### PUBLIC INTERPRETATION PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



# MELCOME!

### Public Interpretation is an educational resource

used to strengthen connections with the history and heritage of a location.

### The Public Interpretation Program

for the San Francisco VA Medical Center will contain recommendations for ways to convey the site's history and heritage.

We are here to share what we have discovered and to learn from you.

This part of the process asks for input from you!

Your input will help in developing recommendations for the Public Interpretation Program.

Please send any public comments regarding the interpretation of the history of the site or how you would like to see the information made available to the public.

We want to hear from you:

Which **VEHICLES** are most effective in conveying historic information?

Which THEMES are most informative, important, and interesting?

VHASFCHistoricInterpretation@va.gov

**Please Note:** This email address is monitored by contractors who are only authorized to receive and record comments regarding the interpretation of the history of the site. No general government public affairs concerns will be addressed through this platform.

VEHICLES are the

combination of what information is

shared and how it is

shared.

VEHICLES

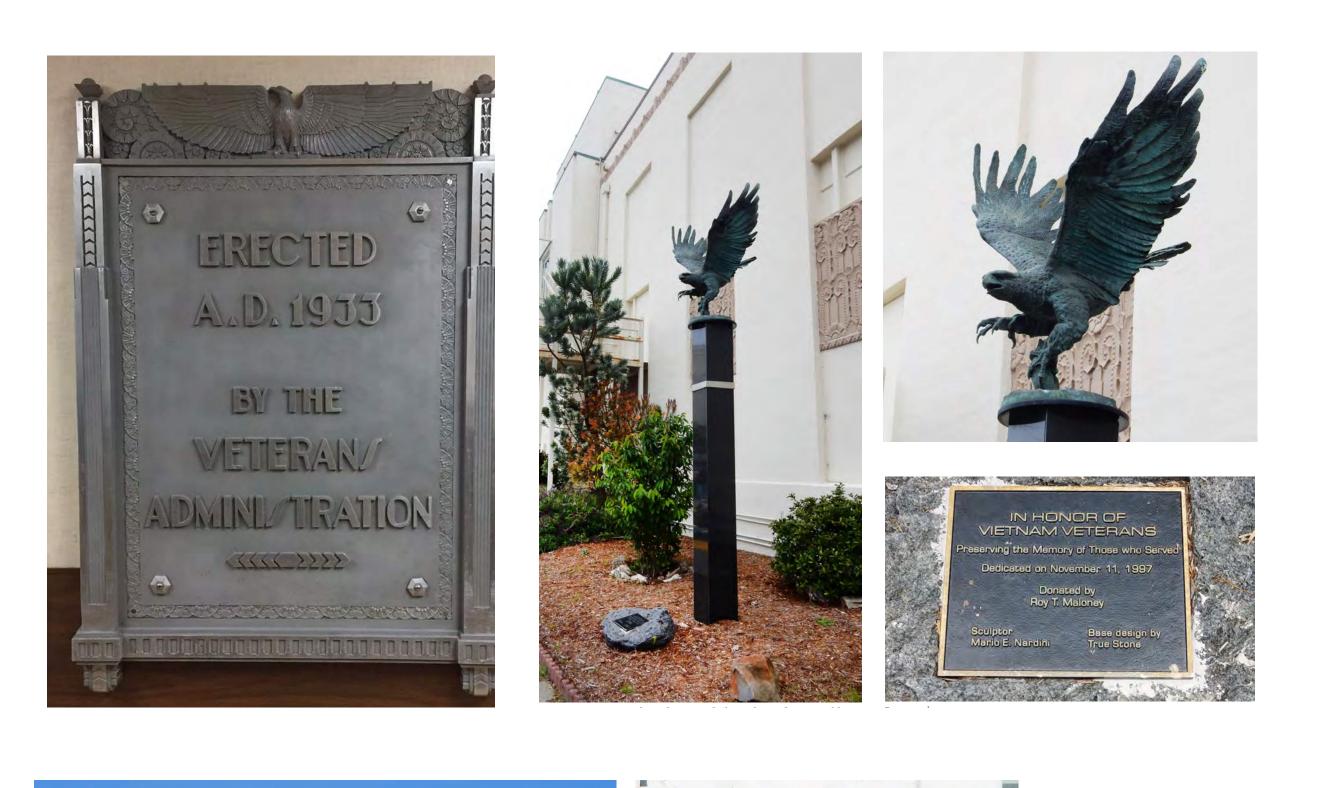
MEDIA are how the

information can be

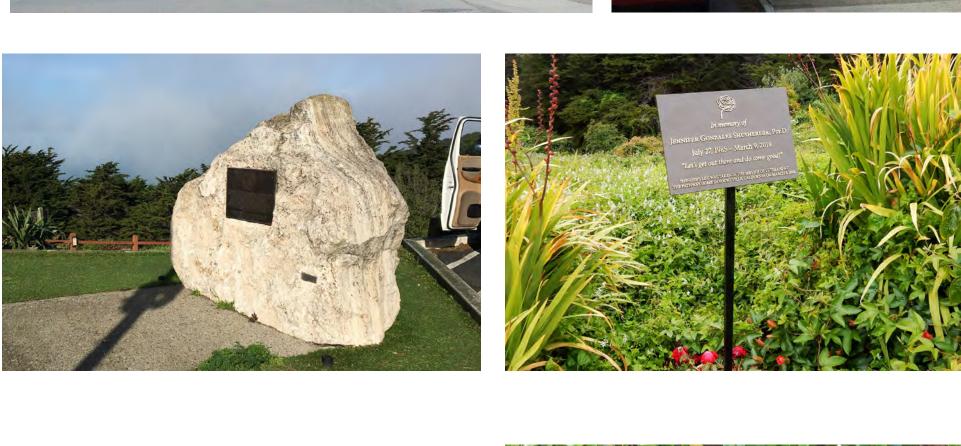
shared.

Many spaces on campus provide opportunities for learning. Some examples of existing media used include plaques, installations, and objects. Media can use words to tell a story or the story can be conveyed through an experience.

# Here are some spaces on campus that provide opportunities for learning.

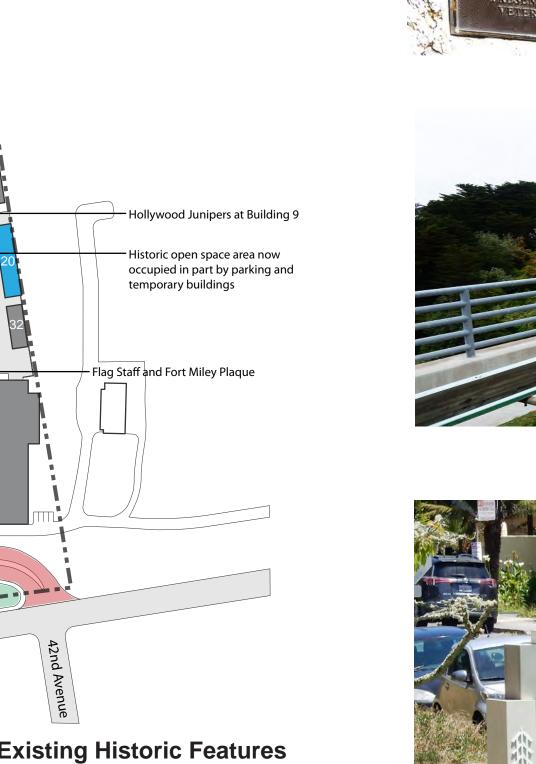


















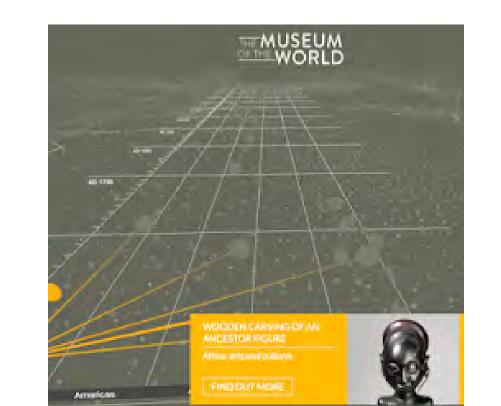




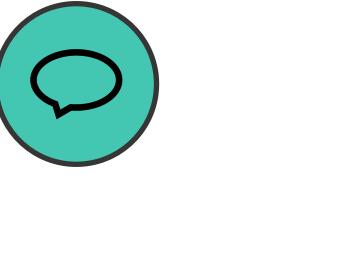
is shared.

