EXTRAORDINARY SPACES EVERYDAY PLACES

www.4culture.org

© Jim Blashfield, *Circulator,* 2011, Brightwater Environmental Education Community Center, Woodinville

" In the 70s, public art was about art in public places. Today, it's about the art of making places public."
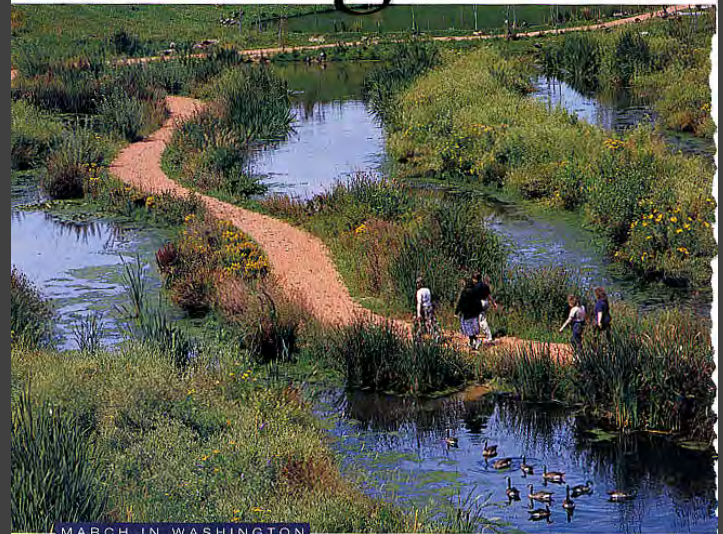
Jack Mackie

- Artists and public art programs employ a variety of approaches.

- Each circumstance is unique, based on the community, the project and the location.

landscape architecture

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
travelguide

MARCH IN WASHINGTON

Wandering through Waterworks

■ A stone's throw from the noisy traffic of Interstate 405 and the bustling industry of Southcenter, Waterworks Gardens in Renton provides an oasis of calm and beauty, *and* a surprise. Reflecting ponds flanked with clover, and wetlands packed with cattails, flowering dogwood bushes, and sweet-smelling flowers, combine with dramatic water features, seating, and an artistic shelter to make this 8-acre enclave a welcome haven for birds, and a nourishing time-out for humans.

The surprise? All this beauty has an important function: Waterworks Gardens is a water treatment plant. An expansion of the East Division Reclamation Plant in Renton, the water features and gardens filter storm-water runoff from street gutters. Various agencies of King County funded the project, and artist Lorna Jordan of Seattle worked for more than five years to create the landscape design. She spent her time well.

A path meanders among 11 storm-water treatment ponds, many with resident ducks, through a series of five gar-

