

CITY OF SUNNYVALE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
ARTS & MARKETING

December 21, 2011

TO: Arts Commission

FROM: Kristin Dance, Visual Arts Coordinator *KHD*
Diane Moglen, Arts Supervisor *DM*

THROUGH: Nancy Bolgard Steward, Superintendent of Community Services *NBS*

SUBJECT: Solstice Apartments/BRE Properties

Introduction

Under the City's Art in Private Development Ordinance, the Solstice Apartments development is required to provide public art. The procedure established for reviewing the artwork is as follows:

- 1) Review the artist's background to ensure he/she has the experience and knowledge to design, fabricate and install a large-scale artwork.
- 2) Review the artwork itself to determine whether or not the nature and style of the artwork is appropriate to the architecture and site.
- 3) Determine whether or not the proposed artwork is appropriate in scale for the overall development.
- 4) Review the location of the artwork for visibility to the public.

The purpose of this memo is to provide information about the proposed artwork for Solstice Apartments and to solicit Arts Commission approval of the final design. Under the Art in Private Development Ordinance, the Arts Commission is authorized to make a final determination of the proposed artwork. The Commission's decision may be appealed by the developer to the City Council.

Discussion

Project Location: This project is located in downtown Sunnyvale at Washington Avenue and Taaffe Street, in Block A and Block B of the former Town & Country Village site. (Please refer to Attachment A – Street Map.) The site is divided down the middle by Taaffe Street and bordered on the west across Aries Way by office buildings (Please refer to Attachment B – Site Map.) To the east across Frances Street is the Frances Street parking lot for Historic Murphy Avenue, and to the south across Washington Avenue resides Macy's. The site to the north across Olson Way is currently under construction but it will eventually house a two-block live/work/retail development.

Staff anticipates the site will have high levels of pedestrian and vehicular traffic continuously, including during the evening hours and weekends.

Project: The developer, BRE Properties, is constructing two mixed use buildings with retail shops, offices and 279 market rate condominiums. Both buildings will have two above ground levels of retail and office space, and an additional four stories of condominiums above, with the exception of the Olson Way frontage. This frontage will have six stories of above ground condominiums with no retail. The retail spaces will face out to the adjacent public right of ways.

On the interior of the site there will be three levels of parking: one level underground, one level at grade, and a final level on the first story. Both parking garages will be private for the condominium tenants, and they will have a single vehicular entrance from Taaffe Street. Public parking will be available on the street or in nearby garages.

Artwork Location: The proposed location for the artwork is in the outdoor courtyard area at the center of Block A, along Washington Avenue between Frances and Taaffe Streets, across from the Washington Avenue entrance to Macy's. (Please refer back to Attachment B – Site Map.) This location will allow for pedestrian interaction of the artwork as pedestrians pass by, as well as visibility for passing motorists along Washington Avenue.

Selected Artist: The selected artist for the project is Berkeley sculptor Eric Powell. (Please refer to Attachment C – Artist's Resume.) Mr. Powell has been creating sculptures, gates and site specific works for over 30 years. His work resides in many private and public collections, including the Bay Area's City of San Francisco, City of Brentwood, City of Stockton, City of Oakland, City of Fremont and City of Berkeley.

Artwork Proposal: The developer is proposing to install a painted steel railing that will enclose a centralized restaurant/bar seating area. (Please refer to Attachment D – Computer Rendering of Proposed Artwork in its Proposed Location.) The railing, entitled "Tools of Technology" is representative of the history of the hand tool and the role hand tools have played in the development of modern technology.

This railing will consist of a central 14' high x 12' wide archway and two nineteen foot sections of railing on either side of the arch (Please refer to Attachment E – Artist's Rendering of the Proposed Artwork). At the top and center of the archway will be a sculpted sun shape with tool forms. The tools represented include a saw, a wrench, hammers, blacksmith's tools and woodworking tools (Please refer to Attachment F – Detail of Proposed Archway.)

Each railing section will be approximately 19' long by 42" high. The railing will incorporate imagery inspired by basic, fundamental hand tools in reference to Sunnyvale's modern day contributions to the world of high tech. Also included, in reference to Sunnyvale's rich agricultural history, will be several large horizontal shapes inspired by the steering couplings from vintage plows.

