



UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan



Letter from the Director of PARD



City of Austin

Austin Parks and Recreation Department
200 South Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78704

April 4, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Alongside green spaces and recreational facilities, the Parks and Recreation Department is proud to oversee The Museums and Cultural Programs Division for the City of Austin. Museums and cultural centers provide safe and inclusive spaces that allow people to explore creativity and identity through art, history and the many cultures found here Austin and throughout the world. They promote civic engagement through festivals, performances, exhibitions, social practice, camps, workshops and classes for communities across Austin. The UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum is a shining example of a cultural mainstay within the capital city, and the Parks and Recreation Department is proud to hold partnership with the organization as they continue to provide an outlet for community members to explore creatively.

In 1985, sculptor Charles Umlauf and his wife, Angeline, gifted their hilltop historic homestead (2 acres) on Barton Boulevard, along with their extensive sculpture collection, to the City of Austin, thus creating the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum (UMLAUF) non-profit organization. The property was granted to the City upon the passing of both Charles (1910-1994) and Angeline Umlauf (1915-2012), and in 1991, the current UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum (6 acres) opened on a site adjacent to the Umlauf homestead.

The UMLAUF, in alignment with its mission to provide educational and cultural experiences to the public, seeks to finally unite the historic homestead with the 1991 sculpture garden and the southern natural zone, creating a fully accessible 8-acre community green space. The Historic Preservation, Expansion and Unification Plan envisions full public access to the entire eight-acre site, while integrating

the currently natural and inaccessible southern section of the site. This unification enhances the UMLAUF’s offerings while contributing to the City’s cultural and natural spaces. Additionally, it is through this unification and expansion that the UMLAUF will continue to provide diverse and equitable experiences for all of Austin, while preserving Charles Umlauf’s legacy and uniting the community with art and nature.

I, Kimberly McNeeley, Director of The Austin Parks and Recreation Department, am proud to offer my full support for The UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion and Unification Plan. This plan will provide tremendous benefit to the City of Austin and will continue to allow the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum to cultivate curiosity, community, and connection through nature, contemporary artists, and the work of Charles Umlauf.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. McNeeley, M. Ed., CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

*The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.*

Letter from the UMLAUF

It has been a tremendous honor to partner with Page and their team on this Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification (HPEU) Plan, a critical step toward realizing Charles and Angeline Umlauf's gift to the City of Austin. Their original 1985 gift was conveyed upon their passing, but recognizing its significance, the community, under the direction of Roberta Crenshaw, came together to open the current garden and museum on adjacent land in 1991. As Austin has grown exponentially over the decades, the imperative to fulfill the original gift and share the entire historic green space with a wider, more diverse public, has also grown.

The UMLAUF Board and Staff were moved by the compelling and detailed proposals submitted by ten firms after releasing the RFP in 2023. Ultimately, Page stood out not only for their extraordinarily skilled and integrated team, but for understanding that a revitalized UMLAUF could address some of the myriad challenges facing one of the most rapidly growing cities in the U.S. Not only is Page an esteemed international firm embedded in Austin's culture for 100 years, their Principal and Design Director, Lawrence Speck, designed the 1991 award-winning UMLAUF gallery and terrace.

This project could not have happened without the support of countless UMLAUF staff, board members, City of Austin staff, volunteers, stakeholders, and community members. In addition to those listed on the following page, we would like to thank the people and companies who graciously provided their services and experience throughout the HPEU Plan process. They include Survey Works, who completed an arduous

topographical and tree survey; City of Austin Urban Forestry, who provided guidance when considering our precious trees on the lower property; Keith Babberney and Jason Traweek of the City of Austin Development Services Department Urban Forestry, who completed a tree assessment for the lower property, and Scott George of Austin Beautiful Trees, who completed a tree assessment for the upper property —two projects vital to realizing the HPEU Plan; Horizon Environmental Services who provided an environmental resources inventory; former longtime Board Member Keith Pool who has been instrumental to the process; Luis Puron of the Rockport Art Center; and Mary Hager of Winstead Attorneys. Special thanks to the UMLAUF's former director and long-time champion, Nelie Plourde; and Aan Coleman, who won a landscape architecture award for designing the garden, and has been dedicated to the UMLAUF from the very beginning.

Throughout, we've benefitted from the experience of City of Austin employees, including Ellen Colfax, Kimberly McNeeley, Kimberly McKnight, and Sarah Talkington. For nearly twenty years, Laura Esparza of PARD has ably guided and advised the UMLAUF.

Last, but certainly not least, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Page. The team they assembled understands the necessity of a plan that serves the entire community and has guided the UMLAUF through this process with grace and expertise. We are beyond grateful for all they have put into the HPEU Plan, and the thoroughness and care they provided

throughout. Thank you to Lawrence Speck, Ginny Chilton, Melissa Gutiérrez Soto, Ryan Losch, Leland Ulmer, Leah van der Sanden, and so many more. The UMLAUF could not have imagined a better partnership.

This HPEU Plan has been a long time in the making, and the result of an effort from so many invaluable partners. We look forward to taking the next steps toward realizing this vision so we can provide unrivaled art and nature experiences for the entire community.

