



**Commission for Arts and Culture
Public Art Committee
Hybrid Meeting Notice and Agenda**

Thursday, December 11, 2025

9:00-10:00 am

City Administration Building **Conference Room B**

202 C Street, 12th Floor

San Diego, CA 92101

Zoom Link:

<https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1602972927?pwd=IsCoLMmHtgeu3K0dGqpGXynTD256on.1>

Chair: Fritz Friedman

Vice Chair: Abe Hughes

Committee Members: Fritz Friedman, Abe Hughes, Andrew Alcasid, Dennis Doan, Francisco Eme, Wayne Holtan, Rachel Jans, Keith Opstad, Imani Robinson, Denise Rogers, Amy Sanchez Arteaga

Staff Liaison: Charles "Chuck" G. Miller

Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Public Art Committee (PAC) on an item for today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker form before the PAC hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

Written Comment through Webform: In lieu of in-person attendance, members of the public may submit their comments using the [webform](#). When using the web form, indicate the agenda item number for which you are submitting a comment. Instructions regarding word limits and submission deadlines are provided on the form. On the web form, members of the public should select Commission for Arts and Culture.

Virtual Public Comment: During Non-Agenda Public Comment, after the Chair opens the comment period, raise your hand by tapping the "Raise Your Hand" button on your computer, tablet, or smartphone, or by dialing *9 on your phone. Speakers will be called in the order hands are raised. Each person may speak only once on a particular item. When staff calls on you, unmute your device by following the on-screen prompt or by dialing *6 on your phone.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: You may address the PAC on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker form. California's open meeting laws do not allow the PAC to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the PAC may add the item to a future agenda or refer it to staff or a committee. Individual comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. If a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, the Chair may limit the time for each speaker or for the item.

Requests for Accessibility Modifications or Accommodations:

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for alternatives to observing meetings and offering public comment as noted above, as well as requests for auxiliary aids, services, interpreters, or translation services to offer public comment, may be made by contacting Bell Reza at 619-559-7776 or Breza@sandiego.gov. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please keep this in mind and provide as much advance notice as possible in order to ensure availability. The City is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly in order to maximize accessibility and public participation.

Agenda:

Item 1: Call to Order | Fritz Friedman, Chair

Item 2: Non-Agenda Public Comment

Item 3: Chair's Reports

- a. Commission Business
- b. **ACTION** – November 13, 2025, Minutes
- c. Other Reports

Item 4: **ACTION** – Final Artwork Proposal for Fire Station 48 Black Mountain Ranch by Nate Page | Lara Bullock Ph.D., Cultural Affairs Staff, Economic Development Department

Item 5: Reports | Christine E. Jones, Cultural Affairs Staff, Economic Development Department

- a. Staff Reports
- b. Committee Member Reports

Item 6: Adjourn



City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE (PAC)

MINUTES

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Members Present

Fritz Friedman, Chair
Abe Hughes, Vice Chair
Andrew Alcasid
Dennis Doan
Francisco Eme
Wayne Holtan
Rachel Jans
Keith Opstad
Imani Robinson
Amy Sanchez Arteaga

Members Absent

Denise Rogers
Alessandra Moctezuma, Ex Officio

Staff Present

Lara Bullock
Christine E. Jones
Rachel Laing
Charles G. Miller

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- I. Call to Order | [View Here](#) – Commissioner Fritz Friedman called the City of San Diego (City) Commission for Arts and Culture’s Public Art Committee (PAC) to order at 9:03 a.m. at City Council Committee Room – 12th Floor, City Administration Building, 202 C Street, San Diego, California 92101.
- II. Non-agenda Public Comment – None
- III. Chair’s Reports
- A. Commission Business – [View Here](#)
- B. **ACTION** – October 9, 2025, Minutes | [View Here](#) – Commissioner Fritz Friedman introduced the item. **Commissioner Keith Opstad made a motion to approve the PAC minutes of October 9, 2025. Commissioner Imani Robinson seconded the motion. The vote was 9-0-0; the motion passed.**
- Yea: Doan, Eme, Friedman, Holtan, Hughes, Jans, Opstad, Robinson, and Sanchez Arteaga (9)
- Nay: (0)
- Abstention: (0)
- Recusal: (0)
- C. Other Reports – None
- a. Introduction of Rachel Laing, Assistant Deputy Director, Cultural Affairs | [View Here](#)

