

NO: R097

COUNCIL DATE: June 19, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **June 15, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommended Public Art for Bear Creek Stadium**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract Brandon Vickerd to complete a public artwork at the Bear Creek Stadium, as generally described in this report and attached as Appendix "I".

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to proceed with the implementation of Brandon Vickerd's artwork design for the Bear Creek Stadium.

BACKGROUND

The Bear Creek Stadium public art opportunity was determined by the project team and will consist of a creative enhancement of the east elevation of the grandstand. The east elevation of the grandstand is what most visitors will first see upon entering the facility and is directly adjacent to an existing playground and waterpark frequented by families. This large expanse has four sheer walls each measuring 5.5m wide x 6.1m high. These walls will be the site of a large-scale artwork that welcomes people to the facility and helps integrate the building into the natural surround of the park itself. An image of the proposed site is attached as Appendix "II."

The Call for Artists was informed by surveys and community engagement conducted by Parks staff which showed a preference for artwork that integrated the architecture and is inspired by nature.

DISCUSSION

The artist and design were determined through an open call and two-stage selection process. Public Art staff developed a Call to Artists focused on the theme of connection with nature. The call was distributed through City media channels and other online channels. In total, 65 design proposals were received and reviewed by City Staff and the selection panel.

On October 29, 2022, staff convened a selection panel to review all the artists' concept designs proposed for the Bear Creek Stadium and shortlisted six to advance to the next round. The

shortlisted artists were commissioned to further develop their concept proposals and present them to the selection panel on January 21, 2023.

The selection panel consisted of six community members collectively bringing the perspective of local residents with backgrounds with local athletic clubs, local secondary and post-secondary educational institutions and the art associations. After a process of deliberation, the selection panel voted to recommend one design by Brandon Vickerd.

Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Recommendation

At the April 18, 2023 Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting, staff shared the recommendation from the selection panel and proposed design. The Committee was supportive of the proposed artwork and recommended staff prepare a Corporate Report for Council.

About the Artist and Artwork

Appendix “III” provides more information about the artist and the artwork.

FUNDING

Funding for this public art project draws from 1.25% of civic monies from the construction of the Bear Creek Stadium as required by the Public Art Policy. Total public art costs for the project are \$260,000, which includes artist fees (\$24,000), design development, engineering, fabrication, installation, and maintenance.

