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From: Wendy Eppinger <emailforwendy27@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:36 AM

To: Planning Commission - Public Testimony <PC-public-testimony@ashland.or.us>

Subject: advisory commission testimony Public Art Commission

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Please acknowledge this e mail testimony in regards to the Say Their Names proposed sculpture by Micah Lightfoot at Ashland Creek Park. my name is Wendy Eppinger I live at 190 Walker Ave and my phone number is 541 482 7303..unfortunately I will be traveling during the meeting and will not be able to attend.

I am disturbed by this proposed piece in two ways....

No.1. The process was flawed. Requests for summittals talks were sent to participating organizations and “were picked up locally “ but my inquiry on 8/3 as to “local sources” was never responded to by BASE or Say Their Names .I subsequently found out that there were only 4 submittals. I don’t think any public monies should be spent on an project with so few submissions.

No. 2...Mr. Lightfoot’s Proposal... I believe his piece does not really represent his intended wishes. I have read his statement many times and believe what he has created graphically does not reflect his intentions. To the general public his facial image projects an adversity which I feel was not his intention.

Ashland Next Door a web based community publication, received 142 reactions to this proposed piece. Please peruse these statements under Amy Titus, the woman who presented this piece.

Proposed solution

Repeat the calls for submission to include a wider population of artists

Have a group of professional skilled artists to work with Mr. Blacklight to aesthetically represent his intention.

I belong to a group of local experienced artists and am including a selection of their responses to this proposed sculpture.....in a separate e mail. thank you for taking my reponses seriously.

For PAC consideration 8/19/22

Following discussion, a proposed motion for consideration regarding the Say Their Names Collective's (STNs) Micah Blacklight work "Ancestor's Future: Crystallizing Our Call".

"The Public Arts Commission recommends Council Liaison Stef Seffinger move to the City Council agenda for their resolution the Say Their Names Collective gift of the proposed Micah Blacklight statue " Ancestor's Future: Crystallizing our Call". As in the Ashland Municipal Code (AMC) 2.29.110 - Gifts. The presentation of the Council Liaison to draw upon:

- 1) the STN Collective Power Point presentation, the artist' presentation of his vision of the work, materials, design, collaborators, location, and how it honors the names on the T-Shirts on the fence in Rail Road Park;**
- 2) the endorsement of the Public Arts Commission (PAC) according to the AMC Public Art selection criteria Part A and B with emphasis on #1 and #9;**
- 3) the endorsement of the Ashland Park and Recreation Commission (APRC) and it's offer of in-kind engineering and required site preparation,**
- 4) an appropriate base to receive the completed sculpture."**

The presentation may reference the Events Timeline since the death of George Floyd describing the STN Collective selection process, and references to the City Council Resolution 2021-01.

KJE

Calendar of Events leading to Say Their Names Proposed Gift to City of Ashland.

May 25, 2020,	George Floyd was killed on live TV.
May 31, 2020	NBC news reports: Many in Ashland peacefully gather to protest killing of George Floyd.
June 2020	T-Shirts and Banners placed on fence in Rail Road Park. (STNs Coalition was later told that the T-Shirts and Banners installation needed to be taken down. Parks and Recreation Director explained the installation would go through the Parks and Recreation Commission's Sign, Plaques and Memorials Subcommittee. Public Arts Commission (PAC) later added it would go under the donations section of the Ashland Municipal Code. See PAC meeting of April 16, 2021.) Chair suggested informal meeting with commission members to discuss and reviewed the AMC 2.29.130 Guidelines for inclusion into the Ashland Public Art Collection.
October 8, 2020	First meeting with and initiated by City officials regarding possible next steps for the STNs memorial.
November 18, 2020	Ashland City officials call a meeting to discuss a permanent memorial for Rail Road Park outpouring of T-Shirts and `Banners.
November, 18, 2020	Volunteers make public announcement/call to action for community members: Excerpt: "While a team is developing to work on creating a permanent art installation along the fence we have an opportunity to create a new winterized piece of art to hold space."
November 23, 2020	Ashland student Aidan Ellison killed.
February 27, 2021	The Say Their Names Coalition (STNs Coalition) is formed with first collective meeting.
March 1, 2021	STNs Collective Selection panel email sent - confirms composition of panel, shares preparation materials and the meeting date.