The railing will curve as it encloses the seating area, slightly protruding into the public sidewalk and ending approximately two feet from the building on each side of the recessed courtyard (Please refer to Attachment G – Site Plan Showing Artwork Placement). Each section of railing will be finished with a 9' finial topped with a wagon wheel image.

The curvature of the railing, dark brown painted finish of the steel, curved lines of the imagery and historical references, combined with the hand-made quality of the artwork, create a stark contrast to modern, linear lines of the architecture.

Lighting: The artwork will be up lit from 10 in-ground fixtures. The fixtures will be placed at the bases of the archways, with an additional 4 lights down each side of the railing.

Maintenance: The artwork can be rinsed with water to eliminate dust as needed.

Corporate Logo: Staff has determined that the artwork bears no resemblance to the Solstice Apartments or the developer BRE.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Arts Commission approve the artwork as it is proposed. The proposed art meets all the conditions of the Art in Private Development requirement.

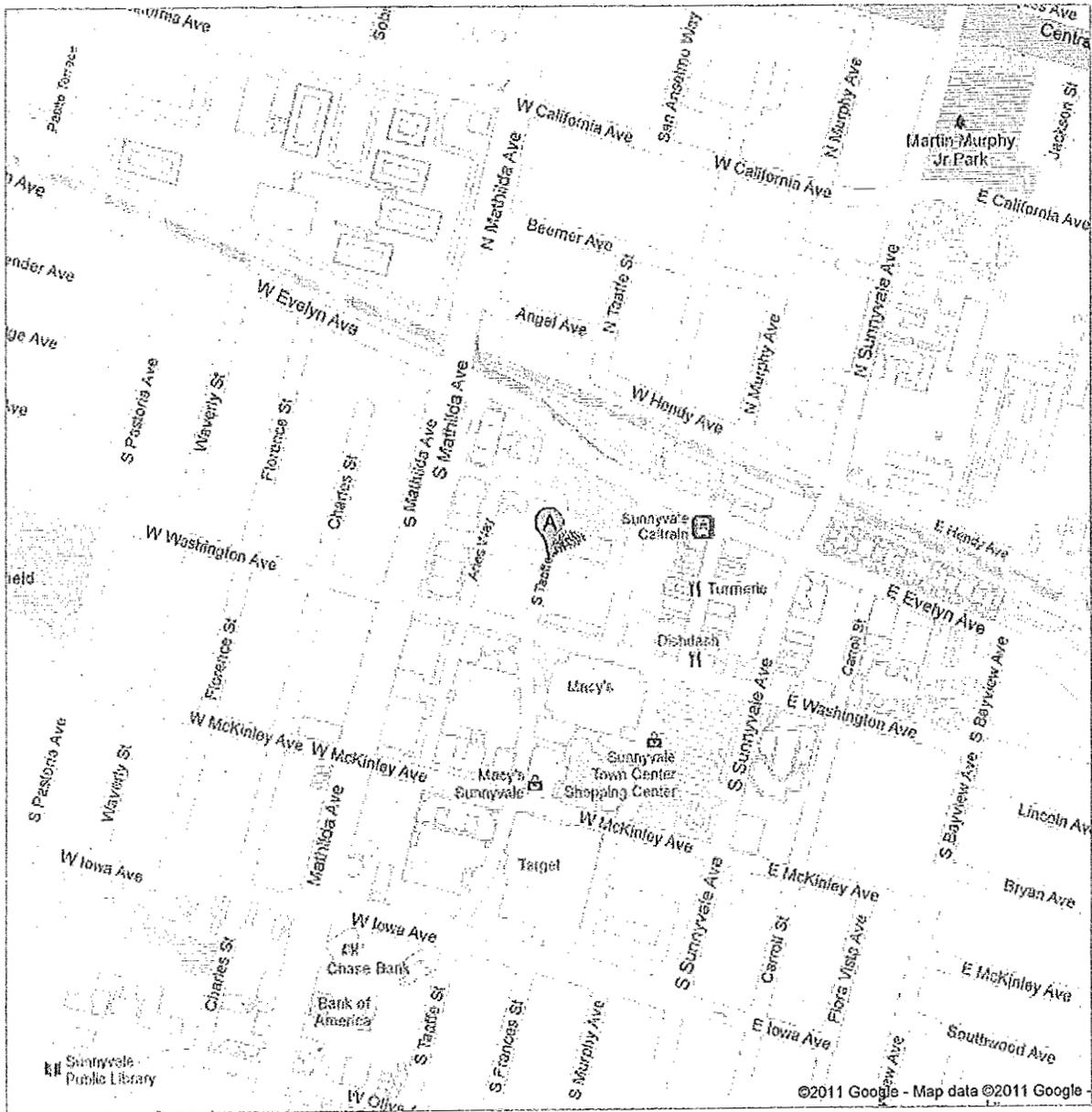
Commission Action

The Commission is being asked to take action on the proposed artwork and its location. The Commission may vote to:

1. Approve the proposed artwork as it is proposed.
2. Not approve the proposed artwork.

cc: Lisa G. Rosenblum, Director, Library and Community Services Department

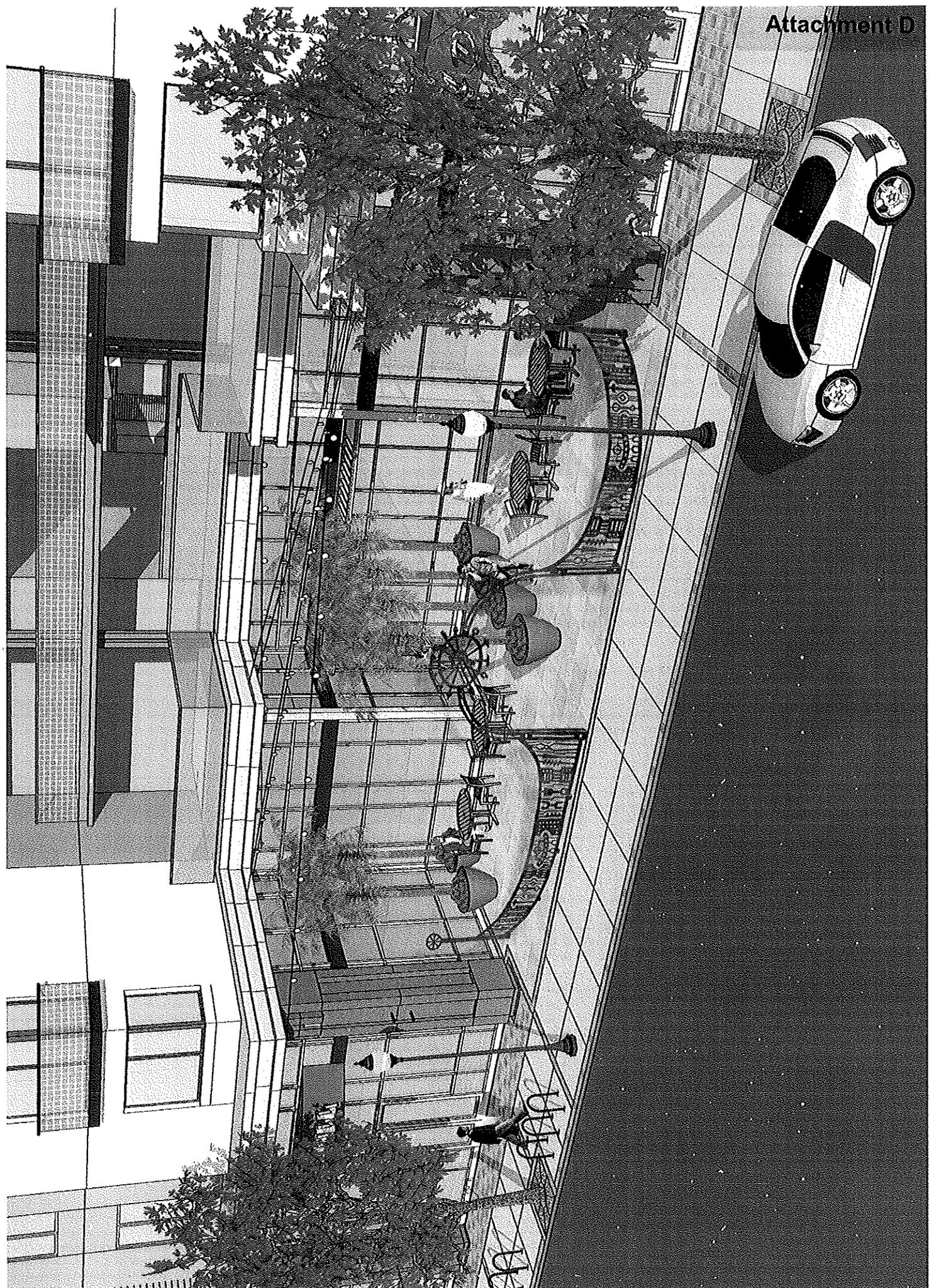
- Attachment A: Street Map
- Attachment B: Site Map
- Attachment C: Artist's Resume
- Attachment D: Computer Rendering of Proposed Artwork in its Proposed Location
- Attachment E: Artist's Rendering of the Proposed Artwork
- Attachment F: Detail of Proposed Archway
- Attachment G: Site Plan Showing Artwork Placement