CONCLUSION

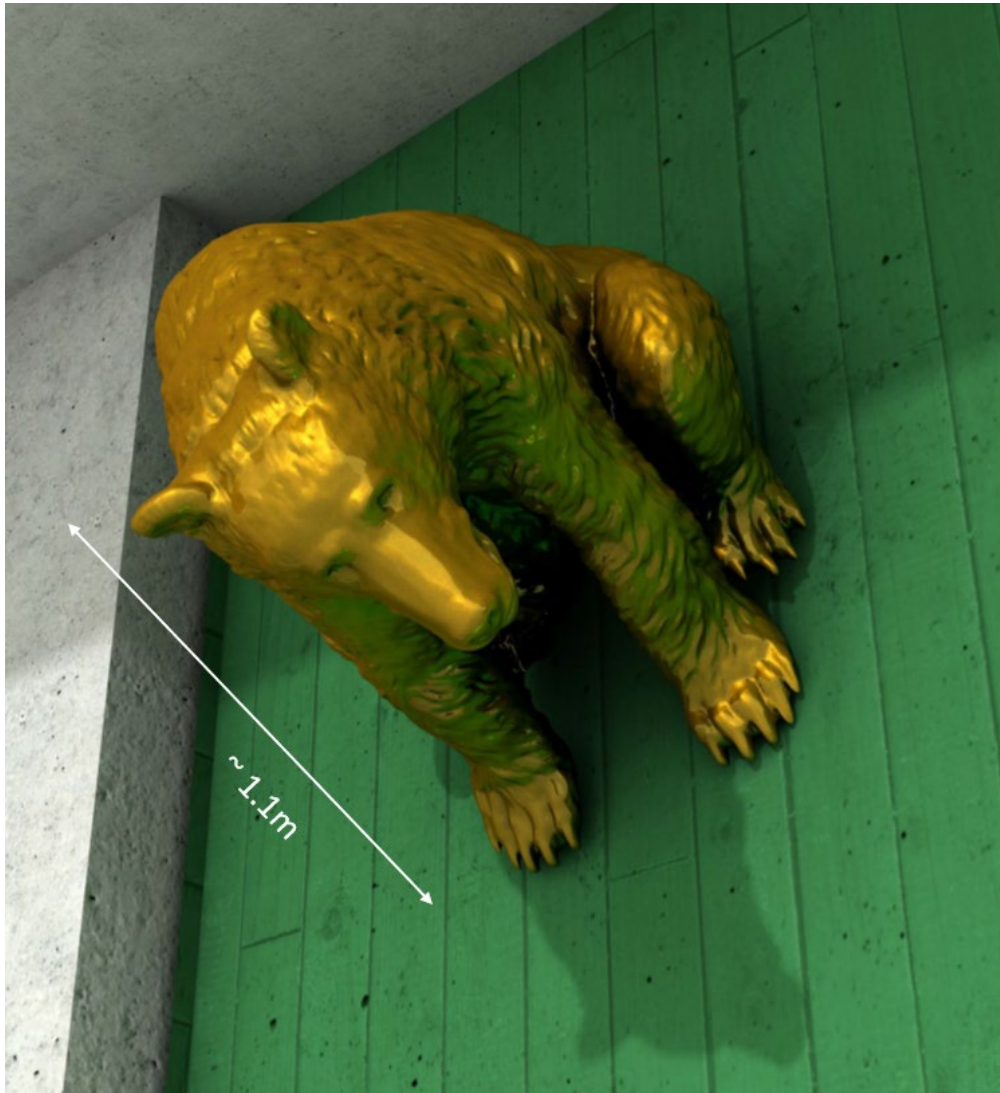
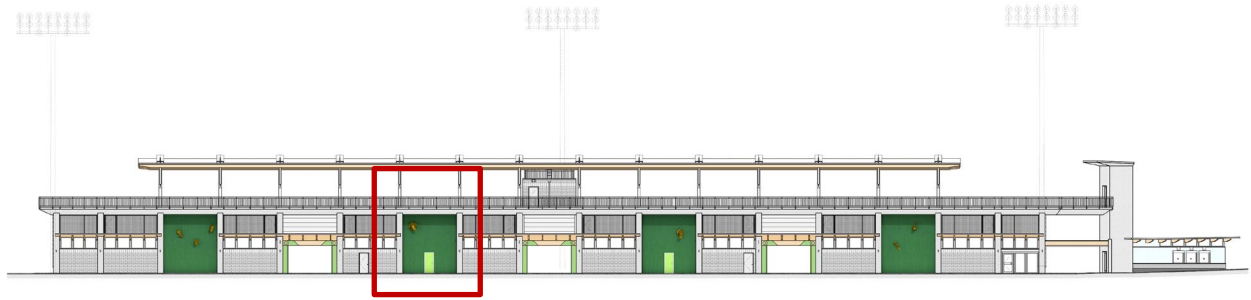
The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends Council authorize staff to contract Brandon Vickerd to implement a public artwork at the Bear Creek Stadium, as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

