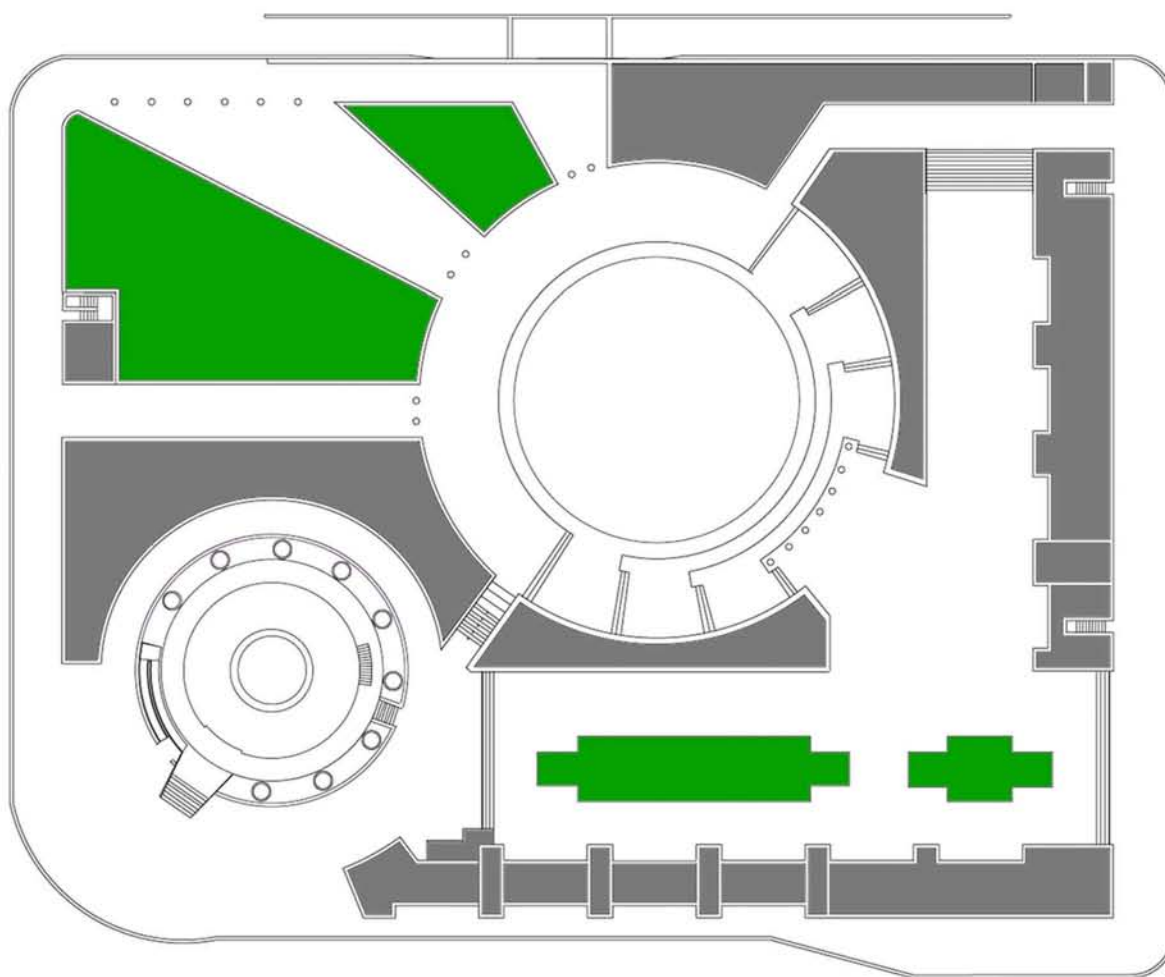


THE COALITION TO FREE LOVE PARK

JFK PLAZA (LOVE PARK)
ADJUSTMENT CONCEPTS
FEBRUARY, 2004



The Coalition to Free LOVE Park Includes:
Independence Hall Association, Skateboard Advocacy Network, Young Involved Philadelphia

The concepts herein are submitted by the above organizations, in negotiation with the
City of Philadelphia. February 2004









**THE COALITION
TO FREE LOVE PARK**

Adjustment Concept
February, 2004

This set of drawings shows a proposed adjustment concept for LOVE Park (JFK Plaza), removing elements from high skateboard traffic areas, and creating a skateboard-free pedestrian zone.

