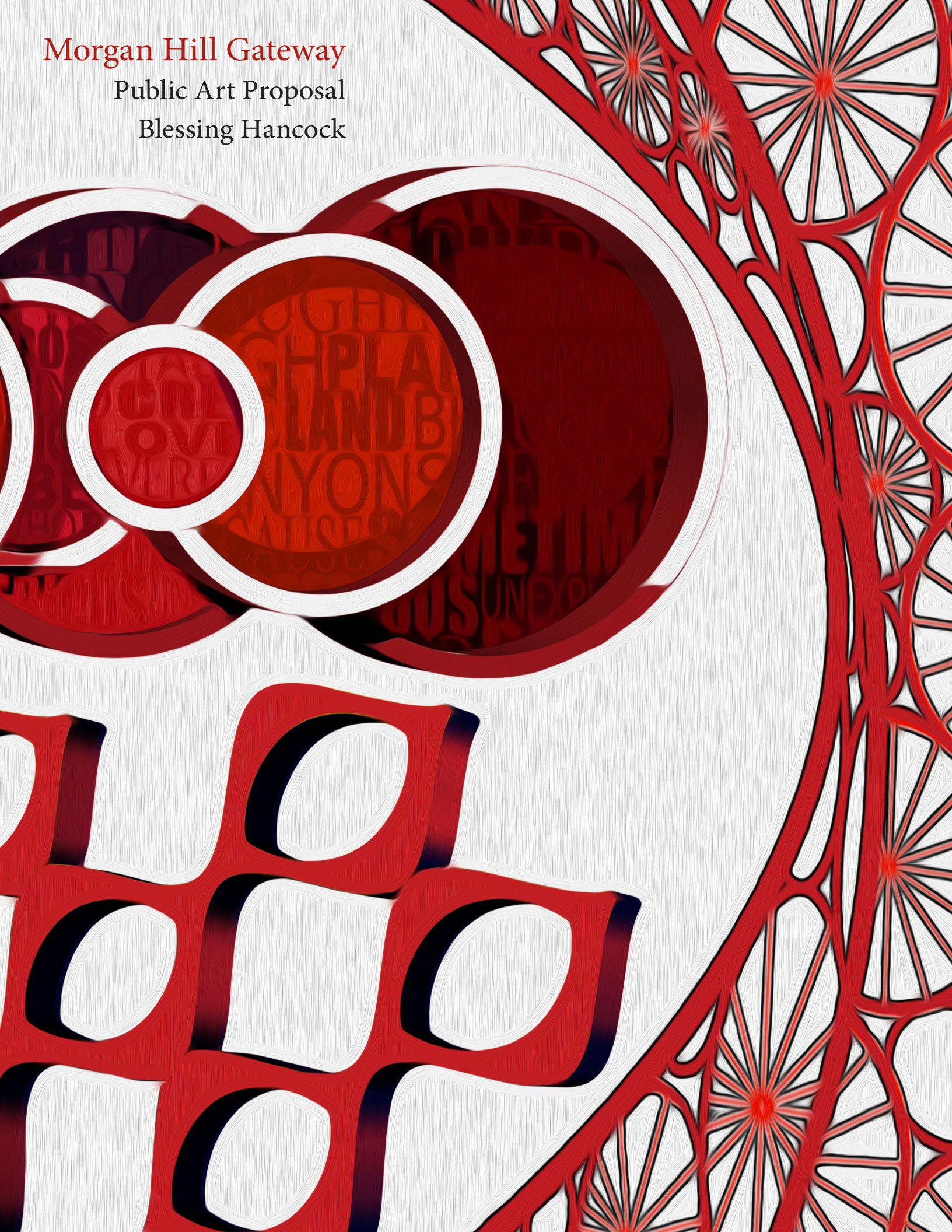


Morgan Hill Gateway  
Public Art Proposal  
Blessing Hancock







## PUBLIC ART

**Accolades, District VII Police Station**, Washington Park, MD, 2015, \$80,000. Dena Crosson, Art in Public Places, (301) 802-3638, [dcrosson@pgahc.org](mailto:dcrosson@pgahc.org)

**Biota, RTD East Rail Line** Peoria Station, Aurora, CO, 2015, \$135,000. Lindsey Smith, RTD FasTracks, (303) 299-2895, [Lindsey.Smith@RTD-Denver.Com](mailto:Lindsey.Smith@RTD-Denver.Com)

