

Working Title:

The City of Trees

Brief Narrative:

The City of Trees is a collection of large-scale outdoor public art sculptures that are directly inspired by the community input to the Van Aken District Public Art Action Strategy Plan along with the Van Aken District's 10-point Guiding Principles.

This multi-piece durable outdoor metal artwork is designed from aluminum and depicts profiles of human faces that are integrated into individual leaf-shape sculptures. Each leaf shape depicts 2 or 4 unique tracings of human face profiles from members of the Shaker Heights community. The individual face profiles and leaf shapes will be custom laser-cut from aluminum sheets along with the venation pattern lines in the leaves (the suggested, but simplified, "veining" areas of a leaf). The aluminum will be painted in a vibrant color-theme that connects to the existing brand identity of Shaker Heights and the Van Aken District, while simultaneously complimenting and contrasting the surrounding urban and natural environment.

The City of Trees public art sculptures will allow for a large degree of flexibility, particularly in the placement of individual sculptures that can mark and signify key areas of focus and interest in the Van Aken District. Each sculpture will be custom designed to fit the unique criteria of a chosen site— adjusting size, color, pattern and install method to match the needs of a selected site. There is also future possibility in adapting and extending artwork locations by adding new custom leaf sculptures to the existing public art collection.

The City of Trees public art sculptures will also allow for direct community involvement in the making and creation of the public artworks by organizing an outdoor event where profiles of the public are photographed for inclusion in the finished sculptures. Along with a planned meet and greet with the artist, *The City of Trees* will give the community a sense of connection and ownership to the newly commissioned artworks and insight into the overall public art design and fabrication process.

Key Concepts:

We are Nature.

Community and Connection.

Human connection to Nature.

Community resident profiles captured in leaves.

Each leaf and each individual is unique, one-of-a-kind and important.

Artwork that reflects the diversity of the community and district.

Vibrant, inclusive and up-lifting design aesthetic.

Flexible and adaptable artwork design and placement.

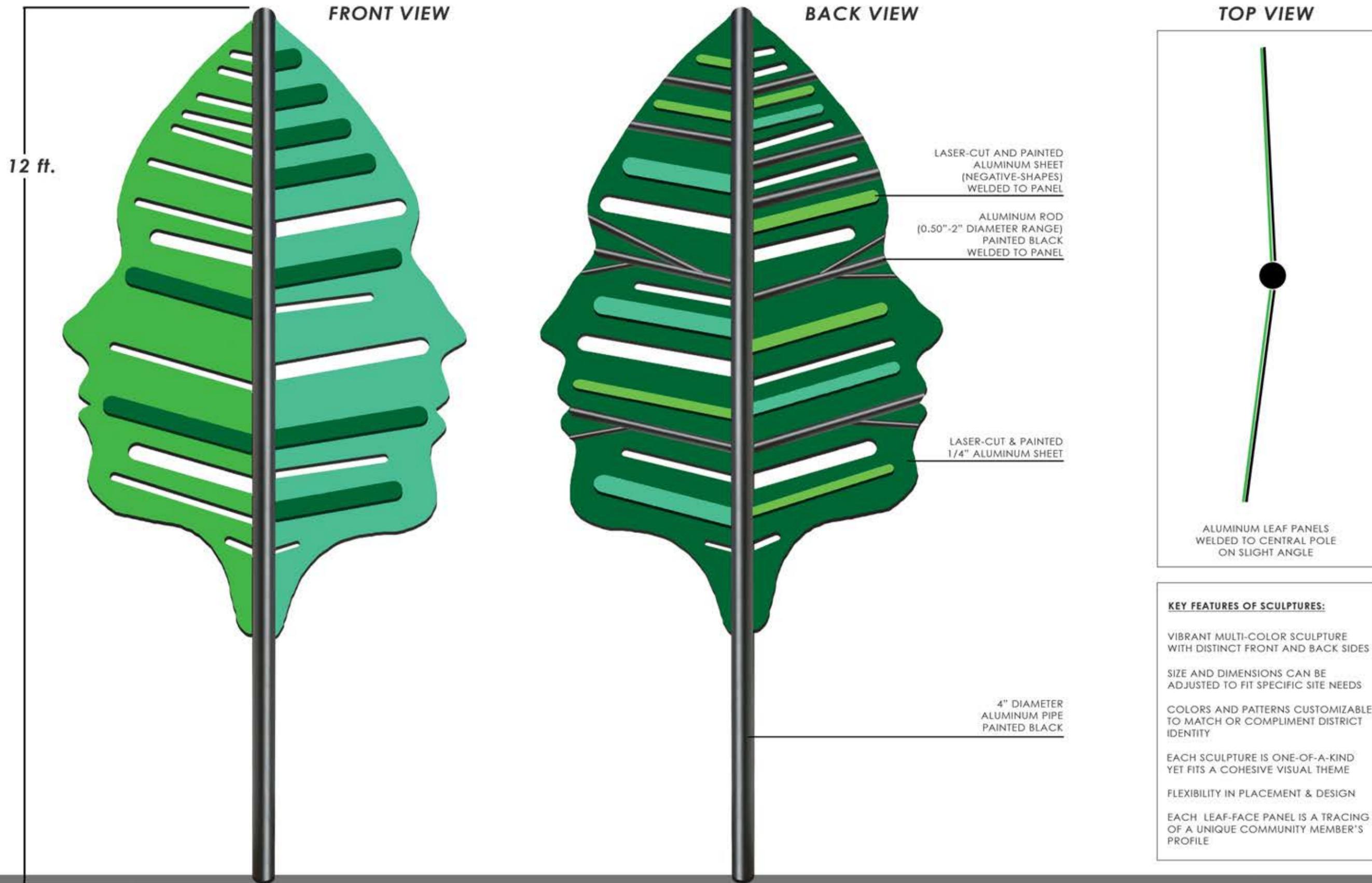
An extension of and connection to Shaker Heights' existing brand identity.