**1
BASE
DRAWING**

KEY

-  BENCH
-  PLANTER
-  GRAY PLANTER
-  TRASH CAN
-  LAMP POST
-  GRASS
-  LOVE
-  RUMBLE STRIP

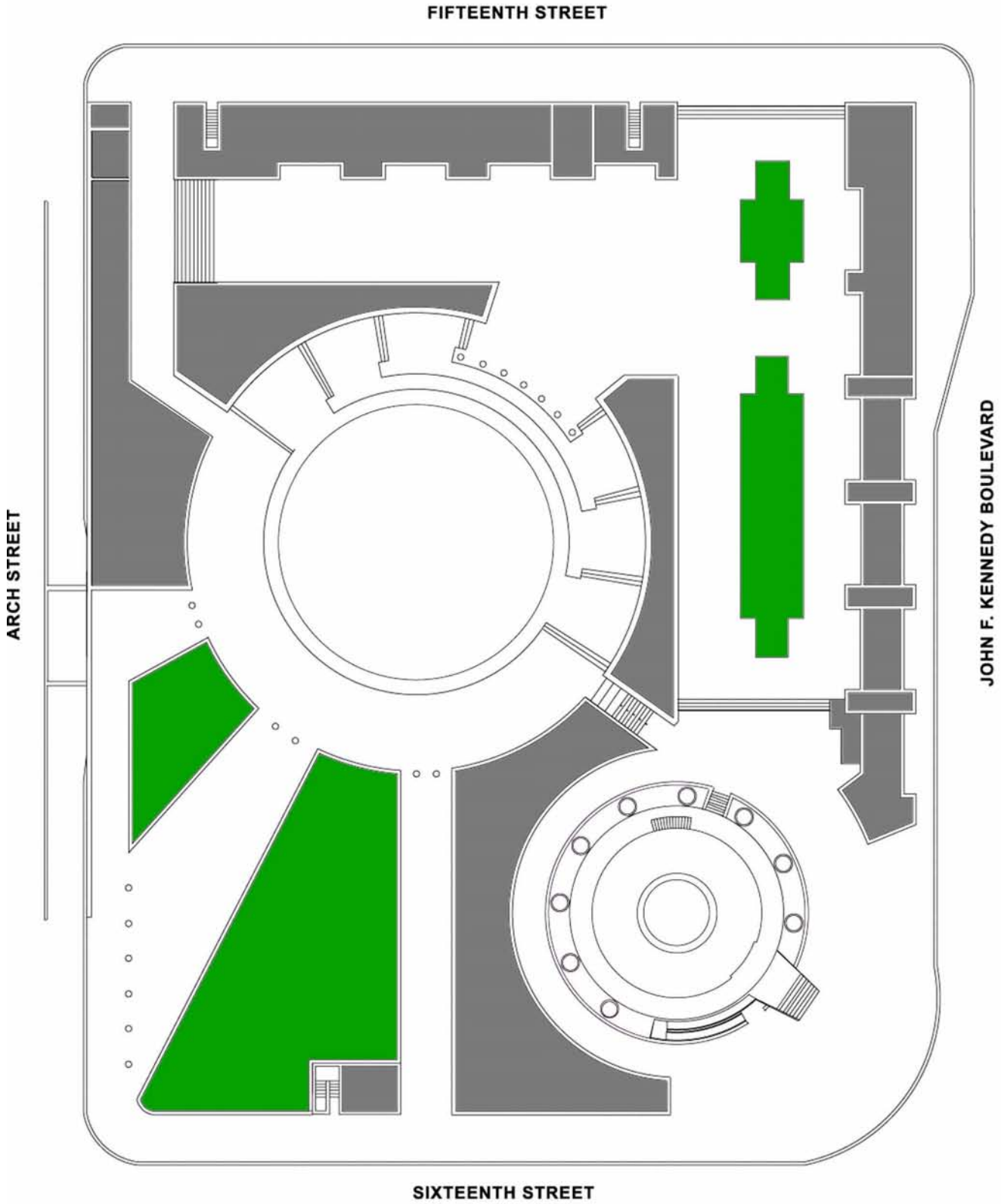


Illustration 1 (previous page): Base Drawing

This is an overhead view of JFK Plaza (LOVE Park), with the major structures and roadways marked. Arch Street sits to the North, with Fifteenth Street to the East.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

JFK Plaza (LOVE Park) was built as part of Philadelphia's Penn Center project in the 1960s. Originally proposed by City Planning Director Edmund Bacon, the concept was approved by Mayor Richardson Dilworth, then was carried out under Mayor James Tate. Architect Vincent Kling, AIA, designed JFK plaza, as well as the Municipal Services Building, Centre Square, Dilworth Plaza, and one of the Penn Center office towers. The fountain at JFK Plaza's center was donated by the Fairmount Park Art Association, and the LOVE sculpture, by Robert Indiana, was loaned to the City for the Bicentennial. JFK Plaza was dedicated in 1967.

In the 1980s, by an accident of history, JFK Plaza was discovered by skateboarders. Since that time it has become one of the world's most famous skateboard parks. LOVE Park, as it was nicknamed, has been featured in international films, magazines, video games, and advertisements. It has been used on shoeboxes and clothing logos. In 2001 and 2002 Philadelphia hosted ESPN's X Games, which held several exhibition events in LOVE Park.

In 2002, the City enforced a skateboarding ban in LOVE Park, and renovated the plaza. Due to this turn of events, the Coalition to Free LOVE Park formed in order to return skateboarding to LOVE Park. The Coalition includes Young Involved Philadelphia, a civic organization, promoting youth interests in Philadelphia; Independence Hall Association, a civic and historical group, founded in 1942 to spearhead the establishment of Independence National Historical Park; and Skateboard Advocacy Network, a national organization, promoting and representing the interests of the business and activity of skateboarding. The three organizations believe that LOVE Park was an international symbol of youth and vitality for Philadelphia, attracting new residents, exhibitions, tourism, and world fame.

