

Agenda Item # 6c – Approve Final Design of 8<sup>th</sup> obelisco artwork for E.7<sup>th</sup> St. Corridor Improvement AIPP project.

The E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvement project experienced numerous delays since 2006 which had to do with working being done by TXDOT on the Montopolis bridge, meeting some Austin Clean Water Program deadlines, and the need for additional street reconstruction along the corridor. The 2006 bond approved additional street reconstruction funds and the Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Department (now called Planning & Development Review) decided that they wanted an additional obelisco to be placed at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Comal. This would be able to direct people to the new commuter train stop. This extended the scope of the project further west because it was originally designated from Chicon to Pleasant Valley Road. Ben Appl (as the selected alternate for the project) was put under a design contract to finalize his artwork design for this obelisco. His design is being presented for final approval. Included is backup material which shows the other obelisco designs that were approved, some project background, and then information on Ben Appl's design for the 8<sup>th</sup> obelisco (here designated Obelisco 0).

# PROPOSED DESIGNS FOR THE EAST SEVENTH STREET OBELISCO ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROJECT

As part of the East Seventh Street Corridor Improvement Project, there will be seven 15-foot obeliscos located at intersections between Chicon and Pleasant Valley Road. These obeliscos will provide signage and maps, as well as visual continuity and identity along the corridor. Each obelisco will have 4 panels of artwork made of durable materials that are lit to make the artwork visible at night.

The City of Austin Art in Public Places program was created by ordinance in 1985. This program uses 2% of construction budgets to commission works of art for city buildings, parks and streetscape projects. In 2003, the Art in Public Place Program commissioned East Austin artist Jennifer Chenoweth to work with the design team (engineers, designers, landscape architects, and urban planners) to recommend suitable public art for this corridor. She researched the neighborhood plans, learned the neighborhood history, listened to people, and photographed landmarks to help her in this process.

The Obelisco Project was one of the art projects that Chenoweth and the design team recommended. The AIPP Values and Goals for this E.7th Street Corridor Obelisco project are to:

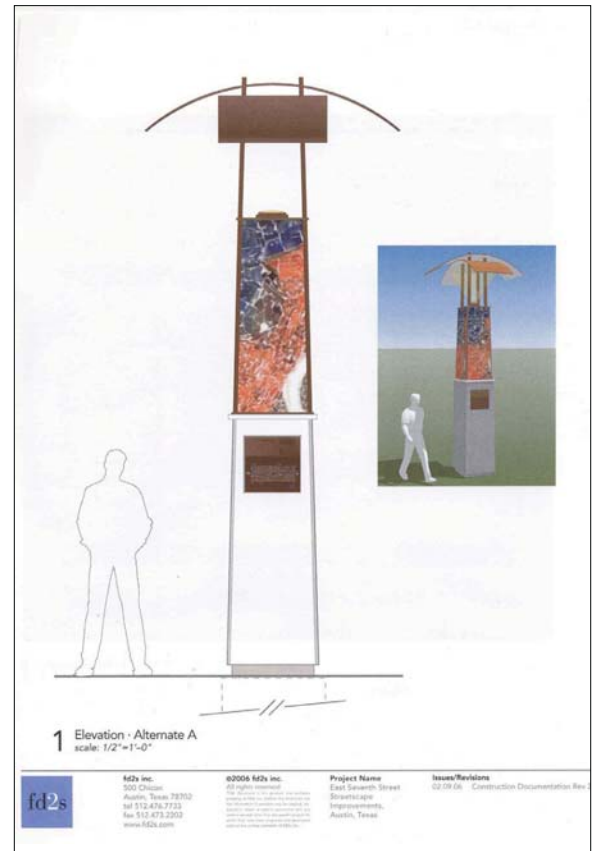
- Enhance and enliven the streetscape through commissioned works of art.
- Encourage a diversity of local artists to create public art along the corridor, allowing the individual voices of the artists to tell the stories of the neighborhood.
- Respect the historic, ethnic, and cultural character of the neighborhoods in East Austin.

A Request for Qualifications was publicized for Austin artists, encouraging Eastside artists to apply. Through a selection process which included a neighborhood advisor, seven artists were identified to create artwork for the obeliscos. Six of the selected artists live in East Austin.

Seven artists (Aly Winningham, Maggie DeSanto, Susan Wallace, Nailah Sankofa, Alonso Rey-Sanchez, Claudia Reese, and Martin Garcia) have been commissioned to design and fabricate the artwork panels for the obeliscos. They worked diligently within the guidelines of the project to create a design for their designated intersection.

Presented here are the designs that the artists have developed during the past year. Their designs will be submitted to the Art in Public Places Panel and the Austin Art Commission for approval in July 2006. Once approved, the artists will be able to fabricate their designs.

To support the artists in this project, additional funding was generously donated by the Austin Friends of Folk Art.



