

**DATE:** April 10, 2024

**TO:** Visual Arts Committee

**FROM:** Kirstin Hinds, Economic Development Strategist

**SUBJECT:** **Discussion on City Council Direction Related to Public Art at Evelyn Park, Project 21-60**

---

**PURPOSE**

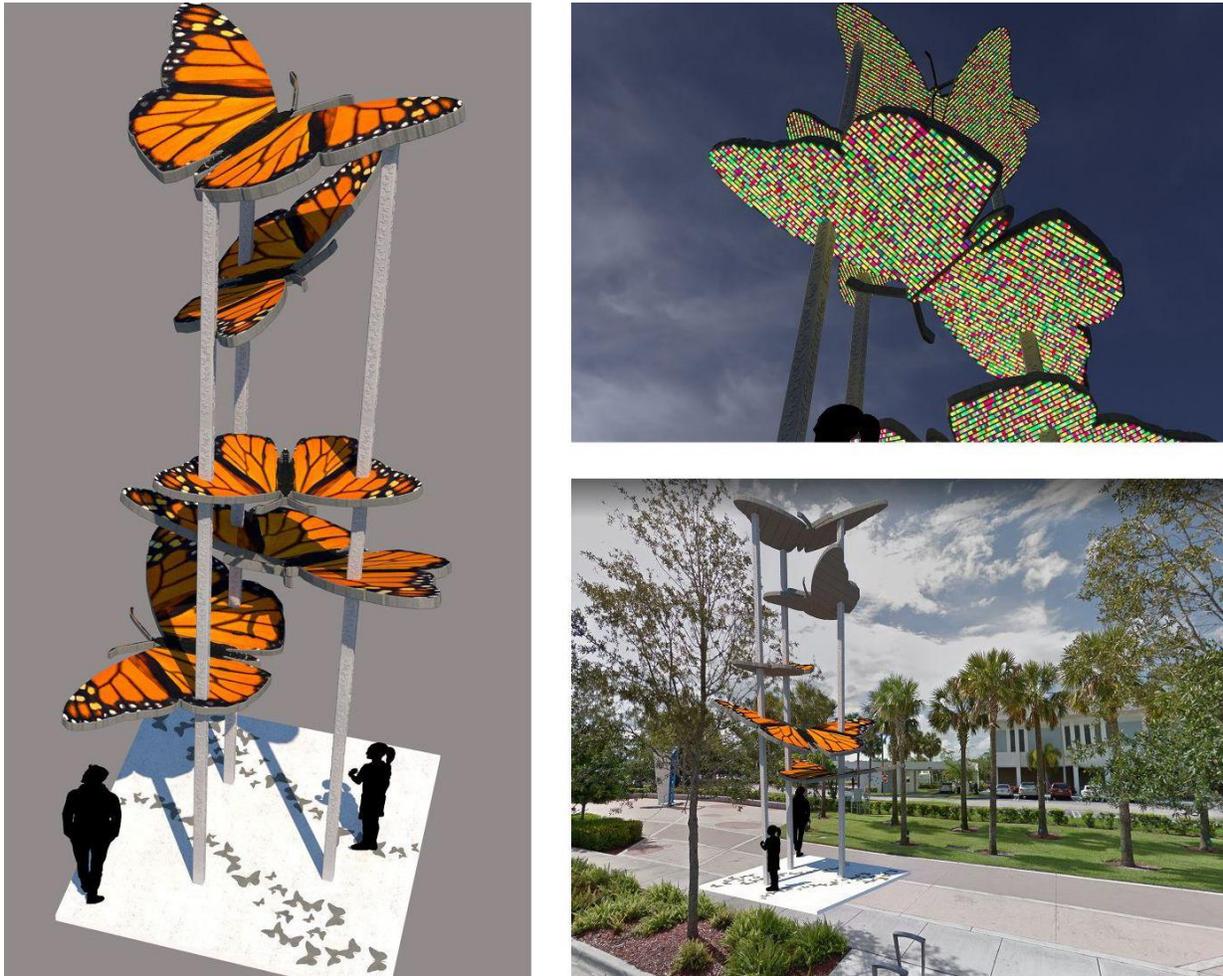
The purpose of this memorandum is to discuss the public art selection for Evelyn Park, Project 21-60, as it relates to the direction provided to staff at the Committee’s Regular Meeting on March 13, 2024. The Committee directed staff to work with the Looking Up Arts artist team to address lighting that is consistent with other standards in Mountain View parks.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve revised public art proposal from Looking Up Arts for Evelyn Park.

