



# Imagining Solar Art

Land Art Generator Initiative Community Workshop

VILLAGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES



The Village of Arts and Humanities, in partnership with Temple University, invited the Land Art Generator Initiative to work with community residents, students, and stakeholders to explore the creation of a solar tapestry mural in North Philadelphia that would provide power to a local public space, such as a community center or library.

Participants in this half-day charrette investigated how renewable energy technologies can be incorporated into public art, crafted a conceptual design for the solar mural, and discussed steps for implementation of the public art piece, including generating ideas for fundraising and fabrication.

The Land Art Generator Initiative is a Pittsburgh based organization that addresses public art within the urban fabric of the sustainable city. Its objective

is to advance the successful implementation of sustainable urban design solutions by integrating art and interdisciplinary creative processes into the conception of renewable energy infrastructure.

This program is part of Temple University's *Seeing Stories: Visualizing Sustainable Citizenship* series, co-curated by Temple Contemporary, Temple University's Office of Sustainability, and Temple University Libraries, along with faculty and graduate students from the Tyler School of Art, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Center for the Cinematic and Performing Arts.

*LAGI Community Workshop  
Saturday February 4, 2017  
Village of Arts and Humanities  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*



land art generator initiative  
RENEWABLE ENERGY CAN BE BEAUTIFUL



## Setting the Stage for the Design Challenge



The day started off with a presentation by the Executive Director, Aviva Kapust, on the history of the Village of Arts and Humanities. The neighborhood has a rich tradition of community art with an infrastructural approach to beautifying public spaces.

LAGI Co-directors Elizabeth Monoian and Robert Ferry followed Aviva with a presentation on the Land Art Generator Initiative.







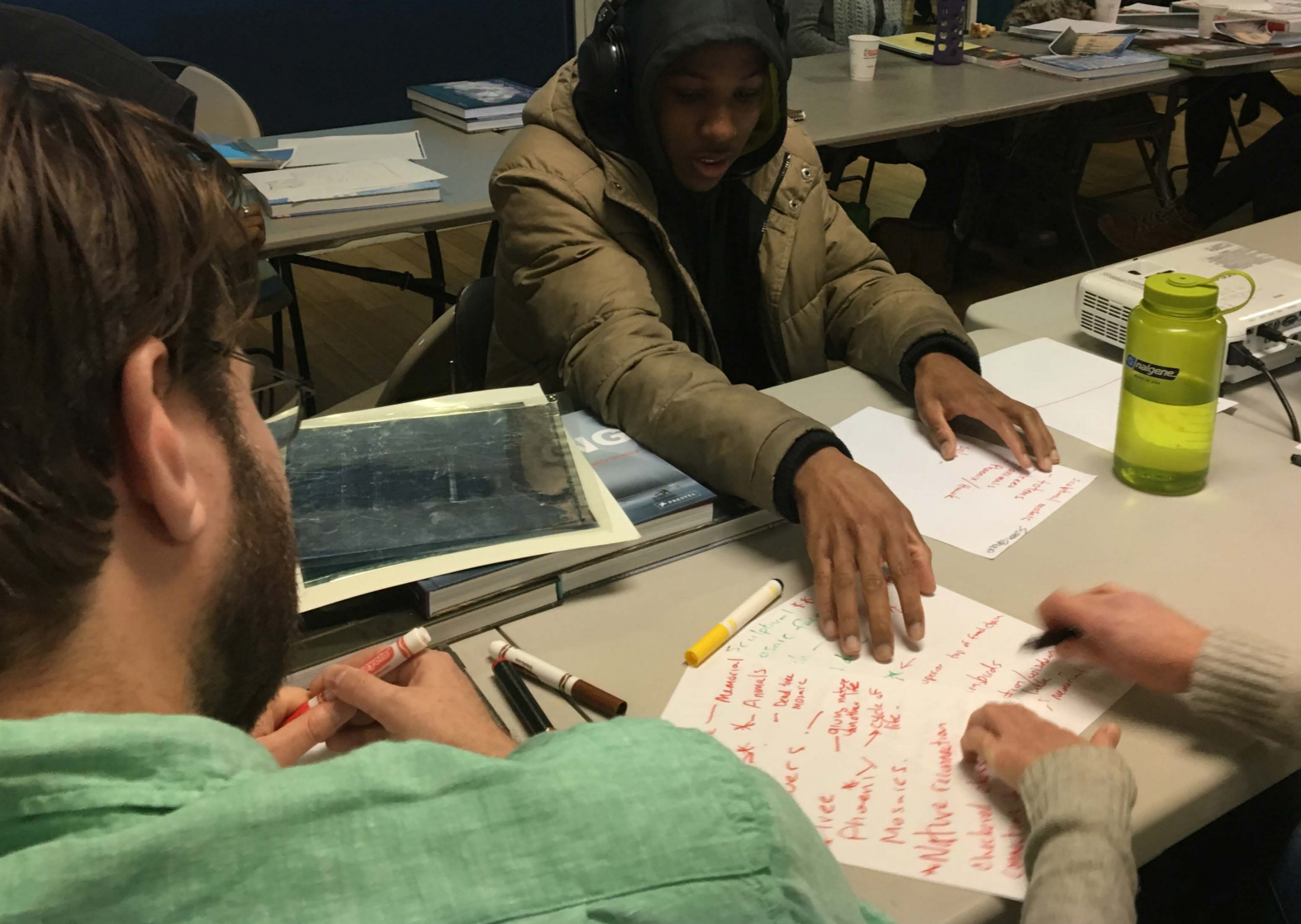
## Touring the Design Site: Village of Arts and Humanities