**Affinities**, North Hennepin Community College, Brooklyn Park, MN, 2015, \$81,000. Ben Owen, Minnesota State Arts Board, (651) 215-1613, [ben.owen@arts.state.mn.us](mailto:ben.owen@arts.state.mn.us)

**Colorwash**, Pedestrian Bridge, Tucson, AZ, 2017, \$100,000. Mary Ellen Wooten, Tucson Pima Arts Council, 520-624-0595, [mewooten@TucsonPimaArtsCouncil.org](mailto:mewooten@TucsonPimaArtsCouncil.org)

**Encino Library**, East Courtyard, San Antonio, TX, 2015, \$100,000. Marissa Laubscher, Public Art San Antonio, 210-207-1435, [Marissa.Laubscher@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Marissa.Laubscher@sanantonio.gov)

**Philosopher's Stone**, Sino-Ocean Taikoo Li Project, Chengdu, China, 2014, \$71,000. Alison Pickett, Orangerie International, Hong Kong, +86 13086607524, [admin@alisonpickett.com](mailto:admin@alisonpickett.com)

**ElectroFish**, Rockville Town Square, Rockville, MD, 2015, \$150,000. Jack Devine, Artists Circle Fine Art, (301) 947-7400, [jack@artcfa.com](mailto:jack@artcfa.com)

**Bloom**, Alexian Brothers Women & Children's Hospital, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 2014, \$95,000. Blythe Lee, Corporate Artworks Inc, (847) 843-3636, [blythe@corporateartworks.com](mailto:blythe@corporateartworks.com)

**Small Talk About the Weather**, Municipal Parking Garage, Oklahoma City, OK, 2015, \$185,000. Robbie Kienzle, Oklahoma City Arts Commission, (405) 297-1740, [robbie.kienzle@okc.gov](mailto:robbie.kienzle@okc.gov)

**On Display**, South Broadway Blvd, Denver, CO, 2015, \$250,000. Michael Chavez, Denver Arts and Cultural Council, 720-865-4308, [michael.chavez@denvergov.org](mailto:michael.chavez@denvergov.org)

**Texas Rising**, Student Housing Courtyard, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, 2014, \$485,000. Emily Wilkinson, Texas Tech University, 806-742-2116, [emily.wilkinson@ttu.edu](mailto:emily.wilkinson@ttu.edu)

**Camaraderie**, Palo Alto Veterans Hospital, Palo Alto, CA, 2014, \$300,000. Andrew Peters, Palo Alto Veterans Hospital, 602-248-0940, [AndrewPeters@va.gov](mailto:AndrewPeters@va.gov)

**Chinook Arc**, Barb Scott Park, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 2014, \$500,000. Barbara Doyle-Frisch, City of Calgary, 403-476-4327, [barbara.doyle-frisch@calgary.ca](mailto:barbara.doyle-frisch@calgary.ca)

**Brilliance**, Palo Alto Library and Arts Center, Palo Alto, CA, 2014, \$200,000. Elise DeMarzo, Palo Alto Public Art, 650-329-2227, [elise.demarzo@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:elise.demarzo@cityofpaloalto.org)

**Cocoon**, Houghton Road Bike Path, Tucson, AZ, 2014, \$200,000. Sally Krommes, Tucson Pima Arts Council, 520-624-0595, [skrommes@TucsonPimaArtsCouncil.org](mailto:skrommes@TucsonPimaArtsCouncil.org)

**Wandering Stars**, Granada Streetcar Stop, Tucson AZ, 2013, \$150,000. Mary Ellen Wooten, Tucson Pima Arts Council, 520-624-0595, [mewooten@TucsonPimaArtsCouncil.org](mailto:mewooten@TucsonPimaArtsCouncil.org)

**Ballroom Luminoso**, Theo/Malone Underpass, San Antonio, TX, 2013, \$100,000. James LeFlore, Public Art San Antonio, 210-207-4433, [James.leflore@sanantonio.gov](mailto:James.leflore@sanantonio.gov)

**Fish Bellies**, Student Housing Courtyard, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, 2013, \$250,000. Jennifer Seay, Art + Artisans Consulting, 512-419-7975, [jennifer@artplusartisans.com](mailto:jennifer@artplusartisans.com)

**Heart Beacon**, Emergency Coordination Center, Portland, OR, 2013, \$150,000. Kristin Calhoun, Portland Regional Arts and Culture Council, 503-823-5401, [kcalhoun@racc.org](mailto:kcalhoun@racc.org)

