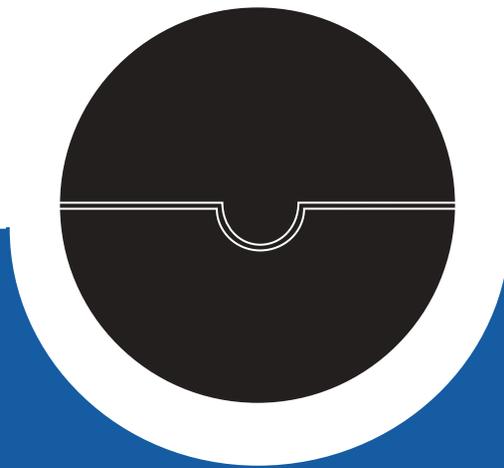


VIRGINIO FERRARI FOUNDATION



CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER  
PROPOSAL

# VISION



The Ferrari Foundation Contemporary Arts Center will become the official museum of the renowned sculptor Virginio Ferrari. Inspired from Virginio's belief "that it is time to consider how fast things disappear and to become more aware of making art to live with", the nonprofit art organization will function to educate the public of his extensive work in the field of contemporary sculpture and public art, while also seeking to be an active organization in the production or new public art projects, exhibition art programming, and community based initiatives that connect his adoptive home and motherland.

# HISTORY



Virgilio Ferrari (b.1937) is an internationally acclaimed contemporary Italian-American sculptor whose monumental sculptures can be found on street corners and public parks, at universities and libraries, corporations and in private collections in Chicago, and all over the world.

He was born in Verona, Italy where he graduated from the Scuola D' Arte N. Nanni and from the Accademia Cignaroli (1959), where he received his first teaching assignment. His father and grandfather were stonecutters who established a sense of craftsmanship in the household, and Ferrari continued this tradition, having his first solo exhibit in Venice in 1962 at the age of 24. From 1966 to 1976 Ferrari was Assistant Professor of Art and Sculptor in Residence at the University of Chicago and since then has remained in Chicago where he has devoted his full energies to sculpting.

With over thirty monumental public sculptures in Chicago alone and other works acquired by civic, museum, and corporate collections in Atlanta, Dey-

ang, Florence, Guayaquil, Los Angeles, Milan, Philadelphia, Parma, Rome, Shanghai and Verona, Ferrari has been a constant presence in the international art world resulting in over 50 solo exhibitions, while participating in more than 150 group shows.

He holds many awards for his achievements, including the Illinois State Service Award for outstanding contributions as a sculptor who has vitalized and humanized urban spaces. Honored by the president of Italy, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, Ferrari was awarded the Ufficiale Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana (Officer-Order of Merit of the Italian Republic) in 1992, for his important contributions to the international art world. He received the medal of the City of Verona and the Illinois Art Council Governor's Award based on his 2003 anthological retrospective exhibit *Ombre della Sera:1958-2003* at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea-Palazzo Forti, Verona, Italy. Ferrari currently divides his time between his studios in Chicago, USA and Guardistallo, Italy.

# PHILOSOPHY



Since the early sixties Ferrari's sculptures have participated with the environment allowing the interaction of sculpture and casual observer, giving the modern city a human dimension.

Ferrari's styles and periods have progressed and changed, marrying his mastery of traditional materials and methods with experimentation's in new forms, materials and styles embracing a philosophy of "New Ideas, New Ways, New Means and New Spaces."

His stylistic development has included transitions in expressionistic and surrealistic forms and has evolved towards geometric reduction with a minimum of means; sculptures distinguished by massive force and dynamic tension. Running throughout his art

even in his most formalistic works is a persistent search for life essences, to the condition of man, to the embracing of male and female forces.

His work has been described as lyrical abstract sculpture in bronze, stainless steel, marble and granite. Integrating sculpture into the architectural environment, often playfully in contrast to it, at other times fully participating in it, consequently his work is preoccupied with creating situations that delight the eye in the parks, streets, squares and corners of the city.

# MISSION



Since immigrating to Chicago from Verona in the 60s, Ferrari established a collaborative openness to work with international artists, architects, scholars, galleries and students creating opportunities in both his adopted city and native land through his studio spaces, academic and civic institutions and corporations.

Inspired by this connection to Italy and the desire to create new modes of reflection and production in Chicago, the Ferrari Contemporary Art Center would create initiatives ranging from workshops, happenings and exhibitions, creatively bridging Italy and Chicago to inaugurate projects where art-

ists, scholars and students collaborate to engage with the public and revitalize ideas and spaces.

It is this profound connection to a tradition that is tied to form, material and meaning within a contemporary context in which the center would serve as beacon for the neighborhood and an arch for the city.

# FERRARI STUDIO EXAMPLES

Rowe Building, Printers Rowe  
714 S. Dearborn, Chicago  
(1977–1987)



Past studio spaces have been essential and transformative in the neighborhoods in which they have been established. In 1977, Virignio with other members of the arts community bought and renovated a dilapidated building in Printer's Row, Chicago. This arts driven initiative helped to revive an entire area of the city of Chicago and, as a result, dramatically increased the neighborhood's desirability as a residential and business environment.