# East Seventh Street Obelisco Art in Public Places Project

## Obelisco #1

Intersection: **CHICON STREET**

Artist: **ALY WINNINGHAM**



### CONCEPT

I chose to focus on the Hispanic culture of my neighborhood, specifically their Mexican heritage. Since Mexico's pre-Columbian history is so vast and overlapping I chose to focus on certain aspects that seemed to be common among most of the native groups.

The first image is an abstract representation of the sacred QUETZAL BIRD. This is a rare parrot, found in the forests of Mesoamerica. Soon to be extinct due to deforestation, the bird was so valued in its time, that its feathers were traded as currency. In fact in current day Guatemala, the term Quetzal defines the denomination of 100 centavos.

Depicted next is an abstract CORNSTALK growing in the sun including the root system. It represents ancient Mexico's mastery of farming and irrigation and their dependence on corn as a staple need.

The SNAKE was a symbol of rebirth to many ancient groups including the Mayans and the Aztecs. They believed that through the snake the spiritual and earthly worlds connected. They observed the snake shed its skin and interpreted it as a rebirth.

MASKS were used in religious ceremonies and were considered tools to aid in the communication with their spiritual guides. This is an example of a mask or headdress that might have been found among the Aztecs, Mayans or other native groups. - Aly Winningham

### MATERIALS

These designs will be mosaics, made with ceramic tile, smalti, vitreous colored glass, tumbled glass, aluminum, and copper. The mosaic surface will interact with light and be very rich and textured.





# East Seventh Street Obelisco Art in Public Places Project

## Obelisco #2

Intersection: **ROBERT MARTINEZ JR. STREET**

Artist: **MAGGIE DESANTO**



## CONCEPT

The theme for this obelisco is a commemoration of the feastday of the Guadalupe. Every year on December 12th, a procession starts in Montopolis, proceeds to Cristo Rey, then turns onto Robert Martinez and continues until its final destination, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. The procession holds very closely to its Mexican roots. Each parish provides a group of dancers dressed in indigenous costumes dancing and singing in procession. Each group also displays its own living altar depicting the Virgin and Juan Diego. At the arrival at Our Lady of Guadalupe, each group performs its own dance to honor its Patroness.

The first panel of the obelisco portrays the Virgin of Guadalupe conforming to the standards of the traditional icon. The only variation of her image will be a green bird above her signifying the local green parakeets connecting her to this particular neighborhood of East Austin rather than her traditional home in Mexico.

The other panels portray the dancers in their costumes. The images are from photographs I took while attending the procession. The intention is that people who participate in the celebration will recognize the costumes and connect them with the various parishes, perhaps even their own.

It is hoped that some people will recognize the very costume that they wore and remember the very words they sang, "Viva, La Reina, Viva!" The obelisco is a present to them. - Maggie DeSanto

## MATERIALS

The artwork will be fabricated with colorful, hand-made ceramic tiles - made and fired in East Austin.



# East Seventh Street Obelisco Art in Public Places Project

## Obelisco #3

Intersection: **PROSPECT/WEBBERVILLE ROAD**

Artist: **SUSAN WALLACE**



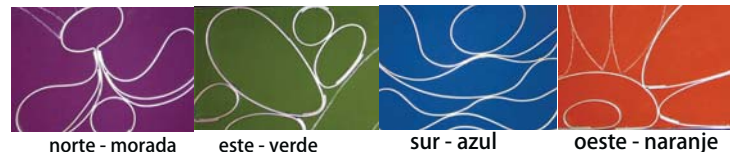
## CONCEPT

My process of research and discovery led me down the streets and alleys surrounding Prospect at Webberville, where geographically the hills of Austin descend to the valley and historically the city ended and farmlands began.

The intent of my design is to celebrate the organic fluidity of line as expressed in Spanish tile and scrollwork. These patterns reference the yield of the valley's rich soils and the historical significance of tile and scrollwork throughout the gardens, homes and businesses along Seventh Street.

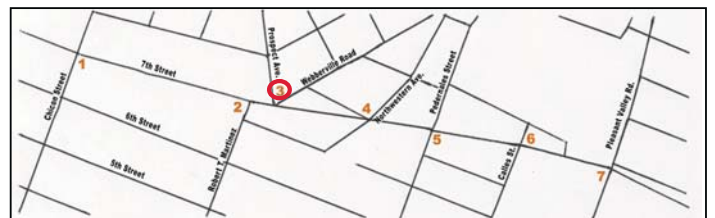
My design process is archaeological in nature – documenting tile and scrollwork, both past and present, and then lifting slices from the hand drawn patterns. These slices are asymmetrical, echoing the triangular confluence of Prospect, Webberville and 7th Street.

Each pattern slice was then reworked to fit the scale and format of the obelisco. Individual patterns are aligned with the cardinal points and my idea of what each of these directional areas reflects – norte, residential hills; este, fertile valley; sur, river bottomlands; oeste, setting sun. - Susan Wallace



## MATERIALS

These linear designs will be rendered in aluminum scrollwork and mounted in front of cement-board panels which will be painted the solid colors as shown above. The bold color-field backdrop enhances the aluminum designs and mimics the strong use of rich color throughout the area's stuccowork, banners and signage.