# How comfortable are you with this content?

### TIMELINES



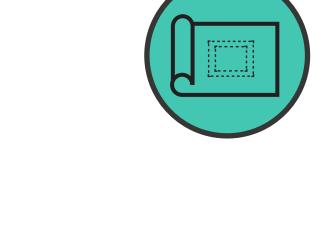




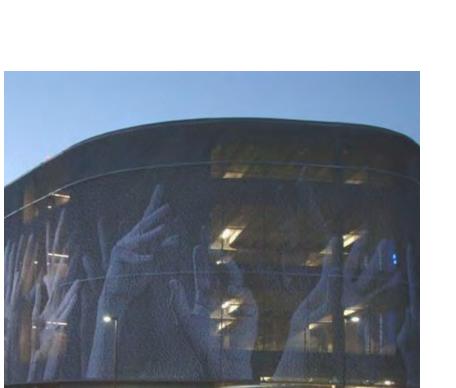




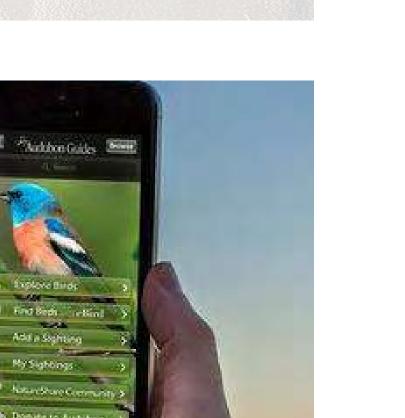




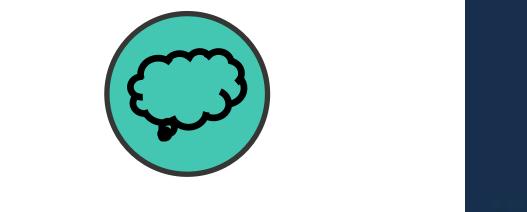


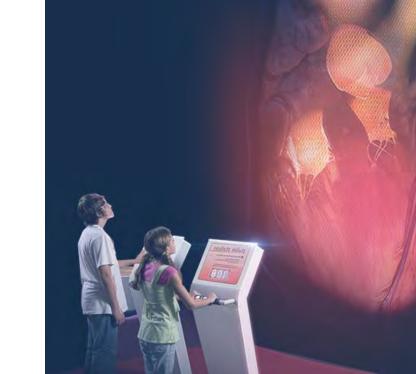




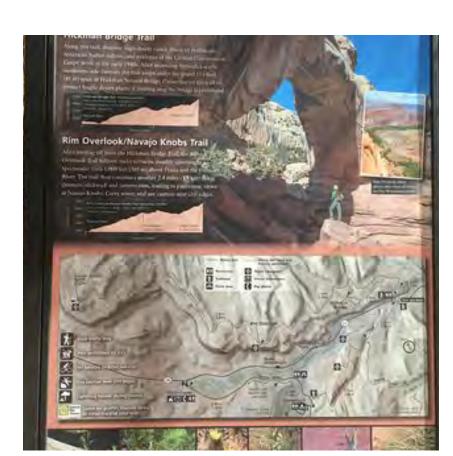












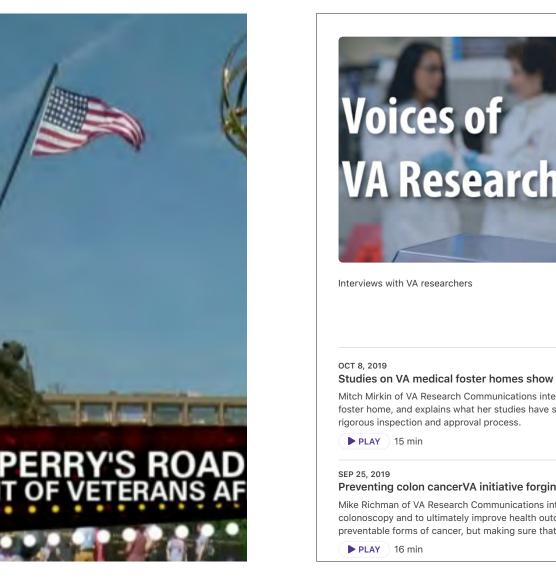


# How interested are you in this content?



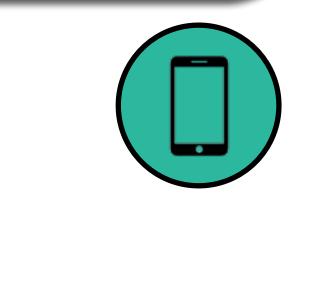
How comfortable are you with these media?

How interested are you in these media?



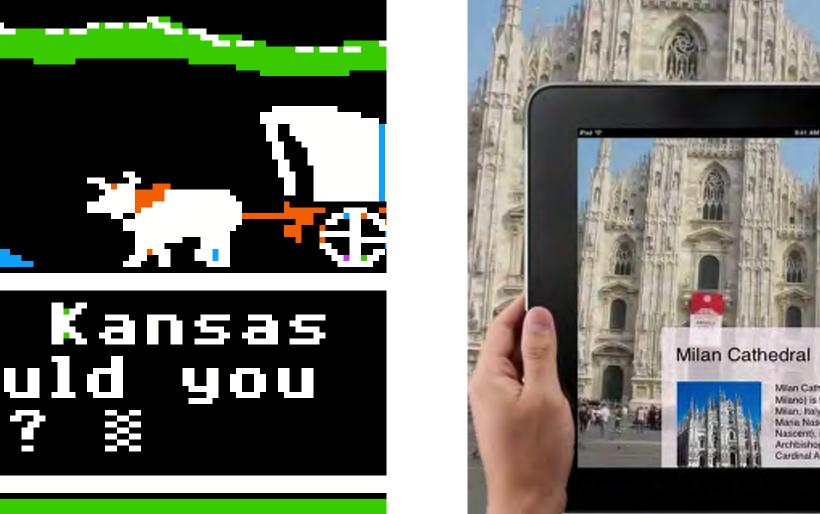




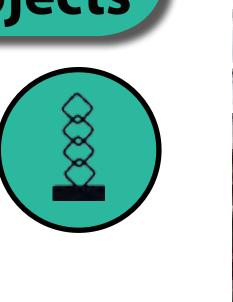










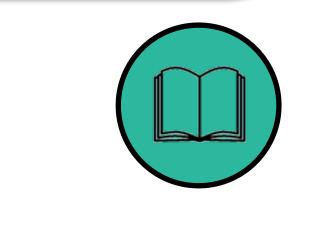


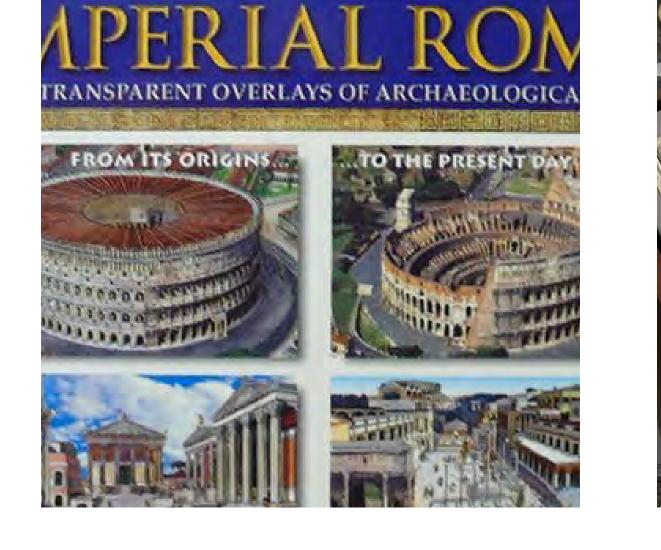














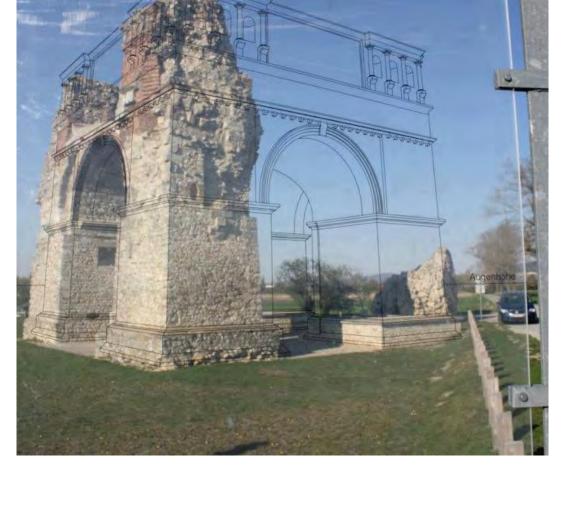














# We are here to share what we have discovered and to learn from you.

# ABA San Francisco VA Health Care System THEMES

# How important do you think each theme is? Are there any you would add?

THEMES are ideas that capture the unique aspects of a place, space, or object.