Ex-Arsenale, Verona, Italy  
(2001–2009)



In 2001 the City of Verona granted Ferrari the use of the an abandoned old armory to produce, store work and run workshops leading up to and after his 2003 retrospective at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna-Palazzo Forti, Verona, Italy. During the years Ferrari rehabbed the condition of the interior and exterior elements of the armory.

Melograno-Guardistallo, Italy (2010–)



In 2010 Ferrari moved into a rehabed farm house adding an outdoor sculpture garden, gallery and modest work space. The Tuscany studio is located in the countryside of the medieval town of Guardistallo (Provence of Pisa). The Mediterranean Sea lies 10 km East and Volterra stands 20 km to the West, while the Carrra marble queries where Virignio often works is 90 minutes to the north.

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



- Develop an active studio and museum to create contemporary art exhibitions, artworks and to permanently exhibit Virginio Ferrari's sculptures through the care and maintenance of an established institution
- Locate a building or site for sale that will become a space to house and exhibit Virginio Ferrari's artworks and archive, while creating the opportunity for new works to be developed in the coming years
- Create a bridge between the studio space in Chicago with his studio in Guardistallo, Italy for artistic and cultural exchanges between both countries and cultures allowing for artists to learn from each other and inspire new approaches to art
- Provide a space for the community to gather, workshop and learn

# SELECTED VIRGINIO FERRARI CHICAGO PROJECTS

## DOWNTOWN



BEING BORN  
1983  
stainless steel, granite, and water  
624.9 x 701 x 548.6 cm  
City of Chicago Public Art Collection

## SOUTH SIDE (HYDE PARK)



INTERLOCKING  
1993  
stainless steel  
71.2 x 518.2 x 518.2 cm  
University of Chicago Laboratory  
Schools, Chicago, Illinois

## SOUTH SIDE (HYDE PARK)



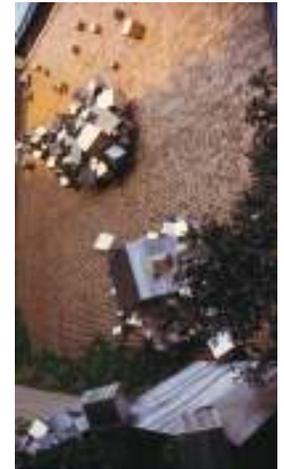
CONTINUITY  
1962-92  
bronze and granite  
350 x 140 x 60 cm,  
University of Chicago, Gordon  
Center for Integrative Science,  
Chicago, Illinois

## NORTH SIDE



PRISM INTO TWO ELEMENTS  
1979-80  
bronze and granite  
243.8 x 243.8 x 182.8 cm  
Northwestern University, Theater  
and Interpretation Center, Evan-  
ston,  
Illinois

## WEST SIDE



SUPER STRENGTH  
1996  
stainless steel  
1219.2 x 1676.4 x 396.2 cm  
University of Illinois at  
Chicago, Engineering  
Research Facility, Chicago,  
Illinois

# PARTNERS AND U OF C CONNECTION



The University currently holds six monumental Ferrari sculptures throughout their Hyde Park campus. An additional two monumental outdoor sculptures are in public parks in Hyde Park as well. With this public collection of works, Virginio's prior teaching history with the University, and the support of a former student of Virginio's from the UChicago's Midway Studios the center would be proposed to the University of Chicago through the following means:

Virginio would donate a determined amount of artworks to the Foundation so that a collection of works can be created. The allocation of funding for the purchase and creation of the museum would be

formed through collectors who would want their Virginio Ferrari art collection to gain value through the establishment of a museum. Once the space and foundation are established the donated Ferrari works and building would be gifted to the University of Chicago with the stipulation that the institution upon acceptance of this gift would then be responsible for its care and maintenance.

# PROJECT TEAM

## VIRGINIO FERRARI



Virginio Ferrari is an internationally acclaimed sculptor, whose monumental sculptures can be found on street corners and public parks, at universities and libraries, corporations and in private collections in Chicago, and all over the world. Ferrari's current work has been described as lyrical abstract sculpture in bronze, stainless steel, marble and granite. His work is preoccupied with creating situations that delight the eye, allowing for the interaction of sculpture and the casual observer, giving the modern city a human dimension.

From 1966 to 1976 Ferrari was Assistant Professor of Art and Sculptor in Residence at the University of Chicago and since then has remained in Chicago where he has devoted his full energies to sculpting. Ferrari holds many accolades for his achievements, including the Illinois State Service Award for outstanding contributions as a sculptor who has vitalized and humanized urban spaces and being awarded the Ufficiale Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana (senior order of knighthood of the Italian Republic) by the president of Italy, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, for his important contributions to the international art world. He currently divides his time between his studios in Chicago, USA and Guardistallo, Italy.

# PROJECT TEAM

## MARCO G. FERRARI



Marco G. Ferrari is an artist based in Chicago, Illinois. He builds films, installations, digital images, and video projection performances that explore our relationships with place and time, to probe how identity is shaped by tensions raised by our attachments to or de-attachments from our built and natural environments.

His films have been screened at exhibitions such as the 54th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale; Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea–Palazzo Forti (Verona, Italy); the Athens International Film and Video Festival (Ohio); and the University of Chicago in Delhi (India).

