



CLIFF GARTEN STUDIO
With Jacksonville Writers
Yvette Angelique,
Tim Gilmore
Ebony Payne-English
Love Reigns
& Andres Rojas



*These Truths,
Voices of Jacksonville*

Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville
Duval County Courthouse Plaza
300 W. Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL

**Courthouse Plaza Art Selection Panel Meeting
February 7, 2023**

Writers



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Venice, California 90291
cliffgartenstudio.com

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Yvette Angelique

Yvette Angelique, Poet & Storytelling Facilitator, Co-Editor, *These Truths*

Yvette Angelique, MA-TLA, is a poet, teaching artist, and proven culture change strategist. Her social arts practice facilitates storytelling for healing, creating literary art, consciousness-raising, activism, and advocacy. Compelling storytelling is how Yvette draws attention to social conditions that empower women and girls to be a voice for change in their communities and boardrooms. In blending her former C-Suite executive roles in banking and management consulting with a steadfast arts practice, Yvette is a highly sought-after coach by executives and writers. Her creative leadership and mentoring experience feature in a 2001 Harvard Business Case study.

Yvette publishes scholarly and practitioner articles on leadership and culture change in applied behavioral science journals; she writes book chapters and essays for arts and social justice publications. Yvette's mainstay is in writing poetry. Her poetry appears in several anthologies, print and digital literary journals, and chapbooks. Yvette's recent artistic work is a digital poetry chapbook, *Something Old, New, Borrowed, and The Blues* (2020). Yellow House Arts in Jacksonville, FL, commissioned her to write the poem, "A Reckoning Between Shadow and Shine," as part of *The Community Tree: A Place for Grief and Hope* Exhibition, December 2020 - June 2021. She completed a graduate certificate in creative writing at the University of Denver and an MA in transformative language arts, studying creative writing (poetry and essay) for personal and social change at Goddard College. Selected into several high-profile writers' residencies, Yvette attributes her greatest artistic mentorship when working with poets Sonia Sanchez, Joy Harjo, Cecilia Woolich, and Cave Canem, the home for Black poetry. Yvette is on the editorial board for *Practising Social Change* and Co-Director of NTL Institute Publishing Imprint (Libri Publishing House). She is Dean for NTL Institute's Writers' Residency for Applied Behavioral Science Practitioners. Bradford Literary Agency represents Yvette's creative writing, including her current working manuscript, *Black Joy Lives in the Revolution*.



Tim Gilmore

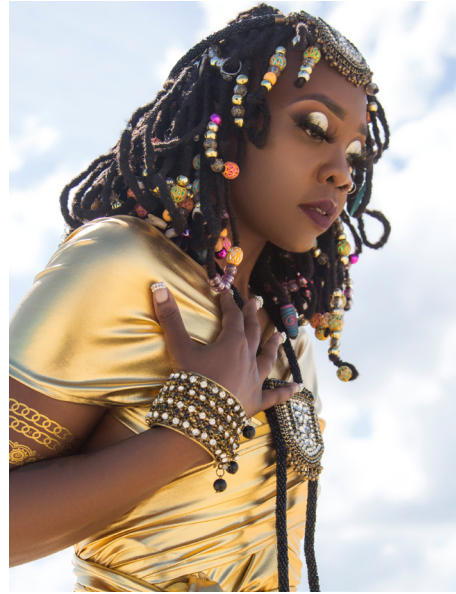
Tim Gilmore, Writer, Co-Editor, *These Truths*

Tim Gilmore has written 20 books including *Murder Capital: Eight Stores, 1890s-1980s*, *In Search of Eartha White: Storehouse for the People and The Mad Atlas of Virginia King*. Two of his plays, plus a series of monologues, have been staged by Florida State College at Jacksonville DramaWorks and his writing has appeared in numerous publications both locally and nationally.

Gilmore is the writer and creator of www.jaxpsychogeo.com, a project that explores place and catalogues the Southern Gothic, telling 600 stories of strange and historic locations in and around Jacksonville, Florida. He's the founder of JaxbyJax Literary Arts Festival, built on the theme of "Jacksonville Writers Writing Jacksonville."