March 9, 2021	Call for artist submissions sent to SOEquity and BASE websites and all organizations involved emailed to their lists draft of the call; in addition posters placed around town and along the RR Park fence calling for input from community and interested artists of color.
April 6, 2021	Public Arts Commission “Say Their Names Coalition made power point presentation. STNs selection process described. City staff shared City’s selection process, and that it would proceed through the AMC Gift section. 2.29.110 Parks and Recreation (APRC) Director explained the fence and path was on Ashland Parks and Recreation property. STNs addressed question of whether (T-Shirts and Banners) installation could remain on the fence? APRC Director explained the fence and path was on Ashland Parks and Recreation property and needed to come down. A Commissioner asked if STNs group had considered other locations than Rail Road Park. STNs Ms. Freedman response indicated STN open to another location.
April 22, 2021	Community update goes to STN’s Facebook page and mailing list.
May 4, 2021	STN meets with artist for Golden Connection at RR Park, Jennifer Corio, to gain more understanding of the process
May 13 - 24, 2021	Audio/video submissions from community on “What the STN memorial means to me” for the Rogue World Music Sound Walk.”
May 28, 2021	Rogue World Music Festival STN poster in A Street restaurant and at RR Park “Say Their Names Memorial Poster.”
June 9, 2021	STNs Collectives attends regular Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) meeting - requests support for the process and sharing plan for community involvement.

June 11, 2021	Ashland Tidings article “Say Their Names Collective requests project support from Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission.
June 16, 2021	STNs Collective Press Release - Community Vote Goes Out. June 19 –
July 19, 2021	One Month Community Voting period online opportunity for viewing four proposals and voting on the BASE website. Two in person viewing and voting opportunities: Juneteenth at Pear Blossom Park (June 19) and Say their Names Memorial One Year Anniversary Commemoration, RR Park (June 28) A community event featuring several local residents of color.
July 20, 2021	Ashland City Council Business Meeting’s agenda item “Social Equity and Racial Justice Resolution No. 2021-01 as an update on the Social Justice Equity and Racial Justice Resolution is adopted. At Section 1. A. Designate Social Equity and Racial Justice as a Value Service in the City of Ashland’s strategic planning process, . . .”. “Section 2.C. Display Black Lives Matter signs at City-owned locations to offer visible and immediate support for racial justice advocates in our community.” “Section 2.H. Determine the feasibility of a mural project to provide a mode of artistic expression of our community’s commitment to making meaningful, visible, and ongoing progress on social equity and racial justice issues.”
July 22, 2021	Results of final two proposals sent to the artists - Derrick Murray’ and Micah Blacklight’s pieces.
September 2, 2021	APRC reps meet with two finalists to show them the (alternative) site options for their art piece.
January 1 - 31, 2022	STNs Selection panel sign-up.
March1, 2022	Selection panel email sent - confirms: composition of panel, shares prep materials and the meeting date.
March 28. 2022,	STNs Collective Selection panel meets and decides
April 5, 2022,	STNs Collective Selection panel decision shared with artist.

June 8, 2022,

STNs Collective attends regular APRC meeting and presents formally to the APRC and requests support of then process and sharing the plan for community involvement. Director stated staff is looking for approval of the site location from Commissioners and stated that staff will work with the artist on lighting and that APRC staff will be providing in-kind labor where possible. Black stated Commissioners previously had expressed support for the City of Ashland to provide financial support as noted in the “staff report” included in the meeting packet. The staff report also included a map identifying the location where the sculpture would be placed. Tia Laida Fe from the Say Their Names Collective and Micah Blacklight, the artist, spoke about the community process that has led to this point. Blacklight noted that he will be working closely with the APRC staff to coordinate installation and lighting (which would copy with lighting policies) if the project secures final approval from the City Council. Blacklight stated that he will be seeking financial support from the City of Ashland and acknowledged that support from APRC will come in the form of (sic) In-kind labor regarding some site preparation work.

M/S “to grant approval to re-locate the sculpture, Crystalizing Our Call at Ashland Creek Park as identified in the location map”. All yes.

And M/S to support the artist’s request for financial support from the City of Ashland and engineering and installation. All yes.

