

JAMES PETERSON

james@artcontraptions.com
www.artcontraptions.com
3114 Division St
Los Angeles, CA
310.795.7847

EDUCATION

Kendall College of Art & Design // 1995
BFA in Sculpture, Minor in Illustration & Art History
Grand Rapids, MI

WORK

ART & CONTRACTIONS // 1999 - Present
Principal

SCI-ARC (Southern California Institute of Architecture) // 2004 - 2014
Educator & Assistant Manager - Fabrication Facility

RECENT & UPCOMING INSTALLATIONS

Clearwater City Hall (Clearwater, FL) - 'RIPPLE', In Production
Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, TX) - 'TRINITY', In Production
Denver Zoo (Denver, CO) - 'ZENITH', In Production
Arts Across the Prairie (Medford, ND) - 'ESKER', In Production
City of Woodstock (Woodstock, GA) - 'POLLEN', In Production
Urbandale Parks and Recreation (Urbandale, IA) - 'JOURNEY', 2025
Adams County Parks Maintenance Facility (Thornton, CO) - 'NEST', 2025
Town of Bennett (Bennett, CO) - 'BREEZE', 2025
Boise City Department of Arts & History (Boise, ID) - 'PASSAGE', 2025
Caltrans Clean California State Highway Beautification Program (Hollister, CA) - 'WOVEN', 2024
Louisiana Universities' Marine Consortium (Chauvin, LA) - 'SEAGRASS', 2023
LA Department of Transportation (Los Angeles, CA) - 'PERENNIAL', 2023
SXSW (Austin, TX) - 'INFINITY', postponed due to pandemic
Google HQ (Mountain View, CA) - 'HYPHAE', Fall 2021
Meow Wolf Omega Mart (Las Vegas, NV) - 'SESSILANOID', 2021
Doheny Drive Sculpture Park (City of West Hollywood, CA) - 'CACTI', 2018 - 2021



SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026 // RIPPLE (permanent) Clearwater City Hall Clearwater, FL	2017 // DREAMCATCHER Hermitage Museum Norfolk, VA
2026 // TRINITY (permanent) Texas Christian University Fort Worth, TX	2016 - 2017 // LOTUS Northern Nights Festival Piercy, CA Maker Faire San Mateo, CA
2026 // ZENITH (permanent) Denver Zoo Denver, CO	2016 // MERKABAH San Diego Museum of Art San Diego, CA
2026 // ESKER (permanent) Arts Across the Prairie Medford, ND	2015 // ASTERALES Beverly Hills Art Show & Brea Art Gallery
2026 // POLLEN (permanent) City of Woodstock Woodstock, GA	2014 // CRYOCHROME Coachella Music Festival Indio, CA
2025 // JOURNEY (permanent) Urbandale Parks and Recreation Urbandale, IA	2014 // ANDROMEDA Ping Pong Exhibit @ Gallery 825 West Hollywood, CA
2025 // NEST (permanent) Adams County Parks Maintenance Facility Thornton, CO	2013 // SESSILANOID Kunst Raum Exhibit Switzerland Solo Exhibit by LAAA West Hollywood, CA Ping Pong Exhibit @ ART BASEL Switzerland Ping Pong Exhibit @ ART BASEL Miami
2025 // BREEZE (permanent) Town of Bennett Bennett, CO	2013 // SESSILANOID Art Prize Exhibit @ Grand Rapids Art Museum Grand Rapids, Michigan
2025 // PASSAGE (permanent) Boise City Department of Arts & History Boise, ID	2012 // HYPOXIA LA Art Show Selected Exhibit Curated by LAAA
2024 // WOVEN (permanent) CALTRANS Hollister, CA	2010 // TESSELLATION Create Fixate Los Angeles, CA
2023 // SEAGRASS (permanent) Louisiana Universities' Marine Consortium (LUMCON) Chauvin, LA	2009 // CYNARA "Go to the Park" Exhibit by The City of West Hollywood Los Angeles, CA
2023 // PERENNIAL (permanent) LA Dept of Transportation Los Angeles, CA	2007 // OPHIOLEPIS MAXIMA Burning Man Black Rock Desert, Nevada
2021 // HYPHAE (permanent) GOOGLE Mountain View, CA	2006 // MOMENTUM Momentum Exhibit Curated by SOLIDS Los Angeles, CA
2021 // SESSILANOID (permanent) Meow Wolf Omega Mart Las Vegas, NV	2005 // MANDALA (permanent) Alan Friedman Diamonds Beverly Hills, CA
2020 // INFINITY (postponed due to COVID19) SXSW Austin, TX	2004 // DRAGON Burning Man Black Rock Desert, Nevada
2018 - 2021 // CACTI SERIES Doheny Sculpture Park West Hollywood, CA	

