



Julia Kirby, Chair  
Kifah Abdulla  
Councilor Pious Ali  
Nick Aceto  
Anna Berke  
James Cradock  
Gibrian Foltz, Creative Portland  
Diana Greenwold  
Jessica Lauren Lipton  
Lin Lisberger  
Kavya Seshachar

**Management & Administration**  
Caitlin Cameron  
Urban Designer, Planning Division

## **PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Online via Zoom

Attendance: Julia Kirby, Chair, Lin Lisberger, Co-Chair, Nick Aceto, Anna Berke, James Cradock, Gibrian Foltz, Jess Lipton, Diana Greenwold, Kavya Seshachar.

Not in attendance: Kifah Abdulla, Mayor Snyder

Staff: Caitlin Cameron

Members of the Public: none

### **Call to Order 4:02**

Approve Minutes from April 23, 2020 [**Lisberger; Lipton 8-0 unanimous approval**]

### **Project Reports**

#### **Great Black Hawk:**

Kirby worked with the artist and Friends of Deering Oaks and Parks Department to resolve the location of the PPAC plaque and plinth. This will be placed directly adjacent to the sculpture separate from the sculpture pillar. Lisberger asked how tall the plinth will be – Cameron suggested the same as others around town.

#### **Maintenance/Conservation:**

The committee will pursue a collection assessment – quotes were solicited with two responses with roughly the same budget. Taggart was awarded the work given his expertise with the collection. This will be a part of the FY21 budget.

Taggart requested updated images of Glimpse – Templeton was contacted but no response. This is needed for the project archive.

#### **Congress Square:**

The public meeting and fundraising events scheduled for April 30/May 1 have been postponed until Spring 2021. Design Development of the artwork continues with bi-weekly meetings with Sze Studio and the project managers (Cameron, LaCasse, Hildreth). Cameron is finalizing the NEA report to access the ArtWorks funds which expire at the end of FY20. The contract with Sze Studio was revised to reflect the change in the public meeting schedule and allow payment prior to Sze's in-person visit.

#### **MLK Memorial**

Lisberger reported that this project will not resume in the near future given the pandemic. Lisberger is happy to continue as the PPAC representative but will term out prior to the completion of this project. Lipton volunteered to take over.

## Roundabout

No update; Project remains on schedule for now.

[4:24p Aceto arrives]

## Subcommittee Reports – need to confirm subcommittee members

### **Governance/Board Development:**

- Openings – three positions will open but City is extending the fiscal year through the summer. Members are welcome to stay active on the committee until the City Clerk's office posts the positions.
- June meeting will include voting for Chair, Vice Chair positions. Cradock has volunteered for Chair; call for Vice-Chair volunteers.
- The budget allocations and draft annual report will be on the agenda for the May meeting.

### **Communications:**

- **Marketing:** – Lipton has been doing regular social media posts; request for utility box/mural list to include in website. Lisberger suggested talking with school principals about engagement opportunities; Interested in ideas for virtual events
- **Sculpture of the Month:** none, CP Artwalk suspended
- **USM Video:** Cradock needs to post.

### **Site Selection:**

- o Bramhall Square postponed
- o Discussion of potential sites/acquisitions
  - Lisberger followed up with the artists regarding the Lilies sculptures currently on exhibit at MECA. The artists would have to fabricate the work in metal at a cost of \$27k each with an edition of 2 or 3 sculptures. The committee discussed potential interest and sites including the Barron Center. The committee will need to further consider this proposal as part of the budget discussion.
  - Cameron brought to the committee's attention the potential site at a CMP substation on Marginal Way.
  - The subcommittee is requested to develop an updated list of potential sites and priorities.
- o Blaze Community Art proposal: Cameron presented a project proposal with Portland Trails for a community artwork related to the Great Fire of 1866. Committee was generally supportive with a few suggestions: Kirby was encouraged to support more community artworks; Lisberger commented that the community involvement needs to be developed since Portland Trails is representative of the whole city, not one particular community group; Important that the project is not only a history lesson; Berke added that the relationship to Independence Day could be a theme.

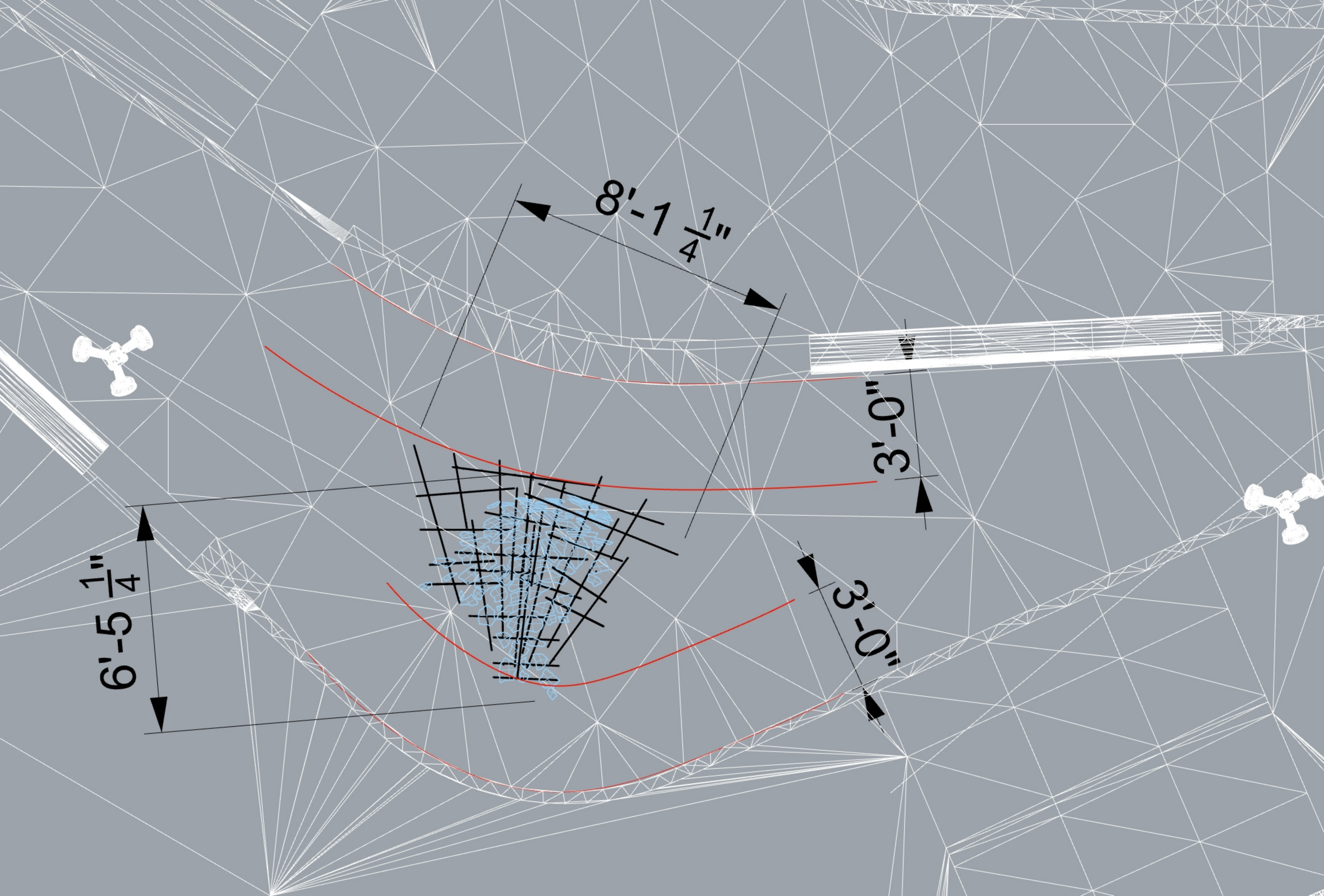
[5:00p Greenwold leaves]

