



**SCULPTURE HONORING DR. MAYA ANGELOU ARTISTS SELECTION
MEETING 2 SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE

August 9, 2019

VOTING SELECTION PANELISTS

Indira Allegra, Artist and Independent Curator
JD Beltran, Commissioner, San Francisco Arts Commission
Angela Hennessy, Artist and Associate Professor of Fine Arts, CCA
Maria Jenson, Executive Director, SOMArts Cultural Center
Guy Johnson, Caged Bird Legacy
Dr. Shokooh Miry, Commissioner, Commission on the Status of Women
Shawna Sherman, Librarian, African American Center, San Francisco Public Library
Connie Wolf, Library Commissioner

PROCESS

The following artists presented an overview of their practice and proposals for the Sculpture Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou Artist Selection Panel:

Jules Arthur
Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle
Lava Thomas

The panelists were asked to discuss and evaluate each of the proposals on the following criteria:

- Aesthetic quality
- Appropriateness of the proposed artwork for the site and project goals
- Demonstrated feasibility of the preliminary proposal and the proposal budget
- Demonstrated maintainability and durability of the artwork's design, materials, fabrication and installation methods

The panelist then ranked the artists 1, 2, or 3 (1 = highest rank) accordingly.

RESULTS

Lava Thomas	10
Jules Arthur	18
Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle	20

ARTS COMMISSION APPROVAL

Motion: Motion to approve the selected artist Lava Thomas for the Sculpture Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou public art opportunity, as recommended by the artist selection panel.

Motion: Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with the selected artist Lava Thomas for an amount not to exceed \$180,000 for the design, engineering, fabrication, transportation and consultation during installation of an artwork for the Sculpture Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou public art opportunity.

PORTRAIT OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN

ART PROPOSAL FOR A
SCULPTURE HONORING
DR. MAYA ANGELOU FOR
THE SAN FRANCISCO
MAIN LIBRARY
LAVA THOMAS



"If one has courage, nothing can dim the light which shines from within."



Author, poet, activist, mother, feminist, global citizen, educator and much more, Dr. Maya Angelou's extraordinary life, spirit and works are commemorated in the sculpture PORTRAIT OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN. Its monumental scale speaks to Dr. Angelou's towering achievements in the face of adversity and celebrates her lasting impact on humanity. The sculpture takes the form of a book with a portrait of Dr. Angelou, translated in shallow relief from a drawing onto the sculpture's surface. Based on a still from a 1973 interview with the author, the portrait depicts Dr. Angelou as she discusses pressing social and political issues that still resonate today.

Quotations by the author are inscribed on the sculpture's base and surface, allowing her words to reach the public across time and memory. As Dr. Angelou continues to illuminate our world through her life and words, PORTRAIT OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN creates an inspiring presence, encouraging us to find our own voice and courage while reminding us that despite our differences, we all belong to the human family.



"Information helps you see that you're not alone. That there's somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who've all longed and lost, who've all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you're not really different from everyone else. There may be details that are different, but a human being is a human being."



*Portrait
of a
Phenomenal
Woman*





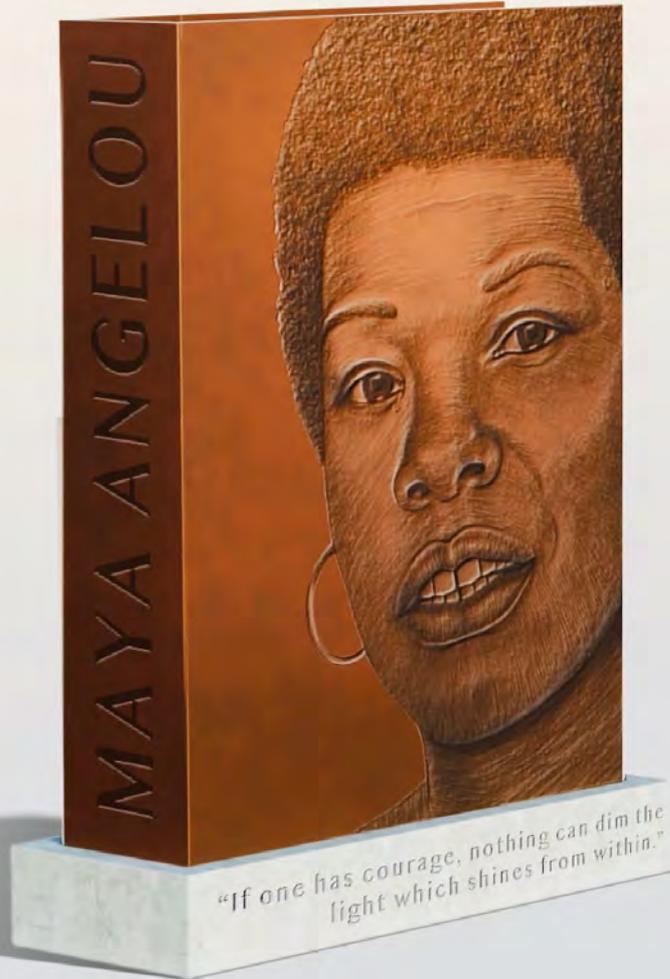
"If one has courage, nothing can dim the light which shines from within."