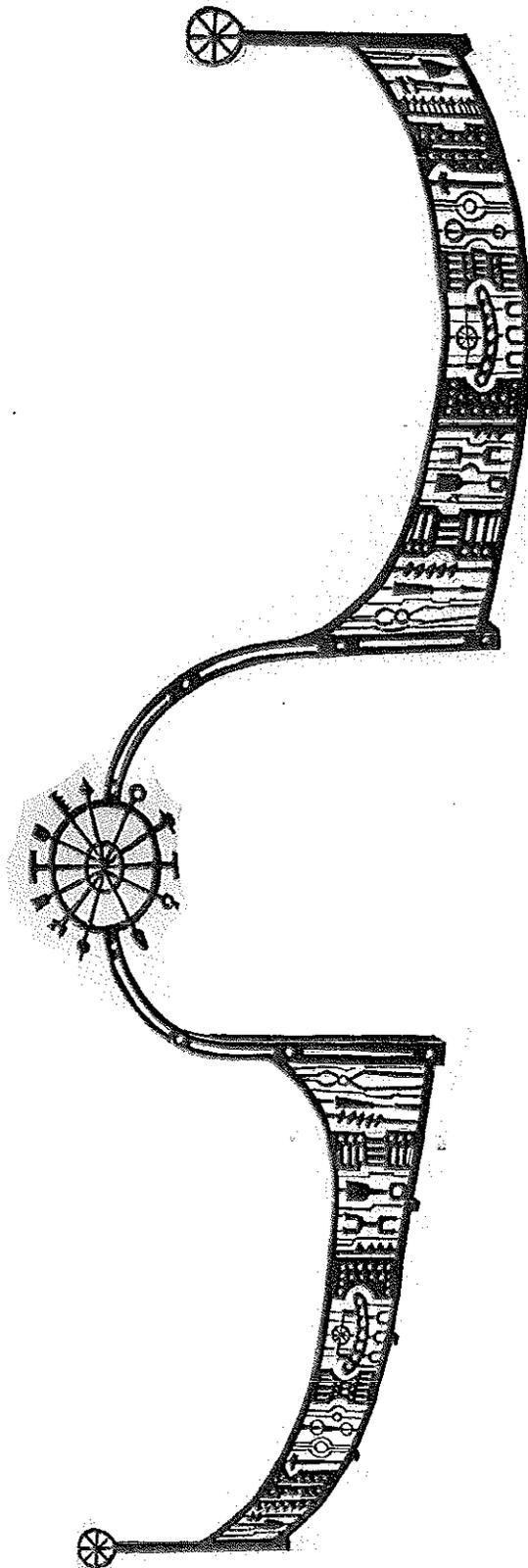




Selected Exhibitions, Public and Private Commissions

- 2011 SAN FRANCISCO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, Hunter's Point Shipyard, San Francisco, CA. Extensive railing named *Flotilla*, conveying the abstracted shapes of ships and ship-related shapes, cut out of solid steel plate
 SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION, San Francisco, CA – Two entry gates for Cayuga Park
 AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASSOCIATES, Berkeley, CA – Entry gates for new housing development
 FREMONT, CA. City of Fremont – Sculptures and railings for the new Fremont Skate Park
 BERKELEY ARTS COMMISSION, Berkeley, CA – Railing, *Bookcases* for the Claremont Library
- 2010 LOS ANGELES ARTS COMMISSION, Santa Clarita, CA - Large entry gates for a new firehouse
 STOCKTON ARTS COMMISSION, Stockton, CA - Pixley Slough Bridge Project Sculptural Wind Screens
 BRENTWOOD ARTS COMMISSION, Brentwood, CA – Civic Center Mural, Children's Gate and Mosaic Fountain
 BRENTWOOD ARTS COMMISSION, Brentwood, CA – Five Sculptures for Brentwood Veterans Park
 TUCSON TRANSIT, Tucson, AZ – Sculpture for transit station
- 2009 STOCKTON ARTS COMMISSION, Stockton, CA - Sculptural elements and railings for Downtown Promenade
 SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION, San Francisco, CA – 30' long wall sculpture for new Ingleside Library
 ALAMEDA ARTS COMMISSION, Oakland, CA - Entry sculptures for new Castro Valley Library
 CAMBRIDGE ARTS COMMISSION, Cambridge, MA – Gate for the Historic Cambridge Commons Playground
- 2008 BLACK PINE CIRCLE SCHOOL, Berkeley, CA - Entry gates
 DALY CITY BART STATION, Daly City, CA - Bay Area Rapid Transit Public Art Program
- 2007 BERKELEY ARTS COMMISSION, Berkeley, CA - *Mandala Gates*, City of Berkeley Corporation Yard entry gates
 EUCALYPTUS GATES, Atherton, CA - Extensive customized series of gates and railings for private residence