UMLAUF Staff

Acknowledgments

City Council 2023:

Kirk Watson, Mayor
Natasha Harper-Madison, District 1
Vanessa Fuentes, District 2
José Velásquez, District 3
José “Chito” Vela, District 4
Ryan Alter, District 5
Mackenzie Kelly, District 6
Leslie Pool, District 7
Paige Ellis, District 8
Zohaib “Zo” Qadri, District 9
Alison Alter, District 10

City Staff:

Laura Esparza
Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Manager of
Museums and Cultural Programs Division

Technical Advisory Group:

Christine Chute Canul, PARD
Ellen Colfax, PARD
Greg Montes, PARD Planning
John Middleton, WPD
Juan Bustillos, PARD
Justin Good, TPW
Kimberly McKnight, PARD
Melissa Alvarado, COA Heritage Tourism
Leslie Lilly, WPD
Paulinda Lanham, TPW
Steven Linett, PARD

Consultant Team:

Page, Urban Planning, Architecture, Community
Engagement
Asakura Robinson, Landscape, Community Engagement
ArchiTexas, Historic Preservation
Martinez Engineering, Civil + Structural

UMLAUF Board of Directors:

Richard Weiss, President
Jonathon Todd, Vice President
Christina Ayer, Secretary
Greg Cavitt, Treasurer
Mark Williams, Governance
Jennie Branch, Immediate Past President
Aan Coleman
Laura Esparza, Ex Officio
Nhat Ho
Stephen Fenoglio
Amber Parker-Collins
Nikelle Meade
Steve Miller
James Russell
Julie Schechter
Kate Walker

UMLAUF Staff:

Katie Robinson Edwards, Executive Director and Curator
Amanda Valbracht, Director of Operations and Administration
Amara Klemann, Executive Assistant
Erika Garza Holland, Development Manager
Katlyn Walther, Venue and Events Manager
Rachel Aquino, Community Engagement and Programs Manager
Bella Cheng, Museum Manager
Natra Aga, Development Assistant
Gustavo Estrada, Facilities Coordinator

A special thank you to
the many community
members who participated
in the planning process and
contributed to the UMLAUF
HPEU Plan.

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which the UMLAUF exists is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Tonkawa, the Apache, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, the Lipan Apache Tribe, the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians, the Coahuitlecan and all other tribes not explicitly stated. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge and pay respects to the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Kickapoo Tribe of Texas, Carrizo & Comecrudo, Tigua Pueblo, Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, Wichita, Chickasaw, Waco nations, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas, on Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America. Not all indigenous peoples listed claim Texas as ancestral lands, as many were forcibly relocated to Texas from their ancestral homelands.

Today, various indigenous peoples from all over the globe visit Austin or call it home. We are grateful to be able to connect with arts and nature in this natural oasis. We wish to recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples as the original stewards of the land we reside on today, known as Austin, Texas.



Preface

The UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification (HPEU) Plan presents a long-range vision for the development and improvement of the sculpture garden and museum.

The UMLAUF is a non-profit organization that was initiated in 1985 when Charles and Angeline Umlauf gifted their hilltop historic homestead on Barton Boulevard and their extensive sculpture collection. Today, the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum operates in partnership with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. The site is owned by the City of Austin and is ground leased to the UMLAUF for 100 years with conditional use as a museum.

The UMLAUF provides educational and cultural experiences that encourage the understanding and appreciation of the intersection of nature, sculpture, and the arts. The UMLAUF is primarily funded by donations, visitation fees, and by hosting events in its lush garden setting. It also receives some funding from the City of Austin; as of 2023, about 17% of operational costs were funded by the City.

The plan envisions a future sculpture garden and museum deeply rooted in the site’s historical and ecological context, enriching the cultural fabric of the city and offering diverse and equitable experiences for the entire Austin community. The goal is to become one beautiful, approachable, and accessible venue with a wide number of programmatic offerings to support the community and position the UMLAUF as a top destination in Austin.

As its name implies, the plan’s goals include Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification. Informed by extensive site analysis and community engagement, it proposes a set of strategies to support the UMLAUF’s vision. These strategies aim to preserve Umlauf’s legacy, broaden the UMLAUF’s audience, and address community and site-specific needs. The plan carefully navigates the expansion and positioning of the arts

UMLAUF HPEU PLAN

in the city, all while upholding environmental stewardship and creating a welcoming space that seamlessly connects Austin’s community with art and nature in serene harmony.

Historic Preservation

The plan safeguards the site’s history, honoring Charles Umlauf’s enduring legacy and its profound connection to the city’s ecology and cultural essence. Preserving and expanding access to the artist’s home and studio, the plan aligns with the UMLAUF’s mission to provide educational experiences fostering an understanding and appreciation of the arts.

Expansion

Expansion in the plan goes beyond physical space—it extends the arts and the UMLAUF’s offerings to broader and more diverse audiences. The plan aims to create suitable spaces for exhibiting an expanded permanent collection, broadening opportunities for rotating local exhibitions, hosting diverse community activities, and enriching the overall program to extend the museum’s reach and cultural impact. The HPEU Plan goals align with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department’s goal of “ensuring and preserving equitable access to parks, trails, open space, and recreational opportunities.”

Unification

Furthermore, the plan envisions full public access to the entire eight-acre site, linking Charles Umlauf’s home and studio with the existing museum and sculpture garden, while integrating the currently natural and inaccessible southern section of the site. This unification not only enhances the UMLAUF’s offerings but also contributes to the overall experience and offerings of the cultural scene in the city.

