GCBX, AIA and CSI members are working together to create interactive stations at HSMC to help dogs conquer fears, build confidence and gain human trust in order to become adoptable.

**ELEVATED DOG WALK STEPS**

These steps will attach to the existing elevated platform that has sloped ramps on each end. It will be 48" wide stair steps, attached to one side, and introduce another physical challenge for the dogs.

The framework will be pressure treated wood (which will be covered/sealed), and the stair treads and risers will be plastic wood.
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**LANDSCAPING**

The landscape component of the improvement works to the Manatee Humane Society Dog training area involves installing various landscape elements along the south fence so that the dogs are not distracted by cars, people or other dogs arriving in or departing from the adjacent parking lot.

Different trees and bushes staggering in height create a visual block while the ground cover helps blend the vertical green block to the surrounding area. The vines conceal the view of the chain-link fence.
ARCHITECTURE FOR ANIMALS
AFA 2017

A Community Collaboration Between:

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MOVING PLATFORM

This will help the dogs gain confidence in stepping up (like entering a car) and negotiating a walkway platform that moves slightly. The supporting framework will be 3" PVC pipe, the walkway will be 72" long and constructed of pressure treated wood covered with outdoor carpeting. There will height adjustment to accommodate the various dog's heights, and level of confidence.
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**PLUMBING SYSTEM**

A water line is being added to the outside kennels and training area that includes six (6) hose bibb valves to draw fresh potable water for the dogs in this area.

In addition a mister system will be added to the first kennel providing relief from the summer heat for older dogs and Heartworm positive dogs to allow for more time outside for animals that do not handle the heat well.
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**POOL DECK & STEPS**

The concept behind the pool deck intends for dogs to develop a sense of safety and confidence. From going up the stairs to the pool deck, to going into the water; dogs will develop a sense of depth, facilitate perception and the ability to overcome fearful behavior such as the fear of “splashing” water. This will also benefit smaller size dogs that aren’t aware of the pool depth as compared to bigger size dogs.
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**SOCIALIZATION BENCH**

The socialization courtyard is a key part of the campus for staff, shelter animals as well as guests. The scale of this space is small enough that a few positive changes could yield big results. It’s good fortune that the existing tree is a natural focal point providing the benefit of well needed shade. Hanging a gentle sounding wind chime in the tree will invite a feeling of calmness.

The Tiger Wood benches Sweet Sparkman has designed will add a visual lift and provide several seating and gathering options. Two benches have been designed for placement approximately 5 feet away from the tree in a "yin and yang" formation. Seating facing the tree can offer a more intimate dynamic. Seating facing the courtyard will be more social.

Tables can be set alongside the benches for events or functions eliminating the need for many folding chairs. The sleek design folds at the ends of the benches will allow dogs climbing access.
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**THE TUNNEL**

In addition to fearing doorways and gates, it is common for newly adopted dogs to fear entering the car which will take them to their forever home. In response to this challenge, *The Tunnel* allows the trainer to work with the dog at various stages of progression:

In the first stage, the dog enters through an open arch, which leads into a tunnel, covered with fabric and lined with soft bedding to emulate a safe haven for the dog to relax; and then the dog exits through another open arch and back into the training yard;

In the second stage the dog enters through the open arch, but now needs to wait for the gate (about the size of a car door) to open before entering the ‘safe haven’; and exits through a second gate to the second open arch and back into the training yard.

*The Tunnel* design allows the dog and the trainer to be ‘connected’ with a leash, which will follow through, from beginning to end, along a continuous break in the arched tunnel. This will offer a sense of security, while giving the dog a chance to ‘experience’ the gate and the enclosed tunnel on its own/solo.

By the time the dog and trainer reach the third stage, the dog should willingly enter the tunnel and gate without a leash.
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**THERAPY STEPS**

To lead a dog up stairs (not knowing what to expect), a removable pocket will be located within each step, which could be filled with different types of (aroma) scents to attract the dog up to each step. Scents such as lavender, orange, lemon grass, neem, etc can be calming and a stress relief when smelled. Since dogs see through their nose this would be a pleasant experience without too much human interference.

The idea with the enclosed risers is the farther up the dog gets through each step the more it can see out until it reaches the open platform (covered with soft material, and a treat). The stairs on the opposite side going down would be the open riser, and removable which can also attach to the pool deck.