Here, at the San Francisco VA Medical Center, within the context of the GGNRA and San Francisco, we treat and support the Veterans who have proudly served our nation. We also have the opportunity to study the environmental and human systems that have helped shape our environment.

The facility can be seen as a learning tool. Its form expresses its extraordinary history and accomplishments. The campus is unique among the collection of curious landmarks in the area. It is a working facility, it is part of the national VA Health Care system, and it is a historic site with distinctive architecture.

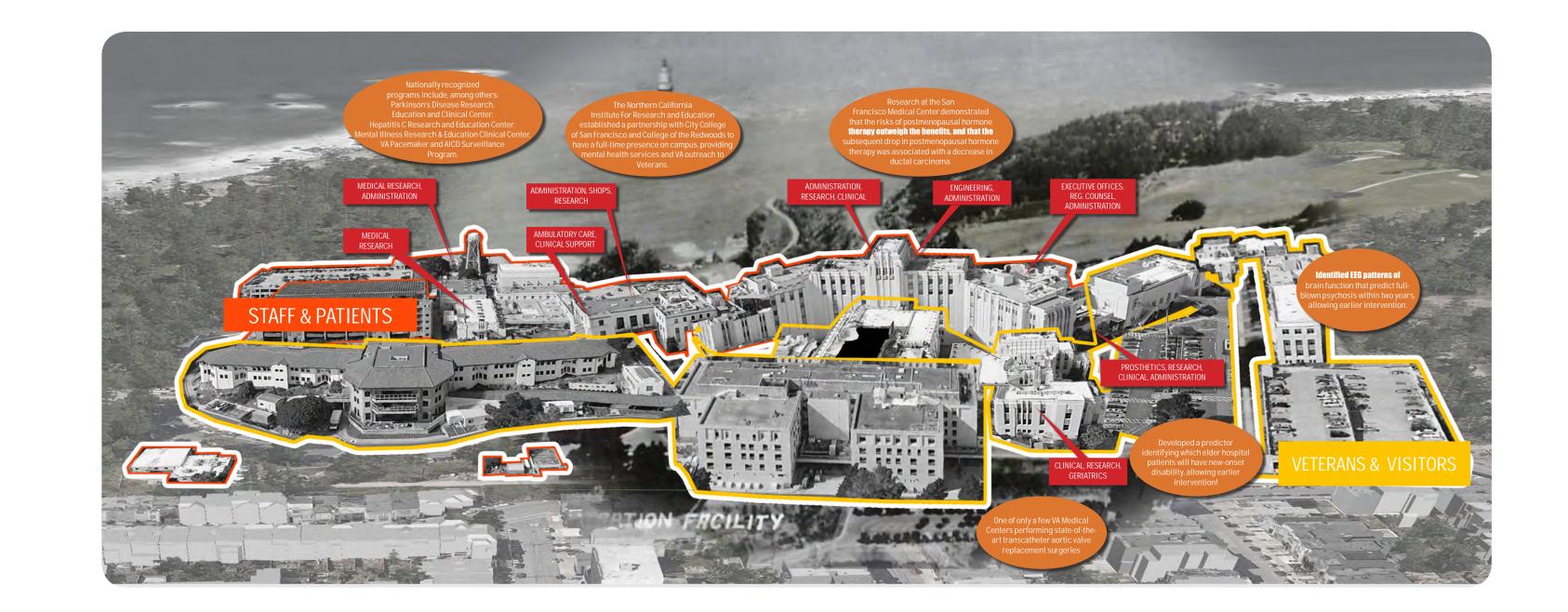
### THEME 1

### **A Functioning Facility**

The campus is a functioning hospital on a historic site.

- The day to day: Facility Operations
- Technology and The Body: Medical Advances
- Tales of Service: Veterans, Families, and Staff

The San Francisco VA Medical Center is a functioning hospital that serves the needs of Veterans every day. It also supports those who care for the Veterans. At the same time, it is a research institution that influences global medicine.



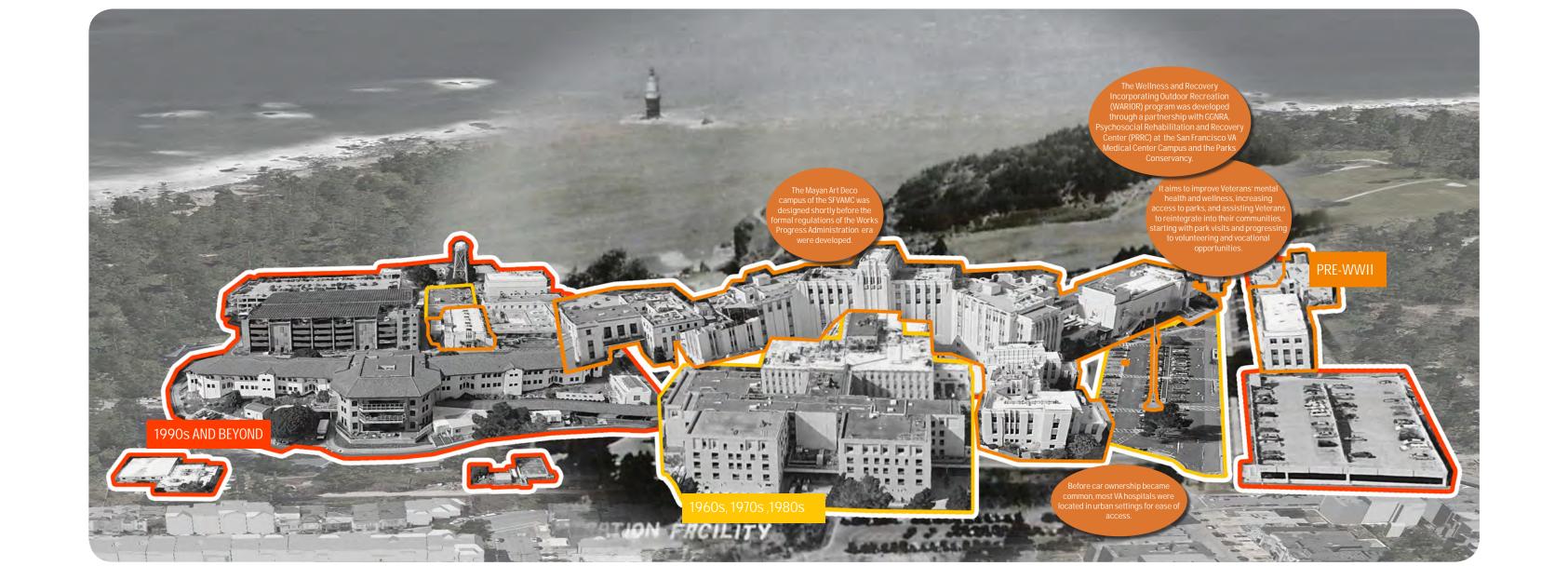
### THEME 2

# Relationship to the VA System

The campus is part of the rich history and heritage of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Spaces of Healing: The VA System's History
- Heart and Home: Our Nation's Commitment to Veterans' Care

The San Francisco VA Health Care System is part of the long history of care that is provided nationwide to our Veterans. This heritage is complex. Changing social and military contexts impact the system.



