

Lafayette Roundabout Sculpture Proposal

“Resolve”

By David Mudgett

As a Walnut Creek native it's been inspiring to watch the Bay Area public art collection grow and evolve. It's had a huge impact on me. With each new sculpture encounter, I was being seduced. The seduction would stimulate thoughts that became ideas. The ideas in turn, required plans, stimulating even more thought. As the plans were being executed, discoveries were made shedding light on even better ideas. Each new idea triggered that endorphin rush that drives us all. It's fascinating how art seemingly uses this chemical reaction to perpetuate itself.

My intention with this installation is to create an iconic sculpture that will enrich the community. A landmark that the citizens of all ages can identify with and be proud of, a sculpture that not only peaks interest and creates conversation, but also captures young minds.

One of Lafayette's strongest attributes is its ability to work as a collective to put education first. This kept coming to mind throughout the conceptual process which finally led me to a geometric design. Geometry is around us everywhere and yet mostly goes unnoticed. The geometric shape of crystals makes them a natural lure. Somewhere in our psyche we are wired to take notice of the unique designs. As a subliminal educator, a geometric piece would speak to math, science and nature.

Proposal

I propose an arrangement of eight steel dodecahedrons titled “Resolve”. The title reflects both the resolution to the traffic issue and the resolve that the community had to address it. Dynamically balanced atop a five foot pentagonal concrete pedestal, the dodecahedrons would connect and ascend upward reaching a height of 21 feet. Throughout the daylight hours natural light will filter through the cutouts in a playful manner. At night, with an array of strategically placed lights the sculpture would take on a more dramatic role.



Description

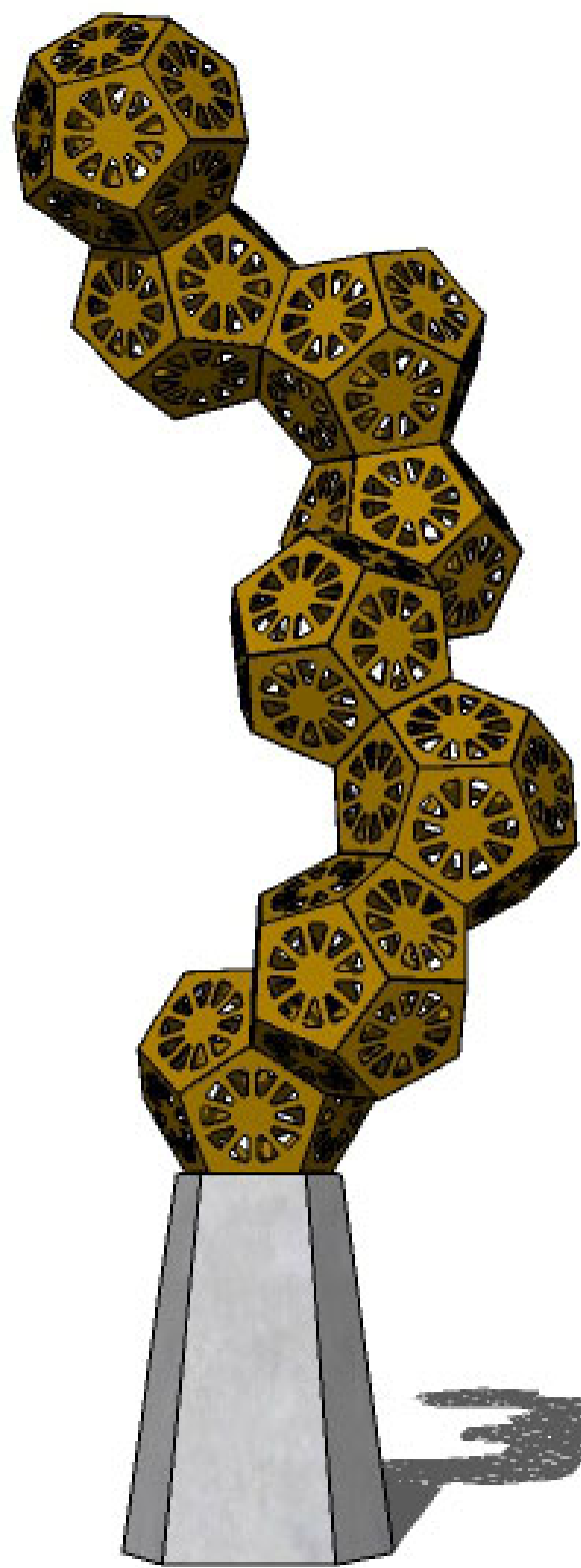
Resolve will be fashioned from Corten and stainless steel. Measuring 16 feet tall and weighing approximately 3,000 pounds, the sculpture will be fastened to a five foot tall concrete pedestal to achieve a combined height of 21 feet. It will consist of eight individual modules which fasten together. Each of the eight modules will be comprised of 12 individual pentagons and measure 40 inches in diameter. To help visualize please refer to the 1/7 scale module model.