"I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me."

"If one has courage, nothing can
dim the light which shines from
within."

-Maya Angelou

DESIGN



“The epitome of sophistication is utter simplicity.”

-Maya Angelou



“you are only free when you realize
that you belong to no place; you
belong everywhere.”

“I belong to myself.”

-Maya Angelou



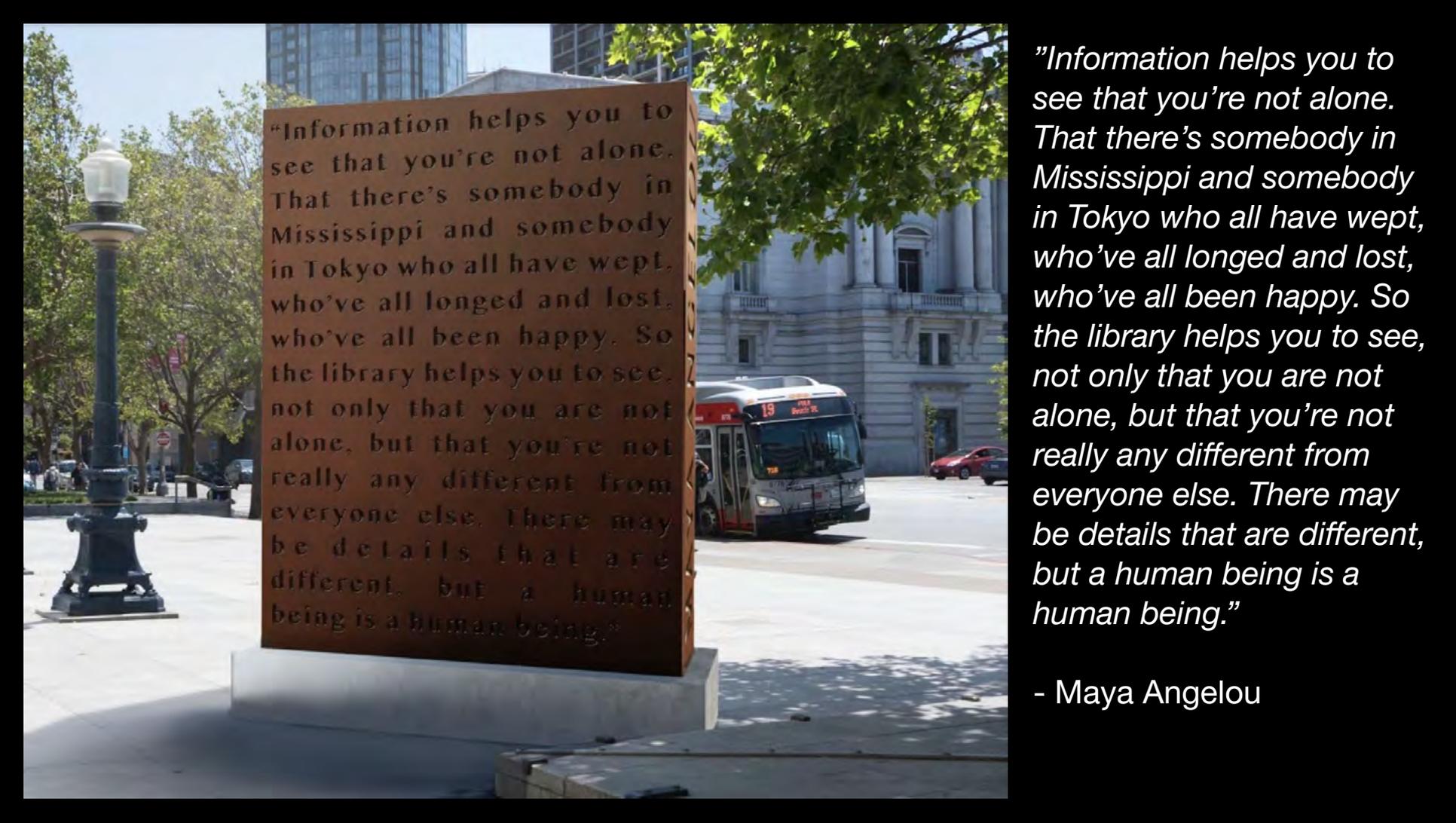
PORTRAIT DEVELOPMENT





"If one has courage, nothing can dim the light which shines from within."



