



Immortal Tactics: Memorialized Space of Protest

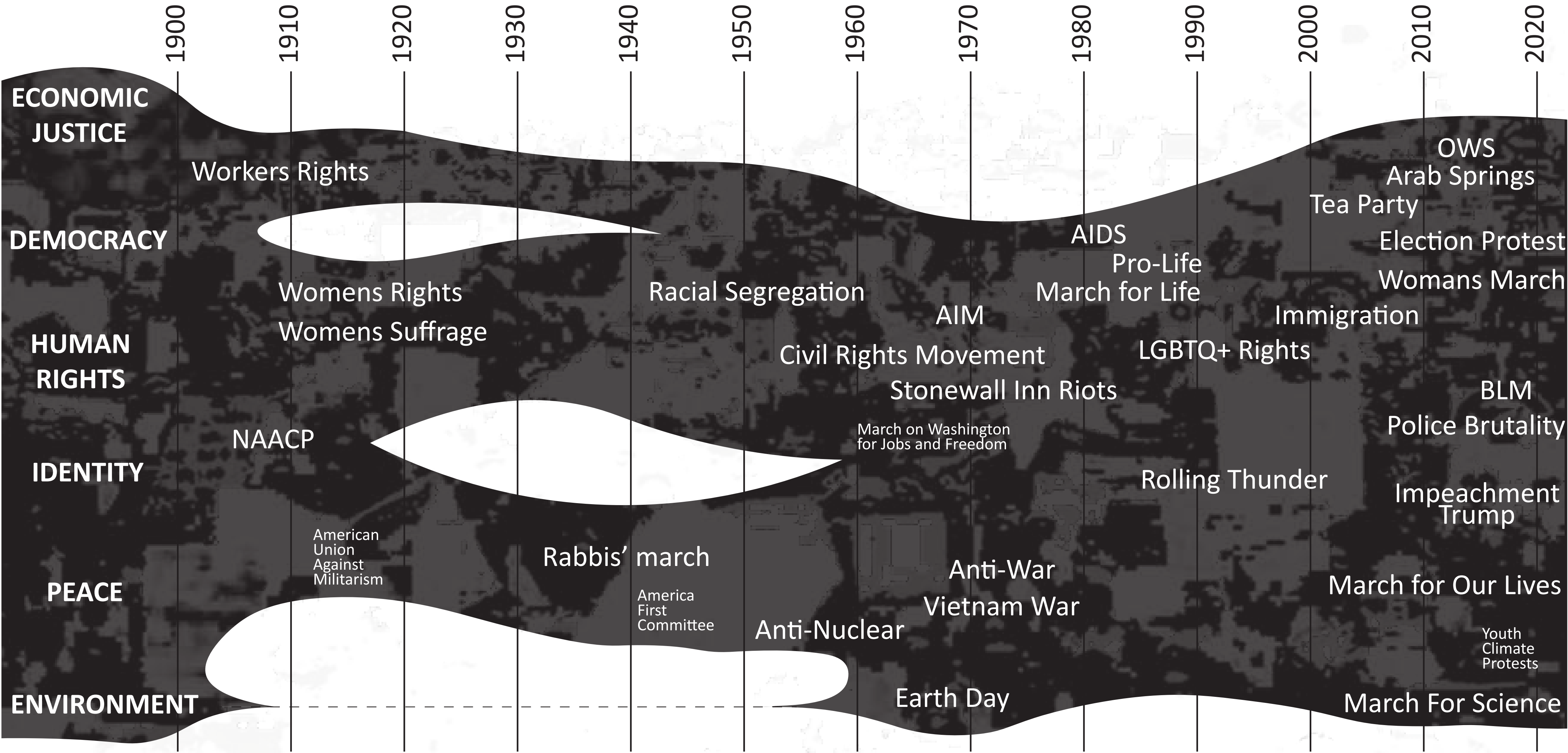
Nicholas R. Wahler

In our modern age, the expression of objection has played a prominent role in the shaping of society. Our hyper-political, media filled world has stressed the importance of this right tremendously, but many of these issues have been objected for decades. Various tactics of protest have been deployed to convey an intended message, however, exemplified in the recent events of January 2021, the lines have been blurred between civil, non-violent protest and acts of terror. People feel unheard, scared and desperate for change but often fall into malicious ways. Now more then ever a space is needed for this expression, but like man social movements we must continuously build upon what has come before. A space in which protest can occur and be captured, acting like a cardboard sign frozen in time. Memorializing protest strengthens the messages of what it is to come.

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MAL FLOWERS JAMEL FLOYD DAVID MCATEE JAMES SCURLOCK CALVIN ORTON JR. TO
TAYLOR BARRY GEDEUS MAQUEL ELLIS AHMAUD ARBERY LIONEL MORRIS JAQUYN O'NEIL
ELIJAH MCCLAIN JALEEL MEDLOCK DOMINIQUE CLAYTON PAMELA TURNER RONALD GREEN
E JR. BOTHAM JEAN HARITH AUGUSTUS JASON WASHINGTON ANTON ROSE JR. ROBER
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KALIEF BROWDER FREDDIE GRAY NORMAN COOPER WALTER SCOTT NATASHA MCKENNA
ROWN KAJIEME POWELL MICHELLE CUSSEAU DAVE PARKER EZELL FORD AMIR BROOKS
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REKIA BOYD TRAYVON MARTIN WILLIE RAY BAKER KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN SR. CLETIS
JIAN ALEXANDER MARVIN PARKER DEAUNTA FARROW SEAN BELL KATHRYN JOHNSON TI
HEYWARD JR. MARY MITCHELL SHARON WALKER ANOR BUMPURS EDWARD GARDNER
UIS ALLEN MEDGAR EVERS HERBERT LEE JOHN EARL REESE EMMETT TILL WILLIAM MCDU

Why?