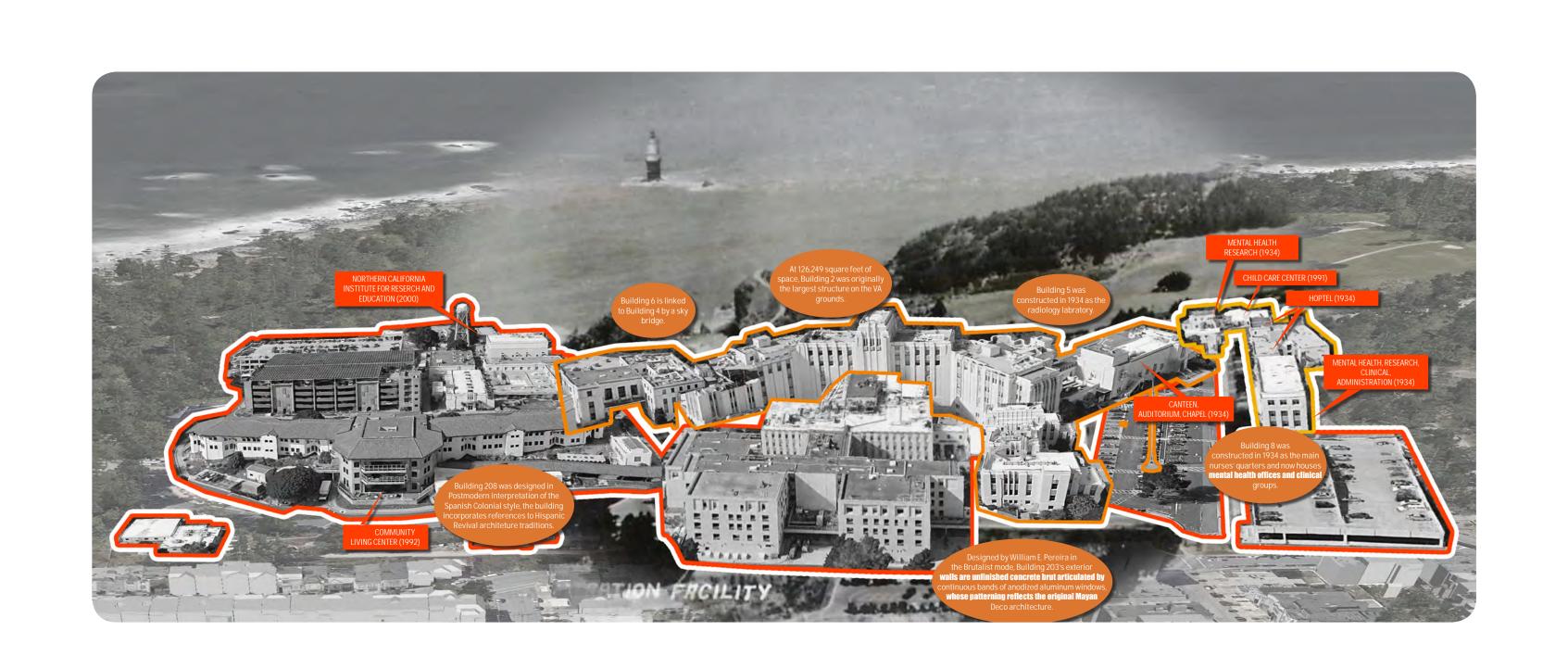
### **THEME 3**

# Distinctive Architecture of the Campus

The campus is part of a fascinating architectural history.

- Historic Design: National Register Architecture (1934-1941)
- Contemporary Design: Architecture and Landscape (after 1960)
- Architecture and Memory: Memory and Mental Health

The "Period of Significance" focuses on the Mayan Art Deco campus of the 1930s. These buildings were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009.



# Trouttri Ouro Oyotomi

# How important do you think each theme is? Are there any you would add?

The outline of the campus can be seen as a collection of edges. Some of the edges connect to the natural and cultural resources in the national park beyond. Others connect to sites in the city. Each edge is an opportunity to highlight complex and meaningful relationships.

The campus is a place where the national VA health system meets the city neighborhood and the regional park system. Some people stay here. Some people pass through. At the campus edges, Veterans, staff, families, neighbors, and visitors explore their shared experiences.

# Culture and the Golden Gate

# The campus is a part of a rich natural, cultural, and military history.

- Hidden Histories: Before European Settlement
- Posts and Batteries: After European Settlement
- Collaborative Contact: Adjacent Parks
- Legends and Landmarks: Adjacent Historic Sites

The campus relates to a collection of extraordinary spaces in the neighboring National Park. These include the wave-worn remnants of the Sutro Baths, the weathered batteries in Fort Miley East and West, and the symbolic Golden Gate Bridge.

### - IHEME

# Nature and the Golden Gate

The campus is connected to global social, economic, and natural systems.

- Nature in the Campus: Site Ecosystems
- Nature beyond the Campus: City Ecosystems
- Symbols in the Fog: The Golden Gate Bridge

Ocean views, unique plants, and regional geology are all part of the campus. Experiencing these different parts of nature can help the healing process.

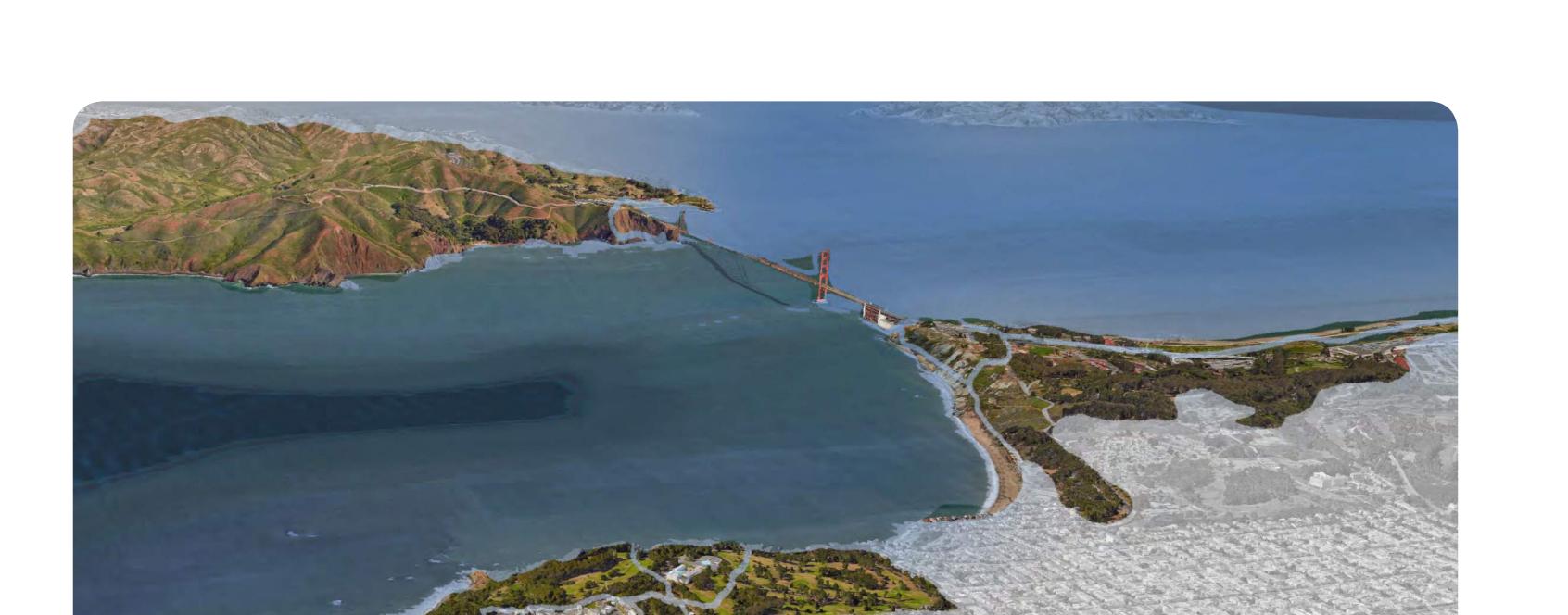
# THEME 6

# The Outer Richmond District

# The campus is part of a diverse city and neighborhood.

- Public and Domestic: Neighborhood Architecture
- Streets and Sand: Neighborhood Life

Here, the regional park system connects to the city. The Outer Richmond District is a dynamic neighborhood with many diverse cultures and businesses.





