

# Say Their Names

A Permanent Art Installation to  
Promote Social Equity and  
Racial Justice



# Healing Art in Ashland

A permanent Say Their Names Memorial art installation would continue to bring community together and solidify Ashland's commitment to social equity and racial justice







# OUR PAST

The community is reckoning with our history of racism and discrimination

- Oregon joined the union with "lash laws," which banned Blacks
- Many towns in the Rogue Valley were "sundown towns"
- Work is needed to forge a new path forward



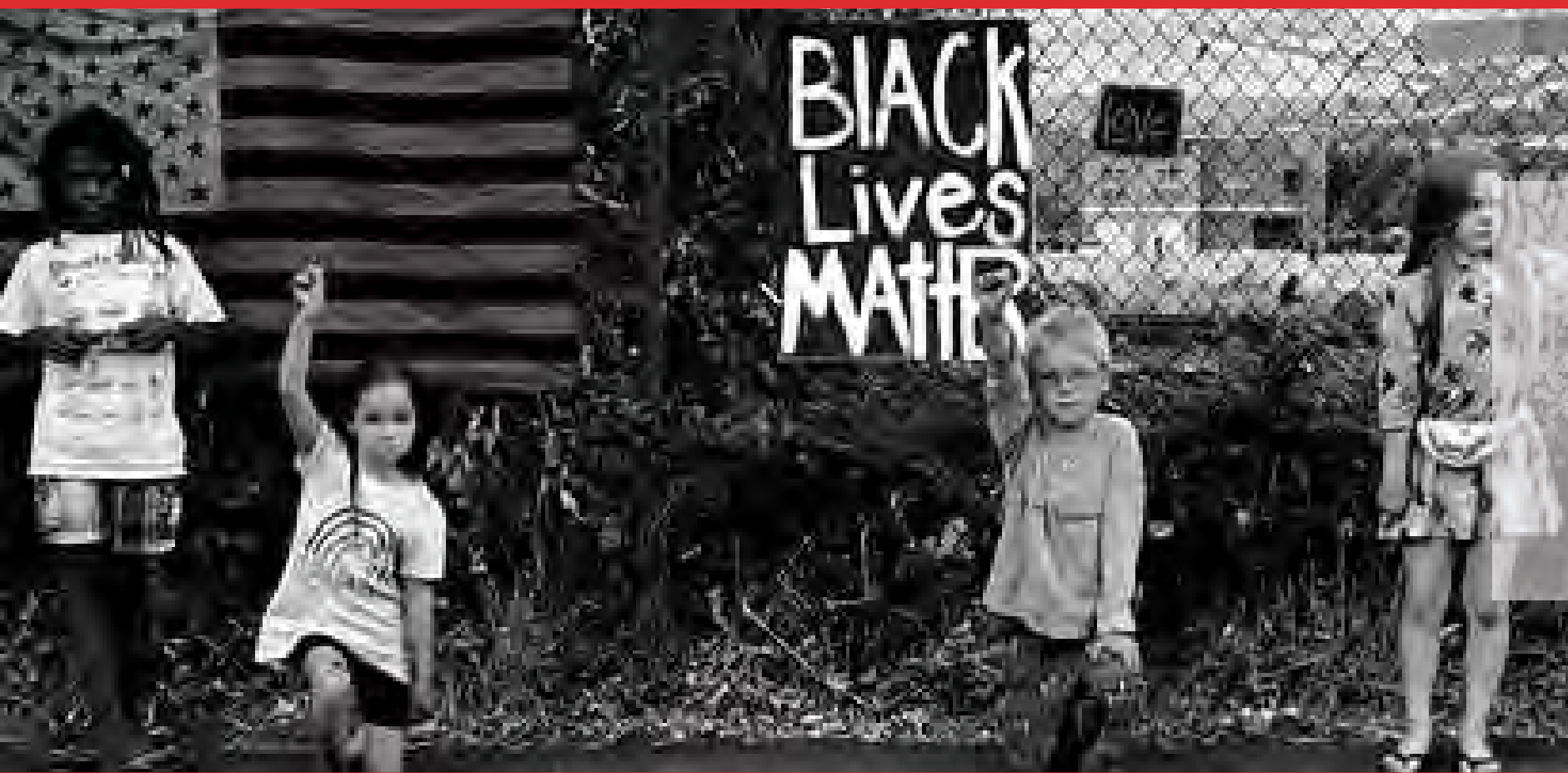
# Say Their Names Memorial

- Installed by local artists on June 28, 2020
- Recognition of our shared history
- Amidst increasing awareness of the assault on Black lives globally and locally






# Community Impact








“This memorial is having a great  
impact in my life.

