









THE AFRICATOWN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN IDEA COMPETITION

1860 KIDNAPPED FROM AFRICA TO ALABAMA /1865 110 FREED AFRICANS / BUILD AFRICATOWN / 2019 / SLAVE SHIP FOUND /2020 DESIGN 4 SITES / 16 VENUES = AFRICATOWN CULTURAL MILE

COMPETITION REGISTRATION BEGINS JUNETEENTH / JUNE 19 / 2021



THE AFRICATOWN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN IDEA COMPETITION

sponsors



















COMPETITION CHALLENGE

THE AFRICATOWN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN IDEA COMPETITION is not about a single site in Historic Africatown, rather it is an interdisciplinary, multi-site design competition that breaks boundaries to organize around four Competition SITES described as: (1) The Africatown Historic District, (2) The Josephine Allen Site, (3) The Africatown Connections Blueways and (4) The Africatown Park USA. Thus, the Competition Is not near-sighted, rather it is a far-sighted impulse that soon will produce designs for 4 SITES and 16 Venues that ultimately will define the BIG Idea-The Africatown Cultural Mile.

THE AFRICATOWN CULTURAL MILE IS A "COMPETITION INVENTION" THAT DESCRIBES A NEW SYSTEM of COMMUNITY-BASED THINKING that rebuilds Africatown to include sacred public spaces and interpretive landscapes, signature education facilities and preserved historic housing, welcome centers and museums, boathouses and yacht clubs, walking paths and water taxis, luxury hotels and mixed income housing, business centers and African tourism agencies, gateways and parks, that together create integrated live/work space with memorable narratives for the Africatown community, the city and the world.

The Competition aims to preserve the heritage of this community by designing THE AFRICATOWN CULTURAL MILE to serve as a physical, economic and cultural network that reshapes the perception of Africatown-- from that of a singular and discrete place--- into a geo-political narrative about social justice, American slavery, discovery of Clotilda, celebration of Africatown Founders and Clotilda Descendants, preservation and promotion of Africatown for cultural tourism, destination planning and the economic vitality of the Africatown community, city of Mobile, state of Alabama, this region and the world. Now that the last slave ship Clotilda has been found. Wakanda forever.













HISTORIC **AFRICATOWN**

Memorial Garden& Pavilion @Cemetery

Mobile County Training School Expansion

Gateway 1: For Ancestors

30 Infill Housing Prototypes

2 JOSEPHINE ALLEN **PUBLIC HOUSING SITE**

Africatown Museum/ **Performing Arts Center**

Clotilda Boathouse

Maritime Residential Housing

Gateway 2' Place of Baptism

AFRICATOWN CONNECTIONS BLUEWAY SITES

Africatown Yacht /Scuba Club

Interpretive Water-Edged **Pavilions**

Africatown Boat Fleet

Gateway 3: Clotilda Discovery Site Gateway 4: Door of Return

AFRICATOWN USA STATE PARK SITE

Benin House/Africa Museum Performing Arts Theater

Spa Hotel/Convention Center/ Int'l Commerce

Black Studies Institute/ **Genealogy Center**

AFRICATOWN CULTURAL MILE





4
AFRICATOWN PARK USA SITE
Benin House
Spa Hotel
Genealogical Ctr
Gateway 4: Door of Return



JO ALLEN PUBLIC HOUSING SITE Africatown Museum Clotilda Boathouse Maritime Residential Gateway 2: Place of Baptism



HISTORIC AFRICATOWN SITE
Memorial Pavilion & Garden
@Cemetery
Training School Expansion
30 Units Infill Housing
Gateway 1: Ancestors Monument

COMPETITION SCHEDULE: (this is a 9-month DESIGN challenge)

JUNE 19, 2021 REGISTRATION BEGINS

JANUARY 19, 2022 REGISTRATION ENDS

APRIL 19, 2022 DESIGNS TO BE SUBMITTED VIA WEBSITE www.AfricatownDeign.com

MAY 1 2022 JURY REVIEWS BEGIN

JUNE 1 2022 JURY REVIEW ENDS

JUNE 19, 2022 COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

COMPETITION RULES:

