

Enter *Heritage Hall*, a unique patchwork building cultivated by generations throughout Savannah’s long and multicultural history. This ever-evolving building protects the stories of the past and invites guests to become part of the perpetually growing quilt of Savannah’s communal history.

One hundred years after this historic port fell out of use due to industrialization and an increase in interstate highway travel, we have restored and expanded the site into a new park square in Savannah, showcasing all of the cultural vibrancy of this warm and inviting city. *Unity Square* consists of five buildings, a fountain, a sprawling farm-to-table garden, and green space for a relaxing stroll along the riverfront. We vowed to share the stories of all the city’s people - past, present, and future - and show the world how Savannah has developed throughout the centuries, represented by a fountain of unity that comes to life with a unique show every evening.

Here at *Unity Square*, we have consulted the varied historic communities to develop a place that exemplifies the best parts of Savannah, while still remembering the many troubling times within its history. By creating a place that welcomes those from all backgrounds and abilities, *Unity Square* speaks to the diverse population of Savannah and its international guests. Every visitor is met with the true spirit of Southern hospitality and open inclusion. We honour the past and future through our conservation efforts and continue to build the strong sense of community which was intended by the original colonial charter.

We now invite everyone to add their own story to our community and join us in reflecting on the past, exploring the present, conserving for the future, and discovering the endless possibilities at *Unity Square*.

How would you like your project to be judged?

Creative and Technical

Mostly Technical |

| Mostly Creative

Team Member	Major/Minor/Concentration	Role/Contribution to Project
Participant #1	Themed Entertainment Design, MFA	Art Direction, Project Management, Editing, Illustration
Participant #2	Themed Entertainment Design, MFA	3D Modeling, Motion Media, Projection Media
Participant #3	Themed Entertainment Design, MFA	Graphic Design, Research, Writing, Color Direction
Participant #4	Themed Entertainment Design, MFA	3D Modeling, Rendering, Architecture

Story Behind the Design

Savannah was established in 1733 as the first city in the British colony of Georgia. The colonial charter ensured civic unity and freedom for all. Savannah has always re-established itself through the troubling times that have challenged these original ideals of freedom, each time reinforcing a greater sense of unified community, togetherness, and resilience. The theme of unity is exemplified not only by the name *Unity Square*, but in the curation of diverse local traditions including the arts, music, culture, and cuisine.

We invite the entire city to take part in, and benefit from, our extensive conservation efforts, both through the repopulation of the native oyster beds upriver and by using filtered and purified water from the river onsite and throughout the community. Additionally, by using photovoltaic roofing tiles and glass and offering solar covered parking, *Unity Square* produces more energy daily than it uses, sending the excess clean energy to the city's power grid and lowering the cost and impact of electricity throughout Savannah. In addition to the green initiatives on site, *Unity Square* boosts the local economy by creating jobs and establishing sustainable industries.

User/Guest Experience

Explore *Unity Square* and engage in all it has to offer...actively participate in the art, cuisine, history, and hospitality of Savannah, the Hostess City of the South. Hop on one of Savannah's free downtown shuttle buses or park in the shade of our solar covered parking lot.

Beyond a towering oak enter *Heritage Hall*, the historic port that has welcomed generations to Savannah. Explore this architecturally patchworked building with its layered walls that are embedded with centuries of artifacts and covered with messages left by incoming visitors as a sign of safe passage and goodwill.

Roam freely through the square...learn, play, and develop new methods of conservation in our engaging eco-tinker lab and conservation center, an informative and delightful experience for all ages.

Take a stroll through *Legacy Gardens* and along the river until you work up an appetite, then choose from a variety of local vendor kitchens at the *Farmhouse Market*.

To end the day, you will feel like a part of the spectacular night-time show at *Unity Fountain* where your own pictures and memories are projected as an active part of the story of *Unity Square*, the story of *US*.

WELCOME TO

Unity Square

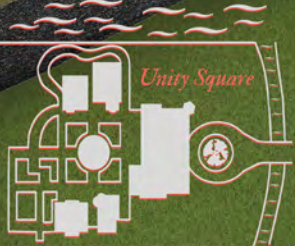
Representing the open arms of welcome that Savannah bids to her guests, *Unity Square* is an inviting, vibrant patchwork of togetherness from the foundations of the buildings, to the many opportunities for guests to Explore, Discover, Reflect, and Conserve.



Georgia



Savannah



Unity Square



LEGACY GARDENS
Stroll through a patchwork of traditional Savannah crops.

UNITY FOUNTAIN
Come alive and join the community with a nightly spectacular.

THE TINKERER'S COTTAGE
Join in our conservation efforts and let your imagination run wild.

THE CONSERVATION WARD
Ponder environmental, historical, and cultural conservation practices.

FARMHOUSE MARKET
Taste the flavors of local vendor kitchens in the marketplace.

