

23.07.25

To: Kat Wright, Director of Public Art and Art Selection Panel, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville

From: Cliff Garten, Project Director and Visual Artist for *These Truths, Voices of Jacksonville*, Sculpture

Re: Change to Text for Freedom Panel, by Ebony Payne-English

Ebony Payne-English gives her rationale for the poem replacing the previous poem, with a new poem that quotes the Florida State Constitution and references one of Florida's venerated female poets.

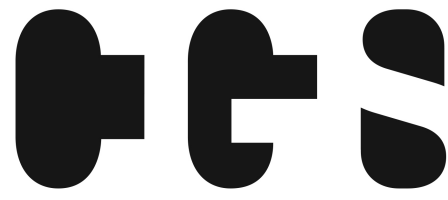
As foundational texts for this piece, I chose the Florida State Constitution and Florence Duval West's first published collection, *The Land Of The Lotus Eaters*. The first line of my poem is a direct quote from *Article I Section I of the Constitution of the State of Florida's Declaration of Rights*. "All political power is inherent in the people." I went on to compare birthing a society and sprouting wings which are both painful and layered processes likened to the way in which a lotus blossoms from its bottom of a bog origins to a vibrant flower for all to look upon and draw substance and inspiration.

Historic Background

William Pope Duval (September 4, 1784 – March 19, 1854) was the first civilian governor of the Florida Territory, succeeding Andrew Jackson, who had been a military governor. In his twelve-year governorship, from 1822 to 1834, he divided Florida into four territories, established the local court system, and chose Tallahassee as the territory's capital because of its central location. Duval County, where Jacksonville is located, Duval Street in Key West, and Duval Street in Tallahassee are named for him. He was reappointed by presidents John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. During his twelve-year administration, he selected the small Indian village of Tallahassee as the site for the territory's capital, on account of its (north) central location. His granddaughter, Florence Duval West (September 1, 1840 – November 22, 1881) was a 19th-century American poet. Her published works include *The Land of the Lotus Eaters*, and *The Marble Lily and Other Poems*. "as a writer, she had few, if any equals", to quote one of the published reviews of her work.

New Poem for Freedom Panel by Ebony Payne-English

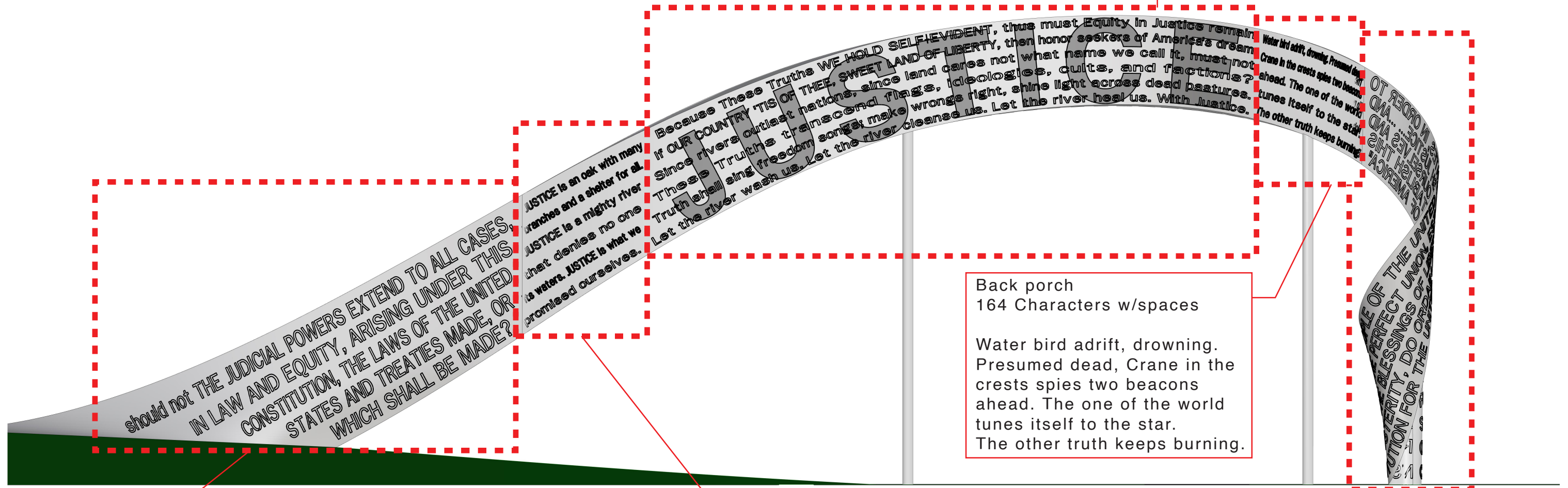
All political power is inherent in the people
All wings first pierce skin the lotus begins to bloom
Grows its roots from a mud defined path
Stalks boldly into the unknown mire to reach for something higher



