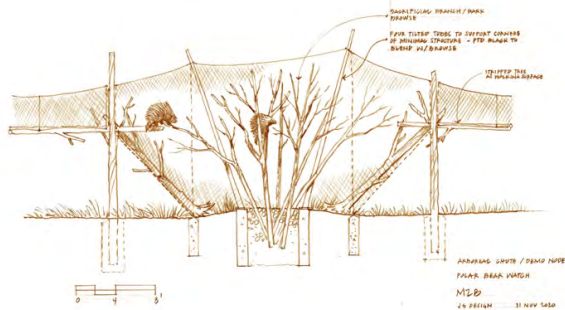


Event Node & “The Americas”

The old Elephant Building is located approximately at the mid-point of the Main Valley. It is an historically designated building constructed in 1926 and has not been used for animal holding or open to the public for over twenty years. The intent is to renovate the building and adjacent old Polar Bear Habitat as an event and education space. The building and outdoor space can be open to the public during regular Zoo operating hours and rented out for various small to medium sized functions during the late afternoons and evenings. The old Elephant Building, the Round Stand, and adjacent old animal habitats will create a compelling connection to the historical evolution of the Zoo that not many Zoos can present to their visitors.

Most visitors will pass through this space two times as they start their day heading towards the Northern Passage and Penguin Coast and, at the end of the day, when they return back to Schaefer Plaza. Re-purposing the historic buildings and some of the old habitats is one of the key goals for bringing back the Main Valley as the main visitor circulation option to enter the heart of the Zoo. In September 2021, the visitor connection from Schaefer Plaza to Zoo Central was re-established. Accordingly, the need for the Tram Loop that runs past the Mansion House down to gate sixteen was eliminated. The Zoo now provides some guest transportation with a smaller fleet of electric vehicles on Buffalo Yard Road from the area at gate two down to the turnaround space above the sand filter by The Naturalist Lodge.