LILAC HOUSE
Engage in local art and culture with theater, music, and ever changing exhibits.

HERITAGE HALL
Peruse the layers of Savannah's history where it began at the port of call.

Explore

the present

From the cool “Mood Indigo” of the burgeoning Jazz era to the exhilarating contemporary arts scene and the enduring spirit of creativity and craftsmanship, explore arts and culture in a way you only can in Savannah at *Unity Square*.

See yourself as part of our community in a dynamic, evening fountain show. *Unity Fountain* comes alive every night, sharing a story of unity and incorporating you, our newest community members, into the ever evolving story of Savannah that starts right here, at *Unity Square*.



Discover the possibilities

Savannah has a unique and thriving culinary culture. Whether tasting a local delicacy from the various cultures that shaped Savannah, enjoying a delicious farm to table meal, or simply basking in the warmth of a Savannah day while strolling among the traditional crops of *Legacy Gardens*, there are plenty of delights to discover at *Unity Square*.

Legacy Gardens presents places to come together, but also provides alcoves and protected seats for guests with sensory sensitivities to repose and get away from the boisterous, larger crowds.

Diverse traditions and cuisines are woven together to form the unique culinary culture of Savannah. Enjoy a sampling of sustainably sourced flavors from local vendor kitchens united around the common culture of food.



When the Creek tribe welcomed colonial settlers to Savannah, they each shared agricultural methods and new culinary delights with one another. Prior to the Civil War, enslaved African peoples, the predecessors of the Gullah-Geechee community, added new farming methods and crops to the collective knowledge of the region. They cultivated the land, redefining southern cuisine. Our gardens are a place to learn and discover, with farm-to-table, sustainable agro-practices that you can use back home!

