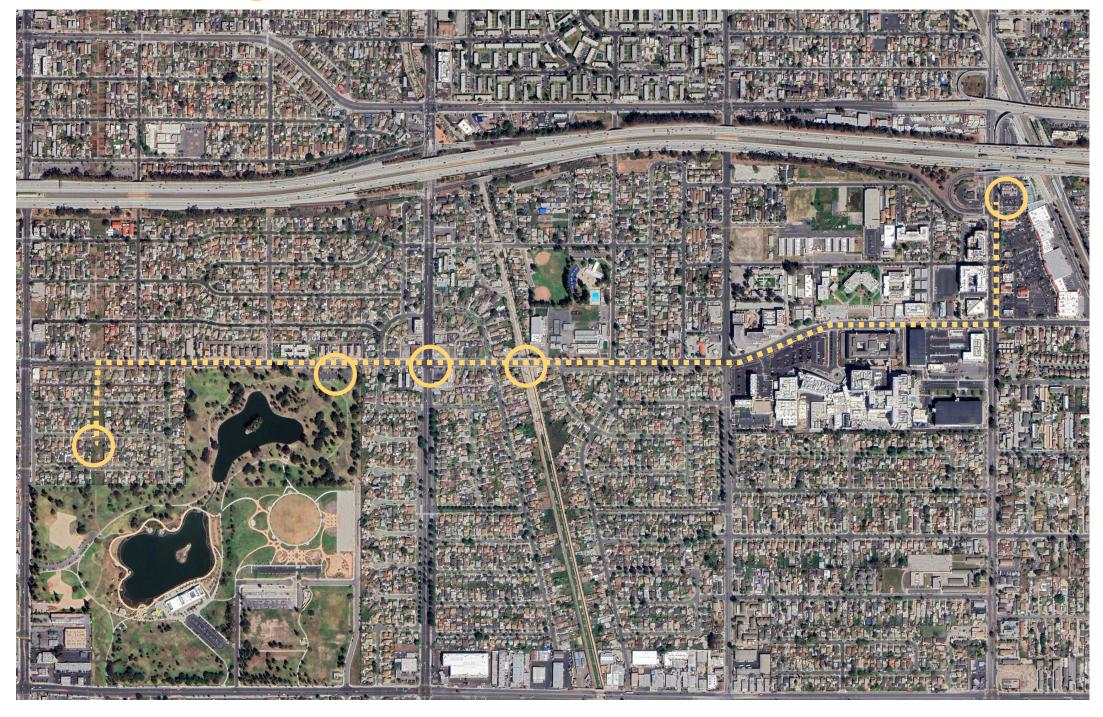
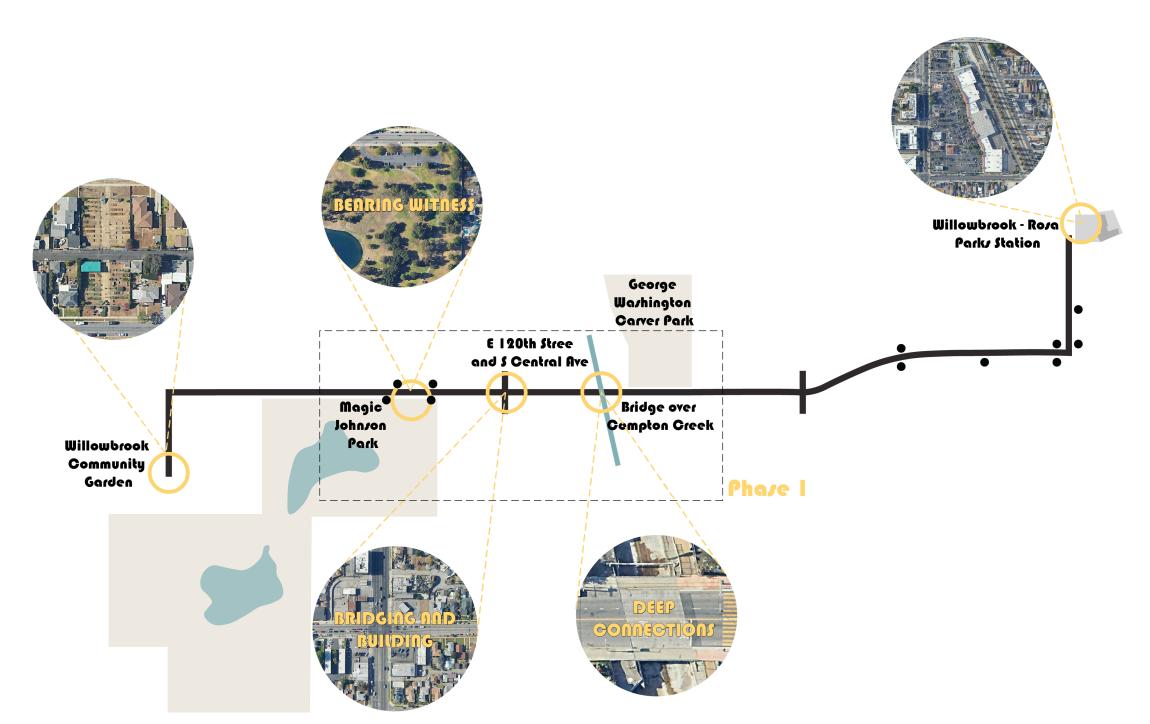