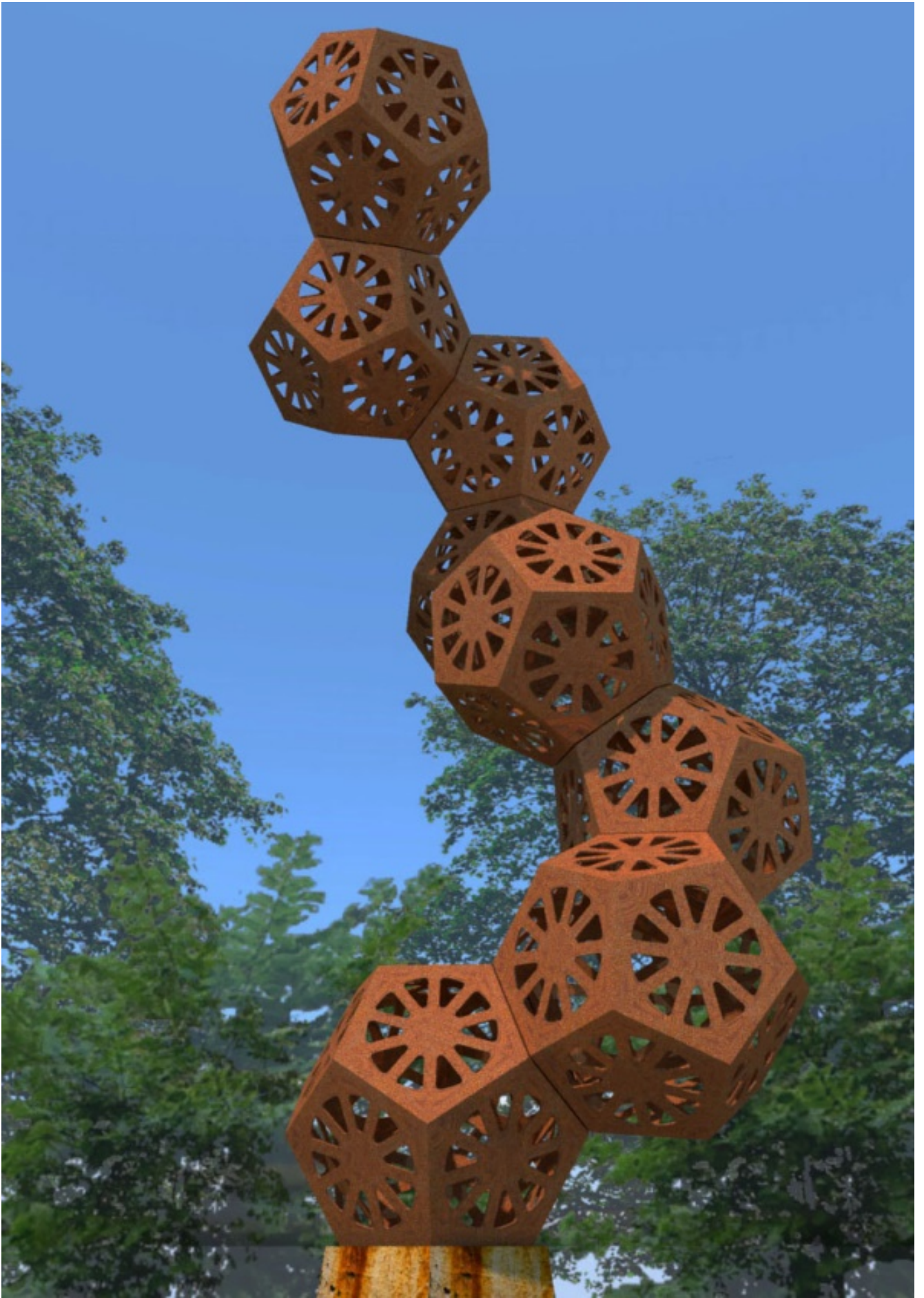
The exterior pentagons will be of Corten steel, and the interior connecting pieces will be of stainless steel. The stainless steel pieces are flanges with precisely aligned bolt holes for connecting. The use of stainless steel flanges and hardware in the connections will prevent corrosion. This will keep the piece safe for decades to come, and as a bonus, offer the option of dismantling the piece if the need should ever arise. Once each module is assembled and welded, the exterior welds and edges will be ground smooth as demonstrated in the enclosed material sample. Each module will have a weep hole at its low point for drainage.