These Truths- Text Layout

Lightbox
475 Characters w/spaces

Because These Truths WE HOLD SELF-EVIDENT, thus must Equity in Justice remain.
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 ideologies, cults, and factions?
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.



Tail
[Foundational Text, The US Constitution] (Article III, Bill of Rights)] 176 Characters w/spaces

THE JUDICIAL POWERS EXTEND TO ALL CASES, IN LAW AND EQUITY, ARISING UNDER THIS CONSTITUTION, THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES AND TREATIES MADE, OR WHICH SHALL BE MADE

Foyer
152 charaters w/spaces

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.

Back porch
164 Characters w/spaces

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.

Scroll
[Foundational Text, Preamble, US Constitution] 238 charaters w/spaces

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, ESTABLISH JUSTICE...AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

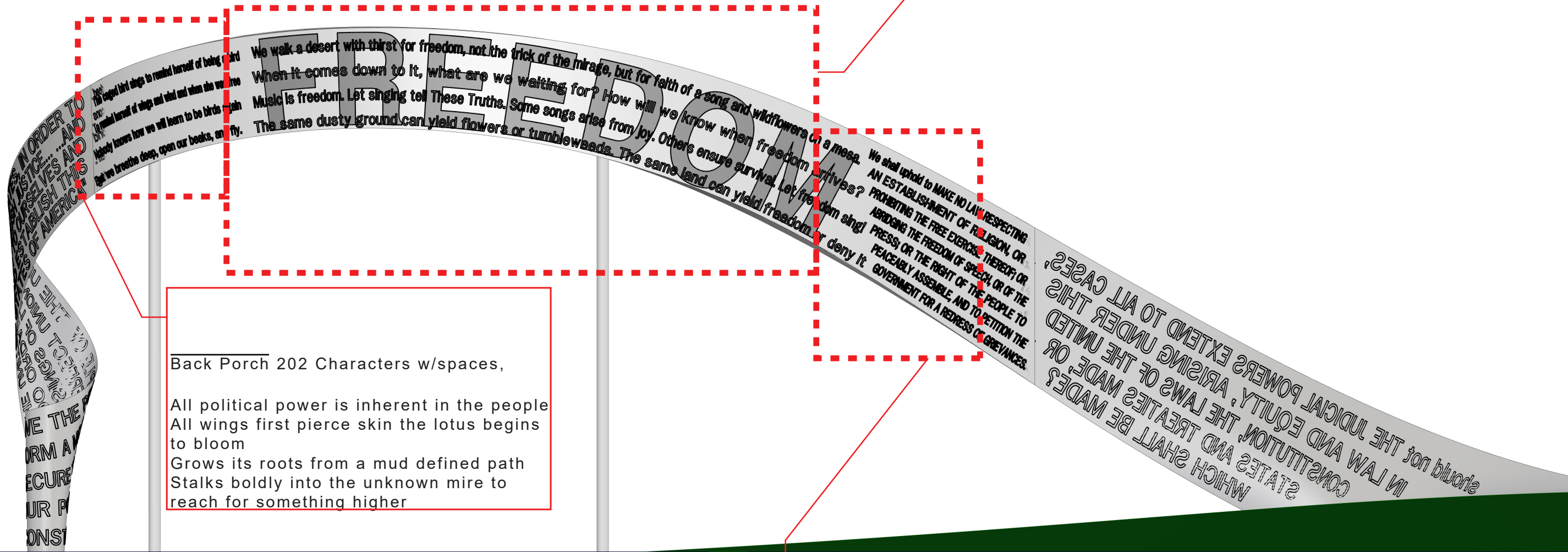
JUSTICE



These Truths- Text Layout

Lightbox
422 Characters w/spaces

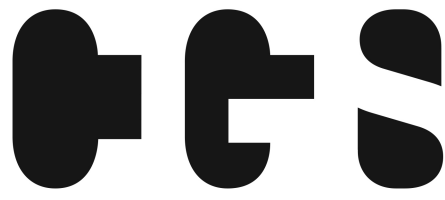
We walk a desert with thirst for freedom, not the trick of the mirage, but for faith of a song and wildflowers on a mesa.