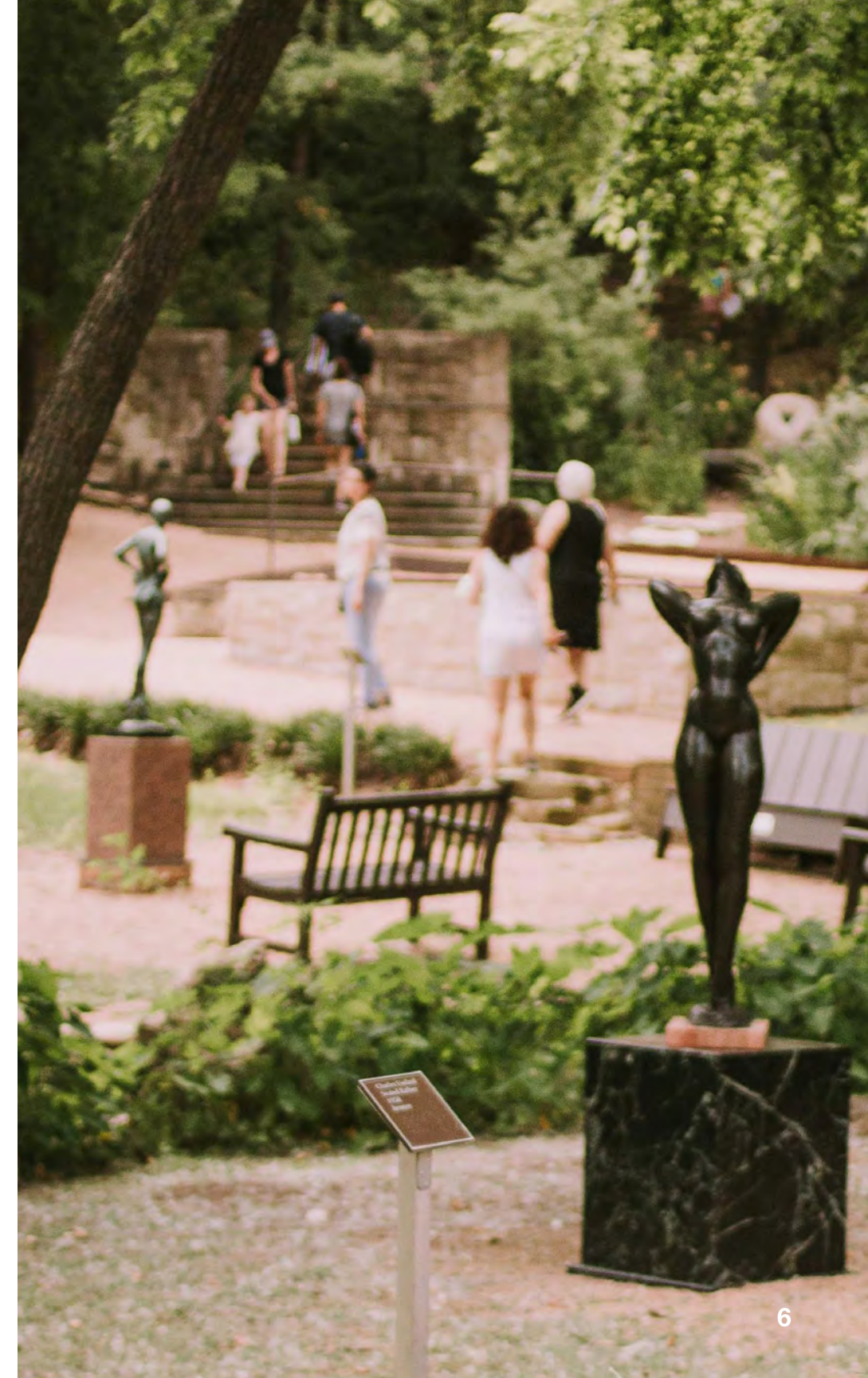


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Glossary

In the report, various acronyms will be used to reference different organizations. Please refer to the list on this page. Additionally, general clarifications for certain terms used throughout the report are included in this glossary. Please refer to the Sustainability Glossary, in the Sustainability + Resilience chapter, for more definitions.

Definitions:

Active travel, active mobility: refers to journeys made by modes of transport that are fully or partially people-powered, for example: walking, wheeling, cycling (including e-bikes), and scooting.

Biophilia: a human tendency to seek connections to nature. In design, biophilia is used to create connections to nature such that the human experience is more enjoyable.

Impervious Cover: water resistant ground cover such as concrete, asphalt, brick, stone, etc.

Pervious Cover: ground cover where water can penetrate into the soil such as soil, rock, grass, etc.

Walking/wheeling: it is used together to refer to the action of moving at a pedestrian’s pace, whether someone is standing or sitting, walking/wheeling unaided or using any kind of aid to mobility.

Acronyms:

City of Austin Departments

- COA:** City of Austin
- PARD:** Parks and Recreation Department
- TPW :** Transportation and Public Works Department
- WPD:** Watershed Protection Department

Other Organizations

- AARC:** Asian American Resource Center
- BCNA:** Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association
- MACC:** Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
- SOS:** Save Our Springs Alliance
- TCA:** The Contemporary Austin
- ZBG:** Zilker Botanical Garden

Opportunity
for City
Partnership

The “Opportunity for City Partnership” icon is featured on pages where collaboration with the City could significantly improve the plan’s outcomes, benefiting both the community and the surrounding environment. This includes enhancements outside the UMLAUF property that could synergize with on-site improvements, such as upgrades to sidewalks, crosswalks, and other city infrastructure around the area.