*Francisco Eme arrived at 9:07 a.m.
Andrew Alcasid arrived at 9:09 a.m.*

- IV. **ACTION – Artwork Acquisition Proposal: Donation of Artwork by Michael Leaf from the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force | [View Here](#)** – Commissioner Fritz Friedman introduced the item. Commissioner Imani Robinson made a motion to advise the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture to recommend that City of San Diego Cultural Affairs accept the proposed donation of an artwork for inclusion into the Civic Art Collection and for installation on the railing of the Olive Street Park AIDS Memorial at 2772 Third Avenue in Bankers Hill upon the fulfillment of six conditions. Commissioner Keith Opstad seconded the motion. The vote was 0-6-4; the motion failed.

Yea: (0)

Nay: Alcasid, Eme, Friedman, Holtan, Hughes, Opstad (6)

Abstention: (Doan, Jans, Robinson, Sanchez-Arteaga) (4)

Recusal: (0)

Commissioner Abe Hughes made a motion to advise the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture to recommend that City of San Diego Cultural Affairs accept the proposed donation of an artwork for inclusion into the Civic Art Collection and for installation on the railing of the Olive Street Park AIDS Memorial at 2772 Third Avenue in Bankers Hill upon the fulfillment of six conditions, and for Cultural Affairs staff to investigate whether current funding is adequate for the realization of the artwork, and whether any City funding is available to augment the artwork budget. Rachel Jans seconded the motion. The vote was 10-0-0; the motion passed.

Yea: Alcasid, Doan, Eme, Friedman, Holtan, Hughes, Jans, Opstad, Robinson, and Sanchez Arteaga (10)

Nay: (0)

Abstention: (0)

Recusal: (0)

- V. **Presentation – Preliminary Artwork Idea for Ward Canyon Park by Christopher Fennell | [View Here](#)**

VI. **Reports**

A. **Staff Reports** – [View Here](#)

B. **Committee Member Reports** – None

- VII. **Adjourn** – Commissioner Fritz Friedman adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.



STAFF REPORT

DATE ISSUED: December 8, 2025

ATTENTION: Public Art Committee

SUBJECT: Final Artwork Proposal by Nathan Page: Black Mountain Ranch Fire Station 48

REFERENCES: 1) [Commission for Arts and Culture Department Instruction 1.00 – Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection](#)
2) Final Artwork Proposal Package

STAFF CONTACT: Lara Bullock, Ph.D., Civic Art Project Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) that Cultural Affairs accept the Final Artwork Proposal by Nathan Page in fulfillment of the City of San Diego's (City) collecting mission, collection scope and accession criteria as established in Section 5 – Collecting Mission, Section 6 – Scope of the Collection and Section 8.2 – Accession Criteria of the Commission for Arts and Culture Department Instruction 1.00 – *Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection*.

SUMMARY:

Artist Nathan Page was commissioned to design, fabricate and transport permanent, site-specific artwork for the Fire Station 48 Black Mountain Ranch and consult during installation of artwork at the site by the City. The Fire Station 48 Black Mountain Ranch project involves the design and construction of a new fire station. Fire Station 48 Black Mountain Ranch will comprise a new permanent 11,500 square foot fire station located at Carmel Valley Road and Winecreek Road that will serve the Black Mountain Ranch community. The new facility will accommodate 10 crew members and include an apparatus bay, dorm rooms, kitchen, watch room, ready room, and a classroom/multipurpose room. The artist has collaborated with Level 10 Construction and COAR Design Group.

On August 14, 2025, Page presented his preliminary artwork idea to the Public Art Committee (PAC) for feedback. PAC also provided feedback on the artist's schematic artwork proposal on October 9, 2025. In addition to PAC's feedback, the final artwork proposal is informed by suggestions from the public, the City's Fire and Rescue Department, and other various City departments.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This project is funded by the City as set forth in *City of San Diego Council Policy 900-11 – Inclusion of Public Art in Selected Capital Improvements program Projects*.

