

APPROVED  
AUG 14 2013

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

NO. 13-215

DATE August 14, 2013

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MONITOR AVENUE PARK – CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL FOR  
INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC ART

R. Adams \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_  
V. Israel \_\_\_\_\_

K. Regan \_\_\_\_\_  
\*M. Shull MS  
N. Williams \_\_\_\_\_

V. Israel for  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board grant conceptual approval for the installation of a public art sculpture within Monitor Avenue Park, as described in the Summary of this Report.

SUMMARY:

Monitor Avenue Park is a new one-acre park project located in the Watts Neighborhood at 114<sup>th</sup> Street and Monitor Avenue. This park is the result of collaboration between the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL). In 2010, TPL applied for and received a grant from California State Parks for the cost of acquiring and developing a new park at this location. In the time since the grant was awarded, TPL and RAP have worked with the community on finalizing the design for the new park. One of the components that the community has consistently requested is public art.

In response to this request, TPL has contracted with Mr. Charles Dickson, who is a sculptor with a studio in the local community. Mr. Dickson has been sculpting for over fifty (50) years and in that time has participated in over ninety (90) professional exhibitions. Mr. Dickson's work appears throughout the Southern California region and includes such works as a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Compton and 113<sup>th</sup> Street in Watts. Today Mr. Dickson is Artist in Residence at Watts Towers Art Center and the Groundskeeper for Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Watts Towers Monument. A selection of Mr. Dickson's works is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

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Extensive community outreach was conducted as part of the park design process. Community members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on design elements, themes and park amenities. Art was consistently identified as an important priority by the community. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a list of the key community outreach activities that were conducted as part of the preliminary design process for this park.

The proposed art installation is entitled "Urban Flower" and consists of three (3) flowers constructed of stainless steel that stand approximately eleven feet (11') tall. The flowers are a daisy, tulip and orchid which are flowers that are found along the railroad tracks in the urban landscape. To address safety concerns the first branch of each flower will be located no less than ten feet (10') from the ground and will be constructed through the use of quarter (1/4) inch gauge stainless steel. The artist, Mr. Dickson, has signed an Artist Waiver which grants the City the absolute right to change, modify, destroy, remove, relocate, move, replace, transport, repair or restore the sculpture at the City's sole discretion. A copy of this Waiver is attached hereto as Exhibit C. The proposed site plan and sculpture design are attached hereto as Exhibit D.

Should the Board grant conceptual approval of this proposal the next steps in the process would be to schedule a review by the Facilities and Maintenance Task Force for an in-depth review of the project. The project would then come back to this Board for a final approval.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (6), of the City CEQA Guidelines.

RAP management and staff have no objection to this project at Monitor Avenue Park.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The installation of the sculpture has no impact on the RAP's General Fund as the cost of the sculpture would be funded through the California State Parks grant. Negligible costs may be incurred as a result of routine maintenance of the sculpture.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.

## Exhibit A

### Monitor Avenue Park Project

#### - Artist Bio

Charles Dickson, Sculptor. For the last 50 years, Charles Dickson has practiced the art of sculpting. In that time, Dickson has participated in over 90 professional exhibitions, and his work appears in public spaces throughout the southern California region. His 20-foot memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stands at Compton and 103<sup>rd</sup> Street in Watts. The sculptor designed elements at a Metro Green Line station inspired by the El Segundo blue butterfly, reflecting the “human desire to fly and to reach higher goals.” Over the years, Dickson has designed a number of works in bronze that serve as awards of honor and recognition for science, medicine, art, music and academic excellence.

A native of Los Angeles, Dickson has created a body of art that is rooted in place and time, politically conscious, and infused with a strong awareness of the contributions to our culture by Black Americans. Today, Dickson is Artist in Residence at *Watts Towers Art Center* and the Grounds Keeper for *LACMA* and the *Watts Towers Monument*.