# The Story Corridor:

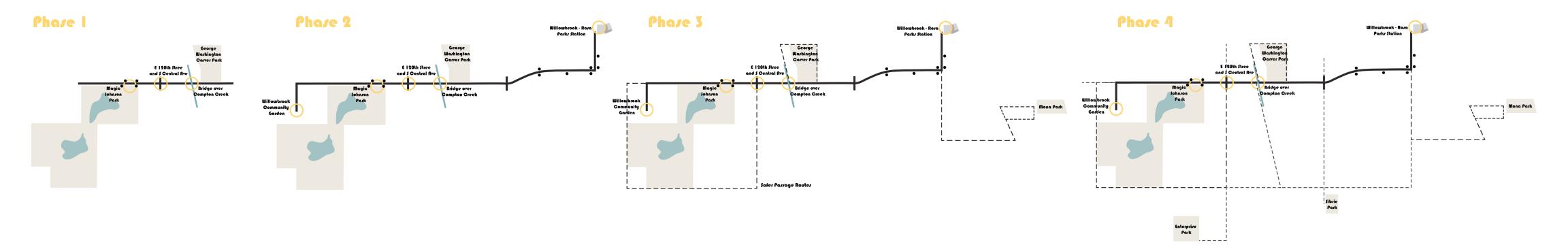




ison Hirsch and Aroussiak Gabrielian of the USC School of Architecture. The intention of the monuments and bring presence to people and places whose important stories have not been widely told.

This project is a collaboration of artists, designers and culture-bearers committed to designing a series of the connective "storycorridor" connecting them on 120th St is to contribute to correcting the public narrative of monuments that acknowledge and celebrate the unique histories that have shaped the community of Wil- Willowbrook from one constructed by the media over generations to one that celebrates the richness of the area's lowbrook, an unincorporated neighborhood situated between Watts and Compton in South Los Angeles. The past and present, and as it develops into the future – as a center of Black life and culture, and as a place that has project builds on a three-year collaborative process between the Willowbrook Inclusion Network led by Reg- transitioned into a mixed Black-and-Brown community with diverse stories to share. The hope is these cultural ininald Johnson, LA Commons with Willowbrook artist and community elder George Evans, and Professors Al- terventions challenge the traditional monument dedicated to often oppressive narratives of the past and, instead,

# How will the Corridor extend?



# What will the corridor consist of?

#### Community monuments

Village, a housing development that had to be torn down due to a public development and investment patterns. The "story corridor" will be punchealth crisis from legacy contaminants in the soil from previous indus- tuated by the monuments but complemented by rest stops in the form histories that community members carry in their memories and stories. celebrates the people of Willowbrook that have bridged and built the of the place while providing critical shade needed through the communicommunity into the culturally rich place it has become; (3) "Deep Con-ty. Phase One (above) connects Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park on the west es activated by monuments and rest stops along the corridor. nections," situated on the bridge over Compton Creek, the impetus for side to Carver Park and Carver Elementary School on the east side. The the community's origins and celebrating its ecological and agricultural histories of relations between the people and the land.

#### Pathways and Rest Stops

corridor then extends and connects the Safer Passage to School routes and ultimately stretching from Athens Park (west) to Mona Park (east).