# East Seventh Street Obelisco Art in Public Places Project

Obelisco #4

Intersection: **NORTHWESTERN AVENUE**

Artist: **NAILAH SANKOFA**



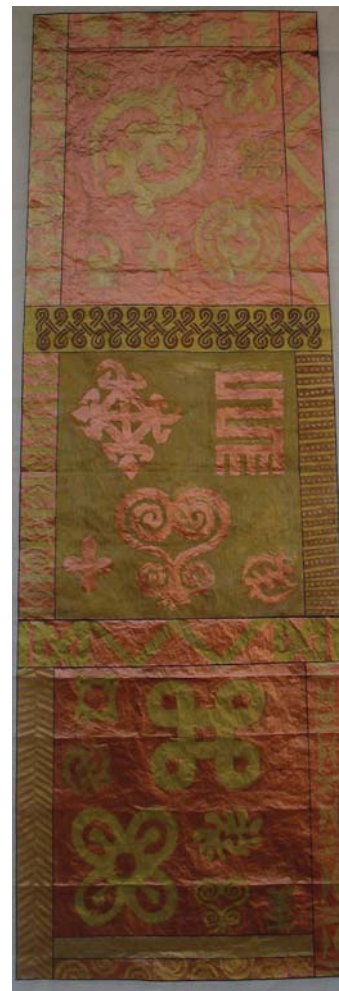
west



south



east



north

## CONCEPT

### Diaspora Stone/Homage

*Diaspora Stone/Homage* will be comprised of four painted panels. Each panel of the obelisco will honor, utilize and recall artistic styles and imagery of prominent Afrikan cultures/aesthetics that have endured many [re]allocations. With the advent of gentrification in central East Austin, it is vital to reflect the diverse histories, innovative cultures, peoples, societies, timelines, beauty, heritages as well as the invaluable contributions of people of Afrikan descent throughout the Diaspora - here in Austin.

The east panel, "Medu Ntr" will feature classic iconography of ancient Kemet (Egypt). The south panel, "Ona Wa" will be a collection of Afrikan masks and symbols in a style familiar to traditional textiles and carvings one immediately associate with Afrika; as well as those many Austin residents have in their homes and featured throughout East Austin's Black institutions. The west panel depicts a Capoeira roda (center) which there are several groups and numerous players throughout Austin. Capoeira is an ancient West Afrikan martial art form/way of life that symbolizes resistance to oppression, discipline, dedication to tradition and freedom as well as celebration of life and culture. The north panel, "Sankofa" features some of the most recognized

and inspiring symbols of West Afrika. The prominent and familiar are the Akan (Ghana) Adinkra symbols. This panel will be painted to represent etched metal and mud cloth.

My vision for these works is to promote, celebrate and preserve the presence and influence of a dwindling ethnic group of diverse traditions and heritages in a way which reminds residents, visitors, commuters, etc. that people of Afrikan descent have origins, connections, a future, a permanent and [re]mark-able place in this area of our city. - Nailah Sankofa

## MATERIALS

Each panel will be painted with keim mineral paints on cement board.





# East Seventh Street Obelisco Art in Public Places Project

Obelisco #5  
Intersection: **PEDERNALES STREET**  
Artist: **ALONSO REY-SANCHEZ**



## CONCEPT

In this artwork I tried to show to the people of the Eastside that they have a good life. Through my painting they can see themselves and re-confirm and re-affirm the beauty of their simple life expressed in the strong roots of family and love. In my painting I represent the most important cultures of the Eastside where I live – Mexican and Afro-American – with figures flying around the mural with smiling faces and loving gestures, free from the burden of want. - Alonso Rey-Sanchez

The images will wrap around the obelisco in a dynamic fashion, showing families in action.

