

Huntington Central Park Public Art Installation

HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL

JULY 6, 2021



Project Timeline

On September 7, 2020, City Council authorized Mayor Semeta to appoint an ad-hoc Huntington Central Park Public Art Committee (Committee) to help develop a scope of services for a Request for Proposals (RFP) and recommend an artist for final selection.

- Committee Members Appointed:
 - Mayor Semeta, Committee Lead
 - Kim Carr, Council Member
 - Joanna Cortez, City Staff
 - Kate Hoffman, City Staff
 - Nancy Caldwell, Community Member
 - Devin Dwyer, Community Member
 - Celeste Hamil, Community Member

Project Timeline

From October 19 through November 13, 2020, the RFP was open for submittals.

- Eleven artists responded and the top five ranking artists were invited to participate in interviews conducted by the Committee.
- The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend RDG Art Studio (RDG) to City Council.

On December 7, 2020, City Council authorized the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with RDG, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

- RDG has experience with over 80 large scale projects in the US and Canada.
- They work off of the philosophy of Story, Structure and Site.
- Their team includes dedicated project managers, design professionals and a California-licensed engineer.

Project Timeline

On January 28, 2021, RDG conducted a virtual town hall and survey to collect feedback from residents and stakeholders about their vision for the art piece and how they use Central Park.

- Stakeholders including the Secret Garden, Tree Society, HB Art League, Huntington Harbour Art Association, Central Park Collaborative and various Central Library groups were invited to attend.

From February 2021 through May 2021, RDG regularly met with the Committee, presenting two conceptual designs for consideration.

- As described in the RFP, the iconic public artwork is original, community and artist driven, and harmonizes with respect to the unique architecture of the Central Library and natural aesthetic of Central Park, and is titled, “To See Yourself in Nature...”
- The reflective quality of the stainless steel side provides the opportunity to see yourself and nature reflected in the same piece. This component helped to meet our goal of maintaining the serenity of Central Park, and honor the unique architecture of the Central Library.

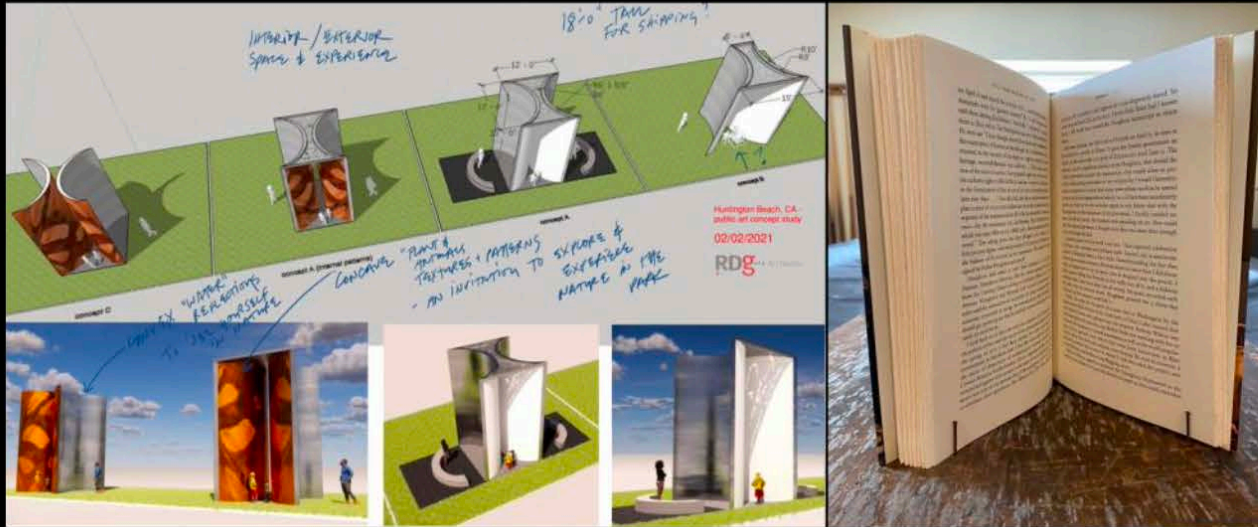
Project Timeline

On June 10, 2021, the Design Review Board (DRB) approved the final design, titled "To See Yourself in Nature...."

