

In the 1950's, a corrugated metal crash barrier was installed to prominently delineate the municipal boundary between Brentwood, a sundown town, and North Brentwood, the county's first incorporated African American town. Though the laws and popular sentiments have changed, the structure remains.

Beginning in 2016, NDC collaborated with the two towns on a co-design initiative for the barrier and associated streetscape.



A series of community conversations and a visioning workshop responded to the complex question "How can we forge a path into the future together while acknowledging, not erasing, our past?" As the dialogue progressed, it became clear that an unconventional approach was needed to respect the cultural memory and implications for placemaking.

A team of local artists were selected to explore the shared history and its commemoration in present-day space. Through conversation with residents and temporary installations, the team will understand how to appropriately and accessibly tell this story. The interactive, permanent work will be situated within the design of a park and enhanced streetscape.

BENEFITS

- Innovative collaboration among eight partner organizations to create framework for inclusive cultural storytelling through art
- Public artist solicitation incorporated values of universal design, diversity, equity and inclusivity
- Historically significant placemaking through community engagement and a collaborative artistic process

SERVICES RENDERED

- Design Workshops
- Community Conversations
- Facilitation and Co-Design

ABOUT

Community Partners

Towns of Brentwood and North Brentwood

Funding Partners

Chesapeake Bay Trust & Towns of Brentwood and North Brentwood

Location

Windom Rd between 39th st in Brentwood, MD and 40th St in North Brentwood, MD

Reference

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