



ECHOES OF THE PRAIRIE

SONNY BEHAN

WYLIE WALKING TRAILS

OVERVIEW

"Echoes of the Prairie" is a large-scale bronze sculpture of a rearing white-tailed stag, symbolizing the natural heritage of Wylie, Texas, and honoring the Native American ancestors who once roamed these lands. The sculpture captures the otherworldly moment of a deer caught between past and present, with a fragmented, dynamic form that conveys both motion and emotion. It stands as a tribute to resilience, grace, and the interplay of time and nature. This piece is meant to spark reflection on the land's history while embodying the spirit of survival and strength inherent to the natural world.

"Echoes of the Prairie" will serve as a timeless tribute to Wylie's cultural heritage, connecting residents and visitors to the land's history while enhancing the aesthetic value of the community. With meticulous planning, expert craftsmanship, and collaboration, this sculpture will stand as a beacon of pride and legacy for generations.



MAQUETTE

The maquette represents the final vision of the sculpture, scaled to monumental proportions and ready for production. The dynamic fragmentation of the stag's form creates a sense of movement and time—a powerful visualization of the deer's importance to the lands past and present. This timeless, surreal quality underscores the work's narrative and emotional depth.









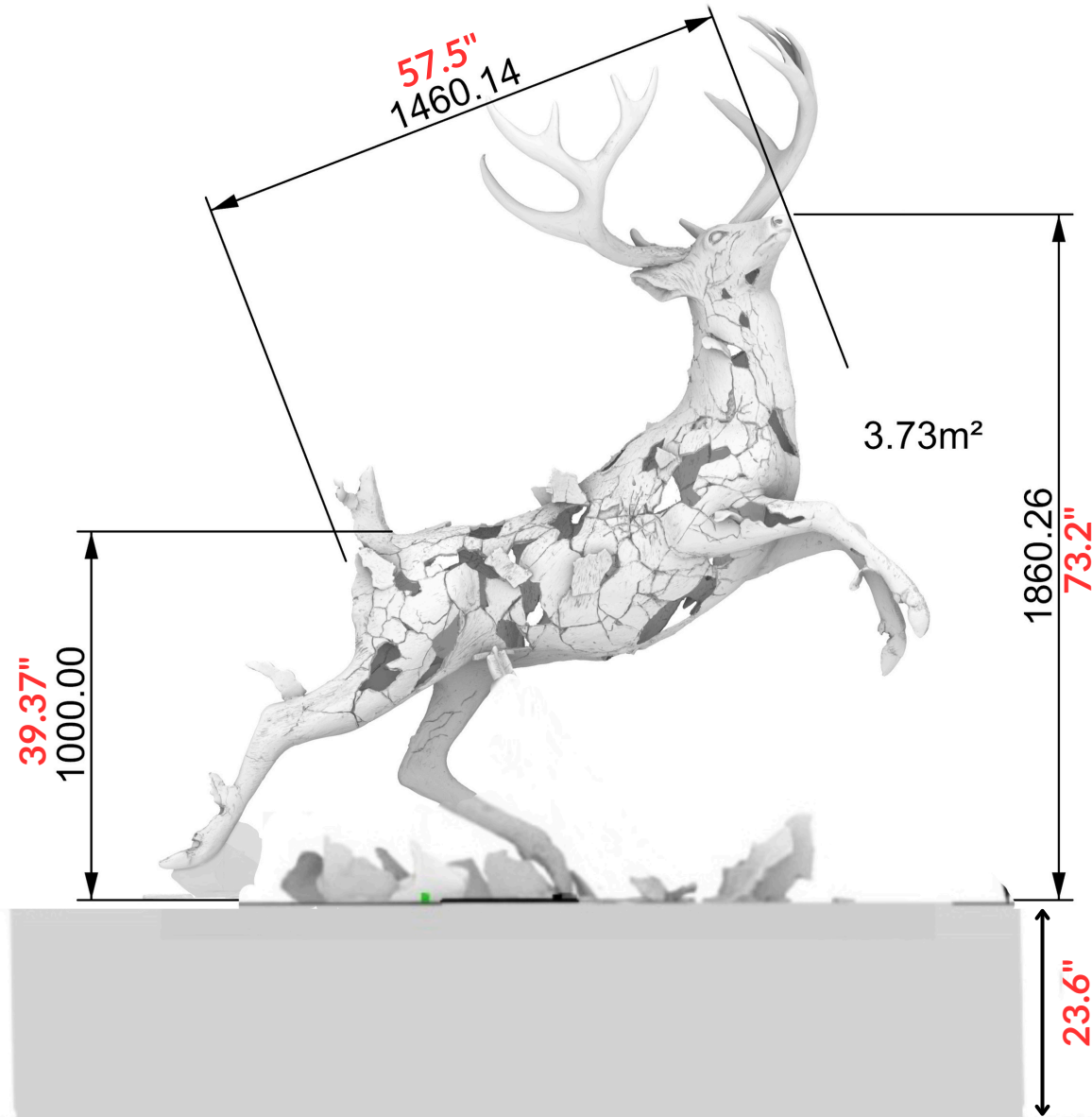






FINAL DESIGN

The design, based on the completed clay maquette, has undergone only one modification since the initial concept: the removal of Native American arrows. This change reflects the philosophy of Native American tribes, including the Caddo people, who held profound respect for wildlife. Their practices emphasized humane hunting, and this adjustment ensures the sculpture aligns with these values, emphasizing reverence for the natural world.



PHYSICAL FEATURES



Material: The sculpture will be cast in bronze, a durable material known for its timeless beauty and ability to withstand harsh outdoor conditions. The surface will feature a white patina created using bismuth, lending the deer a ghostly, ethereal quality that nods to the past and honors the importance of the land, wildlife, and people of that time.

