

Request for Proposals

Art Installation in the North Tahoe Regional Park

Public Art Installation – North Tahoe Regional Park, Community Gathering Space
(6600 Donner Road, Tahoe Vista, CA 96148)

Issued by: North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD)

In partnership with North Tahoe Arts, the Arts Council of Placer County, the North Tahoe Community Alliance, and the Tahoe Fund

Location: Tahoe Vista, California

Release Date: Monday, June 8, 2026

Submissions Due to NTPUD: Friday, July 31, 2026

Project Budget: \$75,000

SUMMARY

The North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) invites artists and artist teams to submit qualifications and concept proposals for a permanent outdoor public art installation to be installed in the Community Gathering Space in the North Tahoe Regional Park, located in Tahoe Vista, California. The submittals received from this Request for Proposals (RFP) will be evaluated by the NTPUD Public Art Selection Committee. Three finalists will be selected to present their proposals, and one final artist (or artist team) will be selected.

This is the first public art installation in the North Tahoe Regional Park and is intended to serve as a lasting cultural focal point within one of North Lake Tahoe's most active and accessible public spaces and recreation hubs. The selected artwork will enhance the Regional Park as a place to gather, reflect, celebrate, and connect with nature and each other, for residents and visitors alike, families, and park users of all ages and abilities.

NTPUD has secured public funding for this project and anticipates procurement in 2026 with installation in 2027.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The selected artist (or artist team) will design, fabricate, and assist with the installation of a permanent outdoor artwork that enhances the newly constructed Community Gathering Space in the North Tahoe Regional Park. The space hosts community events, recreation programs, sports tournaments, informal gatherings, and daily use by park visitors.

The artwork should strengthen the space as a place to gather, reflect, celebrate, and connect, while responding to the natural, cultural, and recreational identity of North Lake Tahoe.

The artwork will be on display throughout the year in a high-elevation alpine environment and must be designed and constructed accordingly.

PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION

The artwork will be installed in the newly constructed Community Gathering Space, completed in 2025, at the North Tahoe Regional Park (6600 Donner Road, Tahoe Vista, CA 96148).

Exhibit A includes photos of the artwork installation site.

The Community Gathering Space is connected to NTPUD's Tennis and Pickleball Facility and adjacent to nearby athletic fields, playgrounds, group picnic areas, dog park, and community garden. The Aspen Trail provides a paved ADA connection to the space and access to surrounding park amenities, restrooms, and parking.

The uniquely shaped site for the artwork is approximately 440 square feet (approximately 20 feet long and 20 feet wide). The site can accommodate moderate to large-scale artwork and is fully accessible for installation and heavy equipment. The site is ready for 120V electrical connection if required. The site can also be connected to water for irrigation if needed.

Exhibit B illustrates a site plan of the installation site in the Community Gathering Space.

Final installation and art placement will be coordinated with NTPUD staff during the design development phase.

ARTISTIC GOALS & THEMES

Artists are encouraged to propose work that responds to one or more of the following themes:

- **Connection to Place** – North Lake Tahoe's natural environment, seasons, landscapes, and sense of place.
- **Community Gathering** – Shared experiences, recreation, wellness, and community identity.
- **Stewardship & Sustainability** – Environmental care, destination stewardship, and respect for the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- **Cultural Heritage** – Recognition of regional history, including Indigenous and contemporary narratives.

The selected artwork(s) should be welcoming, engaging, and appropriate for a highly visible public park setting.

Interactive, kinetic, and/or interpretive elements are encouraged, provided they are safe for the public. Artwork could also provide a fun physical, emotional, playful experience that involves the senses.

Exhibit C includes examples of interactive and kinetic public artwork. These examples may provide inspiration for this project.

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS

Materials: All media must be appropriate for outdoor long-term exposure to the climate in a mountainous environment, with considerations for extreme weather, temperature, snow, and sun will be considered. The art must be able to accommodate ground snow loads up to 248 pounds per square foot and require very minimal maintenance. Paint and other chemically bonded elements are not recommended unless the proposal is accompanied by substantial evidence that the materials will hold up to the location conditions. Suitable materials may include, but are not limited to, wood, brick, logs, rough-cut granite stones, rock, metal and iron. Other durable materials will be considered and reviewed by NTPUD prior to acceptance.

Design/Structure: Art must be designed for permanent outdoor installation in the North Tahoe Regional Park and art must not impact the nearby Aspen Trail. Art must also be safe for the public to interact with and touch.