#### Works:

- **Robert Adams** - Memorial Bronze Sculpture for Peggy Adams and Family of Adams Funeral Home, Compton, CA
- **Ralph Bunche Memorial Wall** - Jefferson High School and Adult School, Los Angeles
- **Divine Order, The Manifestation of the Soaring Spirit** - Designed for Los Angeles Metro Rail
- **Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial** - Watts, California
- **Wishing On a Star** - 17' Outdoor Metal Sculpture, Museum Collection, California African American Museum, Los Angeles
- **Mae** - Bronze sculpture, Museum Collection, California African American Museum, Los Angeles
- **Father, Mother & Child** - Bronze Fountain, City of Costa Mesa Performing Arts Complex
- **Dr. Martin L. King** - Bronze Bust, Curtis Jr. High School, Carson, California
- **Symbol for the Dean's Office** - Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School
- **Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science Presidents Medal** to Mervin M. Dynmally PhD
- **Board of Trustee Medal of Honor** to Sylvia Drew Ivie J.D. & Cornelius L. Hopper
- **Honda All-Star Challenge Scholastic Awards**, 64 Bronze Academic Awards for African American College Students. Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science
- **Jazz at Drew** - Legacy Music Series Bronze Awards
- **Agape Awards** for Steveland Morris (Stevie Wonder), Los Angeles
- **Brotherhood Crusade Awards** - Los Angeles
- **Sons of Watts Awards** - Los Angeles

#### Awards and Commendations:

- **Roberson Award** - Black Leadership Conference Outstanding Accomplishments in the Creative Arts (C.S.U.L.A.)
- **Outstanding Contributions to the Arts in Los Angeles** at the *Bridge Gallery Exhibition* in honor and Celebration of Black Heritage – Mayor Tom Bradley
- **Certificate of Achievement**, Outstanding Achievement in the field of the Arts - John C. Fremont High School Hall of Fame

- **Outstanding Artist Award** - Community Legions - FDG Gallery
- **Festival in Black** – Department of Recreation and Parks Festival - Helping to create in the total community an increased awareness of the contributions to our culture by Black Americans – Chairman Charles Reed
- **Commendation, State of California** - Outstanding Service in the Public Interest - Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy
- **Honoree, Afro-Academic Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympic Awards** -Western Region of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People(NAACP) – Diane E. Watson
- **Letter of Commendation** for serving as a role model for our young people with the *Afro-Academic Cultural technological and Scientific Olympics* and endeavor of the NAACP – Senator John Seymore
- **Outstanding Citizenship and Activities Enhancing Community Betterment** - Watts Towers Art Center 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit - Rudy Svornich Los Angeles City Council member
- **Certificate of Appreciation and Participation, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Doll Show** –Miriam Ferguson Curator, William Grant Still Community Art Center
- **Certificate of Appreciation** in recognition of continuous dedication to the equality and preservation of life in Watts as a Civic Leader both Political and Social – Janice Hahn, Los Angeles City Councilwoman
- **Certificate Of Recognition For Contributions to the World of Art in the City of Los Angeles** – Nate Holden, Los Angeles 10th District Councilmember
- **Outstanding Citizenship and Activities Enhancing Community Betterment, Watts Towers Art Center 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit** - Rudy Svornich, Los Angeles City Council member
- **Certificate of Appreciation and Participation, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Doll**, William Grant Still Community Art Center
- **Certificate of Appreciation** in recognition of continuous dedication to the equality and preservation of life in Watts- Janice Hahn, Los Angeles City Councilwoman
- **Certificate of Appreciation** - Community Outstanding Service - On the Occasion of Watts “King Day” 2004
- **Certificate of /Appreciation and Participation** – “Five Decades of Activisms 1950 – 2000” / 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Watts Summer Festival & Art Exposition
- **“Samella” Bronze Award** – Center for the Arts of the African Diaspora, Inc. The “Samella” was created by Marian C. Williams to honor Dr. Samella Lewis’ legacy in the field of African American art, and the art of the Diaspora

Collectors, Patrons and Award Honoree’s:

Stevie Wonder, Mrs. Rosie Lee Hooks, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Mr. & Mrs. Tim Watkins, Dr. & Mrs. James Hobbs, Howard Gurshney, Shaquille O’Neal, Mr. & Mrs. Mjenzi Ujamaa, Mr. & Mrs. Hewitt, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Ferguson, Attorney Teddie Randall, Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Hicks, Mr. & Mrs. Danny Bakewell, George Bohannon, Norman Connors, Kamau Daaood, Lionel Hampton, Billy Higgins, Charles Wright, Bennie Maupin, Reggie Andrews, Bobby Womack, George Duke, Fritz Wise, Ndugu Chanceler, John Otterbridge, Richard Tyson, Rosa Johnson, Maya Angelou, Oscar Grown Jr., Kareem A. Jabbar, Mohammad Ali, Howard Swerdloff and Dionne Warwick.

