

Explanatory Document for August 19, 202 Visual Arts Committee Meeting

Motion to approve the temporary Installation of an illuminated temple-like sculpture entitled *The Shelter in Place Temple* in Joseph Alioto Performing Arts Piazza by artists Laurence Renzo Verbeck and Syliva Lisse for a period of six months commencing late fall 2020 which is to be installed at no cost to the City, pending procurement of all necessary approvals and the funding required for the project, in addition to arrangements for security night and day. This installation may be extended upon approval of the Arts Commission and Recreation and Park Commission.

Narrative: The Shelter in Place TEMPLE designed by Laurence Renzo Verbeck and Syliva Lisse is a portion of the “EMPYREAN Temple”, a major art grant recipient for the Burning Man 2020 Event. As the Covid Pandemic has upended plans around the globe, so it has for the annual Burning Man Event, which has been postponed to 2021. Shelter in Place TEMPLE incorporates dramatic elements of this Burning Man Temple in Joseph Alioto Performing Arts Piazza as a statement of resilience and hope and as an opportunity for pilgrimage for community respite and healing.

Shelter in Place TEMPLE is composed of two “Canopies”, places of shelter, arranged along the centerline axis of the Piazza, with a void space between them. These large geometrically patterned forms exist in dynamic tension, speaking to each other across a void, while holding neutral, inviting space between. In this configuration, it is “socially distanced” habitation that completes the space; people, not structure, are central, reflective of our communal lockdown and social distance experience; it speaks to the internal tension that builds when we are held back from our instinctive human fellowship and are forced to profoundly alter our normative behavior; It speaks to the desired and courage to dialog during a time of convulsing civil upheaval which is reordering our society.

Community Inclusion: This installation is large enough to accommodate community gathering while encouraging safety and social distance. We are partnering with Performing Artists such as Alonso King and it is anticipated that other artists will use the installation for art productions.

This installation invites visitor’s contemplation, interaction and declaration. While moving about the space individuals are encouraged to write messages of reflection directly on the structure.

Shelter in Place TEMPLE is public art in the highest sense: large, visible, colorfully illuminated at night, hopeful, collectively constructed and spiritually conceived, the two monumental canopies of Shelter in Place TEMPLE will invite us to emerge from seclusion and reengage the larger world.

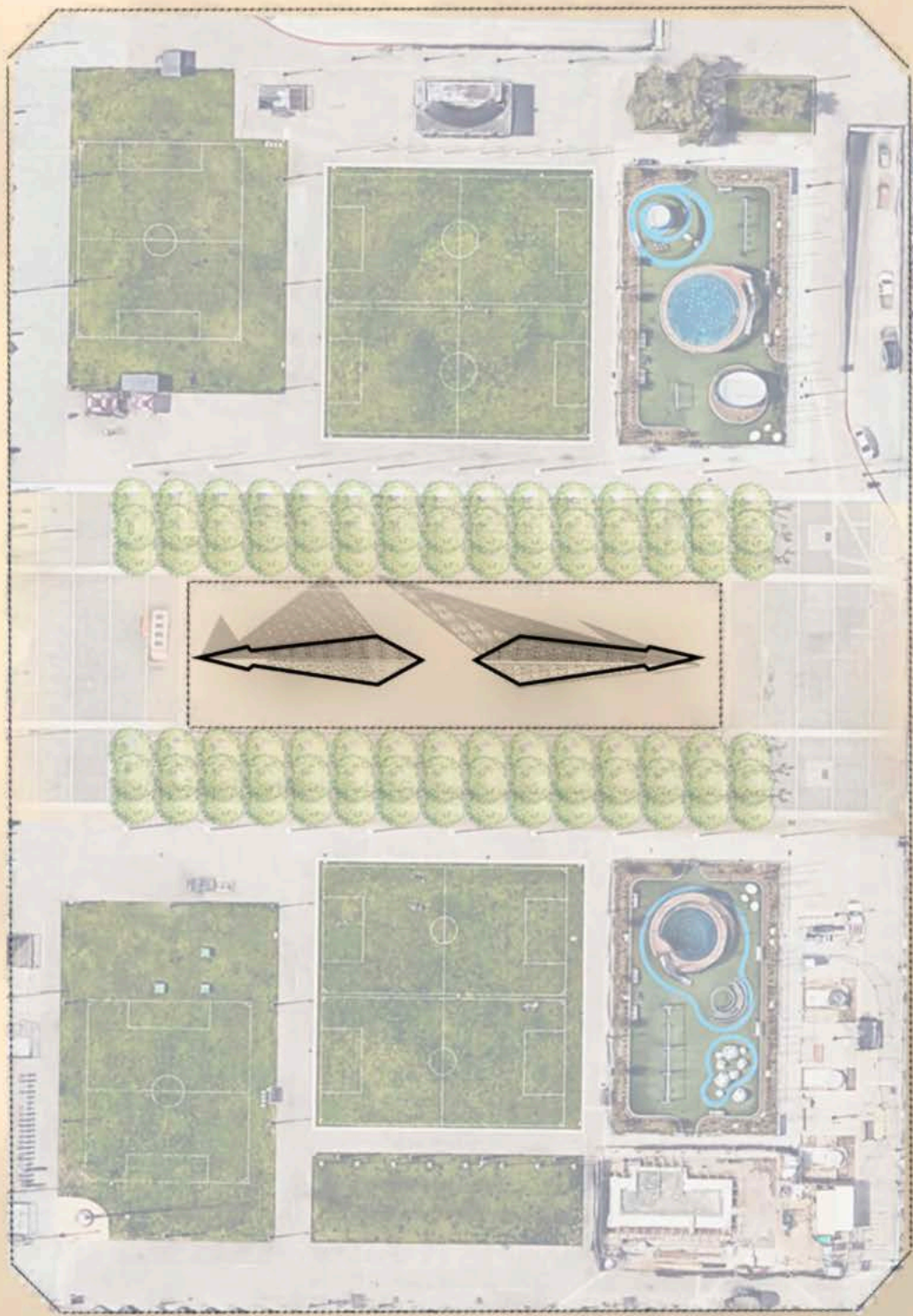
Community Makers: A Crowd Sourced, Interactive Build: The canopy is comprised of 200 individual wooden panels which together create an array of geometric patterns across the structures, creating an opportunity for entoptic voyage. Each of these panels will be crafted by individuals or groups throughout the local and national community, in a quilt like effort. These panels may be inscribed with messages and prayers, and then installed as an essential element of the canopy.