## MATERIALS

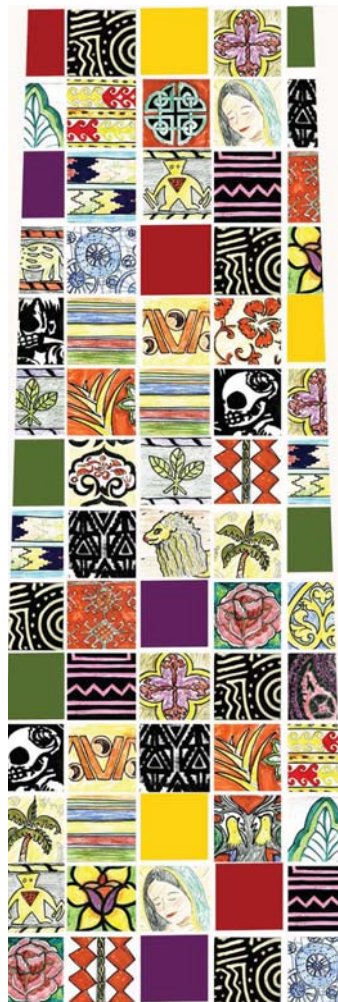
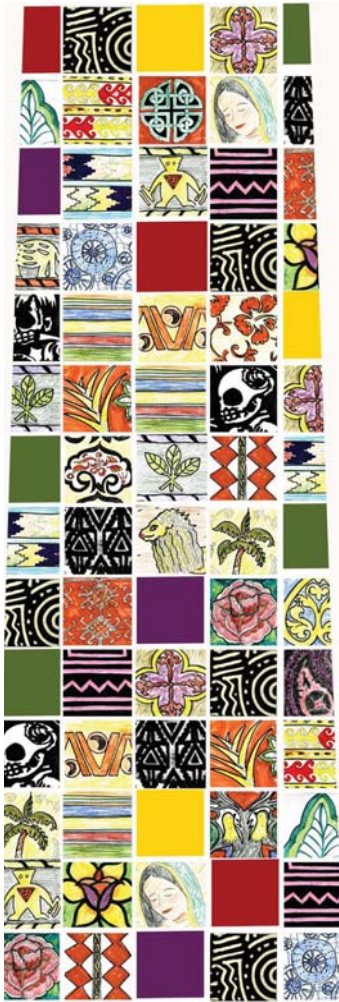
These panels will be painted with a durable silicate dispersion paint on cement board. These materials will ensure the longevity of the panels which will be out in the street environment.





# East Seventh Street Obelisco Art in Public Places Project

Obelisco #6  
Intersection: **CALLES STREET**  
Artist: **CLAUDIA REESE**



## CONCEPT

Reflecting the cultural content of the East Austin population, I will design tiles showing images based on country of origin or nationality. Two sides of the obelisco will be tiled as a "quilt" - with each 4" tile being a different image. Using the 2000 census as a guide, there will be 46 tiles with images from Hispanic cultures, 17 tiles with images from Afro America cultures, 4 tiles with images from White cultures, and 1 tile each from American Indian, Asian, and Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander cultures.

I researched rugs, fabrics, tiles, cultural icons, clothing, hats, wall hangings from the above nationalities of origin. The images were photographed, redrawn, simplified and stylized on paper at the studio. When we translate them to tiles, a little more stylization and simplification will be done.

The other two sides will have 4" plain tiles in the chosen colors with a number of house segments done in mosaic and bas relief. I will ask school kids from East Austin at the Totally Cool Totally Art program to draw their house, their grandparent's house, or their favorite house on the street. From these drawings, I will choose to use segments of houses which represent the traditional East houses we still see today and will make "house" mosaics to be tiled onto the panel. The images will be large and the planes of the

houses done in mosaics. Some of the architectural details, I will construct as once piece, so parts of the panel will be bas relief. [NOTE: The actual children's drawings with mosaics are not illustrated above. In the final work, each side will be unique - with no panel exactly repeated.]

I think these images will flow together and be a glorious beacon of color and pattern welcoming one and all to the East Austin 7th Street Corridor.  
- Claudia Reese

## MATERIALS

These will all be made from hand-made, glazed ceramic tiles.



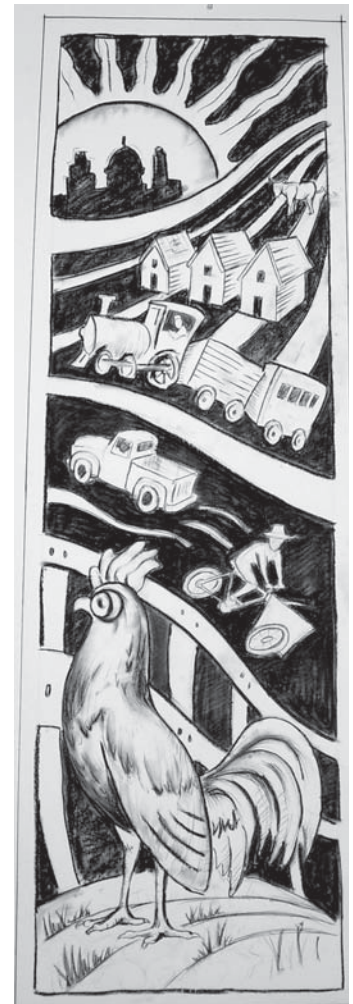


# East Seventh Street Obelisco Art in Public Places Project

Obelisco #7

Intersection: **PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD**

Artist: **MARTIN GARCIA**



## CONCEPT

These designs for the Obelisco project on 7th and Pleasant Valley each tell their own story that is constantly evolving. Each panel has a dominant subject that will be carved in Bas-Relief. (3-D forms coming out of a flat surface.)

The stories I have heard about the East Side from community leaders, community members and my neighbors have inspired much of my work. I have a deep respect and love for the East Side and I have tried to represent history, tradition, family, music and nature.

With its rapid growth and changing landscape, I am attempting to produce a representation of my respect for the East Side Community.

Living close to the Pleasant Valley intersection, I witness daily the abundance of life and cultural activity that abounds at this crossroads. To me this intersection symbolizes the true gateway to Austin, where cultures intertwine and the past, present and future meet.