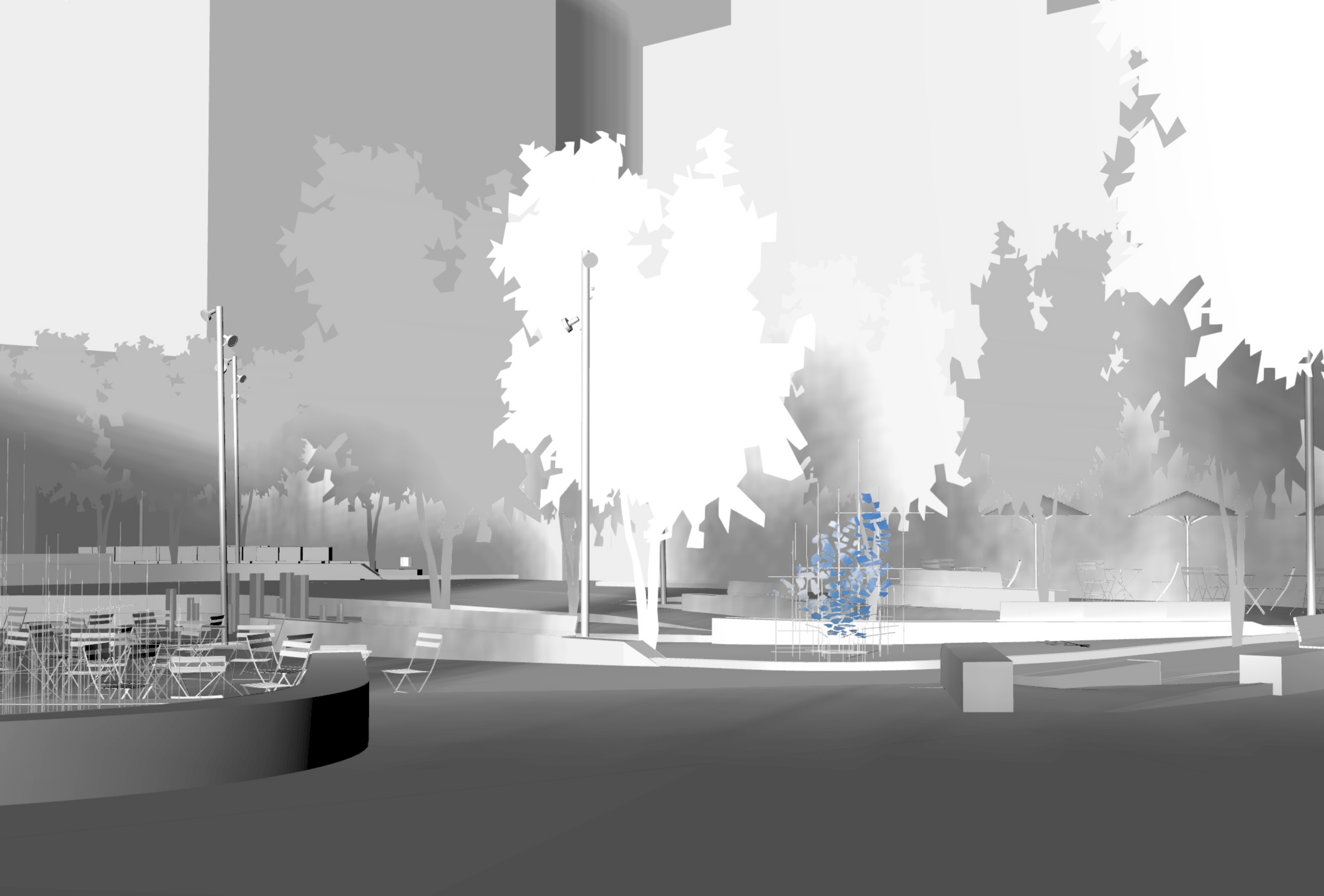
### **Other Business:**

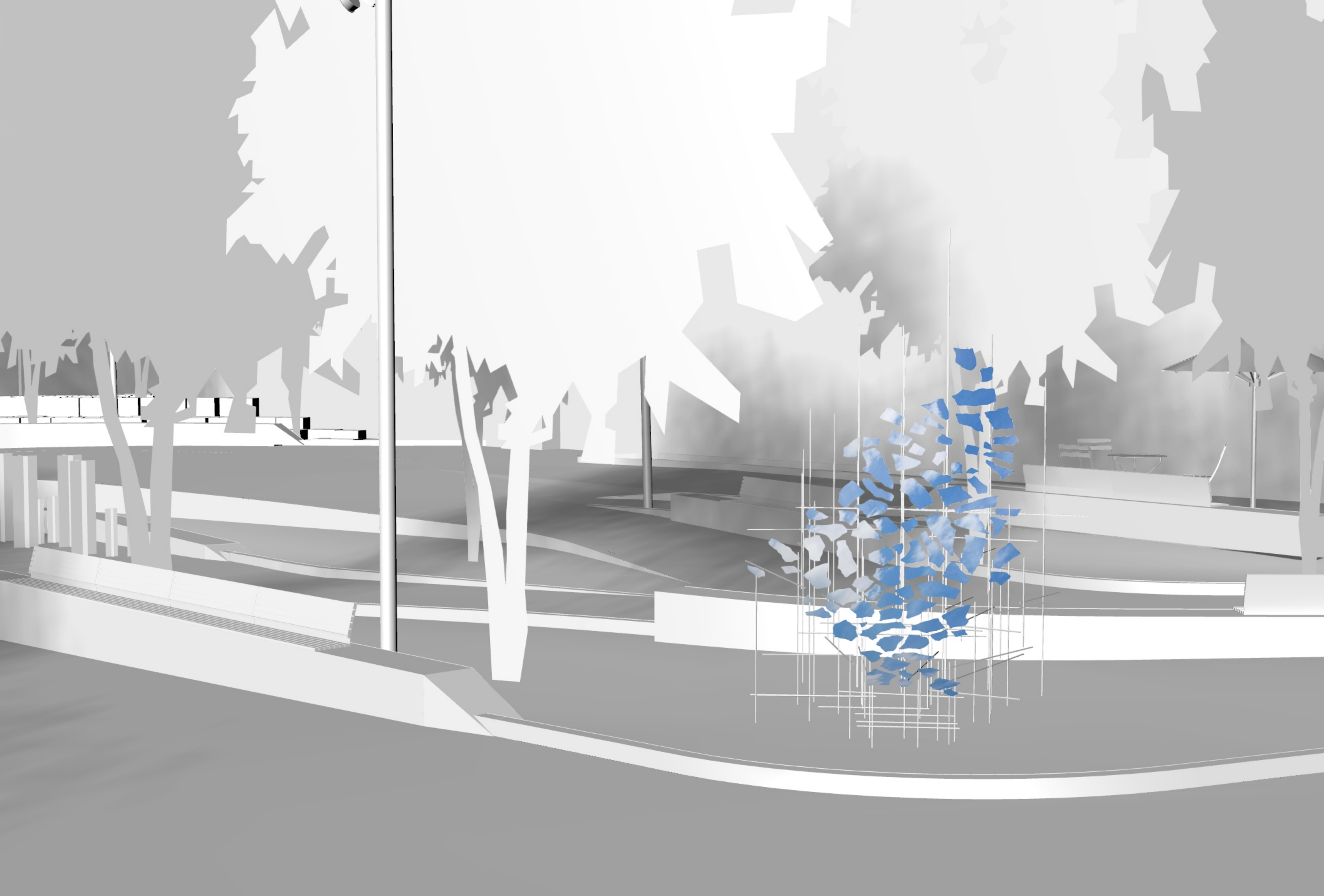
- **Temporary Art:** Berke and Lipton attended the review of the TEMPOArts summer proposal Gathering Stones by artist Jesse Salisbury. The review panel approved the project with conditions – install date July 1, signage must reference CDC standards for social distancing.
- **Portland Landing Call for Artists:** Cameron updated this project is on hold until the City has funds to implement.

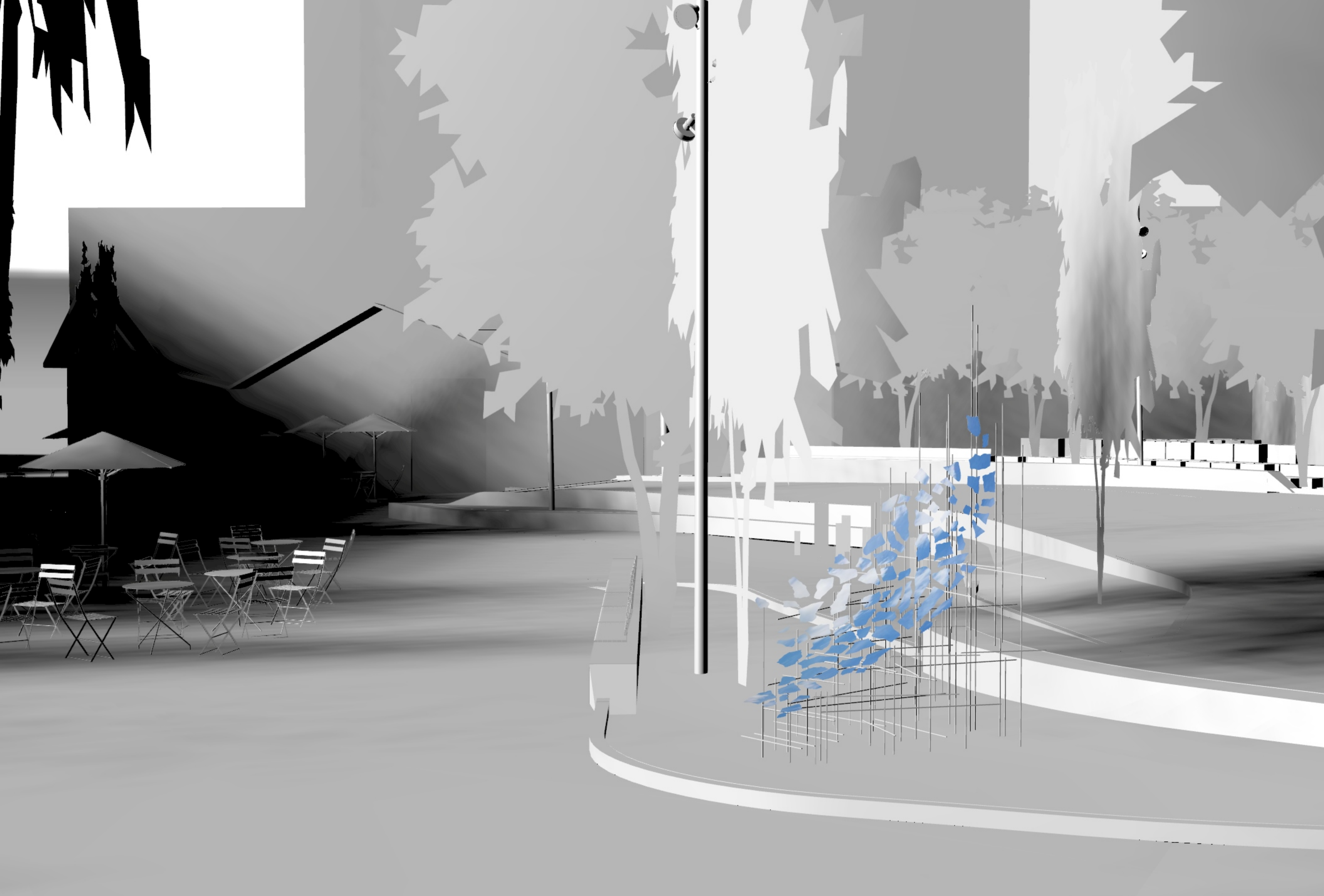
**Next Meeting – June 17, 2020 (online)**