01

Executive Summary

Why a Plan?
Who is the UMLAUF HPEU Plan for?
Guiding Principles + Plan Objectives
Illustrative Plan
Site Concept

Why a Plan?

The UMLAUF, in alignment with its mission, seeks to unite the 1985 historic homestead, a gift to the City of Austin from Charles and Angeline Umlauf, with the 1991 sculpture garden and the southern natural zone, creating a fully accessible 8-acre community space. The HPEU Plan serves as a comprehensive guide envisioning a future sculpture garden and museum that provides diverse and equitable experiences for all of Austin, while preserving Charles Umlauf's legacy and uniting the community with art and nature. This document proposes strategic measures in planning, architecture, landscape, and historic preservation to realize the UMLAUF's goal of preservation, expansion, and unification.

Due to the partnership between the UMLAUF and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, this plan becomes a vital tool for communicating the UMLAUF's goal of enriching the museum and garden experience for the City of Austin. Additionally, it aligns with PARD's commitment to ensuring equitable access to parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities within the community.



Who is the UMLAUF HPEU Plan for?

The UMLAUF HPEU Plan is an inclusive vision that considers a broad spectrum of users, including those interested in experiencing arts and ecology, exploring the sculpture-making process, learning new skills, spending time in nature, meditating, exercising, or engaging in community activities. One of the primary objectives of the HPEU plan is to broaden the UMLAUF's programmatic interior and exterior spaces to engage a broader audience. This expansion will enable the UMLAUF to host a broader range of art exhibitions and offer multiple programming opportunities simultaneously. With the goal of expanding the museum's reach and programmatic offerings to a wider and more diverse audience, the plan emphasizes accessibility for all, ensuring the entire site is open and enjoyable for Austin's residents and visitors. The proposed strategies aim to facilitate more community events, diverse arts and environmental programs, and various events catering to Austin's community interests—concerts, performances, health and wellness activities, and many others. The plan proposes integrating spatial and design strategies with other equity-focused programs aimed at engaging communities lacking cultural assets and green spaces in their neighborhoods. The UMLAUF envisions a welcoming space for people of all ages and interests to connect with arts, nature, and Charles Umlauf's artistic legacy.



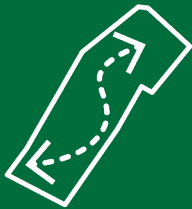
Guiding Principles

The planning process is guided by harmonizing three principles: Sustainability + Resilience, Legacy, and Community. Recognizing the site’s environmental challenges, sustainability and resilience are introduced as core principles, steering the plan’s decision-making. Community envisions an accessible and unified site, expanding the UMLAUF’s reach, and fostering deep connections with Austin’s community. Legacy seeks not only to preserve the historic zone, but also to amplify Charles Umlauf’s artistic heritage, offering art education opportunities for all. The plan honors Umlauf’s legacy by expanding the museum’s reach through new and diverse programs, all while addressing environmental concerns affecting the sculpture garden and its surroundings. Carefully devised strategies, detailed on the subsequent page, will interlace these principles, ensuring a harmonious integration that preserves the UMLAUF’s essence while guiding it into a sustainable and community-oriented future.



Plan Objectives

Ranging from unifying the site to advancing arts education, the plan objectives serve as a guide for informed decision-making throughout the planning and design process. Each objective encapsulates targeted strategies, ensuring a cohesive approach to the UMLAUF’s vision.



Site unification
Incorporating the adjacent land that includes the home of Angeline and Charles Umlauf, their private sculpture garden, and the artist’s studio into the site’s experience. Seamlessly unifying the three main areas of the site, creating an accessible site-wide experience.



Historic preservation
Preserving the Umlaufs’ home, studio, and sculpture garden. Sharing the story of Charles Umlauf and the Umlauf family with the community through an interpretive experience.



Sustainability + environmental rehabilitation
Managing energy and water responsibly, addressing site issues, and respecting the city’s environment while safeguarding the ecology and biodiversity of the site.



Community connection
Implementing community-driven planning and creating spaces that foster a welcoming and inclusive experience for everyone in the city to enjoy while connecting with art and nature.



Arts education expansion
Infusing the site with learning and exploration opportunities, making the whole site a learning experience.