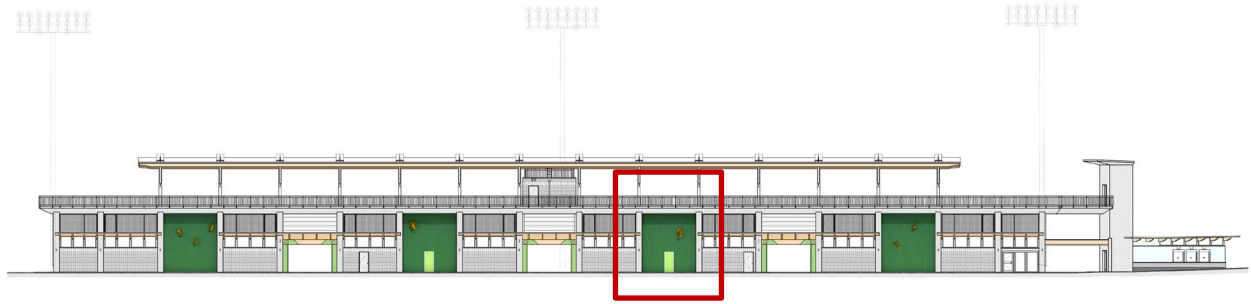
Appendix: “I”: Recommended public artwork *Seeing Nature* by Brandon Vickerd
Appendix: “II”: Proposed Artwork Location: Bear Creek Stadium, East Elevation