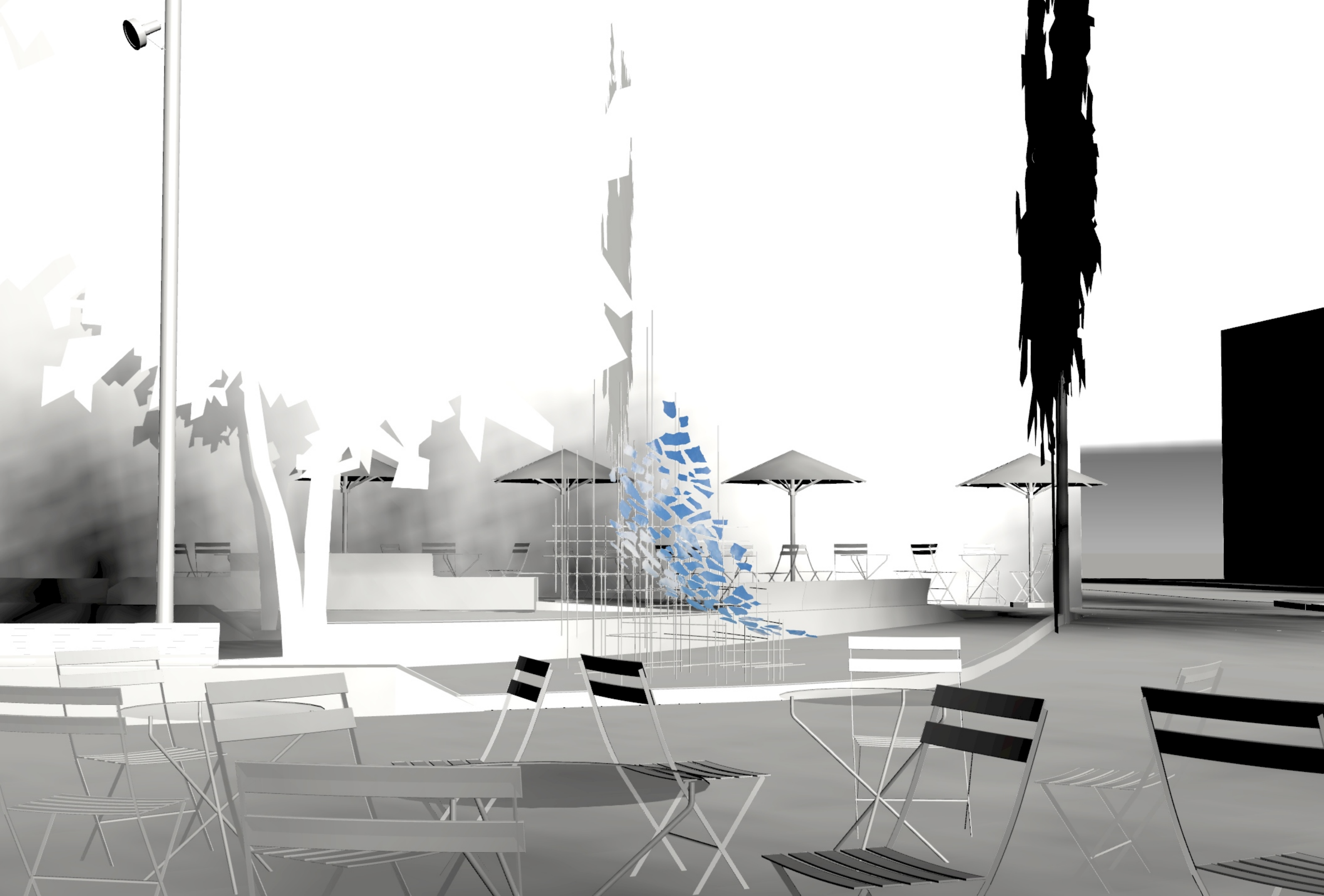
**Adjourn at 5:33 pm**

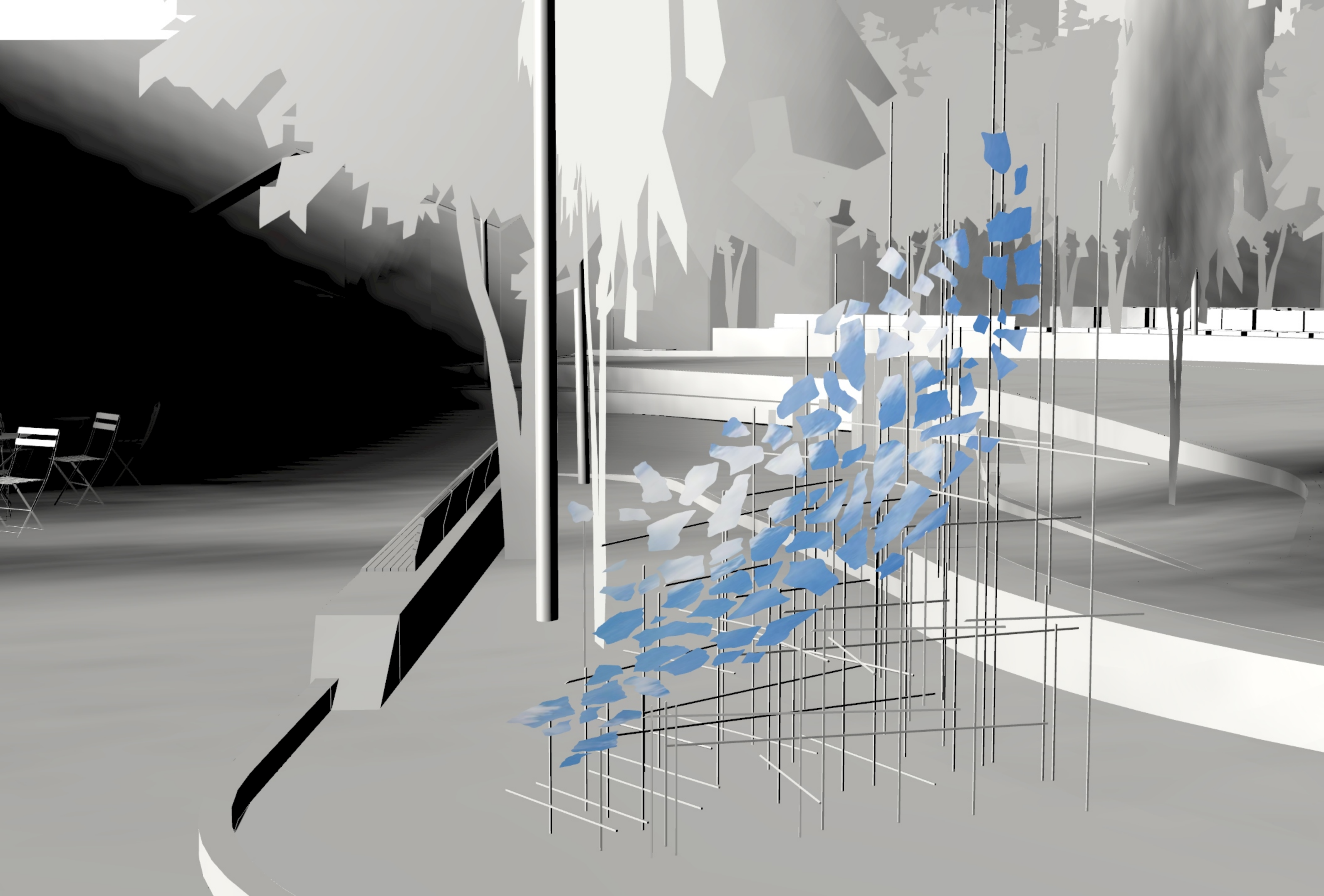


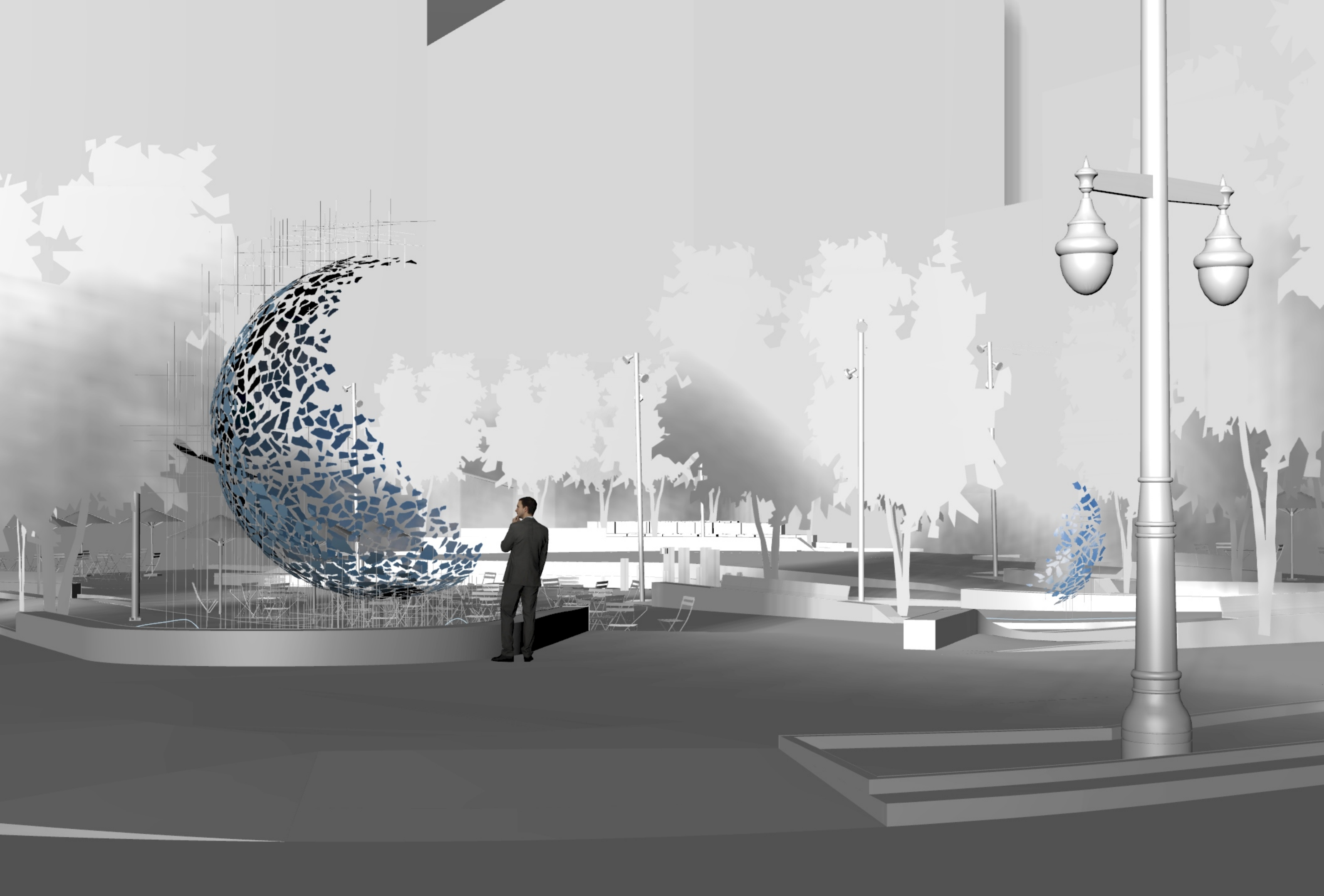












# **FY20 Public Art Committee Annual Report & FY21 Budget Plan**

## **OUTLINE OF REPORT**

### **I. Overview**

### **II. Administrative Updates**

Committee Members

Administrative Policies – Five Year Goals and Strategic Plan

Guidelines and Ordinance Revisions

Subcommittees

- Governance Subcommittee
- Gifts and Gifts Subcommittee
- Communication Subcommittee

### **III. Conservation & Maintenance**

Conservation & Maintenance

- FY20 Conservation Activity
- Finished work *Cleeves Memorial* and *Jewel Box Bus Shelter*
- Conservation of *Puffin* at Casco Bay Marine Terminal

### **IV. Accomplishments in FY20**

Project Updates

- Great Black Hawk Final Design
- Congress Square Public Art Commission
- USM Roundabout Artist Selection

Temporary Public Art

- TEMPO summer installation and administrative updates

Additional Accomplishments

### **V. Goals for FY21**

### **VI. Proposed Budget FY21**

## I. OVERVIEW

In April 2000, the City Council established the Portland Public Art Program to preserve, restore, and enhance the City's public art collection. The Portland Public Art Committee (PPAC) is tasked to commission art that engages the surrounding environment to facilitate a sense of place by expressing the spirit, values, and visions of Portland through public art.

The public art collection currently contains fifty-eight permanent pieces installed throughout Portland and one long-term loan. The collection contains works of both historical significance dating from the nineteenth century; and contemporary pieces reflecting Portland's diversity and spirit. The PPAC administers the Portland Public Art Program. The Committee has also overseen the development of projects that can be categorized as Environmental Art Works and Temporary Art Works. The Committee's responsibilities are outlined in Article XI of the City Code (Public Art Program). The Committee utilizes the Guidelines for the Public Art Ordinance (Volume 1, Number 1 – adopted 2008) for direction in administering their responsibilities.