- Martin Garcia

## MATERIALS

These designs will be formed out of clay, molds will be made and then cast with a lightweight cement. Each panel will be acid-etch stained with a solid color similar to those shown above.



# East Seventh Street Obelisco Art in Public Places Project

Obelisco #0

Intersection: **COMAL STREET**

Artist: **BEN APPL**



## CONCEPT

Hands convey the message that we all have something in common, even though each of us has quite different lives, jobs and families. Hands also symbolize cooperation and progress; they are one of the strongest tools our bodies have. We shake hands in greeting, work with them, and use them to express emotion.

I lived in east Austin for almost a decade and worked in the recreation centers there. When you enter one of the centers it is like going into the heart of the community: everyone knows each other, they look out for each other, the atmosphere is fun, somewhat chaotic and it is east Austin at its roots. My obelisco will communicate this feeling of togetherness and family.

I would like to expand on a hands project I did while working with the kids participating in the city's Totally Cool Totally Art program. I will cast the hands of many different people such as the younger siblings, parents, and grand-parents of kids from the Pan Am, Metz, Zaragoza, and Rosewood recreation centers. The hands will be combined into frames to make relief sculptures which are cast and fabricated in aluminum.

The obelisco's location will be at the southeast corner of East 7th and Comal, diagonal from The State Cemetery of Texas. I believe that the colorful and lively composition of the casted hands on the obelisco will create an interesting dialog with the white grid layout of the tombstones in the cemetery. - Ben Appl

## MATERIALS

Cast aluminum hands mounted on aluminum panel colored with dye oxides.







**CITY OF AUSTIN-- AIPP**  
Conservation Review Form

Information captured in this form will help expedite the conservation review process. This review process aims to address the following 5 considerations:

- 1) **Materials Durability**-- includes site preparation materials, paints and anti-graffiti coatings
- 2) **Methods Durability**-- includes elevation from ground, balance, proximity to moisture, exposure to salt water or sun, and overall design weighting
- 3) **Maintenance Needs**-- includes how often artwork needs cleaning, what type of cleaning and propensity of materials to develop mold, rust or other damage over time
- 4) **Site Preparation**-- includes wall preparation (for murals) or base for sculptures and any necessary materials for preparing the site.
- 5) **Installation Safety**-- includes how the artwork can be safely installed using the design proposal.

Please complete this form and submit to the conservator along with other relevant project materials and documents. Please be as specific as possible.

Artist/s name/s: Benjamin Appl

Phone Number: 512-809-3078

Email address: benappl@gmail.com

Project Title: Obelisco Project

AIPP Project Manager Jean Graham

What is the life expectancy of this work?

100 + years

List ALL materials used in the creation of this piece:

- Alginate (mold making)
- Hydrastone 30 (mold making)
- Petrabond (mold making)
- Aluminum (final piece)
- Dye-oxide (final piece)
- Permalac (final piece)
- Stainless steel 5/16" - 18 bolts (final piece) • Loctite (final piece)



**If commercial products are being used, please provide (or attach) the manufacturer's specs:**

- Dye-oxide (final piece) see dyeoxidemsds.pdf attached and last page in this document
- Permalac (final piece) see msdspermalac.pdf, PERMALAC1.pdf & peacockdata2.pdf attached
- Loctite (final piece) see loctitemdsds.pdf attached

**Please describe any coatings or sealants used:**

Peacock laboratory will be coming out with a graffiti proof sealant within three months I intend on using this product as a sealant. Currently I have been using primalac, graffiti can be removed from this using acetone.

**Please provide (or attach) information about the fabricator:**

Benjamin Appl	(512) 809-3078
1011 Milam Place	benappl@gmail.com
Austin, Texas 787804	

**Please describe any special methods/ processes used in fabrication:**

I will begin fabrication of the obelisco by conducting hand-casting events at various east Austin recreation centers. I will be using alginate (algi-safe, from smooth-on) to take molds of participants' hands. I will make hydrastone positives of the hands and I will be using Petra-bond a reusable green sand for the casting process. The hands will be casted in aluminum. After casting I will sand blast, color using dye-oxide stains (uv resistant dyes), and the hands will be clear coated with "permalac" clear coat lacquer. The hands will be tapped and dyed, and then back mounted using 5/16" - 18 counter sunk bolts with loctite on 1" thick aluminum panels that have received the same color treatments and sealant as casted hands. (see attached drawing)

The sealant and colors should survive outdoor element for ten years. Then an assessment of color will be made, at this time work could have additional dye-oxide stain applied and be clear coated again for another ten years.