2018 // INTROSPECTION
Maker Faire | San Mateo, CA

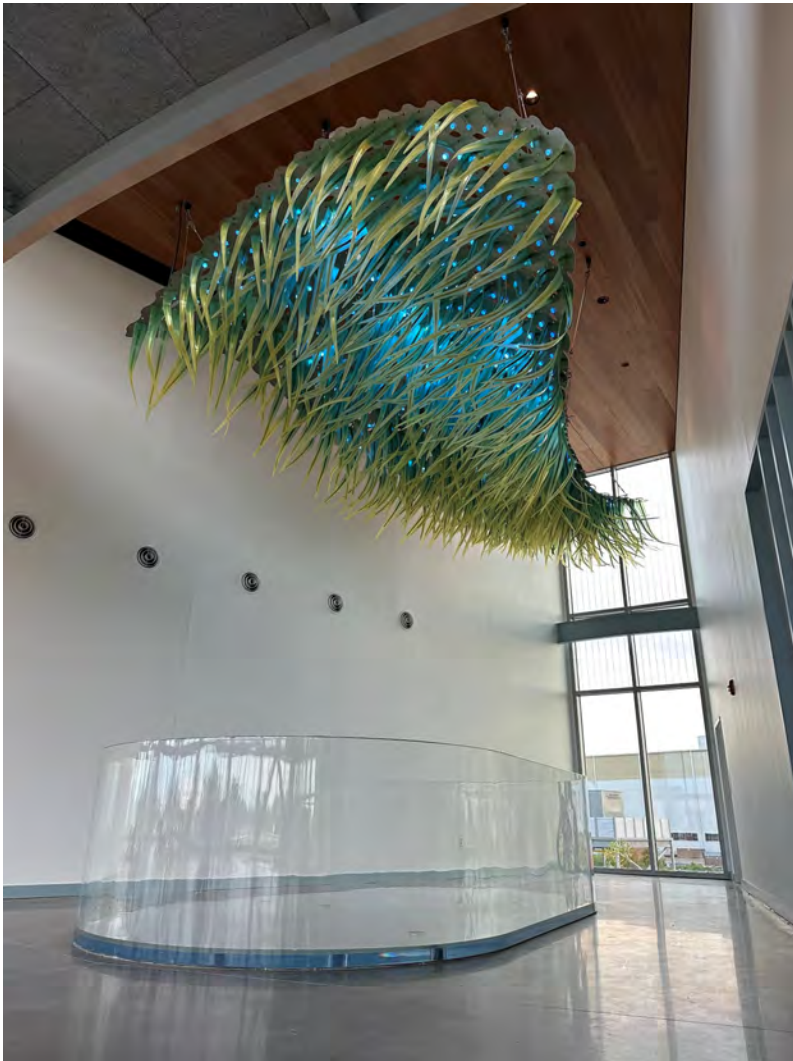
2018 // STRAWS
Grand Park | Los Angeles, CA