This report was created by the Coalition at the request of the Managing Director's Office of the City of Philadelphia, in order to outline the Coalition's concepts for both maximizing the potential of the park as a skateboarding locale, as well as allowing for pedestrian-only access, to promote the park's mixed-use potential.

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February, 2004

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**1
BASE
DRAWING**

**2
EXISTING
CONDITIONS**

KEY

-  BENCH
-  PLANTER
-  GRAY PLANTER
-  TRASH CAN
-  LAMP POST
-  GRASS
-  LOVE
-  RUMBLE STRIP

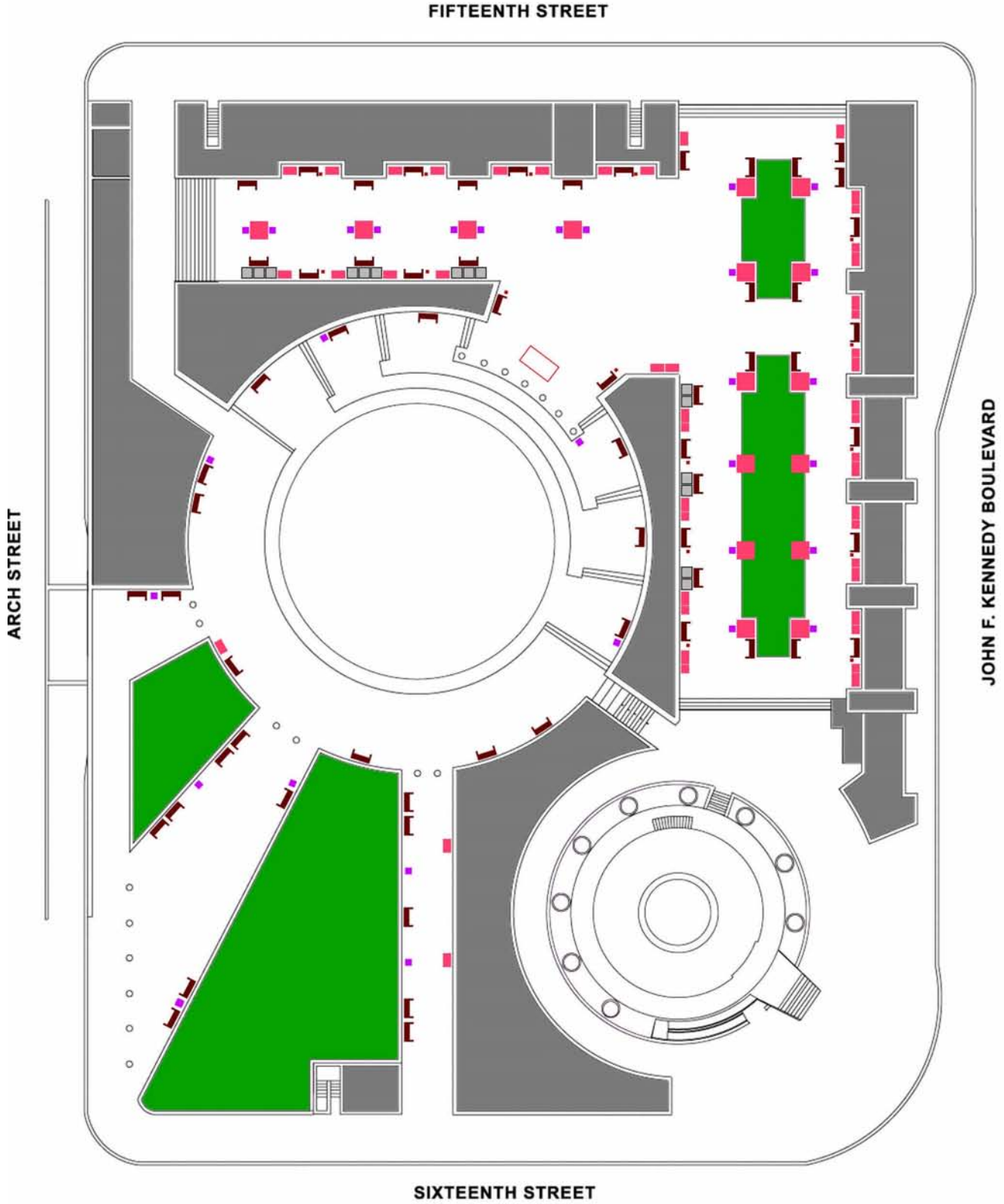


Illustration 2 (previous page): Existing Conditions

This illustration overlays the existing physical structures—benches, planters, lamp posts, trash cans, and the LOVE sculpture—onto the Base Drawing (Illustration 1). The key explains the symbols and colors. All structures have been marked, except for several lamp posts, which sit within the grass areas, and therefore do not cause obstructions to the workable space of the plaza.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

In its Balanced Solution (2003) The Coalition to Free LOVE Park laid out a proposal for returning skateboarding to LOVE Park, during certain hours of the day, in order to separate the skateboarders from the lunchtime users. The Solution also explained that while the City’s renovations did not make the park unskateable, in order to satisfy all uses, there are some adjustments that would be desirable. The existing conditions illustration shows the park without any of these adjustments.