When I first discovered it, my family and I were out for a walk at sunset. We read their names and cried. Why does this happen? How much longer until we remember love?”

– Gilda Montenegro-Fix, Ashland








# “I walk to the Say Their Names Memorial every day.

The energy is powerful and I feel connected to the victims when I simply adjust and re-affix the shirts...The stories of the victims honored at this memorial may be different but the outcome has been the same: The unnecessary tragic murder of a mother, a father, a husband, a wife, a sister, a brother, a child. I weep.”

- Barbara Helfand, Ashland







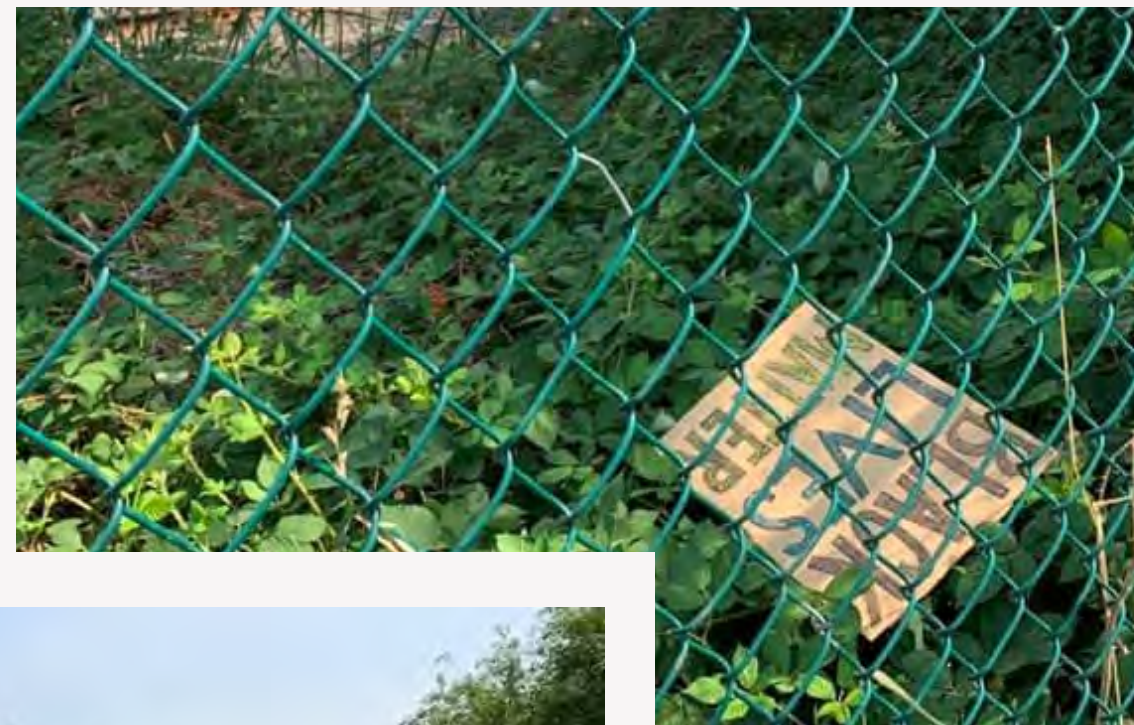
“I am glad that someone put up this art installation, and paid tribute to lives that have been needlessly taken.

Ashland is a small town that has a lot of liberal ideas, but I don't often see a lot of action from our community. That it hasn't been destroyed or taken down is really encouraging.”

-Amanda Sager, Ashland







8/22/20







Railroad Park  
8/23/20





14 majority of City of Ashland residents, Ashland has not yet reached the point where it is a  
15 comfortable place for people of color to live, work, own a business, and raise their children; and  
16 D. The Ashland City Council recognizes that local leaders who have been advocating for racial  
17 justice and social equity on behalf of their families and communities cannot and should not be  
18 asked to shoulder this work alone. There is work to be done by all Ashland residents, including  
19 this Council; and  
20 E. We find ourselves in a moment in time similar to, but in many ways distinct from, previous  
21 incidents of police brutality that have happened in various locations across our country. What we  
22 know from the past is that too often outrage tapers off over time, and there is strong momentum  
23 to go back to business as usual. We must use this historic moment to commit to doing the

# A Resolution

Declaring Ashland's Commitment to  
Social Equity and Racial Justice

H. Determine the feasibility of a mural project to provide a mode of artistic expression of  
our community's commitment to making meaningful, visible, and ongoing progress on  
issues of social equity and racial justice.