Gilmore teaches Literature and Writing at Florida State College at Jacksonville, where he was awarded a 2018 Distinguished Faculty Award. He has also been the recipient of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's Literary Artist of the Year Award and the City of Jacksonville Melody Starr Anne Bishop Community Service Award. In 2018, Gilmore served on the Jacksonville City Council's Civil Rights History Task Force and co-chaired the Civil Rights History Timeline Subcommittee. He holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Florida.

Writers



Ebony Payne-English

Ebony Payne-English, author, performer, playwright, and educator

Ebony Payne-English is an author, performer, playwright, and educator from Duval County. She is the first woman to establish her own chapter of the international poetry organization, Black on Black Rhyme. Ebony is the 2017 Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's Emerging Artist and recipient of the Spoken Word Gala's 2017 William Bell Humanitarian Award. Ebony currently serves as Executive Director of The Performers Academy, a 501c3 arts education organization in Jacksonville, FL and is a founding member of the Board of Directors of Southern Fried Poetry, Inc. which produces the largest adult regional poetry slam in the nation.

As author of graphic novel, *The Random Happenings*, as well as award winning poetry collection, *Secrets of Ma'at*, currently available on Amazon, Ebony has been featured in esteemed publications as well as digital outlets such as *The Florida Times Union*, PBS's *Hometown*, *Derniere Vie Magazine*, WJCT's *First Coast Connect*, and *My Black Matters*. In her 17 years of professional experience, Ebony's performance accolades include *The New Orleans House of Blues*; *Essence Festival*; *Nuyorican Café*; *Crossroads Theatre*, TEDx, *Jax by Jax* as well as countless other colleges, universities, and prestigious entertainment venues nationwide. Her discography includes 6 albums: *Old Soul* (2006), *Struggle's Embrace* (2010), *EbEnFlo* (2012), *School Beats* (2013), *Know Love* (2015), *Kuongoza* (2021).

Ebony's educational background features Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, New World Conservatory, Florida A & M University and Florida State University. She has taught invitational workshops at venues such as the University of North Florida, the Tupac Amaru Shakur Center for the Arts, Morgan State University, HBO *Brave New Voices*, the National Afterschool Programming Conference and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Love Reigns, Poet Writer

Taryn "LoveReigns" Wharwood is the Co-Founder of the Cypher Open Mic Poetry & Soul, the longest running open mic in Jacksonville history & 2nd in the State of Florida; Founder of *Artis(Tree)Live* & *The Closet Jax*. LoveReigns' passion for people and words has afforded her opportunities to perform and advocate on the hills of Washington, DC, Canada and educational institutions from K12 - University levels across the country.

LoveReigns is a poet, writer, author, emcee, motivational speaker, entrepreneur and curator of *Dopeness*. LoveReigns currently facilitates weekly workshops and host of *The Random Thoughts of Reign Podcast*. LoveReigns is truly in a lane of her own and isn't afraid to create another one if she has to.



LoveReigns



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Andres Rojas

Andres Rojas, Poet

Andres Rojas was born in Cuba and came to the U.S. at age 13. He holds an M.F.A. and a J.D. from the University of Florida and has served as poetry editor for Bridge Eight and Compose. He is currently a poetry reader for \$ - Poetry Is Currency. His audio chapbook Season of the Dead (EAT Poems, 2016) is available free on line.

PUBLICATIONS & PRIZES

Anthologies: Best New Poets 2017 (University of Virginia Press, 2017), The Zoo of the New (Penguin, 2017)

Book: Third Winter In Our Second Country (Trio House Press, 2021)

Chapbook: Looking For What Isn't There (Paper Nautilus, 2019)

Journals: 2River View, A-Minor Magazine, AGNI, Banyan Review, Barrow Street, Bridge Eight Literary Magazine, Colorado Review, Cossack Review, Diode, First Things, Flock, Ice-Floe, Luna Luna Magazine, Massachusetts Review, Mid-American Review, New American Writing, New England Review, Notre Dame Review, Poetry Northwest, Potluck Magazine, Red Paint Hill Poetry Journal, riverSedge, San Pedro River Review, Shore Poetry, The Collapsar