1.THIS IS A YEAR-LONG, DESIGN IDEA COMPETITION,

COMPETITION LAUNCHED JUNETEENTH (JUNE 19) 2021 WINNERS ANNOUNCED JUNETEENTH (JUNE 19) 2022

2.IT IS OPEN TO ALL DESIGNERS AND CREATIVE THINKERS WORLD-WIDE,

THE COMPETITION DESIGN PERIOD IS 9 MONTHS IN DURATION.

THIS TIMELINE IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT SCHOOLS OF DESIGN AROUND THE WORLD WILL HAVE 2 SEMESTERS TO EXPLORE AFRICATOWN'S CHALLENGES IN THEIR SCHOOL DESIGN STUDIOS AND SUBMIT IDEAS.

3.THE DESIGN JURY includes stellar design professionals, Africatown descendants & COMMUNITY LEADERS LOOKING FOR:

- · Creative minds who inform their designs with their knowledge of history.
- · Architectural ideas that explore African design principles for this African story
- Site design concepts with 4 'themed' venues that can transform/regenerate community.
- A 500-word design essay submitted with final designs that respect cultural identity, & explain your site design approach, with narratives about the design of each of your 4 venues.
- Final design submissions that express the competitor's freedom of design interpretation. NOTE: The Design Requirements and Design Submission Templates contained within each design package are suggestions to guide your design and submission considerations.

4.FINAL WINNERS will be announced JUNETEENTH 2022 and will receive cash awards for their submissions.

Competition organizers have the right to exhibit and publish all design submissions.

So NOW, what's the story?

In 2019,

Clotilda the Slave Ship was 'discovered' in Mobile River.

Now, there is international interest in this unique American place built by Africans at the end of the civil war...
This is a tale of American slavery,

2 southern cities, 1 town, and many many African descendants....

So what's the story? Then...



africatown international design competition

a multi-site challenge historic africatown@mobile josephine allen site@mobile blueways@rivers africatown usa@pritchard 1

In 1860,

110 Africans were brought from Benin/Dahomey/Nigeria/ to Mobile/Bay, Alabama on the Clotilda, the last slave cargo ship to come to America.

5

In 1865,

after 5 years of enslavement, Clotilda Africans were emancipated; 32 freed slaves then built their own town called Africatown.

3

Today,

vestiges of this unique African/American settlement remain, spread across multiple waterways

S.

2 Alabama cities Prichard & Mobile.

4

What once was an African town—
is now an African/American
descendant neighborhood
in poor repair—
a unique American place,
threatened by generations of benign neglect...

THE PROBLEM

what it's all about !

african form

architecture

zoning

THE AFRICATOWN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN IDEA COMPETITION

explores Africatown | Alabama, -- this unique American place-built by the determined genius of emancipated Africans, a strong-minded communitynow threatened by generations of benign neglect...

THIS COMPETITION, IS AN ADVOCACY TOOL, THAT AIMS TO RADICALLY TRANSFORM

this resilient, yet underserved community from economic margins into a self-sustaining, cutting edge environment that celebrates history, creative placemaking, social justice, strategic design and cultural tourism in African form.

THE COMPETITION ALSO SEEKS TO EVOKE DESCENDANT MEMORY

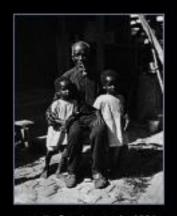
to define THE AFRICATOWN CULTURAL MILE

as an authentic, world class cultural heritage experience for tourists & as a powerful historical narrative that can drive substantial cultural tourism dollars TO SUSTAIN AFRICATOWN'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT-- IN PERPETUITY.

community land trust creative placemaking cultural heritage cultural identity cultural tourism design solutions destination planning economic development environmental protection equity implementation preservation public policy public & private heritage agendas real estate reparations slavery & human trafficking site control spatial justice

THE DESCENDANTS





cudjo & twin grands, 1931











More precious than our children are the children of our children African Proverb

Throughout this process we reviewed past reports and recommendations & have engaged descendants, activists and elders, to develop a host of design topics that soon will challenge designers, worldwide, to revitalize Africatown, now that CLOTILDA has been found.