Appendix “III”: Information About the Artist and Artwork

Recommended public artwork *Seeing Nature* by Brandon Vickerd

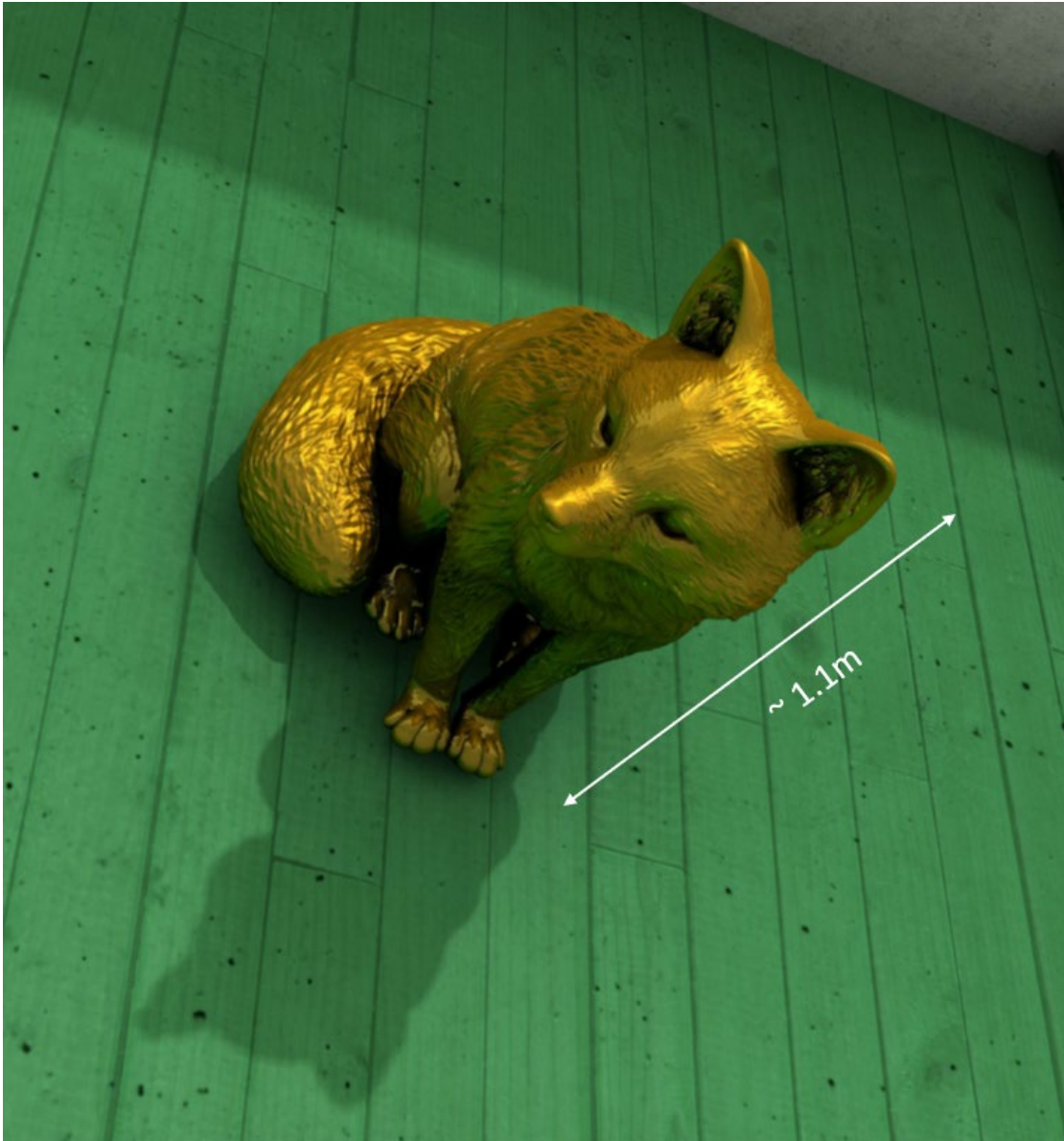
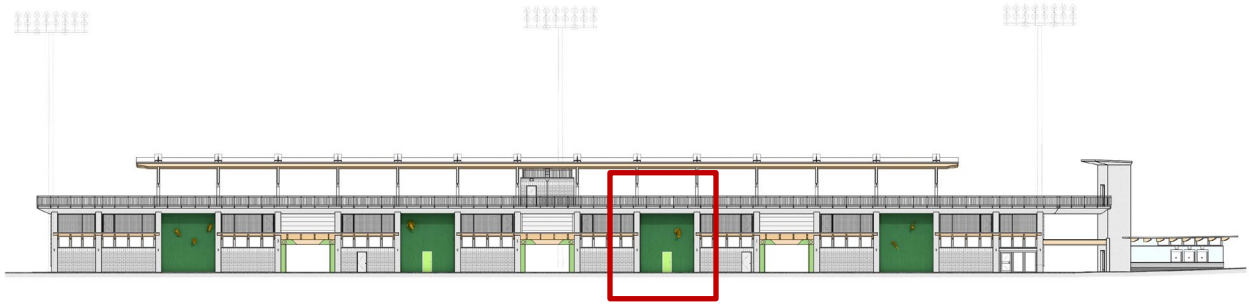