Neighborhood participants shared personal stories of the positive impact that the Village has had on the community.



With help from Jon Hopkins, Environmental Director and head of the PhillyEarth program, we explored the beautiful park spaces and building facades of the Village as a group, looking at opportunities for solar power generation. The group studied three potential sites and everyone eventually narrowed in on one south-facing wall of a building directly across from Ile Ife Park that has the greatest solar potential.





## Concept Generation & Design

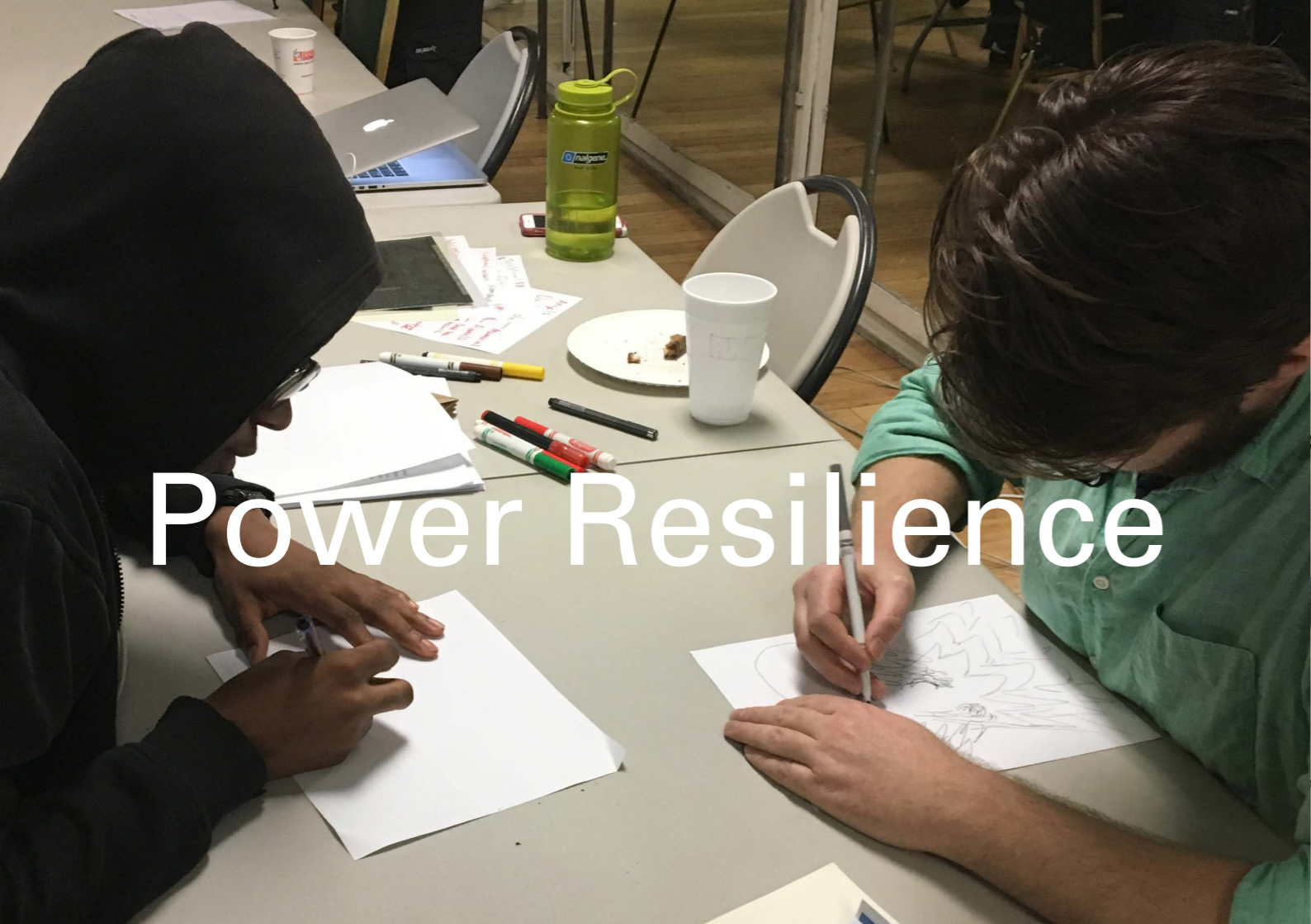


After returning to the indoor classroom from the site tour the group developed concepts for a solar artwork.

The concepts are rooted in the tradition of the neighborhood and carry forward key phrases such as “power resilience” and “angels watching over the community.” Any of the ideas put forward during the workshop could evolve into a public artwork for the Village that provides renewable energy to the community with integrated solar technology. More than that, the concepts presented can continue the rich tradition of the Village of Arts and Humanities supporting self expression and catalyzing positive change.