June 16, 2022

STNs Collective Tia Laida Fe and local black artist Micah Blacklight present his work to the Public Arts Commission where it is unanimously approved (one absent) and recommended for final approval by the City Council.

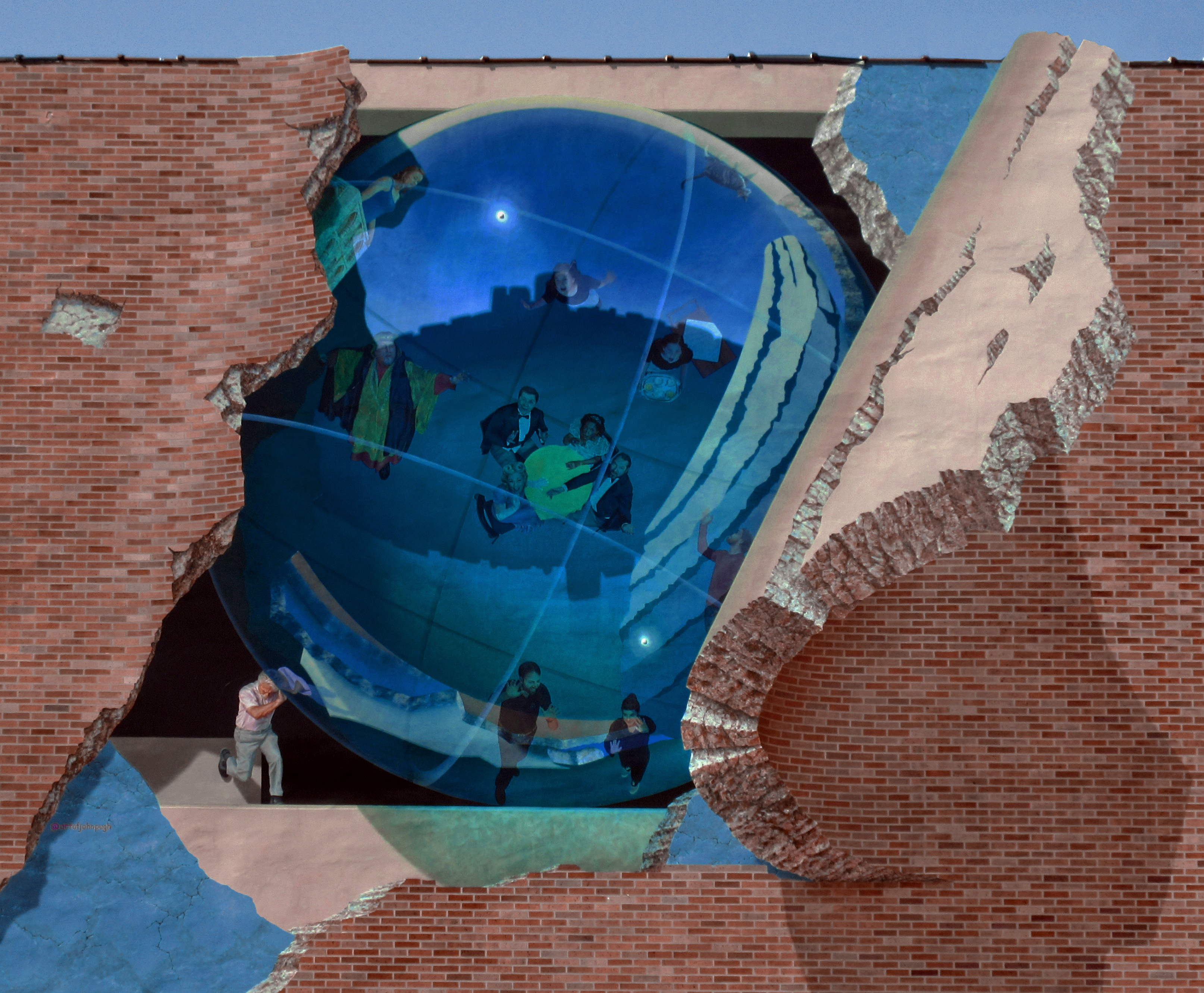
August, 19, 2022

Public Arts Commission Review of Resolution to Council of Say Their Names Collective Gift, of Micah Blacklight work.