**BACKGROUND**

The 0.68-acre park site located on Evelyn Avenue, near the border of Mountain View and Sunnyvale, was dedicated to the City for park use by the 525 East Evelyn Avenue development project. On [May 9, 2023](#), the City Council approved a Conceptual Plan and selected the park name “Evelyn Park.” At the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) meeting on November 8, 2023, after issuing a Call for Artists for public art proposals and scoring and jurying the applications, the VAC selected Looking Up Arts’ proposal for a monarch butterfly sculpture entitled, “Butterfly Reflect” (Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Looking Up Arts Original Concept—“Butterfly Reflect”**

The original concept (Figure 1) included an LED panel on the bottom side of each butterfly that mimicked a visual of monarch butterflies migrating or flying.

At the City Council’s Regular Meeting on [February 27, 2024](#), the City Council discussed the art recommendation and referred the public art for Evelyn Park back to the Committee to address the LED lighting and the interaction with dark skies and the park-goer experience related to the underside of the butterflies.

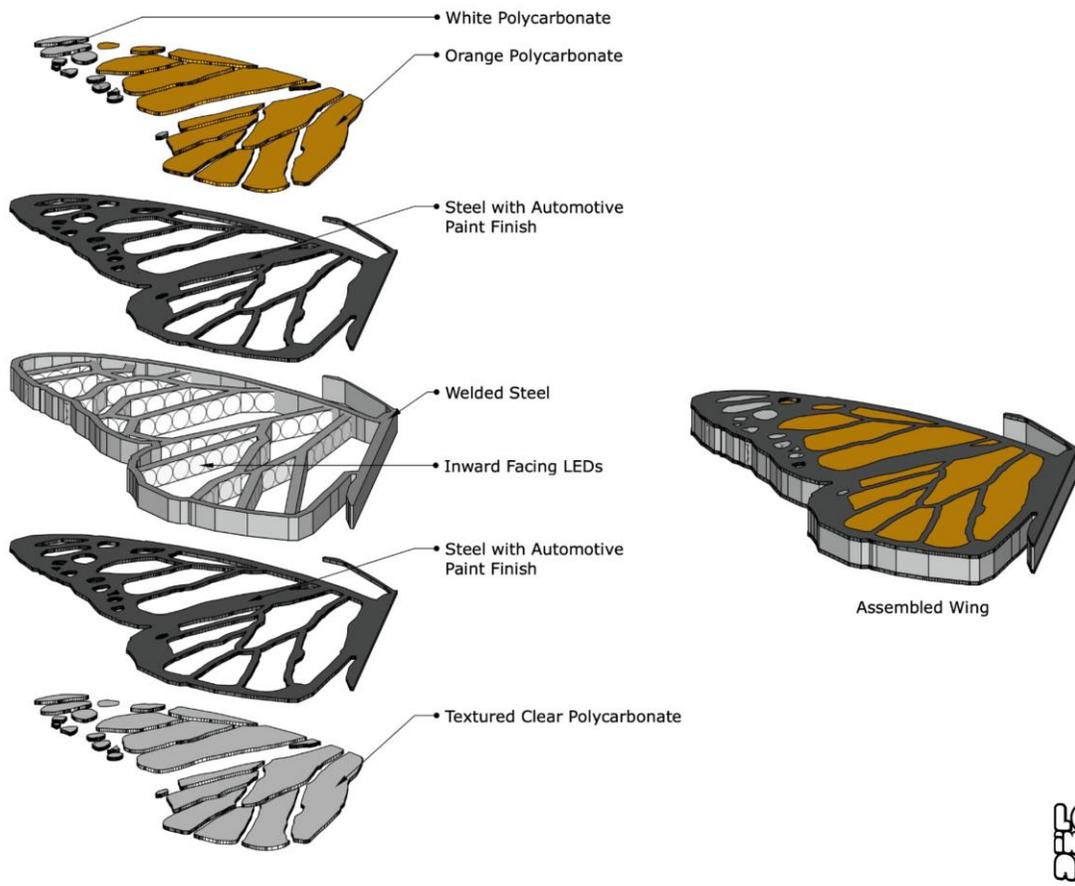
On March 13, 2024, staff shared with the VAC Council’s feedback and direction and asked the VAC to consider the following questions:

1. What should the park-goer experience look and feel like at ground-level, underneath the butterflies? What elements of the piece can be improved at ground-level?