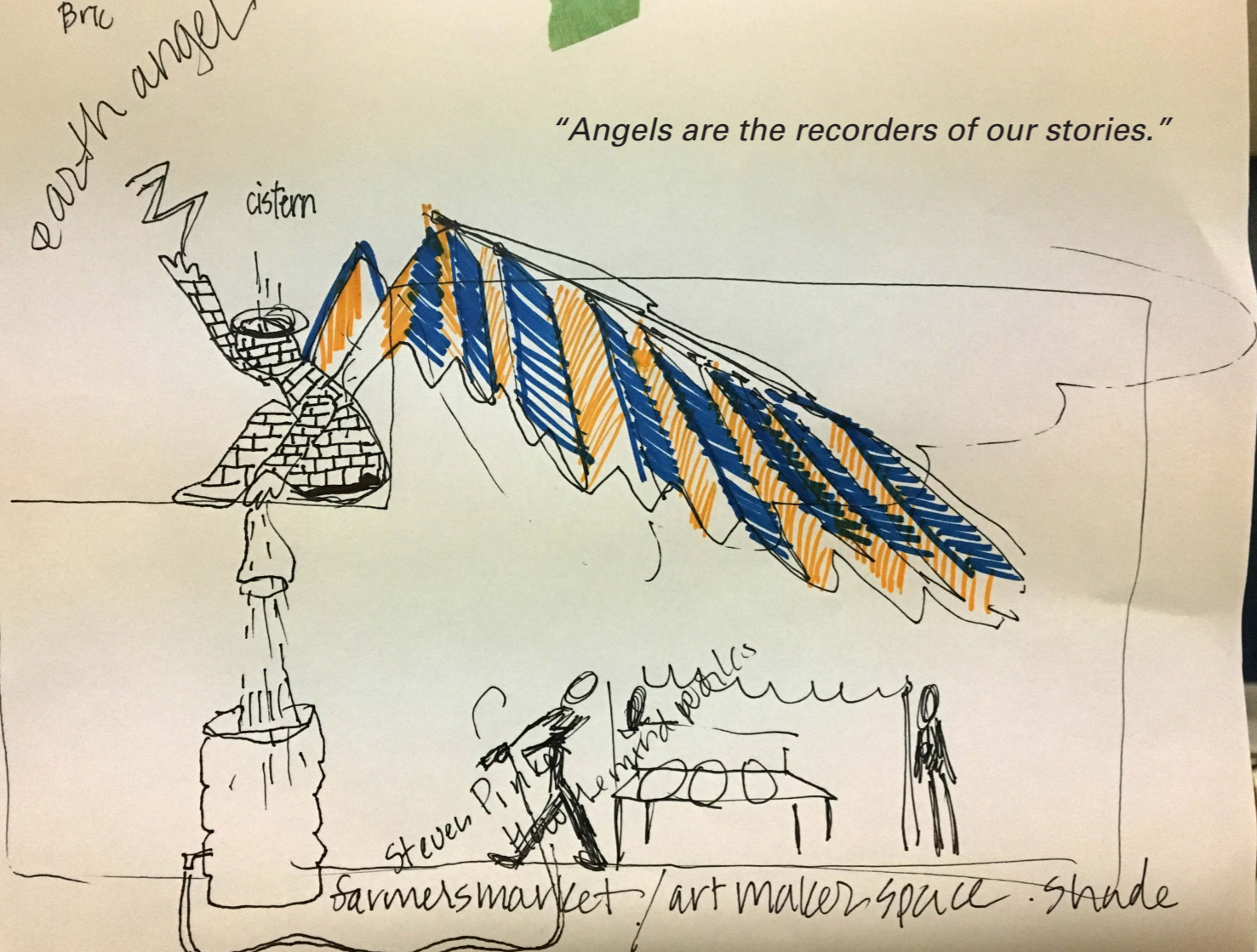


# Power Resilience

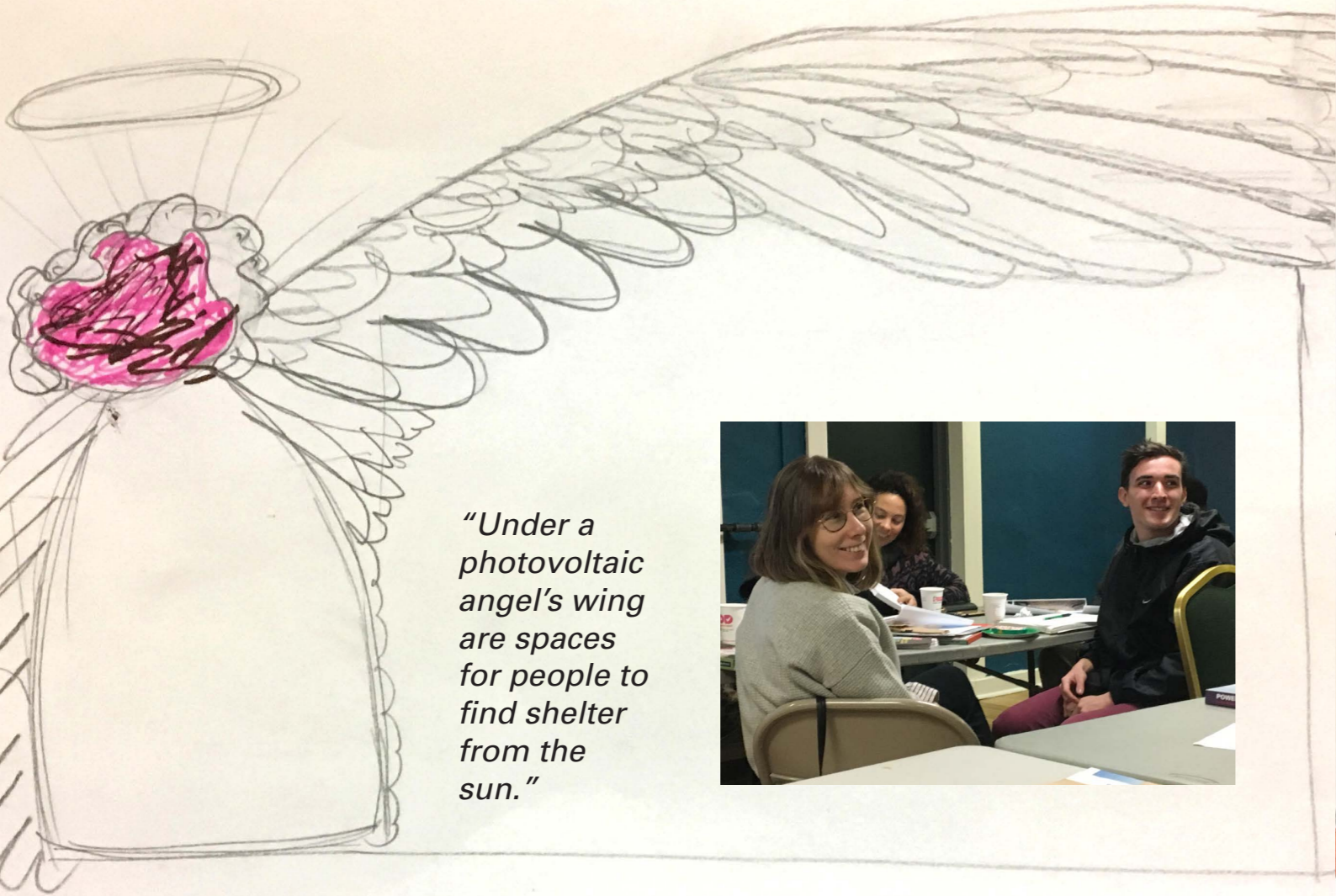