Ferrari received his MFA from the University of Chicago in Visual Arts and his BA from DePaul University in Communication and Italian Studies. He currently balances his art-making studio practice as an independent curator, lecturer in Media Studies at John Cabot University, and freelancing as a cinematographer and VJ.

## ALBERTO FERRARI



Alberto Ferrari is the Creative Director for the City of Chicago's Graphics and Reproduction Center. He graduated from the University of Illinois–Chicago where he began his creative work as a photographer focusing on architectural based projects. He continues his interest in design and image as a freelance graphic designer and photographer.

# PROJECT TEAM

## MONICA CHADHA CIVIC PROJECTS



Monica Chadha is a LEED certified, licensed architect who has been practicing for over 20 years. She is the Founder and Principal of Civic Projects, a hybrid design practice that uses social engagement to work collaboratively with communities and organizations. Ms. Chadha focuses not only on the quality of the built environment but also on working with emerging entrepreneurs to build their businesses through economic drivers such as pop-up retail and business incubation.

At both Studio Gang Architects and Ross Barney Architects, Ms. Chadha was responsible for the design and team leadership of several award-winning buildings including the Champaign Public Library and the University of Minnesota Duluth's Civil Engineering Building. Current projects include the Englewood Exchange, a café/retail storefront with a demonstration and commercial kitchen that is being built in partnership with Whole Foods, US Bank and the Greater Englewood Community Development Corporation and the Englewood Accelerator, the first business incubator on Chicago's South Side, which opened in 2014; and a contemporary arts space in Oak Park.

Ms. Chadha has been an Adjunct Professor in the College of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology since 2007. She is also on the faculty of Archeworks, a Chicago-based design school, research lab and think-tank. In 2011, she served as the Founding Director of Impact Detroit, a partnership with the Detroit Collaborative Design Center (University of Detroit, Mercy) that provides comprehensive design, environmental, social and economic development services to communities in Detroit.

Ms. Chadha received her Masters of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Architecture from the University of Waterloo, Canada. The Design Futures Council recognized her as an Emerging Leader in 2010 and in 2013 she was included in the inaugural Public Interest Design 100 list of leaders.

