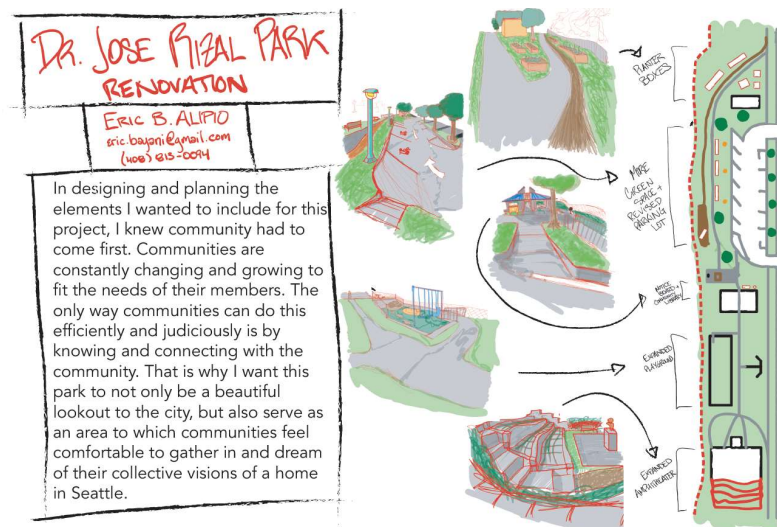


05/17/2023 – Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) is happy to announce that Eric Alipio is the successful finalist and “Design Partner” for our first ***Elevate*** community design initiative.



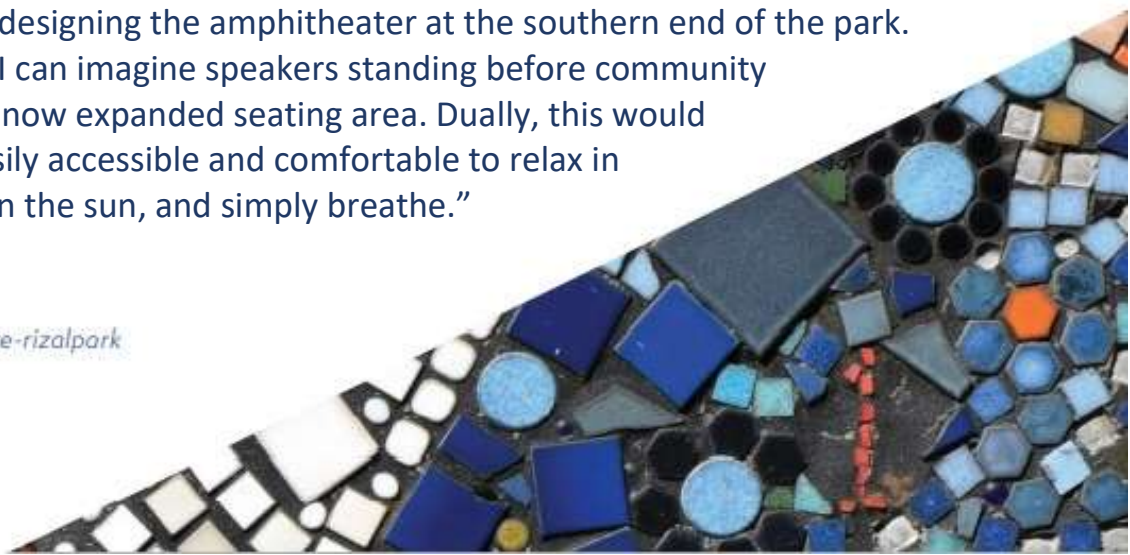
In his submissions** to the ***Elevate*** initiative Eric noted:

“Dr. Jose Rizal continues to be the national hero in the eyes of so many Filipinos across the world. During his life and long after his death, he stood for equality, justice, and socio-political activism. He believed in the power of demonstration, even if it was primarily through his writing. He believed in the power of community and the everlasting need for equality. For this project, I want to embody these key characteristics of who he was and what he signified to all who looked up to him.”



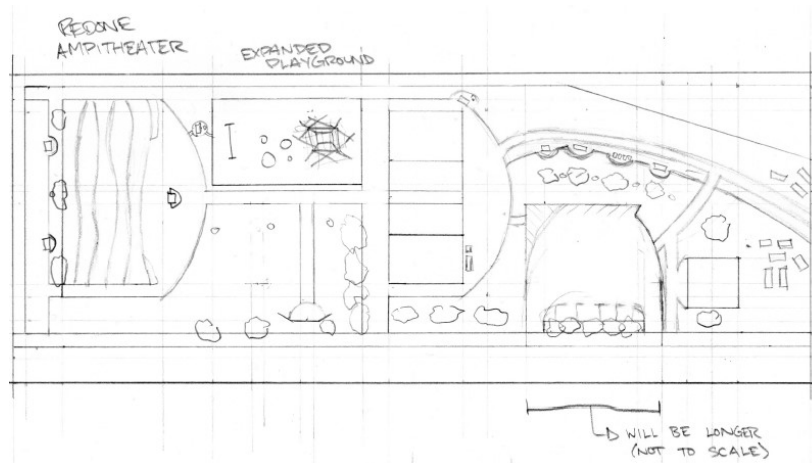
“I began by redesigning the amphitheater at the southern end of the park. It is here that I can imagine speakers standing before community members in a now expanded seating area. Dually, this would be an area easily accessible and comfortable to relax in to read, take in the sun, and simply breathe.”

