateway into town, housing the Cape Charles Museum.

Business District

Historical and current center of commerce with historic architecture and streetscape elements.

The Beach

Expansive white sandy beaches with views of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Harbor

Vibrant working harbor and maritime gateway into town.

Central Park

Historic central open space recently renovated to host a variety of events.

Supporting Elements

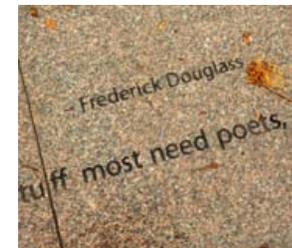
Communities can further support the arts and exemplify the cultural character of the town by thinking about common streetscape and building elements in new ways. Artistic bike racks, building murals, permanent sculptures, and hardscape engravings commemorating historical events, buildings, or activities are all ways communities can enliven the artistic character of their town and create a sense of identity. There are many opportunities to incorporate these elements along the art walk. As public and private properties are improved, these types of elements should be encouraged.

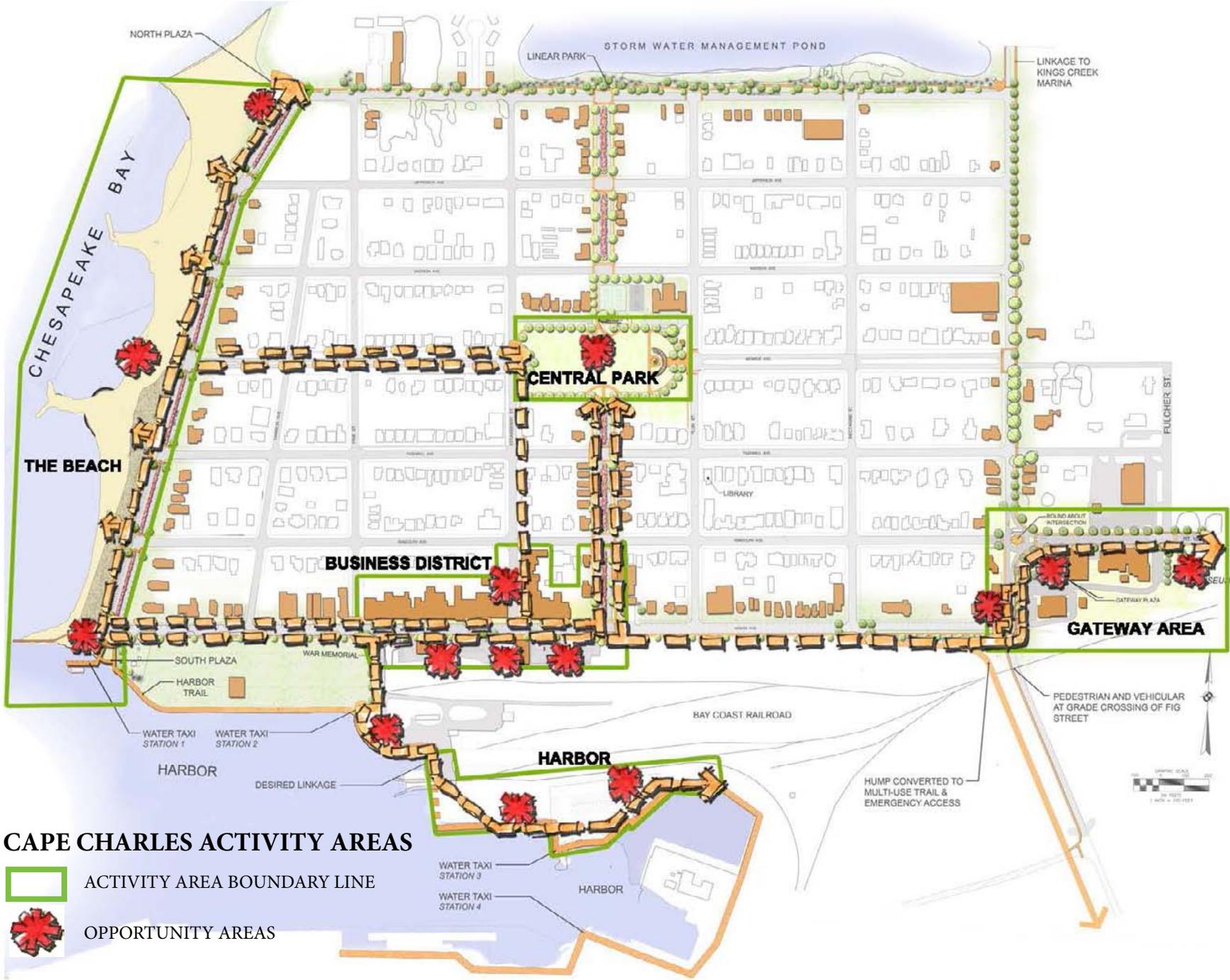
Wayfinding

An informative and artistic wayfinding system is an important element of the art walk. It provides consistent, visual cues and direction to help guide participants through the art walk. Both permanent and temporary wayfinding elements are recommended for Cape Charles. These elements should be designed simultaneously, as they are proposed to be co-located in each activity area.

The permanent wayfinding element would house a town map. The need for a town map has been identified in several town planning processes. Its design and location, in association with temporary art walk markers, will provide consistency throughout the town's wayfinding program.