When it comes down to it, what are we waiting for? How will we know when freedom arrives?
Music is freedom. Let singing tell These Truths. Some songs arise from joy. Others ensure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



Back Porch 202 Characters w/spaces,
All political power is inherent in the people
All wings first pierce skin the lotus begins to bloom
Grows its roots from a mud defined path
Stalks boldly into the unknown mire to reach for something higher

Foyer
[Foundational Text, US Constitution, Amendment I,]
276 Characters w/spaces
CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO PEACEABLY ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

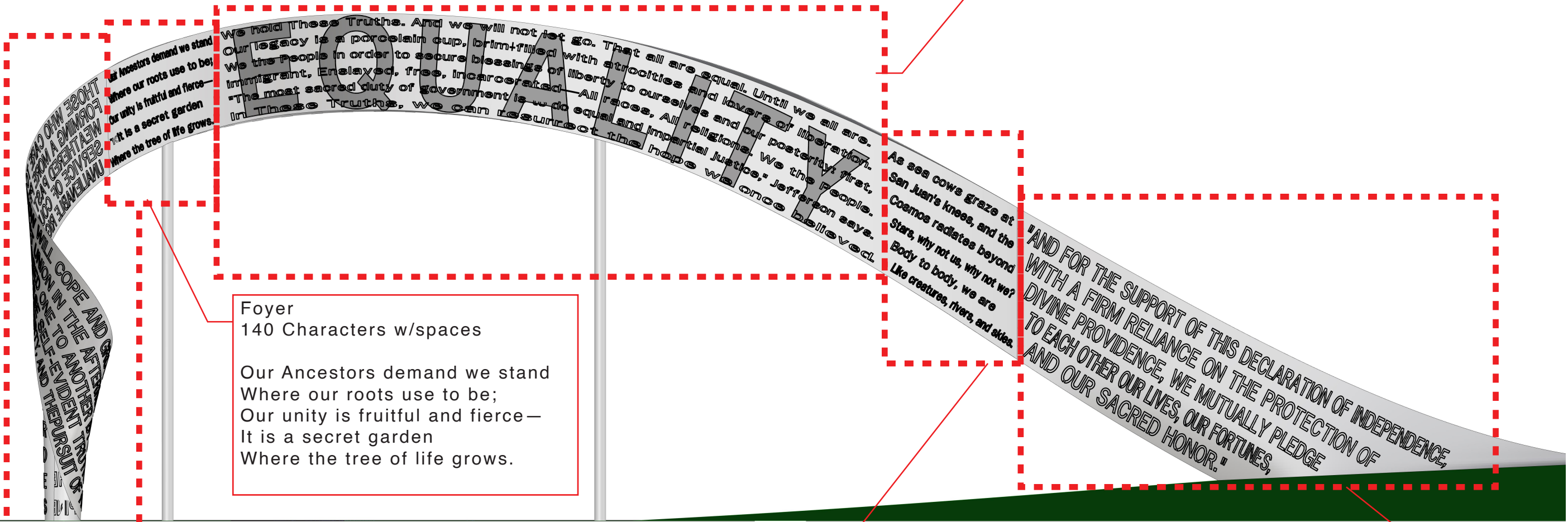
FREEDOM



These Truths- Text Layout

Lightbox
492 Characters w/spaces

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.
We the People in order to secure blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity: first,
immigrant, Enslaved, free, incarcerated—All races, All religions. We the People.
“The most sacred duty of government is to do equal and impartial justice,” Thomas Jefferson.
In These Truths, we can resurrect the hope we once believed.