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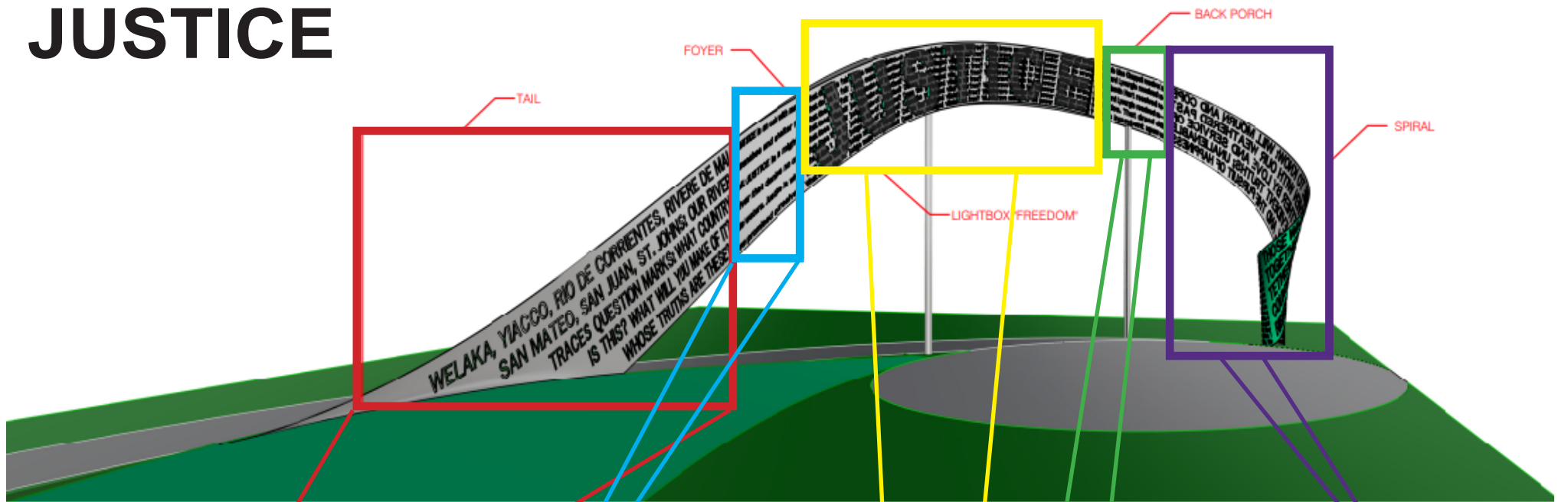
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EXHIBIT A

JUSTICE



Tail
Our Ancestors demand we stand
In the gaping holes of history
Where our roots use to be;
Our unity is fruitful and fierce—
It is a secret garden
Where the tree of life grows.

Foyer
JUSTICE is an oak with many
branches and a shelter for all.
JUSTICE is a mighty river
that denies no one
its waters. JUSTICE is what we
promised ourselves.

Lightbox "JUSTICE"
Because These Truths we hold self-evident, thus must Equity in Justice remain.
Were not our forefathers rebels of monarchy? If our country 'tis of thee, sweet land of
liberty, then honor seekers of America's dream.
Since rivers outlast nations, since land cares not what name we call it, must not These
Truths transcend flags, ideologies, cults, and factions?
Is this land worthy of our trust? Truth shall sing freedom songs; make wrongs right,
shine light across dead pastures.
Let the river wash us. Let the river cleanse us. Let the river heal us. With Justice

Back porch
Johnnie Mae Chappell received no—
Edward Lycurgus received no—
Benjamin Hart received no— Justice.
That dread debt
Falls incumbent upon us.