3. ADJUSTMENT PLAN

In its mission to create a workable, multi-use space in JFK Plaza, The Coalition to Free LOVE Park hereby recommends the following adjustments to the plaza, in order to make the space more suitable for skateboarding:

- On the east side of the plaza, move the benches that block the easternmost ledges, and replace these benches, back-to-back, in the center of the eastern strip, between the existing planters.
- On the south-west side of this easternmost strip, remove the three gray planters and one pink planter, obstructing the ledge at the corner abutting the steps leading to the fountain.
- Remove the two pink planters, along the wall just to the south of the LOVE sculpture. **Note: this recommendation is discussed later in this report, along with an alternative adjustment proposal.**

In order to promote multi-use activity and to provide pedestrians with a corridor, unusable by skateboarders, the Coalition to Free LOVE Park proposes the following:

- Pedestrian-only zones along the south end of the park. The pedestrian-only zone will be lined with “rumble strip,” a rough, corrugated material overlaid in strips on the plaza surface, or etched into the surface in order to create a ground base, unusable by skateboarders. Such surfacing is related to the bumpy grouting in the shoulders of a highway, for example.
- A “Photography Spot,” demarcated with “rumble strip” in front of the LOVE sculpture, to allow tourists a photo opportunity, unimpeded by skateboard traffic.

All of these adjustments are shown more clearly, in detailed illustrations 4 and 5.

Illustration 3 (next page): Adjustment Plan

This illustration shows the Coalition’s proposed adjustments to JFK Plaza, in order to foster an environment friendly to skateboarding, as well as creating pedestrian-only zones, to maximize the park’s potential as a multi-use space.

Illustration 4 (page after next.): Adjustment Plan Highlights, Northern Portion

This illustration uses yellow marker and arrows to display the Coalition’s adjustment recommendations in the northern portion of JFK Plaza, discussed earlier in this report. These include (1) Moved Benches; (2) Removed Planters; (3) Photography Spot. The moved benches and removed planters are displayed here in dotted, lines, and the arrows indicate where the benches are moved to.

Illustration 5 (page 8): Adjustment Plan Highlights, Southern Portion

This illustration displays the Coalition’s adjustment recommendation of (4) the pedestrian-only zones, in the southern portion of JFK Plaza.

