



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Department

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 13, 2020

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

Cc: Steve Rafuse, Parks Superintendent

From: Parks and Recreation Department

Project: **PRC 2020-16 – Proposed Temporary Art Installation**
Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, Gardens
at Bragaw

The Anchorage Museum proposes to install three exhibits as part of its “Shelter/Refuge” project. The exhibits would be installed temporarily at two park sites and at the Gardens at Bragaw community gardens. The exhibits are described, and the sites are shown in the attached project summary.

According to the Museum, the construction of the ‘structures’ themselves will largely mirror what is currently on the Anchorage Museum lawn which was fabricated on site by a Museum team last September. The Museum notes that this installation has not required repairs or modifications of any kind in the year it has been up.

The current project proposal consists of smaller versions of the structures using the same low-tech yet robust structure with the addition of a commercial-grade vinyl mesh skin that is printable. The material is durable and intended for exterior applications, and as a mesh allows for pass through of light/sight, wind, and precipitation. The Museum plans to test options for attachment methods for the mesh in the next few weeks and is confident in its ability to secure it. The date of installation and duration of the exhibit is to be determined.

The Parks & Recreation Department intends to issue a Temporary Use Permit for the project addressing standard requirements including insurance and compliance with any additional permitting requirements that may apply.

Attachment:

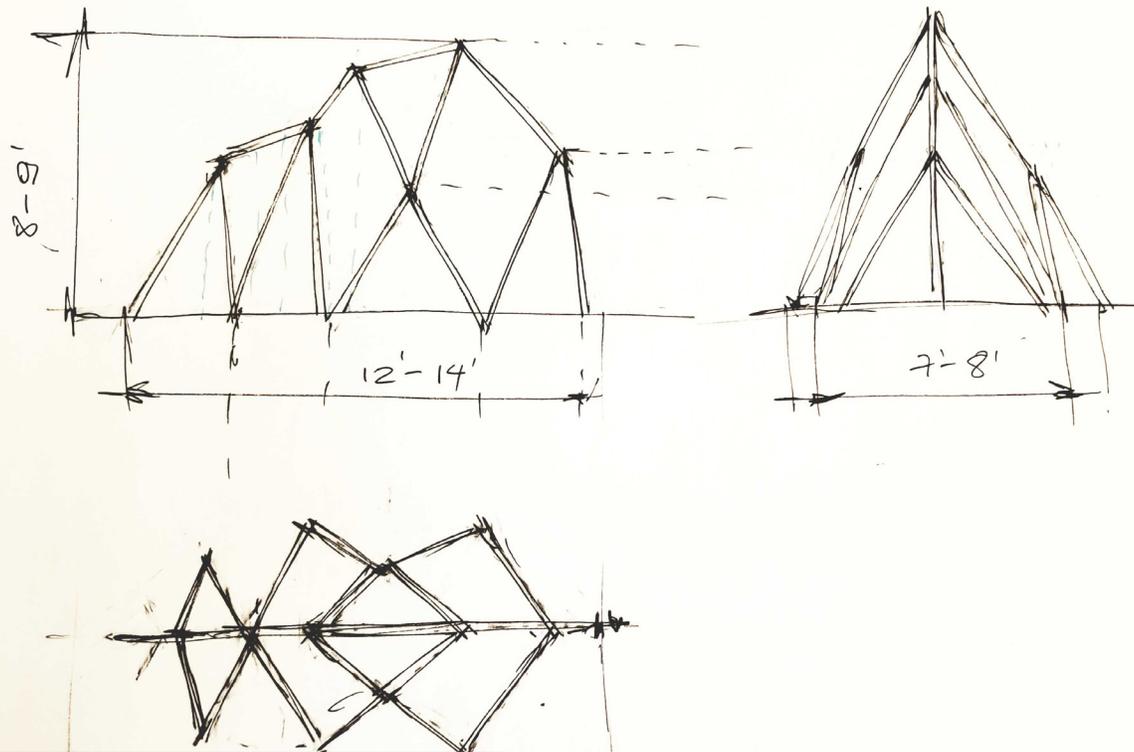
Shelter/Refuge Project Summary

Cc: Jonny Hayes, Chief Design Officer, Anchorage Musum

SHELTER/REFUGE

Community Art Installation presented by SEED Lab
A collaboration between the Anchorage Museum
and the Municipality of Anchorage

North X North | A Reimagined Festival
September 1 - November 30, 2020



Shelter/Refuge skeleton structure concept sketch



Wezup II installation on the lawn at the Anchorage Museum

Introduction: *Shelter / Refuge*

The Anchorage Museum and its collaborators seek to examine ideas of shelter and refuge and our future condition through public art installations. A series of indoor and outdoor installations and a special journal issue will begin in August 2020, exploring the ideas of refuge within and from nature.