Exhibit B

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>MEETING Type, Venue, Address</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Day of the Week</b>	<b>Date/Year</b>
1	Watts Community Development Commission meeting, CRA Conference Room 10221 Compton Ave #201	5:30 - 6:30pm	Thursday	11/5/2009
2	Planning meeting with Macedonia Baptist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church 1755 East 114th Street	12:30 – 1:30 pm	Tuesday	12/15/2009
3	Watts Gang Taskforce Meeting, Council District 15 Field Offices, 10221 Compton Ave, Suite 200	10:00 – 12:00	Monday	1/4/2010
4	Meeting with representative from Watts Neighborhood Council, Jordan’s Food Center 11332 Wilmington Avenue	11:30-1:00pm	Friday	1/7/2010
5	School Site Council Meeting at Markham Middle School, 1650 East 104th Street	9:00-10:00am	Thursday	1/9/2010
6	Presentation at Macedonia Baptist Church, 1755 E. 114 <sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, 90059	11:00-1:00pm	Sunday	1/24/2010
7	Presentation at two services at San Miguel Catholic Church, 2214 East 108 <sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, 90059	9:00-12:00pm	Sunday	1/24/2010
8	Community Design Workshop #1, Macedonia Baptist Church, 1755 E. 114 <sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, 90059	6:00-7:30pm	Thursday	1/28/2010
9	Community Design Workshop #2, Macedonia Baptist Church, 1755 E. 114 <sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, 90059	10:30-12:00pm	Saturday	1/30/10
10	Parent’s Meeting Presentation, Flournoy Elementary School, 1630 East 111th Street	11:00-12:00pm	Wednesday	2/3/10
11	Tabling and surveying at Markham Middle School as part of their parent teacher conferences	3:00-5:00pm	Thursday	2/4/10
12	Parent’s Workshop, Flournoy Elementary School, 1630 East 111th Street,	8:30-10:30pm	Monday	2/8/10
13	Community Design Workshop #3, Macedonia Baptist Church, 1755 E. 114 <sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, 90059	6:00-7:30pm	Tuesday	2/9/10

## Exhibit C

### Artist Waiver for Murals

#### *Waiver of Proprietary Rights for Artwork Placed upon City Property*

The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to modify Artist's rights of attribution and integrity as set out in the Visual Artists Rights Act, 17 U.S.C. §§106A abd 113(d) ("VARA"), the California Art Preservation Act, Cal. Civil Code §§ 987 and 989 ("CAPA"), and any rights arising under United States federal or state law or under the laws of another country that convey rights of the same nature as those conveyed under VARA and CAPA, as against the City of Los Angeles ("City") and its agents.

The City has the absolute right to change, modify, destroy, remove, relocate, move, replace, transport, repair or restore the [describe the artwork/project: mural, sculpture, etc. and medium].

**The Three Flowers Daisy, Tulip and Orchids represents the flowers along the railroad tracks in the urban landscape. The Flowers will be 11 feet tall. They will be made of a stainless steel stem, 6" in diameter and ¼" thick. The steam of the flower will come out and create a small arch back in to the ground no higher than 30". The pedal's will be made of perforated Stainless Steel 1/8" thick. The perforation will be in various sizes, 1" to 2 ½" in diameter. This will give the flower a design dynamic.**

Entitled [title of work]:

**" Urban Flower"**

And located at [identify site, including interior location if applicable]:

Monitor Public Park at 114<sup>th</sup> and Monitor, Los Angeles

In whole or in part, in City's sole discretion.