The Portland Public Art Committee is responsible for the following:

- Develop and present an Annual Public Art Plan to the City Council which includes recommendations for the use of allocated CIP funding; program administration; conservation of the collection; and initiation of new projects;
- Provide recommendations to the City Council regarding proposed gifts to the collection; Seek donations to fulfill Committee responsibilities in the case that CIP funding is insufficient;
- Recommend appropriate locations for the installation of public art;
- Promote public awareness and engagement between the public and the collection.

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Committee for 2019 (FY20) was as follows:

Julia Kirby, Chair, Development Director at St. Lawrence Arts

Lin Lisberger, Artist and Professor of Art at USM, retired

Kifah Abdulla, Artist, teacher, and poet

Nick Aceto, ACETO Landscape Architects

Anna Berke, Fundraising professional

James Cradock, Information Technology consultant at Yellahoose LLC

Gibrian Foltz, Creative Portland Representative

Diana Greenwold, Curator, Portland Museum of Art

Jessica Lauren Lipton, Marketing Director at Casco Bay Artisans and Artist at Pop Killed Culture

Kavya Seshachar, City Manager's appointee

Kate Snyder, City Council representative

### Management & Administration

Caitlin Cameron, Urban Designer

## ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

### Five-Year Goals

In fall 2017 the Committee held several meetings and agreed upon the following goals for the coming five years:

- To increase the prevalence of public art in regions of outer Portland. This may be in the form of Community Art Projects, or temporary art event coordination. This objective aims to work with current and future City projects, pay attention to project and partner opportunities, and identify potential sites in order to be prepared when gift opportunities arise;