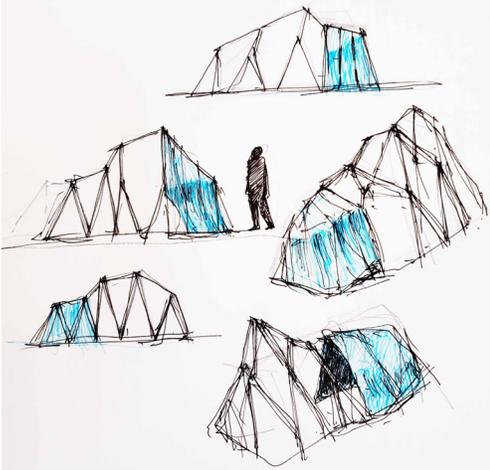
As we navigate a climate crisis, we work with designers to explore ideas around refuge for the future, examining what we will seek shelter from and permanence and portability of the future. This project included a call for images, concepts, prototypes, and installations that explore creative responses to refuge from rising temperatures, rising water, forest fires, precipitation, drought, heat, hurricanes, an ice-free Arctic, atmospheric rivers, polar vortices, bomb cyclones, and thundersnows—and the solutions that will give us an invaluable edge when most at need.

Project Background

The Anchorage Museum has collaborated with long-term partner Marek Ranis, artist and professor of sculpture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, to develop a series of simple wooden skeleton structures for securing images commissioned by artists that depict and highlight landscapes of the North.

The concept of *Shelter/Refuge* is to create and reference the spatial qualities and emotions of a shelter while engaging viewers and visitors with compelling imagery of documented landscapes of Alaska at a larger-than life scale.

The wooden frames are to be constructed of harvested beetle kill and wildfire burn trees as the primary material, reusing and expanding upon the concept and narrative of *Wezup II* — a 20ft wide by 70ft long by 12ft high public art installation located on the Anchorage Museum lawn from September 2019 - September 2020.



Ice Shelters concept sketches and maquette material studies

Purpose

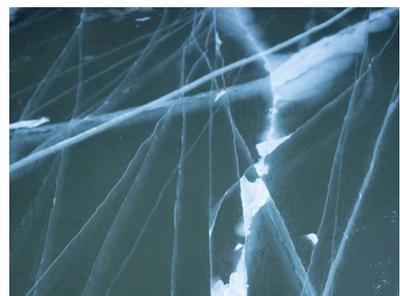
The *Shelter/Refuge* project is proposed as a temporary public art installation that speaks to the intrigue and fascination of our place in the North in a safe, simple, creative and interesting way. The project captures and shares compelling work by Alaskan artists in distinct ways; being readily accessible to the public in form and function and as an amenity that is distributed throughout various locations in the Municipality. The installations will elicit conversations in different social circles and spurn discussions as identifiable features within neighborhoods. The creative use of cast-off trees demonstrates the potential positive use of local and natural materials for creating temporary place making features.

Planning & Public Involvement

The *Shelter/Refuge* project is part of a broad creative outreach project on the topic of climate change and is not intended to have permanence beyond photographic documentation. The project is intended to serve as a moment, eliciting community conversation and serving as a positive community memory.

As part of the project planning process, a list of potential sites that included public parks and private parcels were identified and evaluated for their ability to facilitate safe and accessible installations. Preliminary sites were visited and assessed for visibility into and on-site. Proposed installation locations were selected based on proximity to existing site lighting and oriented to promote passive supervision and security. The project planning process included material research to best facilitate see-through structures with high quality display on the exterior.