# PROJECT TEAM

## JENNIFER PARK JURASSIC STUDIO

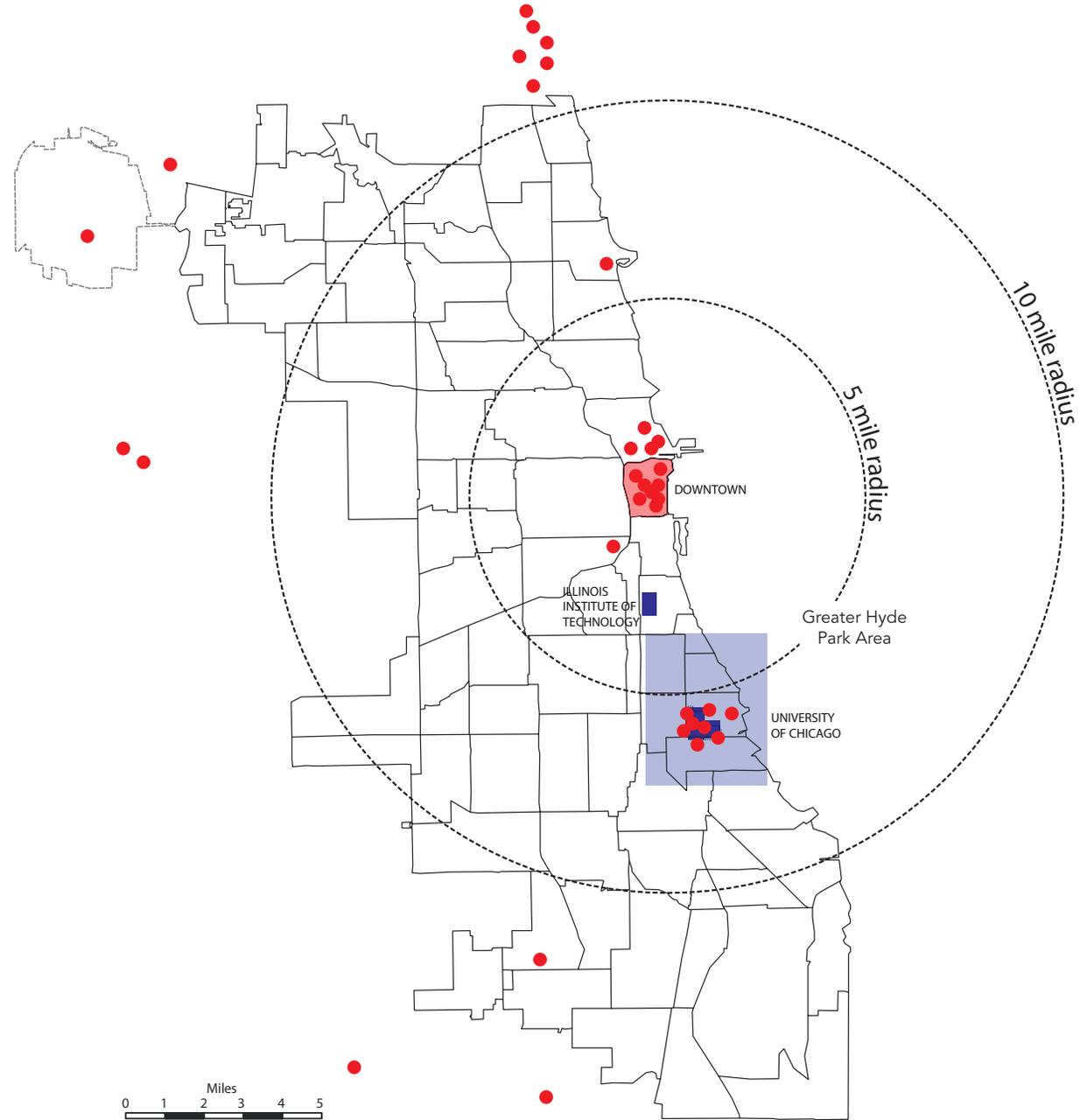


Jennifer Park, AIA, is principal and owner of Jurassic Studio, a design firm that enjoys exploring form, patterns, composition and their translation into our social context. Her professional experience in architecture, design and education spans cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Richmond, and her project experience spans academic, commercial, retail and residential settings.

Jennifer maintains close ties to academia currently serving as an adjunct professor at the School of the Art Institute (SAIC) and Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) teaching architecture studio courses. She believes in teaching students how to think critically about our social and political environment as part of the design process.

In addition to several project awards, Jennifer was acknowledged as one of Chicago's 2015 Women of Influence in Michigan Avenue magazine and was a finalist for Curbed's 2015 Young Guns Award recognizing rising talent in the fields of architecture and development. She also is a recipient of the 2015 Burnham Prize for the Currencies of Architecture Competition hosted by the Chicago Architectural Club in affiliation with the Chicago Architecture Biennial.