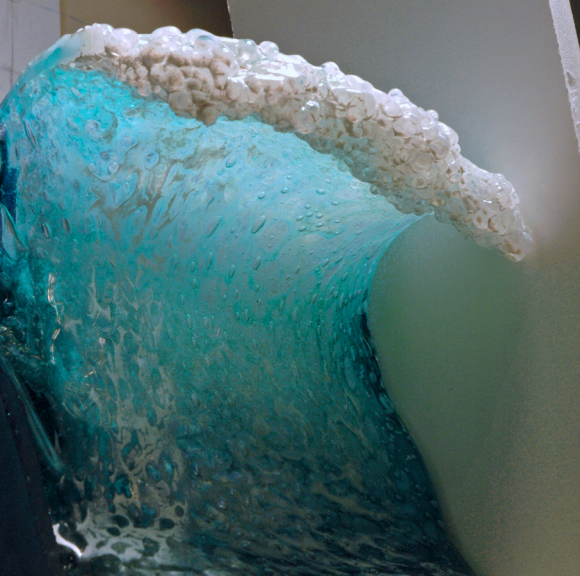


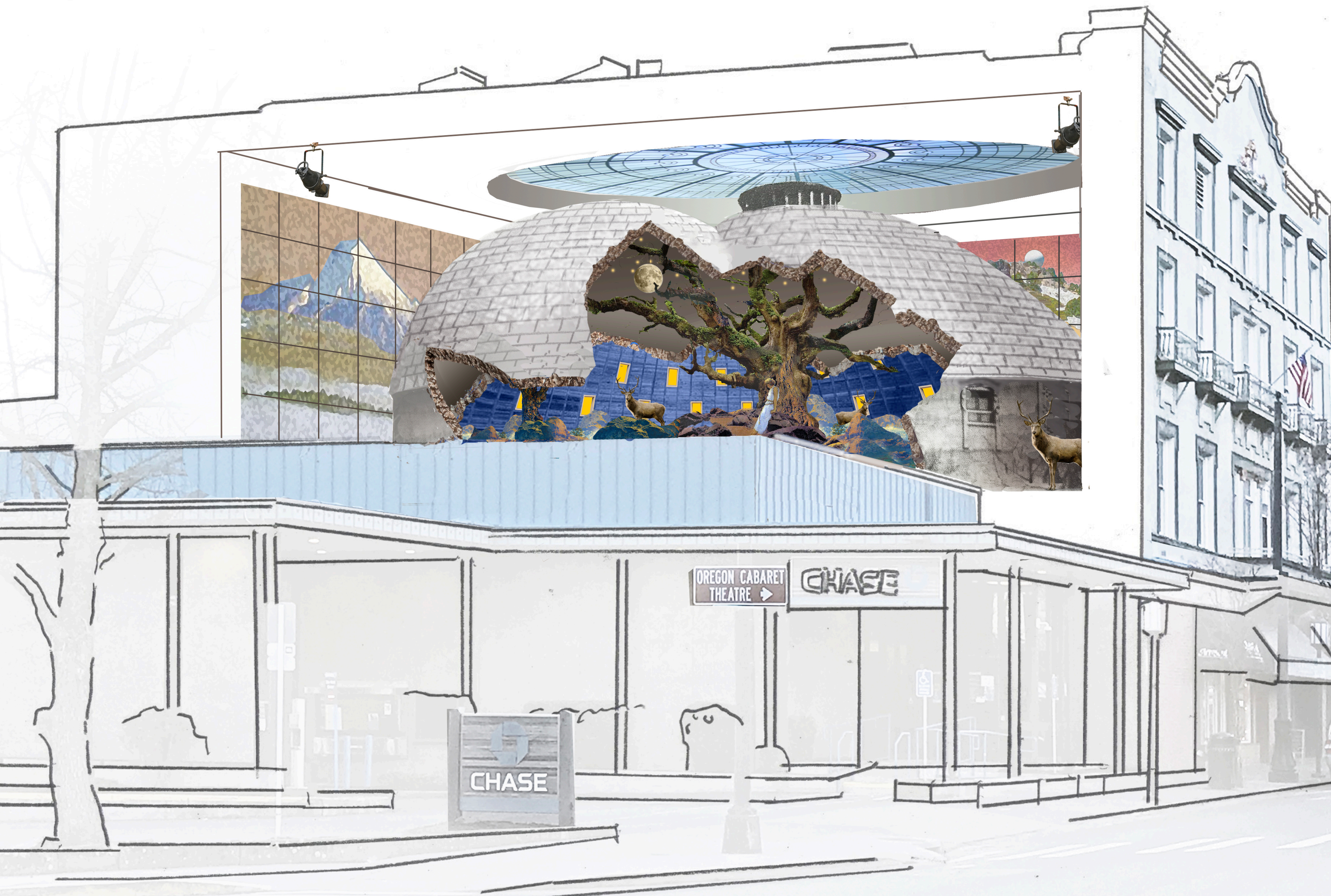