Illustrative Plan

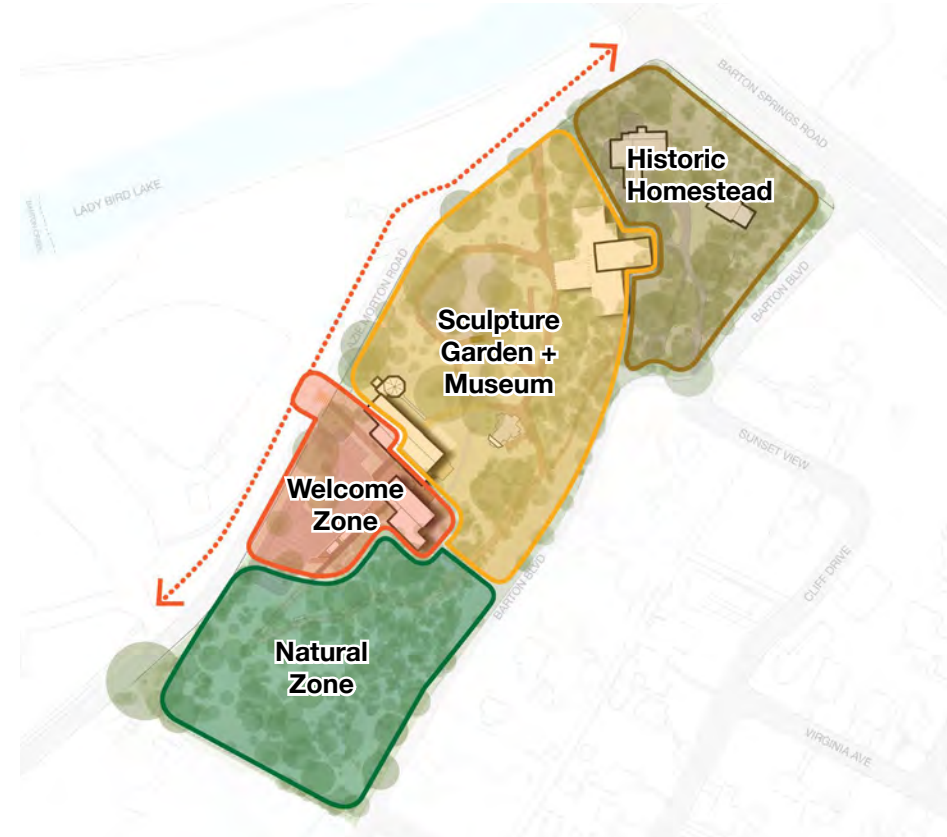
The UMLAUF HPEU Plan is the product of a collaborative planning process that brought together members of the community, technical experts, community representatives in arts, education, environmental, and neighborhood matters, and the UMLAUF staff and affiliates, resulting in a vision that reflects the community's priorities and ideals, as well as responsibility toward the site's and city's ecological and social fabrics.

The plan carefully connects the currently inaccessible areas of the site with the museum and sculpture garden, prioritizing the user experience and connection with the site from the moment of arrival. The plan aims to create a seamless and accessible site-wide experience, offering both indoor and outdoor spaces for diverse programming. The plan suggest improvements to accommodate large gatherings, workshops, art classes, expanded exhibition opportunities, and a more diverse set of programs and events. Respecting existing structures and the ecosystem, the plan ensures a harmonious integration of new and existing structures, all while maintaining the UMLAUF's unique legacy and sense of exploration.



Site concept

The UMLAUF HPEU Plan strategically links the four main site areas through two key connectors, ensuring adequate programming and enhancing accessibility. The activation of the site's edges creates a more welcoming arrival and overall experience around the site.



Zones

Four main zones, each possessing distinct characters and functions, seamlessly blend into one another for a cohesive and harmonious integration.



Connectors

The gateway and treehouse serve as connectors, increasing accessibility and linking previously inaccessible areas. Simultaneously, they accommodate essential museum operations and offer expanded spaces for events, education, and exhibitions.



Active Edges

Strategic interventions along the site edges foster openness to the community, crafting friendlier and subtler boundaries with improved visual connections and an enhanced entry experience.

02

Introduction

History of the UMLAUF

Charles Umlauf

The UMLAUF's Vision

Current Programs

UMLAUF HPEU Plan Vision

Historic Preservation

Expansion

Site Unification

Environmental Considerations

Guiding Principles

Plan Objectives

Planning Process

History of the UMLAUF

The UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum represents so much that is quintessentially Austin: superb art casually set in a shady garden of native Texas plants, a natural oasis near Barton Springs and only blocks from the heart of an urban capital city.

Originally containing small ponds used by soldiers to practice fly casting during the late 1930s and 1940s, these four acres were then forgotten for the next four decades, lost under dewberry vines and illicit dumping.

In 1944, American sculptor Charles and his wife Angeline Umlauf purchased a carriage house that became their home at the top of a hill overlooking Barton Springs Road. In 1985, they gifted their home, property, his art studio and 168 sculptures to the City of Austin for public enjoyment and education. In 1991, the site was transformed into a sculpture garden to showcase over 50 bronze and stone sculptures given to the City of Austin. Landscape architect Aan Coleman designed the garden and the internationally recognized architect Lawrence Speck designed the UMLAUF's gallery and terrace that opened in 1991. The Roberta Crenshaw learning center was added to the site in 2001.

Currently, the Garden, with its waterfall and streams muffling the sounds of traffic, offers visitors a peaceful oasis in one of the fastest growing cities in the country.





“ The UMLAUF provides educational and cultural experiences that encourage the understanding and appreciation of the intersection of nature, sculpture, and the arts. ”

Charles Umlauf

Charles Julius Umlauf (1910-1994) was the sixth of eight children born to French and German immigrant parents on a farm outside South Haven, Michigan. When he was eight, the family moved to Chicago where Umlauf's fourth grade teacher recognized his talents and helped him earn summer scholarships at the Art Institute of Chicago. Working under master sculptors Lorado Taft and Albin Polasek, Umlauf gained competence in a wide array of media. In 1937, Umlauf married fellow Art Institute student Angeline "Angie" Allen. The couple moved to Austin in 1941 when Umlauf became a Life Drawing and Sculpture professor at the University of Texas' Art Department. He taught at UT for 40 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1981.