**THE COALITION
TO FREE LOVE PARK**









Adjustment Concept
February, 2004

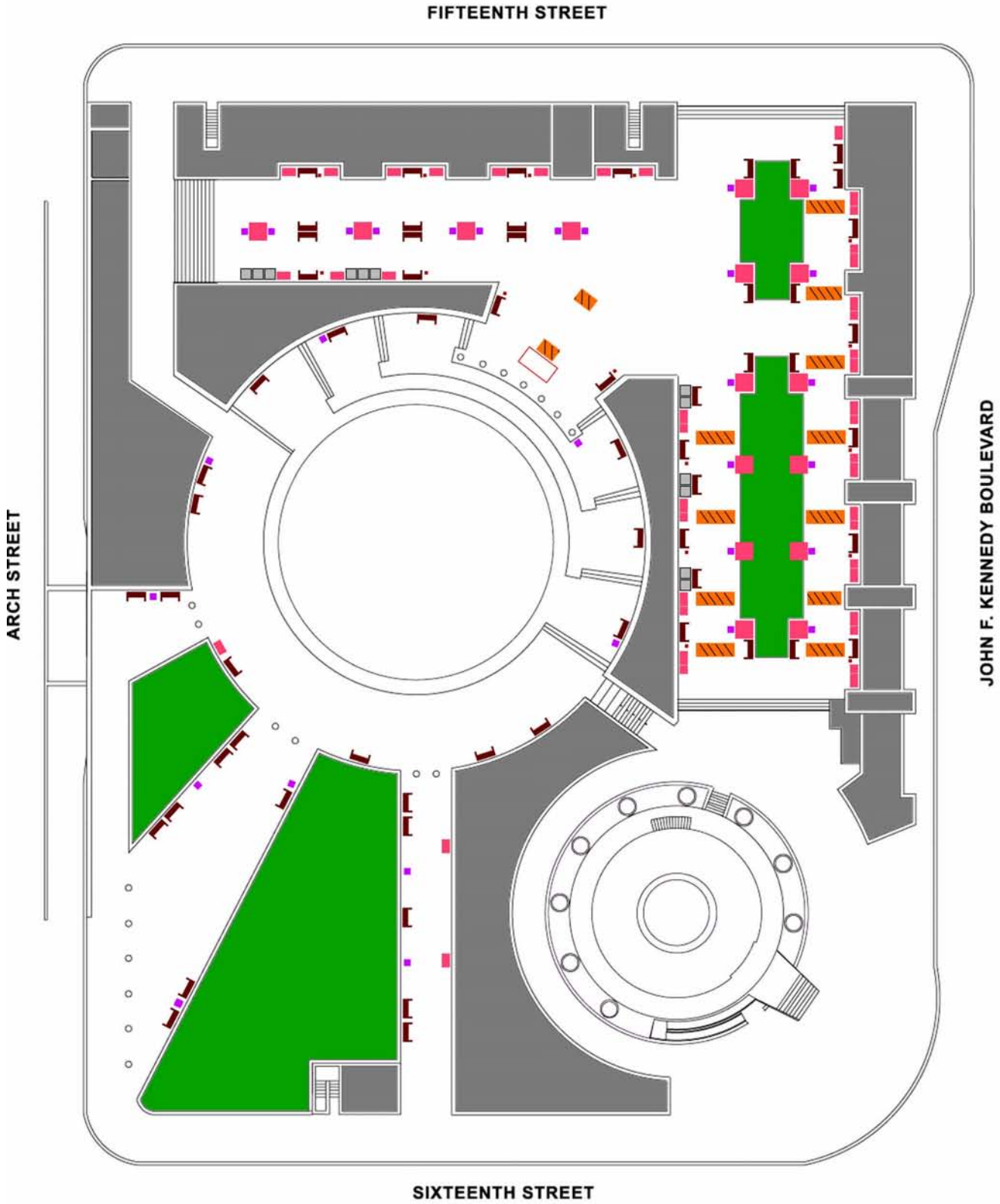
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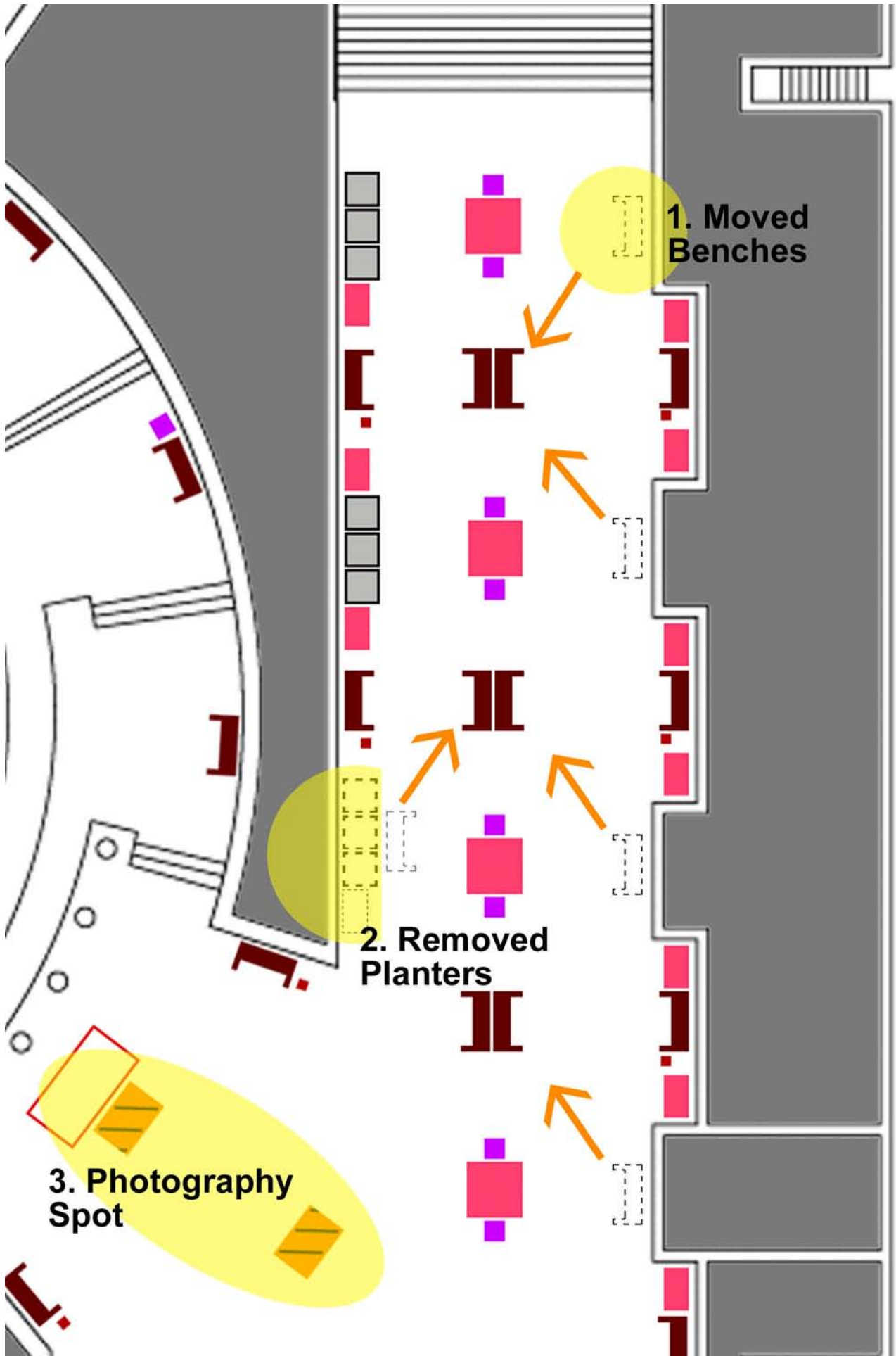
**1
BASE
DRAWING**