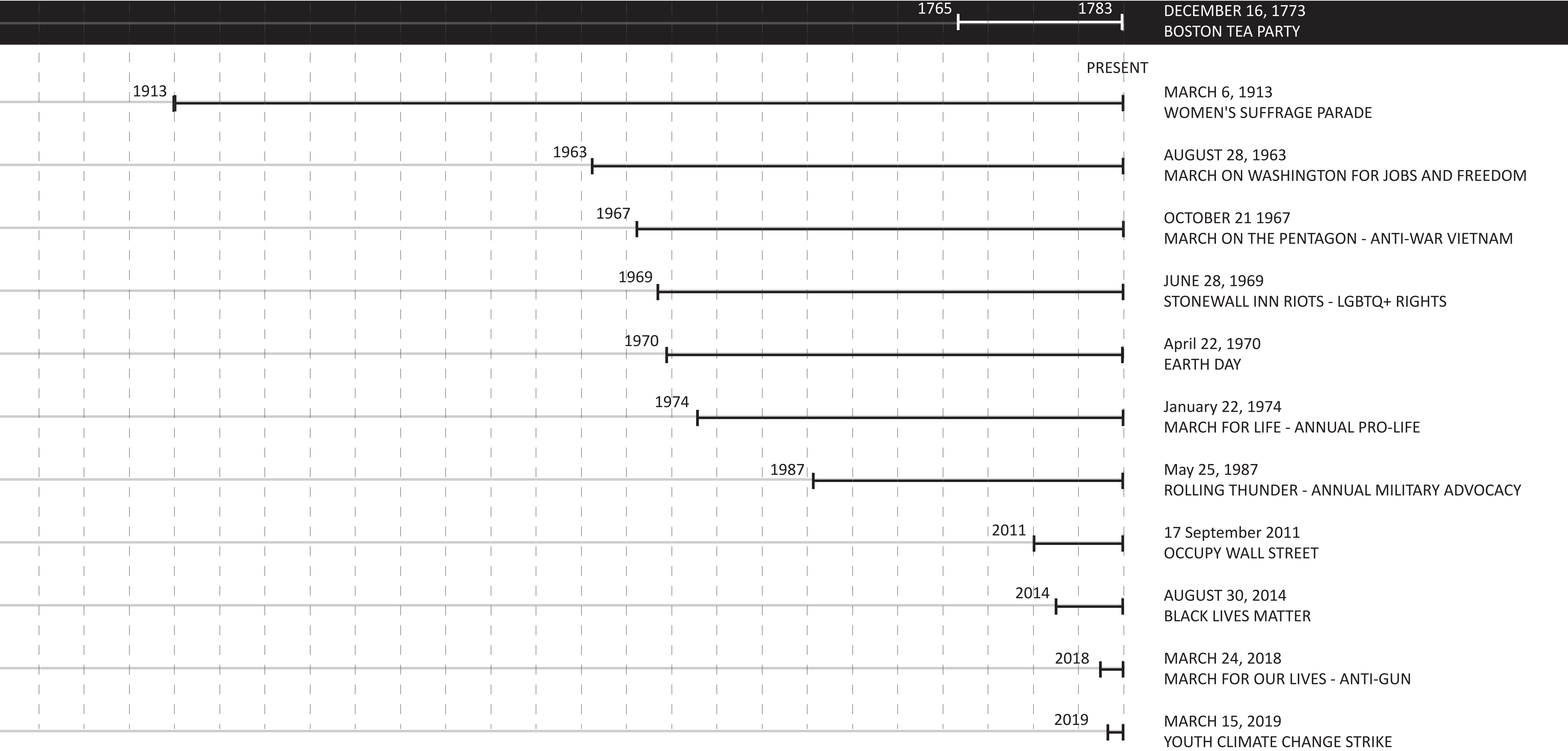
Why do we protest? There are many reasons for why we protest, but it's often not so clean cut and protests typically overlap and address a variety of topics. We can understand the history of protest as one collective movement even when values conflict.



When?