Umlauf's sculptures range from haunting expressionism, to detailed neoclassical realism, to lyrical abstraction. His materials are equally diverse: exotic woods, terra cotta or cast stone in his early work, rich bronzes and alabasters and luminous marbles in his prime. With equal facility, Umlauf sculpted family groupings, whimsical animals, religious and mythological figures, and sensuous nudes.

Umlauf won numerous prestigious awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Ford Foundation Grant. He was honored in 1985 by the Houston Art League as "Texas Artist of the Year" and in 1993 by the City of San Antonio as "Alcalde." Public collections and museums across the United States own his work, including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. In Texas, there are more Umlauf sculptures in public locations than there are works by any other single sculptor.





“ *The UMLAUF's vision is to become the epicenter of Austin's cultural arts scene and of experiential activities available to our community.* ”

The UMLAUF's Vision

Since its founding over 30 years ago, the UMLAUF has been committed to arts education in one of the most picturesque settings in Austin. As our collection and grounds have grown, so have our ambitions. The goal is to become one beautiful, approachable and accessible venue with a number of programmatic offerings to support the UMLAUF as a top destination in Austin.

The UMLAUF will become the arts destination in Austin to learn, discover and reflect. Our vision is to make the entire eight-acres accessible and available to the public, connecting Charles Umlauf's artist studio, the Umlauf family home and property to the existing museum and sculpture garden. We seek to make improvements to the grounds, expand access to the permanent collection, and broaden our ability for rotating exhibitions and community activities.

As a culturally rich arts destination, the UMLAUF envisions using its expanded collection and facilities to increase awareness of Charles Umlauf's impact and influence as an artist, educator and philanthropist, and to honor the Umlauf family's gift to the community by providing experiences that include art in nature, immersive exhibitions and educational opportunities, health and wellness programs, a venue for gatherings and events, and a peaceful breathing space within the heart of an urban capital city.



Current Programs

The UMLAUF hosts a wide range of programs for adults, children, and families. With rotating exhibitions of art by Charles Umlauf and both major 21st century and community artists, as well as other offerings such as art talks, camps, wellness activities, markets, and storytime, these programs forge strong community connections, opening the space to all of Austin. Some events such as Family Day, are admission-free and provide the entire community an opportunity to explore the sculpture garden and connect with local vendors and art. One of the plan's objectives is to broaden the possibilities for hosting a variety of indoor and outdoor programs, ensuring that the UMLAUF can provide an even wider range of programs and events for the Austin community.

Current programs / events:

- Family Day
- Sculpture Garden Storytime
- UMLAUF After Dark
- Insights Artist Talks
- Health + Wellness
- Shaping Space
- Design Shine installations in the garden
- Straw Fest
- Garden Party
- Summer Camp
- Free monthly docent-guided tours with admission
- Rotating exhibitions in the gallery and garden





*“ The UMLAUF will become
the arts destination in Austin
to learn, discover, and reflect.”*

UMLAUF HPEU Plan Vision

The UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan aims to unify Charles and Angeline Umlauf's original 1985 gift to the City with the 1991 sculpture garden in order to create a fully accessible 8-acre site for the community.

The plan is intended to improve access to and expand the use of the UMLAUF's sculpture garden, museum, and grounds, while preserving and incorporating an adjacent site that includes the home of Angeline and Charles Umlauf, their private sculpture garden, and the artist's studio. The plan will also address the environmental issues affecting the site and its surroundings. The UMLAUF is located adjacent to Barton Creek, near the Barton Hills and Zilker neighborhoods, and it has been affected by the same environmental and water concerns of the area, such as storm water runoff and surface pollutants.