For the temporary art walk markers, the use of an iconic feature, one that celebrates the culture of Cape Charles, is proposed. One idea for this feature is a large symbolic mast arm with sail. This feature would be erected in each activity area during events to mark the presence of event activities occurring. It should also be able to house temporary event flyers that describe the specific activities available within each activity area. A local artist competition is proposed to further develop this feature and/or explore others.





CAPE CHARLES ACTIVITY AREAS

-  ACTIVITY AREA BOUNDARY LINE
-  OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Activity Area Recommendations

Gateway

Two transportation corridors provide access to the town from Rt. 13. The most heavily traveled is Rt. 184, a two lane roadway with paved shoulders. This roadway serves as the primary gateway into town, intersecting the original town grid at Fig Street and Randolph Avenue.

The Cape Charles Museum marks the beginning of this gateway. It is located in a 1947, late industrial deco-style building that served as an electric power generating station for 40 years. This cultural resource has the opportunity to effectively set the stage for art and culture in Cape Charles.

The Community Trail Master Plan recommends sidewalk improvements along Fig Street and both sides of Rt. 184 to serve existing and future commercial development in this area. A round-about is proposed at the intersection of Fig Street and Randolph Avenue to

improve pedestrian and vehicular safety. The following recommendations for this area, related to the art walk, build on these planned improvements.

Town Map and Art Walk Marker

The Cape Charles Museum serves as a welcome center during operating hours. The addition of a wayfinding element at this location is proposed. This will encourage patronage of this important cultural asset and provide information to visitors about the town's other destinations even when the museum is closed.

Art Walk Event Space

The museum lot is large enough to serve as a location for a variety of art walk events. The renovated depot is an ideal location for art exhibits and poetry readings. Oral history lectures could be held in the railcar exhibit. Larger, theme-oriented events that build upon the characteristics of the site are also possible. Those might include events centered around the history of the town

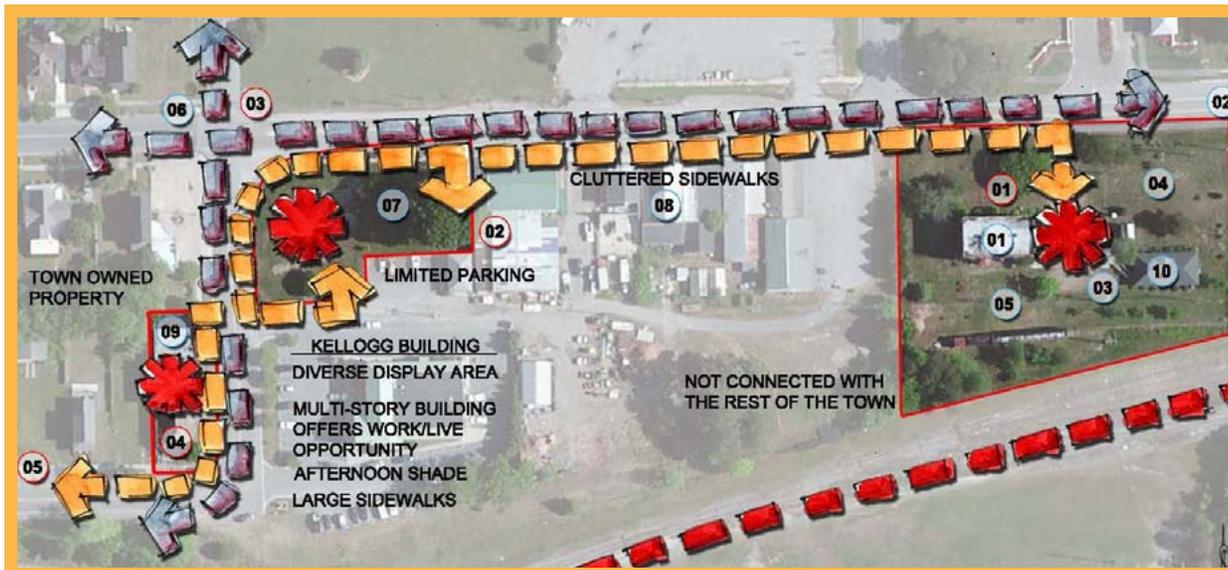
or illustrating trends in power generation.

Commissioned Art Piece

The proposed round-about at the intersection of Fig Street and Randolph Avenue provides a perfect location for a commissioned, welcoming art piece. An open design competition can be utilized to select the artist.

Community Youth Garden

The southeast corner of Rt. 184 and Fig Street is town-owned property. The New Roots Youth Garden is currently in this location. Community gardens, a form of art themselves, are recognized as a great way to cultivate vibrant communities as well as provide citizens access to fresh, local produce. Reorganizing the layout of the garden to respond to the intersection will enhance this important gateway and make the garden more inviting to pedestrians. By doing so, it has the opportunity to become both an informal and formal art walk events venue.



