

CONSTELLATIONS OF CONNECTION

Leveraging small-scale interventions to transform PSU's campus into welcoming places for connection, learning, and building community

LOCATION: Portland, Oregon

DATE: Competition completed 2024
First projects started 2025

TEAM MEMBERS:

Walker Macy, Landscape Architect
Colloqate, Design Justice
Hennebery Eddy Architects, Architecture
Randy Gragg, Research and Writing
Matt Brown, Real Estate Analysis
Kate Bingaman-Burt, Faculty Advisor and Graphic Design

CLIENT: Portland State University

Portland State University hosted the PLACE MATTERS design competition during the summer of 2024. The Walker Macy Collaborative was selected as the competition winner to partner with PSU on their Placemaking efforts. The proposal is designed to transform the campus through a network of small-scale, accomplishable, and sustained improvements developed in collaboration and dialogue with the campus community. The proposal will invigorate the campus through what we describe as “Constellations of Connection.”

...of students, faculty, staff, and administrators cocreating new places through an inclusive Design Justice Framework.

...of new community spaces, art, and ecology that energize the campus and that speak to today and tomorrow's students' desire for connection.

...of organizational and stewardship initiatives—the often-unseen factors, that are critical to developing and sustaining campus improvements.

Our proposal does not hinge on a single, signature design move. Instead, we developed a multitude of opportunities for larger, central investments in the campus core linked by a network of enlivened corridors and streets. We focused bringing the bustling energy that percolates daily inside PSU's buildings to the outside, enabling people to energize the campus, make connections, and build a powerful new identity for the university.