- To activate small urban spaces with public art;
- To further public education, interest, and enjoyment of public art by providing public art walks or public art guides in Portland; and to publicize and archive the collection. This includes revising the website to provide additional functions and increase traffic, producing a 30 second commercial to distribute to promotional sites, such as movie festivals, a City Hall video stream, or outdoor screening, create cards, brochures or other saleable items, increase and control social media outreach, meet with City stakeholders to reinforce our mission, and look for an intern to help with assorted clerical and archival jobs;
- To increase donation solicitation for projects supported by the PPAC, particularly for projects that enhance community engagement and identity. To solicit grant and private money for current and upcoming projects;
- To have greater influence on site selection for gifts and commissioned works, and to provide a simple and consistent evaluation for acceptance of gifts;
- To continue to provide forums for public input.

Ultimately, these goals aim to contribute to Portland's identity as a cultural destination. The Committee recognizes that the prevalence and quality of Public Art will greatly contribute to Portland's overall image and increase both national and international recognition.

## SUBCOMMITTEES

### Governance Subcommittee

New committee members came on board during the past the fiscal year – Anna Berke, a fundraising professional and Nick Aceto, Landscape Architect were appointed by the City Nominating Committee and began their terms in July 2019. Gibrian Foltz, artist and CPA with Baker Newman Noyes joined the committee in November 2019 as the new Creative Portland representative, and Kavya Seshachar joined the committee in January 2020 as the City Manager appointee.