2. Should lighting be incorporated into the piece? What does the piece look like with reduced lighting or no lighting?

### **ANALYSIS**

At the VAC meeting on March 13, 2024, the Looking Up Arts artist team shared a revised sculpture concept based upon Council's feedback. The revised concept described in Attachment 1 (shown in Figure 2) allows for more natural light to come through the top of the butterflies as well as incorporating fewer LED lights within the inside of the sculpture to light within. The lights would be able to turn off at a specified time.



**Figure 2: Looking Up Arts Revised Concept**

The VAC directed staff to work with Looking Up Arts to address lighting that is consistent with other lighting standards in Mountain View parks.

Operational hours of City parks and facilities, per Chapter 38, [Section 38.13](#) of the Mountain View City Code, is between 6:00 a.m. and one-half hour after sunset (unless authorized by the City Manager or through another permit).

Looking Up Arts can adjust the lighting remotely to align with the operational hours, as described above, and to align with seasonal lighting changes. Adjustments can be made at the request of the City to the illumination or light level and color as well as the duration or time of day that lights are on.

As it relates to the ground-level experience, Public Works project staff indicated that the art would need to be placed on the pavers within the plaza at Evelyn Park (Location No. 1 in Figure 3), and to maintain consistency throughout the plaza, the pavers will need to be placed around the base of the art rather than a concrete pad as proposed by the artist team. Looking Up Arts will work with staff to determine feasibility to customize the pavers with butterfly outlines underneath the art to enhance the ground-level user experience and stay within the project budget and timeline.



Figure 3: Evelyn Park

Public comment was made at the March 13, 2024 VAC meeting regarding the look of the poles and a desire to have the support structure appear more like branches or reeds that support a butterfly.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Recommend Looking Up Arts and City staff augment the art proposal further, consistent with the VAC's direction.
2. Provide other direction.