James Peterson | Image List

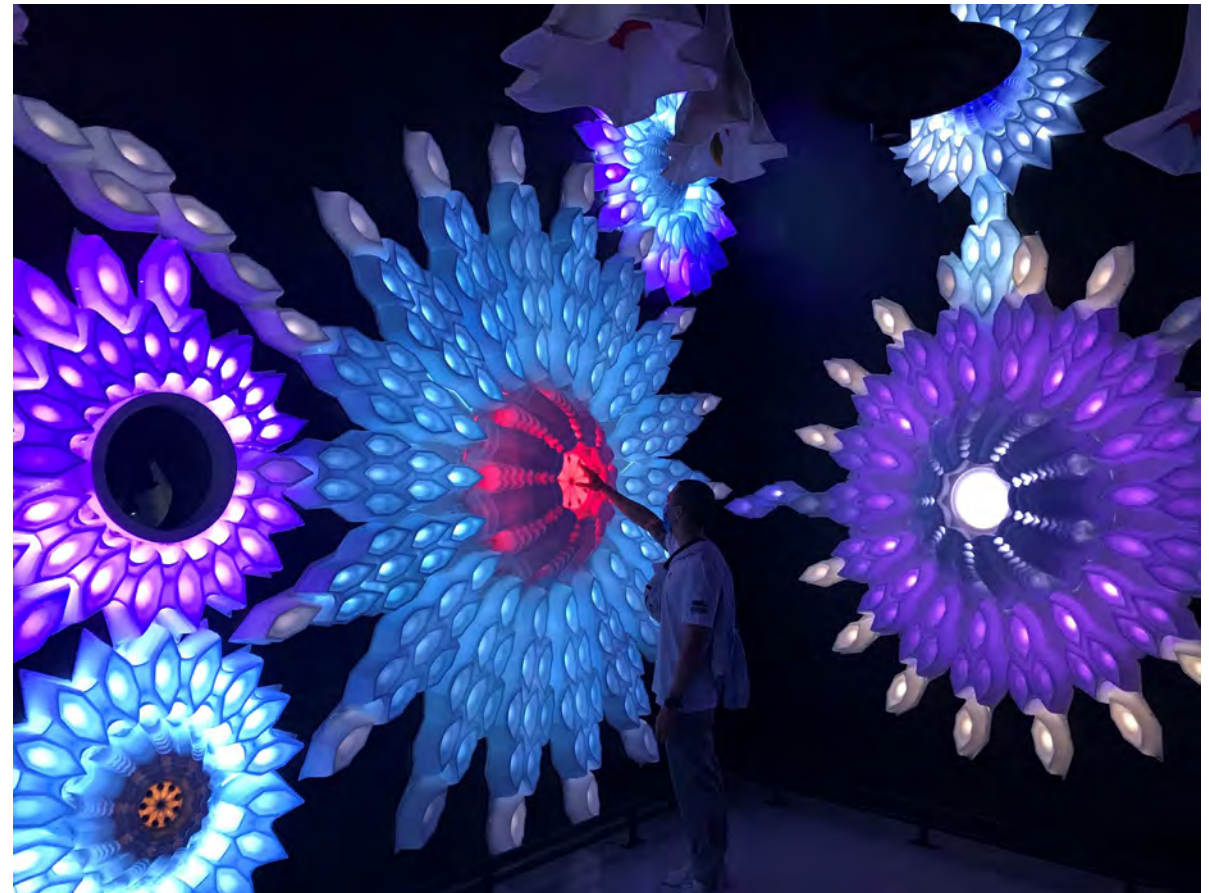
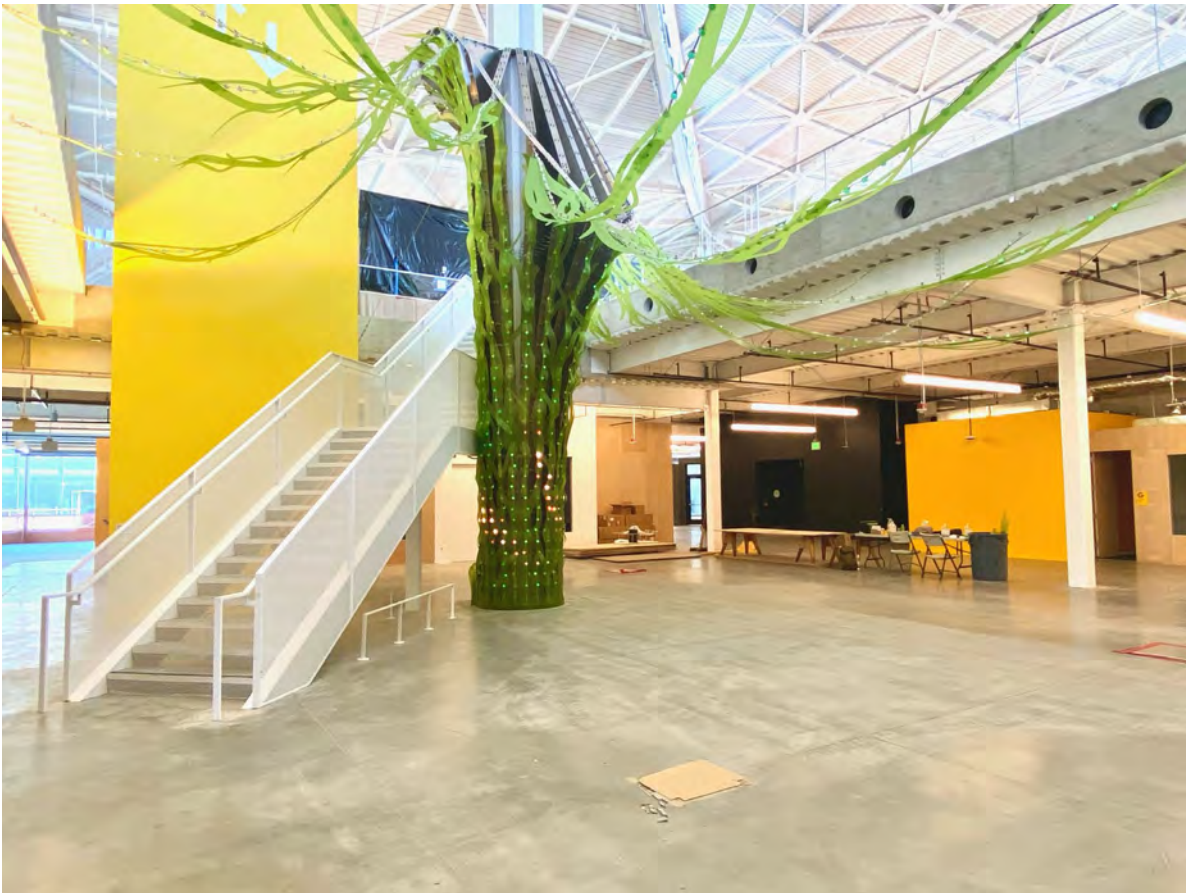
1. **Seagrass:** Inspired by the flowing form of seagrass on the gulf, the vision for "SEAGRASS" was to capture a singular moment in time when the leaves danced in the water. Its interactive lighting responds to live data being collected from weather stations at Cocodrie and hydrographic instruments behind the property.
 - a. Commissioned By: Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON)
 - b. Location: Chauvin, LA
 - c. Year: 2023
 - d. Size: 13' x 31' x 17'
 - e. Materials: Recycled PETG Sheeting, Laser Cut Stainless Steel, Stainless steel cable, and interactive LED lighting
 - f. Budget: \$90,000
2. **Nest -** Created for Adams County's new park maintenance facility, the sculpture is inspired by the staff's dedication to the vast trails and parks system they manage. Taking elements from their daily experiences and the native wetlands here, the design includes details like metal shovel-heads, colorful cattail-like tendrils, and firefly-like lighting.
 - a. Commissioned By: Adams County
 - b. Location: Thornton, CO
 - c. Year: 2025
 - d. Size: 17' x 17' x 14'
 - e. Materials: CNC bent aluminum, laser-cut sheet metal, KODA XT colored polycarbonate, LED lighting
 - f. Budget: \$194,000
3. **Woven:** This sculpture interlaces hundreds of distinct powder-coated metal panels to create a form inspired by the region's agricultural history and diverse communities. The local community and indigenous groups were also directly engaged to ensure their voices were reflected in the artwork.
 - a. Commissioned By: City of Hollister, Caltrans
 - b. Location: Hollister, CA
 - c. Year: 2024
 - d. Size: 15' x 15' x 13'
 - e. Materials: Laser-cut aluminum, stainless steel cable, aluminum tube, powder coating, solar powered lighting
 - f. Budget: \$130,000
4. **Journey -** A collection of 4 colossal fungi with varying heights and colors that adorn and illuminate a new forest path. Installed in Walker Johnston Park at Urbandale's North Walnut Creek access, the installation offers an experience that is both utilitarian and whimsical.
 - a. Commissioned By: City of Urbandale
 - b. Location: Urbandale, Iowa
 - c. Year: 2025