*"The hawk is a symbol of power."*

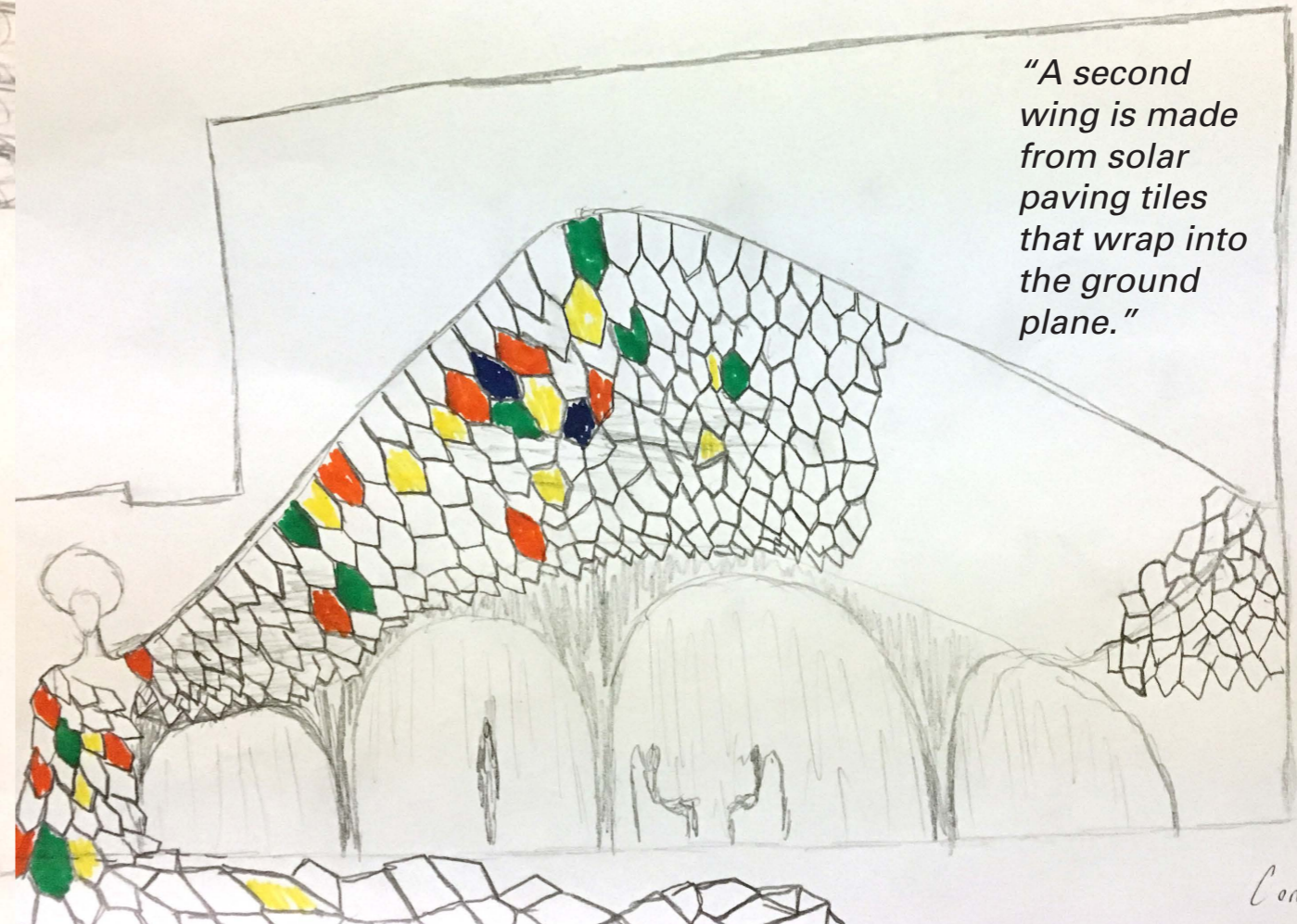








*"Under a photovoltaic angel's wing are spaces for people to find shelter from the sun."*