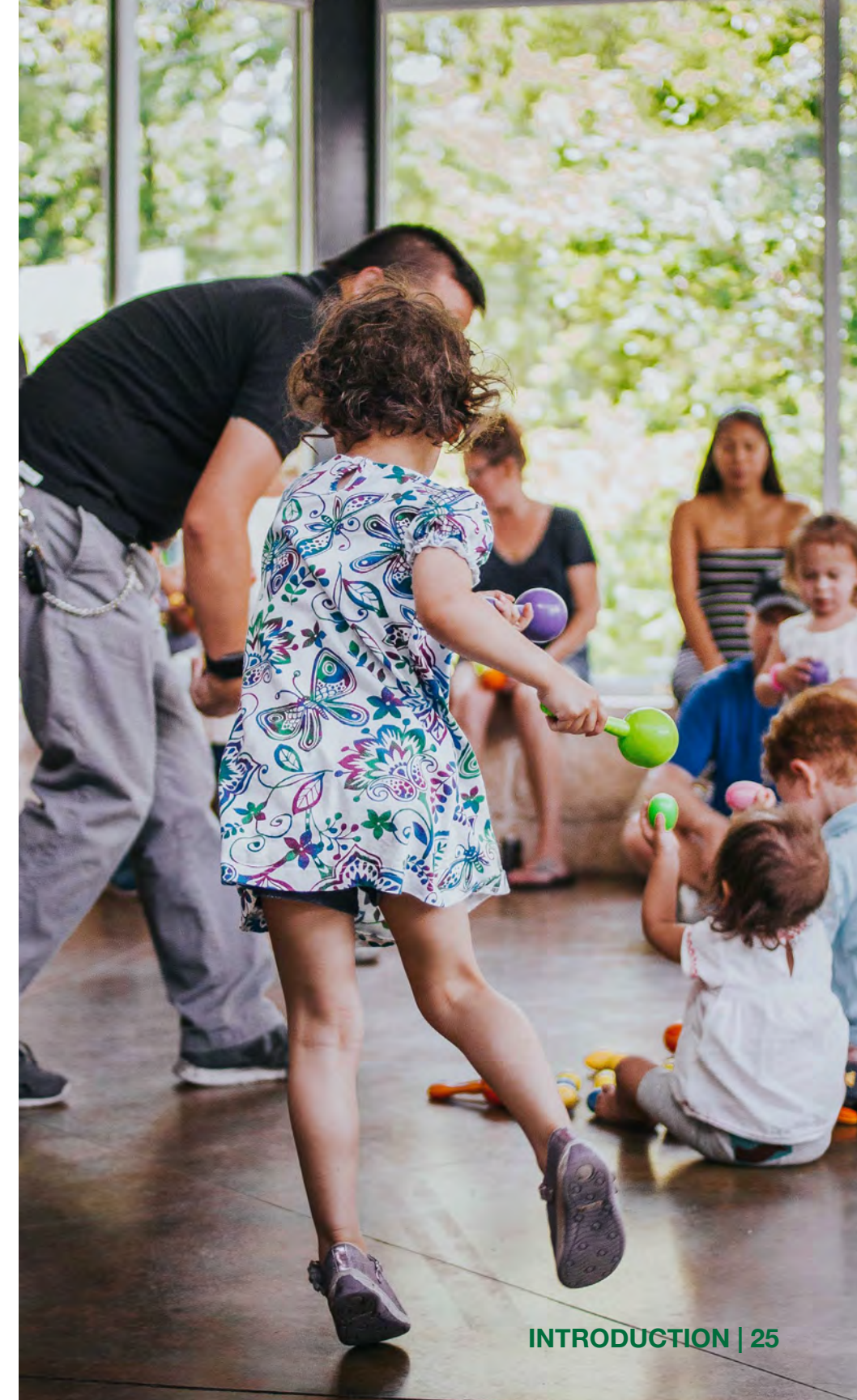
Historic Preservation

The plan includes the preservation of Charles and Angeline Umlauf's residence—an iconic carriage house atop the hill along Barton Springs Road. In 1985, the Umlaufs generously donated their property, which they had acquired in 1944, along with their home, art studio, and a collection of 168 sculptures to the City of Austin for public enjoyment and education. Preservation strategies focus on transforming this historic space into an educational haven, providing insights into an artist's life and sculptural process. Additionally, the plan is dedicated to enhancing accessibility, ensuring this part of the site becomes a welcoming and informative destination for all. By safeguarding this cultural gem, the UMLAUF seeks to create a dynamic environment for learning, appreciation, and connection with the Umlaufs' artistic legacy.