Polished Antlers: The polished bronze antlers symbolize the value of these animals to the planet and the people, particularly the Caddo tribe, for whom deer held cultural and practical significance. These antlers serve as a reminder of the interconnectedness of humans and nature.





Base Design: The base will be made of iron clad with 3mm stainless steel and will be hand painted with Sonny's signature abstract style, featuring a palette that complements the natural surroundings. Inspired by the balance of order and chaos the distinctive overlay acts as a veil, bridging the natural world of organic forms with more structured urban environments. This design adds a modern, vibrant contrast to the sculpture while connecting it to the artist's broader body of work. The base will be completed with automotive paint and finished with a UV-protectant clear coat for durability and longevity.

PRODUCTION PROCESS

The sculpture will be created using the traditional lost-wax casting method, a meticulous process that ensures precision and fidelity to the original design. This technique allows for the intricate details of the stag's fragmented form to be captured with exceptional clarity. The final bronze structure will be composed of multiple cast pieces, seamlessly joined to create a unified form.

- From the maquette, the sculpture has been 3D scanned and scaled to the required size, ensuring accurate proportions. On approval of the final design, the foundry then uses advanced foam-cutting technologies to create the structure in foam pieces, which are assembled around an initial steel armature.
- The foam structure is clad in clay, allowing Sonny to sculpt hyper-realistic details such as muscles, hair, eyes, and fragmented pieces. This detailed sculpting is completed at Sonny's studio in South Africa, where the foundry is based.
- The foundry uses the traditional lost-wax bronze casting process to mold and cast the sculpture with its armature. Once cast, the artwork undergoes patination to achieve the final finish.
- The foundry will provide engineering sign-off on the sculpture's structural integrity, ensuring it meets all safety requirements.
- Once complete, the sculpture will be crated and shipped by sea freight to Wylie for installation.