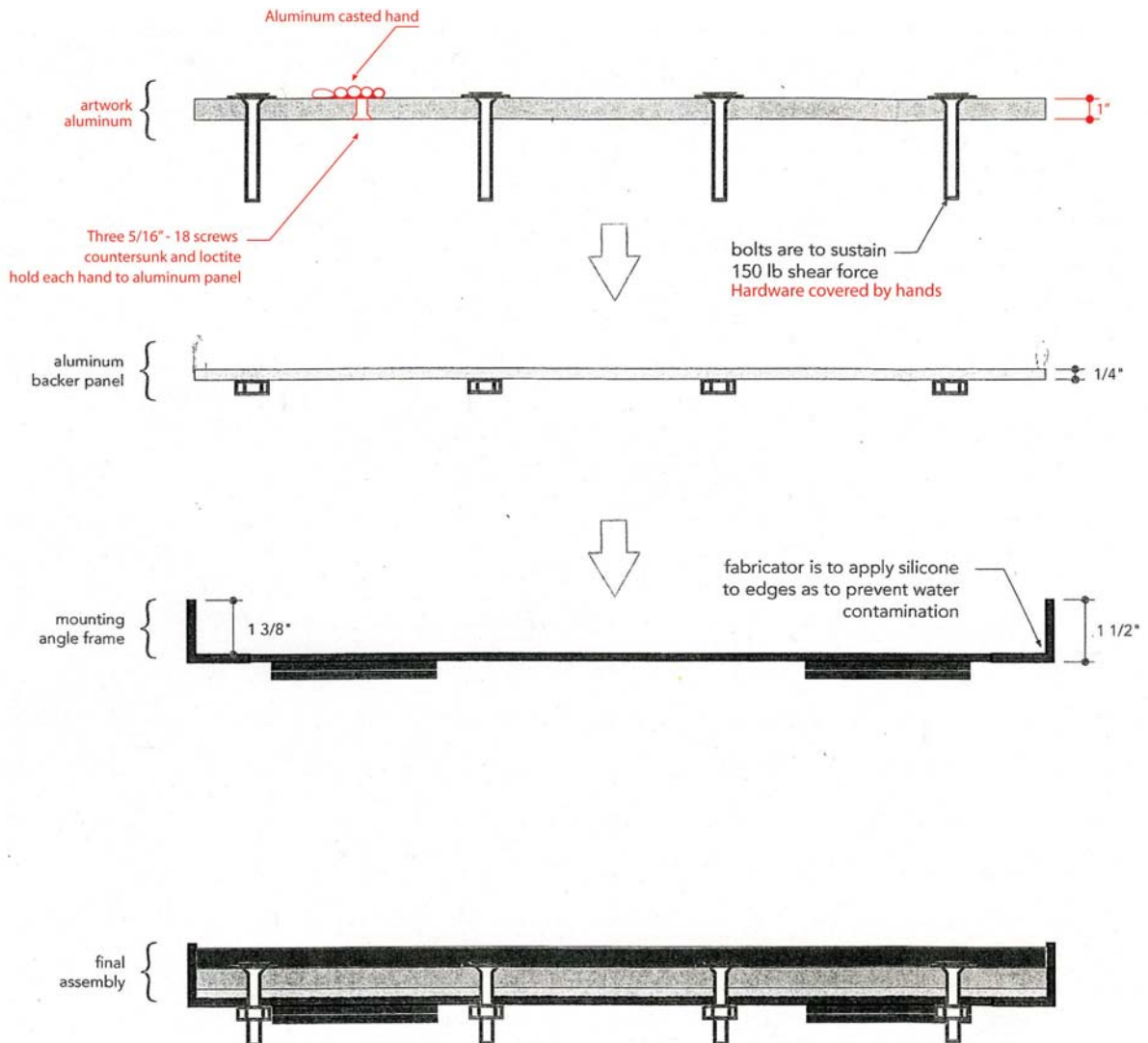
**Please describe the installation site:**

panels will be delivered to and installed by city hired contrators.

\_\_\_\_Architect's or Engineer's sealed drawings attached

\_\_\_\_Sample materials attached





# 1 Art Frame & Art Panel Assembly scale: 3"=1'-0"

fd2s inc.  
500 Chicon  
Austin, Texas 78702  
tel 512.476.7733  
fax 512.473.2202  
www.fd2s.com

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Project Name  
East Seventh Street  
Streetscape  
Improvements,  
Austin, Texas

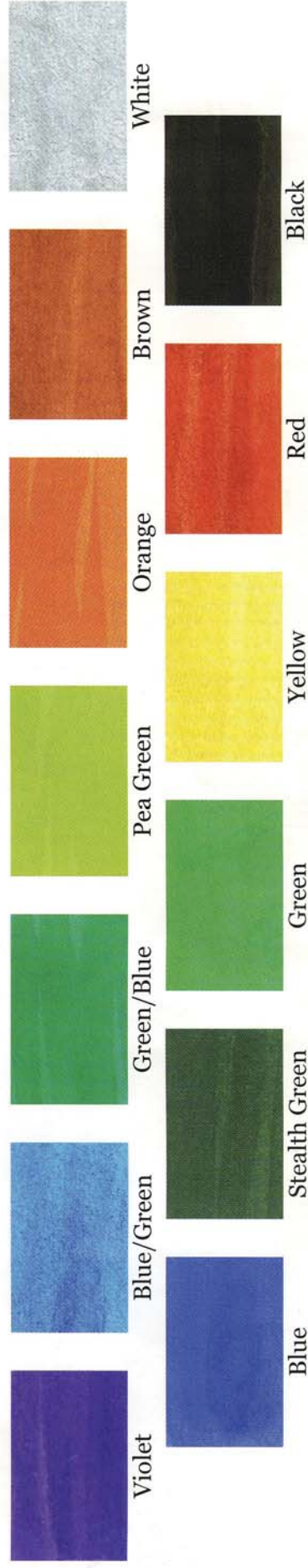
Issues/Revisions  
10.19.04 100% Schematic Design  
03.08.05 100% Design Development  
03.07.06 Construction Documentation Rev 4  
03.23.06 Construction Documentation Rev 5  
04.05.06 Construction Documentation Rev 6