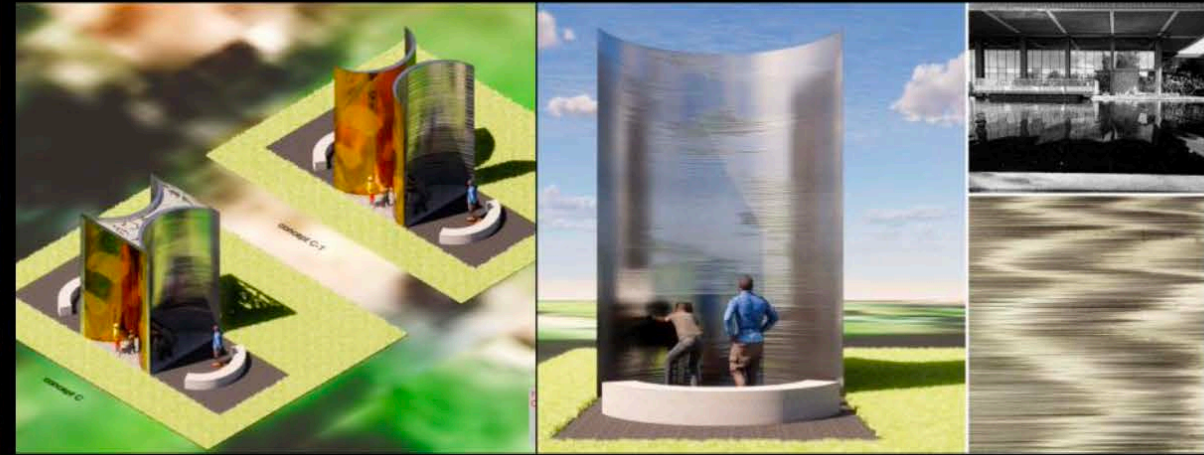
- The DRB approval required that certain conditions are met, including that the stainless steel will not create any glare that adversely affects the surrounding area, and that it is maintained in good appearance at all times.

Initial Study Models and Research

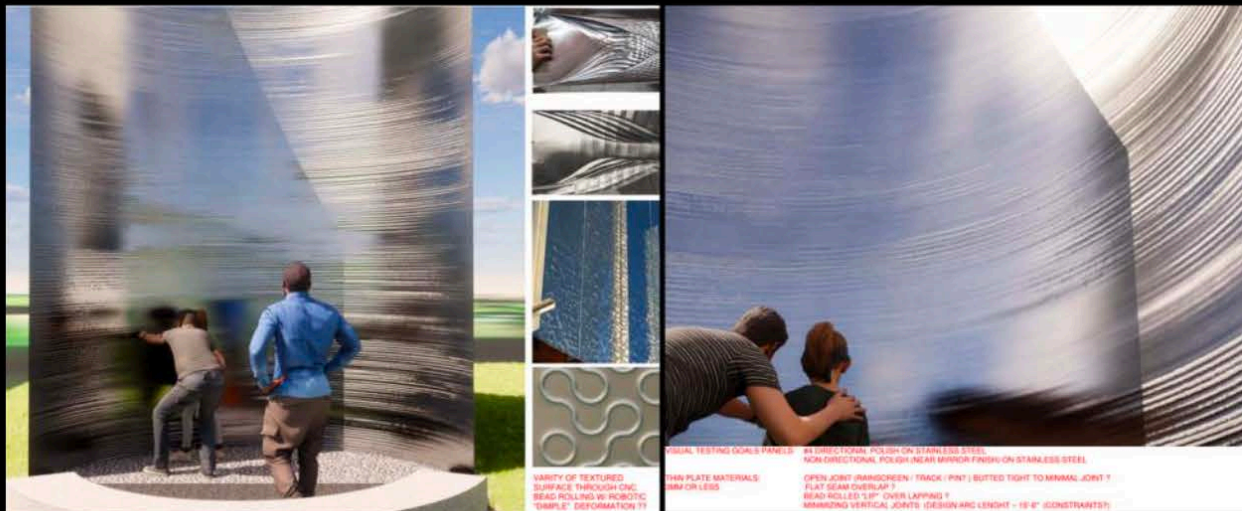
Study models



Study models – “what if....” with fabrication partners



Study models – “what if....” with fabrication partners



Study models – “what if....” with fabrication partners





Project Narrative

“...art is a mirror held up to nature...”