#### Community Archives

The monuments include: (1) "Bearing Witness," a monument recognizing 120th Street is the primary spine linking Willowbrook's east and west Monuments reflect and legitimize historical narratives that draw from challenges overcome in the community situated near the site of Ujima side, which have historically been divided by gang activity and general and are contextualized by the archival body. In Willowbrook, decades of disinvestment and "archival silences" (Kelly Lytle Hernandez) elide the trial use; (2) "Bridging and Building," situated at a critical gang line that of bus shelters that tie the monuments together and enforce the stories With this in mind, we are generating an interactive community archive to be brought into the physical fabric through augmented reality experienc-





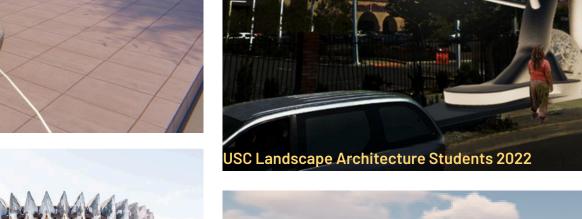










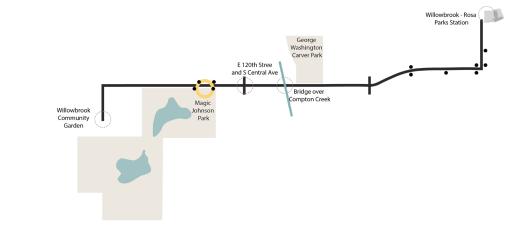




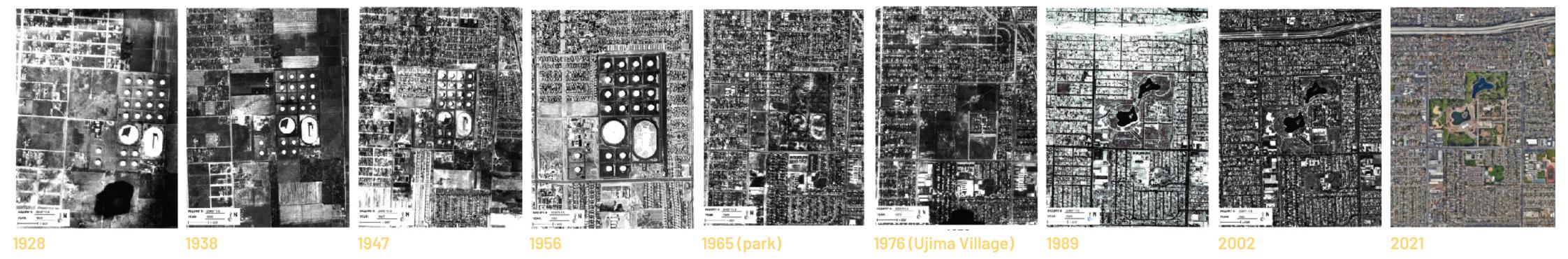




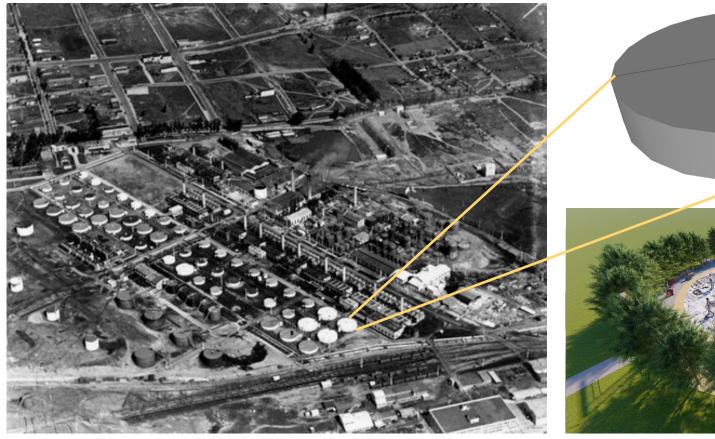




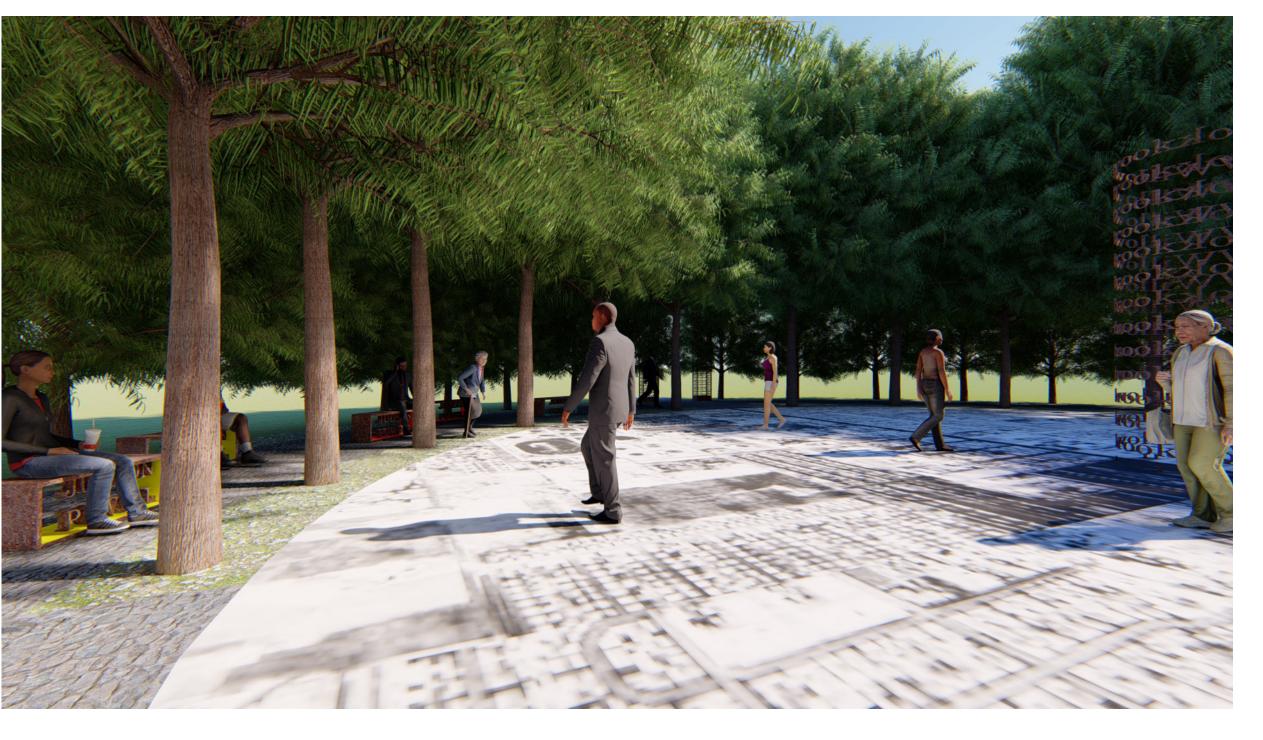
# Bearing Witness (Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Park):



### Petroleum tanks to Ujima Village to EMJP



In 1923, the General Petroleum Company purchased the site and ExxonMobil Oil Corporation operated it as petroleum storage ("tank farm") until 1963 when it was dismantled and the tanks removed. In 1972 the Ujima Village Apartment Complex opened on the site without a proper environmental review. When residents started getting sick, the county closed the site (in 2008), giving residents 90 days to evacuate.