## Fatal shooting of Black teen roils liberal Oregon town

DECEMBER 4, 2020 / 8:11 AM / AP



Home → Chicago → Oregon teen Aidan Ellison killed over loud music

Chicago Chicago-Local News Chicago-Pulse Gary Gary-Local News Gary-Pulse Local News Pulse

## Oregon teen Aidan Ellison killed over loud music

November 28, 2020

12187 0

US Crime + Justice Energy + Environment Extreme Weather Space + Science

LIVE TV Edition

## A man fatally shot a teenager in Oregon for playing loud music Thanksgiving week, police say

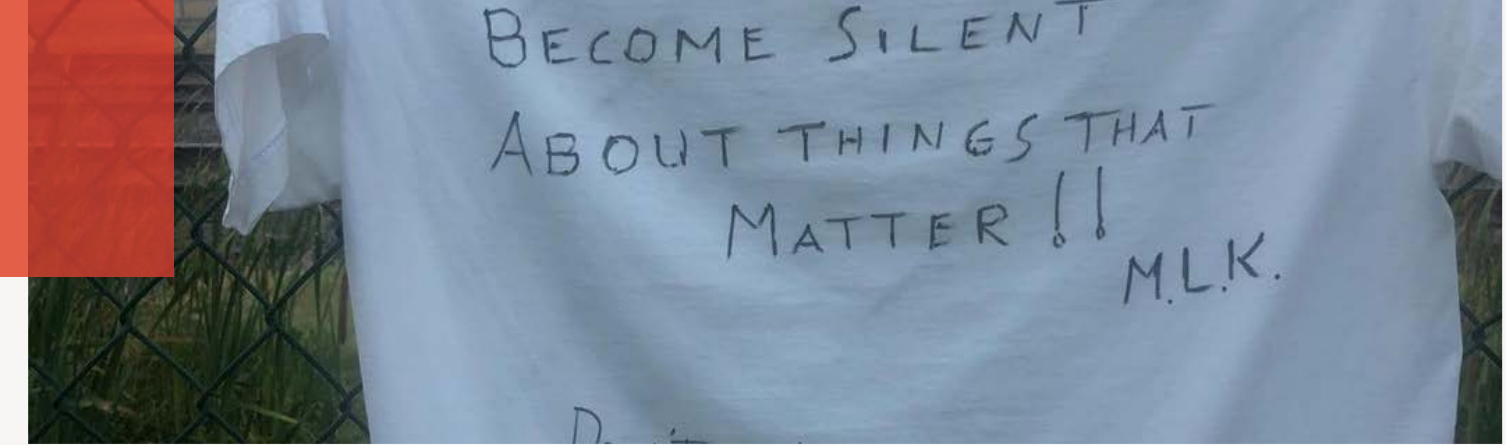
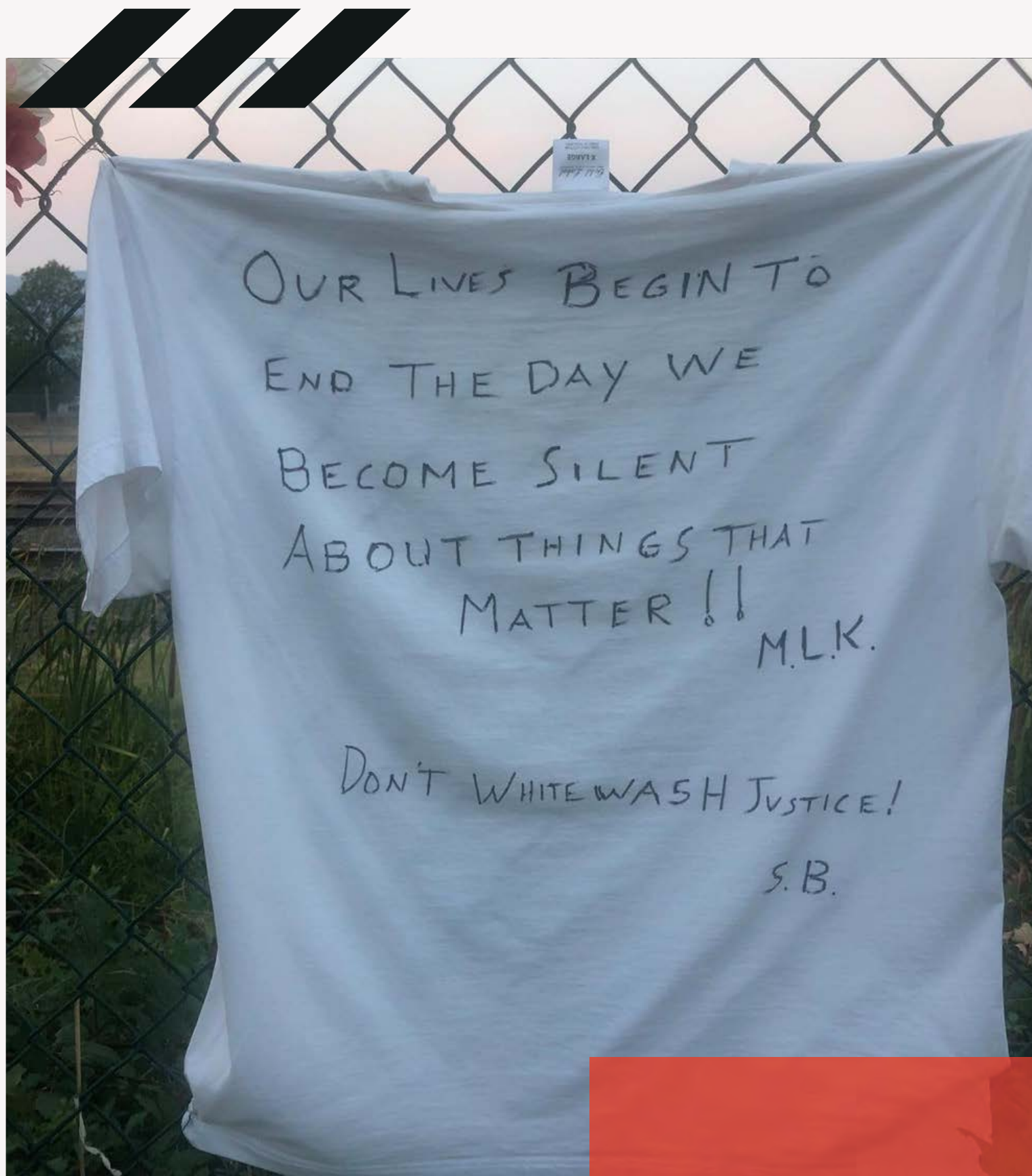
By Alaa Elassar, CNN