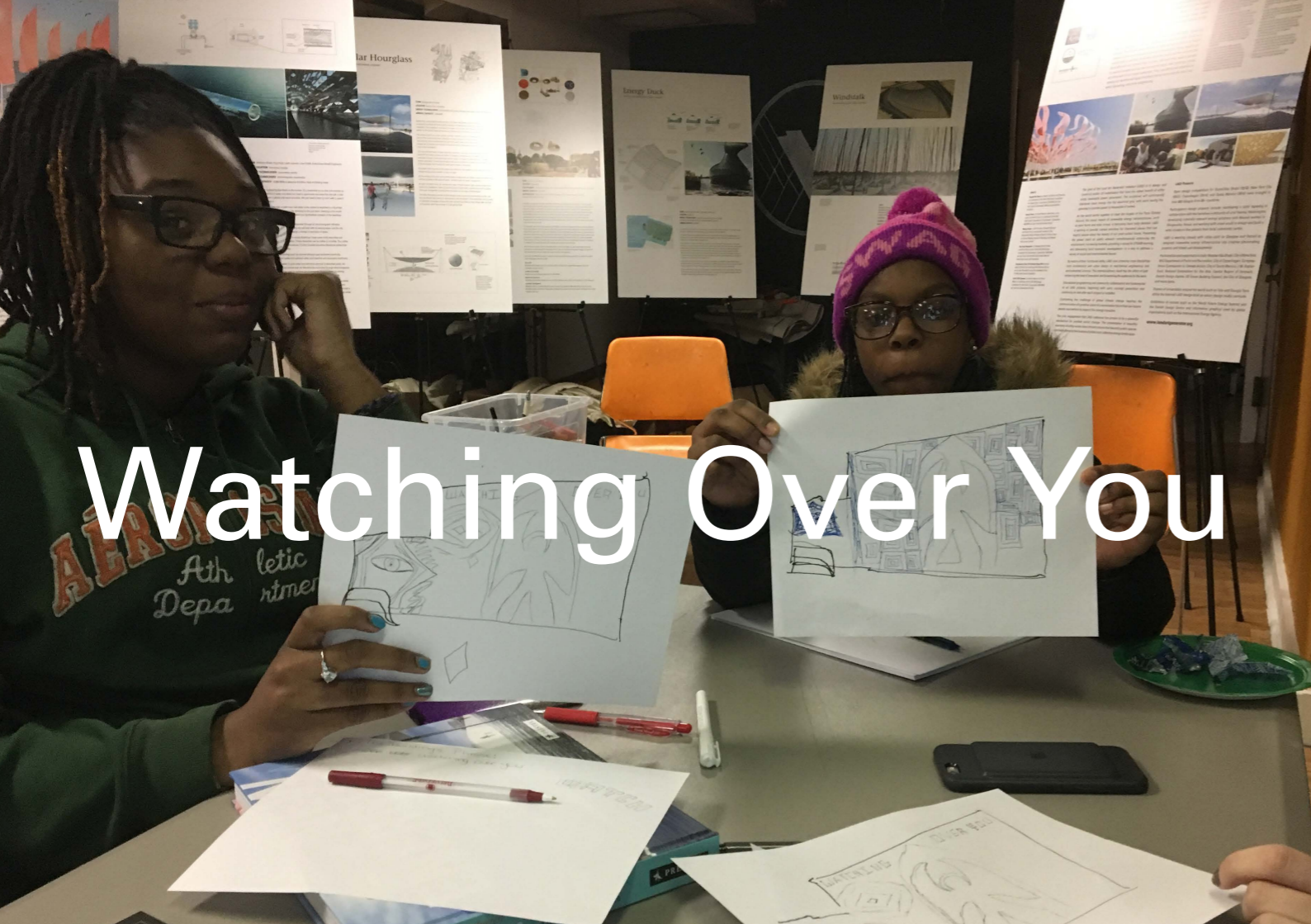


*"A second wing is made from solar paving tiles that wrap into the ground plane."*

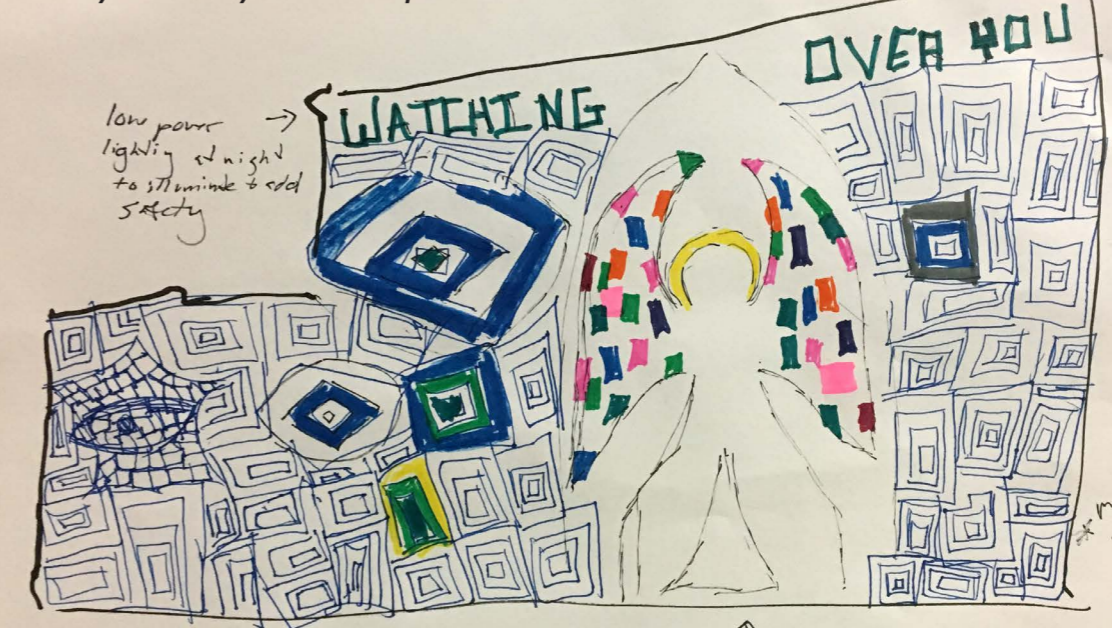
*Connor McLabe*



# Watching Over You



"The eye is a symbol of protection."



low power  
lightly at night  
to stimulate & add  
safety

high power  
panels cover  
roof  
for extra  
power

eyes to honor the lost building mural (lost in the fire)