- d. Size: 10'x4'x4'
 - e. Materials: Aluminum, steel, LED lighting
 - f. Budget: \$80,000
5. **Hyphae:** An abstraction of a great oak tree and mycelium networks, this permanent sculpture utilizes specialized eco-resin and a unique engineering approach to span close to 2 floors. A network of lights react to the flow of human traffic in the space, traveling through the piece as if carrying information through the root system.
- a. Commissioned By: Google, Burning Man
 - b. Location: Mountain View, CA
 - c. Year: 2021
 - d. Size: 27' x 55' x 37'
 - e. Materials: PETG, Aluminum, Steel Cabling, Pulleys, LED Lighting, Electronics
 - f. Budget: \$180,000
6. **Sessilanoid at Meow Wolf** – This sculpture is inspired by barnacle formations and cellular growth. Interactive push buttons allow viewers to trigger custom lighting patterns and soundscapes inspired by nature. Originally showcased at Art Basel, a permanent version of this sculpture now lives at Meow Wolf's Omega Mart.
- a. Commissioned By: Meow Wolf
 - b. Location: Meow Wolf Vegas Omega Mart
 - c. Year: 2021
 - d. Size: 6' W x 40' L x 15' H
 - e. Materials: Polystyrene, Acrylic, LED Lighting, Electronics
 - f. Budget: \$75,000
7. **Medusa Chandelier** – Suspended sculpture created as part of a series of illuminated works based on micro-organisms. Commissioned for a private residence project designed with green building principles.
- a. Commissioned By: Carbonshack Design, Homefront Build
 - b. Location: Los Angeles, CA
 - c. Year: 2018
 - d. Size: 12' x 5' x 5'
 - e. Materials: Acrylic, LED, PETG, Aluminum, Fiberoptics
 - f. Budget: \$27,000
8. **Merkabah** – Suspended sculpture created for a special annual event at San Diego Museum of Art. Lighting and projection-mapped effects made it come alive.
- a. Commissioned By: San Diego Museum of Art
 - b. Location: San Diego, CA
 - c. Year: 2016
 - d. Size: 4' x 26' x 26'
 - e. Materials: Polystyrene, Acrylic, Steel, Aluminum, LED Lighting, Electronics
 - f. Budget: \$200,000

