

A Horse With No Name

for Urban Confluence, Silicone Valley, San Jose

Fossil remains throughout the USA show that the horse was indigenous to America, and following reintroduction after extinction, the horse became important to all communities, both first nations and immigrant, both practically and spiritually. Domesticating the horse led to innovation in transport and rapid exploration. However a no-name horse can be free to be itself. A fitting subject for a park and "Thinking about green spaces and connection to nature."

This dramatic sculpture proposal for a monumental bronze horse, has impact from the various aspects it would be viewed from within the Arena Green Park. Its treatment is contemporary, but also refers back to ancient, abstracted animal images and fossil bones, and its open constructed form has a strong visual presence whilst allowing views through it.

The sculpture would stand directly on the level within the park, making it accessible for the public to walk through and experience from all angles. At night it could be illuminated by small, slowly pulsing, solar-powered lights - that would reveal the sculpture as a cluster of stars.

If shortlisted, artists' collaboration with the panel would decide on the sculpture's final site and scale - which could range from 20ft up to 200 ft. It could be a large cast bronze, or an engineered steel structure, with internal stairs/elevator up to a viewing platform.

The existing horse sculpture, carved and constructed from small branches, links it to the natural world, and has been 3D scanned in high definition. If the 20ft sculpture was selected, the 3D scan would be enlarged - to enable a computer-controlled laser to cut the full-size horse into manageable sections from dense polyurethane foam.

Then the old bronze casting technology would take over, with moulds taken from the foam forms, hollow wax versions cast, around which ceramic moulds are made. These moulds are heated, the wax poured out and molten bronze poured into the cavities. The ceramic shell is removed, bronze sections welded together, with internal stainless steel armature and fixings - designed by our structural engineer.

Bronze editions of the horse, moulded from a 3D print could be used in fundraising.

"La la, la la la, la la, la laAfter nine days, I let the horse run free, 'Cause the desert had turned to sea. There were plants and birds, and rocks and things....." America