Updated 7:29 AM ET, Mon November 30, 2020

# Aidan Ellison







# The Importance of Now





# A Chance To Heal



- **Bring Community Together and Provide Healing**
- **Put Our Words into Action**
- **Define Our City**



City Council resolutions support this endeavor

Each step of the process ensures additional community involvement

We hope to have the support and backing of the ARPC to move this project forward

# Collaboratively Driven and Supported







# Railroad Park: A Destination

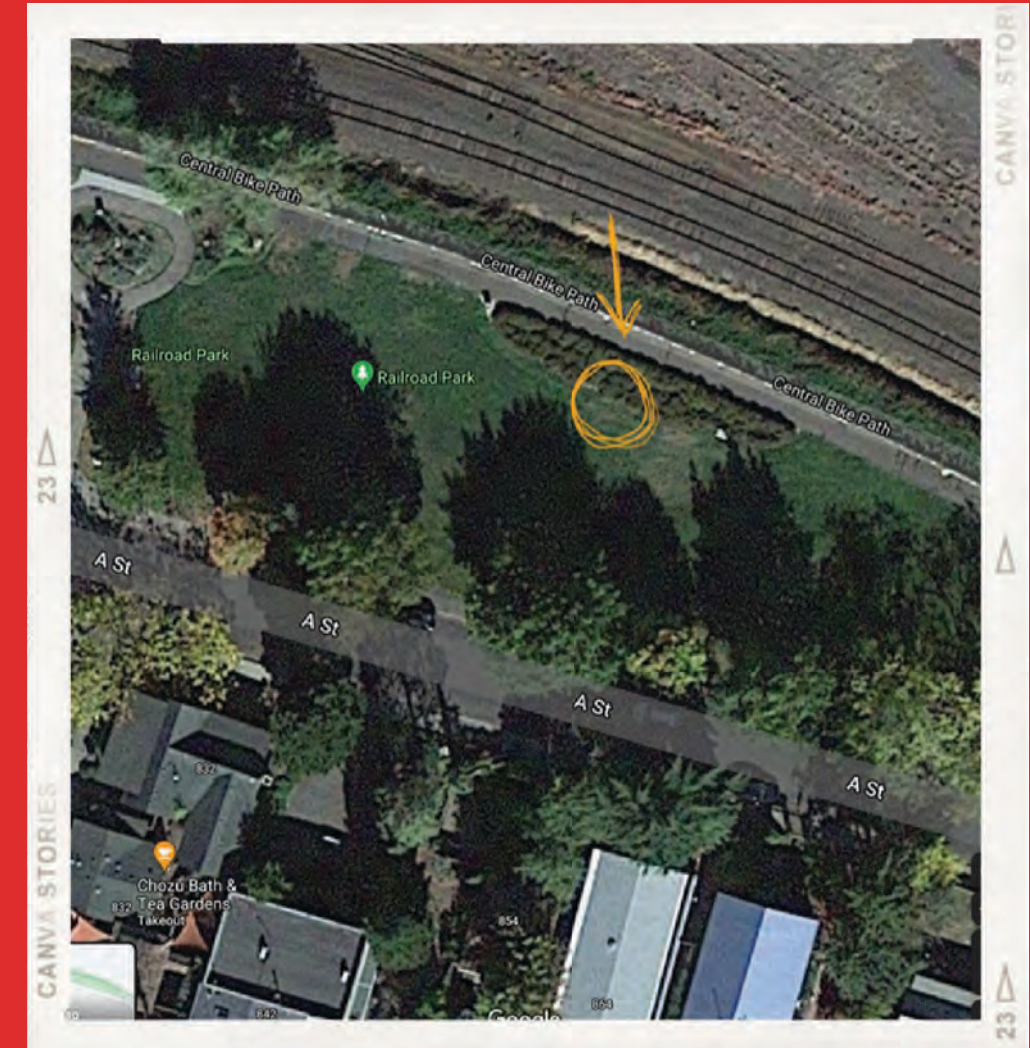
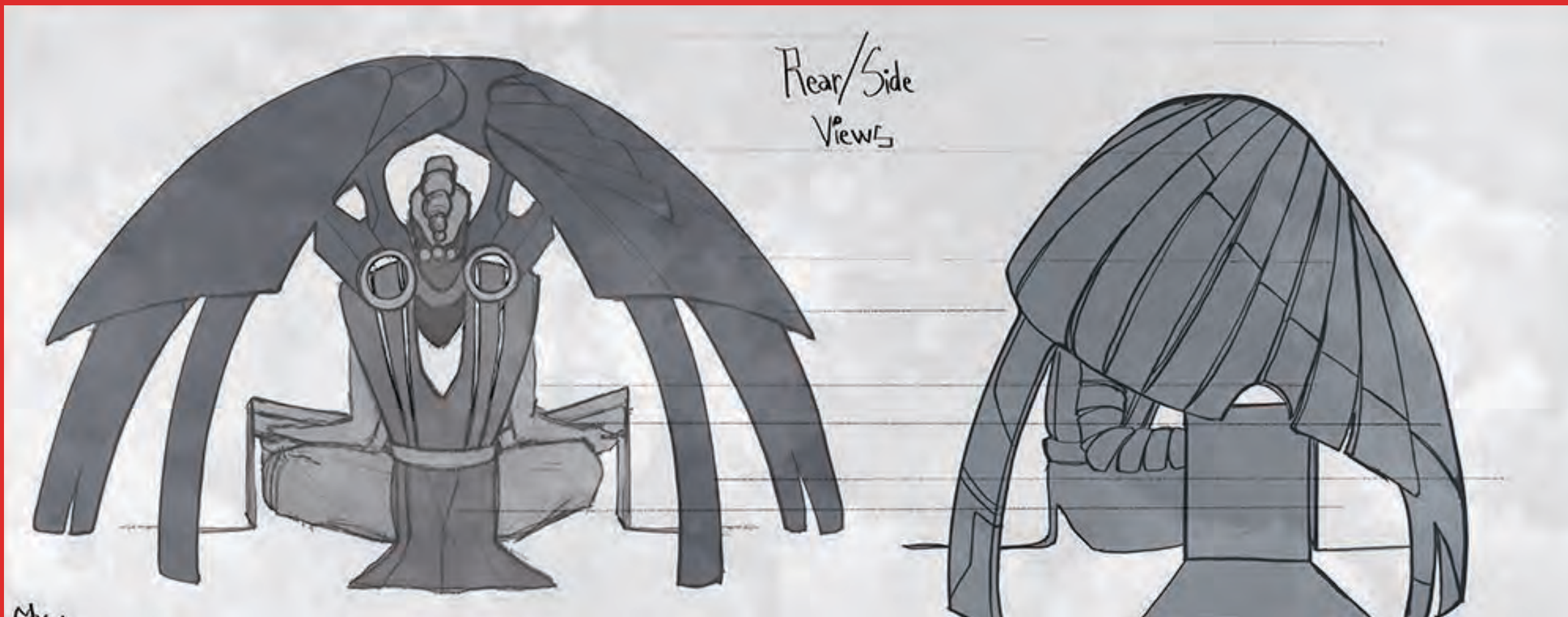