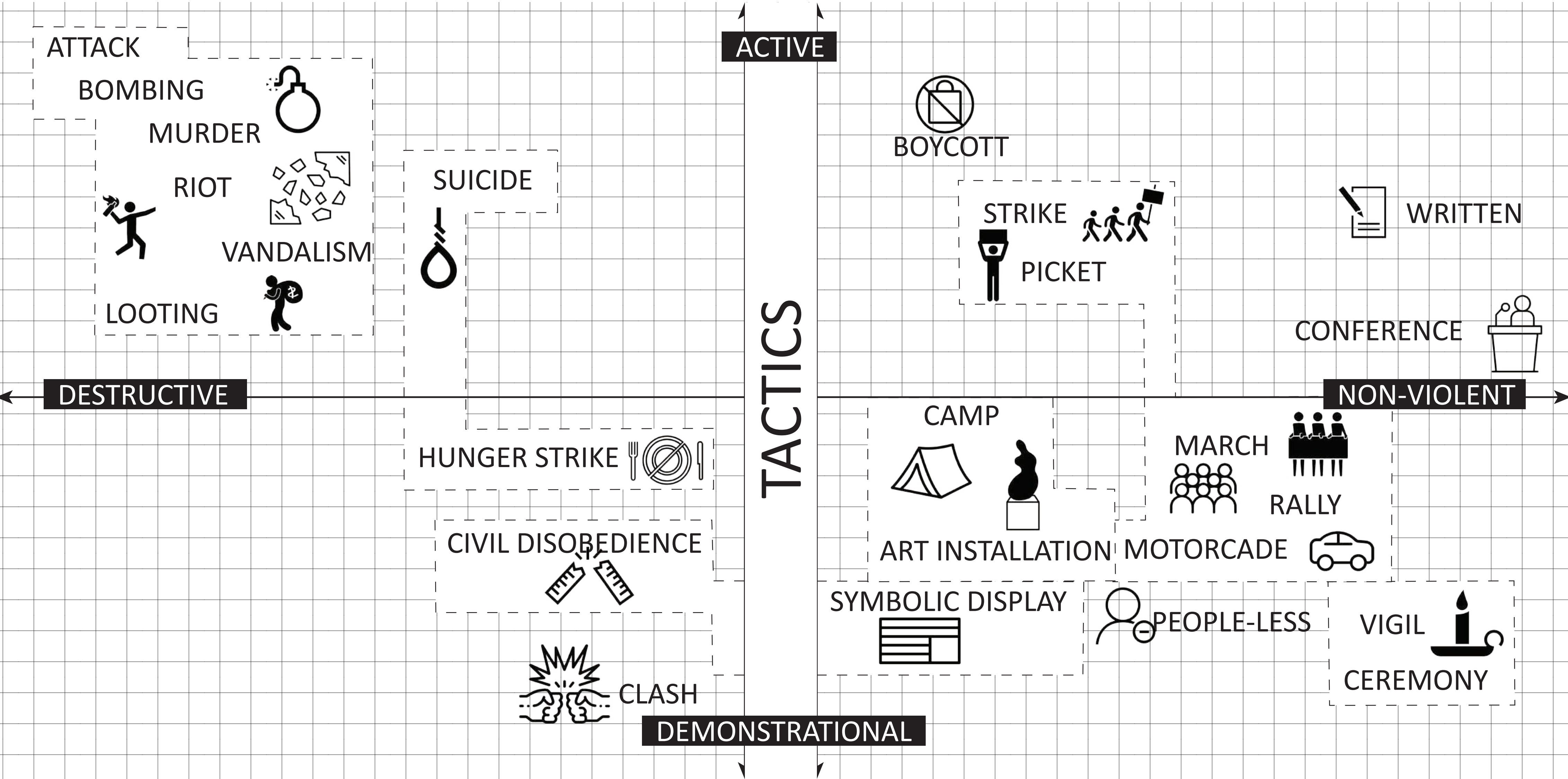


When do we protest? Many nations are founded on the act of protesting, America’s is no exception. However, protest is not a singular event, as many of the issues discussed can’t get solved overnight. It is a long process that needs time for society to digest.



How?

How do we protest? Protests use many tactics to convey their ideas. Tactics are ways to construct a space of agency in opposition to institutional power. These tactics can vary from destructive to peaceful with different degrees of effectiveness on their immediate results.



WHERE?

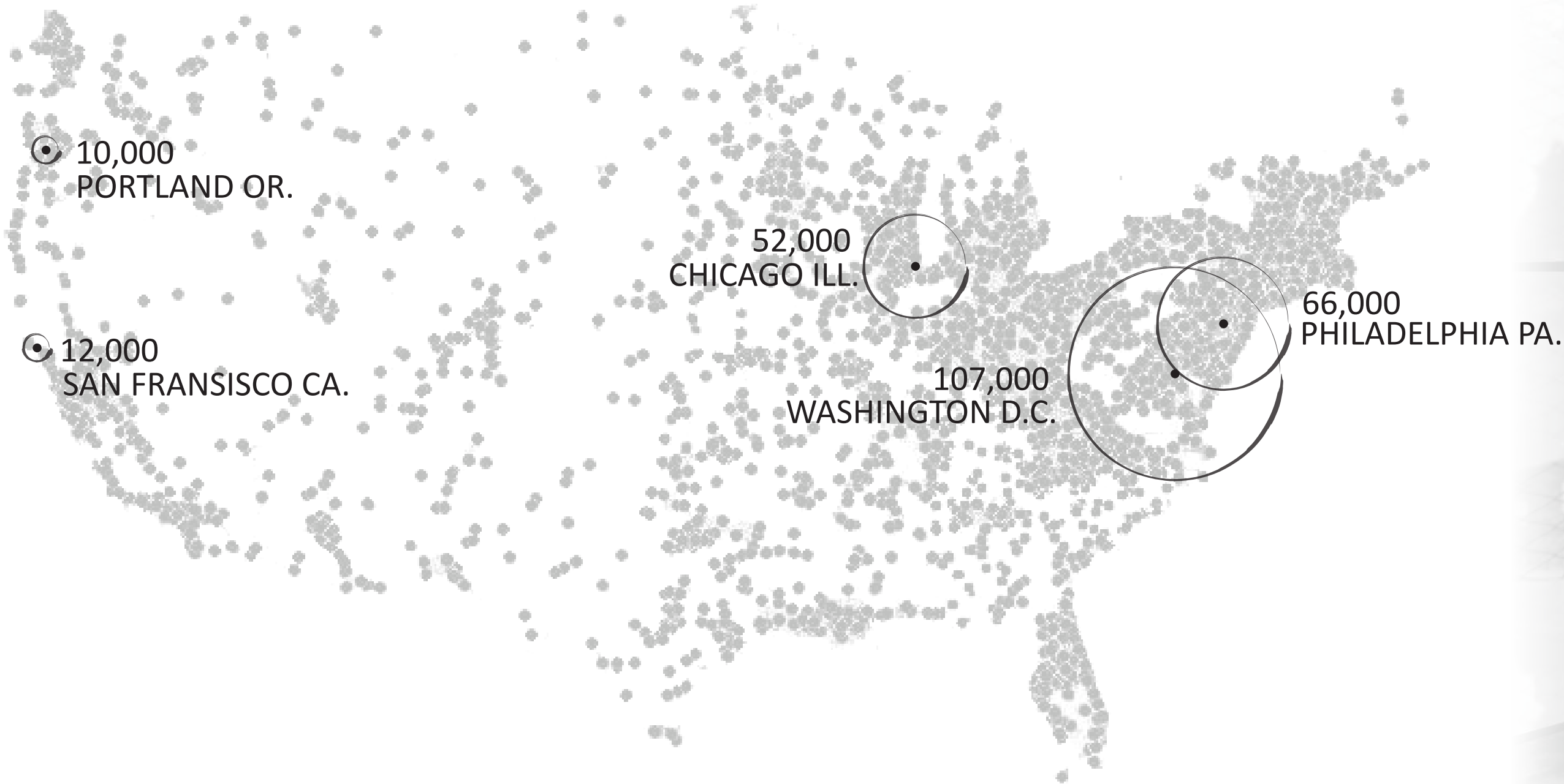
Where do we Protest? Legal protest needs to utilizes traditional public forums like streets, sidewalks, and parks. These spaces act as urban soap boxes and are necessary to use to protect those who are involved.