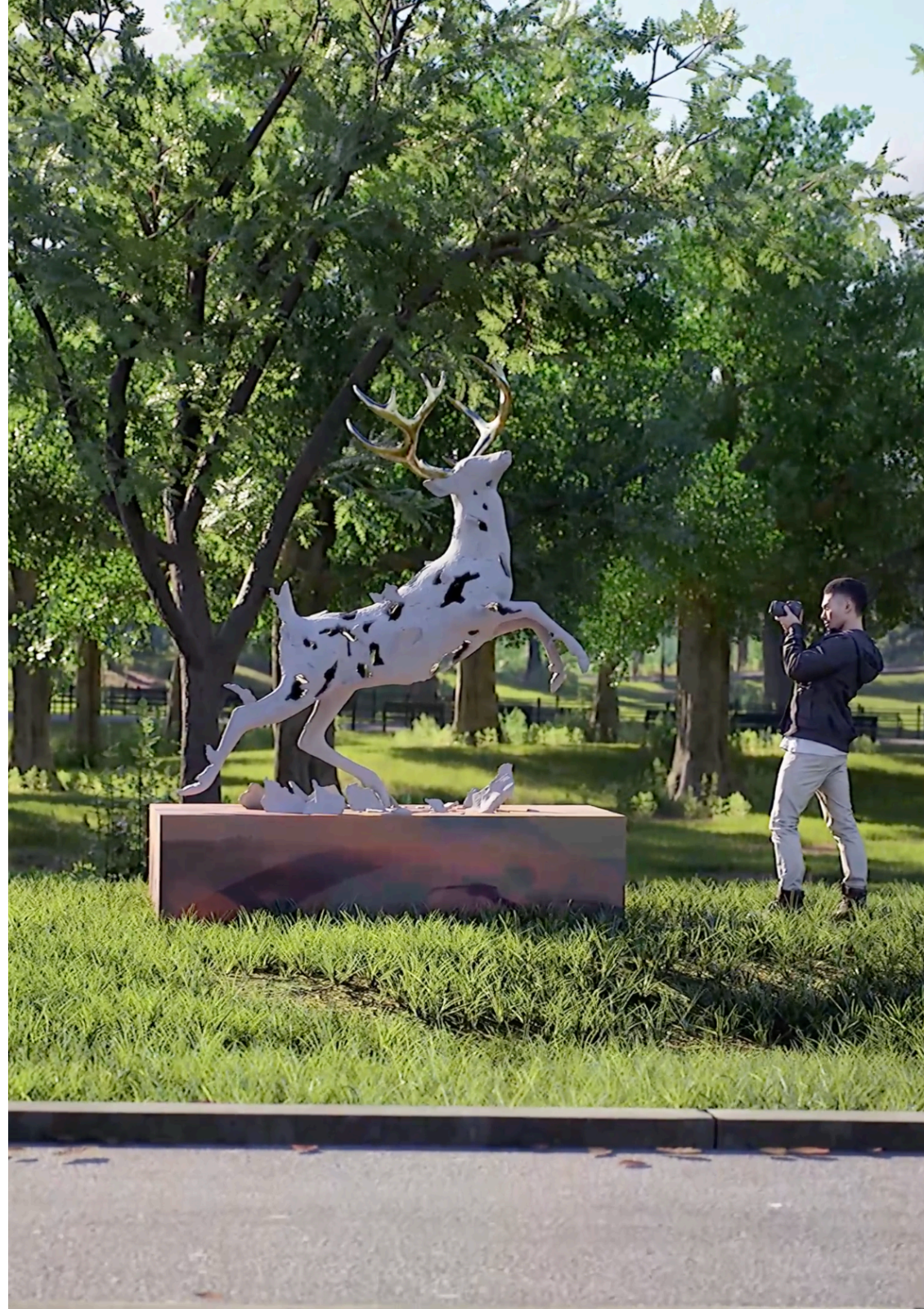




SITE INTEGRATION

The sculpture has been designed to seamlessly integrate with the walking trails of Wylie, serving as a focal point that resonates with the historical and cultural narrative of the area.

- The sculpture will be placed on a concrete pad, which will be outsourced to a local contractor to ensure a secure and stable foundation.
- The site will also feature lighting, sourced from a local supplier, to illuminate the sculpture and enhance its dramatic presence during nighttime hours. The lighting design will emphasize the reflective qualities of the polished antlers and the texture of the fragmented bronze form.
- The raised base addresses safety concerns by discouraging public interaction with the sculpture's surface. Additionally, the base's height enhances the sculpture's dramatic presence and visibility from various vantage points.
- Upon installation the artwork's position will be carefully oriented to highlight its connection to the natural landscape and cultural history of the site, as well as to enhance the interplay with the nearby Native American sculpture.
- A local engineer will review and sign off on the installation plan to ensure the artwork's secure placement on the concrete pad.