22 SUNSET

© Lorna Jordan, 1997, *Waterworks Gardens*

" You could hold a wedding here. "
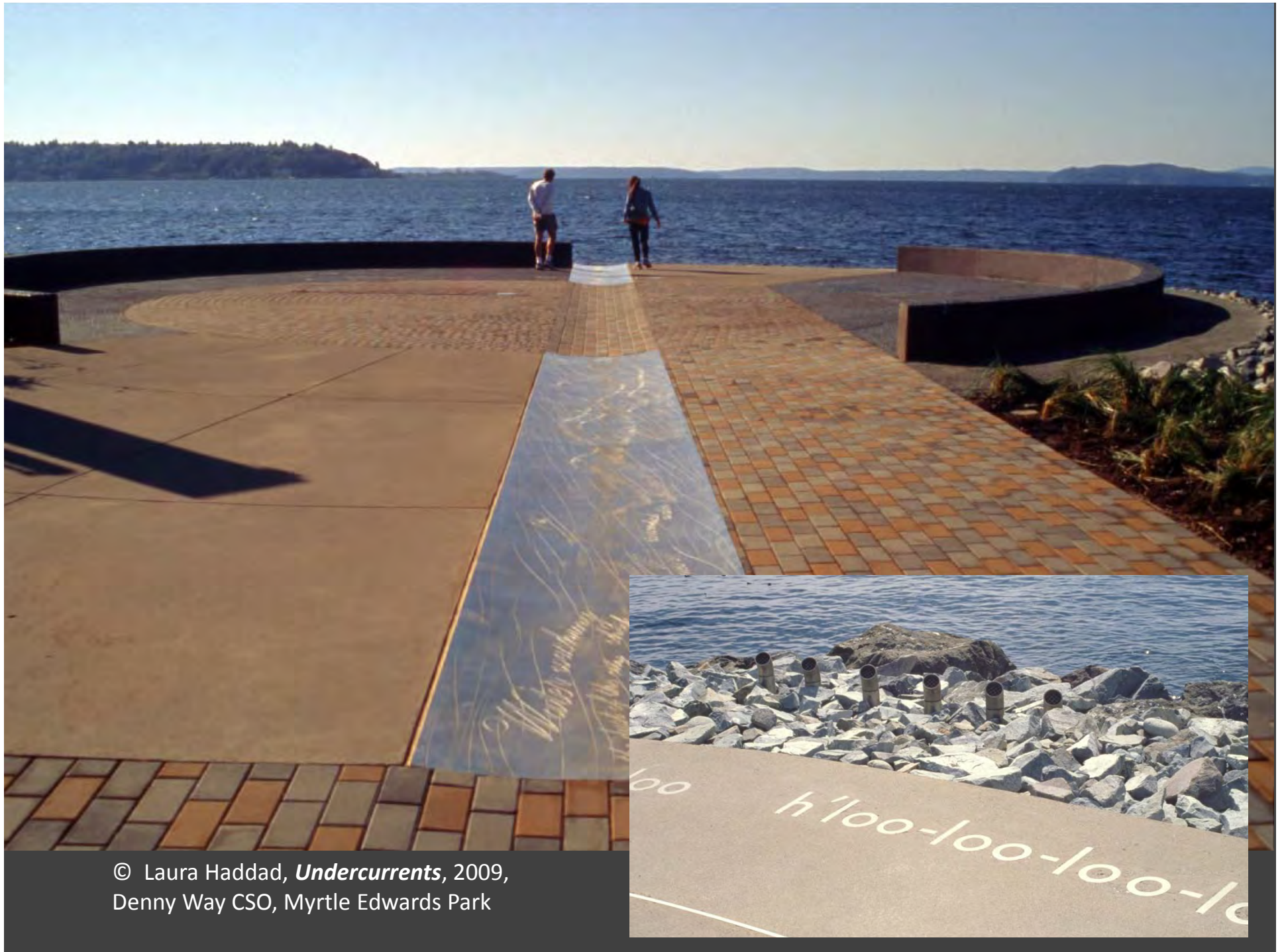
Valley Daily News, June 26, 1996

© Lorna Jordan, 1997, *Waterworks Gardens*

design team
collaboration

© Norie Sato, *Influence of Influents: Rain Drain*, 1999
King County North Creek Pump Station, Bothell

© Laura Haddad, *Undercurrents*, 2009,
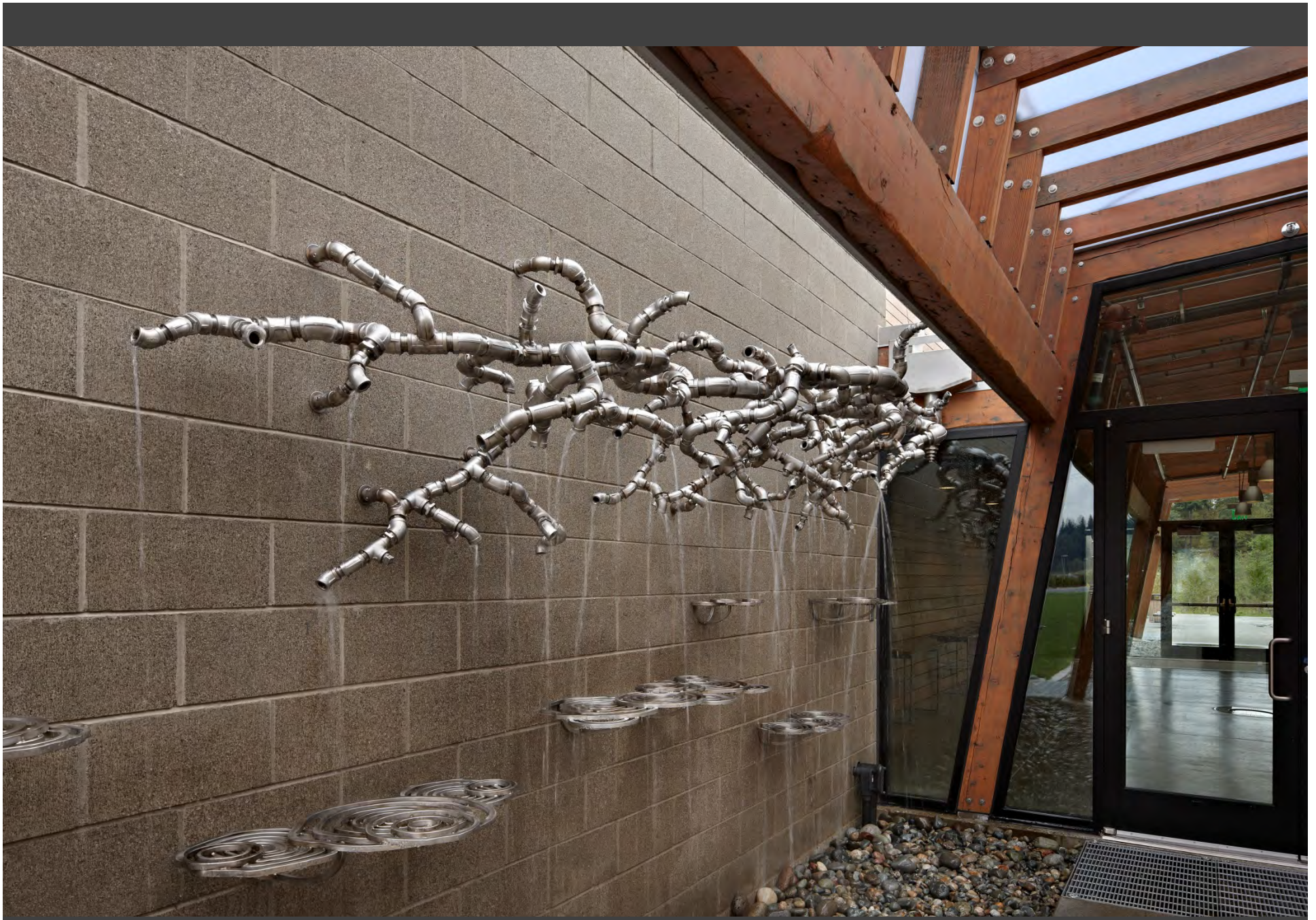Denny Way CSO, Myrtle Edwards Park