Engineering may require that the steel thickness graduate down as the modules ascend, therefore the steel thicknesses represented in the material sample are approximate. The actual thicknesses, bolt sizes and foundation requirements will be determined by a structural engineer.

The nick name Corten was derived from the properties corrosion resistant and high tensile. For corrosion resistance high tensile strength mild steel is alloyed with copper and chromium. With age a protective oxide layer forms on the surface. Under normal conditions the protective layer will form in about 18-36 months. This layer referred to as the patina, will start out orange, then darken to red and finally to the brown rust color that we all recognize.

The pedestal would serve many functions. With the sculpture elevated, motorists and cyclists could view the sculpture as they approach without it becoming a distraction. As pedestrians encounter and experience the piece, its elevation will leave them feeling less compelled to enter the round. Having a spread footing design, the pedestal would weigh approximately 10,000 pounds and be guarded by three large strategically placed boulders. Any errant vehicles would first contact the boulders, lessening the impact to both the vehicle and the pedestal. As time passed rust from the piece would travel down the pedestal applying a natural complimentary patina.





Lighting

As an integral piece of the installation, well-orchestrated lighting can make a huge difference. As the final phase of the project, after the sculpture is installed, an array of five or six flood and bullet LED's will be used to illuminate the sculpture. First a securely housed transformer/ timer will connect to the existing power per code. The lights will then be temporarily connected for experimentation. Once the optimum configuration is revealed the lights will be permanently installed. All lights, fixtures and accessories will be of commercial grade, with all fixtures anchored in concrete footings. This lighting installation will be done in coordination the city of Lafayette.



Installation

In preparation for the sculpture, and in coordination with the city of Lafayette regarding timing, permits and traffic control, the engineered pedestal will be installed. Throughout this process all necessary steps will be taken to avoid damage to both the hardscape and landscape. The pedestal will then be left to cure per specifications. While the pedestal cures, the boulders would be installed and the landscape could be completed. Once the sculpture is complete and ready for delivery I will again coordinate with the city of Lafayette regarding timing, inspection and traffic control. The sculpture will arrive fully assembled on a flatbed boom truck. It will then be lifted into position and bolted down per specifications. "Resolve" will require no maintenance.



Budget

Artist Fee	\$8,000
Project Management	\$14,000
Engineering	\$6,000
Materials & Labor	\$80,000
Pedestal & Installation	\$9,000
Contigency	\$8,000
Total	\$125,000