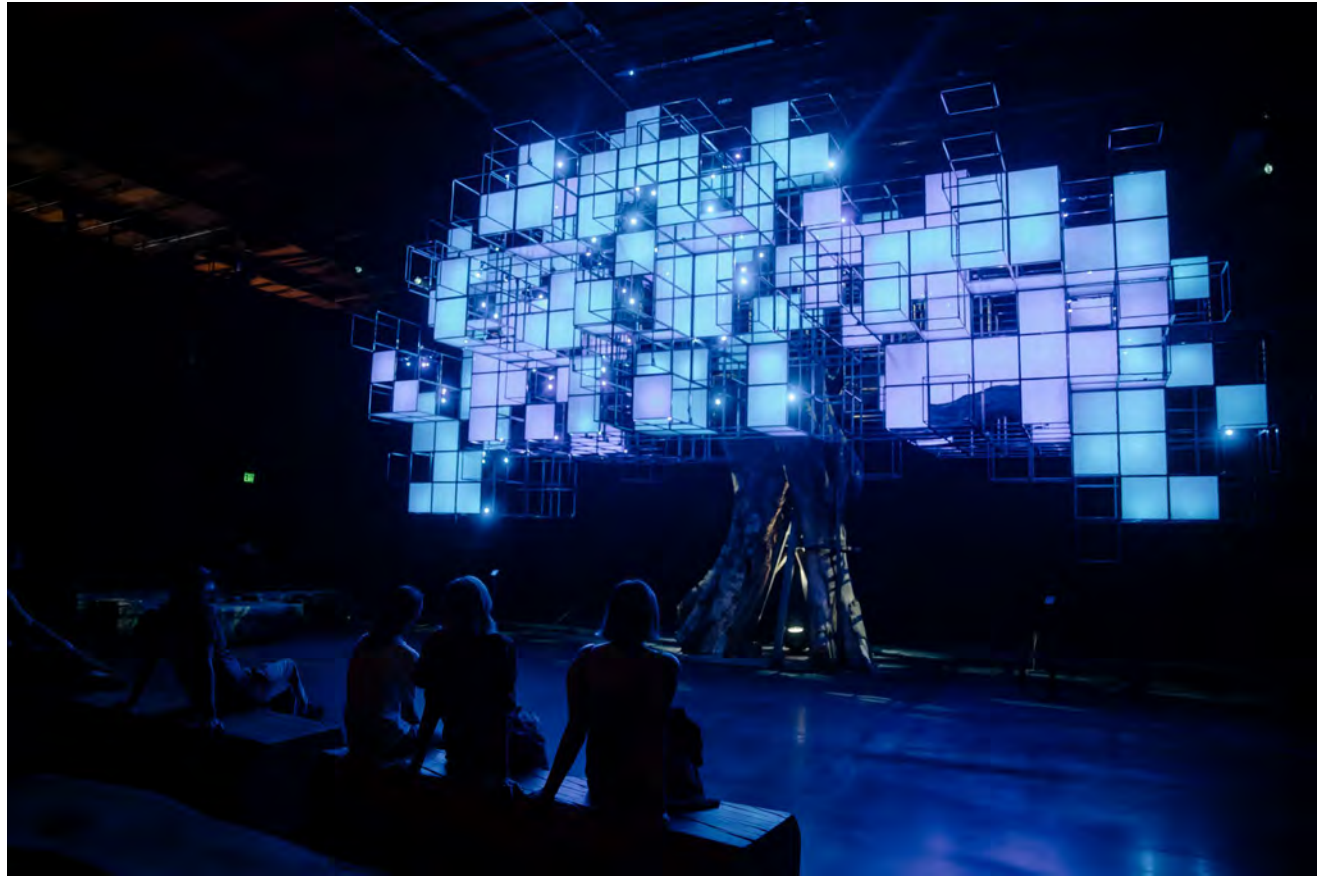
9. **Atari Light by Pierre Huyghe** - Originally created in 1999, the piece was revamped and brought to life again after its recent commission for the One Liberty Plaza building in New York. The interactive installation is made from a grid of 144 square white lights and its integration into this skyscraper's renovation required careful planning.
- a. Commissioned By: Pierre Huyghe, Brookfield
 - b. Location: New York, New York
 - c. Year: 2025
 - d. Size: 31' x 31' x 4'
 - e. Materials: Aluminum, Plexiglass, LED, Control System
 - f. Budget: \$200,000
10. **A Forest for the Trees by Glenn Kaino** - Built from the actual tree trunk of a 144-year old Moreton Bay Fig that collapsed in 2019, this hero sculpture from Glenn Kaino's exhibition highlighted Native American forestry traditions, the increasing wildfire risk, and the need for climate action. Steel cubes with illuminated panels recreated the tree's canopy, and performances with programmed music and lighting effects made the tree come to life again.
- a. Commissioned By: Glenn Kaino
 - b. Location: Los Angeles, CA
 - c. Year: 2022
 - d. Size: 60' L x 25' W x 30' H
 - e. Materials: Wood, steel, stainless steel, LED, stainless steel cable
 - f. Budget: \$130,000