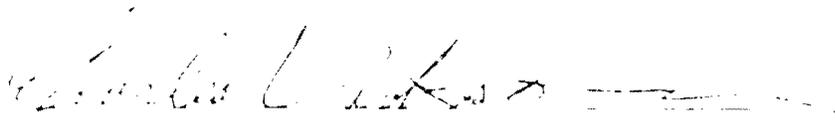
Artist's Address for Notice

Charles Dickson

423 East Rosecrans

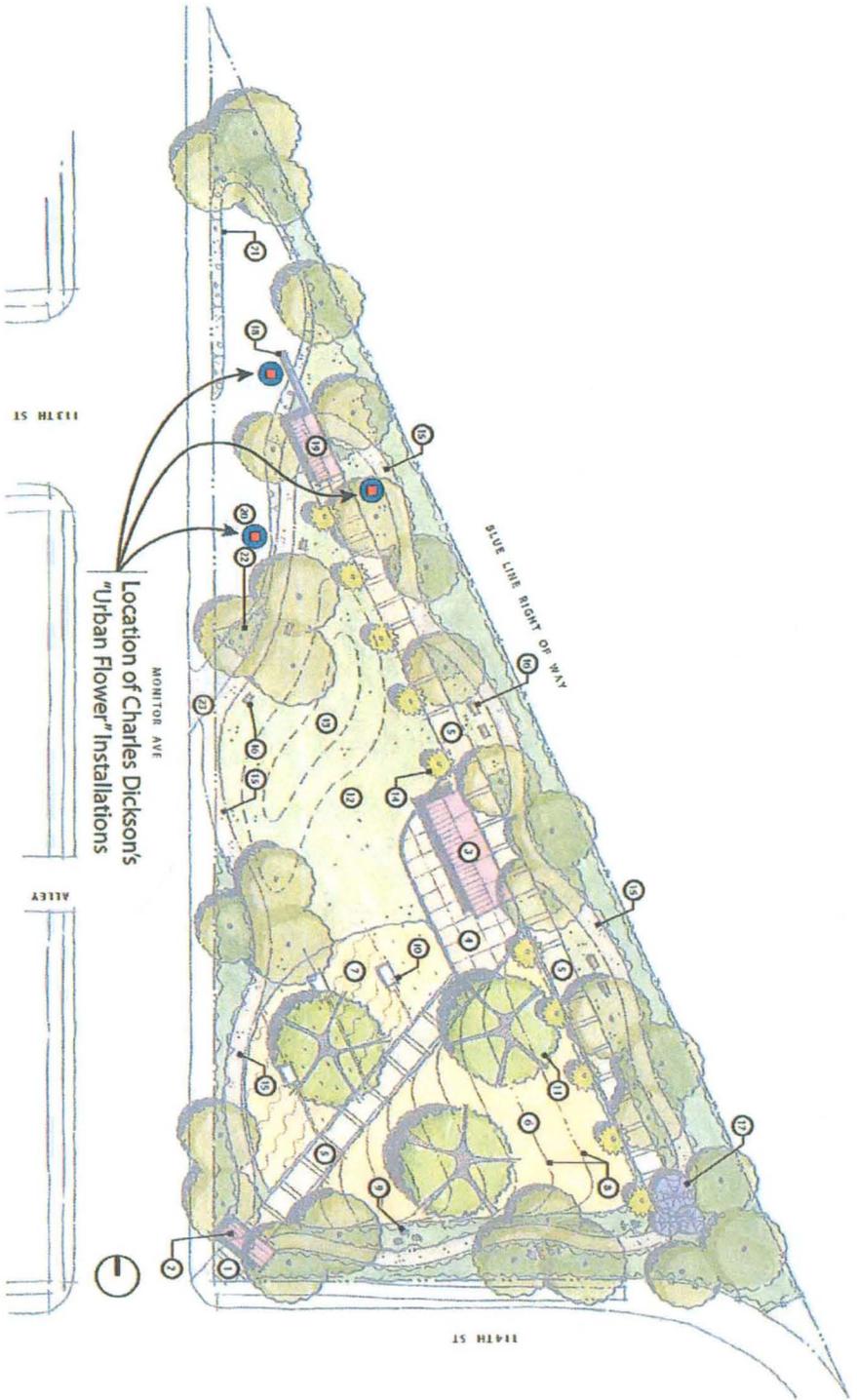
Compton, CA 90221-2037

Artist bears the sole responsibility for providing the City with any changes to the Artist's Address for Notice. Notice of changes must be mailed to the Department of Recreation and Parks, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch, 221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90012.