KH/1/CDD

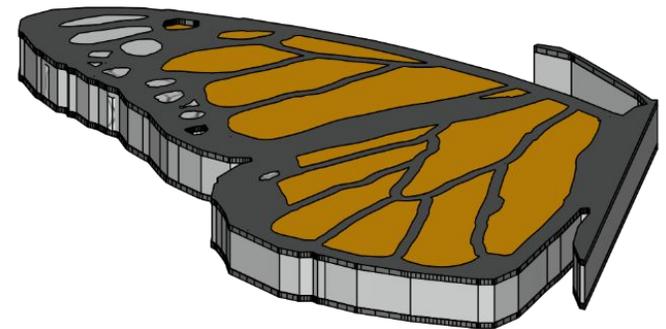
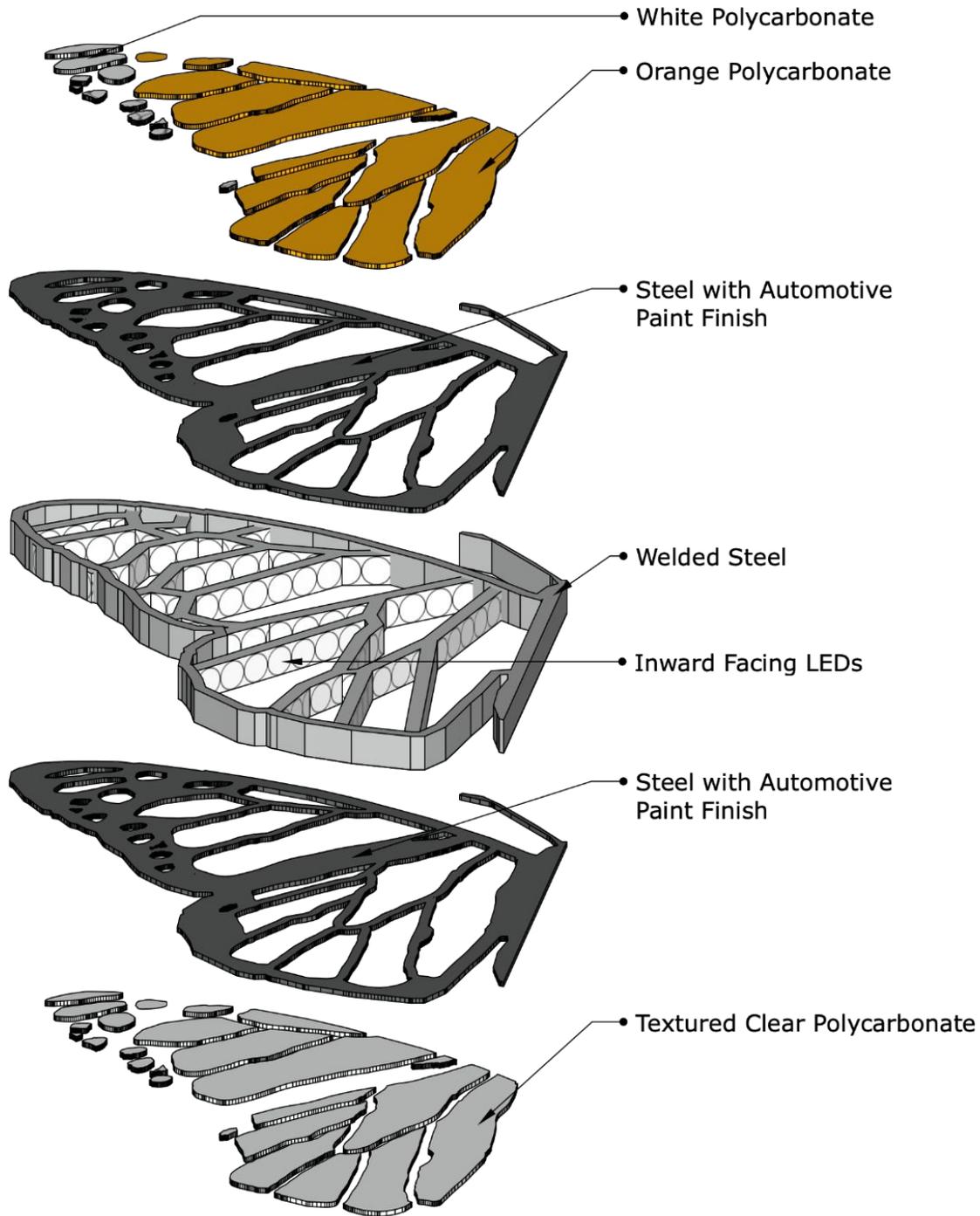
816-04-10-24M

Attachment: 1. Revised Concept for "Butterfly Reflect" by Looking Up Arts

# Evelyn Park

*Butterfly Reflect* - Lighting Revision





Assembled Wing

# LED Lighting Revision

**Indirect Lighting:** LEDs will be mounted to the inner walls of the steel frame, facing inward. Indirect lighting means the lighted cells will glow, but project a very limited amount of light.

**Tinted Top Panels:** During the nighttime, this will limit upward light transmission and during the daytime, these will allow daylight to pass through creating tinted lighting below.

**Total Wattage Decrease:** Less than 100w per butterfly. Indirect lighting decreased LED count and overall brightness by approximately 75%.

**Software Updates:** At any point lighting changes can be made to colors, patterns, brightness, and scheduling.

# Additional Details

**Viewing Angles:** With the updated lighting plan the tops and bottoms of of the butterflies will be nearly identical, so it will be beautiful viewing from a distance or from below.

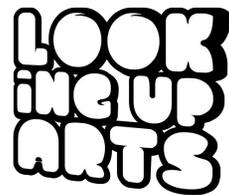
**Activation of the Walkway:** Embossed into the walkway below will be swirling silhouettes of monarch butterflies oriented in the migratory path.

**Lighting Patterns:** The intention of the lighting is to mimic the movement of a butterfly murmuration. It will be subtle and soothing. The color palette will be derived from footage of monarch butterflies—namely oranges, beiges, whites, and blues.

# Thank you

We are looking forward to working with the city to tailor *Butterfly Reflect* to find a balance that best meet the needs of the stakeholders of Evelyn Park.

We appreciate the feedback and look forward to developing this project further.



Learn more about us at [lookingup.art](https://lookingup.art)