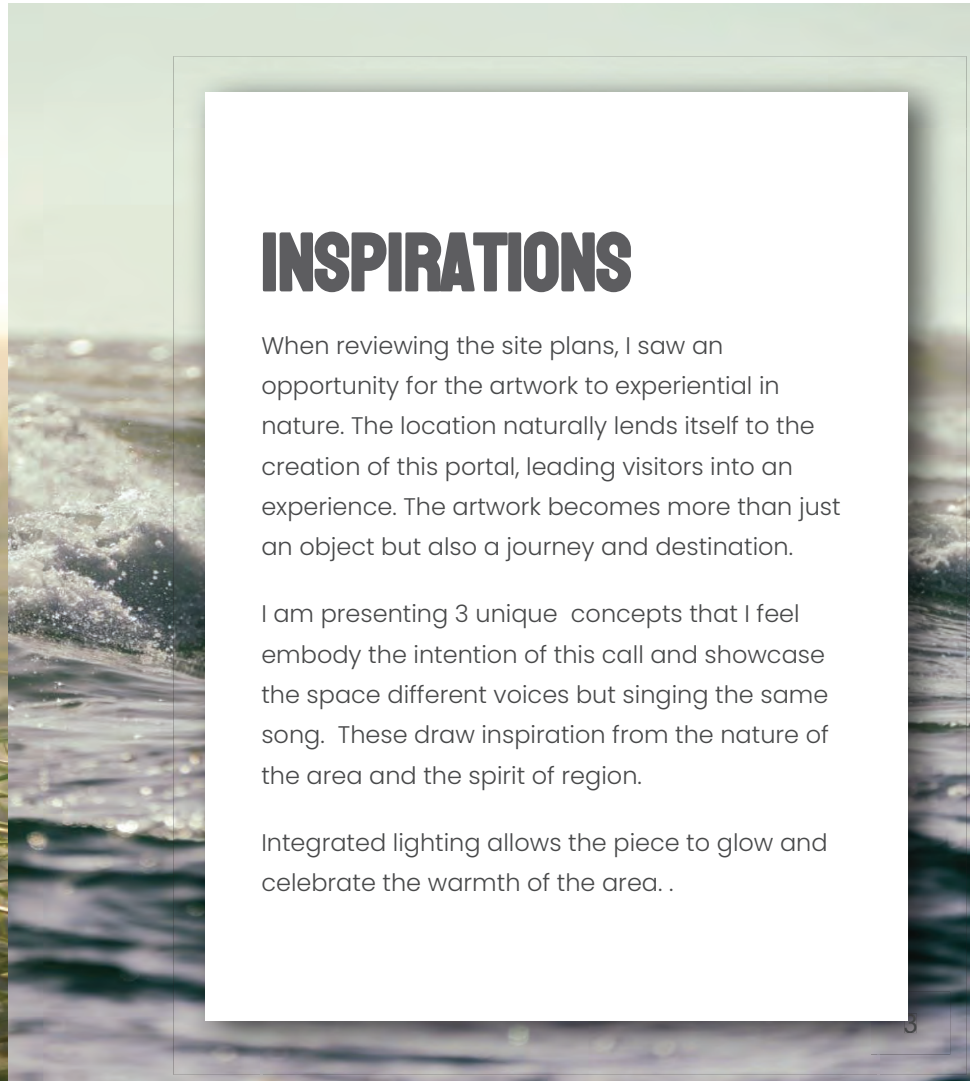
INTRODUCTION

It is with great excitement that I present '**JOY**', a larger-than-life sculpture experience created for the Plaza Del Sol.

With a form inspired by the rebirth of this area into a public gathering place, '**JOY**' is a piece that uplifts and commemorates community. The sculpture is designed to evoke the spirit of unity, wonder and progress, while celebrating Sunnyvale's diversity. It serves as an exuberant testament to the many cultures converging here to create the colorful cultural mosaic that is the community of Sunnyvale.

Warmly enveloped within a communal space like the Plaza Del Sol, '**JOY**' invites the community in - providing a place for connection and inspiration.



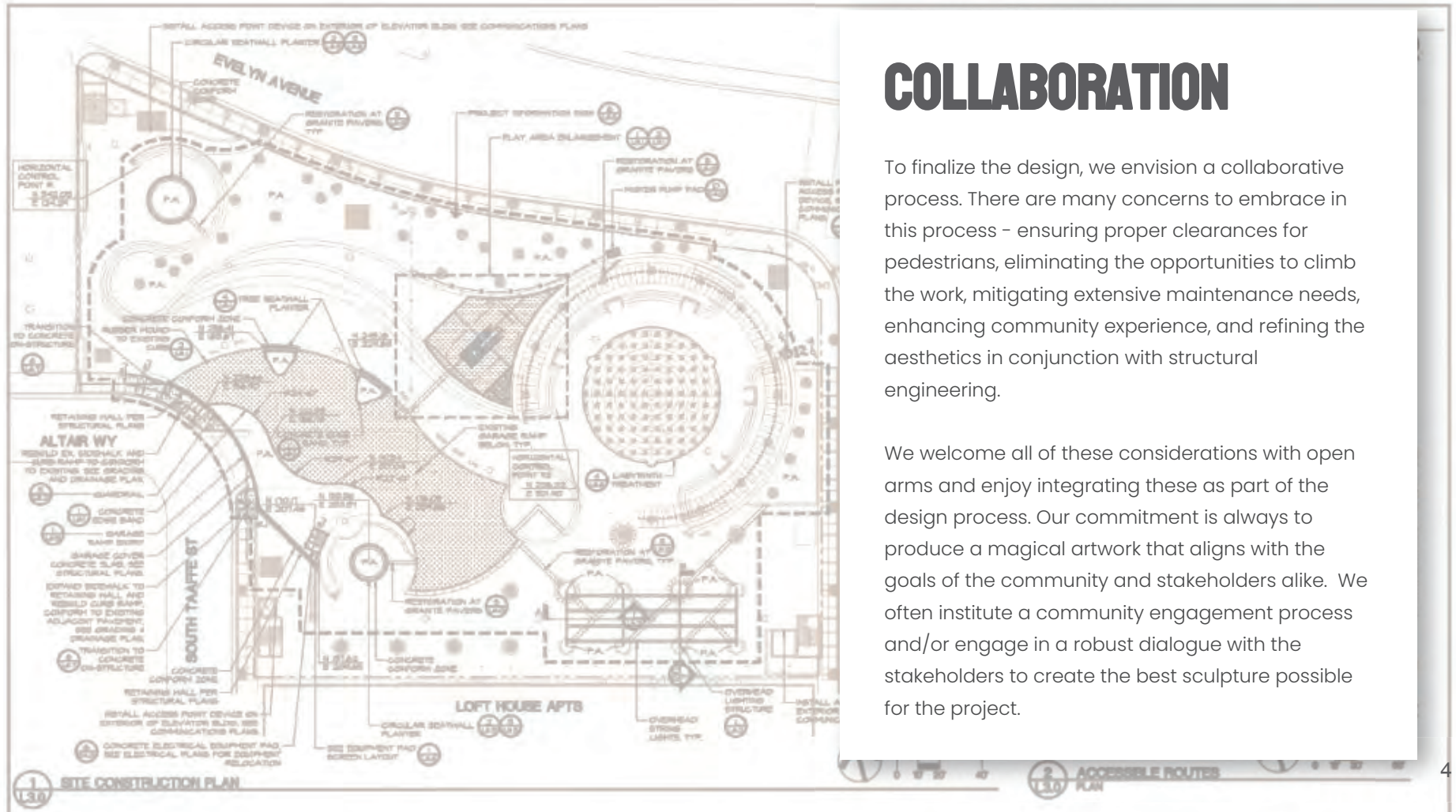


INSPIRATIONS

When reviewing the site plans, I saw an opportunity for the artwork to experiential in nature. The location naturally lends itself to the creation of this portal, leading visitors into an experience. The artwork becomes more than just an object but also a journey and destination.