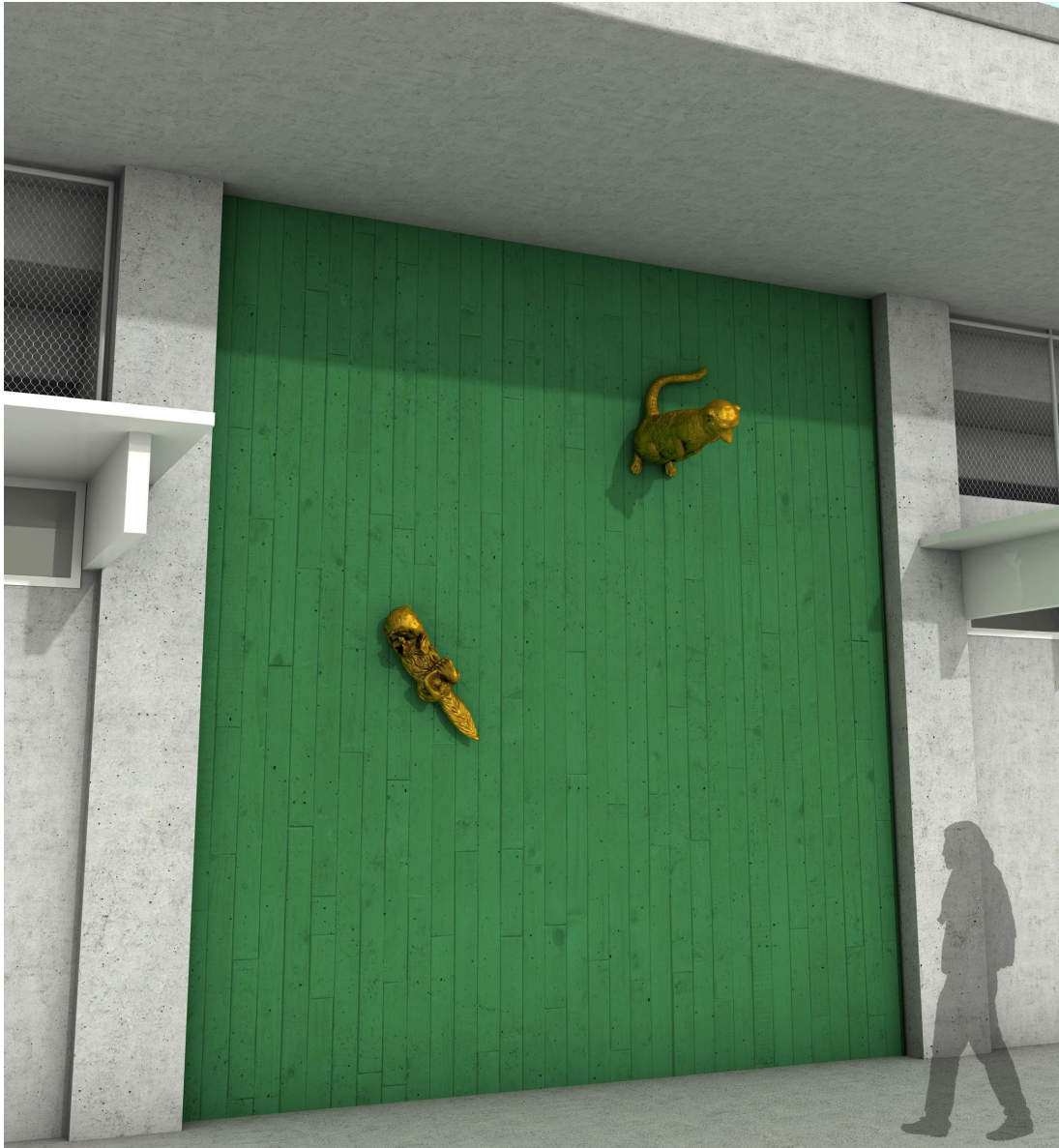
*Animals are approximately 1.1m tall from the wall surface to the tip of sculpture