**Cyclorama**, Theater and Music Building, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, 2012, \$130,000. Diane Daugherty, UCF Art in State Buildings Coord., 407-823-3161, [ddaugherty@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:ddaugherty@mail.ucf.edu)

**Utah Bit and Mine**, Bingham Junction Light Rail Station Midvale, UT, 2011, \$130,000. Brandon Bott, Utah Transit Authority, 801-262-5626, [bbott@rideuta.com](mailto:bbott@rideuta.com)

**Bike Church**, Barrio Anita Neighborhood, Tucson, Arizona, 2009. \$75,000, Mary Ellen Wooten, Tucson Pima Arts Council, 520-624-0595, [mewooten@TucsonPimaArtsCouncil.org](mailto:mewooten@TucsonPimaArtsCouncil.org)

**Empire of Giants**, Ross Avenue Underpass, Dallas, TX, install TBD, \$150,000. Kay Kallos, Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, 214-670-3281, [kay.kallos@dallascityhall.com](mailto:kay.kallos@dallascityhall.com)

**Line and Sky**, The CommonLink, Shreveport, LA, install TBD, \$750,000 City of Shreveport, Kendal Henry, JMC Art Partners, New York, 914-576-6139

## EMPLOYMENT

**ARTIST/OWNER** 2008 - present  
Skyrim Studio Inc. - Tucson, AZ  
Blessing's company brings a unique balance of imaginative thinking and technical knowledge to the art realm. Their work is about finding inspiration in the day-to-day encounter. They specialize in large scale, interactive and illuminated sculpture.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNER** 2006 - 2008

Norris Design - Tucson, AZ  
Blessing designed and planned residential communities, parks, greenways, plazas and playgrounds, specializing in neighborhood monumentation, community theming and branding. Reference: Stacey Weaks, Norris Design, (520) 622-9565

**COMMUNITY PLANNER** 2005 – 2006

The Drachman Institute - Tucson, AZ  
Blessing worked with neighborhood groups to develop design goals, master plans and guidelines for local communities. Reference: Corky Poster, Drachman Institute, (520) 626-9770

**ART INSTRUCTOR** 1999 – 2002

Private Art Instruction – Tucson, AZ

## PUBLICATIONS/EXHIBITIONS

**Mondo\*Arc Magazine**, Oct- Nov 2013, Issue 75

**Spark! Mesa's Festival of Creativity**, Spring 2013  
Seed Pod, Mesa Arts Center, Mesa, Arizona

**WHOA Magazine**, Fall 2012  
Keel, Michael. "Two Artists, One Heart." 78-82

**Chalk the Block Festival**, 2012  
Seed Pod, Downtown San Antonio, Texas

**Glow**, 2012  
Seed Pod, Triangle Ranch, Oro Valley, Arizona

**All Souls Procession**, 2010  
Seed Pod, Downtown Tucson, Arizona

**Firestone Gallery**, 2010  
Bike Chandeliers, East Hampton, New York

**Sculpture Magazine**, 5/2010  
SEED[pop!], Vol. 29 No. 4

**Sculpture Magazine**, 1/2010  
Bike Church, Vol. 29 No. 1

## AWARDS

**PAN Year in Review Award** 2014  
Americans for the Arts, for Ballroom Luminoso

**Transformative Design Award** 10/2013  
A SXSW Eco 'Place By Design' Award for Ballroom Luminoso

**AZ ASLA Award** 1/2010  
Julian Wash Greenway Master Plan, Tucson, Arizona.  
American Society of Landscape Architects.

**Community Project of the Year - Ward 2** 6/2009  
McCormick Park Enhancement Plan, Tucson, Arizona.

**Common Ground Award** 5/2007  
The Bridges, Best Mixed Use Development, Tucson, Arizona.

**ASLA Honor Award for Design** 4/2006  
American Society of Landscape Architects.

**Arizona Builders Alliance Award** 5/2005  
Arivaca Transportation Plaza, Arivaca, Arizona.

**Archon Prize** 3/2005  
Arivaca Transportation Plaza. Arivaca, Arizona.  
University of Arizona.

## EDUCATION

**UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA** 8/02-5/06  
Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture and Planning. Received M.L.A. with highest honors, ASLA Honor Award.

**UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA** 8/94-12/99  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Sculpture, Dean's List.