Opportunities:

1. Location of the Cape Charles Museum
2. First large building when entering town
3. Historical and cultural significance
4. Large open space with shade tree
5. Rail car
6. Gateway intersection
7. Possible connection
8. Existing Kellogg building - live/work opportunity
9. Reconstructed depot - art display opportunity

Constraints:

1. Limited parking for visitors
2. Day use only
3. No existing sidewalks
4. Existing condition/retrofitting the Kellogg building
5. Distance to business district



A VEHICULAR GATEWAY ELEVATION



VEHICULAR GATEWAY

Activity Area Recommendations

Business District

Mason Avenue, the town's primary commercial corridor, forms the southern boundary of the original town grid. The two blocks on Mason Avenue, to the east and west of Strawberry Street, house the majority of the commercial businesses. Most of the commercial buildings lie on the north side of the road, as the southern side of Mason Avenue was owned by the railroad. To take advantage of views of the historic buildings, the community trail is proposed on the south side of Mason Avenue. It is envisioned as a widened sidewalk with curb bump outs and enhanced crosswalks at key intersections to safely facilitate pedestrian movement and improve vehicular sight lines. These improvements will also enhance the art walk experience in this area. Other recommendations for the art walk include the following:

Strawberry Street Plaza

Strawberry Street, a growing commercial corridor with a variety of art, wine, and food venues is the location of current art walk events, and should continue to serve as the anchor for future events. The Strawberry Street Plaza concept first originated with the 2007 Comprehensive Plan Update. The block of Strawberry Street between Mason Avenue and Randolph Avenue was envisioned as a pedestrian plaza. There has been much discussion regarding the opportunities and constraints of this idea.

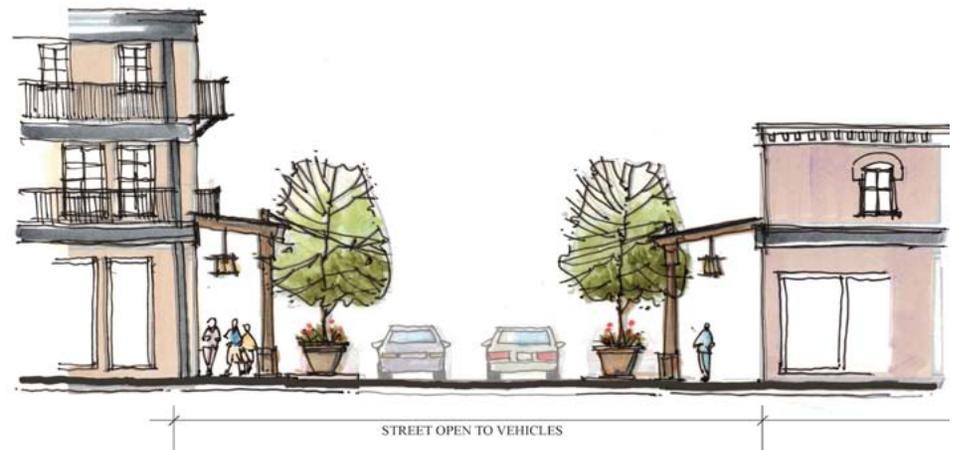
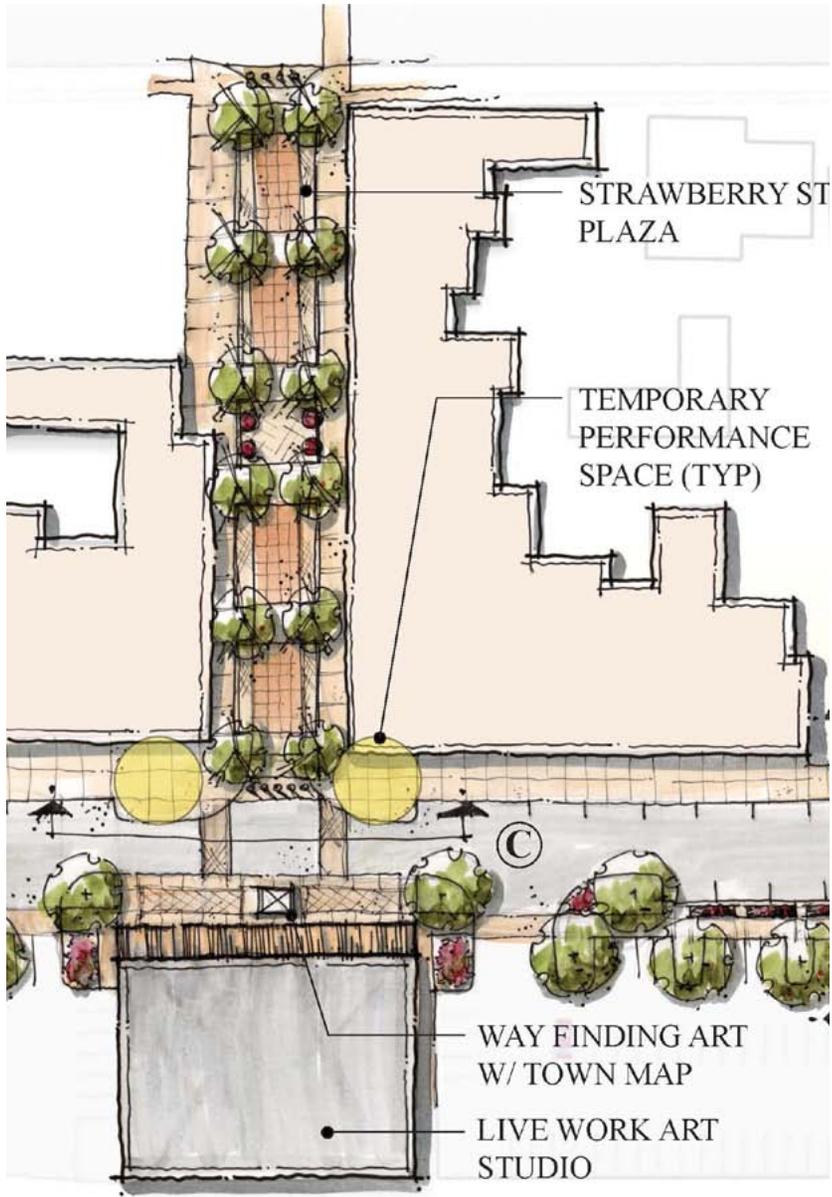
Instead of permanently closing Strawberry Street to vehicular traffic, where parking dependence is high and pedestrian volumes are low, a modified, more pedestrian-friendly streetscape is proposed. Through the removal of curbs, and the strategic placement of paving patterns to delineate vehicular travel lanes and parking areas, the dominance of the car will be minimized and the