THE DESIGN CHALLENGE

THE AFRICATOWN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN IDEA COMPETITION explores Afrocentric design principles, themes & issues relating to preservation of Historic Africatown & the promotion of 21st century design ideas.

economy

construction/ease

color, pattern & texture intensity

earth centered/earth nurturing

maintenance/ease

heritage & ancestors

spirituality + ritual

strong indoor/outdoor relationship

dual/ironic conditions



simplicity



10 black cultural design principles @ all scales urban to buildings to interiors. Jack travis, FAIA | JURY CHAIR

WHY africatown?

Today, visitors can get a glimpse of this history by visiting the downtown Museum of Mobile or by following the African-American Heritage Trail to the historic Africatown cemetery site. Some residents also stage an annual Africatown folk festival. Africatown is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

BUT there's no major public interpretive history initiative in Africatown — no replica of the Clotilda, no well-funded museum — no well-designed destination to mark Africatown's role in Alabama, national and international history.

• WHY a competition?

COMPETITIONS CAN :

PRODUCE AFRICAN DESIGNS FOR AFRICATOWN SO IMPORTANT FOR CULTURAL IDENTITY

ORGANIZE A VARIETY OF IDEAS & SITES TO GIVE VISITORS FRESH VISUAL MESSAGES

CONNECT 4 SITES/16 BUILDINGS WITHIN 10 MILE AREA TO CREATE 1ST CLASS DESTINATION

CREATE A HERITAGE BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

competition organizers: "can all of the Africatown projects finally connect?"







DESIGN THE SITES

THERE ARE 4 COMPETITION SITES:

SITE 1 SITE 2 SITE 3 SITE 4	HISTORIC AFRICATOWN JOSEPHINE ALLEN SITE AFRICATOWN CONNECTIONS BLUEWAY AFRICATOWN PARK USA
SELECT ONE SITE	DESIGN 4 BUILDINGS
SELECT TWO SITES	DESIGN 8 BUILDINGS
SELECT THREE SITES	DESIGN 12 BUILDINGS
SELECT FOUR SITES	DESIGN 16 BUILDINGS

SITE CRITERIA: DESIGNERS MUST

SELECT ANYWHERE FROM ONE TO FOUR OF SITES 1, 2,3,4 FOR DESIGN SUBMISSION:

Each of the four SITES 1,2,3,4 has four BUILDINGS (a b c d) that must be designed for that specific location.

5

IDENTIFY AFRICAN DESIGN TRADITIONS IN ARCHITECTURE AND COMMUNITY BUILDING to promote Africatown (circa 1865) as a new cultural heritage destination brought on by the 2019 discovery of the Clotilda Slave ship.

5

EMPLOY AFRICAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES TO GENERATE NEW ARCHITECTURAL PARADIGMS, buildings and landscapes that respect preservation, re-ignite tradition and stimulate new ways to foster Africatown's history and culture.

4

PROPOSE NEW AFRO-CENTRIC DESIGN OPTIONS that respect and interpret the role of culture, history and identity in the development of (any or all) of the four AFRICATOWN COMPETITION SITES 1,2,3,4 along The Africatown Cultural Mile.