## REFERENCES

**ELISE DEMARZO**, Public Art Commission, City of Palo Alto  
650-329-2227, [elise.demarzo@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:elise.demarzo@cityofpaloalto.org)  
1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301, Project: Brilliance

**MARY ELLEN WOOTEN**, Tucson Pima Arts Council  
520-624-0595, [mewooten@tucsonpimaartscouncil.org](mailto:mewooten@tucsonpimaartscouncil.org)  
100 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 303, Tucson, AZ 85701  
Projects: Wandering Stars

**JAMES LEFLORE**, Public Art San Antonio Manager  
210-207-4433, [James.leflore@sanantonio.gov](mailto:James.leflore@sanantonio.gov)  
2013 South Saint Mary's Street, Suite 360, San Antonio, Texas 78205, Project: Ballroom Luminoso





I am proposing several preliminary concept ideas that serve as eye-catching gateway emblems for the City of Morgan Hill. The artworks highlight connections between the cities rich agricultural history and it’s current high tech and nature enthusiast population.

The commissioning of a gateway sculpture is an important identity marker for the city, as well as an opportunity to re-imagine it’s character. The following proposed placemaking concepts combine the interests of Morgan Hill’s past with it’s current identity to create a rich narrative of experience. Correlations between historic and contemporary interests can be seen throughout Morgan Hill and these concepts emphasize their importance by offering new perspectives within the city environment.

My aim is to establish a contemporary gateway experience for the City of Morgan Hill that comes directly from it’s local character. These concepts will remind the

public of their rich agricultural roots as well as their unique scenic and technological location.

The essence of these artworks is to offer abstract natural forms that can be interpreted in multiple ways, allowing the public to construct their own connections between history, environment and the present day.

Because there are many potential locations identified for the gateway artwork I am presenting three preliminary ideas that can work in multiple locations. All three ideas share a common narrative theme and are inspired by the city’s natural setting, yet each expresses this concept in a unique way.

**HISTORIC INSPIRATION**  
Researching the history of Morgan Hill, I was drawn to it’s rich farming origins, specifically it’s success in cultivating fruit

and nut trees. Today there are still lands planted with acres of orchards, maintaining a small pocket of tradition in the midst of modern day valley life. I was inspired by the aesthetic vocabulary of these highly organized orchards and fields of crops, and began to incorporate this imagery into my artwork concepts.

**ENVIRONMENTAL INSPIRATION**  
The geology of Morgan Hill also inspired me creatively. Sited between the Pacific Coast Mountains and the Diablo Mountain Range, the city divides the lower Santa Clara Valley. The unique topography surrounds the city with scenic, rolling vistas and also makes it a destination for healthy outdoor activities. I’ve incorporated geology and recreation into the artwork concepts.

**PRESENT DAY INSPIRATION**  
The development and growth of Morgan Hill is bracketed by agriculture and high technology. Technology is a theme that runs

throughout my work and I’m exploring ways to incorporate this into the gateway artwork.