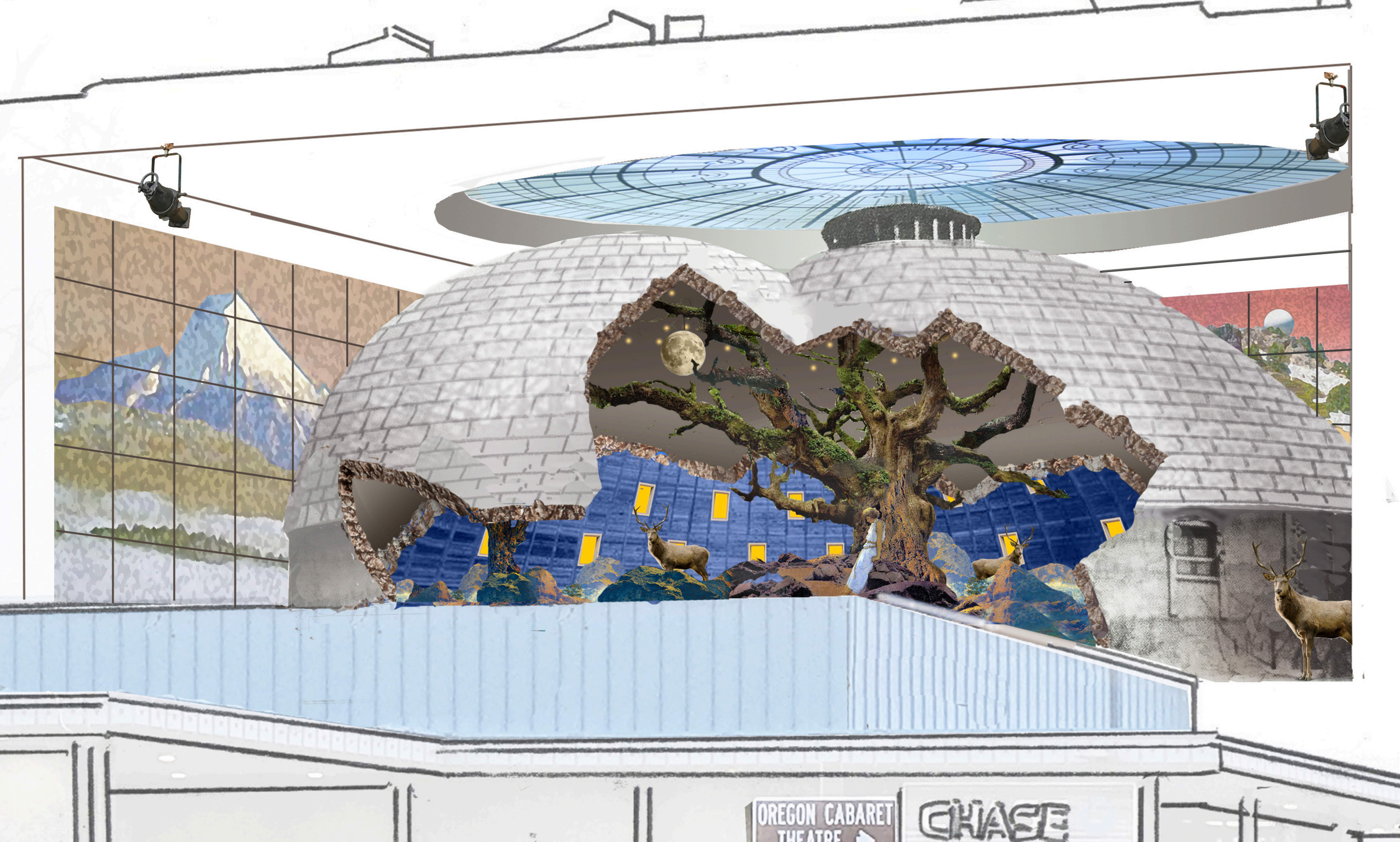




ASHLAND ELKS

MAIN STREET

JOHN PUGH