Expected Life and Maintenance: The minimum lifespan of the artwork shall be 20 years. The selected artist will be required to provide a long-term maintenance plan for the 20-year lifespan. The maintenance plan will be required as a part of the final design submittal. Art that requires ongoing annual maintenance will not qualify for review.

ELIGIBILITY

This Request for Proposals is open to:

- Professional artists and artist teams
- Emerging and established artists
- Local, regional, and national artists.
- Artists with experience in outdoor public art, site-specific installations, and durable materials suited to mountain environments are strongly encouraged to apply.

Artists located within the North Lake Tahoe / Truckee community are strongly encouraged to apply and will be given priority preference in the selection process.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Artistic quality, originality, and innovation
 - Responsiveness to site and project themes
 - Feasibility and constructability
 - Interactive – physical / mental / touch / senses / educational / interpretive or immersive
 - Demonstrated ability to complete the project within the \$75,000 budget cap
 - Durability and long-term maintenance considerations
 - Experience with comparable outdoor public art projects
 - Artists located within the North Lake Tahoe / Truckee community or connected to the area will be prioritized
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ARTWORK BUDGET

A budget of up to \$75,000 - inclusive of all artist fees, design, travel, transportation, fabrication, foundation design and engineering, delivery, and materials is available for the Artwork.

- The NTPUD will be responsible for the construction of the foundation and installation of the art piece upon delivery.
- NTPUD will manage permitting, site coordination, and long-term maintenance of the artwork.

The NTPUD requests proposals where art pieces are fabricated offsite, and the foundation and/or structural support is designed in a fashion where the NTPUD may assemble/install the fabricated artwork or hire a contractor to do so.

SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be reviewed by the NTPUD Public Art Selection Committee.

- 1) The committee will select three (3) artists (or artists group) to present their proposed artwork to the selection committee. The presentation can be done virtually and will provide time for the committee members to ask questions.
 - 2) After the presentations, the committee will select the final recommended proposal.
 - 3) The final recommendation will be presented to the NTPUD Recreation & Parks Commission and Board of Directors for approval.
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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Artists will be asked to submit the information listed below using the NTPUD's **standard online form available at www.ntpud.org**.

1. **Artist Statement of Interest** (maximum 500 words)
 2. **Resume or CV**
 3. **Examples of Past Work**
 - a. Include up to four (4) images, preferably of outdoor/public art.
 - b. Include title, year, materials, dimensions, location, and budget.
 4. **Concept Proposal**
 - a. Written narrative describing the proposed artwork.
 - b. Preliminary sketches or renderings (if possible, show artwork proposal placed at site location).
 5. **Preliminary Budget Breakdown**
 - a. Artist(s) must demonstrate ability to deliver the project within one year (from selection) and within the \$75,000 budget.
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PROJECT TIMELINE (ANTICIPATED)

- **Request for Proposal Released:** June 8, 2026
 - **Questions due July 10, 2026, and responses will be provided by July 20, 2026**
 - **Submissions Due to NTPUD:** July 31, 2026
 - **Review of Proposals:** August 3 – 20, 2026
 - **Notification:** No earlier than August 24, 2026
 - **Top Three Artists Selected:** Prior to August 28, 2026
 - **Proposals Presented by Top Three Selections:** Early September 2026
 - **Final Selection Presented for Approval:**
 - NTPUD Recreation & Parks Commission (October 29th meeting)
 - NTPUD Board of Directors (November 10th meeting)
 - **Design Development:** Fall 2026/Winter 2027
 - **Installation:** Summer 2027
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Miscellaneous

