



# 9th Street BMX Art Sculpture Austin Parks Foundation Grant

07/08/19 PRESENTATION

# History

For the past 25 years, the South side of Duncan Park has been used for BMX bicycle trails. It has been hand built by the local riders with minimal involvement from the City of Austin with zero compensation. “9th Street” as it is called by the locals, is essentially a community cooperative work project. It’s also evolved into a non-profit organization that is non-discriminatory to riders of all ages and backgrounds.

9th Street has a very positive financial and economic impact on the local community. Created with free labor by good samaritans, second & third generations of riders are now bringing their children to the park to learn how to ride a bike and stay active.

We have “adopted” Duncan Park through the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) Adopt-a-Park Sponsored Fund Account (SFA). We work with the local community and the City of Austin, Parks and Recreation Department (PARD), Shoal Creek Conservancy, Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA), and the Austin Parks Foundation to the benefit of the park.

## Purpose

For 25 years 9th Street BMX has been well known within the international BMX community. However, the general public and park visitors are generally unaware of our history, goals and incredible volunteer efforts. We have never had informational signage explaining our unique situation. Our recently awarded APF grant will include this informational signage.

This art installation will add an iconic representation of the riders, history, & volunteer efforts of this one of a kind BMX park. It will add to the look and feel of the park and solidify 9th Street BMX as an Austin icon. The artwork will add to the ambiance of the park and be an additional reason to visit.

## Artist Bio

W 9th St

Taylor Brown is an Artist and Designer based in Austin Texas. Currently a manager at one of the world's largest specialized BMX mail-order companies, Empire BMX, Taylor has been involved with the cycling industry over 14 years. He is also an accomplished BMX rider as well as avid motorcycle rider. Through his love of motorcycles he naturally gravitated to tig welding and structural engineering.

For the past 10 years Taylor's art has focused on detailed glass engravings with floral motifs and hand-lettered typography. Applied to decanters, glassware, plate glass and the like, his engraved artwork tends to be at small scale, but very detailed. Shifting gears as well as scale in more recent years, Taylor's love of tig welding has challenged him to push his artwork to larger sizes.

Taylor has been riding and volunteering his time at the 9th Street BMX trails for close to two decades. His BMX roots and tenure at 9th Street make him the perfect person to bring this large-scale sculptural art piece to life.

# Artwork Description



The idea of the 9th sculpture came to Taylor after noticing how many people take pictures at Daniel Johnston’s *“Hi, How Are You?”* mural, the “ATX” sculpture outside of Whole Foods’ flagship store, and especially the “LOVE” statue in Philadelphia. Robert Indiana’s LOVE sculpture is a skateboard community mecca. Taylor hopes to have this same experience within the BMX community in Austin.

The placement and welding of the various bike parts within the rolled metal letterforms are meant to symbolize the support of BMX within Austin’s cycling community. Some of the BMX parts welded into the 9 will even be donated bicycle parts from local 9th Street BMX riders and volunteers. The large 9 numeral will stand tall at 9’ high as a homage to its physical location within the city’s grid system. The artwork will of course be finished in “street sign green.”



# Location

RESOLUTION 771410-2  
STREET DEDICATION  
VOL. 5987 PG. 1548  
DISTRICT (EXHIBIT B)

W. 9TH ST. (PLANE VARIOUS)  
465

WATER FOUNTAIN

EDGE OF

APPROX. ORANGE LINE

IRCF WATSON

30 20 10 0 30  
Feet

AREA SHOWN

LOCATION MAP

LEGEND

- Limestone Block Bench
- Chopblock
- Mulch and Plantings
- Information Kiosk
- Back Rest Bench
- Picnic Table
- Art in Public Places
- Tool Station
- Tool Storage Container
- Tree

# Cost Breakdown

<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$9,500</b>	Concrete Foundation	\$3,000
Total Labor	\$2,100	Welding	\$2,400
Total Materials	\$7,215	Steel Plate Rolling	\$1,975
		Sculpture Delivery	\$1,100
		Anchor Rods	\$930
		Concrete	\$800
		Welding Materials	\$570
		Paint Materials	\$300
		Argon (x 3)	\$270
		Wood Forms	\$250
		Skid Steer Dingo	\$225
		Misc. Welding	\$200
		Truck & Trailer	\$140
		Hardware	\$130
		Reinforced Steel	\$75
		Auger Head Attachment	\$66
		Fuel	\$40

# Installation

## SHEET METAL BENDING

7–10 DAYS

Local steel company Tube-Tec is contracted for the large rolling of the letterforms with steel plate metal. This process will only take 7–10 days from start to finish.

## INTERNAL WELDING

30 DAYS

The recycled bicycle parts will be laid into the outline and welded into place by Taylor Brown. Each bicycle frame will be placed in a random layout throughout the sculpture and other parts will fill in the white spaces around them. The estimated amount of BMX frames and parts will be around 70 in total.

## SCULPTURE BASE & CONCRETE FOUNDATION

7 DAYS

Depending on PARD’s installation abilities and resultant timeline, the concrete foundation is estimated at seven days. The soil excavation, wood framing, and rebar reinforcement will be overseen by Taylor in person.

## INSTALLATION

2 DAYS

Once the concrete is cured, the sculpture will be installed by a small hoist via anchor rods. These bolts are in exact positions where the metal bases meet the concrete foundation. There will be a total 16 anchor rods needed to properly mount the sculpture.

## FINISHING

3 DAYS

Color-matched exterior green paint using an air compressor and paint gun will take 1–7 days. *(The process will be extended by a week or more if PARD requires off-site finishing.)*

## SCULPTURE CREATION

(EST.) 10 WEEKS

## TOTAL ESTIMATED TIME

12 WEEKS

The project documentation & proposal is 75% complete as of 9/21/2018. The project approval by PARD & APF is pending completion our documentation & proposal and will take 2 months.

## Benefits

This project gives one of Austin's public parks the local recognition it has earned the world over. This project runs deep with many locals in the BMX community. Many of us or our friends have grown up at 9th Street and are now watching their children learn to ride and grow up at the park as well. Creating an iconic object that people will instantly recognize instills a sense of accomplishment for the locals. With the local recognition comes public knowledge of the park and what it is, what it means, and where it's at to the public and new riders. The sculpture helps locals have respect for, and pride in one of Austin's public parks.



# Community Support

We've got support from the local community, and various stakeholders such as APF, PARD and Shoal Creek Conservancy. With over 260 letters of support, we're most proud of the letter of support from Mayor Adler:

“ Austin is known for its unique, creative and diverse community projects, and 9th Street BMX, a BMX bicycle jumping and trail spot, embodies the energetic spirit of our city. After 25 years of volunteer labor to transform the South side of Duncan Park, the area continues to thrive. Fueled by the passion of the local community the dirt has been crafted to become the successful BMX area it is today. —MAYOR STEVE ADLER



# Thank You

We would like to thank AIPP and especially Frank Wick for their continued guidance and support for 9th Street BMX.

**For more information please contact:**

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