Visitors to the completed sculpture are invited to search for the panel they or their community contributed, thus discovering how each contribution helps make the whole. This is an experiential, participatory feature which speaks to inclusion and the enduring strength of collective efforts.

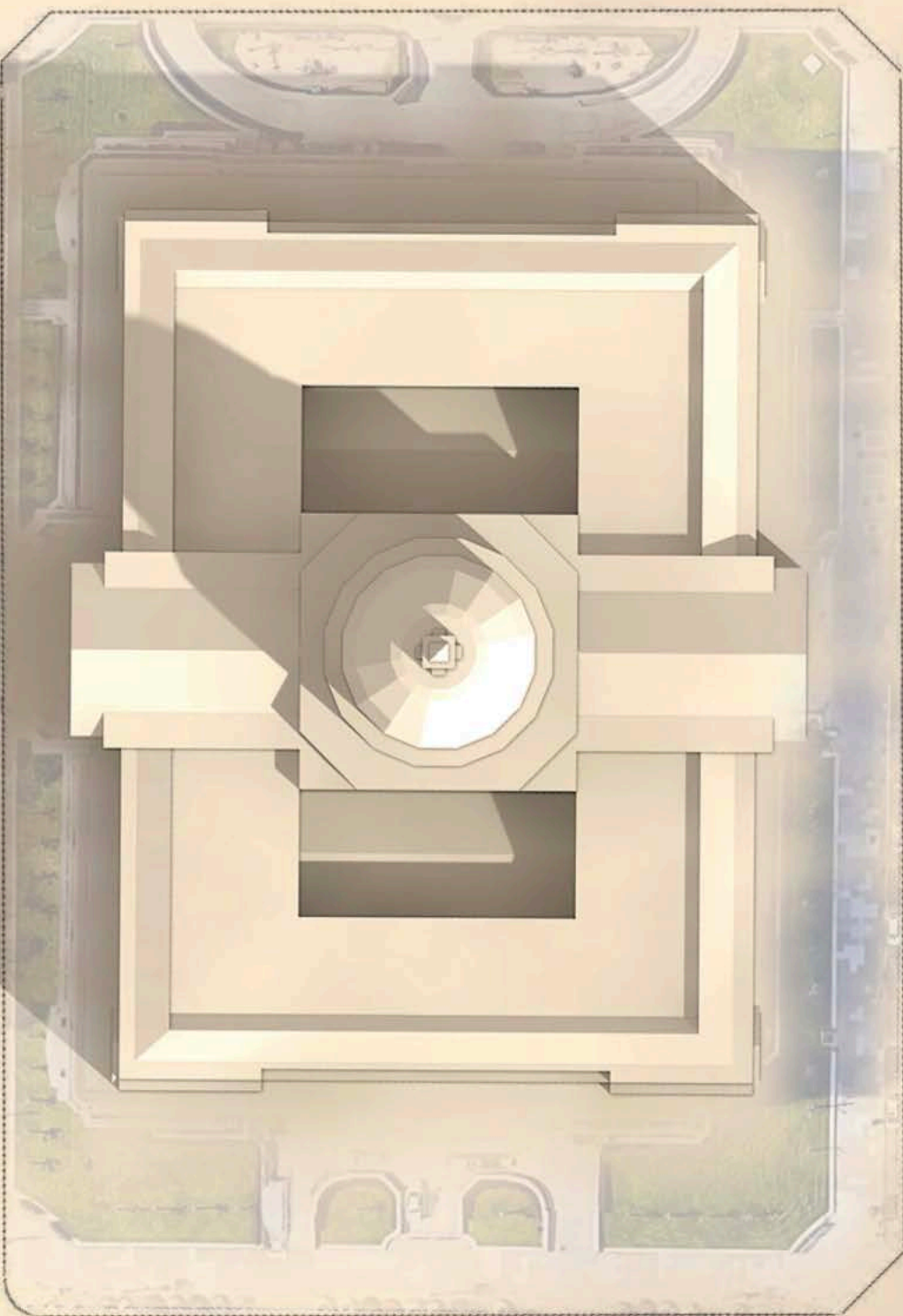
Timeframe: The installation will be complete and open to the public in late fall/2020 pending procurement of all approvals and necessary funding.

Project Conclusion: As Shelter in Place TEMPLE was born from the Burning Man EMPYREAN Temple” 2020, it will be disassembled at its conclusion in the Alioto Performing Arts Center and find its destiny by being rebuilt with the rest of its whole EMPYREAN Temple form, for the 2021 Burning Man Event.

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DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE



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