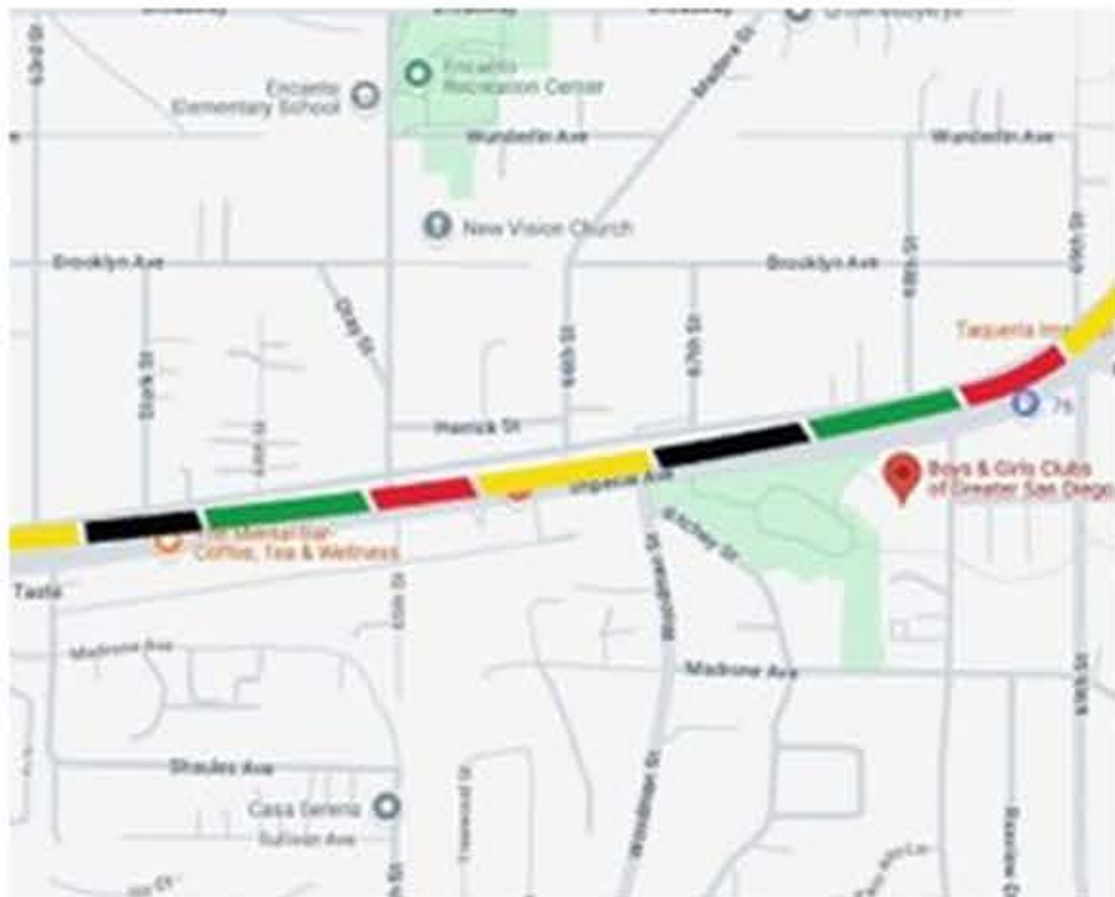


here comes the neighborhood PUBLIC ART

ARTWORK PROPOSAL

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD TUCKER



Aerial view of where the artwork will be sited.