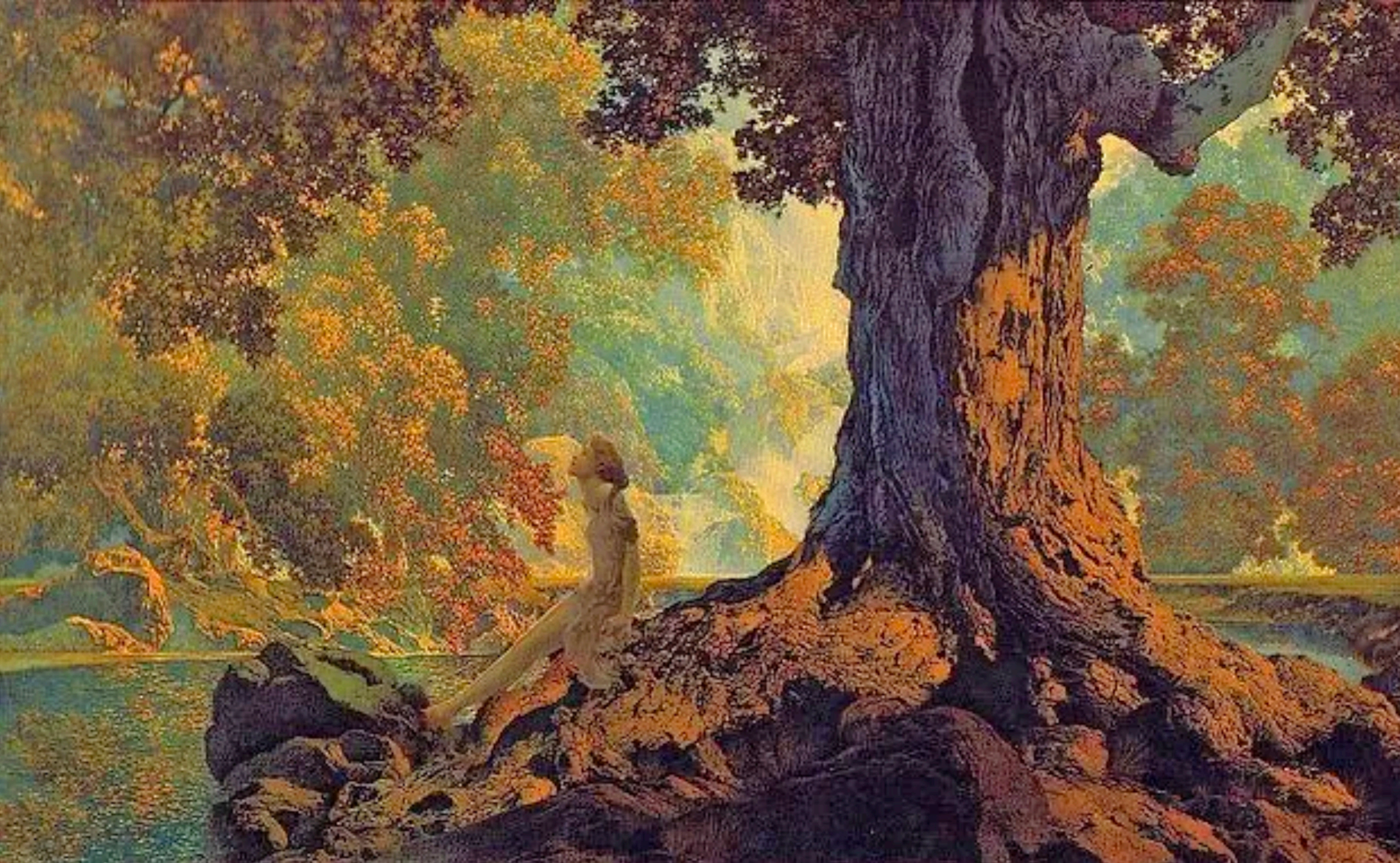


Q. 615

Chautauqua Auditorium
Astoria, Oregon