*<http://seattle.gov/parks/elevate-rizalpark>

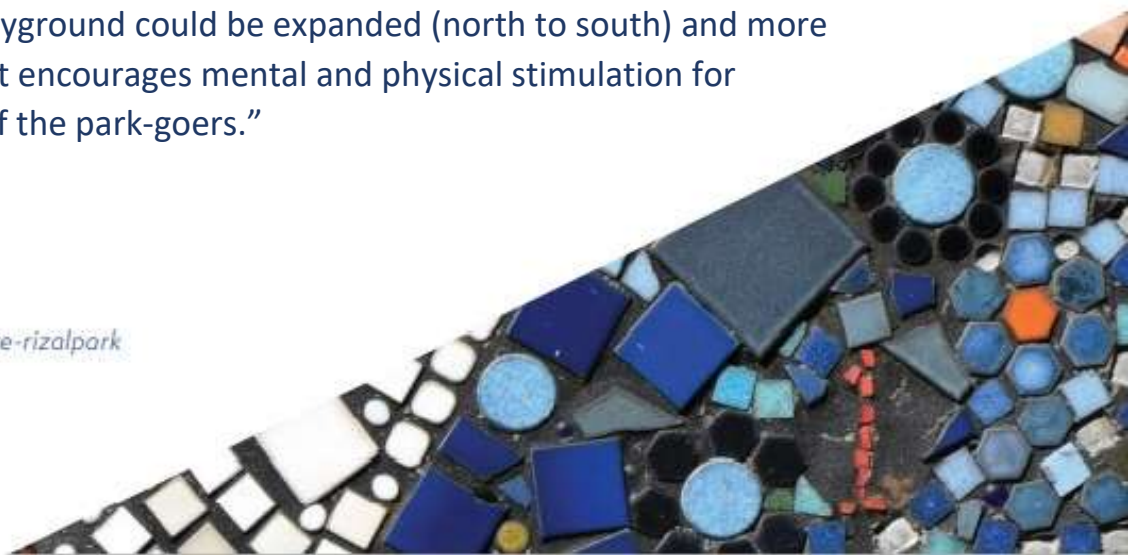


Eric was selected from a pool of six submissions juried by our panelists and later interviewed via Teams call on April 12, 2023. Eric identifies as Filipino and American Indian (Diné). In his own words:

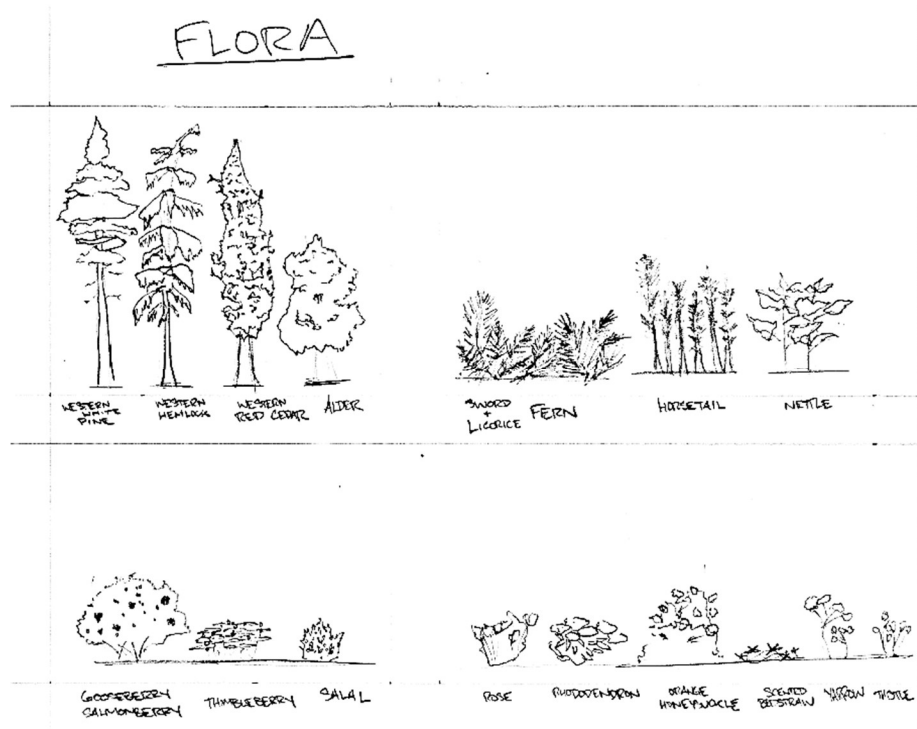
“I strive to follow in the footsteps of my Filipino and Diné heritage and unite, support, and uplift all the minoritized communities I can. I knew that by emphasizing community gathering, there would be a need for more green space. That is why I continued on to sketch out a new green area that would eliminate half of the parking lot (west to east). Adding trees indigenous to the Seattle area would do well to push a positive educational and environmental agenda when visiting the park.”



“The other areas that I believe would draw more people to attend gatherings here would be the weather shelter, northern end of the park, and the playground. The weather shelter could serve as the location for a community notice board and small community library that emphasizes socio-political activation and identity formation. The northern end of the park could be installed with a community garden (past the restrooms). And finally, the playground could be expanded (north to south) and more accessible that encourages mental and physical stimulation for the children of the park-goers.”



“The flora I hope to be introduced and cultivated within the park will all be to the area. Each one chosen in my list has historically served the tribes around the region for millennia with food, medicine, and crafting materials.”



Eric resides in Seattle and currently works for a Native-owned company in Seattle. He has a Minor in Arts History and enjoys photography and in seeking a place of serenity, Dr. Jose Rizal Park became his place of choice.

SPR will continue to work with Eric through mentorship efforts and community engagement to create a schematic design. SPR will hire a consultant for Design Development, Construction Documents and Construction Administration.

*** Sketches presented here are subject to change.*