Final Proposal: Black Mountain Ranch Fire Station 48

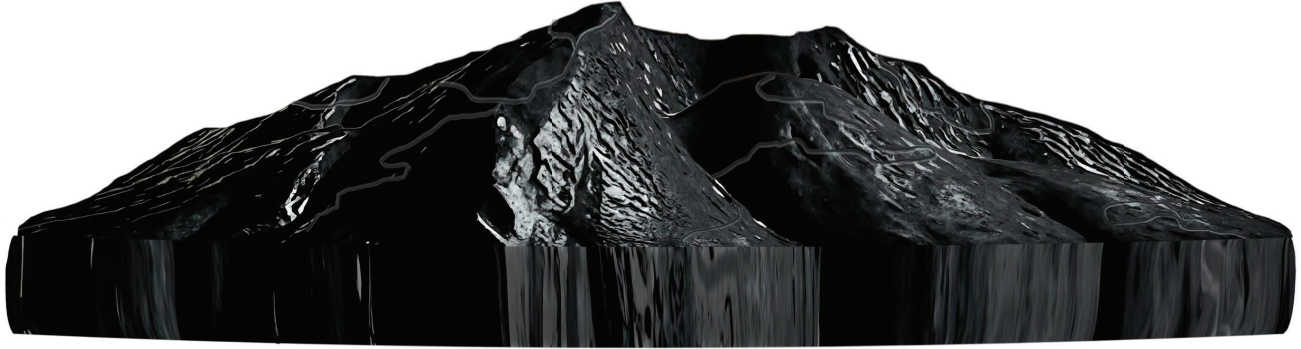
Artist Nate Page

Proposed Artwork

This proposed public sculpture for the new fire station in Black Mountain Ranch, San Diego, is a carved replica of the region's topography, including Black Mountain. Made from Andesite and Basaltic Andesite—the volcanic materials common to the mountain that give it its distinctive dark hue —the piece measures approximately 13 feet wide, 12 feet deep, and 42 inches high. Using a precise LIDAR scan from USGS Lidar Explorer, it will be carved via a 5-axis CNC machine to depict the fire station's full jurisdiction.



Trail Additions and Cut Slab Base



Carved Trials

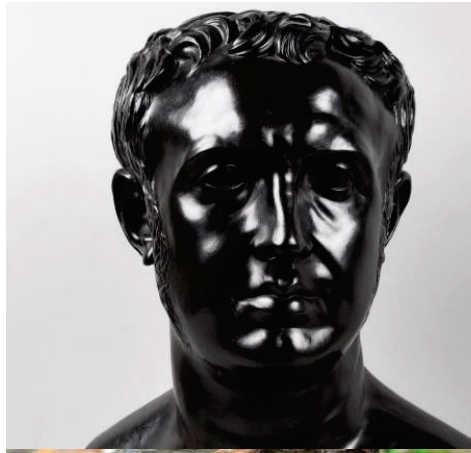


Examples of CNC carved mountains

Process CNC carving of Andesite Basalt Stone

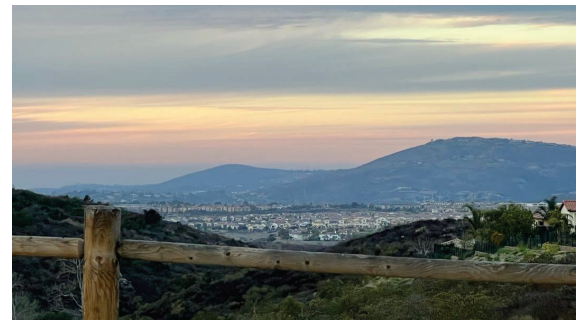


Polished
Black
Andesite
Basalt Stone
with
sacrificial
graffiti coat.



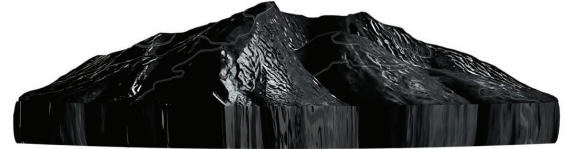
Landscape Identity

- Through community and committee feedback, it became clear that **landscape is the defining and unifying element of Black Mountain Ranch**. This perspective has guided the development of the artwork from the start.
- I also considered the committee's observation that a **reflective surface could symbolically mirror the community and its environment**. This aligns with the intent to highlight the close relationship between residents, firefighters, and the surrounding land.