Scroll/Spiral
THOSE WHO CARE TO
KNOW WILL COPE AND
GROW TOGETHER
FORMING A MORE
PERFECT UNION IN THE
AFTERMATH
OF OUR WEATHERED
PAST - TETHERED ONE
TO ANOTHER BY LOVE
AND SERVICE OF COUN-
TRY - THESE SELF-EVI-
DENT TRUTHS THESE
UNALIENABLE RIGHTS -
LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

JUSTICE

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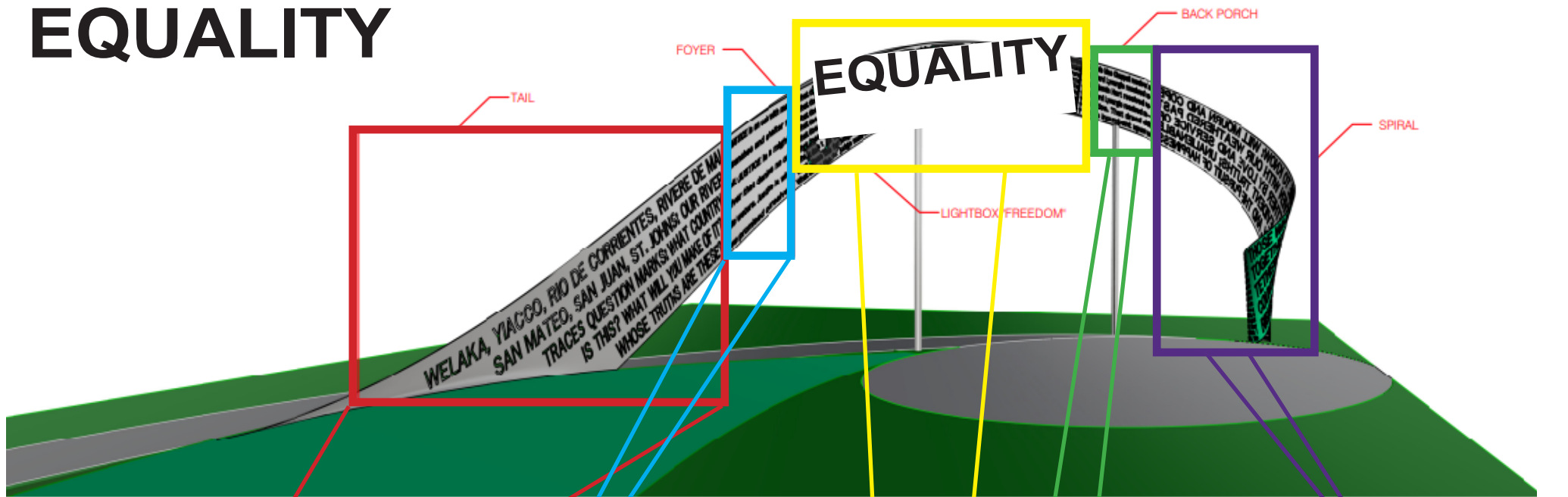
Back porch

Johnnie Mae Chappell received no—
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Justice. That dread debt
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Scroll

THOSE WHO CARE TO KNOW WILL COPE AND GROW TOGETHER
FORMING A MORE PERFECT UNION IN THE AFTERMATH
OF OUR WEATHERED PAST - TETHERED ONE TO ANOTHER BY LOVE
AND SERVICE OF COUNTRY - THESE SELF-EVIDENT TRUTHS THESE
UNALIENABLE RIGHTS - LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

EQUALITY



Tail
We the People in order to secure Blessings of liberty to ourselves and Our posterity: first, immigrant, Enslaved, free, incarcerated— We the People.