# VIRGINIO FERRARI CHICAGO PUBLIC SCULPTURES

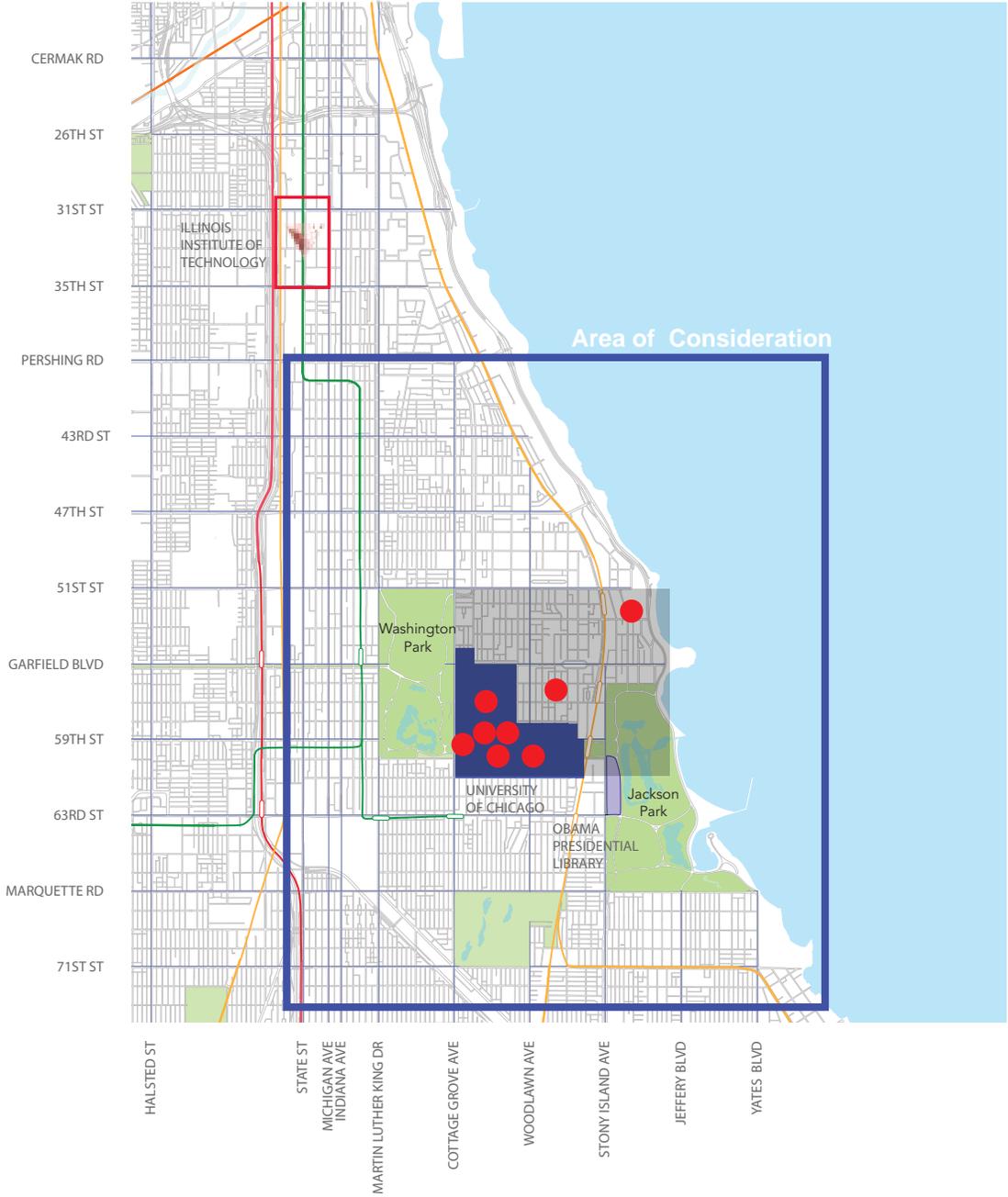


# PROPOSED SITE ASSETS



- The Arts Center is proposed to be in proximity to the University of Chicago Campus
- The Greater Hyde Park Area boasts extensive reinvestment dollars including the Obama Presidential Library and the new Green Line Arts Center
- The Arts Center can benefit with it's proximity and connectivity to the South Side Museum Campus
- Washington Park and Jackson Park are becoming destination areas for the City
- There is easy access to public transportation including two CTA train lines, a Metra line and express bus service from downtown
- The area is served by a both the Dan Ryan and Lakeshore Drive, major transportation arteries in the city