Artist Signature/Date

Recreation and Parks Signature/Date

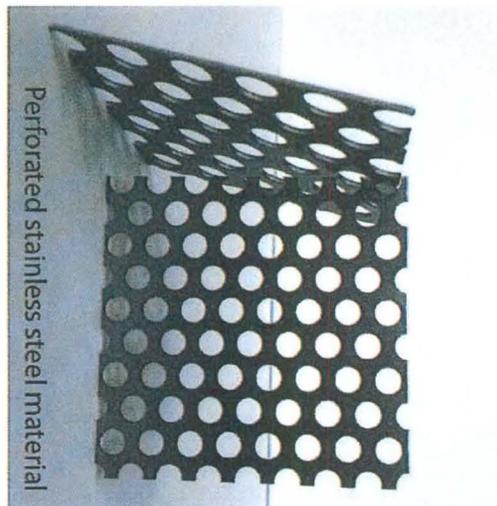
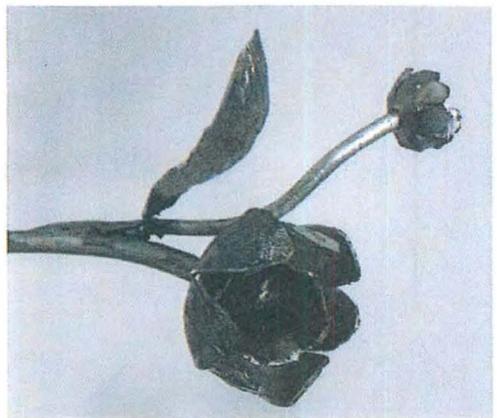
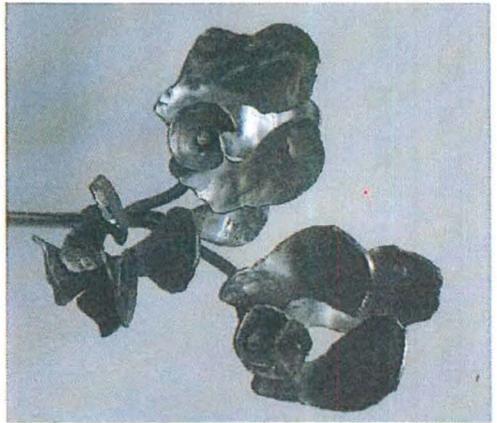
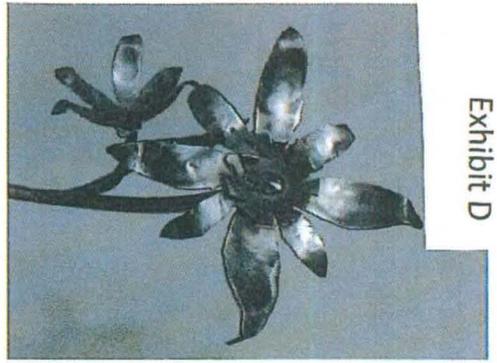


- LEGEND**
- ① Monitor Park Entry Plaza
  - ② Monument Signage
  - ③ Watts Station Pavillion
  - ④ Watts Station Platform
  - ⑤ Railroad Track Pathways
  - ⑥ Switch Car Yard (5-12 Playground)
  - ⑦ Push Car Yard (3-5 Playground)
  - ⑧ Railroad-Themed Play Surfacing
  - ⑨ Interpretive Art Stations
  - ⑩ Push Car-Themed Play Equipment
  - ⑪ Specimen Shade Trees
  - ⑫ Monitor Park Green
  - ⑬ Berming In Lawn Area
  - ⑭ Washingtonia Palm Trees
  - ⑮ Loop Trail/Jogging Path
  - ⑯ Fitness Equipment
  - ⑰ Sculpture Piece
  - ⑱ Mosaic/Mural Wall
  - ⑲ Trolley Car Pavillion
  - ⑳ Skate Park
  - ㉑ Sloped Perimeter Bank
  - ㉒ Rain Garden/Bio Swale Planting
  - ㉓ LAPD Designated Parking Space