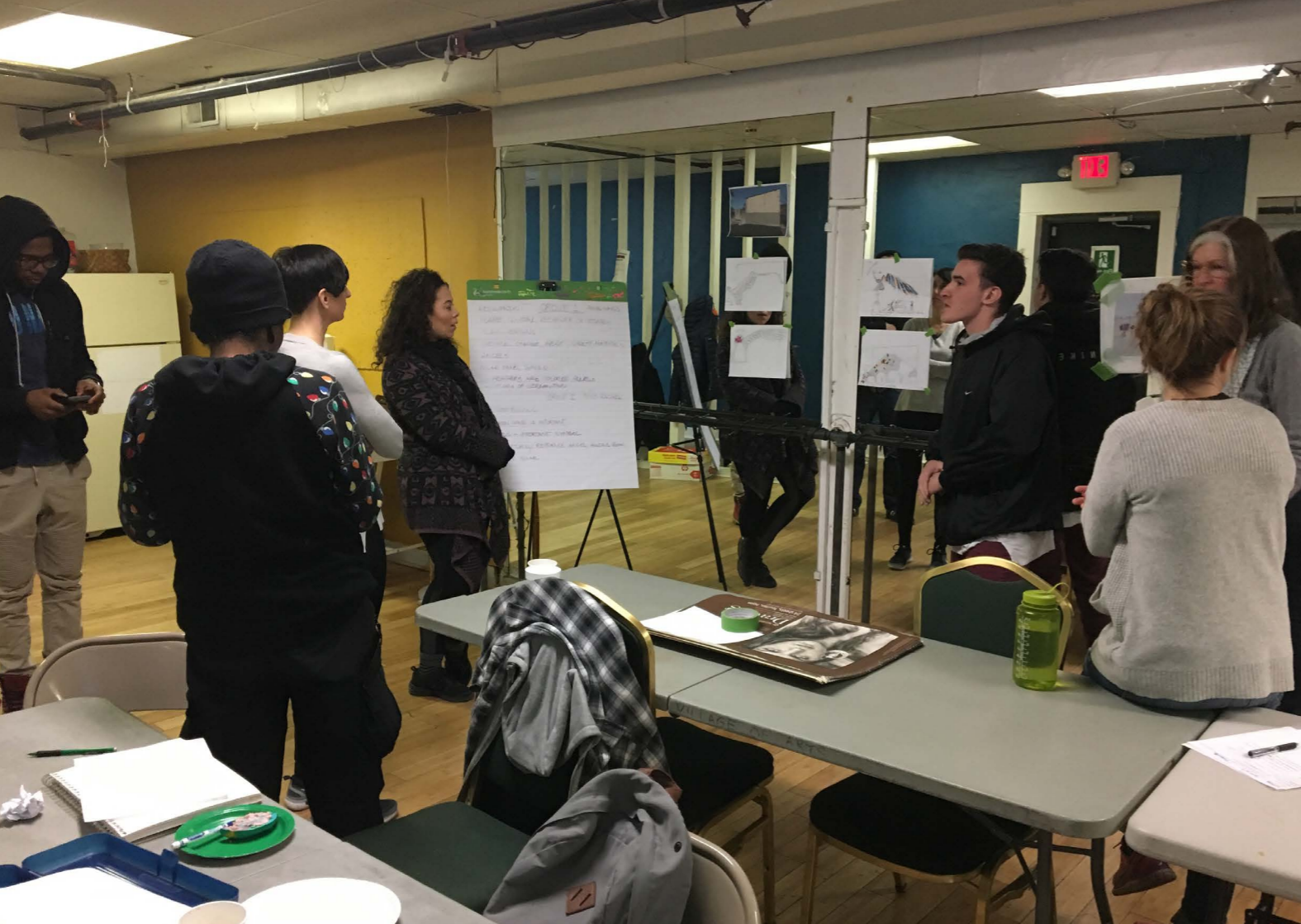
angel from angels alley

music style  
to honor  
big man  
tie together  
all the  
spaces

\*protect the greenspace as a safe place for play

Dayvona, Diamond,  
Rachel





## Next Steps

At the end of the day everyone in the room agreed that they would like to pursue a built outcome based on the ideas put forward during the workshop. All participants would like to play active roles in the next steps.

The group discussed some of the constraints that would influence the next stage of design, such as the security of the artwork, maintenance, lighting, permitting requirements, and how and where the electricity would be used most efficiently.

We discussed ideas for partnerships with other institutions, local solar engineers and installers, how the project could engage with the utility company (PECO), and how to get more community members involved. Could the project find a champion in City Council member Darrell Clarke?

Funding could come from a combination of foundation grants (both local and national), in-kind services, crowd sourcing, and access to the resources of project partners.







[www.landartgenerator.org](http://www.landartgenerator.org)

Exploring the Village of Arts and Humanities  
February 4, 2017