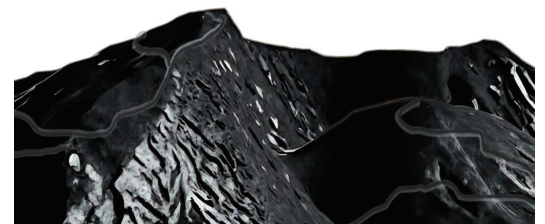
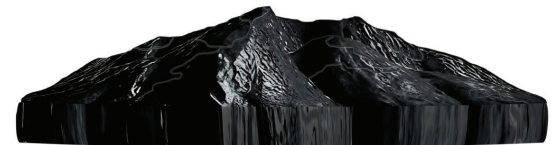
Site Constraints

- I incorporated **decomposed granite paths** that connect directly to existing sidewalks, while acknowledging that benches cannot be added due to **Fire Department restrictions** near operational zones.
- The suggestion to explore an **architectural canopy or sun shade element** was examined carefully. However, constructing a canopy at the appropriate scale would exceed the budget and require reducing the sculpture itself, making it **infeasible**.
- Concerns that the artwork might be **too small** were also taken seriously. I studied an expanded version at 48" x 20' x 20', but this would have tripled the fabrication cost and pushed the project outside budget parameters. At the same time, community members described the 32" x 13' x 12' proposal as "**bold and unique**" which affirmed for me that this scale delivers the presence the artwork is intended to have. To further strengthen the sculpture's visibility and presence without escalating costs, I added a 10" base, raising the total height to approximately 42".
- I have also been attentive to the **Fire Department and community requirement** to avoid bright colors, signage, or non natural materials. Black Mountain Ranch maintains a **strict design ordinance** emphasizing visually low impact, landscape integrated materials, and the sculpture fully aligns with these guidelines.



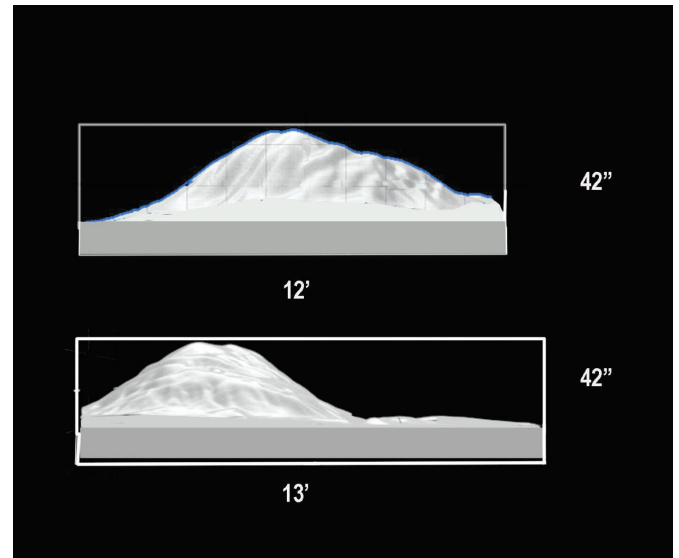
Connection to Place

- Additional comments described the artwork as having a "**timeless connection to the original land,**" which reinforced my decision to avoid a traditional platform or canopy. Instead, I added a subtle **extruded base** that follows the exact outline of the map, raising the piece while keeping it grounded and reinforcing the concept of map and terrain.
- Feedback also encouraged a **more explicit visual connection to how the landscape is actually used**. In response, I made a significant enhancement to the sculpture by **integrating the area's fire trails and hiking paths directly into the carved topography**. This addition creates a clearer and more engaging relationship between the artwork and the lived landscape. It allows viewers to read the terrain almost like a map, an idea inspired by the station's original grid maps, so they can recognize familiar routes and understand their own place within the land.



Safety Considerations

- To address concerns about **skateboarding and e bike activity**, I added a **10" lip along perimeter of the sculpture** that will deter riding while enhancing the sculptures concept.



From conversations with fire fighters and observations at the station, I learned about their use of old grid maps for emergency planning, how many younger firefighters now rely on digital tools.