2 JO ALLEN SITE

2C Maritime Residential

2D Gateway 2



1 HISTORIC AFRICATOWN

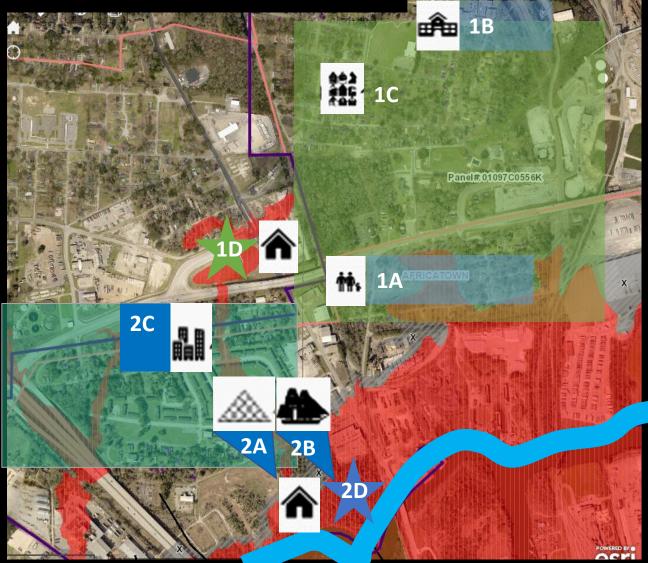


1A Welcome Center @ Cemetery 1B Mobile Co. Training School 1C Historic District Infill Housing 1D Gateway1

ocated south of Chin Street next to rail line. terest: The Settlers of Africatown and their neighbors identified the surrounding creeks as places of connecting spiritual selves to the water the water that connected to the ancestors, that connected to Africa. The kidnapped Africans, brought over on the slave ship Clotilda, carried with them traditions of their African culture and, in time, imbued their lives with American Christian culture, including the sacred ritual of baptism. Water is the life force of Planet Earth, it lies and washes our spirit s seeds of acceptance and ness, water allows the gifts of the spirit to take root and bloom. The vision for the Africatown GATEWAY NEAR Place of Baptism Landmark is to foster clarity, compassion, humbleness, forgiveness, love and inner peace.

CONNECT THE SITES / CONNECT THE DOTS

SITES: 1 BUILDING VENUES



1 HISTORIC AFRICATOWN



1A Welcome Center @ Cemetery 1B Mobile Co. Training School 1C Historic District Infill Housing 1D Gateway1

Located south of Chin Street next to rail line. Interest: The Settlers of Africatown and their neighbors identified the surrounding creeks as places of connecting spiritual selves to the water, the water that connected to the ancestors, that connected to Africa. The kidnapped Africans, brought over on the slave ship Clotilda, carried with them traditions of their African culture and, in time, imbued their lives with American Christian culture, including the sacred ritual of baptism. Water is the life force of Planet Earth, it is what fortifies our bodies and washes our spirit. As it nourishes seeds of acceptance and forgiveness, water allows the gifts of the spirit to take root and bloom. The vision for the Africatown GATEWAY NEAR Place of Baptism Landmark is to foster clarity, compassion, humbleness, forgiveness, love and inner peace.

HISTORIC AFRICATOWN:

Design: (1) Urban Design Concept & (4) Building Venues
Within 10 Square Blocks of The Africatown Historic District

11: DESIGN MEMORIAL GARDEN@ HISTORIC CEMETERY

To engage public appreciation of this sacred history, religion, social life and community. The Memorial Garden is meant to promote quiet contemplations about American slavery, African culture and Africatown survival. The Memorial Shrine and Garden must also commemorate the life, death and sacred burials and rituals of original African survivors of the Clotilda and their descendants. The Garden will serve as meeting ground, praying ground, place for ancestral libations and rituals to jumpstart tours throughout the Historic District.

DESIGN MOBILE COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL/EXPANSION

To elevate public education and MCTS history by developing A New 21st Century African Centric Smart -School Campus with African-centric curriculum in History, Arts, Sciences with technology labs, art studios, performance theaters and dormitories for 101 Visiting African Scholars with boarding for 30 students at an Old Rosenwald School Site.