- 1) **Prevailing Wages:** Proposer is aware of the requirements of California Labor Code Section 1720, et seq., and 1770, et seq., as well as California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 16000, et seq., ("Prevailing Wage Laws"), which require the payment of prevailing wage rates and the performance of other requirements on "public works" and "maintenance" projects. If the services are being performed as part of an applicable "public works" or "maintenance" project, as defined by the Prevailing Wage Laws, and if the total compensation is \$1,000 or more, Proposer agrees to fully comply with such Prevailing Wage Laws. If the services are being performed on a public works project of over \$25,000 when the project is for construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work, or a public works project of over \$15,000 when the project is for maintenance work, in addition to the foregoing, then pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, the Proposer and all subconsultants must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations ("DIR"). For more information, please see the proposed Artists Agreement for the project attached as Exhibit D.
- 2) **Amendments to RFP:** The District reserves the right to amend the RFP or issue to all Proposers addenda to answer questions for clarification.
- 3) **Non-Responsive Proposals:** A proposal may be considered non-responsive if conditional, incomplete, or if it contains alterations of form, additions not called for, or other irregularities that may constitute a material change to the proposal.
- 4) **Amendments to Proposals:** Unless specifically requested by the District, no amendment, addendum or modification will be accepted after a proposal has been submitted to District. If a change to a proposal that has been submitted is desired, the submitted proposal must be withdrawn and the replacement proposal submitted to District prior to the deadline stated herein for receiving proposals.
- 5) **Costs for Preparing:** The District will not compensate any Proposer for the cost of preparing any proposal, and all materials submitted with a proposal shall become the property of the District. The District will retain all proposals submitted and may use any idea in a proposal regardless of whether that proposal is selected.
- 6) **Cancellation of RFP:** District reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time prior to contract award without obligation in any manner for proposal preparation, interview, fee negotiation or other marketing costs associated with this RFP.
- 7) **Price Validity:** Prices provided by Proposers in response to this RFP are valid for 90 days from the proposal due date. The District intends to award the contract within this time but may request an extension from the Proposers to hold pricing, until negotiations are complete and the contract is awarded.

- 8) **No Commitment to Award:** Issuance of this RFP and receipt of proposals does not commit the District to award a contract. District expressly reserves the right to postpone the proposal for its own convenience, to accept or reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP, to negotiate with more than one Proposer concurrently, or to cancel all or part of this RFP.
- 9) **Requests for Clarification:** All questions, requests for interpretations or clarifications, either administrative or technical must be requested in writing and directed to the District Contact, identified herein. All written questions, if answered, will be answered in writing, conveyed to all interested firms, and posted on the District's website. Oral statements by any persons should be considered unverified information unless confirmed in writing.
- 10) **Right to Negotiate and/or Reject Proposals:** District reserves the right to negotiate any price or provision, task order or service, accept any part or all of any proposals, waive any irregularities, and to reject any and all, or parts of any and all proposals, whenever, in the sole opinion of District, such action shall serve its best interests and those of the tax-paying public. The Proposers are encouraged to submit their best prices in their proposals, and District intends to negotiate only with the Proposer(s) whose proposal most closely meets District's requirements at the lowest estimated cost. The Agreement, if any is awarded, will go to the Proposer whose proposal best meets District's requirements.
- 11) **Non-Discrimination:** The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, ancestry, medical condition, disability or gender in consideration for an award of contract.
- 12) **Public Records Act:** Proposals submitted in response to this RFP may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Cal. Government Code section 7920.000 *et seq.*). All correspondence with the District including responses to this RFP will become the exclusive property of the District and will become public records under the California Public Records Act. The District will have no liability to the Proposer or other party as a result of any public disclosure of any proposal or the Agreement.
- 13) **Protests:** Any Proposer wish to protest or object to an award of an agreement under this RFP shall comply with the following:

Submitted proposals will be made available for review in accordance with the California Public Records Act and after a submission of a Public Records Act Request to the District Clerk's Office. Proposers may file a protest with the District Clerk.

In order for a Proposer's protest to be considered valid, the protest must be filed in writing not later than 5:00 p.m. (local time) on the fifth business day after the District issues a Notice of Intent to Award for the subject project and comply with the following:

Be based on one of the following criteria:

- The Proposer's disagreement with the determination or recommendation by the District regarding the Proposer's proposal due to;
- Non-compliance with the RFP;
- Non-compliance with District policy; or
- Non-compliance with state or federal law. Clearly identify the specific irregularity or basis for the protest;

Specify, in detail, the factual and legal grounds for the protest;

Include all relevant supporting documentation with the protest at time of filing.

The District will review and evaluate the basis of the protest provided the protest is filed in accordance with this section. The District shall provide the Proposer submitting the protest with a written statement concurring with or denying the protest. Action by the District relative to the protest will be final and not subject to appeal or reconsideration. The procedure and time limits set forth in this Section are mandatory and are the Proposer's sole and exclusive remedy in the event of protest. Failure to comply with these procedures will constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue the protest, including filing a Government Code claim or legal proceedings. Protests shall be submitted to Nola Mitchell, Senior Engineer at the address below.