pedestrian environment enhanced. Most of the time the block would operate as it does now, like a typical street, but during events, the block would be closed to vehicles and the paving patterns that once delineated vehicular travel lanes would now delineate event activity areas.

The overhead power lines on the east side of Strawberry Street would be removed and trees would be planted to provide respite from the summer sun. The possibility of providing covered areas adjacent to the buildings, to establish more of a human scale in the space, as well as provide shade was also explored. These improvements will expand the success of the commercial establishments along this block out into the streetscape, transforming the corridor into an inviting outdoor market and event space. (See the concept plan and elevations on the next page).



Add more labels to plan.



STRAWBERRY ST. ELEVATION
MODIFIED STRAWBERRY STREET SECTION - ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT WHILE PRESERVING VEHICULAR PASSAGE AND PARALLEL PARKING



STRAWBERRY ST. ELEVATION
MODIFIED STRAWBERRY STREET SECTION - ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT PROVIDES A TRANSFORMABLE PEDESTRIAN SPACE WITHOUT VEHICLES DURING EVENTS

Activity Area Recommendations

Business District Continued

Farmers Market Location

The parking lot stalls, adjacent to the south side of Mason Avenue, are proposed for farmers market vendor parking. Vendors can back their trucks up to the widened sidewalk where farmers market patrons can easily access the product. (See the Mason St. Elevation on the following page). This proposal will require coordination with the parking lot owner. During events, this location also establishes activities on both sides of the street.

Temporary Performance Spaces

The curb bump outs proposed on either side of Peach Street and Pine Street will provide opportunities for

temporary, small performance spaces during events, enlivening the corridor.

Town Map and Art Walk Marker

A town map and art walk marker are proposed on the south side of Mason Avenue at the end of Strawberry Street. This marks the center of activity in the downtown area and signifies the importance of the Strawberry Street Corridor.

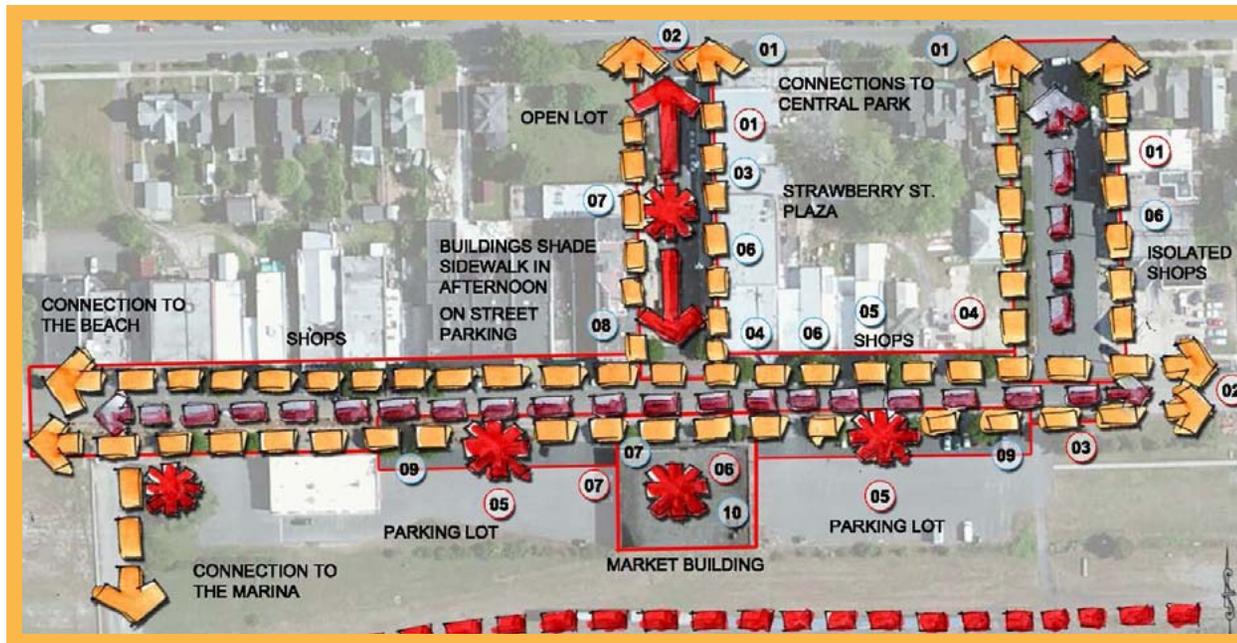
Commissioned Art Piece

A commissioned art piece is proposed on the south side of Mason Avenue at the end of Peach Street. Peach Street is the historically dominant north-south corridor of the original town grid and the connection point for the community trail between the business district

and Central Park. The park can also be accessed by Strawberry Street, but this connection should be a secondary one to preserve the integrity of the historic town grid pattern.