Fabrication Documentation  
The details shown are suggested f achieve an overall visual aesthetic. Fab native fabrication techniques which a intent. No visual changes will be accep

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## Dye Oxide Patinas

Dye Oxide Patinas are a cross between the Solvent Base Dyes and a patina. All of the colors are transparent and may be blended or layered together to achieve any color. Like the Universal Patinas, Dye Oxide Patinas are UV safe, non-reactive, and do not contain acids.

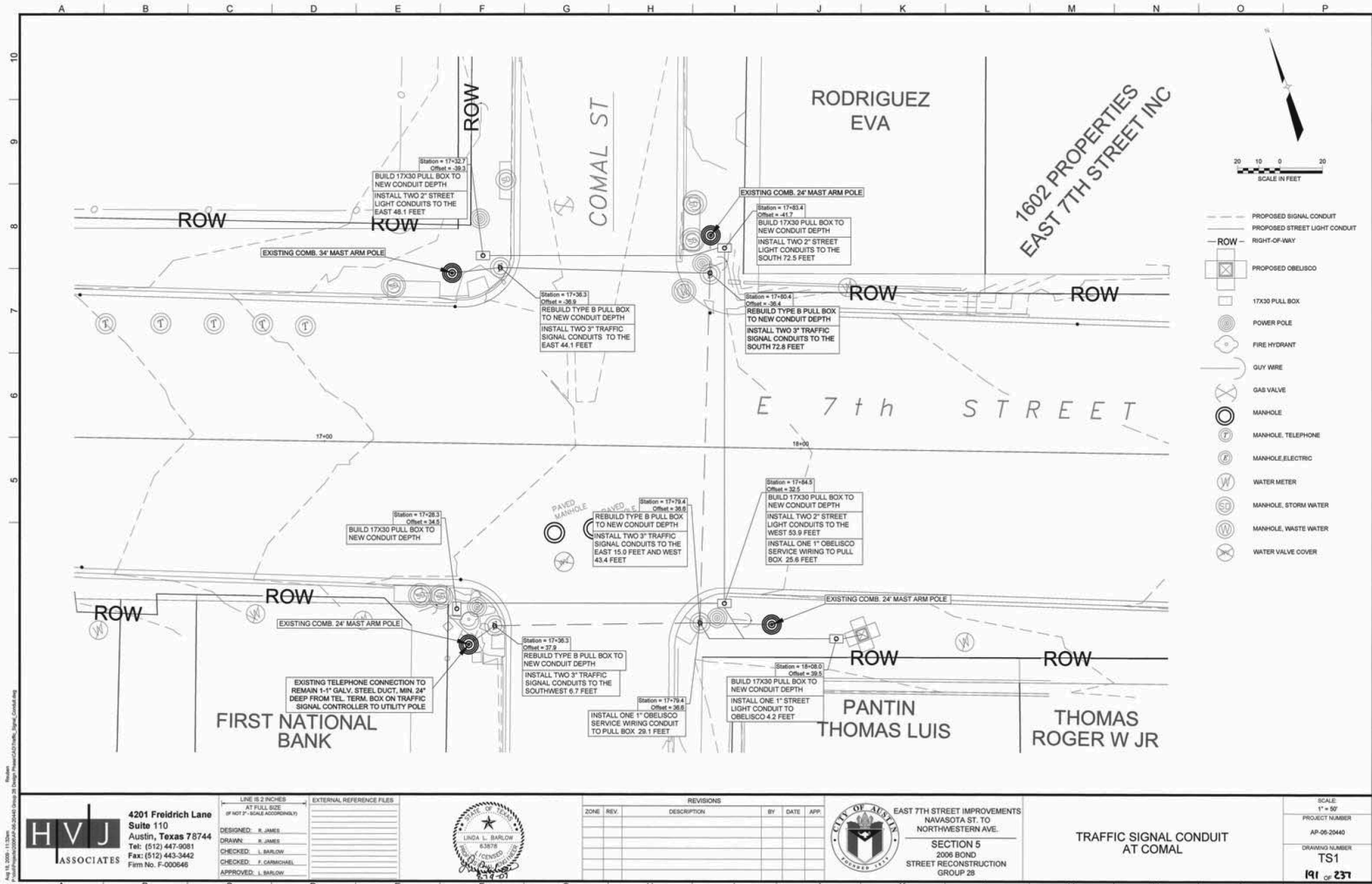


Sculpt Nouveau · PO Box 460459, Escondido, CA 92046 · 800-728-5787 · fax 760-741-1074  
www.sculptnouveau.com · email [sculpt@cts.com](mailto:sculpt@cts.com)