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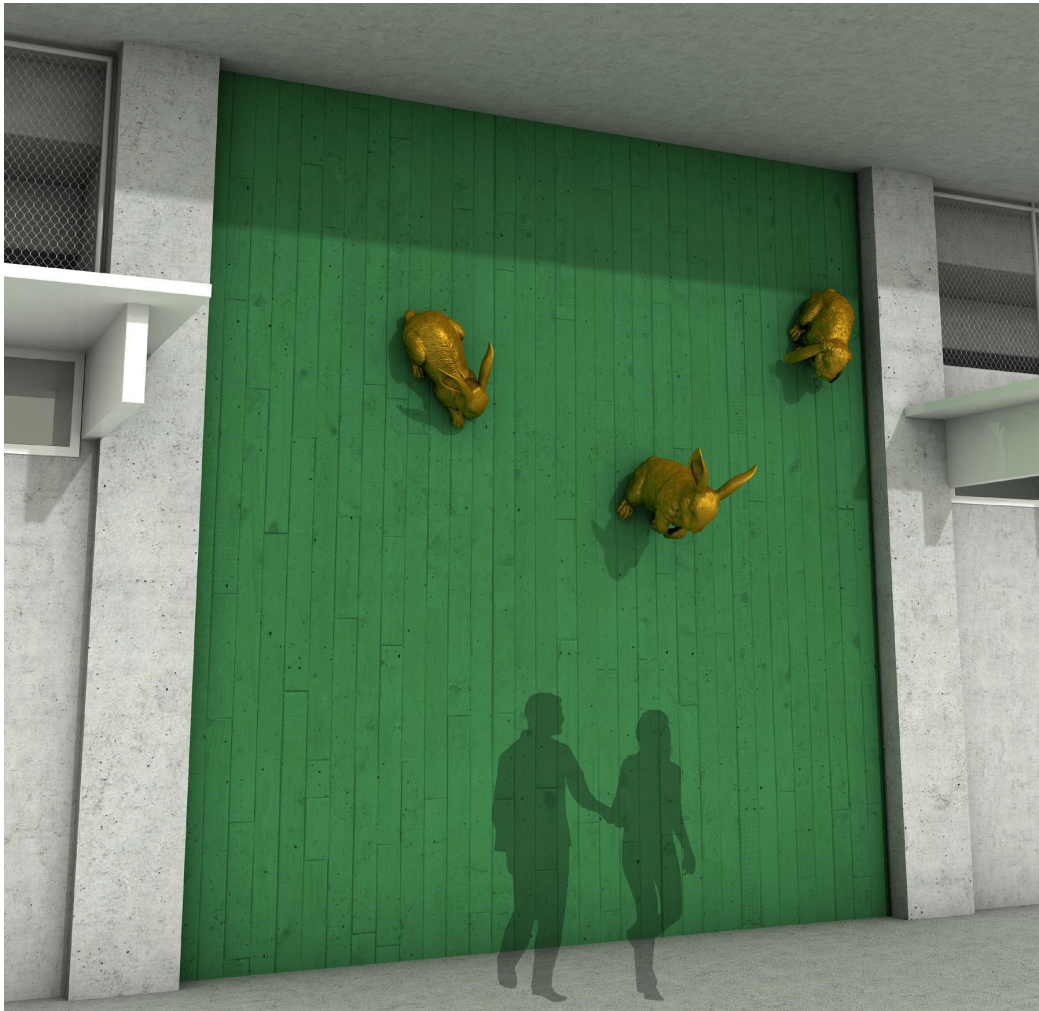