### Nationally recognized programs include, among others: Research at the San The Northern California Parkinson's Disease Research, Francisco Medical Center demonstrated Education and Clinical Center; Institute For Research and Education that the risks of postmenopausal hormone Hepatitis C Research and Education Center; established a partnership with City College therapy outweigh the benefits, and that the tal Illness Research & Education Clinical Cente of San Francisco and College of the Redwoods t subsequent drop in postmenopausal hormon VA Pacemaker and AICD Surveillance have a full-time presence on campus, provid therapy was associated with a decrease in mental health services and VA outreach t ductal carcinoma. **EXECUTIVE OFFICES,** MEDICAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION, SHOPS REG. COUNSEL, RESEARCH **ADMINISTRATION** AMBULATORY CARE **CLINICAL SUPPORT** The second of th dentified EEG patterns of rain function that predict ful **VETERANS & VISITORS** patients will have new-onset disability, allowing earlier

collage from historic and contemporary imagery

### The Day to Day: **Facility Operations**

The San Francisco VA Medical Center serves those who have served our country. Its mission is to provide high quality care to Veterans. Medical and administrative staff are deeply invested in providing state-ofthe-art health care, education, and research. This is developed in partnership with the national VA Health Care System and the University of California San Francisco, the top medical school in the West.

### Technology and The Body: **Medical Advances**

Among the San Francisco VA Health Care System's many accomplishments are innovations in research for AIDS, mental health, and Parkinson's Disease. These accomplishments and many other research programs put San Francisco VA Health Care System on the national and global map.

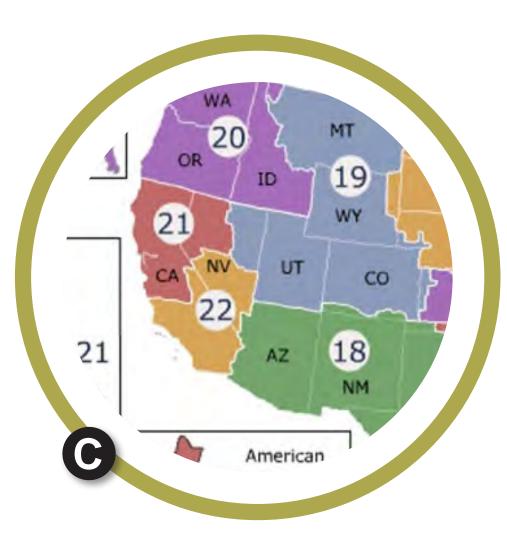
### **Tales of Service:** Veterans, Families, and Staff

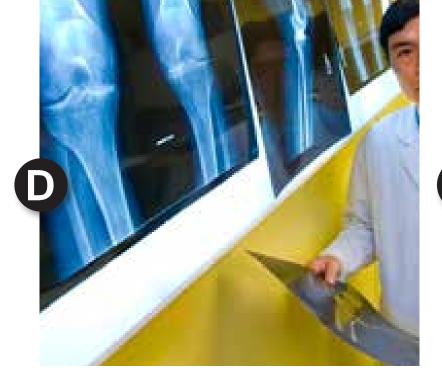
There are multiple layers of service behind the scenes at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. Each person who enters adds to the story of the campus. These stories include heroic accomplishments, family narratives, daily routines, and exceptional experiences.

- **Evolution of the facility's mission**
- **Collaboration with university** medical programs
- Relationship to other VA hospitals
- General medical and research operations
- Medical accomplishments of the VAMC
- **Cutting-edge medical research** and technology
- History of medical technology
- History of military medicine
- I. Creativity of Veterans
- J. Information about staff, volunteers, patients, and their families
- K. Stories of staff, volunteers, patients, and families
- L. Notable Individuals among current or past staff, volunteers, patients, and their families



























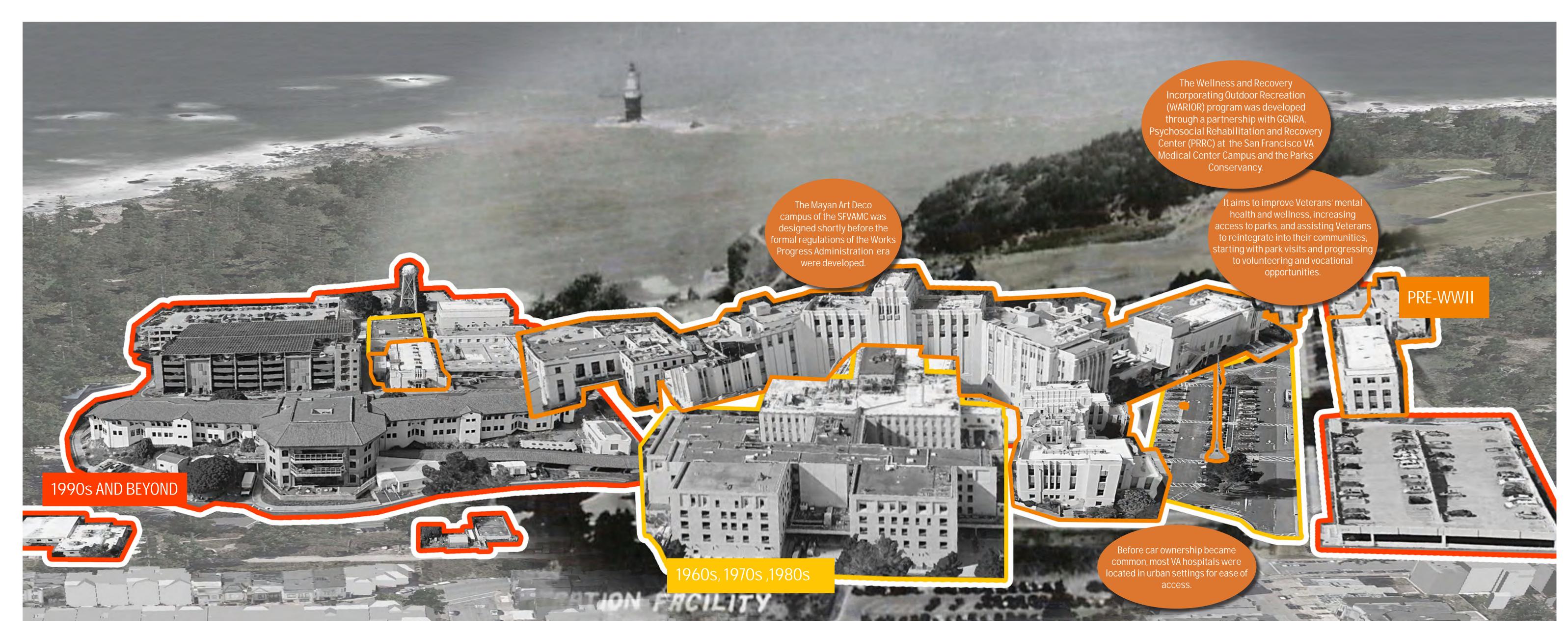




# THEME 2 Relationship to the VA System







collage from historic and contemporary imagery

### **Spaces of Healing:** The VA System's History

In 1930, the Veterans Administration (VA) was created to provide medical care to Veterans. The campus was built in 1934. It was the first Veterans Administration hospital to be constructed west of the Rocky Mountains. Prior to this only one hospital existed to serve Veterans in California. Today, the role of the VA and of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System includes wellness programs as well as treatment programs.