PROJECT:

City of Trees: Venation Proposed Public Artwork for Van Aken District
Materials: Aluminum (Laser-cut Aluminum Sheets, Aluminum Tubing, Welded Metal, Painted Metal)
Dimensions: Each Element varies. Maximum height and width approximately 12 feet H x 8 feet W; Minimum of 4 Sculptural Elements
Location: Multiple Locations throughout the Van Aken District

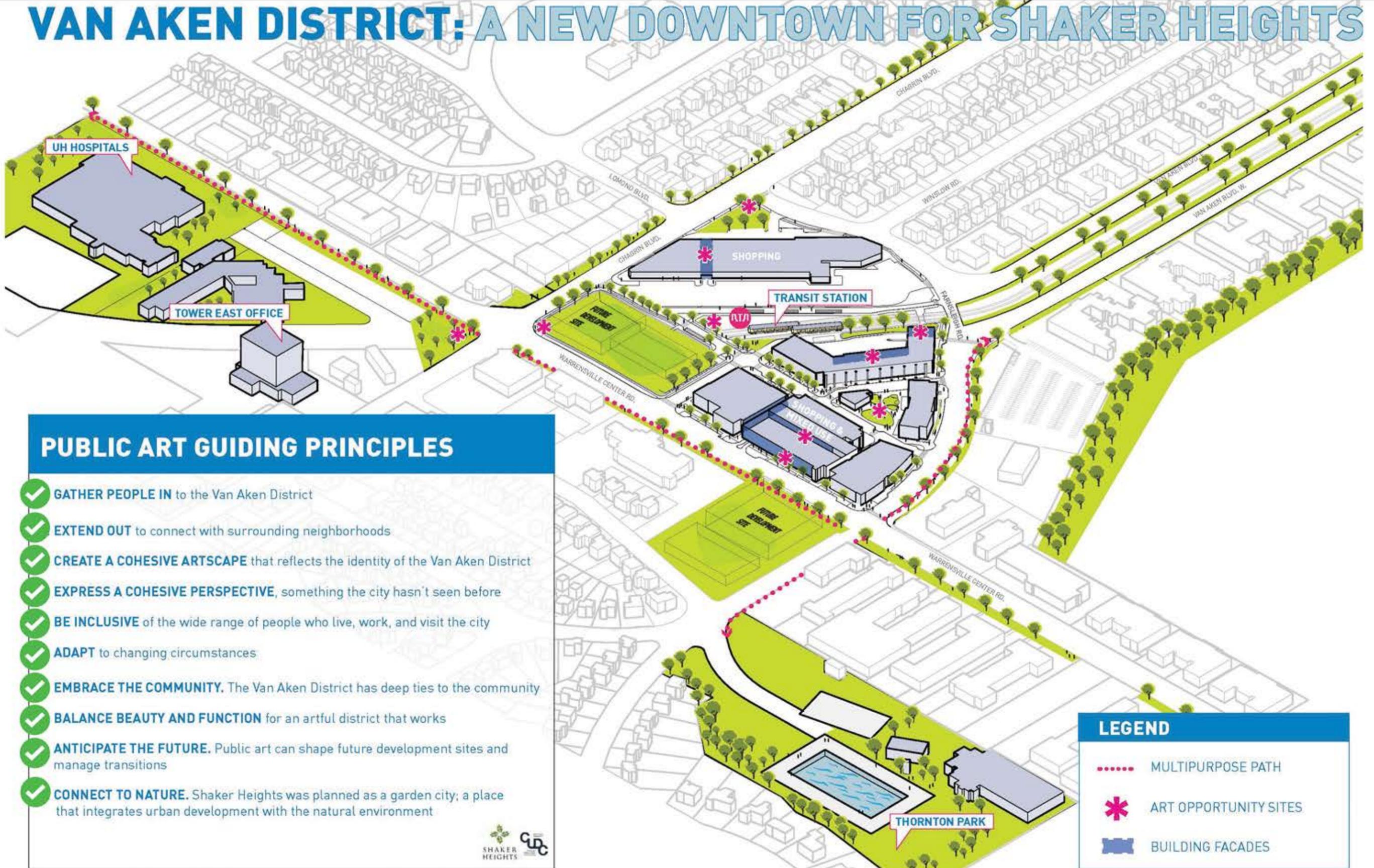
CITY OF TREES PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL: VAN AKEN DISTRICT SCULPTURE DETAILS



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VAN AKEN DISTRICT: A NEW DOWNTOWN FOR SHAKER HEIGHTS



PUBLIC ART GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ✓ **GATHER PEOPLE IN** to the Van Aken District
- ✓ **EXTEND OUT** to connect with surrounding neighborhoods
- ✓ **CREATE A COHESIVE ARTSCAPE** that reflects the identity of the Van Aken District
- ✓ **EXPRESS A COHESIVE PERSPECTIVE**, something the city hasn't seen before
- ✓ **BE INCLUSIVE** of the wide range of people who live, work, and visit the city
- ✓ **ADAPT** to changing circumstances
- ✓ **EMBRACE THE COMMUNITY**. The Van Aken District has deep ties to the community
- ✓ **BALANCE BEAUTY AND FUNCTION** for an artful district that works
- ✓ **ANTICIPATE THE FUTURE**. Public art can shape future development sites and manage transitions
- ✓ **CONNECT TO NATURE**. Shaker Heights was planned as a garden city; a place that integrates urban development with the natural environment

LEGEND

- MULTIPURPOSE PATH
- * ART OPPORTUNITY SITES
- BUILDING FACADES



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 Location: Along the East Side of Parsons Avenue near Parking Lot or placed in the Center Median at Parsons & Broad

GATHER PEOPLE IN to the Van Aken District



BIALOSKY
CLEVELAND

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EXTEND OUT to Connect with the Surrounding Neighborhoods