TE DESIGN 30 UNITS OF INFILL HOUSING

To preserve an also "fill in the missing teeth" of this underserved community, by designing housing that respects African American building traditions and African architectural influences on southern vernacular architecture. Focus on façade elevations, lot sizes, block orientation, house types and groupings, landscape on vacant lots and shared communal spaces in this historic District.

DESIGN AFRICATOWN WELCOME/GATEWAY/# 1

as a public plaza and gateway for Historic Africatown, that welcomes the public serves as public art hub, monument and memorial for ancestors, descendants and visitors.









Name SITE 1	Site/ Building Type	Theme	Acres / Blocks	SF or UNITS
HISTORIC AFRICATOWN	Historic District	African Centric: Architecture, Design and Community Building		
VENUES:				
1 A Africatown Memorial Shrine and Garden	Honors Meditation Reconciliation Space	Sacred Engagement of Descendant Community for interpretation of Spirituality near Africatown Cemetery	5 Acres	
1 B Mobile Co Training School	Expansion of Existing Mobile Co Training School on Historic Rosenwald School Site	African Centric Preparatory Boarding School/African STEAM/Visiting Scholars	2 acres	10,000 SF
1 C Infill Housing		Afro-centric community building with Infill Housing	10 blocks	30 housing units
1 D Gateway 1		Gateway to Ancestors	1 acre	1,000 SF

SITE 1/BUILDING TYPES

HISTORIC AFRICATOWN:

MOBILE ALABAMA



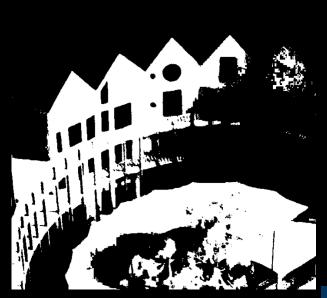


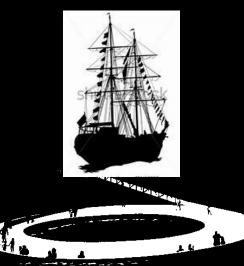
Memorial Shrine & Garden @ Cemetery Training School Annex Gateway 1

SITE 2

Josephine Allen/Mobile/a publicly owned site.

Africatown Museum, Clotilda Boathouse, Mixed Income Mixed Use Housing, Gateway 2







Dr. Natalie Robertson has written the book on the Slave Ship Clotilda and the Making of Africatown. What documents for example might she suggest that the new boathouse for the Clothilda contain?

What if the now abandoned 50 acre

To build a new boat house for the Clotilda

and underwater statues of ancestor slaves

who did not survive the Atlantic slave trade

What if we designed new nautical houses

in homage to descendants to wrap around

replica where visitors could ramp down to see

public housing Jo Allen site

the slave filled hull

flooded the flood plain on purpose

Make no small plans

JOSEPHINE ALLEN PUBLIC HOUSING SITE

Design : (1) Urban Design Concept & (4) Building Venues
ON 60 acres abandoned housing site

STE 21: DESIGN THE MUSEUM FOR AFRICATOWN ANCESTORS

As An African Architectural Icon that develops a cutting edge technology to interpret, exhibit, display and engage inter-cultural dialogue about Africa, The International Slave Trade, Alabama Plantations, Emancipation, and the building of Africatown against the backdrop of descendant docents, artifacts and oral histories.

DESIGN A BOATHOUSE FOR THE CLOTILDA REPLICA

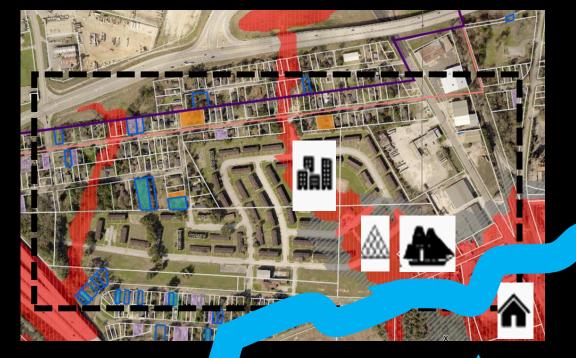
To House a Full-size Replica of The Clotilda in the Floodplain of the Jo Allen Site near the Three mile Creek water-edge. The recent discovery of the Clotilda Slave Ship has caused much excitement for Africatown Descendants determined to bring the slave ship's history to the Center of Africatown. Residents of Africatown already are discussing what should be done with the wreckage.