**MONITOR AVENUE PARK**  
**SITE PLAN WITH SCULPTURE LOCATIONS**

Exhibit D

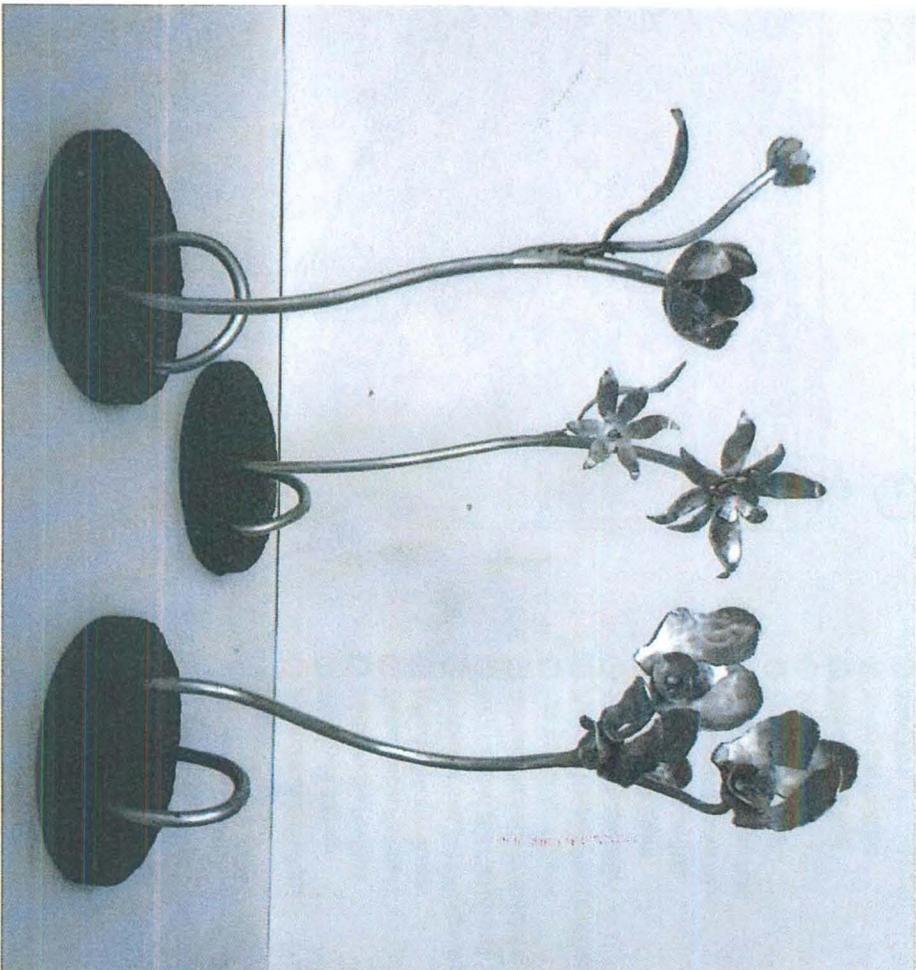


Perforated stainless steel material

Charles Dickson's Sculpture Installation for Monitor Ave. Park

Title:  
"Urban Flower"

Description:  
The three flowers represent the flowers along the railroad tracks in the urban landscape. Each will be a minimum of 10' tall. Their stems will be made of stainless steel, 6" in diameter and 1/4" thick. The stem of the flower will come out and create a small arch back in to the ground no higher than 30". The petals will be made of perforated Stainless Steel 1/8" thick. The perforation will be in various sizes, 1" to 2 1/2" in diameter.



MONITOR AVENUE PARK  
SCULPTURE DESIGN