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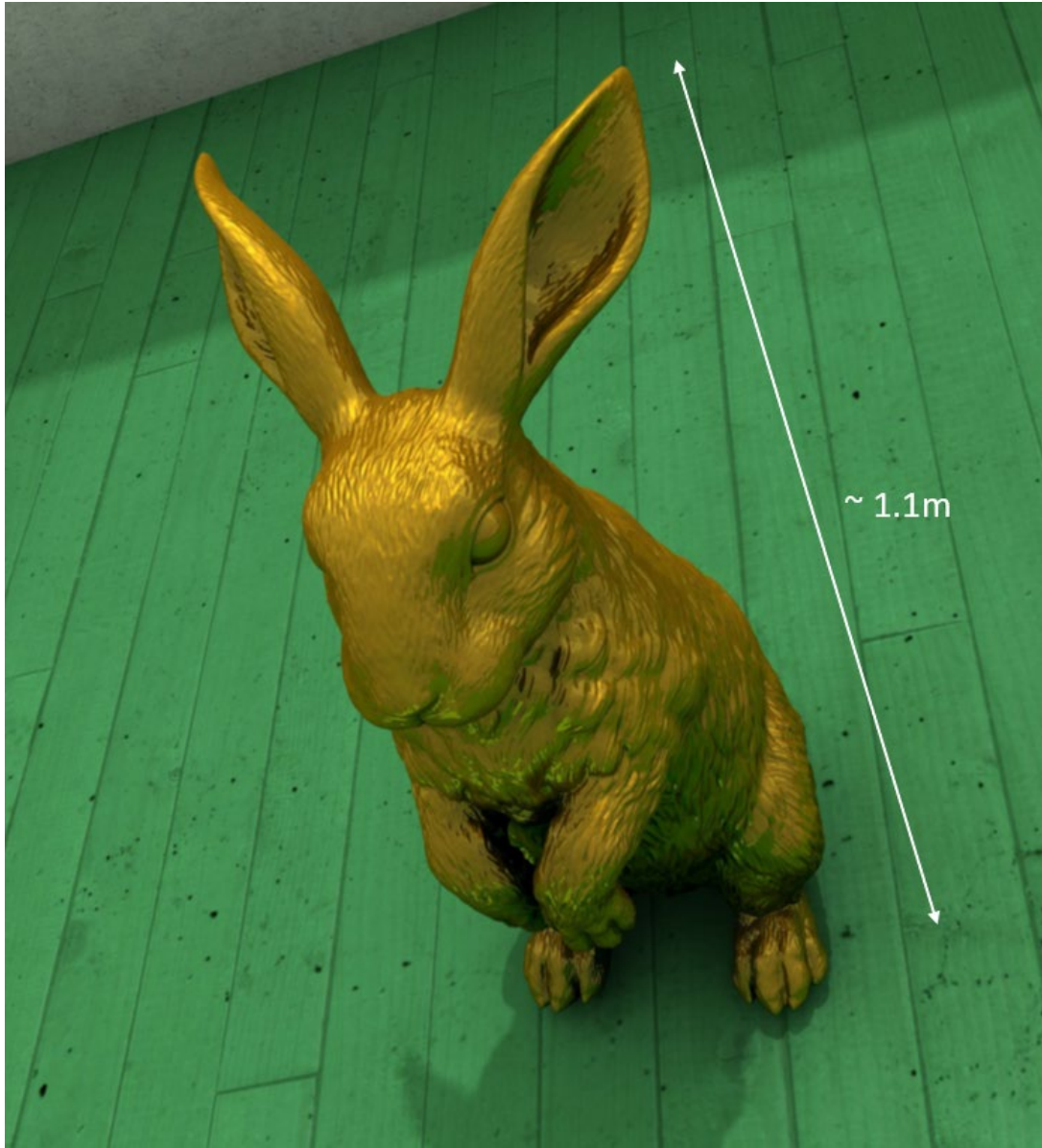
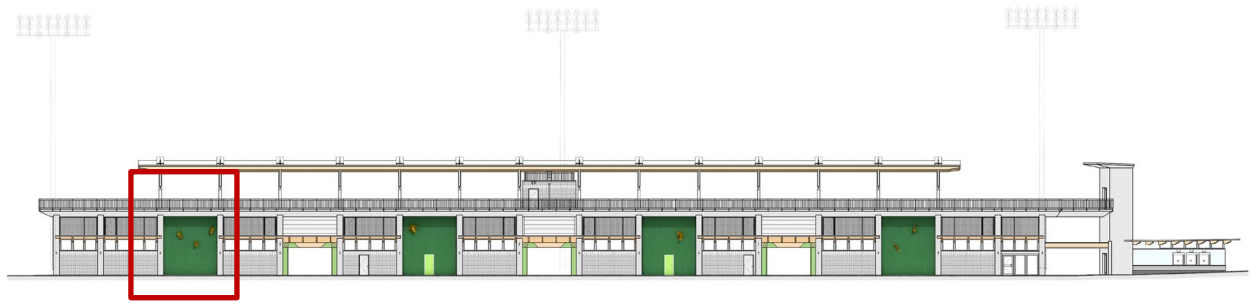


*Standing animals are approximately 1.1m tall from the wall surface to the tip of sculpture





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Bear Creek Stadium – East Elevation



About the Artist and Artwork

Brandon Vickerd is an Ontario based artist and professor at York University, where he also serves as Chair of the Department of Visual Arts and Art History. He received his BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (1999) and his MFA from the University of Victoria (2001).

Vickerd’s proposal, *Seeing Nature*, consists of large bronze animals sitting directly on the surface of the wall gazing at children on the adjacent playground and waterpark, and the participants and spectators entering the Stadium. A bear, fox, rabbits, and otters sit on the wall as if defying gravity. The selection panel felt the artwork will create a sense of wonder and joy, particularly for the large numbers of families using the nearby waterpark and playground. However, *Seeing Nature* is also intended to foster an in-depth reflection on the relationship between humans, animals and nature more broadly.