TRADITIONAL PUBLIC FORUM

- STREETS
- SIDEWALKS
- PARKS
- GARDENS
- TOWN SQUARES
- BUILDING SQUARES
- PLAZA
- ROUNDABOUTS
- BRIDGES
- RESIDUAL AREAS
- MONUMENTS
- MEMORIALS

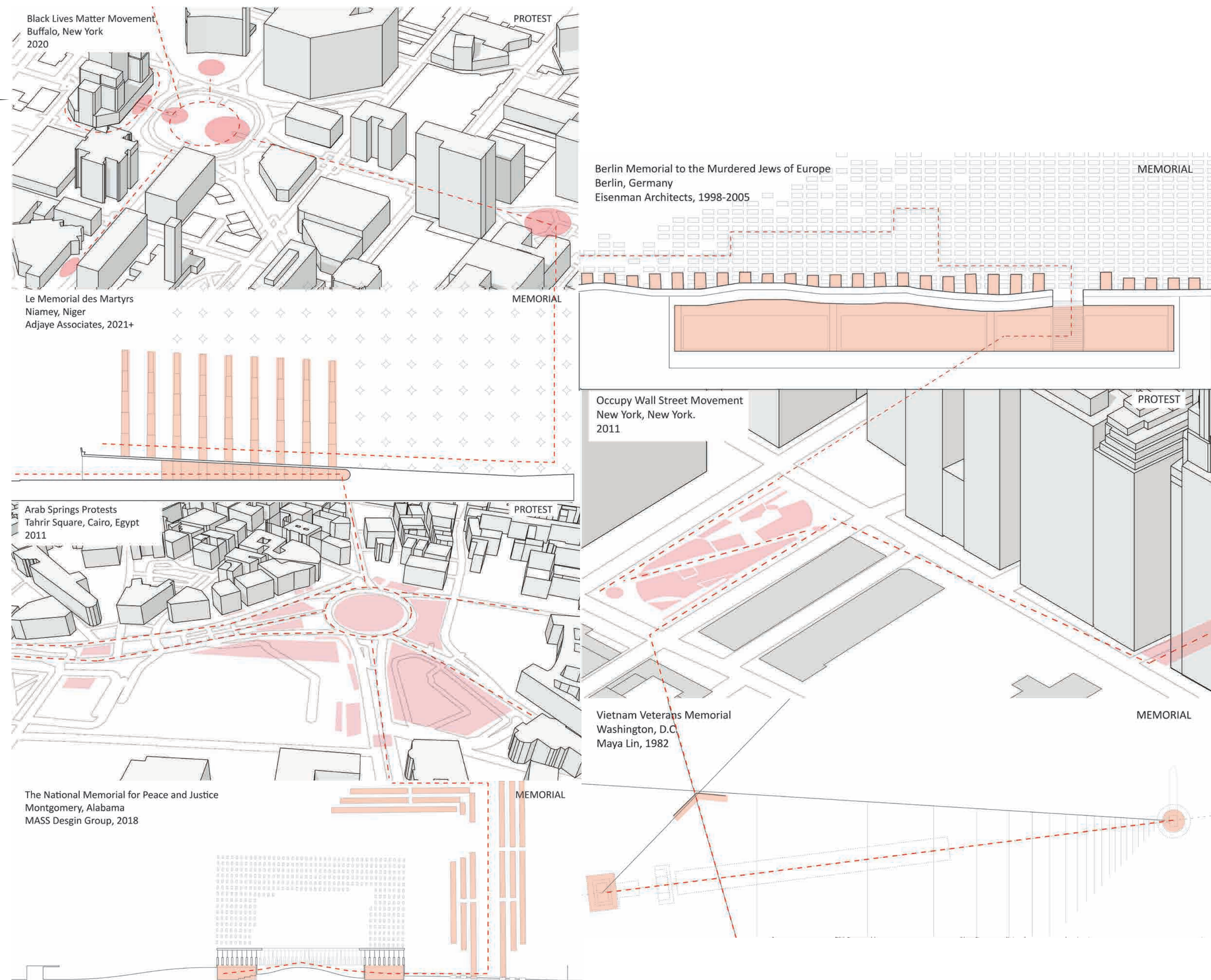
= URBAN SOAP BOXES

PEAK : 600 - 1000 PEOPLE
SMALL : 50 - 200 PEOPLE



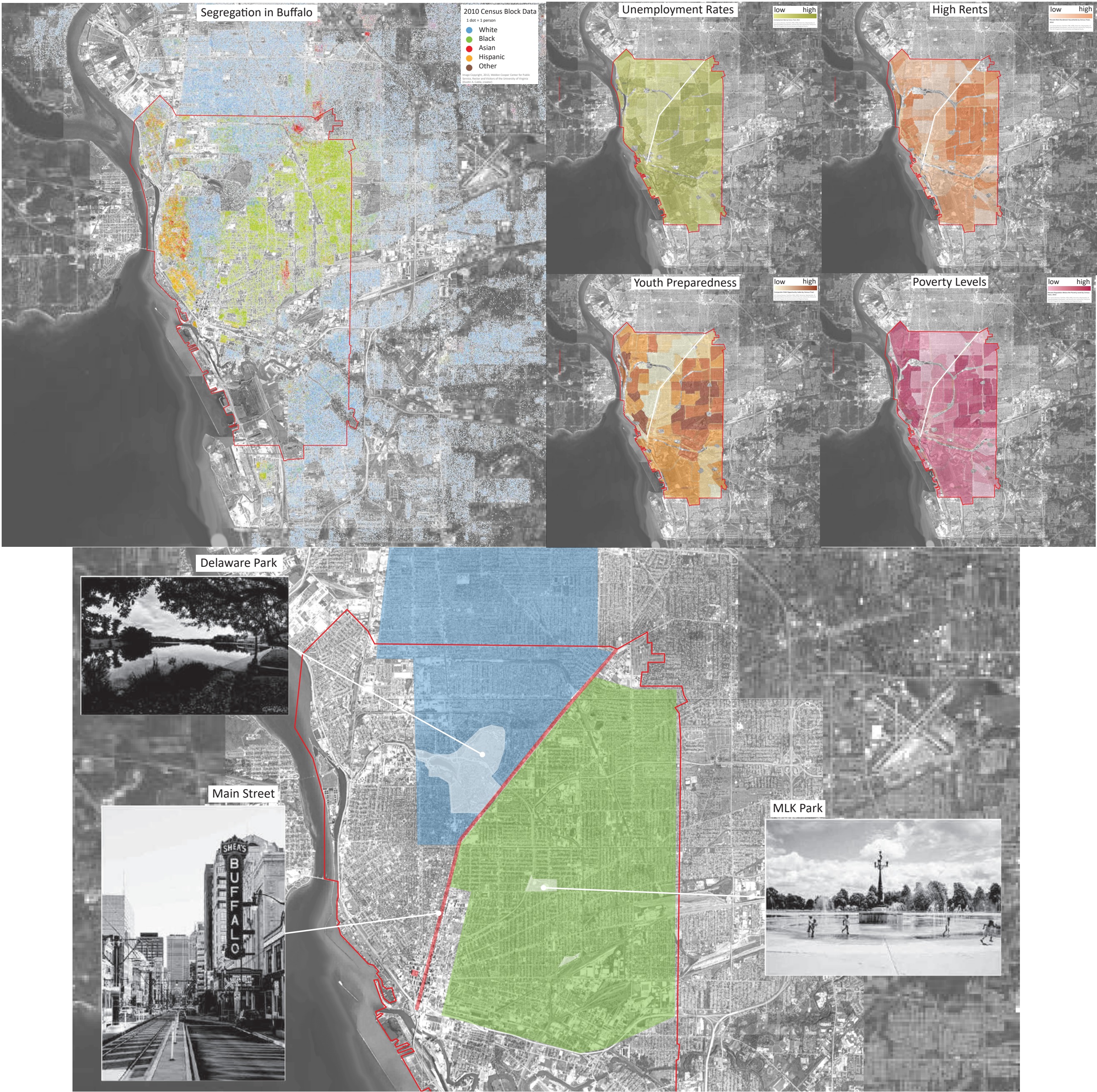
Memorials and Protests

Protests are often choreographed. People create a space of opposition through the way that they move and occupy the public realm. This dance is similar to the way people experience Memorials. These diagrams highlight and compare the choreography of memorials and protests. In both cases, there is a purpose