# PROPOSED AREA

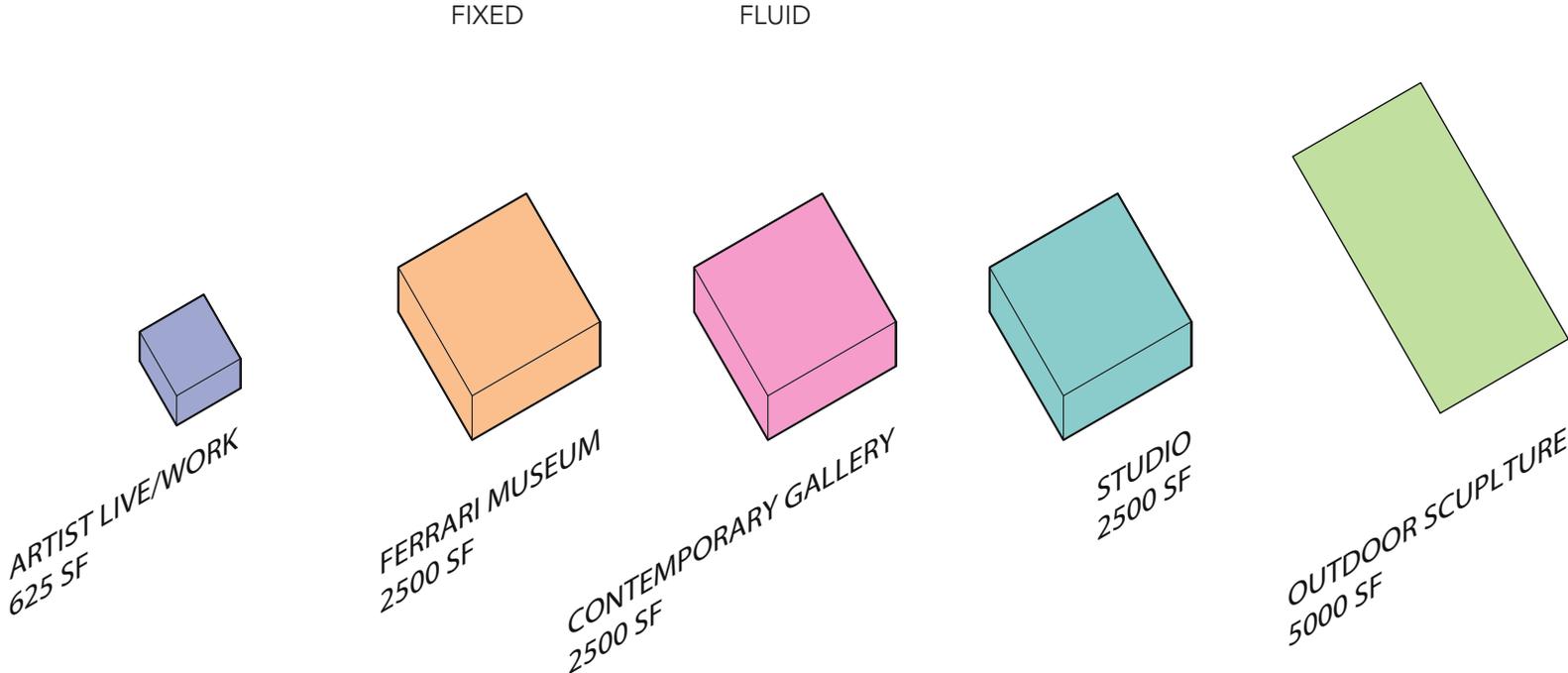


# LOCATION AND SPACE

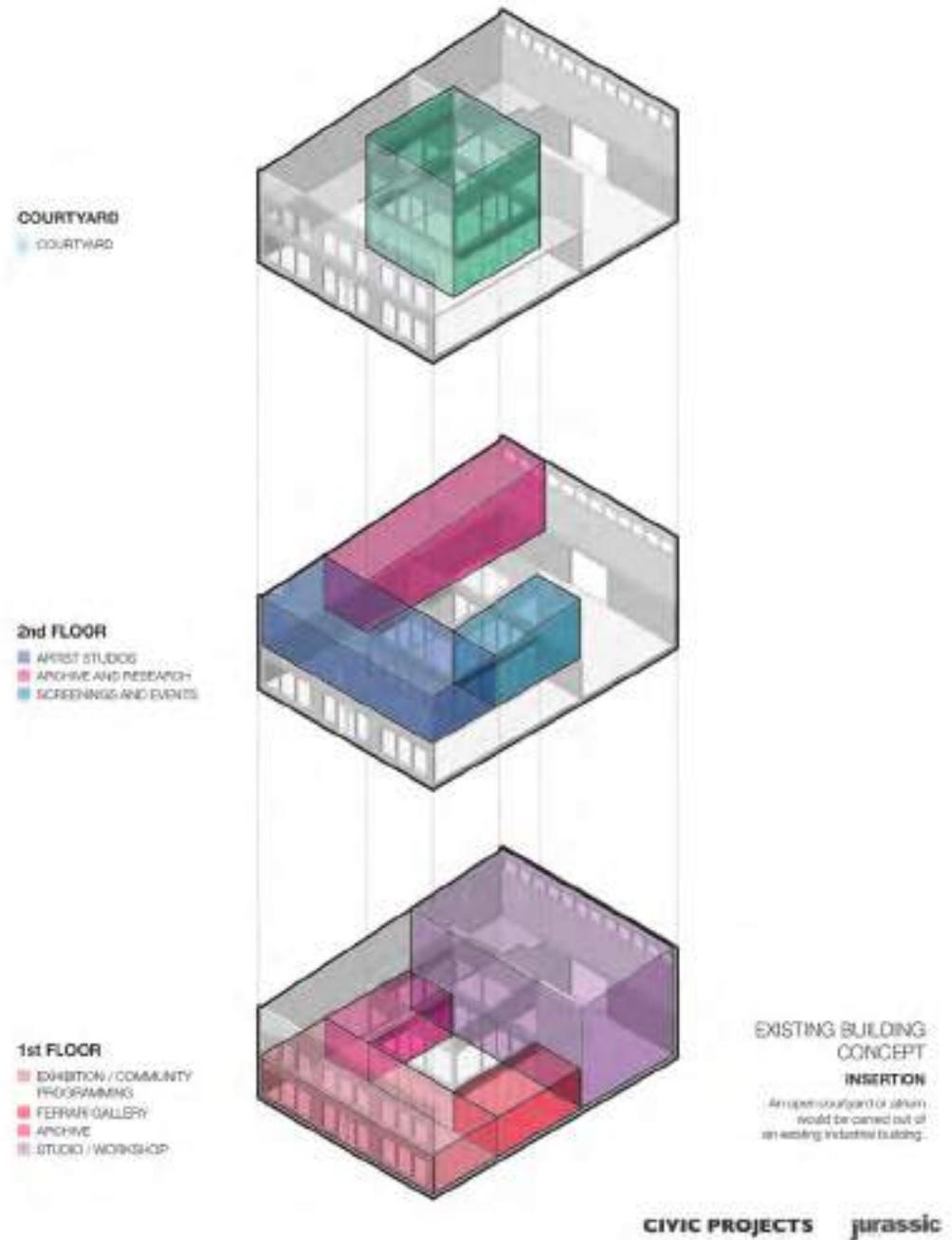


- An existing building or vacant lot with an outdoor area for a sculpture garden
- Located in the Greater Hyde Park Area
- Includes workshop, flexible gallery space and dedicated museum space
- Possible sites include existing greystones, industrial or commercial buildings or a series of vacant lots for new construction
- Includes opportunities for cultural exchange and education through activities and providing live/work opportunities for emerging artists
- An important component of the project is for the space to be active within the community, offering exhibition spaces, lecture and workshop space for local residents and the larger arts community

# BUILDING ELEMENTS



# BUILDING ELEMENTS



# RENDERINGS



# RENDERINGS



# SITE OPPORTUNITIES/EXAMPLES



## Vacant School - Overton

### Reuse of vacant Chicago Public School

There are several vacated buildings in the Greater Hyde Park area that can be repurposed for the Ferrari Contemporary Arts Center.

This building typology would allow for galleries, studio areas and educational programming. This building type might not allow artists live/work spaces.

# SITE OPPORTUNITIES/EXAMPLES



## Existing Building w/ Vacant Lot

Similar to this example at 61st and Champlain, an existing building with adjacent open space could be repurposed for the Arts Center.

The Foundation could acquire the property or work with an owner/developer to build on the site.