QUESTIONS

For project inquiries and questions please contact Nola Mitchell at nmitchell@ntpud.org by July 10, 2026.

Comprehensive responses to all questions will be posted by July 20, 2026, for all to review.

Project Managers

Nola Mitchell

Senior Engineer

North Tahoe Public Utility District

nmitchell@ntpud.org

530-448-5158

Justin Broglio

Government and Community Affairs Manager

North Tahoe Public Utility District

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530-546-4212

EXHIBIT A: Site location within the North Tahoe Regional Park Community Gathering Space



Location of Public Art Installation in the
North Tahoe Regional Park



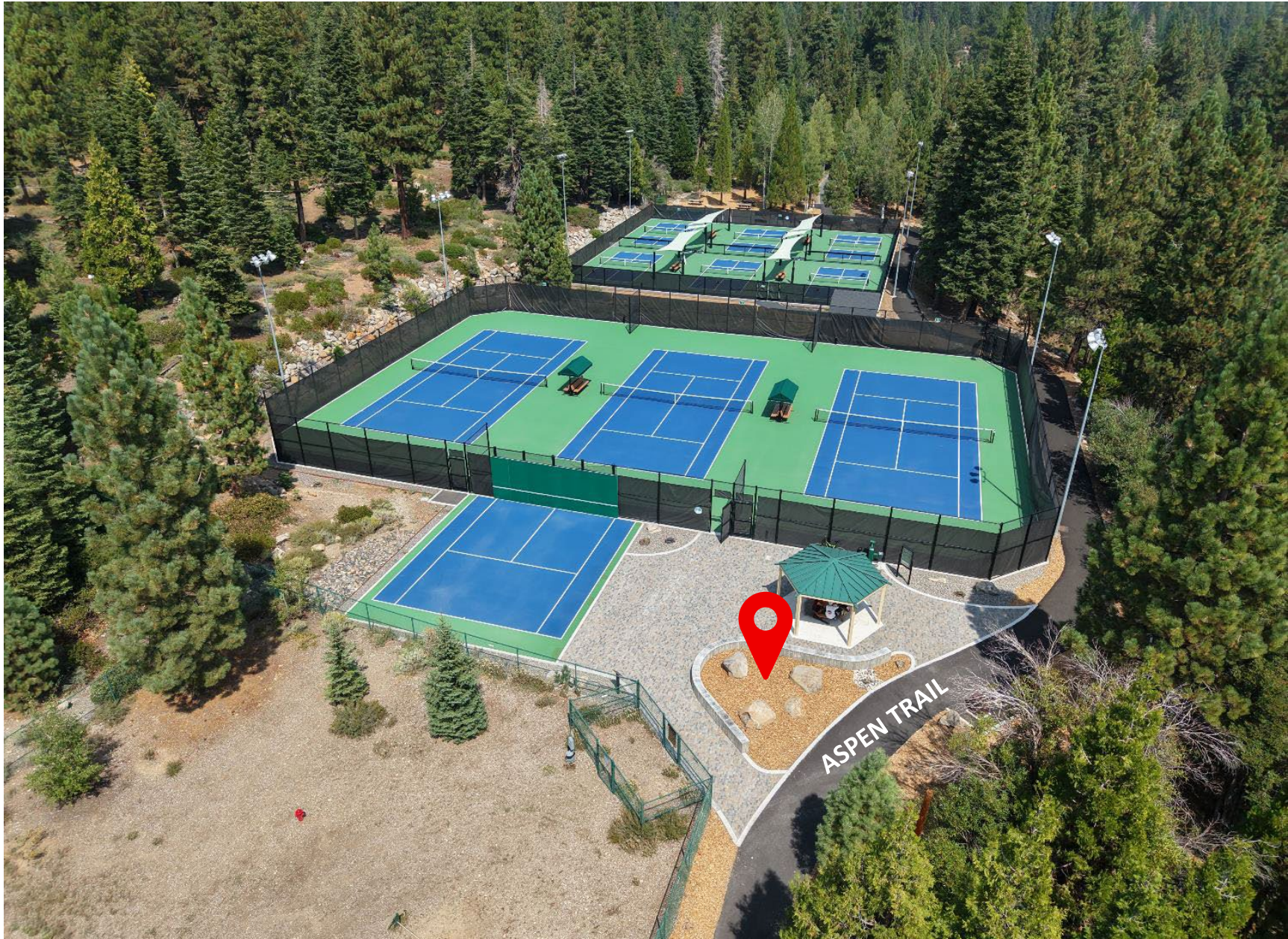
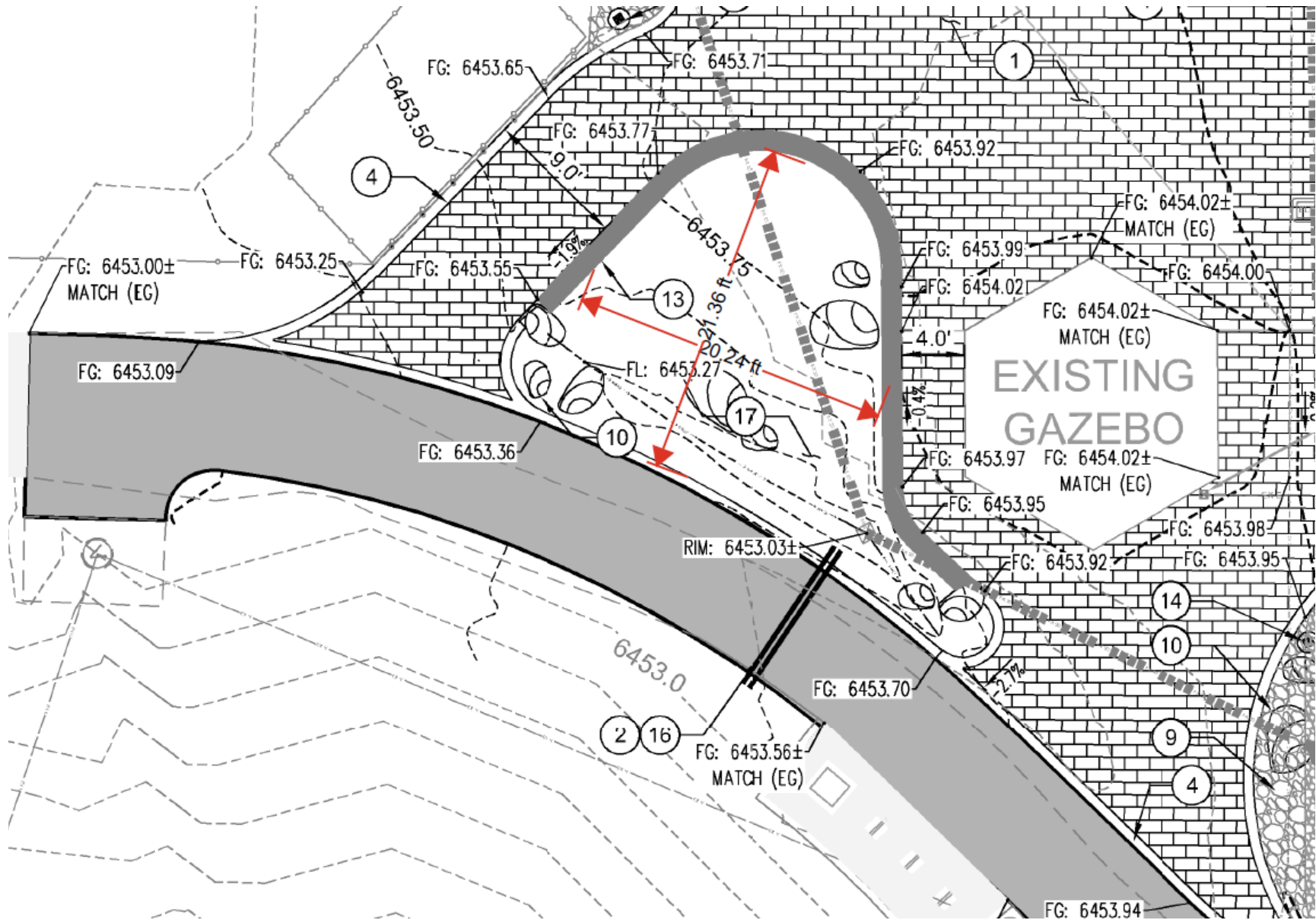






EXHIBIT B: Site plan



Interactive + Kinetic Public Art Examples and Inspirations



Endover (The "Cube") – Ann Arbor, MI



Rainbow Machine – Auckland, NZ

Interactive Public Art Examples and Inspirations



Concentric Harmony – Fort Worth, Texas



Cloud Nest, Hillsboro, Oregon