



The August Wilson House is currently under construction. The site work and landscaping associated with the house is ready to begin. The plan was reviewed in 2019 at two community meetings prior to Covid which slowed progress in 2020. A neighborhood meeting with Walter Hood was held at the St. Joseph's Home on Bedford Avenue in the summer of 2019. A second meeting was held in December of 2019 at the Kaufman Center as part of the fulfillment of federal historic preservation funding (Saving America's Treasure's Grant).

The site work was delayed because of escalating supply chain costs. The August Wilson House construction proceeded in 2021 and now is about 40% complete. The focus of this submission is to gain approval for the recently completed site construction documents by Hood Studio and Studio for Spatial Practice, the team that developed the Hill Green Print.

#### **WELCOMING SPACE**

The goal is to provide a welcoming site that is accessible for informal gatherings along a low stone retaining wall that acts as bench along Bedford Avenue. The site is divided by grade changes front to back that will accommodate events and gatherings hosted by the August Wilson House. Additional seating is located near the entrance to the original apartment towards the rear. The site is also designed to connect and be part of

#### **BACKYARD PERFORMANCE SPACE**

The site of the August Wilson House includes its backyard where he envisioned his play Seven Guitars. It is also the backyard that young August Wilson played in as a child and will be subject of a number of interpretive elements that follow an ADA compliant wood (Cumaru) boardwalk that brings visitors and audiences to the backyard along a six foot high stained fence (Cedar). The fence is designed with integrated power and lighting pole connections for professional productions as well as smaller neighborhood events.

#### **LANDSCAPING FEATURES**

The design of the landscape plantings is highlighted by:

- Street Trees (Japanese Lilacs)
- Shade Grove (Serviceberry)
- Flower Mix (Including some of his mother Daisy's favorites according to her son Edwin)
- Green Paver System in the side yard to accommodate tents and off street deliveries.
- Crushed Limestone Performance Area that can accommodate seating risers and other activities
- Brick pavers in a herringbone pattern to match the historic sidewalks of Bedford Avenue
- Walter Hood has funded six Interpretive Wayside Panels along the fence, which will be collaboratively designed as part of the interpretive exhibit design process.
- Additional interpretive art is planned in the coming years; general locations are indicated on the site plan.

#### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

With funds in hand and design completed, the August Wilson House is hoping to have construction begin in time for the traditional August Wilson Birthday Block Party in late April 2022. The August Wilson House is planning a year long celebration in recognition that Covid and weather will require flexibility in planning the grand opening events.