 MIAMI ARTS COMMISSION, Miami, FL - North Corridor Metrorail, Finalist
 GLIDE MEMORIAL CHURCH, San Francisco, CA - Public Art Feature for New Permanent Housing Facility, Finalist
- 2006 BRENTWOOD ARTS COMMISSION, Brentwood, CA - *Water Temple*, Prewitt Ranch project
 MADISON ARTS COMMISSION, Madison, WI - *Ripple Effect*, Gateway for the Goodman Swimming Pool Complex
 FORMER CANADIAN EMBASSY, Private Residence, San Francisco, CA - Commission of extensive sculptural and architectural features for historic building
- 2005 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, Lubbock, TX - Project #1 - Outreach and Extended Studies, Finalist
 ATHERTON HERITAGE FOUNDATION, Atherton, CA - Mark Hopkins Family Mansion, commission of entry gates
 THE GARDENER, Berkeley, CA - Two-Person Exhibition
 ARTSCAPE GALLERY, Walnut Creek, CA - Group Exhibition
 BART PUBLIC ART: 16TH & MISSION, N.E., San Francisco, CA - Bay Area Rapid Transit Public Art Program, Finalist
- 2004 OAKLAND ARTS COMMISSION, Oakland, CA - Bella Vista Park entry gates
 ROBERT BERMAN GALLERY, Santa Monica, CA - 25th Anniversary Exhibition
- 2003 CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS, GOLDEN GATE PARK, San Francisco, CA - Five Permanent Bronze Sculptures
 CRAFT and FOLK ART MUSEUM, San Francisco, CA - Group Exhibition
 ROBERT BERMAN GALLERY, Santa Monica, CA. - "Interplay", Solo Exhibition
- 2002 OAKLAND CULTURAL ART CENTER Oakland, CA - *Big, Little*, The Metal Arts Guild, Group Exhibition
 GENSLER AND ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, San Francisco, CA - *Metal Arts and Drawings*, Solo Exhibition
 MUSEUM OF CRAFT AND FOLK ART, San Francisco, CA - Group Exhibition
- 2001 OAKLAND MUSEUM, Oakland, CA - *Full Circle*, The Metal Arts Guild, Group Exhibition
- 2000 600 TOWNSEND, San Francisco, CA - Pacific Rim Sculptor's Guild, Group Exhibition





Tools of Technology
by Eric Powell
detail of arch