for their journey and the moments that occur along the way. The story is told by walking through a maze of concrete pillars or by moving with a crowd filled with cardboard signs.



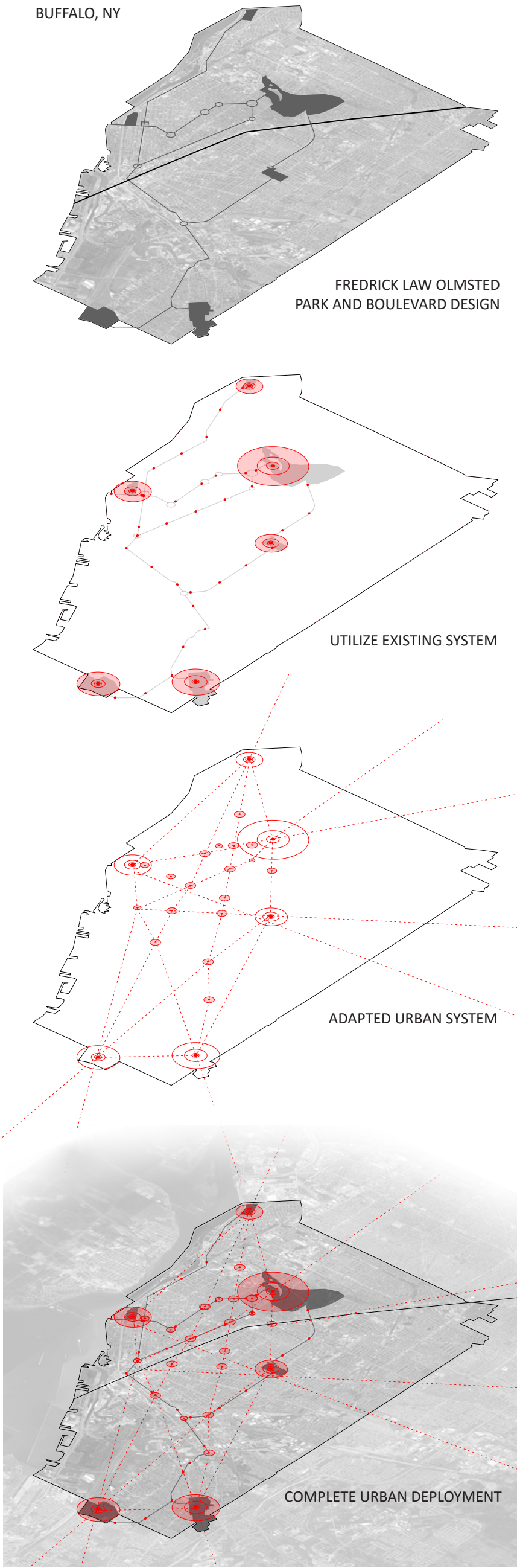
Buffalo, NY

The city of Buffalo is a great example of a rust belt city. It's rich with history and culture, but also inequality and hardship. Like many american cities, segregation is a large issue as we can see predominantly black neighborhoods experience many hardships at much higher rates than white neighborhoods. Buffalo is a divided city, so creating spaces for people to express themselves can help break down these barriers.