### Gifts Subcommittee

No gifts were proposed during this year.

### Communication Subcommittee

The PPAC continues to update and make improvements to the collection website: [publicartportland.org](http://publicartportland.org)

The committee has continued its "Sculpture of the Month" program, which features artwork from the collection as part of the City-wide First Friday Artwalk celebration. The work is listed on Creative Portland's website and printed map. If the featured artwork has an Art in Our Front Yard video,

committee members ask CTN to air that particular video during the month to coordinate with the artwalk programming. Students from USM created additional video content for *Luminous Arbor* as part of a class project, coordinated by the Communications Subcommittee.

### III. CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE

It is essential to the longevity and safety of the works in the collection to engage a conservator for conservation and repair of our public art collection. The collection requires on-going assessment and maintenance. Jonathan Taggart, of Taggart Object Conservation, was contracted on a bi-annual basis to provide ongoing conservation work on the collection. In 2019, conservation and maintenance work included the following:

#### CONSERVATION

Jonathan Taggart's two-year contract for conservation of works in the collection included finishing work on the *Cleeves Memorial* fence and hitching posts, the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow statue, and *The Jewel Box* Bus shelter in which much of the structural steel was replaced with stainless steel, including bolts, and all was painted with a highly durable paint. *Puffin* was also assessed for conservation but it was determined that the minor work of removing bird debris could be completed by staff of the Casco Bay Marine Terminal on an ongoing basis.





For on-going maintenance, a plaque was installed and graffiti removed for *Luminous Arbor* in Woodfords Corner.

#### IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY2019

##### PROJECT UPDATES

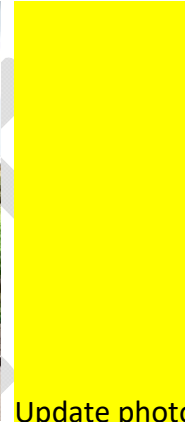
##### **Great Black Hawk**

The committee unanimously approved a final design of the Great Black Hawk sculpture, including the addition of a squirrel on the column, by reviewing a model to scale presented by the project artist David Smus. The Hawk will be installed on a granite column at a site in Deering Oaks carefully selected by PPAC, FoDO, and the Parks Department. The City will enter into a memorandum of understanding to accept this gift approved by the City Council.



## Congress Square Public Art Commission

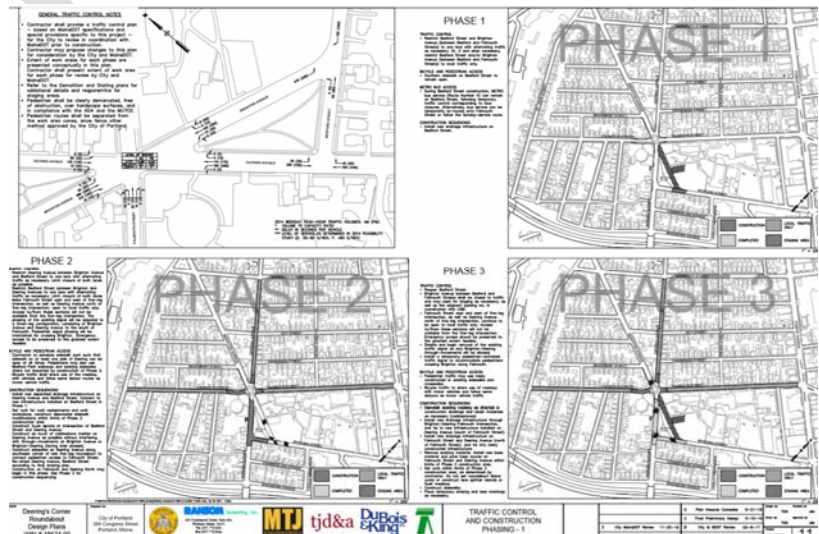
The Department of Transportation has put the project on the 2021 work plan for \$2.6 million. Fundraising efforts are in a quiet phase and have continued over the year with marketing materials produced by VIA. The sculpture is now in Design Development with Sze Studio and bi-monthly check-in calls are ongoing. The Portland Museum of Art had planned a publicity/fundraising event with artist Sarah Sze for April 2020 but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This event will be rescheduled for the Spring 2021. The NEA Artworks grant concludes in FY20 for this project.



Update photo

## USM Roundabout Art Commission

The subcommittee for this project, comprised of two members of the Portland Public Art Committee, co-chairs Diana Greenwold, Curator at the Portland Museum of Art, and Daniel Minter, artist, Lydia Swan, USM representative and neighbor, Carol Schiller, neighbor, and Keith Smith, TJD&A Landscape Architects and Planners reviewed the work of several artists, 7 artists were asked to submit a one-page letter of inquiry. Of the 5 artists who submitted LOI's, 4 were chosen to submit more comprehensive proposals and were given a \$500 stipend for their work. The subcommittee reviewed all proposals and selected Maine artist Mark Pettigrow and his design *Passing the Torch* as the finalist. The project has several construction phases. Installation of the artwork is slated for summer of 2021.



## MLK Memorial

The MLK Task force, after reviewing proposals from three different firms, and hosting a second round to review proposals from two finalists, did not make a selection. The initiative to install a memorial to the late Dr. Martin Luther King is currently on hold. The committee includes one representative from PPAC.

## TEMPORARY ART

Administrative news from TEMPOArts is the appointment of its first ever paid executive director, Tony Adams, December 2019.

For TEMPO's summer 2020 project, TEMPOArts commissioned Maine artist Jesse Salisbury to install large granite and basalt stones for *Gathering Stones*. Weighing from 4,000 to 12,000 pounds each, the stones are split, and carved into different shapes. The shapes create a space that encourages interaction. Some stones are hollow inside, encouraging people to walk through them or sit inside them. Some are convenient for sitting on. You can step from stone to stone. Feeling at once primitive and futuristic, it encourages people to explore with others.