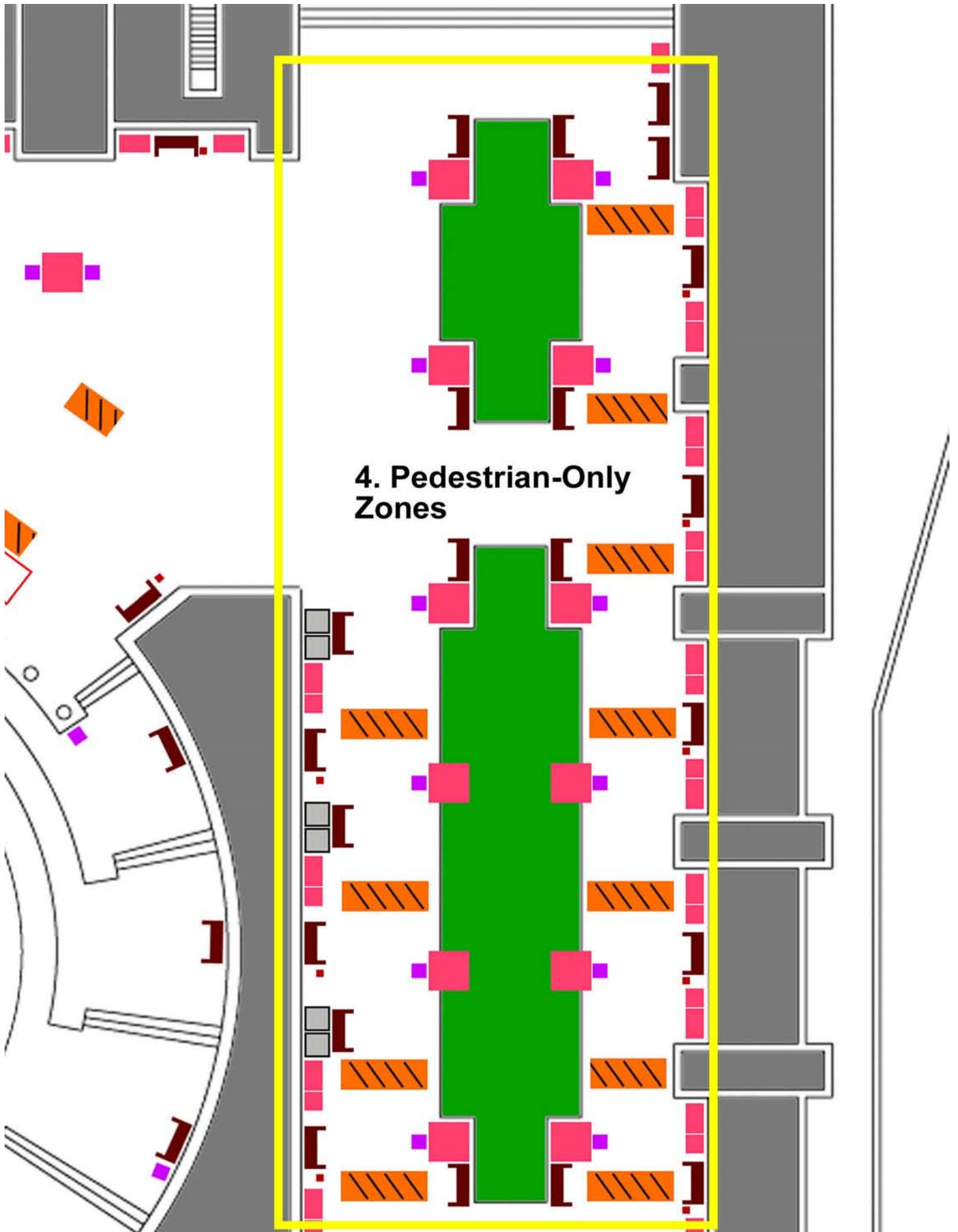
**3
ADJUSTMENT
PLAN**

KEY

-  BENCH
-  PLANTER
-  GRAY PLANTER
-  TRASH CAN
-  LAMP POST
-  GRASS
-  LOVE
-  RUMBLE STRIP







4. Pedestrian-Only Zones

4. ALTERNATIVE ADJUSTMENT PLAN

One element of the above Adjustment Plan is the removal of the two pink planters along the wall just to the south of the LOVE sculpture, so that skateboarders may use this important ledge. If this element is not acceptable to the City of Philadelphia, we here propose the following alternative:

- Retain the pink planters, but in order to provide an alternative to this key ledge that they obstruct, build a concrete or granite ledge in the eastern portion of the plaza, in place of the southernmost large, square, pink planter. This alternative would allow the aforementioned planters to stay, while creating a substitute to satisfy the critical function of the ledge blocked by those planters.