A large, rectangular bronze sculpture stands on a concrete base in an urban plaza. The sculpture is inscribed with a quote by Maya Angelou. In the background, a city street scene is visible, featuring a bus, a red car, a street lamp, and buildings under a clear sky.

“Information helps you to see that you’re not alone. That there’s somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who’ve all longed and lost, who’ve all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you’re not really any different from everyone else. There may be details that are different, but a human being is a human being.”

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- Maya Angelou

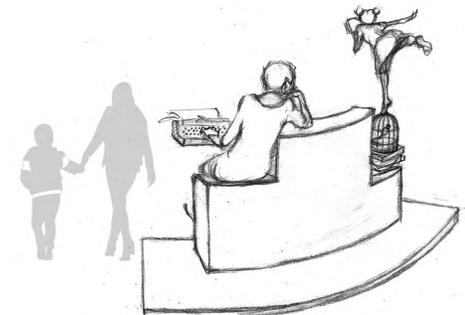
SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY



THE GIFT OF LITERATURE by Jules Arthur Arts



CONCEPT DESCRIPTION



BACKSIDE VIEW OF THE MONUMENT

THE GIFT OF LITERATURE A transformation. A metamorphosis. An ability to change darkness into a radiant beam of light. This work represents a transitioning period like a metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly. No matter how dark our days are the possibility of winning the day remains. Dr. Maya Angelou's story and teachings are testimony to that fact. In this sculpture we witness the beautiful arch of life from her humble beginnings as a young girl to one of the world's most accomplished writers.

The monument consists of 3 parts: 2 bronze statues and a beveled granite stone wall that presents one of Dr. Maya Angelou's finest quotes. "When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young." - Dr. Maya Angelou. The first sculpture is of a larger than life size young Maya Angelou embarking upon life with her passion for literature in hand and her imagination setting her free. She stands upon a caged bird representing Dr. Maya Angelou's most famous work "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings (1969). The caged bird sits upon a short stack of books, which comprise of Maya's poetry "And Still I rise" and other books by authors who greatly influenced her. Edgar Allen Poe, Shakespeare, Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Lewis Carol. The second bronze statue- a larger than life size Dr. Maya Angelou in her golden years sits refined and reflective as she gazes upon her yester years as a seven-year old girl poised for the world. This Dr. Maya Angelou is the scholar, sage, teacher, mother, activist, and humanitarian that we have all come to adore and celebrate. This bronze statue depicts Dr. Maya Angelou exercising her greatest gift. She is typing away on her typewriter and about to bestow upon us another one of her written gems for the world to lavish over. The juxtaposition between the two statues become beautifully poetic as the narrative eloquently speaks about the duality of beginning and ending.

MATERIAL AND COLOR PALETTE: BRONZE METAL & GRANITE STONE

BRONZE METAL WITH PATINA FINISH.



PREVIOUS WORK - BRONZE EXAMPLE JAMES BALDWIN LIFE SIZE BUST



TWO TONE GRANITE: LIGHTER AND DARKER VERSIONS OF SIERRA WHITE GRANITE. ENGRAVED DR. MAYA ANGELOU QUOTE.