The 'healing garden' takes its geometry from the former tanks and transforms that harm into healing through the use of red willows (*Salix Laevigata*), a plant native to the area that is often used to remediate petroleum in the soil. The tree is also emblematic of the place - WILLOWBROOK.

### The Story of the Shadow

#### The Healing Trees



The intention of this monument is to recognize challenges the community of Willowbrook has overcome. It is a site of healing, of stories of trials and triumphs. These stories are told in shadows - that move and shift and bring an element of the sacred into the context of the profane.

Plants and trees belonging to the Salix genus are widely used in phytoremediation (the use of plants to decontaminate soil). The willow is especially known to mitigate petroleum ever-present in the soils of the site. While this small grove of willows will not necessarily clean the site, the intention is to use a native, sculptural shade-giving plant that is both emblematic of Willowbrook and of healing.

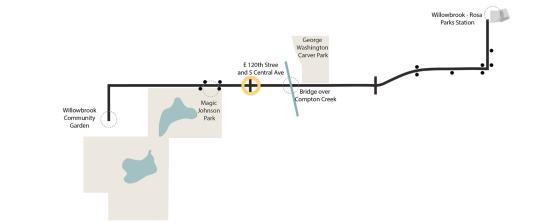


"Archival silences" are no longer muted in the healing garden. The "meridian" in the center of the space casts stories significant to Willowbrook's past and present. It serves as a light beacon in the evening and a sundial – tracing the passage of time- during the day.