# SITE OPPORTUNITIES/EXAMPLES



## Commercial w/ Residential Above

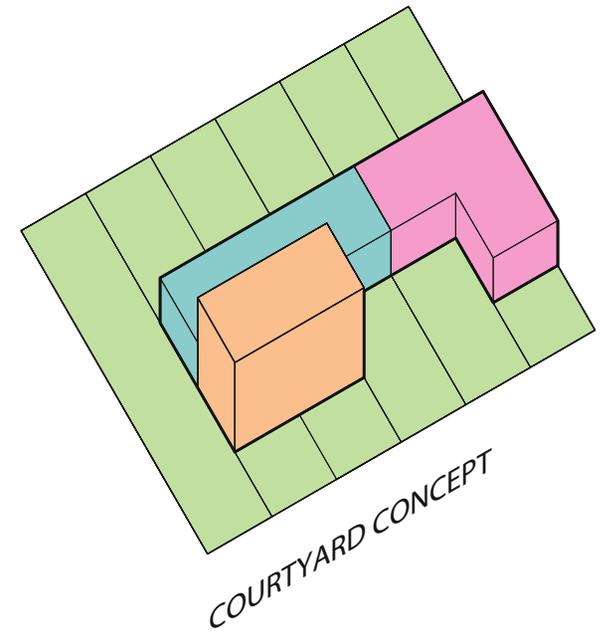
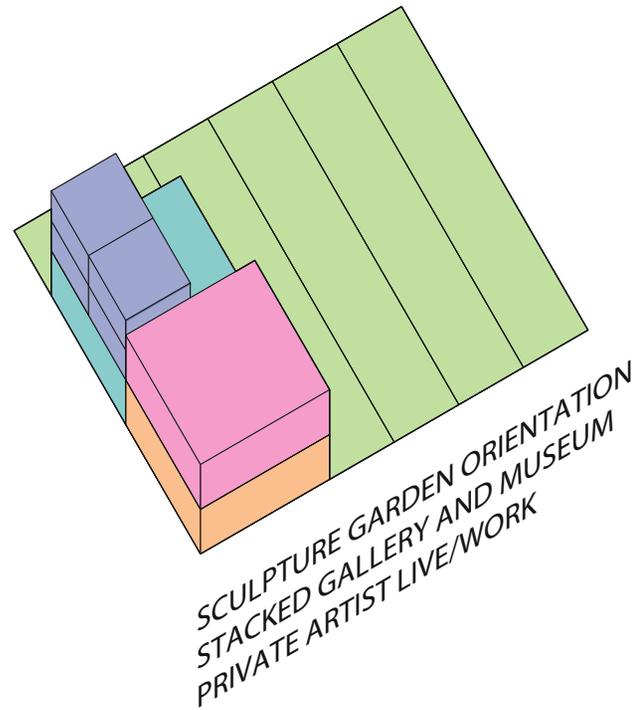
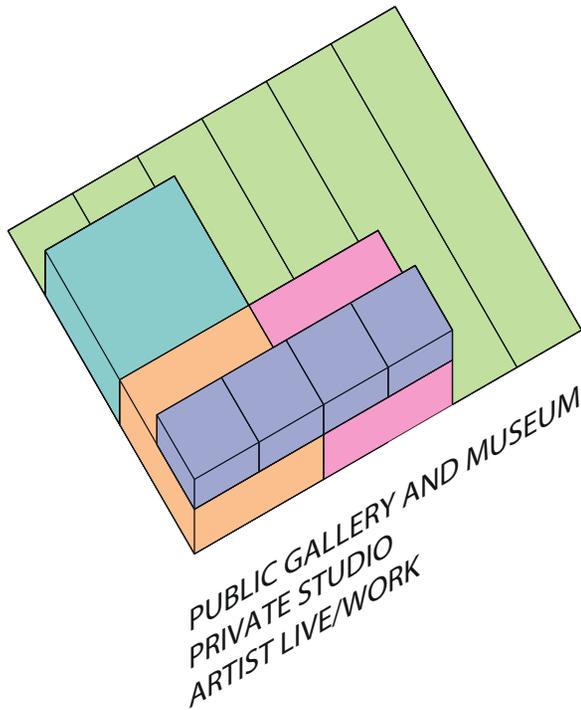
The Ferrari Foundation could acquire an existing masonry mixed use building in the Greater Hyde Park Area.

This building type would allow for extensive gallery and studio space at grade with easy access to the public. Upper levels could be used for offices and live/work spaces for visiting artists.