Live/Work Artist Space

One of the few buildings on the south side of Mason Avenue has been vacant for many years. It sits at the end of Strawberry Street and its new owners are open to ideas for its future use. This building could be transformed into live/work artist studios for traveling artists.

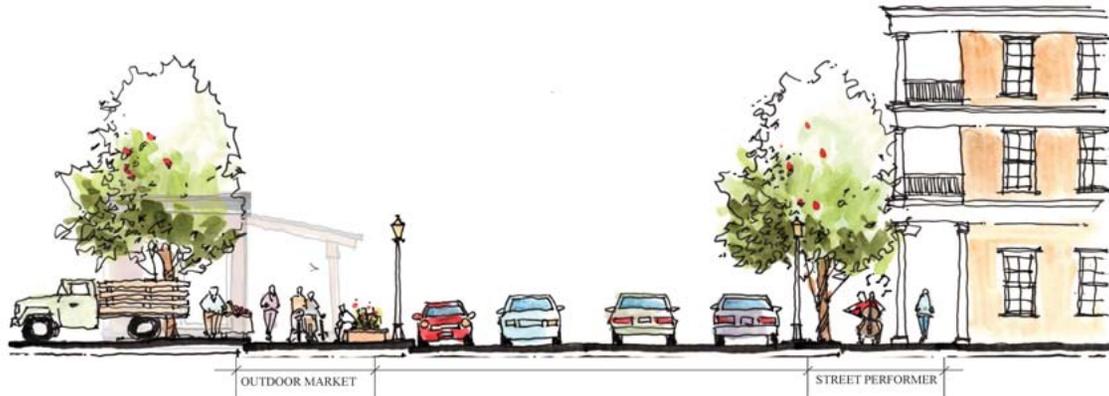


Opportunities:

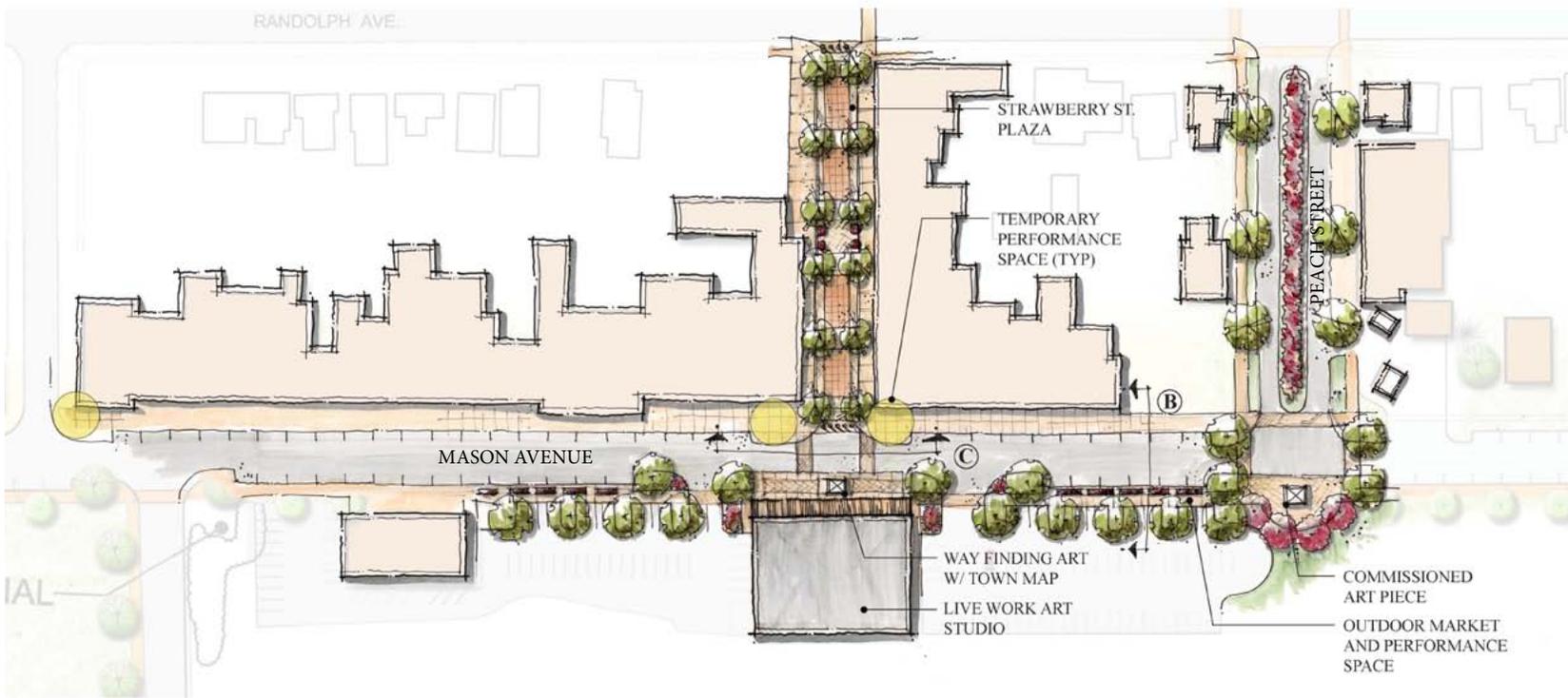
1. Access to Central Park
2. Strawberry Street corridor - pedestrian space
3. Art, wine, & food venues
4. Palace Theatre
5. Centralized location
6. Additional street tree planting
7. Wide sidewalks
8. Existing crosswalks
9. Farmers market
10. Live/work art studios