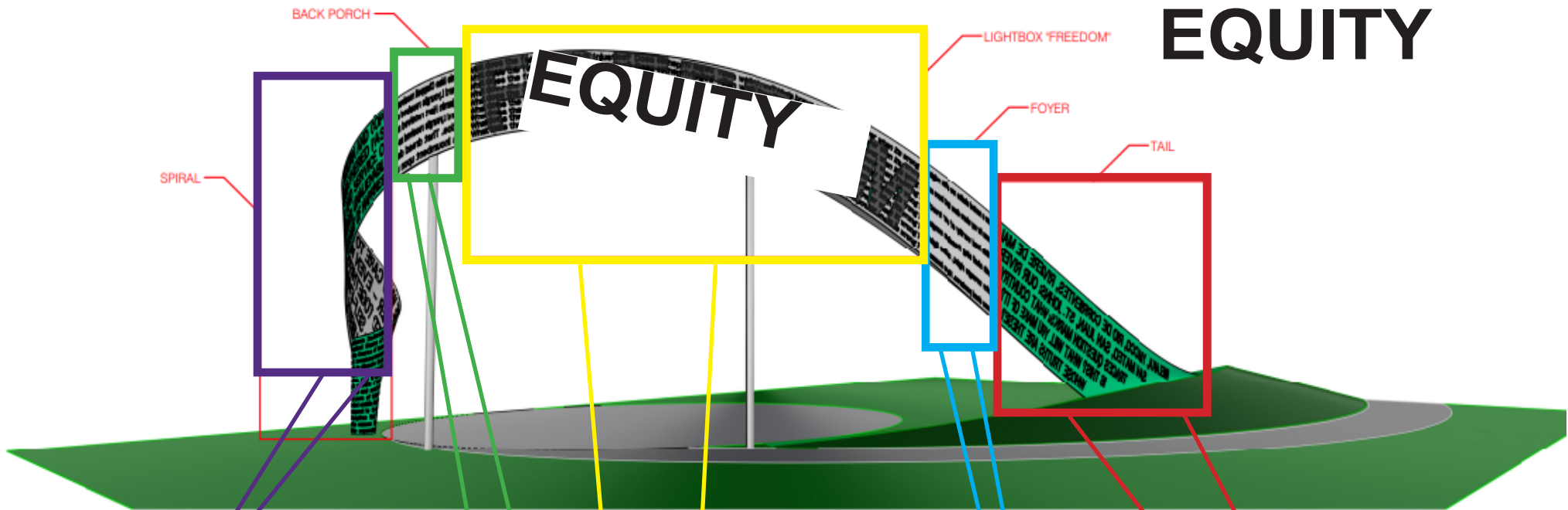
Foyer
Unequal feels like a brown bag TOSSED ON CITY CURBS filled with worthless jumble AS IF TRASH FOR NEXT TUESDAY bits of broken colored glass A MOSIAC OF BRAVE PEOPLE

Lightbox "EQUALITY"
We hold These Truths. And we will not let go. That all are equal. Until we all are. Our legacy is a porcelain cup, brim-filled with atrocities and lovers of liberation. Equality is difficult to demand when cries have gone unanswered for so long. No longer can we pledge allegiance to oaths of justice that choke liberty out of citizens. In These Truths, we can resurrect the hope we once believed in, flows freely.

Back porch
As sea cows graze at San Juan's knees, and the Cosmos radiates beyond Stars, why not us, why not we? Body to body, many races are like Creatures, rivers, and skies.

Scroll/Spiral
WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EV-IDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CRE-ATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE EN-DOWED BY THEIR CRE-ATOR WITH CERTAIN UN-ALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE, LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