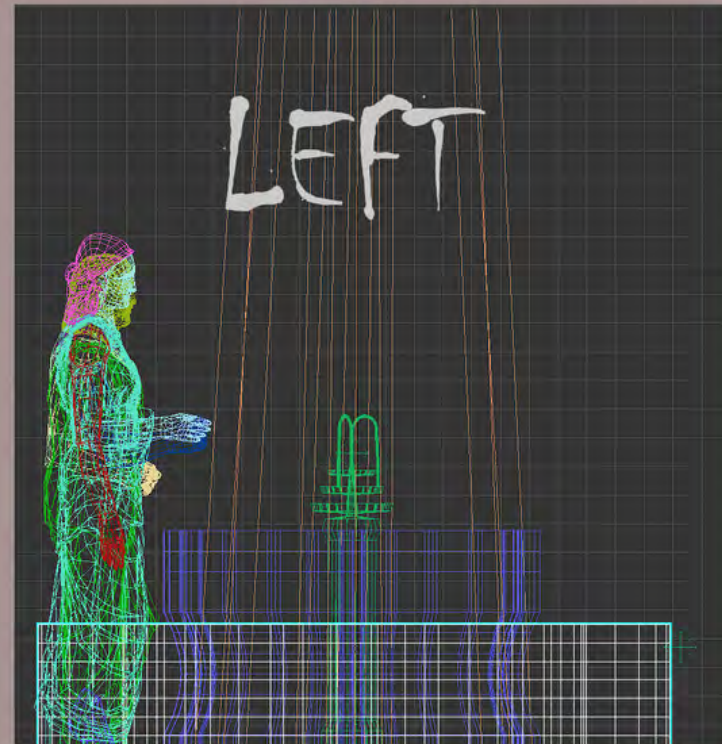
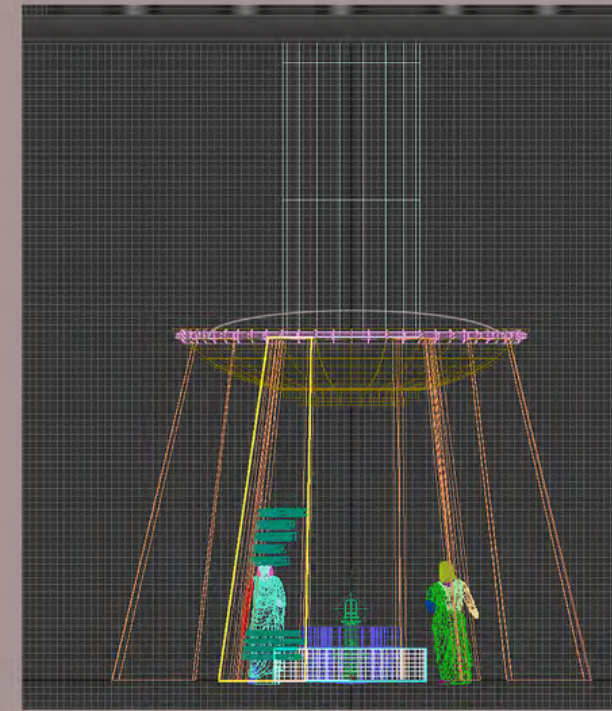
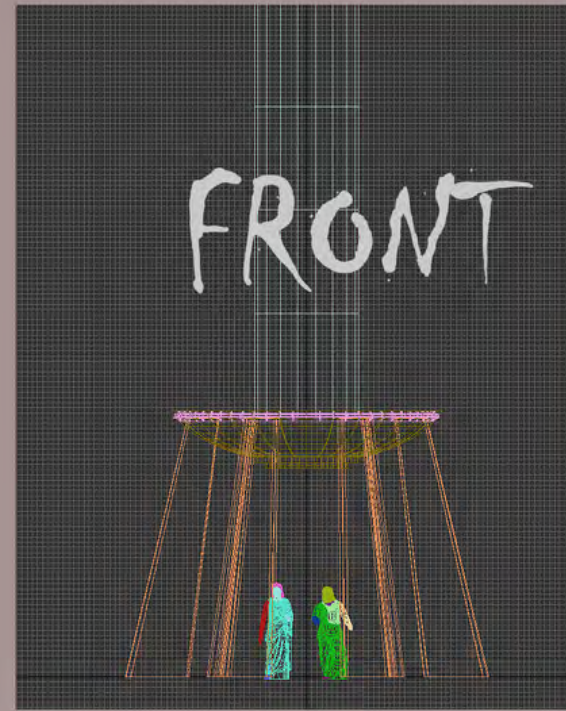
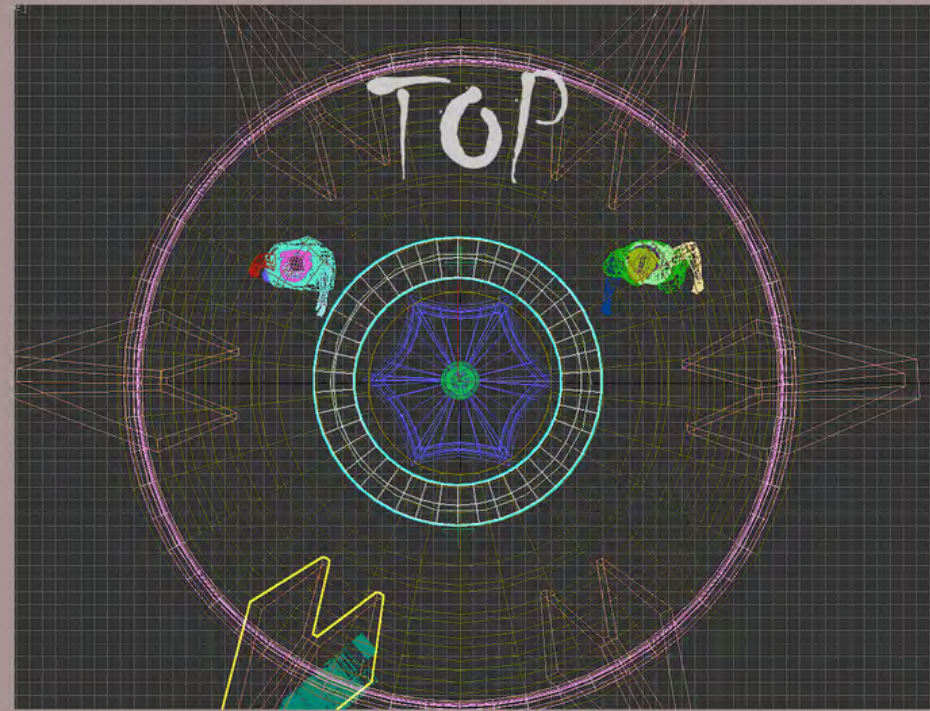
# Artist Proposals











Park Location TBC









*Art Piece that starts at the beginning of Railroad Park fence parallel to the basketball court. Covering the entire surface of the walkway extending past the basketball court to the beginning of the playground.*





# Financial Support

Estimated cost: \$100,000

Needed: Grants, crowdsourcing,  
and City support



## Will you support this project?





# Next Steps