h'loo-loo-loo-l

© Laura Haddad, *Undercurrents*, 2011,
Denny Way CSO, Myrtle Edwards Park

site-integrated

© Ellen Sollod, *Collection & Transformation* , 2011, Brightwater
Environmental Education Community Center, Woodinville

© Cris Bruch, *North Fork, South Branch, Puddles*, 2011, Brightwater Environmental Education Community Center

© Buster Simpson, *Bio Boulevard and Water Molecule*, 2011, Brightwater

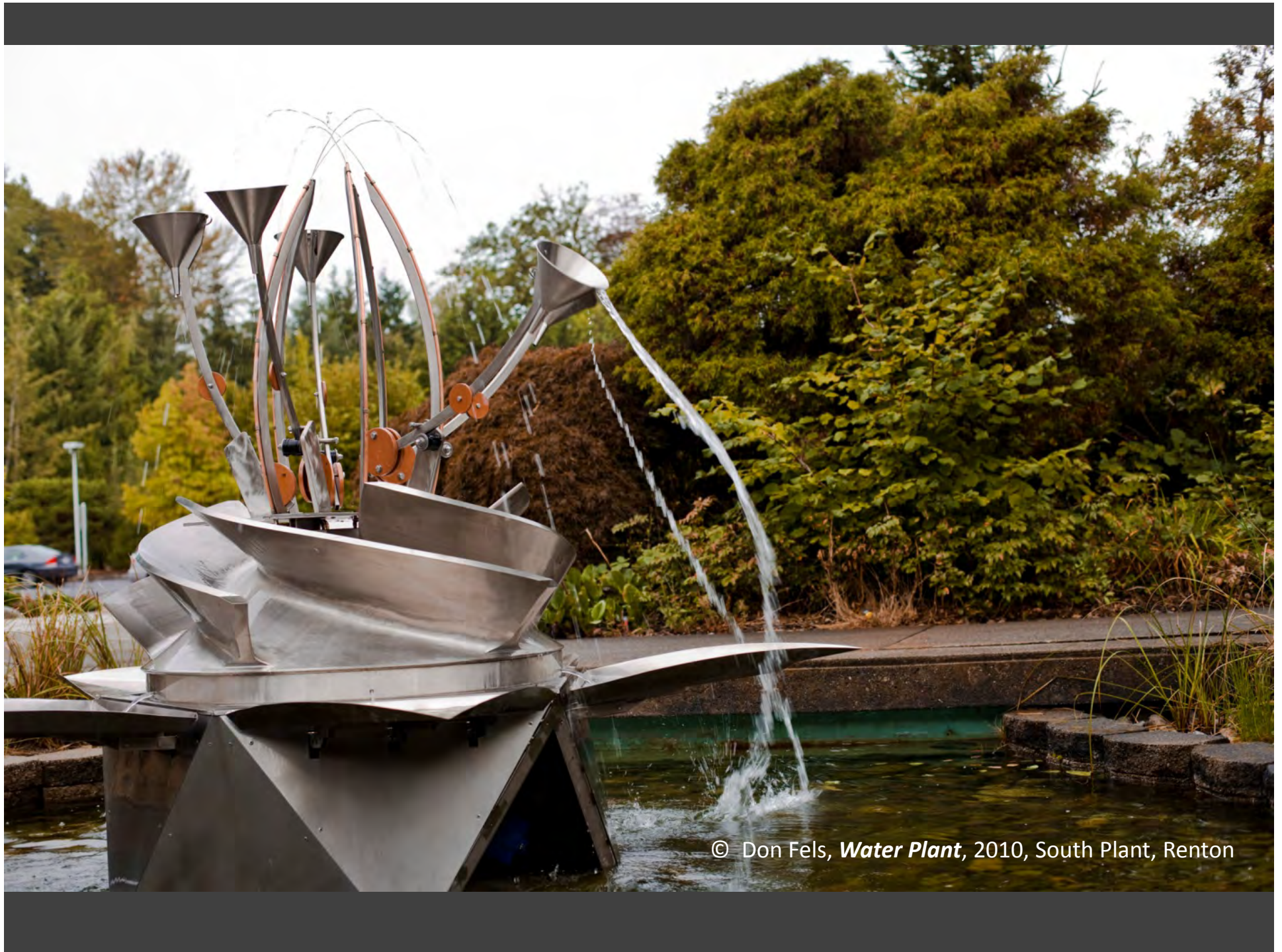© Buster Simpson, *Bio Boulevard and Water Molecule*, 2011, Brightwater