Illustration 6 (next page): Alternative Adjustment Plan

This illustration shows a view of the entire plaza, with the alternative plan in place, leaving the pink planters, while adding an additional stone ledge.

Illustration 7 (page after next): Comparison of Adjustment Plan to Adjustment Alternative

This illustration shows the adjustment plan, in the upper left, with the two pink planters removed to clear the ledge to the south of the LOVE sculpture. The adjustment alternative, in the lower right, shows the planters retained along the ledge, while adding a new stone ledge in place of the large planters to the north.

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Adjustment Concept
February, 2004

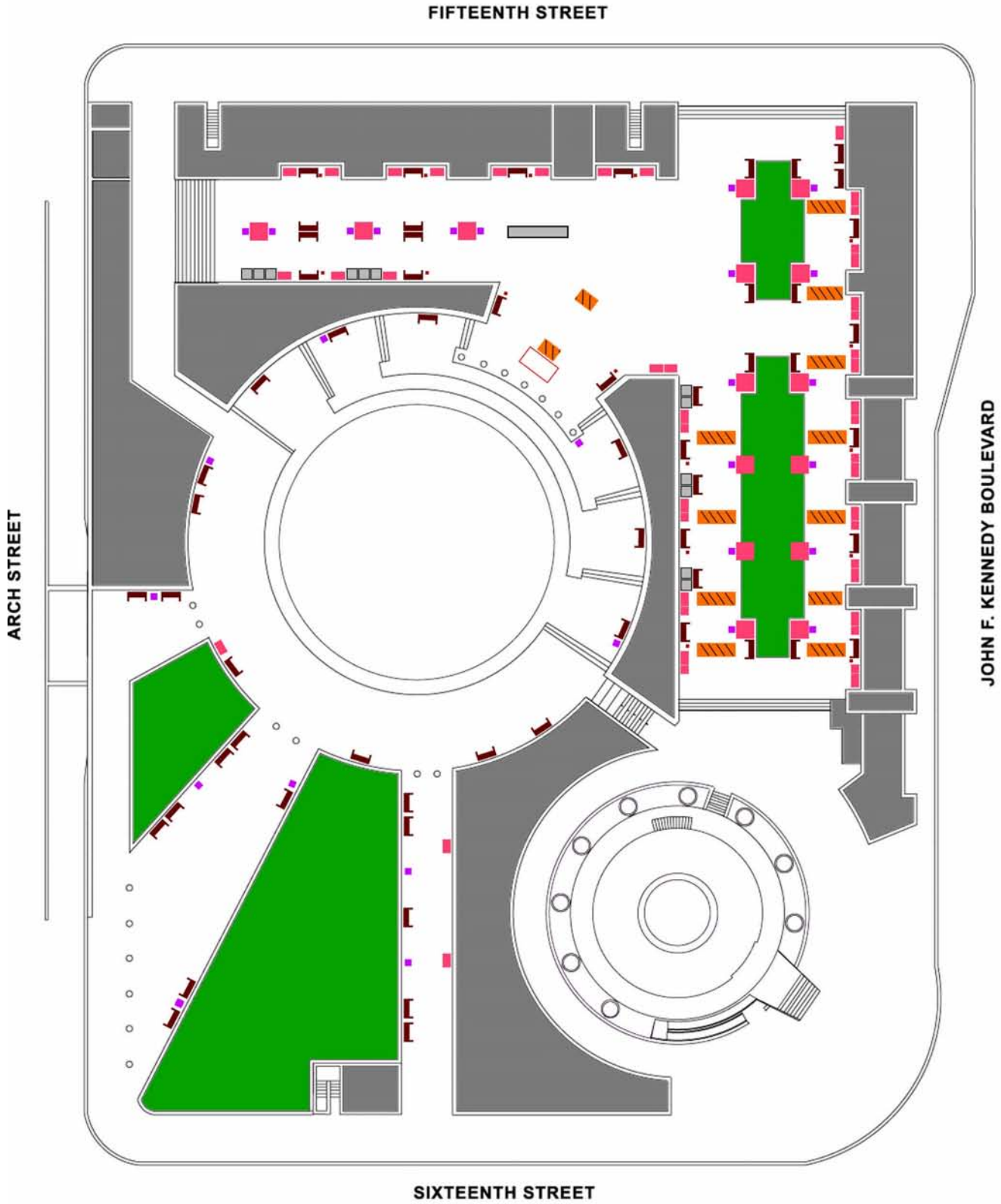
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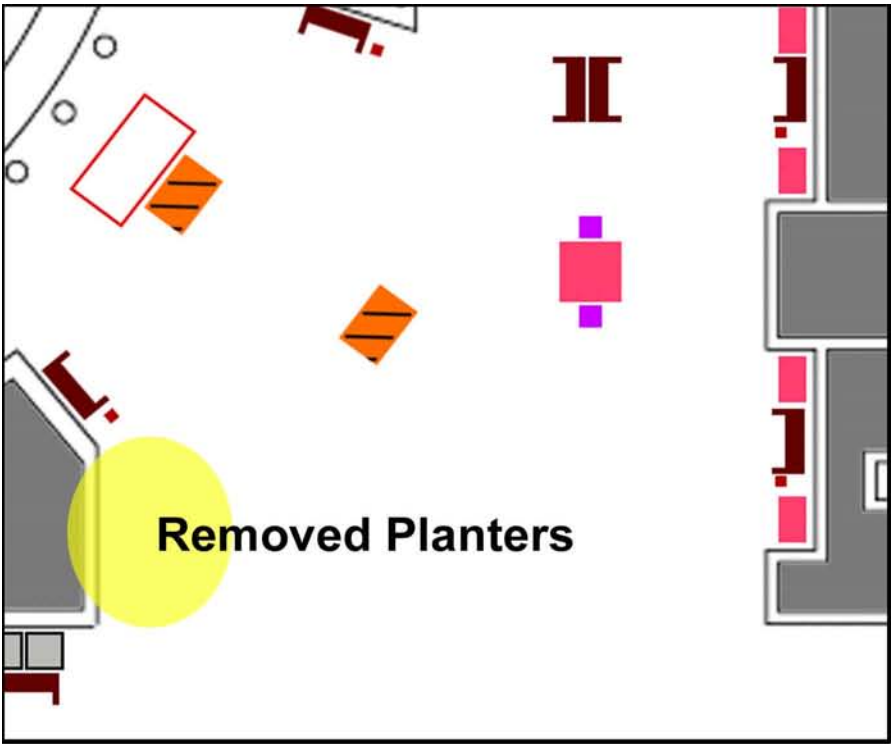
**1
BASE
DRAWING**