For fabrication, the Anchorage Museum is seeking a Temporary Use Permit for the three (3) sites located on MOA Parks & Recreation property to allow for the on-site installation of temporary wooden frames that are secure in place and support the large-print professional landscape and nature photographs. As the project is intended to be in place for up to three months, the project will also be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission.



Selected photography and photo demonstrating see-through material

Project Proposal

The Anchorage Museum seeks to construct a total of twelve simple wooden structures serving as frames for securing large-format printed images onto. **Three (3) frames are proposed to be temporarily located in public parks,** three (3) frames are proposed to be located at publicly accessible privately-owned locations, and six (6) frames will be erected on the Anchorage Museum lawn. Each frame will display two (2) images for a total of twenty-four (24) images by six (6) photographers.

One (1) frame is proposed to be located in each of the following three (3) public park locations:

- + Within the interior island of the skating ribbon loop at Chanstnu Muldoon Park, set on natural grass;
- + At the southwest corner of The Gardens at Bragaw, set on natural grass; and
- + In the open lawn area at Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, set on natural grass.

Each park location would feature two (2) images secured to the frame featuring the work of:

- + John Hagen (Haines, AK) at Chanstnu Muldoon Park,
- + Katie Basile (Bethel, AK) at The Gardens at Bragaw, and
- + Acacia Johnson (Anchorage, AK) at Kiwanis Fish Creek.

Images will be printed on high quality, four-season outdoor micro-perforated mesh material that provides for see-through visibility for safety while offering a high resolution 'canvas' for which to display the professional quality images at the larger scale. The material performs similar to see-through window graphics typically used for advertising on bus and storefront windows.



Anchorage wildfire forest burn area and timber detail

All frames are to be constructed by a qualified fabrication team from the Anchorage Museum using whole spruce timbers harvested locally as part of ongoing wildfire and beetle kill clearing operations. Timbers will be 4" - 10" diameter logs cut to length and inspected and selected for structural integrity. Timbers that are rotted, split or otherwise compromised will not be used to ensure safety and integrity of the installation for the full duration.

Timbers will be mechanically connected at each joint using multiple high-strength TimberLOK lag screw anchors sized to ensure proper securing of segments. Select timbers will be anchored to the ground with rebar stakes sized and located to best prevent migrating of the base while minimizing impacts to existing grounds and recessed below the surface of the timber to eliminate hazards.

The *Shelter/Refuge* project images will be secured to the structures elevated 12" -24" from the base to retain visibility into the interior space and retain the ability to maintain of the lawn.