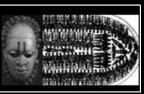
DESIGN A MARITIME RESIDENTIAL HOUSING MARVEL

as part of a new 300 unit mixed use/mixed income housing complex with affordable housing for seniors. To honor the ancestors and their arrival in Mobile Bay in 1860, maritime housing must face the water-to lend a different view of this unique cultural heritage for Africatown residents—a new-town-in-town concept that takes an historic but derelict public housing site and converts in into a major live/work/play venue for education and performances --- and to earmark cultural tourism as economic development engine for Africatown.

STE 2D: DESIGN /GATEWAY/# 2

to introduce public to Africatown Museum/Clotilda Boathouse Complex to honor the descendants and to provide a water-edge hub for transport tourists to other locations along the Africatown Cultural Mile







flood plain

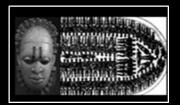


Africatown Museum Clotilda Boathouse Maritime Residential Gateway 2

STE 2 BUILDING TYPES JOSEPHINE ALLEN SITE:

AFRICATOWN MUSEUM/CLOTILDA BOATHOUSE/MARITIME RESIDENTIAL

MOBILE ALABAMA





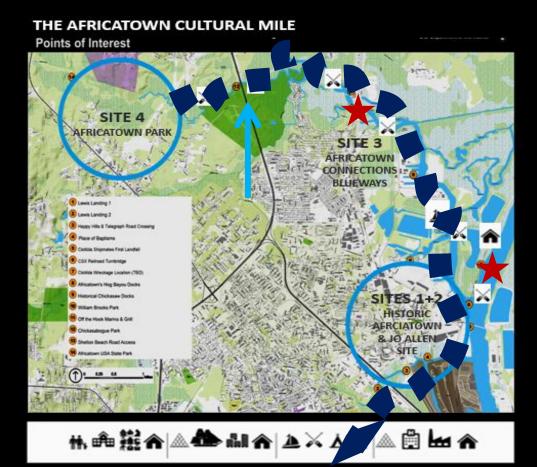
Africatown Museum Clotilda Boathouse Maritime Residential Gateway 2

Name	Site /Building Type	Theme	Acres	SF or UNITS
SITE 2: JO ALLEN	Abandoned Public Housing Site	Flooding the Flood Plain Museum/Boathouse For Clotilda/Descendant Maritime Residential + Parking	50	
Africatown Museum/ Performance Theater	African-American Museum Complex	Once Upon A Time In Africa/Town	5	78,000 SF
Clotilda Boathouse	Aquatecture/ Maritime Complex	Slave Ship as Machine for Human Cargo; Underwater Archaeology	5	30,000 SF
Maritime Residential Mixed-Use/Income Housing	New Intown Mixed Use/Income Housing	Maritime Housing to Honor Clotilda Ancestors & Descendants	10	300 units 2-4 bedrooms
Gateway 2	Water Taxi Hub Africatown Cultural Mile Embarkation	Place of African Ritual Place of Baptism Barracoon	5	Marina for 4 Boat Fleet

STE 3 AFRI

AFRICATOWN CONNECTION BLUEWAYS:

Connects SITES 1,2,3,4 By Water Transit To 15 Interest Points,
Along the Africatown Cultural Mile Including:
"A New Gateway to Clotilda Discovery Site & Africatown Yacht Club"







Africatown Yacht Club Branded Tourism Boat Fleet 15 Water Edge Pavilions Gateway3



connections Blueway Site include The Africatown Yacht Club for swim/scuba training with well branded water based boats that tour 15 points of interest along the Three Mile Creek, the Mobile River and Chickasaw (Chicksabogue) Creek waterways and estuaries as interpreted by the Africatown Community and the National Park Service, to form the navigable, wateredged segment of The Africatown Cultural Mile.