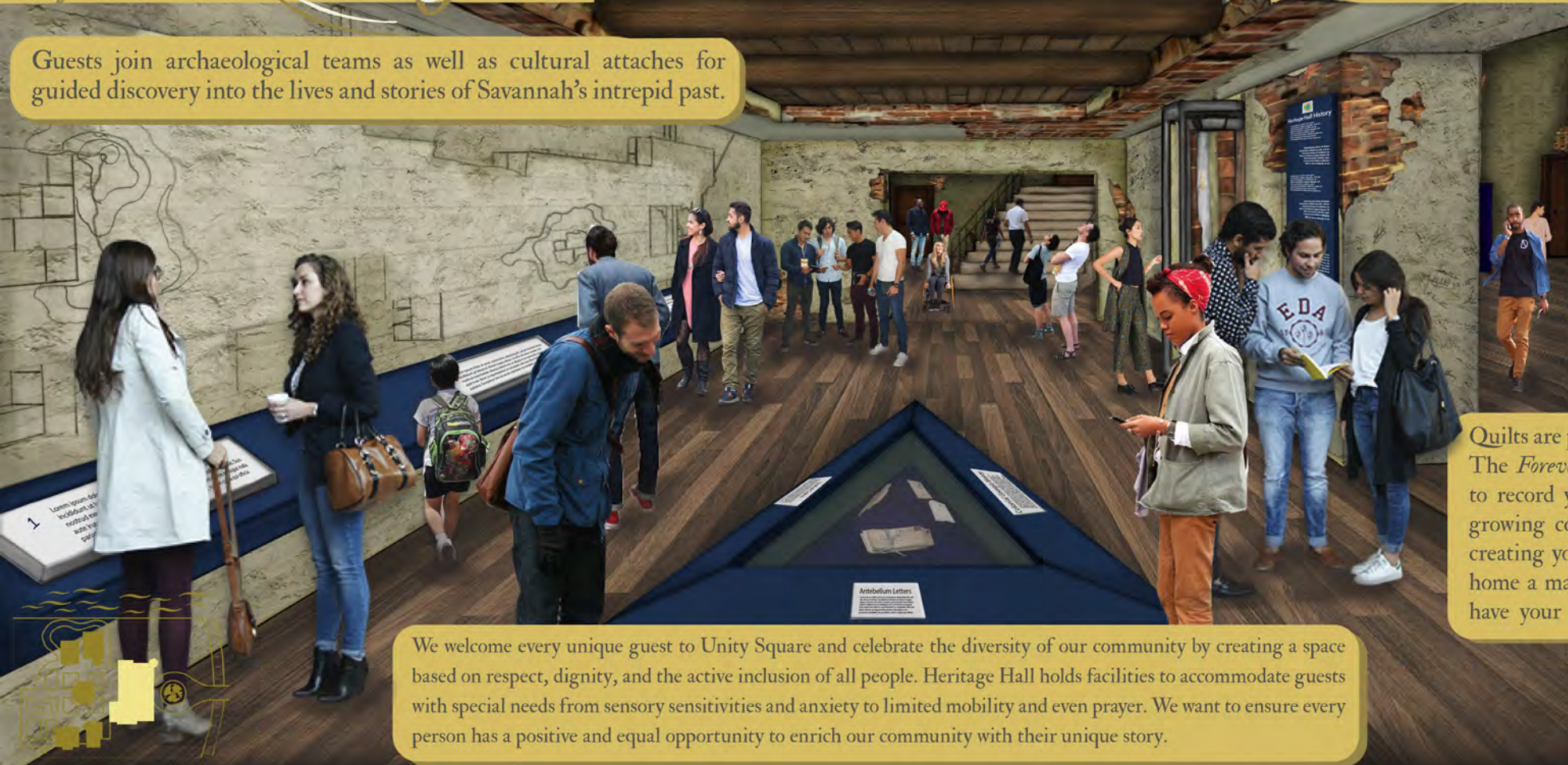


Reflect

on the past

Though the history of Savannah is far from smooth, the collection of people and cultures that have developed here have a life and legacy of their own that cannot be found anywhere else. Likewise, *Unity Square* has a deep, storied history waiting to be examined and built upon. From the patchwork architecture of *Heritage Hall* to the dynamic exhibits within its walls, and even the walls themselves, full of memories and traditions of Savannah as well as all who created it. Together, we can find and reflect on the wealth of stories uncovering Savannah's past and building strong foundation for the future.

Guests join archaeological teams as well as cultural attaches for guided discovery into the lives and stories of Savannah's intrepid past.



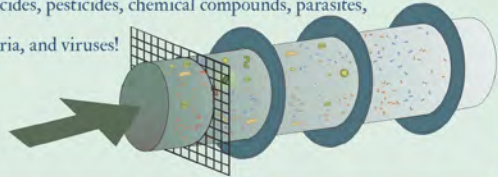
Quilts are part of every major culture that shaped Savannah. The *Forever Quilt* serves as a unique, interactive guestbook to record your visit and a visual embodiment of the ever growing community of the city. Help grow our quilt by creating your own personal digital quilt square, then take home a materials and cutting guide to make it at home or have your unique square custom printed while you wait!

We welcome every unique guest to Unity Square and celebrate the diversity of our community by creating a space based on respect, dignity, and the active inclusion of all people. Heritage Hall holds facilities to accommodate guests with special needs from sensory sensitivities and anxiety to limited mobility and even prayer. We want to ensure every person has a positive and equal opportunity to enrich our community with their unique story.



Conserve for the future

Our multi-stage purification and filtration system removes particulate down to .02 microns, meaning our water will be free of herbicides, pesticides, chemical compounds, parasites, bacteria, and viruses!



A single adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day. By reintroducing native oyster beds in stages along the river and implementing a reclaimed water initiative, *Unity Square* helps reduce river pollution and provides a local source of clean water for the city.

Decreasing runoff and pollution is one of the first steps in reducing human impact on the overall health of the river.

Cleaner water prevents degradation or burial of the reef by incoming silt, naturally increasing spawning. With less suspended sediment, the water temperature drops substantially.

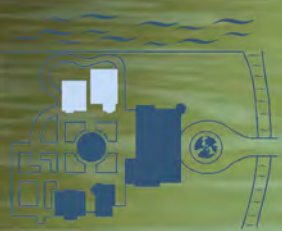
Clearing surfaces for bottom-dwellers like crabs, algae, and oysters improves water filtration and nutrition, decreasing diseases that stress the ecosystem and improving overall water quality.

Harvest limitations and oyster protection laws assist long term cultivation and restoration, and by educating and retraining local fisherpeople, we can establish a thriving community of aquaculture.

Once a flowing source of clean water, natural filtration from native oyster beds was depleted by industrial fishing while heavy shipping and chemical waste soared, recently classifying the Savannah River as the third most polluted in the country.

We invite you to learn about all our conservation and sustainability endeavors, participate in creating a greener Savannah, and have the freedom to build, create, experiment, and grow your own solutions in our interactive eco-tinkerlab. We aren't just talking about ideas, we are working together to actively create a carbon neutral space that is making a greener future for all of Savannah.

Unity Square uses solar covered parking, roofing, and glass to power the Square and create excess energy for the city, decreasing dependence on nonrenewable energy.



Cravity Square



You will be judged both individually and as a team

What were your specific contributions to this project? How is your academic field of study or expertise represented in your portion of this project?