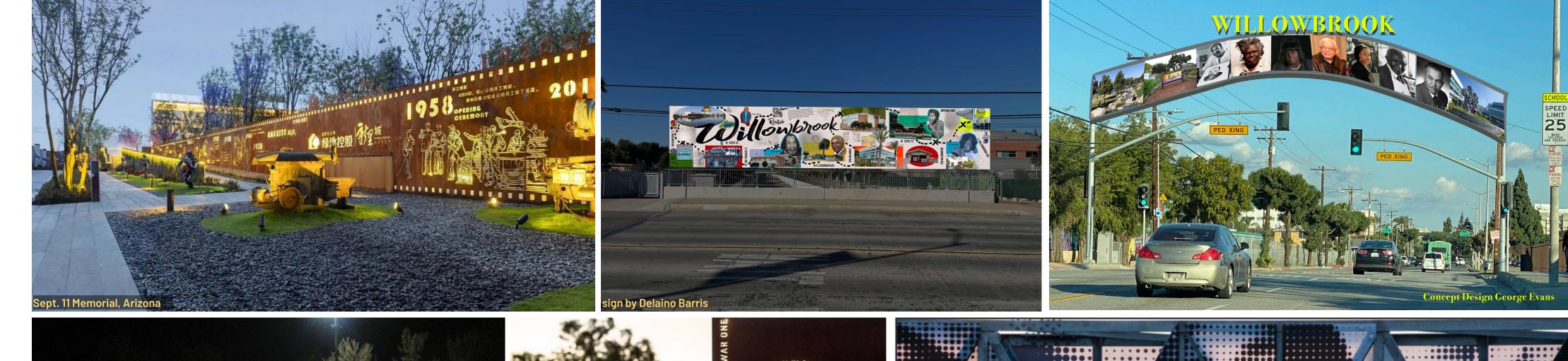
### What stories would you like the shadows to tell?

Would you like these monuments to double as community gathering space? What could you imageine happening there?





# Bridging and Building (Central + 120th Street):











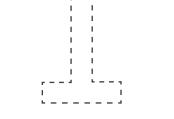
120th and Central is a critical intersection in Willowbrook - a gang line and dividing line marking east and west - the monument at this intersection will focus on the people - past, present and the outlines of those to come - that bridge and build the community into the culturally rich place it is and will become.

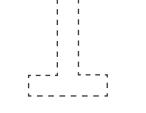


#### some faces of Willowbrook

Red Williams	me A. C. Billbrew	Postor Delores Glass

This is an opportunity to highlight and remember some of the prominant people that have been significant to shaping the success and joy of Willowbrook. Forthcoming generations of Wilowbrook residents will have the chance to know the faces behind the names of Willowbrook's landmarks, and the appreciate the success stories that have emerged from the community. The silhouettes (see above) of those to come have the chance to represent the people that will continue to shape the beauty and joy of the place moving forward...



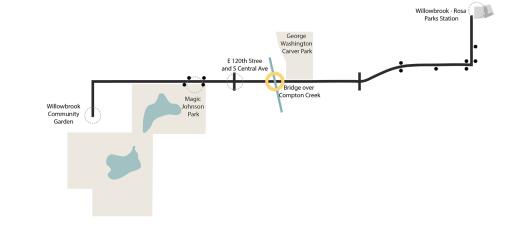


### Who represents Willowbrook most to you? Why?

## Do you think a monument like this would be uplifting for this critical intersection through Willowbrook? How else would you lke to see the theme of bridging and building represented?

### How do you think monuments start to stitch divides and celebrate all of Willowbrook?



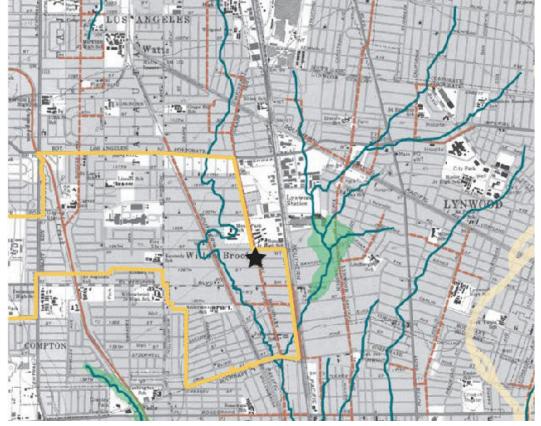


# Deep Connections (Compton Creek):

Situated on the bridge over Compton Creek, the impetus for the community's origins, this monument celebrates the community's ecological and agricultural histories of relations between the people and the land. The monument is more of a system – like the watershed – celebrating the creek through multifunctional fencing that frames the creek

e and provides interactive opportunities to acknowledge this unique ecological resource for the agricultural and urban development of the unique community of Willowbrook.