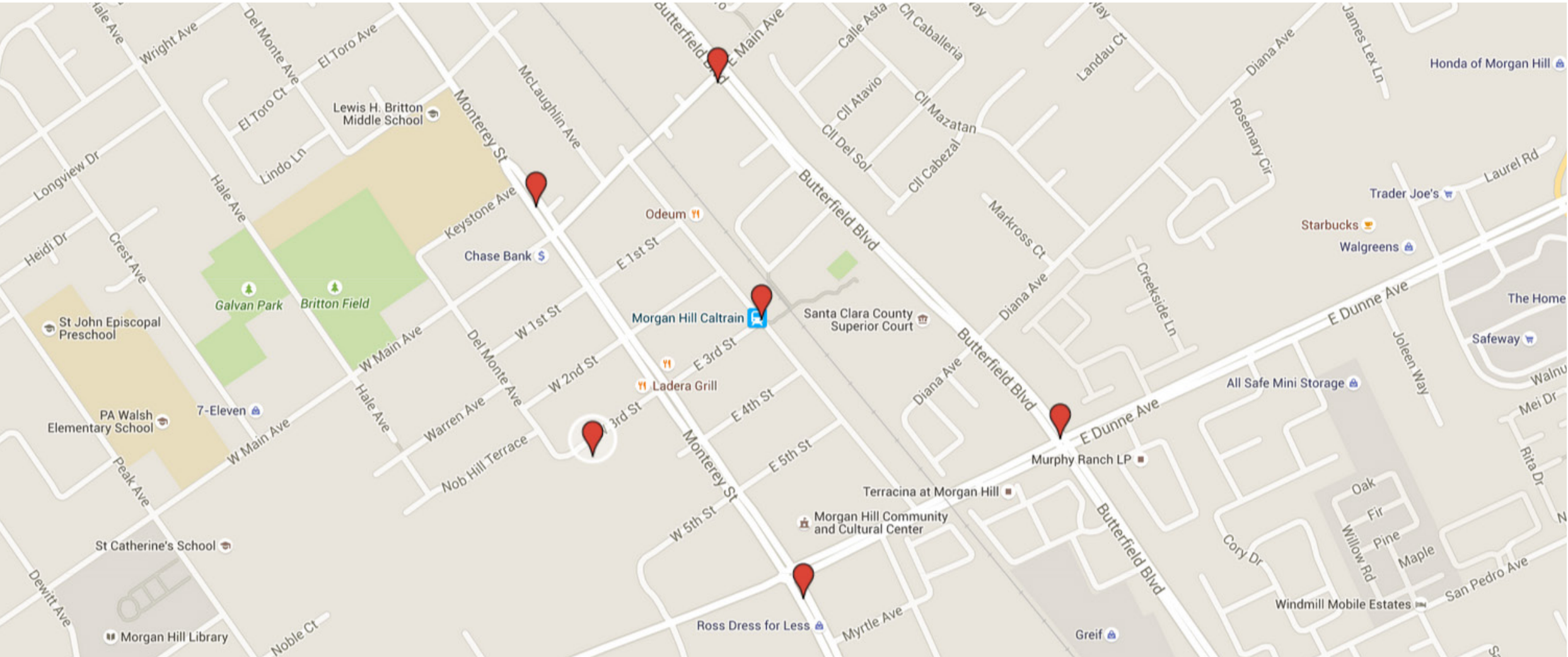
**INSTALLATION**  
The artwork will be fairly straightforward to install as it uses standard construction techniques. I have experience with complex installations and will provide clear site prep and installation instructions to my installation contractor. I will be on-site to oversee installation.

**MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY**  
I have chosen materials that are well proven in high traffic areas. Using a structurally engineered design and straightforward construction techniques my artwork will be durable and low maintenance. The physical portion of my concepts require little to no maintenance. The artwork will be modular so that if one section gets damaged due to vandalism that portion can be easily replaced.

As part of this public art contract I will create a thorough project manual that covers materials and maintenance of the artwork. I will leave this with the client following installation.

BUDGET	
Materials and Fabrication	\$32,500
Project Consultants	\$3,000
Transportation of Artwork	\$500
Installation/Site Prep	\$15,000
Insurance	\$750
Studio Rent/Overhead	\$1,000
Artist Travel	\$2,000
Artist Fee	\$12,750
Project Contingency	\$7,500
Total	\$75,000

TIMELINE	
7/15/15	Contract Start Date
7/15/15 - 10/15/15	Design Development
10/15/15 - 12/27/15	Fabrication
12/1/15 - 12/27/15	Site Prep
12/28/15	Begin Installation
12/31/15	Installation Complete







#### CONCEPT 1

This concept explores how Morgan Hill's historic orchard aesthetics can be combined with community engagement and new technology to create a contemporary gateway artwork. The sculpture establishes an eye-catching element that informs visitors of their arrival to Morgan Hill.

The artwork is a welcoming symbol for the city and connects to it's identity and vision. During the day sunbeams illuminate the many surfaces of the sculpture creating a soft, diffused color glow. In the early morning and evening LED lighting will illuminate the artwork.

The artwork also invites exploration and discovery through the inclusion of custom text selected from the local community. These phrases will emphasize learning and discovery as a fundamental aspect of the city's experience. By providing a permanent canvas for the expression of historic, environmental and technological topics, the story of the Morgan Hill is told.

Meaningful interactivity and on-going discovery are important goals and I expect these sculptures to reward close scrutiny over many visits as people study them from various angles and notice the many details that cover their surfaces. Discovery is a creative act and as people study the surface of these sculptures, their wandering eyes will naturally juxtapose the words and imagery to create new combinations.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging the local community in the creative process is an important aspect of my artwork. Through this commission I will work with the design team and surrounding community to create a platform for the submittal of text to be included in the artwork.

I will work closely with project stakeholders on this engagement opportunity to ensure the text fully represents the values of the city. Through this process visitors and the local community will feel connected to the sculpture and understand their contribution. Visitors will enjoy reading the words and phrases on this concepts many surfaces.

#### PLACEMENT

This concept can be located at either; the center median on Monterey Road, the Butterfield Road intersections, or the new proposed parks on 3rd Street. The art can be installed as a single large sculpture or divided into several smaller pieces.