I am the team leader, art director, project manager, and illustrator for this project. I shaped and maintained creative vision, directed design decisions to ensure cohesion, and edited the final text and images. I created and managed production schedules, managed deadlines and deliverables, coordinated meetings, and facilitated team communication. In coordination with our 3D modelers, I designed, composed, and illustrated slide visuals with hand drawn illustrations transformed into digital paintings.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Cognitive Science, specializing in psychology and neuroscience, leading to my research interests and lab experiences focused on neuropsychiatric disorders (i.e., ADHD, anxiety, depression, PTSD, bipolar). I have a keen interest in accessibility and inclusion, particularly for non-physical disabilities which have been historically overlooked in design, guest experience, and ADA regulations. Consequently, I approached designing our project as an inclusive and accessible space further reinforcing our message of unity.

I also have a background in Human Centered Design with a special interest in emotions and how they relate to, and are affected by, the environment. I used this knowledge to shape my design approach and focus on the guest experience.

I have a Master of Fine Arts in Themed Entertainment Design with a broad focus on understanding big picture design process and management, and a design focus on concept development and set decoration. My expertise helped shape our highly detailed and cohesive narrative-driven experience.

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What were your specific contributions to this project? How is your academic field of study or expertise represented in your portion of this project?

My role for this project consisted of all motion media and visual effects work. This included bringing concept art to life with animated graphics, designing all interactive elements throughout the site, and creating a fountain projection show. Additionally, I provided support for other team members by sculpting detail elements, rendering 3D modeled assets, and digitally compositing reflections, lighting, and shadows into the concept art.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Motion Design with a Minor in Fine Art Sculpture and I am currently working towards a Master of Fine Arts in Themed Entertainment Design. Combining these disciplines provided opportunities to experiment with mixing media and concepts to create immersive works that leave the traditional screen and interact not only with our eyes, but with every sense.

Employing my expertise in motion media and sculpture, I design, construct, and enhance themed environments. I conceptualize through digital design and animated graphics, fabricate with physical mediums like glass and wood, and add finishing touches that bring projects to life using projections, lighting, and visual effects.



You will be judged both individually and as a team

What were your specific contributions to this project? How is your academic field of study or expertise represented in your portion of this project?

Initially, my contributions to the project were focused on maintaining the historical and cultural integrity for the people and place we were representing in our story and concept, along with assisting with the development of characters and cultures for the historic timeline of our story, architecture, and programming. I reached out to the Mvskoke (Creek) Tribe in Oklahoma, and they were extremely helpful in establishing a cultural framework for our backstory as well as layout for the site based on the Creek symbol for their creation story including the numerical significance of the number four. I then reached out to the Gullah-Geechee community through various trips to local historic and culturally significant sites around the low-country/Savannah area. The information we gathered from the wonderful people within the Gullah-Geechee community and part of the larger African American community was extremely helpful in cultivating a sensitive and accurate framing for the experiences of former enslaved peoples during pre and post Civil War Georgia. As the project progressed, I transitioned to colour direction and graphic styling, including the fonts and stylistic choices that would ultimately direct the graphic design, layout, and creation of our slides. Finally, I was the copy writer for the project, using information from historic sources, first-hand accounts, as well as film, music, art, and even from the cuisine of the region.

I have a BFA in Painting, Drawing, and Printmaking, and BA in Art History with specific focus on cultural anthropology including Tribal Arts of the Americas, Art of Indigenous America, American Art and Architecture, African Tribal Art, African Art, and African American Art. This helped me look at the artistic choices as a bigger picture, including underrepresented and misrepresented voices. My expertise was essential in helping my team find a narrative voice from outside of our own, allowing a more diverse perspective to inform our choices. I am focused on research, graphic design, and graphic fabrication, and my ability to learn and adapt quickly, paired with my intuitive thinking skills, were an asset to the overall development of our story, concept, and final package as a whole.

You will be judged both individually and as a team

What were your specific contributions to this project? How is your academic field of study or expertise represented in your portion of this project?

My contributions to the project were focused on helping develop the story and concept, along with assisting in maintaining the historic timeline for our architecture and programming.

I created the architectural look of *Unity Square* based on my interest in architecture developed from courses in architectural world history and the history of the American city. For inspiration I went on site visits around Savannah to research the styles and motifs of the local architecture, including a trip to the Pinpoint museum to see the architecture of the Gullah-Geechee people, and learn about their oyster-shell-embedded “tabby” concrete style.

I also sourced and created the architectural and 3D models as well as other rendered elements. These models became the foundation of our site and narrative, particularly the concept and initial illustration for *Heritage Hall*, our imaginary historic port from which our entire architectural narrative is derived.

I have a Bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Design with a focus on Design Thinking and Studio Art. My background guided my role as a creative problem solver and analytical designer. My expertise was integral in helping my team find creative solutions to challenges. These included maintaining visual continuity for the architecture of our site, particularly when it came to creating the architecturally patchworked style of our main building. I have assisted my team through my diverse life experiences, including working in project management, engineering, and live shows.

I am currently focused on production design. With my passion for narrative design and an interdisciplinary design background, I effectively contribute to projects at any phase, from concept design and graphic design, to fabrication and model making.