**4
ADJUSTMENT
PLAN (ALT.)**

KEY

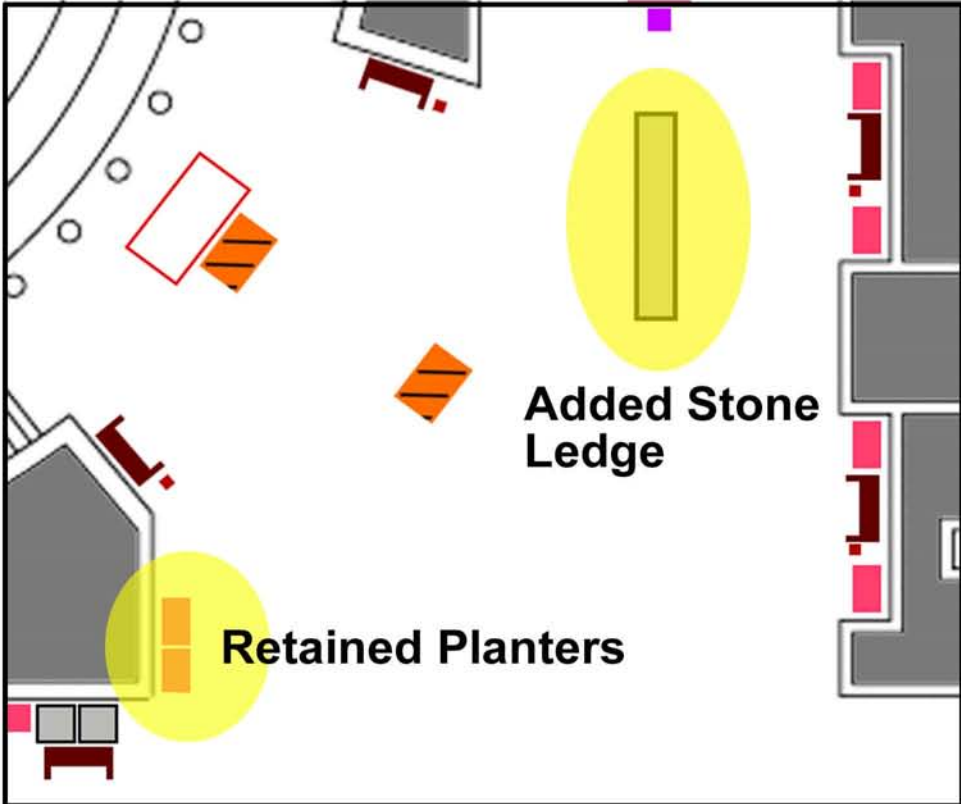
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Adjustment Concept

Adjustment Alternative



5. CONCLUSION

The Coalition to Free LOVE Park believes the proposals in this report best satisfy the concerns of pedestrians and skateboarders, alike, and can make JFK Plaza a truly successful multi-use, public space. The Coalition has consulted with neighborhood groups, skate park designers, skateboarders who have used the park, and historical preservation interests in developing these proposals.

The Coalition hereby submits these proposals for consideration by the City of Philadelphia. On behalf of the organizations that comprise the Coalition, as well as the neighborhood, civic, and business groups that have supported our efforts, we hope the City will implement these proposals as part of a solution for allowing skateboarding to return to JFK Plaza. Such an action will contribute to fostering a vibrant multi-use environment, for the good of the people of Philadelphia, and as a model for municipalities across the country considering similar issues.

Submitted February 2004
The Coalition to Free LOVE Park