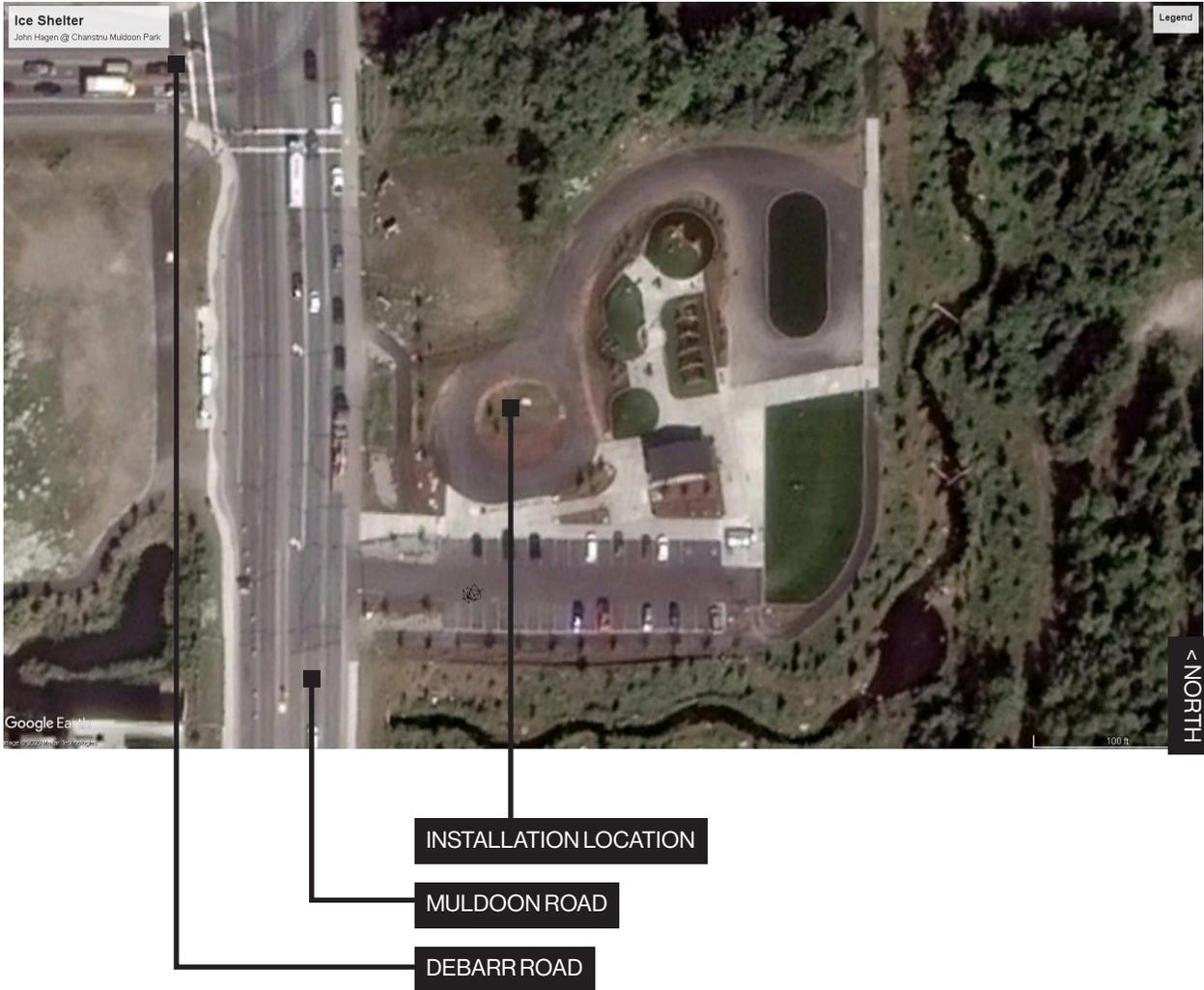
Impacts to the ground surface noted upon removal of the installation, including divots, bare lawn areas or other conditions shall be restored to previous condition.

Access and operations on-site for installation shall be closely coordinated with MOA Parks & Recreation point of contact to ensure safety protocols and work area standards are met; to include site preparation, mobilization and staging, fabrication, clean up, and restoration.



Maps + Figures:

SITE 01 | Chantsnu Muldoon Park





MIN 6FT BUFFER FROM
PAVED CIRCULATION

SHELTER/REFUGE INSTALLATION



Maps + Figures:

SITE 02 | The Gardens at Bragaw





ADJACENT COMMUNITY GARDEN
SHELTER/REFUGE INSTALLATION



Maps + Figures:

SITE 03 | Kiwanis Fish Creek Park





SHELTER/REFUGE INSTALLATION

ADJACENT PICNIC SHELTER



Funding & Implementation

Funding for materials, fabrication and deinstallation of this project will be provided by the Anchorage Museum. The physical installations and associated media, programming, and any associated materials will be administered by the Anchorage Museum.

Maintenance of the Shelter/Refuge structures and images will be the responsibility of the Anchorage Museum. Maintenance of the site and adjacent grounds will be coordinated with the Municipality of Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department to ensure that effective and efficient practices remain in place. Additional detailed maintenance by the Anchorage Museum may be necessary and will be coordinated upon notification by the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department.

Repairs and removal of the structures may be necessary due to negative and/or illegal behaviors or if structures and materials are compromised in such a way that presents a dangerous or unsafe condition. The Anchorage Museum is responsible for immediate and long-term care of the public art installations and will monitor site conditions and respond to Anchorage Parks & Recreation inquiries and directives in a timely fashion.

PROJECT TEAM

Julie Decker, Curator
Director & CEO, Anchorage Museum

Marek Ranis, Artist
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Ryan Kenny, Installation Team Lead
Deputy Director of Exhibitions & Program Operations, Anchorage Museum

Jim Kohl, Fabrication Lead
Exhibitions & A/V Manager, Anchorage Museum

Jonny Hayes, Site Selection + Project Coordinator
Chief Design Officer, Anchorage Museum

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

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