I am presenting 3 unique concepts that I feel embody the intention of this call and showcase the space different voices but singing the same song. These draw inspiration from the nature of the area and the spirit of region.

Integrated lighting allows the piece to glow and celebrate the warmth of the area. .



COLLABORATION

To finalize the design, we envision a collaborative process. There are many concerns to embrace in this process – ensuring proper clearances for pedestrians, eliminating the opportunities to climb the work, mitigating extensive maintenance needs, enhancing community experience, and refining the aesthetics in conjunction with structural engineering.

We welcome all of these considerations with open arms and enjoy integrating these as part of the design process. Our commitment is always to produce a magical artwork that aligns with the goals of the community and stakeholders alike. We often institute a community engagement process and/or engage in a robust dialogue with the stakeholders to create the best sculpture possible for the project.

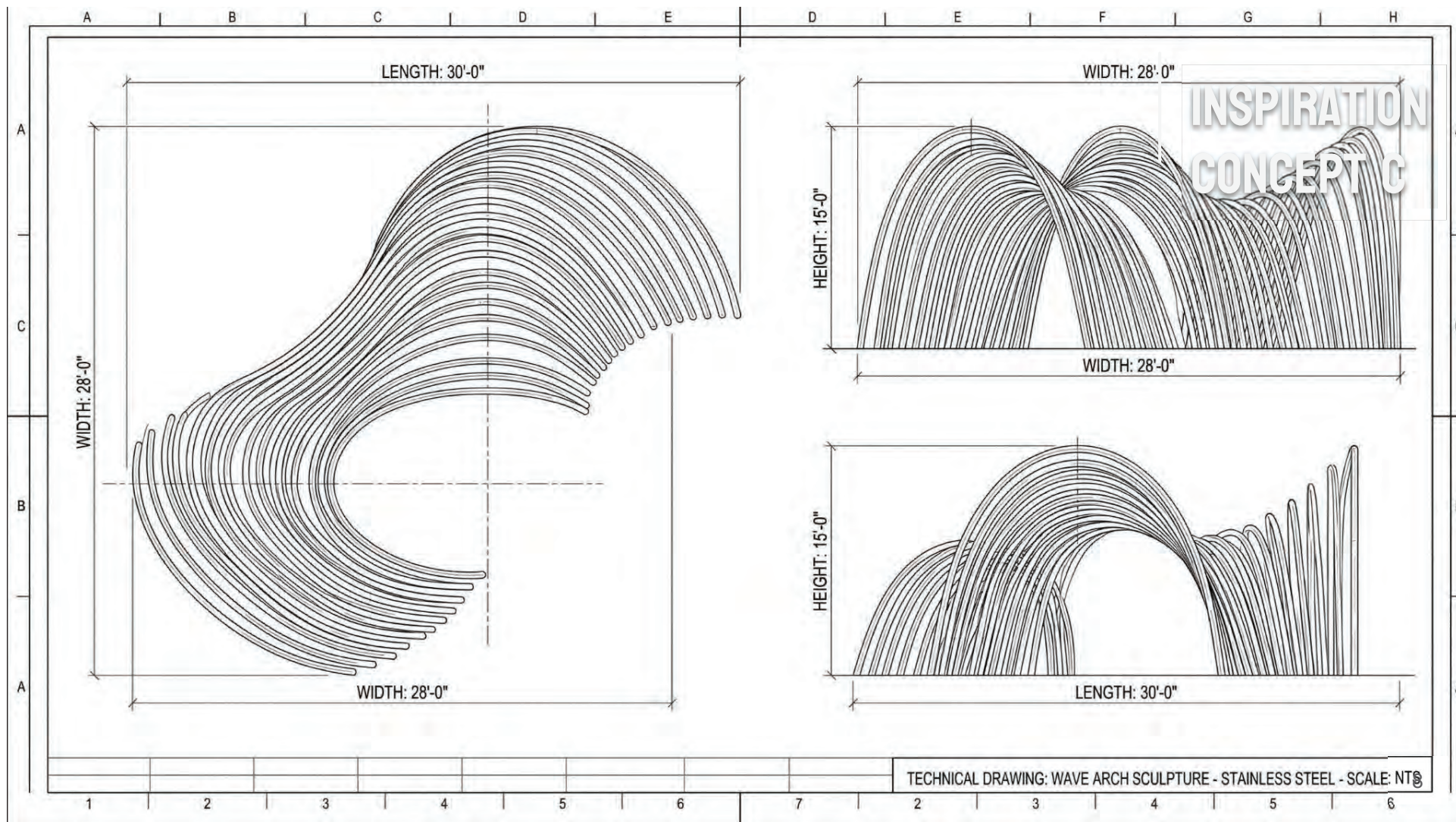
DESIGN

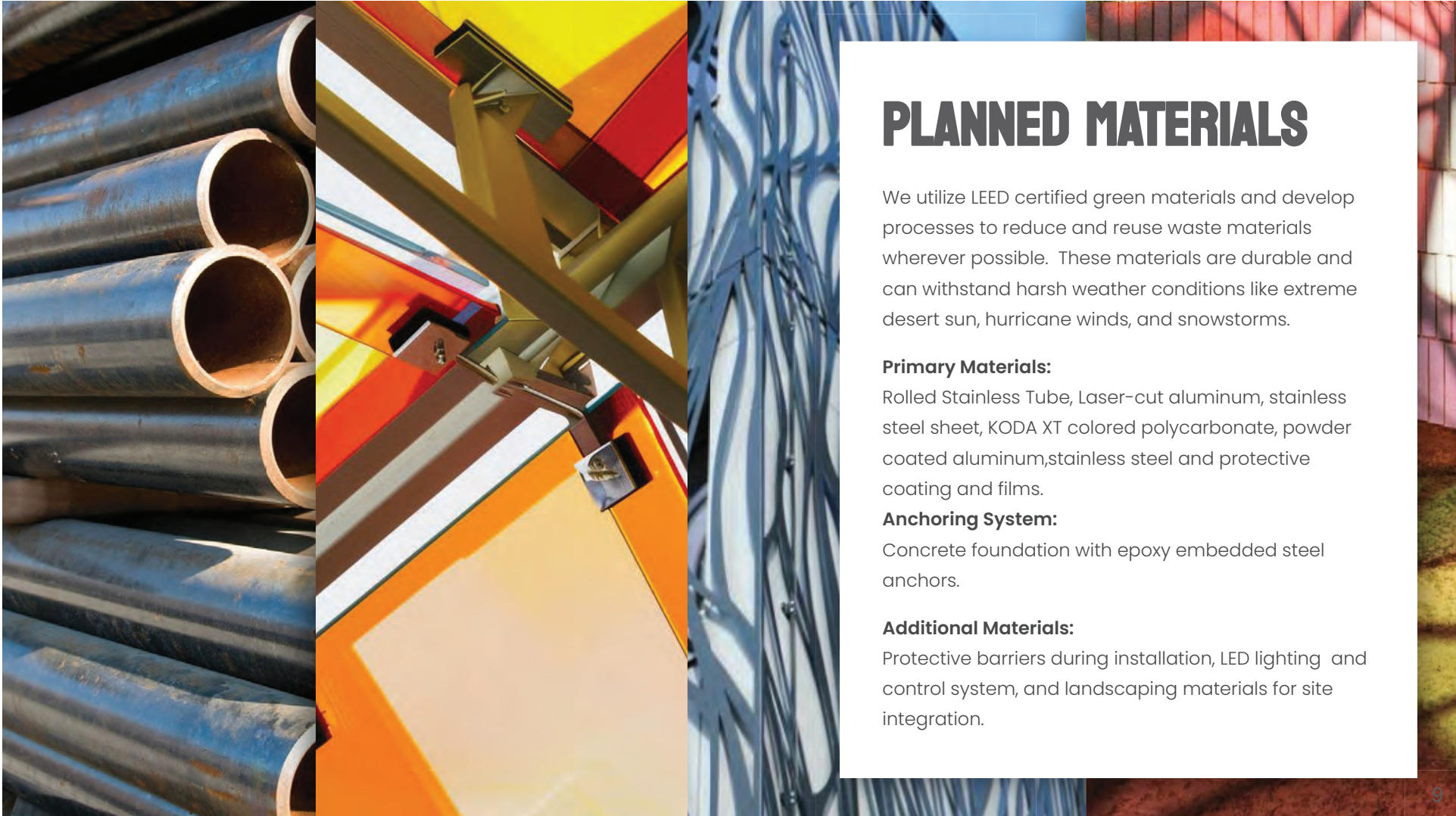
When evaluating this call for art I looked at the site and tried to imagine how the art would feel. What the experience would be like to walk in, through and around the art. Additionally I considered the amount of area allocated for the art and how best to embrace the space. Additionally I feel that whichever approach we pursue working with modularity is important so the work can be assembled on site and design adjustments after deeper analysis of parameters of the location can inform any value engineering necessary.