- PROPOSED SIGNAL CONDUIT
- PROPOSED STREET LIGHT CONDUIT
- RIGHT-OF-WAY
- PROPOSED OBELISCO
- 17X30 PULL BOX
- POWER POLE
- FIRE HYDRANT
- GUY WIRE
- GAS VALVE
- MANHOLE
- MANHOLE, TELEPHONE
- MANHOLE, ELECTRIC
- WATER METER
- MANHOLE, STORM WATER
- MANHOLE, WASTE WATER
- WATER VALVE COVER

Aug 18, 2009 11:11am  
Project: 20090818-06-20440 Group 28 Design Project: 20090818-06-20440-01



4201 Freidrich Lane  
Suite 110  
Austin, Texas 78744  
Tel: (512) 447-9081  
Fax: (512) 443-3442  
Firm No. F-000646

DESIGNED: R. JAMES  
DRAWN: R. JAMES  
CHECKED: J. BARLOW  
APPROVED: J. BARLOW

EXTERNAL REFERENCE FILES



REVISIONS				
ZONE	REV.	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE



EAST 7TH STREET IMPROVEMENTS  
NAVASOTA ST. TO  
NORTHWESTERN AVE.  
SECTION 5  
2006 BOND  
STREET RECONSTRUCTION  
GROUP 28

TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONDUIT  
AT COMAL

SCALE:  
1" = 50'  
PROJECT NUMBER  
AP-06-20440  
DRAWING NUMBER  
TS1  
191 OF 237



City of Austin  
Art in Public Places Program  
**PROJECT BUDGET**

Please complete this form and attach a signed receipt of estimate complete with per unit cost (no lump sums) for all items designated with an asterisk (\*).

**TRAVEL** (Non-local residents only)

Airfare	N/A
Car rental	N/A
Per diem expenses at \$___/day	N/A
Mileage at \$_____ per mile	N/A

## STUDIO OVERHEAD

Studio rental, other expenses  
Phone and fax charges, supplies,  
detailed below.

Supplies: 5 gallon buckets,	\$200.00
paper buckets, rags	

## INSURANCE

Auto Liability	Have
General Liability for Artists and subcontractors	\$1200.00
Workers' Compensation, Employers' Liability	N/A
Other as applicable	

**ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS**

If applicable, drawings must be signed  
And sealed by a professional registered  
To practice in the State of Texas.

Architect (CAD/services)*	N/A
Structural Engineer*	N/A
Electrical Engineer*	N/A
Other*	N/A

## FABRICATION COSTS

Please attach a complete list of materials,  
Cut-sheets and individual estimates  
(incl. per unit costs) with this form.

Materials * (Total)	\$3879.75
Labor (Total)	N/A

## TRANSPORTATION

Materials to fabrication site*	N/A
Finished work to installation site*	N/A
Other*	

## SITE PREPARATION

Landscaping, irrigation*	N/A
Removal*	N/A
Electrical modification*	N/A
Test drilling*	N/A
Water Work/Mechanical Devices*	N/A

## INSTALLATION COSTS

Costs must include allowance for after hours installation, if applicable. Please attach a list of equipment and individual estimates with this form.

Labor	N/A
Scaffolding*	N/A
Equipment*	N/A
Off-duty police	N/A
Traffic barriers*	N/A
Storage facility rental*	N/A
City permits	N/A
Display devices (frames, pedestals, etc.)	N/A
Fireproofing*	N/A
Other*	N/A

## LIGHTING

Designers*	N/A
Fixtures*	N/A
Bulbs*	N/A

### OTHER COSTS RELATED TO PROJECT\*

Photo/Video Documentation \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTINGENCY

<b>ARTIST'S FEE</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>
---------------------	-----------------

**GRAND TOTAL \$ \$6500.00**

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Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials:

Alginate, 40lbs @ \$150.00/10lbs.....	\$600.00
from smooth-on, Reynaldis in Dallas	
Plaster, hydracal 30 @ \$28.25/50lbs.....	\$120.00
from Armadillo clay supplies in Austin	
Aluminum, 4-2'x5'x1" panels,\$461.00/each.....	\$1844.00
from The Trident Co. in Austin	
Casting Aluminum (100 lbs @ \$5.75/lb).....	\$570.25
Petrabond.....	\$200.00
Fuel.....	\$200.00
Dye-Oxide (5 gallons @ \$90/gal) .....	\$450.00
From Sculpt Nouveau	
Sealant, Permalac (5 gallons @ \$53.25/gal).....	\$265.75
Hardware.....	\$200.00