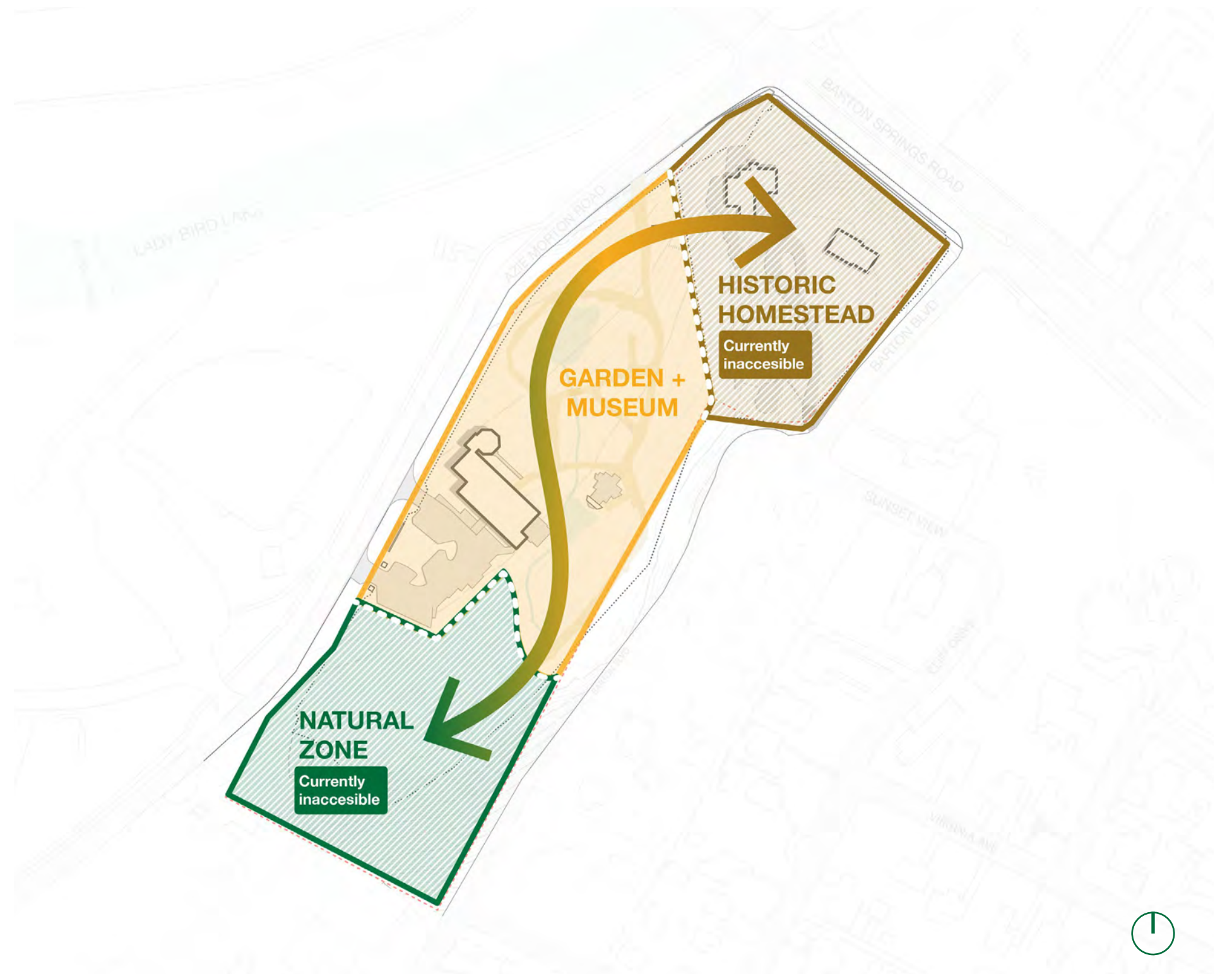
Expansion

The UMLAUF HPEU Plan focuses on expanding usable indoor and outdoor space for events, education, and exhibitions, aiming to broaden the UMLAUF's programmatic offerings and exhibitions of community art. By providing more areas for free admission visits, the plan seeks to extend its reach to even more diverse audiences. Essential to achieving the UMLAUF's mission of creating an accessible and diverse space, the plan emphasizes the need for ample space to host private and public events, along with indoor and outdoor educational spaces suitable for all age groups. Furthermore, considering exhibition spaces that meet the necessary standards will enable the UMLAUF to broaden its displayed collection and feature a greater number of local, national, and international exhibitions. This not only provides the public with increased opportunities to engage with art but also encourages repeat visits to the museum throughout the year for schools, families, tourists, and other community members and groups. This expansion strategy is crucial for transforming the UMLAUF into an inclusive and vibrant cultural hub for everyone in the community.



Site Unification

The plan's goal is to seamlessly unify the three main zones of the site, two of which are currently inaccessible to the public. Emphasizing sustainability and resilience, the plan is committed to preserving and honoring Umlauf's legacy, the history of the site, and safeguarding its cultural significance. Furthermore, the project aims to create openness to the community, fostering inclusivity and engagement. By weaving together these elements, the plan envisions a connected, sustainable, and inclusive project.



Environmental Considerations

Nestled within Austin's green network alongside Barton Springs, Zilker Park, and Lady Bird Lake, the UMLAUF's sculpture garden site connects Austin's residents with nature. However, this location exposes the garden to the environmental challenges prevalent in the area. Notably, stormwater runoff from uphill developments poses a shared concern. Acknowledging this, the plan underscores the importance of addressing and mitigating such issues. By implementing sustainable practices and innovative stormwater management strategies, the plan aims not only to preserve its natural surroundings but also to contribute positively to the broader environmental health of Austin, ensuring that this cultural gem remains intertwined with the city's ecological resilience.



Guiding Principles

These principles guide the planning process, harmonizing Sustainability + Resilience, Legacy, and Community. Recognizing the site’s environmental challenges, Sustainability + Resilience are introduced as core principles, steering the plan’s decision-making. Community envisions an accessible and unified site, expanding the UMLAUF’s reach, and fostering deep connections with Austin’s community. Legacy seeks not only to preserve the historic zone, but to also amplify Charles Umlauf’s artistic heritage, offering art education opportunities for all. The plan honors Umlauf’s legacy by expanding the museum’s reach through new and diverse programs, all while addressing environmental concerns affecting both the sculpture garden and its surroundings. Carefully devised strategies, detailed on the subsequent page, will interlace these principles, ensuring a harmonious integration that preserves the UMLAUF’s essence while guiding it into a sustainable and community-oriented future.



Plan Objectives

Aligned with the Guiding Principles, the plan objectives group a series of main strategies. Ranging from unifying the site to advancing arts education, these objectives serve as a guide for informed decision-making throughout the planning and design process. Each objective encapsulates targeted strategies, ensuring a cohesive approach to the UMLAUF’s vision.



Site unification

Incorporating the adjacent land that includes the home of Angeline and Charles Umlauf, their private sculpture garden, and the artist’s studio to the site’s experience. Seamlessly unifying the three main areas of the site, creating an accessible site-wide experience.



Historic preservation

Preserving the Historic Homestead, comprising Umlaufs’ home, studio, and private sculpture garden. Sharing the story of Charles Umlauf and the Umlauf family with the community through an interpretive experience.



Sustainability + environmental rehabilitation

Managing energy and water responsibly, addressing site issues, and respecting the city’s environment while safeguarding the ecology and biodiversity of the site.



Community connection

Implementing community-driven planning, and creating spaces that foster a welcoming experience for everyone in the city to enjoy while connecting with art and nature.



Arts education expansion

Infusing the site with learning and exploration opportunities, making the whole site a learning experience.

Planning Process

The planning process matches two main timelines: planning and design, and community engagement. Please refer to the Community Engagement section for more details about the stakeholder engagement sessions.