Chief Moran emphasized the value of tangible, real-world experience of topography for training and situational awareness.

An insight that shaped the sculpture's concept using digital technology to transform the vast landscape into a detailed miniature.

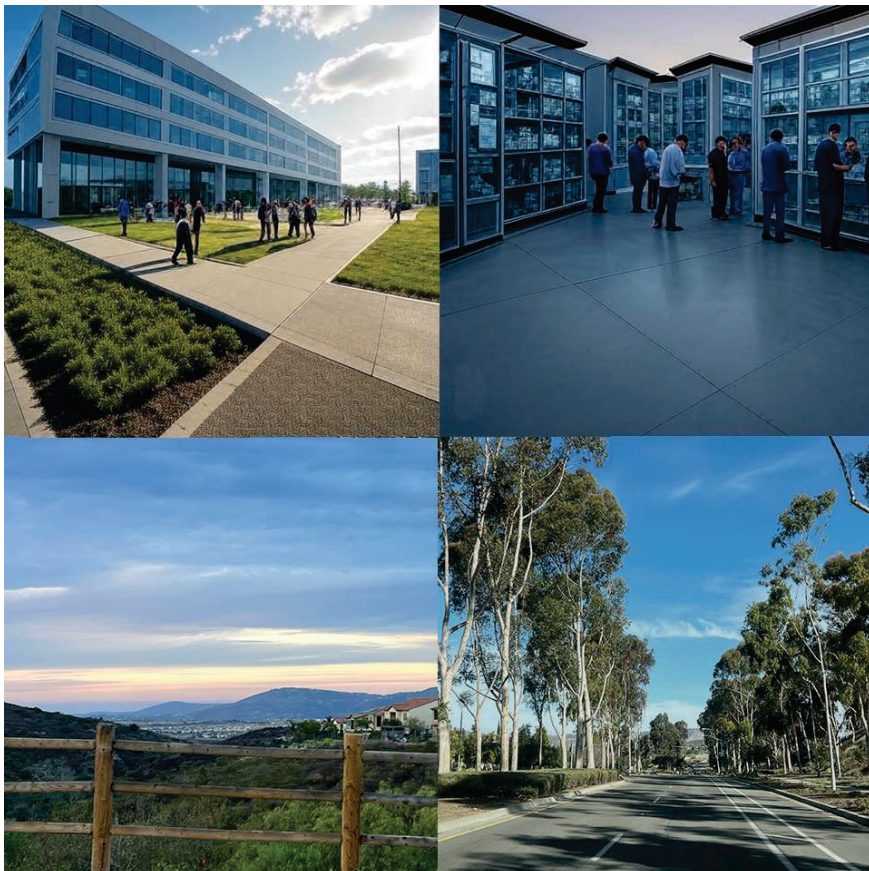


Connection to Community Feedback

Residents described Black Mountain Ranch as a “bubble” full of life, with a strong family presence and constant outdoor activity.

Social and natural ecologies are inseparable - trails, paragliders, bicyclists, wildlife, and youth sports animate the landscape.

All within the protective embrace of the surrounding mountains. A steady ocean breeze keeps the outdoors accessible year-round.



BMR attracts affluent, educated residents in Biotech and defense tech, drawn by top schools, family friendly vibes and scenic recreation. The population is diverse with 50% White, 34% Asian.

Residents prioritize serene escape and outdoor activities for a work life balance as well as investment in property value.

The sculpture responds to both perspectives.

Carved from local volcanic rock, it reflects the area's rugged, earthy character.

A monument to the diversity of value that landscape holds for the community.

The small scale engages the fire station's architecture as the protective "bubble".

Its depiction of the fire station's entire jurisdiction honors firefighters as guardians of both people and the environment.