Foyer
140 Characters w/spaces

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

Scroll
[Foundational Text, Preamble, Declaration of Independence] 272 Characters w/spaces

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

Back Porch
154 characters w/spaces

As sea cows graze at San Juan’s knees, and the Cosmos radiates beyond Stars, why not us, why not we?
Body to body, we are Like creatures, rivers, and skies.

Tail
[Foundational Text, Declaration of Independence (last paragraph, last sentence)] 193 characters w/spaces

AND FOR THE SUPPORT OF THIS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES, AND OUR SACRED HONOR.

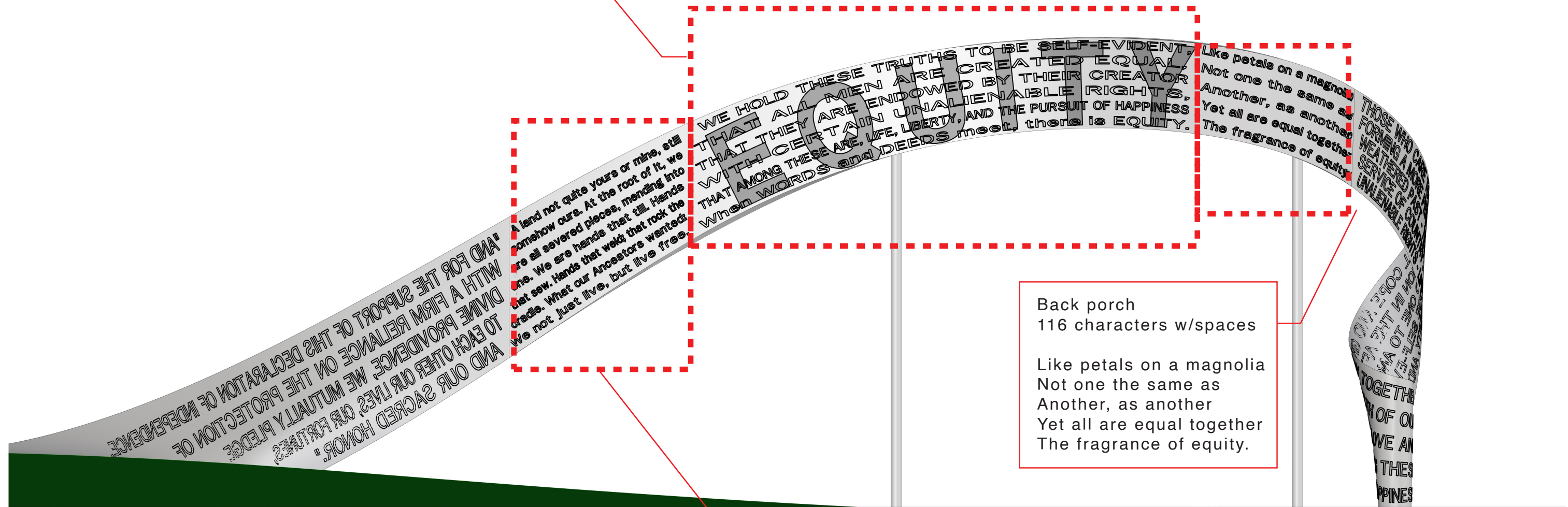
EQUALITY



Lightbox
 [Foundational Text, Declaration of Independence] 253 characters w/spaces

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL,
 THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS,
 THAT AMONG THESE ARE, LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
 When WORDS and DEEDS meet, there is EQUITY.

These Truths- Text Layout



Back porch
 116 characters w/spaces

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

Foyer
 253 characters w/spaces

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.

* Please note the image reflects
 the word "EQUITY" which will be
 changed to "TRUTH" per the
 6/1/23 ASP vote.

TRUTH