Constraints:

1. No protection from afternoon sun
2. Under-developed fringe
3. Possible sidewalk improvements
4. Vacant lot
5. Farmers market would limit available parking



B MASON ST. ELEVATION



COMMERCIAL DISTRICT



Activity Area Recommendations

The Beach

Bay Avenue forms the western edge of the Sea Cottage addition. This area quickly became the prominent residential area, with stately homes built facing the bay. Parking on either side of Bay Avenue provides access to the beach. A concrete boardwalk replaced the original wooden boardwalk that ran the entire length of Bay Avenue on the beach side. During special

events, the southern portion of the roadway is closed and the historic pavilion at the end of Randolph Avenue, originally built in 1922 and reconstructed in 1991, is used for performances.

The southern terminus of Bay Avenue is a natural gathering point. This area provides access to the Fun Pier, a popular spot for fishing and bird watching, and interpretative signage about the Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater, the 6th largest impact crater on earth.

The beach offers opportunities for unique art walk activities and exhibits. Natural elements such as drift wood, sand, and shells can be used as media. There is also an opportunity to combine sports with the arts such as wind surfing and kite flying.

Trail improvements in this area provide ADA accessibility to the boardwalk and beach at several

locations. Art walk activities and events held prior to these improvements should be strategically located to accommodate ADA accessibility. The following recommendations are made for the art walk in this area.

Performance Space

The ideal performance space in this area is the historic pavilion at the end of Randolph St. It offers an elevated platform, and with the street closed, ample gathering space for spectators.

Commissioned Art

A commissioned art piece is proposed for the west side of Bay Avenue at the end of Monroe Avenue. Monroe Avenue is the historically dominant east-west corridor of the original town grid. A unique art piece, exemplifying the character of this area, will further enhance the town's artistic and historic identity.

Town Map and Art Walk Marker

The town map and art walk marker for this area is proposed at the end of Mason Avenue. This location is chosen to take advantage of the natural gathering activities and to provide a clear sight line from the Business District.

Art Exhibits and Interactive Space

The Trail Master Plan proposes covered structures on the west side of Bay Avenue at the end of each intersecting street. These areas, along with the expansive beach and bay, are proposed for various art exhibits and interactions.



Opportunities:

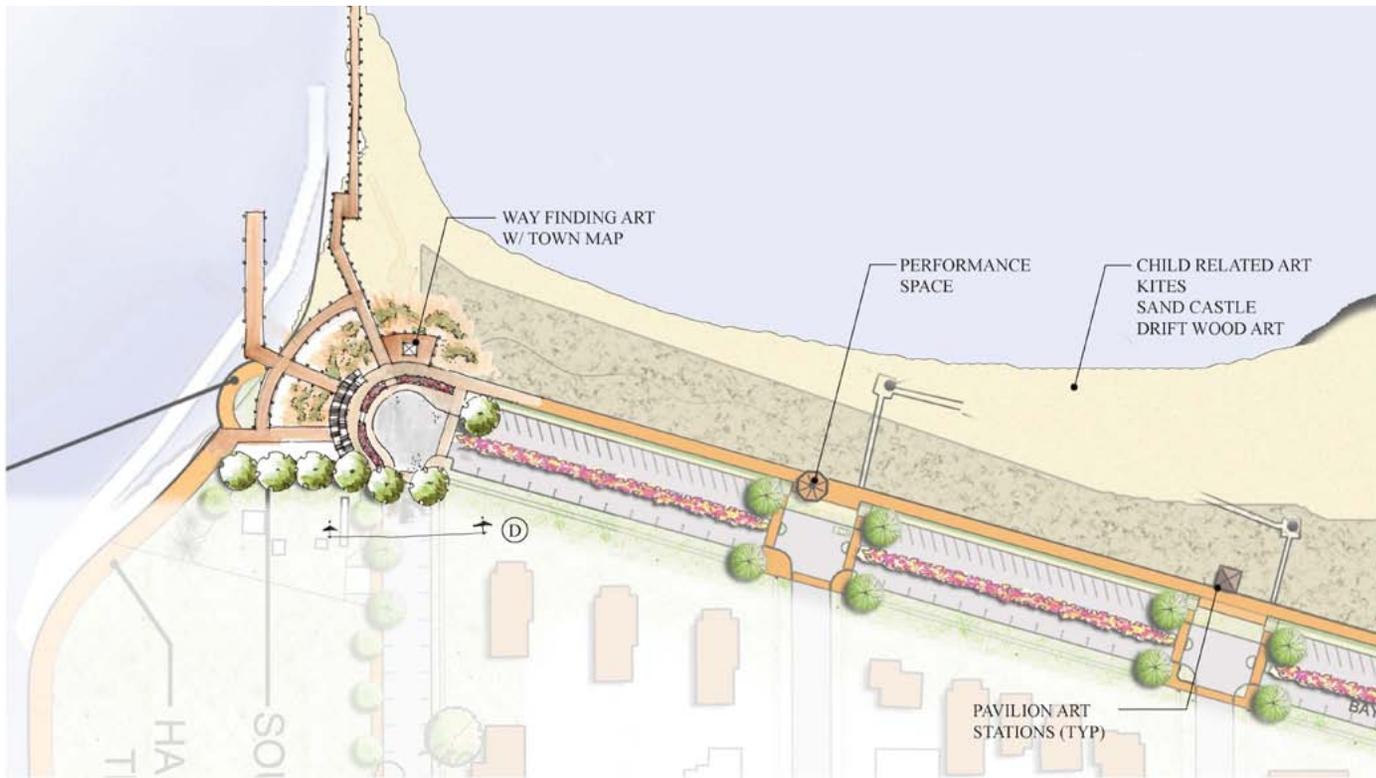
1. Existing restroom facilities
2. Historical Site
3. Existing pier
4. Existing gazebo - performance space
5. Existing sidewalks and parking
6. Cool breezes from bay
7. Existing boardwalks to beach
8. Beach events, i.e. sand castle, drift wood
9. Natural gathering and sight line to business district
10. Views of bay
11. Street closures during event