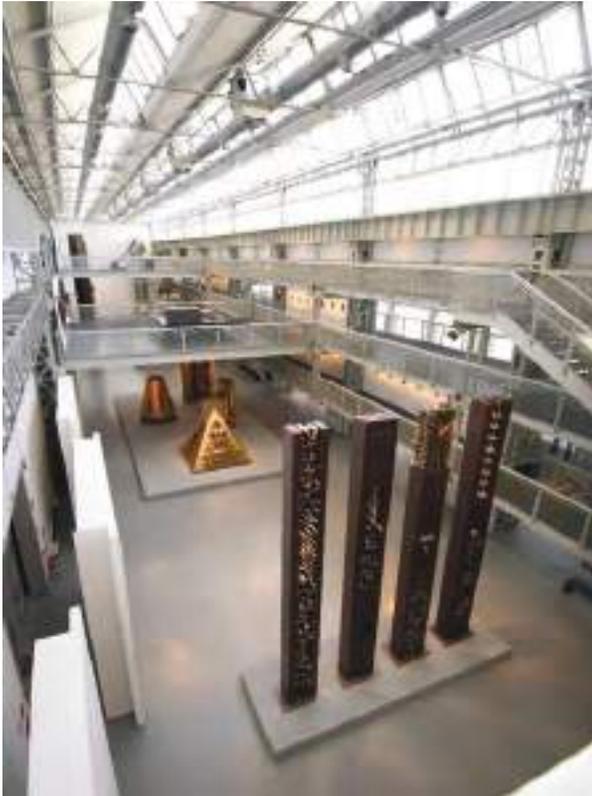
# SITE OPPORTUNITIES/EXAMPLES

## NEW CONSTRUCTION

Provides maximum flexibility



# PRECEDENTS



## Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro

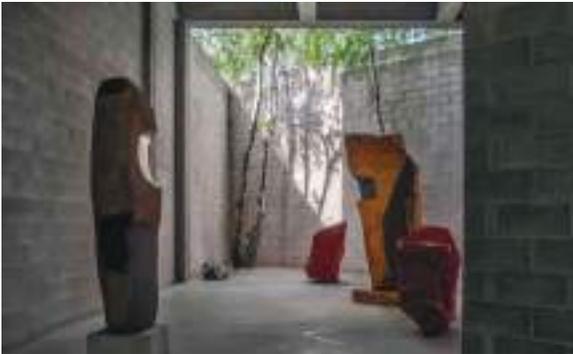
Arnaldo Pomodoro personal and public gallery, studio and archive  
Location: Milan, Italy

The Foundation allows for the use of the space as a studio/workshop for the artist. Also similar to the goals of the Ferrari Contemporary Arts Center is that the Foundation is both a place of creation and exhibition for invited artists and a research archive.

What is different is that the Ferrari Contemporary Arts Center will also serve the surrounding neighborhood, which is a key element of the Arts Center vision.

Several other precedent gallery/studios exist such as Mark Bradford's studio and gallery that provides educational programming and archiving in Los Angeles. The proposed expansion of the Dbal's Mbad African Bead Museum Expansion in Detroit which will provide programming, exhibition space, community gathering and house their African Art collection.

# PRECEDENTS



## Noguchi Museum

Architect: Isamu Noguchi  
Location: Long Island, New York

An international center for the study and interpretation of Noguchi's work, the Museum is dedicated to illuminating the artist's vision, his experience with sculpture and public spaces, and the legacy of his work on later artists. The Museum offers programs that engages the community and bring arts initiatives to New York City's public schools.

While the museum is less of a workshop and studio, similar to the Ferrari CAC the Museum thrives as an important destination, is tied to a University and has an outdoor sculpture garden.

# PRECEDENTS



## The Arts Incubator

Architect/Design: Theaster Gates and Rebuild Foundation  
Location: Washington Park, Chicago

The Arts Incubator is a space for artist residencies, arts educations, community-based arts projects, as well as exhibitions, performances and talks. It is envisioned that the Ferrari CAC could also be University supported and a place for community to gather.

The Ferrari CAC would additionally provide an archive/research area, more exhibition space and production workshops.



## The Green Line Arts Center

Architect/Design: Johnston Marklee  
Location: Washington Park, Chicago

The proposed Green Line Arts Center will be an interdisciplinary hub for music, dance, theater and film production, and will serve as a platform for artists from the South Side and beyond.

# PRECEDENTS



## Atelier Brancusi

Architect/Design: Renzo Piano Workshop

Location: Paris, France

Brancusi's studio was recreated at the Pompidou Center in Paris. The studio showcases a range of his work from his sculptures to photographs. Located within a major museum setting the museum is more a place of observation than activity.

Virginio Ferrari's 1985 Retrospective Exhibit at the Paris Arts Center was located in the original Brancusi studio. The use of light and the physical space of the original studio would be an ideal work area for the Ferrari CAC.



# PRECEDENTS



## P.S. 1 MoMA

Architect: Andrew Berman  
Entry Building  
Location: Long Island, New York

After a 1997 renovation, P.S. 1's renovation preserved much of the original architecture as well as most of its unique classroom-sized galleries.

Affiliated with MoMA, one of the institution's programs invites young architects to inhabit the courtyard with innovative and new ideas.

The Ferrari Arts Center would be a more intimate, smaller group of employees and volunteers but is also looking at ideas of reusing a currently abandoned building.

# PRECEDENTS



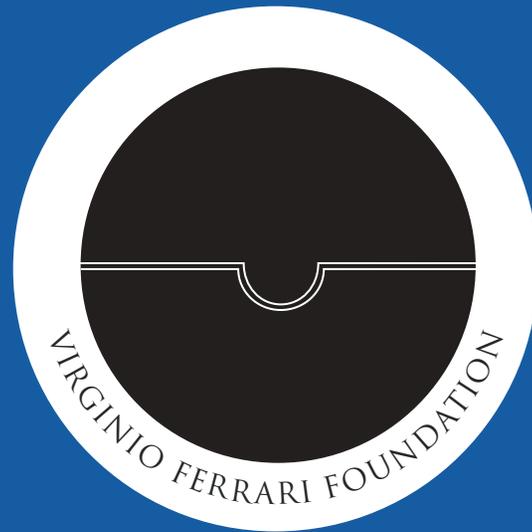
## Judd Studio, NY

Restoration: Architecture Research Office

Studio Location: Manhattan, New York

The Ferrari CAC would be a more active and lived in space as opposed to the museum like quality of the Judd Foundation.

The Judd Foundation bridges two spaces in New York City and Marfa, Texas. The Ferrari CACA would work similarly bridging Chicago and Virginia's studio in Guardistallo, Italy.



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