### **Heart and Home: Our Nation's Commitment to Veterans' Care**

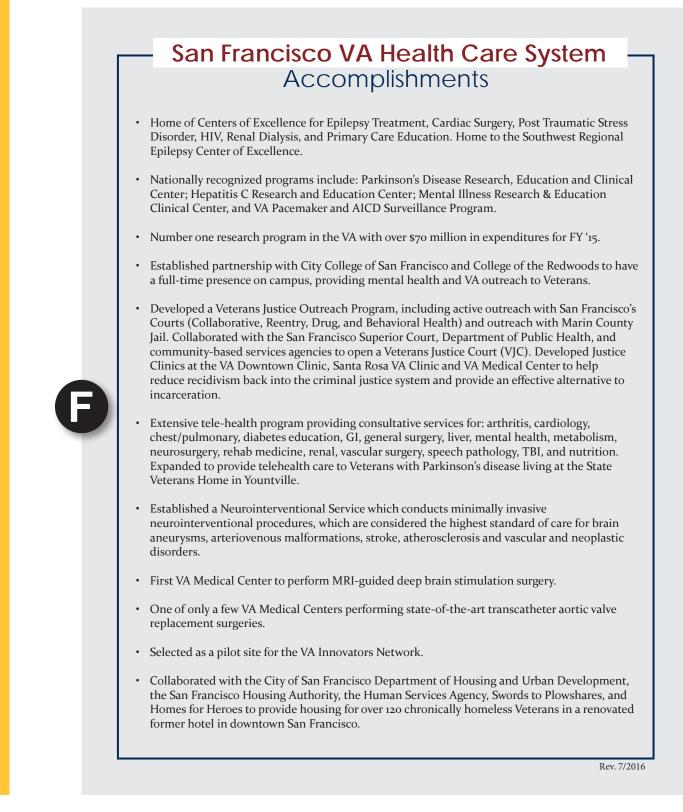
During the 1930s and 1940s, siting new medical centers near urban centers was the norm. Later, widespread automobile ownership allowed medical centers to be constructed in non-urban areas. The San Francisco VA Health Care System takes advantage of both urban and park settings to support healing.

- Response to influx of Veterans after World War I
- **Relationship to Works Progress** Administration construction programs
- Changing role in response to a
- changing military context
- How the nation has healed from different wars
- Changing priorities in care
- Timeline of programs
- Care and natural settings
- Care and urban settings H.
- Overview of national and regional VA System



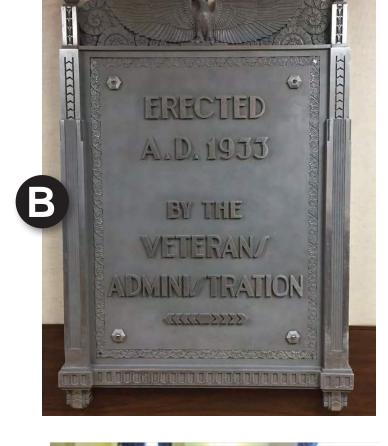


















# Distinctive Architecture of the Campus

SUBTHEMES

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# 1 Historic Design: National Register Architecture

The "Period of Significance" (1934 - 1941) is the time when the Mayan Art Deco campus was built. Mayan Art Deco was part of the nationwide Art Deco movement. It drew on "regional" styles for its geometric detailing. Buildings designed in this style can be found in San Francisco and Los Angeles. These buildings were added to National Register of Historic Places in 2009.

# 2 Contemporary Design: Architecture and Landscape

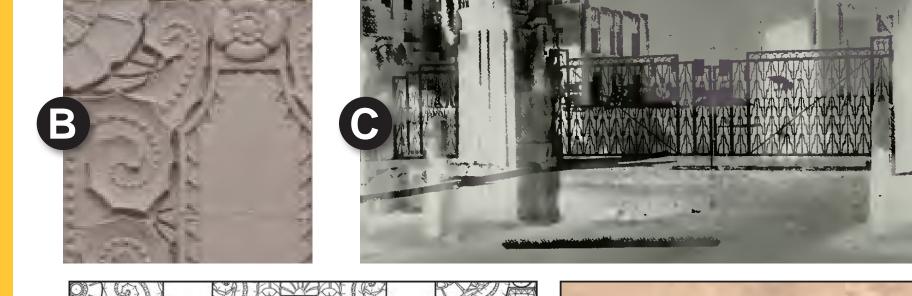
The architectural spaces of today's campus reflect services and health care innovation. The landscape reflects the different needs that groups and individuals might have for outdoor space. These include healing gardens, trails, individual benches, and picnic areas.

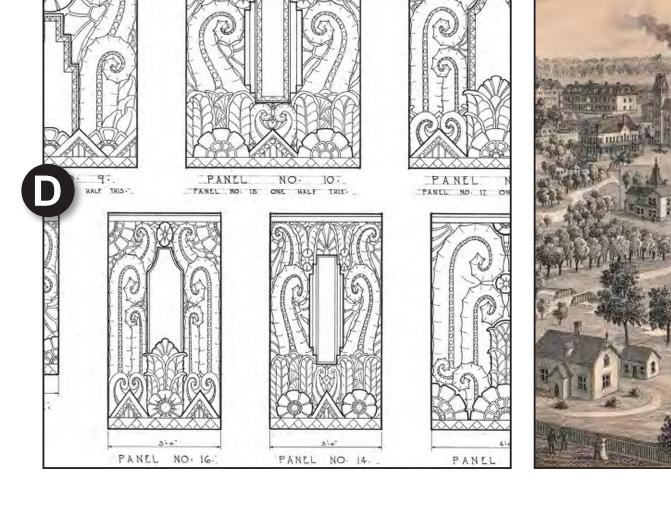
# Architecture and Memory: Memory and Mental Health

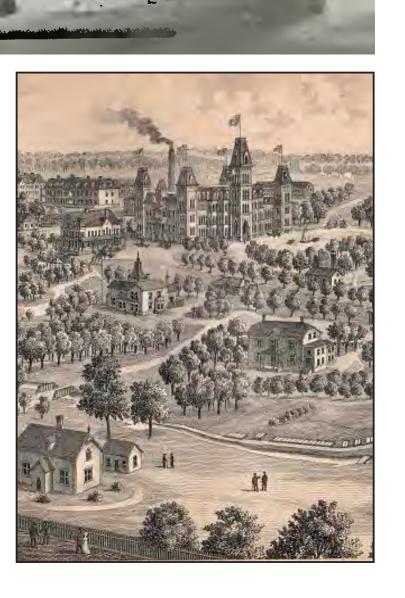
The San Francisco VA Medical Center hosts a number of programs dedicated to psychology and mental health. Learning about the campus buildings can also help visitors, Veterans, and staff to better understand and remember their personal stories.