signature works

© Dan Webb, *Gnome*, 2010, Bellevue Pump Station

© Don Fels, *Water Plant*, 2010, South Plant, Renton

artist-made building parts

© Susan Point, *Water: Essence of Life*, 1998, West Seattle Pump Station

© Laura Haddad, *Undercurrents*, 2009, Denny Way CSO

© Susan Point, *Water: Essence of Life*, 1998, West Seattle Pump Station

artist-in-residence
Stokley Towles, *Life in the Gutter*

Themes

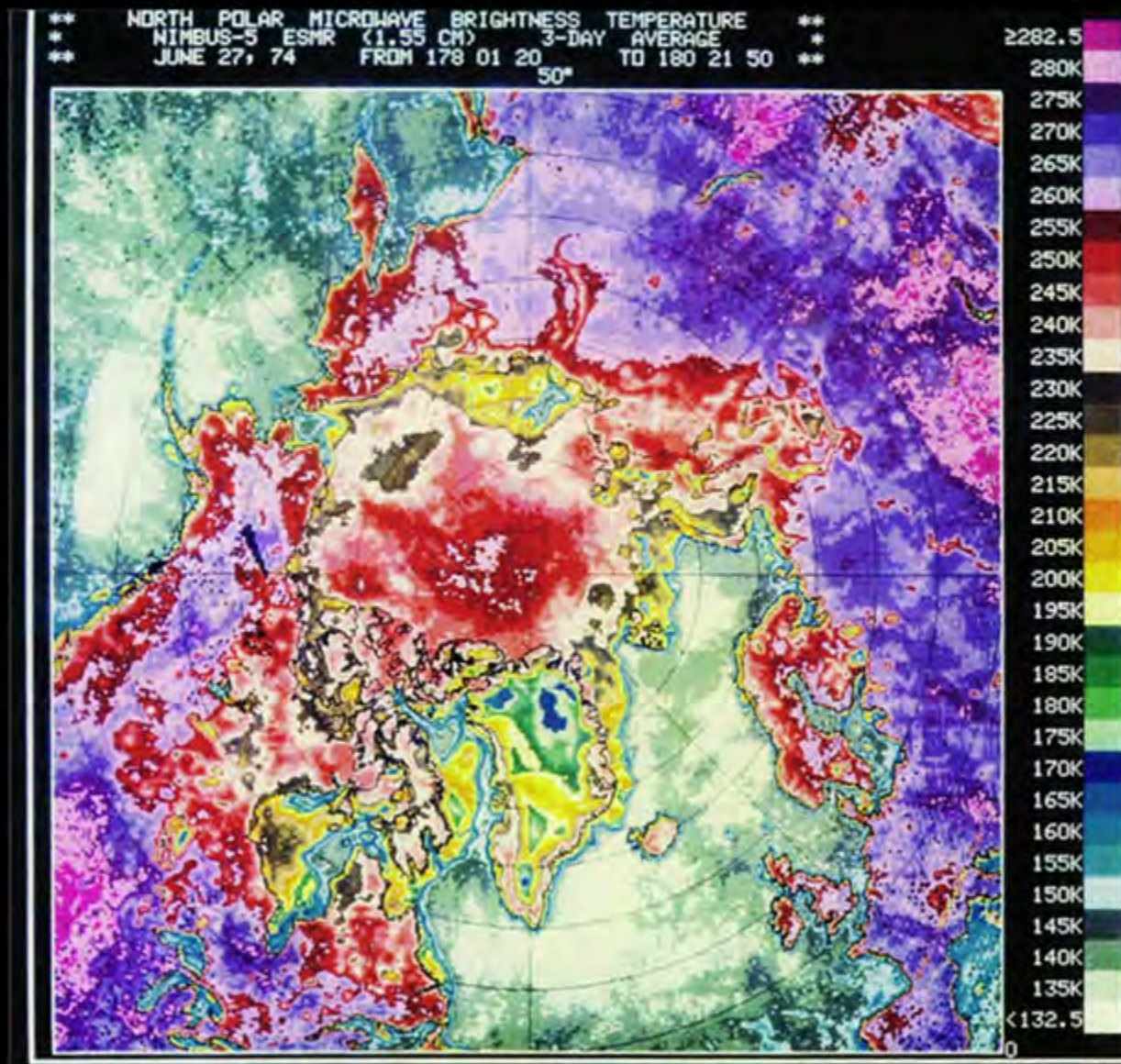Water: explore man's conscious and unconscious relationship to water