SUBCONTRACTORS

Bronze Foundry: The casting will be performed by Sculpture Casting Services (<https://sculpturecasting.co.za/>) in Cape Town, an internationally recognized facility with expertise in high-quality bronze sculptures. I have worked with the foundry on multiple occasions, including the monumental tiger sculpture unveiled at the United Nations, and can attest to the quality of the craftsmanship and professionalism.

- This renowned foundry is known for its expertise in large-scale bronze casting and has collaborated with leading artists worldwide. Their state-of-the-art facilities and highly skilled artisans ensure the highest level of craftsmanship and durability.
- The foundry uses advanced techniques to achieve intricate detail, while ensuring structural integrity.
- The foundry specializes in complex large-scale bronze casting, precision engineering for outdoor durability and professional shipping and handling for international projects.

Local Contractors:

- **Concrete pad:** GT Construction: (<https://gtconstruction-inc.com/>)
- **Lighting:** Certified Lighting Pros (<https://www.certifiedlightingpros.com/>)
- **Local engineer:** Gerard J. Duhon (<https://www.texashomeengineer.com/index.html>)

MAINTENANCE

Durability: Bronze is highly resistant to weathering. Regular cleaning and waxing will preserve its patina and prevent corrosion. Regular maintenance, including gentle cleaning and waxing, will be necessary to preserve the sculpture's finish and prevent excessive weathering. Regular inspections are recommended to assess surface condition. Minor touch-ups to the patina and base paint may be required periodically to maintain their original appearance.

Waxing: Apply a high-quality microcrystalline or carnauba wax every 6 months to protect the patina from UV rays, moisture, and pollutants. Use a soft cloth to buff the wax into the surface for even coverage.

Cleaning: Dust regularly with a soft, dry brush or microfiber cloth to prevent buildup. Wash gently with distilled water and a pH-neutral soap as needed. Avoid abrasive tools or harsh chemicals.

Immediate Stain Removal: Promptly clean bird droppings, dirt, or tree sap to prevent discoloration. Use a damp, soft cloth for spot cleaning.

Inspection: Check for signs of damage, such as discoloration, streaking, or corrosion, every 3 months.

TIMELINE

November 2024: Maquette Production
COMPLETE



January 2025: Execution of Agreement & Notice to Proceed.
Insurance documentation submitted to the City

February 2025: Final Design and Budget Approval.
Stamped engineered drawings submitted.

February 2025: City Permit Issuance & Work Commencement

April-May 2025: Production Ready for Bronze.
Confirmed with city staff via photos or inspection

August-September 2025: Shipping to Site

October-November 2025: Installation at Site

November 2025: City Inspection & Approval

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Tasks	Labor		Equipment & Materials	Fixed Costs			Budget
	Hrs	Rate		Travel	Foundry	Other Subcontractors	
Phase 1: Design							\$ 3,500
Maquette Production	30	\$100.00	500.00				3,500.00
Production							\$ 37,355
Scanning 32D Foam, CNC Milling, and Armiture					1,538.00		1,538.00
Cladding			575.00				575.00
Large-Scale Sculpting	30	\$100.00					3,000.00
Mould					7,015.00		7,015.00
Armiture					2,133.00		2,133.00
Bronze Casting					17,539.00		17,539.00
Patina & Finishing					1,317.00		1,317.00
Plinth/Base					2,283.00		2,283.00
Engineering Sign Off					955.00		955.00
Painting & Coating	10	\$100.00					1,000.00
Transport & Installation							\$ 18,335
Crating						1,275.00	1,275.00
Shipping (Sea Freight+-23days excluding customs clearance)						4,500.00	4,500.00
Delivery, Handling and Installation						3,000.00	3,000.00
Customs Clearance						1,000.00	1,000.00
Site VISIT for Install (Flights, Lodging, Supervision)				2,500.00			2,500.00
Concrete slab						1,800.00	1,800.00
Lighting						2,000.00	2,000.00
Engineer Sign Off						260.00	260.00
5% Contingency			2,000.00				2,000.00
TOTAL							\$59,190.00



THANK YOU!



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