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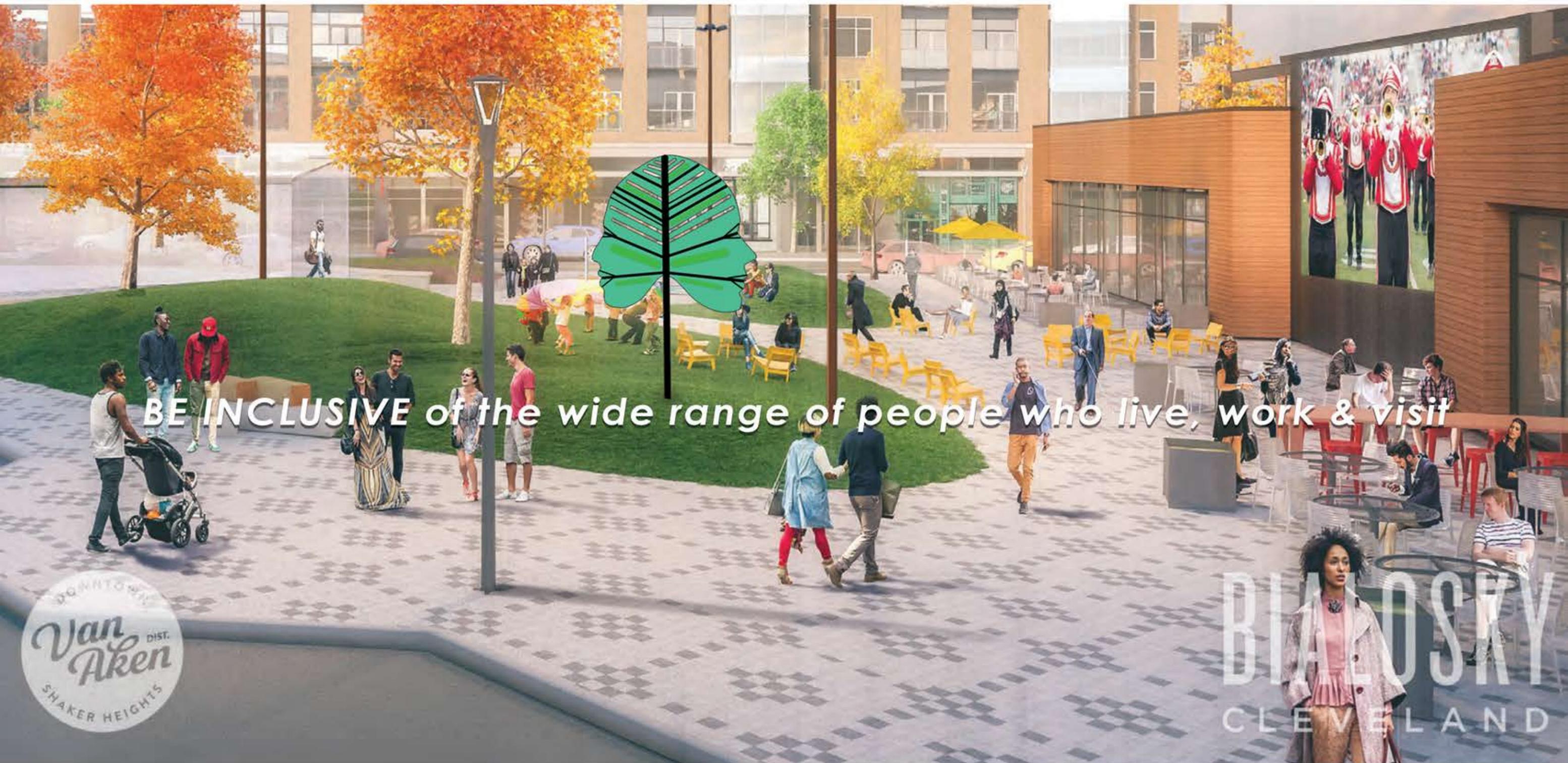
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CREATE A COHESIVE ARTSCAPE that reflects the Identity of the District

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BE INCLUSIVE of the wide range of people who live, work & visit



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CONNECT TO NATURE.

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A place that intergrates urban development with the natural environment.*



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OPPORTUNITY FOR **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT** WITH THE PROJECT.
CREATING A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP & **CONNECTION** WITH THE ARTWORK.
SHOWCASING **UNIQUE** INDIVIDUALS FROM THE COMMUNITY.
REFLECTING THE **DIVERSITY** WITHIN THE DISTRICT.
PHOTOGRAPHING PROFILES OF RESIDENTS FOR **INCLUSION** IN ARTWORK.