Themes

Culture: fodder for storytelling and allegory

Themes

Science: flow of ideas that are based on data collected and tested objectively

Themes

Reclamation: to rescue or to bring back

5 Threads

Transparent, exposed: help people understand how things work

Integrated: show connection between natural water cycle and the treatment cycle

Concentrated, collective: create cohesive experiences that focus public attention

Multiple experiences: commission many types of artworks from artists with different styles and skills

Active, not static: embrace changes in the site and its use over time

nuts & bolts

- Every project is different.

- Success is dependent on thoughtful, up-front planning.

- Consider the site context, usage and conditions, surrounding community, available resources and stakeholder expectations.

- Hiring an artist that is a right "fit" for the project is critical.

4Culture is a Public Development Authority, chartered as King County's cultural services provider

- 13-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council

- 8-member Public Art Advisory Committee

www.4culture.org

Responsibilities of the **Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)**

- recommend policies and program guidelines to the Board;

- identify projects that can benefit from artists' involvement;

- designate sites for public art;

- determine project-specific budgets for art;

- provide design review;

- resolve aesthetic disputes relative to the county's artwork;

King County 1% for Art

Source of funds = percentage of capital budgets

Calculation Basis: Eligible/Ineligible Projects

- Eligible projects: capital improvement projects that meet the criteria of public visibility or accessibility or need for mitigation

- Ineligible projects: roads, airport runways, **sewers**, landfills

Best Practices: Elements for Success

- Develop guidelines and working practices to support the earliest possible inclusion of artists and collaborative working relationships between 4Culture and County staff, citizens and artists

- Allow for the broadest possible response by the selected artists

Best Practices: Elements for Success

- ensure that process for selecting artists and artwork is fair, inclusive and consistent

- enable artists, project partners and community to understand the process, participate productively, accept responsibility and anticipate next steps

- show that consistent approaches and community standards have been developed

Generating the Scope and Selection Process

Questions to Ask:

- What is the background and history of the project, site, and community?

- Who are the project partners? Stakeholders?

- What are the expectations and aspirations of the community?

- Is the project tied to construction? What's the timeline?

- What is the Client Agency's perspective? How do they describe the project? What is their mission? What are their challenges?

- Is the project eligible for any construction credits?   What are the site conditions or scale potential that affects the budget?

- Are the design consultants on board? Are they artist-friendly?

- What is possible?

- **Call-for-Artists:** information about expectations, background or history of the project's development, available resources, and schedule

  - Open calls posted to 4Culture website

- **Artist Selection Panel:** making an informed decision

  - 5-person selection panel from art, design and local community, and/or Client Department representatives

  - Panel members appointed by the PAAC

- **Contracts:** 4Culture issues artist's contracts

  - Design

  - Implementation of approved design

- **Design Review:** getting the artist's best work

  - PAAC approves all conceptual proposals

  - Artist and 4Culture Project Manager will participate in community design review meetings and ensure comments by community are relayed to the PAAC

  - PMs are encouraged to attend PAAC meetings and participate in the design review discussions

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