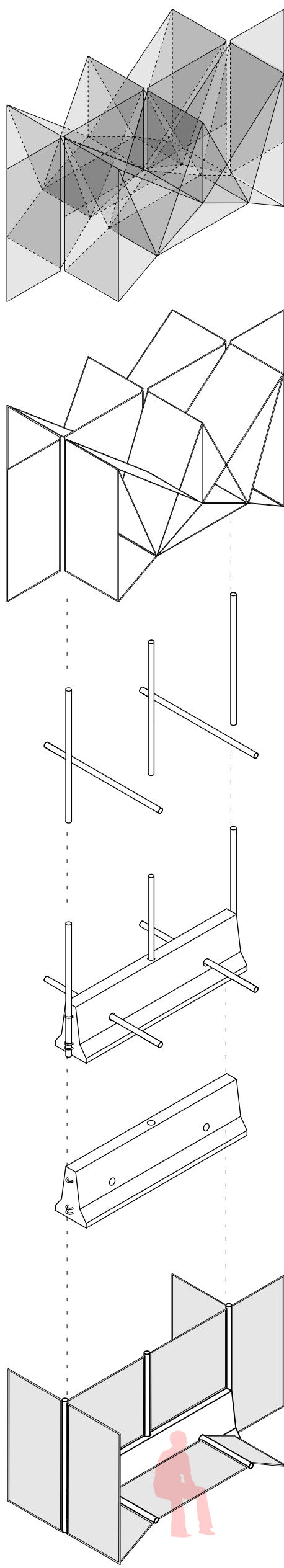


Urban Scheme

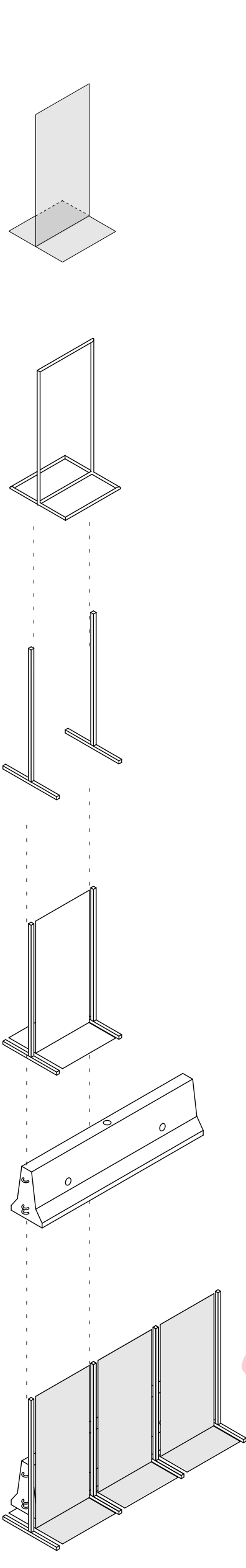
Buffalo is actually very easily navigated. Frederick Law Olmsted’s park and boulevard design allows for easy access to the various neighborhoods and suggests a connectivity between them that is centered around its parks. - This sets up a great base for a memorial of protest and urban acupuncture to exist and further connect people. The act of protesting is inherently urban, it is meant to occur within the public forums of our cities, thus this memorial must do the same. - However, new connections can also be made. Using the parks, different axes and focal points can be drawn engaging with the city in new ways. - And so this urban scheme sets up the parks as a soap box for protest to originate from and for the urban acupuncture to expand outward from them.