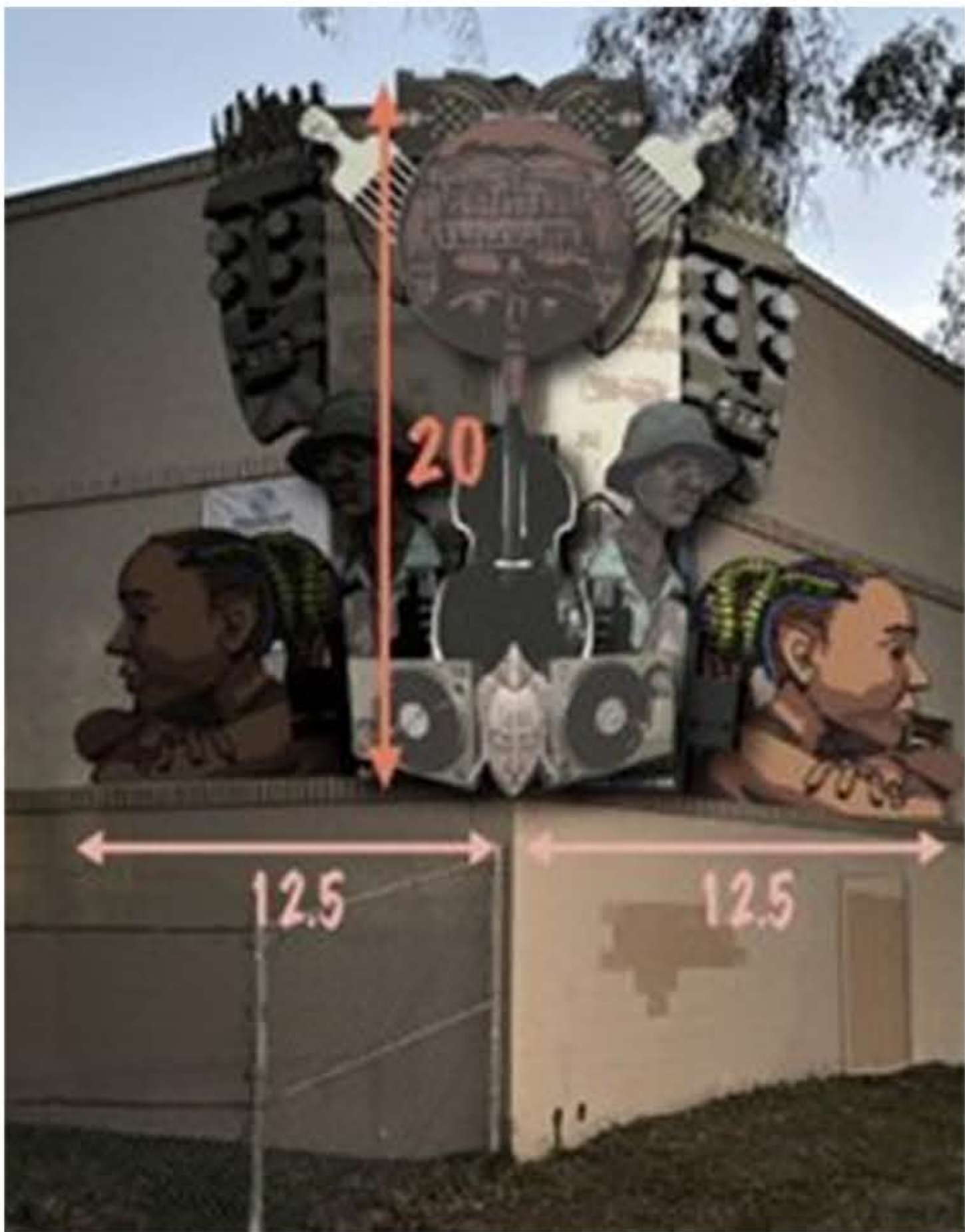
Aerial view of where the artwork will be sited.

Artist Christopher Lloyd Tucker has been commissioned by the City of San Diego to create a site-specific artwork for Encanto in the vicinity of the Black Arts and Culture District as part of the *here comes the neighborhood: Encanto* Public Art Project. The artist spent several months learning about the site and engaging with the public and directly with the community to develop his artwork proposal.

Deeply rooted in its site context, the artwork celebrates the rich experience of Black people and culture. The composition serves as a testament to shared heritage, featuring figurative imagery along with various African and African American cultural symbols.

The site being considered for this artwork is the exterior of the Boys and Girls Club building, which overlooks Marie Widman Park, situated in the Black Arts and Culture District.

The artwork will be drawn by the artist, using using digital tools including Zbrush and Illustrator. It will be digitally scaled and printed on aluminum sheets and then cut out using a CNC router. A removable, metal armature will be created to attach the artwork to the building itself. Solar lighting will also be incorporated.



Artist rendering of the artwork.



Artist rendering of the artwork.



The composition's central African element is an Aqua'ba figure, from the Ashanti people of Ghana. When a woman is having a difficult time conceiving a child, the Ashanti carve this small idol for them to care for, as if it were their own child.



A face mask from the Guro people of the Ivory Coast. This mask represents Gu, a stylish woman displaying an elaborate hairdo, which shows off her wealth and commitment to self care. She also has a hand in resolving quarrels.



The fellow with four eyes is a Lele mask, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Two of the eyes represent the community, the other two represent the ancestors. All of which have to be in agreement if the boy before them has become responsible enough to be accepted as a man.



The image of threading in the abstract patterning is the threading of a football, honoring the four Heisman trophy winners to come out of the southeast San Diego.



The Afro pic was a part of this image because it's a part of Black culture. It was there long before I learned about it's inventor Willie Morrow being from Encanto.



Some of the background patterning is Kuba Cloth from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Kuba Cloth is a central art form, a status symbol, and an object of commerce for the Kuba people. It represents the building of an economic center in Encanto.



The characters are not specific people, they are imaginary characters that I drew at different times, who feel to me like they represent something familial. I believe that having general characters, rather than specific people, allows a viewer the opportunity to tell their own story from the imagery presented. They play a specific role in my imagination, but that role is for me, and need not be what a viewer sees.



The musical symbols are chosen, first because Black music is always something to celebrate, but the specific image of the turntables is a reference to the Encanto Street Festival that will hopefully return to the neighborhood. The Bass is a reference to the Underground Improv, a musical staple of the neighborhood, now closed, that held live shows of hip hop, jazz and poetry. Charles Mingus's grandson used to play there.