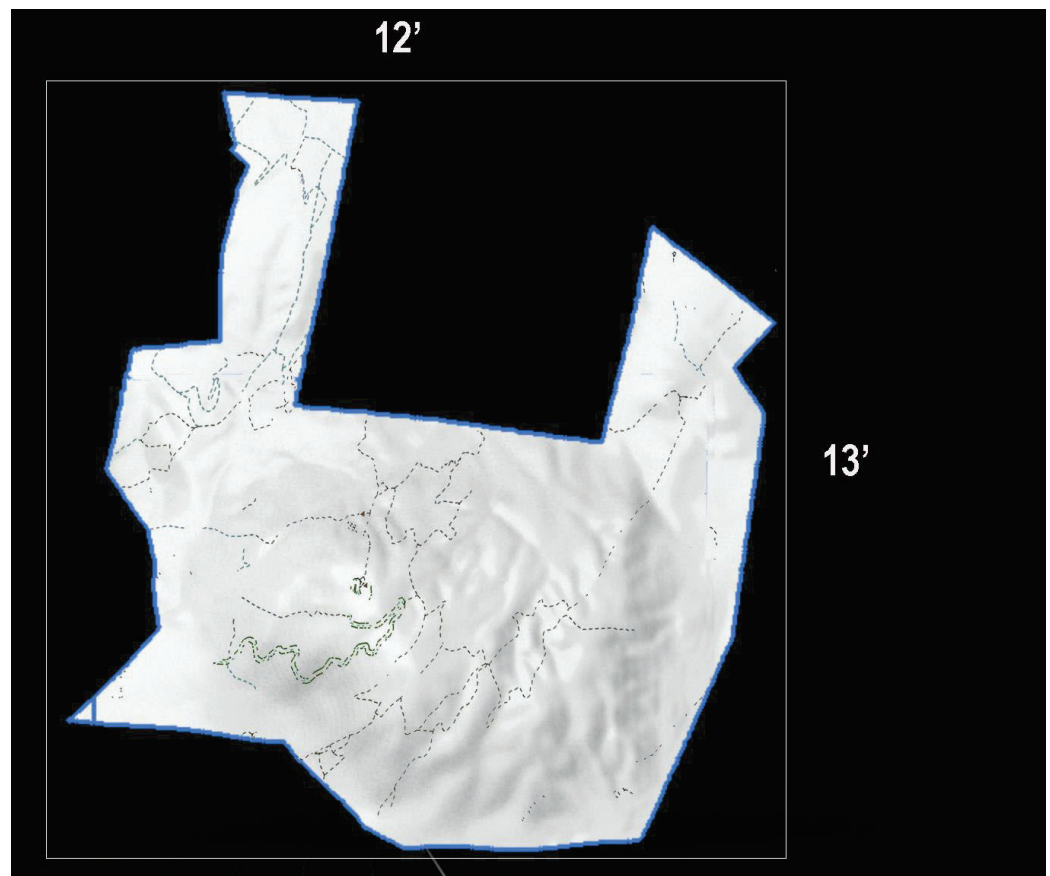


Dimensions:

Total Dimension 13' L x 12' W x 42" H.

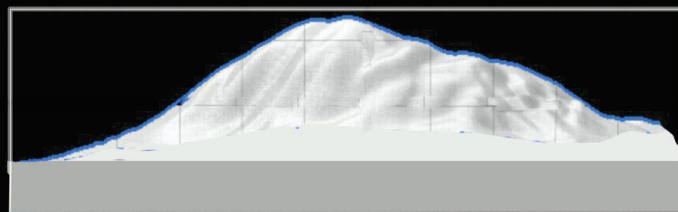
Sculpture has a 10" vertical slice around its boarder.

Top View

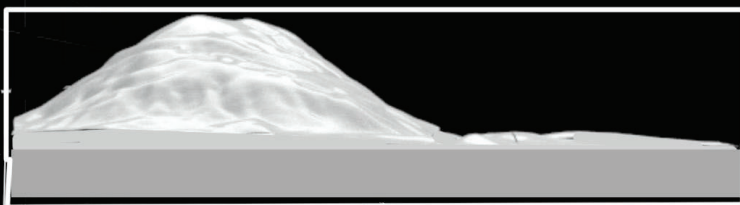


3D Model

Front View



Side View





- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.



Erden E4 Foundation with WIDE FLOOD optic

Two flush in-ground LS3042 uplights provide an even, dramatic glow across the entire sculpture, including the top. Wide-flood optics with internal tilt eliminate the dark center while keeping the fixtures fully concealed in the DG path. The beam is tightly controlled to prevent glare or spill toward the nearby street.