The Africatown Connections Blueway Site

Design (1) Urban Design Concept & (4) Building Venues
Along A 10 Mile Waterway

DESIGN THE AFRICATOWN YACHT CLUB

To teach swimming, sailing and boat-building boats to public school students Africatown youth from the Mobile County Training School / Africatown Swim Club Program & 100 Black Men, Inc.

DESIGN A SERIES OF 15 PAVILIONS

To interpret Africatown history and plantation routes along the Africatown Connections Blueway with heritage signage and rest stops for boat taxis along the waterway,

SITE 3 C DESIGN A FLEET OF WELL-BRANDED BOATS

To function as water transit system TO PORMOTE Africatown history, its connections to the waterways & eco tours using newly designed kayaks, row boats, water taxis, steamboats designed to transport people (2-50 people) up and down the Mobile bay, creeks and rivers,

DESIGN AFRICATOWN BLUEWAYS/GATEWAY/# 3

As a public plaza that introduces the Clotilda Discovery Site to the Public, The Africatown Yacht Club as iconic along The AFRICATOWN CULTURAL MILE/ Dedicate this Africatown Connections Blueways/Gateway to the African Gods of Water.









What if the Blue Ways Project

centered on the design of the new Africatown Yacht Club that taught the descendants of slaves to swim, scuba, make boats and make underwater discoveries? This would be just 1 of 15 points along the Blue Ways route for water tours

Africatown USA State Park/PRICHARD

Design Design (1) Urban Design Concept & (4) Building Venues

On 10 acres of A 160 Acre Undeveloped Public Park

DESIGN THE BENIN HOUSE PROJECT

as a highly immersive interpretive museum focused on the history of Africa, the Empire of Dahomey and the culture of Benin. Museum should include African role and perspective on the International Slave Trade, Story of Oudah, the Barracoons and the Clotilda;. Exhibitions should use virtual reality techniques to explore African civilizations, Art of Benin, African oral Histories, maps, and a genealogical wing that traces African ancestry.

DESIGN WELLNESS- SPA HOTEL/CONVENTION CENTER

as an African international Trade Center Complex that features a world-class Destination Hotel, Performance Center for African dance, theater, film; an African Marketplace and a Tourism Agency promote travel to Africa.

DESIGN AFRICAN PERFORMANCE ARTS CENTER

as a phenomenal place to enjoy the depth and breadth of African Music, Dance, Theater and the Literary Arts, both indoor and out in the middle of Africatown Park USA-as enchanted forest.

JIE 4D DESIGN AFRICATOWN PARK/GATEWAY/# 4

as Public Plaza and DOOR OF RETURN TO AFRICA in Africatown Park USA.







AFRICATOWN PARK USA/PRICHARD ALABAMA





Benin House Project /Africa Museum Spa Hotel/Performance Center Genealogical Center Gateway 4

Name	Site /Building Type	Design Theme	Acres/ Miles Long	SF or UNITS
SITE 4: AFRICATOWN PARK USA	International Free Trade Zone	Enchanted Forest Travel The Africatown Cultural Mile by Water	160 Acres	
BENIN HOUSE PROJECT	African Museum	African Diaspora Dialogues: Ancient African Art & History with African Interpretation of Slave History	5 Ac	50,000 SF
Spa Hotel/ Convention Complex Restaurant/Café	Hospitality Hub African Market Place African Tourism Agency	Luxury Retreat Wellness, Rest, Relaxation	1 Ac	150 Hotel Rooms
Performance Arts Center		African Music, Dance, Theater	1 Ac	3000 seats
Gateway 4	Ritual Space	African Cornerstone Door of Return to Africa	1 Ac	1000 SF

Africatown matters

If not now when?



If not us who?