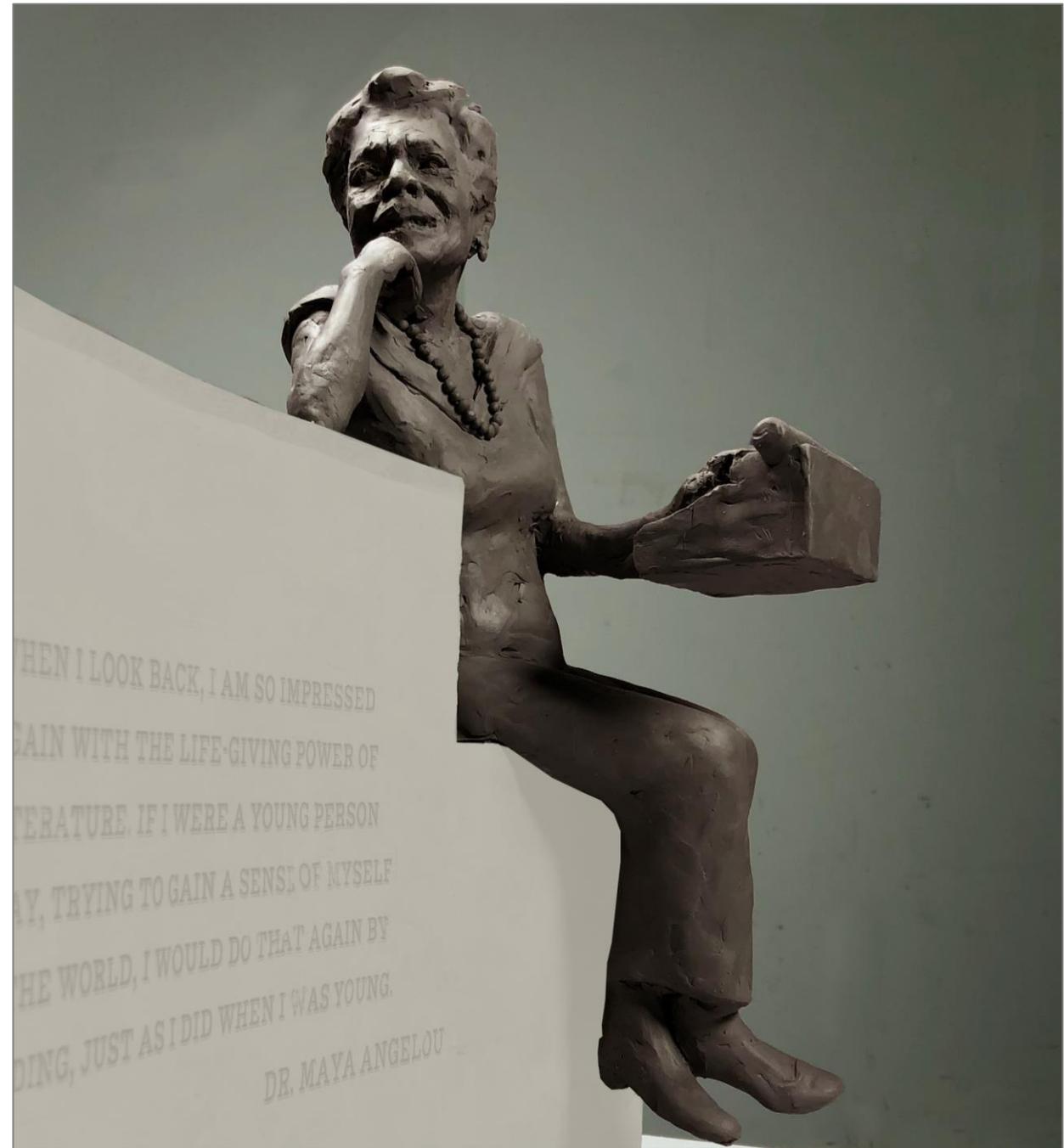
Overview

Maya Angelou's monument represents transformation -- *No matter how dark our days, the ability of winning a purposeful day always remains.* This monument is comprised of 3 parts: Adult Maya, Young Maya, and a note aimed at shaping one's future.

First Bronze Statue: Adult Maya

Looking up in memory, she reflects on her journey and recounts the many great literary works she read as a youth that enriched her imagination and her life overall.

- Here, in her wisdom, she represents the Maya we have come to know and love: scholar, teacher, mother, activist and humanitarian.
- Exercising her greatest gift, she is typing on a typewriter
- The typewriter is in a state of virtual reality, without the support of a table. The idea of abstraction comes from the desire to alter perception of a linear static piece.



Second Bronze Statue: Young Maya

Standing on tippy toes, Young Maya takes flight...rising...almost dancing into the whimsical nature that captivates the rich mind of a young reader and explores creative literature and it's vast realms – escapism, freedom and imagination -- resulting in literary masterpieces.