EQUITY



Scroll/Spiral
NO TEXT

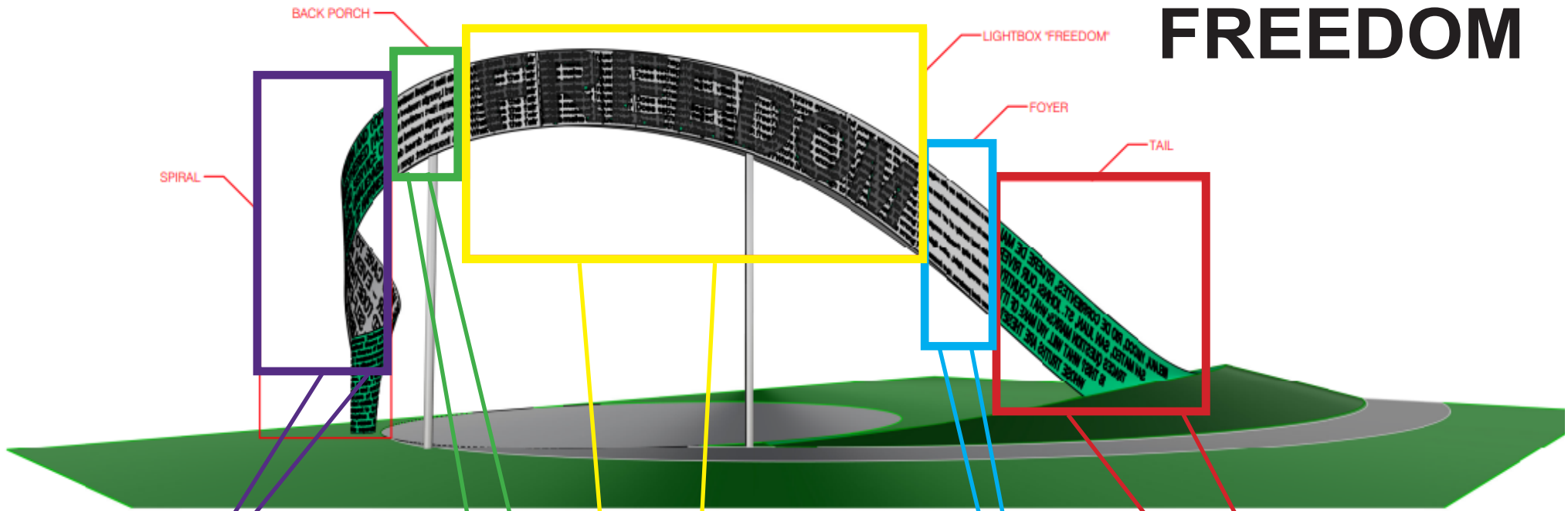
Back porch
Like petals on a magnolia Not
one the same as another
as another
Yet all are equal together
The fragrance of equity

Foyer
A land not quite yours or mine, still
somehow ours. At the root of it, we
are all severed pieces, mending into
one. We are hands that till. Hands
that sew. Hands that weld; that rock the
cradle. What our Ancestors wanted:
We not just live, but live free.

Tail
NO TEXT

Lightbox "EQUITY"
Not all who wander are lost. Not all that is found is meant to be kept.
How does a system cope with possessing a power that is only effective when shared?
Liberation has never been equally yoked, so freedom ain't free
Do not wish for another's shoes if you've not yet learned to appreciate your own feet.
When WORDS and DEEDS meet, there is EQUITY.

FREEDOM



Scroll/Spiral
NO TEXT

Back porch
Water bird adrift, drowning. Presumed dead,
Crane in the crests spies two beacons
ahead. The one of the world
tunes itself to the star.
The other truth keeps burning.

Foyer
The caged bird sings to remind herself of being a bird
To remind herself of wings and wind and when she
was free
Nobody knows how we will learn to be birds again
But we breathe deep, open our beaks, and fly

Tail
NO TEXT

Lightbox "FREEDOM"
We walk a desert with thirst for freedom, not the trick of the mirage, but for faith of a song
and wildflowers on a mesa.
When it comes down to it, what are we waiting for? How will we know when freedom
arrives?
Music is freedom. Let singing tell These Truths. Some songs arise from joy. Others ensure
survival. Let freedom sing!
The same dusty ground can yield flowers or tumbleweeds. The same land can yield freedom
or deny it.

EQUITY

Foyer

A land not quite yours or mine, still
somehow ours. At the root of it, we
are all severed pieces, mending into
one. We are hands that till. Hands
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Light Box

Not all who wander are lost. Not all that is found is meant to be kept.
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Back Porch

Like petals on a magnolia
Not one the same as another
as another
Yet all are equal together
The fragrance of equity

FREEDOM

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tunes itself to the star.
The other truth keeps burning.

**This text was deleted
to accommodate
foundational text**

**Time brings equity to all.
So does our last breath.
So should mercy.
Stranger, friend: look at us
together!**