SIZE: 17'L x 9'H x 2'W

#### MATERIALS

Circular Infill Panels - 1/2" thick colored copolyester resin from 3-Form with custom designed interlayer graphics. Incorporates recycled content. Customized translucency and transparency. Over 10,000 color options to choose from. High impact strength and temperature resistance.

Exterior Rings and 'Trunks' - metal exterior wrap, posts and hardware. Final design and materials dimensions by a structural engineer.

Lighting - Artworks will be internally illuminated with white LED lighting. I will design for long life, modularity and easy service. I have incorporated lighting technology successfully into my public art projects for many years.







#### CONCEPT 2:

Concept 2 is an illuminated enclosure of light and color that serves as an icon for the city of Morgan Hill. This artwork references Morgan Hill's geology as well as it's interest in outdoor recreational activities.

The artwork is an abstraction of Morgan Hill's unique topographical location within the Santa Clara Valley. The folded panels allude to the surrounding hillsides of the Pacific Coast and Diablo Mountain ranges. The two curvilinear forms enclose the Morgan Hill valley between them. The surface of the sculpture is made up of bicycle wheels highlighting the communities cycling interests.

As a monument to the city this piece represents the life and breadth of Morgan Hill residents. The sculpture invites you to pass through it's center point, serving as a metaphoric passage between mountain ranges.

In the evening visitors will be rewarded with another layer of interest. The sculpture will include bright LED lighting that casts brilliant shadows onto the surroundings and people passing by, activating a much larger area than the sculpture itself.

During the day light will stream through the perforated shapes on the surface of the sculpture projecting shadow patterns. The illuminated sculpture forms a screen for the display of light and contrasting shadow. Visitors will enjoy walking through the artwork, playing in its shadows and exploring the intricate designs on its surface.

Concept 2 is a signature artwork that places emphasis on 'innovation and new experience'. My training as an artist and landscape architect often draws me to study

a variety of disciplines through my artwork and I believe Morgan Hill offers the perfect contextual setting to explore geography and the great outdoors.

The sculpture is well suited for the progressive city of Morgan Hill and will help to promote the identity of the community through demonstrating the potential of light, shadow, and color to activate a public space.

#### PLACEMENT

This concept can be located at either; the center median on Monterey Road, the Butterfield Road intersections, or the new proposed parks on 3rd Street. The art can be installed as a single large sculpture or divided into several smaller pieces.