Arboreal Chute and Demo Node



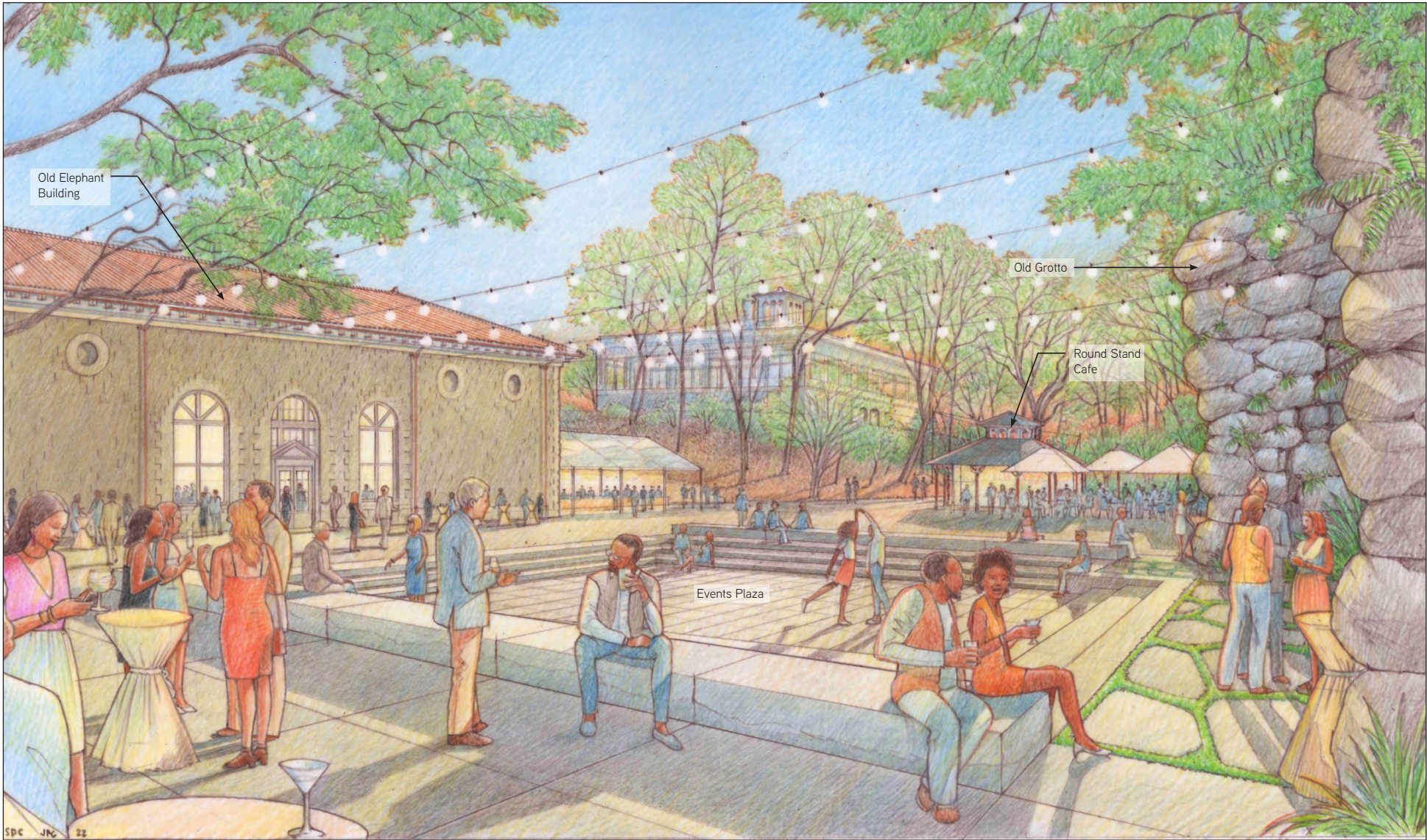
Evening function



New animal habitat



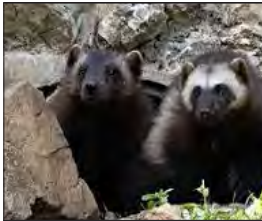
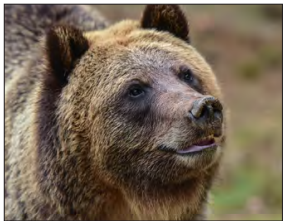
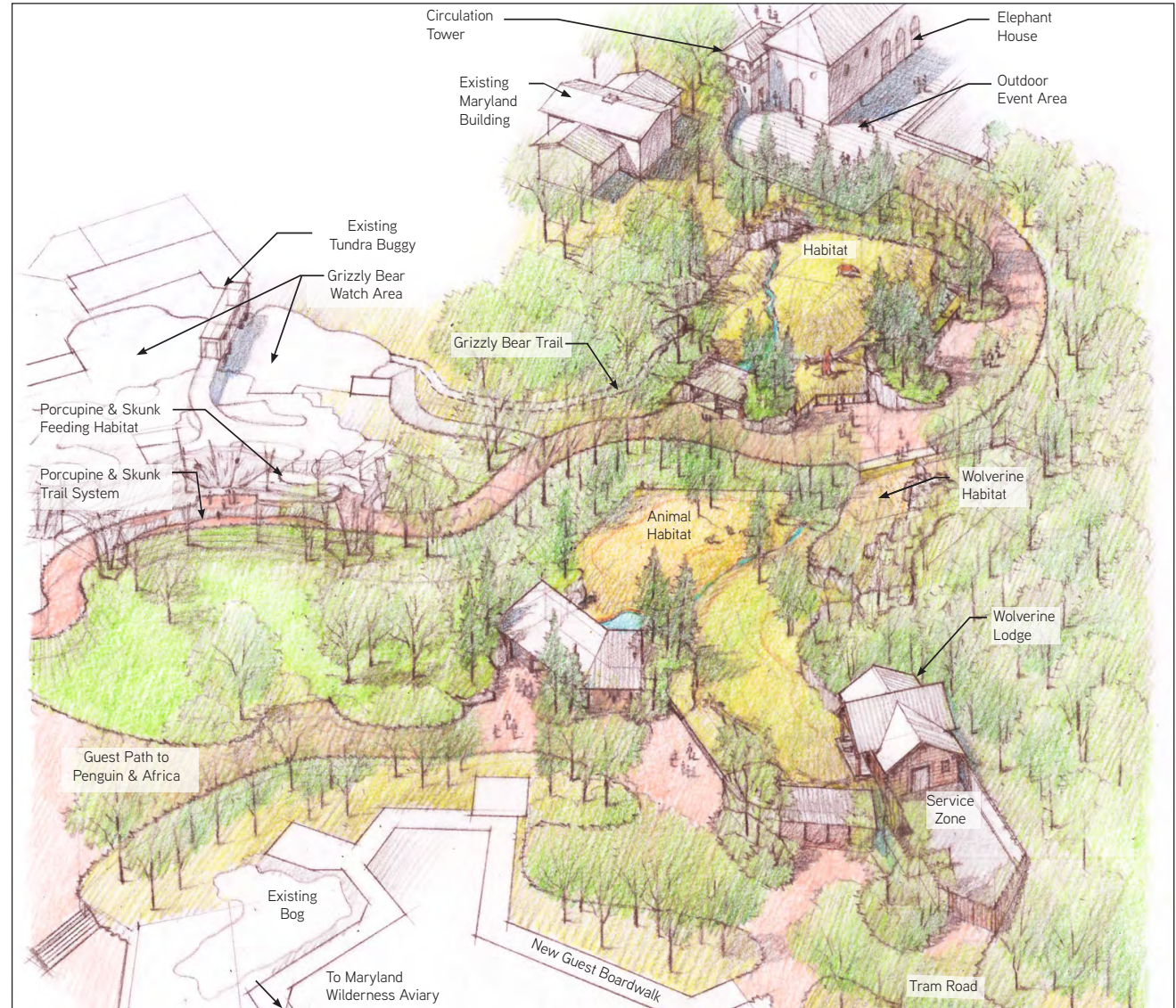
Event Plaza



Lower Valley “The Americas”

The lower portion of the Main Valley is the area north of the Old Elephant Holding building. The building and the existing outdoor spaces create the south edge of the site. The west edge is defined by a steep hill. The existing Northern Passage follows the east edge, and the existing guest path creates the northern boundary. To create a connected usable space for two to four animal habitats, the main guest circulation will flow through the Northern Passage zone and connect to the central area of the Zoo by the Bait Shack building. The new location will also allow the path to be graded at less than five percent slope from start to finish. See also page 14 for the new circulation spine from Schaefer Plaza to the Bait Shack.

A new Bear Habitat is proposed west of the existing Grizzly Habitat. The new habitat is connected to the existing habitat with a ground trail that follows the contour of the land and connects to the new habitat close to one of the new guest viewing areas. Across from the Bear Habitat on the hill, a new animal habitat is proposed, and north of the main path a new Wolverine Habitat would complete the new habitat sequence. The goal is to create a layered habitat arrangement with various guest viewing opportunities. The animals proposed for the habitats can stay outdoors during the winter and can therefore be viewed by the guests year-round.



Bear Habitat