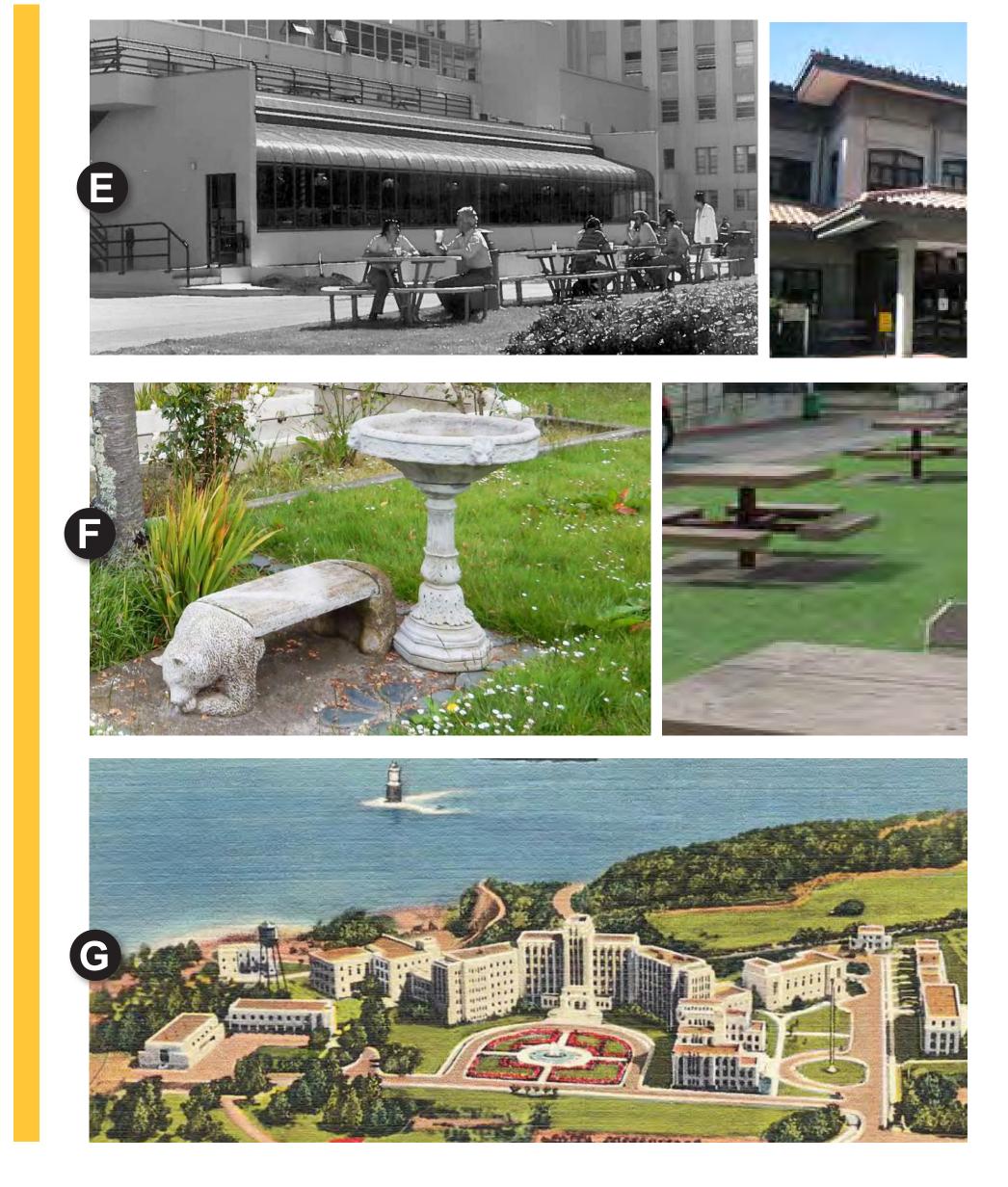
- A. Mayan Art Deco/Mayan Revival architecture
- B. Post-colonial architecture representation of pre-colonial cultures
- C. Documentation of buildings that have been or will be demolished
- D. Relationship to the architecture of other VA campuses from the same time period
- E. Architecture after 1960
- F. Current Landscape features
- G. Original campus design/history of landscape design
- H. Relationship of memory and architecture
- I. Attitudes towards mental health in the VA system over time
- J. Approaches and innovations in mental health care for Veterans

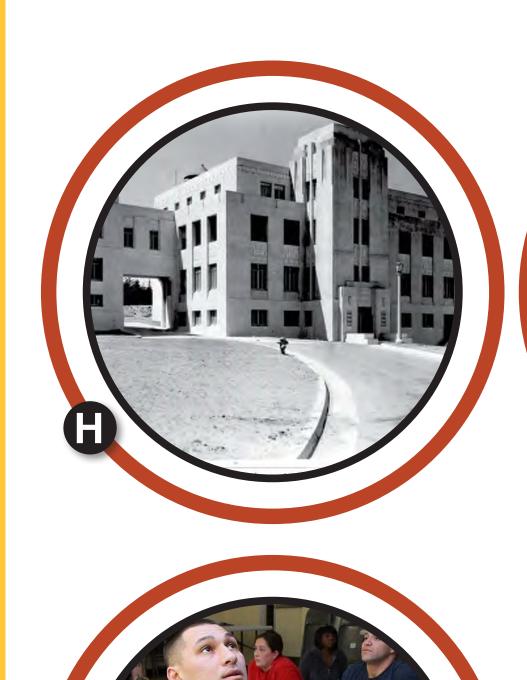
















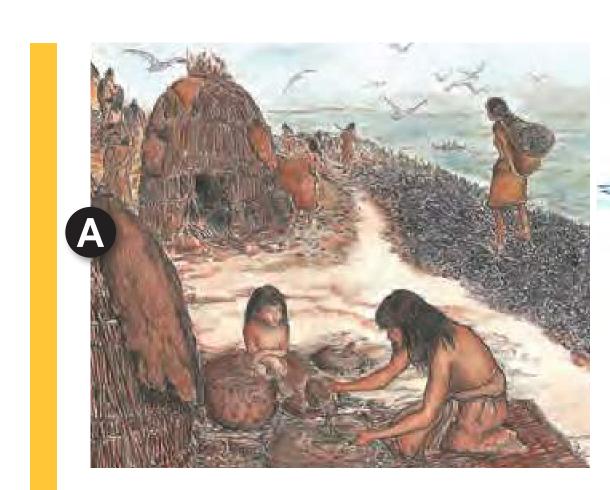




### **Hidden Histories: Before European Settlement**

No archaeological sites have been found within the San Francisco VA Medical Center Fort Miley Campus. However, Native American artifacts have been found in the Point Lobos Archaeological Sites National Register District. Research shows that the campus may have been home to the Ramaytush Costanoan peoples.

Native American Cultural Heritage





### **Posts and Batteries: After European Settlement**

In the late Mexican and Early American periods, this land belonged to Francisco Guerrero. It was largely unoccupied. There was a signaling station that connected with a station at Telegraph Hill. In the 1860s, the site was occupied by a cemetery. People of diverse ethnicities buried their deceased here. These graves were later carefully exhumed and relocated. The land was transferred to the military in the 1890s, known as the Endicott period. The wooden barracks and batteries of Fort Miley were constructed at this time.

**Collaborative Contact: Adjacent Parks** 

The campus' northern, eastern, and western borders are all defined by GGNRA parkland. The batteries at East and West Fort Miley are a part of this parkland.

Legends and Landmarks: **Adjacent Historic Sites** 

> This neighborhood was among the later to be developed in San Francisco. It contains many intriguing features and cultures. These include a camera obscura, the remnants of Sutro Baths, the Cliff House, and the Palace of the Legion of Honor.

- **History of the Golden Gate Cemetery**
- Fort Miley as a military site
- **Endicott Period batteries**
- E. Relationships among East and West Fort Miley and the SFVAMC
- Relationship with NPS and GGNRA
- Relationship to Lincoln Park Golf Course
- Relationship to the Legion of Honor
- Other notable landmarks in adjacent **GGNRA** lands
- Regional and recreational access



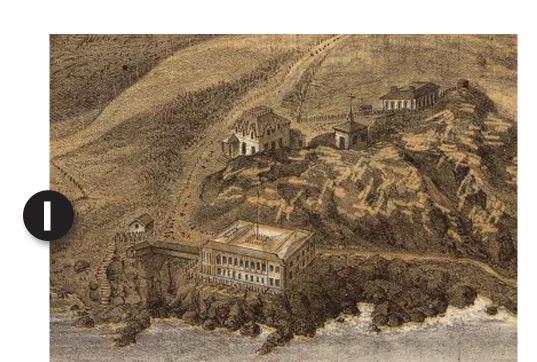


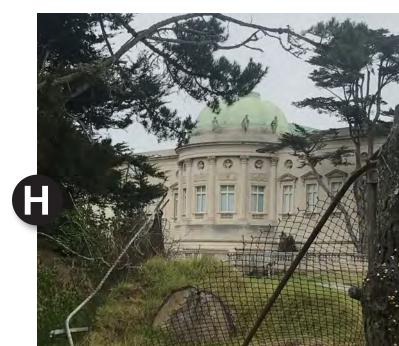














SUBTHEMES





collage from Google Earth imagery

### Nature in the Campus: **Site Ecosystems**

The campus is on the Golden Gate strand of the San Andreas fault line. Much of the site sits on a relatively flat area. The south slope forms a berm between the campus and the city. West Fort Miley slopes towards Lands End. The north slope connects with the pathways and the vegetation of the GGNRA parklands.