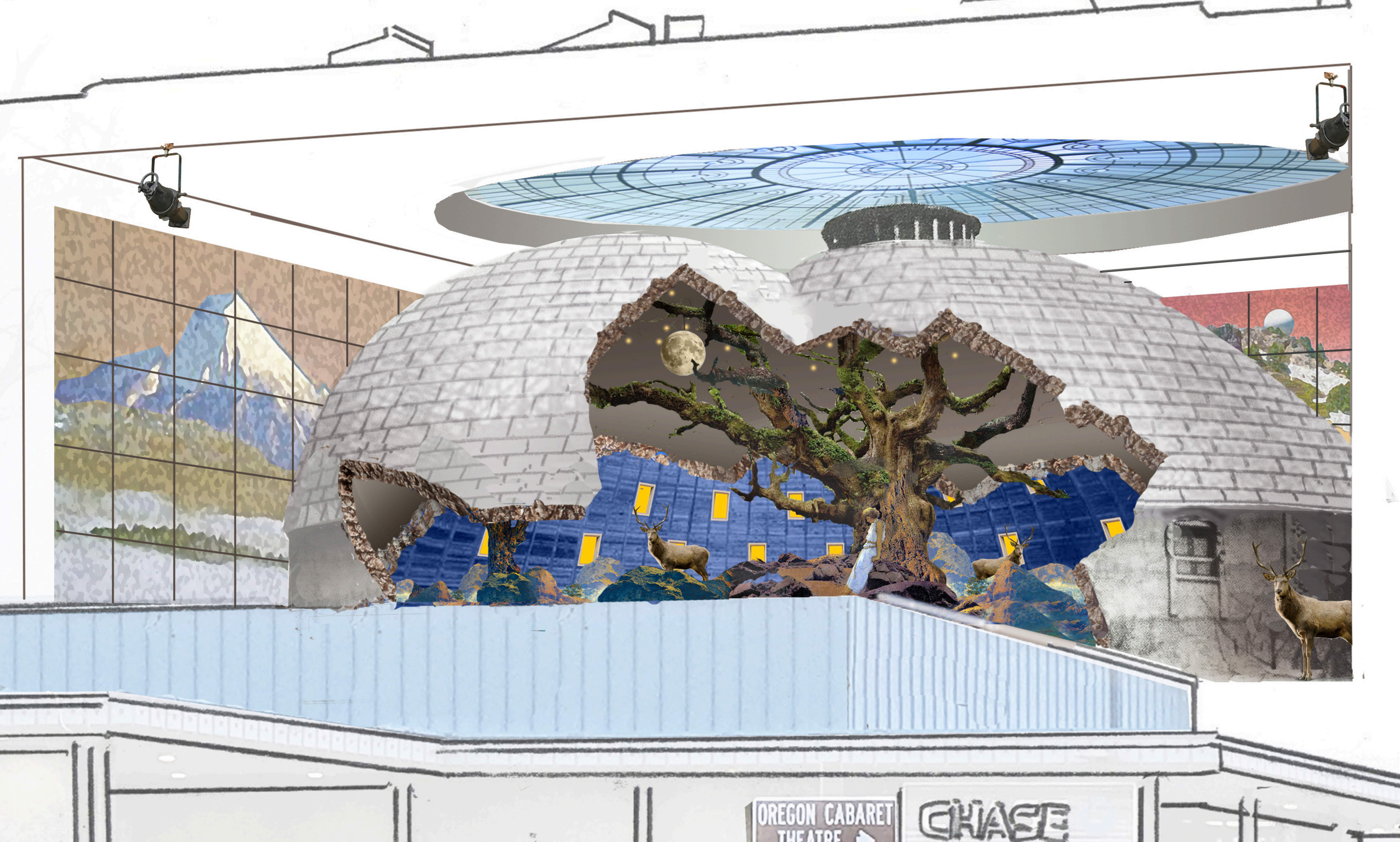












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CHASE

