ART AS CONNECTION

CONCEPT
Art can unify, connect and tell a story of a city with a rich, historic past and vibrant, contemporary future. Artistic gateways draw people into the site with an interactive art walk that will guide them through the space. They will be lead through more traditional areas toward the modern focal point; a farmer’s market pavilion that reflects the fashionable architecture of the Broad Art Museum on campus. Including art in the landscape to connect with both Michigan State University and East Lansing will bring a harmony to the functions of this downtown area. The site is a flexible urban space that embodies the strong local character of East Lansing as it ties into the surrounding cafes and boutique shops. Office space and student housing provide more opportunities for community and economic growth in a vibrant, artistic district. Creating these sorts of connections in the design will create a relationship between the proposed development, the city, the university, and community.

MASTER PLAN
In order to create a more direct route and new opportunities for building placement, Albert Road, Evergreen Avenue, and Valley Court are realigned. The farmers market moves into the parking lot area where it becomes a plaza space surrounded by mixed use retail and student housing buildings. These buildings are placed along Albert Avenue and Evergreen Street where curb side parking is provided. Restaurants, retail, and housing are constructed into the topography of the hill adjacent to the farmers market pavilion and student housing buildings. Dublin Square is relocated next to these buildings in the heart of the Park District. This allows Dublin to expand and provide more outdoor seating. A modern grocery store, across from Dublin, offers more convenience with a parking garage above. Along with office space, another parking garage is provided in the structure located within the church’s old parking lot. The layout plays an important role in connecting the many functions of the site to the character of East Lansing.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS
- Provide functional, visual, and aesthetic links between the city of East Lansing and Michigan State University.
- Expand grand river and abbot intersection.
- Provide mix use parking garage structures.
- Provide site features and spaces for farmers market area.
- Realign Albert, Abbot, Evergreen, and Valley Court roads for better circulation and direct routes.
- Provide housing housing, retail, and commercial spaces.