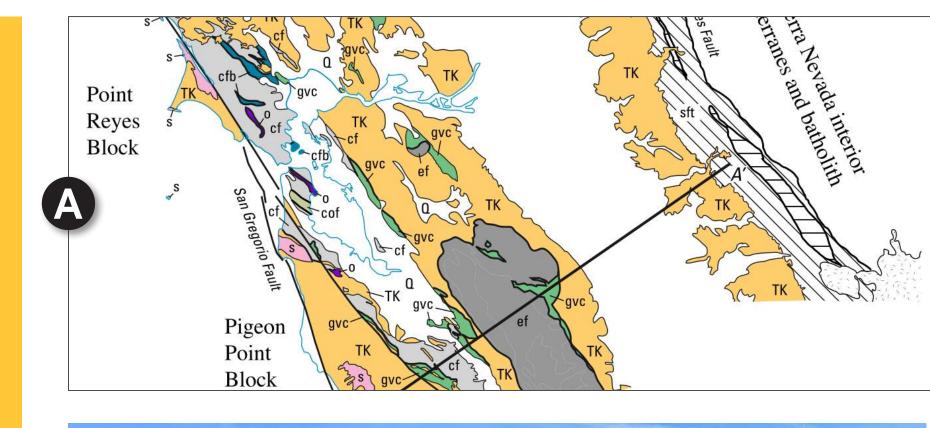
# Nature Beyond the Campus: City Ecosystems

The campus ecosystems are part of the city, bay and ocean. Today, the San Francisco VA Health Care System has taken steps to improve its sustainable practices, such as installing an ethanol fueling station and solar panels.

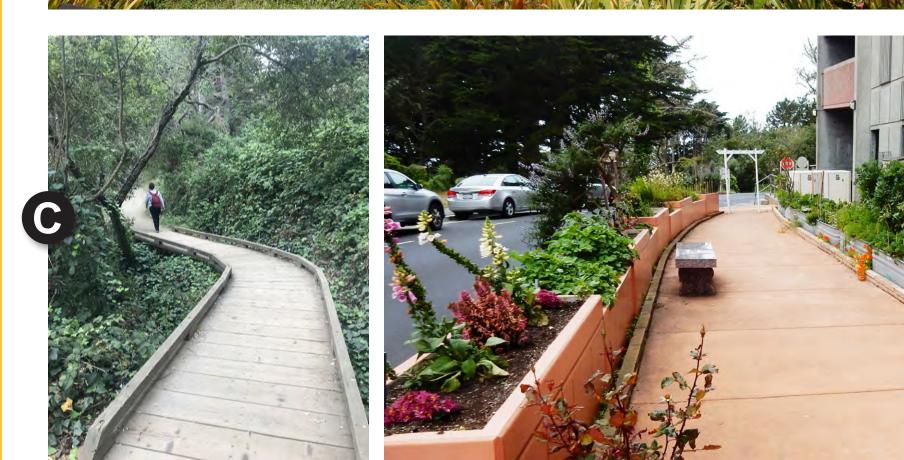
# Symbols in the Fog: The Golden Gate Bridge

The Golden Gate is an achievement in elegant design and engineering. But it is more than a bridge. It is the symbol of the cultural and natural features of the region. It also represents the region's connection to the world beyond. These views and connections create moments to consider larger forces of nature and culture.

- Geological and hydrological history of Fort Miley
- Flora and fauna of the site & flora and fauna of the GGNRA
- Nature's healing properties
- Pacific Ocean ecology
- San Francisco Bay ecology
- Macro- and micro- climates of San Francisco
- Sustainable practices on campus
- View toward the water and bridge
- History of the bridge
- Characteristic features of the bridge
- **Engineering of the bridge**
- Symbolism of the bridge
- Global shipping industry/economics



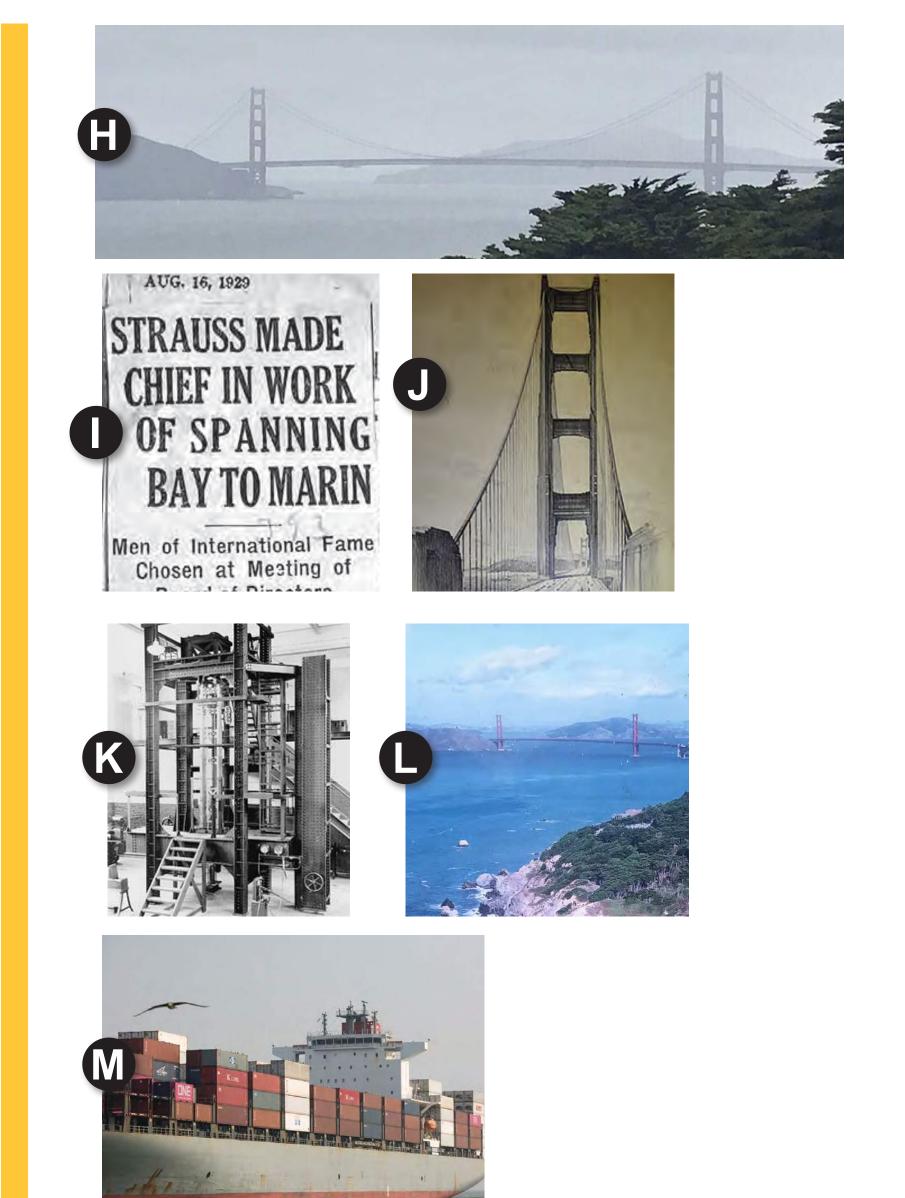














collage from Google Earth imagery

### **Public and Domestic: Neighborhood Architecture**

Clement Street transforms into Seal Rock Drive along the edge of the campus. This signals the transition of the urban grid into the Lands End parklands. The neighborhood has been called the Outer Lands, The Richmond, and Park Presidio. It is also defined by its borders with Ocean Beach and Golden Gate Park. It is diverse in its cultural and architectural history, ranging from midcentury cottages to contemporary multifamily homes.

### **Streets and Sand: Neighborhood Life**

The Outer Richmond Neighborhood is made up of lively streets hosting a variety of businesses and spaces. For many residents, the campus is a neighbor. The neighborhood has experienced a number of transformations. The first transformation was from sand dunes to city grid. It has hosted large populations of Irish-, German-, Jewish-, Russian-, and Asian-American descendants.

- **Architectural character**
- History of urban development
  - Other notable landmarks in the neighborhood
- Relationships with SFVAMC
- Neighborhood businesses
- E. F. Major access points to the campus