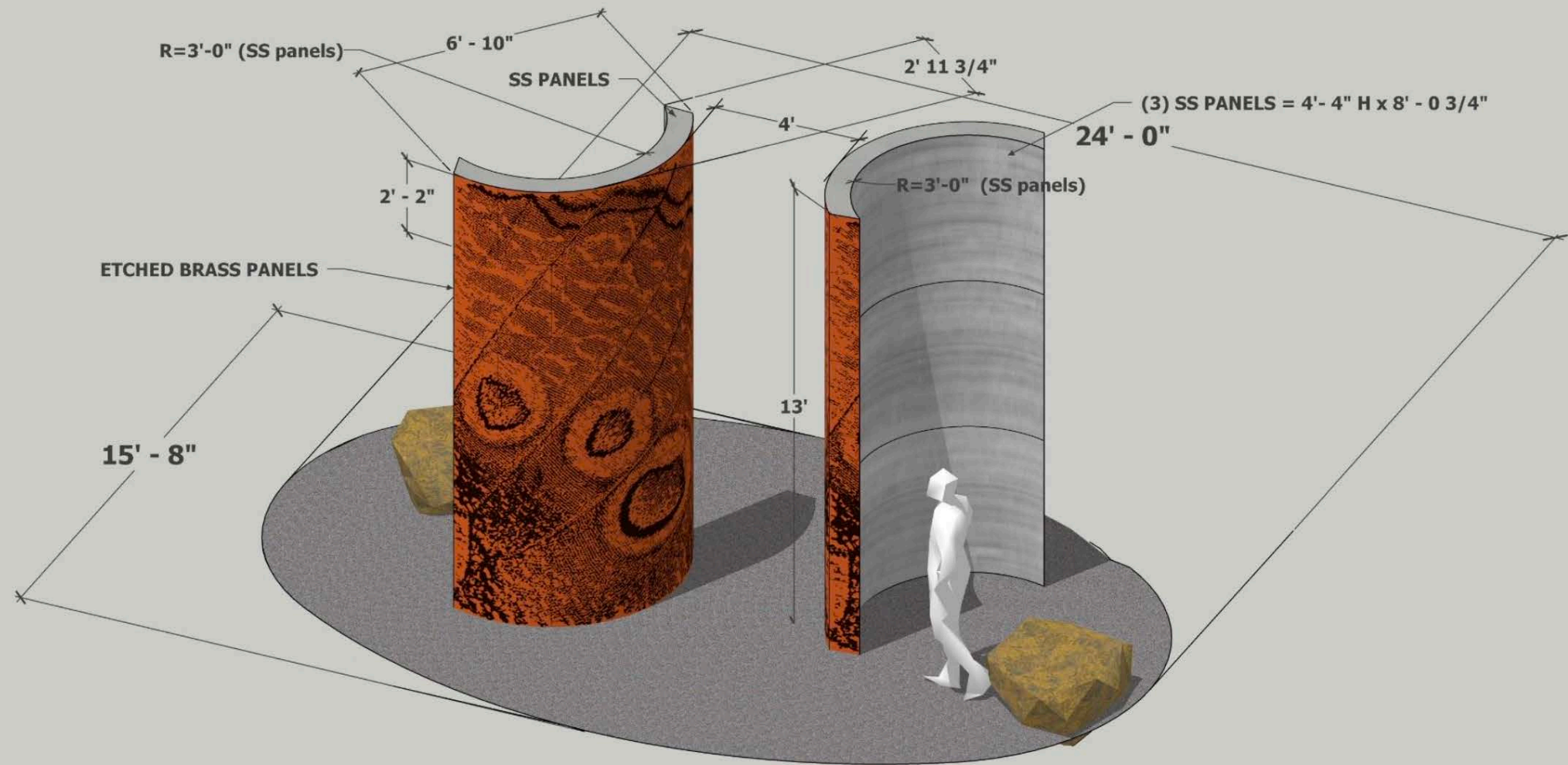
The proposed artwork harmonizes with the natural environment of Central Park and honors the iconic architecture of Central Library.