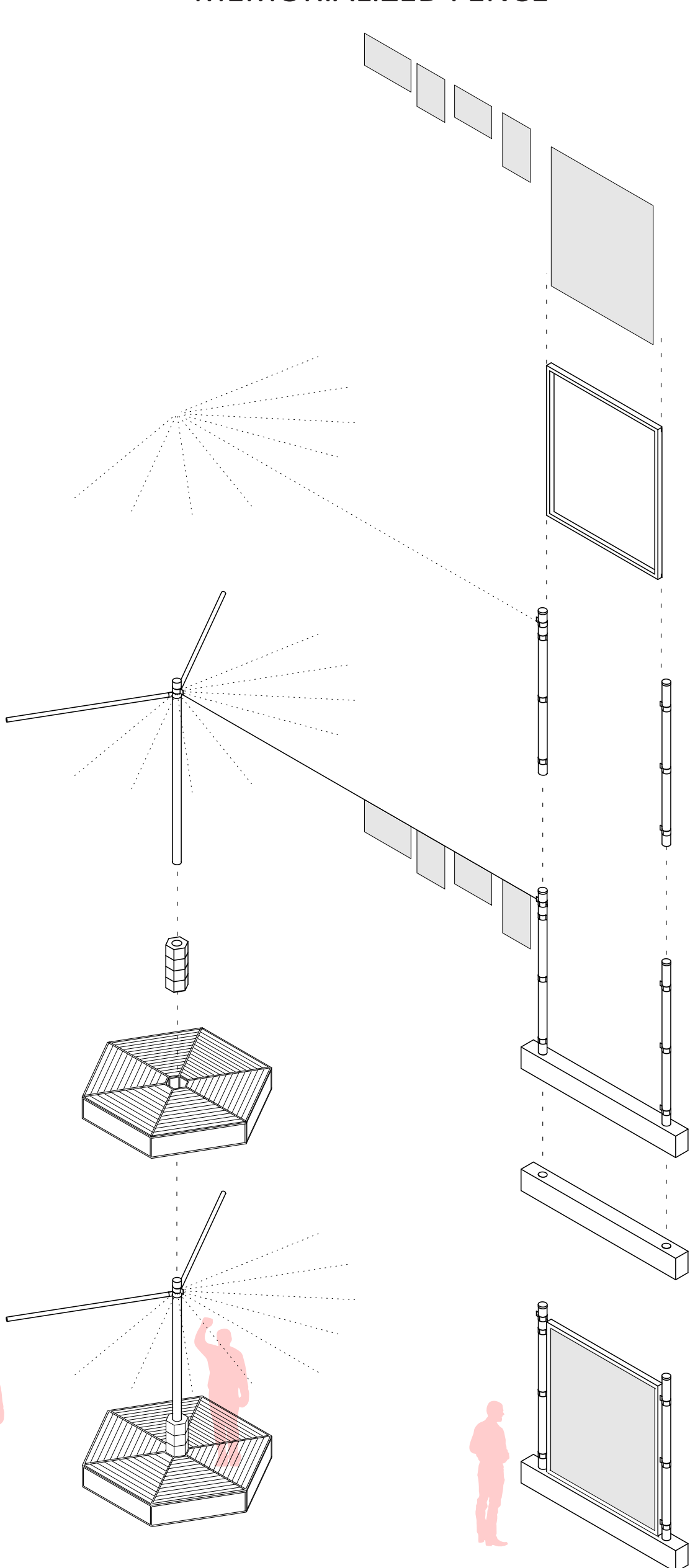
REMIXED FENCE



RE-PURPOSED FENCE

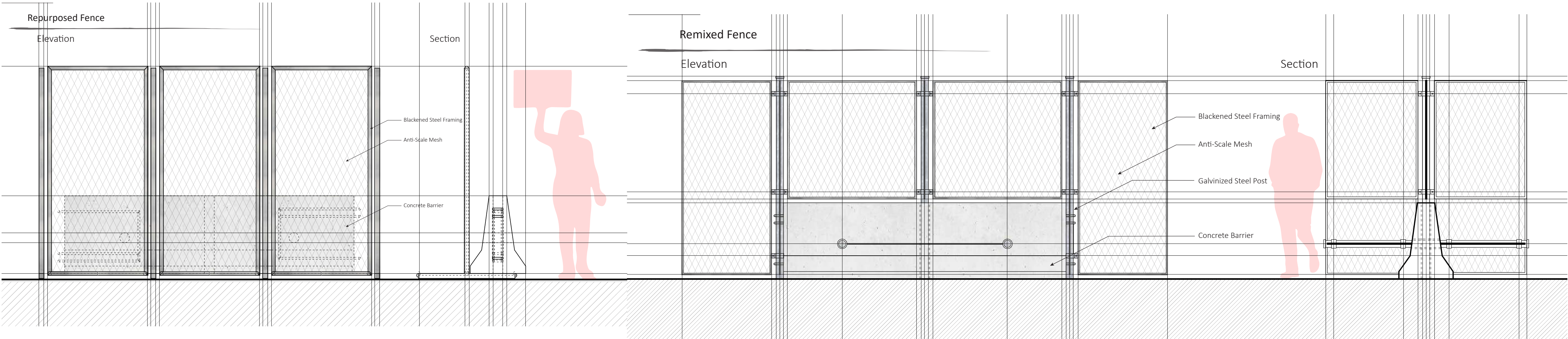


MEMORIALIZED FENCE



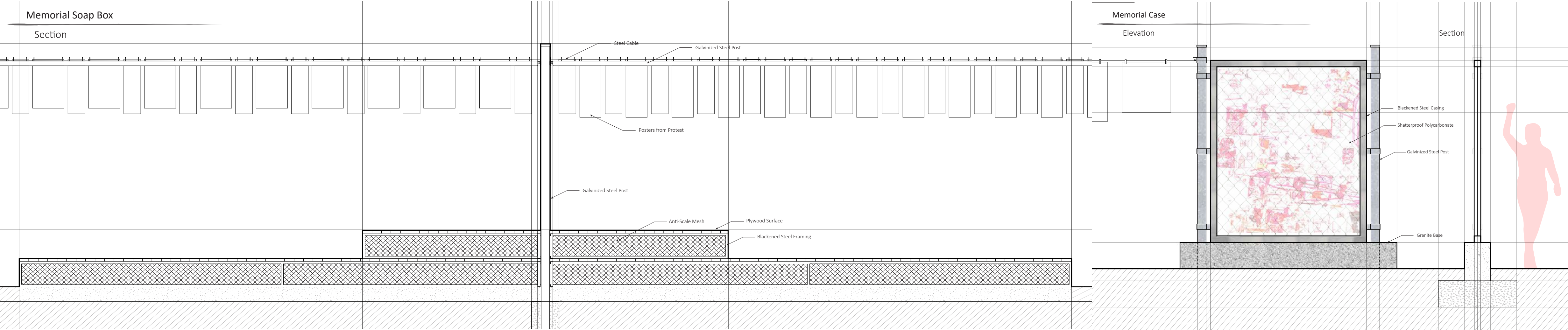
Urban Acupuncture

This memorial remixes conventional anti-protest infrastructure to create spaces that connect people and allow them to freely express themselves. Anti-scale fencing that is commonly used in response to protests are constructed from a set of standardized elements: a stabilizing base, like a concrete barrier, a framing element that connects to the base, and panels of mesh spanning between the frames. Usings this same logic, the repurposed and remixed fences are free standing structures that exist within the urban fabric at various intersections, bus stops, and more.