PLANNED MATERIALS

We utilize LEED certified green materials and develop processes to reduce and reuse waste materials wherever possible. These materials are durable and can withstand harsh weather conditions like extreme desert sun, hurricane winds, and snowstorms.

Primary Materials:

Rolled Stainless Tube, Laser-cut aluminum, stainless steel sheet, KODA XT colored polycarbonate, powder coated aluminum, stainless steel and protective coating and films.

Anchoring System:

Concrete foundation with epoxy embedded steel anchors.

Additional Materials:

Protective barriers during installation, LED lighting and control system, and landscaping materials for site integration.

ABOUT KODA XT

KODA XT is a virtually unbreakable, LEED-certified exterior material by 3Form that offers exceptional durability and color options. Its impact resistance surpasses acrylic by 60 times and glass by 100, unmatched in the glazing market.



NOPALES // BEVERLY HILLS, CA





POWER & LIGHTING

The lighting system will be designed for versatility, allowing for different programming requirements, such as warm, soft lighting to create an inviting ambiance for quiet nights, or more dynamic patterns to energize special events. The slow delicate rhythms like that of rustling leaves, or wind are some ideas we are considering to embrace to elevate the sense of wonder within the artwork.

We anticipate power needs to be 2 circuits of 110 VAC @ 20 amps.

SEAGRASS // LUMCON, HOUMA, LA