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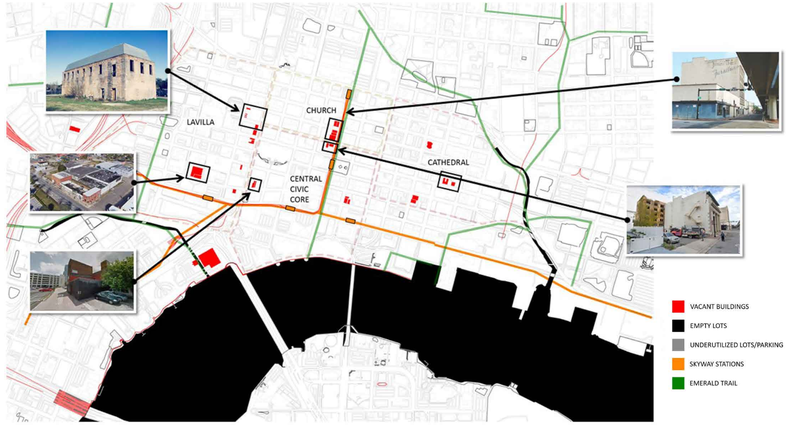
Urban infill and retrofit while preserving historical sense of place.

looking to the past

THE BLENDING OF OLD AND NEW: REDEVELOPING JACKSONVILLE'S HISTORICAL LEGACY

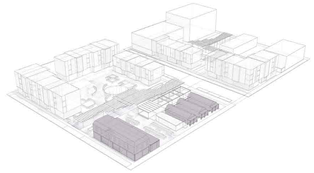


Jacksonville's urban core has a high level of abandoned buildings and vacant, underutilized blocks, with a higher vacancy in the Church and LaVilla districts. Overall, the city has a fragmented urban fabric with disconnected neighborhoods. Unfortunately, lack of planning concerning the city's heritage resulted in the demolition of historic buildings and historic urban blocks during the mid and late 20th century with nothing to replace them. Looking into the Past: Redeveloping Jacksonville's Heritage Legacy is a prototype proposal to transform empty urban lots in the LaVilla neighborhood to enliven and celebrate its unique history and heritage. Every effort should be made to preserve Jacksonville's Jazz Era entertainment district's left and return to its roots as a neighborhood where people live and work.

The urban block infill project is a mixed-use development made up of four main components: the historically preserved and retrofitted buildings that exist on the site (one which stands since the late 19th century), affordable housing with retail, pocket parks, and a series of canopies along a pedestrian promenade that acts as an element of mediation between culture and nature. The definition of covered spaces encourages different types of activities: markets, concerts, public events, and other types.

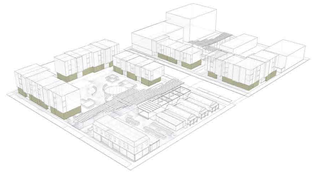
The urban blocks will house a Jazz Music and Heritage Museum with a trio of shotgun houses that function as a historic showroom, café, and gift shop. Additional programs in the block include affordable housing with first-floor retail shops, canopies, a shaded pavilion, a pedestrian path with added green spaces, and a multi-functional courtyard. The mid-rise housing is organized around a courtyard, with each apartment unit having visual access to both the street and the interior areas.

The retrofitted historical pieces on the west side of the block will act as a museum and retail space along with outdoor gathering and seating areas. The development encourages the transformation of the former popular business district and becomes a neighborhood block that involves community and celebrates its unique heritage. The urban renewal proposal will provide green leisure spaces for the block's future residents, the surrounding community, and all of Jacksonville, protect critical historic buildings and added a new place to the Jacksonville African American Heritage Trail.

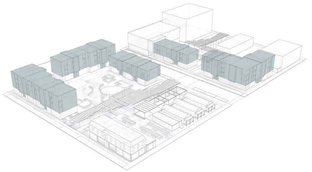


HISTORIC BUILDINGS

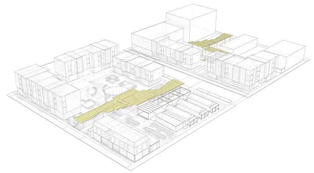
GREEN SPACES



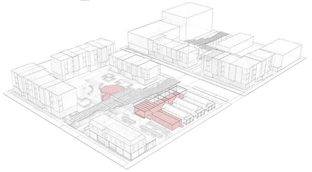
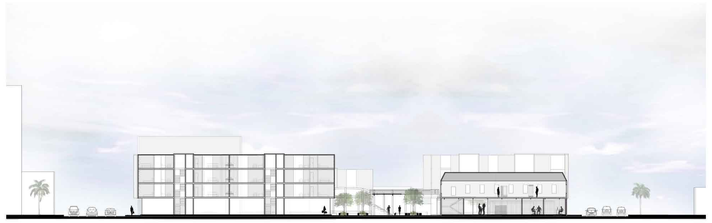
RETAIL/LOCAL BUSINESSES



AFFORDABLE HOUSING



CANOPY



LEISURE/PERFORMANCE SPACES