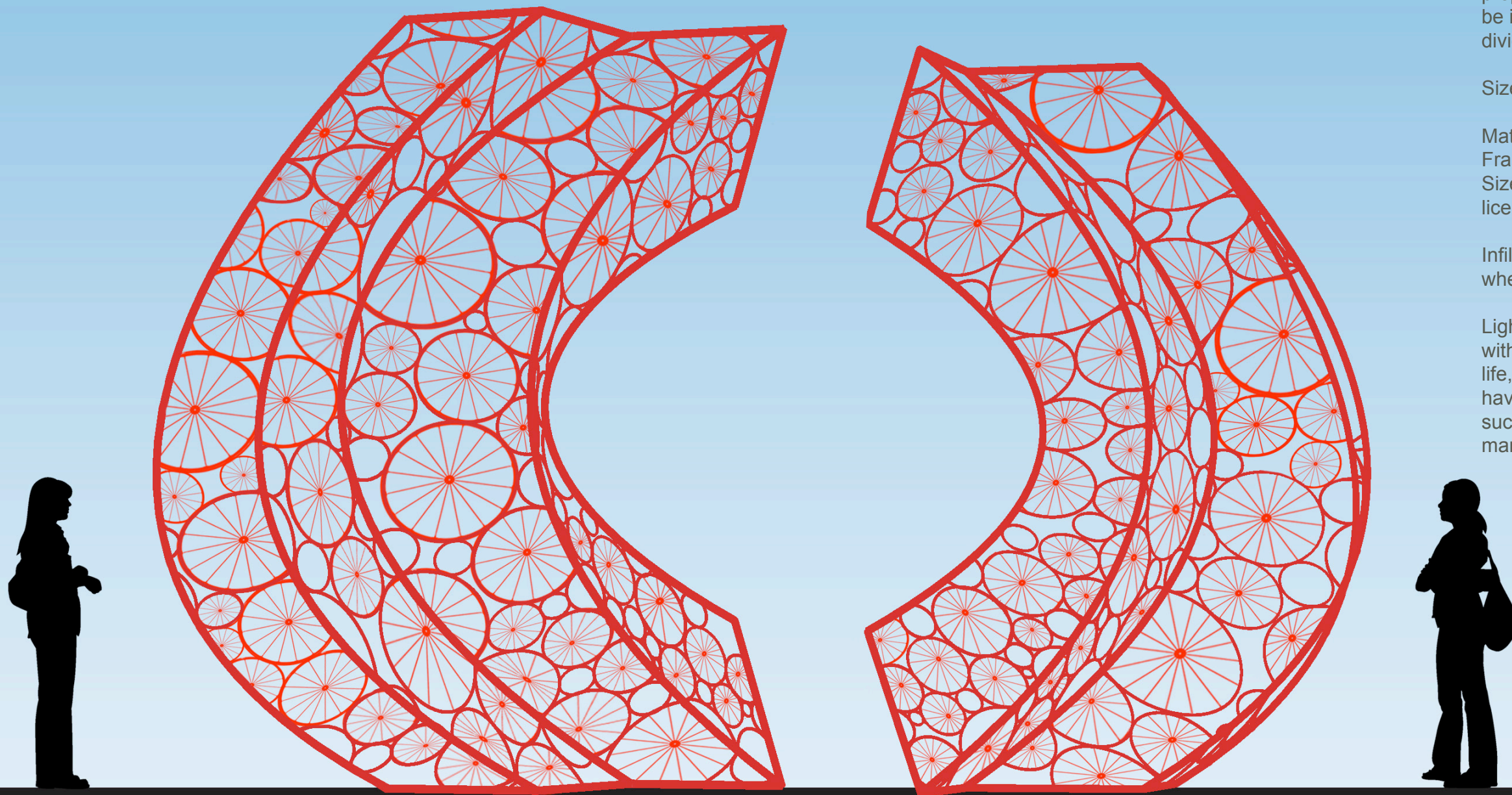
Size: 20'L x 12'H x 3'W

#### Materials:

Framework - painted stainless steel tubing.  
Size and dimensions will be design by a licensed structural engineer.

Infill - painted, recycled or new bicycle wheels

Lighting - Artwork will be illuminated with LED lighting. I will design for long life, modularity and easy service. I have incorporated lighting technology successfully into my public art projects for many years.







### CONCEPT 3:

I would love the opportunity to create a gateway sculpture which encourages play while expressing the excitement and vitality of the Morgan Hill community. Through the inclusion of interactive opportunities to engage and participate with the artwork through touch and movement, this concept pushes the boundaries of the public experience.

Concept 3 is a vibrant, interactive sculpture that encourages physical and social engagement within the heart of the Morgan Hill community. The sculpture invites exploration and discovery while highlighting the themes of nature and new technology.

The sculpture will serve as an inspirational landmark offering an exciting and spontaneous gathering place. The design engages visitors through an ever-changing visual experience based on movement and point-of-view.

The artwork consists of a series of illuminated forms that reference the agriculture history of the area. Resembling highly organized orchards and fields of crops, this concept is a welcoming identity marker for the city.

Having a symbol of agriculture represent Morgan Hill is a perfect emblem to attract visitors and to help ensure the surrounding amenities are fully utilized.

During the day sunbeams illuminate the many surfaces of the sculpture creating a soft, diffused glow. Painted steel scrims wrap each element, bringing daytime color to the artwork. At night interactive color-changing lighting will illuminate the front and back surfaces.

### INTERACTIVITY OBJECTIVES:

Concept 3 invites interactive play and creative lounging opportunities. My aim is

to create friendly connections and group interaction through the sculpture. The artwork establishes an informal recreation environment that will attract visitors of all ages. In the evening color changing LED lighting will illuminate the sculpture in a soft diffused glow. Visitors will be able to change the color of the lighting through touch or motion sensors and are encouraged to relax in, on and amongst the sculpture. By giving visitors freedom to inhabit the artwork I am inviting physical contact and discovery I am encouraging community expression, sharing and trust.

### PLACEMENT

This concept can be located at either; the Butterfield Road intersections, or the new proposed parks on 3rd Street. The art can be installed as a single large sculpture or divided into several smaller pieces.