**Temporary Student Art Applications:** Though the committee did not have any temporary student artwork during the past year, the committee worked with students from the Media Studies program at USM to create short documentary about *Luminous Arbor*, the light sculpture created by artist Aaron Stephan and installed in Woodfords Corner. The short video includes interviews with the artist and PPAC chair, an overview of the project, and several day and night shots of the work and is on view at [www.publicartportland.org](http://www.publicartportland.org).

## **ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

PPAC members have created a template Public Art Maintenance Plan to be completed by artists whose work is selected to be part of the permanent collection. This seven page document is intended to provide guidance for future maintenance and conservation of the artwork. The conservation code of ethics requires conservators to attempt to maintain and restore works of art in accordance with the artist's intent.

### **Electrical Boxes**

Members of PPAC gave guidance for another round of the Police Department's electrical box painting program. New murals are in the West End.

## **V. GOALS FOR FY2021**

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION**

- Art Walking Tours updated and possibly printed for visitors and residents in coordination with Creative Portland
- Continued upgrades to the PPAC website including a new temporary art page

### **CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE**

- The committee will conduct an updated assessment of the collection. Of four quotes requested, two were submitted with the final contract awarded to Jonathan Taggart. This plan will include the following:
  - Assess of conditions for the entire public art collection – 57 artworks
  - Summarize Conservation/Maintenance recommendations
  - Prioritize the conservation needs for next five years (2020-2025)
  - Photographs condition of artworks (as needed)
  - Report information on a digital spreadsheet compatible with existing collection data

### **COLLECTION**

- Congress Square Public Art Commission Design Development
- Congress Square Fundraising (private)
- USM Roundabout – construction document and fabrication phase
- Sites Subcommittee identification/prioritization of future sites – on-going
- MLK Memorial Artwork

## VI. FY21 PROPOSED BUDGET

The City allocates .05% of the annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the conservation and acquisition of permanent public art. This FY19 Budget Plan includes an estimate of \$60,000 for the .05% allocation from the FY20 CIP budget.

### Remaining Encumbrances from approved budget plans

|   | Activity                   | Description                            | Budget            |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| A | Conservation/Maintenance   | 2-year Conservation contract 2018-2020 | \$ 40,600         |
| B | Congress Square Public Art | New commission – Sarah Sze artist      | \$ 183,500        |
| C | Roundabout Artwork         | New commission Brighton Ave roundabout | \$123,000         |
|   | <b>Total Encumbered</b>    |                                        | <b>\$ 362,100</b> |

### FY21 – Proposed Budget (July 2020-June 2021)

|   | Activity                     | Description                                                                     | Budget           |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| A | Conservation and Maintenance | To cover routine maintenance                                                    | \$ 4,000         |
| B | Conservation and Maintenance | Collection Assessment                                                           | \$8,700          |
| C | Operations                   | Web hosting, collection documentation, etc.                                     | \$ 500           |
| D | Contingency Fund             | To cover repairs, theft, relocation, Community Art grant, plaque purchase, etc. | \$ 10,000        |
| E |                              | New artwork                                                                     | \$ 35,000        |
|   | <b>Total FY21 Budget</b>     |                                                                                 | <b>\$ 58,200</b> |

### Potential projects:

- New acquisition – Lilies, gift, CMP site
- Plaque purchases: Great Black Hawk, Passing the Torch
- Bramhall Square functional artwork
- Online map (Operations)
- Community Grant application

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**Fwd: Public artwork**

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jmy &lt;jmy@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

Thu, May 28, 2020 at 10:39 AM

To: "Cameron, Caitlin" &lt;ccameron@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

On Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 1:04:59 PM UTC-4, Aida Wójcik wrote:

Hi,

I'm a mosaic artist living in our beautiful town and would like to create public art for all to use and enjoy. I created many public mosaics but nothing here as yet. I attached few pictures of public mosaics I created in Poland and Taiwan.

I'd like to do the mosaic as a gift for the town.

I was thinking about a mural which could also involve participation of town people or the cement benches wherever they're needed in town.

Do you have any wall location I could use to create a mosaic? If not, maybe you could point me in the right direction? Where should I ask this questions?

Thank you very much,

Aida Wolmut-Wojcik

P.S.

You may check my work at Instagram @aidawolmut

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<https://womensharingart.org/news/aida-wojciks-dancing-krakowiak-tu-ge-der-at-long-island-museum-in-stony-brook/>  
<http://www.dziennik.com/wiadomosci/artykul/kazdy-moze-by-artysta-jesli-tylko-chce>

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**3 attachments**

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1076K

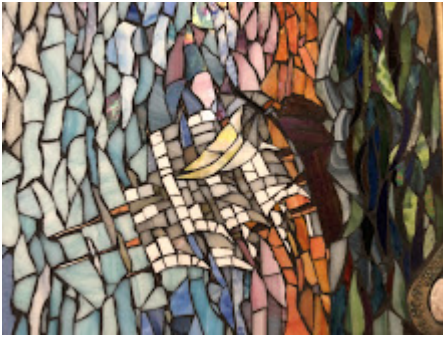


**IMG\_2042.jpeg**  
3267K

**IMG\_4422.jpeg**  
1438K

6/10/2020

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Public artwork



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## Fwd: Gifting public art

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**Tony Adams** <tony.adams@tempoartmaine.org>  
To: Caitlin Cameron <ccameron@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, May 21, 2020 at 2:31 PM

Hey Caitlin, hoping for a fall installation, if possible/accepted.

The site they are looking at is in Deering Oaks:

"at or near the base of a group of very large evergreen trees near the head of the basin or wading pool that was installed above the Deering Oaks pond in honor of Kay Harte who was the City planner when the public art program was started who died of cancer. She and Alice were friends so it would be nice to have the pine cone there. The pine cone will make people smile when they see it at the base of those trees. (They) went to the site last year and there were small pine cones on the ground that looked a lot like the sculpture"

I attached some photos of the work, in case that's helpful.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Best,

Tony







Tony Adams  
Executive Director  
**TEMPOart**  
[tempoartmaine.org](http://tempoartmaine.org)

On Thu, May 21, 2020 at 9:11 AM Caitlin Cameron <[ccameron@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:ccameron@portlandmaine.gov)> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]