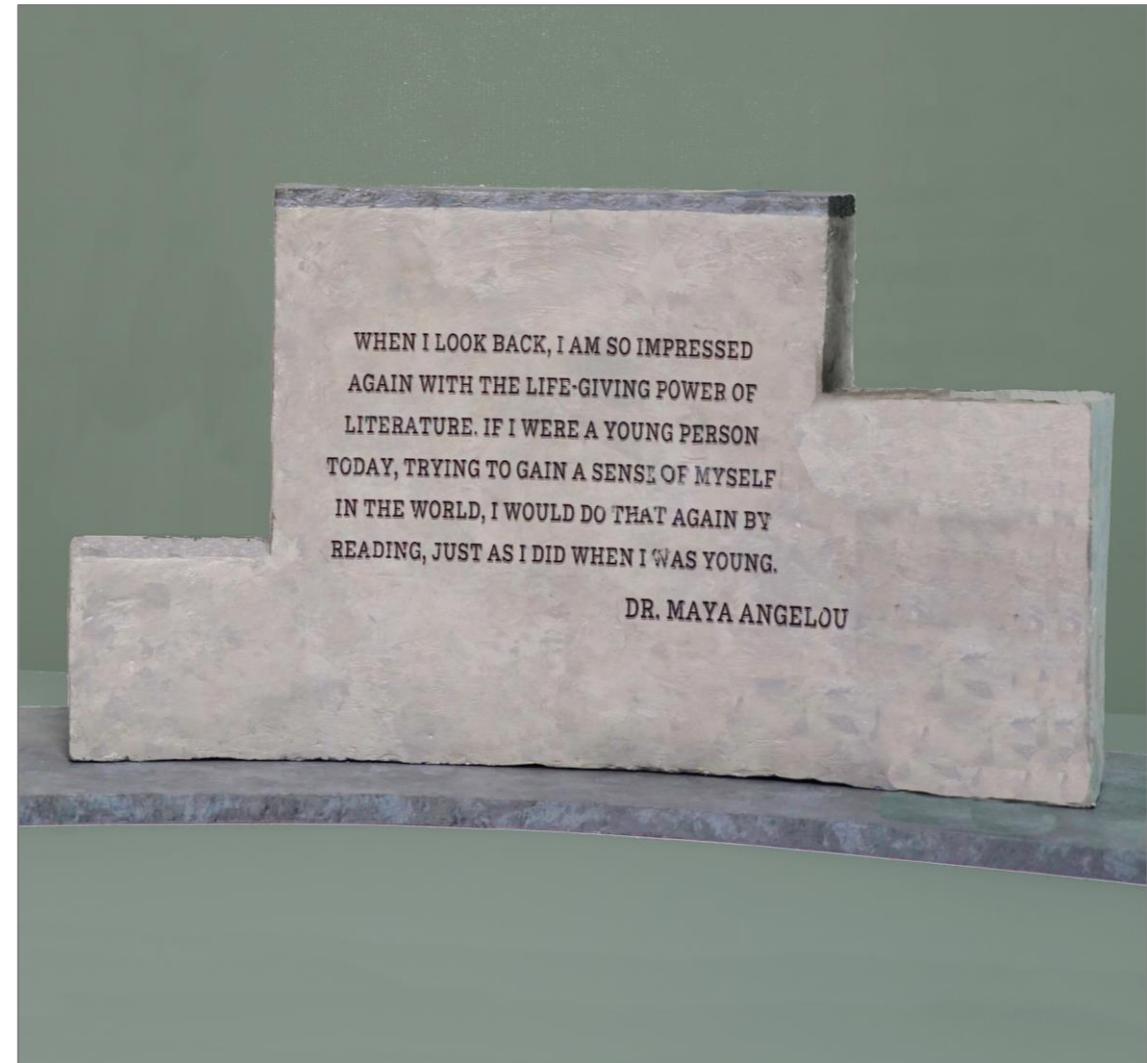
- Young Maya stands in utter silence, isolated and with limited emotional tools to circumvent the harshness of her circumstance, using literature as an outlet.
- She stands on a bird cage representing her greatest literary work – *“I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”*
- Maya’s greatest literary work is supported by her poetry *“And Still I Rise”* and her influencers, Edgar Allen Poe, Shakespeare, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Lewis Carol and her friend, James Baldwin.



Third Granite Base: Maya's quote on the importance of literature

The granite base of the sculpture reflects a metaphorical “page from a book” or a “note” Adult Maya would leave Young Maya. Simple in its delivery, powerful in its message: the life- saving power of literature.

- By transforming the granite base into a “book”, Maya is (metaphorically and literally) able to deliver...
- ...Her greatest quote and greatest gift to not only her young self, but the world at large.
- Etched into the most enduring material – granite, which represents her enduring and indelible mark on the world.



To Maya from Maya, With Literature - Specs

Young Maya

Monument is 1.25x life size

The caged bird

Adult Maya

Famed literary works