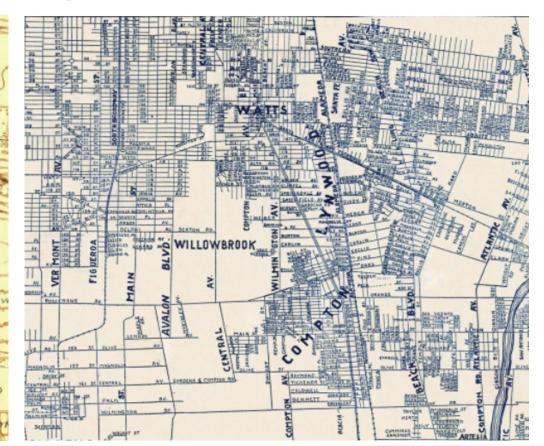
#### Willowbrook's Ecological and Agricultural History



Historic Compton Creek Watershed

The creek is partially channelized and Willowbrook remains low-density, 1924

### Agricultural's continued legacy...



The Official Willowbrook Zoning plan, 1948. In proportion to Compton and Watts, the developed 300 ft. lots are much larger in Willowbrook. Many residents grew food and raised livestock in willowbrook at this time



Top: Rose Pickney at the Willowbrook Community Garden, which opened in October, 2014 Bottom: The Fellowship Garden of Love at Holmes on 118th and Holmes in Willowbrook opened in 2015

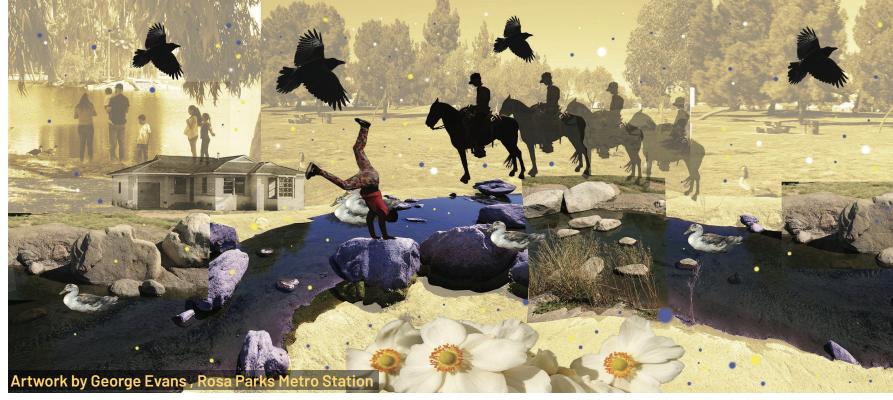
### The willows of Willowbrook grew along Compton Creek

Willowbrook was named after its landscape: widespread marshlands and willow thickets attributed to Compton Creek, a major tributary of the LA River. At one time, Compton Creek was a valuable water resource and a focal point of the agricultural settlements during the 1700's. Willows lined the now concrete clad creek, and the surround-ing soil was very fertile. With development, however, the creek was sorely mistreated and the area was often used as a dumping ground.

In the 1890's, the first subdivisions were built in Willowbrook. These subdivisions were rather large compared to other parts of the county and were broken up by expansive fields, which provided residents plenty of space to grow their own food. Much of land around these subdi-

visions remained undeveloped until after World War II. Many of the large 300-foot lots remain; some residents still have horses, cows, roosters, and chickens. In the last decade, residents have turned some of the remaining open fields into community gardens, continuing Willow-brook's long agricultural legacy.

### Storytelling Silhouettes







Inspired by the the storytelling power of silhouettes displayed in community art by George Evans and Charles Dickson and the dynamic work of artist, Kara Walker, the bridge has the opportunity to incorporate people, places and things that represent the pre-settlement and early settlement of Willowbrook, including the equestrian past. We

propose a new fence along the bridge to frame views of Compton Creek, celebrate its early history and make the space more welcoming to pedestrians, including the children who may

walk this way to Carver Elementary and the Boys and Girls Club.

#### The creek as monument

In order to maintain a visual connection between the creek and the pedestrian and to monumentalize the signficance of the creek, the bridge will be framed by fencing that frames the creek, echoes the marshlands, thickets, willows, flows and tributaries of the watershed. The fence would dually operate as seating and shade.



### How would want the ecology and agricultural history of Willowbrook celebrated and monumentalized?



### Write. draw or sketch...