SIZE: 12'L x 9'H x 2W

### MATERIALS:

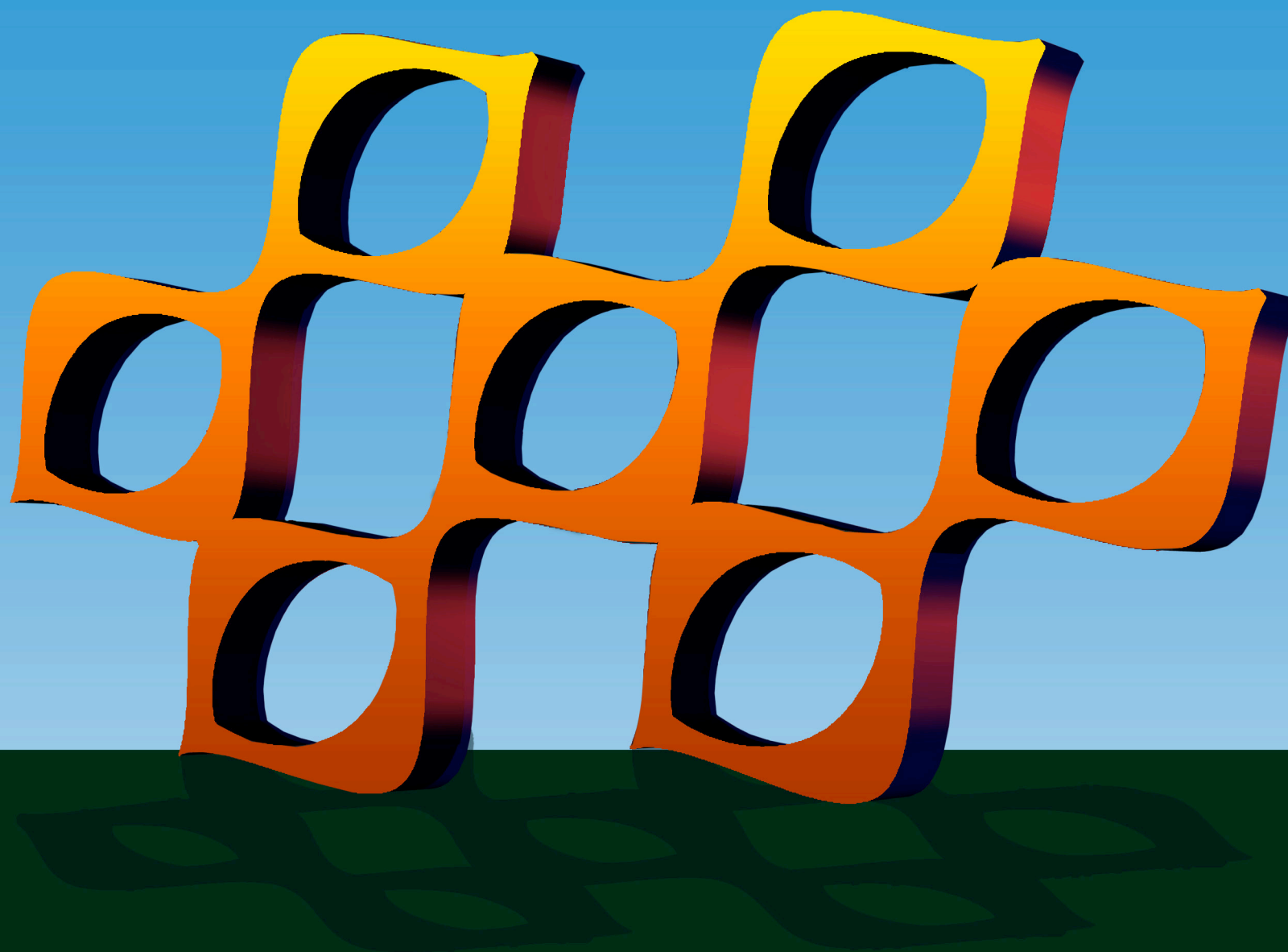
Front and Back Panels - 1/2" thick acrylic resin. High impact strength and temperature resistance. Acrylic panels sanded with a random-orbit pattern to diffuse light.

Top and Bottom Exterior Wrap - painted metal exterior wrap and hardware.

Interior Framework - metal framing members and hardware. Material sizing and dimensions will be design by a licensed structural engineer.

LED Lighting - Artwork will be illuminated internally with color changing LED lighting. All electronics are modular, connectorized and weather proofed for long life and easy service. I have incorporated lighting technology successfully into my public art projects for many years.

Interactive Electronics - If budget allows I would like to incorporate an interactive touch or motion sensor into the artwork. Interactive elements are custom circuits that have been developed and tested in other interactive public artworks.





Blessing Hancock

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