Constraints:

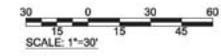
1. Dunes create visual barrier
2. ADA accessibility - access to and mobility on beach
3. Length of beach, isolation
4. Isolation from Business District



D MASON AVE. ELEVATION



BAY AVENUE



Activity Area Recommendations

The Harbor

The Cape Charles harbor has played a vital role in the town since its inception, and to this day it still serves as an important gateway into town. Transient vessels frequent the harbor throughout the year. To support this activity, the town has made significant improvements to its harbor. It now hosts a unique mix of commercial, industrial, and recreational vessels in its protective basin with 95 slips and 1,200 feet of dock. A new restaurant and restroom facility has recently been constructed and plans for a new harbor master building and market are in the works.

This unique, non-segregated harbor offers an interesting mix of industry, art, and culture. The still active railroad to freight operations, and the regular tall ships

that call Cape Charles home, can inspire many types of art forms. Visitors can watch fishermen off-load daily catches of blue crabs, conchs, fish, and shark, to name a few. The following recommendations are proposed for the area.

Event Space

Several very successful events have taken place at the harbor. Large, currently vacant, town-owned property adjacent to the harbor provides ample space for big events. As additional phases of the Harbor Master Plan are executed, formal performance and vendor spaces will be implemented.

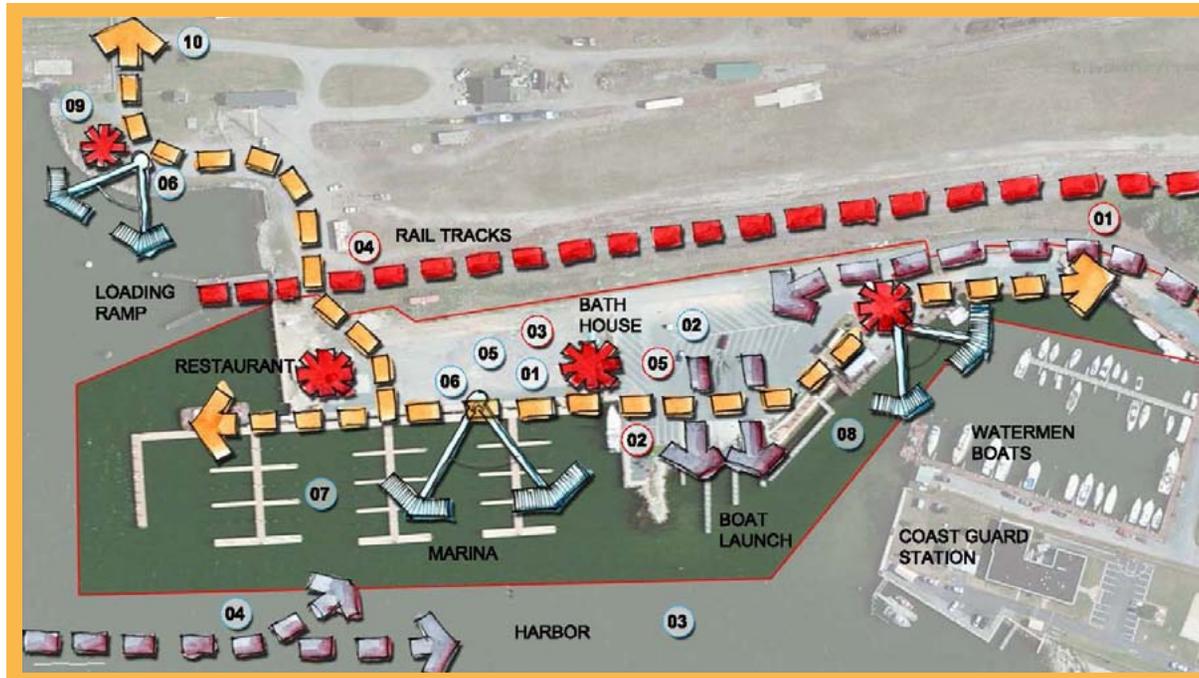
Mobile Wayfinding System

The town's business district is just a short walk from the harbor, although, there is no formal pedestrian or vehicular route between the two. The owners of

the railroad have been hesitant to provide a right of passage across their property due to safety and liability concerns. However, during special events, pedestrian passage has been granted. To enhance this temporary, but important, connection, a mobile wayfinding system is recommended.

Town Map and Art Walk Marker

Visitors to the town's harbor are often confused about how to get to the business district. It is clearly visible from the harbor, but without any formal connection visitors are frequently discouraged. A town map located in the vicinity of the restroom and proposed harbor master building is proposed. It will likely encourage individuals to explore the business district and other assets Cape Charles has to offer. In association with the map, the art walk marker, when erected, will be visible from the business district.