The Memorial

The memorialized fence is a permanent structure located in the heart of Buffalo’s parks. Being the focal point, this space is equipped with various elements for protest leaders to construct a protest. Soap boxes, a fence post structure, radiating cables, and memorial cases, all come together to shape this space of protest. These renderings showcase the various urban acupuncture throughout the city.



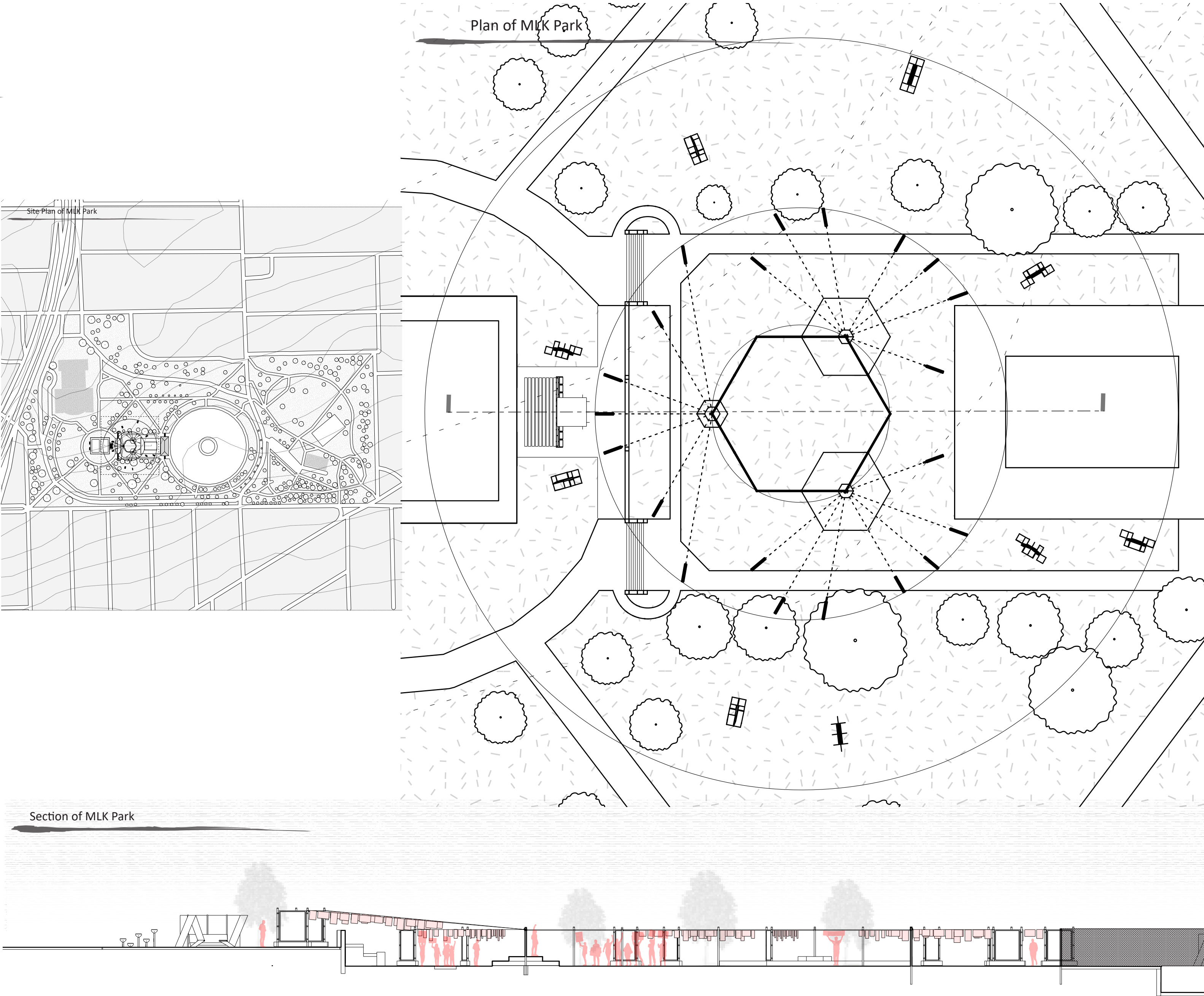
Park 1: Delaware Park

Delaware Park and MLK Parks are two of the most important urban spaces in Buffalo and I chose to focus on them for this project. Delaware Park is one of the largest parks having a naturalistic feel. Much like Central park, it aims to be a natural get away for the surrounding neighborhood. The memorial at this park utilizes this ample amount of space with large gathering spaces within the meadows. It spans to the forest's edge, flows along the winding paths, and even reaches out into the lake for kayakers to view.



Park 2: MLK Park

MLK Park is a much smaller park compared to Delaware as it has more of an urban language. It was designed for the community to easily use and has various recreational programs throughout it. This memorial is located between a fenced in public pool and the basketball courts which both can become part of the protest. Unlike Delaware Park, this memorial flows against the park's existing elements, disrupting the paths, and claiming part of the park for itself.



Memorial Phasing

These memorials will exist in three sequential phases. The first of which is the event phase where the protest occurs. Protest leaders can guide participants through the memorial and surrounding park with their signs held high. This phase is centered on soap boxes that the speakers and performers can utilize to engage with the crowd. The second phase is the residual phase where the nonhuman aspect of protest, like signs and flags, will remain attached to the memorial for current park occupants to experience a protest from the recent past. This phase will literally revolve around the fence post structure and underneath the steel cables that have posters hung from them to simulate what it would be like to walk through a protesting crowd. The last phase is the memorial phase where the materials hung during the residual phase will then be captured within the perimeter cases. These cases will forever display the messages of the past protests and thus the memorial of protest is complete. These diagrams show the different ways the crowd can be organized.