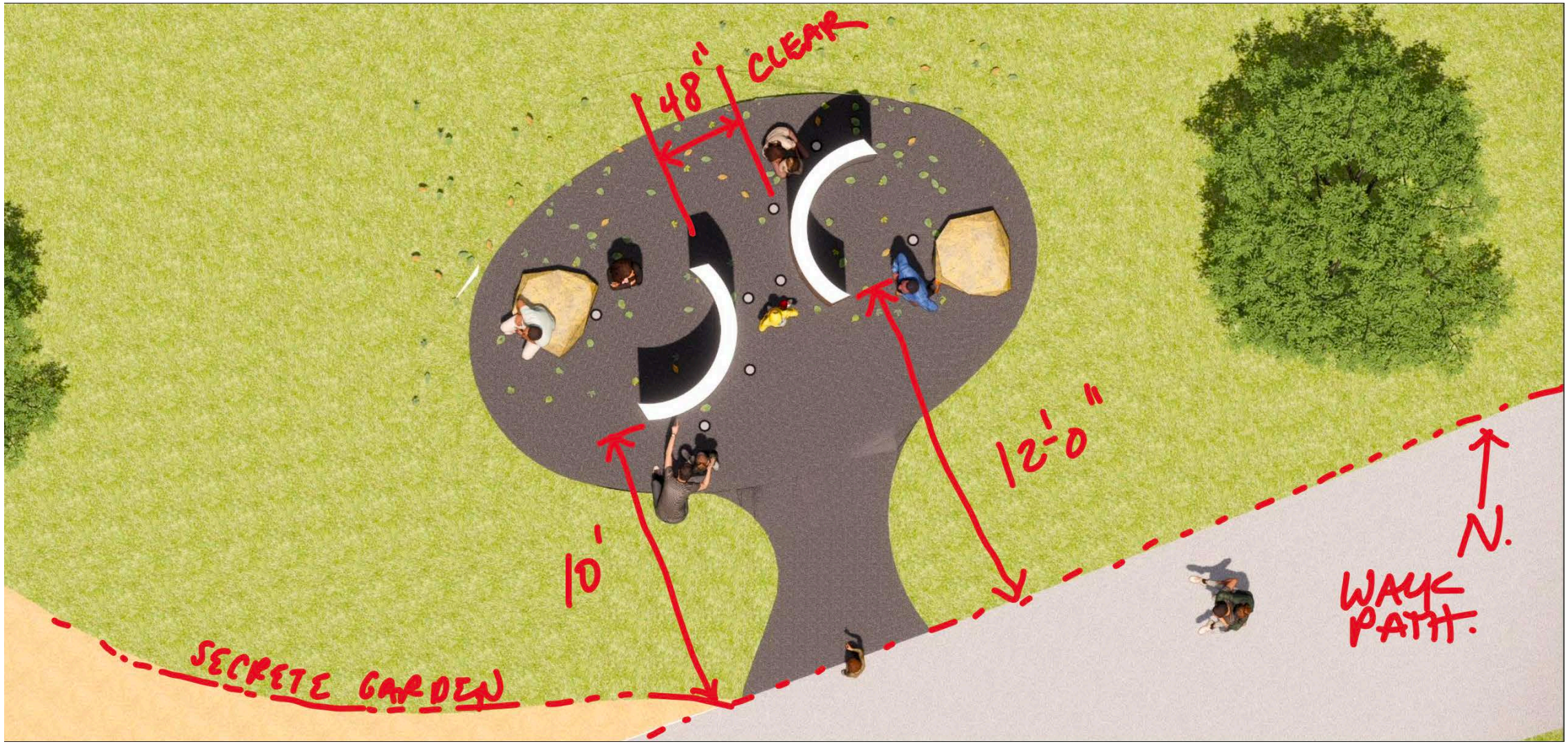
Exploring nature’s horizontal plane of reflection, inspired by a photo of the library reflected in the adjacent pool, the installation reveals connections between nature, water, the built world, and humans. Park visitors are empowered to connect to the energy of the natural world and to one another.

Crafted of etched bronze and hand-finished stainless steel, the textures, planes and curves of the installation offer ever-changing reflections of light, nature, and passerby. The piece is thoughtfully scaled and sited in relation to pathways, sightlines, and the Secret Garden.

Location and Scale









"To See Yourself in Nature..." Daytime View







“To See Yourself in Nature...” Evening View





Staff Recommendation

Staff is recommending the approval of the public art installation.

Upon approval, RDG will begin to fabricate the art piece.

Anticipated installation date will be in Spring 2022.

Questions?