Opportunities:

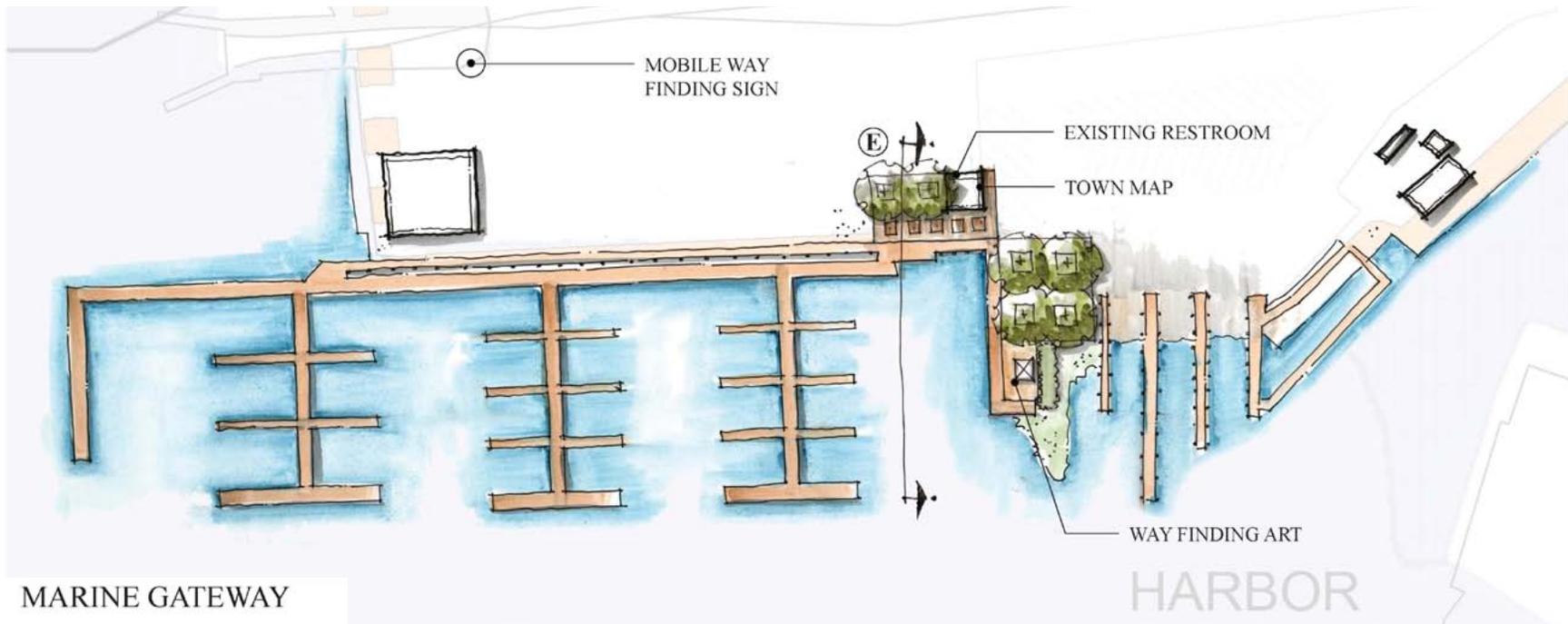
1. Seafood market
2. Public access / town owed property
3. Stage for events, i.e. Tall Ships
4. Portal into town
5. Large open space
6. Views of Marina/Harbor
7. Cool breezes off water
8. Maritime atmosphere
9. Public art location
10. Connection to business district

Constraints:

1. Disconnection from town
2. No protection from the sun
3. Large area of low diversity, space is not defined
4. Rail track bisects harbor area from town
5. Conflicts with boat ramp access



E MARINE GATEWAY ELEVATION



Activity Area Recommendations

Central Park

Recent renovations to the park have re-established the importance of this central open space to the community and its history. As originally envisioned, this space serves as a central, open green space for town citizens. Wide boulevards, radiating from the center of each side, provide convenient park access and town circulation. Four nodes mark these connections and accentuate the pattern of the town's historic layout. A trail encircles the park and links the four nodes together. The park provides opportunities for both passive and active recreation, as well as a venue for large events. Recommendations related to the art walk are described in the next column.

Large Events & Performance Space

A major consideration during the park's recent renovation was to develop an ideal space for large community events. As such, performance spaces are located on both the east and west sides of the park and the large central open space provides ample area for spectators. Four nodes invite the surrounding community into the park, as well as provide space for vendors during events. Plenty of on-street parking is provided along the surrounding streets. The park is the ideal location for large outdoor performances.

Temporary Art Display

The park is also able to support more passive art walk events and activities. The park's large, central, open

space provides an uncluttered setting for a temporary art display. Various art pieces could be displayed adjacent to the path while still leaving ample space in the center of the park for open play.

Town Map and Art Walk Marker

The town map and art walk marker are proposed at the western node along Strawberry St. From here, a clear line of sight is provided to the Strawberry Street Plaza. The art walk marker in this location will draw individuals from the business district to the park during events.



Opportunities:

1. On-street parking
2. Restroom facility
3. Existing gazebo - performance space
4. Paved nodes - exhibit space
5. Large central open space for events

Constraints:

1. Separated from Business District





F SCULPTURE GARDEN ELEVATION